

To: scheduling_SIO@IOS.DOI.gov[scheduling_SIO@IOS.DOI.gov]
From: Keith Watts
Sent: 2017-05-25T10:21:29-04:00
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Subject: Please schedule me an appointment with Secretary Zinke between June 5-8
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To Secretary of Interior Zinke's Scheduling Office,

I know you get more inquiries than I can imagine, especially with the Department of Interiors' review of National Monuments at center stage. However, I hope that my request to spend some time with Secretary Zinke somehow rises to the top of your priorities. **Please find time in Secretary Zinke's schedule to meet with me** – I would even buy his lunch if his lunch hour is the only time available! Please read on:.

I would like to schedule a meeting with Secretary Zinke for anytime between June 5 and June 8 when I will be in Washington DC. Unfortunately, I was unable to meet with Secretary Zinke when he was on his recent tour of national monuments in southern Utah. As a citizen of Garfield County, Utah, whose tour business operates within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM), I think that I can provide him with some valuable insights that might influence his decision on the future of the GSENM and other National Monuments.

I have a lot in common with Secretary Zinke. We are both Westerners who studied geology and built our homes in the beautiful wild west. We both admire Teddy Roosevelt. Zinke is in charge of the National Parks and Monuments that are my workplaces – the outdoor classroom where I teach people about the natural wonders of the West. And I think we both care deeply about the future of America's Public Lands. OK – I am not a former Navy SEAL nor much of an athlete, but we have some very important things that we should discuss!

I was born in Idaho and raised in Utah, the son and grandson of forest rangers, who taught me much about the values of America's Public Lands. My ancestors were among the first settlers in Utah. I went to Utah State University to study forestry, but became fascinated by geology and have since followed that path (BS, Geology, 1978). I have worked in the mining, uranium and petroleum industries. I became a Professor of Geology at the University of Alaska where I did research on the sedimentary rocks of Alaska's North Slope (in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Prudhoe Bay's Lisburne oil field). After retiring from my career in academia, I established an educational tour business, *Earth-Tours* (www.earth-tours.com), that explores National Parks and Monument in NW Wyoming and southern Utah. My wife and I have built a home for ourselves in Boulder Utah and rely on the GSENM, both as a workplace and as a neighbor.

I am simply asking for the opportunity to have conversation with Secretary Zinke on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, hoping to provide local insights that he may have missed on his Utah listening tour.