

Selected Bears Ears Support

Tribal Government Support

- Navajo Nation
- Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Hopi Tribe
- Zuni Tribe
- Utah Tribal Leaders Association
- Tri-Ute Council
- Hualapai Tribe
- All Pueblo Council of Governors
- National Congress of the American Indian

Members of Utah's State Legislature

- 30+ Utah Local Officials
- Minority Leader, Gene Davis (UT-3)

Science Community

- 40+ Paleontologists
- Archaeology Southwest
- Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
- 18+ Historic Preservation Groups
- 450+ Archaeologists

Business, Health and Other Diverse Leaders

- 65+ National Business Leaders
- 180+ Health Professionals
- 16 Religious Leaders
- Blue Green Alliance
- Vet Voice Foundation
- Operation Climb On

NGOs

- Utah Diné Bikéyah
- Friends of Cedar Mesa
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Conservation Lands Foundation, Grand Canyon Trust, League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Wilderness Society
- American Fly Fishing Trade Association
- Access Fund



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

December 7, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Reiterating our support for the designation of Bears Ears National Monument

Dear President Obama,

As President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation, we respectfully renew our request that ancestral Navajo and current federal public lands around the Bears Ears Buttes (Shash Jaa') in southeastern Utah be designated a national monument pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906. We believe this is an opportunity to further enhance your legacy of working with and respecting Tribal Nations. In addition to monument designation, we request collaborative management for these lands that is reverent of our indigenous fundamental laws that govern life, and that ensures protection of our history that exists in every part of this cultural landscape.

The Bears Ears region is distinctive and significant in both culture and tradition to surrounding tribes, including the Navajo Nation. The Bears Ears region is important to our Diné culture and traditions that stem from creation stories since time immemorial. It is a place of protection for our people, and the birthplace of many of our people, including our great leader Manuelito. These places - the rocks, the wind, the land - they are living, breathing things that deserve timely and lasting protection.

There continues to be overwhelming support of local Diné people for the protection of Bears Ears. The Navajo Nation Council's Náabik'iyáti' Committee has unanimously passed a resolution in support of the federal designation of Bears Ears National Monument. Through the permanent protection of Bears Ears, you are in a position to breathe life further into your vision for America - a fundamental commitment to human rights and equity in voice.

Throughout your 8 years in office, you have been a friend to tribes and to our initiatives. For the Navajo Nation and many tribes, your action to protect Bears Ears will be one that will be remembered amongst our People for centuries as protecting our sacred resources, our history, and our memories while preserving what we consider a place of great healing and spirituality. We pray that before you leave office you will protect Bear Ears as a new national monument.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Begaye".

Russell Begaye

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
The Honorable Christina W. Goldfuss, Managing Director,
White House Council on Environmental Quality



UTE INDIAN TRIBE
P. O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026
Phone (435) 722-5141 • Fax (435) 722-5072

July 14, 2015

Via Email and Hand Delivery

Re: Ute Indian Tribe's Support for Preserving the Bears Ears Region

Dear Messrs. Manual Heart and Kenneth Maryboy:

The Tribal Business Committee ("Business Committee") of the Ute Indian Tribe ("Tribe") supports the permanent protection of the Bears Ears region in the form of a National Conservation Area, or alternatively, as a new National Monument. Providing better stewardship and stronger protections preserves Native American heritage for current and future generations.

Native American traditional and cultural sites need protection from outside threats such as mineral development, indiscriminate off-road vehicle use, and looting. Not only is the Bears Ears region a natural wonder, it is a cultural landscape that contains archaeological and sacred sites, and has been traditionally used for collecting traditional medicines and for ceremonies. With the increase in recreational use, this region deserves status as a National Conservation Area.

Without federal protection, this extraordinary landscape that is culturally significant to so many Native American groups faces the likelihood of destruction. Therefore, the Ute Indian Tribe joins the Native American tribes and Pueblos that have already publically expressed their support to protect the Bears Ears region. Native American heritage cannot be ignored. It is time for the Bears Ears region to finally have the federal protection it deserves.

Sincerely,

Shaun Chapoose
Chairman, Ute Tribal Business Committee

Cc: Malcolm Lehi, Council Member, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council



UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

P.O. Box 248
Towaoc, Colorado 81334-0248
(970) 565-3751

December 19, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write you today on behalf of the people of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to express our continuing support for the designation of a Bears Ears National Monument pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has numerous important and sacred interests in the protection of natural and cultural resources within the Bears Ears cultural landscape. Our ancestors have occupied the region for generations and our people are intrinsically tied to the lands; our individual and collective well-being and prosperity depends upon the health of these lands.

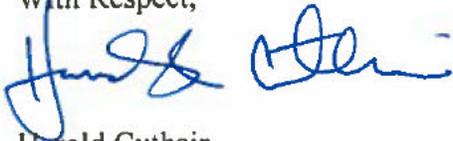
Significant to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is the proper management of the area's natural resources, native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter, and medicine, and the cultural sites that are central to our spiritual practices. Few things are more important to us than the protection and preservation we can put in place today on these invaluable natural and cultural resources.

Our desire to secure a mineral withdrawal to prevent the future disturbance and mining of uranium within the Bears Ears region makes our renewed request for protection particularly urgent in the closing days of your administration. As residents of the nearest community to the nation's last remaining conventional uranium mill at White Mesa, Utah, our people continue to suffer under the toxic legacy of uranium mining, milling, and uranium waste processing. The White Mesa community, as part of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's reservation, is located only a few miles downgradient from the uranium mill. The Tribe and individual members also hold thousands of acres of trust allotments, lands that we request remain undisturbed along with their accompanying rights, within or near the Allen Canyon corridor in San Juan County, Utah. Paramount to the Tribe is our concern for the future of, and our rights to, our water, air, lands and the continuing effects of the mill on our people. We urge you to act now by designating a Bears Ears National Monument to withdraw uranium deposits from future mining in the Bears Ears region – the future health and well-being of our White Mesa community depends on it.

As you know, our Bears Ears National Monument proposal is the first national monument proposal submitted by sovereign Native American Tribes, and our formal agreement to work together to protect Bears Ears is truly historic. We have been chosen, not only by our people, but by our ancestors to protect the Bears Ears and all its natural and cultural resources. We must

speaking for innate resources and objects of antiquity that can't speak for themselves. We have a responsibility to make sure that the Bears Ears cultural landscape is there for our future. A national monument designation, taking into account the indigenous perspective to land management through collaborative or co-management with the Tribes of the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition, would accomplish this task. Please use your authority to permanently protect Bears Ears for us, for our children and grandchildren, for all Americans and for all life that depends on this important place of healing.

With Respect,



Harold Cuthair
Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Utah Tribal Leaders Association



San Juan Paiute Tribe

Joint Inter-Tribal Resolution # June 9, 2016 Tribal Leaders Support to Bear Ears

TITLE: Support for Presidential designation of the Bears Ears National Monument to protect cultural, historical, and natural resources on federal lands in San Juan County, UT

WHEREAS, we, the Tribal Leaders of Utah invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian Nations, rights reserved and secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian People, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote health, safety, and welfare of our Indian People, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

WHEREAS, Native Nations of Utah including the Ute, Paiute, and Navajo claim historic and ongoing ties to the lands, animals, plants, resources of San Juan County, Utah; and

WHEREAS, the *Bear's Ears National Monument* is the ancestral home of many additional Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos, and the White Mountain and Jicarilla Apache Tribe, also assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these Monument lands; and

WHEREAS, the National Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation reservation, the Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms.

WHEREAS, the National Monument is unsurpassed in the world for its integrity and abundance of archaeological resources.

WHEREAS, the National Monument has been inhabited for greater than 12,000 years by multiple indigenous cultures, who roamed, and built civilizations on these lands.

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument is comprised of primarily Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas.

WHEREAS, Native Americans have unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land and its wildlife and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans' connections to the land support Native life and culture in important, life sustaining ways, including: subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering of nature's materials for medicinal, spiritual and other uses, preservation of tribal sacred places and as sources of economic development; and

WHEREAS, Native American have shown quality and excellence in managing lands and natural resources to protect the cultural integrity of the homeland of Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices;

WHEREAS, to prevent this rapid destruction of lands in southeastern Utah is important to Native peoples, formal protection as a National Monument is required;

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument will best be Collaboratively Managed with the full and active involvement of the Tribes that share ancestral and ongoing ties to the region.

WHEREAS, formal protection of southeastern Utah lands as a National Monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Tribal Leaders Association extends its support for the Bears Ears National Monument designation by President Obama that reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Utah Tribal Leaders Association at a meeting on

June 9, 2016 in Cedar City, Utah with a quorum present.



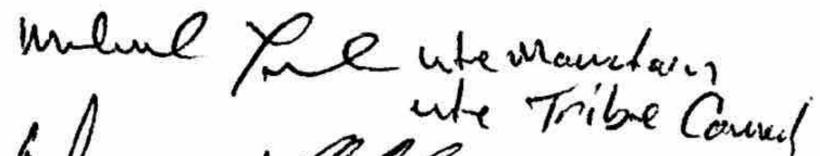
Virgil Jonson, Chairman Utah Tribal Leaders Association

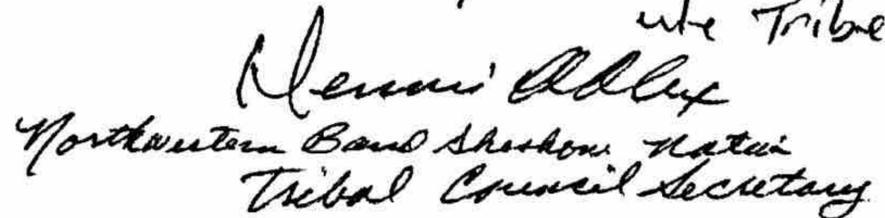
ATTEST:

Recording Secretary


Corina Bow, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
Zelda Johnny, Confederated Tribe of Goshute


DAVIS FILARDO, NAVAJO NATIONAL
2ND COUNCIL


Melvin [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] Tribe Council


Neman [unclear]
Northwestern Band Shoshone, Natavi
Tribal Council Secretary

Nay = [unclear] San Juan So Paiute


Cedar Ben
Skull Valley Band of Goshute 2



Val R. Panteah, Sr.
Governor

Birdena Sanchez
Lt. Governor

Wilfred Eriacho, Sr.
Head Councilman

Virginia R. Chavez
Councilwoman

PUEBLO OF ZUNI

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Zuni, New Mexico 87327
1203-B NM State Hwy 53
Phone: (505) 782-7022
Fax: (505) 782-7202
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505-782-7000 MAIN

Carleton R. Bowekaty
Councilman

Audrey A. Simplicio
Councilwoman

Eric Bobelu
Councilman

Arlen Quetawki, Sr.
Councilman

Officially known as the Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Indian Reservation

November 30, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In light of the recent national elections, I am writing on behalf of the Zuni Tribe to express our continuing support for the designation of a Bears Ears National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

We reaffirm our Tribal Resolution M70-2016-P014 of March 7, 2016, which resolved that: "the Pueblo of Zuni, along with the other nineteen Pueblos, as well as Ute Mountain, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Navajo, and Hopi Nations stand together as one unified Native American coalition dedicated to the permanent protection of the Bears Ears region and its cultural and natural resources through a national monument designation."

