

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

THE DIXIE CONNECTION

Connecting People, Ecosystems, Heritage, Tradition, Recreation

2015 Accomplishment Report





A MESSAGE FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR

The Dixie National Forest, Connect to the Dixie, is the theme for the 2015 Annual Accomplishment Report. As the Forest Supervisor for the past three years, I have both professional and personal connections to the Dixie National Forest. I grew up here exploring and utilizing the abundant resources the Dixie National Forest offers, sustaining my livelihood, similar to many people in the communities near the Forest.

In the late 1890s Congress set aside select forests and grasslands for the protection of watersheds for communities, and so that the land would be managed in perpetuity for multiple uses. The Forest Service strives to protect the ecosystems under its management to reclaim, sustain, or enhance the health of the ecosystem as a whole. This not only benefits watersheds, but range lands, timber resources, recreational opportunities and other aspects of ecosystems.

In 2015, the USDA Forest Service introduced the FY 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. It is a plan that represents our commitment to SUSTAIN our nation's forests and grasslands, DELIVER benefits to the public, APPLY knowledge globally, and EXCEL as a high-performing agency. Tiering to the Strategic Plan, the Intermountain Region provides further focus and emphasis areas. Work on the Dixie National Forest is oriented around these principles and we manage for multiple uses on the Forest for today and for future generations. We strive to meet the Forest Service motto of "Caring for the Land and Serving People."

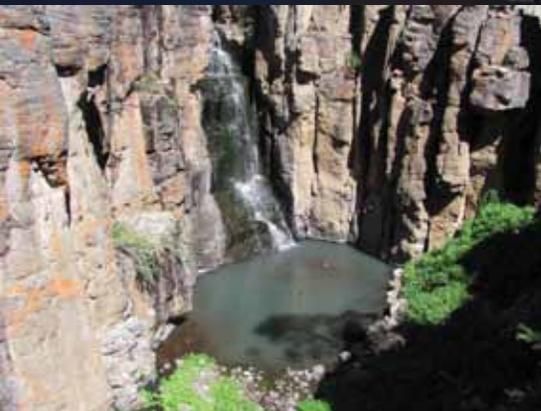
Forest relationships are critical to the Dixie National Forest successes. As the Dixie National Forest Supervisor, I will continue to strive to build stronger working relationships with the communities. This sentiment is also reflected in the outstanding and hard-working employees that are dedicated in stewardship to the Forest and improving the health of the Forest. The 2015 annual report reflects the commitment of the Dixie National Forest's employees, partners, volunteers, local, county, state government and tribal roles in actively managing the Forest. There are numerous examples in this report of partnership and coordination to achieve shared goals. I am encouraged and committed to the continuous improvements we are making across the landscape in protection of wildlife habitat, livestock grazing management, treating noxious weeds, providing sustainable recreation opportunities and restoring watersheds and forest health. It is a delicate and complex balance to manage the forest that was founded on multiple uses and governed by strict regulation.

Together, through these engaged communities and networks we will provide long lasting value and connections to the people we serve. Though challenges ahead may at times seem daunting, I am confident that we will continue to excel in fulfilling our conservation mission by working together with communities (local and global) and expanding our coordination efforts in partnership. I will look for opportunities to incorporate meaningful connections with our stakeholders and partners throughout the next year with occasions to host field trips and site visits to gain better insight on issues.

I will continue to make proactive decisions for the Dixie National Forest, while working together with our neighbors to sustain for the forest health, diversity and productivity that establish resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities, provide socioeconomic opportunities, and provide enduring connections with the Dixie National Forest.

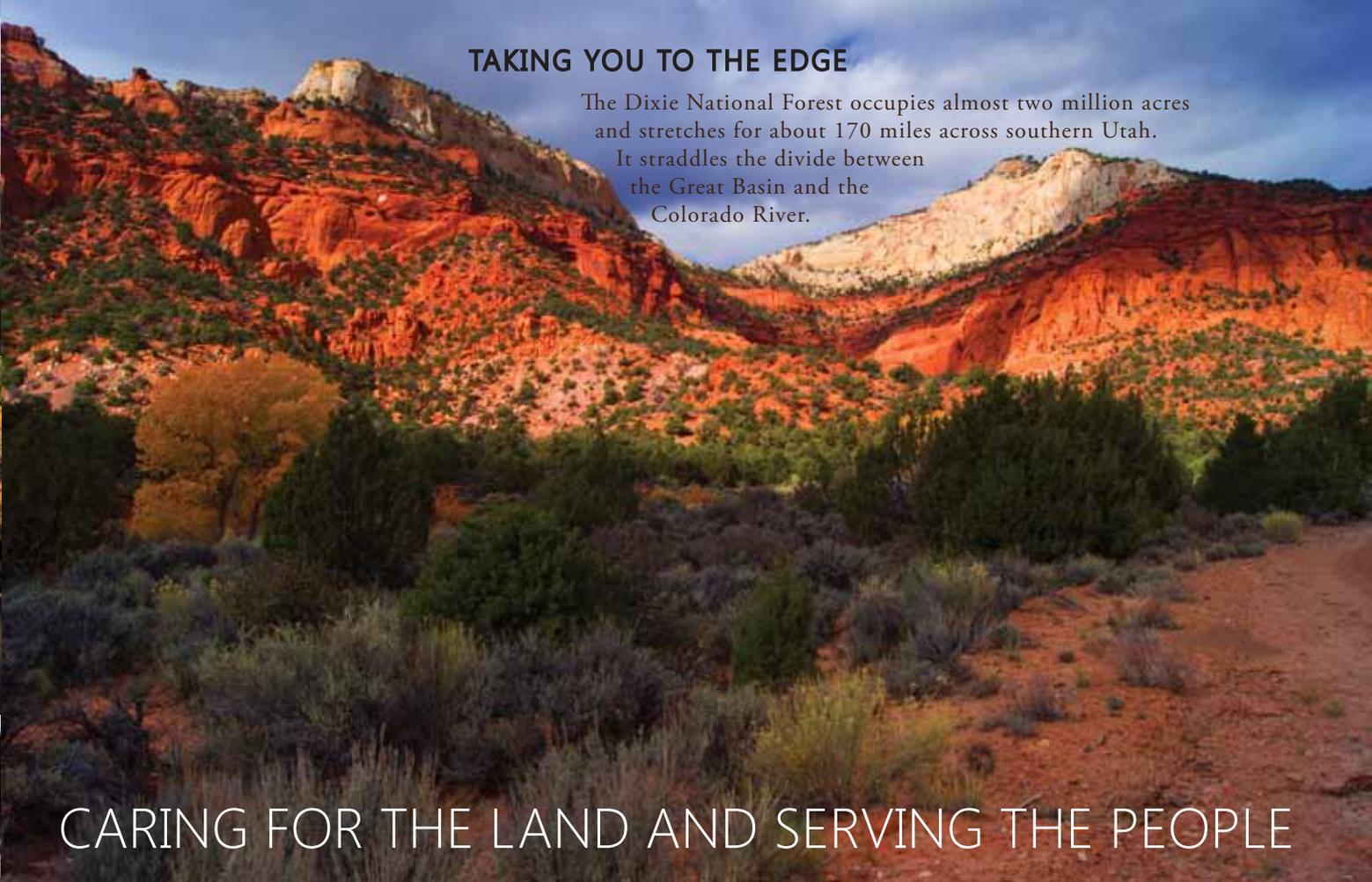
Sincerely,

Angelita S. Bullets
Forest Supervisor



TAKING YOU TO THE EDGE

The Dixie National Forest occupies almost two million acres and stretches for about 170 miles across southern Utah. It straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado River.



CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING THE PEOPLE

ABOUT THE FOREST

Where does the name Dixie come from? 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.

