

To: Claire Martini (b) (6)
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From: Molly O
Sent: 2017-05-25T16:24:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: urgent--calling on the student congress network
Received: 2017-05-25T16:24:21-04:00

Thank you Claire for the heads up,
 I've filled out a comment and I appreciate your outline provided :).

Molly O'Grady

On Thu, May 25, 2017 at 3:05 PM, Claire Martini <(b) (6)> wrote:

Hi friends and colleagues,

As you may already know, **today** is the [comment deadline](#) for the administration's review of national monuments designated using the Antiquities Act. This threatens almost thirty protected areas ranging from new monuments like Bears Ears and Gold Butte, to recently expanded marine monuments, and established monuments like Grand Staircase-Escalante. I wouldn't ordinarily reach out to so many of you, but the areas on the chopping block this time are near and dear to my heart.

Last fall, we saw how each of us share a commitment to working for better management of our public lands. The priorities that we identified in our recommendations--multiple use, sustained yield, cultural relationships, and public participation, outreach and communication--were codified in the monument proclamation for Bears Ears. Removing the monument designation or reducing directly compromises each of these attributes.

If you feel the same, or even if you've never experienced these areas and would someday like the chance, I urge you to submit a short and substantive comment in

support of keeping Bears Ears National Monument the way it is. No matter your personal politics, our public lands connect us, and this move to rescind or reduce monuments is truly unprecedented.

I hope you'll join me in taking 5 minutes to make a comment today; you are welcome to use my language if that speeds the process. I also suggest uploading the .pdf of our recommendations to the [comment form](#). If you need more information, here's a [helpful summary](#).

If you have questions or concerns, let me know. Would love to hear what others are working on!

Thanks,
Claire

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I'm writing today as an attendee of the 2016 Bureau of Land Management Student Congress and as a scientist, a descendent of 1880's Utah pioneers, and an avid outdoorswoman to urge you to keep Bears Ears National Monument protected.

As a participant at the 2016 Student Congress, I worked with 30 young leaders from across the country to develop recommendations for the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management. Our group identified four main priorities: 1) Multiple use and sustained yield, 2) Cultural relationships (honoring past, present, and future), 3) Public participation, outreach, and education, 4) Human resources (job creation and retention for the next generation of public land managers).

The proposal to reduce or rescind Bears Ears National Monument directly contradicts the recommendations made by the next generation of public land managers to the Bureau of Land Management and Department of Interior at the 2016 Student Congress in the following ways:

- 1) According to the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), agencies must manage for multiple use and sustained yield. We recommend strengthening programs for environmental restoration, agency and corporate accountability, and ecological health. Bears Ears NM provides additional support for land managers to prioritize these values.*
- 2) To manage for cultural attributes, the BLM/DOI consulted tribal groups in collaborative management as support for the monument grew. The designation of the monument reflected the full 80 years of grassroots advocacy and tribal-led support that went into Bears Ears; to rescind or reduce the monument is both likely illegal and a step away from the tribally-integrated management structures that the next generation of land managers and users are asking for.*
- 3) Public participation in former Secretary Jewell's listening tour demonstrated the incredible enthusiasm for protecting Bears Ears. Public education is something the DOI*

could improve, as significant misinformation regarding impacts of monument designation on traditional uses (wood gathering, hunting, etc) has become widespread. The public ought to know that the monument does not limit or restrict these uses, and the DOI must increase the emphasis on public outreach and education.

- 4) *Removing or reducing national monument designation threatens jobs for the next generation of land managers. As baby boomers and “FLPMA babies” retire, DOI/BLM should prioritize job creation, recruitment, and retention for the next generation.*

Since I’ve lived in the West all my life (northern Arizona, Washington, Oregon, and California), I’ve experienced the remarkable opportunities for hiking, climbing, hunting, and historical tourism offered in many of the national monuments that are being reconsidered. Bears Ears NM, Vermilion Cliffs NM, Grand Staircase-Escalante NM, and Gold Butte NM are all spectacular examples of native history, scenic value, and recreational potential. Each is also uniquely threatened by mining, cattle, or oil and gas operations that simply don’t belong in landscapes that drive the region’s economy with tourism alone.

Bears Ears clearly demonstrates a need for the enhanced protection and management of a national monument as laid out in the Antiquities Act.

- ☐ *The size of the monument—while smaller than the initial tribal proposal—is needed to protect historic and prehistoric sites and other items of scientific interest.*
- ☐ *The designation allows current “available uses” of federal lands including wood gathering, hunting, and other traditional uses while also clarifying where mining is/is not appropriate given the exemplary historical and prehistorical artifacts, scenery, and regions of ecologic continuity.*
- ☐ *Tribal, state, and local concerns clearly highlight the passion for protecting this place. As the designation process demonstrated, there was a vast majority of public support with a few vocal local detractors.*
- ☐ *The monument designation allows crucial funding to be directed to the area.*
- ☐ *As a monument, Bears Ears has tremendous potential to draw tourism to the area and provide a vital and stable source of economic rejuvenation that this rural area badly needs (and that short-term energy jobs have repeatedly failed to provide).*

In the recommendations of the student congress, we found it necessary to formally recognize “our ongoing commitment to the continuation of the multiple use and sustained yield of federally managed public lands. It bears reiteration that ongoing federal management of the national public lands system is in the public’s best interest; public lands must remain in public hands. Our management recommendations center in the following themes: a shift in values (from extractive to sustainable), the inclusion of diverse cultures that includes robust public participation and comprehensive history, and the development of a cohesive public land narrative.”

I urge Secretary Zinke to consider these recommendations and to honor his previous commitments to tribal sovereignty by keeping Bears Ears National Monument as it is.

Sincerely,

Claire Martini

Flagstaff, Arizona (86004)