Our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Tribal Council further resolved that: "the Bears Ears region of Southeastern Utah holds immense importance for all the Pueblo peoples' identity and history, including and but not limited to, villages, shrines, burials, rock inscriptions, dwellings, and ancient transportation routes, as well as natural resources necessary for traditional and spiritual practice."

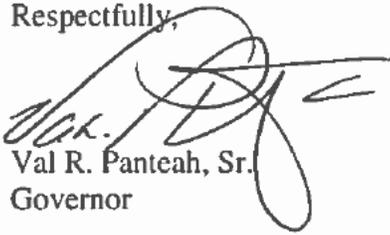
Pueblo ancestral sites in the Bears Ears region are threatened by looting, desecration, irresponsible motorized travel, and mining and energy development. These activities severely impact the historic and cultural integrity of sites. In addition, Native peoples utilize the plants and animals of the Bears Ears region in traditional practices, which are also being negatively affected by a lack of sufficient protections.

A Bears Ears National Monument designation with strong collaborative management between tribes and the federal government is a superlative opportunity to heal the damage done to the land, and to tribal peoples. It will serve as a landmark of cooperation, public benefit, and the government to government relationship with Native American tribes. This national monument will honor the cultures and identities tied to the Bears Ears, and ensure it remains a place of deep connections for our children and grandchildren.

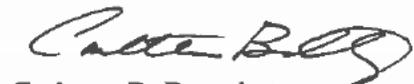
Given that the next administration will be one of great uncertainty for both public lands and inter-governmental relations, we honorably renew our request to designate Bears Ears as a national monument,

and we urge you to act swiftly. Together we can protect the final resting places and remains of our ancestors, our cultural and sacred sites, and the natural integrity and beauty of the Bears Ears region.

Respectfully,



Val R. Panteah, Sr.
Governor



Carleton R. Bowekaty
Councilman

Attachment: Zuni Tribal Council Resolution Number M70-2016-P014: "Permanent Protection of Bears Ears Region through National Monument Designation."

TRI-UTE COUNCIL



Joint Inter-Tribal Resolution # 16-001

TITLE: Support for Presidential designation of the Bears Ears National Monument to protect cultural, historical, and natural resources on federal lands in San Juan County, UT

WHEREAS, we, the Tri-Ute Council are invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian Nations, rights reserved and secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian People, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote health, safety, and welfare of our Indian People, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the three Ute Tribes of Utah and Colorado including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, and Southern Ute Indian Tribe claim historic and ongoing ties to the lands, animals, plants, resources of San Juan County, Utah; and

WHEREAS, the *Bear's Ears National Monument* is the ancestral home of many additional Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Utes, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos, and the White Mountain and Jicarilla Apache Tribe, also assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these Monument lands; and

WHEREAS, the National Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation reservation, the Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms.

WHEREAS, the National Monument region is unsurpassed in the world for its integrity and abundance of archaeological resources.

WHEREAS, the National Monument area has been inhabited for greater than 12,000 years by multiple indigenous cultures, who roamed, and built civilizations on these lands.

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument region is comprised of primarily Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas.

WHEREAS, the Utes and Native Americans have a unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land and its wildlife and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Utes' connections to the land support Native life and culture in important, life sustaining ways, including: subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering of nature's materials for medicinal, spiritual and other uses, preservation of tribal sacred places and as sources of economic development; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have shown quality and excellence in managing lands and natural resources to protect the cultural integrity of the homeland of Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy

development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices;

WHEREAS, to prevent this rapid destruction of lands in southeastern Utah is important to Native peoples, formal protection as a National Monument is required;

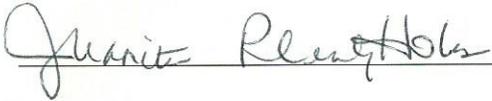
WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument will best be Collaboratively Managed with the full and active involvement of the Tribes that share ancestral and ongoing ties to the region.

WHEREAS, formal protection of southeastern Utah lands as a National Monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tri-Ute Council extends its support for the Bears Ears National Monument designation by President Obama that reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Tri-Ute Council at a meeting on June 14, 2016 in Towaoc, Colorado with a quorum present.



Juanita Plentyholes, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Colorado



Clement Frost, Southern Indian Ute Tribe, Ignacio, Colorado



Ute Indian Tribe Representative, Ft. Duchesne, Utah

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 06-2015
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
HUALAPAI TRIBE OF THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION
PEACH SPRINGS, ARIZONA

TITLE: Support for conservation of the Bear's Ears region to protect cultural, historical, and natural resources on federal lands in San Juan County, UT

WHEREAS, we, the Hualapai Tribe does hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

WHEREAS, the Hualapai Tribe recognizes the historic and ongoing ties to the lands, animals, plants, resources of San Juan County, Utah by Native American people; and

WHEREAS, the proposed *Bear's Ears National Conservation Area/ National Monument* is the ancestral home of many Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Navajo, the Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos along with the Ute Mountain, Southern, and Uintah ●uray Utes, the San Juan, Kaibab, and Utah Paiute Tribes and the White Mountain and Jicarilla Apache Tribes, all of whom assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these Conservation Area/ Monument lands; and

WHEREAS, the proposed National Conservation Area/ National Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation reservation, the Conservation Area/ Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms. Containing an intricately rich ecological system, the Navajo and other Tribes depend upon the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. Cedar Mesa, the Conservation Area/ Monument's centerpiece offers sprawling vistas while Comb and Butler Washes, as well as Moki, Red, Dark, Grand Gulch, and White canyons support verdant ribbons of riparian habitat. Desert Bighorn Sheep grace the lower desert lands while the 11,000 foot Abajo Mountains host forests of Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, Fir and Aspen, providing a home to Mule Deer, Elk, Black Bear and Mountain Lion, sacred icons of the mesa's original peoples. Paramount for the Navajo, the majority of the regions current inhabitants, is the proper management of the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument's native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter and medicine and its cultural sites that are central to their spiritual practices.

WHEREAS, the proposed National Conservation Area/ Monument includes towering cliffs and mesas bisected by sheer canyons, which expose sedimentary layers revealing a geologic history stretching back to when a sea covered this landscape. Containing unsurpassed cultural and palcontological resources, the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument is world renowned for the integrity and abundance of its archaeological resources. Six cultural special management areas are within the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument boundaries: Alkali Ridge National Historic Landmark, the Hole-in-the-Rock Historical Trail and the Grand Gulch, Big Westwater Ruin, Dance Hall Rock, Sand Island Petroglyph Panel, the Newspaper Rock Petroglyph Panel, and the Butler Wash Archaeological District National Register site. Also occurring in the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument's 19 distinct geologic units are scientifically significant vertebrate and non-

vertebrate paleontological resources that are particularly abundant in the Cedar Mountain, Burro Canyon, Morrison, and Chinle Formations.

WHEREAS, the proposed National Conservation Area/ National Monument has been inhabited for greater than 12,000 years by multiple indigenous cultures, who utilized, traveled through, and built civilizations on these lands. At the Lime Ridge Clovis site is evidence of Paleoindian occupation and the archaeological record indicates widespread use between 6000 B.C. and A.D. 100 by Archaic Peoples. Possessing numerous Archaic Period sites of varying size and complexity are Cedar Mesa, Elk Ridge, and Montezuma Canyon. Other notable sites include Alkali Ridge, Cowboy Cave, Old Man Cave, and Dust Devil Cave. Perhaps the most intensive occupation of the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument lands was during the time that archaeologists have called the Formative Period (AD 100 – AD 1300), which resulted in very large numbers of archaeological sites ranging from small lithic scatters to large, highly complex village sites. The region continued to be occupied and utilized by the ancestors of present-day Southern Paiute, Ute, Navajo, Apache, and various Puebloan cultures for many centuries, up until modern times.

WHEREAS, the proposed Bear's Ears Conservation Area/ National Monument is comprised of primarily Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands with Wilderness Characteristics and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas. Vast, remote desert mesas cut by sheer walled serpentine canyons provide unparalleled solitude and scenic quality that is comparable to or exceeds those found in nearby national parks and monuments, such as Canyonlands, Arches, Grand Staircase, Natural Bridges, Hovenweep, and Mesa Verde.

WHEREAS, priority management values to protect within the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument are: cultural, archaeological, wildlife, and natural & scenic resources. An essential aspect of the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument's management is to better protect these resources and to ensure their ongoing and sustainable use.

