



Buffa, Nicole <nicole\_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

## FW: May 23rd Draft Feedback

Anders Reynolds <areynolds@pewtrusts.org>

Thu, May 26, 2016 at 1:32 PM

To: "nicole\_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole\_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, **Stephenne Harding - (b) (6)**  
**Stephenne Harding - (b) (6)** **Michael Degnan - (b) (6)** **Michael Degnan - (b) (6)**

Cc: Mike Matz <MMatz@pewtrusts.org>

Hello all,

I wanted to provide you with some resources regarding Pew's work with the delegation on their PLI legislation. Below, in reverse order, you'll see our comments to Fred Ferguson on the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Draft of the PLI, as well as his responses to those concerns and edits (which he has inserted in red type into our original email). Notice that he also mentions the June 2<sup>nd</sup> target date is likely to change.

I've also included two attachments that you might find helpful. The first is an annotated version of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> draft, reviewing the changes that Pew has seen throughout the process, and highlighting the changes we believe still need to be made. Please note that most of these changes were enumerated in our email to Fred, below, and in some cases the delegation has already agreed to Pew's suggestions. The second attachment is a chart showing the changes in acreage through four separate drafts of the PLI, with a tab for conservation gains and a tab for "opportunity gains." I'll stress that though the current number is lower than the previous draft, that is because we are unable to insert into the chart acreage totals for Bears Ears and Indian Creek NCAs. The total number should increase as we see those numbers filled into the legislation.

Pew appreciates the opportunity to provide this information for your review. We stand ready to assist the Administration in achieving significant conservation gains for Utah. If you see any glaring errors or have any questions, please feel free to give me a shout.

*Nikki & TJ*

*→ Wilderness  
hard release*

AR

**Anders Reynolds**

Officer, U.S. Public Lands

202.540.6767

*Andy Rasmussen  
Steve Kandell  
Steve Mayer*

**From:** Ferguson, Fred [mailto:Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 26, 2016 8:47 AM

**To:** Anders Reynolds

**Subject:** Re: May 23rd Draft Feedback



Thanks for the feedback. Great stuff. My answers are in red below. And per my email from yesterday, our June 2 internal target is very soft and will likely be pushed back. We want to get this right on the front end as much as possible.

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**From:** Anders Reynolds <areynolds@pewtrusts.org>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 25, 2016 17:43 PM  
**To:** Fred Ferguson <Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>  
**Subject:** May 23rd Draft Feedback

Fred,

This draft represents significant progress. We appreciate all your hard work, and believe things are soon to come together in what will be viewed as a very impressive proposal, and an indication that your boss and Chairman Bishop are serious about, and intent on, getting this done legislatively. Thank you. With some final, smart tweaks we believe this bill will be at a point where, with agreement on strategy in moving it forward, it will find acceptance where it matters – those who vote (or who have the ability to object), and the one with the pen to sign it.

Pew continues to believe that to get this all the way through the process, it has to move like Rep. Simpson's Boulder-White Clouds legislation did. Simpson asked then White House Chief-of-Staff John Podesta for six months in which to pass his bill, and the Administration held off for nine. We've got June and part of July to get it through the House, so that it can be held at the desk in the Senate, and go under UC in September. If it gets thrown into the mix of an omnibus public lands package, there's no guarantee that will actually come together, and if it does—which is a big "if"—an omnibus lands package won't happen until a lame duck. We think—though we don't know for certain—that that would be too late for the Administration. If there's anything we can do to help this strategy prevail with committee staff, we'd be willing to help any way you think would be constructive.

In terms of substance, there appears to be a very manageable set we need to work through, and those are laid out below. Pew believes that, if you are able to adopt these final set of recommendations, the bill will be in the kind of shape that will be able to pass muster on the Senate side—though we don't know that for certain. I encourage you to incorporate these changes and then provide David Brooks of the Senate ENR Committee with what would be close to the final draft that you intended to put out June 2 (we'll get to that date in a second). He would be able to give you his take on whether it's something that the minority would be comfortable with. That's a key element in getting this to a point where the strategy we propose would work.

Finally, on that June 2 target date, I understand why you would like to post a final draft on the website, but we think it may be best to just introduce it on June 6. That gives you four extra days of wrangling back and forth with the Senate and perhaps the Administration, too, to get it into the kind of shape that is most likely to ensure it rolls on through, gets to the President's desk in a form that they can be comfortable signing it.



Again, we really appreciate the hard work you're putting into this. We're doing our best to keep up with this moving target, but do believe that language is in good enough shape to provide a letter of support, though the number of caveats that letter includes I guess remains to be seen as we work through this last remaining stuff.

Please find our suggested improvements below.

AR

### Wilderness Title

Does final acreage for Steer Gulch Wilderness Area exist? **Working on maps**

Can you explain the difference between paragraphs (F) and (I) under the Sec. 103 (d) grazing subsection? We much prefer the language in (I) and encourage you to delete (F). **F deleted.**

We believe the grazing language needs to be changed and made consistent. The "no curtailment" and requirement that "grazing levels" have to stay the same at the date of enactment will not fly on the Senate side, we believe, and should be dropped. In fact, we believe that Paragraphs (B) and (C) as they appear in grazing sections in pages 15,28,32,38,52 & 71 of the draft should be deleted. **Changes were made to the Grazing titles to accommodate Pew requests from 4/12/16 and 5/18/16. we will add "to the greatest extent practicable" to paragraph C and use "may" within the motorized section of paragraph C.**

In addition, the above grazing language might be perceived at odds with Division B, Title XIII. The simplest action would be to drop the title altogether, and in any case Section 1301 should be dropped. We would be willing to work with you on Section 1302. **See below language modification.**

In Sec. 103 (k), instead of stating the Secretaries "shall work to ensure...", why not say the Secretaries "shall adequately maintain trails and fence lines located in the lands identified in this title, in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)?" **Accepted.**

We also have a little confusion over the water rights subsection, which seem to deny water rights without any protection of waters within wilderness. Is the language in 104(b) that empowers local rights holders' motorized access to facilities from another bill? The language seems imprecise - on one hand, "nothing in this act shall be construed to limit;" on the other hand, it is "subject to such reasonable regulations deemed necessary by the Secretary." **Paragraph A is language similar to the Simpson bill and Pine Forest bill. Paragraph B is language is from PL 98-428.**

I see that Section 109 (a)(2)(D) is new. **As it wasn't in the previous draft, we believe you should cut it from the current one. I don't recall where that language came from. We will delete.**

Pew did not recommend any Airshed language, and remains opposed to this language. It is likely to run into resistance in the Senate. **Per previous communications, we have made changes to the language that specify Arches and Canyonlands will continue to be class 1**



and restate existing policy regarding other wilderness areas. We cannot delete this provision.

## National Conservation Areas

Section 201 is missing acreages for Indian Creek NCA and Bears Ears NCA. Working on maps.

The management plans provided for in Sec 203(b) presumably take the place of the FLPMA section 202 plans. We believe the Washington County language in the Omnibus bill of 2009 has better release language: **Let's talk. I'm confused on this one.**

### *(c) Release of Wilderness Study Areas-*

*(1) FINDING- Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the public land in the County administered by the Bureau of Land Management has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.*

*(2) RELEASE- Any public land described in paragraph (1) that is not designated as wilderness by subsection (a)(1)-- (A) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and (B) shall be managed in accordance with applicable law and the land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).*

## Other Titles

Before Pew can take a position on the Long-Term Energy Certainty Title, we'll have to see spatial information on acreage and overlap with designated areas. Working on maps

We believe the Seep Ridge Road conveyance should be removed altogether, in order to enable this bill to succeed. The Grand County Council is opposed to development of the road. **This is a conveyance for public utilities and not a road. Per previous communications, we deleted references to "transportation".**

Dropping Class D roads from the RS 2477 Title is a step in the right direction, but I think this would still allow for the transfer of management of the Book Cliffs Highway and the Salt Creek Road in Canyonlands NP to the state. We do not support such a transfer. **We added language specifying B Roads that are paved.**

The Title VIII, Sec. 818 language on Recapture Canyon should be removed. **Per previous communications, this language cannot be removed.**

We were under the impression that direction drilling would be eliminated beneath the Book Cliffs NCA, but as I read this language, it remains. Can you clarify? **I need to include Rep. Bishop's staff for this conversation.**

In Sec. 401, the language conflicts with itself. It says these SMAs are withdrawn from mineral leasing, but the Secretary can issue leases. We'd prefer this focuses on existing leasing, not allow for new leasing. In other parts of the bill (including WMAs, NCAs, and other SMAs) this language appears both standard and identical to other titles. **1) See**



below on the conflict. I tweaked the language to make it clear that these 3 SMAs are being treated differently re: mineral withdrawal. 2) The language already states that subsurface minerals can be accessed by leases that existed before enactment. 3) WMA and NCAs have full mineral withdrawals for a reason. We don't want mineral activity there. The three SMAs are treated differently, per previous discussion and Pew's recommendation, and do not share the same language on mineral withdrawals as WMA and NCAs.

## Grazing Title

Unless otherwise specified by this Act, ~~and pursuant to existing permits, regulations, and law~~, on federal lands managed by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior in Summit, Duchesne, Uintah, Grand, Emery, Carbon, and San Juan Counties the grazing of domestic livestock shall continue ~~at current permitted levels~~.

## SMA title

(a) The general provisions of Title II section 204 shall apply to the Special Management Areas.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(a) The withdrawal outlined in 204(a) **shall not apply** to the Desolation Canyon Special Management Area, White River Special Management Area, and the Nine Mile Canyon Special Management Area.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior may lease oil and gas resources in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) subject to the following conditions:

(A) the area may be accessed only by directional drilling from a lease held on the date of enactment of this Act on land that is adjacent to, and outside of, the conservation area.

(B) the lease shall prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbance for any mineral activities within the national conservation areas.

## Anders Reynolds

Officer, U.S. Public Lands

The Pew Charitable Trusts

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[www.PewEnvironment.org](http://www.PewEnvironment.org) | [@PewEnvironment](https://twitter.com/PewEnvironment)

2 attachments





**PLI.LanguageChanges.docx**

185K



**5.23.16 Acreages in Discussion Drafts of the Utah PLI.xlsx**

26K





## Fwd: Deseret News: Bishop wants tribes to co-manage Bears Ears region

1 message

Nicole Buffa <nicole\_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

To: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella\_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Please print the first three articles for me to read. Thanks!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jessica Kershaw <jessica\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Date: August 11, 2016 at 11:06:59 PM EDT

Cc: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Maria Najera <maria\_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza <felipe\_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah\_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "interior\_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior\_press@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole\_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake\_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>, "Duran, Leah" <leah\_duran@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice\_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth\_Klein@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Deseret News: Bishop wants tribes to co-manage Bears Ears region

## Deseret News: Bishop wants tribes to co-manage Bears Ears region

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News

Published: Thu, Aug. 11, 2016, 3:00 p.m. MDT



2 comments



FILE - The Bears Ears as seen from Comb Ridge in Southern Utah on Saturday, July 16, 2016. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said he is "intrigued" by the idea of instilling co-management responsibilities on Native American tribes in the Bears Ears region for lands he wants to receive greater federal protections in a conservation designation. (Scott G Winterton, Deseret News)

SALT LAKE CITY — Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said he likes the idea of Native American tribes co-managing the Bears Ears region in southeastern Utah and is working to incorporate new language into his massive public lands bill.

In a meeting Tuesday with the Deseret News and KSL editorial boards, Bishop said he has reached out to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on the proposal.

"I actually like the concept of co-management in the public lands initiative," he said.

Bishop's public lands bill, scheduled for a hearing in September before the House Natural Resources Committee he chairs, covers 18 million acres in seven counties in eastern Utah's San Juan County's Bears Ears region.

He proposes two National Conservation Areas of 1.4 million acres for Indian Creek and Bears Ears, so named for twin buttes that rise prominently on the skyline.

Bishop's bill now includes language to create a Bears Ears Tribal Commission and an Interior Department appointed tribal liaison. It also would create an advisory committee and a Native American tribes to obtain "cooperating agency" status for greater say in management of the region.

In the editorial board meeting, Bishop said he wants to strengthen that language.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, which seeks a monument designation of 1.9 million acres, panned Bishop's public lands initiative and has said it does not go far enough to instill management responsibility for the region or give tribes enough management responsibility.

Bishop said the co-management authority the tribes seek through a monument designation isn't possible.

"For a national monument, it has a flaw to it that I think is fatal," he said. "I think the administration realizes it as well. They have promised the Native Americans a co-management cannot be legally done."

Bishop said a copy of his bill has been given to the U.S. Department of the Interior for a technical review that's slated to be completed this month.

In the interim, Bishop said he has talked with Jewell over a new co-management provision for Native American tribes.

"I did call Secretary Jewell last week and said, 'Look, you can't deliver. You know you can't deliver. We can. Give us your language. I would be happy to incorporate it in there,'" he said, "intriguing co-management idea that I actually like."

Bishop said he received a positive response.

Jewell visited the region last month on a whirlwind tour that included a packed meeting with San Juan County officials, visits to vandalized petroglyphs and a trip to the Bears Ears tribal representatives describe their reasons supporting monument designation.

At tour's end, she and other top federal land officials convened a listening session in Bluff attended by more than 1,500 people with views on the monument debate.

While the Obama administration has made assurances to Utah's congressional delegation and Gov. Gary Herbert that no monument designation will be made without getting local input, he stressed that the very use of the Antiquities Act is "gotcha" in nature.

"The sad part is the way the Antiquities Act is written, it has to be sprung on you," Bishop said. "There cannot be public involvement. The Antiquities Act has to be a gotcha or it can't work in conjunction with the White House."

Any collaboration between Jewell's office and the White House would trigger a lengthy public comment and review process on land-use designations required under the National Environmental Policy Act, Bishop said.

In 1996, then-President Bill Clinton infuriated Utah's political leaders when he used the Antiquities Act to designate the nearly 1.9 million Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Kane counties. The president made the announcement from Arizona and gave Utah's congressional delegation and the governor a 24-hour heads up.

Bishop has a companion bill to his lands package that prohibits using the Antiquities Act for the areas covered by the public lands initiative.



Antiquities Act, a law that has historically been very unpopular in rural Utah.

On one side are conservationists and tribes pushing for a 1.9-million-acre monument. On the other are Bishop and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), who have proposed a bill to protect about 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region while prescribing protections and development across a much broader seven-county region (*Greenwire*, July 15). That proposal is backed by local elected officials, Gov. Gary Herbert (R), energy industry officials and some American Indians, among others.

Pew has been supportive of the legislative process, but today it released a **letter** it sent to the congressmen last month outlining its concerns with H.R. 5780, the "Utah Public Lands Initiative Act."

"While we are generally supportive of the conservation gains envisioned by the bill, we continue to have concerns with some of the provisions in the bill that must be addressed in order to achieve a durable legislative outcome for southeastern Utah's public lands," Pew's Director of U.S. Public Lands Mike Matz wrote.

Pew expressed concern with provisions to open Recapture Canyon to motorized travel, maintain some existing uses within conservation areas, resolve road right-of-way claims, limit the Bureau of Land Management's ability to recommend wilderness, transfer energy permitting authority on certain federal lands to Utah and exclude certain archaeologically valuable lands from a Bears Ears National Conservation Area.

Barring improvements to the bill and quick advancement in Congress, Pew supports a presidential monument designation, Matz said.

"Time remaining in the 114th Congress is very short," Matz wrote. "Pew's continued support for the [Public Lands Initiative] process depends on a clear demonstration that a measure is moving forward and can be enacted by this Congress before the House recesses at the end of September."

Pew said past monument designations have been good for Utah.

In its new poll, respondents were also asked their thoughts on President Clinton's 1996 designation of the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a landscape they were told "remains open for grazing, hunting, fishing and other recreational activities, but new development, mining and oil and gas drilling is prohibited."

Fifty-two percent said the monument was a good thing for Utah compared to 23 percent who said it was a bad thing.

Nearly half of respondents said they'd visited Grand Staircase-Escalante.

## AP: Outdoor companies back proposed Utah nation monument

Brady McCombs, Associated Press Published 12:16 pm, Thursday, August 4, 2016

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A coalition of outdoor sports companies in Salt Lake City for a major industry expo voiced their support for a proposed national monument in southeastern Utah that could become a flashpoint in the debate over public lands in the West.

Company leaders from a group that included The North Face, Patagonia, Rossignol and Black Diamond said at a Thursday news conference that preserving open spaces is paramount to keeping their industry vibrant.

The proposed Bears Ears National Monument would add protections for a 1.9 million-acre area that includes sacred Native American sites.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited the area last month as President Barack Obama's administration considers the proposal.

Utah's top Republican lawmakers instead want Congress to designate 1.4 million acres around Bears Ears as a conservation area while opening other lands in the state for development.

##





Stephanie Smith/Grand Canyon Trust

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Located just north of the Arizona-Utah border, the proposed 1.9-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument includes at least 100,000 Native American antiquities. These include stone buildings and villages, granaries, hand-carved pictographs, and many revered natural landmarks — among them the Bears Ears Buttes, the Manti-La Sal National Forest, the Dark Canyon Wilderness area, and the Cedar Mesa plateau, which overlooks the Valley of the Gods.

Last year, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition — which consists of the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni tribes — formally asked the White House to invoke the Antiquities Act and declare the area a national monument, in part because so many of its **antiquities are being desecrated and looted**. While the plan has received pushback from a handful

of local Republican legislators, recent polling shows that 71 percent of people in Utah support the monument.

It's unclear whether President Barack Obama will designate the Bears Ears monument before he leaves office in January, though earlier this summer, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell made a historic visit to the area, where she spoke at length about the need to permanently protect it.

Because mining is generally prohibited inside national monuments and only existing mine claims are able to be grandfathered in, the obvious question is whether Energy Fuels foresaw the monument designation and rushed to expand the mine. Tapp says she doesn't think this is the case, because the company first filed an application for expansion years before the monument was proposed.



But monument backers said the hearing's witness list is stacked and doesn't represent the views of most Utahans, American Indians and others who want protect 1.9-million-acre Bears Ears using the Antiquities Act.

The oversight hearing in Blanding, Utah, will explore "the potential impacts of large-scale monument designations." It will be led by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah opposes a Bears Ears designation -- and streamed live on the senator's Facebook page.

Witnesses include House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Utah Gov. Gary Herbert (R) and San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Ada also include representatives of tribal groups that oppose a monument designation, including the Navajo Nation's Aneth Chapter and Blue Mountain Dine.

"When it comes to how the federal government wishes to dispose of its land in Utah, Utahans deserve to be heard," Lee said in a statement today. "This hearing will provide Utahans a forum to share their views on a possible Bears Ears monument designation."

The hearing is sure to hark back to President Clinton's 1996 surprise designation of the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Kane and Garfield counties, a move that incensed Utah's elected officials in large part because it blocked development of a proposed coal mine. Opinions mixed over whether Grand Staircase-Escalante helped or hurt local communities (*Greenwire*, July 14).

Lee said the goal of tomorrow's hearing is to persuade Obama to "hold off" on a monument to allow a legislative compromise brokered by Bishop and House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) to move forward.

Bishop and Chaffetz this month unveiled the Public Lands Initiative, a bill that would protect an area of federal lands in eastern Utah nearly the size of New Mexico while expediting oil and gas drilling, promoting motorized recreation, and facilitating a massive land swap between Utah and the federal government (*Greenwire*, July 14).

The bill covers seven counties and extends far beyond the Bears Ears region that tribes, conservationists and archaeologists want Obama to protect. It would preserve a slightly smaller portion of the Bears Ears landscape -- 1.4 million acres -- than what monument proponents want, but it would also designate a portion of lands as wilderness, a higher level of protection than what Obama could provide under the Antiquities Act.

Conservationists and a five-tribe coalition have denounced the Bishop-Chaffetz bill, saying it protects too little of Utah's red rocks, canyons and tribal sites would give Utah unprecedented control over lands owned by all Americans, among several other concerns.

Josh Ewing, executive director of Friends of Cedar Mesa, which opposes the Bishop-Chaffetz bill, said Lee's hearing lacks the balanced perspectives that display during Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's four-day visit to southeast Utah earlier this month. The ENR hearing, he added, represents "pre-rigged con games."

"Instead of reaching out to experts on the ground and hearing all sides, Sen. Lee is enlisting a completely unbalanced slate of people to testify against protection for America's most significant unprotected archaeological area," Ewing said. "No archaeologist is testifying. No local conservation voice is testifying. Native American voice that disagrees with his politics is testifying."

Conn Carroll, a spokesman for Lee, said monument supporters -- including the five-tribe Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, which crafted the monument plan but declined to participate.

"We made every effort to invite supporters of making the monument, but they all declined," Carroll said.

The Interior Department and Forest Service were also invited to testify but also declined, he said.

"This is a debate we want to have in public, but that is difficult to do when the other side does not show up," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition did not respond to an email.

Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said in an email that the department was "not officially invited" to testify at the hearing but plans to send a statement record.

**Schedule:** The hearing is tomorrow, July 27, at 3 p.m. MDT at San Juan High School in Blanding, Utah.

**Witnesses:** Rep. Rob Bishop; Utah Gov. Gary Herbert; San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams; Chester Johnson, Aneth Chapter of the Navajo Nation; Lewis Singer, Blue Mountain Dine.

On Mon, Jul 25, 2016 at 6:05 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

## AP: Mike Lee, US Senate hold monument meeting near Bears Ears

Published 10:27 am, Monday, July 25, 2016

BLANDING, Utah (AP) — U.S. Sen. [Mike Lee](#) of Utah and members of the Senate's [Energy and Natural Resources Committee](#) will hold a hearing in Utah on Wednesday amid a push for a new national monument in the state.

Utah Gov. [Gary Herbert](#), U.S. Rep. [Rob Bishop](#) and representatives of San Juan County, the Navajo Nation and Blue Mountain Diné are scheduled to testify at the Wednesday afternoon hearing in Blanding.

Lee, Herbert, Bishop and other Utah Republicans and local officials oppose a monument in the Bears Ears region, saying it would be on a broad and close access to the area for development and recreation.





Kim Baca

This structure under the overhang is one of the thousands throughout the San Juan region. Many are being threatened by looters or irresponsible visitors.

## Indian Country Today: Sally Jewell Visits Bears Ears, Says Obama Will Decide on National Monument Before Leaving Office

Kim Baca  
7/18/16

President Barack Obama could decide whether to designate the 1.9 million-acre region known as Bears Ears as a national monument end of the year, according to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell.

If not by then, Obama will definitely decide before he leaves office, Jewell told Indian Country Media Network during a three-day tour area.

Five tribes are asking for the designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act, which gives the President signing power to create such monuments on federal land. The proposal drew criticism and support as its creators and the opposition had a chance to speak directly with Jewell and other top federal officials at a public hearing in Bluff, Utah. People spoke passionately about the area and its history, which dates back thousands of years.

"We have not made up our minds on what way to go," said Jewell during the hearing. "We're here to listen."

Jewell, directors of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service and other government officials did just that, listening to more than 50 people representing local tribal ranchers, politicians, recreationalists and environmentalists. A total of 150 people crisscrossed the hearing room in Bluff, Utah, about 60 miles south of Bears Ears. Outside, more than 100 people who had traveled from around the region listened on a PA system. Jewell and her colleagues also hiked portions of Bears Ears, observing petroglyphs and the terrain first-hand.

Those who gave testimony—from descendants of Mormon pioneers who settled in the area, to rock climbers discovering ancient sites, to Native people who have seen their wells dry up and water contaminated by area natural resource development—spoke passionately about the largely pristine desert, a blanket of red-brick earth, waves of mesas, large, jutting rock formations and juniper dotting the land.

Many Navajos, Utes and other tribes who support the Bears Ears monument, named after a 9,000-foot twin buttes, say the land is sacred and important for medicine gathering, war ceremonies and other traditions.

"There is nothing more important about tribal sovereignty than protecting Indian nation languages, cultures, beliefs, and indeed our existence as Indian people," Navajo Attorney General Ethel B. Branch said.

"Our proposal is not about exclusion—it's about education and partnership," said Carle Bowekaty of the Pueblo of Zuni, one of the five tribes requesting the designation.

But several Navajos and at least one Ute, including a group from Blue Mountain Dine, spoke against the designation, citing deep distrust with the federal government.

"We have suffered from all the treaties that have been broken," Benally said. "I'm very disheartened by the misinformation and also by the dividing the sisters and brothers in our community."

Benally, a Republican, supports a bill filed by Utah's congressional delegation and introduced in the House as an ostensible alternative to the tribal proposal. The bill would designate 1.1 million acres of land for conservation, and allocate 1.1 million acres for recreation and natural resource development. The Public Lands Initiative also ensures tribal input, protection of archaeology sites, preserves traditional gathering of plants, and gives managing agencies discretion.





Secretary Jewell addressing tribal leaders during a meeting on top of the Bears Ears meadow. (Photo: Kim Baca)



FILE - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell stands on Comb Ri-visits rock art sites, some of which have been vandalized southern Utah on Saturday, July 16, 2016. ((Scott G Winterton, Deseret News))

The best news to come out of a revised Public Lands Initiative announced this week by Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jas Chaffetz is that it omits language that would have made 10 counties in eastern Utah exempt from any monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Despite our dislike of the Antiquities Act, that exemption, a part of the original bill announced

earlier this year, would have guaranteed the initiative's defeat — if not in Congress, then certainly under a presidential veto.

Beyond that, the bill's release, and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the state this week, highlight just how quickly the clock is ticking on finding a solution to vexing land-management issues in the southeastern part of the state. The implication of Jewell's comments at various meetings is that either the state's representatives and the stakeholders involved find and pass a solution through Congress soon, or the president will summarily create a new national monument in the Bears Ears region.

The former clearly is preferable to the latter. Unfortunately, some stakeholders have more to gain from a monument designation than a brokered deal that would give them less than what they want.

That isn't to say the Public Lands Initiative is a perfect solution. If anything is clear after many years of trying to broker a grand compromise, it is that the many land-use issues in that part of the state are complicated and intertwined.

But it's also true that more is at stake here than just one bill. A successful compromise solution, passed by Congress and signed by the president, would set a powerful template for resolving the many other land-use issues in the West.

Bishop and Chaffetz's latest proposal would set up two national conservation areas in Bears Ears, protecting 1.4 million acres while allowing native tribes to continue their sacred rituals. While tribal leaders have voiced support for a national monument, they want such a designation to continue allowing them access to the area. It's unclear whether a monument designation would allow this, although Jewell said final language has not yet been prepared.

The rest of the Public Lands Initiative attempts to find compromise on other contentious issues on recreation, conservation and economic development. It would expand Arches National Park and create a Jurassic National Monument at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. It would expand the Goblin Valley State Park and increase staffing necessary to manage it.

But it also would allow for more economic development through energy extraction, which has several environmental groups voicing opposition.

The Obama administration has insisted it won't treat a monument designation the way President Bill Clinton did when he took all parties by surprise in creating Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. Jewell's visit to the state this week is a good-faith indication this is true.

Jewell traveled the state, listening to the emotion-charged concerns of many stakeholders and gaining a greater appreciation for the complexities involved. So clear, however, that time is running out.

Bishop and Chaffetz have much hard work ahead and little time to do it. But success would go far toward making the West a more peaceful place.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2016, at 10:56 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Home](#) » [Opinion](#)  
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For their part, Bishop and Chaffetz made concessions since their draft PLI bill came out earlier this year. They added a large chunk to a conservatio area around the Bears Ears, but they left vague what would be allowed in the area, including energy development. It grants an Indian role in management of part of the area, but not enough to satisfy the tribes. The Indian groups had earlier said they were stonewalled by the PLI process ar walked away.

A key difference this time is removing a requirement that no current or future president could declare a monument in eastern Utah. That provision was considered sacrosanct by the congressmen when their draft came out. That has helped keep the White House talking, but the other changes haven't been enough to bring the tribes back.

Jewell was standing at the Dead Horse Point overlook Thursday when she turned to Fred Ferguson, Chaffetz' chief of staff, to comment about tribal representatives walking away from PLI talks. "They were probably frustrated by their last experience, Fred, so there's definitely some bridge building you're going to have to do."

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The reality is that the PLI has problems that go beyond the Bears Ears. In too many places it bent toward the energy industry, and it would allow the counties to claim roads where there aren't any and shouldn't be. The PLI's county-driven process never accepted that it was about America's land, and so it never gave adequate voice to the tribes or to national environmental groups. That cost the congressmen years that could have gone into real talks.

Instead, we get a mad scramble at the end, and the Utahns in Congress look like they have been outplayed. A negotiated settlement would have been better, but a Bears Ears monument declaration looks like the only viable solution at this point.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 15, 2016, at 9:57 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

## **Salt Lake Tribune Op-Ed: Terry Tempest Williams: With monument proposal, tribes open door to new way of seeing public lands**

By Terry Tempest Williams

First Published Jul 15 2016 08:51AM Last Updated Jul 15 2016 10:55 am

VIDEOS

ITN

Otero County  
sheriff says homes apparently burned by fire near Timberon  
KOB - Albuquerque, NM



influenced my own sense of home.

I believe the Bears Ears National Monument proposal honors the deep residency of native peoples living inside the Colorado Plateau. The tribes are asking each of us to acknowledge an embodied intelligence born of the land that warrants as much respect and protection as the wilderness, itself.

The Bears Ears National Monument Proposal has the potential to transform Utah's rancorous politics of place into an ethic of place for generations to come.

Not long ago, 15 students gathered in our living room with Jonah Yellowman, a Navajo spiritual leader from Monument Valley. When Jonah arrived, coyotes began howling, a rarity at nine o'clock in the morning.

He entered our home, the students sat near him, and he began his remarks with a blessing. After the blessing, he spoke about how one learns, how his father taught him as a young boy to bring in wood and water at night, so that in the morning you will have dry wood to make a fire for warmth, and water to boil a cup of tea.

"You will not be caught short in a blizzard," he said.

He shared how he became a medicine person, how the ashes spoke to him, how if one holds a crystal up to the stars for guidance and then peers back into the ashes, one can see into the soul of the person in need. One of the students bluntly asked Jonah why he was sharing this sacred knowledge.

"It is time," Jonah said.

Jonah spoke about why these lands on Cedar Mesa remain sacred to the Navajo; how the bones of his ancestors are buried here, how their ancient songs are still carried by the winds, and how the Diné see these lands as their medicine cabinets. This is the home of their ceremonies. This is the place where he remembers the source of his dreams.

"I have dreamed of being in this place before," Jonah said.

He pointed north toward the Colorado River. "The elders told me that this canyon where the great river flows was created by the bison from scraping the Earth with his hoof."

"It is time to go outside," he said. We followed him on to the patio in Castle Valley, where we witnessed a rare horizontal rainbow above the mesa.

It is time for us to go outside our own places of comfort and dare to embrace a new way of seeing. The tribes are opening the door, inviting us to cross a threshold where a more expansive conversation about land protection awaits us. They are taking us beyond the rhetoric of wilderness designation to a wider view of how we can live in place with reverence and restraint. Leaders like Jim Enoto from the Zuni Pueblo remind us how these desert lands are "source, not resource."

In this centennial year of the National Park Service, it is hard to imagine a more profound act that could provide a greater healing between indigenous people and the federal government than this bold national monument. At a time when race has created a wedge and a wound within our communities in the United States of America that is anything but united, Bears Ears National Monument becomes a gesture of peace extended to disenfranchised people still held captive by the violence of our shadowed history.

The partisan politics that continues to plague public land policy in the 21st century is being offered a powerful corrective by collaborating with the tribes in a co-management model of cooperation where traditional knowledge is embedded within current land agency governing principles and practices. It will not be easy, but it will be transformative and right.



to Indian Creek and finally to Monticello, where about 50 protesters welcomed her outside the Hideout Community Center with chants of "No national monument!" "We protect it just fine," shouted one. Another: "Communist!" The mood inside was lighter, but more than 150 people gathered to hear San Juan County commissioners share their concerns about the Bears Ears National Monument proposal, brought by a coalition of five tribes that late last year stopped participating in discussions about Bishop and Chaffetz's Public Lands Initiative and appealed to President Barack Obama to protect 1.9 million acres by using the Antiquities Act.

[As Interior secretary tours sacred tribal site, Utah Republicans push to protect it](#)

Washington Post // Juliet Eilperin // July 14

Utah Republican lawmakers introduced legislation Thursday that would protect 1.4 million acres of a sacred Native American site in the state's southeast, as Interior Secretary Sally Jewell toured the area to solicit ideas on how to address the threats it faces. Bears Ears — an expanse of land in San Juan County that boasts both archeological treasures and critical environmental habitats — has come under pressure from looters and vandalism over the years. Utah's congressional delegation has spent three years working to craft a compromise bill that would encompass not only that area but six other counties, providing opportunities for energy development, grazing and motorized recreation while designating some parts for conservation. The new flurry of activity, including the bill introduction and Jewell's four-day visit to meet with tribal leaders, local officials and environmentalists, underscores that time is running out to forge a legislative deal.

[Secretary Of The Interior To Tour Bears Ears](#)

Utah Public Radio // Jon Kovash // July 14

This week Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is visiting multiple towns in Southeast Utah to hear local concerns about federal lands. Jewell is traveling with a delegation of high ranking federal officials. Wednesday she met with Governor Herbert, toured the San Rafael Swell with Emery County officials, and attended a meeting in Moab, where she was greeted with a sea of T-shirts and signs supporting the Bears Ears as a new national monument. "This is democracy," she said. "I mean, this is how our country works, and, you know, listening to each other in a respectful way. Having a large group of people that have different points of view by the shirts they're wearing and the signs they're carrying, and being very respectful of each other, I appreciate."

[The Latest: House bill blocking monuments faces veto threat](#)

AP // July 14

House Republicans have passed a spending bill that could block a new national monument in southeastern Utah. But the effort faces a White House veto threat. Republican Rep. Chris Stewart of Utah added a provision to an Interior Department spending bill that blocks money for any new monuments in portions of eight states, including 17 Utah counties. The House passed the bill Thursday, but the measure is expected to run into a filibuster from Senate Democrats and the White House veto threat. The vote comes as U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is visiting Utah to meet with supporters and opponents of the Bears Ears monument.

[GOP Lawmakers Unveil Utah Land Use Plan](#)

WSJ // Jim Carlton // July 14

Two Utah Republicans unveiled a long-awaited bill aimed at protecting vast parts of the state's spectacular canyon country, while allowing development in other areas. The bill's backers say it is a compromise that could serve as a model for brokering disputes over federal land ownership in the West, while potentially lowering the temperature on a legal feud between Utah and the U.S. The Obama administration hasn't taken a stand on the monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is set to host a community meeting Saturday in Bluff, Utah, on the dueling proposals.

[Interior Secretary Jewell meets with Grand County Council](#)

Moab Sun News // Eric Trenbeath // July 14

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell heard comments from the Grand County Council on Rep. Rob Bishop's Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI), and the Bureau of Land Management's Master Leasing Plan (MLP) at a special meeting held on Wednesday, July 13. More than 50 local citizens attended, many wearing t-shirts, or carrying signs either in support of, or opposed to, the creation of a Bears Ears National Monument. "I am here to listen, that is the primary reason for this visit," Jewell said. "You have an incredible place here, and I know that it's got lots of different elements to the economy, and things that are important to people of this region."

[Push to create Utah monument marks latest Western land fight](#)

AP // Brady McCombs // July 14

Laminated sheets of paper held in place by rocks rest inside ancient cliff dwellings nestled underneath a spectacular red rock overhang in southeastern Utah. "Don't erase the traces of America's past," the signs read. "Please do not enter interior rooms." The weathered signs and a similar warning at the trailhead are the only protections in place for these easily accessible ruins along a canyon hiking path. The cliff dwellings are part of an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites within a 1.9 million-acre area that a coalition of American Indian tribes wants President Barack Obama to designate a national monument to ensure protections for lands considered sacred. U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is visiting the area this week to meet with proponents and opponents — the latest indication the Obama administration is giving serious consideration to the "Bears Ears" monument proposal.

[Public lands bill unveiled without controversial Antiquities Act provision](#)

KSL // Amy Joi O'Donoghue // July 14

Utah Republican Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz unveiled the final version of the much awaited Public Lands Initiative Thursday, eliminating a mandate that seven counties in eastern Utah are off-limits for any future monument designation under the Antiquities Act. The elimination of the controversial provision acknowledges it was a deal breaker for environmental groups and recognition that no president would endorse a law that relinquishes such a sweeping executive power. Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, a veteran GOP faithful and states' right defender, released the Public Lands Initiative on the day of Jewell's three-day, whirlwind tour of Grand and San Juan counties. His bills, and her visits, come as the debate over a potential monument designation of 1.9 million acres in the Bears Ears region





2 comments



The Bears Ears area is seen on Thursday, June 2, 2016. The proposed 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region contained in a massive public lands bill being unveiled this week would actually be split in two, with the southern portion set aside for traditional Native American uses. (Scott G Winterton, Deseret News)

SALT LAKE CITY — The proposed 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region contained in a massive public lands bill being unveiled this week would actually be split in two, with the southern portion set aside for traditional Native American uses.

A-

A+

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, and chief architect of the measure, said the region on federal lands in southeastern Utah will come with a new management structure that includes a tribal committee to ensure traditional access for wood gathering, ceremonies and gathering of plants.

"We spell out what the management practices will be and the purpose of those," Bishop said. "The lower half is strictly for conservation. ... They will be able to continue those traditional activities in a way that would not be guaranteed under a monument designation."

The final version of Bishop's bill is due to be released late this week, coinciding with a three-day, packed tour of San Juan and Grand counties by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Jewell will meet with tribal leaders of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, visit with San Juan County commissioners and hear from congressional staffers from Bishop's and Rep. Jason Chaffetz's offices.

Cody Stewart, Gov. Gary Herbert's policy adviser, will also be at the talks, with Herbert already committed to attend a meeting of the National Governors' Association.

As the tempo accelerates around the Bears Ears controversy — the coalition is pushing President Barack Obama to declare 1.9 million acres a national monument — all sides in the issue are scrambling for the ear of Jewell, who has promised no designation will be made without local input.

To that end, beyond the intense slate of meetings, tours and hikes, Jewell will host a three-hour community meeting in Bluff to hear from residents on the issue.



Associated Press

**Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and other top officials from the Obama administration will host a public meeting in Bluff, Utah, on Saturday, July 16 to discuss future management of the Bears Ears region.**

By [Jim Mimiaga](#) Journal staff writer

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and other top officials from the Obama administration will host a public meeting in Bluff, Utah, on Saturday, July 16 to discuss future management of the Bears Ears region.

The meeting will be from 1-4 p.m at the Bluff Community Center at the corner of Third Street and Mulberry Avenue.

According according to a July 12 Department of Interior announcement, the meeting is "regarding community visions for management of southern Utah's public lands, members of the public are invited to attend and comment."

Participating federal agency representatives will also attend the meeting, including Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Robert Bonnie, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Komze, National Parks Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, and acting U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Lary Roberts. U.S. Forest Chief Tom Tidwell has also been invited.

The protection of cultural and natural resources of the vast area of public lands in southeast Utah has been a hot topic for the last few years.

Conservation groups and Native American tribes — including the Ute Mountain Utes, Navajos, Uintah-Ouray Utes, Hopi, and Zuni — have been advocating that President Barack Obama declare a 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument under the Antiquities Act.

Utah legislators are pushing for a federal bill to form the Bears Ears National Conservation Area on 1.1 million acres.

"We're excited that D.C. officials are coming out to hear different viewpoints and what the issues are for protecting this area," said Gavin Noyes, executive director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, a grassroots nonprofit that supports the Bears Ears Coalition of five tribes.

The Bears Ears area contains more than 100,000 archaeological sites with cultural ties to Native American tribes in the American Southwest.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2016, at 1:40 PM, Degroff, Amanda <[amanda\\_degroff@ios.doi.gov](mailto:amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

## Interior chief headed to Utah amid divisions over proposed monument

2





Courtesy | House Committee on Natural Resources Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah.



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ARTICLE PHOTO GALLERY (5)



Washington • Rep. Rob Bishop plans to unveil long-awaited legislation next week to preserve some areas of the Bears Ears region in southeastern Utah just ahead of a visit by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

ADVERTISEMENT

Bishop also plans to fast-track his much-anticipated Public Lands Initiative (PLI) — which critics worry won't go far enough to protect Bears Ears — by holding hearings in August and September and put it before the House by the end of the latter month.

The Utah Republican — joined by Utah's senators, Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch, and Rep. Jason Chaffetz — hopes the measure will blunt any attempt by President Barack Obama's administration to use the 1908 Antiquities Act to unilaterally create a national monument as several tribal leaders have called for to safeguard nearly 2 million acres.

"As we have repeatedly stated, legislation ensures local participation and guarantees a balanced product," the four Utah members of Congress wrote Friday to Jewell. "The [Utah federal] delegation, local elected officials and many local tribal organizations remain unified in our opposition to the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act in Utah."

Jewell's July 16 visit, which will include a public meeting in the Bears Ears area, is aimed at allowing the secretary to hear the various proposals, including the PLI and a push for a national monument, and see the area in person, her spokeswoman, Jessica Kershaw, said Friday.

ADVERTISEMENT

Proponents of the proposed 1.9-million acre Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah say ancient artifacts and sacred lands need protection from looting and development.

Utah's top Republican leaders oppose the designation and back a plan set to be introduced in Congress next week that would protect parts of the Bears Ears area and other lands while opening up some lands for recreation and oil and gas development.

Read more at <http://www.wral.com/secretary-jewell-to-visit-utah-to-discuss-conservation-plans/15838975/#m5zvgy5VTQrM2Q0p.99>

On Thu, Jul 7, 2016 at 7:08 PM, Kershaw, Jessica

<jessica\_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi folks -

Below/attached is a draft joint DOI/USDA media advisory for release on Monday.

Please let me know what edits/concerns you might have here before 4pm tomorrow (Friday).

In addition, this is the if-asked statement DOI comms will use over the weekend, if-asked, since public invitations will go out tomorrow/Sat.

*Earlier this year, Secretary Jewell laid out her vision for the next 100 years of healthy public lands, waters and wildlife and she said that this summer, she will travel across the country to hear from communities about their vision for conservation as we look to the next 100 years. The goal of her travel is to find and highlight opportunities where we can make progress in ensuring our parks and public lands are benefiting all Americans. One of those stops will be in Utah to meet with and listen to community members, local leaders and stakeholders about a range of conservation proposals—legislative and otherwise—to further protect UT public lands. The Secretary was clear that these ideas should be heard and discussed—especially when there's a variety of opinions - and that in some cases, the next step may simply be more conversations - and more listening.*

-Jessica

PLACEHOLDER FOR DOI/USDA SEALS

Date: July 11, 2016

Contacts: (DOI) [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

(USDA)

**Secretary Jewell, Under Secretary Bonnie To Join Utah Local Leaders at Public Meeting to Hear Community Visions for Public Lands Conservation**

**BLUFF, Utah** – On Saturday, July 16, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Under Secretary of Agriculture Robert Bonnie will host a public meeting to hear about community visions for the management of the region's public lands, including proposals like Congressman Bishop and Chaffetz's Public Lands Initiative and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal to designate a new national monument. The visit builds on the Administration's work to support locally-driven efforts to preserve and protect places that hold special meaning to communities across the country.

Jewell and Bonnie will be joined by tribal leaders, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Roberts as well as other federal, state and local officials. During their time in Utah, the Administration officials will tour various sites in the Eastern part of the state with local land managers, Utah delegation representatives and others in an effort to better



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Storify by Utah Diné Bikéyah a few seconds ago

# Outdoor Recreation

Support for Bears Ears



The Bears Ears cultural landscape, with its striking natural beauty and 100,000+ archaeological sites, is exactly the type of place the Antiquities Act was created to protect. Join the recreationists, archaeologists, conservation groups and hundreds of Tribes & Pueblos of the Bears Ears in asking @POTUS to #ProtectBearsEarsNow


[http //www.bearscoalition.org/action/](http://www.bearscoalition.org/action/) Photo Credit: Tim Peterson @conservationalliance #escapetoyourplayground

 POINT6 17 DAYS  
AGO





Bears Ears, a 1.9-million acre landscape in UT, needs your support! Sign the petition to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](https://www.change.org/p/protect-bears-ears-national-monument): [bit.ly/2dHa9CO](https://bit.ly/2dHa9CO) [pic.twitter.com/byF1dRfXJ](https://pic.twitter.com/byF1dRfXJ)

 MOUNTAIN KHAKIS @MOUNTAINKHAKIS 16 DAYS AGO



Hey everyone, over the next few days, I'm taking over the @wildernesssociety Insta, sharing some of my favorite photos and memories from the proposed Bear's Ears National Monument area to bring awareness to the need for protection there. As a ski mountaineer, I've traveled all over the world, and this part of Southeastern Utah is one of my favorites. It's near and dear to my heart- make sure you follow @wildernesssociety to learn why. #ProtectBearsEarsNow Photo @brooke froelich

 CAROLINE GLEICH 16 DAYS  
AGO





Another shot from Bears Ears in Southeast Utah. Our friends and partners at @conservationalliance are working with the Diné (Navajo), Ute, Zuni and Hopi Nations to advocate the 1.9 million acres of Bears Ears be turned into a National Monument. Sounds like a good idea to us. #findyourpeak #protectbearsnnow

 PEAK DESIGN 16 DAYS  
AGO



Indian Creek, with its world-class crack climbing, is on every climber's bucket list. This internationally famous location is also home to thousands of years of archaeology, including rare rock art and fragile cliff dwellings. One of the ways the climbing community can help protect these beloved crags is to ask President Obama to designate the Bears Ears National Monument, preserving access and cultural connections in Indian Creek: [bearscoalition.org/acti...](http://bearscoalition.org/acti...)  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow Photo: James Kay

 BLACK DIAMOND 16 DAYS  
AGO





🚗 🏠 🧑🏫 Help to conserve 1.9 million acres of unprotected archaeological and recreational sites - including the world-class crack #climbing of #IndianCreek - by asking President Obama to designate the Bears Ears National Monument. If anyone has taken a lesson from the Creek University, now's the time to pay tuition. All we're asking for is a lil signature. Sign the petition in my bio! 📄 📄 #ProtectBearsEarsNow Photo: @james\_lucas #liveclimbrepeat @blackdiamond

📷 NINA WILLIAMS 15 DAYS  
AGO



@jennygelwix and @miloimpatagonia stand with #ProtectBearsEarsNow 🐻 Do you? Come into the store, take a picture proving your support and send it to @protectwildutah and they will send the pictures to congress! #VoteOurPlanet #patagoniaSLC #BearsEars

 PATAGONIA SALT LAKE CITY 13 DAYS AGO





Hikers, backpackers, rock climbers, canyoneers, mountain bikers, backcountry skiers, hunters, off-road vehicle riders and rafters from across the country come to Bears Ears to experience its world-class recreation. Based on its wild values, pristine natural resources, and diverse recreation opportunities, the Bears Ears would be a national park in any other part of the country. From backpacking amongst the ancient cliff dwellings in Grand Gulch to family raft trips down the San Juan River, there is no other landscape quite like Bears Ears. We're proud to support Friends of Cedar Mesa and Utah Diné Bikéyah's effort to #ProtectBearsEars as a national monument through our The Conservation Alliance membership.

 PRANA 12 DAYS  
AGO



I'd like it if these sorts of places stayed wild. Would you? If so sign the petition to protect the Bears Ears area of southeastern Utah. #protectbearsnow @blackdiamond



HAZEL  
FINDLAY

12 DAYS  
AGO





Indian Creek is on every climber's bucket list. Join the movement to protect Bears Ears and Indian Creek today: [bearscoalition.org/action/](https://bearscoalition.org/action/) [pic.twitter.com/K5Zb9toiYF](https://pic.twitter.com/K5Zb9toiYF)

 **ARCTERYX** @ARCTERYX · 12 DAYS  
AGO



Bears Ears, a 1.9-million acre landscape in Utah, needs your support! Sign the petition to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#): [bearscoalition.org/action/](http://bearscoalition.org/action/) [pic.twitter.com/3xOgOPG12](https://pic.twitter.com/3xOgOPG12)

 ELEMENTAL 10 DAYS  
HERBS @ALLGOODBRAND AGO



**Utah Diné Bikéyah**

Backpacker Magazine tells President Obama, "Thank you for protecting so much land. But don't stop there." This article explains that [#BearsEars](#) Nat'l Monument "will not only help protect more than 100,000 archaeological sites, but also help connect the greater Canyonlands area to Grand Staircase-Escalante and even Grand Canyon itself." Now that's a legacy worth leaving!

[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#)

 9 DAYS  
AGO




**The Conservation**

**Alliance**

68 Conservation Alliance member companies are calling on President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument. John Sterling and members from our board will present this letter to White House Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of the Interior in DC later today.

