

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2017

Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus, we are writing to bring to your attention the enclosed request from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Specifically, the Coalition is requesting a meeting to discuss the Bears Ears National Monument and the Bears Ears Commission's plan for the future.

As you are aware, the tribes supporting this designation are sovereign nations with a government-to-government relationship with the United States. As the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus, upholding our federal trust responsibilities and advancing nation-to-nation relationships is our primary focus. As the Secretary of the Interior, your leadership in recognizing and maintaining our trust responsibility will be critical.

We hope that you will make every effort to honor the enclosed meeting request and meet with the Inter-Tribal Coalition leaders when you visit the State of Utah.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to honor tribal sovereignty and advance a constructive nation-to-nation relationship with tribal governments.

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

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BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

A Partnership of the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Governments

January 26, 2017

**Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240**

Dear Secretary-Designate Zinke;

We send our congratulations for your nomination as Secretary of the Interior. We will look forward to working with you in the years to come.

We understand that you will be visiting Utah in February to discuss a number of matters, including the Bears Ears National Monument. We are anxious to meet with you to discuss the situation, and your upcoming visit would seem to be a good opportunity. We will come over to Salt Lake City or other locale at any time convenient to you. This is an urgent matter and if a February meeting in Utah is not possible, we will be pleased to meet with you in Washington DC at any time you purpose.

We are, of course, aware that members of the Utah Delegation raise concerns about the monument. There is, however, definitely another side.

Large numbers of traditional Native people have sacrificed for many years to make this monument a reality. Ever since our ancestors were forcibly marched from the Bears Ears region in the mid-1800s, our tribes have grieved and continued to return to the area even though we were often forced away by local citizens. We began intensive work on protecting Bears Ears in 2008. We conducted a prodigious amount of research and data gathering through formal interviews with elders, ethnographic mapping, and archeological research. We explored all the ways that our Traditional Knowledge was created and enriched by our relationship with this land area. In time, we settled upon proper boundaries for the Bears Ears cultural landscape.

In the summer of 2015, we convened at a large meeting of Indian people and decided to submit a formal proposal to President Obama and the Congress. Our much-praised, comprehensive proposal, based upon many meetings and further research, explained the many reasons for protection. At the heart of it is our profound connection to this land dating back to time immemorial. We go there for many reason, including gathering of herbs and medicines, but perhaps the most critical reason is for healing in that serene remote landscape that holds so many memories. You will hear our people say that "we can hear the voices of our ancestors in every canyon and on every mesa top."

Our commitment was respected in many quarters. Even though this was the first time in history that tribes had ever brought forth a national monument proposal, the conservation groups agreed that we should take the lead with the President and in the Congress. Many tribes all across the country passed resolutions supporting our proposal. So did the National Congress of American Indians.

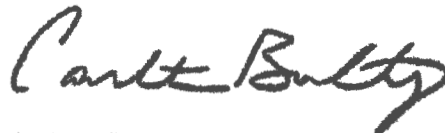
The presidential proclamation explains in detail why this monument was created to honor our tribes. The provisions for collaborative management between our tribes and federal agencies are historic in every sense. This commitment to embedding tribal culture, values, and Traditional Knowledge in this fashion will lead to a unique and exciting kind of federal land management. Bears Ears can become one of the most distinctive and cherished of all federal public land units. We know we can do this. We have worked so hard, and put aside so many other obligations. We will carry that effort into cooperating with federal agencies by infusing the management of this great monument with authentic Indian voices, cultures, and Traditional Knowledge.

Thank you very much for considering this request. We will surely look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



**Alfred Lomahquahu
Hopi Vice-Chair
Co-Chair Bears Ears
Inter-tribal Coalition**



**Carleton Bowekaty
Zuni Tribal Councilman
Co-Chair Bears Ears
Inter-tribal Coalition**

**Cc: U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator Tom Udall**



Wolfe, Shane <shane_wolfe@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Incoming letter from Sen. Heinrich re Bears Ears

Briggs, Vickie <vbriggs@blm.gov>
To: Shane Wolfe <shane_wolfe@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Feb 6, 2017 at 7:22 AM

In case you haven't seen this yet.

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

From: **Gins, Meagan** <mgins@blm.gov>

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2017 at 2:11 PM

Subject: Fwd: Incoming letter from Sen. Heinrich re Bears Ears

To: "Richardson, Carrie" <crichardson@blm.gov>, Vickie Briggs <vbriggs@blm.gov>, Jill Ralston <jralston@blm.gov>, "Patrick J. Wilkinson" <p2wilkin@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov, Jamie Pool <jpool@blm.gov>, Adrienne Dicerbo <adicerbo@blm.gov>, Matthew Allen <mrallen@blm.gov>

Adding a few more folks to this chain.

