

To: Bilbao, Anita[abilbao@blm.gov]
From: Ashcroft, Tyler
Sent: 2017-05-03T09:59:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Update
Received: 2017-05-03T09:59:30-04:00
DOI BEC Briefing 050117(v2).docx

Good suggestion. I add information about Agriculture and USFS to the memo.

On Tue, May 2, 2017 at 9:33 PM, Bilbao, Anita <abilbao@blm.gov> wrote:

Awesome work, Tyler. I made a few additions to the tour outline like office addresses and # of BLM participants and sent forward to our DOI scheduling contacts (changed the doc title and updated version attached).

What do you think about adding a few lines about the FS role in the briefing paper on the tribal commission?

Thanks, everyone, for their input and preparation. I'll touch base again tomorrow as we firm up more details.

Looping Cindy!

Anita

On Tue, May 2, 2017 at 6:58 PM, Ashcroft, Tyler <tashcrof@blm.gov> wrote:

Anita and Co.,

Attached is the updated/simplified itinerary. I have also included a draft of the requested briefing paper about the Bears Ears Commission (and attachment). If we are able to get some bios I will add them. Let me know if you have any suggestions or edits.

Have a great evening.

Talk to you all in the morning.

On Tue, May 2, 2017 at 6:45 PM, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov> wrote:

Thank you, Ed, for the loop. Appreciate the update. The assist from Team Utah has been amazing.

I'm adding Mike in to help w logistics with the Wed/Thurs piece.
I'll connect w him and Cindy tomorrow. Anita

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 2, 2017, at 5:44 PM, Edwin Roberson <eroberso@blm.gov> wrote:
>

> Anita and Tyler, I got a text from Josh Ewing asking about a potential
> Secretarial visit. I told him that Tyler or Don would call him with
> information about a potential meeting Monday afternoon. I told him
> that I was out of the loop on the latest/official info about a visit
> and Tyler would have the latest. I also talked to Gavin Noyes and told
> him the same thing. He asked if tribal elected leaders could attend
> with commission members. I just got a call from Downey. She said that
> would be fine. She called to ask if she stayed in Kanab overnight
> Weds, could we show her some more of the Grand Staircase and get her
> back to Salt Lake City Thursday night. I said we could do that. Ed
>
> Sent from my iPad

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**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
FOR THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR**

DATE: March 1, 2017

FROM: Edwin Roberson, State Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Utah

SUBJECT: Bears Ears Commission

The purpose of this briefing memo is to provide information about the Bears Ears Commission to the Secretary of Interior in advance of the meeting scheduled on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

BACKGROUND

In July of 2015, leaders from five American Indian Tribes with cultural affiliation to the Bears Ears region founded the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. The members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition include the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and the Zuni Tribe.

On October 15, 2015, the Inter-Tribal Coalition submitted a formal proposal to President Obama requesting designation of the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument. An important component of the proposal was collaborative management between the Tribes and the Federal government.

Prior to formal establishment of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a subset of the above-mentioned tribes worked individually with members of Utah's Congressional delegation to identify potential legislative solutions to protect lands in San Juan County. These efforts were primarily lead by Utah Dine Bikeyah (UDB), which was formed to work with the Navajo Nation and Ute people. During the development of Utah Public Lands Initiative (UPLI), members of UDB and the Tribes submitted recommendations to the San Juan County Commission and U.S. Congressman Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz. Throughout the process, the Tribes concluded that local and congressional representatives were not interested in engaging in substantive discussion related their proposal.

In addition, the five Tribes that comprise the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, 30 American Indian tribes from the American southwest with ancestral, historical, and contemporary ties to the Bears Ears region and the National Congress of American Indians, representing nearly 300 Tribes expressed their support for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition national monument proposal.

On December 28, 2016, president Barack designated the 1.35 million acre Bears Ears National Monument. The proposed boundaries are generally consistent with the boundaries of two National Conservation Areas (i.e., Bears Ears and Indian Creek) included in the UPLI.

To reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, the proclamation established a Bears Ears Commission. The commission is composed of one elected officer from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe. The proclamation requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to “meaningfully engage the Commission...in the development of the management plan and to inform subsequent management of the monument.”

Since designation of National Monument, the Tribes listed in the proclamation have sent multiple letters to the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, BLM, and USFS expressing an interest in working together.

On March 17, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Acting Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse informing them that the Bears Ears Commission had formally been established. The elected Commissioners include: Alfred Lomahquahu – the Hopi Nation, Davis Filfred and James Adakai - the Navajo Nation, Terry Knight - the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Shaun Chapoose - the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Carleton Bowekaty - the Zuni Tribe.

On Thursday, March 29, 2017, the Bears Ears Tribal Commission held its first official Meeting, wherein they elected Carleton Bowekaty and Terry Knight as Commission Co-chairs. On April 4, 2017 the Bears Ears Commission sent a letter to BLM Utah State Director, Ed Roberson, and Forest Supervisor, Mark Pentecost requesting that the agencies participate in an a Commission meeting on April 21, 2017 at the Ute Mountain Ute reservation in Towaoc, CO. In response to this invitation, several BLM and USFS representatives attend the meeting.

During the meeting, several items were discussed including installation of monument signs, ongoing recreation and cultural resource management projects, and the need to identify additional cultural visitation sites. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2017 in Vernal, Utah. In addition, the BLM, USFS, and Bears Ears Commission are trying to schedule a field trip see agency proposed cultural visitation sites during June.

The Bears Ears Commission has expressed in writing a desire to meet with the Secretary. In their letters, they have offered to meet in the field, in Monument Valley, or the southern portion of San Juan County.

DISCUSSION

During the meeting with the Bears Ears Commission representatives, elected representatives from five tribes may be present. The Bears Ears Commission representatives include:

Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice Chairman, The Hopi Tribe, Kykotsmovi, AZ;
James Adakai, President, Utah Navajo Chapter of Olijato, Navajo Nation, Fort Defiance, AZ;
Davis Filfred, Navajo Nation Council, Window Rock, AZ;
Shaun Chapoose, Chairman, Ute Indian Tribe, Ft. Duchesne, UT;
Carleton Bowekaty, Councilman, Zuni Tribe, Zuni, NM; and
Terry Knight, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Ute Mountain Ute, Towaoc, CO.

In addition to the elected Commissioners, the Bears Ears Commission is likely to bring support staff to the meeting. General support staff for the Commission includes:

Natasha Hale, Native American Program Director, Grand Canyon Trust;
Charles Wilkinson, Legal Advisor, University of Colorado;
Leland Begay, Legal Advisor, Ute Mountain Ute;
Gavin Noyes, Utah Dine Bikeyah, Executive Director;
Willie Greyeyes, Utah Dine Bikeyah, Chairman; and

Additional support staff connected to individual Tribal Commissioners may also be present. Total Commission representation could be 15-25 people.

Following introductions, each Tribal representative will be given approximately 10 minutes to share information with the Secretary. It is anticipate that representatives of the Commission will discuss their ancestral affiliation to the area, the spiritual significance of the Bears Ears region, and the importance of the National Monument.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) 03-17-17 letter to Secretary Ryan Zinke