WHEREAS, Native Americans have unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land and its wildlife and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans' connections to the land support Native life and culture in important, life sustaining ways, including: subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering of nature's materials for medicinal, spiritual and other uses, preservation of tribal sacred places, and as sources of economic development; and

WHEREAS, Native American have shown quality and excellence in managing lands and natural resources to protect the cultural integrity of the homeland of Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, southeastern Utah includes many areas of vital importance to Native peoples' identity and history;

WHEREAS, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices;

WHEREAS, to prevent this rapid destruction of lands in southeastern Utah is important to Native peoples, formal protection as a national conservation area or national monument is required;

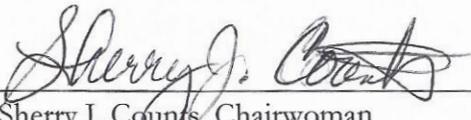
WHEREAS, formal protection of southeastern Utah lands as a National Conservation Area/ Monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:

- Protection will be a permanent part of a national system of protected lands that carry strong and clear legal definitions of the primacy of conservation of cultural, historical and ecological values that define Native connections to these lands.
- Protection as a national conservation area or national monument creates important opportunities for consultation of Native Americans and participation in management of these resources and increased funding for the protection of these resources with an emphasis on conservation and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources.
- Protection should be at the largest landscape level possible, providing connectivity of wildlife and plant habitats, ecological integrity of the region and be comprehensive in its protection of Native sacred sites, which cannot be considered out of the context of the larger landscape.
- Protection of lands in southeastern Utah as a national conservation area or national monument will be a top priority for concerned federal agencies, with public involvement and a prioritization of staffing, resources and cooperation with Native peoples.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hualapai Tribe extends its support for the Bear's Ears National Conservation Area or National Monument designation that reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Chairwoman of the Hualapai Tribal Council hereby certify that the Hualapai Tribal Council of the Hualapai Tribe is composed of nine (9) members of whom nine (9) constituting a quorum were present at a **Regular Council meeting** held on this **9th day of February 2015**; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of **(9) in favor, (0) opposed**; pursuant to authority of Article V, Section (a) of the Constitution of the Hualapai Tribe approved March 13, 1992.



Sherry J. Counts, Chairwoman
HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

ATTEST:



Adeline Crozier, Assis. Secretary
HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

All Pueblo Council of Governors

Officers
Governor *E. Paul Torres, Chairman*
Governor *Val Panteah Sr, Vice Chairman*
Governor *Terry Aguilar, Secretary*

2401 12th Street NW Suite 200 N Albuquerque NM 87104

Acoma June 16, 2015

Cochiti

Isleta RE: All Pueblo Council of Governors Support Efforts to Protect Bears Ears Cultural Landscape

Jemez

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress:

Laguna

The All Pueblo Council of Governors, which represents the nineteen Pueblos of New Mexico and one in Texas, has engaged in multiple discussions over the past three years about the need to protect important landscapes and cultural sites in southeast Utah. These lands contain the homes of our ancestors, including thousands of sacred sites and many cultural resources significant to Pueblo people.

Nambe

Ohkay

Owingeh

Picuris

To make official our collective interest in and concern for this area, we passed a resolution (No. APCG 2014-07) in November of 2014 supporting the protection of the greater Cedar Mesa area via a “permanent protection mechanism, such as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument.”

Pojoaque

Sandia

When we passed that resolution, several proposals had been put forward by different groups interested in the region. At the time, we did not favor one proposal or geographic boundary over another. Now, the various groups working to protect the area have unified behind a single proposal and boundary that has been called the “Bears Ears” cultural landscape. This proposal would protect the sacred sites and cultural resources described in our November resolution. Through this letter, we extend our support to the efforts to protect the Bears Ears cultural landscape and confirm our intention for Pueblo people to be actively engaged in future protective and management efforts in the area.

San

Felipe

San

Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Sincerely,
ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Santo

Domingo



Taos

Governor E. Paul Torres
Chairman

Tesuque

Ysleta Del Sur

Zia

Zuni

Officers
Governor *E. Paul Torres, Chairman*
Governor *Arlen Quetawki, Vice Chairman*
Governor *Terry Aguilar, Secretary*

RESOLUTION

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2014-17

Support for the Protection of Cultural Resources and Sacred Sites on Public Lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region

WHEREAS, the All Pueblo Council of Governors (“APCG”) is comprised of the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia and Zuni, and one pueblo in Texas, Ysleta del Sur, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the All Pueblo Council of Governors is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural & traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations; and

WHEREAS, through their inherent & sovereign rights, the All Pueblo Council of Governors will promote the language, health, economic, and educational advancement of all Pueblo people; and

WHEREAS, each APCG member is a federally recognized Pueblo Nation within the United States with the sovereign right to protect its traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not they are located within each pueblo’s current exterior boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the traditional cultural properties and sacred sites of Pueblo people is paramount to each pueblo’s cultural preservation now and into the future; and

WHEREAS, the greater Cedar Mesa region is located in southeast Utah and includes the Montezuma Canyon, the Indian Creek Corridor and Beef Basin; and

WHEREAS, the greater Cedar Mesa region includes hundreds of thousands of sites of vital importance to the pueblo peoples’ identity and history, including villages, shrines, burials, rock paintings and etchings, ancestral dwellings, and ancient roads; and

WHEREAS, these ancestral sites are under constant threat of grave digging, cultural vandalism, looting of cultural sites, indiscriminate off-road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Pueblo peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to traditional practices; and

WHEREAS, to prevent the rapid destruction of the lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region, the Pueblos are seeking the formal and permanent protection mechanism, such as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the APCG believes the Greater Cedar Mesa region needs to be a National Conservation Area or a National Monument because it will provide important consistency and

Acoma

Cochiti

Isleta

Jemez

Laguna

Nambe

Ohkay

Owingeh

Picuris

Pojoaque

Sandia

San

Felipe

San

Ildefonso

Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Santo

Domingo

Taos

Tesuque

Ysleta Del Sur

Zia

Zuni

quality management of these lands and define standard principles of management, establish consultation with Native Americans, and emphasize the primacy of conservation and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, through consultation and coordination with the APCG's member cultural preservation offices, or designated offices, APCG seeks to exercise administrative responsibilities to negotiate and enter into agreements with the necessary and proper entities which will ensure protection, preservation and management of these sacred ancestral sites and regions for the Pueblo people and its members; and

WHEREAS, while the APCG recognizes the important role of other tribes and groups in advocating for protection of the area, APCG's support of a designation for the greater Cedar Mesa area should not be perceived as support for any specific proposal for the area. Discussion of many details of management and boundaries are ongoing and the APCG intends to have an active voice in those discussions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the All Pueblo Council of Governors supports the permanent, long-term protection of cultural resources and sacred sites on public lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region through designation such as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2014-17 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 19th day of November 2014, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 8 absent.

ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

By: 
Governor E. Paul Torres, APCG Chairman

ATTEST:


Governor Terry Aguilar, APCG Secretary



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #EC-15-002

TITLE: Supporting the Presidential Proclamation of the Bears Ears National Monument, Including Collaborative Management Between Tribal Nations and the Federal Agencies

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Tribe

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Randy Noka
Narragansett Tribe

RECORDING SECRETARY
Aaron Payment
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan

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Reno Sparks Indian Colony

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

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Native Village of Tanacross

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
S. Joe Crittenden
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Leander McDonald
Spirit Lake Nation

MIDWEST
Roger Rader
Pokagon band of Potawatomi

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Fawn Sharp
Quinalt Indian Nation

PACIFIC
Rosemary Morillo
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Ivan Posey
Shoshone Tribe

SOUTHEAST
Ron Richardson
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Stephen Smith
Kiowa Tribe

SOUTHWEST
Manuel Heart
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

WESTERN
Len George
Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
202.466.7767
202.466.7797 fax
www.ncai.org

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, the Bears Ears and surrounding land in Southeastern Utah have been a homeland and place of spiritual and cultural significance to tribal people. This living landscape continues to nurture, strengthen, and sustain tribal people, and tribal people remain dependent on these public lands to maintain our traditional livelihoods and cultural practices, such as hunting, gathering, and ceremonial uses.

WHEREAS, for the last century, tribal nations and tribal members have experienced removal from these ancestral homelands, and afterward, limited access to the land. Tribal nations and tribal members have also witnessed the looting of graves and sacred sites, and threats from more modern land uses such as off-road vehicle use and energy development.

WHEREAS, tribal leaders from Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni and Uintah & Ouray Ute formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition with the goal of protecting and preserving the homeland area of the Bears Ears region.

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's chosen outcome is for President Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the Bears Ears National Monument, and secure permanent protection for these lands.

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition requests that President Obama proclaim the 1.9 million Bears Ears National Monument to honor the worldviews of our ancestors and Tribes today.

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposal asks that the new monument be managed under a path-breaking, comprehensive, and entirely workable regime of true Federal-Tribal Collaborative Management.

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument has every opportunity to serve as the shining example of the trust, the government-to-government relationship, and innovative, cutting-edge land management.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby urge President Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the Bears Ears National Monument and, by doing so, provide permanent protection for these lands.

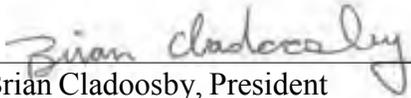
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Uintah & Ouray Ute, and Ute Mountain Tribes that comprise the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and their shared goal of permanently protecting the Bears Ears region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support the Bears Ears National Monument being meaningfully co-managed between the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Tribes and federal management agencies for the purpose of honoring the trust relationship, protecting tribal sacred homelands, and preserving traditional and cultural ways of life.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee of the National Congress of American Indians, held via a poll of Board Members, September 20, 2015 in Washington, D.C. with a quorum present.


Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:


Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

September 20, 2016

Dear President Obama,

We the undersigned are current and former elected officials and candidates in the state of Utah who support protection of a Bears Ears National Monument. We are writing to ask you to use your authority to ensure that America's most important unprotected cultural landscape receives the protection it so richly deserves.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Council represents five sovereign Tribes with deep cultural ties to the region. Their leadership of this effort has been inclusive and provides a vision for Native Americans to protect their heritage while maintaining access and appropriate use for all Americans, regardless of where they live.