[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#)

 9 DAYS  
AGO





68 companies call on @POTUS to #ProtectBearsEarsNow. [conservationalliance.com/letter-preside...](https://conservationalliance.com/letter-preside...)  
[pic.twitter.com/sk81xhDGPJ](https://pic.twitter.com/sk81xhDGPJ)

 CONSERVATIONALLIANCE @CONSERVATIONALI 9 DAYS  
AGO

 **La Sportiva**  
@Sportiva

Help protect Indian Creek by signing the Bears Ears National Monument Petition. Sign here:  
[bit.ly/2dHa9CO](https://bit.ly/2dHa9CO) #ProtectBearsEarsNow

 8 DAYS  
AGO

**WE STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARNOW**



**THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE  
& OVER 60 MEMBER BUSINESSES**

This internationally significant place deserves protection for its singular cultural significance, and for its outstanding recreation opportunities - The Conservation Alliance & 68 outdoor rec companies formally expressed support for #BearsEars National Monument yesterday in Washington, D.C . Read their entire letter calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! [conservationalliance.com/le](http://conservationalliance.com/le)

 UTAH DINÉ  
BIKEYAH

8 DAYS  
AGO



# WE STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARNOW



“The proposed Bears Ears National Monument would honor the area’s rich cultural history and preserve its many outdoor recreation amenities.”

**-THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE & 68 MEMBER BUSINESSES**

Yesterday 60+ @conservationall member businesses called on @POTUS to #ProtectBearsEarsNow!  
[buff.ly/2exNIQs](https://buff.ly/2exNIQs) @WhiteHouseCEQ [pic.twitter.com/DoRuTxYQ6p](https://pic.twitter.com/DoRuTxYQ6p)



PROTECT BEARS  
EARS @SAVEBEARSEARS

8 DAYS  
AGO



Bears Ears, a 1.9-million acre landscape in Utah, needs your support! Sign the petition to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#): [bit.ly/2dHa9CO](https://bit.ly/2dHa9CO) [pic.twitter.com/RbVfLSEwDI](https://pic.twitter.com/RbVfLSEwDI)



BERGANS OF  
NORWAY @BERGANSUSA

7 DAYS  
AGO



I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW



**LEIF WHITTAKER**  
**MOUNTAINEER & AUTHOR**

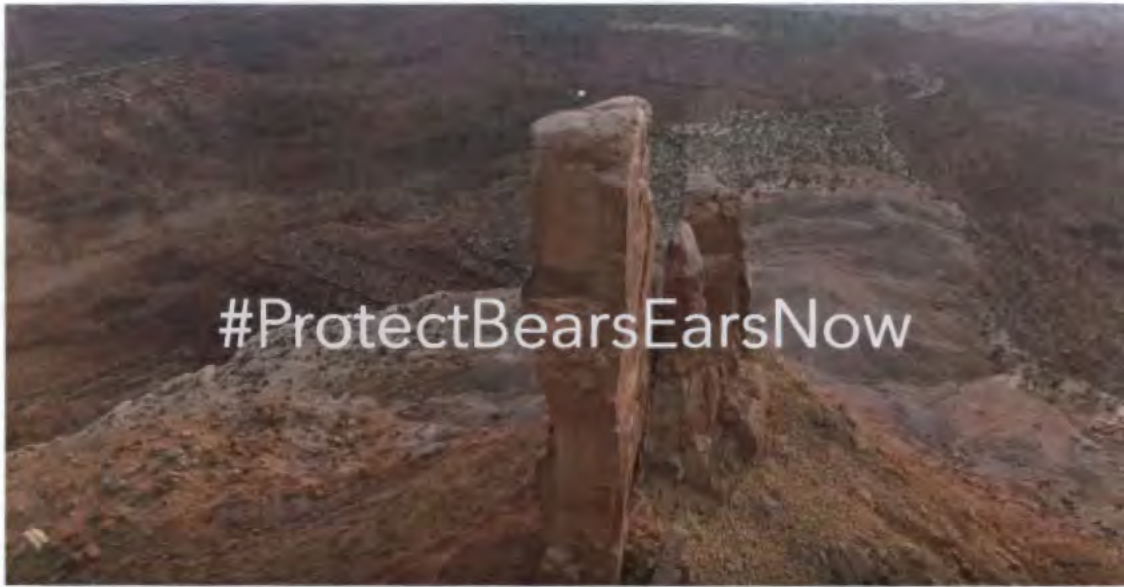
'Many climbers, including me, have learned to love the desert thanks to visiting the #BearsEars region. Home to incredible rock formations & cultural sites, it is a sacred landscape that seeps into the soul—and deserves our respect' - Leif Whittaker, mountaineer & author of 'My Old Man and The Mountain' #MOMATM. Outdoor recreationalists stand strong with Tribes calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Show your support for Bears Ears by changing your FB profile pic today! [profile.actionsprout.com/o/](http://profile.actionsprout.com/o/)

 UTAH DINE BIKEYAH 7 DAYS AGO

 Patagonia

The Bears Ears Coalition is seeking permanent protection for Bears Ears, a magical region in southeastern Utah, and the Obama administration will be making a decision in the next few months. Join us—Protect Bears Ears by signing the petition today.

 5 DAYS AGO



Just loving a place isn't enough. You got to have a willingness to protect it. [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#)  
[pat.ag/w6x7](#) [pic.twitter.com/JFiW6sgYLU](#)

 PATAGONIA @PATAGONIA 5 DAYS  
AGO



**Todd Ray**  
[@\\_toddray](#)

patagonia: Just loving a place isn't enough. You got to have a willingness to protect it.  
[#ProtectBearsEarsNow...](#) [twitter.com/i/web/status/7...](#)

 5 DAYS  
AGO





A Letter-Writing Party to Protect Bears Ears. Putting pen to paper at The Cleanest Line: [pat.ag/bewt](https://pat.ag/bewt)  
[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](https://twitter.com/AJNiguX18q) [pic.twitter.com/AJNiguX18q](https://pic.twitter.com/AJNiguX18q)

 PATAGONIA @PATAGONIA · 5 DAYS  
AGO



Josh Ewing and Tommy Caldwell putting pen to paper to permanently #ProtectBearsEarsNow Sign the petition by visiting the link in our profile. Photo @tommycaldwell

 PATAGONIA 5 DAYS  
AGO



**Josh Money**  
@JoshMoney2

Sign the petition to #ProtectBearsEarsNow [patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a...](http://patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a...)

 5 DAYS  
AGO



**RearguardGear**  
@RearguardGear

The latest The RearguardGear Daily! [paper.li/RearguardGear?...](http://paper.li/RearguardGear?...) #protectbearsnow  
#citizenkeen

 5 DAYS  
AGO





**Andy French**  
@AndyNFrench

"Loving a place isn't enough, you have to be willing to protect it" [patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a...](http://patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a...)  
[@patagonia](#) [#thecleanestline](#) [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#)

4 DAYS  
AGO



**joshewing**  
@joshewing

Big thanks to climbers & [@patagonia](#) for support of [#ProtectBearsEarsNow!](#)  
[twitter.com/patagonia/stat...](http://twitter.com/patagonia/stat...)

4 DAYS  
AGO

**#PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

“Many climbers, including me, have learned to love the desert thanks to visiting the Bears Ears region. Home to incredible rock formations & cultural sites, it is a sacred landscape that seeps into the soul—and deserves our respect.”

**-LEIF WHITTAKER**  
**MOUNTAINEER & AUTHOR**



Outdoor rec + [#rockclimbing](#) enthusiasts stand strong w/ Tribes on [#ProtectBearsEarsNow!](#)  
[@SecretaryJewell](#) [@Interior](#) [@WhiteHouseCEQ](#) [pic.twitter.com/VKvkCRVeIT](http://pic.twitter.com/VKvkCRVeIT)

**UTAH DINÉ** 4 DAYS  
**BIKÉYAH** [@UTAHDINEBIKEYAH](#) AGO



The North Face

@thenorthface

#NoDAPL has galvanized Native Americans across the nation. It's time to #StopPLI: [bit.ly/2dhi5bP](http://bit.ly/2dhi5bP)  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow

3 DAYS  
AGO



Outdoor industry reps like Sam Mix of Osprey Packs stand strong with Tribes calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Show YOU support #BearsEars National Monument by changing your Facebook profile pic: [profile.actionsprout.com/o/](http://profile.actionsprout.com/o/).



UTAH DINÉ  
BIKEYAH

3 DAYS  
AGO



Utah Diné Bikéyah

NPR Utah KUER 90.1 picked up the story of the outdoor recreation industry's unified support for #BearsEars National Monument. Click to check out a map highlighting the wide variety of recreation opportunities including climbing, canyoneering, and river running that can be practiced while respecting Native cultural sites & traditions. So many diverse voices calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow!



3 DAYS  
AGO





"The vertical world teaches us lessons that help us maneuver in the horizontal..."  
[#ProtectBearsEarsNow patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a... pic.twitter.com/222zkueDb7](#)

 AUDREY  
WHEELER @AUD\_WHEE 3 DAYS  
AGO



Outdoor leaders like [@OspreyPacks](#) & 60+ others stand strong w/ Tribes asking [@POTUS](#) to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow!](#) [@WhiteHouseCEQ](#) [@Interior](#) [pic.twitter.com/PCybolvfN](http://pic.twitter.com/PCybolvfN)

 UTAH DINÉ  
BIKÉYAH [@UTAHDINEBIKEYAH](#)

3 DAYS  
AGO



I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW



**HAZEL FINDLAY**  
**PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER**

"Indian Creek is not only an important area because of the world class climbing, but also because of it's natural beauty and preserved condition. As a climber and as someone who respects the beauty of the natural world, I ask you to protect this area so that many after me can continue to enjoy it." - Hazel Findlay, professional rock climber. Outdoor athletes stand strong with Tribes calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Sign the petition > [protectbears.org/action](http://protectbears.org/action) Get the profile pic overlay > [profile.actionsprout.com/o/..](http://profile.actionsprout.com/o/)



UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

3 DAYS  
AGO

# #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW

“As a climber and as someone who respects the beauty of the natural world, I ask you to protect this area so that many after me can continue to enjoy it.”

**-HAZEL FINDLAY**  
**PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER**



#RockClimbing pros like @hazel\_findlay stand strong w Tribes asking @POTUS to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! @BlackDiamond @SecretaryJewell @Interior pic.twitter.com/MBaApXOHD8

 UTAH DINÉ 3 DAYS  
BIKÉYAH @UTAHDINEBIKEYAH AGO



# #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW

“Many climbers, including me, have learned to love the desert thanks to visiting the Bears Ears region. Home to incredible rock formations & cultural sites, it is a sacred landscape that seeps into the soul—and deserves our respect.”

**-LEIF WHITTAKER  
MOUNTAINEER & AUTHOR**



Mountaineer & author Leif Whittaker stands with #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Add your support:  
[profile.actionsprout.com/o/4EB270](https://profile.actionsprout.com/o/4EB270) [pic.twitter.com/QzL6F4HWG9](https://pic.twitter.com/QzL6F4HWG9)

 [ ANDERS ] 3 DAYS  
[ @ANDERSREYNOLDS ] AGO

 Patagonia  
@patagonia

#ProtectBearsEarsNow [twitter.com/highcountrynew...](https://twitter.com/highcountrynew...)

 3 DAYS  
AGO

 Todd Ray  
@\_toddray

patagonia: #ProtectBearsEarsNow [twitter.com/highcountrynew...](https://twitter.com/highcountrynew...)

 3 DAYS  
AGO

I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW



HAZEL FINDLAY  
PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER

Tribal leaders set the #BearsEars record straight in a new video: [vimeo.com/187505848](https://vimeo.com/187505848)  
[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](https://twitter.com/XLyxJ0bmwc) [pic.twitter.com/XLyxJ0bmwc](https://twitter.com/XLyxJ0bmwc)

 CREATION JUSTICE @CREATIONJUSTICE 3 DAYS  
AGO



# #PROTECTBEARSEARNOW

“As a climber and as someone who respects the beauty of the natural world, I ask you to protect this area so that many after me can continue to enjoy it.”

**-HAZEL FINDLAY  
PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER**



#ProtectBearsEarsNow to preserve world class #climbing & natural beauty, says @hazel\_findlay. @Interior @WhiteHouseCEQ @BLMNational #UTPol pic.twitter.com/N5H7CR6LIQ

 BISHOPS  
BLUNDERS @BISHOPSBLUNDERS

3 DAYS  
AGO

# #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW

“Many climbers, including me, have learned to love the desert thanks to visiting the Bears Ears region. Home to incredible rock formations & cultural sites, it is a sacred landscape that seeps into the soul—and deserves our respect.”

**-LEIF WHITTAKER  
MOUNTAINEER & AUTHOR**



Outdoor recreationists are standing strong with [@savebears](#) Tribes to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow!](#) [@WhiteHouseCEQ](#) [@SecretaryJewell](#) [#UTPol](#) [pic.twitter.com/AN13ihi2mU](#)



BISHOPS

2 DAYS

BLUNDERS @BISHOPSBLUNDERS

AGO





Letter-writing party 2 #ProtectBearsEarsNow @#indiancreek! Thx @patagonia #thecleanestline 4 standing w/ Tribes pat.ag/bewt pic.twitter.com/XfcjOlgq2f

UTAH DINÉ 2 DAYS  
BIKÉYAH @LITAHDINEBIKEYAH AGO

**#PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

“President Obama, please  
protect Bears Ears.”

**-TOMMY CALDWELL  
PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER**



#RockClimbing pros like @tommycaldwell1 stand strong w Tribes asking @POTUS to  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow! @patagonia @SecretaryJewell @Interior pic.twitter.com/nV7F6nxlAm

 **UTAH DINE** 2 DAYS  
**BIKÉYAH** @LTAHDINEBIKEYAH AGO

 **Patagonia**  
@patagonia

#ProtectBearsEarsNow twitter.com/utahdinebikeya...

 2 DAYS  
AGO

 **Todd Ray**  
@\_toddray

patagonia: #ProtectBearsEarsNow twitter.com/utahdinebikeya...

 2 DAYS  
AGO



I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW



HAZEL FINDLAY  
PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER

Outdoor athletes like [@hazel\\_findlay](#) stand strong with Tribes calling on [@POTUS](#) to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow!](#) [@SecretaryJewell](#) [pic.twitter.com/FweDuzctsM](https://pic.twitter.com/FweDuzctsM)

 WILDERNESS SOCIETY [@WILDERNESS](#) 2 DAYS  
AGO



David  
Harrison  
[@Harrirad](#)

Outdoor rec companies throw their support behind [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#) proposal:  
[tinyurl.com/j3rqsnt](https://tinyurl.com/j3rqsnt) [@WhiteHouseCEQ](#)

 2 DAYS  
AGO



There are many reasons to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#). Read the outdoor industry's letter to the President to learn more: [bit.ly/2e0MTgo](https://bit.ly/2e0MTgo) [pic.twitter.com/9uJUKesWcj](https://pic.twitter.com/9uJUKesWcj)

 **OSPREY PACKS** @OSPREYPACKS A DAY AGO





'Josh Ewing and Tommy Caldwell putting pen to paper to permanently #ProtectBearsEarsNow. Sign the petition by visiting the link in our profile. Photo @tommycaldwell' Regram from @patagonia #GreenMediaLab

 GREEN MEDIA LAB · A DAY AGO

 **Leif Whittaker**  
@leif\_whittaker

Anyone who has visited the Bears Ears region knows how special it is. I'm proud to stand with #ProtectBearsEarsNow! [twitter.com/AndersReynolds...](https://twitter.com/AndersReynolds)

 A DAY AGO

 **Leif Whittaker**  
@leif\_whittaker

Anyone who has visited the Bears Ears region knows how special it is. I'm proud to stand with #ProtectBearsEarsNow! [twitter.com/AndersReynolds...](https://twitter.com/AndersReynolds)

 A DAY AGO



[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#) to preserve outdoor recreational opportunities & incredible cultural landscape! [protectbears.org/action](https://protectbears.org/action) @OspreyPacks [pic.twitter.com/zjql5h4P3Z](https://pic.twitter.com/zjql5h4P3Z)

 WILDERNESS SOCIETY @WILDERNESS A DAY AGO



## #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW

“As a climber and as someone who respects the beauty of the natural world, I ask you to protect this area so that many after me can continue to enjoy it.”

**-HAZEL FINDLAY  
PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER**



#Climbing pro & @BlackDiamond athlete @hazel\_findlay stands with #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Join her: [buff.ly/2eSBBbm](https://buff.ly/2eSBBbm) [pic.twitter.com/k7Tc8c96jE](https://pic.twitter.com/k7Tc8c96jE)




MIKE

A DAY AGO

MATZ @YOURPUBLICLANDS

Let's go... Act now... Stand with #ProtectBearsEarsNow like @tommycaldwell1:  
[youtu.be/EdO3EHflon0](https://youtu.be/EdO3EHflon0) @SecretaryJewell

 ANDREW SZALAY @SUBURBANMTNR · 18 HOURS  
AGO



## #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW

“As a climber and as someone who respects the beauty of the natural world, I ask you to protect this area so that many after me can continue to enjoy it.”

**-HAZEL FINDLAY  
PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER**



Outdoor athletes like [@hazel\\_findlay](#) stand strong with Tribes calling on [@POTUS](#) to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow!](#) [@SecretaryJewell](#) [pic.twitter.com/HrCSK3Jeeg](https://pic.twitter.com/HrCSK3Jeeg)



JENNIFER  
DICKSON @JENDICKSON

10 HOURS  
AGO



Mountaineer & author Leif Whittaker stands with #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Add your support:  
[profile.actionsprout.com/o/4EB270](https://profile.actionsprout.com/o/4EB270) [pic.twitter.com/bLYOQ8Gqr](https://pic.twitter.com/bLYOQ8Gqr)

 WILDERNESS SOCIETY @WILDERNESS 6 HOURS  
AGO





Bears Ears, a 1.9-million acre landscape in Utah, needs your support! Sign the petition to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#): [bit.ly/2dHa9CO](https://bit.ly/2dHa9CO) [pic.twitter.com/LwFsQR9z6M](https://pic.twitter.com/LwFsQR9z6M)

 PRANA @PRANA 5 HOURS  
AGO

# Salt Lake City

Support for Bears Ears



**Ray Phillips**  
@RayPhillips207

I stand with [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#) and added my voice asking [#POTUS](#) to designate the area a national monument. Please join me. [twitter.com/justice\\_ucc/st...](https://twitter.com/justice_ucc/status/1111111111)

5 HOURS  
AGO



**Jim Mathews**  
@mathewsjh

[#MonumentsForAll](#) [#protectbearsnow](#) [twitter.com/Arcteryx/statu...](https://twitter.com/Arcteryx/status/1111111111)

5 HOURS  
AGO



[#protectbearsnow](#)

STEPHANIE — 6 HOURS  
AGO





Ali Van  
Zee  
@alikat747


Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](https://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
[@pewenvironment](#) #ProtectBearsEarsNow

 A DAY AGO



David  
Gray  
@grylid

Hi @POTUS, I'm a big fan. Time to #ProtectBearsEarsNow Really, it's time. Thanks, Dave PhD  
Ecology Evolution

 2 DAYS  
AGO



Rowtag Jacy  
@\_\_Live\_\_Free\_\_

#STOPDAPL #ProtectBearsEarsNow #UTpol [twitter.com/BishopsBlunder...](https://twitter.com/BishopsBlunder...)

 2 DAYS  
AGO



Gina Cornia  
@GinaLouiseC

@RepChrisStewart are you listening to voices of Native Americans & what they want?  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow Your representative wasn't prepared

 2 DAYS  
AGO



Elisabeth Bennett  
@therealbessb

@ChaSolitude @RangeReporter #ProtectBearsEarsNow A monument will diversify our  
communities, that's another reason i support it

 2 DAYS  
AGO

Tribal leaders set the #BearsEars record straight in a new video. [vimeo.com/187505848](https://vimeo.com/187505848)  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow #UTpol #MonumentsForAll



BISHOP'S

BLUNDERS @BISHOPSBLUNDERS

2 DAYS

AGO





Utah Dine Bikeyah

Sponsored ·

NPR Utah KUER 90.1 picked up the story of the outdoor recreation industry's unified support for #BearsEars National Monument. Click to check out a map highlighting the wide variety of recreation opportunities including climbing, canyoneering, and river running that can be practiced while respecting Native cultural sites & traditions. So many diverse voices calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow!



Outdoor Industry Throws Its Clout Behind The Bears Ears National Monument Proposal

[kuer.org](http://kuer.org)

[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#) [pic.twitter.com/vAgB7ELgFt](https://pic.twitter.com/vAgB7ELgFt)

LUCKY7SALT @623\_5206 · 2 DAYS AGO



Geneva Prothero @nevproth

@LeoDiCaprio we need you Leo! Mike Lee is a man that has one interest;His own! @MistyKSnow #ProtectBearsEarsNow [twitter.com/SenMikeLee/sta...](https://twitter.com/SenMikeLee/status...)

3 DAYS AGO



Rowtag Jacy @\_\_Live\_\_Free\_\_

[#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#) [#MonumentsForAll](#) [twitter.com/ConserveNM/sta...](https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status...)

3 DAYS AGO



**Rowtag Jacy**

@\_Live\_Free\_

Mr. @POTUS have your legacy be the beginning of righting the horrific wrongs of the past.  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow & #STOPDAPL @SecretaryJewell twitter.com/BishopsBlunder...



3 DAYS

AGO



**Dominique**

@dominiquejean54

Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](https://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
@pewenvironment #ProtectBearsEarsNow



3 DAYS

AGO



**Bobbee Murr**

@bobbeemurr

Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](https://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
@pewenvironment #ProtectBearsEarsNow



3 DAYS

AGO



**Luanne A**

@LuanneA1

Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](https://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
@pewenvironment #ProtectBearsEarsNow



3 DAYS

AGO



**Bryan Trammell**

@bryan\_trammell

#ProtectBearsEarsNow [twitter.com/patagonia/stat...](https://twitter.com/patagonia/stat...)



3 DAYS

AGO





**Nathan Hetrick**  
@big\_chief82

Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](http://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
[@pewenvironment](#) #ProtectBearsEarsNow

 3 DAYS  
AGO



**Rene Minshew**  
@starthrowerpx

Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](http://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
[@pewenvironment](#) #ProtectBearsEarsNow

 3 DAYS  
AGO



**Carl G  
Zimmerman**  
@carleanie

Join Native American tribes to save Bears Ears, a spectacular Utah landscape: [bit.ly/1Sk6iZb](http://bit.ly/1Sk6iZb)  
[@pewenvironment](#) #ProtectBearsEarsNow

 3 DAYS  
AGO



**Melia\_Bug**  
@Melia\_Bug

#ProtectBearsEarsNow #TarSands #StopBigOil #BanFracking #RenewableEnergy Now  
[twitter.com/highcountrynew...](https://twitter.com/highcountrynew...)

 3 DAYS  
AGO



**Utah Diné Bikéyah**  
@UtahDineBikeyan

So many diverse voices asking @POTUS to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! @KUER\_FM reports  
#OutdoorRecreation stands w/ Tribes: [tinyurl.com/j3rqsnt](http://tinyurl.com/j3rqsnt)

 3 DAYS  
AGO

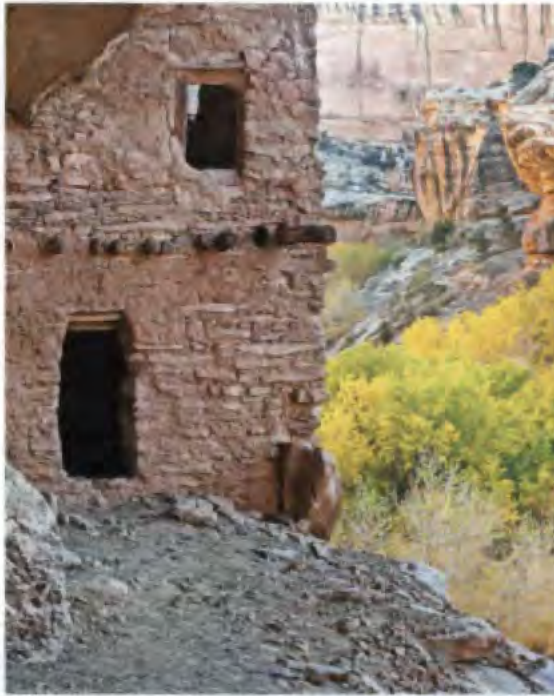


Photo: Adriel Helms

The clock is ticking! It's time to [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#): [buff.ly/2eEyuFG](http://buff.ly/2eEyuFG) @WhiteHouseCEQ @SecretaryJewell [pic.twitter.com/ZtKOPy5I3A](https://pic.twitter.com/ZtKOPy5I3A)

 MIKE MATZ @YOURPUBLICLANDS 3 DAYS AGO

 **My First Drive**  
@myfirstdrive

Just wrote a little bit more about my " [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#) Bear Paw Cookies" on my blog. Not sure why the image... [fb.me/59fWRCNIN](http://fb.me/59fWRCNIN)

 4 DAYS AGO

 **Hunner Birch**  
@HunterBirch

Help out a beautiful part of Utah by signing this petition to protect the Bear's Ears region [patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a...](http://patagonia.com/blog/2016/10/a...) [#ProtectBearsEarsNow](#)

 4 DAYS AGO



**Zack Barnes**  
@ZackBarnes17

#ProtectBearsEarsNow

4 DAYS  
AGO



**scott h ford**  
@ScottHFord

Utah Sells Critical Desert Land to Farm Corporation [adventure-journal.com/2016/10/utah-s...](http://adventure-journal.com/2016/10/utah-s...)  
#POTUS #ProtectBearsEarsNow

4 DAYS  
AGO



Sneak peek at my bear paw cookie recipe to show my support, and raise awareness for #ProtectBearsEarsNow. The video will be available on my blog soon! #foodblog #foodie #bearpaws



CHARLOTTE ORR 5 DAYS  
AGO





hope olson

@\_hopeolson

#ProtectBearsEarsNow



5 DAYS

AGO



William Badger

@antiphonus

@POTUS Thanks for your amazing service for 8 years! Please #protectbearsnow as a parting gift for the country & future generations!



6 DAYS

AGO



The proposed Bears Ears monument is a geography with stunning canyons and mountains. Culturally rich Native American sites and a diverse backcountry. Please take action now and take 2 minutes to learn and show your support for this proposed monument. Thank you (link in Instagram profile) Moon House site Cedar Mesa UT #protectbearsnow #ourwild #utah #coloradoplateau #accessfund



JIM DUBLINSKI 7 DAYS

AGO



#Repost @wildernesssociety with @repostapp 🔄 More than 100 000 Native American archaeological and cultural sites make the Bears Ears region of Utah a national treasure. Perhaps nowhere in the country are so many well-preserved cultural resources—from ancient ruins to intricate 1,500-year-old petroglyphs—found within such a striking and relatively undeveloped natural landscape. It is time to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Photo by @jen\_violet\_callahan via #OurWild

 RANDY 8 DAYS  
WHITE AGO





And second part to my #tbt to 10/10/16-->driving by the end of Comb Ridge after a morning exploring the whole area. Indian Creek, Abajo Mountains, Natural Bridges, Bears Ears, Cedar Mesa, Moki Dugway, Mexican Hat, Valley of the Gods, Comb Ridge/Wash, etc... #Utah is so rich in beauty, beauty which must be protected from corporate development interests. The #CombRidge area is currently under threat of development. #ProtectBearsEarsNow

 MEG · 8 DAYS  
AGO





#TBT to waking up to this view outside my truck-bed, 10/10/16. Comb Wash, UT #Utah #CombWash #CombRidge #ProtectBearsEarsNow



MEG 8 DAYS  
AGO



Utah Diné Bikéyah

"President Obama needs to act to save #BearsEars," states Utah state Senator Jim Dabakis in an important LTE in today's Park Record. "We cannot depend on Utah's governor, Legislature or Congressional delegation to protect this sacred landscape & the cultural memory it holds. Mr President, please do what a majority of Utahns want: #ProtectBearsEarsNow!"



9 DAYS  
AGO

I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW



TALUS JAMES  
SALT LAKE CITY

'The Navajos need the access to the land to gather wood and food! Also, so it can continue to be available for recreation use!' - Talus James, #SLC Standing strong with #ProtectBearsEarsNow!



UTAH DINÉ  
BIKEYAH

9 DAYS  
AGO



**WE STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**



**MICHAEL & DIANNE BUDIG  
SALT LAKE CITY**

"We just finished backpacking in an area of #BearsEars. What an amazing Indian heritage there: Indian ruins, petroglyphs, pictographs. So please preserve this area as part of our American heritage." - Michael & Dianne Budig, #SLC.

#ProtectBearsEarsNow!



UTAH DINÉ  
BIKEYAH

9 DAYS  
AGO





More than 220,000 individuals have called on President Obama to designate #BearsEars Nat l Monument -- #SLC stands strong with #ProtectBearsEarsNow!

 UTAH DINE BIKEYAH 9 DAYS AGO

I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW



INACIO GABRIEL LÓPEZ  
SALT LAKE CITY

Why #ProtectBearsEarsNow? "Inclusion, autonomy, empowerment, and simply the right thing to do!" - Inacio Gabriel Lopez, #SLC Salt Lake City stands strong with #BearsEars National Monument!



UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

10 DAYS  
AGO



# I STAND WITH #PROTECTBEARSNOW



## TAMSEN MALOY SALT LAKE CITY

The time has come to designate #BearsEars as a national monument. The cultural, spiritual & wilderness heritage that currently exist there depend on protecting Bears Ears - Tamsen Maloy #SLC Salt Lake City stands strong with #ProtectBearsEarsNow!



UTAH DINÉ  
BIKÉYAH

10 DAYS  
AGO

# SALT LAKE CITY STANDS WITH



More than 220,000 individuals have signed petitions & written letters calling on President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow/ Salt Lake City stands strongly with the historic coalition of Tribes calling for designation of #BearsEars National Monument Add your voice [utahdinebikeyah.org/petition](http://utahdinebikeyah.org/petition)

 UTAH DINE BIKEYAH 10 DAYS AGO





The Bears Ears from the west, in Natural Bridges National Monument. #BearsEars #Utah #NaturalBridges  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow

 MEG 16 DAYS  
AGO



The Bears Ears from the south-southeast, along Hwy 95. #Utah #BearsEars  
#ProtectBearsEarsNow

 MEG · 16 DAYS  
AGO



**PRESIDENT OBAMA, IT'S TIME TO ACT!**



#SaltLakeCity wants President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Falling Arrow Ho-Ye-Va, of SLC says, "The voice of Natives needs to be heard. The voice of 'Our' Mother Earth is asking for protection. Qua-Qui! Blessings."



UTAH DINE  
BIKEYA

21 DAYS  
AGO

**PRESIDENT OBAMA, IT'S TIME TO ACT!**



**#PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

#SaltLakeCity wants President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Margo & Pat of SLC say, " #BearsEars Monument will preserve ancient lands with strong traditions. It's time to give back. We owe this land to future generations who are at risk of losing the beauty that connects them to life." Pls SHARE!



UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

21 DAYS  
AGO

**PRESIDENT OBAMA, IT'S TIME TO ACT!**



**#PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

#SaltLakeCity wants President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Faith of SLC says, 'I'd like to take my 5 year old brother to the wild landscapes in #BearsEars!' Together let's protect these lands for future generations of all people. Pls SHARE!

 UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

21 DAYS  
AGO



**PRESIDENT OBAMA, IT'S TIME TO ACT!**



**#PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

#Utah wants President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Dana of Park City says, "The future of our state is not in the extraction industry. We are a tourist-based economy that is sustainable, economically viable and just plain beautiful!" Pls SHARE!

 UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

22 DAYS  
AGO

**PRESIDENT OBAMA, IT'S TIME TO ACT!**



#SaltLakeCity wants President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Heather & Justin of SLC say, "We need to conserve what is left #BearsEars National Monument NOW! Pls SHARE!"

 UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

22 DAYS  
AGO

**PRESIDENT OBAMA, IT'S TIME TO ACT!**



**#PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

#SaltLakeCity wants President Obama to #ProtectBearsEarsNow! Carol of SLC says, "#BearsEars is the place where my ancestors left their footprints. You are the dream that the old ones dreamed of" Pls SHARE!



UTAH DINE  
BIKEYAH

22 DAYS  
AGO



**"WHEN THE DREAMS END, THERE IS NO MORE GREATNESS."  
THE SCULPTOR OF CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL SAID THIS OF THE  
MONUMENT HE BEGAN TO CARRY ON CRAZY HORSE'S LEGACY.  
LIKE CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL, GREATNESS LIVES ON WITH  
THE PRESERVATION OF BEARS EARS. PROTECTING THIS  
SACRED LAND ALLOWS THE NATIVE AMERICAN HOPES AND  
DREAMS TO LIVE ON. I DON'T HAVE NATIVE AMERICAN  
ANCESTRY, BUT I FEEL LIKE BECAUSE I LIVE IN THE LAND OF  
THESE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, THE NATIVE AMERICAN STORY IS  
WEAVED INTO MY STORY. THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TO SIGN THIS  
PETITION. WHO BETTER TO MANAGE THE MONUMENT THAN  
THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE AND KNOW THE LAND.**

**@LIZZY\_FENTON #PROTECTBEARSEARSNOW**

Check out this beautiful statement from #ProtectBearsEarsNow supporter @lizzy\_fenton via Twitter about why she supports #BearsEars Nat'l Monument. Tribes are leading the call, but anyone can be an ally: sign the petition today [utahdinebikeyah.org/petition](http://utahdinebikeyah.org/petition)



UTAH DINÉ  
BIKEYAH

24 DAYS  
AGO

# Friends of Gold Butte



Jaina Moan  
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# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Our Turn: Tribes unite to protect lands

Arizona Republic, December 20, 2015  
Eric Descheenie and Alfred Lomahquahu

At this month's United Nations Conference on Climate Change, there was increased recognition for the need for all leaders to work collaboratively with indigenous peoples, the original caretakers of the earth, to solve the world's problems.

The Indigenous Elders And Medicine Peoples Council released a statement emphasizing how, "we must work in unity to help Mother Earth heal so that she can bring back balance and harmony for all her children."

This is exactly what Native American tribes are doing to protect our ancestral lands - the Bears Ears, beautiful forest and high plateau lands located in San Juan County, Utah. This is a place of traditional religious significance to tribes of the southwest United States.

Our people have lived in the Bears Ears country since time began. The land is a unique place where we practice religious traditional rights for the purpose of attaining or restoring health for human communities and our natural world as an interconnected and inextricable whole.

Traditional leaders depend on the preservation of these lands for healing. Yet despite this connection, this landscape remains unprotected, leading to ongoing looting and rampant destruction of the structures, artwork and grave sites. These acts literally rob Native American people of spiritual connections, as well as a sense of place and history.

In Paris, the Indigenous Elders And Medicine Peoples Council talked about the

shared responsibility to "create real solutions and do something right for the future of all life." In that vein, the five sovereign tribal governments of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, Zuni Tribe, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo Nation delivered a formal proposal in October requesting U.S. President Barack Obama exercise his authority via the Antiquities Act to designate the Bears Ears a national monument.

Our proposal combines both Western science and Traditional Knowledge in establishing something never accomplished before; true collaborative management between the United States government and five Indian Nations. It has the potential to shape intergovernmental cooperation throughout the country and the world, as we help turn back the tide of the exploitation that injures us all.

This came from local tribal members' years of work living in southeastern Utah. In 2012 local tribal members tried to work with local county officials and Congressional leaders to protect Bears Ears. This effort was intended to participate in the Utah Congressional Public Lands Initiative aimed at resolving some of Utah's most challenging public land disputes, due in part to proposed development through mining and energy extraction.

After having their input routinely pushed to the side or not considered altogether, these leaders shifted their attention to neighboring tribes who also maintain traditional relationships with the Bears Ears. Responding to the injustice sustained, the people's torch was willfully handed to our



unified governments. In doing so, we evoke and elevate our people's rights to a true government-to-government relationship, an even stage earned on the backs of our ancestors.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition stands with our people. Our intention is to preserve and protect our ability to heal as a people. The land must be able to provide for a healthy and satisfying life now and into the future. Our children-all of our children-depend on it.

*Eric Descheenie is an adviser to the Navajo Nation president and Alfred Lomahquahu is vice chairman of the Hopi Tribe. They co-chair the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.*

## Editorial: Obama should create a Bears Ears National Monument

Published: April 24, 2016 08:37PM

Updated: April 24, 2016 12:51PM

Just about everyone who spoke at Wednesday's meeting of the Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands was arguing for President Obama to order the creation of a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah.

So that is exactly what Obama should do.

Most of the support for the monument proposal came from the overflow audience, which included regular citizens, environmental activists and, most importantly, representatives of Utah Dine Bikeyah and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition which is comprised of five tribes including the Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, Uinta-Ouray Ute and the Navajo Nation.

Most of the opposition came from the members of the misnamed commission. But the attitude of commission members who so fiercely stand against the idea was so dismissive, uninformed and short-sighted that they were actually, if inadvertently, making the case for Obama to unsheath the federal Antiquities Act and make a specific preservation plan for the area that is sacred to so many Native Americans, individually and as members of a collection of nations.

The unreasoning devotion to the idea that the Bears Ears region, and the rest of the 31 million acres of federal land within Utah's boundaries ought to belong to the state of Utah or private developers dominates the commission, the Legislature, the office of Gov. Gary Herbert and the narrow wing of the Republican Party that bestrides its caucus and convention system.

That argument might have some practical and ethical standing if there was even a glimmer of understanding shown by state officials that preservation is, in so many cases, in the long-term interests of Utahns, both native and newcomer.

If there was any appreciation of the fact that the Bears Ears area includes thousands of scientifically and culturally significant sites.

If there was any hint that our leaders grasp the fact that decisions made about this and other national monuments, parks and wilderness areas aren't about Utah. They aren't about the few who rule over the many in the Legislature or on the San Juan County Commission. They aren't even really about the United States of America.

They are about natural and cultural heritage and treasures that belong to all humanity. That the United States, by accidents of history and geography, happens to own that land and owns the duty to care for it in ways that make it available, first to the descendants of those who lived there millennia ago, then to the rest of us.

The borders on the white man's maps — counties, states, nations — matter little except to assign responsibilities. They do not convey or imply the right of those who happen to live on one side of some of those borders to covet and exploit these lands for their own short-term political and economic gain.

The president has held off any plans he may have on protecting Bears Ears or any other portions of Utah in deference to the Public Lands Initiative put together by Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

But, after years of back and forth, and much outcry from the Navajo and others that their concerns were not heeded, the PLI has yet to be introduced a bill. If it were put before Congress, there is little indication that, with so much opposition from the tribes and environmental groups from across the nation, it would have a chance to become law.

Thus should Obama end the delay, the bickering and the suspense and create the Bears Ears National Monument.



(Al Hartmann | Tribune file photo) Rainstone forms at the end of the day in Clark Canyon Wilderness in San Juan County. The area is included for a proposed Bears Ears National Conservation Area.

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## As Utah lawmakers prepare to protest Bears Ears Monument, new poll finds 71 percent support its creation

By BRIAN MAFFLY | The Salt Lake Tribune  
First Published 5/17/2016

Despite the intense opposition to a Bears Ears national monument from Utah political leaders, a new poll indicates more than two-thirds of Utah residents support such a designation to protect the archaeologically rich region in San Juan County.

The Creation Justice Ministries, a Christian-based group that seeks to protect spiritually significant places, sponsored the state-wide telephone survey of 500 voters, which found support for a monument out-pollled opposition 71 to 20 percent.

"Voters value protecting cliff dwellings, Mormon pioneer artifacts, and other unique historic sites from looters. They want to continue enjoying recreational activities, conserve wildlife habitat, and provide opportunities for families and children to spend time together and explore nature," said Shantha Ready Alonso, the Washington, D.C.-based group's executive director on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, Utah lawmakers, surrounded by five Utah Navajos on the Capitol steps, are expected to renew their opposition to the creation of a national monument for Bears Ears, a move President Barack Obama is widely assumed to be considering as his tenure comes to an end.

"Utah shouldn't have another national monument, unilaterally created and without legislative approval or local input from those who will be most affected by this decision," said Rep. Keven Stratton, R-Orem, in a press statement. "Utah already has seven national monuments and five national parks and the creation of yet another monument could exacerbate the lack of economic development and opportunity that already exists in one of Utah's most economically distressed regions."

The dueling press conferences come on the eve of the Utah Legislature's special session, where lawmakers are expected to pass a resolution imploring Obama to not designate any monument in Utah under the Antiquities Act without legislative approval. Despite numerous monument endorsements from Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute and other tribal leaders, lawmakers allege tribal support is a "charade" manufactured by groups fronting for environmentalists.

That charge was repeated Monday by U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, when he spoke on the TribTalk, The Salt Lake Tribune's online public affairs video chat.

He dismissed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition as "an outside group funded by outside resources, and their call for a monument is the opposite of what would be most beneficial."

Bishop claimed a national monument designation would carry all sorts of land-use restrictions and would prevent tribal members from playing an active role in management.

"The coalition is proposing a plan of management that is totally unworkable and would lead to a great deal of disappointment," he said. "Their hunting and gathering practice are in conflict with the nature of a



monument. Once you have a monument you turn over all sorts of operational control to the land manager. There has not been a monument where the types of gathering techniques they want are allowable. It is specifically allowed in our conservation efforts."

The House Natural Resources Committee chairman, Bishop is the chief architect of the Utah Public Lands Initiative, which he says offers a compromise between development and conservation in seven eastern Utah counties and proposes a national conservation area (NCA) for Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears Buttes.

Bishop said he expects to introduce the bill—in the works for three years—into Congress "very, very soon."

A "unilateral" monument designation from Obama could derail the entire process, Bishop said.

"There is no local buy-in," Bishop said. "There is no one who lives in that area who wants a monument. You have to go at least a five-hour drive away from that area to find someone who wants a monument."

That assertion is ridiculous, according to leaders of Utah Dine Bikeyah, the grass-roots tribal group that began developing the Bears Ears conservation initiative in 2010. They say they have engaged at least 7,000 tribal members who live in or near San Juan County and have seen minimal opposition to a monument. Supporters include Utah Navajo Nation Council's two Utah delegates, Herman Daniels and Davis Filfred; and Ute Mountain Ute tribal council members Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk and Malcolm Lehi.

The polling that documented broad monument support was conducted between May 11 and 14 and has a margin of error of 4.38 percent.

"Voters throughout Utah overwhelmingly support increased protection for existing public lands in the Bears Ears region," said pollster Lori Weigel of Public Opinion Strategies. "Support for designating these public lands as a national monument is broad-based across age, gender, religion, political party and geographic regions of the state." Even among Republicans and sportsmen, the poll found 63 and 65 percent, respectively, support a monument designation.

But Utah lawmakers and Gov. Gary Herbert profess a visceral opposition to a monument, a feeling is widely shared among rural county commissioners, who say a monument would wreak economic havoc.

Pro-monument voices say political leaders are out of step with most Utahns.

"Spending time in God's good creation nourishes the body, mind and spirit," said the Rev. Genny Rowley, who's a Baptist chaplain at University of Utah Hospital and is a board member of Creation Justice Ministries.

"Utahns understand how precious the integrity of creation is, as reflected in these poll numbers. The proposed Bear's Ears National Monument supports this widely held value."

Brian Maffly covers public lands for The Salt Lake Tribune. Maffly can be reached at [bmaffly@sltrib.com](mailto:bmaffly@sltrib.com) or 801-257-8713. Twitter: [@brianmaffly](https://twitter.com/brianmaffly)

## Op-ed: Protect Bears Ears before the grave robbers have taken it all

By Kevin T. Jones  
Published: May 8, 2016 04:08PM  
Updated: May 7, 2016 01:11PM

I had been told of an alcove that held a small, sheltered archaeological site up a canyon west of Blanding, Utah. One morning I hiked up the bottom of the wash, scrambling over tumbled boulders and slogging through loose sandy gravel in the dry creekbed. Brightening light showed that the canyon widened just ahead, and as I rounded an angular, upturned boulder, the ceiling of an alcove arched above me. I had reached the site.

Images of what appeared to be bighorn sheep pecked into the sandstone seemed to frolic and dance. A crumbling portion of an ancient wall butted against the cliff and came straight out, the only remnant of a former room. And just below the wall, undercutting it, contributing to its ongoing demise, was a gaping wound, a ragged hole torn from the quiet strata that made up this ancient site. Looters had been here. Vandals, thieves, pillagers and plunderers had ripped pieces of the past from this peaceful place. I walked to the edge of the pit, the size of an ATV, and fell to my knees.

Sand grains cascaded down the sloping edges of the hole in miniature landslides. Stones, flecks of charcoal, pockets of powdery ash and clumps of hardened clay protruded from the sides of the crudely excavated gash. Clinging to a small juniper twig was a short length of z-twist cordage, an ancient piece of string. A flake of pink chert, sharp as a knife, lay near the bottom of the hole, evidence of long ago toolmaking. A pointed sliver of calcined bone, probably from a rabbit, stuck straight up from a clump of ash. A bit of a corn cob protruded from the side of the hole, and just beneath it a flash of orange caught my eye — a fragment of a feather, with a tiny knot of cordage clinging to its shaft.

And then I saw it. A tiny bone, not much bigger than a small paper clip. I drew in my breath, wondering. And next to it, others, and I knew. Wrist and finger bones. The bones from a person's hand. A small person. A child's hand. The looters had dug into a grave. A child's grave. The place where years ago a family had placed the body of their dear child, perhaps with some special, meaningful family heirlooms to accompany her, to keep her safe. And now thieves had dug her up and stolen from her. Desecrated her. Sadness darkened the entire canyon.

Who was this child? Does anyone remember her? Is her existence completely forgotten? Are the offerings her family placed with her at the end of her short life displayed in someone's living room? This beloved child deserves more than to have her bones scattered by looters lusting for some ancient goodie to show others, or to sell for a pittance.

Looting is a regular occurrence in the Bears Ears region and, according to archaeologists who patrol the area, is on the increase. First protected by the Antiquities Act and later by other statutes, heritage resources lure the lowest of thieves, the worst kinds of profit-seekers — grave robbers. Without increased protection and rigorous pursuit and prosecution of looters and collectors, the legacy of the ancient ones, the heritage of today's tribal people, will be shamelessly destroyed.

Utah's First District Rep. Rob Bishop hates the Antiquities Act and has stated that all who support it should die. He and his colleagues demean the motives of tribes that seek to protect the Bears Ears. They vilify those who wish to protect this unique and immensely beautiful region. They see antiquities as an impediment to development and profiteering, and turn a blind eye to grave robbing and looting.

Unlike their representatives, Utahns support protection and preservation of ancient places. Because of that, I add my voice to the chorus of tribes and citizens imploring President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create the Bears Ears National Monument and stop the hateful, purposeful destruction of this anointed place.

Kevin T. Jones is the former state archaeologist of Utah. He lives in Salt Lake City.



(Kevin Jones, Courtesy photo)



# A VISION FOR A BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

THE TIME IS NOW





# Landscape Conservation:

## *A Powerful Path to Healing*

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is a formal intergovernmental body of five sovereign tribal governments: Navajo, Hopi, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni. The purpose of the coalition is to protect 1.9 million acres of outstanding federal public lands around the Bears Ears Buttes in southeastern Utah. The best method of protecting these lands is through a national monument designation using the Antiquities Act of 1906.



The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal to protect Bears Ears National Monument is historic. This is the first time in the 110-year history of the Antiquities Act that tribes have directly petitioned the president of the United States for a national monument designation. The tribally developed proposal includes a call for groundbreaking, coequal federal inter-tribal collaborative management that is consistent with existing federal laws while also respectful of our fundamental indigenous laws that govern life.

Protection of Bears Ears will help secure a strong legacy for future generations of all Americans. In the closing months of the Obama administration, the time for action is now.

*"When you look at things, objects—who is a thing? A non-living being? But that's what the Antiquities Act protects. It protects history which is a sense of space and time, and it protects objects, antiquities. But there is something here that is so much more than just objects, so much more than just things. Conservation is important, but it is different from indigenous truth. These places—the rocks, the wind, the land—they are living, breathing things. How absurd does it sound to say that a rock is actually alive? When you look through the lens of an indigenous person, this is how we understand reality."*

- Eric Descheenie, Navajo





# Bears Ears National Monument An Introduction

The proposed Bears Ears National Monument is a landscape rich in history and culture. It is a place to connect, a place to heal, and a place where Native American Traditional Knowledge can be explored and nurtured so that it continues to inform and illuminate contemporary life. We must protect this extraordinary area for our tribes, for all Native people, and for our nation as a whole.



The proposed 1.9 million acre national monument is a landscape of high mountain peaks; deep, sinuous canyons; long, broken mesas; astounding arches; and stately redrock cliffs, spires, and hoodoos. The monument's namesake, the Bears Ears, are twin buttes in the heart of this landscape, which rise high above the piñon-juniper woodlands and the canyons that bisect majestic Cedar Mesa. Bears Ears lies in southeastern Utah, north of the Navajo Nation and the San Juan River, east of the Colorado River, and west of the lands of the Ute Mountain Ute at White Mesa. The proposed boundary of Bears Ears National Monument extends adjacent to Canyonlands National Park, and this landscape is every bit the equal of the Colorado Plateau's celebrated parks and monuments.

The Bears Ears area has been important to Native American people as a homeland since time immemorial. Native American people were violently removed from the area between the mid-1800s and the 1920s, when they were forcibly marched to reservations. But the Native bond to Bears Ears remains strong, and today this place embodies our collective indigenous history. Today Native American people continue to use the Bears Ears area as a place of healing—to perform ceremonies, to hunt, and to gather firewood, plants, and medicinal herbs.

