

In 1952, the Orvis family of Farmington purchased 480 acres of property in Bear Valley. C. Bruce Orvis son of William and Grace always envisioned a winter sports complex for the area. In 1963 he acquired 400 acres of Forest Service land to the north of the Orvis property through a land exchange. He then put together a ski area package for Mt. Reba under a Forest Service permit and promoted a new highway from Camp Connell to the ski area. After he acquired title to the land north of the Highway he developed the 400+ lot subdivision, the Bear Valley Lodge and other installations as we now know them.

At the time, Lodges, condo's, parking areas, tennis courts and air strip, sewer system and water system, etc. were also developed along with the Mt. Reba Ski Bowl complex. The area opened its lifts to winter visitors in the winter of 1967-68. By January of 1968 there were 125 winter-summer homes in the subdivision and several thousand skiers visited on weekends. The rest is history.

The first official Board Meeting of the Bear Valley Water District took place August 05, 1968. C. Bruce Orvis, President of the Bear Valley Water District Board started working with the help of the other directors to begin the process of developing the Bear Valley Water District. The Bear Valley area was faced with a serious problem concerning sewage disposal created by spring snow melt saturation and overflows, as more stringent requirements were being imposed by County and State Agencies. The Board felt adequate sewage disposal was required to not upset the ecological systems established for animals and plant life in our area. Annexation proceedings and formation policies followed along with the construction of the sewer treatment facilities on the south side of Highway 4. As of July, 2008 now Director Orvis has put in over 40 years of Public Service to the Bear Valley Water District. Due to the Orvis family vision Bear Valley will be enjoyed by generations to come.

Note: Bio written by staff, information taken from Bear Valley archives & internet.