There is a false media narrative around the effort to protect Bears Ears that would have you believe that Utah elected officials are unanimously opposed to a Bears Ears National Monument. We hope this letter puts that narrative to rest and we ask that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect this land for all people, for all time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patrice Arent
Representative
Utah House

Jim Bradley
Member at Large
Salt Lake County Council

Rani Derasary
Councilmember
Moab City Council

Jon Harper
Candidate for Utah
Attorney General

Steve Barth
Former Representative
Utah House

Joel Briscoe
Minority Assistant Whip
Utah House

Krista Dunn
Former Councilmember
Murray City Council

Joe Hatch
Former Councilmember
Salt Lake County Council

Andy Beerman
Councilmember
Park City Council

Peter C. Clemens
Candidate for
Utah's 1st Congressional
District

David D. Erley
Mayor
Castle Valley

Tory Hill
Councilmember
Castle Valley Town
Council

Heather Bennett
President
Salt Lake City School
Board

Jim Dabakis
Senator
Utah Senate

Gage Froerer
Representative
Utah House

Dave Jones
Former Minority Leader
Utah House

Kalen Jones
Councilmember
Moab City Council

Patricia Jones
Former Senator
Utah Senate

Brian King
Minority Leader
Utah House

Claudia McMullin
Councilmember
Summit County Council

Erin Mendenhall
Councilmember
Salt Lake City Council

Robert O'Brien
Councilmember
Castle Valley Town
Council

Kristen Peterson
Former Councilmember
Moab City Council

Angela Romero
Representative
Utah House

Misty K. Snow
Candidate for U.S.
Senate (UT)

Barry Sochat
Councilmember
Rockville City Council

Stephen P. Tryon
Candidate for Utah's
3rd Congressional
District

Elizabeth Tubbs
Councilmember
Grand County Council

Mark Wheatley
Representative
Utah House

Ted Wilson
Former Mayor
Salt Lake City

Lisa Zumptf
Councilmember
Springdale Town Council

Letter: Time to declare Bears Ears Monument

Published: October 14, 2016 12:30AM

Updated: October 14, 2016 12 30AM

The debate surrounding an area of Utah known as Bears Ears has raged for several months now. Nearly all agree that these public lands are special and should be protected, but how to do this has been hotly contested. All sides have had ample time to weigh in. That includes 26 Native American tribes, San Juan County and people from both across our state and the nation, all of whom have a right to have a say in the management of their public lands.

But now it's time to take action. With little chance of Congress protecting the Bears Ears region, the president should use his authority to establish the Bears Ears National Monument and ensure permanent protection of this unique region. In doing so, the president would be heeding the calls of Native American tribes, labor unions, veterans, business owners, local elected officials, faith leaders, sportsmen, recreationalists, conservationists and others who wish to see these lands protected and appropriate access ensured.

A national monument designation will keep these public lands managed under existing agencies, and ensure access and preservation for us, our children, and future generations.

As the Utah State Senate minority leader, I implore you to take action.

Sen. Gene Davis

Utah State Senate minority leader

Salt Lake City

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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

October 31, 2016

Dear Mr. President,

As you are no-doubt aware, there is significant interest in protecting an area of federal public lands in southeastern Utah known as the Bears Ears region as a national monument. Much of this interest has come from Tribes with strong current, historic and prehistoric ties to the area, while recreationists, businesses, archaeologists and many others also have supported the Tribes' proposal to establish a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument. These are all important interests in the protection of this landscape. Our purpose in writing you is to add another highly significant factor into that equation; one that has received little attention in the media, but is among the most significant, certainly from the perspective of scientific impact.

The Bears Ears area in southeastern Utah contains some of the richest and most significant paleontological resources in the United States. This area preserves rocks that have an unparalleled record of ancient seas that covered the continent, the rise of vertebrate life on land, the ascendancy of the dinosaurs, and even the remains of Ice Aged animals who once roamed the high plateaus and deep canyons that make the landscape of the Bears Ears area so visually stunning today. For example, work conducted in this area already has revealed new insights into the transition of vertebrate life from the sea to the land, with tetrapod fossils from the southern reaches of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument showing how the mosaic of characters present in fish and amphibians were evolving into the earliest true land vertebrates, the amniotes dating back to around 300 million years ago.

Currently teams from many different institutions across the country are engaged in fresh new research there, leading to a boom for paleontological exploration and knowledge that the region has not seen for almost 50 years. New species of plant-eating crocodile-like reptiles are being described, mass graves of enormous sauropods are being unearthed, and the fundamental changes from reptiles to mammals are being exposed within this remarkable area. The Bears Ears landscape also holds important clues about how environments respond to the increasing temperatures and decreased rainfall associated with climate change. The geologic and fossil records in the proposed monument area allow us to see how the seasonal monsoon pattern that dominated during the Late Triassic Period, 205 million years ago, changed to a vast, dry desert system that smothered the old river systems over a period of less than 10 million years.

Some of these finds are building off half-forgotten research from the 1940s and earlier. Other discoveries are being made in areas that have not been examined previously. Perhaps most startling, the vast majority of fossil-bearing rocks has yet to be scientifically examined or studied in any detail. Most previous work has been cursory without long-term goals in the region. Our work on this rich landscape has barely scratched the surface of the possibilities.

Hand-in-hand with this flurry of discovery and the preponderance of work that remains to be done in the area is the vulnerability of virtually all of the known sites, along with those sure to be discovered. Paleontological sites within the proposed monument have been damaged by both inadvertent and overtly malicious means. ATV tracks have been found running over the surface of the most productive microfossil site from the Triassic in Utah; fragile teeth less than a centimeter long that have survived over 220 million years being crushed beneath the wheels of careless individuals. Rock shops in nearby towns sell locally-sourced fossil bone and petrified plants that could only have come from public lands. Some of these areas have been proposed for oil, gas, and uranium leases. Others, including some of the few published sites out there, have been suggested or offered up for sale, eliminating the possibility of future scientists testing previous work done in the area. The proposal that recently was put forward in Congress would in fact remove some existing protections from over 300 known paleontological sites currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management, a major step backwards in this critically vulnerable area and resource.

Increased visitation has brought many more people into contact with these resources, making it much easier for these important and irreplaceable resources to be irreparably damaged by even the most well-meaning visitor. The Bureau of Land Management has only one paleontologist and two law enforcement officers for this rich, diverse, rugged and extensive landscape. They do a heroic job, but it is simply not enough.

It is for these reasons that the undersigned paleontologists urge you to use the authority Congress delegated to you through the Antiquities Act to proclaim the 1.9 million acres of public land, including its extraordinary objects of paleontological interest, as Bears Ears National Monument. This action, and a recognition of the paleontological resources within the proclamation, would allow for greater protection and research in this incomparable region.

We are just starting to truly understand the complexity of Earth's history in this time and place. We hope that you also recognize how significant this region is for unraveling the natural history of our nation and how precious and vulnerable the fossil resources found in the Bears Ears area truly are.

Most respectfully,
[The undersigned paleontologists, in their individual capacities]

Robert Gay
Museums of Western Colorado, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Hans Sues
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (Member and former President)

Ryan Cooley
Utah Friends of Paleontology

Cliff Green
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology; Utah Friends of Paleontology

Julia McHugh
Museums of Western Colorado

Marissa Westerfield
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology; The Clariden School

Melinda Hurlbut
Utah Friends of Paleontology; St. George Dinosaur Discovery

Doug Shore
Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Dylan Dewitt
Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Edward Shelburne
Nonvertebrate Paleontology Lab, University of Texas (Austin)

Christopher Racay
Dinosaur Journey

Jason Testin
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Thomas Holtz
Department of Geology, University of Maryland; Society of Vertebrate Paleontology;
Paleontological Society of Washington

Dalton Meyer
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Tracy Thomson
University of California (Davis)

Xavier Jenkins
Museums of Western Colorado

Ben Riegler
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

Teresa Pfister
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

A.B. Heckert
Appalachian State University

Taormina Lepore
The Webb Schools; Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Ashley Hall
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Gwen Daley
Paleontological Society

Kelli Trujillo
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Renee Faatz
Geological Society of America

Peter Holterhoff
Hess Corporation; Paleontological Society; Society of Sedimentary Geology

Joseph Sertich
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Andrew Farke
The Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology

Donald DeBlieux
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Amy Cairn
Utah Geological Survey

Sarah Morgan
Utah Geological Survey

Maddie Morgan
Utah Geological Survey

Gabriela D'Elia
Environmental Studies, Seattle University

Katie Knutson
Mount Holyoke College

Nathan Van Vranken
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Benjamin Burger
Utah State University

Dawn Reynoso
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Anthony Turner
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Grant Boardman
Trivium Academy; University of New Mexico

James Lehane
Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

Khai Button
Ph.D Candidate, University of Kansas

Sarah Gibson
Ph.D Candidate, North Carolina State

Brian Engh
Professional Paleoartist



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: William H. (Bill) Doelle, wdoelle@archaeologysouthwest.org, 520-240-7456
Kate Sarther Gann, kate@archaeologysouthwest.org, 520-818-8033

Archaeology Southwest Joins Native American Tribes in Calling for President Obama to Protect Bears Ears as a National Monument

Tucson, AZ (July 15, 2016)—Archaeology Southwest urges officials from the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to recommend that President Obama protect the Bears Ears region in Southeastern Utah as a national monument.

“The Bears Ears region is a living landscape that provides important connections to our past and present,” stated Archaeology Southwest president Bill Doelle. “Each archaeological site—and there are an estimated 100,000—is part of a much greater story that is gradually emerging. Enduring protection is essential to fully realizing the depth and breadth of that saga.”

The Bears Ears region is not only a singular natural landscape, but also a cultural one. Over millennia, people transformed the rugged lands to meet biological, social, and spiritual needs. Traces of their lives include ancient dart points, rock art, roads, and cliff dwellings, as well as myriad other places of great significance to contemporary Native American tribes and descendants of the region’s Euro-American settlers. In 2014, Archaeology Southwest devoted a special double issue of its *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* to Cedar Mesa and the Bears Ears region in order to raise awareness of the region’s spectacular archaeology.

Unfortunately, ongoing looting, grave robbing and vandalism in the Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears region have insulted Native American spirituality, marred the scientific record, and erased American history. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recently stated that they are currently investigating nearly a half dozen looting and vandalism cases in the area.

