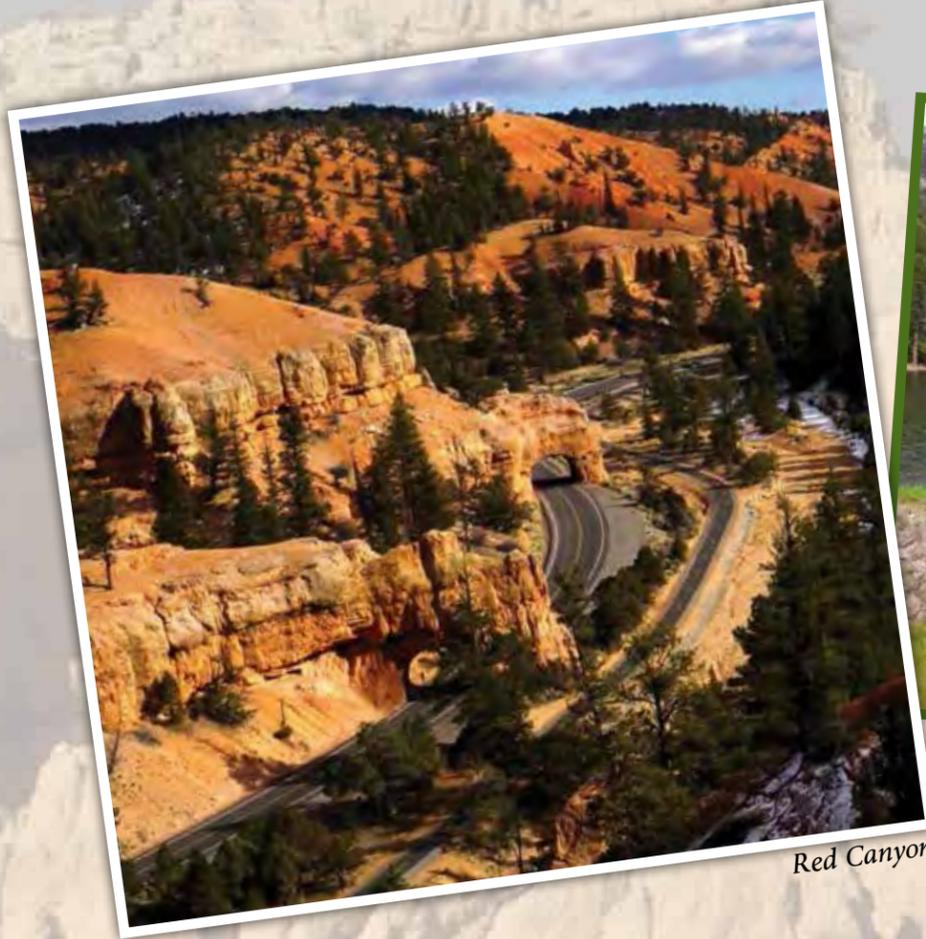




Dixie National Forest VISITOR GUIDE



A Contrast in Color, Climate, & Culture



Red Canyon



Pine Valley Reservoir

A place of diversity, the Dixie National Forest straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado River in southern Utah. Scenery ranges from desert canyon gorges of amber, rose, and sienna to high mountain forests, plateaus, and alpine lakes.

Fast Forest Facts

Elevation Range: 3,000' - 11,000'

Acres: Nearly 2 million

The Name: Southwest Utah was called *Utah's Dixie* by early settlers from the southern states sent to the desert to grow cotton and silk; the forest was named after the area.

Temperature Range: From mountain lows of -30 degrees to valley highs of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

*T*he Dixie National Forest is characterized by contrast. As a part of the world-renowned landscapes of Southern Utah, the forest provides a backdrop and serves as a gateway to surrounding National Parks and Monuments. Nationally recognized highways and trails course through the forest and provide ready access to the distinctive natural highlights of the forest landscape.

Come see for yourself!

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Sego Lily

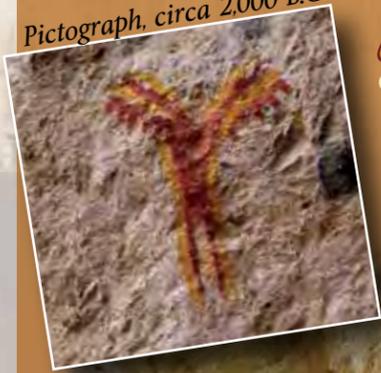
This Visitor Guide provides the information you can use to plan your trip to the Dixie National Forest.

Get to Know Us

History

What is now the Dixie National Forest was once inhabited by the *Paleo-Indian Culture* who hunted woolly mammoths and megafauna. This culture was followed by another hunter-gatherer group known as the *Archaic Culture*. They also lived seasonally in the high country and followed game to lower elevations in winter.

Pictograph, circa 2,000 B.C.



Pictographs, petroglyphs, dwellings, and artifacts—all indicate the presence in the area of horticultural cultures. Identified as the Fremont and Anasazi (*Ancestral Puebloan*), they occupied the Dixie National Forest area from 500-1275 AD. They were farmers, planting corn, beans, and squash near water sources.

North Creek granary

These cultures used the high country for hunting and gathering of rock, medicinal plants, and other resources. Their stone granaries—still visible tucked into the sandstone cliffs—kept their stores safe from animals.

By the early 1300s, groups known as the Paiutes and Utes moved here from the west, living much the same as their predecessors. These were the people who were here when the first Europeans explored the area. In 1776, led by Fathers Dominguez and Escalante, a new route was pioneered known as the Old Spanish Trail. By the mid 1800s trappers, traders, gold hunters, slave traders, and immigrants traveled this road regularly. Today it parallels much of Interstate 15.

Ute family, circa 1860-1880 (courtesy of firstpeople.com)



Forested lands in Southern Utah are vital to the surrounding communities. This point was not lost on President Theodore Roosevelt who reserved 20 million acres of the forest during his first term in office and 80 million during his second. While the forest reserves were originally set aside to provide favorable conditions for water flow to the valleys and a continuous supply of timber, additional lands were added to the reserves in response to concerns from local communities about overgrazing and water quality. In the 1930s, three different reserves were combined to form the Dixie National Forest.



Walter Hanks, an early Ranger



Gifford Pinchot

The conservation mission of the Forest Service was best stated by its first Chief, Gifford Pinchot (1905-1910): "To provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people for the long run."



CCC building a restroom on Brian Head Peak, circa 1935

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the national forest served as a work area for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), providing young men with jobs building roads, guard stations, and recreation sites. There are still several facilities on the forest that show off the craftsmanship of "The Boys."

Today, people value the Dixie National Forest not only for its resources (minerals, timber, water, and forage) but also for its opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The Dixie National Forest is located in the "Grand Circle" with several famous neighbors, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef National Parks, and Cedar Breaks and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. The dramatic elevation differences mean you can pick the weather you want to recreate in!



