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## **WTAS: Secretary Zinke gives 45-Day Interim Report on Bears Ears National Monument**

*"The recommendations were not made in a bubble in Washington D.C." - Secretary Ryan Zinke*

**DESERET NEWS:** "Zinke's preliminary recommendations on the designation were uniformly praised by Utah's top leaders and excoriated by environmental organizations and tribal advocacy groups. The three members of the San Juan County Commission issued a statement Monday afternoon in reaction to the preliminary recommendations, praising Zinke for listening to "all sides" on the issue. Zinke said his office has been talking to Native American tribes and is working with them for input on co-management language in a bill he said will be critical not only to the Bears Ears Monument but other monuments up for review."

**NPR:** "Zinke is calling on Congress to give Native American tribes formal co-management authority once the boundaries of the monument are redrawn. Under the original Obama proclamation, tribes had only an advisory role in managing Bears Ears. With the GOP in control of both chambers and the White House, Zinke added that the administration has enormous respect for tribes and their "sovereignty, respect and self-determination.""

**CBS:** "Zinke said the recommendation in this interim report is to revise the existing boundaries of Bears Ears. Zinke said there are some antiquities within the monument that he believes deserve to be respected, but he thinks those drawings, archeological sites, etc. can be "reasonably separated" from the rest of the monument area. Instead of the monument designation, which prevents a range of development, Zinke said some of the sprawling, 1.3 million acre site should be designated for conservation or recreation. He called on Congress to approve a land-management bill for Bears Ears and other federal lands."

**Gov. Gary Herbert of Utah:** "This interim report is an important first step toward re-establishing sound land management practices for one of the most special areas in the world. Throughout this process Secretary Zinke has demonstrated the utmost respect for local and tribal input. I encourage the president to take this recommendation seriously, and I applaud the secretary for his balanced and responsible proposal."

**Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah):** "I commend Secretary Zinke for producing a balanced and factual report that should be seen by both sides as genuine progress towards a consensus solution to land use issues in San Juan County. The report confirms that President Obama abused the Antiquities Act by not limiting his monument designation to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of cultural artifacts and areas of importance. I look forward to working with all stakeholders to come up with a legislative solution that addresses the concerns raised by Secretary Zinke."

**Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah):** "This is positive news for the state of Utah and local communities affected by the Bears Ears Monument designation. Anyone with honest intentions recognizes that local input should matter when the federal executive makes a decision of this magnitude."

**Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah):** "I join my rural Utah constituents in celebrating today's recommendation. This is an important first step in reversing President Obama's gross abuse of the Antiquities Act. Secretary Zinke's exemplary effort to engage with local Utahns is to be commended. A locally-driven, legislative approach is the best way to strike a balance among the people who love and use the vast acreage surrounding the Bears Ears. Now it is up to Congress to find a win-win solution that will create a balance between conservation and use."

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Alex Hinson

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