

To: Scott Foss[sfoss@blm.gov]
Cc: Shimada, Kenshu[KSHIMADA@depaul.edu]; John Long[john.long@flinders.edu.au]; Emily Rayfield (glejr@bristol.ac.uk)[glejr@bristol.ac.uk]
From: Polly, P. David
Sent: 2017-06-16T13:33:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Zinke's misstatements about Bears Ears
Received: 2017-06-16T13:33:19-04:00

Hi Scott,

Thank you very much for this information. We'll be making comments on the other monuments as well. We'll update our Bears Ears comments at the same time (especially because members have given us some extra information about scientifically important fossil resources there, especially Quaternary fossils).

Given the unusually large number of comments that have been submitted, many of them based on email templates, do you have recommendations how we can help ensure that SVP's don't get lost in the morass?

With best wishes,
David

P. David Polly
President, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
Professor, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Adjunct Professor, Biology and Anthropology
Indiana University
1001 E. 10th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-1405
pdpolly@indiana.edu
+1 (812) 855-7994
<http://pages.iu.edu/~pdpolly/>

On 15 Jun 2017, at 4:28 PM, Foss, Scott <sfoss@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi David,

DOI has a press release that should be the source of Secretary Zinke's comments (1). In it he states that the public comment period for Bears Ears National Monument is extended to July 10, the same deadline for commenting on the rest of Executive Order 13792, *Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act*, April 26, 2017 (2). This is important because there will be a final report later this year that makes specific recommendations for the national monuments in question, including Bears Ears National Monument (3). It's not attached to the DOI press release, but I found a copy of the interim report linked to multiple news reports (4).

(1) https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary_zinke_submits_45_day_interim_report_bears_ears_national_monument_and_extends

- (2) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/26/presidential-executive-order-review-designations-under-antiquities-act>
- (3) <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/12/politics/bears-ears-delay-decision/index.html>
- (4) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1R1TaUJimAucHJySFRLdjBhZTA/view>

Scott E. Foss, PhD
BLM Senior Paleontologist
20 M St. SE, Suite 2134, Washington, DC 20003
sfoss@blm.gov, 202-912-7253

On Mon, Jun 12, 2017 at 5:12 PM, Polly, P. David <pdpolly@indiana.edu> wrote:

Dear Scott,
Based on Secretary Zinke's statements to the press today, he clearly ignored SVP's comments about the scientific importance of the fossil bearing units in Bears Ears National Monument when he formulated his recommendation to the President.

Zinke is quoted in the Washington Post as saying, "If you look at the Bears Ears as a whole, there's a lot more drop-dead gorgeous land than there are historic, prehistoric objects. These items and objects can be identified, segregated and reasonably separated."

As we documented in our comments (and as demonstrated by confidential DOI data), virtually the entire area of Bears Ears protects important vertebrate fossil localities.

Can you recommend a process by which DOI's statement that there is more land than there are prehistoric objects be corrected?

With best wishes,
David

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President, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
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pdpolly@indiana.edu
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<http://pages.iu.edu/~pdpolly/>