Virgin River Rim

The vast resources of the Dixie National Forest belong to all Americans. These resources must rely on the stewardship of us all if they are to be sustained for our future generations.



Scenic Byways, Backways, & Drives

The Dixie National Forest is known for its scenery—from red rock canyons to high mountain plateaus. Scenic *byways* are major roads through this splendor that are suitable for passenger vehicles. Scenic *backways* are lower-standard roads that often require high-clearance vehicles or 4-wheel drive. Always check road conditions before you venture out.

Highway 12 All American Road

Along Highway 12, a 124-mile All American Road, you will pass more than enough scenery to fill up your camera.



Red Canyon Visitor Center



Leaving Utah Heritage Highway 89 seven miles south of Panguitch, go east into Red Canyon where you'll encounter a dramatic landscape of sandstone hoodoos. Continue up to the Paunsaugunt Plateau

and the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park. East of the plateau you'll drive through the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, past three State Parks, and numerous scenic viewpoints into Capitol Reef, Boulder Top, the Henry Mountains, Circle Cliffs, and Navajo Mountain. The byway ends in Torrey at Highway 24.

Areas of interest include Kodachrome Basin State Park, Escalante Petrified Forest and Campground, the Hole in the Rock Road, Calf Creek Falls Trail and Campground, and Anasazi State Park. Highway 12 is an ideal location for viewing fall colors, and on a clear day you can see more than 100 miles into Colorado and Arizona.

A good place to start your explorations is at the Red Canyon Visitor Center, located on the western end of the byway, 3 miles east of the Highway 89 junction. It is usually open from Easter to the end of October.

Highway 14 State Scenic Byway

Connecting I-15 with Utah Heritage Byway (Highway 89), Highway 14 winds its way from the red rock canyons near Cedar City, over the Markagunt Plateau, and past the beautiful Navajo Lake and Duck Creek area.

From the plateau, you can see into Zion National Park; from Strawberry Point you can see the Kaibab Plateau in Arizona. A short detour north from Highway 14 will take you to fabulous views of Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Campgrounds, hiking, and fishing can be found at Navajo Lake and Duck Creek.

Utah's Scenic Byway 143, the Patchwork Parkway

Utah's 55-mile Patchwork Parkway garnered its name from an incident in the 1890s when settlers from Panguitch, desperate for food, crossed a valley to the north in winter using handmade quilts laid atop deep snow. They reached Parowan and brought food back to save the people of Panguitch.



The area is a patchwork of unparalleled scenery and vibrant history. It serves as the gateway to Cedar Breaks National Monument and is a fascinating route across southwest Utah's high plateaus, connecting Heritage Highway 89 and All-American Scenic Highway 12.

Travelers can start their byway trek from Parowan or Panguitch, historic Mormon pioneer settlements that still boast a large concentration of 19th century architecture. The original Panguitch townsite is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These two townsites were previously home to American Indian groups who left behind a number of sites to explore.

This landscape is home to Brian Head, Utah's highest elevation community and southernmost ski area.

Scenic Backways and Drives (dirt/gravel roads)

- » East Fork of the Sevier River Scenic Backway (17 miles; closed in the winter): Starting at Highway 12, the backway (FR 87) travels along the interior of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, past Tropic Reservoir and Kings Creek Campground.
- » Griffin Top Scenic Backway (32 miles; closed in winter): The road leaves CR 1660 and FR 17, then climbs to the Escalante Summit. It then turns north on FR 140 and travels across the Griffin Top part of the Aquarius Plateau, ending at FR 154 north of Posey Lake.
- » Posey Lake Scenic Backway (40 miles; closed in winter): This backway begins in Escalante FR 153-FR 154, and ends on Highway 24 in Bicknell.
- » Hell's Backbone Road (44 miles; closed in winter; high-clearance vehicles recommended): FR 153 from Escalante makes a loop to Highway 12. Hell's Backbone bridge is an engineering feat originally built by the CCC in 1930s, spanning 90 feet between canyons.



Hell's Backbone bridge

Special Places

© Markus Gann

Cedar Mountain-Navajo Lake/ Cascade Falls Trail/Lava Beds

(Cedar City District)

The area known locally as Cedar Mountain is really the Markagunt Plateau, on the edge of the Colorado Plateau. A large field of stark and abrasive lava beds sit near the center of this plateau, some of which are less than 2,000 years old. Much of the lava did not come from a central volcano but welled up from cracks in the earth's surface. Underground lava tubes formed as a result, one of which can be seen at Mammoth Cave.

Townsend's big-eared bat
(© Eric Isselee)



Lava beds

The cave is an important summer feeding roost and winter hibernation spot for Townsend's big-eared bats, fringed myotis bats, and others. It is open to the public from May to September to explore on your own. In the winter, it is gated to protect the bats.



Navajo Lake

On Cedar Mountain you'll find Navajo Lake, formed when lava flowed across the eastern end of the valley in which it sets. Lava tubes run under the lake and drain

water into both the Great Basin and Colorado River drainages, as the headwaters of the Virgin River. At Navajo Lake, you can camp, boat, or fish for rainbow and brook trout. A trail to the south of the lake along the Virgin River Rim provides hiking, horseback riding, and biking opportunities.

Also located on the rim is the Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail. This short 0.8 mile trail winds under the rim of the plateau and ends at Cascade Falls.



Bobcat (© Tom Tietz)

Red Canyon

(Cedar City District)

Located along 5 miles of the All American Road (Highway 12), Red Canyon is lined with stark spires and ghostly hoodoos eroded out of the red limestone and sandstone. In 1925, tunnels were dug through the limestone fins to impress dignitaries and provide a gateway to the splendor of Bryce Canyon National Park.



Tunnel along Highway 12

A paved bike road (also a National Recreation Trail) runs parallel to Highway 12 for bikers to safely ride from Red Canyon to the East Fork of the Sevier River. In addition, trails leaving from the valley invite the hiker, biker, OHV user, and equestrian to explore further.

Wilderness

Wilderness is an area of federal land that is free from human control, is undeveloped, and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive type of recreation. The Dixie National Forest is fortunate to have four congressionally designated Wildernesses. They are rugged and remote—and best suited for experienced hikers and backpackers. Please contact the Dixie National Forest prior to visiting for current maps, regulations, and conditions.



Cottonwood Forest
Wilderness

Dixie National Forest Wilderness

Pine Valley Mountain
Cottonwood Forest
Ashdown Gorge
Box-Death Hollow



Help protect Wilderness for our future by following the "Leave No Trace" principles:

- » Plan ahead and prepare
- » Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- » Dispose of waste properly
- » Leave what you find
- » Minimize campfire impacts
- » Respect wildlife
- » Be considerate of other visitors



Chipmunk



Special Places

Pine Valley Recreation Area

(Pine Valley District)

Located in the western basin below the Pine Valley Mountain, the Pine Valley Recreation Area has nine loops (including an equestrian camp), numerous trails, and excellent fishing at both the Santa Clara River and the Pine Valley Reservoir. In the summer, you can tour the Pine Valley Chapel, built in the late 1800s by a Scottish shipbuilder.

