

April 6, 2017

Mr. Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Zinke:

Congratulations on your new job. I loved seeing you ride to work on horseback.

I'm writing about the Bears Ears National Monument which I can see out my front porch in Bluff, Utah. I have lived in Bluff, Utah for 8 years, moving from Florida. San Juan County is the poorest county in Utah. Only 7 per cent of our land is private. I'm a Republican. I've enclosed a map of the monument, a San Juan County recreational guide and a recent San Juan County Record. The front page article about a judge stopping an ATV trail is a perfect example of why the BLM is held in disrespect. They love to close trails. It took them 12 years to approve the trail.

I was a charter member of Friends of Cedar Mesa and have been a Volunteer BLM State of Utah Archaeological Site Steward for five years, mostly on Cedar Mesa. Our group lost our \$5,000 funding but may get it in October. We have 40 stewards who monitor more than 100 ruins. We recently reported a group of Fort Lewis college students from Durango, Colorado. One student who wrote on a rock in Fishmouth Cave in Butler Wash was fined a whopping \$250. The school was fined nothing. The Colorado Archaeological Society yesterday posted a picture (see attached) of student performing yoga on mats in the cave. Somebody really dropped the ball on this. I would ask the BLM why.

The monument is basically too large at 1.3 million acres. I would reduce the size of the monument to extend from Grand Gulch to Butler Wash. Maybe 500,000 acres. At present, our County Landfill, the gravel pit and a Rocky Mountain power station are all included in the monument.

The monument is actually a reward for the Navajo Nation. Hence the name Bears Ears. The Navajos use their sacred mountain myth to claim land they never owned. The sites are 99% Hopi and Zuni. They abandoned the area in 1300. Lost in the picture is that Utah was named after the Ute Indians. The Friends of Cedar Mesa allegedly received more than \$1.5 million from the Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation.

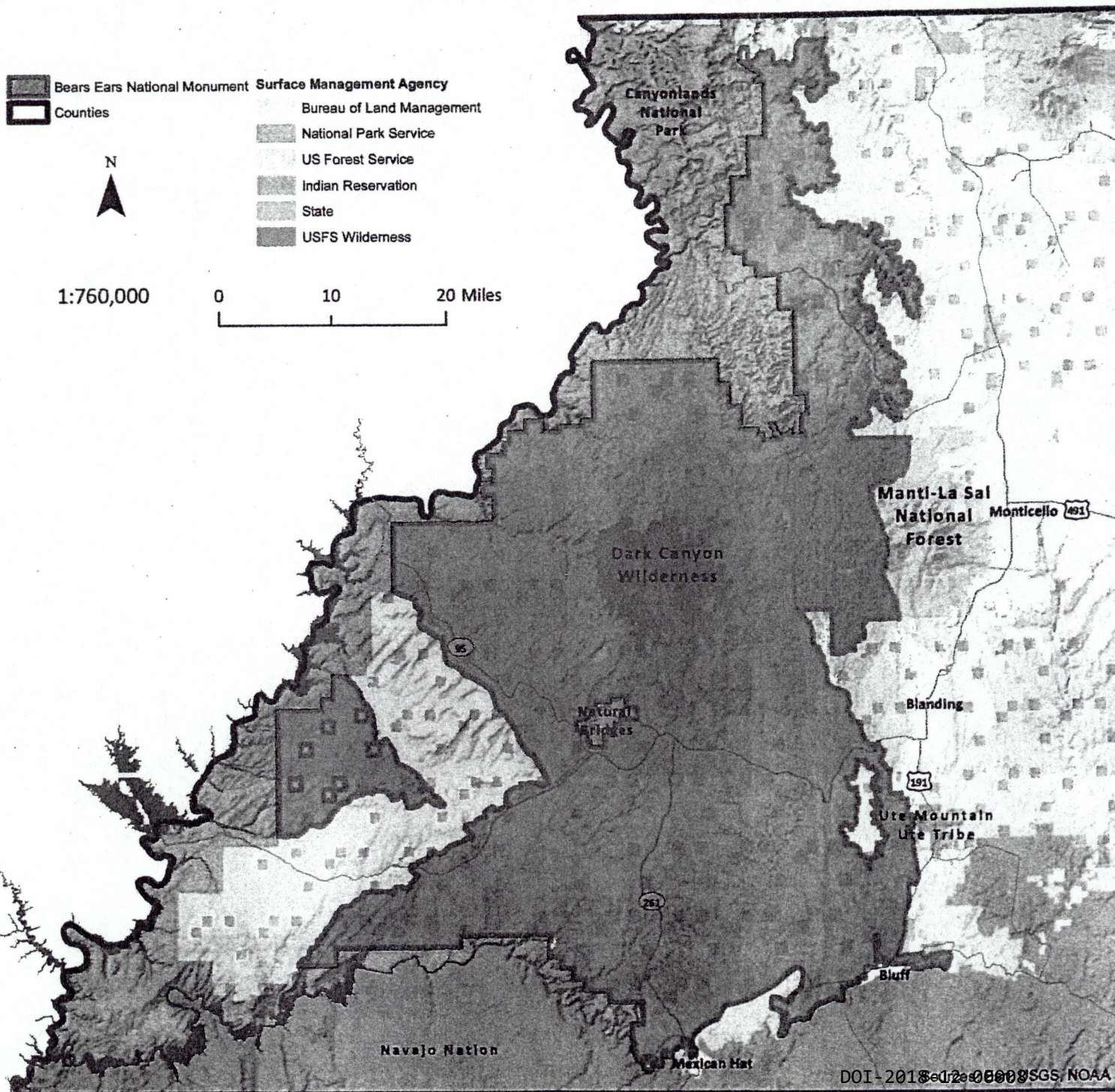
Please rescind or reduce the size of the Monument, renaming it Cedar Mesa National Monument. Hope to see you on your visit. To save the government money you can stay at my house for free at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,
Paul Dant

[REDACTED] Bluff Utah 84512. Phone [REDACTED]





Bears Ears National Monument





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Comment History

 **Paul Dant** 10:44am Ap
I'm a BLM-State of Utah Archaeological Volunteer in Bluff, Utah. We have 40 site stewards. We lost our \$5,000 funding until October. Our group reported the Fort Lev college student who drew on Fishmouth Cave walls and was fined \$250. This was th Obama administration. Republicans will most likely strenghten protecton. Why doesn the BLM ask Ebay to stop selling Anasazi pottery sherds?

 **Robert Dundas** 11:03am Ap
Since you mentioned the Fort Lewis College fiasco Paul Dant . . . A larger issue, whi was not reported, is that the students performed Yoga in a culturally sensitive site. I can only imagine how the tribes must feel at this desicration.


 **Robert Dundas** 11:04am Ap
Fort Lewis College students performing Yoga at the site.

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Re: [Colorado Archaeological Society] The Endangered Antiquities Act!

Robert Dundas to 1425711501080053 show details

Robert Dundas commented on his post in Colorado Archaeological Society.

**Robert Dundas**

9:49am Ap

Fort Lewis College students performing Yoga at the site.