Acres: Nearly 2 million

Elevation Range: 3,000-11,000 feet

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

MOTTO:

Caring for the Land and Serving the People

MISSION:

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST: BY THE NUMBERS

EMPLOYMENT in 2015:

Permanent Employee's: 155

Seasonal Employee's: 100

4 Youth Conservation Crews

1 American Conservation Experience (ACE) Crew

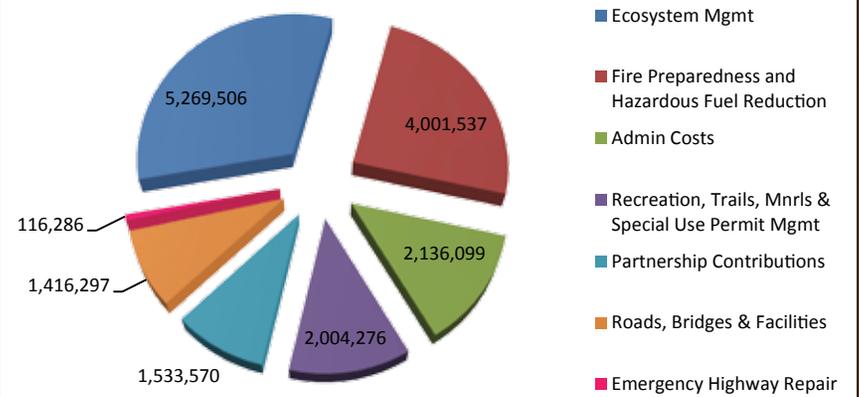
1 Student Conservation Association (SCA) Crew

60 Southern Utah University Intergovernmental
Internship Cooperative Students (IIC)

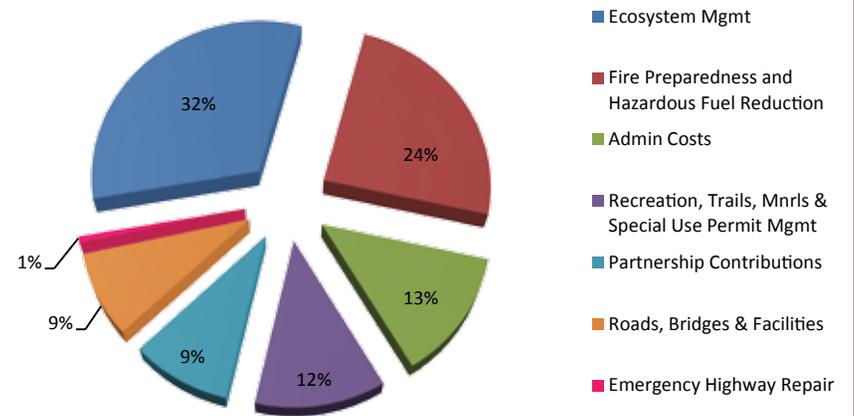
BUDGETING FOR RESULTS

The Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The budget reflects areas of resource distribution to manage the forest health and accomplishments toward the mission.

Dixie National Forest FY15 Budget (\$)



Dixie National Forest FY15 Budget (%)



The Dixie National Forest operated on \$16,477,571 budget in fiscal year 2015. The budget has fluctuated over the past several years. As a comparison the 2011 budget was approximately 20 million.

Dixie National Forest FY 15 Budget	
Resource Area Budget Breakdown	Total
Ecosystem Management (Timber, Wildlife, Hydrology, Soils, Range)	5,269,506
Fire Preparedness & Hazardous Fuel Reduction	4,001,537
Administrative Costs	2,136,099
Recreation, Trails, Heritage, Minerals & Special Use Permit Programs	2,004,276
Partnership Contributions	1,533,570
Engineering, Roads, Bridges & Facilities	1,416,297
Emergency Highway Repair	116,286
Grand Total	16,477,571

In 2015, the Heritage Program was busy with projects throughout the Forest on all four ranger districts. This year Dixie Archaeologists conducted 19 projects in support of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). They surveyed 2,800 acres and recorded 24 new archaeological sites.

The Heritage Program hosted and participated in 30 outreach programs this year which reached 2,568 adults and youth ranging from locals to visitors. Some of these outreach programs include:

- American Indian Heritage Day: Navajo taco lunch, demonstrations of flintknapping, cordage and pottery making.
- Road Scholar Presentations
- Gooseberry 3rd grade Presentations
- Fish Lake NF and Powell RD Campfire Programs
- Cedar Middle School Presentations
- Washington D.C. 6th grade Presentations
- Local Boy Scout Camp Presentations
- Southern Utah University Anthropology class presentations and demonstrations
- Iron County Historical Society presentation
- Outdoor Survival School presentation
- Prescribe Fire training presentation
- Arizona Strip Site Stewards presentation



JUBILEE GUARD STATION GETS A FACELIFT

The Escalante Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest partnered with the Utah Canyon Country Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen along with the Bryce Canyon National Park Historic Preservation crew to renovate the weathered Jubilee Guard Station. The Guard Station, located at 9,800 feet, was built in 1908 as refuge for forest rangers conducting forest mapping, range inspections, grazing permit administration and other forest management actions. In 1989, Utah State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the Dixie National Forest that the Jubilee Guard Station is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with the significance of being one of the oldest remaining guard stations in Utah and the earliest telephone system location for Southern Utah. The renovations included roof repairs, general maintenance and replacement of matching era historic windows.

CONNECTING PAST WITH THE PRESENT

The Dixie Heritage program also hosted 5 Boy Scouts of America Eagle Projects and hosted volunteers to reach 1,280 volunteer hours.

The Heritage program continues to be involved in development of the Cultural Resource chapter for the Intermountain Adaption Partners Project to prepare for climate change through science-management collaboration. Additionally, work continues with the contractors on the Sigurd to Red Butte Powerline in coordination with preparing the cultural resource report. This past summer the Jubilee Guard Station received renovations with participation from numerous partners.

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST HOSTED THE 3RD ANNUAL KWIYAMUNTSI PAIUTE YOUTH CAMP



The Kwiyamuntsi camp is aimed at engaging Paiute tribal youth, 7th through 9th grade, in learning cultural traditions, valuing the natural and cultural resources important to their heritage and connecting them to public lands within their traditional homeland in southern Utah and northern Arizona. It provides for meaningful experiences that encourage youth interested in advanced education and land management careers. Learning modules provide lessons in the areas of botany, biology, forestry, fire/fuels, wildlife, hydrology, archeology and geology that are complemented with traditional knowledge. The Paiute Indian Tribes in Utah, Arizona and Nevada along with tribal elders and agency staff from Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Southern Utah University provide interactive field activities along with traditional knowledge and current land management practices.

CONNECTING NEXT GENERATIONS



YOUTH CREWS REMOVE INVASIVE SALT CEDAR TREE FROM MOODY WASH ON THE PINE VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT



Have you ever seen a shrub-like evergreen along some of southern Utah's desert rivers and streams? Most likely it is Salt cedar or tamarisk, a nonnative, invasive tree that can displace native riparian vegetation by absorbing large amounts of water and leaving large salt deposits, thus outcompeting native riparian plants. The invasion of tamarisk has negative impacts on wildlife and instream habitat. In the early 19th century, Salt cedar was brought to the west as an ornamental tree, for wind breaks and stream bank erosion control. Today land managers across the west are trying to eradicate this species and restore watersheds!

In 2013, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Dixie National Forest teamed up to remove an infestation of Salt cedar from Moody Wash on the Pine Valley Ranger District. Moody Wash, was found eligible for a Wild River designation, for its primitive watershed, unique geology, fauna and intact (cottonwood and willow) riparian plant community. Moody Wash is home to a variety of sensitive aquatic species including Virgin spinedace, Desert sucker, Speckled dace, and Arizona toad.

