

From: Jim Cason
To: James_Cason@ios.doi.gov
Subject: FW: The Bears Ears
Date: Thursday, April 27, 2017 9:57:34 PM

From: Judith LaMontagne [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 10:21 PM
To: walter.cruickshank@boem.gov; Margaret.Schneider@bsee.gov; kerry_rae@ios.doi.gov; werkhe@usgs.gov; dmurillo@usbr.gov; nikolao_pula@ios.doi.gov; [REDACTED]; douglas.w.domenech@ptt.gov; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; olivia_ferriter@ios.doi.gov; Maria_Gonzalez@ios.doi.gov; harry_humbert@ios.doi.gov; Stephen_Hardgrove@doioig.gov; Melinda.Loftin@sol.doi.gov
Subject: The Bears Ears

The Bear's Ears, it is a very special place quite close to Blanding and Bluff, Utah, that Obama just made a national monument barely before he left office. The monument constitutes a really big hunk of San Juan County, especially when the USFS controls most of the rest of it. **The Bear's Ears**

Regardless of whether you are for or against the new Bears Ears National Monument designation, there are some questions that need to be asked.

- Why did President Obama wait until the last days of his presidency to make this designation if it is as important to him as he claims?
- Why is the Monument of such great size? Wouldn't individual smaller antiquity designations be easier to maintain while leaving the main wilderness areas free for outdoor enjoyment?
- Was President Obama even in the country when he made the designation?
- Has he even visited the area he designated so generously? How many visits has he made to Utah itself for that matter?
- Why was the designation made during the distraction of the holiday season?
- Why midnight?
- Aren't the needs of the current San Juan area people as important as the needs of former people and aren't their residents' interests important, too? Shouldn't the land by rights be overseen by the State of Utah?

Many other pertinent questions could be raised about this designation. I would not be surprised to find the politics of personal enrichment involved. The designation is unfortunate because we need freely accessed wilderness areas to relieve the stresses of everyday life more than we ever have before.

When one individual, even the president, can make such a sweeping decision without the approval of the House, the Senate, or even the people's representatives in the State of Utah, it is sad indeed.

Judith La Montagne