Nearby, trees from the Forsyth Canyon area were cut in 1890s and hauled 500 miles to Salt Lake to be used for pipes in the Tabernacle Pipe Organ on Temple Square.

Pine Lake Recreation Area (Escalante District)



Pine Lake Recreation Area is located in a fragrant ponderosa pine and spruce forest. The area has a campground and a day use area adjacent to Pine Lake. There are several trails in the area for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and OHV riding.

Posey Lake Recreation Area

(Escalante District)

This small fishing lake is a delightful retreat in a conifer and aspen forest. Facilities include a non-motorized boat ramp and two fishing docks. Two hiking trails start from the campground. Other trails nearby allow hiking, biking, and horseback riding.



Barker Recreation Area (Escalante District)

The Barker Recreation Complex includes a campground and day use area. This is a great place to start your hike, backpacking trip, or fishing excursion. You can drive to Barker Reservoir and fish from a dock or hike to any



of the ten lakes in the backcountry. Anglers who prefer stream fishing will find plenty of opportunities in nearby North Creek.

Leeds Creek Kiln and Children's Forest

(Pine Valley District)

There is a lot of history in the high reaches of Leeds Creek Canyon, where the Leeds Creek Kiln was built to support the mining operations for the Silver Reef Mining Area. The kiln made charcoal from the surrounding oak and juniper forest; the charcoal kept the smelter at a constant temperature for removing the silver from sandstone. Families from Leeds helped restore the kiln in the 1990s.

In 2001, children from local elementary schools—with the help of an Elderhostel group—designed and built the 0.5-mile nature trail that interprets the area's natural and cultural resources for visitors.

The road from Silver Reef is occasionally closed in winter.



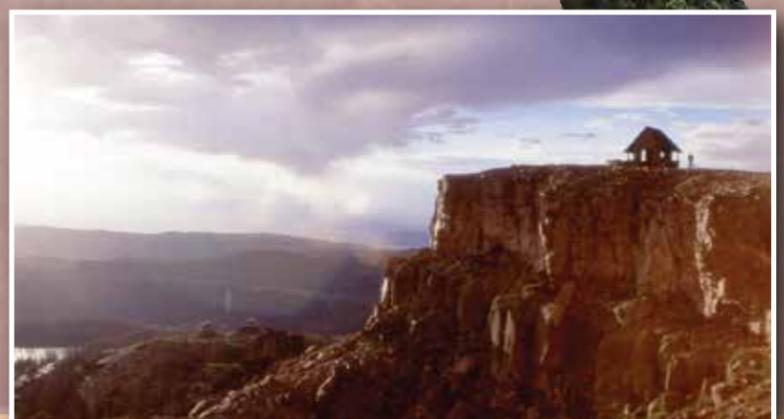
Brian Head Peak

(Cedar City District)

Known as Monument Peak until 1890, Brian Head Peak lies on the west rim of the Markagunt Plateau. (Markagunt is a Paiute Indian word that means *high land of trees*.) At 11,307' it is the highest point in Iron County. Although a dirt road can be followed nearly all the way to the summit, there are a number of trails, most of them intended for mountain bike enthusiasts, that can get you a peak experience. A wood and stone pavilion built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s still stands the test of time, and makes a great spot to enjoy lunch with views all the way to Arizona and Nevada. Watch carefully—you may spot bald eagles, peregrines, or prairie falcons.



Peregrine falcon (© M. Lorenz)



Brian Head Peak



Our Natural Resources

Flora

At almost 2 million acres, the Dixie National Forest is one of the largest national forests in Utah. It stretches for about 170 miles east to west, straddling the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado River. Elevations range from 3,000-11,000'; annual precipitation ranges from 10-40"; and temperatures range from -30 to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Its topographic and climatic diversity mean that there are numerous ecosystems to be found here.

The vegetation on the Dixie National Forest gradually changes from sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) at lower elevations to low-growing pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) and juniper (*Juniperus sp.*) at mid-elevations. These give way to aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*), Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) at high elevations.

As you travel through the spruce forests on the Dixie National Forest (and especially on the Markagunt Plateau) you will see a lot of dead trees. They were killed by spruce bark beetles (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*), insects smaller than a grain of rice, but deadly.

Some of the dead and dying trees have been harvested to improve forest health, reduce fire danger, improve scenery, and to provide wood products and logs for homes. (Proceeds from timber sales are used to plant seedlings to aid in forest recovery.) Some trees have blown down in strong winds and provide firewood for local use.

For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/dixie.



© Tatiana Edrekina

Tree Identification

If needles are in groups, the tree is a pine.

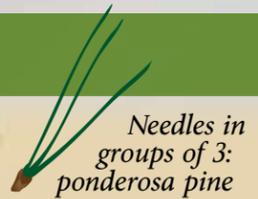
- If needles are in groups of 3, it is a ponderosa pine.
- If needles are in groups of 5 and branch looks like a bottle brush, it is a bristlecone pine.
- If needles are in groups of 5 and the branch is flimsy, it is a limber pine.
- If needles are in groups of 2, it is a pinyon pine.

If needles are singular and flat, the tree is a fir.

- White fir (*Abies concolor*) needles are 2-3" long
- Subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) needles are 1" long

If needles are singular and 4-sided, the tree is a spruce (4-sided needles will roll between your fingers).

- Blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) has furrowed bark
- Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*) bark has silver dollar-sized plates



Bristlecone pine cone

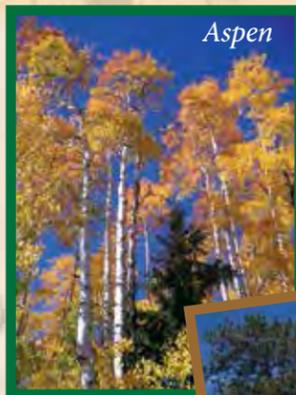


Bristlecone pine



White fir

Bristlecone pine



Aspen



Subalpine fir behind Podunk Guard Station



Ponderosa pine (© mdd)

High Elevation
8,000' - 12,000'

Sagebrush
(© Brendan Bucy)



Claret cup cactus (© Mishella)



Rabbitbrush



Pinyon pine



Juniper



Juniper leaves

Mid Elevation
6,000' - 8,000'

Lower Elevation
3,000' - 6,000'



An osprey goes fishing
(© Richard Fitzer)

Prairie dog (© James M. Phelps, Jr.)



