

# Conversation Contents

Interior Secretary Tours Utah Monument Under Review - WSJ

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

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**Subject:** Interior Secretary Tours Utah Monument Under Review -  
WSJ

## Interior Secretary Tours Utah Monument Under Review

Ryan Zinke's visit comes as Trump  
administration weighs rescinding designation

By Jim Carlton • Updated May 9, 2017 4:56 p.m. ET



■ Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke shaking hands with Navajo elder Willy Grayeyes at the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah on Monday. Photo: Francisco Kjolseth/The Salt Lake Tribune/Associated Press

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[Bears Ears was designated a national monument](#) in the waning days of Barack Obama's presidency. On Wednesday, Mr. Zinke plans to visit Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante, designated by President Bill Clinton in 1996, also under review.

Many critics of the monuments' designation have said they were set aside without adequate input from locals, who oppose such designations

because they remove the ability to develop the land or mine it for resources. Mr. Zinke's options include moving to rescind the monument, altering its boundaries, or leaving it untouched as many tribal and environmental groups advocate.

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Whatever happens here could serve as a template for the way future monuments are established, Mr. Zinke added.

Sunday in Salt Lake City, Mr. Zinke met with members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, who helped lobby for the monument to better protect an area of Native artifacts they hold sacred.

Davis Filfred, a Navajo member of the coalition, which includes four other tribes, said the interior secretary didn't seem sympathetic to them during their hourlong meeting at a Bureau of Land Management office.

"We got the impression he had already made up his mind," said Mr. Filfred, whose meeting was held as hundreds of monument supporters waved placards and chanted on the street outside.

Mr. Zinke arrived at the small Blanding airport Monday morning with an entourage including Republican Gov. Gary Herbert [and many of Utah's top lawmakers](#)—all opponents of both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase monuments. Many of them said they were confident Mr. Zinke would recommend against the monument.

"This is the biggest event in the history of San Juan County," County Commissioner Bruce Adams—wearing a cowboy hat with the logo "Make San Juan County Great Again"—said as he and other local dignitaries

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The former Navy SEAL soon headed up on a two-hour aerial tour aboard a Blackhawk helicopter. “Been awhile since I’ve been in a Blackhawk without people shooting at me,” Mr. Zinke told reporters later that day.

Mr. Adams said he played tour guide aboard the Blackhawk—which was tailed by two other Blackhawks containing the Utah politicians—pointing out geographic sites as well as places where uranium mining had taken place decades ago.

Mr. Adams said mining in Bears Ears disturbs little ground.

“We pointed out some mines and it was hard for him to see where they were,” he said.

On a short hike afterward to view 700-year-old cliff dwellings at Butler Wash, the interior secretary was again accompanied by state and local officials as about 60 monument supporters—holding signs such as “Utah Stands With Bears Ears”—were kept on a parking lot by law enforcement officers.

“Our strategy is to let people know there are people here who support the monument,” said Wayne Hoskisson, 70, a Sierra Club activist who traveled to the protest from his home in nearby Moab, Utah.

Willie Grayeyes, a Navajo elder and chairman of the Utah Dine Bikeyah tribal environmental group, said he was turned away earlier when he asked to be admitted to an airport lobby where Mr. Zinke was holding court with the Utah politicians opposed to Bears Ears.

But later, when he was done with the mile-long trek, Mr. Zinke greeted protesters in the parking lot, shaking hands with Mr. Grayeyes and other Navajos who want the monument.

Mr. Grayeyes said the exchange gave him hope Mr. Zinke might work with them after all. “By stopping to shake my hand, that shows respect to Native Americans,” he said.

Mr. Zinke also met with protesters in Blanding who want the monument overturned.

"I am very grateful he would come here and listen to us," said Merri Shumway, a 55-year-old local school-board member.

**Write to** Jim Carlton at [jim.carlton@wsj.com](mailto:jim.carlton@wsj.com)

*Appeared in the May. 10, 2017, print edition as 'Zinke Visits Bears Ears Monument.'*

Sent from my iPhone

**Douglas Domenech** <[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>

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**From:** Douglas Domenech <[douglas\\_domenech@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_domenech@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wed May 10 2017 03:54:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
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**Subject:** Re: Interior Secretary Tours Utah Monument Under Review - WSJ

Pretty good.

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Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** "Bloomgren, Megan" <megan\_bloomgren@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed May 10 2017 06:58:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Douglas Domenech <douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov>  
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**Subject:**

Re: Interior Secretary Tours Utah Monument Under Review - WSJ

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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/interior-secretary-tours-utah-monument-under-review-1494363061?emailToken=JRryc/F8aH6Wh9Q0aMw90kEldKgPEaqSS1jNIWzDIFmJqHvlu/nk2rk8h56ypmWyQE8+5UZ6WlyX3jLjXRrUdDUwuluzQz6ICED9w==>

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