

Conversation Contents

Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke

Attachments:

/230. Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke/1.1 Zinke.Navajo.jpg
/230. Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke/1.2 Zinke.VP.jpg
/230. Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke/1.3 Zinke.Zinke and VP.jpg
/230. Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke/1.4 Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke.pdf
/230. Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke/1.5 Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke.docx

Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

From: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 09 2017 10:40:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: james_cason@ios.doi.gov, douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov, downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov, heather_swift@ios.doi.gov, megan_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov, scott_hommel@ios.doi.gov, micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov, timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke
Attachments: Zinke.Navajo.jpg Zinke.VP.jpg Zinke.Zinke and VP.jpg Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke.pdf Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke.docx

Here was the final.

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

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jackson Brossy <jbrossy@nnwo.org>
To: Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke

Hi Laura,

Thanks for all your help on this!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rick Abasta** <rickabasta@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 9, 2017 at 11:47 AM

Subject: RESEND: Vice President Nez Joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Meeting With Secretary Zinke

To:

Resending press release. My apologies.

Included photos for your convenience.

Thanks,

--

*Rick Abasta, Executive Staff Assistant
Office of the President and Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION
Phone: [928-871-7002](tel:928-871-7002)
Fax: [928-871-4025](tel:928-871-4025)
Email: rickabasta@gmail.com*

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Jackson S. Brossy
Executive Director
Navajo Nation Washington Office
750 1st Street Northeast, Ste. 1010
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202.682.7390



DOI-2018-00 03933



el Branch

Davis Filfred

Russell Begaye

Shawn Chapoose

Harold Cuthair

Leland Begaye

Nora Rasute

Ryan Zinke



DOI-2018-00 03935



May 8, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vice President Nez joins Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition meeting with Sec. Zinke



Top, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Vice President Jonathan Nez. Above, Secretary Zinke, Vice President Nez, Attorney General Ethel Branch and Navajo Councilman Davis Filfred.

SALT LAKE CITY—On May 7, tribal leaders from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition convened at the Bureau of Land Management office in Salt Lake City, Utah for the first official meeting between coalition leaders and U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Vice President Jonathan Nez was in attendance to advocate for the Navajo Nation's position on the Bears Ears National Monument.

Other tribal leaders in attendance included Navajo Nation Council Delegate

Davis Filfred (Aneth, Mexican Water, Red Mesa, Teec Nos Pos, To'likan), Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, Ute Tribal Chairman Shaun Chapoose, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Chairman Harold Cuthair, and Ute Tribal Legal Counsel Leland Begay. Carleton Bowekaty, Zuni Councilman and Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Co-Chair, joined by phone.

Secretary Zinke was joined by staff from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Vice President Nez said tribes are united in protecting the Bears Ears region -- especially tribal cultural resources and the right for tribes to gather ceremonial herbs and medicines on the land.

Ensuring that the Navajo people have access and are able to perform traditional Navajo ceremonies at Bears Ears is another primary concern, he added.

"We look forward to working with Secretary Zinke to find a path forward for this very important sacred area," Vice President Nez said. "I appreciate the tribal leaders being here as well. We all supported and continue to support, the national monument designation."

Chairman Cuthair agreed and said tribes like the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe have ancestral ties to the Bears Ears, which must be protected.

"We'd like to preserve it, protect it, manage it. There's a lot (of cultural resources) out there. This land is sacred," Cuthair said.

Chairman Chapoose said the Bears Ears National Monument was the first instance for tribal nations to engage in the national monument designation process.

"Do we continue in this advisory role? Our knowledge is passed down generation to generation through the oral tradition," Chapoose said.

"Our people have used that land for millennia," said Branch. "We are protecting our cultures and beliefs. We need specific access for ceremonies."

"The land there is rich in resources. Our people chose to live there because of the richness

of the land," she added.

Delegate Filfred said tribal leaders stand firm on the designation of Bears Ears because of the inherent right to protect cultural and sacred lands.

"Secretary Zinke has a 45-day review period to consider the designation and he needs to consider our concerns because his department is the tribe's trustee. I hope Secretary Zinke delivers a positive report to the Trump administration with the tribe's recommendations and input," Filfred said.

Vice President Nez said the utilization of indigenous knowledge to protect federal lands is not a new concept.

"However, this is the first real move to have tribes at the table for stewardship of federal lands. We have made tremendous headway in order for tribes to reach this milestone. We do not want to regress, especially after all the progress that has already been made," he said.

Secretary Zinke said, "It was an honor to meet with the leaders from the Inter-Tribal Coalition and I am grateful for their time. Tribal sovereignty matters and whether it's monuments, energy, education, or economic development, tribal consultation will remain a key pillar during my tenure as I ensure tribes have a seat at the table."

The Navajo Nation will continue to work with the Trump administration to protect the Bears Ears National Monument.

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