

## Conversation Contents

Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

"Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:32:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

### NATIONAL MONUMENTS

#### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017

-  
Heather  
Swift  
Department



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal

of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) |  
[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

**From:** Laura Rigas  
<laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:39:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Swift, Heather"  
<heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Swift, Heather  
<[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

-  
Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) |  
[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>

**From:** Heather Swift  
<heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:54:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Laura Rigas  
<laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

I'm going to ask Z what he has been saying. This is the third person in separate meetings who has gone to the press with similar remarks.

Sent from my iPhone



agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### 'Dark skies and sagebrush'

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every nat'l monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them ([Greenwire](#), May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain, and now you're not."

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend

On May 19, 2017, at 1:39 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov)  
[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

### Downey Magallanes

<[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>

**From:** Downey Magallanes  
<[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:55:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Heather Swift  
<[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
**CC:** Laura Rigas  
<[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

This is patently false.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 19, 2017, at 1:54 PM, Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I'm going to ask Z what he has been saying. This is the third person in separate meetings who has gone to the press with similar remarks.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 19, 2017, at 1:39 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov)  
[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

"Swift, Heather"  
<heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1 35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### 'Dark skies and sagebrush'

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every nat'l monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them ([Greenwire](#), May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

**From:** "Swift, Heather"  
<heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 13:20:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Laura Rigas  
<laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Magallanes, Downey"  
<downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

I talked with Z. he likes this --> (b) (5)



Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain, and now you're not."

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### **'Dark skies and sagebrush'**

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every nat'l monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them ([Greenwire](#), May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain, and now you're not."

## **NATIONAL MONUMENTS**

### **Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal**

*Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017*

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on





Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### 'Dark skies and sagebrush'

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every nat'l monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them ([Greenwire](#), May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect

solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain, and now you're not."

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 1:39 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

Laura Rigas  
<[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>

From: Laura Rigas  
<[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>  
Sent: Fri May 19 2017 13:21:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
To: "Swift, Heather" <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>  
CC: "Magallanes, Downey" <[downey\\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov](mailto:downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov)>  
Subject: Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Sent one edit about making it present tense.  
(b) (5) Thx!

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 3:20 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:



"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

I talked with Z. he likes this --> (b) (5)

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations (*E&E Daily*, May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site (*E&E News PM*, Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### **'Dark skies and sagebrush'**

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every national monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them (*Greenwire*, May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain,



and now you're not."

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 1:39 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) |  
[Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

"Swift, Heather"  
<[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### 'Dark skies and sagebrush'

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every nat'l monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them ([Greenwire](#), May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain, and now you're not."

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 13:21:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Saw that.. thanks!

-  
Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 3:21 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
Sent one edit about making it present tense. (b) (5) Thx!

Laura Keehner Rigas



Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 3:20 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

I talked with Z. he likes this --> (b) (5)

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov) | [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

On Fri, May 19, 2017 at 1:39 PM, Laura Rigas <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:  
How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior

On May 19, 2017, at 1:32 PM, Swift, Heather <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Heather Swift  
Department of the Interior  
@DOIPressSec  
[Heather\\_Swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov)  
| [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.

He ruled out the possibility of national park status for the site but said all other options remain on the table.

"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review,

and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

In particular, Lyman and other opponents of the Bears Ears site have argued that national monument status could curb future efforts for energy development in the area and have raised concerns that grazing or religious rituals could face eventual restrictions.

"That's the same message that we've been shouting for the last three years at least in terms of the monument," said Lyman, who served 10 days in jail last year after leading an illegal ATV ride through Recapture Canyon in 2015 to protest the Bureau of Land Management's prohibition on motorized travel in a portion of that site ([E&E News PM](#), Dec. 18, 2015).

Lyman expressed similar concerns about the new Bears Ears monument, which has yet to develop its own management plan.

"When you have a national monument designation, it removes the requirement of the federal agencies within the monument to get any local input on their decisions. So decisions that can and should be made locally and that affect people locally are now made in Washington," Lyman said. He pointed to potential conflicts over recreational access, hunting, prospecting and road development.

"The commissioners who are elected in this county are elected to have some level of jurisdiction within those borders, and the idea that we are incompetent or unreliable or dishonest in fulfilling that obligation is the highest offense to us," he said.

Lyman added that suggestions that local residents only "want to drill or loot or steal or disrespect" the area are "offensive on every level."

### **'Dark skies and sagebrush'**

San Juan Commissioner Bruce Adams said he likewise urged Zinke during his recent visit to Utah to rescind the monument, arguing that it "wasn't created the right way and I'd like to see it evaluated so that it could be done the right way."

He added, "I'd like to see the process started over and have the local people much more involved than there were previously."

Proponents of the monument — a coalition that includes various outdoor retailers and environmental and sportsmen's associations as well as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and Democratic lawmakers — have pointed to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the area, including a public forum held in Bluff, Utah.

Since leaving office, Jewell has asserted that many tribes, Utahans and other local partners worked together to protect Bears Ears. "Proud of every nat'l monument designated by Pres. Obama, shaped by local communities who were engaged from day one," she tweeted recently.

During his visit to Utah, Zinke faced protestors chanting "Talk to us!" and criticism from some local monument supporters who say he refused to meet with them ([Greenwire](#), May 11).

But Adams said he highlighted for Zinke a series of local and state-level resolutions calling for a reversal of the Bears Ears monument, from the county commissioners, the state Legislature and Gov. Gary Herbert (R).

Like many opponents of the monument, Adams also argued the final declaration included too large an area. President Obama designated the monument in his final weeks in office under the Antiquities Act, after GOP congressional lawmakers failed to push through their own protections under the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

"You get a proclamation that comes out from President Obama that says he wants to protect solitude, and dark skies and sagebrush and squirrels and chipmunks and rabbits — things that are highly common all over the area. It just doesn't fit," said Adams, who said he often recreates in the Bears Ears area.

Stewards of San Juan County member Devin Bayles Hancock, who was born and raised in the region, also had a chance to meet with Zinke during his visit to the area this month.

Much like the county commissioners, Hancock told E&E News that the designation was not "done in the correct way." But she also raised concerns about the impact of increased traffic from visitors to the Bears Ears region.

"The people in San Juan County — and it doesn't matter if you're Native American or Anglo or Hispanic or Asian — have been there for hundreds of years, and this is the land they live off of. Basically, we do not want it to become a popular destination for tourists to play in when it's what we live off of," Hancock said. "Because once the tourists start flooding in, construction's going to happen, and then what's going to happen? They're going to limit your access; all of these policies are going to start a domino effect because of the increase in popularity."

Hancock asserted that an increase in popularity has already stressed both emergency services and search-and-rescue operations in the region. She also asserted many tourists are not knowledgeable about the size of the monument or dangers like flash flooding.

"There has been an increase of people visiting the area, and it is because the designation is there, so that's why they want to see it, which is a little odd in my eyes," she said. "I mean, it was there before. Why didn't you come see it before, before it had all the increased numbers of tourism? You could have gone there six months ago and been the only person on the mountain, and now you're not."