Leveraging grant money from Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative and 21st Century Conservation Service Corps grant funds, UDWR and the Forest partnered with agency crews and Utah Conservation Corp youth crews (UCC) to chop down and treat tamarisk with herbicide along 14.5 miles of the Wash since 2013. In 2016, UCC will continue work with additional Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative funds to restore Moody Wash's natural balance and enhance biological diversity.

IN FY 2015 THERE WERE 2,412 ACRES OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE IMPROVEMENTS ACCOMPLISHED ON THREE MAJOR PROJECTS:

In FY 2015 there were 2,412 acres of soil and water resource improvements accomplished on three major projects.

1. **Travel Plan Implementation:** The 2009 Motorized Travel Plan decision defined 2700 designated road system on the Dixie. Staying on the trail provides positive benefits to wildlife, water, and other natural resource and social values. "You can still get there!" the designated system still offers motorized routes to many scenic overlooks, dispersed campsites, traditional hunting camps, and other scenic areas. In 2015, the Holt Canyon Motorized Travel Plan Implementation accomplished 40 acres of watershed improvement. The Pine Valley District and Supervisor's office resource specialists worked to identify 15 miles of routes that could be rehabilitated and improve resource conditions. This included improvement of 1 mile of stream habitat and 180 acres of terrestrial habitat improved.
2. **Noxious Weed Treatment:** Overall the Dixie National Forest has a low noxious weed infestation with an active and aggressive management program that includes partnerships with the State and counties to manage in a coordinated effort. In 2015, the Dixie treated noxious weeds on 1,500 acres through spraying treatments.
3. **Moody Wash Salt Cedar Removal –** 872 acres of soil and water resource improvement.



SUMMER CREWS ARE ON THE MOVE



The Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) located at Southern Utah University has once again teamed up with the Forest Service for another summer of projects on the Dixie National Forest. The four IIC Crews were excited to be working with the Pine Valley, Cedar City, Powell, and Escalante Ranger Districts on a variety of different projects including trail

maintenance, campground restoration, bird monitoring and fencing. Crews were made up of 2–4 youth from surrounding communities as well as a college aged crew leader from SUU. Each crew leader went through a series of trainings and certifications, ranging from Wilderness Remote First Responder to noxious weed elimination. All crew members attended a week long training in preparation for their summer internships.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Dixie hosted:

43 interns, 11 YCC crew members and 4 YCC crew leads

The YCC crews were made up of local high school students that spent 3704 hours working on a variety of natural resource projects as well as educational exercises.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL INTERNSHIP COOPERATIVE

The Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) was founded in 2007 as an outgrowth of a newly established Outdoor Recreation Parks and Tourism degree at Southern Utah University. Students majoring in this program needed an internship experience to fulfill the degree requirements. Simultaneously, several regional land management agencies were endeavoring to strengthen their relationship with SUU, which included an increased emphasis on student hiring programs.

The IIC currently partners with the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Paiute Indian Tribes), Dixie State University, Utah Department of Natural Resources (Cedar City office), Utah State Parks and Recreation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (Cedar City office). Partnering with these agencies, the IIC assisted in the placement of 15 interns and practicum students in its first year. Impressed with the quality of SUU's students and recognizing that the IIC format would be beneficial for agency program areas, beyond recreation, the partners transformed the IIC from a single program emphasis to an enlarged multi-program emphasis, placing interns in degree-related professional fields in subjects ranging from accounting to zoology.

Together, the partnership has developed challenging internship opportunities for students, enrolled in many of SUU's degree programs, in a diversity of exciting professional fields. Interns are mentored and provided "real world" work experience that complements their academic pursuits and helps prepare them for a successful career in land management or other professional endeavors. In 2015 the IIC placed, or directly funded, 256 interns in positions that support all the partner's program areas. The Dixie National Forest hosted 43 interns across the forest in various resource fields.

CONNECTING CAREERS AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS



CONNECTING THROUGH OUTDOOR PLAY

VISITOR CENTERS - PLACES TO LEARN AND CONNECT

There are seven locations on the Dixie National Forest where visitors can find information, buy permits, maps and books. Additionally, county tourism offices, government agency visitor centers and local business are supporting the Dixie in partnership to disseminate information. These visitor information centers are seeing increased visitation across the Forest. The Red Canyon and Duck Creek Visitor Centers are examples of locations setting records.

DUCK CREEK VISITOR CENTER EXPERT VOLUNTEERS



The Duck Creek Visitor Center volunteers on the Cedar City Ranger District staffed the center this summer and answered visitor's questions, sold fire-wood permits, assisted with several medical emergencies, provided and assisted with scout group service projects, provided interpretive talks on the area's geology and history. This great group of volunteers are the Cedar Mountains tour experts – some hike the area trails while others explore the wildlife viewing areas to share with the visitors that are looking for that vacation memory. We look forward to the return of these fantastic smiling and friendly volunteers again in May 2016.

**VISITATION INCREASED IN 2015 BY 50%
WITH OVER 10,300 VISITORS SERVED**

RED CANYON VISITOR CENTER SETS RECORDS

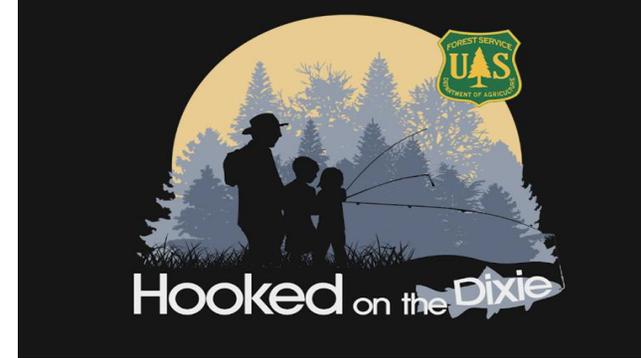


Every year thousands of visitors pass through the Powell Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest on their way to Bryce Canyon National Park, which was once a part of the Forest. Most people travel the scenic Highway 12 through Red Canyon where one can get up close and personal with red hoodoos. This year the Red Canyon Visitor Center located at the base of Red Canyon saw record visitation.

Operated by 6-8 volunteers and one permanent seasonal employee, over 177,000 people visited the Red Canyon Visitor Center from April through October. The Visitor Center offers a unique opportunity for visitors to learn about the area and its early history, the Forest Service and what their public lands offer.

VISITATION INCREASED IN 2015 BY 23%

CAMPAIGNS



A number of campaign slogans have been developed over the past few years to entice the public to discover the diverse recreation opportunities on the Dixie National Forest. Connecting with partners, county tourism offices, and utilizing social media, the Dixie wants to increase public awareness as well as relieve capacity pressures occurring on neighboring National Park units, such as Bryce and Zion.

Videos have been developed for each of these campaigns and can be found on the Dixie National Forest website: <http://1.usa.gov/1QeKfPb>

Campaigns: *"It's all Yours! Go.Play"*
"Stay Another Day"
"Hooked on the Dixie"

Seasonal Campaigns:

"Go.Play. Take a Snow Day on the Dixie."
*"Fall in Love with the Dixie" - Heritage,
Tradition, Recreation, Family*

RANGE

Livestock Grazing Management Facts:

	# Active Allotments	# Permittees (2015)	Permitted Sheep AUMs (2015)	Permitted Cattle AUMs (2015)	Total Permitted AUMs (2015)
Dixie NF*	73	140	11,664	74,952	86,616
Pine Valley RD	13	33	0	22,306	22,306
Cedar City RD	27	49	9,514	11,436	20,950
Powell RD	19	32	2,150	13,650	15,800
Escalante RD	14	26	0	27,560	27,560

*Does not include information for the Teasdale unit that is administered by the Fishlake N.F.

