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I attended the Tribal Listening session in Portland for the EO 13792: Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act. Below is a summary of the session:
The Listening session was held as part of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians Mid-Year Convention and was held in conjunction with several other breakout sessions.

About 20 people were in the audience and the panel consisted of myself, local representation from the Park Service, Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Director of BIA and someone from DOI Assistant Secretary's Office were also on the panel. The DOI person introduced the topic and handouts of the Executive Order and Federal Register Notice were provided to all in the audience.

Comments were then taken from members of the audience and a court reporter was there. All comments were in favor of keeping the monuments as designated.

- One commenter was unsure why the President was undertaking this review

- All felt these lands are sacred to Native people and should remain protected.

- One person, a lawyer, thought it was important to point out the original intent of the Antiquities Act comes from the need to protect cultural properties of Native peoples. He also pointed out that Bears Ears is sacred to 5 different tribes who do not normally agree but they do agree on protections at Bears Ears and want to co-manage it with the government.

- Others pointed out that places in the monument, particularly Hanford Reach provide important fish spawning habitat.

- Some were nervous that the Executive Order seemed open ended as one of the factors listed in the Federal Register Notice says: "such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate."

A transcript of the session will be posted on DOI's web-site.

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