



USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST



Dixie Forest Supervisor



Kevin Wright is the Forest Supervisor on the Dixie National Forest. He joined the Forest nine years ago as the Public Service Staff officer overseeing the forest's recreation, minerals, heritage, and special uses programs. Prior to that, he spent seven years with the Bureau of Land Management as the Monument Manager for Vermilion Cliffs National Monument on the Arizona Strip Field Office and Range Management Specialist for the Cedar City Field Office. He spent three years with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture as a Range Management Specialist in Twin Falls, Idaho. He began his career as a Range Management Specialist for the Uinta National Forest on the Heber Ranger District. He received an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in Wildlife and Range Resources and a master's degree from the University of Utah in Public Administration.

ABOUT THE FOREST

The Dixie National Forest, with headquarters in Cedar City, Utah, occupies almost two million acres and stretches for about 170 miles across southern Utah. The largest National Forest in Utah, it straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado River.

Elevations vary from 2,800 feet near St. George, Utah to 11,322 feet at Blue Bell Knoll on Boulder Mountain. The southern rim of the Great Basin, near the Colorado River, provides spectacular scenery. Colorado River canyons are made up of many-colored cliffs and steep-walled gorges.

The Forest is divided into four geographic areas. High altitude forests in gently rolling hills characterize the Markagunt, Pansaugunt, and Aquarius Plateaus. Boulder Mountain, one of the largest high-elevation plateaus in the United States, is dotted with hundreds of small lakes 10,000 to 11,000 feet above sea level.



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The Forest has many climatic extremes. Precipitation ranges from 10 inches in the lower elevations to more than 40 inches per year near Brian Head Peak. At the higher elevations, most of the annual precipitation falls as snow. Monsoonal moisture is common during July and August and produce heavy rains. In some areas, August is the wettest month of the year.

Temperature extremes can be impressive, with summer temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit near St. George and winter lows exceeding -30 degrees Fahrenheit on the plateau tops.

The vegetation of the Forest grades from sparse, desert-type plants at the lower elevations to stand of low-growing pinyon pine and juniper dominating the mid-elevations. At the higher elevations, aspen and conifers such as pine, spruce, and fir predominate.



Utah Shared Stewardship Projects accelerated implementation of over two million dollars of work emphasizing fuels and timber priority targets. Projects are being implemented cooperatively with the soil conservation districts, NRCS, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands.



The Red Canyon Visitor Center is the busiest visitor center in the Intermountain Region averaging over 200,000 visitors per year. The forest cooperatively manages a total 5 visitor centers.



The Dixie has implemented and is planning over \$4 million in Great American Outdoors Act funding to improve camping and trails across the forest.



In 2019, the Dixie had over 40,000 of accumulated volunteer and partner service hours for a total value of over a million dollars.



In 2023, the Pine Valley Ranger District was designated as one of 21 Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes across the Forest Service to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire to the values at risk on that district.



The forest has been successful in partnering with Garfield County stabilizing Utah Prairie Dog populations that will assist in the future delisting of this protected species.



Dixie NF has averaged over \$750,000 implementing projects for 5 years with Utah Water Restoration Initiative, for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.



The Dixie NF in cooperation with the BLM have removed over 200 horses recently to assist in the management of this wild horse territory.