84% of the total forest acres of the Dixie National Forest are within active grazing allotments

LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Forest Service foundations rooted in Grazing Heritage and Best Management

The Forest Service has undergone many changes in its management of rangelands. In the mid to late 1800's, the unlimited and uncontrolled use on unclaimed public domain lands allowed for the development of large cattle and sheep empire organizations. The rangelands soon became over-grazed, overstocked, and overcrowded. Due to prompting from the public and small ranchers, Congress addressed the issue in the early 1900's and designated the Forest Service as pioneering grazing administration agency. By 1907, the Forest Service had established its system of range regulations. This included permits, limits on herd size, grazing seasons, delineation of allotments, and establishment of grazing fees. The system has served as a pattern for other agencies concerned with resource protection and the pursuit of society's goals. Today, the Forest Service concentrates its efforts on managing the vegetation resources across rangelands to serve a multitude of resource needs. Rangeland management specialists are working to provide such things as habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, clean water, and sustainable grazing and browsing. They inventory, classify, and monitor rangeland conditions to maintain or improve rangeland health. When they identify unhealthy rangelands, they strive to restore rangeland ecosystem functions, working together with livestock permittees. Forest Service rangeland management includes a whole host of partners, both public and private, working together to make sure our rangelands are healthy and functioning properly. The Dixie National Forest continues to encourage collaborative discussions on range management and other land management issues. The Forest has good working relationships with the majority of permittees based on open communication and a common desire to maintain healthy rangelands. The ability of permittees and the Forest Service to work together will contribute to the long term sustainable economic benefits as well as lasting resource benefits.



10 wild horses removed from satellite territory back to the North Hills Wild Horse Territory, Pine Valley RD.

Established partnership with National Mustang Association.

CONNECTING WITH LIVESTOCK PERMITTEES

The Cedar City Ranger District observed that numerous grazing permittees did not fully understand the differences between the Term Grazing Permit, Allotment Management Plans and the Annual Operating Instructions. The District Ranger and the Range Management Specialist determined that a workshop addressing the items listed above would help strengthen the partnership between the permittees and the Forest Service. On November 17, 2015 the Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District and the Utah State University Extension co-sponsored a workshop to present the intricacies of the grazing permit and non-compliance process.

Additionally, discussion took place on the need to develop a joint monitoring program and shared management documentation to allow the permittee to voice concerns about the future of grazing on National Forest Systems lands. This workshop helped nurture relationships between the permittees and the Forest in an effort to become better stewards of rangeland resources.

This was the first range workshop focusing on the grazing permit system in the State of Utah. The Utah State University Extension agent stated that this was a huge success and expressed his desire to use this workshop as a template

for future workshops around the state. The approximately 50 grazing permittees in attendance expressed their desire to see this workshop continue and develop field trips to discuss resource concerns on the rangelands.



PANGUITCH LAKE CAMPGROUND



Recently, the Panguitch Lake North Campground on the Dixie National Forest received major improvements to four campsites, making them accessible to those with disabilities. Improvements included new concrete pads, paths, water faucets, tables and fire rings. This project was all made possible due to the Granger-Thye program within the Forest Service. The Granger-Thye Act of 1950 allows for funds generated at a

campground to be utilized for improvements at the campground. This ensures that funds stay in the forest in which they originated.

In order to make sites more accessible a collaborative team composed of forest personnel in Engineering, District Recreation, Special Uses and the Landscape Architect worked to choose a location for the improvements. The four sites at Panguitch Lake North were chosen due to high visitor use. Accessibility standards could easily be met due to the close proximity of existing water faucets, campsites and a restroom. Existing and outdated facilities were removed including old tables and fire rings. New concrete pads, including fire rings and tables were constructed. The new picnic pads are connected by natural tinted concrete paths that run from the four sites to water faucets and the restrooms. These paths were built in accordance to outdoor accessibility standards. The faucets were relocated closer to the sites and the paths and equipped with special handles that provide more accessibility. This project provides accessible accommodations to visitors, reduces campground deferred maintenance and utilizes funds that were generated at the Dixie's recreation fee sites.

ENGINEERING

Road Maintenance Projects

- 140 miles maintained on high clearance roads
- 353 miles maintained on passenger car roads
- 4.1 miles of passenger car improvement (Roto-milled Griffin top road (improvement))

All passenger car roads were maintained

- Extensive maintenance on Hell's Backbone road was completed (Escalante Ranger District)
- Fixed safety issues (shoulder washouts) on the North Creek Road (Cedar City Ranger District)
- Provided engineering support and planning on more than 15 timber sale projects.
- Surveys and designs for multiple gravel sources across the Forest.

Facilities Projects

- Cowpuncher Guard Station-Planning and design complete and ready for construction (Escalante Ranger District)
- Electric Gate and Concrete at Escalante Warehouse Yard (Escalante Ranger District)
- Dave's Hollow Guard Station septic system investigation and engineering report (Powell Ranger District)
- Tree seedling cooler roof replacement (Escalante Ranger District)
- Underground fuel storage tank removal at the Panguitch Administrative site (Powell Ranger District)
- Replacement of well pump at Red Canyon for campground and Visitor Center. (Powell Ranger District)
- Inspected water systems, wastewater systems, buildings, dams and bridges. (Forest wide)
- Water system repair at Deer Haven Campground. (Cedar City Ranger District)
- Deer Hollow Winter Recreation parking lot design and construction. (Cedar City Ranger District)
- Granger-Thye user fee project at Panguitch Lake North Campground
- Built 8 car parking lot and gravel pad for future pavilion at the Pine Valley Heritage Center. (Pine Valley Ranger District)
- Mill Flat Trailhead: Built 10 car parking and 6 horse parking and installed 72 boulders around perimeter to contain use. (Pine Valley Ranger District)

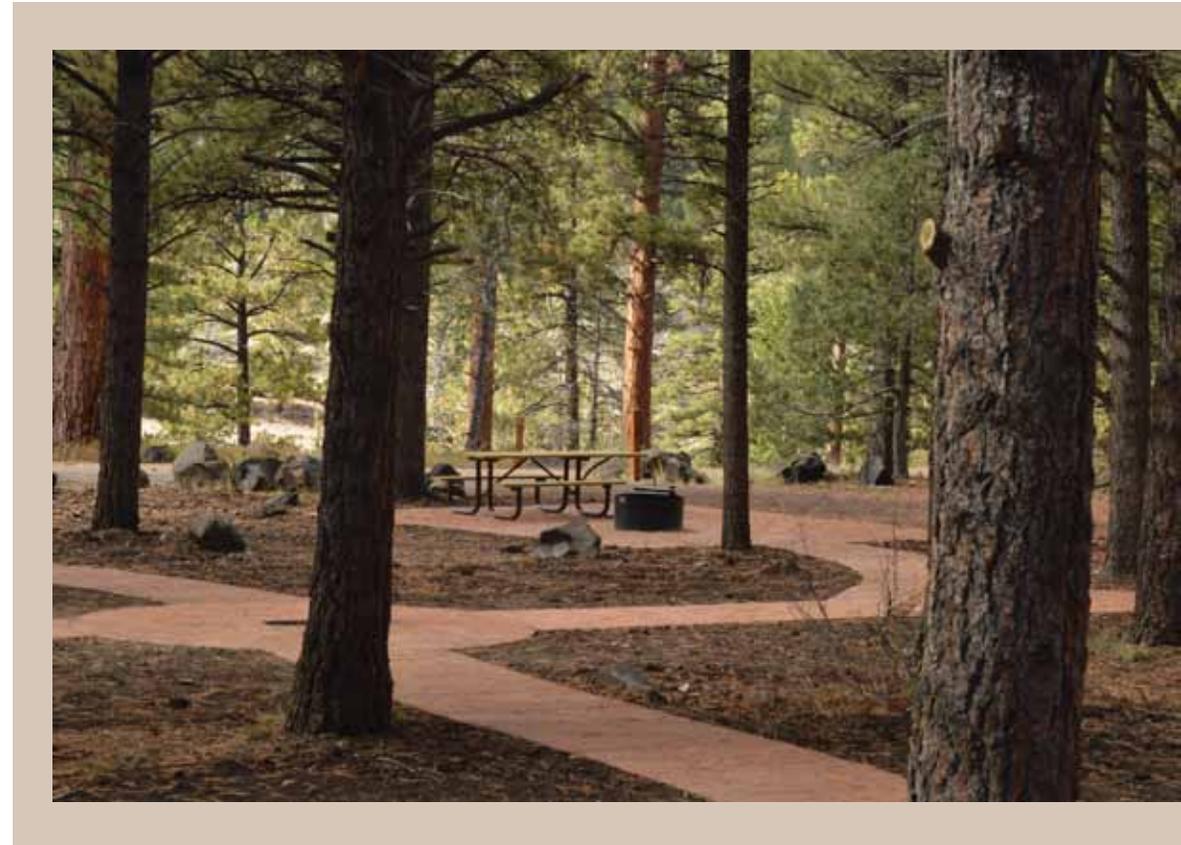
ENGINEERING CONTINUED...