In June 2016, more than 700 archaeologists signed a letter to President Barack Obama urging him to designate a Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. His authority to do so was set forth in the Antiquities Act of 1906, which was established in order to protect historic landmarks, archaeological sites, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on lands owned or controlled by the federal government. Almost every president since Theodore Roosevelt has used the act to accomplish conservation goals in the public interest.

The effort to have President Obama designate a Bears Ears National Monument is being led a coalition of five sovereign Native American Tribal Nations. There is support for this designation from the outdoor recreation industry and other business leaders, archaeologists, communities of faith, and conservation groups.



U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie, and other officials are touring the Bears Ears region this week and are holding a listening session on Saturday, July 16, in Bluff, Utah.

“We applaud Secretary Jewell, Undersecretary Bonnie, and other administration officials for coming to Utah to meet with stakeholders and discuss how to protect an area of such extraordinary cultural significance,” stated Doelle. “A national monument designation for Bears Ears will acknowledge the importance of this area to Tribal nations, help conserve irreplaceable archaeological sites, and encourage respectful visitation. It is a legacy that millions of Americans who champion the preservation of America’s rich, diverse heritage will be proud of.”

###

About Archaeology Southwest

Archaeology Southwest is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, that explores and protects the places of our past across the American Southwest and Mexican Northwest. For three decades, Archaeology Southwest has fostered meaningful connections to the past and respectfully safeguarded its irreplaceable resources. Learn more at archaeologysouthwest.org.

For Immediate Release

Media contact: Joyce Alexander, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
970-564-4363, jalexander@crowcanyon.org.

CROW CANYON ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER CALLS FOR PROTECTION FOR BEARS EARS AREA

“The value of the Bears Ears area to both tribes and archaeologists is beyond question,” said Bill Lipe, a member of the [Crow Canyon Archaeological Center](#) board of trustees and a past president of the Society for American Archaeology. Lipe has researched the archaeology of the region for more than 50 years. “We are glad Secretary Jewell has come to Utah, and hope that her increased understanding of the significant cultural importance of Bears Ears will lead to swift action to protect the area.”

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center’s support comes as U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie, and other high ranking Obama administration officials are touring the Bears Ears area this week. This tour includes a listening session on Saturday, July 16, in Bluff, Utah, to hear more from tribes, local residents, and other stakeholders about the future of the region’s public lands.

With more than 100,000 archaeological sites, Cedar Mesa and the greater Bears Ears area is America’s most significant unprotected cultural landscape. It is famous for the incredible preservation of its backcountry cliff dwellings, numerous rock art panels and surface sites (e.g. towers, shrines, and pueblos), unique artifacts, and American Indian burials.

“The archaeology community supports the tribes in asking for increased protection for the Bears Ears area,” stated Deborah Gangloff, president and CEO of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. “As we’ve seen at Chimney Rock and Rio Grande del Norte, national monument designations provide not only increased preservation, but benefits to the tribes who consider the areas sacred. Archaeologists and scientists can conduct additional research, and most importantly, the public is now aware of what each spectacular place has to offer.”

In June 2016, more than 700 archaeologists signed a letter to President Barack Obama supporting the designation of a Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah should Congress fail to pass meaningful legislation this year to protect Bears Ears.

“Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears was a formative place in American archaeology. It holds enormous scientific potential to continue to inform us about American prehistory,” continued Lipe. “Given the ongoing looting of the area, if we don’t do something soon, much of the archaeological record of America’s ancient cultures may be lost forever.”

###

About the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center: Located just 45 miles from the proposed Bears Ears National Monument, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to understanding and teaching the rich history of the ancestral Pueblo Indians who inhabited the canyons and mesas of the Mesa Verde region more than 700 years ago.

National Trust for Historic Preservation ◊ Archaeological Conservancy ◊ Friends of Cedar Mesa
American Anthropological Association ◊ Archaeological Institute of America ◊ Archaeology Southwest
California Preservation Foundation ◊ Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance ◊ Colorado Preservation, Inc.
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center ◊ National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Nevada Preservation Foundation ◊ Providence Preservation Society ◊ Site Steward Foundation
Society for American Archaeology ◊ Society for Historical Archaeology
Utah Rock Art Research Association ◊ Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

November 30, 2016

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to proclaim a Bears Ears National Monument this year.

Bears Ears is one of the most significant cultural landscapes in the United States. It contains more than 100,000 cultural and archaeological sites associated with the Navajo, Ute, Hopi, and Pueblo people who consider this region their homeland. The 1.9 million acres of public lands south and east of Canyonlands National Park include Ice Age hunting camps, cliff dwellings, prehistoric villages and petroglyph and pictograph panels that tell the diverse stories of 12,000 years of human habitation.

Despite its vast cultural significance, inadequate legal protections and insufficient funding have resulted in the degradation and destruction of these archaeological treasures from illegal looting, mismanaged recreational use, and inappropriate energy development. The designation of this new national monument, including adequate funding, will provide the enhanced protections required to protect this national treasure.

Several of the organizations who have signed this letter have been actively engaged in the Public Lands Initiative legislative process. However, it now appears unlikely that Congress will put forth a bill that has the broad based bi-partisan support necessary to become law.

The Antiquities Act was enacted in 1906 in order to provide protection for objects of historic and scientific interest from appropriation, excavation injury or destruction. Our groups represent a broad range of national, regional and local organizations dedicated to the preservation of cultural and archaeological resources. With great enthusiasm we request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect this world class yet unprotected landscape by designating a Bears Ears National Monument.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Cassidy, Vice President, Government Relations and Policy at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, at tcassidy@savingplaces.org or (202) 588-6078.

Sincerely,

National Trust for Historic Preservation
American Anthropological Association
Archaeological Conservancy
Archaeological Institute of America
Archaeology Southwest
California Preservation Foundation
Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance
Colorado Preservation, Inc.
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

Friends of Cedar Mesa
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
Nevada Preservation Foundation
Providence Preservation Society
Site Steward Foundation
Society for American Archaeology
Society for Historical Archaeology
Utah Rock Art Research Association
Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

OPEN LETTER FROM THE BELOW SIGNED ARCHAEOLOGISTS

TO

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Dear President Obama:

As the 110th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act nears, one of America's most significant cultural landscapes remains unprotected. More than a century of looting, grave robbing and vandalism in the Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears region has insulted Native American spirituality, marred the scientific record, and erased American history. These crimes against both the past and the future continue at an alarming rate, with several dozen incidents in the last two years. Increasing visitation combined with a severe lack of resources for effective management and enforcement also create newer but no less menacing challenges to archaeology in the region.

Yet so much remains to be saved, if only we take action now. The Bears Ears cultural landscape is full of stunning and remarkably well preserved cliff dwellings. Countless mesa-top pueblos, shrines and ancient roads attest to the tenacity of ancient inhabitants. Internationally important petroglyph and pictograph panels inspire visitors with the artistry of ancient storytellers. Undisturbed burials still cradle the ancestors of many regional Native American tribes. The preservation and density of these cultural resources rival and perhaps exceed those found within many nearby national parks and monuments. With more than 100,000 archaeological sites, the Bears Ears region is filled with exactly the kinds of "objects" the 1906 Antiquities Act was created to protect.

As professional or avocational archaeologists, we have a particular appreciation for the cultural, scientific and human importance of this area. For well over 100 years, archaeological research in Bears Ears and specifically in Cedar Mesa area has contributed greatly to knowledge of the prehistoric and historic cultures of the American Southwest. With the vast majority of archaeological sites in Bears Ears still undocumented, respectful research can and should continue to inform our knowledge of the past.

President Obama, please ready your pen to create a National Monument should Congress continue its failure to protect this internationally significant cultural landscape. By so doing you will preserve a landscape of immeasurable cultural and scientific value, recognize the spiritual significance of this place to Native American people, and create a legacy that will be cherished by future generations.

Sincerely,

Undersigned Professional Archaeologists

David Abbott, AZ
Evans Adams, CO
Savanna Agardy, UT
Andrew Albosta, CO
James Allison, UT

Joyce Alpert, CA
James Angerer, CO
Peter Anick, MA
linda Apgar, NJ
Matthew Aspros, CO

Kirk Astroth, AZ
David Ayers, NM
Kathleen Bader, AZ
Pam & Quentin Baker, UT
Jennifer Bannick, UT

Gail Barels, IA
Barbara Barnes, CA
John Bartlett, IN
Timothy Baugh, OK
Kyle Bauman, UT
Erin Baxter, CO
Larry Beane, AL
Carol Beaver, UT
Libby Beck, WA
Jeanne Becker, CO
Jeffrey Begay, NM
Benjamin Bellorado, AZ
Angela Belt, CO
Anthony Benevento, AZ
Jean Berkebile, CO
Bob Bernhart, CO
Gina Bilwin, CA
Lee Black, CA
Harriet Blake, AZ
Linda Blan, AZ
Pablo Bobe, CA
Mark Bond, UT
Shannon Boomgarden, UT
Richard Boston, CO
Judy Botello, CA
Stephen Bowers, CO
Jeff Boyer, KY
David Boyle, NM
Michael Braitberg, CO
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MENU

News

Letter to the President: #ProtectBearsEarsNow

Written by **Josie**, October 19th, 2016

October 19, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama:

As outdoor industry companies that depend on the wild landscapes where our customers recreate, we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument. This internationally significant place deserves protection for its singular cultural significance, and for its outstanding recreation opportunities that directly benefit the outdoor industry and its customers.

Over the past 80 years, several proposals have sought to protect all or part of this important landscape, including the recent Public Lands Initiative (PLI) led by Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz. Unfortunately, the legislation includes provisions that make it impossible for us to support. The PLI contradicts several bedrock conservation laws, and would undermine the sound

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management of proposed wilderness areas, national conservation areas, special management areas, and recreation zones. The PLI would also grant management of more than 1,000 miles of public roads to the State of Utah, and give the state the authority to approve energy development on federal lands in eastern Utah.

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Given the value of this special landscape, combined with current and acute threats to its integrity, we feel that the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal to create a collaboratively-managed national monument that respects and celebrates the traditional and ancestral ties of Native American people to these lands – while protecting the landscape for all Americans – is the most viable path forward.

