

**From:** Simon, Benjamin  
**To:** [Skrabis, Kristin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears tribes  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 02, 2017 4:53:46 PM

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Thanks. I've added text back to the doc.

Ben

On Wed, Aug 2, 2017 at 2:14 PM, Skrabis, Kristin <[kristin\\_skrabis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kristin_skrabis@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hi Ben: I looked at the Inter-Tribal Coalition Proposal, and I think it warrants more than a mention in a footnote. Here are excerpts on why I think it's a problem, and below is some suggested text for your consideration. Thanks. KS

Excerpts:

Native Nations, including the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni and Native Americans representing the Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) organization have been working respectfully and collaboratively with all parties to protect the Bears Ears landscape for more than five years.

The unfairness of forcing Native Americans to work through San Juan County is shown by the County's key decision-making processes. Native American Tribes and local communities attempted to engage at every stage in the process. Then, during the public comment opportunity afforded by San Juan County in 2014, the Navajo Nation and UDB were assured that the Bears Ears proposal would be included as "Alternative D" on the list of County identified alternatives. One week before the first open house, San Juan County broke this agreement and excluded Alternative D from the county list of alternatives, even though it represented the views of half of the San Juan County population.

Despite this action of not listing the Bears Ears proposal as an alternative, county residents overwhelmingly endorsed the UDB-Navajo proposal on Bears Ears, which received 64% of the total local comments of support. San Juan County's own documents show that the low-conservation, heavy-development "Alternative B" received just two comments of support--less than 1%. (See San Juan County Public Comments Nov. /Dec, 10140, attached to this Exhibit). This Alternative B was eventually endorsed by the San Juan County Commissioners as their preferred alternative in August, 2015.

<https://bearscoalition.org/proposal-overview/>  
<http://www.bearscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Bears-Ears-Inter-Tribal-Coalition-Proposal-10-15-15.pdf>

Suggested text to be added to public interaction prior to designation:

Native Nations, including the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni and Native Americans representing the Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) organization have been working collaboratively with all parties to protect the Bears Ears landscape for more than five years. In 2011, Navajo President Ben Shelley met with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and requested a national monument proclamation. In April 2013, the Navajo Nation and UDB made its submission to the county, proposing the creation of a Bears Ears National

Conservation Area, to be co-managed by Tribes, based on their research and detailed mapping. Between 2013 and 2015, the Tribes indicated they made four visits to Washington, DC, meeting with two Utah Congressmen and their staff. In July 2015, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition was formed, led by Hopi, Navajo, Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute and Zuni tribes and supported by 25 other tribes. In October 2015, according to the Inter-Tribal Coalition Proposal, UDB "interviewed and surveyed thousands of people; held eight Town Hall meetings; obtained over 15,000 statements of support; held five annual gatherings of Tribes at Bears Ears to discuss land protection strategies; interviewed dozens of elders and medicine men; developed sophisticated GIS data and many maps displaying that data; and obtained 24 resolutions of support from many Navajo chapter houses and Tribes" (p. 15).

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