When we return to Bears Ears, Native Americans feel the presence of, and are surrounded by, the spirits of our ancestors. We are embraced by the ongoing evolution of our culture and traditions. This landscape records our ancestors' migration routes and our long habitation. An unparalleled concentration of cultural sites is evident here, including ancient roads, great houses, villages, granaries, hogans, wickiups, sweat lodges, corrals, petroglyphs and pictographs, tipi rings, shade houses, and burial grounds. Bears Ears is a place for healing as well as a place for teaching our children—Native American children and the world's children—about meaningful and lasting connections with these sacred and storied lands.

But our collective history and future is threatened—by destructive land uses such as mining and irresponsible off-road vehicle use, and by the rampant looting, vandalism, and desecration of the villages, structures, rock art, and gravesites within the Bears Ears landscape. The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is a bold and inspired plan to prevent further erosion of culture by protecting Bears Ears for the benefit of the land, the plants and animals, and all people.



# The Urgency to Protect Bears Ears

## *Multiple Threats Imperil the Landscape*

### 1) **Halt Looting, Desecration, and Grave Robbing**

Bears Ears is being actively pillaged now. Rock art panels are being vandalized, gravesites dug up, and thousands of years of human history erased. At least two dozen serious incidents have been reported in the last two years, with at least six new incidents in just the first four months of 2016. Many other cases of looting and damage go unreported, and most go unprosecuted.

### 2) **Reduce Threats from Irresponsible Development**

Oil and gas development and potash and uranium mining threaten the land and the spiritual integrity of the region. These threats are real, and they are urgent. Bears Ears is worth more than oil, potash, or uranium. A national monument designation will protect this region from new mining and development leases. Once disturbed or destroyed, the irreplaceable cultural resources and outstanding recreational opportunities found here cannot be replaced.

### 3) **Improve Management of Off-road Vehicles**

Disrespectful ATV operation is causing substantial impacts to natural and cultural resources within Bears Ears. When visitors drive off-road, departing from designated roads and trails, they can damage cultural sites, destroy fragile desert soils, and detract from the experience of other visitors. Significant, far-reaching, and long-lasting damage has already been caused by decades of irresponsible use. New protections for Bears Ears will lead to better management of off-road vehicles, safeguarding important cultural sites and improving the experience of everyone who visits—including responsible off-road vehicle riders.

### 4) **Educate and Inform Visitors**

Visitation to Bears Ears is growing, and many don't understand the damage inflicted on cultural sites when visitors choose to enter, sit on, or lean on structures, bring dogs and metal-tipped hiking poles into sites, or illegally remove artifacts. Some visitors believe they aren't hurting anyone by scratching their initials into a rock art panel or taking home a piece of pottery to remember their trip. Such disrespect is not only illegal, it will increase with more visitation if individuals are not educated. Many sacred sites are disappearing one building stone, one ancient corncob, or one pot sherd at a time. National monument designation will allow for enhanced visitor education and more resources for management, helping protect the past—and future—of Bears Ears.

*"We don't want to disturb the final resting places of our ancestors, and to think that objects that may have been buried with them could be brought up. We would never do that to a family plot or a graveyard anywhere else."*

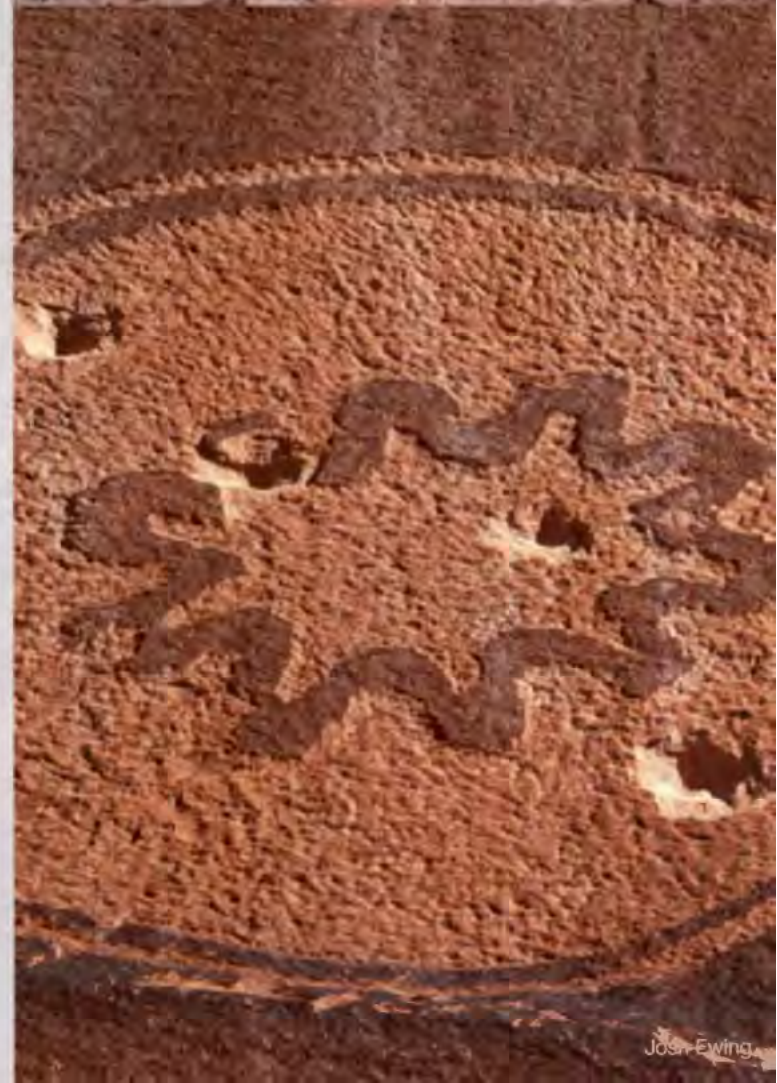
*- Regina Lopez - Whiteskunk,  
Ute, Uintah and Weeminuche bands*



Tim Peterson



Tim Peterson

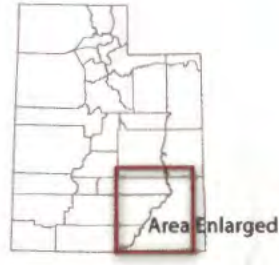


Josh Ewing

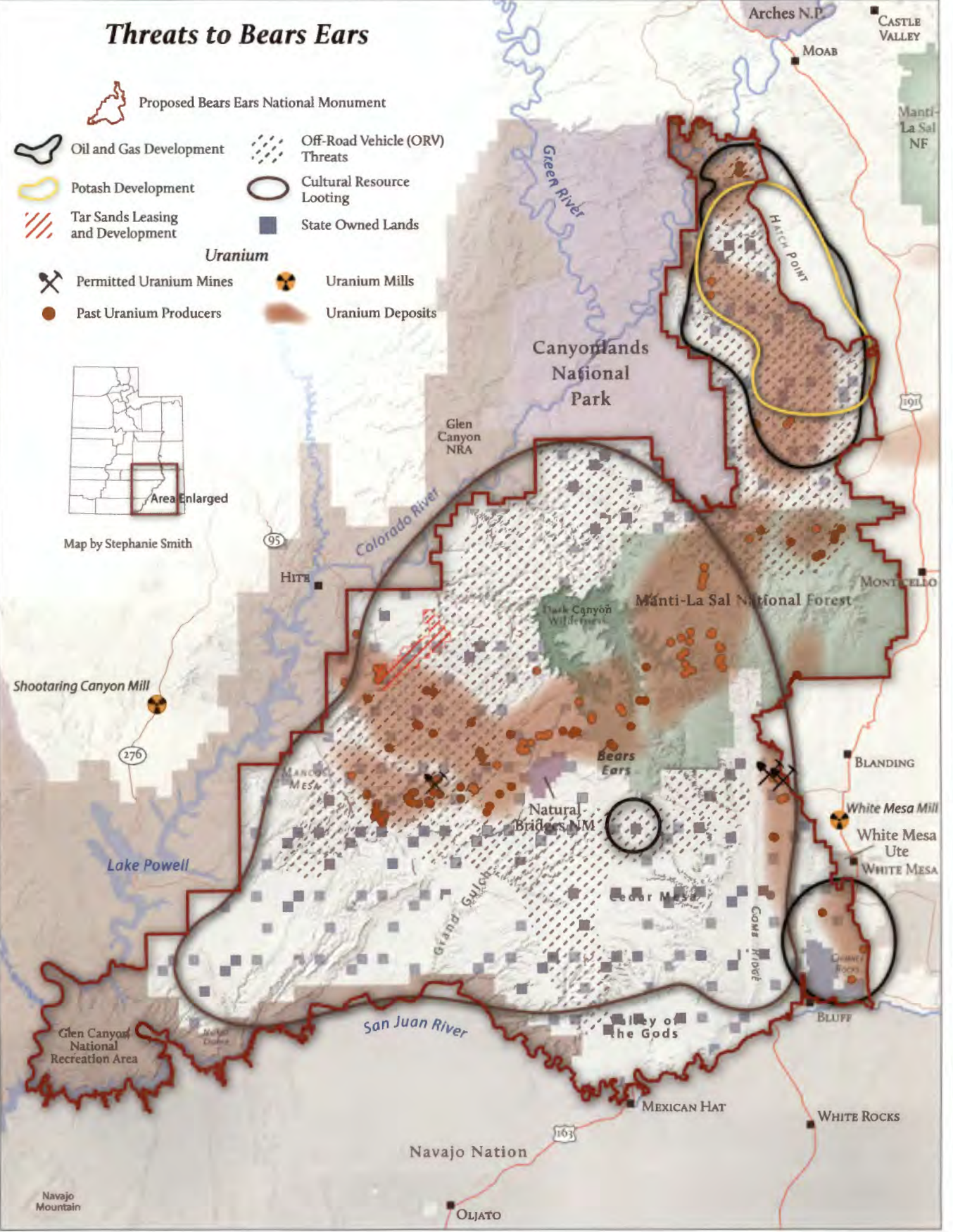


# Threats to Bears Ears

-  Proposed Bears Ears National Monument
-  Oil and Gas Development
-  Potash Development
-  Tar Sands Leasing and Development
-  Permitted Uranium Mines
-  Past Uranium Producers
-  Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Threats
-  Cultural Resource Looting
-  State Owned Lands
-  Uranium
-  Uranium Mills
-  Uranium Deposits










Map by Stephanie Smith



Navajo Mountain

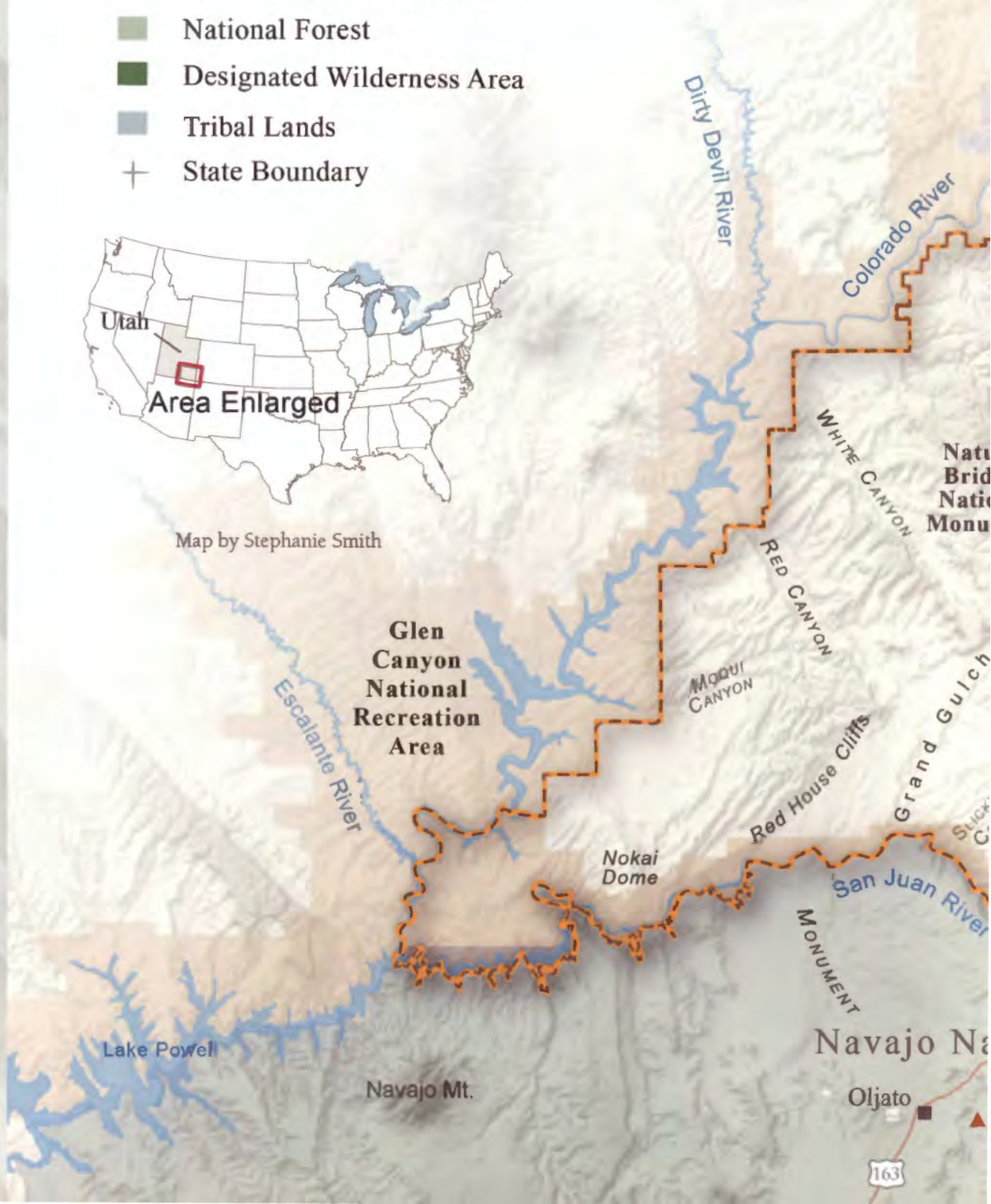


# Proposed Bears Ears National Monument

-  Monument Proposal Boundary
-  National Parks and Monuments
-  National Recreation Areas
-  National Forest
-  Designated Wilderness Area
-  Tribal Lands
-  State Boundary



Map by Stephanie Smith











# Bears Ears

## *An Inspiring Initiative for the Future*

Tim Peterson

### In keeping with its mission, the inter-tribal coalition advances the following objectives:

To assure that the Bears Ears area will be managed forever with the greatest environmental sensitivity, healing the land to make it a place where Native Americans can be among our ancestors and our songs and wisdom;

To honor and respect the deepest values of Native Americans, where the traumas of the past can be alleviated, where we can all connect with the land and be healed;

To honor the historical and contemporary relationship between Native Americans and the natural world of Bears Ears;

To protect and preserve, for future generations of all people, the natural features, beauty, and inspiration found in the extraordinary Bears Ears landscape;

To bring to light, through research, public outreach, and actual practice, the many aspects and values of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in its fullest sense as a philosophy, a cultural tradition, and a useful tool for enriching modern land management; and

To make Bears Ears a monument to all of these values that speaks to the finest dreams of Native Americans, and of all people of the nation and the world.

- 1) True federal/inter-tribal coequal collaborative management including representatives from the five tribes and the federal land management agencies who will cooperatively develop a culturally and environmentally sensitive management plan for the monument, and then carry out that management;
- 2) The integration of Traditional Knowledge into the monument's land management practices, including the creation of a world-class Bears Ears Traditional Knowledge Institute, where experts and lay people alike can learn from the rich intersection of Western and traditional Native world views;
- 3) Expanded law enforcement capacity to safeguard historic sites and Native American antiquities, finally putting

an end to inexcusable, centuries-long grave robbing, looting, and destruction of some of the most precious archaeological sites in the world;

- 4) A permanent withdrawal from mining covering all lands within the monument, and withdrawal from all other forms of leasing, selections, sales, exchange, and disposition, other than those exchanges that further the purposes of the monument;
- 5) Elevation of Native American cultural activities and sustainable resource use within the monument including conducting of ceremonies, collection of firewood, and the harvesting of medicines, herbs, wildlife, and other culturally significant materials;

- 6) Management of motorized vehicle use to designated roads and trails, consistent with the purposes of the monument and with a transportation plan that prioritizes pristine and roadless areas within the monument;
- 7) The continuation of existing, compatible local uses such as grazing, hunting, climbing, and other forms of recreation;
- 8) Boundaries encompassing 1.9 million acres to protect the area's unparalleled cultural antiquities as well as the ecological integrity of the region;
- 9) Management of recreational activities and other uses to allow for the continued enjoyment of the Bears Ears landscape in ways that honor and preserve its legacy for the public, forever.



Jonathan Bailey



Whit Richardson





# Values Worth Protecting in Bears Ears National Monument

Bears Ears Coalition  
file photo

Bears Ears Coalition  
file photo

Tim Peterson

It is a wonder that Bears Ears has not already received permanent federal protection as a national park, a national monument, or wilderness. Bears Ears is located on the magnificent Colorado Plateau, which is world-famous for its parks and monuments, including Arches, Canyonlands, Zion, and Mesa Verde. The Bears Ears landscape is one of the most ecologically intact regions in the continental United States; it is equal to any existing park or monument and should be protected as such. Speaking of the rugged western edge of Bears Ears, Wallace Stegner wrote that “to start a trip at Mexican Hat, Utah, is to start off into empty space from the end of the world.” He added that there is good reason to go there, for a trip into the redrock expanses of Bears Ears country will “fill up the eye and overflow the soul.” But the most profound aspect of Bears Ears is the Native presence that has blended into every cliff and corner.

## Archaeology, Cultural and Historical Resources

Since time immemorial, many cultures have inhabited, traveled through, and constructed civilizations upon these lands. Bears Ears is truly a cultural landscape—home to more than 100,000 cultural sites. A wider slice of history is better preserved here than anywhere else in the world, giving visitors a tangible glimpse deep into the past.

Bears Ears is a foundational region in the history of archaeological research in America. Late in the 19th century, amateur archaeologist Richard Wetherill coined the now famous term “Basketmaker” for the people who lived in this area from 500 BC to 750 AD. Yet, the historical record documented by Western archaeologists here stretches back much further. The best example of a site from the ancient Clovis culture in Utah, dating back 12,500 years, is found here in Bears Ears. Rock art panels and archaeological sites from the Archaic Period, 6000 BC to 2000 BC, document

a long period of hunting and gathering before agriculture. The earliest evidence of Basketmaker peoples keeping turkeys is found here, as are ancient roads linking the great cultural center at Chaco Canyon with the northernmost Chacoan great house in Utah. Bears Ears is home to what may be the oldest rock art image in North America, the Mammoth Petroglyph. Hogans, sweat lodges, tipi rings, wikiups, structures, and rock art left by the Navajo, Paiute, and Ute people are found here as well.

More recently, Latter Day Saint (Mormon) settlers left historic traces of trails, cabins, trading posts, and corrals that are still evident today. The harrowing San Juan Expedition along the Hole-in-the-Rock trail from Escalante to Bluff, Utah in 1879-80 stands as one of the most heroic treks in the story of European settlement in the American West. Most of these historic and cultural sites have never been inventoried or studied by Western archaeologists, and their preservation is important to all the peoples of the world. The Bears Ears landscape remains vital to Native Americans across the Colorado Plateau today as a place of subsistence, spirituality, healing, and contemplation.

## Paleontology

The Bears Ears region contains a unique glimpse into the history of the Earth’s plants and animals. Rocks and fossils here tell us about our early relatives: the near-mammal synapsids. Fossils from the Late Triassic, Upper Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods contain vestiges of Allosaurus, Diplodocus, and Stegosaurus dinosaurs. The remains of Ice Age animals have been found here too, while packrat middens in alcoves and crevices within canyons provide important glimpses into how the climate has changed over the last 12,000 years.

Paleontologists have already seen damage to these priceless and irreplaceable fossil sites. Fossil bones have been sawed out of

the rock by vandals and thieves, and fossil trackways have been stolen or irreparably damaged by people attempting to make molds or casts of them. The secrets that these sites and specimens contain are our only insight into the vanished past. Bears Ears’ paleontological record can help build a picture of the ancient Earth for all human beings to understand and appreciate. National monument status for Bears Ears will help protect these irreplaceable treasures for future generations.

## Recreation

Though the Bears Ears remains remote, it hosts some of the best recreation opportunities in the American Southwest. Adventure abounds here, from the best crack climbing in the world at Indian Creek to more dispersed climbing at Valley of the Gods. Singletrack biking in the Abajo Mountains and long haul riding in Lockhart Basin make Bears Ears a significant mountain biking destination. Canyoneering in the Black Hole of White Canyon and many other drainages is world-class. Travelers come from around the world to backpack in Grand Gulch. Floating the San Juan River from Sand Island to Clay Hills is a bucket-list family raft trip. National monument status for Bears Ears will help preserve the wild and free character of this singular place. Recreational resources will be better managed, helping ensure that these landscapes will remain uncompromised and incomparable for generations of outdoor enthusiasts to come.



Tim Peterson/LightHawk





Tim Peterson

# Unified in Support of a Bears Ears National Monument

Native American support for Bears Ears is strong and overwhelmingly unified. Local Native American elders who live adjacent to the Bears Ears proposal drew the boundaries and described their conservation desires beginning in 2010. In 2012, grassroots leaders from each Native community in San Juan County, Utah formed the Utah Diné Bikéyah organization to advance the Bears Ears proposal and protect traditional ways of life for Native people. The five sovereign nations of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (Navajo, Hopi, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni) are

now leading this effort and have all passed formal letters or resolutions in support of designating Bears Ears National Monument.

Twenty-one additional Native American tribes with ancestral and contemporary ties to the Bears Ears region have officially expressed their support for the inter-tribal coalition's proposal to protect this living cultural landscape. The National Congress of American Indians, which represents an additional 225 tribes, passed a resolution supporting presidential proclamation of Bears Ears National Monument.

Six of the seven Navajo chapter houses (the local Navajo governing bodies) in Utah have passed resolutions in favor of protecting Bears Ears, and the Navajo Nation Council is unanimous in its support as well. Grassroots Native communities in Utah, on the Ute and Navajo reservations, express that support is strong and unified. A broad majority of Utahns also support Bears Ears: the 2016 State of the Rockies poll found 66% of Utahns favor designation of Bears Ears as a new national monument. The time has come to protect Bears Ears.

*"The idea of being a family, all together, one direction, is stronger than individual efforts. The unity of the group fuses all tribes in the future. It's not just for us to get healed. It's for our adversaries to be healed too. We can come out dancing together."*  
- Willie Grayeyes, Navajo

*"Using our oral history with the scientific archaeology findings, it is evident that our ancestors did indeed inhabit the surrounding Bears Ears area at one point in time. To exemplify the scientific finding, our migration history, our songs and prayers that we practice today do reference that area."*  
- Phillip Vicenti and Octavius Seowtewa, Zuni

*"The Hopis don't see ruins as being 'abandoned,' because the spiritual people still reside there. They're still in our memory. They're still in our ceremonies. We don't see the ruins being just cultural resources. They were a part of our lives. Grandmothers were there. Kids were there. Everything was very vibrant, perhaps harsh, but people lived there."*  
- Leigh Kuwanwisiuma, Hopi

*"We still have our connection here, and although we are in another state, but to us, there are no state boundaries, no time boundaries. We continue to honor those people who gave us our culture and our language."*  
- Joseph Suina, Cochiti

*"My grandmother told me the story about how my grandfather took them hunting for deer around Bears Ears. My family members still hunt [in] the area near Bears Ears and I was taught the different medicinal plants; this was my classroom, I am now a Navajo traditional herbalist."*  
- Ruby Ross, Navajo

*"We can still hear the songs and prayers of our ancestors on every mesa and in every canyon."*  
- Malcolm Lebi, Ute, Weeminuche Band

## Tribes in Support

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Navajo Nation          | Pojoaque,            |
| Hopi Tribe             | Sandia,              |
| Ute Mountain Ute Tribe | San Felipe,          |
| Ute Indian Tribe,      | San Ildefonso,       |
| Hualapai Tribe         | Santa Ana,           |
| Goshute Tribe          | Santa Clara,         |
| Pueblos of Acoma,      | Santo Domingo,       |
| Cochiti,               | Taos,                |
| Isleta,                | Tesuque,             |
| Jemez,                 | Ysleta Del Sur,      |
| Laguna,                | Zia, and             |
| Nambé,                 | Zuni                 |
| Ohkay Owingeh,         | National Congress    |
| Picuris,               | of American Indians. |



Bears Ears Coalition file photo



# The Region to the Native Eye



Map by Stephanie Smith

*"This map doesn't have any state lines or boundaries, and that's for a reason. Because the way we're taught, no one owns the land. Our grandparents never knew the lines. We have reservations not because we requested them—those were lines and boundaries written and prescribed by the federal government.*

*We're making a request, but what we're also putting on the table are some solutions."*

*- Regina Lopez - Whiteskunk, Ute*



*Bears Ears is such an important part of history. The blood that was in the veins of the people that lived there thousands of years ago, their blood is in my veins also. I look at some things, and I see 'that's why I am the way I am,' because of these things that my ancestors left on the walls, that they left the places near springs and along the rivers—those were left for me and future generations. There are still many beautiful stories to be told.*

*- Jim Enote, Zuni*



**Learn more and support the tribes in protecting the Bears Ears cultural landscape by signing the petition at [www.ProtectBearsEars.org](http://www.ProtectBearsEars.org)**



THIRTEEN-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD FOOTPRINTS · SEARCHING FOR THE LOST COLONY · ANCIENT RELIGION

FALL 2016

# american archaeology

a quarterly publication of The Archaeological Conservancy

Vol. 20 No. 3

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Vol. 20 No. 3

## COVER FEATURE

### 12 THE BEARS EARS CONTROVERSY

BY JULIAN SMITH

*Opinions differ on how to protect thousands of archaeological sites in southeast Utah.*

### 22 STEPPING INTO THE PAST

BY TOM KOPPEL

*Archaeologists have discovered 13,000-year-old human footprints on a remote island in western Canada.*

### 30 A TALE OF TWO CITIES

BY KRISTIN OHLSON

*Archaeologists working in southern Mexico believe religion worked for and against political and social unification in ancient times.*

### 36 LOOKING FOR THE LOST COLONY

BY PAULA NEELY

*What became of 118 people who vanished from the New World's first English settlement?*

### 43 THE SEARCH FOR A LEGENDARY SHIP

BY ALEXANDRA WITZE

*A group of volunteers could be on the verge of identifying Capt. Cook's Endeavour.*

### 48 point acquisition A GLIMPSE OF THE VIRGIN ANASAZI

*The Conservancy's new acquisition in Utah could help archaeologists understand a little-known prehistoric group.*

### 2 LAY OF THE LAND

### 3 LETTERS

### 5 EVENTS

### 7 IN THE NEWS

- Evidence Of Spanish And Native Religious Interaction
- Ancient Tobacco Usage
- Sixteenth-Century Spanish Fort Discovered

### 50 FIELD NOTES

### 52 REVIEWS

### 54 EXPEDITIONS

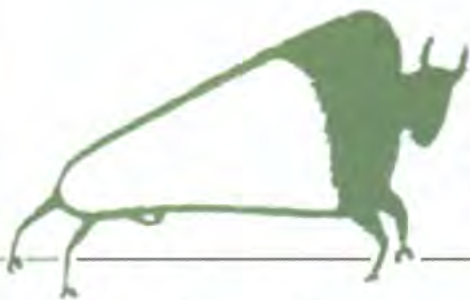


**COVER:** This is one of the numerous Ancestral Pueblo cliff dwellings found in the Bears Ears region. Many of these archaeological sites are unprotected.

**CREDIT:** Alan Vandendriessche

View more images from our feature articles online at [www.archaeologicalconservancy.org](http://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org)





# Lay of the Land

## Protect Bears Ears

**T**he Antiquities Act of 1906 gives the President the authority to create national monuments on public lands. Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt, every president, save two, has used this authority to protect and preserve some of America's most important natural and archaeological treasures including Chaco Canyon, Devils Tower, and the Grand Canyon. In virtually every case, the creation of a new national monument was surrounded by political controversy.

In this issue of *American Archaeology* (see "The Bears Ears Controversy," page 12), we explore the debate about the proposal to create a new national monument in southeastern Utah in and around Cedar Mesa and the Bears Ears.

On one side is a coalition of Native Americans, archaeologists, and conservationists who are pressing President Obama to improve protection of this area by creating a national monument. They are being opposed by local politicians who are against new restrictions on the uses of public lands.

The area is rich in archaeology with thousands of sites spanning some 13,000 years from Paleo-Indians to Mormon pioneers. It's an area of diverse natural resources and great scenic beauty. Sadly, it is also an area of rampant looting and vandalism of archaeological sites, both for fun and for profit. Anasazi pottery can bring thousands of dollars on the black market, while looting destroys critical



LIZ LOPEZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Mark Michel, President

parts of the nation's heritage. A few years ago government raids in the area netted thousands of stolen artifacts and several big time looters and dealers, but a number of Utah politicians defended this criminal activity.

The archaeological sites of the Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa are a national treasure, and they desperately need increased protection. Creation of a national monument would be an important step in the right direction.

*Mark Michel*

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# The Archaeological Conservancy

1717 Girard Boulevard NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106-1718  
(505) 266-1540

September 21, 2016

Ms. Nikki Buffa  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Buffa:

Enclosed please find the new copy of *American Archaeology* magazine with a cover story on the Bears Ears in southeastern Utah.

We are very familiar with the fantastic cultural resources located on Cedar Mesa, and strongly support designating it as a new national monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906. Such a designation will do much to protect this very sensitive area that is under assault by looters and vandals.

I urge President Obama to take action on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Michel  
President



# Letters



## The Fate Of Kennewick Man

Thank you for the excellent News article "U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers Determines Kennewick Man Is Native American" (Summer 2016). Yesterday I sent a letter to The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers indicating my concern over the possibility of releasing these remains for secret burial.

I, of course, had no knowledge that the Corps, along with Senators Barbara Boxer and James Inhofe, was planning to circumvent the federal appeals court decision that allowed the remains to continue to be studied by qualified professionals. I think this is a real tragedy.

I want to thank you for bringing this to my attention. I have also written Boxer and included a copy of the letter I sent to the Corps. I also intend to write the Union of Concerned Scientists and ask them to get involved.

*James L. Boone  
Portland, Oregon*

## Enlightening Maps

At first glance I thought the map in the article "Searching For Etzana" (Spring 2016) looked familiar. Sure enough, I had seen it in Mark Warhus' very fine book *Another America: Native American Maps and the History of Our Land*. Warhus includes 80 maps and thoughtful commentary about how each came to be, and how all of them enlighten and enrich broader historic themes. Warhus says it is the oldest recorded Native American map and he discusses its historical context in detail.

I was pleased to learn from the *American Archaeology* article how recent archeological discoveries and translations provided new ideas and insights into this community. I look forward to subsequent articles.

*Richard Reid  
Salem, Oregon*

## American Archaeology welcomes your letters.

Write to us at 1717 Girard Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106, or send us e-mail at [tacmag@nm.net](mailto:tacmag@nm.net). We reserve the right to edit and publish letters in the magazine's Letters department as space permits. Please include your name, address, and telephone number with all correspondence, including e-mail messages.

american archaeology



## Editor's Corner

In 1585, more than twenty years before the establishment of Jamestown, Sir Walter Raleigh dispatched 107 men to what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina to explore the area and construct a fort. The men established the first English settlement in the New World. But being a New World colonist was, as you might imagine, one of life's more challenging occupations. Nine months into their jobs, beset by various problems, the men quit, catching a ride back to England with Sir Francis Drake.

The original colonists were succeeded by another group—118 men, women, and children—in 1587. This attempt was not only short lived, but shrouded in mystery. The colony failed, the colonists disappeared. The whys and wherefores are to this day unknown. In our feature "Looking For The Lost Colony," (see page 36), we tell of the longstanding efforts to solve this great mystery.

The First Colony Foundation is a nonprofit organization focused on understanding North Carolina's, and America's, beginnings through archaeological and historical research. Much of their work is devoted to finding the Lost Colony. The FCF has assembled a team of researchers that investigates archaeological sites and scrutinizes historical texts in search of clues. The archaeologists, for their part, have been excavating Fort Raleigh National Historic Site on Roanoke Island, as well as other places in the region. They've uncovered traces of the colonists on the island and inland, but for now the centuries-long mystery remains unsolved.

*Michael Bawaya*



## WELCOME TO THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY!

The Archaeological Conservancy is the only national nonprofit organization that identifies, acquires, and preserves the most significant archaeological sites in the United States. Since its beginning in 1980, the Conservancy has preserved more than 505 sites across the nation, ranging in age from the earliest habitation sites in North America to a 19th-century frontier army post. We are building a national system of archaeological preserves to ensure the survival of our irreplaceable cultural heritage.

### Why Save Archaeological Sites?

The ancient people of North America left virtually no written records of their cultures. Clues that might someday solve the mysteries of prehistoric America are still missing, and when a ruin is destroyed by looters, or leveled for a shopping center, precious information is lost. By permanently preserving endangered ruins, we make sure they will be here for future generations to study and enjoy.

### How We Raise Funds:

Funds for the Conservancy come from membership dues, individual contributions, corporations, and foundations. Gifts and bequests of money, land, and securities are fully tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Planned giving provides donors with substantial tax deductions and a variety of beneficiary possibilities. For more information, call Mark Michel at (505) 266-1540.

### The Role of the Magazine:

*American Archaeology* is the only popular magazine devoted to presenting the rich diversity of archaeology in the Americas. The purpose of the magazine is to help readers appreciate and understand the archaeological wonders available to them, and to raise their awareness of the destruction of our cultural heritage. By sharing new discoveries, research, and activities in an enjoyable and informative way, we hope we can make learning about ancient America as exciting as it is essential.

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## ◆ NEW EXHIBITS



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

### National Museum of the American Indian

Gustav Heye Center, New York, N.Y.—“Ceramica de los Ancestros: Central America’s Past Revealed” is a bilingual exhibition that explores the ancestral heritage of Central America from 1000 a.c. to the recent past. The exhibit examines seven regions representing distinct Central American cultural areas that are today part of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The featured ceramics are augmented with significant examples of work in gold, jade, shell, and stone, illustrating the richness, complexity, and dynamic qualities of the Central American civilizations that were connected to peoples in South America, Mesoamerica, and the Caribbean through social and trade networks. (212) 514-3700, [www.nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/newyork/](http://www.nmai.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/newyork/) (Through December 2017)

### Alutiiq Museum

Kodiak, Alaska—The new exhibition “Qayat-Kayaks” explores Alutiiq maritime traditions, highlighting a rare, recently returned historic kayak to the Alutiiq from Harvard’s Peabody Museum. The vessel will be displayed opposite a kayak frame carved by one of just a handful of Alutiiq kayak builders whose knowledge has been

informed by studies of these historic boats. The kayak will be used as a tool for teaching traditional kayak-making skills, which the museum hopes to revive. Historic photographs and other artifacts related to kayaking will also be on display. (907) 486-7004, [www.alutiiqmuseum.org](http://www.alutiiqmuseum.org) (New, long-term exhibit)

### McClung Museum of Natural History & Culture

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.—In honor of Knoxville’s 225th anniversary, the new exhibit “Knoxville Unearthed: Archaeology in the Heart of the Valley” explores the city’s heritage as seen through recent archaeological discoveries. Using historic artifacts unearthed in and around Knoxville along with historical images, maps, documents, and oral histories, the exhibition tells the story of Knoxville’s development from a frontier settlement to an industrialized city. A related lecture “Knoxville Unearthed” will be offered September 20th. (865) 974-2144, <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu/exhibits/> (September 7-January 8, 2017)



### Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History

Montreal, Quebec, Canada—“Fragments of Humanity: Archaeology in Québec” is the first major exhibition dedicated entirely to Québec archaeology. Highlighting the richness and diversity of Québec’s archaeological collections, the exhibition is divided into four thematic sections relating to archaeology: ancient history; a land of trade and commerce; chronicles of daily life; and subaquatic archaeology. Some 350 significant artifacts will be featured, celebrating fifty years of archaeological discovery in Québec. A highlight of the exhibit is a rare dugout canoe made out of a single piece of wood that was discovered in the mid-1980s in a lake in Lanoulière. (514) 872-9150, [www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/](http://www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/) (Through January 8, 2017)

JACQUES BEARDSSELL





## ❖ CONFERENCES, LECTURES & FESTIVALS



### Annual Iroquois Indian Festival

September 3-4, Iroquois Indian Museum, Howes Cave, N.Y. This festival is a celebration of Iroquois creativity and self-expression that features both traditional and contemporary arts. The Sky Dancers from the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario will perform traditional Iroquois social dances, and the festival includes Iroquois story-telling, demonstrations of early technology, native foods, a children's area featuring arts and crafts activities, and staff from the museum's archaeology department that will be on hand to help identify archaeological finds and share information. (518) 296-8949, [www.iroquoismuseum.org](http://www.iroquoismuseum.org)

### Ocmulgee Indian Celebration

September 17-18, Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Ga. This event provides an opportunity to interact with people from all of the Southeastern Native cultures, as well as representatives of other tribes from throughout the nation. Over 300 artists, dancers, storytellers, musicians, and historic lifestyle demonstrators will attend. New events will include a Native stickball game demonstration. Native foods such as Indian tacos, fry bread, buffalo burgers, and roasted corn will be available. (478) 752-8257 x222, [www.nps.gov/ocmu/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ocmu/index.htm)

### Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology

September 30-October 2, McClung Museum of Natural History & Culture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. In honor of Knoxville's 225th anniversary, this year's conference theme focuses on the urban South. A Friday evening reception will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Knoxville. Paper and poster presentations will take place Saturday, with a special reception Saturday evening. A guided tour of the Blount Mansion, the home of Governor William Blount and the focus of archaeological research on enslaved African Americans, will take place Sunday morning. (865) 974-2144, <http://mcclungmuseum.wix.com/sechsa2016>

### Mogollon Archaeological Conference

October 6-8, University of Las Vegas, Nev. Hosted by the Department of Anthropology at UNLV, the conference will highlight papers and presentations related to the archaeology of the Mogollon region, including the Mogollon Rim, Mimbres, and Jornada regions, and northern Chihuahua. A reception will be held Friday evening at the Barrick Museum. (702) 895-3646, [www.unlv.edu/anthro/mogollon2016](http://www.unlv.edu/anthro/mogollon2016)

### Midwest Archaeological Conference

October 6-8, Sheraton Iowa City Hotel, Iowa City, Iowa. This year's conference includes paper presentations, posters, symposia, and general sessions, as well as a paleoethnobotany workshop. Thursday afternoon features a symposium titled "Encounters, Exchange, Entanglement—Current Perspectives on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Intercultural Interactions throughout the Western Great Lakes," which will be followed by a welcome reception. [www.midwestarchaeology.org](http://www.midwestarchaeology.org)

### Great Basin Anthropological Conference

October 6-9, the Silver Legacy, Reno, Nev. This year's conference theme is "Featured Landscapes," which touches upon a long-standing paradigm in North American archaeology that recognizes that the cultural patterns preserved in individual sites can best be interpreted when they are seen as part of the larger landscape or territories utilized by past peoples. The conference will feature symposia, paper, and poster presentations, a banquet and fieldtrips to local sites. <http://greatbasinanthropologicalassociation.org/gbac/>

### Society for Cultural Astronomy in the American Southwest Conference

October 25-29, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez, Colo. The theme for this year's conference is "Before Borders: Revealing the Greater Southwest's Ancestral Cultural Landscape." The conference will focus on subjects such as the regional interchange of ideas and culture, increasing American Indian and other indigenous people's participation in cultural anthropology and astronomy studies and research, and examining landscape archaeology along with public architecture. The conference seeks to deepen our understanding of the relationship between religion, storytelling, and practices related to cultural anthropology and astronomy across the Greater Southwest. [www.scaas.org](http://www.scaas.org)

### Southeastern Archaeological Conference

October 26-29, Classic Center, Athens, Ga. The conference will feature recent research and methods in prehistoric and historic archaeology in the Southeastern U.S. There will also be a portable X-ray fluorescence workshop in conjunction with the University of Georgia's Center for Applied Isotope Studies. [www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting)

PHOTO COURTESY OF IROQUOIS INDIAN MUSEUM



# Evidence Of Spanish And Native Religious Interaction

IN THE  
**News**



*Researchers discover Spanish and Native American spiritual iconography side by side in a Caribbean island cave.*

Christian inscriptions and symbols etched next to extensive Native American spiritual iconography deep inside a remote Caribbean cave offer new insights about religious dialogue between indigenous people and the first generation of Europeans in the New World during the sixteenth century, according to a study published this August in the journal *Antiquity*.

The unique markings were discovered in 2014 at Isla de Mona, one of the most cavernous areas in the world, by a team of British and Puerto Rican archaeologists led by Alice Samson of the University of Leicester and Jago Cooper of the British Museum.

"There is nothing else like this in the Caribbean, and possibly nowhere else in the Americas," says Samson.

Located between Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, Isla de Mona was recorded by Christopher Columbus on his second New World voyage in 1494. More than 250 indigenous drawings of geometric motifs and complex scenes of anthrozoomorphic and ancestral beings cover the walls and ceilings of chambers and tunnels in the cave's dark zone. Charcoal from two chambers was radiocarbon dated to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, indicating that they were in use shortly before the time of European colonization.

Within the same area, there are more than thirty European inscriptions that include Christograms and phrases



Two of the seventeen crosses that were incised on the walls of the cave.

in Latin and Spanish such as *Plura fecit deus* (God made many things). Over half a dozen people signed and dated the walls including Capit'an Francisco Alegre, who was an administrator in charge of Isla de Mona and other royal estates during the sixteenth century. Analysis of the forms of letters, abbreviations, and other handwriting styles of the European inscriptions dates them to the sixteenth century.

There were also seventeen crosses, including two crucifixion scenes, one of which includes two crosses flanking an indigenous Christ figure. Some of the other crosses could have been drawn by natives who were converted to Christianity, Samson says.

The cave is not easy to find and is difficult to reach. "You need to navigate through complete darkness to get to the chambers," she says. The researchers think it is likely that the natives showed Europeans the cave on multiple occasions.

The discovery reveals a European response to indigenous culture and beliefs that is not seen in documents. "The markings in the cave reflect an interest and engagement in another religion that counteract the official histories of a violent clash of belief systems," Samson says. The Spanish didn't ban visiting the cave, and rather than destroying the indigenous markings, they added to them. —Paula Neely





# Tobacco Seeds Discovered At Ice Age Site In Utah

*The discovery appears to be the oldest evidence of tobacco usage in North America.*

Archaeologists recently discovered what appear to be the oldest known tobacco seeds and possibly the earliest human use of tobacco in North America at an Ice Age campsite in Utah's Great Salt Lake Desert. Four tiny charred tobacco seeds were discovered in fill from the remains of a prehistoric hearth dated to about 12,300 years ago, according to Daron Duke, principal investigator for Far Western Anthropology Group, a cultural resource management firm.

"The evidence is compelling that people were using tobacco here," Duke says. But he is still scrutinizing the data and plans to conduct additional studies on the age of the seeds and identify the species of tobacco. Previously, the oldest tobacco seeds discovered by archaeologists were unearthed at an Arizona site dated between 387 and 205 B.C., according to the book *Tobacco Use by Native Americans, Sacred Smoke and Silent Killer*. The earliest evidence of humans smoking tobacco in North America currently dates to about A.D. 860, based on residue in pipes from a site in the Pacific Northwest. "We have a hard enough time understanding what these people ate, and now we find tobacco, which is used for its psychoactive values. It opens an interesting window into people's social lives," says Duke.

He and his colleagues discovered the hearth, a black circular smudge that was exposed by wind erosion, about a year ago during an archaeological survey at the Hill Air Force Base Utah



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY TODD CROMAR

**Daron Duke carefully cleans a large point before removing it from the ground at a site on the Utah Test and Training Range.**

Test and Training Range west of Salt Lake City. The radiocarbon dates were obtained from three pieces of charcoal. In and around the feature they also discovered small fragments of burned waterfowl bones. "It looks like people were eating waterfowl and throwing bones into and around the fire," Duke says. Flake tools, possibly used to cut open the ducks, and little flakes that may be debris from people refurbishing their tools around the hearth, were also found.

About ten feet away from the 12,300-year-old hearth, archaeologists

discovered an intact Haskett spear point roughly four inches long. "It is one of the best pairings of a Haskett point with a dated feature that anyone has," he says. Haskett points are generally thought to be no older than roughly 10,500 years, but Duke notes that the period these points were used is not well defined. Several years ago, Duke discovered fifty-five Haskett points a few hundred yards away from the hearth site that are about the same age. Blood residue on one of them was associated with mammoths or mastodons.

—Paula Neely





# Maya Royal Tomb Discovered

*New finds tell the story of epic events in Maya history.*



JAIME AWE

Archaeologists discovered the royal tomb beneath the stairs of this temple at Xunantunich.

**R**esearchers from Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the Belize Institute of Archaeology recently discovered a burial likely belonging to one of the rulers of Xunantunich, an ancient Maya city in Belize. The tomb, which contained an adult male between twenty and thirty years old with a muscular, athletic build, is one of the largest ever found in Belize.

While most Maya tombs were constructed within existing buildings, this tomb was built in a temple purposely constructed around it. "It's not every day that they would bury someone in a temple," says team leader Jaime Awe, an archaeologist with NAU. "And the temple is right in the heart of the city. This context alone strongly suggests that the occupant of the tomb was a member of the site's ruling elite."

The archaeologists also unearthed two large hieroglyphic panels in front

of the same temple. They quickly realized the panels weren't original to Xunantunich because the stone was different from that used locally, and the glyphs were of a style not seen in the area. But the two panels are similar to panels that had been part of a hieroglyphic stair erected at Caracol, a city about twenty-six miles south of Xunantunich. The entire sequence of panels, which together comprise the hieroglyphic stair, tells the history of K'an II, a king of Caracol and ally of a powerful family known as the Snake dynasty. K'an II, acting in concert with the Snake dynasty, attacked and conquered Naranjo, a city west of Xunantunich, in both A.D. 626 and 631.

About fifty years after the second battle, Naranjo gained revenge against Caracol. Afterward, Caracol's hieroglyphic stair was dismantled. Some of its panels were carried to Naranjo and reassembled out of order, so that the

narrative of Naranjo's defeat would be illegible. Three panels were brought to Xunantunich and Ucanal, which were likely Naranjo's allies. The panels were displayed as war booty and a reminder of victory over a shared enemy.

The two Xunantunich panels, combined with the Ucanal panel that was found years ago, complete the statement made on Caracol's hieroglyphic stair, which describes "both the highs and lows of the Snake dynasty as well as its origins," says Christophe Helmke, the project's epigrapher. They also provide the date, A.D. 642, when the hieroglyphic stair was probably dedicated and commissioned by K'an II.

"We're realizing how the site we're working on may have been an important player in the dramas unfolding during this time in ancient Maya history," Awe says. "Here are the Maya telling us something about their own history."

—Elizabeth Lunday





# Sixteenth-Century Spanish Fort Discovered

Researchers use remote sensing to find Fort San Marcos.



AMANDA ROBERTS THOMPSON

Chester DePratter (left) and Victor D. Thompson use a ground-penetrating radar machine at Santa Elena.

Using remote sensing technology, archaeologists recently discovered the location of Fort San Marcos on Parris Island in South Carolina. San Marcos was one of five sixteenth-century forts built at Santa Elena, the first capital of Spanish Florida. "The fort is an important part of the history of the competition for control of the New World, and the harbor was considered one of the finest in the world," says archaeologist Chester DePratter, University of South Carolina, who has searched for the fort since 1993. "It's part of the story of how the USA came to be and how this part of the world led to who we are today."

Archaeologist Stanley South discovered the remains of Santa Elena in 1979. Santa Elena was the northernmost Spanish settlement in the Americas. It was established in 1566 to thwart French exploration into the New World, and in 1571 it became the capital of Spanish La Florida. In 1576 the town was abandoned after relations with Indians deteriorated. It was reoccupied by the Spanish in 1577, when Fort San Marcos was built, but after the capital moved to St. Augustine, Santa Elena was abandoned again in 1587. According to DePratter, Santa Elena is the best-preserved sixteenth-century town in the country, in part because it is located underneath a former military golf course that has no standing structures on it.

DePratter and Victor Thompson of the University of

Georgia began surveying the area in 2014 using ground-penetrating radar, magnetic gradiometry, and soil resistivity. The researchers knew from documentary sources and previous fieldwork approximately where the fort should be. A 1578 drawing of the fort, located in the midst of the town, showed that it consisted of a two-story blockhouse with casemates or towers at opposite corners and a large triangular gun platform facing the river.

Remote sensing and high resolution imagery revealed enormous postholes over five feet in diameter that held posts strong enough to support cannon that weighed as much as 5,400 pounds. The study also revealed a possible well and evidence of buildings in the center of the fort, and a two-story casemate at the back of the fort where cannons were positioned.