There are many reasons to protect the Bears Ears, but we in the outdoor industry best understand the value of this area for recreation and respectful adventure. We acknowledge that the Bears Ears region – with more than 100,000 archaeological sites – is America's most significant unprotected cultural landscape, and that recreation on these sacred lands must be enjoyed respectfully. With engagement from the Native American community and recreation interests, we can ensure that important outdoor recreation opportunities like climbing in Indian Creek, paddling the San Juan River, and backpacking in Grand Gulch are preserved.

The proposed Bears Ears National Monument – conceived by a historic consortium of sovereign tribal nations and backed by a diverse group of stakeholders – would honor the area's rich cultural history and preserve its many outdoor recreation amenities. We support your use of the Antiquities Act to secure a national monument designation for Bears Ears this year.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance



Hans Cole
Director of Environmental
Campaigns and Advocacy
Patagonia



Peter Metcalf
Founder & Brand Advocate
Black Diamond Equipment



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One Response

December 7, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We are writing to encourage you to proclaim a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument with meaningful co-management authority for the Native American Tribes who claim this area as their ancestral homelands.

The Tribes say that creating a Bears Ears National Monument will bring healing – for the land, for our shared history, for people everywhere.

As people who work in the fields of health and well-being, we agree, and we believe the benefits will be multiple and widespread.

First of all, there are the very real psychological benefits from taking an action that addresses the traumatic historical disenfranchisement of Native Americans. This kind of healing is fundamental to the well-being of all Americans and our ability to live and work together in community. In addition, a growing body of research shows that time spent in the kind of undisturbed natural settings offered by the Bears Ears area fosters emotional health in general, decreasing anxiety, reducing physiological response to stress, and dramatically enhancing concentration, creativity and problem-solving skills. A Bears Ears National Monument would also offer a healing sanctuary for people who have suffered trauma or emotional challenge, such as our veterans and challenged youth.

Protecting a 1.9 million acre Bears Ear monument is also important for our environmental health. Scientists tell us that protecting large landscape scale areas in their natural state is essential to addressing global warming and mitigating the impacts of climate change. In addition, large natural areas protect reservoirs of clean air and water, providing significant health benefits that reach far beyond their borders.

Finally, the superlative recreational opportunities offered by the Bears Ears area – such as hiking, rafting, biking, climbing – provide very real inspiration for people to discover the joy of being physically active. Americans' increasingly sedentary lifestyles are a serious public health issue, contributing to rising levels of heart disease, obesity, and diabetes and their associated costs. Motivating people to get outside and be active is critical to our public health.

A 1.9 million acre Bears Ears national monument is warranted to protect the area's extraordinary and irreplaceable ancient artifacts, as well as to preserve a living cultural landscape of exquisite beauty. Protecting the area would also generate significant benefits for the emotional, environmental and physical health and well-being of all Americans. We hope you will act soon to protect Bears Ears.

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

CC:
Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior

Director Neil Kornze
Bureau of Land Management

Secretary Tom Vilsack
Department of Agriculture

Undersecretary for Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie
Department of Agriculture

Chief for the US Forest Service Tom Tidwell
Department of Agriculture

Managing Director Christy Goldfuss
Council on Environmental Quality

July 14, 2016

Dear President Obama,

As leaders of major faith communities in the United States, we affirm the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal coalition's proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah.

The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is historic because it is being led by five tribes that have unified for the cause of protecting their shared heritage: the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Indian Tribe. Twenty-six tribes have expressed support for the proposal.

The Bears Ears region has more than 100,000 archaeological sites across 1.9 million acres. This area has more archeological sites than Utah's Mighty Five National Parks combined. Petroglyphs, burial sites, and ancient cliff dwellings are valuable parts of our collective history. These antiquities are under imminent threat from continuing grave-robbing, vandalism, careless visitation and a lack of management resources. In fact, in the first four months of 2016, there have been five reported serious incidents of cultural resource damage. This reckless erasing of history, as well as the desecration of sacred places, must stop.



Native American traditional wisdom about stewardship of God's creation has too often been dismissed. This attitude has not only contributed to centuries of physical, cultural, and spiritual violence toward Native Americans; it has also been a detriment to everyone. We *all* depend on the integrity of God's creation. The tribes leading the Bears Ears national monument proposal have experience living sustainably on the land since time immemorial, and traditional knowledge related to Bears Ears is irreplaceable. Now, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is offering the United States a true gift: a national monument which will help our nation to learn from them.

As religious communities, we are on a journey towards racial justice and reconciliation, as well as healing the relationships among land and people. A Bears Ears National Monument would be a profoundly meaningful place for our communities to participate in the healing process. Please use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate the Bears Ears region as a national monument.

In hope,
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Chicago, IL

Bishop George E. Battle
Senior Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, NC

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Carol Devine
Minister of Green Chalice
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Nicholasville, KY

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ
Cleveland, OH

Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon
Director of Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ
St. Louis, MO

The Reverend Grady Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Louisville, KY

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Church
Washington, DC

Bishop Francis Krebs
Presiding Bishop
Ecumenical Catholic Communion
St. Louis, MO

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS
Executive Director
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Washington, DC

Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF
President
Franciscan Action Network
Washington, DC

Nathan Hosler
Director, Office of Public Witness
Church of the Brethren
Washington, DC

Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach
Co-Coordinator
American Baptist Creation Justice Network
Natick, MA

Rev. Dr. Genny Rowley
Eco-Justice Community Chair, Alliance of Baptists
Board Chair, Utah Interfaith Power and Light
Salt Lake City, Utah

Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director
Creation Justice Ministries
Washington, DC

The Episcopal Church

JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF
THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT BY:

THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE
PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND
CANADA
(UA)

THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 140
(UA LOCAL 140)

THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF SPRINKLER FITTERS LOCAL 669
(UA LOCAL 669)

THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF PIPELINERS LOCAL 798
(UA LOCAL 798)

WHEREAS, the UA and UA Locals 140, 669, and 798 recognize the historic and ongoing cultural ties to the lands, animals, plants, and resources of San Juan County, Utah by Native American people; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bears Ears National Monument is the ancestral home of many Southwestern Native American Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bears Ears National Monument contains an intricately rich ecological system, on which many Tribes depend to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, many members of Native American tribes with cultural ties to the proposed Bears Ears National Monument area, including those that are members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, are represented through membership in the United Association and its Local Unions; and

WHEREAS, an essential aspect of the proposed Monument's management priority values are to protect archaeological, wildlife, natural and scenic resources to ensure their ongoing and sustainable use; and

WHEREAS, Native Americans have unique and important cultural and historical ties to the proposed Monument's land, wildlife and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate damage to areas sacred to Native peoples, and development that negatively impacts land of historic and cultural importance to Native traditional practices; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect against these threats and preserve these lands as a cultural and ecological treasure for all Americans, formal protection as a National Monument is required;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that the UA and UA Locals 140, 669, and 798 hereby join in supporting the designation of the Bears Ears landscape as a National Monument, respecting the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are tied to these lands; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the UA and UA Locals 140, 669, and 798 join in supporting the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in urging President Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the Bears Ears National Monument and provide permanent protection for these lands.

The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted this 1st day of July, 2016.



United Association



United Association Local 140



United Association Local 669



United Association Local 798



May 26, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Barack Obama:

We, the undersigned members of Vet Voice Foundation (VVF), support protecting Bears Ears as a National Monument. The designation of this critical landscape would protect 1.9 million acres of public lands, preserving more than 100,000 Native American cultural sites while also providing incredible recreation opportunities for visitors and important habitat for iconic American wildlife.

This letter also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a partnership of five sovereign Indian nations urging you, Mr. President, to take similar action. From the Code Talkers of World War II to the 42,000 tribal members who served in Vietnam, Native Americans have been a foundation of the US Military fighting force.

For decades Native Americans have been calling for the protection of the Bears Ears region. This historically and culturally significant landscape is threatened and has suffered rampant looting, grave robbing, and destruction of historic villages, structures and rock art – all due to the lack of protection.

As a military veterans, we have not forgotten the oath we swore to sacrifice ourselves to defend the lands we love. The commitment we feel from our service to defend the American way of life extends to the public lands that belong to all American citizens.

Protected open spaces are also important to veterans reintegrating to civilian life. Research shows the solace of a personal experience in the outdoors has huge healing contributions to even the most severe mental health conditions. Our national public lands are also a place where veterans repair and renew bonds with family and friends after long deployments.

In the absence of leadership by state leaders and the US Congress, your administration has the opportunity, and the authority, to set in place permanent protection measures for this historic region.

As your final year in office winds down, there is still work to be done to protect America's last great wildlands, places of important cultural and historical significance, and places veterans use to heal from the trauma of war. Proclaiming Bears Ears as a National Monument would honor the ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to this sacred region of southeastern Utah and also ensure that world class recreation opportunities continue to be accessible.

As veterans we served to protect our nation's citizens, values and lands. Native Americans volunteer in the Armed Forces more than any other U.S. demographic to defend this great country. We have the opportunity to continue that oath and ensure that future generations are provided the chance to learn, explore, recreate, nurture and heal in a cherished piece of American history. Please designate Bears Ears as a National Monument.

Sincerely,

THE UNDERSIGNED:

Jim Albee
Logan, UT 84321

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Salt Lake City, UT 84124

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Salt Lake City, UT 84121

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Earl Nissen
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Clark Walding
Cerrillos, NM 87010

Peter Ossorio
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Robert Wells
Roswell, NM 88201

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

CC: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

CC: Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality



Obama should listen to Native Americans to preserve Bears Ears

MONDAY , MAY 16, 2016 - 1:45 PM



Photo supplied/Jeff Clay

Michael Cumming, founder of Operation Climb On, in Short Canyon in Bears Ears.

MICHAEL CUMMING, Guest Columnist

The five Native American tribes calling on President Obama to protect 1.9 million acres of their ancestral homelands as the Bears Ears National Monument say that it will bring healing to the land, plants, animals and to the collective human spirit.

As the founder of [Operation Climb On \(https://www.facebook.com/operationclimbon/\)](https://www.facebook.com/operationclimbon/), a therapeutic climbing program for veterans, I can testify firsthand about the healing power of Bears Ears.