Special Uses

- Wilson Peak Fiber Optic Line-assist with technical specifications, alignment and onsite inspection. (Powell Ranger District)
- Recreation residences technical support (forest wide)
- Leeds Culinary assisted the Water District with proposed changes in water system.(Pine Valley Ranger District)
- Webster Flat Road-alignment easement with county. (Cedar City Ranger District)

Partnerships

- Red Canyon bike trail extension into Bryce Canyon
- Emergency Relief Federally Owned (ERFO) roads support with Kane County for Stout Canyon Rehabilitation
- Partnership with Garfield County for crack seal and slurry seal on Red Canyon Bike Trail
- Design of trail in Cedar Breaks National Monument connecting overlooks and campground
- Partnership agreement with Arizona Strip BLM to have Dixie N.F. road crew work on #1077 road in Pakoon Wash area
- Pinto low water crossing- worked with Washington County road crew on design
- Navajo Lake road reconstruction and paving – planning, design, and coordination with Federal Highways
- Pine Valley Community partnered with funding, design and installation of a restroom at the Pine Valley Heritage Center



MINERAL MATERIALS

- 60 permits for stone, cinders and other mineral materials were issued by the Dixie National Forest this year across the four Ranger Districts.
- Mineral materials such as landscape rock, cinders and flagstone are sold to individuals for personal use. Much of the material on the forest is used by forest engineers to keep roads in good condition or to provide material to surface campsites or recreation areas.
- Deer Hollow Non-Motorized Winter Recreation area parking lot was completed using forest mineral materials from several different sites on the Dixie.
- Materials were used by counties and State agencies for a variety of uses under the free-use permit.
- Utah Highway Department uses the Strawberry Knolls cinder source on Cedar Mountain.

OIL FIELD AND MINES

- One active oil field is located on the Escalante Ranger District. This field has been producing oil since the 1970's and continues to provide oil which is sent to refineries in Utah and Nevada. Royalties from this oil production is paid to the Federal Government with half of all the revenues being sent to the State where the oil is produced. This money in turn is sent to help support the counties to fund schools, roads, and other priorities.
- Several small mines are located on the Dixie National Forest. Most of the current mines are in the exploratory phase.
- This year one mine site was successfully reclaimed following mining operations

LAVA TUBE CAVES

- Dixie National Forest is home to many lava tubes which form caves. Public use of Mammoth Cave continues to be a highlight of many forest visitors, recent parking lot upgrades to accommodate parking.
- Caves provides homes to bats, packrats and several other cave adapted species.
- Several local organized cave groups have provided time and expertise in inventorying cave creatures and collecting data important to managing caves on the Dixie.



MINERALS

PRESEASON FIRE DISCUSSIONS

CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS

The word wildfire often brings images of catastrophic events, however, it is important to understand wildfire plays a critical role in western ecosystems. The Dixie National Forest hosted preseason discussions to open dialogue with local officials and address concerns before there is fire on the ground. A preseason review of Forest and county maps along with county and other Federal and State officials helps identify high value resources and assets at risk; discuss forest restoration through fire as essential to sustaining critical ecosystems services (i.e. vegetation health, water quality); and identify locations where modification of vegetative conditions is needed to reduce threats to communities.

FIRE SEASON 2015

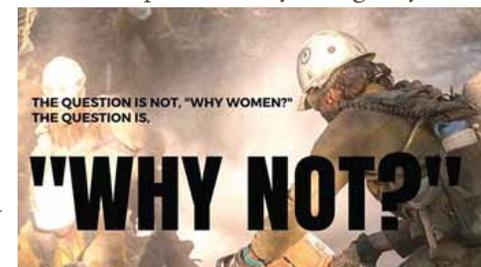
The Dixie National Forest had a total of 33 fires that burned 1,015 acres in 2015. While these numbers are well below the 5 and 10 year averages, shown in the table below, other parts of the country were not so fortunate. The Dixie National Forest helped support these other areas of the country by sending firefighters and equipment to assist. The national firefighting effort requires significant numbers of overhead, engines, crew assignments, and aircraft to be successful. The Dixie helped in this national effort by providing engines, crews, helicopters, and numerous individuals involved in all types of support and management positions.

Dixie NF	Years	Average Fires	Average Acres
2014	2014	46	595
2013	2013	50	311
5 Year	2010-2014	51	2,710
10 Year	2005-2014	61	6,398



CONNECTING WOMEN TO FIRE CAREERS

This was the second year for the Women in Wildland Fire Program. This program aims to increase the number of women in wildland fire careers in southern Utah. Twenty-five women were recruited and trained in wildland fire suppression and then sponsored by an agency as an emergency firefighter. The program is intended to give them a foot in the door by introducing them to fire managers in southern Utah and gain experience in wildland firefighting. Additionally they are connected with experienced female mentors in fire across the country and from different agencies. This program is expected to result in an increased number of qualified women applicants for seasonal and permanent jobs in future years.



OAK GROVE FIRE



The Oak Grove Fire was reported on September 8, 2015 on the Pine Valley Ranger District and was contained at 943 acres. The fire history for the Oak Grove area between 1961 and 2014 shows 23 fires greater than 10 acres in this area.

DUCK CREEK HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Duck Creek is a multi-year hazardous fuels reduction project designed to reduce the risk of high severity wildfire to over 5,000 residences and businesses on private lands surrounded by the Dixie National Forest. Approximately 8 million dollars have been invested on nearly 11,000 acres completed to date. The treatments reduce risk to nationally designated Communities At Risk and utilize private contractors and the Good Neighbor authority to work in partnership with the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, and Kane County, Utah.

FUELS MANAGEMENT



The Dixie National Forest's fuels program treated 8,088 acres of hazardous fuels and 301 acres of activity fuels reduction during fiscal year 2015. This includes 5,309 acres of prescribed fire treatments, 3,080 acres of mechanical treatments and 62 acres of wildland fire managed for resource benefit. The Dixie National Forest also continues to administer fuels treatment contracts awarded in pre-vious years. In June of 2015 the Forest utilized aerial ignition

to complete the Dave's Hollow prescribed fire project, where 2,514 acres were treated in one day. The Forest also use aerial ignition, later in June to complete the Stump Springs P/J treatment for 799 acres and 371 acres of Ponderosa Pine under burning. These projects were implemented using Washington Office funding for additional projects to reduce wildfire risk to communities.



The Forest also completed three (3) Interagency Agreements that funded NPS, BLM and UTFFSL employees and equipment to assist with the Forests Hazardous Fuels reduction projects.

HAZARDOUS FUELS 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Pine Valley RD

Project	Type	Accomplishment
• Pine Valley (USC)	Pile Burn	76 acres
• Crestline	Mastication	1848 acres
• New Harmony Fuel Break, Central Fuel Break, Spring Creek mastication (Prior year contracts administered/completed in FY15)		

Cedar City RD

Project	Type	Accomplishment
• Brush disposal	Pile Burn	301 acres
• Duck Creek (Guard Station) Cut,Pile/Chip		10 acres
• Duck Creek	Thin & Pile	30 acres
• Duck Creek (force)	Pile Burn	467 acres
• Henrie Knolls	Thin & Pile	90 acres
• Cooper Knolls	Broadcast burn	336 acres
• Awarded 147 acres of thinning, piling, lop and scatter, skidding and decking and pile in Navajo Basin DFS project.		
• Administered approximately 1,200 acres of thinning, slash piling, lopping and scattering, skidding and decking and pile burning from previous awards in Duck Creek Fuels.		

Powell RD

Project	Type	Accomplishment
• Dave's Hollow	Under Burn	2,514 acres
• Ahlstrom Hollow	Under Burn	165 acres
• Johns Valley	Thin/Pile	896 acres
• Awarded 97 acres under Good Neighbor Agreement with the State of Utah to burn landing piles.		

Escalante RD

Project	Type	Accomplishment
• Stump Springs	Under Burn	1,170 acres
• Pretty Tree Bench	Broadcast Burn	180 acres
• Buck Flat	Managed Wildfire	62 acres

PRESCRIBED BURNING AND THE DAVE'S HOLLOW PRESCRIBED BURN: TAKING SIGNIFICANT STEPS

THE DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST PLANTS TREES, RESTORING PAST WILD-FIRE AREAS

In the spring of 2015, The Dixie National Forest planted approximately 108,000 tree seedlings on about 448 acres and hope to expand this planting program in upcoming years. Trees were planted to restore forested conditions to areas burned by recent wildfires. Forest Silviculturists have determined that due to the size of the fires and the lack of seed source, most of the burned sites will not naturally revegetate for many years. The Dixie National Forest has received financial support from our partners including American Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, USFS Region 4 and USFS State and Private Forestry – Forest Health Protection.

FACTS:

108,295 trees, across approximately 448 acres, over 18 days, were planted across 3 districts.

Cedar City RD: 200 acres (Shingle Fire)
Escalante RD: 99 acres (Corn Crk Fire)
Powell RD: 149 acres (Bridge Fire)



the smoke let alone sleep, work, or vacation in it.

Wildfire knows no boundaries. The Forest Service evaluates the risk with a broad perspective for both planned and unplanned ignitions while considering the people we serve and the landscapes we protect. We will not take unnecessary risk, nor do we want to transfer that risk to our neighbors, partners or to future generations.

Historically, fire on forested landscapes was a part of the ecological process, particularly for Ponderosa pine vegetation. In conducting prescribed fire treatments, the Forest is striving to meet resource objectives by reintroducing fire into some areas. These objectives are evaluated through a public process and are grounded in science.

The challenge is not typically in the science, but rather, it is in the human element. How does the Forest Service best balance and manage risk to people, while managing for forest health? Smoke is one of the greatest impacts we have on people, communities and businesses when we ignite a prescribed burn. No one wants to breathe

On June 3rd, 2015 employees of the Dixie National Forest conducted a prescribed burn using aerial ignition in the Dave's Hollow area of the Powell Ranger District (adjacent to Bryce Canyon City and Bryce Canyon National Park). Because of its location, prevailing wind patterns, etc. treating the fuels in this area has been a high priority for the District and the Forest to reduce hazardous fuels and maintain desirable forested conditions.

In order to manage the duration of the smoke impacts that prescribed burns have on local communities, the Forest decided to utilize a helicopter to ignite portions of prescribed burn units which reduced the time to burn the area. In one day fire and fuels management personnel were able to treat over 2,500 acres with prescribed fire using aerial ignition. And, thanks to careful planning, execution and well timed weather, only one day of heavy smoke impacts was experienced in Bryce Canyon City. A number of people contributed to this effort to make it successful, from firefighters to public information officers to District and Forest leadership, and they did it flawlessly and without injury. Under similar conditions, if completed by ground crews this could have taken up to 10 days. This significantly reduced the duration of smoke impacts to the communities.

On June 12, 2015, Forest Supervisor Angelita Bullets sent a letter to the editor thanking the communities, local elected officials, businesses and Bryce Canyon National Park for their patience and support in the ignition of the Dave's Hollow prescribed fire.

"Thank you for dealing with the effects of the smoke so that Forest employees and partners could work toward reducing wildfire risk, improving forest health and taking significant steps toward providing protection for an area economically important to the region."

"I will continue to make proactive decisions for the Dixie National Forest, while working together with our neighbors to sustain the forest health, diversity and productivity that establish resilient landscapes and fire adapted communities."

- Angelita Bullets, Forest Supervisor - Dixie National Forest

RESTORING RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

The East Timber Zone, which is made up of the Escalante and Powell Ranger Districts, awarded two new timber sales during 2015. Covered under the Iron Springs project decision, the 3,387 CCF Iron Draw and 2,696 CCF Mud Lake Timber Sales were awarded to BARCO LLC this past fall. These are the first sales on the Dixie NF ever awarded to this new purchaser. The two sales are located on Griffin Top near the Clayton Guard station. The two sales are designed to thin timbered stands to reduce fuels and future beetle infestations, improve wildlife habitat, and promote aspen across approximately 1,800 acres of spruce-fir forest.

The Zone also started a new contract with a local contractor in Boulder to distill commercial oils from conifer boughs for commercial use. Agreement allows the contractor to cut vegetation along some of the primary Forest roads to improve sight distance safety. Conifer boughs generated by the operation are available for a small cost per ton for removal by the contractor for oil extraction. The company hired 2-3 local high school kids to help in the operation. The Zone continues to look for opportunities to support new businesses along with providing a dependable supply of timber to our long time area purchasers and wood dependent industries.

Though the Regional market of purchasers and sawmills has declined in recent years, the East Zone has been successful in awarding every contract it has offered over the last 5 years. The zone currently has approximately 50,000 CCF (25 million board feet) under timber sale and stewardship contracts from the Pockets, Paunsaugunt, and Iron Springs project decisions. The zone had five active contracts during 2015. Two timber sales Mt Dutton and Clayton Salvage were completed this past year. It is anticipated that the zone will offer up to three new timber sale contracts during the upcoming 2016. Two of the sales to be offered, Widstoe and Mitchell Spring, will mark a return of the zone program to lower elevation large scale Ponderosa pine projects. The zone has several landscape assessment vegetation projects in the works including Upper Valley, Ranch Creek, Jacobs Valley, and Southern Paunsaugunt that will meet future timber program needs. Plans are for the zone to continue to offer approximately 10,000-15,000 CCF (5-7 million board feet) annually over the next 5 years.



Timber sales and stewardship contracts continue to be the most cost efficient means of accomplishing various vegetation objectives across all of the major timber types on the Forest. Along with helping to support the Regional economy and providing jobs, these contracts are instrumental in achieving forest goals for reducing fuels, improving wildlife habitat, promoting aspen and tree species diversity, and improving forest resiliency to agents of change such

RESTORING THE FOREST

FACTS:

CHRISTMAS TREES SOLD IN 2015

Pine Valley Ranger District	1,670
Cedar City Ranger District	1,393
Powell Ranger District	242
Escalante Ranger District	207

Total: 3,512 Christmas Trees

Fuelwood Sales (by Cords)

Pine Valley Ranger District	690
Cedar City Ranger District	1,705
Powell Ranger District	846
Escalante Ranger District	495

Total: 3,736 Fuelwood Cords

TIMBER VOLUMES OFFERED IN 2015

- Cedar City Ranger District:
- Timber Sales: 58 ccf offered with successful bidders
 - Commercial Fuelwood Sales: 2720 ccf offered with successful bidders

Escalante Ranger District:

- Timber Sales: 6085 ccf offered with successful bidders

Accomplished 181 acres of coppice (to cut back trees) to stimulate aspen regeneration on the Seiler Stewardship project (Mule Deer Foundation partnership).

