

Conversation Contents

SCRIPT -- CONF CALL

"Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Jun 12 2017 11:27:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Magallanes, Downey" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: SCRIPT -- CONF CALL

HEATHER

Thank you all for joining today's call about the Bears Ears National Monument review. I'm Heather Swift, press secretary at the Department of the Interior.

Before I turn the call over to the Secretary, I'd like to comment on and clarify reports earlier today that claimed the Department is delaying a report. These reports are not accurate. The Executive Order specifically directs the Secretary to submit a 45 day interim report with various recommendations to the President. Nowhere in the executive order or in the Secretary's previous comments was it said this would be a final report.

Now I'll turn it over to the Secretary...

ZINKE

Thank you all for joining the call today.

Today we are talking about Bears Ears National Monument and the recommendations I sent to the President over the weekend.

On April 26, President Trump signed an Executive Order directing me to review monuments designated under the Antiquities Act since January 1, 1996, that are 100,000 acres or more in size, or any monument the Secretary deems to have been created without appropriate public input. The EO also directed me to submit an interim report regarding Bears Ears. That's why we are all on the phone today.

Shortly after the order was signed, I traveled to Utah and held a four-day listening tour across the state to learn more about Bears Ears and the neighboring Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

When accounting for state and private land, the perimeter of Bears Ears encompass almost 1.5 million acres.

While I was in Utha, I met with state, local, and Tribal stakeholders and toured the monument by air, car, foot, and horseback. I also met with representatives from agriculture, conservation, historic preservation and tourism sectors, as well as private citizens.

I met with the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition on May 7, and my Acting Deputy Secretary Jim Cason held a four-hour follow-up meeting with the Bears Ears Commission and the InterTribal Coalition on May 25.

I am recapping all of this because it's important that the recommendations were not made in a bubble in Washington, D.C. These recommendations were made after extensive, on-the-ground listening and learning.

I spent a lot of time on the ground in Utah, talking with people and understanding the natural and cultural significance of the area.

There is no doubt that it is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection, but designating a monument that - including state and private land - encompasses almost 1.5 million-acres where multiple-use management is hindered or prohibited is not the best use of the land and is not in accordance with the intention of the Antiquities Act

I've submitted my 45-day interim report to President Trump expressing my belief that monument status is appropriate for some areas but that:

1. the monument needs to be right-sized,
2. that Congress take action to protect some areas.
3. and that it is absolutely critical that an appropriate part be co-managed by the Tribal nations.

Co-management with Tribal leaders will be absolutely key going forward and I recommend that the monument, and especially the areas of significant cultural interest, be co-managed by the Tribal nations. I am grateful representatives from the Tribal governments met with me in Utah and am optimistic for our future.

Local input is absolutely critical when it comes to federal land management decisions and as such, I told the White House that I'm extending the public comment period for Bears Ears. I want every advocate to have their voice heard.

Prior to my trip to Utah I opened up a formal public comment period where members of the public could submit their statements regarding all monuments. The was the first time ever that a formal public comment period was set up for monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

Comments will be accepted through July 10th and will close with the overall comment period. Comments may be submitted on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or by traditional mail. If an individual submitted a comment on Bears Ears during the initial comment period, they do not need to resubmit.

So to recap I've submitted my 45-day interim report to President Trump expressing my belief that monument status is appropriate for some areas but that:

1. the monument needs to be right-sized,
2. that Congress take action to protect some areas.
3. and that it is absolutely critical that an appropriate part be co-managed by the Tribal nations.

We will issue a final report at the end of the monument review period which is in mid-august, as is clearly outlined by the Executive Order.

With that, I'll open it up to questions.

-

Heather Swift
Department of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov