

## **BRISTLECONE POND CONSTRUCTION & HWY 143 CLOSURE**

Construction on Bristlecone Pond in Brian Head, which began in summer 2013, has resumed. Complications with soil movement have necessitated a temporary closure of Highway 143 to the west of the Pond. A detour has been put in place, and there should be little to no impact to traffic or travel times. All businesses and residences in the area are still accessible. While the road has been significantly damaged, no other buildings or ski infrastructure has been affected. Contingency plans have been mobilized for damaged utilities. Construction in the area is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

There has been some concern regarding the impact of construction and the temporary detour on the Town's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. Be assured the festivities will continue unabated – including the fireworks. The Town has prepared parking and traffic plans to mitigate the impacts of construction. A clear map showing parking and fireworks viewing areas will be prepared and widely distributed to our guests. New amenities in the Pond area, such as a walking trail and picnic pads, will be available for viewing fireworks. We ask that all our visitors and residents be patient with the construction and observe all of the parking and construction signs.

### *Additional Details on Construction...*

Construction of Bristlecone Pond was originally intended to be completed in fall 2013, but was interrupted by unanticipated geotechnical complications in September. Pre-existing soils issues were exacerbated by dewatering, causing an area of about 100 yards adjacent to and across Highway 143 to sink several feet. The Town was advised by engineers at that time to cease construction and allow the area to settle into the spring. Highway 143 was maintained and kept open during the 2013-2014 ski season.

In late April 2014 the Town closed Highway 143 to the west of Bristlecone Pond to allow it to settle as had been advised. As the spring runoff hit, a layer of fine sand deep beneath the surface became super-saturated and the resultant pressure caused the layer to push out into the pond. Several more feet of settling was observed over a period of a few weeks.

Further study was done by multiple geotechnical engineers. The Town was advised that the water flowing through the affected area was the culprit, and that the water must be controlled and channeled rather than allowed to run freely through the soil. Once the water is under control, the road can be reconstructed and the pond project completed. The Town is moving forward with a plan based on these recommendations, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

For updates, please continue to check the Town website ([brianheadtown.utah.gov](http://brianheadtown.utah.gov)), the Town Facebook page ([facebook.com/brianheadtown.utah](https://facebook.com/brianheadtown.utah)), or contact Town Hall at 435-677-2029.