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Cc: kathy_benedetto@blm.gov[kathy_benedetto@blm.gov]; Edwin L
Roberson[eroberso@blm.gov]; Rasure, Nora -FS[Nrasure@fs.fed.us]
From: Josh Ewing
Sent: 2017-04-28T18:29:49-04:00
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Subject: Bears Ears visit invitation
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[FCM Zinke Review Letter VF.pdf](#)

Dan and Kathy: I run a local conservation group based in Bluff, Utah (within sight of the Bears Ears National Monument). When former Secretary Sally Jewell visited the area, we invited her to join us on the ground for a hike to see the archaeology of the area. I'd like to extend a similar invitation to Secretary Zinke should he choose to visit southeastern Utah as part of his review of the Monument designation.

I have attached a formal invitation letter and would welcome any questions or response you might have.

Sincerely,

Josh Ewing

Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa

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PO Box 338, Bluff, UT 84512

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Friday, April 28, 2017

RE: Invitation to learn about the international significance of Bears Ears cultural landscape on the ground

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The Executive Order signed by President Trump on Wednesday gives you a very tall order: to review the importance of the 1.35 million acre Bears Ears National Monument in a short 45 days.

If you have a serious interest in understanding the international significance of this historic and cultural landscape, and the local support for permanently protecting Bear Ears, we invite you to join us on the ground to see firsthand the remarkable resources protected by the Monument. We would also be happy to provide you extensive documentation of the archaeological and recreational importance of the Bears Ears region and introduce you to professional archaeologists and paleontologists who have deep knowledge of the extensive pre-history of the Monument.

Friends of Cedar Mesa is based in Bluff, Utah. The new Bears Ears National Monument surrounds our small town, and our community strongly favors permanent protection for the culturally rich lands now contained in the Monument. The elected leaders of our town (Bluff Service Area Board of Trustees) and the Business Owners of Bluff have both strongly supported the monument designation. We would encourage you to meet with some of these Bluff-based business and elected leaders while you visit southeastern Utah.

As you probably know, the previous Secretary of the Interior spent several years studying this issue. Secretary Jewell and her staff gave the Public Lands Initiative every opportunity to succeed. That bill proposed protecting some 1.2+ million acres in the Bears Ears region as National Conservation Areas and Wilderness areas.

No other conservation group worked as hard as Friends of Cedar Mesa to support a legislative solution. While real protection in the form of Congressional action would have clearly been our favored path, it became clear that the PLI was not intended to be a conservation bill. Rather, in the end, the PLI was loaded with poison pills that made it impossible to garner bi-partisan support in Congress.

Secretary Jewell's staff entertained hundreds of meetings on the subject of permanent protection for the Bears Ears region – with sovereign Native American Tribes, Utah elected officials, County Commissioners, scientists, conservationists, recreation businesses, sportsmen, off-road enthusiasts and locals like us who live near the Monument. Secretary Jewell herself spent four days on the ground hiking into the backcountry of Bears Ears to see the cultural resources of the area. She also entertained a

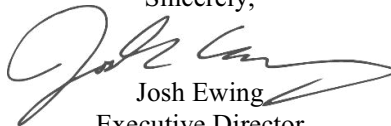
peaceful, fair, and balanced public meeting with more than 1500 people attending.

We know you do not have the luxury of time Secretary Jewell enjoyed. But we hope you will take seriously this review and commit yourself to listening to all sides, especially leaders of sovereign Native American Tribes and archaeologists who have spent their careers becoming familiar with the resources on the ground – not just our Congressional Delegation who maintain they support the area being protected but have no practical path to accomplish that protection.

We re-iterate our invitation for you to join us on the ground in the new monument. As an avid outdoorsman, we know you understand that there is no way you can appreciate the importance of a place like Bears Ears without spending considerable time getting into the backcountry. You simply cannot experience this place by only committing to a drive-by tour.

Please reach out to me to make arrangements to visit the new monument and meet with local supportive businesses. I can be reached at Josh@cedarmesafriends.org or via phone at 801-410-0773.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Ewing", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Josh Ewing
Executive Director

Cc:

Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture

Ed Roberson, Utah State BLM Director

Nora Rasure, Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region