I served almost twelve years as a military infantryman, including a couple of combat deployments to Iraq. When I left active duty, I faced a lot of the issues other veterans confront when they return to civilian life. I fell into alcohol abuse, lost my family and became suicidal because of the memories that haunted me night and day.

At my lowest point, with the help of a counselor, I discovered that climbing — especially out in nature with my fellow veterans — helped me to heal from the trauma of war. When I realized that getting out on the rock was a lifeline for other veterans as well, I created Operation Climb On.

We use the same guideline that worked for me – spending time in the great outdoors with a group of veterans climbing and camping together.

Recently, I took a trip with fellow veterans, including one who is Navajo, down to the Bears Ears. I knew a slot canyon, one of many in this amazing landscape of mesa, mountain, cliff, and canyon, which was perfect for canyoneering.

We spent the first day strapped into our climbing harnesses, stepping back over sheer cliff edges into space, learning once again to put trust in a friend anchoring the rope above us, as we descended a serpentine canyon at times only as wide as our shoulders.

The next day we roamed a rolling sandstone mesa, guided by a local professional archaeologist, dropping down into hidden canyons to marvel at ancient cliff dwellings and images of animals and other cryptic figures etched and painted on to the cliff walls.

In the evenings, we simply hung out around the campfire, listening to each other's stories, as an almost unbelievable number of stars studded a pitch black sky.

Once again, the combination of pristine natural beauty, climbing, and veterans, enhanced by the absolute wonder of exploring age-old stone villages and rock art worked its alchemical magic. The veterans returned home reconnected and reinvigorated.

Just consider these reflections my fellow veterans shared with me after the trip:

"I was reminded that climbing is all about you on the wall trusting a friend, just like you did in combat, instead of bottling up all your fears. That's how we lose guys. They bottle it up and the lid blows off. A trip like this to Bears Ears actually saves lives."

"It sounds simple and it is. But too often veterans tend to get isolated. We lose our sense of community. Climbing and camping together, especially in a place like this, restores community."

"I just want to see this land preserved so that I can return here with friends and family and show them what I have experienced, and so future generations can come and have the same experience too. That would be pretty amazing."

The Native American tribes asking President Obama to protect Bears Ears are right that a national monument offers an opportunity for healing. Veterans are among those who would benefit deeply.

Veterans have given so much for our country. Protecting Bears Ears would do so much for them. Operation Climb On hopes that President Obama acts soon.

Michael Cumming is a combat veteran living in Salt Lake City who founded Operation Climb On, a therapeutic climbing program for veterans.



Utah Diné Bikéyah

- a non-profit supporting Native Tribes working together to **Protect Bears Ears** -

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FB @UtahDineBikeyah | Twitter @UtahDineBikeyah | Instagram @ProtectBearsEars

Protection for Bears Ears Acknowledged as Common Goal of Utahns: 1,500 Attend Obama Administration Public Hearing in Bluff, UT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 16, 2016

Contact: Gavin Noyes - (801) 521-7398, Natasha Hale - (505) 906-8303

Tribal leaders and grassroots local residents expressed a unified desire for protection of the Bears Ears cultural landscape at the public hearing in Bluff, Utah, on Saturday – the largest national monument hearing in the history of the Obama administration.

Over 1,500 individuals attended the public meeting at the Bluff Community Center, in spite of triple digit heat and standing room only even in the outdoor facilities, where the event was broadcast over loudspeaker. Saturday's public meeting was hosted by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and other federal officials from the U. S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, who have been touring the proposed Bears Ears National Monument and travelling throughout southeast Utah for the past week.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell opened the three and a half hour meeting by observing, "There is a desire to protect what's here for future generations. That has been consistent no matter who I have spoken with."

"One thing we all have is a connection to the land," said Carlton Bowekaty, Councilman for the Zuni Tribe and Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition delegate. "Our proposal is not about exclusion. Our proposal is about education & partnership."

Utah Dine Bikeyah Board Chairman Willie Grayeyes, who was selected by lottery to speak, remarked, "Permanent protection is what we stand for. I hope the determination will be made to heal us – all of us."

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye was also invited to address the crowd. "We greet these places by their names as if they were people. Through this relationship we are able to negotiate healing," he explained. "Because of Navajo people's connection to these lands, we have

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requested co-management. This will be remembered among people for generations as honoring our sacred lands.”

Nearly 1,000 blue ‘Protect Bears Ears’ t-shirts were distributed to national monument supporters at the event. Dozens of individuals were randomly selected by lottery to speak for two minutes each. Comments varied between monument supporters and opponents among speakers. A strong desire to protect Bears Ears was articulated by both groups.

As Secretary Jewell said, “The question perhaps is how?”

One of the final commentators of the afternoon observed, “However much we might wish it was not true, Utah’s political leaders have failed, and the job now rises to President Obama.”

The Public Lands Initiative, which was finally introduced Thursday after months of delay, is a non-starter. Despite the Utah delegation’s years of investment in the legislation, the PLI not only fails to provide a meaningful role for Tribes in the management of these ancestral lands. It also has effectively no chance of passage. No real legislative pathway for Bears Ears exists prior to January 20, 2016. This is why Tribes are respectfully requesting President Obama to designate Bears Ears National Monument as soon as possible.

“When they say PLI, we’re saying no,” stated Navajo Nation Council Delegate Davis Filfred. He explained that the Navajo Nation and numerous other Tribes throughout the region have passed formal resolutions and legislation supporting protection for Bears Ears as a national monument. Delegate Filfred concluded, “We need President Obama to be brave.”

In her closing remarks, Secretary Jewell noted, “There are many voices here that say we want to continue to use these lands as we have. Those [uses] are not mutually exclusive with protection.”

UDB Chairman Grayeyes pointed out after the meeting, “Tribes have designed the Bears Ears National Monument proposal to ensure continued access and traditional use of these lands. Our intent is preserve and honor the land and cultural practices that have taken place here since time immemorial.”

For the first time in history, a unified coalition of sovereign Native American nations are calling on the President of the United States to protect their ancestral homelands as a national monument. Ute Mountain Ute Councilman and Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition representative Malcolm Lehi, whose constituents live adjacent to Bears Ears and rely on these lands for their livelihoods, asserted, “This is part of a movement that’s going to make history.”

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Friends of Cedar Mesa

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Statement on Congress failing to protect Cedar Mesa and the Bears Ears

Pos do D 9 2016

Friday, December 9, 2016

"Congress has conc uded its work for the 2016 session without so much as a vote in the ouse of Representatives on the Utah Pub ic Lands Initiative. We be ieve this represents a c ear sign the bi cked the bi-partisan support necessary to become aw due to the many 'poison pi s it contained that wou d have decreased protections on the ground for internationa y significant ands.

"Congress has fai ed for 113 years to protect the Bears Ears region, an area of enormous cu tura , scientific and scenic va ue - a andscape containing more archaeo ogica sites than Utah s 'Mighty Five Nationa Parks combined. This fai ure to act comes despite a most unanimous oca support for protecting archaeo ogica y rich areas such as Cedar Mesa. Virtua y every Utah e cted officia expressed support for the PLI s provisions for designating arge acreages of and in San Juan County as Nationa Conservation Areas and Wi derness.

"We hope President Obama wi finish the job Congress cou d not by designating a Bears Ears Nationa Monument before he eaves office. Such action wou d represent the quintessentia use of the Antiquities Act to protect true antiquities when the egis ative process has fai ed. Whie we a ways preferred a egis ative so ution, this executive action is precise y what Congress envisioned when it de egated to the President the authority to create Nationa Monuments.

With skyrocketing visitation without management resources, continuing ooting and vanda ism, and the bu s eye of out-of-state energy deve opers, we don t have 113 more years to wait for Congress to get the job done.

— Josh Ewing, Executive Director

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Author: Josh Ewing

As Executive Director for Friends of Cedar Mesa, Josh advances stewardship through education, advocacy, and organizing.



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July 14, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz,

The Pew Charitable Trusts has supported the fundamental premise of the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI) from its beginning: the pairing of new wilderness and other conservation designations with broadly supported land exchanges between the federal government and Utah. The virtues of such an exchange include permanent protection for some of Utah's most spectacular places for future generations, a significant funding stream for Utah's schoolchildren, and diverse new economic opportunities for rural Utah communities provided by wilderness designations. The introduction of the *Utah Public Lands Initiative Act* (H.R. 5780) is an important step towards realizing such an exchange.

Utah's redrock country is virtually unmatched world-wide in its sublime combination of scenic vistas, recreational opportunities, biological values, and archeological treasures. H.R. 5780 would protect some of its most spectacular places. While we are generally supportive of the conservation gains envisioned by the bill, we continue to have concerns with some of the provisions in the bill that must be addressed in order to achieve a durable legislative outcome for southeastern Utah's public lands.

Pew is opposed to the Recapture Canyon right-of-way provisions in Section 817. While we appreciate the elimination of the Seep Ridge Road corridor from Grand County in Title VI, we remain concerned that future developments of the road might endanger the Book Cliffs region. We also feel that the management language in the NCA and Wild and Scenic sections could be improved so that the areas are adequately protected in a manner that is consistent with the goals and values of the National Landscape Conservation and National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems and will enjoy management – particularly with regards to grazing – that is more protective than existing management, not less. We have concerns with the mechanics of the land exchange process in Title I of Division B; in particular the NEPA and FLPMA compliance provisions found in Section 105. By preemptively determining that these conveyances are in the public interest, the bill undermines regular order and limits critical checks and balances that ensure that the American taxpayer receives the best possible return for the conveyance of public property. Likewise, the RS 2477 provisions in title XII of Division B are beyond the scope of this bill, and improperly pre-empt court proceedings currently underway to resolve these claims. In addition, section 204(m) of Division A is so broadly written as to potentially limit agencies' authority to make a wilderness recommendation or other administrative designations in the

management planning process. In fact, language throughout the bill significantly and unnecessarily constrains the ability of the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture to manage these lands for the value for which they've been designated. We also support adjusting the boundaries of the Bears Ears NCA to include the recreationally and archaeologically valuable lands within the White Canyon drainages and the Allen, Chippean, and Dry Wash Canyons. Finally, we have concerns about the energy language in Title XI of Division B.