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

From: **Gins, Meagan** <mgins@blm.gov>

Date: Fri, Feb 3, 2017 at 1:26 PM

Subject: Incoming letter from Sen. Heinrich re Bears Ears

To: "Richardson, Carrie" <crichardson@blm.gov>, Vickie Briggs <vbriggs@blm.gov>

Cc: Amanda Kaster <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Jill Ralston <jralston@blm.gov>, "Patrick J. Wilkinson" <p2wilkin@blm.gov>

FYI – Incoming correspondence from Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) to the Secretary-Designate.

—
Meagan Gins
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Legislative Affairs Division (WO-620)
(202) 912-7399 (desk)
(202) 779-0354 (cell)

—
Vickie Briggs
BLM Correspondence Office
202-208-6671

 Letter re Bears Ears visit.pdf
264K

746

MARTIN HEINRICH
NEW MEXICO

(202) 224-5521
(202) 228-2841 FAX
Heinrich.Senate.Gov

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2017

Hon. Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary-Designate:

I am writing to bring to your attention the enclosed request from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition that you meet with the tribes who are members of the Bears Ears Commission, which is charged with providing guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on management of the monument.

During your confirmation hearing, I asked if you would commit to meeting with and working with affected tribes before making any decisions regarding a national monument. In your answers provided for the record, you responded that you would do so. Your upcoming trip to Utah is an opportunity to fulfill that promise.

As you are aware, the Bears Ears National Monument protects cultural and religious sites important to many southwestern tribes, including the Navajo Nation and New Mexico pueblos. In addition, Bears Ears contains more than 100,000 archaeological sites.

The Pueblo of Zuni and the Navajo Nation, both located in New Mexico, are members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition along with the Hopi Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray. The monument designation is also supported by the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Ysleta Del Sur, and Zia. Members of many of these tribes are my constituents.

The tribes supporting this designation are sovereign nations with a government-to-government relationship with the United States. We have a trust responsibility to protect tribal sacred sites on public land. Please make every effort to meet with the affected tribes during your trip to Utah.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your dedication to preserving our nation's irreplaceable public lands.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE

2017 FEB -6 PM 12:23

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000353

ALBUQUERQUE
400 GOLD AVENUE SW
SUITE 1050
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
(505) 346-6801
(505) 346-6780 FAX

FARMINGTON
7450 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE A
FARMINGTON, NM 87402
(505) 325-6000
(505) 325-6035 FAX

LAS CRUCES
825 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 148
LAS CRUCES, NM 88501
(575) 523-0961
(575) 523-6584 FAX

ROSWELL
200 EAST 4TH STREET
SUITE 300
ROSWELL, NM 88201
(575) 622-2111
(575) 622-3528 FAX

SANTA FE
123 EAST MARCY STREET
SUITE 103
SANTA FE, NM 87501
(505) 988-6647
(505) 992-8435 FAX



BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

A Partnership of the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Governments

January 26, 2017

Ryan Zinke
Secretary-Designate
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

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We understand that you will be visiting Utah in February to discuss a number of matters, including the Bears Ears National Monument. We are anxious to meet with you to discuss the situation, and your upcoming visit would seem to be a good opportunity. We will come over to Salt Lake City or other locale at any time convenient to you. This is an urgent matter and if a February meeting in Utah is not possible, we will be pleased to meet with you in Washington DC at any time you purpose.

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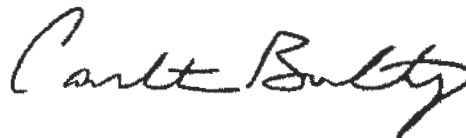
The presidential proclamation explains in detail why this monument was created to honor our tribes. The provisions for collaborative management between our tribes and federal agencies are historic in every sense. This commitment to embedding tribal culture, values, and Traditional Knowledge in this fashion will lead to a unique and exciting kind of federal land management. Bears Ears can become one of the most distinctive and cherished of all federal public land units. We know we can do this. We have worked so hard, and put aside so many other obligations. We will carry that effort into cooperating with federal agencies by infusing the management of this great monument with authentic Indian voices, cultures, and Traditional Knowledge.