The researchers also identified other previously unknown structures, new features of previously known structures, and possibly the layouts of streets and other pathways of the fifteen-acre town. "Knowing where the fort is and how it relates to the other forts and the town area helps us interpret what life was like on the edge of the world and how they adapted," Thompson says. Thompson and DePratter's discovery was recently published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*. —Paula Neely



# Extra Toes Conferred Extra Status

Research at Chaco Canyon reveals Ancestral Puebloans honored, and perhaps even emulated, individuals with polydactyly.



PATRICIA L. CROWN

A mold of six-toed footprint from Room 28 in Pueblo Bonito.

Archaeologists working in Chaco Canyon in northwest New Mexico have long puzzled over the question of why images of feet appear pressed into plastered walls, etched into rock faces, and carved out of turquoise—many with six toes. A team of researchers led by University of New Mexico archaeologist Patricia Crown has concluded that an extra toe, a condition known as polydactyly, accorded them respect. “Six-toed individuals seem to have been treated well, but not as gods,” Crown says. The team recently published a paper in the journal *American Antiquity*.

The Maya revered individuals with extra digits, treating them as gods. Crown and her colleagues wondered if the Chacoans did the same. So the team examined human remains and artifacts from Pueblo Bonito, Chaco’s largest great house. Analysis of 96 skeletons

identified three polydactyl individuals, putting the rate of polydactyly in the population at about three percent. Modern Native Americans report only a 0.2 percent rate of polydactyly and Caucasians 0.13 percent. Two of the three polydactyl individuals were buried with respect, and in one case, luxury. Nearly 700 turquoise beads were wrapped around the right ankle of one polydactyl adult male—the ankle of the foot with the extra toe. High status could account for the high rate of polydactyly among the population. “If you have a trait people value, that can lead to greater reproductive success and the trait may appear more often,” says Crown.

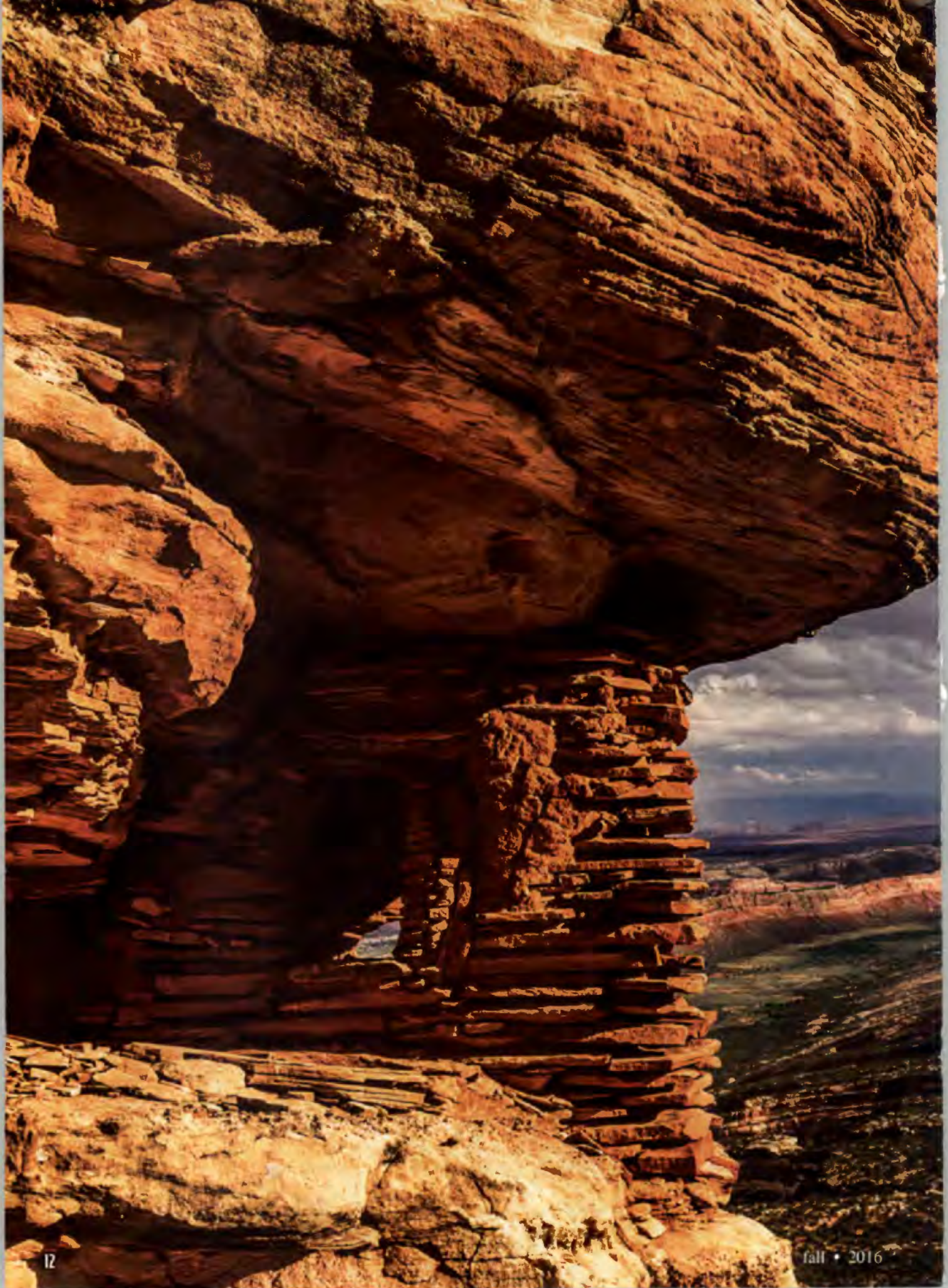
Even individuals with the standard number of toes might have emulated those with six by wearing what are known as “jog-toe” sandals. These sandals have a jog or bulge at the outer

edge that would comfortably fit a foot with six toes. Seven out of the thirteen sandals discovered at Pueblo Bonito have the jog. “It’s possible people were wearing these sandals not only because they had six toes, but also because six toes were seen as a good thing,” Crown says.

The jog-toe also shows up in sandal images incised on walls and in stones pecked or ground into a sandal shape. In fact, feet and footwear were popular shapes for ornaments carved out of shell or turquoise.

Crown’s team still doesn’t know the exact meaning of polydactyly to Chacoans, or why attention shifted away from feet in the 1200s. After some 350 years, foot imagery died out after 1250. Nevertheless, the researchers have confirmed what many archaeologists suspected: extra toes mattered at Pueblo Bonito. —Elizabeth Lunday







# The Bears Ears Controversy

It's estimated that the Bears Ears region in Southeast Utah could have tens of thousands of archaeological sites, most of which are unprotected. Some people are encouraging the Obama Administration to designate this vast area a national monument, while others are strongly opposed to the idea.

*By Julian Smith*

An ancient granary is one of the region's numerous archaeological sites.



San Juan County covers almost 8,000 square miles of Utah's southeast corner. It is the largest and the poorest county in the state, and about half of its 15,000 residents are Navajo and Ute Indians. People have occupied its striking landscape of mountains, mesas, and river canyons for thousands of years. San Juan may have more archaeological sites than any other county in the United States, but many have not been documented and are effectively unprotected. A proposal to set aside a large part of the county as a national monument has set off a lively debate over how the federal government should go about protecting cultural resources on public lands in the West.

Utah's quarter of the Four Corners region, where it joins Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, centers on a distinctive pair of 9,000-foot buttes called the Bears Ears. Visible for miles, they overlook Natural Bridges National Monument and Cedar Mesa, a broad plateau sliced by sandstone canyons and bounded by the Colorado and San Juan rivers.

Paleo-Indians arrived here as early as 11,000 B.C., and Archaic hunter-gatherers roamed the area for thousands of years after the end of the last Ice Age. During the Basketmaker II period from 500 B.C. to A.D. 300, people farmed maize and wove fine baskets and sandals. Clustered pithouses eventually evolved into stone masonry buildings during the Ancestral Pueblo period of A.D. 750 to 1300, when tens of thousands of people called this part of the Colorado Plateau home. Most inhabitants left by the late thirteenth century, possibly due to climate change, overpopulation, or both. Some of these migrants joined the Hopi and Rio Grande pueblos to the south and east. Ancestors of today's Navajo and Ute tribes arrived by the 1500s, followed by Mormon settlers in the late nineteenth century.

The region's importance to American archaeology is hard to overstate, says Jonathan Till, curator of the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding. "The record out there is just tremendous, and it's also very deep. When you look across the landscape, you're looking at human history as we know it in North America over the past 13,000 years." Archaeologists with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages 41 percent of San Juan



*This water bird petroglyph may be 2,000 years old. Water birds are a common motif in Bears Ears rock art.*







County, know of 32,000 recorded sites, but they estimate the actual count is much higher. Some experts think San Juan County has roughly 200,000 sites, which is more than any other county in the country.

This is where cowboys-turned-archaeologists Richard and John Wetherill first used stratigraphic excavation techniques to show that the remains of earlier Basketmaker cultures lay beneath cliff dwellings. Excavations by them and other archaeologists in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries produced impressive artifacts for collectors and museums such as the American Museum of Natural History, and helped popularize the science among the general public.

The region is still producing important new information about the past, says Bill Lipe of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and a past president of the Society for American Archaeology. (Lipe is also a board member of The Archaeological Conservancy.) There are still large gaps in the record that remain unknown, especially the period from A.D. 700 to 900. "Much productive archaeological and historical research could also be done on the Navajo and Ute sites, but for the most part it hasn't been done yet," he says.

Few places have an archaeological record that is this impressive and accessible to the general public, says Lipe. As remote and rugged as most of the area is, tens of thousands

of incredibly well preserved ruins, rock art, and other artifacts draw visitors to places like the Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Blanding and Grand Gulch, a popular canyon off Cedar Mesa.

**N**ot all visitors know or care about how to behave around delicate prehistoric sites. Some damage comes from ignorance or indifference, such as when visitors disturb artifacts or structures. In 2012, campers destroyed a nineteenth-century Navajo hogan for firewood. Other damage is more deliberate. Looters have used rock saws to remove petroglyphs, and they've dug up pristine kivas in search of pots and other artifacts to collect or sell. Looting has been a problem since the early days of amateur excavating more than a century ago, according to Lipe. The BLM has documented twenty-eight incidents of serious damage to cultural resources since 2011, including five in the first half of 2016 alone.

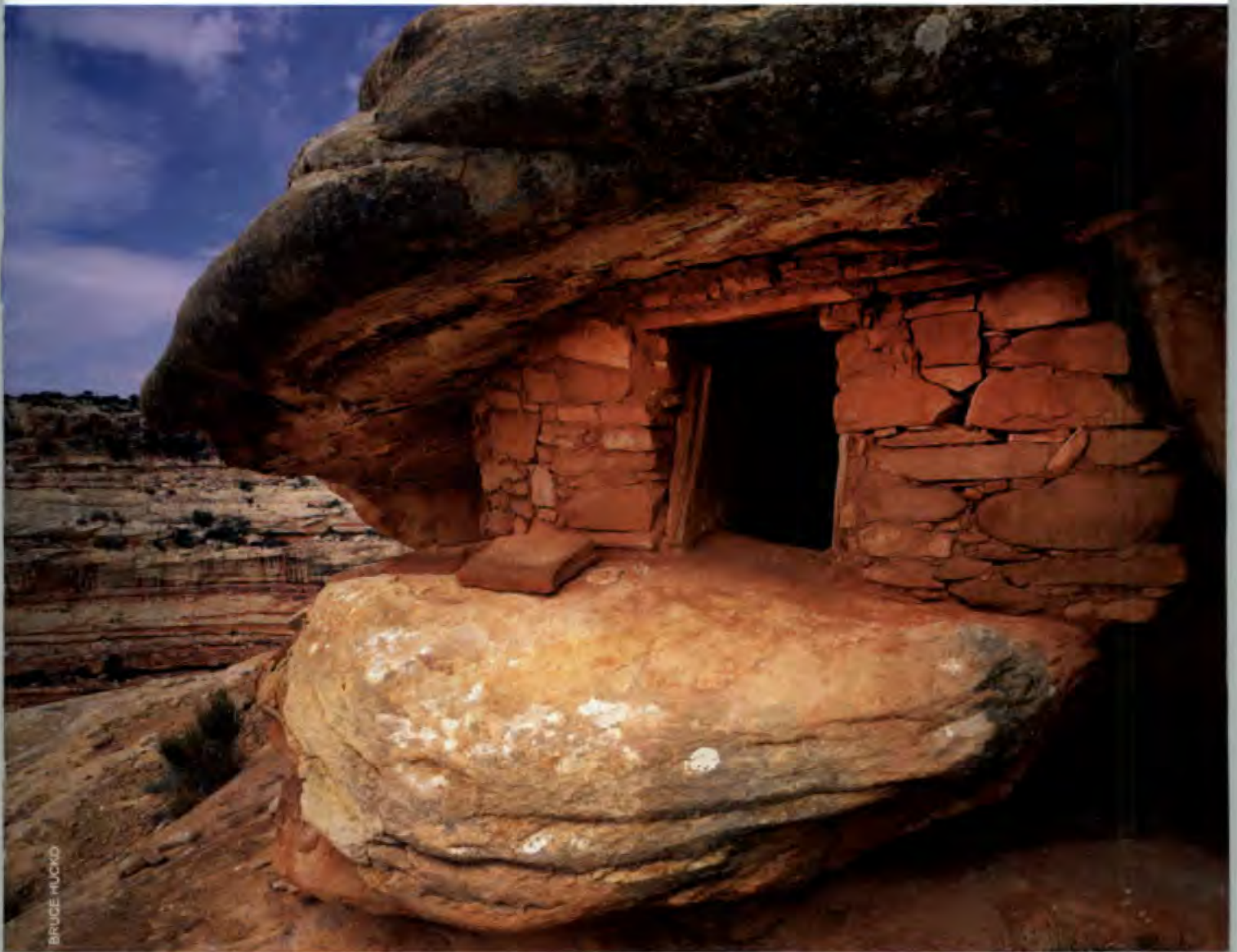
"You have everyday visitors who may not know or be aware of how important a single artifact can be, to intentional looters looking for artifacts to sell or trade," says Nathan Thomas, the BLM's Deputy Preservation Officer for Utah. Although it's illegal to disturb archaeological resources on public land without a permit, looting has long been a



RICHARD BULLOUGH

*A series of grinding slicks adorn a boulder in a deep alcove on Cedar Mesa.*





BRUCE HUCKO

**Corn, the primary staple of the Ancestral Puebloans' diet, was stored in granaries like this one.**

problem in the area. "You have everyday visitors who may not know or be aware of how important a single artifact can be, to intentional looters looking for artifacts to sell or trade," Thomas says.

The BLM does what it can to protect the area's cultural riches, but its resources are limited. It has allocated \$400,000 to stabilize ten sites, allocated \$150,000 to train volunteers to serve as site stewards in Utah and started a statewide anti-looting and anti-vandalism campaign titled Respect and Protect. The BLM is also collaborating with Friends of Cedar Mesa, a conservation group, that's offering a reward of \$2,500 for information leading to the conviction of thieves or vandals of archaeological sites. Nonetheless, the BLM's Monticello field office, which has jurisdiction over three-quarters of the proposed monument area, has just two full-time professional archaeologists and two law enforcement officers to oversee 1.8 million acres.

In October 2015, a coalition of five tribal nations took the unusual step of proposing that President Obama create a 1.9 million-acre [3,000 square-mile] Bears Ears National



**The proposed Bears Ears National Monument covers 1.9 million acres.**

JAN UNDERWOOD





BILL DOELLE

**Vandals and looters threaten Bears Ears archaeological sites. Modern graffiti mars this 2,000-year-old pictograph panel.**

Monument. The Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Hopi, and Zuni tribes all claim ancestral and modern ties to the region. The monument would cover a rough triangle bounded by the Colorado and San Juan rivers and Utah Highway 191, connecting Canyonlands National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the Navajo Reservation. It would encompass Natural Bridges National Monument, Cedar Mesa, Grand Gulch, the Abajo Mountains, and the Dark Canyon Wilderness.

The innovative plan would set up an eight-person management commission including representatives of each tribe and three federal agencies which currently manage part of the region: the BLM, National Park Service, and National Forest Service. It would increase law enforcement resources and allow for continued Native American practices such as gathering medicinal herbs, holding ceremonies at sacred

sites, cutting firewood, and hunting. The plan would also address two other threats by banning mining and restricting motorized vehicles to existing roads and trails.

Native American groups have never before called on the president to use his power under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to create a national monument to protect ancestral lands. After San Juan County refused to work with Native Americans, five tribes formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and approached both the Utah Congressional delegation and the Obama administration, according to Gavin Noyes, the executive director of the advocacy group Utah Diné Bikéyah. "Everybody agrees the area needs to be protected, and if Congress can't do it by the end of 2016, then the task will fall to the Obama administration," he says. If Obama did invoke the Antiquities Act, says Lipe, it would be especially fitting since that law was passed in large part to prevent





looting of archaeological sites in the Southwest. Close to 300 tribes have already endorsed the idea of a monument, Noyes says, and over 700 archaeologists have also signed a letter to President Obama in support of the proposal.

Utah's state legislature, on the other hand, passed a resolution in May opposing the presidential declaration of any new national monuments in the state. Governor Gary Herbert, U.S. Senators Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch, and Congressmen Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop, Republicans all, have spoken out against the proposed monument, saying it would represent federal overreach, bar income-generating development, and increase impacts on cultural resources by attracting more visitors. According to a *Washington Post* article, Hatch mentioned the possibility of an armed standoff like the one at the Malheur National Wildlife

american archaeology

Refuge in Oregon earlier this year. "I would hope that my fellow Utahans would not use violence, but there are some deeply held positions that cannot just be ignored," he said.

Bishop is chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and he and Chaffetz have introduced legislation in the House known as the Utah Public Land Initiative (PLI) as an alternative to a national monument. The PLI, which has been in development in Congress since 2013, would affect eighteen million acres in seven counties in eastern Utah, covering everything from roads and recreation to energy development and wilderness. It would preserve about 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region as a National Conservation Area. The PLI has gone through more than a dozen drafts, and has drawn criticism from tribal leaders and conservation groups for giving state and local officials too much power in managing federal lands, weakening the management role of tribes, and leaving sensitive areas unprotected and open to energy development. Scott Groene, Executive Director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, calls the PLI a "terrible wilderness bill" for the region. "The legislation ignores large portions of the Tribe's 1.9-million-acre proposal, and threatens cultural sites with more off-road vehicles," he says.

The PLI is the result of state and local input, which "is almost always preferable to federal control," says Bishop's communications director Lee Lonsberry. The bill calls for four times more land to be designated for conservation than



The wall of this ancient house was recently toppled.



it does for new recreation or economic development opportunities, he says—about 4.6 million acres for conservation versus 1.15 million for recreation and economic development. “This is a good bill that demonstrates conservation and economic development can co-exist,” Lonsberry says, adding that Bishop is optimistic about its chances of making it out of committee and passing the House. “PLI also brings certainty to areas that have been uncertain for so long.”

Josh Ewing, executive director of the Friends of Cedar Mesa, says that a legislative solution like the PLI would be far less controversial than a national monument. “There is almost unanimous support locally for protecting it as a National Conservation Area,” he says, a designation that only Congress can bestow. But the chances of an acceptable bill passing this year are slim to none, Ewing says. “And the area needs to be protected this year—we just cannot wait any longer.”

Till, an archaeologist, is ambivalent about the idea of a national monument. “A designation could help protect from industry, but it could also act as a magnet for visitors,” he says. “What really needs to happen is we need more archaeologists, and to beef up law enforcement. The BLM are hard workers, they’re just overwhelmed. If you call something a monument, you need to back it up.”

A monument designation wouldn’t guarantee more manpower or funding, however. The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in south-central Utah was created by President Clinton in 1996, also in the face of significant local opposition. Twenty years later, the BLM’s Kanab Field Office has no more than two law enforcement rangers to cover an area even larger than the proposed Bears Ears monument.

Statewide polls regarding the monument have shown different results, with support for it ranging from seventeen percent to seventy-one percent. There haven’t been any local polls, but opinions are definitely mixed among San Juan County residents, says Phil Lyman, the chairman of the San Juan County Commission and an outspoken critic of the proposal. The national monument is one of the most divisive issues to hit the community in a long time, he says. “I don’t want to see these decisions made in Washington D.C. It’s treating people like subjects, not citizens. If you’re worried about human impacts, why would you designate it a national monument?”

Mark Maryboy, a board member of Utah Diné Bikéyah, agrees that more visitors could lead to more impact. But a national monument “would definitely solve problems on the ground—the looting and vandalism of ancient sites,



JOSH EWING

*A looter used a rock saw and a chisel to remove part of a petroglyph from the face of this rock.*





*Interior Secretary Sally Jewell inspects an ancient structure. Jewell and several other federal government officials visited the area in mid July.*

overgrazing, mineral exploration," he says. "The Utah leadership has never passed or supported any legislation to protect the lands in Utah, and this practice continues today."

In general, says Noyes, support for the monument is high in the local Native American community. "If you go to most chapter house meetings, the resolutions are passed unanimously." Utah Diné Bikéyah has collected over 1,100 postcards from Native Americans who live nearby advocating for the proposal; this despite someone having distributed flyers with misleading information at gas stations and post offices. One was a fake letter from Sally Jewell, the Secretary of the Interior, saying that four million acres of the Navajo reservation will revert to the federal government if the monument is created. Another flyer stated that Jewell and President Obama would attend a party in July celebrating the national monument designation, but Utah Navajos were not invited.

President Obama has already declared five national monuments this year, including three in southern California that cover 1.8 million acres. As everyone waits to see what he decides to do in southeast Utah, Lipe points out that most national monuments are established for reasons that have nothing to do with archaeology. "The relatively undeveloped

landscapes and environments of the region present many objects of scientific interest," he says, and features like the Bears Ears, Grand Gulch, Comb Ridge, and the Hole in the Rock Trail used by Mormon pioneers are all historic landmarks.

Jewell visited the area in July and attended a lively public meeting in Bluff that drew both supporters and opponents. "For decades, support has been growing from local communities, tribal nations, state leaders, Congress, and even former Secretaries of the Interior to preserve these stunning lands and protect their cultural importance for generations to come," she said in a statement. Nonetheless, a Department of the Interior spokesperson added, the decision to create a national monument is the President's decision alone.

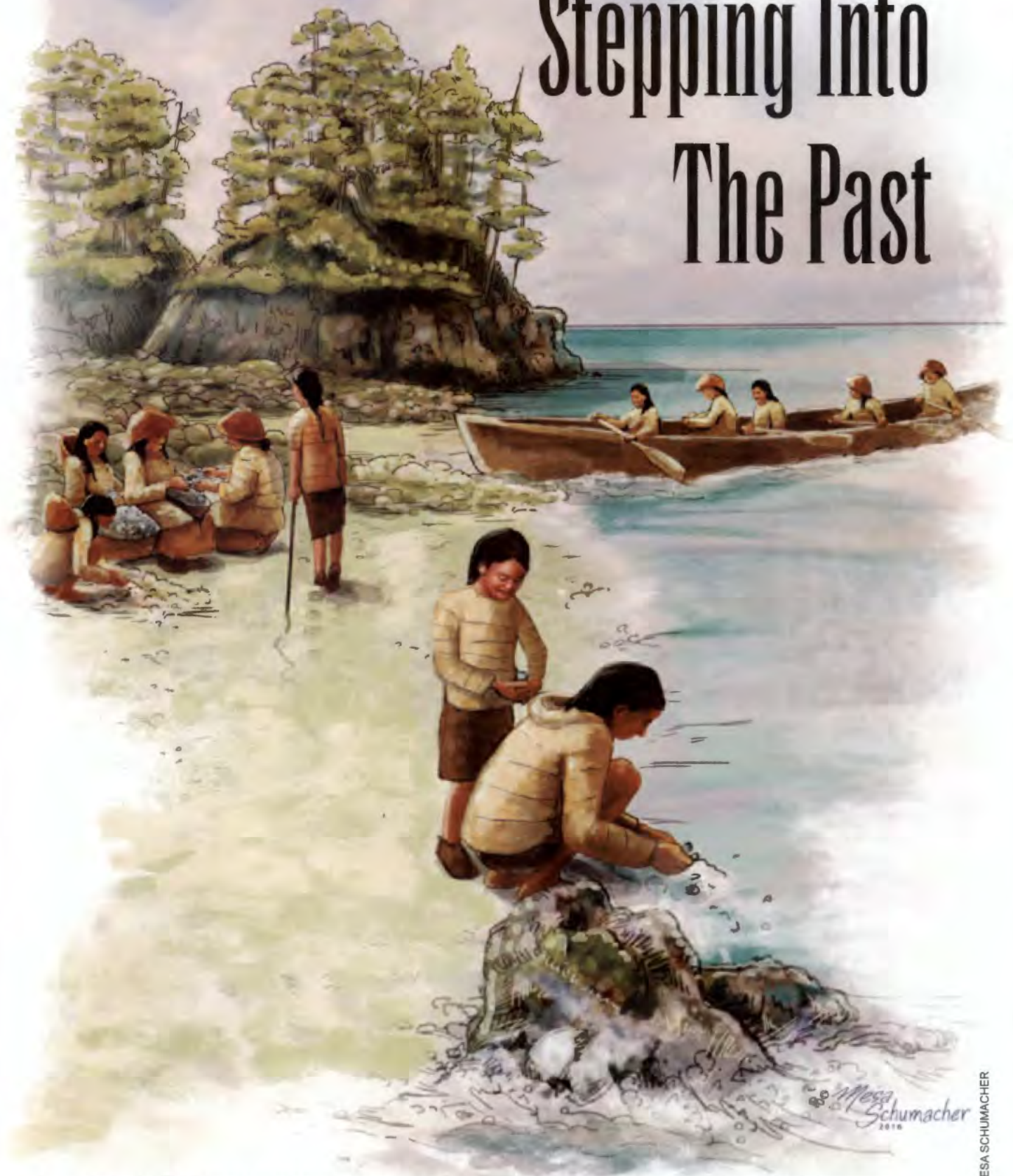
Either way, says Ewing, something has to happen, and soon. "It's a place of international importance. Let's call it that and put resources to take care of it, make sure our grandkids can enjoy it."

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*JULIAN SMITH is the author of Smokejumper: A Memoir by One of America's Most Select Airborne Firefighters. He is a frequent contributor to American Archaeology.*



# Stepping Into The Past



MESA SCHUMACHER

*An artist's depiction of what life could have been like on Calvert Island roughly 13,000 years ago. People needed boats to reach the island, and this vessel resembles traditional boats, generally made from sealskins, that were used by the Inuit and Yupik. According to an oral account, these boats were used by native peoples long ago.*



The discovery of 13,000-year-old footprints on a remote island in western Canada indicates that people were living on the Pacific Coast during the Clovis period.

*By Tom Koppel*

"FOOTPRINTS HAVE RAISED RIDGES," says Duncan McLaren, as he crouches and scrapes with his trowel at the bottom of the seaside pit. "Here, you can see what we think is the back—the heel—of a footprint, and here is another entire footprint, with toes." When someone steps into soft sand or

mud and then pulls their foot out, he explains, it raises the area around the edges and leaves a slight depression. In this case, the yellow-gray clay eventually became firm. "This black sediment is set into it," he adds, pointing with the trowel to where dark sand later filled in the depressed area. The



JOANNE MCSPORRAN / HAKAI INSTITUTE

*A 13,000-year-old footprint is prepared for removal. The impression, which was made in light colored clay, was subsequently covered by dark sand.*



contrast makes the print readily visible. "You can almost feel the edge of the footprint with the trowel, and the clay has a slight anaerobic scent from lack of oxygen. Like rotten eggs."

McLaren, forty-five, wiry and athletic, is working one end of a rectangle the size of two queen beds. It has been sunk into the foreshore just below the high tide line on a sheltered bay at remote Calvert Island, in British Columbia, Canada. McLaren leads a team of archaeologists and support personnel that has spent portions of five field seasons here already. Most have links to the University of Victoria on Vancouver Island either as students, recent graduates, or faculty members. There are also representatives from the Wuikinuxv and Heiltsuk First Nations whose traditional territories encompass Calvert and neighboring islands.

Colleague Daryl Fedje, sixty-three, tall and slim, is working away in the opposite end of the pit. McLaren and Fedje have collaborated on numerous projects and published papers, their research funded by the privately endowed Hakai Institute. The dig site is ten minutes by boat from the Institute's island field station, where the crew is housed and fed. Visitors come and go by seaplane.

Painstakingly shaving away the muck at the lowest levels of the pit, the archaeologists uncovered twelve well-defined prints in just a few days. These are in addition to the equally numerous footprints they unearthed here last year. Each find is a eureka moment. There are large ones, likely from an adult male; medium-size ones, perhaps left by a woman; and notably smaller ones, possibly belonging to a child. It is tempting to imagine a family gathered around a campfire on the beach. There are other foot-shaped impressions in the clay that overlap and are not as clearly defined. There is also a hearth-like feature, some stone artifacts, and ample bits of wood or charcoal, samples of which can be used to date the layers.

What makes the dig unique, however, is that these human traces were left behind some 13,000 years ago, making them the oldest footprints ever found in North America. They are roughly the same age as the Clovis culture, which inhabited much of our continent's interior. But their location is very different from the numerous sites where Clovis artifacts have been found. Calvert Island lies off the Canadian mainland midway between Vancouver and southern Alaska. Anyone living there toward the end of the Ice Age must have adapted to a marine ecosystem and travelled by watercraft. The footprints, therefore, may help in understanding how and when some of the earliest settlers arrived in the Americas in late Pleistocene times.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE PRINTS is the result of a decades-long search for ancient sites by McLaren, Fedje, and a few others. Finding evidence of human habitation of this age on the Pacific coast requires precise knowledge of where the shoreline was located then. This is no simple task. As the great ice sheets covering northern North America (and high latitudes elsewhere) melted, the water returned to the ocean

and worldwide sea level rose some 350 to 400 feet. This drowned most places that ancient maritime people might have occupied. Even though glaciers didn't form as far south as what is now Oregon and California, those shorelines lie deep under water today and are practically inaccessible.

In once-glaciated areas along the North Pacific, however, the situation was different. As the ice sheets receded from Canada's coast, their enormous weight was gradually

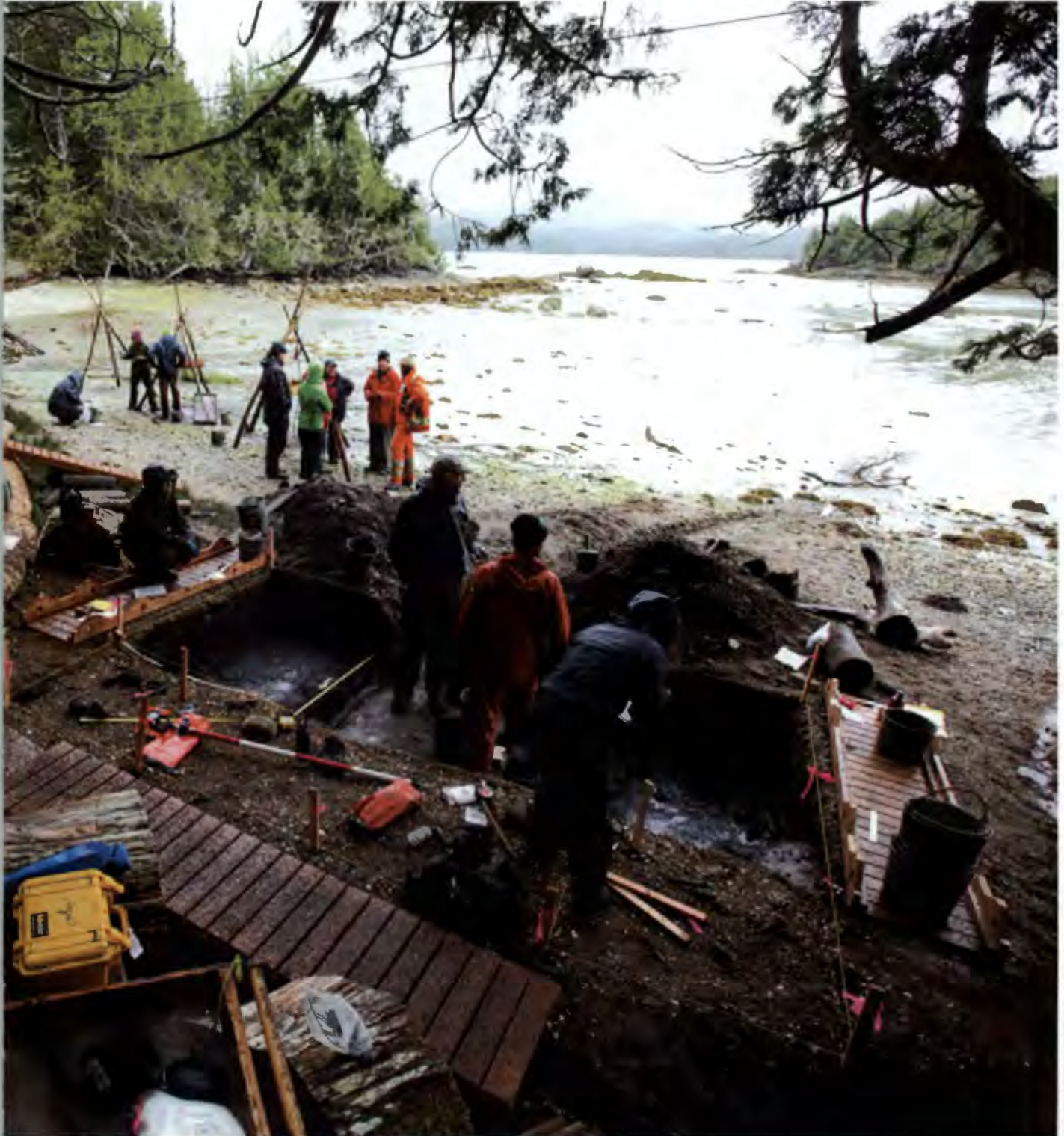




removed. Where they had pressed down on the Earth's somewhat flexible crust, the land rebounded and was uplifted. On some outlying islands, including Calvert, the rate of uplift closely matched the rise in sea level. This made for remarkably stable shorelines. People were able to continue occupying roughly the same seaside locations millennium after millennium. At Calvert Island, the shell midden that built up behind the beach, representing countless years of

seaside food harvesting and daily life, is hundreds of feet long and over twenty-feet deep in places—an archaeological treasure-trove.

McLaren did his Ph.D. research at the Dundas Islands, which are just south of the Alaska Panhandle and are thought to have a sea level history similar to Calvert's. His focus was on confirming the location of ancient shorelines and searching for coastal habitation sites. Fedje had pursued



GRANT CALLEGARI / HAKAI INSTITUTE

*The crew excavates in an intertidal zone where the footprint features were found preserved beneath beach sands.*



similar research interests many years earlier, mapping sea level history and directing major digs as the Parks Canada archaeologist for the Queen Charlotte Islands, which are also known by their native name Haida Gwaii. When government cutbacks eliminated his position four years ago, Fedje joined McLaren's group. "I'm not proud," he quips, resigned to playing second fiddle as the two men work side by side. "I used to be important. Now I'm just an old shovel bum who does what I'm told."

Fedje is in fact more eminence grise than old shovel bum, and it was he who found the first footprint at Calvert. In 2014, the team was digging small test pits, doing a transect from high on the beach down into the inter-tidal zone. Suddenly, Fedje saw something he could hardly believe. It looks like a footprint, he announced to his colleagues. They gathered around, gazing down doubtfully into the dark little hole. It was near the end of their season, so they collected a sample of charcoal from within the print for radiocarbon testing. When they got the results they were shocked: the footprint is 13,200 years old.

The following year McLaren excavated a square measuring nearly seven feet on each side. This revealed the first twelve footprints and what looked like part of a hearth. They took more samples to radiocarbon date. Five of the samples are roughly 13,000 years old, while two from just above the footprint layer were in the 2,000-to-4,000-year-old range. It was pretty convincing, but the conditions had been difficult, with rain and high tides flooding the pit each night. McLaren was reluctant to publish the results until he obtained clearer photos of the prints.

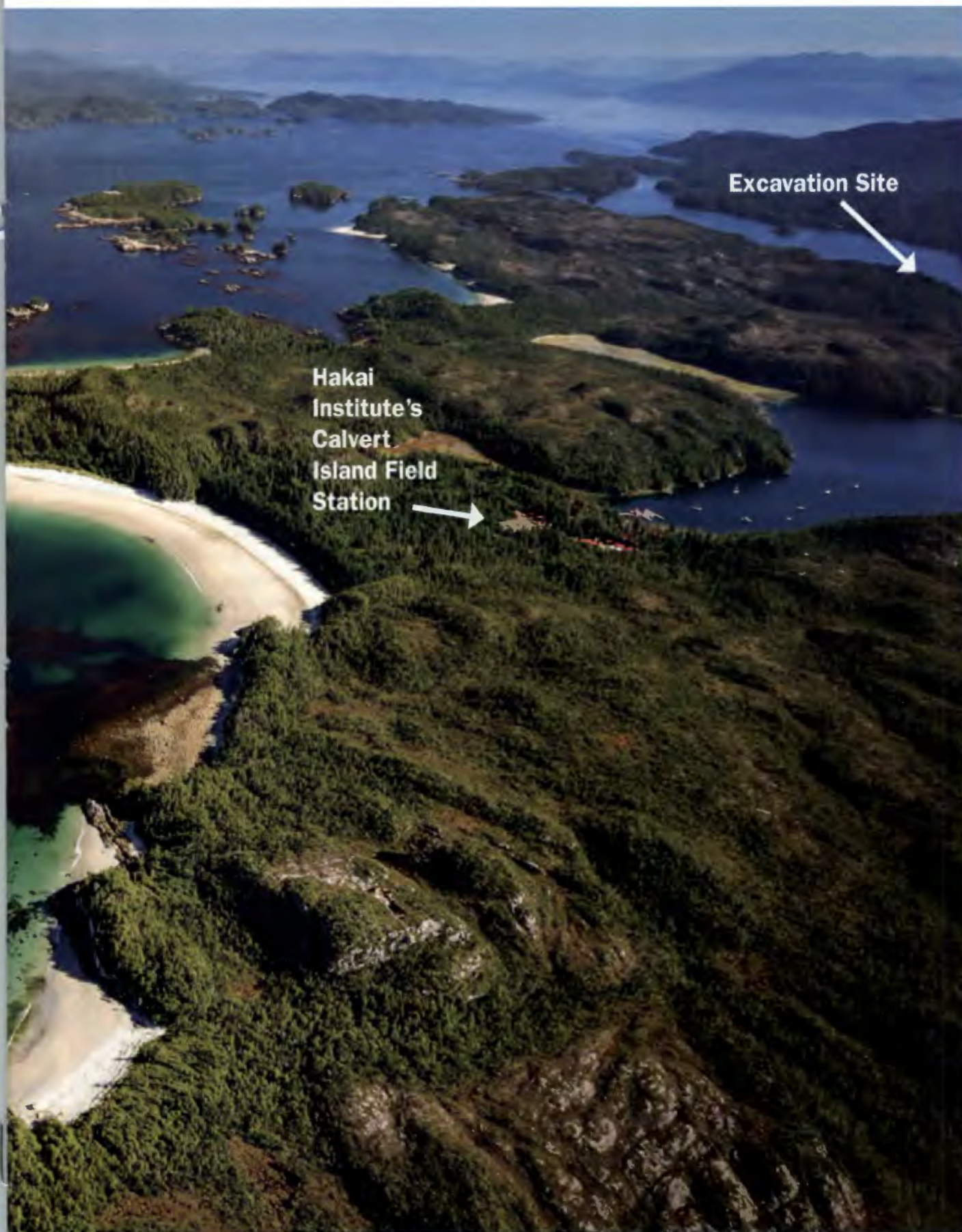
This year the excavation coincides with a lower tidal cycle, which largely eliminates the flooding. The weather is mild and dry, and his crew takes much better photos. After reinforcing the edges of the footprints, they carefully dig around and under them, recovering several of the prints for future study.

**ARCHAEOLOGISTS TODAY INCREASINGLY** favor the Pacific coast migration model as the most likely explanation for the initial peopling of our hemisphere. This hypothesizes that maritime people from northeast Asia skirted the ice that blanketed Alaska and Canada, using a chain of ice-free offshore refugia as stepping-stones. They would have populated the northern Pacific coast some 15,000 to 16,000 years ago, or even earlier, with some spreading inland once they reached unglaciated North America at Washington State. Others would have continued south along the coast. This is long before anyone could have migrated south through a supposed ice-free corridor that was probably blocked during the relevant millennia.

McLaren is contributing one of the "little bits of







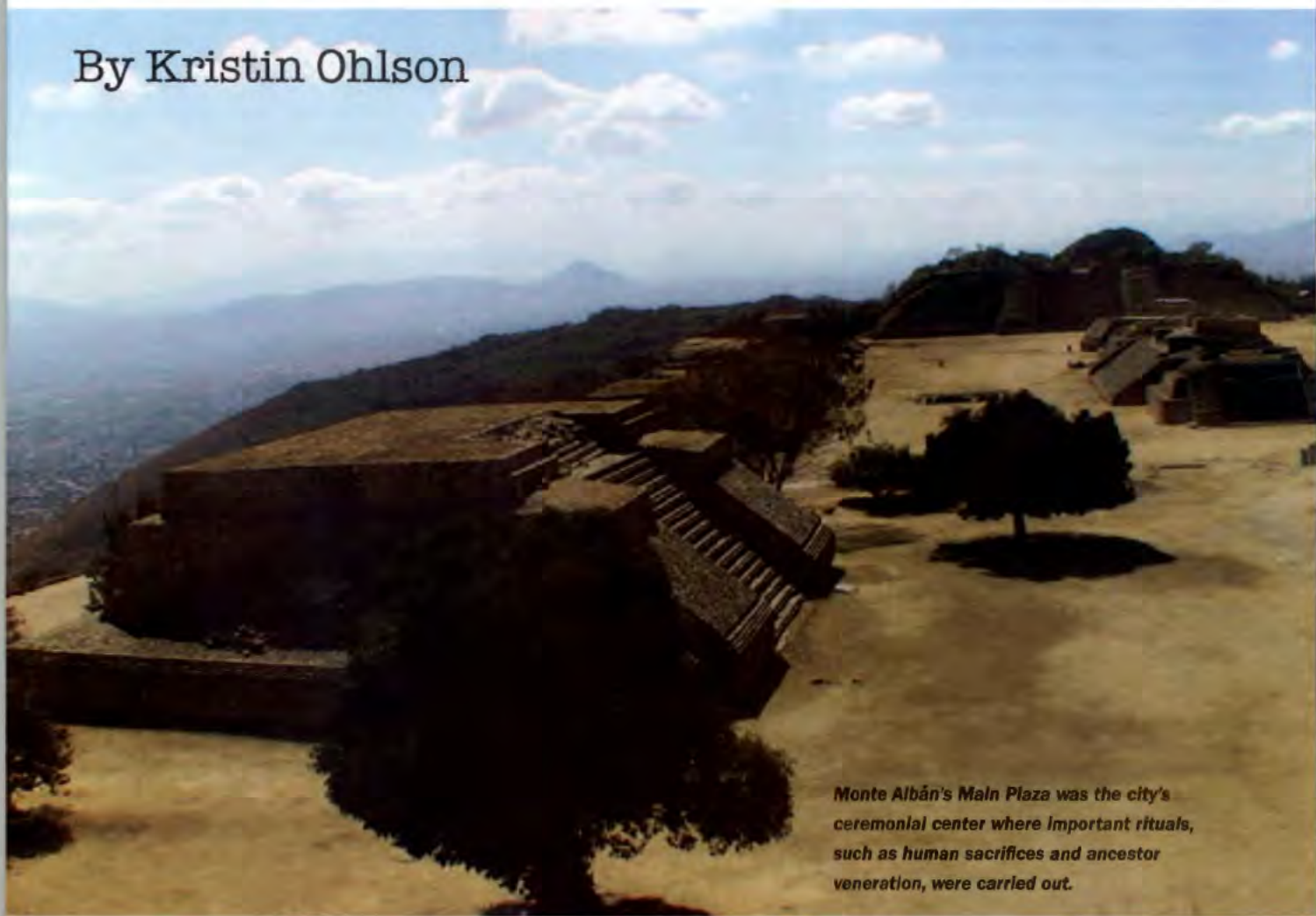
KEITH HOLMES / HAKAI INSTITUTE

*This aerial photo of Calvert Island shows the location of the Hakai Institute and the excavation site. To the west of Hakai are a series of sand beaches that are exposed to the open ocean. The excavation site, located east of Hakai, is fronted by a calm harbor.*



# A Tale Of Two Cities

By Kristin Ohlson



*Monte Albán's Main Plaza was the city's ceremonial center where important rituals, such as human sacrifices and ancestor veneration, were carried out.*

During the dry season, when they weren't tending their crops, thousands of people left their villages in what is now the Río Verde Valley in the Mexican state of Oaxaca and headed towards Río Viejo, a larger community situated near the Verde River and the Pacific Ocean. Beginning around A.D. 50, they built what would become one of the largest structures in all of prehispanic Oaxaca: a massive earth-and-stone acropolis the size of seven football fields. It rose some twenty feet above the surrounding plain and supported two structures more than fifty-feet high.

Archaeologists Arthur Joyce of the University of Colorado Boulder and Sarah Barber of the University of Central Florida have uncovered the distinct construction styles of at

least five work groups at the acropolis who are thought to have hailed from different villages. Someone had clearly succeeded in forging alliances and winning allegiances within the region, marshaling the kind of labor needed to build this magnificent structure.

But their power waned quickly. Other Mesoamerican urban centers with monumental architecture on Río Viejo's scale—such as Monte Albán in the Valley of Oaxaca, now a day's drive from Río Viejo—became regional sites of great power and authority that lasted many centuries. However, Río Viejo dwindled into obscurity in 100 years. Joyce and Barber's investigations have led them to a surprising conclusion as to why. In the Río Verde Valley, they argue, vibrant



It's generally thought that religion contributed to political and social unification in ancient times, but research in southern Mexico indicates that wasn't always the case.



religious practices in the villages—especially communal burials of the dead under the floors of public buildings—rooted people to the villages and prevented Río Viejo's elites from consolidating power in the urban center.

Archaeologists tend to think that big transitions like the building or abandonment of cities stem from factors like economics, politics, warfare, and environmental challenges. "Those explanations weren't adding up," says Joyce, who has spent thirty years conducting research in the Río Verde Valley. "But in the last twenty years, some archaeologists have been increasingly looking at the interconnection of religion with social life and seeing it as central to social change."

The assumption has been that religion tends to build

unity and institutionalize authority. But Joyce, Barber, and others have a different perspective. In Mesoamerica, these scholars are paying particular attention to indigenous worldviews in which interactions with the divine were part of everyday life. In post-Conquest narratives, native people explained to Spanish scribes that they viewed the world as rippling with life and purpose: mountains, streams, plants, and other natural things were not only alive, they possessed souls.

Even buildings were given life as a result of elaborate rituals that "ensouled" them. Once alive, the buildings received ritual offerings by the people that used them. These buildings were like members of the community as well as places for beseeching the gods. "The indigenous people didn't see





*Human burials (above) were the most significant ensouling rituals. This flute made of bone (below) was found at an elite burial in Yugûe.*



SARAH BARBER



the world in separate boxes the way we do: religion versus politics, or sacred versus mundane,” Joyce says. “Where we might see the building of a church as a mundane thing and the rituals in the church as sacred, the distinction would be blurred for native people.”

Given that religion was so tightly connected to everything else in the lives of these indigenous people—to politics, economics, agriculture, trade, and domestic life—it could be a tremendous force in both driving and hindering social change. Sometimes religious ceremonies were conducted on a larger scale and in grander places, like the acropolis or the Main Plaza at Monte Albán. Religion was also exploited by aspiring leaders to gain influence. In fact, Barber believes religion may be the driving force in the formation of Mesoamerican cities.

“The more I study this, the more I think early urban societies look like religious phenomena,” she says. “They were places where people could more effectively encounter the divine, both because of the architecture and layout of urban spaces and because people with special skill sets—rulers, priests, other practitioners—lived there. Getting in touch with the gods was one of the major factors influencing people’s choices.” But sometimes this attempt to scale up was not successful, and this is what Barber and Joyce believe happened in Río Viejo. Instead of a tool for unification, they argue that religion can also be “a crucible of tension and conflict,” as they wrote in a recent paper that was published in the journal *Current Anthropology*.

In the Río Verde Valley, villagers practiced religious rituals long before the development of the elite who organized the building of the Río Viejo acropolis. At several smaller sites throughout the valley, Joyce, Barber, and their colleagues have uncovered the remains of other public buildings with ample evidence of significant ritual activity. In Cerro de la Virgen, Yugüe, Cerro de la Cruz, and San Francisco de Arriba, they have found artifacts from ritual feasting as well as offerings and human bones underneath, or near, where the feasts took place.

At San Francisco de Arriba, the objects buried under the floor were especially lavish: 500 beads, pendants made of greenstone and rock crystal, fragments of iron ore, and tiny jars that had been locally produced. At Cerro de la Virgen, they found 260 ceramic cylinders cached in granite-slab compartments buried beneath a floor at the edge of the public plaza. Another offering included a cylindrical vessel that was more than two-feet long, while a third offering featured a stone rain deity mask. In fact, Joyce says it’s hard to dig a test pit in a public building at one of these smaller sites without finding a big cache of either bodies or goods.

