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**From:** Michael Richardson  
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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**Secretary Zinke Submits 45-Day Interim Report on Bears Ears National Monument  
and Extends Public Comment Period**

*Recommends Right-Sizing, Federal Ownership, Tribal Management,  
Congressional Action, Protection and Multiple Use*

(WASHINGTON) U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke submitted a 45-day interim report on Bears Ears National Monument to President Donald J. Trump on Saturday, June 10, 2017, in accordance with the April 26, 2017, executive order. The order directs the Secretary of the interior to review monuments designated under the Antiquities Act between January 1, 1996, and the present date that are 100,000 acres or more in size, or any monument the Secretary deems to have been created without appropriate public input. The EO also directs the Secretary to submit an interim report regarding Bears Ears specifically to the President no more than 45 days from the date of the EO.

“I spent a lot of time on the ground in Utah, talking with people and understanding the natural and cultural significance of the area. There is no doubt that it is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection, but a 1.3 million-acre monument where multiple use management is hindered or prohibited is not the best use of the land and is not in accordance with the intention of the Antiquities Act,” said Secretary Ryan Zinke. “I’ve submitted my 45-day interim report to President Trump expressing my belief that the monument needs to be right-sized and that the land should remain under federal ownership. I also recommended that Congress take action to designate areas as national recreation or conservation areas, where monument status doesn’t quite fit, but a higher level of protection is merited.”

Regarding ongoing management and consultation with Tribal interests, Secretary Zinke said: “The Tribes have played an enormous part in the preservation of the cultural artifacts and lands in this area, and their ongoing participation is absolutely key to the success of our efforts. I am grateful representatives from the Tribal governments met with me in Utah and am optimistic for our future. I recommended to the president that the monument, and especially the areas of significant cultural interest, like spiritual grounds, the dwellings, graineries, Kiowas, pictographs, etc, be officially co-managed by the Tribal nations. I also believe Tribes should be more heavily consulted in order to preserve the traditional uses of the land to include gathering of plants and herbs, hunting and fishing.”

In May, Secretary Zinke traveled to Utah and held a four-day listening tour across the state to learn more about Bears Ears National Monument and the neighboring Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The monuments are 1.35 million and 1.7 million acres in footprint, respectively.

The Secretary met with State, local, and Tribal stakeholders and toured the monument by air, car, foot, and horseback. He met with elected officials from Tribal, federal, state and local communities. He also met with representatives from agriculture, conservation, historic preservation and tourism sectors, as well as private citizens. The Secretary also held daily press briefings during the trip.

Prior to the trip to Utah in early May, Secretary Zinke opened up a formal public comment period where members of the public could submit their statements regarding all monuments to the Secretary. Between May XX and May 26, the Department received XXXXXX comments regarding Bears Ears. This was the first time ever that a formal public comment period was set up for monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

“Local input is absolutely critical when it comes to federal land management decisions and as such, I’m extending the public comment period for Bears Ears. I want every advocate to have their voice heard,” said Secretary Zinke.

The formal public comment period for Bears Ears will be extended through XXXX and will close with the overall comment period. Comments may be submitted on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or by traditional mail.

**Executive Order 13792:**

Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017 (82 FR 20429, May 1, 2017), directs the Secretary of the Interior to review certain National Monuments designated or expanded under the Antiquities Act of 1906, 54 U.S.C. 320301-320303 (Act). Specifically, Section 2 of the Executive Order directs the Secretary to conduct a review of all Presidential designations or expansions of designations under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996, where the designation covers more than 100,000 acres, where the designation after expansion covers more than 100,000 acres, or where the Secretary determines that the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy set forth in section 1 of the order. Among other provisions, Section 1 states that designations should reflect the Act's "requirements and original objectives" and "appropriately balance the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities." 82 FR 20429 (May 1, 2017).

In making the requisite determinations, the Secretary is directed to consider:

- (i) the requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected";
- (ii) whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest";
- (iii) the effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries;
- (iv) the effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;
- (v) concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities;
- (vi) the availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas; and
- (vii) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.

82 FR 20429-20430 (May 1, 2017)

**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

**Secretary Zinke to host News Media Briefing on Bears Ears National Monument**

(WASHINGTON) On Monday, June 12, 2017, at 2:30 PM EDT/12:30 PM MT, U.S Secretary of the interior Ryan Zinke will host a media briefing via teleconference regarding the review of Bears Ears National Monument. The monument is under review in accordance with President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017, executive order.

Members of the news media must RSVP to Interior Press@ios.doi.gov to obtain the dial-in information.

WHO: U.S. Secretary of the interior Ryan Zinke

WHAT: A media briefing via teleconference regarding the review of Bears Ears National Monument

WHEN: Monday, June 12, 2017

2:30 PM EDT/12:30 PM MT

WHERE: Members of the news media must RSVP to [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov) to obtain the dial-in information.

BACKGROUND: On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order directing the Secretary of the interior to review monuments designated under the Antiquities Act between January 1, 1996, and the present date that are 100,000 acres or more in size, or any monument the Secretary deems to have been created without appropriate public input. The EO directs the Secretary to submit an interim report regarding Bears Ears specifically to the President no more than 45 days from the date of the EO.

In May, Secretary Zinke traveled to Utah and held a four-day listening tour across the state. The Secretary met with State, local, and Tribal stakeholders and to toured the monument by air, car, foot, and horseback. He met with elected officials from Tribal, federal, state and local communities. He also met with representatives from agriculture, conservation, historic preservation and tourism sectors, as well as private citizens.

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