Wildflowers & Watchable Wildlife

Watching the bountiful wildlife on the Dixie National Forest is a favorite activity of visitors. The grasslands, plateaus, and mountains of the forest are home to an astonishing diversity of animals—some small and shy, others big and bold. Here is a small sampling of what you might spot:

- » Mule deer: Found throughout the forest at different elevations as seasons change
- » Elk: Common at Sidney Valley, Panguitch Lake, Paunsaugunt Plateau, Hoodle Creek, and Griffin Top
- » Bald eagles: Spot them at Panguitch Lake (Oct.-Nov. or when the lake freezes) or Cottonwood area near I-15 in the winter
- » Geese and ducks: Often seen at Panguitch Lake and Duck Creek Pond
- » Raptors: Found throughout the forest, and include kestrels, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, osprey, and golden eagles
- » Migratory birds: Also found throughout the forest in the summer, includes hummingbirds and many song birds
- » Pronghorn and prairie dogs: May be seen on the Paunsaugunt Plateau



A northern saw whet owl guards his lunch



Mule deer (© Alucard)

Good roads with wildlife viewing opportunities include: Aquarius Plateau (FR 140 and 154-Escalante District), Tom Best Loop Road (FR 117-Powell District), and the Pine Valley area (FR 035-Pine Valley District).



Watson's bladderpod

Wildflowers

Your best wildflower viewing options are on the high plateaus of the Dixie National Forest. Depending on the amount of precipitation, the flowers bloom in different locations and amounts. A *Wildflower Celebration* is held each July at the Cedar Breaks National Monument, with hikes and workshops. For further information, visit www.nps.gov/cebr.

Globe mallow (© Karin Hildebrand Lau)



Columbine

Bull elk (© Wesly Aston)



Indian paintbrush against aspen bark
(© Heather A. Craig)



Wildlife Viewing Ethics



- » Give the wildlife their space. Use those binoculars!
- » If you find what you believe to be an "orphaned" or sick animal, leave it alone. Often the parents are close by and are waiting for you to leave.
- » Pets must be restrained when viewing wildlife.
- » Do not feed wildlife. Animals that become habituated to handouts can eventually become nuisances, losing their instinctive fears of people. Often the only solution is to euthanize the animal.
- » Leave the area if an animal shows signs of alarm. Watch and listen for raised ears, skittish movements, or alarm calls.



Leopard frog (© Gerald E. DeBoer)



Sand lily



Pronghorn

Dixie National Forest



Cedar Mountain Meadow



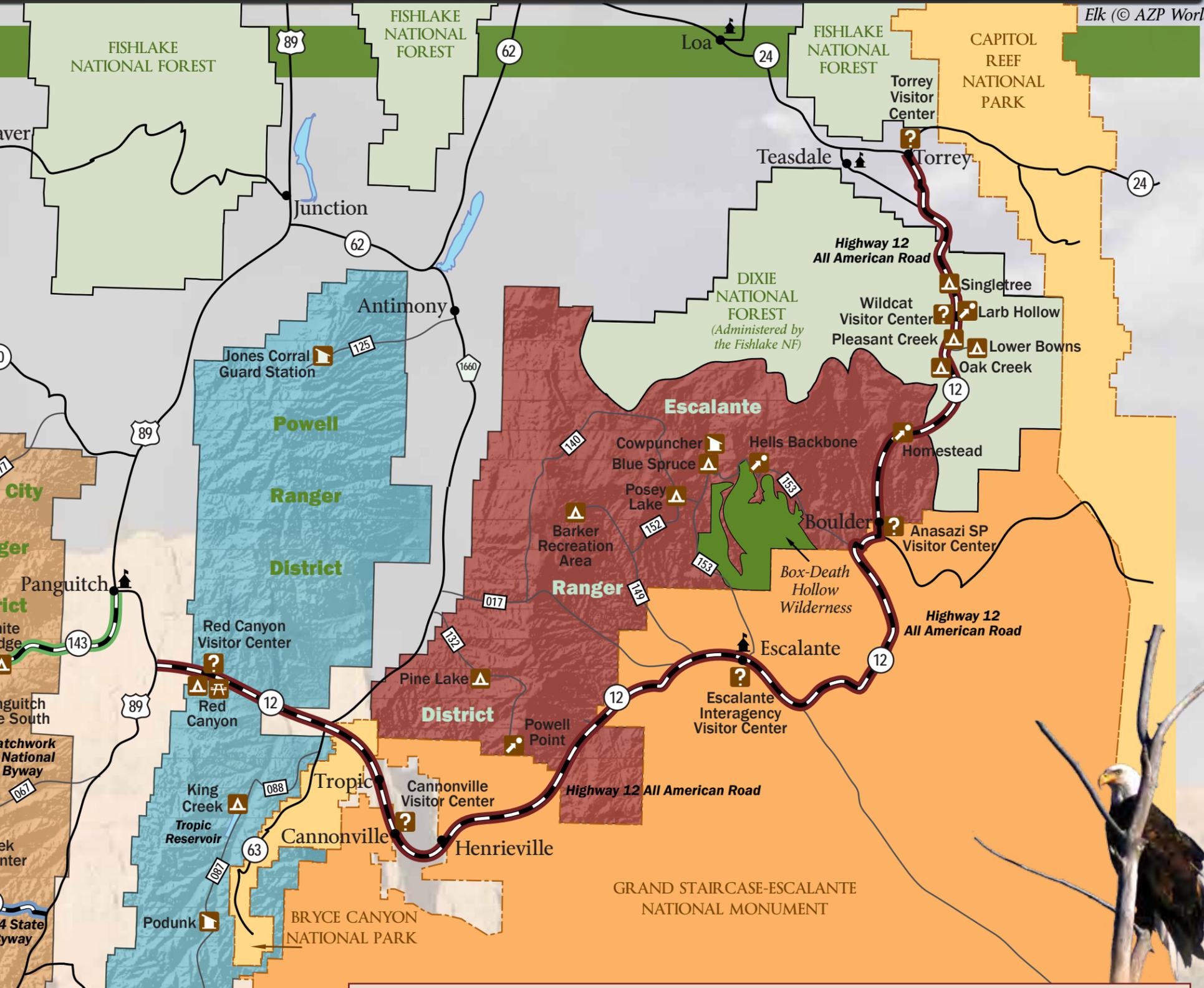
Peregrine falcon monitoring



Powell Point, west side



Elk (© AZP Worldwide)



Before venturing on to the Dixie National Forest, please pick up a map with the level of detail appropriate for your planned activities:

For backcountry and off-road travel: Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are available at all Forest Service offices and Visitor Centers, and may be downloaded from www.fs.usda.gov/dixie.

For hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding: Topographic maps are recommended. Visit the US Geological Survey for online purchases: www.usgs.gov.

National forest maps may be purchased at: www.nationalforeststore.com.