“I have a grad student, Jeff Brzezinski, who just finished a dissertation project at Cerro de la Virgen,” Joyce says. “He was digging in a ceremonial area and started finding all these offering vessels and granite slabs. He stopped digging after he found 90 vessels, because excavating and curating those things takes a long time. But he could have kept digging and kept getting more and more vessels.”



ARTHUR JOYCE

Carved stone slabs from a building on Monte Albán's Main Plaza show people performing autosacrifice and invoking their ancestors.



Joyce and Barber believe these are examples of ritual caching to give the buildings a soul as well as to “feed” them through their years of use. One of Barber’s very first Río Verde Valley excavation finds suggested this kind of ritual feeding: in Yugüe, she uncovered a cooking jar which had been filled with mussels and broken pottery, placed in a pit with dirt piled up to the jar’s neck, and then set on fire.

“Who were they feeding?” she says. “They were clearly leaving these things as offerings and not feeding themselves. The only interpretation is that this is food being left for the place. That matches with the literature saying that buildings and temples have souls and needs, and that you feed them to build a relationship.”

Human burials were the most important of these ensouling rituals. As in many cultures around the world, these people regarded the dead as powerful advocates who had already passed out of the corporeal world and could help them speak to the gods. Villagers gathered to open the floors of their ceremonial buildings and deposit the bodies of their ancestors—thereby implanting their souls into the space—often pushing aside the bones of a previous burial to make room for the new arrivals. The elite were sometimes buried with commoners, adding their extra clout with the gods to the mix. In Yugüe, for instance, the bones of a young man who showed no evidence of hard labor, wore a decorative iron-ore mirror as a pendant, and held a fancy flute—all indications that he was a ritual specialist and a member of the elite—were mixed with the bones of commoners.

Having excavated Río Viejo’s acropolis for four years, Joyce and Barber found evidence of feasting, but no hint that ensoulment and feeding rituals took place there. This leads them to conclude that despite Río Viejo’s powerful rulers and its appeal as a religious center, the villagers had established such deep ties to their local ritual spaces that they would not abandon them for the city. They were not going to leave the bones of their ancestors behind. The leaders at Río Viejo could persuade the villagers to build the acropolis and come for an occasional feast, but nothing more. The people remained in their villages, largely beyond the leaders’ control.

Things played out very differently in Monte Albán. The city lies on a majestic mountaintop commanding a view of the Valley of Oaxaca. The Main Plaza was built to hold several thousand people, with a north-south orientation that could incorporate important astronomical events. Joyce suggests the city was established by people who abandoned other communities in the valley. Even some 1,000 years after its collapse, Monte Albán remains powerfully numinous. “Anyone who visits there today feels as if they’re among the gods,” Barber says. “People went back there to conduct rituals long after the collapse, even people of different ethnicities.”

In the Valley of Oaxaca, excavations show that people buried their dead under the floors of their homes rather than using them as community offerings to ensoul public ceremonial spaces. As a result, there was less to hold them to the



ARTHUR JOYCE

*This elite Monte Albán residence included an elaborate stone masonry tomb. It's an indication of the wealth and power of the city's early rulers*





An offering of ceramic vessels in granite-slab compartments was discovered at Cerro de la Virgen.

ritual spaces in their villages. By the Late Formative Period (400-150 B.C.), the site had grown to a population estimated to be as high as 20,000 people.

Despite the city's ultimate success under a series of hierarchical rulers, archaeological evidence suggests that religion also created some friction in Monte Albán's early days. While there were elite dwellings near the plaza, separate burials in elaborate tombs, and some inscriptions carved into cornerstones referring to rulers and human sacrifice—there weren't grand monuments or portraits dedicated to the ruling class. Instead there were hundreds of stone slabs with the images of naked men, many with blood flowing from their genitals, set into the walls of one building on the plaza. These images have traditionally been viewed as sacrificial victims to the elites, but more recently archaeologist Javier Urcid from Brandeis University has argued that they represent a group of warriors, ranked by age, committing the ritual act of auto-sacrifice as a way to communicate with ancestral spirits and deities. In their recent article in the edited volume *Mesoamerican Plazas: Arenas of Community and Power*, Urcid and Joyce concluded that these images affirmed the existence of distinctive elite and communal religious authorities at Monte Albán.

"If these stones were a political statement by a ruling elite regarding their conquest and sacrifice of humans, the victor would be shown prominently," says Urcid. "But here, everyone is engaged in the same activity and there is no

figure that is more prominent. I see this as a representation of a community, rather than a statement about unequal access to power."

By A.D. 200, though, the power struggle between the hierarchical elites and communally-oriented institutions seems to have been resolved in favor of the elites. The stones depicting the warrior group were removed from the buildings, and some were reused in other architectural projects or buried, suggesting that there may have been some sort of struggle for control. No polity is ever without conflict, but the elite of Monte Albán—masters of both religion and politics—were able to hold the city together for many centuries.

What fascinates other archaeologists is how Joyce and Barber, with their extensive body of work in Oaxaca, have illuminated the push-pull that religion can have on social change. "Their work is unique in that it considers how belief systems and ritual practices had very real effects on the degree to which certain political experiments were successful," says Stacie King, an archaeologist at Indiana University who studies mortuary practices. The outcomes of "novel experiments" such as Monte Albán and Río Viejo are uncertain and depend of various factors, she says. "This is what is new and exciting about this work."

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KRISTIN OHLSON is the author of *The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet*. She is a frequent contributor to *American Archaeology*.



# Looking For The Lost Colony

Archaeologists are trying to learn what became of 118 men, women, and children who vanished from the New World's first English settlement.

By Paula Neely



*Researchers with the First Colony Foundation excavate Site X in 2012. Evidence suggests that some of the colonists lived here for a short period.*

FIRST COLONY FOUNDATION



**ON A SUNNY DAY** last April, several First Colony Foundation (FCF) archaeologists made their way carefully along a narrow stretch of sandy beach at Fort Raleigh National Historic Site on the north coast of Roanoke Island, in North Carolina. The first English settlement in the New World was established here in 1585 by a group of colonists sent by Sir Walter Raleigh. Another group of colonists arrived on the island in 1587 and vanished without a trace, leaving, according to historical accounts, only the word "CROATOAN" carved in a gate post and "CRO" etched into a tree. Despite numerous attempts to find them, what happened to the Lost Colonists, as they are known today, remains America's oldest unsolved mystery. Where and how they lived on the island is also a mystery. Almost 430 years later, archaeologists are trying to solve this mystery, but it's a race against time as erosion continues to wash away evidence.

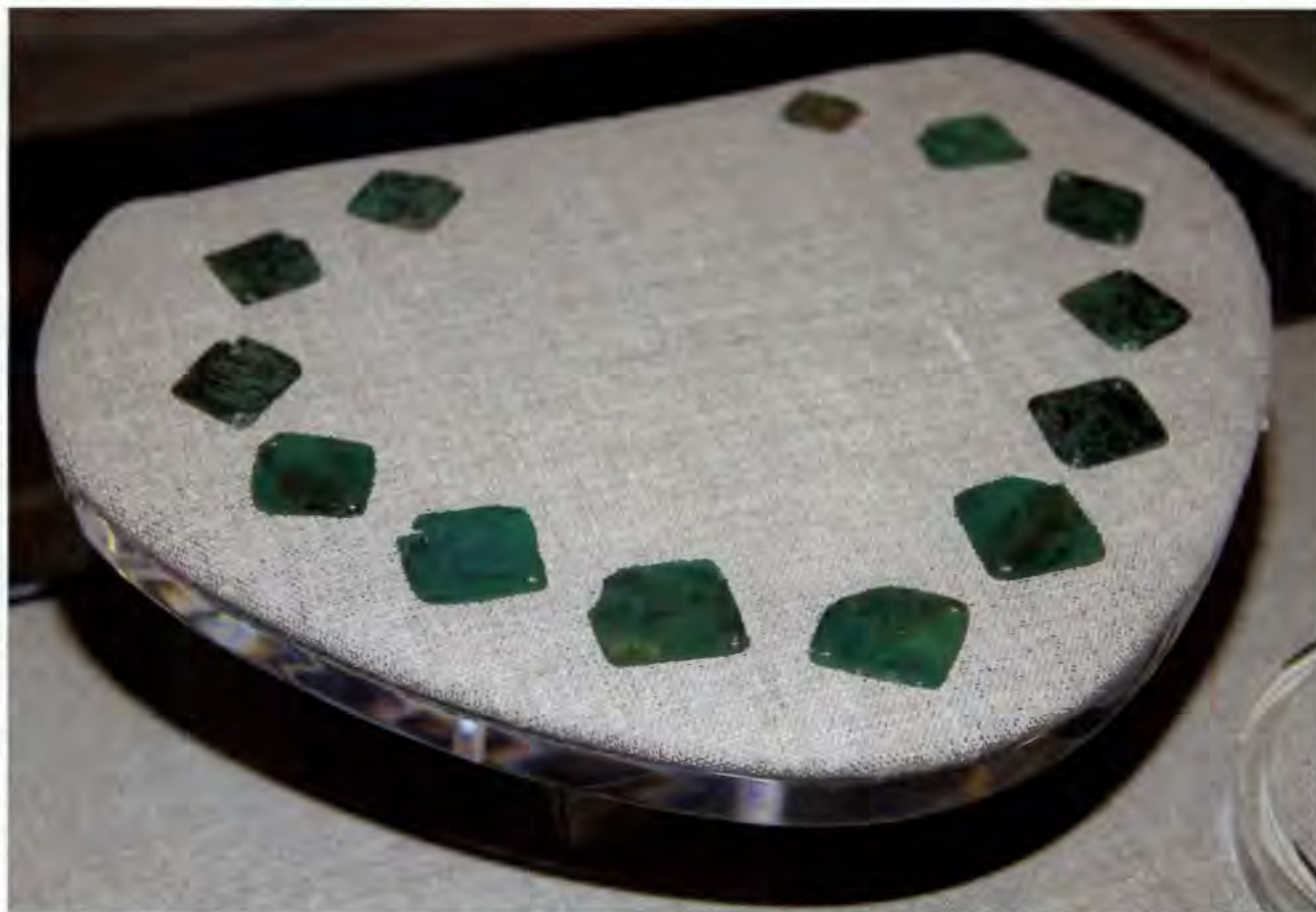
Established in 2004 by a group of archaeologists and historians, the FCF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conducting archaeological and historical research related to Raleigh's expeditions to Roanoke Island. Its board members include Eric Klingelhofer of Mercer University, Nicholas Lucchetti of the James River Institute for Archaeology, and James Horn, a historian and president of the Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation, as well as other colonial scholars. The FCF is funded through grants and donations and its board members and many other researchers volunteer their time.

In partnership with the National Park Service (NPS), the FCF has developed a five-year research plan to investigate the Fort Raleigh site. FCF President Phil Evans, a former NPS ranger who became a lawyer, said the foundation plans to spend a few weeks in the field each year as funding and access to sites permit. Fort Raleigh does not have a staff archaeologist, and NPS has worked with various organizations to conduct archaeological investigations there since the 1990s. "There was work that could and should be done, but no university, or the National Park Service, was going to do it," he said. The FCF is helping to fill the void.

"This is the preamble to American history. Lessons learned here helped the colonists establish Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the New World," said Klingelhofer. "We're interested not just in the end of the colony, but the beginning." They hope to find where the colonists lived on the island to learn more about their lives and their relationships with the Indians. The archaeologists are also studying an inland site called Site X, where they believe some of the colonists lived after leaving the island.

As the archaeologists surveyed the shoreline, they climbed over one fallen tree after another that had eroded out of the dune-covered bank into the choppy waters of Roanoke Sound. About halfway up the side of a ravaged dune, a piece of black plastic that had once lined an archaeological test pit flapped in the chilly northeasterly wind. All but one

COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



**A copper necklace was found under a cache pit at Fort Raleigh in 2008. The arrangement of the diamond-shaped plates suggested that they were once connected by string or leather. Analysis of the copper's trace elements indicate it came from Europe.**





COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, FORT RALEIGH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

*This hollow log was found at Fort Raleigh's Barrel Beach. It was likely used by the colonists to line a fresh-water well.*

corner of the pit, which was excavated in 2006, has washed away. "It's shocking how bad it is," Klingelhofer said. "We've lost about ten feet of shoreline in the last ten years."

"Previously colonial materials from the late-16th to the mid-18th centuries have been recovered from the beach below the bluffs," said archaeologist Eric Deetz of the University of North Carolina, who directed the field work for the foundation. (Deetz and Lucchetti previously worked together unearthing James Fort in Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in the New World.) On the north end of the island, researchers discovered five pieces of Indian pottery on the beach beneath the profile of a pit feature. The feature is about 100 yards from the site of an Indian ossuary, where several burials were excavated in

the 1960s after they began washing away. Deetz said it might be part of the Roanoc Indian village, where the natives lived when the colonists were there. Clay Swindell, an FCF archaeologist, identified the sherds as shell-tempered Colington-style pottery, associated with the Roanoc and other coastal Algonquins, that could date from A.D. 800 to 1650.

The Outer Banks, a string of barrier islands visible on the horizon, protects the sixteen-square-mile island from the Atlantic Ocean's waves; nonetheless, erosion has increased substantially in the last hundred years, according to Stan Riggs, a coastal geologist at East Carolina University. Riggs said the sea level has risen by just under two feet since 1584, but storms have become more severe due to climate change.

Furthermore, \$640,000 of riprap that was installed by



the National Park Service in 1978-1980 to protect some areas of the shoreline is making erosion in other areas worse as the riprap diverts the waves to the adjacent, unprotected areas, noted Jami Lanier, NPS cultural resource manager at Fort Raleigh. David Hallac, the superintendent of the NPS Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Outer Banks Group, said they have requested funding to develop a resource vulnerability study to determine how to mitigate the erosion. After the study is completed, they will need additional funding to implement a solution. "We care deeply," he said, noting that he did not know how long it would take to obtain the resources they need to address the erosion, which is also affecting other NPS sites throughout the Outer Banks.

**ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS** of his 1584 scouting expedition, Raleigh sent a group of 107 men to Roanoke Island in 1585, more than two decades before Jamestown was founded, to build a fort, explore the area, look for precious metals, and study the natural resources. During the expedition, artist John White famously drew a series of illustrations of the North Carolina Algonquin Indians and the local flora and fauna. Nine months after the colonists arrived, however, relations with the Roanoac Indians, who lived on the north end of the island, became hostile, and their chief was killed by colonists during a battle. Then, when Sir Francis Drake arrived with several ships to resupply the colony, a hurricane struck Roanoke Island. Their supplies destroyed, the colonists decided to abandon their settlement and sail back

to England with Drake. A garrison of 15 soldiers arrived later to hold the island, but they fled when they were attacked by Indians and vanished.

Behind the dunes in a maritime forest of ancient trees is the footprint of a star-shaped earthwork. It's believed to have been built by the 1585 colonists, and it was first excavated by archaeologist Talcott Williams in 1895. The earthwork was fully excavated in 1947 by NPS archaeologist Jean "Pinky" Harrington and reconstructed in 1950. Located on the highest ground in the park, the small structure was probably an artillery sconce where cannons could defend against ships approaching the north end of the island, Klingelhofer said.

In the early 1990s the nonprofit Virginia Company Foundation sponsored an excavation led by Ivor Noël Hume that discovered evidence near the earthwork of America's first scientific workshop, which was used by the noted astronomer and mathematician Thomas Harriot, among others. The artifacts included fragments of ceramic crucibles used in metallurgy, ointment jars, pieces of distilling flasks, and antimony used to separate silver from copper. In the mid-1990s, Klingelhofer and Lucchetti directed additional excavations, but very few artifacts were recovered. Since 2006, the FCF has continued the search for the lost colony.

The last group of colonists arrived at Roanoke Island in 1587 with 118 men, women, and children, including John White, who was the colony's governor. White's daughter, who accompanied him, gave birth to Virginia Dare, the first



IRA BLOCK

Archaeologists excavate around and within Fort Raleigh's reconstructed earthwork in 1990.





In 1587, 118 colonists arrived at what is now Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. When John White returned to the site in 1590, the colonists were gone. It's possible that they went south to what was then called Croatoan Island. Archaeological evidence also suggests that some of them moved inland to Site X.





recorded English baby born in America. According to Horn, author of *A Kingdom Strange: The Brief and Tragic History of the Lost Colony of Roanoke*, the colonists' destination was actually Chesapeake Bay, where they were to establish the Cittie of Raleigh. But they landed instead at Roanoke Island because the captain refused to take them further.

So far, no domestic artifacts or structures have been found in or around the earthen fort. Klingelhofer believes that much of the settlement remains to be found, but, pointing into the sound where part of an English barrel was discovered at what they call Barrel Beach, he noted that "some people think it's washed away." Dated to the time of the colony, archaeologists think the barrel may have lined a well similar to those that Spanish explorers reported finding nearby in 1588.

In 2008-2010, archaeologists led by Lucchetti and Klingelhofer excavated an area near the science workshop, where earlier digs had unearthed European artifacts and possible postholes. Two feet beneath the sand dune they discovered two small pits containing a copper pendant necklace, aglets, and Venetian glass beads. In a layer of topsoil that covered the pits, they also found martincamp flask sherds, olive jar fragments, a crucible sherd, and Colington-style pottery from the late Woodland period. A narrow slot trench that may be associated with either the colony or a nearby eighteenth-century farmstead was also uncovered. "It may be where Hariot and his assistants lived when they were working, but it is not where the colonists settled," Lucchetti said. "There are not a lot of artifacts, no food remains, or food preparation and consumption objects." If the settlement site hasn't washed away, he and other experts think it may be somewhere else on the north end of the island, or closer to Shallowbag Bay, a few miles south of the park. "That would have been one of the best locations on the island for harboring ships and boats," he said.

HOW LONG THE 1587 colonists stayed on the island is unknown. About six weeks after they arrived, White went back to England for supplies. He reported that when he departed the colonists were prepared "to move fifty miles into the main." Unfortunately, he was not able to return until three years later, since England needed ships to fight the Spanish Armada of 1588.

When White finally returned to the colony in 1590, he found that the settlement had been palisaded and the houses had been dismantled. He discovered the word CROATOAN carved into a gate post and thought the colonists may have relocated to Croatoan Island—now called Hatteras Island—on the Outer Banks, where the friendly Croatoan Indians lived. He did not find the mark of a cross carved into trees, which the colonists had been instructed to leave if they were in trouble.

On the way to Croatoan Island to look for the colonists, a storm blew White's ship out to sea and the captain was forced to sail back to England. White never returned, but other explorers, including the colonists who arrived at Jamestown, continued to look for survivors. The 1608 Zuniga Map, a Spanish spy's copy of a map drawn by Jamestown founder John Smith, shows inland locations where the local Indians told Smith and other explorers the colonists moved to.

Where the 1587 colonists went remains a mystery. In recent years, archaeologists from East Carolina University and Britain's



Bristol University have discovered early colonial artifacts at the Cape Creek site on Hatteras Island, including a signet ring and musket, but they were in deposits that date to the late 1600s and may have been trade items rather than the belongings of the 1587 colonists, according to Swindell.

One tantalizing new clue emerged a few years ago when the FCF asked officials at the British Museum to see if they could find out what was beneath two paper patches on the La Virginea Pars map drawn by John White. Using noninvasive light techniques, museum officials discovered that one patch appeared to have been applied so that White could redraw a coastline, a common practice of cartographers of that time.

Under the other patch they discovered the iconic symbol of a Renaissance-style English fort just west of Albemarle Sound and near the site of the Indian village Metaquem, about 50 miles from Roanoke Island. Even more surprisingly, an image of a rectangular settlement had been drawn over the patch with what may be invisible ink.

Could that be where the lost colonists resettled? It was "a prime, strategic location to get further inland," said Horn. The Roanoke River leads to the Appalachian Mountains, where the colonists thought they would find gold. "They had a clear intent to look for mineral wealth—gold, silver, and precious gems—in the interior. The coast was not to be the final place for the settlement." Coincidentally, Lucchetti had already conducted a pre-construction cultural resource survey of 1,400 acres in that area and had found early colonial artifacts near Salmon Creek.

After the map discovery, Lucchetti and Bly Straube, the FCF's curator, reassessed the artifacts recovered during the survey. Some of the items were associated with Nathaniel Batts, the first permanent English settler in North Carolina, who lived there around 1657; but there were also pieces of a North Devon plain baluster jar used for provisioning



**These sherds are part of a tin-glazed ointment jar that dates to the late 1500s and was made in England or the Netherlands. They were recovered on a bluff overlooking Barrel Beach by Eric Deetz and archaeologists from NPS' Southeast Archeological Center, who returned to Fort Raleigh in June to excavate areas affected by erosion. The sherds of similar vessels had previously been unearthed around the science workshop and earthwork.**



**Border ware sherds recovered from Site X.**

sea voyages and shards of Surry-Hampshire Border ware, a domestic tableware that could date to as early as the 1580s. "There's no evidence of anyone prior to Batts who lived there," Lucketti said, "so they can't be attributed to anyone other than Raleigh's colonists."

Since 2012, the FCF has excavated an area near Salmon Creek that they call Site X. Though they've only dug in a small area, the archaeologists have uncovered thirty sherds of Border ware, which is significantly more than any other early seventeenth-century colonial site, with the exception of Jamestown, has yielded. They have also found pots used for cooking and storing food. The area is too small for a large group of colonists to have lived there, but Lucchetti and other FCF scholars are convinced that some of Raleigh's colonists resided there for a short time. They may have been sentinels on the lookout for Spanish ships, or a small group of survivors.

Horn believes that most of the colonists moved inland along the Chowan and Roanoke rivers, and some may have eventually joined the Chowanoac and Tuscarora Indians. He thinks a small group probably went to Croatoan Island to stay with the Croatoan until White returned so they could tell him where the other colonists were located. "If they were absorbed into Native American societies, that would change the way we look at European and Native American relationships," he said. "There may have been more fluidity than we imagined."

Other theories have it that the colonists were massacred, or they starved to death, like many of the Jamestown settlers. Finally locating the Lost Colony could put all this speculation to rest. "When something is lost," Lucchetti said, "we want to find it. It's human nature."

PAULA NEELY has written for *nationalgeographic.com* and *DIG* magazine. Her article "Ready For Research" appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of *American Archaeology*.

FIRST COLONY FOUNDATION

COURTESY NPS, SOUTHEAST ARCHEOLOGICAL CENTER





A full-size, seaworthy replica of HMS Endeavour is based at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

# The Search For A Legendary Ship

SIR NATHANIEL DANCE-HOLLAND, C. 1775,  
NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, GREENWICH

A volunteer marine archaeology organization in Rhode Island could be on the verge of identifying Capt. James Cook's *Endeavour*.

By Alexandra Witze

american archaeology



A portrait of Captain James Cook.



**THE** bottom of Newport Harbor, Rhode Island, is a dim and murky place. Sunlight filtering through the seawater illuminates only five, maybe ten feet of the landscape ahead. But occasionally, a diver swimming above the seafloor can come across something intriguing in the murky gloom—a ballast pile, or even a cannon, from a Revolutionary War-era shipwreck. “Those are the best days,” says Kerry Lynch, an archaeologist with the University of Massachusetts at Amherst who has spent many hours diving off Newport. “Those are pretty exciting.”

Her days may be about to get a lot more exciting. Lynch is part of a volunteer group, the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, or RIMAP, that has been exploring the Ocean State’s rich underwater heritage for more than two decades. In May they announced that they might be close to identifying one of history’s most famous ships—HMS *Endeavour*, from which eighteenth-century British explorer James Cook mapped parts of Australia.

RIMAP’s archaeologists have been investigating a fleet of thirteen Revolutionary War ships off Newport, which were deliberately scuttled there by British troops in 1778. Based on documents describing the ships’ history, RIMAP’s executive director, D.K. “Kathy” Abbass, believes one of the thirteen is the *Endeavour*, which had been re-purposed and re-named after its epic voyage with Cook.

In January Abbass narrowed the search even further. At the National Archives in London, she unearthed a 1778 report about where five of the ships, one of which is the *Endeavour*, had been sunk. The report dramatically reduced the area in which RIMAP needs to search to confirm they’ve identified *Endeavour*’s remains. “We’ve already mapped four of the five sites that we now know are possibly the *Endeavour*,” says Lynch. “There’s a very, very good chance that we’ve already been on the site.”

If RIMAP identifies the legendary vessel, it will be a dramatic coup for an all-volunteer organization that has carved out a unique niche in preserving Rhode Island’s maritime history. “We’re not a cultural resource management company, we’re not a university, but we have aspects of both of those things,” says Abbass. “We’re an unusual animal.” The group has trained a cadre of divers to carefully map sites of interest, including wrecks near the famous British vessel HMS *Gaspee* that was burned by Rhode Islanders in the run-up to the American Revolution, and the possible remains of a 19th-century ship reported by some historical accounts to have carried slaves. “It is a crackerjack team,” says Charlotte Taylor, an archaeologist with the state’s historical preservation and heritage commission who oversees permits for RIMAP’s work.

By nearly all accounts, RIMAP owes its tenacity and success to Abbass, who founded the group in 1993 and has run it on shoestring funding and volunteer enthusiasm ever since. “To run something like RIMAP you need an extraordinarily passionate and dedicated individual,” says Taylor. “Kathy has given up a lot of her personal life to this project.”

A former university professor, marine surveyor and director of the Museum of Yachting in Newport, Abbass got into shipwrecks by working on the oldest intact war ship in American waters, the *Land Tortoise*, a flat-bottomed vessel sunk in 1758 in Lake George, New York. She helped map the remains, which were meant to serve as a floating gun platform for the British to force the French out of upstate New York. The work resulted in the wreck being listed as a National Historic Landmark, one of only six shipwrecks that have earned that designation.

Seeing that success, the Rhode Island state archaeologist approached Abbass and asked if she wanted to conduct underwater research in her home state. Although Rhode Island has more shipwrecks per square mile than any other



RIMAP volunteers measure the remains of a vessel that was lost along the Newport shore in 1996.

GREG DEASCENTIS, © 2006 RIMAP





**RIMAP volunteer Sandra Puchalski examines an unidentified wreck that was exposed after a winter storm.**

state, its government had no money to professionally survey them. Abbass promptly sent out a call for volunteers. "We wanted to see if the public would be interested in being involved in a professional program of research," she says.

And they were. Over the years, RIMAP has involved more than 865 people in its activities, working at more than eighty-three sites. Each spring and summer Abbass runs a series of training sessions to teach recreational divers archaeological techniques such as site mapping, field documentation, and legal protocols. "The hidden agenda in all this," she says, "is to create a cadre of people who are now aware of why these sites are significant and why they should be protected."

Joseph W. Zarzynski, a retired teacher turned archaeologist who oversaw the Lake George work, says that Abbass has a unique talent for getting the best out of people. "She whipped our group of sport divers into a working team," he says. "We promptly gave her the nickname the Klingon Lady, which she wore with pride." (He adds that at her former office at Naval Station Newport, Abbass bossed around Navy Seals.)

**RIMAP's** projects span a wealth of Rhode Island history. One of its early publications was a set of self-guided heritage maps for the general public, showing places of interest in the state's Revolutionary War past. Among the four maps is one pinpointing sites involved in past industries, from metal works to mills and quarries, and another showing revolution-era earthwork forts that can be visited in public parks.

But most of RIMAP's work is done underwater. One of their ongoing projects is mapping an early twentieth-century U.S. Army marine railway at Fort Adams, which guards the entrance to Narragansett Bay. "The Army had more vessels

than the Navy did," Abbass says. The railway was used to repair vessels at the Army shipyard at the fort, and RIMAP divers have been documenting its deterioration just offshore.

In Warwick, RIMAP volunteers have worked to explore two late nineteenth-century wrecks at Occupessatuxet Cove, near where the *Gaspee* was burned in 1772. Neither wreck is the *Gaspee* itself, leading Abbass to nickname it the "not-the-*Gaspee*" project. But divers have found a ballast pile and wooden artifacts that may date to the eighteenth century, meaning there may be another, much earlier site nearby.

By far the biggest RIMAP project is the fleet of thirteen shipwrecks in Newport Harbor. Even without the Cook connection the wrecks would be important, Abbass says. They were British transports used to carry troops to fight the patriots in the colonies, and after arrival some of them were used as prison ships. They had been floating off the coast of Newport when a French fleet arrived to help the Americans, the first instance of cooperation between the two after the French had joined the war as an American ally. Between August 5 and 9, 1778, the British deliberately scuttled all thirteen ships to block the French fleet from coming too close to shore.

Three weeks later, on August 29, the Battle of Rhode Island broke out. American troops had given up on their siege of Newport and begun to retreat when the British forces within the city attacked them. The Americans eventually withdrew and the British remained in control of Newport for the time being.

Aware of its historical importance, RIMAP had been examining the fleet. But in the late 1990s, Abbass made the key link with James Cook's *Endeavour*. Australian amateur historians Mike Connell and Des Liddy had suggested that the *Endeavour* had left naval service and been renamed the





PIERRE OZANNE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In this 1778 drawing the French fleet enters Narragansett Bay. Smoke billows from one of the scuttled vessels in the left of the drawing.

Lord Sandwich, and Abbass knew that the *Lord Sandwich* was one of the Newport Harbor wrecks.

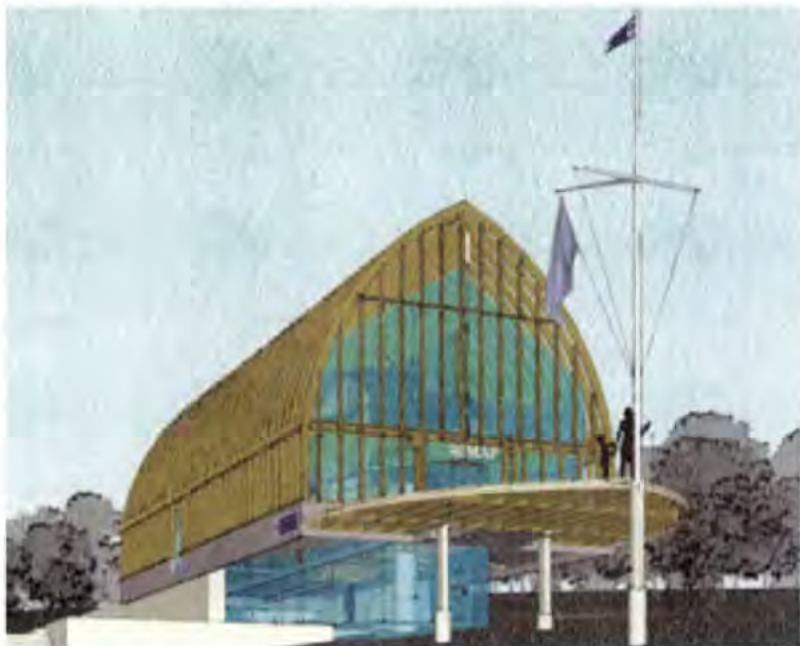
It's hard to overemphasize the importance of the *Endeavour*. Originally named the *Earl of Pembroke*, the ship was bought by the British government in 1768 and fitted out for Cook to travel to the South Pacific and observe the transit of Venus. On this, the first of Cook's great voyages, he mapped the eastern coast of Australia and visited New Zealand while circumnavigating the globe. That claim later led to England occupying Australia, which is why aboriginal

Australians and nearby islanders detest Cook and his vessel. "There's not just one story to James Cook," says Lynch. "He means different things to different people, all of which are equally legitimate."

Cook went on to later voyages on other ships, and was killed by Native Hawaiians on Hawaii Island in 1779. As for the *Endeavour*, the British admiralty thought she had done her duty, and she was sold off for other uses. In 1777 she was renamed *Lord Sandwich*, and by the time of the Revolutionary War she carried troops to the colonies to try to quash the rebellion. Off the coast of Newport the *Lord Sandwich* briefly served as a prison ship for captured Americans, before being sunk to deter the French.

When Abbass realized what she might have, she and Lynch moved to keep the Newport vessels safe from potential exploitation. "Just because they're underwater doesn't mean they're free-for-all," she says. "These things need to be protected."

In a rare use of salvage law, the state of Rhode Island filed to "arrest" the abandoned wrecks as its property. A federal court agreed. Now, if and when the *Endeavour* is identified, the vessel will belong to Rhode Island. "I don't know of any other state agency that has done that," says Taylor.



An architect's drawing of the conservation laboratory that RIMAP hopes to build. It's shaped like an upside down ship.

**A KEY** partner in RIMAP's *Endeavour* work is the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney, which maintains a keen interest in Cook

NEWPORT ARCHITECTURE LLC





Steve Resler (left) and Joseph W. Zarzynski search for the remains of the *Gem*, a reputed slave ship that was abandoned in Newport Harbor.

history and is the home base for a meticulously crafted, full-size replica of the ship that sails around to educate the public about Cook's exploration. The museum helped pay for some of Abbass' travel to the archives in London, and it has signed a memorandum of understanding with RIMAP on possible future projects. Representatives of the museum have traveled to Newport several times since 1999, most recently last September to keep up to date with the research, says Kieran Hosty, a marine archaeologist at the museum.

The work is going excruciatingly slow. "This is a very large project, with thirteen different ships in one of the most heavily traveled and visited colonial ports," says Abbass. "If you start focusing too early you'll waste all your resources." That's why the January archival discovery was important—RIMAP is now focused on five wrecks, all of which lie off the northern tip of Goat Island in Newport Harbor, rather than all thirteen. RIMAP divers have already mapped four of the wrecks in detail, and the fifth will be explored in September.

Pinning down the identity of the *Endeavour* will be challenging, says Zarzynski, since the names of the vessels are not conveniently preserved on their remains. Rather, it could be a growing list of circumstantial evidence—from historical documents, to the tonnage and dimensions of each ship, perhaps even to exotic pollen preserved from a Cook voyage—that might eventually pinpoint its identity.

RIMAP can't recover artifacts from the wrecks because

they can quickly deteriorate once out of the water, and the organization currently lacks a laboratory for conserving them. Furthermore, conservation laboratories specializing in submerged artifacts are few and far between, according to Lynch. "The nearest conservation lab I know of that could take in artifacts from a submerged environment is hundreds of miles away, far from Rhode Island and the coast, and not necessarily equipped to handle the size of the assemblage that may result from excavating multiple eighteenth-century wrecks," she says. "Even if it were possible to contract conservation services at a lab hundreds of miles away, transporting materials that far could introduce any number of catastrophically damaging variables."

But RIMAP hopes to remedy this problem by building a state-of-the-art laboratory, and the identification of the *Endeavour* could help raise the money to build the facility, says Lynch. Abbass already knows where she would like it built: at Butts Hill Fort, the largest existing earthwork from the Revolutionary War left in southern New England. It sits in Portsmouth, just north of Newport, and it was the center of the American line during the 1778 Battle of Rhode Island. What better place for a research center to commemorate an iconic ship sunk in the run-up to a Revolutionary War battle?

ALEXANDRA WITZE is a science journalist in Boulder, Colorado, and a correspondent for the journal *Nature*.



Protect Our Irreplaceable National Treasures



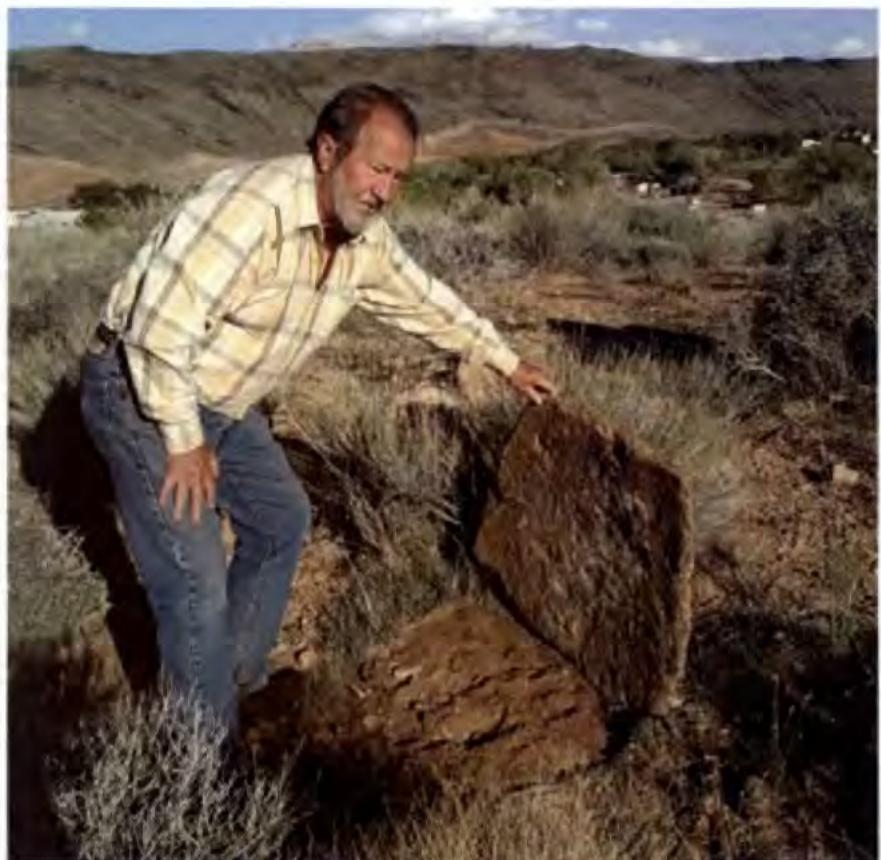
## POINT-5 acquisition

# A Glimpse Of The Virgin Anasazi

*The Conservancy's new acquisition in Utah could help archaeologists understand a prehistoric group of which little is known.*

Three years ago Gaylord Robb brought the Virgin River Village, a five-acre prehistoric site located in southwest Utah, to the Conservancy's attention. At the time, the Conservancy was in the process of acquiring Paragonah Mounds in southwest Utah. (See "The Conservancy Preserves One Of The Largest Known Fremont Sites," page 44, *American Archaeology*, Fall 2013.) The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah was involved in that acquisition and Robb, the tribe's director of economic development, was acting as its representative. Being a life-long resident of the region, Robb knew of a number of archaeological sites in the area, including this ancient village near the town of Virgin.

The site is perched on a river terrace overlooking a calm stretch of the Virgin River just west of Saint George. Its location makes it attractive to developers, and consequently it's in eminent danger of destruction. During a surface survey, eight complete manos and multiple mano fragments were observed across the site, as well as ceramic



*Gaylord Robb holds up a large sandstone slab that could have served as a door for a storage pit or a pit house.*

CHAZ EVANS





*This is one of the North Creek Grey sherds found at the site.*

sherds and debitage. The sherds appear to be North Creek Gray, a style that dates from A.D. 550 to 1300.

The site has numerous sandstone slabs, some of which stand upright

and resemble tombstones, and as a result it has been mistaken for an Indian burial ground when in fact it's a habitation site.

A number of slab-lined features

are exposed. Some of these slabs meet at right angles, indicating they were arranged by humans. Two of the features appear to have been disturbed recently, but the majority of the site is intact. One large slab measuring approximately twenty-four inches by sixteen inches could have been used as a door for a storage pit or a pit house. There is no geologic formation nearby from which a slab of that size could have been quarried, so it was apparently brought to the site from elsewhere.

Several ceramic sherds are partially buried deep in a hole that could have been dug by a looter. These sherds and the slab-lined features suggest the site has significant buried remains that would make it eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This remarkable preserve may give future researchers insight into the lives of the prehistoric inhabitants of the Virgin Anasazi, a group about which archaeologists don't know much.

—Chaz Evans

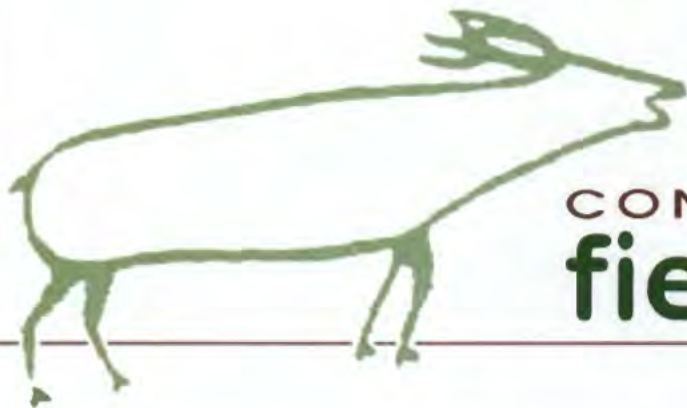
## POINT Acquisitions



Virgin River Village

The Protect Our Irreplaceable National Treasures (POINT) program was designed to save significant sites that are in immediate danger of destruction.





## CONSERVANCY field notes

### Check Dam Repair At Pueblo San Marcos

**SOUTHWEST**—This spring, volunteers with the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act Working Group, NM SiteWatch, and archaeologists with the Museum of New Mexico joined Conservancy staff to repair breached check dams at Pueblo San Marcos in the Galisteo Basin south of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Considered one of the largest pre-Columbian settlements in the American Southwest, Pueblo San Marcos was occupied from the mid-thirteenth century until the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, and its residents likely played an important role in the revolt. The Conservancy acquired the majority of the site after years of negotiations with private landowners and with the help of a grant from the State of New Mexico.

In 2004, the U.S. Congress passed the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act, which calls for the protection of twenty-five highly significant archaeological sites in the basin, including Pueblo San Marcos. The Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act Working Group, which formed as a consequence of this act, has been meeting monthly since 2004, working toward the documentation, management, and protection of these sites.

In 2007, Mark Michel, the Conservancy's president, and Steve Koczan, then its Southwest field representative, built a series of about twenty stone check dams across a drainage that cuts through the site, affecting several room-blocks. While these dams have been



*A volunteer points out a section of a breached check dam.*

largely effective, many of them were breached over the years, necessitating the repair work. The group of twenty

volunteers completed the repairs in an afternoon, then a tour of the pueblo followed.

TAMARA STEWART



## The Sacramento Archaeological Society Visits Borax Lake

WEST—Last May the Conservancy's Western Field Representative Deanna Commons gave a presentation about the Borax Lake Preserve to members of the Sacramento Archaeological Society. Commons spoke about the Conservancy's acquisition of the site and research that has been conducted at it. She also led the group on a guided tour of the preserve.

The Conservancy acquired Borax Lake, its first California preserve, in 1989. Since the acquisition, the site has been designated a National Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Borax Lake contains one of the oldest sites in California, dating to 12,000 years ago. The site was first discovered in 1938 by amateur archaeologist Chester Post, who found fluted points that he brought to archaeologist Mark R. Harrington of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles. Recognizing the possible antiquity of the points, Harrington investigated the site from 1938 to 1946, uncovering fluted and wide-stem points, chipped stone crescents, manos, pestles, mortars, and other artifacts. Though accurate dating techniques didn't exist at that time, Harrington concluded the site was



Sacramento Archaeological Society members explore the Borax Lake Preserve.

roughly 12,000 years old and that it was occupied for only a few hundred years.

In the 1960s, archaeologists Vance Haynes and Clement Meighan dated Harrington's artifacts using obsidian hydration, and they found that the oldest dated to 12,000 years ago, confirming Harrington's conclusion about the site's initial occupation. But Haynes and Meighan also found that some of

the artifacts were only 3,000 years old, indicating Borax Lake was occupied much later than Harrington thought.

DEANNA COMMONS

## High-Tech Monitoring System Tested

SOUTHWEST—Earlier this year the Verde Valley Archaeology Center deployed a satellite-based monitoring system at one of the Conservancy's preserves that Verde Valley monitors. Originally designed to catch snow leopard poachers in Siberia, the system uses concealed metal detectors and motion sensors that send signals to a satellite network when triggered, notifying land managers that someone may be approaching an archaeological site. The sensitive equipment can detect the motion of a vehicle, a shovel, or even footsteps within ten feet of its location.

The pilot program was recently launched to test this new monitoring

system that archaeologists and land managers hope will safeguard the area's more than 2,500 known Sinagua and Yavapai-Apache sites. These sites date back more than 1,500 years and they have seen an increase in vandalism in recent years.

The program is partially funded by a grant from the National Park Service, and the monitoring system is also being tested in Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico and Death Valley National Park in California and Nevada. Depending on the success of the program, the technology could be used to monitor other Conservancy preserves.

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# Reviews



## **The Spike Buck Site: Archaeology of the Cherokee Town of Quannassee, 1580-1724**

**By Dan F. Morse and Phyllis A. Morse**

*(Borgo Publishing, 2016; 176 pgs., illus., \$25 paper; www.borgopublishing.com)*

The Spike Buck site lies on the Hiwassee River in Hayesville in southwestern North Carolina. It has been identified as the Cherokee town of Quannassee. Captain George Chicken gave a talk there in 1715 that convinced the Cherokees to support the British in the Yamasee War. In 1716, John Sharp out of Charleston, South Carolina, was appointed the trader at Quannassee, supplying the British colony with deer hides and slaves.

In 1973 and 1975, Western Carolina University, under the direction of John Dorwin, excavated the site. Beginning in 2000, Dan and Phyllis Morse inventoried and analyzed the collection, stabilized the metal artifacts, had the animal bone identified, and prepared the artifacts for permanent curation. This study is a product of that work.

Until their removal in 1838, the Cherokees controlled a large area of the southern Appalachians. This volume provides critical information about one of their most important centers, and thus about the history of the Cherokees over a period of some 3,000 years. The Spike Buck site is now a Conservancy preserve.



## **The Powhatan Landscape: An Archaeological History of the Algonquian Chesapeake**

**By Martin D. Gallivan**

*(University Press of Florida, 2016; 288 pgs., illus., \$80 cloth; www.upf.com)*

When the first English colonists arrived at Jamestown in the Chesapeake region of what is now Virginia, they found the region populated by Native Americans living in scattered villages along the numerous rivers and inlets. The area was ruled by Powhatan, paramount chief of the Algonquians, and his name was also used for his home town and for the province. Beginning with Captain John Smith, the English told the story of the Natives from the English perspective. Smith made a detailed map of the region showing dozens of native settlements that provides much information about the area in the early 1600s.

In *The Powhatan Landscape*, Martin Gallivan, an archaeologist at the College of William and Mary, expands that story to include the origins and development of the Virginia Algonquians from about A.D. 200 to 1700. Much of the material for this study comes from Gallivan's research at Werowocomoco, the Chickahominy River, and Kiskiack. Werowocomoco, on the York River, was Powhatan's capital and the site of John Smith's rescue by Powhatan's daughter, Pocahontas. Gallivan's extensive excavations of the site have pushed its history back 2,000 years.

Using archaeology, and with the help of modern Native Americans, Gallivan deftly shifts the focus of Virginia's Algonquian past from the English accounts of the colonial era to a narrative describing the construction of places and communities, activity areas, and natural regions. These were a riverine people who relied on fishing grounds, and later on horticulture. Ceremonial spaces including earthwork enclosures were used for centuries to pull people together. This is archaeology that sees the past through the physical places utilized by people over time.

*The Powhatan Landscape* is an important addition to the growing field of landscape archaeology, providing new perspectives on a people who have been previously understood only through the eyes of colonial interlopers. Their history goes back at least 1,400 years before the arrival of the English, and Gallivan has laid a framework for unraveling and understanding it.

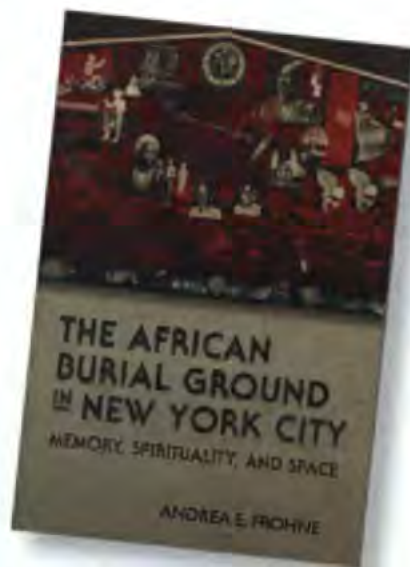


## The African Burial Ground in New York City

By **Andrea E. Frohne**

(Syracuse University Press, 2015; 444 pgs., illus., \$75 cloth, \$50 paper;

[www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu](http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu))



In the late 1980s, the General Services Administration (GSA) made plans to build a large new federal office building in lower New York City in a large complex of city, state, and federal buildings. As required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, GSA commissioned an environmental impact statement that disclosed the possibility of an old African-American cemetery at the site. In 1991, archaeologists used a backhoe to dig a test trench, and they encountered skeletons and other artifacts, confirming the presence of the cemetery twenty-five feet below the surface.

Historical records and maps indicated that there was a seven-acre African burial ground in the vicinity, which was just north of the city in the 1700s. It was in use from about 1712 to 1795, and as many as 15,000 people were buried there. When the city expanded to the north, the rolling hills of Manhattan Island were leveled for new development, and the cemetery was covered with twenty-five to thirty feet of soil. Buildings were erected on top, and the graves were forgotten. In the 1700s as many as twenty-five percent of New York City's population was of African descent, most of them slaves. These were the remains rediscovered in 1991.

GSA decided to move ahead with the office building and to remove the affected burials. Archaeologists started to work in October 1991, but controversy soon enveloped the project. Some skeletons were damaged, and others were vandalized. The project became a political battleground with successive archaeological firms caught in the middle. By the end of 1992, 419 sets of remains had been excavated. They were taken to Howard University, a historically black school in Washington, D.C., for study. A memorial area was set aside at the site, and in 2003 the bones were placed in wooden boxes made in Africa and reburied. In 2006, President George W. Bush used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to make the African Burial Ground a national monument, complete with a National Park Service interpretive center.

Author Andrea Frohne, an art historian at Ohio University, tells the story in this absorbing volume that recounts the tale of discovery, public controversies, and archaeological research and analysis. The book is an important case study in public archaeology and how the nation's historic preservation laws can be utilized for the public's benefit, even if the process is a tortuous one.

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## The Pueblo Bonito Mounds of Chaco Canyon: Material Culture and Fauna

Edited by **Patricia L. Crown**

(University of New Mexico Press, 2016; 296 pgs., illus., \$85 cloth; [www.unmpress.com](http://www.unmpress.com))

Pueblo Bonito is the largest and most famous of the great houses in Chaco Canyon, the great Native center in the desert of northwestern New Mexico. In front of the 800-room, five-story great house are two large mounds that have variously been interpreted as ceremonial structures, trash mounds, or ritual architecture. Pueblo Bonito was almost totally excavated in the 1890s and 1920s. In the 1920s, Neil Judd dug three trenches through the mounds—one in each mound and one in the space between them. He collected about 105 artifacts, which are now in the American Museum of Natural History, and the trenches were back filled with the material that came from them.

Between 2004 and 2007 the University of New Mexico, under the direction of archaeologist W.H. Wills, re-excavated Judd's trenches during six field sessions. They collected some 200,000 artifacts—ceramics, lithics, bones, and other materials. This is the report of that research project. Each of the contributors focuses on an artifact category and on basic research questions related to Chaco Canyon such as crafts production, long-distance exchange of goods, and feasting and ritual behavior. The result is a great quantity of new data on a culture that continues to befuddle archaeologists and lay people alike.

Local politics makes new research in Chaco Culture National Historical Park extremely difficult, if not impossible, and this report provides important new information that students of Chaco Canyon are eagerly awaiting.—Mark Michel





## The Archaeological Conservancy

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Our tour begins on the coast of Belize, where you'll visit Belize City, see Altun Ha, and take a boat ride up the New River to Lamanai, a Maya trading center established before Christ and occupied until A.D. 1641. From the coast you'll travel to the inner reaches of the country and explore the splendid mountaintop palace of Cahal Pech.

A ferry ride will take you to the ruins of Xunantunich, once an important trading center. There you'll tour El Castillo, a classic example of the Mayatechnique of constructing a pyramid over an older pyramid. From Xunantunich you'll visit the recently excavated ceremonial site of Caracol, the largest Maya site in Belize.

You'll also visit Yaxhá, a city nineteen miles southeast of Tikal that features an impressive series of plazas and platform groups. You'll spend two days exploring Tikal, a magnificent Maya center situated in the Petén rain forest. Thought to have had a population exceeding 75,000, Tikal once spanned an area of more than twenty-five square miles. John Henderson, a leading scholar of Mesoamerican cultures, will lead the tour.



JIM WALKER

*Archaeologist John Henderson points to El Castillo, a huge pyramid at Xunantunich in Belize.*

### Aztecs, Toltecs, And Teotihuacános

**Where:** Mexico

**When:** March 25 – April 3, 2017

**How Much:** \$2,695 (\$380 single supplement)

Two thousand years ago, cultures that have long since vanished from Central Mexico constructed magnificent temples and pyramids. Today, these monuments of the Aztecs, Toltecs, and Teotihuacános remain a testament to the fascinating people who built them.

This tour takes you to a number of sites including those once inhabited by the Olmec, a culture that was known throughout the region for its art. You'll also visit the monuments of the Aztec, a civilization that witnessed the arrival of the Spanish. You'll explore Teotihuacán, once a great urban center with a population of 200,000. John Henderson, a Mesoamerican expert with Cornell University, will lead the tour.



MARK MICHEL

*Teotihuacán was once one of the great cities of the New World.*





MARK MICHEL

*Palenque's magnificent ruins make it a popular destination. The city's palace is seen in the upper right of this photo.*

## Maya of Chiapas and Tabasco

**Where:** Mexico

**When:** February 15 – 25, 2017

**How Much:** \$3,195 (\$450 single supplement)

This tour takes us to some of the more out-of-the-way but spectacular ruins of Maya cities in southern Mexico that flourished between A.D. 300 and 900. We begin in the tropical lowlands and end in the fabulous highlands of Chiapas among the modern Maya people. We'll see tremendous pyramids, unbelievable sculptures and murals, and modern arts and crafts.

We begin our adventure with a visit to the major Olmec site of La Venta, with its great earthen pyramid. We will then visit Comalcalco, Palenque, Bonampak, and Yaxchilán. Then we leave the tropical lowlands for a long climb into the Chiapas mountains to the large Maya center of Toniná. The site is dominated by its acropolis, which rises in terraces and buildings some 233 feet up the side of a steep hill. We'll continue climbing to reach the colonial-Indian town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, where we'll spend two nights. We'll then visit the charming Tzotzil Maya villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantán. Our guide will be the noted Mesoamerican scholar John Henderson.





# Patrons of Preservation

*The Archaeological Conservancy would like to thank the following individuals, foundations, and corporations for their generous support during the period of May through July 2016. Their generosity, along with the generosity of the Conservancy's other members, makes our work possible.*

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The Candelaria Fund, *California*  
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William E. Thompson, *Texas*

#### **Bequest**

Winifred A. Caldwell, *Rhode Island*

## Congress Approves Permanent Benefits for Donors to Charities

Congress has passed three tax provisions that may be of substantial benefit to those who want to make a charitable contribution to The Archaeological Conservancy.

**IRA Contributions:** In 2016, Congress made permanent the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Most taxpayers age 70-1/2 and older are required to take minimum withdrawals annually from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and pay income taxes on that withdrawal. The QCD allows IRA owners to make donations up to \$100,000 directly from their IRAs to charitable organizations such as the Conservancy without paying income taxes on that distribution. And the QCD can count against the required minimum distribution. Thus, a donor can, for example, donate \$10,000 from his or her IRA to the Conservancy and not pay income tax, which may be as high as 36.5 percent. However, no charitable tax deduction is allowed.

**Qualified Conservation Contribution:** This legislation allows generous tax deductions for individuals who permanently preserve scenic, environmentally sensitive, or historically important property

through outright land donations called a qualified conservation contribution, a bargain sale to charity of land (the difference between appraised land value and sale price), and conservation easements (legal preservation restrictions on the use of land) donated to qualifying organizations such as the Conservancy and land trusts. Landowners of qualifying properties such as archaeological sites can deduct from income all or most of the appraised value of their donations, or the difference between the appraised value and sale proceeds for partial gifts to charity, or the difference between appraised values before and after the creation of a conservation easement. A tax deduction is also available for the donation of a qualified conservation easement. Enhanced deduction provisions may also be available for farmers and ranchers.

**Membership:** For Conservancy members who itemize deductions on Schedule A, the entire \$25 of membership may be tax deductible.

Please consult with your tax expert to see how you qualify for these tax benefits for 2016 or call Mark Michel at The Archaeological Conservancy for more information - 505-266-1540.







# PARKIN ARCHEOLOGICAL STATE PARK

PARKIN, ARKANSAS

BEGAN AS A CONSERVANCY PRESERVE IN 1985

## Make your mark in time.

Some Conservancy members think the only way to help save archaeological sites is through membership dues. While dues are a constant lifeline, there are many ways you can support the Conservancy's work, both today and well into the future. And by supporting the Conservancy, you not only safeguard our past for your children and grandchildren, you also may save some money.

## Place stock in the Conservancy.

Evaluate your investments. Some members choose to make a difference by donating stock. Such gifts offer a charitable deduction for the full value instead of paying capital gains tax.

## Leave a lasting legacy.

Many people consider protecting our cultural heritage by remembering the Conservancy in their will. While providing us with a dependable source of income, bequests may qualify you for an estate tax deduction.

***Whatever kind of gift you give, you can be sure we'll use it to preserve places like Parkin Archeological State Park and our other 505 sites across the United States.***



Yes, I'm interested in making a planned-giving donation to The Archaeological Conservancy and saving money on my taxes. Please send more information on:

Gifts of stock

Bequests

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Archaeological Conservancy**  
**Attn: Planned Giving**  
**1717 Girard Boulevard, NE**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87106**

**Or call:**  
**(505) 266-1540**





# IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

HELP PRESERVE AMERICA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE by becoming a member of The Archaeological Conservancy. Membership support enables us to acquire and permanently preserve threatened archaeological sites around the country. As a member, you'll receive *American Archaeology* magazine and announcements of Conservancy tours.

Enroll me as a member.  Renew my membership.  Accept my special gift.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

- \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  
 \$1,000 (Life Membership)  \$2,500 (Anasazi Circle 2016)

Please bill me.

Please charge my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ gift to:  VISA  MasterCard  AmEx

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EXPIRATION DATE  
MO. / YR.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

If paying by check, please make check payable to The Archaeological Conservancy.  
Conservancy membership starts at \$25. Annual dues include a subscription to *American Archaeology* (\$6).



PICTURES OF RECORD



FA16

# GIVE A HISTORIC GIFT

HELP PROTECT AMERICA'S THREATENED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

by enrolling a friend as a member of The Archaeological Conservancy.

The person you designate below will receive a membership packet announcing your gift and an annual subscription to *American Archaeology*.

Please enroll the person I've listed below.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

- \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  
 \$1,000 (Life Membership)  \$2,500 (Anasazi Circle 2016)

Please charge my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ gift to:  VISA  MasterCard  AmEx  Please bill me.

ACCOUNT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE  
MO. / YR.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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GIFT RECIPIENT'S NAME (please print clearly)

STREET ADDRESS

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CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

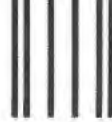


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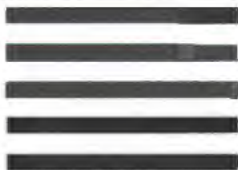
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OUR TAKE  
ON SAVING  
AMERICA'S MOST  
SIGNIFICANT  
UNPROTECTED  
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE



Friends of Cedar Mesa

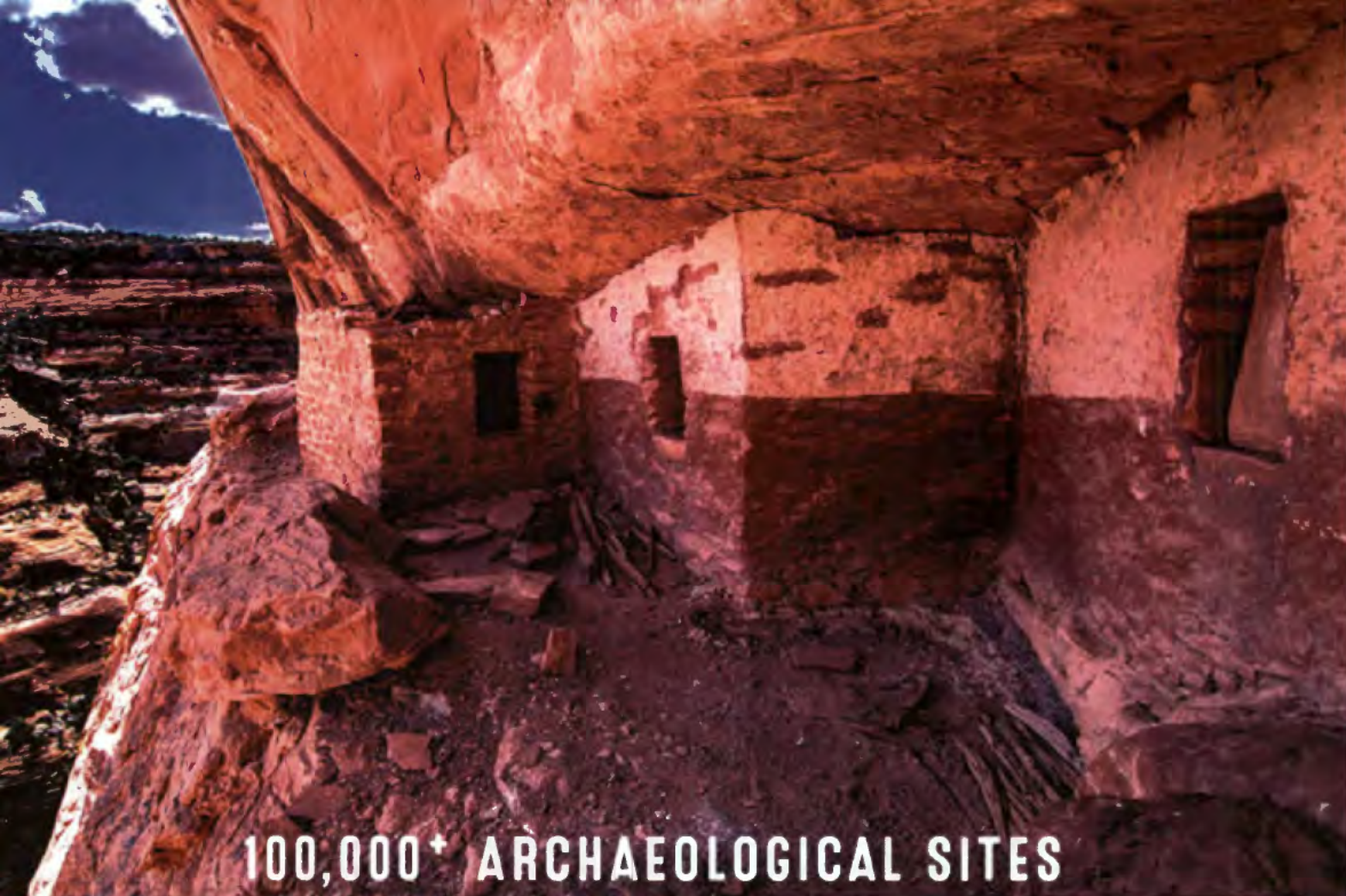




**THE LONG, WINDING  
PATH TO PROTECTION**

Grand Gulch: site of many early looting incidents and proposed for protect by Senator Frank Moss in the 1960s





**100,000+ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES**







**CONTINUING  
THREATS**





# \$2500 REWARD

---

Information leading to the successful prosecution for serious incidents in San Juan County, UT of:

**LOOTING, VANDALISM  
and GRAVE ROBBING**

Archaeological and cultural sites on public lands are protected from theft or damage by Utah and United States antiquities laws.

REPORT TIPS TO

**1-888-STOP-LOOTING**

---

OR IN CASE OF ACTIVE INCIDENT

**call 911**

Reward offered by Friends of Cedar Mesa. Hotline tips reviewed by relevant law enforcement personnel from the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, US Parks Service, and Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. For more information, visit [www.CedarMesaFriends.org/reward](http://www.CedarMesaFriends.org/reward).



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONES OF BEARS EARS



SAN RAFAEL DESERT

Eastern

BURR DESERT

CANE SPRING DESERT

Confluence, Red Canyon and Mancos Mesa

White Canyon Drainages

Beef Basin and Dark Canyon Plateau

Forest Service

Cedar Mesa, Valley of the Gods and Comb Ridge

Bluff Bench, Tank Mesa, Cottonwood Wash and Recapture Pocket

Lockhart Basin, Harts Draw and Indian Creek

Little Wild Horse Mesa, Big Wild Horse Mesa, Middle Wild Horse Mesa

Factory Bench, Lower Bluffs Hills

South Pinto Hills, Dry Valley

Big Valley Benches

Twin Corral Flats

Sage Mesa, Fort Mesa, Galleta

Trachyte Point

Red Benches, The Black, The Giver

Two Grabens

Life Rocks

Hall Mesa

WILSON MESA

Mancos Mesa

Douglas Mesa

US-12

CASA DEL ECO MESA

WHITE MESA

UTAH N. NOKAITO BENCH





Cottonwood Wash and the Bluff Bench



Hundreds of significant Ancestral Pueblo archaeological sites are found throughout Cottonwood Wash.



An aerial photograph of a vast, arid landscape, likely the Chaco region. The terrain is characterized by winding, light-colored paths or roads that snake across the dark, scrubby ground. In the distance, a range of low mountains or hills is visible under a clear sky. The lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting, with long shadows and a warm, golden glow.

**FOUR ANCIENT  
CHACOAN ROADS**



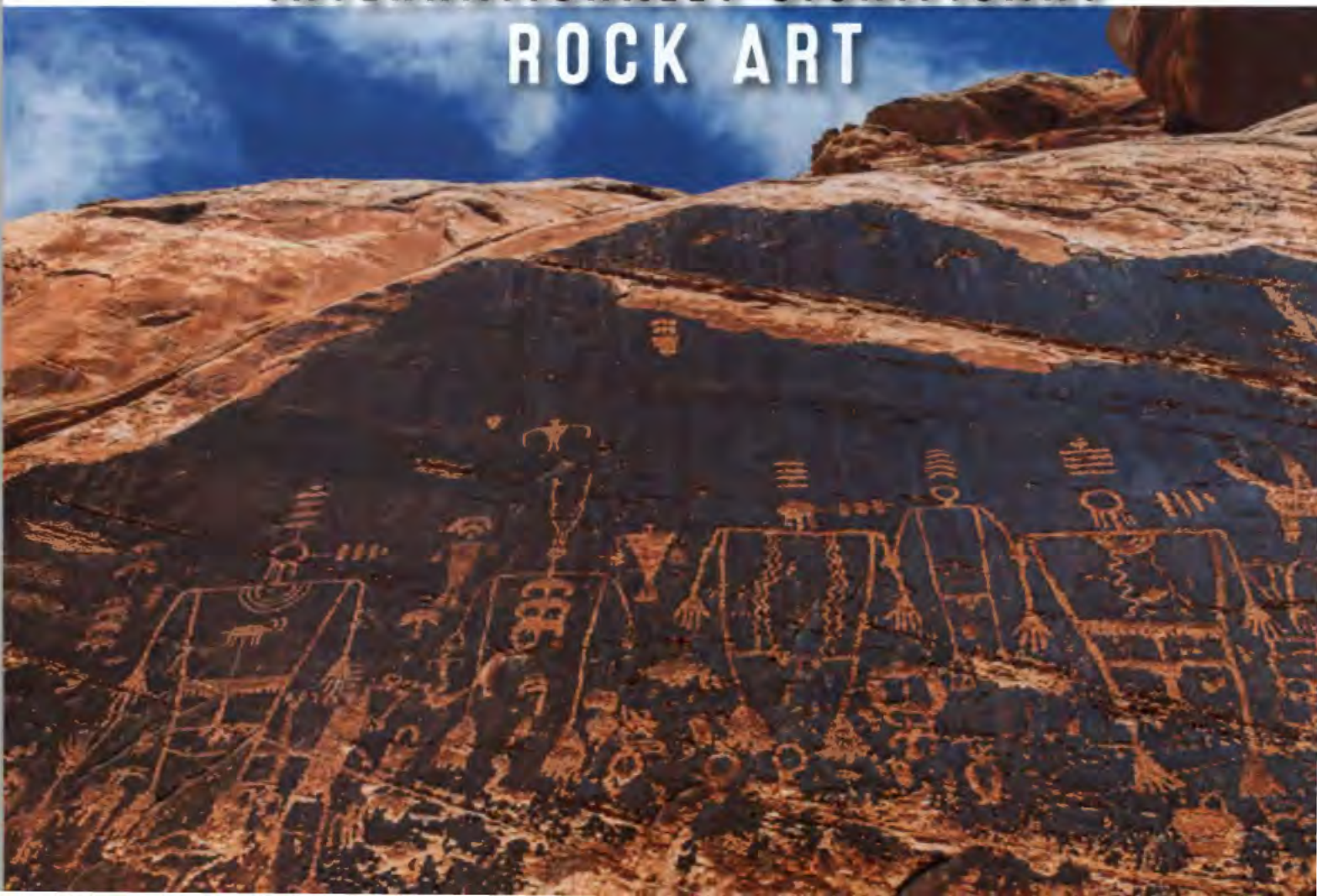




**MAMMOTH PETROGLYPH:  
POTENTIALLY AMERICA'S  
OLDEST ROCK IMAGE**



**INTERNATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT  
ROCK ART**





# WORLD CLASS RECREATION IN BEARS EARS

Moab



Lockhart Basin

Indian Creek



Abajo Mountains



White Canyon

Bears Ears & Elk Ridge



Blanding

San Juan River


Cedar Mesa

Bluff



Mexican Hat





**“THERE COMES A TIME WHEN ONE  
MUST TAKE A POSITION THAT IS  
NEITHER SAFE, NOR POLITIC, NOR  
POPULAR, BUT HE MUST TAKE IT  
BECAUSE CONSCIENCE TELLS HIM  
IT IS RIGHT.”**

**- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**



## Public Lands Initiative

*From: Emery County*

July 13, 2016

### Emery County Highlights:

- Approximately one million acres of conservation designation, including:
  - 500,000+ acres of wilderness, in ten Wilderness Areas.
  - Over 400,000 acres of National Conservation Area in three NCAs.
  - Nearly 100 miles of Wild and Scenic River designation.
- Cleveland/Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry elevated to National Monument status.
- 130,000 acres of co-managed area (BLM, State Parks and Emery County) to address dramatic visitation increase. Federal to State conveyance to accommodate infrastructure needs.
- Conveyance of 4 areas from federal to county for airport expansion, recreation staging, Sheriff Office substation and information center.
- Provides for disposal of island parcels of BLM land.
- Provides for exchange of 100,000 acres of SITLA/Federal lands for potential economic benefit of Emery, and other Counties
- Establishes acceptable, reasonable Right-of-Way widths.
- Realigns boundaries where there are current management conflicts.
- Protects current high-value resource use.
- Eliminates buffer zone management, creating regulatory certainty.

### Emery County Process:

- Eight-year process, facilitated by Emery County Public Lands Council and Emery County Commission.
- Included 8 scoping meetings, dozens of work meetings and field trips.
- Encouraged and accommodated participation of all stakeholders.
- Open and transparent process.
- It makes sense and it's the right thing to do.



# Activities Guide 2016



LIFE  
**UTAH**  
ELEVATED

[SanRafaelCountry.com](http://SanRafaelCountry.com)



# Another "Grand" Canyon

## Another "Grand" Canyon

**Start the superlatives:** Heart pounding, jaw dropping, unbelievable, extraordinary, breathtaking, gorgeous, incredible, awesome, fantastic, stunning, amazing, beautiful, fun.....  
"The amazing San Rafael Swell."

You've undoubtedly heard of Utah's Mighty Five National Parks, which include Bryce, Zion, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef and Arches. But in the same neighborhood (south central Utah) along the Road to Mighty, are some other extraordinary finds including world famous Goblin Valley, The Wedge Overlook aka another "Grand" Canyon, amazing Black Dragon Canyon, one of America's top bouldering destinations Joe's Valley, and some of the best biking, hiking, paddle boarding, ATViing and winter sports this side of the equator. So pick your season and pick your passion and we'll help you plan your San Rafael Swell experience - and you can add to the list of superlatives.



*Photo Courtesy: Lisa Carter*

[www.srswell.com](http://www.srswell.com)



## Transportation in Green River

### Amtrak Train

Online [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com)

Food & Lodging Properties within walking distance.

### Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Online [enterprise.com](http://enterprise.com)

Pick up location (after requested):

Robbers Roost Motel  
325 West Main St  
Green River, UT 84525 435-564-3452

### Grey Hound Bus

Online [greyhound.com](http://greyhound.com)

Station location:

Knights Inn  
1015 East Main St  
Green River, UT 84525 435-564-3421

### Small Airports

Green River Municipal Airport  
Green River, UT 84525 435-564-

Huntington Municipal Airport  
Huntington, UT 84528 435-749-1912

## Maps

These maps become interactive when you download the digital versions.

### Adventure Guide Map

Digital- [iOS or Android](#)

1. Download the "Avenza PDF Maps" app onto your Smartphone or Tablet
2. Open the app
3. Select "Store" & then "Find Maps"
4. Search & Download: "SRC Adventure Guide"

### Non-Motorized & Motorized Trail Maps

Digital- [iOS or Android](#)

1. Download the "Avenza PDF Maps" app onto your Smartphone or Tablet
2. Open the app
3. Select "Store" & then "Find Maps"
4. Search & Download:
  - Non-Motorized Trails Map, Emery County, UT
  - Emery County OHV Trail Map-Front
  - Emery County OHV Trail Map-Back

# Where to Go...

Where to Go...

## What's Inside

4	Goblin Valley State Park
5	Little Wild Horse
6	Saucer Basin
7	Fossil Point
8	Green River State Park
9	Green River Golf Course
10	JWP River History Museum
11	Swasey's Beach
12	Crystal Geyser
13	Black Dragon Wash
14	Swinging Bridge
15	Buckhorn Pictograph Panel
16	Dinosaur Track
17	Chimney Rock
18	Spirit Railroad
19	Cedar Mountain
20	The Wedge Overlook
21	Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry
22	Huntington State Park
23	Museum of the San Rafael
24	Aquatic Center
25	Joe's Valley
26	Millsite Golf Course
27	Millsite State Park
28	Rochester Creek Rock Art Panel
29	Swasey's Cabin
30	Dining
31	Dining
32	Lodging
33	Lodging
34	Guides & Gear
35	Area Contacts
36	Events
37	Events
38	Trip Planner-Create Your Own
39	Trip Planner-Create Your Own

Cover Photo Courtesy: Monique Beeley



# Goblin Valley

Goblin Valley State Park

MUST  
SEE



*Photo Courtesy: State Parks*

**Description:** [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/goblin-valley](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/goblin-valley)

Journey to this strange and colorful valley, which is unlike any other in Utah. The landscape, covered with sandstone goblins and formations, are often compared to Mars. Explore the geology, and camp among the nooks and gnomes. Come Ride the newly unveiled Wild Horse Mtn Bike Trail System with views of Wild Horse Mesa accessed only by this trail. There's a Visitor Center on-site, plus Yurts and campsites available for your stay.

**Directions:** GPS Coordinates: 38.578074 -110.707487

From Exit 149 on I-70, continue east for another 24 miles on highway 24. Turn west and drive another 5 miles then turn southwest and follow the road signs to your destination.

**Access:**

Green River (services available)  
Goblin's Lair  
Little Wild Horse  
Temple Mountain  
Behind the Reef

**Activities:**

- Hiking & Biking
- ATV/OHV
- Horseback Riding
- Camping



# Little Wild Horse

Little Wild Horse



*Photo Courtesy: Mike McCandless  
Two Small End Photos-Monique Beeley*

## Access:

Cistern Canyon (Hike Trail)  
Ding & Dang (Hike Trail)  
Crack Canyon (Horse Trail)  
Goblin Valley State Park

## Activities:

- Hiking
- Horseback Riding

## Description:

The Little Wild Horse/Bell Canyon loop is the most popular hike in the San Rafael Swell. This is an 8 mile moderately difficult route, so good physical ability and plenty of water are advised. Hike will take approximately 6-8 hours to complete. Furry friends are welcome but be cautious as they tend to get overheated and will need your help maneuvering over boulders along the path.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.582702 -110.802812*

From I-70 take exit 149 heading south on highway 24. At 35.1 miles turn right onto Temple Mountain Road. At 40.3 miles, turn left onto Goblin Valley Road. At 46.4 miles, turn right onto Wild Horse Road. At 51.8 miles, you have reached your destination.



# Saucer Basin

Saucer Basin



*Photo Courtesy: San Rafael Country Adventures*

## Access:

- Moonshine Wash (Hiking Trail)
- Three Canyon (Hiking Trail)
- Junes Loop (Horse & Bike Trail)
- Keg Spring (Hiking Trail)

## Description:

Undiscovered slick rock around every turn. Some say this area is incredible and comparable with other slick rock areas in Utah but without the crowds. View of Horse Bench Reservoir.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.653728 -110.114958*

To get to this location you'll drive from Green River head south on Broadway curving east onto Green River Ave. Take the next right onto Airport Road. At mile 2.9, turn left onto a maintained gravel road. Continue driving about 30 miles to these Coordinates: N38'66240 W110'17338

## Activities:

- Biking
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- ATV/OHV



# Fossil Point

Fossil Point



*Photo Courtesy: Epicenter  
Small Right-Tina Carter*

## *Description:*

Many dinosaur bones date back 145 million years. Please note dinosaur fossils, even small fragments cannot be removed from this site. There are large vertebrae embedded in the rocks at ground level. Climbing to the point, you'll find enormous fossil bones once belonging to a Brontosaurus.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.841410 -110.199850*

From Green River head south on Broadway curving east onto Green River Ave. Take the next right onto Airport Road. At mile 2.9, turn left onto a maintained gravel road. As you pass Horse Bench Reservoir and over an earthen dam, turn left at 11.4 miles onto a dirt road. Fossil Point is located at 12.6 miles.

**(888) 564-3600**

## *Access:*

Horse Bench (Horse Trail)  
Bull Bottom (Horse & Bike Trail)  
Moonshine Wash (Hiking Trail)  
Three Canyon (Hiking Trail)  
Junes Bottom (Horse & Bike Trail)

## *Activities:*

- ATV/OHV
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking
- Biking



# Green River State Park

Green River State Park



*Photo Courtesy: State Parks  
Small Left-Holiday River Expeditions*

## **Description:**

This is the starting point for river running adventures through Labyrinth and Stillwater canyons. Permits (available at this park) are required for this stretch or you can go with one of our seasoned river guides. The campground has shady cottonwood trees and a variety of species of birds. If fishing is your activity of choice, the Green has catfish & carp. The nearby fishing pond has largemouth bass, rainbow, blue gill, and catfish. A Utah State Fishing License is required and available online.

**Directions:** GPS Coordinates: 38.989951 -110.153913  
Exit 160 from I-70. Drive 1.74 miles and turn right onto Green River Blvd. Drive 0.45 more miles and turn left into the park.

## **Access:**

Green River (services available)  
Fossil Point  
Goblin Valley State Park  
Dead Horse Point State Park  
Arches National Park

## **Activities:**

- Fishing
- Birding
- Rafting
- Friendship Cruise (Annual)

[www.SanRafaelCountry.com](http://www.SanRafaelCountry.com)



# Green River Golf Course

Green River Golf Course



*Photo Courtesy: State Parks  
Small Right-Tina Carter*

## Access:

Green River State Park  
The Green River  
JWP River History Museum  
Crystal Geysir

## Activities:

- Disc Golf
- Golf Tournaments
- Rafting (Nearby)
- Birding

## Description: [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/green-river/golf](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/green-river/golf)

Green River State Park golf course is a golf oasis on the banks of the Green River, with the Book Cliffs towering in the distance. This course also features a new championship level 18-hole disc golf course. Disc golf supplies are available at the clubhouse along with disc rentals. This course is affordable, and coupled with a fantastic layout and superb greens, is fast becoming a destination spot. The pro shop offers club & cart rentals, clothing, accessories, and refreshments.

## Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.993951 -110.156546

Take exit 160 from I-70 & drive about 1.86 miles, then turn south and drive to the clubhouse.

(888) 564-3600



# JWP Museum

JWP River History Museum



*Photo Courtesy: JWP Museum  
Small Center-Tina Carter*

#### Access:

TESLA Charging Station  
Fossil Point  
Crystal Geysir  
Nefertiti Rapids  
Tusher Canyon

#### Activities:

- History, Art, Science
- Exploring Fossils (Nearby)
- Rafting (Nearby)
- Biking (Nearby)

*Description: [johnwesleypowell.com](http://johnwesleypowell.com)*

The River Runner's Hall of Fame highlights some of the most influential explorers, guides, and adventurers that have ever graced the Colorado Plateau. Southeastern Utah is prime territory for finding fossils. As part of the famed "Dinosaur Diamond", you can travel just a few miles outside of Green River and be amongst dinosaur bones! If you don't want to go fossil hunting, however, you can find plenty of dinosaurs on the bottom floor of the museum.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.993793 -110.141302*

Take exit 160 from I-70 and drive over the Green River about 2.70 miles, then turn northeast.



# Swasey's Beach

Swasey's Beach



*Photo Courtesy: Large-Epicenter  
Small-Ray Petersen*

## Description:

Swasey's Beach is a beautiful sand beach which is a great place for a picnic, fishing, camping, or just relaxing. Amenities include a campground with nine developed campsites, fire pits, picnic tables and pit toilets. The rapids found here are called Swasey's Rapids.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.116099 -110.109580*

In the town of Green River, drive east on main street 0.4 miles from the JWP Museum to Hastings road and turn north. Continue driving on this dirt road 9.4 miles until you reach Swasey's Beach.

## Access:

Nefertiti Rapids  
Tusher Canyon  
Gunnison Butte  
Long & Short Canyons

## Activities:

- Rafting
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Hiking

**(888) 564-3600**



# Crystal Geyser

Crystal Geyser



*Photo Courtesy: Epicenter*

## *Description:*

This is a rare cold water geyser. Cold water geysers like this get their power from gases like carbon dioxide. The eruptions are very sporadic, about every 12-16 hours. Even if you miss the eruption, the amazing rust-colored terraces formed by minerals in the water will fascinate you.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.938155 -110.135886*

From Green River drive east out of town crossing over I-70 without getting on the freeway. Turn east on this frontage road. At the 4-way intersection turn right and head south on the graded dirt road. At this next intersection you should continue west. You'll go under the power lines to the geyser.

## *Access:*

The Green River  
Green River (services available)  
JWP River History Museum  
Green River Golf Course

## *Activities:*

- Hiking
- Biking
- ATV/OHV



# Black Dragon

Black Dragon

MUST  
SEE



*Photo Courtesy: Mike McCandless*

## Access:

Petroglyph Canyon (Hike Trail)  
Black Dragon (ATV/OHV Trail &  
World Class Mountain Biking)

## Activities:

- Hiking
- Biking
- ATV/OHV

## Description:

These pictographs are located in the wild and tortured landscape of the San Rafael Reef. Cut through with deep, sinuous canyons often adorned with Native American rock art panels, the Reef is the spectacular eastern cliff line of the San Rafael Swell. Within the Reef lies the deep Black Dragon Canyon, named for the flying dragon located on its wall.

*Directions:* GPS Coordinates: 38.942768 -110.424529

Driving west on I-70, carefully turn right onto the dirt road at mile post 147. One mile after the gate, turn west towards the canyon. Once in the mouth of the canyon park your car. An old jeep track provides level walking surface for 0.2 mile hike.



# Swinging Bridge

Swinging Bridge



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter*

## Access:

Green River (services available)  
Calf/Pine Canyon (Hike Trail)  
Cane Wash Loop (Horse Trail)  
Window Blind Peak (Horse Trail)  
Bottleneck Peak

## Activities:

- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- ATV/OHV
- Rock Climbing

## Description:

The 160 foot suspension known as the Swinging Bridge was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937, and dedicated by then Utah Governor Henry H. Blood. The Swinging Bridge was the only bridge over the river until the early 1990's. Though you can no longer drive on the bridge, it is perfectly safe to walk on. The bridge is also the finish line for the Little Grand Canyon Marathon.

*Directions:* GPS Coordinates: 39.081035 -110.666484

From I-70 take exit 131. Drive northeast 19.1 miles to this location. This site can also be accessed from the west end on highway 10 near Castle Dale or Huntington.

[www.SanRafaelCountry.com](http://www.SanRafaelCountry.com)



# Buckhorn Pictograph Panel

Buckhorn Pictograph Panel



Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter

## Description:

One of the highlights of the entire San Rafael Swell is this mysterious panel spanning over 130 feet. A pictograph is painted onto a surface, and a petroglyph is carved or pecked into the stone. There are some faint petroglyphs here, but the painted figures steal the show! This panel was painted well over 2,000 years ago, by a culture archeologists have named "Barrier Canyon Culture". These people were an archaic age hunter-gatherer society, living in caves or brush shelters.

**Directions:** GPS Coordinates: 39.123487 -110.694022

From I-70 take exit 131 and drive northeast on the maintained gravel road 22.7 miles.

(888) 564-3600

## Access:

Castle Dale (services available)  
I-70  
Highway 10  
Echo Canyon-Hiking  
Little Holes-Hiking

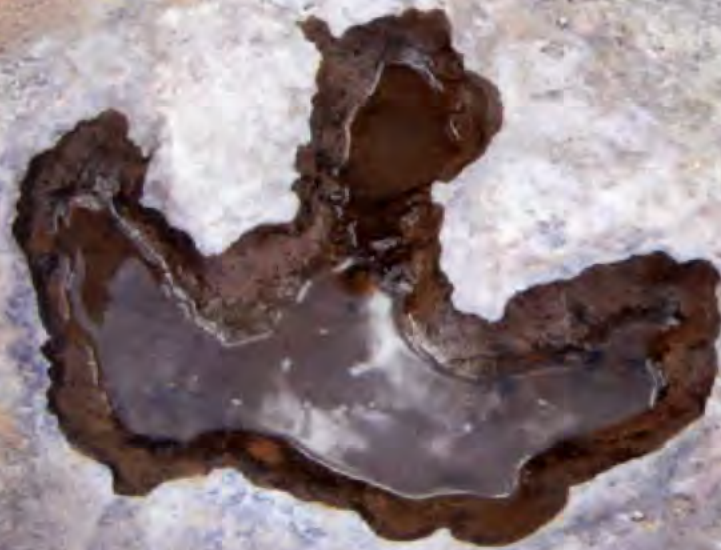
## Activities:

- Hiking
- Biking
- Geocaching
- ATV/OHV



# Dinosaur Track

Dinosaur Track



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter  
Small Left-San Rafael Country Adventures*

## Description:

This dinosaur track is very clear and large. It can be found with a little searching on the east side of the road (use caution when crossing the road) on top of a ledge of sandstone about 10 to 15 feet above the road. Once on top of the ledge, look for a larger flat area of bare sandstone at your feet. The footprint is on this sandstone area.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.160496 -110.729172*

Continuing north from the Swinging Bridge, drive 7.5 miles to a small pullout which will be on your left. Be cautious of south heading traffic when pulling into the pullout.

## Access:

Echo Canyon (Hike Trail)  
Little Holes (Hike Trail)  
Furniture Draw (Hike Trail)  
Buckhorn Waterfall (Horse,  
Bike & Motor Trail)

## Activities:

- Hiking
- ATV/OHV
- Biking
- Horseback Riding



# Chimney Rock

Chimney Rock



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter  
Arapeen ATV Jamboree*

## Access:

Buckhorn Wash  
Old Rail Grade (Horse, Bike &  
Motor Trail)  
The Wedge

## Description:

This area has some challenging dirt bike trails you won't want to miss. You could easily spend two or three days just riding this area. Some have referred to this trail as the tamed down version of "Five Miles of Hell" dirt bike trail.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.198742 -110.556189*

From the intersection at the Buckhorn Info Center drive 15 miles east towards highway 6. Coordinates are 39°19'40.3"-110°55'59.60".

## Activities:

- Dirt Bike
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding (Nearby)
- ATV/OHV

(888) 564-3600



# Spirit Railroad

Spirit Railroad



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter*

## Access:

Mt. Dew (Horse, Bike & Motor Trail)  
Buckhorn Reservoir  
Huntington City (Services Available)

## Description:

This railroad was constructed using local men in the early 1880's and cost over \$200,000. Watch for a large boulder North of you with a plaque which has several historical images. At the second fence you'll want to continue East on foot to find the old lime kiln constructed in the 1920's.

## Activities:

- ATV/OHV
- Biking
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.198607-110.753833*

From the intersection at the Buckhorn Info Center drive North 3.3 Miles, then turn onto the road east of you. *Note:* Please leave gates the way you find them. A few roads spur to the north with interesting historical sites. At the second fence line you can turn south to reconnect with the main road.



# Cedar Mountain

Cedar Mountain



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter*

## *Description:*

At the top of the mountain you'll be at an altitude of 7,664 feet. From here you'll see a breathtaking vista of the entire Northern San Rafael Swell. This is a truly sublime panorama!!

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.175246 -110.639152*

From the beginning of the Spirit Railroad drive North 5.62 Miles, then turn East at the intersection. Driving 15.3 Miles from here you'll come to a fantastic picnic area, with fire grates, picnic tables, pit toilets and garbage cans. However, there is NO WATER available here. This is a perfect opportunity for landscape photographs.

**(888) 564-3600**

## *Access:*

O'Ville Pioneer Village (Cleveland)  
Cleveland (Services Available)

## *Activities:*

- Picnic Area
- Hiking
- Biking
- ATV/OHV



# The Wedge Overlook

Another "Grand" Canyon

MUST  
SEE



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter  
Small Center-Monique Beeley*

## Description:

The stunning Wedge Overlook, also known as another "Grand" Canyon, offers unparalleled views of the San Rafael River's deep gorge! There are picnic tables, restrooms, and camping areas available at this facility, but NO WATER.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.093019 -110.758759*

From highway 10 in Castle Dale drive east out of town 1.51 miles and turn right onto the access road to the San Rafael Swell. Drive 12.82 miles on well maintained gravel roads to the Buckhorn Information Center. Turn south at this intersection until you arrive at the overlook. From this point roads will head east and west, providing more spectacular views.

## Nearby Access:

Good Water Rim Trail (Bike Trail)  
Little Grand Canyon (Horse Trail)  
Fuller's Bottom  
Green River Cutoff Road  
I-70

## Activities:

- Biking
- ATV/OHV
- Hiking
- Camping



# Dinosaur Quarry

Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry



Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter  
Small Left-Monique Beeley

## Access:

Rim Walk (Hike Trail)  
ATV/OHV Trails (Outside Quarry)  
Camping (Outside Quarry)  
O'Ville Pioneer Village (Cleveland)  
Cleveland (Services Available)

## Activities:

- See Excavation Pits
- Junior Explorer Program
- Picnicking
- Hiking

(888) 564-3600

Description: [emerycounty.com/travel/museums.htm#clidq](http://emerycounty.com/travel/museums.htm#clidq)

Here you'll see a replica skeleton of an adult allosaurus and skulls of eight other dinosaurs. You'll be presented with data through hands on exhibits and are invited to create your own hypotheses about the site to see if you can solve the mystery.

Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.322833 -110.687726

From hwy 10 in Huntington turn east onto Center St. Drive 3.65 miles and turn east again crossing a bridge. Continue driving straight east onto a maintained gravel road for 5.83 miles and turn north. Continue past an intersection about 6.12 miles and turn east. Drive another 5.15 miles and turn left into the entrance of the quarry. (Admittance fee)



# Huntington State Park

Huntington State Park



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter  
San Rafael Classic Triathlon*

#### Nearby Access:

National Scenic Byway (hwy 31)  
Arapeen Trail System (Size Limit)  
Huntington (Services Available)  
San Rafael Swell  
Highway 6

#### Activities:

- Crawdad Fishing
- Water Sports
- Fishing
- Triathlon (Annual)

*Description:* [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/huntington](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/huntington)

This grassy green campground offers water sports, boating and fishing. There are paddle boards and canoes available for a small rental fee. You can enjoy a walk or bike ride around the reservoir and down into Huntington City for a treat or a bite to eat. The San Rafael Classic Triathlon is also held at this park each year. 25 large campsites with electrical/water hookups.

*Directions:* GPS Coordinates: 39.347302 -110.943090

Driving northeast leaving Huntington on highway 10, turn left about 2.34 miles onto Mohrland Road and drive .27 miles to the entrance of the park on your left (entrance fee).



# Museum of the San Rafael

Museum of the San Rafael



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter*

*Description:* [emerycounty.com/sanrafaelmuseum](http://emerycounty.com/sanrafaelmuseum)

Following footsteps of the past will lead you to the Hall of Paleontology where you'll see fossils and bones left behind. The Hall of Archaeology has exhibits of Ancient and modern Native American Artifacts. The Hall of Biology has area animals mounted in their natural habitats. The Hall of Geology highlights glowing rocks, petrified wood and more. The friendly museum staff can help you find other area attractions.

*Directions:* GPS Coordinates: 39.212555 -110.017697

From highway 10 in Castle Dale, turn north at 100 east. The museum is at the northeast end of your location.

**(888) 564-3600**

*Nearby Access:*

Joe's Valley  
The Wedge  
Buckhorn Wash  
Castle Dale (Services Available)

*Activities:*

- Museum Tours
- Education Camps
- History
- Art



# Aquatic Center

Aquatic Center



*Photo Courtesy: Large-Tina Carter  
Small-EC Aquatic Center*

## Description:

The indoor and outdoor pool offers lap swimming, recreational swimming, and play. There is a diving board, and the depth of the pool ranges from 3 1/2 feet to 12 feet deep. The outdoor pool has a lazy river feature, whirlpool, full playground with three slides, zero entry water, and water sprinklers.

There are covered picnic areas with tables available and a large grassy field perfect for a friendly game of soccer.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.223921 -111.015753*

From Hwy 10 turn north onto Spartan Center. Drive 0.9 miles (4 minutes) and turn east onto 800 North. Continue straight a few blocks and the facility will be on your right.

## Access:

New Joe's Bouldering Area  
Joe's Valley Campground  
The Wedge (aka another "Grand" Canyon)

## Activities:

- Diving Board
- Water Playground
- Parties (Party Room)
- Family Reunions

[www.SanRafaelCountry.com](http://www.SanRafaelCountry.com)



**MUST  
SEE**

# Joe's Valley

Joe's Valley



*Photo Courtesy: Monique Beeley  
Small Center-DC Solar Films*

#### Access:

Orangeville (Services Available)  
New Joe's Bouldering Area  
Roan's Canyon-Hiking  
Trail Canyon-Horseback  
CCC Trail-Mtn Bike & Horseback

#### Activities:

- Bouldering
- Paddle Boarding
- Fishing
- ATV/OHV

#### Description:

Along this scenic drive you'll see pull-outs along the road with access to several bouldering opportunities. You can also find some great hiking and horseback trails in the canyons.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.304249 -110.273121*

From Hwy 10 turn west onto Hwy 29. Drive 4 miles and turn north at the intersection. In 7.3 miles you'll see Hwy 57 turning north will take you to the New Joe's area or you may continue on Hwy 29. In 4.58 miles you'll see access to the north for Straight Canyon where you can access the Roan Canyon and the Trail Canyon trails. Continuing on Hwy 29 another 5.66 miles you'll reach Joe's Valley Reservoir.



# Millsite State Park

Millsite State Park



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter*

## Nearby Access:

Ferron Canyon  
Arapeen OHV Trail System  
Millsite Golf Course  
Dry Wash Trail (Hike-Bike-Motor)  
Ferron (Services Available)

## Activities:

- Boating
- Fishing
- Canoe/Paddle Boarding
- ATV Jamboree (Annual)

*Description:* [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/millsite](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/millsite)

This campground offers boating, water sports and fishing on this cool water reservoir. Camp along the shoreline in one of 10 large campsites with electric/water hookups or rough-it in one of 5 no-hookup sites. They have paddle boards and canoes for rent too. You can also bring your off-highway vehicles and mountain bikes to enjoy miles of trails in nearby Ferron Canyon.

*Directions:* GPS Coordinates: 39.09126 -111.195931

From highway 10 in Ferron turn west onto Canyon Road and drive 4.27 miles up Ferron Canyon. The State Park will be located on your right. (Entrance fee)



# Millsite Golf Course

Millsite Golf Course



*Photo Courtesy: Large-Millsite Golf Course  
Small-Tina Carter*

*Description: [millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)*

This is one of the most majestic courses in the State of Utah! From picturesque desert views to a magnificent waterfall, this 18 hole course is sure to be a challenge and can make for one of the most entertaining rounds of golf you'll ever experience! Located right next to the Millsite Reservoir & State Park, this area is surely one of Utah's hidden treasures!

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 39.089910 -111.188598*

From highway 10 in Ferron turn west onto Canyon Road and drive 3.56 miles up Ferron Canyon. The Club House and course are located on your right. Call 435-384-2887 for tee times and rates.

**(888) 564-3600**

**Nearby Access:**

Millsite State Park  
Ferron Canyon  
The San Rafael Swell  
Ferron (Services Available)

**Activities:**

- Golf
- Pro Shop
- Restaurant (Seasonal)
- ATV/OHV (Off Property)



# Rochester Creek Rock Art

Rochester Creek Rock Art Panel

MUST  
SEE



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter*

## Description:

Some rock art experts attribute the panel to the Fremont Culture, while others believe it was created by the Barrier Canyon Culture. In any case, this is one of the most unusual rock art sites you'll see.

**Directions:** GPS Coordinates: 38.906514 -111.195474

Drive south from Ferron on highway 10. Continue passed milepost 17 and then turn east onto another road. Drive 0.5 miles passing the Rochester Panel sign and turn onto a well maintained graveled road. Continue driving another 4.1 miles to the trailhead. From here you'll need to hike 0.5 miles (one way) on the trail just east of the parking lot to reach the panel.

