

To: Kenneth Johnson[kbjohnso@blm.gov]
From: Ashcroft, Tyler
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Within the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) there are approximately 109,000 acres of land administered by the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). Under the BENM proclamation, the Secretary of Interior was directed to explore entering into a memorandum of understanding with the State that set forth terms for an exchange of land of equal value outside the monument. Further, the Secretary was ordered to report to the President by January 19, 2017 regarding the potential for the exchange.

In response to these requirements the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Office drafted an MOU for review by the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. SITLA declined to participate in review of the MOU stating: "Because of the complexities involved with SITLA's significant in-holding of 109,00-plus acres within the current designated Bears Ears monument, we have yet to receive and comprehend the information necessary to make an informed decision to perform our fiduciary duties on what is in the best interest of our beneficiary."

Following the decision by SITLA not to enter into the MOU, Secretary Jewell sent a letter to Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and the White House noting that president-elect Donald Trump's administration would have to carry out the exchange

The school trust continues to own the land inside the monument.

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