Because Pew believes the legislative process can achieve a solution that honors recommendations from numerous public land users, we are committed to working with you on the legislation in a manner that would enable the Senate to act favorably on this legislation and the President to sign H.R. 5780 into law. However, time remaining in the 114th Congress is very short. Pew's continued support for the PLI process depends on a clear demonstration that a measure is moving forward and can be enacted by this Congress before the House recesses at the end of September.

If such progress cannot be shown, Pew believes that President Obama should use his authority, granted by Congress under the Antiquities Act, to protect the Bears Ears area as a national monument. These places are under imminent threat, there is strong support among Native American tribes for their preservation, and protecting them would confer economic benefits to the communities of Bluff, Blanding, Monticello, and beyond. While we would prefer to see a good bill passed into law, we know from experience with the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument that a designation under the Antiquities Act can also successfully replicate the premise underlying this bill: the conservation of land coupled with subsequent consolidation of SITLA parcels for lands outside the conservation units to eliminate checkerboard ownership and provide a revenue stream to Utah's permanent State School Fund.

We are sincerely grateful for the effort you and your staff have put into this bill, which is vastly improved from the draft we saw in January. We look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Matz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Matz, Director
U.S. Public Lands
The Pew Charitable Trusts

March 7th, 2016

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, the undersigned organizations are writing to express support for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's (Coalition) proposal to protect the Bears Ears cultural landscape as a new national monument.

The proposal would permanently protect the Bears Ears area, as well as provide for its collaborative management with representation from the tribes that comprise the coalition. We support the creation of a unique, jointly-managed national monument that honors the traditional and ancestral ties of Native American people to these lands, while protecting this world-class landscape for all Americans.

Like the Coalition, which has detailed its concerns repeatedly to Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz, our organizations have also invested significant time and resources in the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) process during the past three years. Like the Coalition, we share deep concerns about the PLI legislation in the Bears Ears region. The failure of the PLI process to engage anyone outside of San Juan County has prevented critical perspectives and sovereign nations from being heard. Unfortunately, the recently released (January 20, 2016) draft PLI fails to adequately protect this important landscape.

Given the sacredness of the Bears Ears landscape to the Coalition and the outstanding archeological, ecological, cultural, geological, and recreational values of the area, we urge you to designate a Bears Ears National Monument with meaningful collaborative management as envisioned by the Coalition. When considering the awe-inspiring values of this unmatched landscape and the immediacy of the threats there, it is clear that permanent protection cannot wait.

We stand ready to support the Coalition and your administration to make this a reality.

Most respectfully,



Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society



Scott Groene, Executive Director, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance



Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club



Bill Hedden, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Trust



Josh Ewing, Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa



Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director, Conservation Lands Foundation



Sharon Buccino, Director, Land and Wildlife Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

CC: Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Tom Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service



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JULY 13, 2016 BY [JESS MCGLOTHLIN](#)

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AFFTA's Support of Bears Ears Conservation Efforts

Read the [full press release](#) here that accompanied the letter below.

Dear President Obama,

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

As an organization representing the businesses of America's fly fishing industry, we respectfully write to ask you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a National Monument. In calling for

permanent protection of this majestic landscape, we join a large, diverse coalition of stakeholders, led by the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition (BEITC), who submitted a formal proposal to you in October.

Encompassing 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service, the Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. In addition to protecting traditional Native American land use and tens of thousands of cultural sites, a monument designation for Bears Ears would ensure the conservation of the area's diverse natural resources — including its waters, plant and animal life — and the outdoor recreation they support.

In particular, the lakes, streams and reservoirs in and around the Abajo Mountains west of Monticello, and the San Juan River running between Bluff and Lake Powell, offer a myriad of trout fishing opportunities. While Lake Powell itself would fall outside of the Bears Ears Monument, the lake's future depends on an abundant supply of fresh water flowing from its tributaries, including the San Juan River.

With its access to world-class fishing, Bears Ears is an important contributor to Utah's \$12 billion outdoor recreation economy, which drives \$856 million in state and local tax revenue and \$3.6 billion in wages and salaries yearly, and supports 122,000 direct Utah jobs. The most recent National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service showed that fishing in Utah accounts for over \$451 million in yearly spending alone.

The new monument also has great potential to spur economic growth in Bluff and surrounding areas: A recent study from Headwaters Economics assessing the economic performance of counties adjacent to and containing national monuments — including Utah's own Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument east of the Bears Ears area — found that two-thirds of these communities (13 of 17), grew at the same or a faster pace compared to similar counties in their state.

National Monument status for Bears Ears would help to safeguard our outdoor heritage and sporting traditions and the economic opportunities they support. But even more

importantly, permanent protection would ensure that these pristine lands and waters remain healthy and accessible for our communities and future generations of Americans enjoy.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bulis AFFTA President and CEO

CC:

Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

Filed Under: [Conservation](#) Tagged With: [Bear's Ears](#), [Conservation](#)

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October 7, 2016

Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

The Access Fund, the national climbing advocacy non-profit organization, respectfully submits an update on our work to protect recreation, cultural and natural resources in eastern Utah, and to develop a longstanding, positive relationship between the Native American and climbing communities. For climbers, eastern Utah contains some of the most iconic, unique and high quality climbing opportunities in the world, including areas like Indian Creek, Castle Valley, Fisher Towers, San Rafael Swell, Valley of the Gods, Arch Canyon, Lockhart Basin, Comb Ridge, and thousands of other climbing sites.

Over the past 3 years, we have spent countless hours considering potential paths forward to protect and enhance these world-class resources, and we have critically evaluated options for protecting climbing access in eastern Utah while honoring our Native American partners and conserving the environment locally and regionally. We recently conducted a survey of over 1,000 climbers nationwide who travel regularly to this region, and they told us in no uncertain terms that they value wild experiences, vast landscapes, undeveloped viewsheds, clean air, solitude, and cultural heritage. We want to protect southeast Utah for future generations because we know firsthand how valuable the area is to climbers and all Americans.

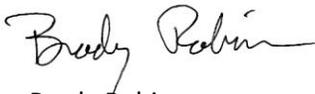
Senior Access Fund staff, alongside climbing guides, local climbing advocates and community leaders, met with Inter-Tribal Coalition representatives and Native American leaders in Moab, UT (Sep. 1st, 2016) and White Mesa, UT (Sep. 2nd, 2016). The climbing community shared its vision for eastern Utah, described best climbing practices and listened to the concerns of the Native American representatives and spiritual leaders. Although many questions about climbing management on sacred lands remain open-ended, we optimistically report that the climbing and Native American communities both want strong protections for this region and we committed to sharing knowledge, perceptions and concerns regarding the best way to manage this unique landscape.

These meetings taught us that both Access Fund and Native American leaders need more time to consider administrative and spiritual evaluation processes that could help develop a sustainable, balanced climbing management framework for the Bears Ears region. However, Access Fund and Inter-Tribal representatives are committed to advancing a deeper understanding between our two communities. We support meaningful Native American participation in land management decision making, and we oppose plans that can result in the large-scale development, disposal or transfer of our public lands to the states.

It is clear that a legislative solution in Utah is currently unlikely given the divided political climate, the many improvements still needed in H.R. 5780, and the limited timeframe left in the One Hundred-Fourteenth Congress. Therefore, Access Fund supports long-term protections for the Bears Ears region by the end of 2016. We believe that the declaration of a National Monument at Bears Ears would provide realistic, long-term protections for key lands in San Juan County, Utah which are of very high significance to the climbing and Native American communities. In so doing, we support robust and meaningful involvement by the Inter-Tribal Coalition in the management, and development of management plans, for Bears Ears.

Access Fund will continue to represent the climbing community and work toward viable conservation for eastern Utah. If the Obama administration uses the Antiquities Act to designate a Bears Ears National Monument, we urge that the world-class rock climbing resources located within the Bears Ears proposal boundaries, as well as human-powered recreation in general, be acknowledged in the presidential proclamation that establishes the national monument. Having this acknowledgment in the proclamation is essential to ensure that recreation opportunities are appropriately protected as a management plan for the monument is developed.

Sincerely,



Brady Robison
Executive Director
Access Fund

cc:

Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality
Thomas Tidwell, Chief, United States Forest Service
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Alfred Lomahquahu, Co-Chair, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition
Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Co-Chair, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition
Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Phil Powers, CEO, American Alpine Club

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I encourage you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the Bears Ears region to the National Park System. I support protecting this region and sharing these important natural, archeological, and cultural resources of Southern Utah, which lie north of the Navajo Nation and the San Juan River, east of the Colorado River, and west of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation.

At over 1.9 million acres, the Bear Ears region contains abundant cultural resources, including well-preserved cliff dwellings, rock and art panels, artifacts, and Native American burials. It offers unparalleled research, educational, and recreational opportunities for scientists, educators, outdoor enthusiasts, and families.

The landscape of the region is most stunning yet fragile lands of the American west and includes magnificent red rock formations, deep carved canyons, long mesas, and rock arches. The region gets its namesake, Bears Ears, from twin buttes that lie at the heart of the majestic Cedar Mesa.

The Bears Ears region has always been important to Native American people that consider it a homeland. Many Native Americans use the lands today as a place for healing, ceremonies, and the gathering of firewood, plants, and medicinal herbs. A group of Indian nations – Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Uintah and Ouray Ute, and Ute Mountain – have petitioned to protect this area under the Antiquities Act.

Despite support from archeologists and tribal groups, these incredible places remain threatened by oil, gas, and tar sands development and rampant off-road vehicle use – activities which, while appropriate elsewhere, simply should not occur on a landscape so fragile and precious. These lands also are constantly threatened from looters that deface artifacts and plunder graves for relics.

Protecting this landscape, habitat, and priceless archeological resources is support by environmental groups nationwide, including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council, the Wilderness Society, Conservation Lands Foundation, and Grand Canyon Trust.

I have long worked to protect this precious region. Given this great potential and the tremendous public and tribal support demonstrated, I support declaring the Bears Ears as a unit of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dick Durbin", written in a cursive style.

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator