

From: Sutherland, Ryan
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News Release

Utah State Office, Utah

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Interior_press@ios.doi.gov

Contact:

May 7, 2017

SENT ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Background for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's visit to Utah Sunday, May 7, 2017: Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY – Today, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke arrived in Salt Lake City to begin a four-day listening tour regarding the review of Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, both of which are being reviewed by the Secretary under the April 27, 2017, Executive Order. On Friday, the Secretary announced the formal public comment process for monument review will begin on May 12.

The Secretary's mission in Utah is to hear from local communities and stakeholders and to learn more about the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase Escalante Monument. Today's meetings represented diverse opinions and positions on the monument designations and the Secretary was eager to hear from all parties represented.

The Secretary began the day with a meeting with Governor Gary Herbert and Utah's two U.S. Senators, Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee. The Secretary then had three meetings with (1) the State Historic Preservation Office and Utah Department of Heritage, (2) the Legislative Leadership and State Attorney General, and (3) the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

The Secretary then met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition which included members of leadership from the Hopi Tribe, Utah Navajo Chapter of Ojijato, Navajo Nation Council, Ute Indian Tribe, and Zuni Tribe.

While Secretary Zinke has met with a number of representatives from the tribes that make up the Inter-Tribal Coalition, today was the first meeting with the entire coalition. The delegates talked

on a government-to-government level and discussed a number of issues relating to the management of public lands, the specific monuments under review, and sovereignty. The Secretary maintained his commitment to working with the Tribes and local communities during the review.

The Secretary held an open media availability session at the Salt Lake City office of the Bureau of Land Management following the meeting with the Inter-Tribal Coalition to recap the day.

Look Ahead

On Monday, Secretary Zinke, Governor Herbert and members of Utah's Congressional Delegation will travel to Bears Ears National Monument to do a morning aerial tour of the south part of the monument and an afternoon hiking tour of the House of Fire site at the monument. The Secretary and other officials will be available for credentialed media at 2:30PM between the aerial tour and the hike. Please email Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov for details.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

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