Thank you very much for considering this request. We will surely look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



Alfred Lomahquahu
Hopi Vice-Chair
Co-Chair Bears Ears
Inter-tribal Coalition



Carleton Bowekaty
Zuni Tribal Councilman
Co-Chair Bears Ears
Inter-tribal Coalition

Cc: U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator Tom Udall

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-8143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-6051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

January 19, 2017

Ms. Sue Fritzke
Superintendent
Bryce Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 640201
Bryce, UT 84764

Dear Ms. Fritzke:

On December 28, 2016, President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and the Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada pursuant to his authority under the Antiquities Act.¹ The following day, the Bryce Canyon National Park's official Twitter account tweeted: "Welcome to the family Bears Ears (& Gold Butte) NM! A hopeful spot in our front desk maps has long been held for you."²

This message created the appearance that officials at Bryce Canyon coordinated with the White House prior to this most recent designation. If it is true that you or your staff knew in advance about the Bears Ears National Monument designation, it calls into question the White House's claim to Utah Governor Gary Herbert that no decision had been made about Bears Ears as of December 15, 2016.³

To help the Committee understand the timeline and level of coordination with respect to the Bears Ears National Monument designation, please answer the following questions as soon as possible, but not later than January 31, 2017:

1. Identify any employees of Bryce Canyon National Park consulted regarding the Bears Ears National Monument Designation. For each employee, identify the communications, that is, when did those conversations occur and with whom?

¹ FACT SHEET: President Obama to Designate New National Monuments Protecting Significant Natural and Cultural Resources in Utah and Nevada, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/12/28/fact-sheet-president-obama-designate-new-national-monuments-protecting>.

² Bryce Canyon National Park (@BryceCanyonNPS), Twitter, (Dec. 29, 2016, 7:27 AM), <https://twitter.com/BryceCanyonNPS/status/814493123149602817/photo/1>.

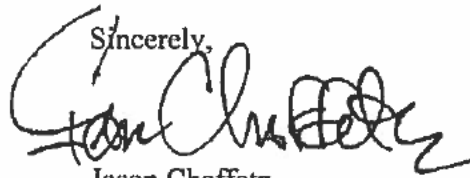
³ Letter from Gary R. Herbert, Governor, State of Utah, to Dennis McDonough, Chief of Staff, White House (Dec. 15, 2016).

2. When was a Bears Ears map slot created in the Bryce Canyon National Park's front desk national parks and monuments map area?
3. Who made the decision to create a Bears Ears map slot in the Bryce Canyon National Park's front desk national parks and monuments map area?
4. When did you become aware of the Bears Ears National Monument designation and from whom?

Please deliver your response to the Majority staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about responding to the Committee's request.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

Please contact Chris Esparza of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

Responding to Committee Document Requests

1. In complying with this request, you are required to produce all responsive documents that are in your possession, custody, or control, whether held by you or your past or present agents, employees, and representatives acting on your behalf. You should also produce documents that you have a legal right to obtain, that you have a right to copy or to which you have access, as well as documents that you have placed in the temporary possession, custody, or control of any third party. Requested records, documents, data or information should not be destroyed, modified, removed, transferred or otherwise made inaccessible to the Committee.
2. In the event that any entity, organization or individual denoted in this request has been, or is also known by any other name than that herein denoted, the request shall be read also to include that alternative identification.
3. The Committee's preference is to receive documents in electronic form (i.e., CD, memory stick, or thumb drive) in lieu of paper productions.
4. Documents produced in electronic format should also be organized, identified, and indexed electronically.
5. Electronic document productions should be prepared according to the following standards:
 - (a) The production should consist of single page Tagged Image File ("TIF"), files accompanied by a Concordance-format load file, an Opticon reference file, and a file defining the fields and character lengths of the load file.
 - (b) Document numbers in the load file should match document Bates numbers and TIF file names.
 - (c) If the production is completed through a series of multiple partial productions, field names and file order in all load files should match.
 - (d) All electronic documents produced to the Committee should include the following fields of metadata specific to each document;

BEGDOC, ENDDOC, TEXT, BEGATTACH, ENDATTACH,
PAGECOUNT, CUSTODIAN, RECORDTYPE, DATE, TIME, SENTDATE,
SENTTIME, BEGINDATE, BEGINTIME, ENDDATE, ENDTIME, AUTHOR, FROM,
CC, TO, BCC, SUBJECT, TITLE, FILENAME, FILEEXT, FILESIZE,
DATECREATED, TIMECREATED, DATELASTMOD, TIMELASTMOD,
INTMSGID, INTMSGHEADER, NATIVELINK, INTFILPATH, EXCEPTION,
BEGATTACH.
6. Documents produced to the Committee should include an index describing the contents of the production. To the extent more than one CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder is produced, each CD, hard drive, memory stick, thumb drive, box or folder should contain an index describing its contents.

