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Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Wright,

I am submitting this comment in support of the Brian Head Resort Expansion Project #292353. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the public process and offer the following specific comments related to the proposed action.

The proposed expansion would provide meaningful economic benefits to Iron County and the broader Southern Utah region. Brian Head Resort is a major driver of winter tourism, and increased terrain, improved lift infrastructure, and expanded recreation capacity would support local jobs, small businesses, lodging, and year-round visitor spending. As someone who works closely with ski area infrastructure and understands the long-term economic impacts of capital improvements, I believe this project will strengthen the region's economic resilience.

I support the inclusion of hazard tree removal and post fire vegetation treatment identified in Alternative 2. The 2017 Brian Head Fire left significant areas of damaged timber and compromised forest structure. Addressing these conditions through targeted treatment will improve forest health, reduce future wildfire risk, and support long term ecological recovery. Integrating forest health work with recreation infrastructure planning is a responsible and proactive approach.

The proposed addition of 1,651 acres to the Special Use Permit boundary and associated terrain improvements will expand lift served winter recreation opportunities at a time when regional demand continues to grow. More terrain and modernized infrastructure will help distribute skiers more effectively, reduce congestion, improve safety, and enhance the overall visitor experience. This is especially important for a resort that serves a wide range of local families, regional visitors, and destination travelers.

I also want to acknowledge the multi-year collaborative effort behind this proposal. The planning process has involved the Forest Service, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and members of the local community. This level of coordination demonstrates a thoughtful, long-term approach to balancing recreation access, wildlife considerations, and forest management objectives. The project reflects a shared commitment to responsible use of public lands.

As someone who works in the ski industry and spends significant time in resort regions across the country, I have seen firsthand how important resorts can be to the economic and social health of rural regions. The resort provides accessible recreation, supports local families, and contributes to the identity and economic vitality of the surrounding communities. Additionally, the draw resort areas like Brian Head can have for our youth, and the

resulting outdoor, offline activity and community young people can build in these spaces is more important now than ever. This project represents an opportunity to strengthen those benefits while improving forest conditions and expanding safe, sustainable recreation.

For these reasons, I support the proposed action and encourage the Forest Service to continue advancing the project through the environmental review process.

Thank you for considering my comments. I appreciate the Forest Service's commitment to public participation and look forward to reviewing future environmental documents as they become available.