

March 13, 2017

Mr. Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Zinke,
Congratulations on your new position.
YOUR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT VISIT:

It was said in the news you would be visiting this controversial monument and making recommendations to President Trump. If this is the case I wish to offer my services to take you around for a look.

I am a recreationalist who strongly believes in multiple use. I am an avid hiker and also four wheel drive enthusiast but consider myself a steward of the environment. I am intimately acquainted with the lands inside of Bears Ears. As such, I feel I could give you a balanced and forthright tour of the area

I will say my opinion just so you know. I believe the Monument is unnecessarily large. Way too large for its purpose. The ancient cultural ruins it is supposed to preserve are only in a small portion of what has been designated. And other parts are already protected as wilderness study areas and BLM lands. I fear the Interior department will close existing roads and may even require Native American guides to visit cultural sites within the Monument, like it does at Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

You should be aware that the Navajo and Ute people who have voiced their favor of this monument are not related to the ancient people who inhabited this area. Their ancestors came much later, by centuries. As such, I don't think they should be guiding visitors to sites. The BLM is doing and has done an excellent job of protecting these very lands while enabling multiple use.

I have also included a copy of the pictorial of Canyonlands of Utah, the Needles District, which lies adjacent to the Bears Ears. As you will see, the NPS has closed several four wheel drive roads within the Park even though they are supposed to be open based on its own backcountry management plan: Lavender and Horse Canyon and Salt Creek Canyon up to the Horse Canyon turnoff. (The upper portion was closed by Judge order and has been highly controversial.) But the other canyons are permanently "impassable." A group of four wheel drive enthusiasts could reopen them for free if allowed but the Park is not in favor of multiple use. I hope this does not happen at Bears Ears as well.

Thank you for your interest in this wonderful area. I hope your visit is fruitful.

Tom Maxwell
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OFFICE OF THE

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