	Pine Valley District		Wilderness Areas		Forest Supervisor's Office
	Cedar City District		Fishlake National Forest		Ranger District Office
	Powell District		National Parks & Monuments		Paved Roads
	Escalante District		BLM		Unpaved Roads
	Campground		Scenic Byway or Backway		Interstate Highway
	Guard Station		U.S. Highway		State Highway
	Picnic Area		County Road		Forest Route
	Point of Interest		Scale		North
	Visitor Center		0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles		
	Ski Area				



Campgrounds & Trails

Pine Valley Guard Station



Campgrounds

RD	Name	# of Units (single/double/group)	Season	Amenities	Reserveable
Pine Valley Ranger District <small>(all sites are in the Pine Valley Recreation Area, except for Honeycomb Rocks)</small>	Crackfoot	15/3/0 (5 walk-in)	May-Sept.		Yes
	Dean Gardner	21/3/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Ebenezer Bryce	11/3/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Effie Beckstrom East	7/2/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Effie Bectrom West	6/2/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Equestrian	7/8/0	May-Sept.	(small corrals; hitch rails)	Yes
	Honeycomb Rocks	22/0/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Mitt Moody (tents only)	5/1/0 (all walk-in)	May-Sept.		Yes
	Yellow Pine	5/1/0	May-Sept.		No
Cedar City Ranger District	Cedar Canyon	13/4/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Duck Creek	84/7/0 (+ 3 triple)	June-Sept.		Yes
	Navajo Lake	24/4/0 (11 walk-in)	June-Sept.		No
	Panguitch Lake North	39/8/3	May-Sept.		Yes
	Panguitch Lake South	18/0/0	May-Sept.		No
	Spruces	25/1/0 (3 walk-in)	June-Sept.		No
	Te-Ah	41/0/1	June-Sept.		Yes
	White Bridge	29/1/0	May-Sept.		Yes
	Yankee Meadow	29/1/0	May-Sept.		No
	Deer Haven Group Site	Up to 200	June-Sept.		Yes
Powell Ranger District	Coyote Hollow Equestrian	4/0/0	May-Oct.	(non-potable water; hitch rails; no corrals)	No
	King Creek	37/0/0	May-Oct.		No
	King Creek Group Site	2 (capacity: 50 RV; 100 tent)	May-Oct.		Yes
	Red Canyon	37/0/0	May-Oct.		No
Escalante Ranger District	Barker Recreation	13/0/3	May-Sept.		Yes
	Blue Spruce	5/1/0	May-Sept.		No
	Pine Lake	28/0/4	May-Sept.		Yes
	Posey Lake	21/0/1	May-Sept.		Yes



Blue Spruce Campground

- Restrooms
- Drinking water
- Garbage collection
- Boat ramp
- Horse use site
- Showers
- Dump site
- Walk-in site

Historic Guard Stations

In the early days of the national forests, travel was difficult, slow, and mostly on horseback. Summer cabins were placed a day's ride apart for the rangers' use when they were checking livestock and range conditions, and patrolling for poaching and timber theft. With the advent of vehicles and better roads, these cabins fell into disuse. A national effort in the 1990s focused on restoring these cabins for public enjoyment. Your rental fees are used to maintain and improve them.

GUARD STATION	LOCATION	CAPACITY/ SEASON	FACILITIES	NOTES
Pine Valley	<i>Pine Valley District:</i> From Central, go 11 miles east on FR 035 to the Pine Valley Recreation Area. At the reservoir gate, go 0.5 mile and turn north on the 1st road.	6/year-round	Electric stove, fridge, water heater; table and chairs; fold-out couch; bunk beds in bedroom; running water May-Sept.; outdoor toilets for winter use; wood burning stove; no linens	Built in 1935, the station sits on a wooded hill with mountain views, east of Pine Valley Reservoir. Area activities include fishing, hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.
Cowpuncher	<i>Escalante District:</i> North on Hell's Backbone Road out of Escalante, then north on FR 145 past Blue Spruce Campground.	4/May-Sept.	Propane stove and fridge; wood cook stove; some pots and dishes; no bedding; hot water heater and indoor shower (water is limited)	This station is being rebuilt after a fire in 2011. Please check with the Escalante District Office for current conditions. A small yurt is available until the construction is complete (2015-2 016).
Podunk	<i>Powell District:</i> Follow Forest Road 087 south from Utah State Highway 12.	6/May-Sept.	Propane and wood stoves; table and chairs; no kitchen gear; no linens; no potable water	Built in 1928 on the Paunsaugunt Plateau, it sits beneath a stand of mature spruce trees and above the meandering East Fork of the Sevier River.
Jones Corral Guard Station	<i>Powell District:</i> Off County Road 22 by driving Forest Road 125 north of Widtsoe Junction or FR 126 near Antimony	4/May-Sept.	Propane and wood stoves; table and chairs; no kitchen gear; no linens; no potable water	Built in 1935 on the remote Mt. Dutton, this guard station has been used by generations of Forest Service employees working in the backcountry.

Single site fees covers up to 8 people and two vehicles. **Double** site fees covers up to 16 people and 4 vehicles. (Does not apply to Escalante District campgrounds.)





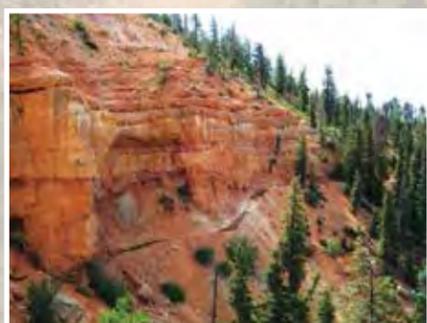
Trails

The Dixie National Forest has over 1,600 miles of outstanding trails that can be enjoyed by foot, horse, mountain bike, or off-highway vehicles. The following are just a few highlights—more information is available at your local Ranger District Office, or visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/dixie.

