

Conversation Contents

Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

"Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 19 2017 11:32:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017

-
Heather
Swift
Department



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

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Sent: Fri May 19 2017 11:39:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Swift, Heather"
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I talked with Z. he likes this --> (b) (5)

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Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

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President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December (*E&E News PM*, April 26).

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During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month (*Greenwire*, May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

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Laura Rigas
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From: Laura Rigas
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To: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
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I talked with Z. he likes this --> b7E

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He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations (*E&E Daily*, May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site (*E&E News PM*, Dec. 18, 2015).

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San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

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