## Nearby Access:

Moore Cutoff Road  
Miller Canyon Road  
Emery Town (Services Available)

## Activities:

- Hiking
- ATV/OHV
- Biking
- Photography



# Swasey's Cabin

Swasey's Cabin



*Photo Courtesy: Tina Carter  
Arapeen ATV Jamboree*

## Nearby Access:

- Lone Warrior (Pictograph Panel)
- The Refrigerator
- Wikiup/Fix It Pass (ATV/OHV Trail)
- Head of Sinbad (Horse Trail)
- Eagle Canyon (Horse Trail)

## Activities:

- ATV/OHV
- Horseback Riding
- Biking
- Hiking

## Description:

The cabin was built in 1921, but the wild Swasey Boys (including Joe, Sid, Charley and Rod) started running cattle out here decades before they finally built the cabin, usually sleeping in the open or in shallow caves. The Broken Cross pinnacle towers just to the southwest of the cabin.

*Directions: GPS Coordinates: 38.836212 -110.807060*

Take exit 131 from I-70. Continuing driving southwest on the main dirt road located on the southwest side of the concrete tunnel. Stay to the east side of the intersection at Mile 1.24. Turn west at this next intersection and continue driving west 0.72 Miles to the cabin.



# Dining

## Dining

### Green River

Arby's  
970 W Main St.  
(435) 564-3604  
arbys.com

Green River Coffee Company  
25 E Main St.  
(435) 817-6343  
grcoffeeco.com

Ray's Tavern  
25 Broadway St.  
(435) 564-3511

Blimpie's  
370 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8209  
blimpie.com

La Veracruzana  
115 Main St.  
(435) 564-3257

Subway  
969 W Main St.  
(435) 564-3531

Burger King  
1224 E Main  
(435) 564-8539  
bk.com

La Pasadita  
215 E Main  
(435) 564-8159

Tamarisk Restaurant  
1710 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8109  
tamariskrestaurant.com

The Chow Hound  
30 E Main St.  
(435) 564-3563

Melon Vine Food Store  
80 S Broadway St.  
(435) 564-3228  
melonvinegrocery.com

West Winds Restaurant  
545 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8240  
westwindstruckstop.com



## Castle Valley Communities

### Castle Dale

Fatty's Pizza & Grill  
340 E Main St.  
(435) 381-5080

Stewarts Marketplace  
621 E Main St.  
(435) 381-5660  
stewartsmarketplace.com

Main Street Express  
10 E Main St.  
(435) 381-2556

Maverik Country Store  
285 E Main St.  
(435) 381-5365  
maverik.com

R Pizza Place  
555 E Main St.  
(435) 381-2163

Subway  
610 E Main St.  
(435) 381-2507  
subway.com

### Cleveland

KFJ C-Store  
10 W Main St.  
(435) 653-2004

### Emery Town

Randy's  
5 E Main St.  
(435) 286-2333

### Ferron

Gilly's Convenience Store  
15 N State St.  
(435) 384-3333  
gillysferron.com

Grub Box Drive Inn (Cash Only)  
95 N State St.  
(435) 384-2623

Main Street Market  
15 W Main St.  
(435) 384-2830  
mainstreetmarketferron.com

### Orangeville

Food Ranch  
315 Utah 29  
(435) 748-2725  
foodranchinc.com

### Huntington

BK's Stop n Shop  
506 N Main St.  
(435) 687-9393

Garden Café  
686 N 400 E  
435-687-2264

Hart's  
135 S Main St.  
(435) 687-9336  
hartsgasandfood.com

Hometown Market  
221 N Main St.  
(435) 687-9976  
hometownmarketut.com

Maverick  
200 N Main St.  
(435) 687-9467  
maverik.com

Palenque Gourmet  
191 S Main St.  
(435) 687-2781

Subway (Inside Hart's)  
140 S Main St.  
(435) 687-2345  
subway.com



# Lodging

## Lodging

### Green River

*A/OK RV Park*  
610 South Green River Blvd  
(435) 564-8372

*America's Best Value Inn*  
2125 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8441  
abvigreenriver.com

*Budget Inn*  
150 E Main St.  
(435) 564-3441  
budgetinngreenriver.com

*Comfort Inn*  
1975 E Main St.  
(435) 564-3300  
comfortinn.com

*Goblin Valley*  
24 Mls S of I-70 on HWY 24  
(435) 275-4584  
stateparks.utah.gov

*Green River KOA*  
235 S 1780 E  
(435) 564-8195  
koa.com/campgrounds/green-river

*Green River State Park*  
110 Medical Dr.  
(435) 564-3633  
stateparks.utah.gov

*Holiday Inn Express*  
1845 E Main St.  
(435) 564-4439  
ihg.com/holidayinnexpress

*Knights Inn*  
1015 E Main St.  
(800) 564-3421  
knightsinn.com

*Motel 6*  
1860 E Main St.  
(435) 564-3436  
motel6.com

*Passport Inn*  
735 E Main St.  
(435) 564-3406  
booking.com

*River Terrace*  
1740 E Main St.  
(435) 564-3401  
river-terrace.com

*Robbers Roost Motel*  
325 W Main St.  
(435) 564-3452  
rrmotel.com

*Shady Acres RV Park*  
690 E Main St.  
(800) 537-8674  
shadyacresrv.com

*Skyfall Guestrooms*  
1710 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8109  
skyfallguestrooms.com

*Sleepy Hollow Motel*  
94 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8189

*Super 8 Motel*  
1248 E Main St.  
(435) 564-8888  
super8.com



# Lodging

Lodging

## Castle Valley Communities

### Castle Dale

Castle Ridge RV Park  
425 N 120 W (Esq Parkway)  
(435) 381-5167

Cox Lodging  
487 E 300 S  
(435) 381-2362  
coxlodging.com

San Rafael Bed & Breakfast  
15 E 100 N  
(435) 381-5689  
sanrafaelbedandbreakfast.com

Village Inn Motel  
355 E Main St.  
(435) 381-2309

Castle Valley Outdoors  
1600 N State  
(800) 586-6503  
castlevalleyoutdoors.com

### Ferron

Castle Valley Mobile Park  
405 N 300 W  
(435) 384-2714

Gilly's Inn & Cabins  
15 N State St.  
(435) 384-3333  
gillysferron.com

Kyle Singleton Trailer Park  
70 S State St.  
(435) 384-3379

Millsite State Park  
3500 W Canyon Rd  
(435) 384-2552  
stateparks.utah.gov

### Huntington

Bear Creek Campground  
14 MLS N on HWY 31  
(435) 381-2108  
www.emerycounty.com/rec/  
campground

Huntington State Park  
1135 N Mohrland Rd  
(435) 687-2491  
stateparks.utah.gov

Shady Acres  
400 N 200 W  
(435) 687-9261  
(435) 749-1274

Village Inn Motel  
307 S Main St.  
(435) 687-9888

### Emery Town



# Guides & Gear

Guides & Gear



Companies	Bike Tours	Fishing/Hunting	Horse Rides	OHV Tours	Float/Raft Trip	Specialty Tours	Guest Ranch	Camp	Bike Rentals	OHV Rentals
<b>Castle Dale City</b>										
Old Utah Trails oldutahtrails.com (435) 749-1741						●				
San Rafael ATV Rentals hurdz@hotmail.com (435) 381-7433				●		●				●
<b>Emery Town</b>										
Castle Valley Outdoors castlevalleyoutdoors.com (800) 586-6503		●	●	●	●	●	●			
<b>Green River City</b>										
Colorado River & Trails EXP crateinc.com (800) 253-7328					●			●		
Green River Stables tcoppin13@gmail.com (435) 564-3554			●							
Hatt's Clubhouse & Ranch hattranch.com (435) 564-3238		●								
Holiday Expeditions bikeraft.com (800) 624-6323	●				●	●		●		
O.A.R.S. oars.com (800) 346-6277					●			●		
<b>Huntington City</b>										
Gordon Horse Guides toviatt@etv.net (435) 749-9798			●							
San Rafael Country ADV SanRafaelCountryAdventures@gmail.com (435) 749-5300	●					●			●	



## Area Contacts

### Visitor Information Centers

#### **John Wesley Powell River History Museum**

1765 E Main St  
Green River, UT 84525  
435-564-3427

#### **Museum of the San Rafael**

70 N 100 E  
Castle Dale, UT 84513  
435-381-3560

### Emergency Numbers

#### **Emery County Sheriff:**

Emergency	911
Green River	435-564-8111
Castle Dale	435-381-2404

#### **Utah Highway Patrol:**

Green River	435-564-3474
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#### **Medical Centers:**

Green River	435-564-3434
Castle Dale	435-381-2305

#### **Hospital:**

Price	435-637-4800
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#### **Animal Hospital:**

Castle Dale	435-381-2539
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#### **Bureau of Land Management (BLM):**

Price	435-636-3600
Online	<a href="http://blm.gov">blm.gov</a>

#### **U.S. Forest Service (USFS):**

Ferron	435-384-2372
Price	435-637-2817
Online	<a href="http://fs.usda.gov">fs.usda.gov</a>

#### **Emery County Road Department:**

Green River	435-564-3574
Castle Dale	435-381-2550
Online	<a href="http://emerycounty.com/road">emerycounty.com/road</a>

#### **Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT):**

Phone	866-511-8824
Online	<a href="http://udot.utah.gov/traffic">udot.utah.gov/traffic</a>

## Facts

### Finding us:

- 1 hr** Northwest of Moab  
Take US-191 Northwest out of Moab (31.6 mls)  
Merge onto I-70 West to Green River (17.3 mls)  
Take Exit 164 into Green River (0.3 mls)
- 2.5 hrs** South of Salt Lake City  
Take I-15 South towards Provo (49.5 mls)  
Merge onto US-6 East towards Price (68.4 mls)  
Taking UT-10 towards Huntington (21.3 mls)
- 5.5 hrs** Northeast of Las Vegas  
Take I-15 North toward Salt Lake City (242.6 mls)  
Merge onto I-70 East towards Richfield (90.8 mls)  
Take UT-10 N towards Price/Ferron (27.5 mls)
- 5.5 hrs** West of Denver  
Take I-70 West toward Grand Junction (329.4 mls)  
Take Exit 164 into Green River (0.3 mls)

## National Parks

### From Green River:

#### **Arches National Park**

45 Miles Southeast

#### **Canyonlands National Park: Horseshoe Canyon**

47 Miles South

#### **Canyonlands National Park: Island in the Sky**

56 Miles Southeast

#### **Canyonlands National Park: Maze District**

63 Miles Southeast

### From Castle Valley Community (Ferron):

#### **Capitol Reef National Park**

79 Miles Southwest



# Events & Activities

## Events & Activities

### March

Green River Golf Tournament  
[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

### April

OHV Poker Ride  
[seuohvclub.org](http://seuohvclub.org)

Green River Golf Tournament  
[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)



### May

Green River Golf Tournament  
[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)

San Rafael Swell Mtn Bike Festival  
[biketheswell.org](http://biketheswell.org)

Green River Friendship Cruise  
[ecso.com](http://ecso.com)



### June

Green River Golf Tournament  
[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

Huntington Heritage Days Rodeo  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)

Desertview Pro Rodeo  
[emerycounty.com/fair](http://emerycounty.com/fair)

Emery County Fair Days  
[emerycounty.com/fair](http://emerycounty.com/fair)

Castle Dale City Celebration  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)





# Events & Activities

Events & Activities

## July

San Rafael Classic Triathlon  
[sanrafaelclassic.com](http://sanrafaelclassic.com)

Cleveland Day's Celebration  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Emery Day's Celebration  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Heritage Day's Celebration  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Orangeville Day's Celebration  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)

Castle Valley Pageant (Even Yrs Only)  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Cowboy's Memorial Rodeo  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

## August

Castle Valley Pageant (Even Yrs Only)  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Elmo Horse & Buggy Days  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Emery County Lamb Fry  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

San Rafael Folk Art Festival  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)

Cowboy Poetry  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Crandall Canyon Memorial Marathon  
[mammothmarathons.org](http://mammothmarathons.org)



## September

Arapeen ATV Jamboree  
[arapeenatvjam.org](http://arapeenatvjam.org)

Clawson Day's Celebration  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)

San Rafael Swell Mtn Bike Festival  
[biketheswell.org](http://biketheswell.org)

Green River Golf Tournament  
[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

Green River Melon Days  
[greenriverutah.com](http://greenriverutah.com)

Ferron Peach Day's Celebration  
[ferroncity.org](http://ferroncity.org)

Little Grand Canyon Marathon  
[mammothmarathons.org](http://mammothmarathons.org)

Working Horse Ranch  
[sanrafaelcountry.com](http://sanrafaelcountry.com)



## October

Green River Golf Tournament  
[stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

Millsite Golf Tournament  
[millsitegolfcourse.com](http://millsitegolfcourse.com)

Goblin Valley Ultra Marathon  
[goblinvalleyultra.com](http://goblinvalleyultra.com)

Joe's Valley Bouldering  
[joesvalleyfest.com](http://joesvalleyfest.com)





# Our Trip Planner

**Our Plans**

Reservation: \_\_\_\_\_

Guides/Rentals: \_\_\_\_\_

**Where to Eat**

Breakfast: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_

**Highlights of the day**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Day 1**

Morning:

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Night:

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**Must See**

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Our Trip Planner

Day 2

Morning:

Night:

Day 3

Morning:

Night:

Highlights of the day

Highlights of the day



[www.SanRafaelCountry.com](http://www.SanRafaelCountry.com)



WORLD FAMOUS



**GOBLIN  
VALLEY**

Central Utah, Earth





# SAN RAFAEL

EMERY

[www.sanrafael.com](http://www.sanrafael.com)

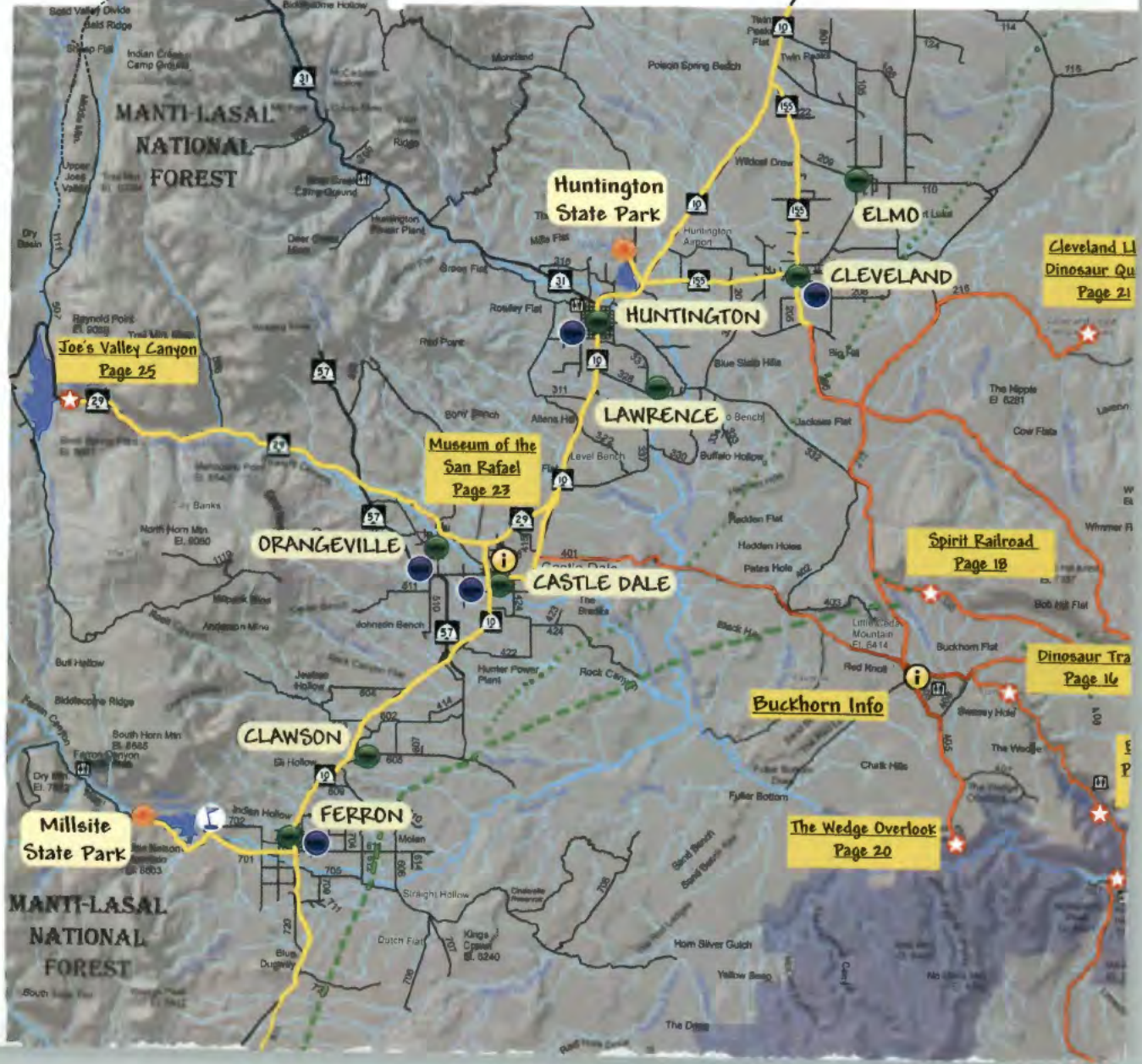
Salt Lake City, UT  
160 Miles



Fairview, UT  
69 Miles

Salt Lake City, UT  
160 Miles

Price, UT  
42 Miles



Joe's Valley Canyon  
Page 25

Museum of the  
San Rafael  
Page 23

Spirit Railroad  
Page 18

Dinosaur Trail  
Page 16

Buckhorn Info

The Wedge Overlook  
Page 20

Cleveland Dinosaur Quarry  
Page 21

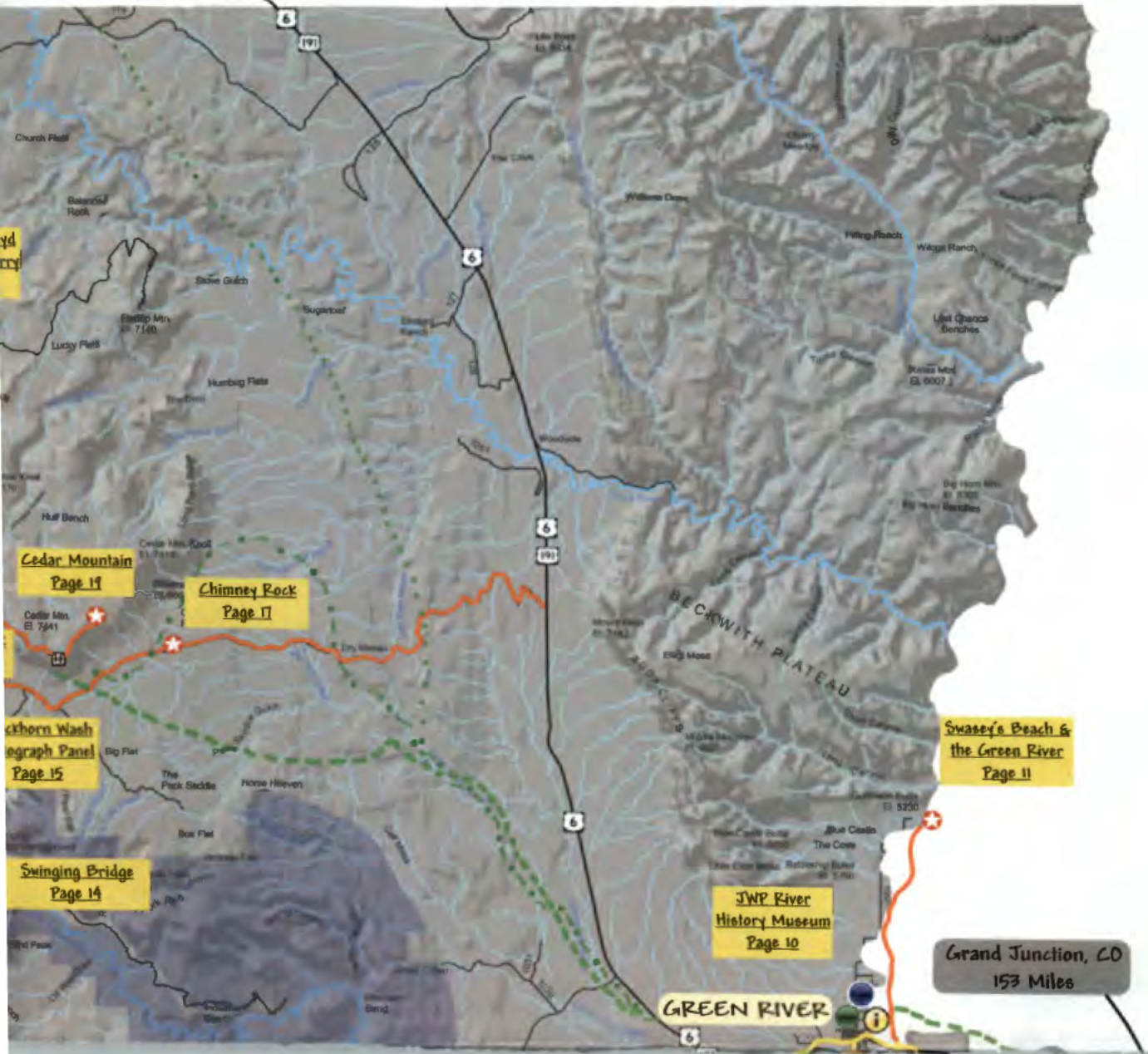




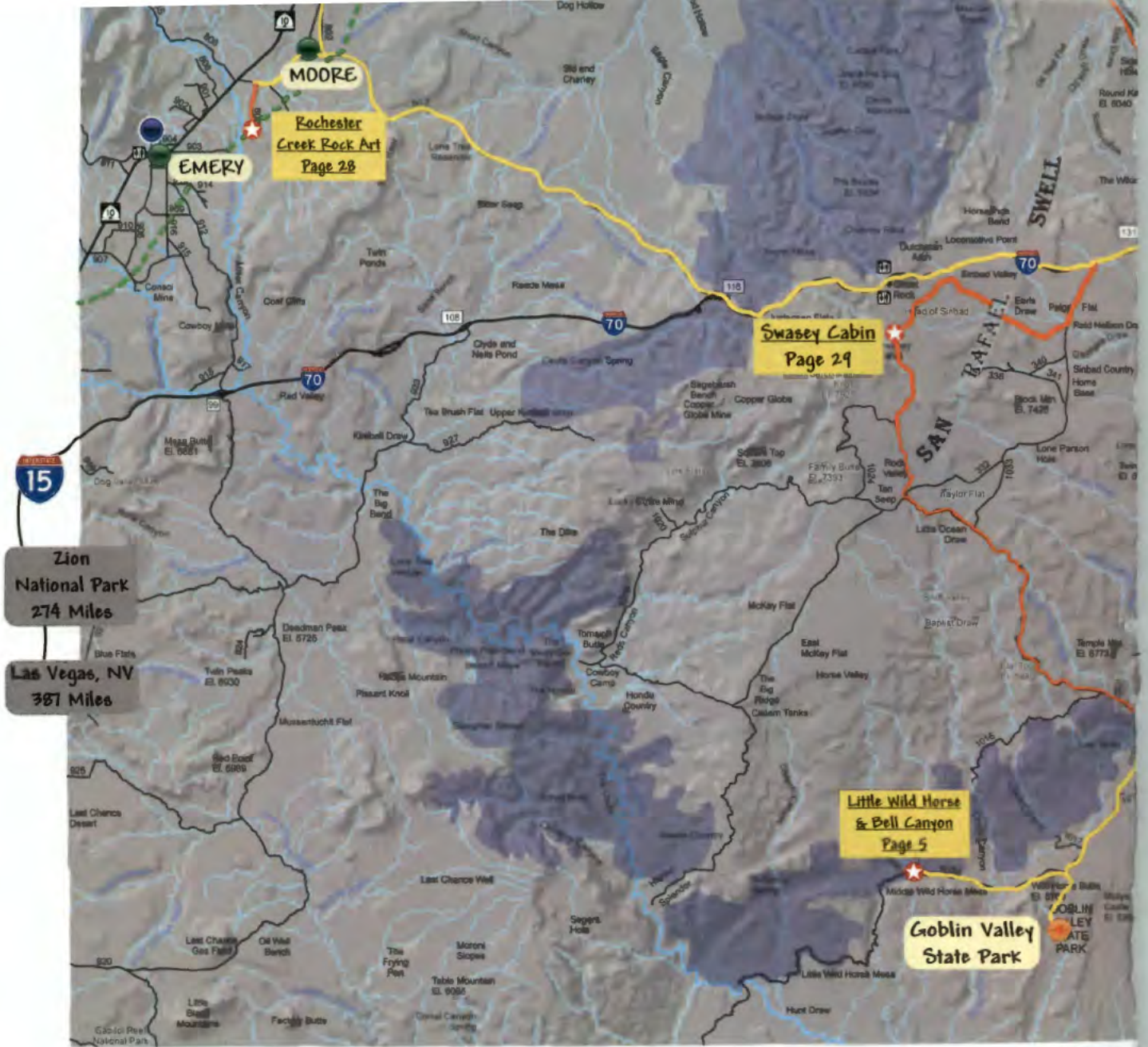
Salt Lake City, UT  
160 Miles

Price, UT  
42 Miles

6







Zion National Park  
274 Miles

Las Vegas, NV  
387 Miles

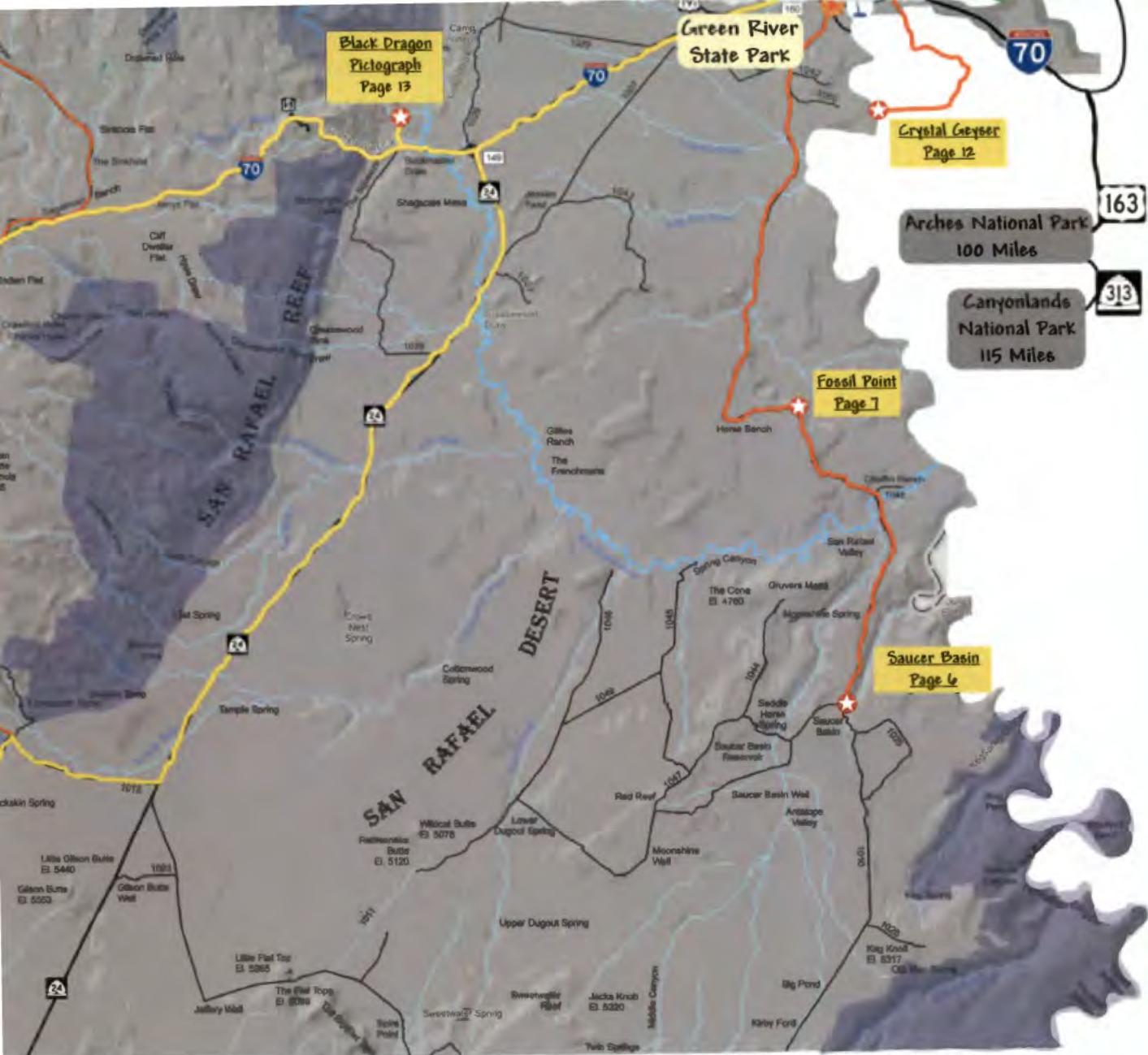
## San Rafael Swell, Home of



24  
Capitol Reef National Park  
114 Miles

12  
Bryce Canyon National Park  
205 Miles





Map Courtesy: Emery County IT Department

### Legend

- Highway/Interstate**
- Primary Route**
- Secondary Route\***
- River**
- Stream/Wash**
- Paved Guide Routes**
- Gravel Road Routes**

\*Not all routes are open to motorized access. Refer to proper agency for route designations.

This map is made for viewing purposes only. Emery County assumes no liability for the accuracy of this map.

- Services Available**
  - Golf Course (2)**
  - Key Locations**
  - Cities-Towns**
  - Information Centers (2)**
  - State Parks (4)**
  - Wilderness Study Areas**
  - Old Spanish Trail**
  - Gunnison Trail**
  - Old Railroad Bed**
- (These highlighted trails are only descriptions and not intended for motorized use)



# Mountain Biking



We have close to 1000 miles of trails to scenic locations.

Download our Non-Motorized Trail Map. Instructions on page 3.

Tour Guides & Rentals listed on page 34.

*Suggested Three Day Itinerary: Mountain Biking the Swell*

## Day 1: Saucer Basin

**Wake up** - We reserved a river front room at the River-Terrace.com. They are my favorite and located right on the east bank of the Green River. There's something sort of peaceful about a sunset by the river.....

**Breakfast** - We enjoyed a freshly prepared breakfast in the dining area of our hotel, complete with made to order omelets. The best thing about this breakfast is that it's complimentary with your stay.

**Prep** - We fueled up before our trip. We then purchased sack lunches (if you call ahead they'll have them ready, so you won't have to wait 435-564-3228), snacks and water at the Melon Vine Grocery store.

**Ride** - We rode Saucer Basin. You'll find directions on page 6 of this guide and you won't be disappointed!

**Dinner** - Right next door to our hotel is the Tamarisk Restaurant with the most amazing homemade cinnamon rolls, oops sorry, I'm a dessert first kind of person.....my favorite entree is the Bacon Avocado Salad, YUMMO!!

## Day 2: Crystal Geyser & Swasey's Beach

**Wake up** - Another great night sleep. I love this bed!!

**Breakfast** - Today we had fresh fruit and tried their made to order pancakes and french toast. Wow!!

**Prep** - We filled our water packs and prepared for a leisure day.

**Ride** - Crystal Geyser (directions on page 12) was our first stop of the day. Our waitress told us about it last night, so we had to check it out. It's a cold water geyser that erupts a few times during the week, never at the same time. We arrived while it was erupting (lucky us). It was fun to hike around the strange formations created by mineral deposits that have built up over the years. We then headed out for Swasey's Beach. We were told the sunsets there are amazing. Wow, it really was a large sandy beach complete with shade trees at the edge. **Dinner** - Ray's Tavern is this low-key joint with AMAZING burgers, hand-cut fries & local brews!!

## Day 3: Wedge Overlook's Good Water Rim Trail

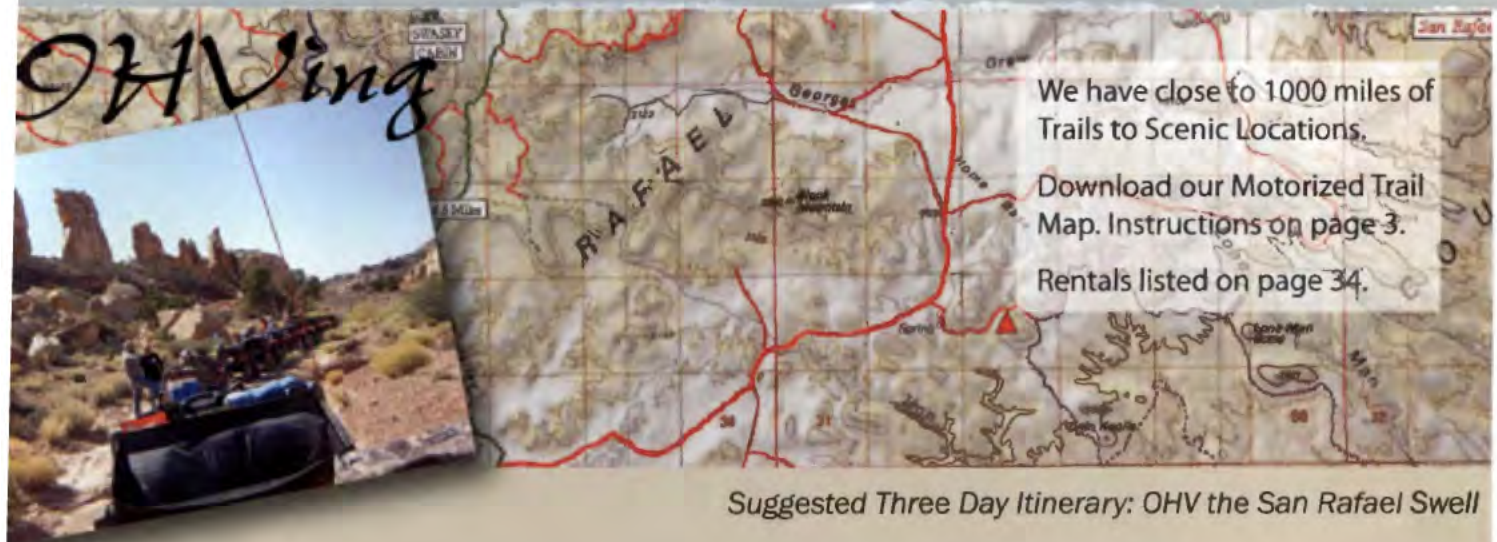
**Wake up** - Packed our bags and said goodbye to the wonderful bed. Stopped by the JWP River History Museum to up on a little history. They have a fabulous gift shop!!

**Breakfast** - We decided to change it up a bit and heard about this little food truck called La Pasadita. We ordered two breakfast burritos which were excellent & filled with generous amounts of meat, egg & potato.

**Prep** - We stopped at the Green River Coffee Co. and ordered sandwiches for later. We'll be adding this place to our list for future visits after seeing their breakfast menu. We fueled up and drove to the Wedge Overlook (directions on page 20) to ride the Good Water Rim Trail we've heard so much about.

**Ride** - We read about this trail in an article in Adventure Cyclist Magazine and then we watched the You Tube videos. It explained how this trail is never more than 20 feet from the rim of the canyon. Spectacular!!





### Day 1: Eagle Canyon

Wake up - from a restful nights stay in one of the Cabins at Gilly's Inn

Breakfast - Fresh made Breakfast at Gilly's Convenient store

Get fuel, water sack lunches and snacks for the ride.

Ride - Trailer OHV to Justensen Flat (South of I-70's 116 Exit) From there you'll drop down into Eagle Canyon and climb out through the South Fork and around to Swasey's Cabin, then down the Main Fork of Eagle Canyon and back to Justensen Flat. \*Fairly technical with steep rock crossings

Dinner - Grub Box signature dish is a Fat Boy with cheese and fries. Shakes are also fresh made and if you happen to be there around October they use an actual slice of pumpkin pie in their pumpkin pie shake.

### Day 2: Arapeen Trail Rides-Hole Trail-Wildcat

Wake up - from a restful nights stay in one of the Cabins at Gilly's Inn

Breakfast - Saturday, breakfast at Fatty's located 10 minutes north in the town of Castle Dale.

Get fuel, water, sack lunches and snacks for the ride.

Ride - Trailer OHV to the town of Emery. Go to the Muddy River, then up Hole Trail passing superb views and great geology to Flagstaff Peak and Spinners Reservoir. Drop down and cross the Muddy at Lower Crossing, then up to Skyline past Blue Lake and head toward White Mountain. Then go down Black Fork to Wildcat Knolls and drop down Link Canyon back to Emery. \*Steep climbs and narrow trails.

Dinner - R Pizza Place in Castle Dale has the most amazing build your own Calzones, Salads and Pasta Bowls.

### Day 3: Copper Globe

Wake up - from a restful nights stay in one of the Cabins at Gilly's Inn

Breakfast - at Main Street Market in Ferron.

Get fuel, water, sack lunches and snacks for the ride.

Ride - This ride also begins at Justensen Flats. From there you'll drop into Devil Canyon and then climb out to Copper Globe Mine and onto Link Flats. Keep an eye out for wild horses and very outstanding scenery. There will also be a chance to do some Geocaching. You'll enjoy breathtaking views along the trail. \*Lazy ride! Too tired- Play a round of golf at Millsite Golf Course. Then go next door to Millsite State Park and rent a canoe or paddle board. Surf along the cool water reservoir or try your hand at fishing for rainbow, tiger, cutthroat and splake.



Other

# Activities

Pick your Season, Pick your Passion

Canyoneering



Hiking



Fishing



Horseback Riding



Relaxing



Golfing



Rafting



Paddle Boarding



Bouldering





Rated

# Best Of

By Travelers Like You!

## Castle Valley Communities



CASH ONLY



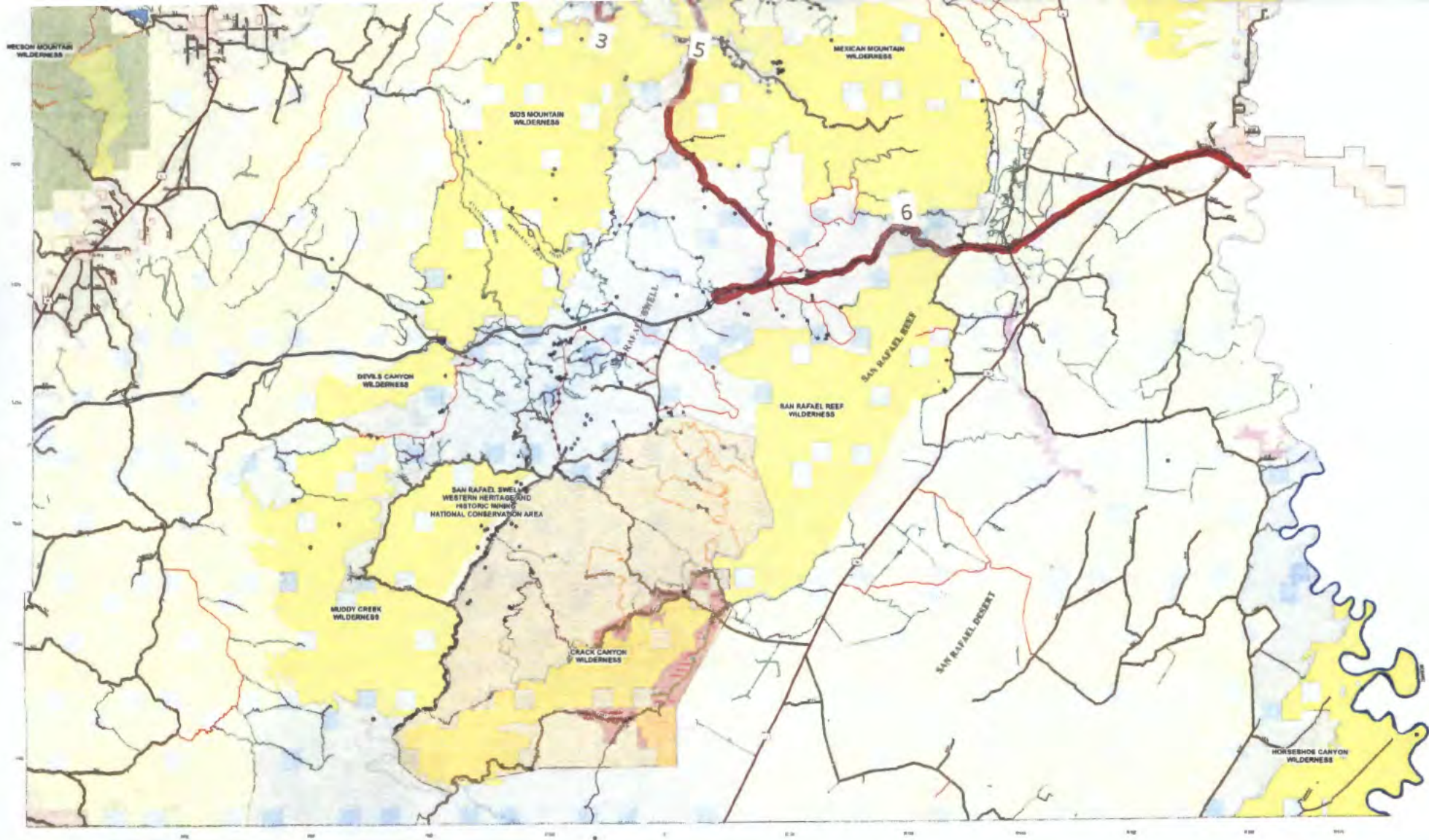
Green River

RAY'S

TAMARISK  
RESTAURANT  
EST. 1979







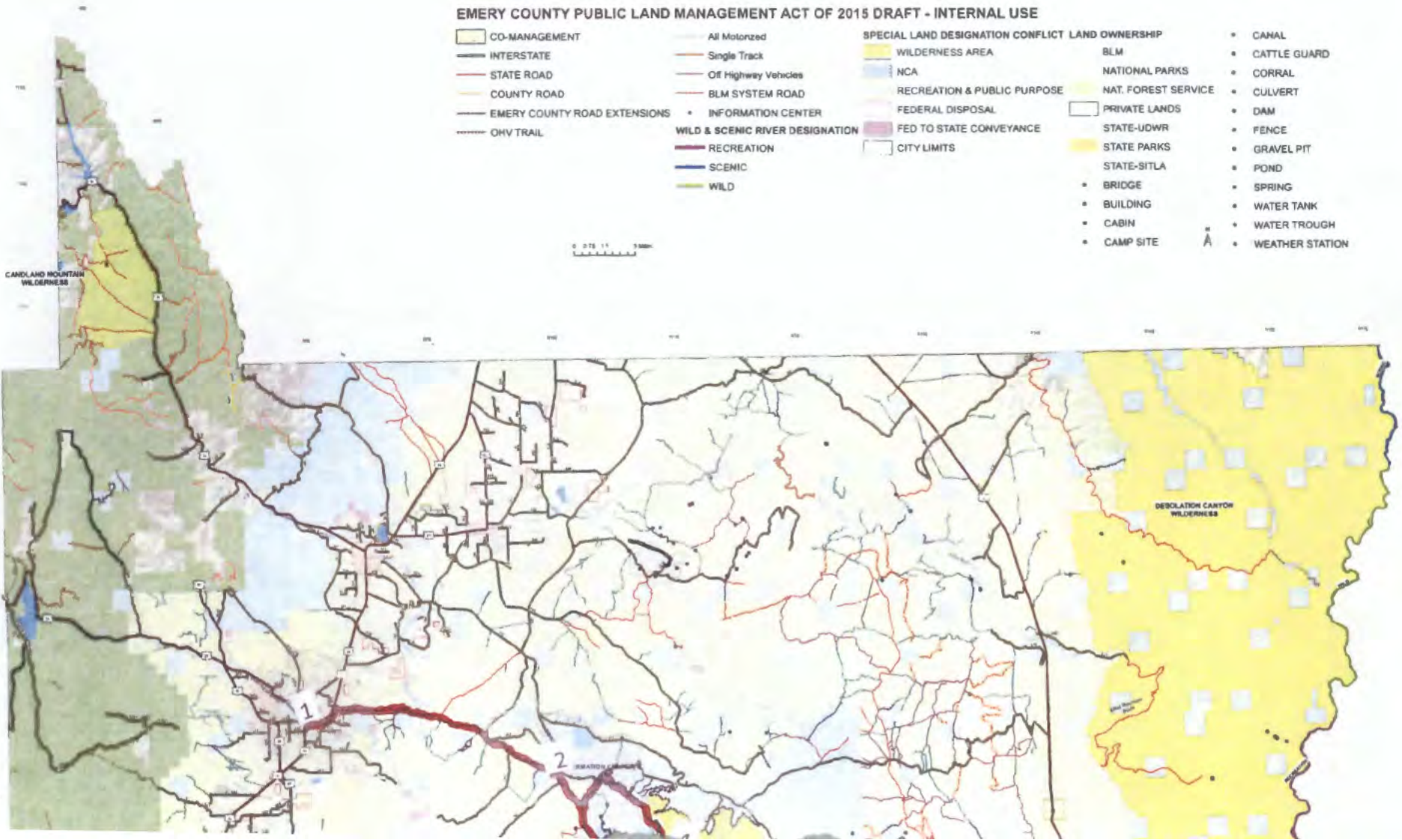
- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Castle Dale        | 4 Buckhorn Pictograph Panel |
| 2 Information Center | 5 The Swinging Bridge       |
| 3 The Wedge Overlook | 6 Spotted Wolf Overlook     |



**EMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2015 DRAFT - INTERNAL USE**

- |                              |                                 |                             |                     |                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| CO-MANAGEMENT                | All Motorized                   | WILDERNESS AREA             | LAND OWNERSHIP      | CANAL           |
| INTERSTATE                   | Single Track                    | NCA                         | BLM                 | CATTLE GUARD    |
| STATE ROAD                   | Off Highway Vehicles            | RECREATION & PUBLIC PURPOSE | NATIONAL PARKS      | CORRAL          |
| COUNTY ROAD                  | BLM SYSTEM ROAD                 | FEDERAL DISPOSAL            | NAT. FOREST SERVICE | CULVERT         |
| EMERY COUNTY ROAD EXTENSIONS | INFORMATION CENTER              | FED TO STATE CONVEYANCE     | PRIVATE LANDS       | DAM             |
| OHV TRAIL                    | WILD & SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION | CITY LIMITS                 | STATE-UDWR          | FENCE           |
|                              | RECREATION                      |                             | STATE PARKS         | GRAVEL PIT      |
|                              | SCENIC                          |                             | STATE-SITLA         | POND            |
|                              | WILD                            |                             | BRIDGE              | SPRING          |
|                              |                                 |                             | BUILDING            | WATER TANK      |
|                              |                                 |                             | CABIN               | WATER TROUGH    |
|                              |                                 |                             | CAMP SITE           | WEATHER STATION |

0 0.75 1.5 3.0 Miles





## Social Media Support for the Antiquities Act on its 110<sup>th</sup> birthday (6/8/2016)

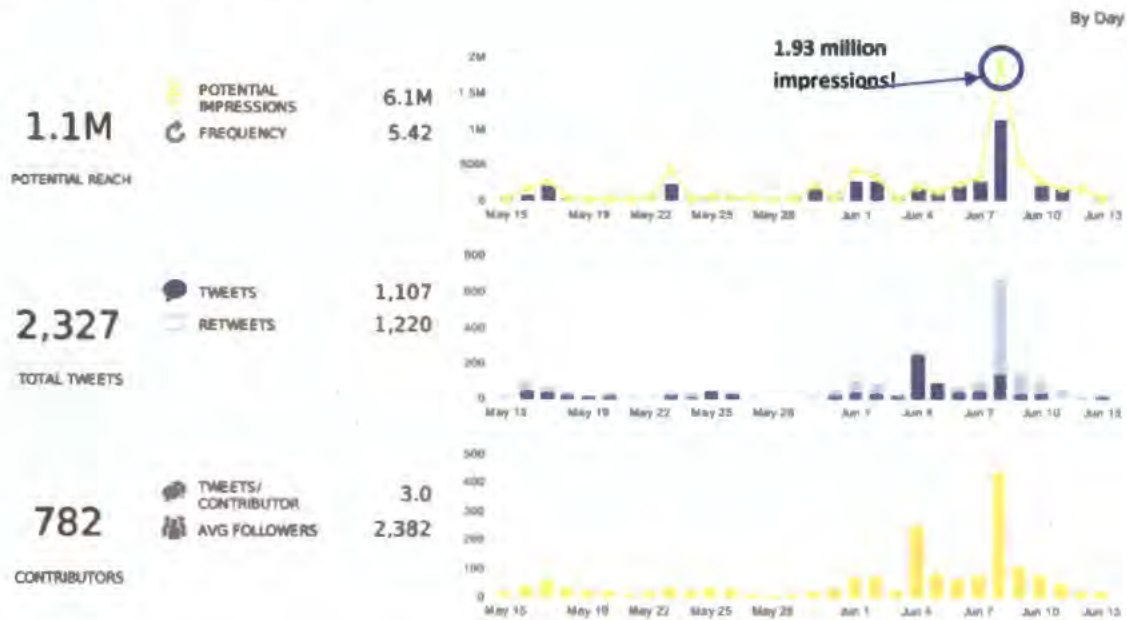
### Overview

Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 marked the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Antiquities Act into law by President Theodore Roosevelt. To mark the anniversary and highlight the importance of the Antiquities Act in preserving national monuments that protect our shared history, a campaign to recognize the anniversary was begun focusing primarily on congressional outreach and social media. Ultimately, the anniversary led to a huge spike in attention. As outlined below, the overall activity on twitter spiked by a large degree with the hashtags #AntiquitiesAct and #MonumentsforAll generating nearly 2 million total impressions that day alone!