	Trail	Miles (one-way)/Description	Uses
Pine Valley Ranger District	Duncan Springs	An easy/moderate 2-mile trail through pinyon pine and juniper to the aspen at the springs	
	Canal Trail	A 1-mile easy trail following an historic canal built in the 1900s to provide water to a community to the north; view of Pine Valley and the surrounding area	
	Cemetery Trail/ Water Canyon Trail	A moderate 1.5-mile trail that takes you through dense pinyon pine, juniper, and mountain mahogany up onto a ridge with great views of Pine Valley to the south and Grass Valley to the north	
	Gardner Peak	A 3-mile trail from Pine Valley to the top of Gardner Peak; provides a bird's-eye view of the Pine Valley and surrounding area; moderate to steep	
Cedar City Ranger District	Brianhead Bike Complex	A series of trails that range from easy to advanced leaving from the Brianhead Ski Resort; some end at Panguitch Lake where shuttle service can be arranged; there are also loop trails that bring you back to the resort	
	Crystal Springs Trail	An easy 3-mile walk to the Moots Hollow trailhead at Hwy #14. When you reach a dirt road, the trail stays to the right (the road goes to the Woods Ranch area). The last 0.25 mile is in a narrow canyon.	
	Cascade Falls Trail	An 0.8-mile easy walk overlooking the Markagunt Plateau and ending at a falls where the water tumbles down limestone cave from a lava tube under Navajo Lake	
	Henderson Trail	A 1.5 mile moderate trail that winds through the forest and ends at Henderson Lake; beautiful in the fall	
	Navajo Lake Loop	A 12-mile easy trail around the lake, passing through lava flows, flower-filled meadows, and quaking aspen; great place to camp, fish, and ride single track trails	
	Twisted Forest Trail	An easy 0.5-mile trail offering up close views of ancient bristlecone pine and fabulous vistas above Cedar Breaks National Monument and Ashdown Gorge Wilderness	
	Virgin River Rim	A 32-mile moderate/difficult trail that offers excellent high-elevation alpine hiking and single track riding with stunning views; follows the rim along Utah's high southern plateau; views of the Pink Cliffs and Zion National Park	
Powell Ranger District	Casto Canyon Trail	A 5.5-mile trail that connects to the Fremont motorized trail (50" or less restriction); travels through a large wash and beneath huge red hoodoos; be sure to check out the Limekiln/Casto Canyon Loop.	
	Grand View	A 74-mile moderate/advanced non-motorized trail that travels around the perimeter of the Paunsaugunt Plateau; primary access is at Thunder Mountain Trailhead at the mouth of Red Canyon, and Sheep Creek Trailhead 10 miles west of Cannonville, UT	
	Pink Ledges Trail	A 0.4-mile trail starting at the Red Canyon Visitor Center; a trail map with numbered interpretive stops is available at the visitor center	
	Thunder Mountain	A 7.8-mile trail accessed from Highway 12 at the mouth of Red Canyon and the Coyote Hollow Trailhead; trail travels through brilliantly-colored rock hoodoos and bristlecone pine; great for biking, hiking, and horseback riding; several drop off points along the way	
	Red Canyon Bike Trail	This paved trail begins at the mouth of Red Canyon at the Thunder Mountain Trail head and continues parallel to Highway #12 into Bryce Canyon National Park.	
Escalante Ranger District	Canaan Mountain Loop Trail	A 7.5-mile moderate trail that goes from the valley floor up into tree covered mountains; scenic views into the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Powell Point to the north	
	Chriss Lake Trail	A 2.1-mile moderate climb through pine and aspen to a beautiful fishing lake	
	Posey Lookout Trail	A steep but fairly easy 0.7-mile trail from Posey Lake Campground up through pine and fir to an overlook where you can see the Henry Mountains and into the canyons of Capitol Reef National Park	
	Powell Point Trail	A easy 0.9-mile trail from the southern tip of the plateau to the edge of Powell Point where you can enjoy spectacular views of Arizona and Utah	
	Great Western Trail	Over 80 miles of non-motorized trails from Boulder Mountain near Hwy 12 on the east to Johns Valley near Pine Lake on the west.	



Cowpuncher Guard Station



Cascade Falls Trail

TRAIL COURTESY

YIELD TO



Exploring Ashdown Gorge

Activities

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

Off-highway vehicles are a popular way of travel across the Dixie National Forest. OHV trail systems provide opportunities for leisure rides as well as more challenging experiences.

Numerous other roads and trails on the national forest are open for OHV use, but travel off road is not allowed. Visit our website or any District Office for detailed trail maps to help you plan a safe and legal trip.



MOTORIZED CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL PROHIBITED

Only use roads and trails designated as open on official map.

Cross-country or "off-road" motorized travel is prohibited forest-wide. Motorized vehicle use is only allowed on routes designated as open on the official Dixie National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) with the following exceptions:

- Off-road travel for the purpose of firewood gathering is allowed only as specified under permit.
- Off-road travel for purposes of dispersed camping is allowed within 150 feet along designated open routes. Use established travel ways and campsites whenever possible. There is no restriction on setting up camp beyond 150 feet if gear is transported using non-motorized means.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) is a legal document that identifies the roads and trails where motor vehicles are allowed. It will be reissued each year, much like hunting proclamations or regulations. It is the user's responsibility to be familiar with the annual MVUM. The map will be provided free of charge at local Forest Service offices and on the internet at: www.fs.usda.gov/dixie or at www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/ohv_maps.shtml

Forest visitors are allowed to park adjacent to any road or trail if:

- Parking does not raise safety concerns.
- Parking along the road does not impact natural or cultural resources.
- Parking is not prohibited by signage.

Once parked along the route, visitors may engage in other activities including unloading OHVs for use on designated roads and trails.

Off-Highway Vehicle Trail Systems	Miles (one-way)	Notes
Paunsaugunt OHV System (Powell RD)	65	This system provides easy rides along roads and trails, all connecting on the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Many trails provide views from the western rim of the plateau overlooking the Sevier Valley. There are 6 loops within the system.
Fremont Trail System (Powell RD)	50	These trails are easy rides that have spectacular views of the high country, mountain valleys, and meadows. There are 4 loops on the Sevier Plateau.
Paiute OHV Trail Connect (Powell RD)	25	These are easy rides on roads and trails that connect from the Fremont Trail to the larger Paiute Trail in central Utah.
Markagunt OHV System (Cedar City RD)	400	An easy to moderate system, Markagunt roads and trails access dramatic vistas and great fishing.

Mountain Biking

World-class mountain bike trails criss-cross the Dixie National Forest. The Marakgunt Plateau is the most popular, but there is great riding on all of the Districts. Those wishing a "thrill downhill" will find it at the Brian Head Mountain Bike Park. Visit any District Office for maps and current information.

Courtesy of Sanpete.com



Mountain Bike Trails	Miles (one-way)	Notes
Canal Trail (Pine Valley RD)	5	Easy ride on the north side of Pine Valley overlooking the community of Pine Valley; the trail runs along an historic ditch built in the late 1800s to provide water to Newcastle 50 miles north.
Virgin River Rim (Cedar City RD)	32	Moderate to skilled ride overlooking the Virgin River watershed and Zion overlook.
Navajo Lake Trail System (Cedar City RD)	12	Easy to moderate ride surrounding Navajo Lake.
Bunker Creek (Left and Right Forks) (Cedar City RD)	5.5	Advanced riding down either branch of Bunker Creek.
Sydney Valley (Cedar City RD)	3.5	Advanced single track along the rim overlooking the Parowan Valley; connects to Bunker Creek trails.
Dark Hollow (Cedar City RD)	6	Advanced single track riding starting at the headwaters of Lowder Creek; spectacular views into Parowan Valley from the summit.
Lowder Ponds (Cedar City RD)	2.5	Advanced single track through the forest and meadows connecting to the Sydney Valley trails.
Blowhard (Cedar City RD)	10	Extreme riding; steep single track down from Blowhard to Highway 14.
Thunder Mountain (Powell RD)	10	Moderate to advanced riding across ridges and around Hoodoos south of Red Canyon, from the canyon floor to the edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau.
Red Canyon (Powell RD)	9	Easy ride on paved trail paralleling Highway 12, starting at the mouth of Red Canyon and ending at Bryce Canyon National Park.



Fish art © Joe Tomelleri



Fishing

There are 500 miles of fishing streams and 90 fishable lakes on the Dixie National Forest! Game fish include brook, rainbow, cutthroat, and brown trout. You might want to try your luck at:

- » Pine Valley Reservoir
- » Navajo Lake
- » Panguitch Lake
- » Upper and Lower Enterprise Reservoirs
- » Tropic Reservoir
- » Red Creek Reservoir (has a nonmotorized boat ramp)
- » Pine Lake (has a nonmotorized boat ramp)
- » Posey Lake (has a nonmotorized boat ramp)
- » Chriss Lake
- » McGath Reservoir
- » Barker Reservoir



For more fishing information:
 Visit the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources:
www.wildlife.utah.gov/fishing/
 or the
 Dixie National Forest website:
www.fs.usda.gov/dixie

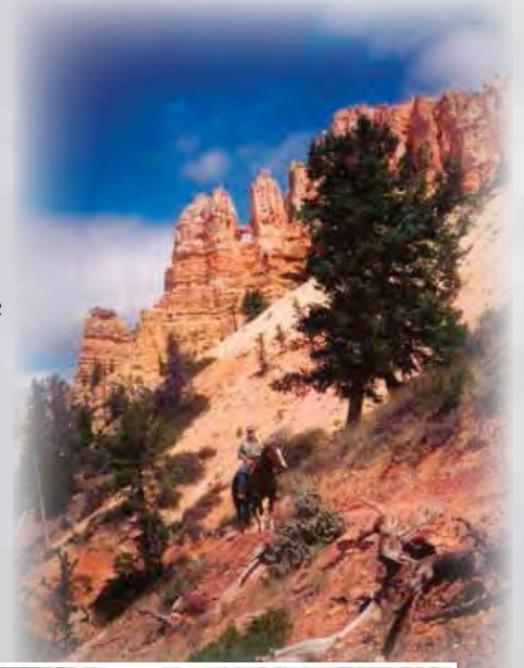


Horseback Riding

One of the most enjoyable ways to get away from the crowds and see the Dixie National Forest is from the back of a horse. Refer to page 11 for a listing of a few of the trails used by riders. Most forest trails are open to horse use.

Tips for horse travel:

- » Be aware that most trails are open to other uses as well—please use caution.
- » Carry only certified weed-free feed. Within 96 hours prior to entering the forest use only weed-free food.
- » Check at any District Office for information on trailheads with sufficient space to turn horse trailers.



❄️ Winter Recreation

National forest lands across the West offer great winter recreation opportunities and the Dixie is no exception. Here you can find groomed trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, along with large open areas for snowmobile fun. While some areas can be reached from a paved road (e.g. the Cedar City and Pine Valley Winter areas), others are accessed from more primitive trailheads. Check with the local Ranger District offices for current conditions.



© ALPO

Snowmobiling

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Cedar City Ranger District, grooms a network of almost 100 miles of trails across the district as part of the Cedar Mountain Snowmobile Trail Complex.



© Benis Arapovic

Downhill Skiing & Snowboarding

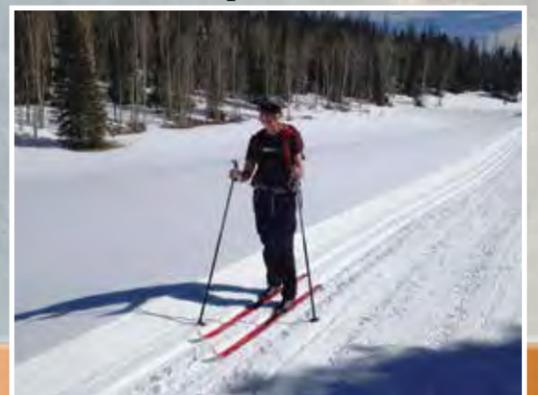
The Brian Head Ski Area has downhill skiing and snowboarding fun on almost 900 acres of the Dixie National Forest. Brian Head has the highest elevation base facilities of any ski resort in Utah, and terrain reaching to almost 11,000'.

Nordic Skiing & Snowshoeing

Within the Pine Valley Recreation Area, the valley floor is groomed for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, conditions permitting.

Deer Valley is a non-motorized winter playground. Located south of Highway 14 at the Iron/Kane County line, there are nearly 1,300 acres with with 23 miles (37 km) of ski trails and 2.5 miles of dog-friendly snowshoe trails.

Ruby's Inn on the Paunsaugunt Plateau grooms trails along the rim of Bryce Canyon and onto the plateau. Trails wind through ponderosa pine and offer solitude and spectacular scenery. A *Winter Festival* is held in February where there is fun for all ages and abilities.



Visit www.fs.usda.gov/dixie for winter recreation maps.

Know Before You Go



Be Bear Aware!

Seeing a black bear in the wild can make your experience memorable. To keep yourself safe and to preserve this experience for others, follow these tips:

- Keep a clean campsite. Store food and garbage in closed vehicles and out of sight.
- Never put food scraps in the campfire—it attracts bears and skunks.
- Don't keep food, shampoo, toothpaste—or anything that smells—in tents or sleeping areas.
- Store stoves and Dutch ovens in a vehicle or secure place when not in use.
- When camping in the backcountry, hang food and garbage from a tree limb at least 10 feet from the ground and 5 feet from the tree trunk. This tree should be at least 100 yards from your sleeping area.
- Some bears also target motor oil, insect repellent, liquor, and other things that look like food. Please put these items out of reach.

If bears become accustomed to human food, they may become aggressive towards humans or cause property damage. To protect people, these bears may have to be destroyed.



For more information, visit www.BeBearAware.org.



Tread Lightly!

Unpaved and primitive roads present special challenges, even in good weather. Before you head out, think about another challenge—your responsibility to “Tread Lightly.” Here’s how:

- T** *ravel only where motorized vehicles are permitted.*
- R** *espect the rights of others to enjoy their activities undisturbed.*
- E** *ducate yourself by getting travel information and regulations, comply with signs, and ask owners' permission to cross their property.*
- A** *void streams, lakeshores, meadows, muddy roads, steep hillsides, wildlife, and livestock.*
- D** *rive responsibly to protect the environment and preserve opportunities to enjoy your vehicle on public lands.*

tread lightly!®

LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



Aquatic Nuisance Species

When zebra and/or quagga mussels invade our local waters they damage boats, destroy fish habitat, and clog public water pipes. Zebra and quagga mussels attach to boats, bait buckets, and other gear. You can help stop these aquatic hitchhikers by following these three steps:

- Clean mud, plants, animals or other debris from your boat and equipment.
- Drain the ballast tanks, bilge, livewells, and motor.
- Dry (7 days summer; 18 days spring/fall; and 30 days winter) or freeze.



What's that Smoke?

Fire can be a tool for maintaining or improving forest health by reducing overcrowding and the risk of insects, disease, and catastrophic fires. During your visit to the Dixie National Forest, you may see smoke where land managers use fire to realize these benefits. You can check current fire conditions by calling any District Office, or by going to www.utahfireinfo.gov. To report a wildfire, call the Color Country Interagency Fire Center at (435) 865-4600.