7. Documents produced in response to this request shall be produced together with copies of file labels, dividers or identifying markers with which they were associated when the request was served.
8. When you produce documents, you should identify the paragraph in the Committee's schedule to which the documents respond.
9. It shall not be a basis for refusal to produce documents that any other person or entity also possesses non-identical or identical copies of the same documents.
10. If any of the requested information is only reasonably available in machine-readable form (such as on a computer server, hard drive, or computer backup tape), you should consult with the Committee staff to determine the appropriate format in which to produce the information.
11. If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made to the extent possible by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production.
12. In the event that a document is withheld on the basis of privilege, provide a privilege log containing the following information concerning any such document: (a) the privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author and addressee; and (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other.
13. If any document responsive to this request was, but no longer is, in your possession, custody, or control, identify the document (stating its date, author, subject and recipients) and explain the circumstances under which the document ceased to be in your possession, custody, or control.
14. If a date or other descriptive detail set forth in this request referring to a document is inaccurate, but the actual date or other descriptive detail is known to you or is otherwise apparent from the context of the request, you are required to produce all documents which would be responsive as if the date or other descriptive detail were correct.
15. Unless otherwise specified, the time period covered by this request is from January 1, 2009 to the present.
16. This request is continuing in nature and applies to any newly-discovered information. Any record, document, compilation of data or information, not produced because it has not been located or discovered by the return date, shall be produced immediately upon subsequent location or discovery.
17. All documents shall be Bates-stamped sequentially and produced sequentially.
18. Two sets of documents shall be delivered, one set to the Majority Staff and one set to the Minority Staff. When documents are produced to the Committee, production sets shall be delivered to the Majority Staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the Minority Staff in Room 2471 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

19. Upon completion of the document production, you should submit a written certification, signed by you or your counsel, stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody, or control which reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee.

Definitions

1. The term “document” means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records, notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, inter-office and intra-office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A document bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate document. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
2. The term “communication” means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether in a meeting, by telephone, facsimile, email (desktop or mobile device), text message, instant message, MMS or SMS message, regular mail, telexes, releases, or otherwise.
3. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed broadly and either conjunctively or disjunctively to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope. The singular includes plural number, and vice versa. The masculine includes the feminine and neuter genders.
4. The terms “person” or “persons” mean natural persons, firms, partnerships, associations, corporations, subsidiaries, divisions, departments, joint ventures, proprietorships, syndicates, or other legal, business or government entities, and all subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, departments, branches, or other units thereof.

5. The term "identify," when used in a question about individuals, means to provide the following information: (a) the individual's complete name and title; and (b) the individual's business address and phone number.
6. The term "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is pertinent to that subject in any manner whatsoever.
7. The term "employee" means agent, borrowed employee, casual employee, consultant, contractor, de facto employee, independent contractor, joint adventurer, loaned employee, part-time employee, permanent employee, provisional employee, subcontractor, or any other type of service provider.



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK
Highway 63-Headquarters
P.O. Box 640201
Bryce, Utah 84764



IN REPLY REFER TO:

NPS0022845

FEB 27 2017

Mr. Jason Chaffetz
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Congress of the United States, House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Chaffetz:

Thank you for your letter dated January 19, 2017, regarding the Bears Ears National Monument. The following are responses to your questions regarding the appearance of coordination by Bryce Canyon officials with the White House about the Bears Ears National Monument designation.

1. "Identify any employees of Bryce Canyon National Park consulted regarding the Bears Ears National Monument Designation. For each employee, identify the communications, that is, when did those conversations occur and with whom?"

Answer: No employees of Bryce Canyon National Park were consulted with, or coordinated with, any entities regarding the designation of Bears Ears National Monument.

2. "When was a Bears Ears map slot created in the Bryce Canyon National Park's front desk national parks and monuments map area?"

Answer: During late summer 2016, when a park volunteer was assigned the task of reorganizing the materials available at the information desk in the Visitor Center.

3. "Who made the decision to create a Bears Ears map slot in the Bryce Canyon National Park's front desk national parks and monuments map area?"

Answer: The assignment to reorganize the area was given to park volunteer who saw a news report regarding the potential for a Bears Ears National Monument. He approached his supervisor about holding a brochure slot, and she approved it knowing that if the Bears Ears National Monument was not created the slot could be used by another regional recreation area.

4. "When did you become aware of the Bears Ears National Monument designation and from whom?"

Answer: When it was announced through local/national news media outlets, and subsequently reported on the InsideNPS NPS news site.

Please let me know if you have any further questions about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan L. Fritzke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'F'.

Susan L. Fritzke
Interim Superintendent