Collected 140 bushels of Ponderosa pine cones from 2562 acres across the forest to build seed source and future seedlings at Lucky Peak Nursery.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE OUTDOORS

The Dixie National Forest offers a variety of recreation opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors in both rural and urban settings all year round. With almost 2 million acres to explore, there are endless opportunities to enhance our quality of life, enjoyment, and relaxation. There are numerous opportunities to experience the solitude of hiking in the Wilderness, camping in developed campgrounds, a prime location for fishing, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, OHV opportunities, and winter activities such as cross-country and downhill skiing. There are hundreds of miles of forest roads that offer sightseeing opportunities and access to beautiful country.



The Dixie National Forest wants to connect people to the outdoors. Outdoor opportunities and experiences promote healthy lifestyles; helps bond families and friends, inspires community engagement and volunteerism for caring for the land.



WILDERNESS RESTORATION CONNECTED ECOSYSTEM

The Pine Valley Ranger District began NEPA planning for the Grass Creek Watershed Restoration Project. The Grass Creek Watershed was selected as a project area for analysis due to its departure from a healthy functioning ecosystem. Analysis will focus on restoring fire to the ecosystem, fuels reduction, aspen regeneration, range enhancement, critical fish habitat and increase biodiversity within the Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness and outside of the wilderness. Forest specialists and contract crews spent the summer collecting data on existing stream, riparian vegetation, fuel loading, and trail conditions. This summer specialists, the district ranger and Washington County Commissioners went on a horse ride to discuss the project while looking at the current resource conditions. The Pine Valley Ranger District is planning to complete the project analysis in the spring of 2017.

RECREATION, TRAILS, WILDERNESS BY THE NUMBERS:

- There are over 30 miles of groomed non-motorized trails
- There are over 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails
- There are 823 miles of non-motorized trails
- There are 2,150 miles of OHV riding opportunities—
In 2015, the Duck Creek ATV Trail served 30,000 riders and had 200 riders an hour on holiday weekends.



DEER HOLLOW NON-MOTORIZED WINTER RECREATION AREA CONNECTING PEOPLE TO WINTER RECREATION

The Cedar City Ranger District Deer Hollow Winter Recreation Area encompasses more than 1,300 acres of some of the most beautiful winter landscapes on the Dixie National Forest. Working with partners and volunteers from the Cedar Mountain Nordic Ski Club, Color Country Cycle Club, Southern Utah University, Iron County Tourism Bureau, Utah State Parks and Recreation all partner together to maintain the groom trails, fund a restroom and a new parking lot. The 37 kilometers (23 miles) of groomed winter trails and loops are designed for every level and type of skier with designated routes for dogs, snowshoes and fat bikes.

CONNECTING TRAILS, CONNECTING PARTNERS BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK AND RED CANYON BIKE TRAIL



Bryce Canyon National Park and Red Canyon Bike Trail The Powell Ranger District, in partnership with Bryce Canyon National Park, Bryce Canyon City, Garfield County, and Federal Highways, completed an environmental assessment to extend the Red Canyon Bike Trail. The primary purpose of the project was to relieve safety issues for all visitors who choose to use non-motorized transportation— such as walking, jogging, cycling, and cross-country skiing— to experience the park and adjacent Forest Service areas near Bryce Canyon City. The trail extension begins at the shuttle bus staging area in Bryce Canyon City and continue through Dixie National Forest to key developed visitor use areas in the park. Construction began early this summer and was completed in November. Simultaneously, Garfield County constructed a section of the trail from the East Fork Road and Bryce Canyon City. The expansion of the trail provides visitors the opportunity to travel from the bottom of Red Canyon all the way into Bryce Canyon National Park. In addition to the trail extension, the Dixie National Forest worked with Garfield County to chip-seal the original section of the trail located in Red Canyon. The Red canyon Bike Trail is designated as a National Recreation Trail.

SPECIAL USE PERMITS CONNECTING SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS



A Special Use Authorization is a permit that grants rights or privileges of occupancy and use subject to specified terms and conditions on National Forest land. These permits cover activities, such as construction of roads, power and water lines, research, mineral and timber processing, outfitter and guides, recreation events, etc...

SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION BY THE NUMBERS

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • Total Special Use Permits | 440 |
| • Lands Permits (i.e. Transmission lines, water lines) | 315 |
| • Total Recreation Permits | 125* |
| *(75 are Outfitter- Guide/Recreation Events in 2015) | |
| • Campground Visitors for 2015 Season | 103,857 |
| • Granger-Thye funds for maintenance, repair, and renovation of campgrounds | \$98,000 |
| • Brian Head Skier Days –User days estimated for the Forest | 140,000 days. |

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT (NFMA) AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

As part of carrying out the mission of the Forest Service, agency resource specialists develop proposals that will enhance or maintain resource values on public lands, as well as generate products. In addition, the public may submit proposals for various permitted uses such as rights-of-way, land exchanges, and recreational events. A necessary part of the planning for these is environmental analysis and documentation, pursuant to the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and agency direction. The following is the status of NFMA and NEPA projects developed and/or carried over in 2015.

Dixie National Forest Current and Recent Projects from the Schedule of Proposed Actions

Analysis Completed in 2015

Pine Valley Eastside Trails Enhancement CE (Pine Valley Ranger District)

Reroute and rehabilitate approximately 522 feet of the Mill Canyon Trail #31013, using primitive minimum tools. Construct a connector trail between Whipple Trail #31025 and Canal Trail #31031.

Cottonwood Spring Pipeline Extension CE (Pine Valley Ranger District)

Improve an existing water development in one pasture within the East Pinto Allotment. The existing water development would be improved by extending the Cottonwood Spring pipeline and adding a stockwater trough in an advantageous location.

Henric Knolls North Vegetation Treatment EA (Cedar City Ranger District)

Treat forest vegetation ground, ladder and crown fuels in areas surrounding private subdivisions in order to enhance fire prevention and fire control.

Sawyer Point Vegetation Treatment EA (Cedar City Ranger District)

Vegetation treatments to improve habitat and vegetation conditions.

Navajo Cinder Pit Reclamation Project CE (Cedar City Ranger District)

Reclaim the 4.95 acre Navajo Cinder Pit. The proposed action is to re-contour the current cut slopes to a more natural slope along the base of the pit, place fill and growth medium on the surface of the re-contoured slopes, and restore vegetation

Mammoth Creek Fish Barriers CE (Cedar City Ranger District)

The purpose of this project is to maintain and enhance the status of Bonneville cutthroat trout in Mammoth Creek drainage.

South Central Utah Telephone Association (Mt Wilson) Special Use Project EA (Powell Ranger District)

The purpose of the South Central Utah Telephone Association Special Use Project is to improve communication in the project area, update the Association's permit and reissue their permit for a new term.

Multi-use Visitor Path EA (Powell Ranger District)

The NPS and USFS propose to construct a visitor path connecting Bryce Canyon City, Bryce Canyon National Park, and the Dixie National Forest, for a total of approx. 7.3 miles. Of this total length, 0.8 miles are within the Dixie National Forest.

East Zone Minerals Source Sites EA (Powell and Escalante Ranger District)

The Escalante and Powell ranger districts propose to analyze the expansion and development of mineral material pits to respond to mineral material needs of the Forest for the next 15-20 years. The project is consistent with 36 CFR 2850.2 and .3(2).

Mitchell Spring Vegetation Improvement Project EA (Escalante Ranger District) Improve forest health by removing dead/dying Douglas fir and restore aspen and ponderosa pine stands.

Developing Proposals

Ikes Valley Vegetation Improvement Project EA (Cedar City Ranger District)

The main purpose of this project would be to reduce the susceptibility of healthy ponderosa pine stands to bark beetle infestation. A secondary purpose would be to improve vegetative structure and composition by moving towards an uneven-aged system, creating more diversity of species and sizes.

Escalante Ranger District Eastside Allotments EA (Escalante Ranger District)

The purpose is to continue to authorize livestock grazing in a manner that will continue to meet or satisfactorily move Dixie National Forest resources toward desired condition and meet Forest Plan objectives.

Grass Valley Creek Watershed Restoration EA/EIS (Pine Valley Ranger District)

The Grass Creek Watershed was selected as a project area for NFMA analysis due to its departure from a healthy functioning ecosystem. Analysis will focus on fire and ecosystem restoration, fuels reduction, aspen regeneration, range enhancement, and biodiversity.

Jacob's Valley Vegetation Management Project EA (Escalante Ranger District)

This project proposes to address forest health at both the stand and landscape level to maintain and enhance ecosystem function, watershed characteristics, visual aesthetics, recreational and implementation of the motorized travel plan.

Pine Valley Fuel Break EA (Pine Valley Ranger District)

Improvement of existing fuelbreak around community of Pine Valley, UT. Activities include removal of invading woody species (primarily juniper), widening, seeding and construction of 12-18" fireline. Healthy Forest Restoration Act fuels treatment.

Pinto Watershed Improvement Project EA (Pine Valley Ranger District)

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels reduction, winter range enhancement, grass and forb diversity improvement, and watershed management near Pinto Road and Pinto to New Castle road corridors.

Ranch Creek Watershed and Riparian Improvement Project EA (Escalante Ranger District)

The purpose is to improve riparian health, stream function-

ing, and upland watershed health throughout the drainages for the benefit of Bonneville cutthroat and other wildlife species requiring riparian and upland habitat.

Upper Mammoth Creek Farm Bill CE (Cedar City Ranger District)

The purpose of this project is to (1) improve forest health (2) reduce the risks to public health and safety from wildfire and (3) increase forest wildfire resilience.

Garkane Energy Barney Top Power Line Realignment and Burial, Phase II CE (Escalante Ranger District)

Garkane Energy proposes to install up to 13600 feet of single-phase 7200-volt underground power line with a 20 foot easement to a depth of 42 inches under an existing road. This proposal includes removing 14650 feet of existing overhead power line.

Under Analysis

Deer Springs Fuels Reduction Project EA (Powell Ranger District)

Purpose is to trend vegetation toward desired conditions per Forest Plan, reduce risk of stand-replacing fire and improve wildlife habitat conditions. This is a collaborative project with Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument BLM.

Mountain Meadows Massacre Permit Reissuance CE (Pine Valley Ranger District)

This project will re-issue the Mountain Meadows Massacre special use permit to Utah State Parks and Recreation.

Upper Valley Landscape Improvement Project EA (Escalante Ranger District)

The project would use prescribed fire and mechanical and hand vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire hazard and improve forest health. It would also stabilize and restore streams and provide guzzlers for wildlife.

Powell Travel Management Project EIS (Powell Ranger District)

The Powell Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest is proposing to revise its system of motorized roads and trails. (Some of the activities are proposed in Inventoried Roadless Areas.)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2015 Accomplishments

- 942 acres of habitat enhancement using mechanical equipment on the Powell Ranger District.
- The Pine Valley Ranger District enhanced wildlife habitat on 3,600 acres through seeding and mechanical conversion of pinyon/juniper dominated landscapes to more diverse open parklands with scattered tree covers islands
- 642 acres of riparian thinning in Johns Valley, Powell Ranger District.
- 3,300 acres of water development
- 400 acres of trailhead engineering to enhance recreation access and managing unauthorized OHV access.
- 2 acres of willow planting.
- Assistance with 2 beaver translocations



UTAH PRAIRIE DOG

Utah Prairie Dog plague abatement program on the Powell Ranger District, 3,267 acres of lands dusted for flea control.

Utah Prairie Dog translocation site development, 2 additional sites (1,280 acres) created with cooperation from Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and Garfield County.



GREATER SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

- 535 acres of Greater sage-grouse habitat enhancement in Johns Valley on Powell Ranger District.
- Joint monitoring in cooperation with DWR occurred on 5 sage-grouse lek sites on the Powell Ranger District.
- Greater sage-grouse priority habitat validation occurred on 50 sites across the Dixie National Forest. These 50 sites were established within priority habitat that was identified by the DWR. These sites were monitored using the Habitat Assessment Framework developed by the BLM in 2015. Three of the 4 Ranger Districts on the Dixie National Forest contain priority habitat as identified by DWR.
- Data from these 50 transects in combination with VCMQ data plots, were evaluated and with help from Google Earth and Arc Map a habitat suitability map developed in draft form. This draft map identifies all suitable sage-grouse habitat across the entire Dixie National Forest.

- The draft sage-grouse habitat map is key to implementing the recent Forest Service sage-grouse Forest plan amendment signed in September, 2015.
- The Forest Plan amendment was a cooperative analysis with the Forest Service and the BLM, in Utah. As a result, 18 Forest Plan Amendments were approved throughout the west along with BLM Resource Management Plan amendments. As a result the US Fish and Wildlife Service made a decision to not list the sage-grouse as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, as amended.
- The Forest Service will adjust management decisions through an adaptive management process. The adaptive management strategy includes soft and hard triggers and responses. The triggers are not specific to any particular project, but identify habitat and population thresholds outside of natural fluctuations or variations.

SOUTHERN UTAH SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS PARTNERSHIP (SOP)

The Southern Utah Sustainable Operations Partnership encourages the voluntary use of sustainable practices to reduce the risk of climate change. Partners benefit from the use of sustainable practices, while supporting renewable energy, water conservation, alternative fuels, waste reduction & recycling, green purchasing and sustainable leadership in our communities. Together the SOP is working with recycling and Green Teams in the school systems, outreach at events and assist with recycling in communities.

Green Team Program

The Southern Utah Sustainable Operations Partnership (or SOP) is currently in the process of talking with local school districts regarding establishing green teams. These are recycling programs for the 2014/15 school years. The SOP will help the school's organize their programs.

For more information on how to be involved in the partnership or to learn how the Dixie is working in your community with sustainable operations visit:
<http://southernutahsop.org>

RECYCLING TOTALS FOR TOP THREE 2015 SOUTHERN UTAH SCHOOLS:

The top three schools for Recycling in Southern Utah for the 2014/15 School year were George Washington Academy, Fiddlers Elementary, and Iron Springs Elementary.

Their paper recycling totals were:
George Washington: 5,119.5 lbs
Fiddlers: 3,450 lbs
Iron Springs: 2,150 lbs



CONNECTING SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS IN COMMUNITIES



FOREST CONTACT INFORMATION

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

Supervisor's Office
1789 North Wedgewood Ln
Cedar City, UT 84721
(435) 865-3700

PINE VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT

196 E Tabernacle, Suite 40
Saint George, UT 84770
(435) 688-3246

CEDAR CITY RANGER DISTRICT

1789 North Wedgewood Ln
Cedar City, UT 84721
(435) 865-3200

POWELL RANGER DISTRICT

PO Box 80
Panguitch, UT 84759
(435) 676-9300

ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT

PO Box 246
Escalante, UT 84726

VISIT US AT:

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www.twitter.com/usfsdnf
www.fs.usda.gov/dixie



CONNECT WITH THE DIXIE

In March 2015, the Dixie went virtual and established social media sites on Facebook and Twitter. There was great success in the first year with near 700 followers and growing. Looking at the viewer statistics, some of the highest viewed posts were during the Oak Grove Fire with over 16,000 viewers and for an elk bugling video during the hunt with over 23,000 viewers. Now is the time to “Get Connected with the Dixie!” Stay updated on projects, campground openings, fire information and recreation opportunities.

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