Responsible Recreation

To sustain the beauty and health of our national forests, please follow these tips:



Choose an Existing Site
Creating new campsites kills vegetation and leads to soil erosion. Use only designated sites.

Park Away from Water
Parking near water eventually kills vegetation, leading to erosion and water pollution that make it hard for fish and other

aquatic wildlife to breathe. In addition, vehicles driven onto tree roots seriously jeopardize the health of the tree. Please park at least 200 feet (or 12 vehicle lengths) back from water.

Human Waste

Bacteria and viruses found in human feces are known to cause hepatitis, salmonella, giardia, and other gastrointestinal diseases. Remember, the water in the rivers and lakes you visit may flow into your own drinking water supply. Please follow these simple steps when nature calls:

- ☞ Find a spot at least 200 feet from any water source.
- ☞ Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and bury human waste.
- ☞ Pack out used toilet paper.

Respect Living Trees

By carving or chopping into the trunks of trees, people unknowingly slit veins right below the bark. These veins transport nutrients and water throughout the tree. If the damage becomes severe, it will deprive the tree of nutrients and food, and the tree slowly starves to death.



Pine Creek

Don't Erase the Traces of America's Past

Archaeological and historic sites hold clues to America's past. If disturbed, a part of our heritage will be lost forever. If you discover such remains, please leave them undisturbed and contact the Dixie National Forest.

Sites and artifacts on federal lands are protected by federal law.

Flyer Village, 700-950 A.D.

Use Established Fire Rings Wisely

Please follow these simple steps:

- ☞ Do not bring in firewood—you could unintentionally bring in bugs and disease. If you collect firewood at your campsite, use dead and down wood only, and keep your fire small.
- ☞ Check at the local District Office or website for current fire restrictions. Remember, they can change daily.
- ☞ Use existing fire rings. Scrape away litter and any other burnable material within a 10-foot-diameter circle surrounding the fire ring.
- ☞ Have a shovel, axe, and bucket of water available before lighting your campfire.
- ☞ Make sure all wood fits inside the fire ring. Don't "feed" a large log into the fire ring.
- ☞ To put out a campfire, slowly pour water onto the fire and stir with a shovel. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cool to touch.
- ☞ Do not bury your fire. The coals can smolder and re-ignite.
- ☞ NEVER leave a fire unattended, even if there are no flames present. Make sure it is out cold. Many wildfires have been caused by abandoned campfires.



© Noam Armorn



Blue grouse (© Sasha Burkard)

Forest Creatures

Help keep wildlife "wild" by not approaching or feeding them. Keep your dog leashed to protect both him and wildlife.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds can rapidly displace native plant species that provide habitat for wildlife and food for people and livestock. Here's how you can help reduce their spread:

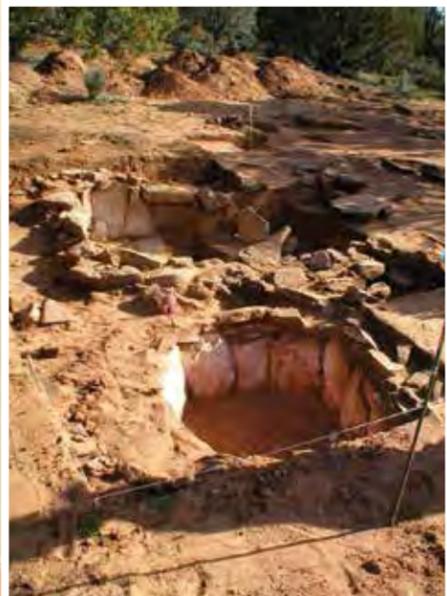
- ☞ Learn to recognize common weed species.
- ☞ Don't camp or drive in weed infested areas.
- ☞ Don't pick the flowers of noxious weeds and take them home—you'll spread seeds.
- ☞ When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed-free. Within 96 hours before entering backcountry areas, feed them only weed-free food.
- ☞ Wash your vehicle, including the undercarriage, to remove any weed seed before driving to the forest.



Musk thistle (© Martin Fowler)

For more information, visit Utah Weed Control Association at www.utahweed.org/.

Scotch thistle (© Picturepartners)



Dixie National Forest



Your Fees at Work

Recreation fees have made a meaningful difference in our ability to serve our national forest visitors because these dollars are reinvested into visitor services and facilities. For example, on the Dixie National Forest fees have been used for:

- ↳ Improvements to rental cabins, such as fencing, spring maintenance, painting, and other renovations
- ↳ A new stove at the Pine Valley Guard Station
- ↳ Increased visitor services staffing
- ↳ This Visitor Guide



Fees paid to replace the porch on Podunk Guard Station cabin rental and built a fire ring at the station.

America The Beautiful - National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Interagency Pass Program



The *America the Beautiful* interagency pass program is a suite of annual and lifetime passes that provides U.S. citizens and visitors an affordable and convenient way to recreate on federal lands. Between 80% and 100% of the program's proceeds are used to improve visitor services.

NOTE: Passes are honored nationwide at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish & Wildlife Service sites charging entrance or standard amenity fees. In some areas, they can be used for discounts on fees such as camping.



Pika (© Adrian Baras)



Lupine (© Taikura)



Thunder Mountain Trail in Red Canyon

Visitor Centers

St. George Interagency Visitor Center
345 E. Riverside Dr.
St. George, UT
(435) 688-3200

Pine Valley Heritage Center
132 E. Main
Pine Valley, UT
Open seasonally
(435) 574-2463

Duck Creek Visitor Center
Highway 14
Open seasonally
(435) 682-2432

Red Canyon Visitor Center
5375 E. Highway 12
Open seasonally
(435) 676-2676

Escalante Interagency Visitor Center
Highway 12
Escalante, UT
(435) 826-5499

Wildcat Visitor Center
Highway 12
Open seasonally

Cannonville Visitor Center
12 Center St.
Cannonville, UT
Open seasonally
(435) 826-5640

Anasazi State Park
460 N. Highway 12
Boulder, UT
(435) 335-7382

Torrey Visitor Center
Junction of Highway 12 and 24
Torrey, UT
Open seasonally



Red Canyon Visitor Center



Escalante Interagency Visitor Center

Forest Contact Information

Dixie National Forest
Supervisor's Office
1789 North Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84721-7769
(435) 865-3700

Pine Valley Ranger District
196 E. Tabernacle, Suite 40
St. George, UT 84770
(435) 688-3246

Cedar City Ranger District
1789 North Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84721-7769
(435) 865-3200

Powell Ranger District
P.O. Box 80
Panguitch, UT 84759-0080
(435) 676-9300

Escalante Ranger District
P.O. Box 246
Escalante, UT 84726-0246
(435) 826-5400

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 www.fs.usda.gov/dixie

Forest Service

Other Agency

Visitor Guides for other national forests in the Intermountain Region may be found at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r4/rec_publications

Background photo (© Jenny Solomon)

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Fall on Mammoth Creek

