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Milestone Reached for Uinta Basin Railway as USDA Forest Service Signs Record of Decision

Uinta Basin, UT – The [Uinta Basin Railway](#) reached a major milestone this week when the USDA Forest Service signed a Record of Decision (ROD), approving the proposed use for a railroad right of way. The Whitmore Park route will cross a portion of the Ashley National Forest for approximately twelve miles. The Uinta Basin Railway will enable efficient, environmentally sound railway transportation service to northeastern Utah’s industries and businesses, as well as the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

“On behalf of our Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (SCIC) board members, I would like to express how grateful we are for the USDA Forest Service’s thorough review process,” said SCIC Executive Director Keith Heaton. “This is a critical step for the Uinta Basin Railway. It is important to note that we would not be where we are today if it were not for our outstanding partnerships. We look forward to bringing this project to completion with our partner’s enthusiastic involvement and support each step of the way.”

In December 2021, the railway received notice that the [Surface Transportation Board](#) (STB) granted final approval for an exemption to construct and operate the railway. With the issuance of the USDA Forest Service’s final ROD, the SCIC and Uinta Basin Railway have secured all federal approvals.

The basin is rich in natural resources and agricultural resources that are vital to Utah, and our country. Yet, the need for additional transportation infrastructure in the Uinta Basin has been a well-known issue for many years. The railway will improve highway safety, improve sustainability, and enhance economic diversity, all while prioritizing exports of valuable goods at lower costs.

The Uinta Basin Railway project has included extensive opportunity for public participation as well as input from agencies and other interested parties. While SCIC has taken the lead on the planning and permitting of the railway, *Uinta Basin Railway, LLC* will construct and operate the railway, *DHIP Group* (formerly known as *Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, LP*) will be financing the railway through its portfolio company *Uinta Basin Railway, LLC*. For more information on the Uinta Basin Railway, please visit www.uintabasinrailway.com.

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