Additionally, nearly 30 members of Congress or congressional caucuses/committees recognized the anniversary on social media as did numerous local and national organizations.

TWITTER TRACKER: ANTIQUITIES ACT

May 15, 2016 - Jun 13, 2016



Enclosed please find a representative sampling (but by no means a complete list) of the posts from this celebration as well as a final Twitter report on the activity.

Thanks for all you have done to give us #Monumentsforall to celebrate so enthusiastically!



***Non-government organization support by state***

Arizona Conservation Partners (Arizona)	19
Grand Canyon Heritage (Arizona)	19
Cotoni-Coast Dairies (California)	19
Center for Western Priorities (Colorado)	20
Friends of Nevada Wild (Nevada)	20
Protect Gold Butte (Nevada)	21
Public Lands Interpretive Association (New Mexico)	21
New Mexico Wildlife Federation (New Mexico)	21
Grand Canyon Trust (Arizona)	22
West Virginia Rivers Coalition (West Virginia)	22

***Government organization***

Green Chamber Las Cruces (New Mexico)	23
---------------------------------------	----

***Non-governmental organization support (national)***

The Wilderness Society	23
BlueGreen Alliance	24
Conservation Lands Foundation	24
Creation Justice	24
National Parks Conservation Association	25
National Trust for Historic Preservation	25
National Wildlife Federation	26
Natural Heritage Land Trust	26
Sierra Club	27

***Community Groups/ Accredited individuals***

Lucas St. Clair (Elliotsville Plantation Inc.)	28
Utah Dine Bikeyah (Utah)	28

***Twitter Tracker***



**House Republican Member Support**

**Rep. Ryan Costello (R-PA-06)**



**Rep. Ryan Costello**   
@RepRyanCostello



Follow

110 years ago, the [#AntiquitiesAct](#) became law to protect & conserve our national monuments, including in PA. [#Monumentsforall](#)

RETWEETS 6    LINES 14



9:43 AM - 8 Jun 2016

**Rep. Robert Dold (R-IL-10)**



**Rep. Robert J. Dold**   
@RepDold



Follow

110 years ago yesterday President Teddy Roosevelt signed Antiquities Act allowing for 100+ [#MonumentsForAll](#). Proud to support.

RETWEET 1    LIKE 1



11:45 AM - 9 Jun 2016

**Rep. Dan Donovan (R-NY-11)**



**Dan Donovan**  
@RepDanDonovan



Follow

110 years strong! Happy (belated) birthday to the [#AntiquitiesAct](#), creating [#MonumentsForAll](#) across the country since 1906!

LIKE 1

7:20 AM - 9 Jun 2016



**House Democrat Member Support**

**Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07)**



**Ruben Gallego**  
RepRubenGallego

Follow

HBD to the #AntiquitiesAct! 110 years of conservation at its finest! #MonumentsForAll

RETWEETS 1 LIKES 2

3:34 PM · 8 Jun 2016

**Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-03)**



**Raul M. Grijalva** RepRaulGrijalva 4h

Lets celebrate 110 anniversary of #AntiquitiesAct by creating a monument for greater #GrandCanyon! #MonumentsForAll



**Anti-Government Extremism and Protecting the Grand Canyon**

This week marks the 110th anniversary of the Antiquities Act, a landmark law allowing presidents to designate national monuments on land owned ...  
dailykos.com

**Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA-24)**



**Lois Capps**  
RepLoisCapps

Follow

Thanks to Antiquities Act passage 110 years ago today, Presidents can designate national monuments like our Carrizo Plain.  
#MonumentsForAll

RETWEETS 5 LIKES 14

1:02 AM · 8 Jun 2016



**Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02)**



**Rep. Jared Huffman**  
RepHuffman

⚙️ Follow

Happy bday to the [#AntiquitiesAct](#), signed by Teddy Roosevelt and used by [@POTUS](#) in 2014 to protect lands on the Mendo coast [#MonumentsForAll](#)

RETWEETS 8 LIKES 9

2:21 PM - 8 Jun 2016



**Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-CA-06)**



**Derek Kilmer**  
19 hrs

Like Page

Happy 110th anniversary to the Antiquities Act! Olympic National Park was created because of this legislation, and continues to be a place for friends and family to explore the outdoors. We understand the value of the environment in our neck of the woods, and are proud to have a national park that celebrates our commitment to it. Here's a photo from the National Park Service of the park!



Like Comment Share

62

Chronological



**Rep. Derek Kilmer**  
RepDerekKilmer

⚙️ Follow

Happy 110th anniversary to the [#AntiquitiesAct](#)! It made [#OlympicNationalPark](#) possible!



RETWEETS 4 LIKES 10

12:01 PM - Jun 2016



**Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA-05)**



**Mike Thompson**  
RepThompson

Follow

For 110 years, #AntiquitiesAct has protected our lands for future generations!  
#Monumentsforall



RETWEETS  
5

LIKES  
14



10:50 AM · 8 Jun 2016



**Congressman Mike Thompson**

Like Page

20 hrs  
Today our country celebrates the 110th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act. Signed into law by President Teddy Roosevelt, the Antiquities Act grants Presidents the ability to designate public lands as national monuments. From the Grand Canyon, to the newly-designated Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, we have the Antiquities Act to thank for over 100 national monuments across our country! #Monumentsforall



Like Comment Share

30



**Rep. Nikki Tsongas (D-MA-03)**



**Niki Tsongas**  
nikithethehouse

⚙️ Follow

Pres. Theo Roosevelt signed Antiquities Act into law 110 yrs ago today to allow 100+ [#MonumentsForAll](#) since. A milestone for [#conservation](#)

RETWEETS  
8

LIKES  
9



2:23 PM - 8 Jun 2016



**Congresswoman Niki Tsongas**

17 hrs

Today marks the 110th anniversary of the passage of the Antiquities Act, a landmark conservation tool signed into law on June 8, 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt that allows for future Presidents to designate areas of public land with natural or historic importance as national monuments. 110 years later, this important law has helped designate over 100 national monuments, many of which Congress has later turned into national parks that preserve our cultural, historic and natural sites for this generation and the next.

Like Comment Share

24

**Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD-03)**



**Congressman John Sarbanes**

22 hrs

Like Page

Happy 110th Birthday to the Antiquities Act! Signed into law by Teddy Roosevelt, this groundbreaking conservation bill allows the President to designate national monuments, like Maryland's Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument, which was created by President Obama in 2013. [#MonumentsForAll](#)



Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument

GO

Like Comment Share

19

Top Comments

**Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04)**



**Betty McCollum**  
BettyMcCollum04

⚙️ Follow

Today we celebrate 110 years of the Antiquities Act, which preserves national treasures like MN's Pipestone as [#MonumentsForAll](#)

RETWEETS  
4

LIKES  
10



0:32 AM - 8 Jun 2016



**Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX-16)**

**Rep. Beto O'Rourke**    Follow

Let's make sure Castner Range is preserved forever: [youtu.be/AJCB6caaG7I](https://youtu.be/AJCB6caaG7I) #Caster4Ever #MonumentsForAll



**One Minute: Antiquities Act**  
Speaking on the 110th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act  
[youtu.be/AJCB6caaG7I](https://youtu.be/AJCB6caaG7I)

1 REPLY 2 LIKES

10:03 AM · 9 Jun 2016

**Congressman Beto O'Rourke**   Like Page

Celebrating the 110th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act by asking my colleagues to support greater diversity in our parks and Castner Range National Monument. #Castner4Ever #MonumentsForAll



177 Views

 Like  Comment  Share

 25

Chronological

1 share

2 comments

**Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08)**

**Congressman Don Beyer**   Like Page

Happy 110th birthday to the #AntiquitiesAct! President Theodore Roosevelt left us a great legacy of public lands protection, including some great monuments right here. #MonumentsForAll



 Like  Comment  Share

**Rep. Don Beyer**   19h

Happy 110th birthday to the #AntiquitiesAct, signed #OTD by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906! #MonumentsForAll





## Senate Member Support

### Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)



Senator Michael Bennet added 2 new

Like Page

photos

19 hrs

Colorado's approach to preserving natural treasures through the Antiquities Act – which celebrates its 110th anniversary today – is a model for the nation. Local communities and stakeholders have come together to build support for plans to protect places like Chimney Rock and Browns Canyon. Our office has been privileged to be part of those efforts. #MonumentsForAll



Like Comment Share



### Sen. Al Franken (D-MN)



Sen. Al Franken SenFranken 22h

National monuments—like Grand Portage and Pipestone in Minnesota—are a vital part of our state and the @NatlParkService. #MonumentsForAll

Retweet 100 Like 35 Comment 211




## Non-government organization support by state

### Arizona Conservation Partners (Arizona)

 **ConservationPartners** @conservpartners 20h  
Thanks to #AntiquitiesAct, we can enjoy the dark skies in Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument #MonumentsForAll



← ↻ 1 ❤️ ⋮

 **ConservationPartners** @conservpartners 21h  
Thanks to #AntiquitiesAct, we can wander thru saguaro forests in Sonoran Desert National Monument. #MonumentsForAll



← ↻ 1 ❤️ ⋮

### Grand Canyon Heritage (Arizona)

 **GrandCanyonHeritage** @GreaterGrand 20h  
Happy 110th anniversary to the **Antiquities Act**, the law used by 16 Presidents of both parties to protect... [fb.me/88qEdJBx8](https://fb.me/88qEdJBx8)

← ↻ 1 ❤️ ⋮

### Cotoni-Coast Dairies (California)

 **Cotoni-Coast Dairies** @CotoniCoastDNM 17h  
Thanks to 110 years of the #AntiquitiesAct, @POTUS can designate Cotoni-Coast Dairies and other #MonumentsForAll



← ↻ 1 ❤️ ⋮



**Protect Gold Butte (Nevada)**



**Protect Gold Butte** @GoldButteNV 14h

Happy birthday to the #AntiquitiesAct! Celebrating 110 years of conservation through our nation's finest monuments!



**Public Lands Interpretive Association (New Mexico)**



**PLIA publiclands-org** @PublicLandsUSA 3h

Three cheers for the Antiquities Act, a powerful tool for executives to protect public lands. [fb.me/4IEkZR2Jw](https://fb.me/4IEkZR2Jw)



**New Mexico Wildlife Federation (New Mexico)**



**NMWildlifeFederation** @NMWildlife 16h

110 years strong! Happy birthday to the #AntiquitiesAct creating #MonumentsForAll across the country since 1906!





**Government organization**

**Green Chamber Las Cruces (New Mexico)**



Follow

The Antiquities Act celebrates 110 years of sound conservation work today! On June 8, 1906, President Theodore... [fb.me/2maT4hcSZ](https://fb.me/2maT4hcSZ)

5:05 PM · 8 Jun 2016



GreenChamberLC @GreenChamberLC1 · 24h

Happy birthday to the #AntiquitiesAct! Celebrating 110 years of conservation through our nation's finest monuments!



**Non-governmental organization support (national)**

**The Wilderness Society**

The Wilderness Society

June 8 at 10:22am

Happy 110th anniversary to the Antiquities Act—signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt to protect the most irreplaceable spots in America. <http://bit.ly/1WDuW8g>



Like Comment Share

You and 1.5K others

Top Comments



Wilderness Society Wilderness Jun 9

This week, we celebrate the 110th anniversary of the law that protected @GrandCanyonNPS: [bit.ly/1YbE43z](http://bit.ly/1YbE43z)



Wilderness Society Wilderness Jun 8  
110 years ago today, Teddy signed the Antiquities Act to protect #MonumentsForAll [bit.ly/1YbE43z](http://bit.ly/1YbE43z)





## National Parks Conservation Association



National Parks News @NPCA Jun 8

110 yrs ago today President Teddy Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law allowing for 100+ #MonumentsForAll



👍 113 ❤️ 110

## National Trust for Historic Preservation



Saving Places @SavingPlaces 22h

Celebrate 110 years of the Antiquities Act by showing your support at [savingplac.es/1oaM6fl](https://savingplac.es/1oaM6fl) #MonumentsForAll



**#MonumentsForAll**

Statue of Liberty, NYC Save the Antiquities Act!

👍 1 ❤️ 1



## Sierra Club

Sierra Club Like Page

The Antiquities Act protecting our wild lands and historical places since June 8, 1906!



Amer

SierraClubSNG Follow

Happy 110th anniversary to the Antiquities Act, the law used by 16 Presidents of both parties to protect... [fb.me/7vFx4FOYD](https://fb.me/7vFx4FOYD)



TWITTER TRACKER: ANTIQUITIES ACT

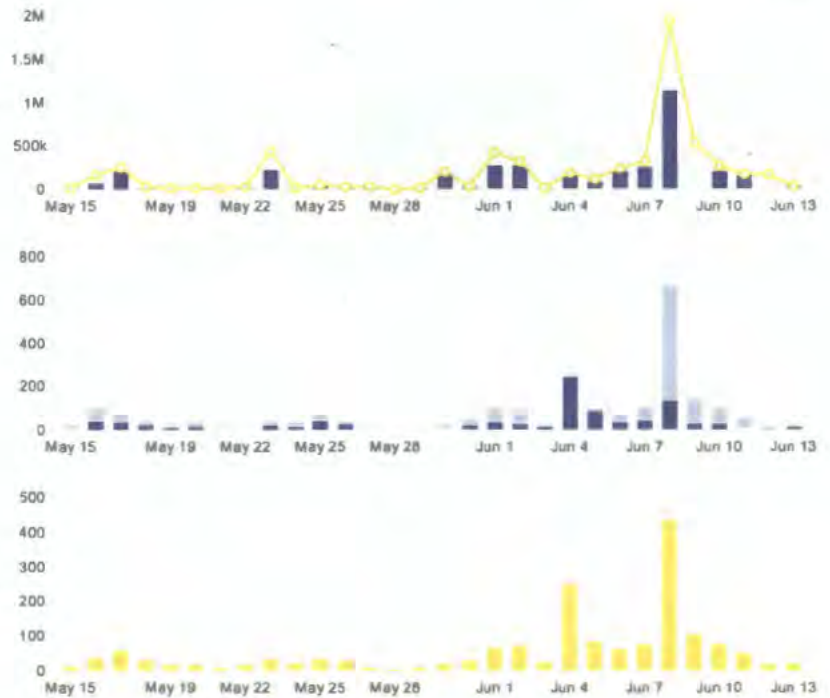
May 15, 2016 - Jun 13, 2016

By Day

**1.1M** POTENTIAL REACH  
 POTENTIAL IMPRESSIONS: 6.1M  
 FREQUENCY: 5.42

**2,327** TOTAL TWEETS  
 TWEETS: 1,107  
 RETWEETS: 1,220

**782** CONTRIBUTORS  
 TWEETS/CONTRIBUTOR: 3.0  
 AVG FOLLOWERS: 2,382



AVG TWEETS/DAY

**77.6**

POTENTIAL IMPRESSIONS/TWEET

**2,625**

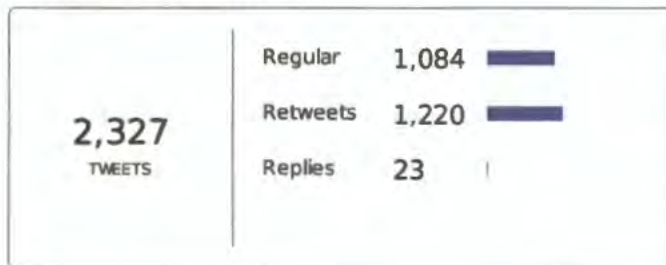
POTENTIAL IMPRESSIONS/DAY

**203.6k**

RETWEET RATE

**1.1**

TWEET BREAKDOWN



TOP CONTRIBUTORS

	TWEETS	RETWEETS	IMPRESSIONS
sierraclub	4	6	783.9k
NPCA	4	162	609.5k
Wilderness	6	92	455.9k
LCVoters	4	3	62.4k
amprog	1	0	56.9k
pewenvironment	2	0	56.4k
crashpalace	1	1	55.9k
mathewsjh	74	10	53.3k
CenterForBioDiv	1	11	42.9k

TOP TWEETS







Martin Heinrich @MartinHeinrich Jun 8, 2016

I'm grateful that the #AntiquitiesAct helps protects #PublicLands & preserves #MonumentsForAll.



198.5k

10.6k 22 1



Sierra Club @sierraclub May 30, 2016

Tell @POTUS to protect Utah's #BearsEars. #MonumentsForAll sc.org/1OYE53r

198.4k

196k 6 0



Sierra Club @sierraclub May 23, 2016

.@AlexHonold says in @guardian we need to protect our parks for next generation. sc.org/1sN93Ye #CleanAir4Utah #MonumentsforAll

196k

196k 0 0

View tweets report >





# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 02 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Bishop and Mr. Chaffetz:

In accordance with your July 20, 2016, request, the Department of the Interior has prepared the enclosed technical assistance on H.R. 5780, the Utah Public Lands Initiative.

Please note that this technical assistance is provided only for those provisions of the bill that affect Departmental interests and, in many instances, is intended to ensure consistency with existing laws and improve implementation. In addition to what is noted throughout the draft, the Department would like the opportunity to work with the bill sponsors on the individual boundary modifications both to improve manageability and ensure protection of natural, cultural, and other resources in those areas.

Please also note that this assistance has not been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget. As reflected in the attached comments, with respect to a number of provisions, the Department would seek further discussions before taking a final position as to proposed language. Importantly, this assistance has also not been the subject of, and does not reflect input from, tribal consultation. Upon further conversations with tribal nations, the position of the Department may change on particular matters concerning the tribes.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti  
Legislative Counsel  
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Enclosure



Introduced in House (07/14/2016)

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. R. 5780

To provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mr. CHAFFETZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

The Act may be cited as the "Utah Public Lands Initiative Act".

**Comment [SC1]:** Technical assistance is provided for those provisions of the bill that affect DOI interests.

As noted throughout the draft, DOI would like the opportunity to work with the bill sponsors on the individual boundary modifications both to improve manageability and ensure protection of natural, cultural, and other resources in those areas. Additionally, as reflected in the below comments, with respect to a number of provisions the Department would seek further discussions before taking a final position as to proposed language.

The draft has not been cleared by OMB and has not been the subject of Tribal consultation.



**SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

**SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

**Comment [A2]:** Edited for consistency with section 1983 of Public Law 111-11.

**SEC. 43. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the lands or interests in land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, except such term does not include land the title to which is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of a tribe or an individual or is held in fee by a tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation.

(2) **TRIBE.**—The term “Tribe” means a federally recognized Indian tribe (including a pueblo).

(3) **TRIBAL.**—The term “Tribal” means of or pertaining to a tribe.

(4) **WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.**—The term “water resource facilities” means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures.

**DIVISION A—CONSERVATION**

**TITLE I—WILDERNESS**

**SEC. 101. WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS.**

In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act, and subject to valid existing rights, including the rights of a tribe, the following areas of the State of Utah are designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System pursuant to the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

**Comment [A3]:** For clarity and consistency with other enacted wilderness designation laws, the proposed wildernesses should reference an accompanying map at an appropriate scale, similar to the regional wilderness maps referenced in section 1971 of Public Law 111-11 (county by county maps).

(1) **CANDLAND MOUNTAIN.**—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 12,330 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Candland Mountain Wilderness”.

**Comment [A4]:** The proposed Range Creek Research Station Expansion conveyance overlaps portions of this proposed wilderness. These are mutually exclusive prescriptions.

(2) **DESOLATION CANYON.**—Certain Federal land in Duchesne, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, and Grand Counties managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 458,413 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Desolation Canyon Wilderness”.

**Comment [A5]:** The Department’s position is that all of the existing Desolation Canyon and Jack Canyon WSAs should be included as part of the proposed Desolation Canyon Wilderness. The area’s extremely rugged terrain contributes to its scenic quality, remoteness, and habitat for species such as bighorn sheep and raptors, which are sensitive to development. Moreover, this area has an extensive system of deep canyons and features arches, pinnacles, and other erosional elements not known to occur elsewhere. Finally, the diversity of wildlife within Desolation Canyon is unusual compared with the public lands surrounding the area.



(3) HIGH UINTA.—Certain Federal land in Duchesne, Summit, and Uintah Counties, managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 28,293 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “High Uinta Wilderness”.

(4) MANCOS MESA.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County, managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service comprising approximately 95,605 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Mancos Mesa Wilderness”.

(5) CHEESEBOX CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 14,441 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Cheesebox Canyon Wilderness”.

(6) BUTLER WASH.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 27,813 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Butler Wash Wilderness”.

(7) DARK CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service comprising approximately 72,990 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Dark Canyon Wilderness”.

(8) BEHIND THE ROCKS.—Certain Federal land in San Juan and Grand Counties managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 13,024 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Behind the Rocks Wilderness”.

(9) BRIDGER JACK MESA.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 6,009 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Bridger Jack Mesa Wilderness”.

(10) CEDAR MESA.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service comprising approximately 223,566 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Cedar Mesa Wilderness”.

(11) MIKES CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service comprising approximately



30,549 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Mikes Canyon Wilderness".

(12) MULE CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County, Utah managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 5,858 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map and dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Mule Canyon Wilderness".

(13) MARSH PEAK.—Certain Federal land in Uintah County managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 15,031 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Marsh Peak Wilderness".

(14) CLIFF PEAK.—Certain Federal land in Uintah and Duchesne Counties managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 9,153 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Cliff Peak Wilderness".

(15) BULL CANYON.—Certain Federal land in Uintah County, Utah managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 599 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map and dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Bull Canyon Wilderness".

(16) WHITE CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 18,886 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "White Canyon Wilderness".

(17) MEXICAN MOUNTAIN.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 84,976 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Mexican Mountain Wilderness".

(18) SIDS MOUNTAIN.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 82,406 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Sids Mountain Wilderness".

(19) MUDDY CREEK.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 72,400 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the "Muddy Creek Wilderness".



(20) SAN RAFAEL REEF.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 54,284 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “San Rafael Reef Wilderness”.

(21) CRACK CANYON WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 27,191 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Crack Canyon Wilderness”.

**Comment [A6]:** Based on a review of the legislative maps and GIS data, this proposed wilderness conflicts with the proposed Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area. Cooperative management of wilderness by state and federal agencies would be inconsistent with the Wilderness Act and would add unnecessary complexity.

(22) DEVILS CANYON.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 8,652 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Devils Canyon Wilderness”.

(23) NELSON MOUNTAIN.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 12,856 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Nelson Mountain Wilderness”.

(24) WILLIAM GRANSTAFF CANYON.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 8,420 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “William Granstaff Canyon Wilderness”.

(25) MILL CREEK CANYON.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 12,357 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Mill Creek Canyon Wilderness”.

(26) LABYRINTH CANYON.—Certain Federal land in Grand and Emery Counties managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 56,688 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness”.

(27) CANYONLANDS.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the National Park Service comprising approximately 257,606 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Canyonlands Wilderness”.

(28) ARCHES.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the National Park Service comprising approximately 63,808 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Arches Wilderness”.



(29) FISHER TOWERS.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 1,190 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Fisher Towers Wilderness”.

(30) MARY JANE CANYON.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 13,574 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Mary Jane Canyon Wilderness”.

(31) GRANITE CREEK.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 25,104 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Granite Creek Wilderness”.

(32) BOOK CLIFFS.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 175,490 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Book Cliffs Wilderness”.

(33) WESTWATER.—Certain Federal land in Grand County, Utah managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 32,954 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map and dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Westwater Wilderness”.

(34) BEAVER CREEK.—Certain Federal land in Grand County managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 48,416 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Beaver Creek Wilderness”.

(35) MOUNT PEALE.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 4,302 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Mount Peale Wilderness”.

(36) HAMMOND CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 7,593 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Hammond Canyon Wilderness”.

(37) ARCH CANYON.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 4,376 acres, as generally depicted



on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Arch Canyon Wilderness”.

(38) DINOSAUR.—Certain Federal land in Uintah County managed by the National Park Service comprising approximately 52,348 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Dinosaur Wilderness”.

(39) CEDAR MOUNTAIN.—Certain Federal land in Emery County managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 17,355 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Cedar Mountain Wilderness”.

(40) INDIAN CREEK.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service comprising approximately 6,562 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Indian Creek Wilderness”.

(41) STEER GULCH.—Certain Federal land in San Juan County managed by the United States Forest Service Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service comprising approximately 25,094 acres, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wilderness Map dated June 30, 2016, which shall be known as the “Steer Gulch Wilderness”.

(b) The previous classifications of the Grand Gulch Primitive Area and the Dark Canyon Primitive Area are hereby superseded.

**Comment [A7]:** Dark Canyon and Cedar Mesa Wilderness Areas, proposed in sections 101(7) and (10), contain Primitive Area classifications. Previous bills, including Public Law 96-550 and Public Law 98-428, have included release language for Primitive Areas classification. As these areas will have been reclassified as wilderness in this bill, the Department recommends adding this language.

**Comment [A8]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including section 1972(b) of Public Law 111-11.

## SEC. 102. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—~~Not later than two years from~~As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture as appropriate shall submit to file a map and legal description of each of the wilderness areas with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a map and legal description of each wilderness area designated by this title.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—Each map and legal description submitted under this section shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture as appropriate may make any minor modifications of any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service.



SEC. 103. WILDERNESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, including the rights of a tribe, each wilderness area established under section 101 shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture as appropriate in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) with respect to wilderness areas that are administered by the Secretary of the Interior, any reference in the Wilderness Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act, the relevant Secretary may take such measures in each wilderness area necessary to control of fire, insects, and disease (including, as the relevant Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of such activities with a State, tribe, or local agency).

(c) ~~WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS~~—Nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, tribal, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment).

Comment [A9]: Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including section 1572(b) of Public Law 111-11.

(d) LIVESTOCK.—

(1) ~~GRAZING~~—The grazing of livestock in each wilderness area, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue—

Comment [A10]: Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including sections 1974(e)(4) and 1975(e)(4) of Public Law 111-11.

~~, subject to reasonable rules and regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary, in accordance with—~~

(A) subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices that the relevant Secretary considers necessary, section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(ii) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress (House Report 101-405) and H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96-617).



(2) UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.—In instances in which historic grazing areas, access, or use is disputed by the grazing permittee, data and information provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture shall be given consideration by the relevant Secretary to establish historic grazing areas, locations, or use.

**Comment [A11]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including sections 1974(e)(4) and 1975(e)(4) of Public Law 111-11.

(e) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—In accordance with section 4(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)), commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the wilderness areas ~~are authorized~~ may be allowed to the extent necessary to realize the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

**Comment [A12]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including section 102(f) of Public Law 114-46.

(f) ACCESS.—In accordance with section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)), the relevant Secretary shall provide the owner of State, tribal, or private property within the boundary of a wilderness area adequate access to the property.

**Comment [A13]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including sections 1503(a)(7) and 1702(b)(4) of Public Law 111-11.

(g) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—The relevant Secretary may ~~shall allow~~ authorize existing water structures and facilities, including existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects, including guzzlers, in the wilderness areas designated by this title ~~if—~~

**Comment [A14]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including section 1972(f) of Public Law 111-11.

(A) the structures and facilities will, as determined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(B) the visual impacts of the structures and facilities on the wilderness areas can reasonably be minimized.

(h) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State of Utah with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping within the wilderness areas.

(i) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the areas established as wilderness under this title, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the wilderness areas after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

- (1) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.



(j) TRAIL AND FENCE MAINTENANCE.—The relevant Secretary shall maintain trails and fence lines located within the wilderness areas designated by this title, in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

**Comment [A15]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including sections 1972(b) of Public Law 111-11.

SEC. 104. WATER RIGHTS.

(A) Statutory construction.--Nothing in this title--

**Comment [A16]:** Edited for consistency with other wilderness designation laws, including section 1972(b)(9) of Public Law 111-11.

(i) shall constitute or be construed to constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water or water rights with respect to the land designated as wilderness by this title;

(ii) shall affect any water rights in the State existing on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States;

(iii) shall be construed as establishing a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations;

(iv) shall affect the interpretation of, or any designation made pursuant to, any other Act; or

(v) shall be construed as limiting, altering, modifying, or amending any of the interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportion water among and between the State and other States.

(B) State water law.--The relevant Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of the law of the State in order to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the wilderness areas designated by this title.

(a) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.— Nothing in this title—

(1) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the wilderness areas designated by section 101;

(2) affects any water rights in the State of Utah existing on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States;

(3) establishes a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations; or

(4) shall restrict or prohibit the upstream diversion of water rights held under Utah State law.

(b) EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.— Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit motorized access and road maintenance by local municipalities, including irrigation districts, and other water right holders for maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of water resource facilities that currently exist or which may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in wilderness areas designated by section 101.



**SEC. 105. MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.**

Nothing in this title restricts or precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over wilderness areas designated by section 101, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within wilderness areas;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes, over wilderness areas.

**Comment [A17]:** NPS has concerns with the potential impact of this section on park lands.

**SEC. 106. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around a wilderness area designated by section 101.

(b) **ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS AREA.**—The fact that an activity or use on land outside a wilderness area can be seen, heard or smelled within the wilderness area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

**SEC. 107. INDIAN RIGHTS.**

Nothing in this title diminishes the rights of any Indian tribe.

**SEC. 108. ACQUISITION AND INCORPORATION OF LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.**

(a) **ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with applicable laws (including regulations), the relevant Secretary may acquire any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the wilderness areas designated by section 101 of this title by purchase from willing sellers, donation, or exchange.

**Comment [A18]:** Edited for consistency with section 1972(b)(5) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The relevant Secretary may acquire land or interest in land within the boundaries of the wilderness areas designated by section 101 only by donation, exchange, transfer from another Federal agency, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) **LAND EXCHANGE.**—At the request of the State of Utah, not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall complete exchanges for State land located within the boundaries of the wilderness areas designated by this title.

(3) **NO CONDEMNATION.**—Within the areas designated as wilderness by this title, the use of eminent domain or condemnation shall be prohibited.



(b) ~~INCORPORATION IN WILDERNESS AREA.~~—Any land or interest in land acquired by the relevant Secretary under paragraph (a) ~~located inside the boundary of a wilderness area that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act, except land acquired by the United States in trust for the benefit of a tribe,~~ shall be added incorporated into, and administered as part of, the wilderness area in which the land or interest in land is located.

SEC. 109. **WILDERNESS RELEASE.**

(a) PUBLIC LAND.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the following wilderness study areas, as depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Wilderness map dated June 30, 2016, have been adequately studied for wilderness designation—

(A) the 43,322-acre area known as Winter Ridge Wilderness Study Area;

~~(B) the 7,051-acre area known as Jack Canyon Wilderness Study Area;~~

~~(B) the 6,557-acre area known as Squaw and Papoose Wilderness Study Area;~~

~~(D) the 20,404-acre area known as Desolation Canyon Wilderness Study Area included within the Desolation Canyon Special Management Area as designated by this title and as depicted on the map;~~

(E) the 2,516-acre area known as Daniels Canyon Wilderness Study Area; and

(F) the 945-acre area known as Cross Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

(2) RELEASE.—Any land managed by the Bureau of Land Management within the areas described in paragraph (1) that is not designated as wilderness by this title—

(A) shall not be subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c));

(B) shall be managed in accordance with land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(C) shall no longer be subject to Secretarial Order No. 3310 issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 22, 2010.

**Comment [A19]:** The Department would like to work with the sponsors on this section to ensure that certain isolated, irregularly shaped portions of existing WSAs not proposed for wilderness designation by this title are released from WSA status.

**Comment [A20]:** See comment on Desolation Canyon Wilderness in section 101(2) of Division A. The Department's position is that all of the existing Desolation Canyon and Jack Canyon WSAs should be included as part of the proposed Desolation Canyon Wilderness.

**Comment [A21]:** See previous comment.

**Comment [A22]:** Requirements regarding airsheds are contained in section 162(a) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 57472[a]).

SEC. 110. **AIRSHEDS.**



(a) DESIGNATIONS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it is the intent of Congress that wilderness areas designated under section 101 shall not be designated as Class I airsheds under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401–7661) unless Class I status is agreed by the State of Utah under existing authorities.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The lands within the wilderness designated by section 101(K), (AA), and (BB) shall continue to be managed as Class I airsheds.

## TITLE II—NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS

### SEC. 201. NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS.

Subject to valid existing rights, including the rights of a tribe, the following areas in the State of Utah are hereby established as National Conservation Areas:

(1) BEACH DRAW.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 658 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Beach Draw National Conservation Area”.

(2) DIAMOND MOUNTAIN.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 30,390 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Diamond Mountain National Conservation Area”.

(3) DOCS VALLEY.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 8,544 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Docs Valley National Conservation Area”.

(4) STONE BRIDGE DRAW.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 2,415 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Stone Bridge Draw National Conservation Area”.

(5) STUNTZ DRAW.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 2,284 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Stuntz Draw National Conservation Area”.

(6) SAN RAFAEL SWELL.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 530,380,750,000 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Emery County

**Comment [A23]:** For clarity and consistency with other enacted NCA designation laws, this section should reference an accompanying map at an appropriate scale, similar to the regional wilderness maps referenced in section 1971 of Public Law 111-11. (County by county maps).

**Comment [A24]:** For the sake of efficient management, the Department strongly encourages the sponsors to consider designating a single NCA for the lands surrounding the Dinosaur National Park, which would include the proposed Beach Draw, Diamond Mountain, Docs Valley, Stone Bridge Draw, and Stuntz Draw NCAs and would consist of approximately 44,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Manageability and interagency coordination would be improved by combining these geographically clustered NCAs into a single NCA managed under one management plan.

**Comment [A25]:** The Department believes that the best management approach for the San Rafael Swell area would be the designation of a single NCA encompassing the approximately 750,000 acres proposed as the San Rafael and Muddy Creek NCAs, the Goblin Valley CMA, as well as other adjacent lands that contain similar resources, such as the currently excluded area between the proposed Cedar Mountain and Muddy Creek Wildernesses designated in section 101.



as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "San Rafael Swell National Conservation Area".

(7) **LABYRINTH CANYON AND SAN RAFAEL RIVER**.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 95,658,617.23 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Emery County and Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Labyrinth Canyon National Conservation Area".

**Comment [A26]:** The Department would like to work with the sponsors on boundary modifications to enhance manageability and to remove overlapping incompatible designations, such as the proposed Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone.

In addition, if both the Labyrinth Canyon and San Rafael River NCAs are being designated to conserve identical resources, objects, and values, it would be administratively simpler to manage these NCAs as a single NCA under one management plan.

**Comment [A27]:** See comment regarding San Rafael Swell NCA above.

(8) **MUDDY CREEK**.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 53,804 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Emery County, Utah, as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map and dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Muddy Creek National Conservation Area".

(9) **COLORADO RIVER**.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 166,949,168.229 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Colorado River National Conservation Area".

**Comment [A28]:** The Department notes that the boundary for this NCA excludes contiguous sections that the BLM would acquire under Division B of the bill.

(10) **INDIAN CREEK**.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 434,354 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service in San Juan County, Utah, as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map and dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Indian Creek National Conservation Area".

(11) **SAN RAFAEL RIVER**.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 33,935 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Emery County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "San Rafael River National Conservation Area".

**SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.** --In this section:

(a) **Management plan.**—The term "management plan" means the management plans for each National Conservation Area developed by the relevant Secretary under section 205 of this title.

**Comment [A29]:** Edited for clarity and consistency with other conservation designation laws, including Public Law 111-11.

(b) **National Conservation Area.**—The term "National Conservation Area" means the National Conservation Areas established under section 201 of this title.

**SEC. 2032. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after ~~Not later than two years from the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the National Conservation Areas established by section 201 of this title with~~ submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a map and legal description of each National Conservation Area.

**Comment [A30]:** Edited for consistency with sections 2103(c), 2202(e), and 2404 of Public Law 111-11.



(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—Each map and legal description submitted under this section shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the relevant Secretary may make minor modifications of any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service.

SEC. 204. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS PURPOSES.

(a) SAN RAFAEL SWELL.— The purposes of this National Conservation Area are to—  
(a) PURPOSES.— In accordance with this title, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws, the relevant Secretary shall manage the National Conservation Areas established by section 201 in a manner that—

(1) protects, conserves, and enhances the unique and nationally important historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, recreational, archaeological, natural, and educational resources of the Conservation Area;

(2) ~~maintains and enhances~~ encourage cooperative and innovative management practices between resource managers, private landowners, and the public in the Conservation Area; and

~~(3) recognizes and maintains historic uses of the Conservation Area.~~

(b) LABYRINTH CANYON AND SAN RAFAEL RIVER.—The purposes of this National Conservation Area are to—

...

(c) COLORADO RIVER.—The purposes of this National Conservation Area are to—

...

SEC. 205. MANAGEMENT PLANS.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL PLAN REQUIRED.— Not later than two years As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall develop a management comprehensive plan for the long-term management of each National Conservation Area Conservation Area.

**Comment [A31]:** Each of the National Monuments and NCAs designated by Congress and managed by the BLM is unique. However, all of these designations have certain critical elements in common, including withdrawal from mineral entry under the public land, mining, and mineral leasing laws; limiting off-highway vehicles to roads and trails designated for their use; and language that charges the Secretary of the Interior with allowing only those uses that further the conservation purposes for which the unit is established.

To promote effective management and to ensure consistency with these critical elements and other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974 and 1975 of Public Law 111-11, the purposes sections for the proposed NCAs should be individually tailored to each NCA and should more clearly define the specific resources, objects, and values for which the areas would be designated.

A few examples of standard purposes language follow:

Beaver Dam Wash NCA (section 1975(a) of Public Law 111-11):

*"Purpose.—The purpose of this section is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area."*

Red Cliffs NCA (section 1974(a) of Public Law 111-11):

*"(a) Purposes.—The purposes of this section are— (1) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the National Conservation Area; and*

*(2) to protect each species that is— (A) located in the National Conservation Area; and (B) listed as a threatened or endangered species on the list of threatened species or the list of endangered species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1))."*

Dominguez-Escalante NCA (section 2402(b) of Public Law 111-11):

*"(b) Purposes.—The purposes of the observation Area are to conserve and protect for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations— (1) the unique and important resources and values of the land, including the geological, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, wilderness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational, and scenic resources of the public ... (1)*

**Comment [A32]:** Edited for consistency with all other NCA designation laws, including Public Law 111-11.

**Comment [A33]:** Edited for consistency with sections 1974(d) and 1975(d) of Public Law 111-11.



(2) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—In developing the management plans required under paragraph (1), ~~the relevant Secretary shall consult~~ prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with appropriate state, local, and tribal government entities, members of the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the relevant Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local governments, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the relevant Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

SEC. 2064. GENERAL PROVISIONS MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—~~The relevant Secretary shall manage each National Conservation Area—~~

(1) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the area; and

(2) in accordance with—

(i) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(ii) this title; and

(iii) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(b) USES.—~~The Secretary shall only allow such uses of each National Conservation Area that the Secretary determines would further a purpose for that National Conservation Area as described in section 204 of this title.~~

(c) MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED VEHICLES.—~~Except in cases in which motorized and mechanized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles in each National Conservation Area shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated by the management plans for their use of motorized vehicles.~~

(d) GRAZING.—~~The grazing of livestock in each National Conservation Area, where established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue—~~

(1) subject to—

(i) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary considers necessary; and

(ii) applicable law; and

(2) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in section 204.

(e) WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS.—~~Nothing in this title precludes prohibits the relevant Secretary, in cooperation with other a Federal, State, tribal, or local agencies, as appropriate~~

**Comment [A34]:** Edited for clarity and consistency with all other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

**Comment [A35]:** Edited for consistency with sections 1974(e)(5) and 1975(e)(5) of Public Law 111-11.



from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in Conservation Areas designated under section 201 in each National Conservation Area, consistent with the purposes in section 204.

(fa) **WITHDRAWALS.**—

**Comment [A36]:** Edited for consistency with sections 1974(g) and 1975(g) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) In general.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within in each the National Conservation Areas is established under section 201 including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Conservation Areas after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

- (i) all forms of entry, appropriation, and or disposal under the public land laws;
- (ii) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (iii) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(2) Additional land.—If the Secretary acquires additional land that is located within a National Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act, the land is withdrawn from operation of the laws referred to in paragraph (1) on the date of acquisition of the land.

(g) **Applicable law.**—The lands designated as wilderness under Title 1 shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this title only to the extent they are consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.). In the case of a conflict, the more restrictive provision shall control.

**Comment [A37]:** Edited to provide management certainty for wildernesses designated within NCAs. Similar language is present in other laws where wilderness and other Congressional designations both occur, including sections 3(11) and 3(12) of Public Law 109-362.

(b) **FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.**—In accordance with this title, the relevant Secretary may take such measures in each Conservation Area necessary to control fire, insects, and disease (including the coordination of such activities with a State, tribal, or local agency).

**Comment [A38]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(d) **LIVESTOCK.**—

**Comment [A39]:** See redesignated section 206(d) above. Edited for consistency with sections 1974(a)(4) and 1975(e)(4) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Within the Conservation Areas established under section 201 the grazing of livestock established before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue subject to reasonable regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary.

(2) **PROTECTION OF EXISTING USES.**—Existing livestock grazing shall continue subject to reasonable regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary and taking into account in accordance with the following guidelines:



(A) There shall be no reductions of grazing in the areas designated by this title simply because an area is, or has been designated by this title.

(B) The number of livestock permitted to graze in areas designated by this title ~~may~~ shall continue at approximate stocking levels prescribed in the grazing permit that existed on January 1, 2016, and additional or suspended animal unit months ~~may~~ shall be allowed to graze as range conditions allow or if range treatments improve conditions. Animal Unit Months shall only be diminished as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process.

(C) The maintenance of existing grazing supporting facilities in an area prior to its designation by this title (including fences, placement of salt and minerals, line cabins, water wells and pipelines, stock tanks and ponds), ~~may~~ shall continue. Such maintenance may include the use of off-highway vehicles or mechanized tools and equipment.

(D) The construction of new grazing improvements or replacement of deteriorated livestock facilities in areas designated by this title ~~may be~~ is authorized if in accordance with the applicable management plan.

(E) The use of off-highway vehicles for emergency purposes such as care of sick animals or the placement of feed and water in emergency situations ~~may be~~ is authorized by the applicable grazing permit holder or an employee or agent thereof.

(F) Access to historic and traditional water sources for the purpose of watering livestock ~~may~~ shall be maintained.

(G) The trailing of domestic livestock ~~may~~ shall continue ~~consistent with the purposes of~~ and shall not be limited by the designations made under section 201.

(3) UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD. — In instances in which historic grazing areas, access, or use is disputed by the grazing permittee, data and information provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture shall be given consideration by the relevant Secretary to determine historic grazing areas or use.

(e) ~~EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.~~ — Nothing in this title precludes the relevant Secretary from renewing easements or rights of way in Conservation Areas established under section 201 in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with this division and existing law.

**Comment [A40]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(f) ~~ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.~~ —

**Comment [A41]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~ — Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around a Conservation Area designated by section 201.



(2) **ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE CONSERVATION AREA.**—An activity or use on land outside of a Conservation Area established under section 201 that can be seen, heard, felt, or smelled within the Conservation Area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the Conservation Area.

(g) **OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.**—Commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the Conservation Areas established under section 201 are authorized to the extent necessary to realize the recreational purposes of the areas.

**Comment [A42]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(h) **FISH AND WILDLIFE.**—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State of Utah with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping and use of helicopters to maintain healthy wildlife populations, within the Conservation Areas established under section 201.

**Comment [A43]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(i) **ACCESS.**—The relevant Secretary shall provide the owner of State, tribal or private property within the boundary of a Conservation Area established under section 201 access to the property.

**Comment [A44]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(j) **WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**—Structures and facilities, including future and existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects (including guzzlers) in the Conservation Areas established under section 201 are authorized.

**Comment [A45]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(k) **WATER RIGHTS.**—

**Comment [A46]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this title—

(A) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the Conservation Areas designated by this title;

(B) affects any water rights in the State of Utah existing on the date of enactment of this title, including any water rights held by the United States;

(C) establishes a precedent with regard to any future National Conservation Area designations; or

(D) shall restrict or prohibit the upstream diversion of water rights held under Utah State law.

(2) **EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit motorized access and road maintenance by local municipalities, including irrigation districts, and other water right holders for maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of water resource facilities that currently exist or which



may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in Conservation Areas designated by this title.

(l) **WILDERNESS RELEASE.**—Congress finds that the Conservation Areas designated by section 201 have been adequately studied for wilderness character and wilderness designation pursuant to section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782) and are no longer subject to the requirement of subsection (e) of such section pertaining to the management of wilderness study areas in a manner that does not impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness.

**Comment [A47]:** Edited for consistency with Public Law 111-11. For clarity, wilderness release language should appear solely in Title I.

(m) **PROHIBITION.**—The relevant Secretary may not promulgate or issue any system-wide regulation, directive, instruction memorandum or order that would direct management of the Federal lands designated as Conservation Areas by section 201 in a manner contrary to this title.

(n) **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.**—Nothing in this title prevents the relevant Secretary from conducting vegetation management projects within the Conservation Areas established under section 201 in a manner consistent with the purposes for the Conservation Area pursuant to section 203(a).

**Comment [A48]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1374(e) and 1375(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(o) **OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES.**—

**Comment [A49]:** See redesignated section 206(c) above. Edited for consistency with sections 1974(e)(3) and 1973(e)(3) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except in cases in which off highway vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, including project construction and maintenance, response to an emergency or as outlined in section 204(d)(2), the use of off highway vehicles shall be permitted only on designated routes within the Conservation Areas designated under section 201.

(2) **DESIGNATED ROUTES FOR OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The relevant Secretary shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—

(i) is consistent with off highway vehicle and mechanized use of the designated routes that is authorized under the applicable travel management plan;

(ii) does not significantly damage designated critical habitat or cultural resources; and

(iii) does not interfere with private property or water rights.

(B) **CLOSURE.**—The relevant Secretary, in consultation with the State and affected County, may temporarily close or permanently reroute, subject to subparagraph (C), a route if the relevant Secretary determines that—



(i) the route is significantly damaging designated critical habitat or cultural resources;

(ii) the route threatens public safety;

(iii) closure of the route is necessary to repair damage to the designated route; or

(iv) closure of the route is necessary to repair resource damage.

(C) REROUTING.— Portions of the designated route that are temporarily closed may be permanently rerouted by utilizing a previously closed route or constructing a new route.

(D) NOTICE.— The relevant Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any designated routes that are open, have been rerouted, or are temporarily or permanently closed through—

(i) use of appropriate signage within the Conservation Area; and

(ii) use of the Internet and Web resources.

(p) TEMPORARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION.— The relevant Secretary shall be permitted to construct temporary passenger vehicle roads for administrative or emergency purposes. The relevant Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under this paragraph not later than three years after the date the project is completed.

**Comment [A50]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(q) NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.— Nothing in this title affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

**Comment [A51]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(r) SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS.— The relevant Secretary shall provide opportunities, including through partnerships with colleges, universities, schools, tribes, scientific institutions, nonprofit organizations, researchers, and scientists to conduct research and provide educational and interpretive services of the historical, cultural, scientific, archeological, and natural resources within the Conservation Areas designated by section 201. Research findings from the Conservation Areas may be used to develop land-use solutions that meet human needs while maintaining ecological and economic viability in the region.

**Comment [A52]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(s) RESEARCH AND INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES.—

**Comment [A53]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) IN GENERAL.— The Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture may establish facilities for—



(A) the conduct of scientific research; and

(B) the interpretation of the historical, cultural, scientific, archeological, biological, natural and educational resources of the Conservation Areas designated under section 201.

(2) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.— In carrying out subsection (r), the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture may make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Utah, local governmental entities, tribes, other institutions and organizations, and private entities to conduct research, conduct scientific analyses, and carry out any other initiative relating to the restoration or conservation of the Conservation Areas.

(t) PARTNERSHIPS.— In carrying out subsections (r) and (s) and in recognition of the value of collaboration to foster innovation and enhance research and development efforts, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall encourage partnerships, including public-private partnerships, between and among Federal, State, tribal and local agencies, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations and private entities.

**Comment [A54]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(u) RECREATION.— The relevant Secretary shall continue to authorize, maintain, and enhance the recreational use of the Conservation Areas designated under section 201, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, hang gliding, paragliding, rock climbing, canyoneering, sightseeing, nature study, horseback riding, mountain biking, rafting, off-highway vehicle recreation on designated routes, and other recreational activities.

**Comment [A55]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(e) and 1975(e) of Public Law 111-11.

(iv) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.— Any land or interest in land that is located in a National Conservation Area that is acquired by the United States shall—

**Comment [A56]:** Edited for consistency with other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974(f) and 1975(f) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) become part of the National Conservation Area; and

(2) be managed in accordance with--

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) this title; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations). Acquisition.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— The relevant Secretary may acquire land or interest in land within the boundaries of the Conservation Areas designated by section 201 only by donation, exchange, transfer from another Federal agency, or purchase from a willing seller.



(2) LAND EXCHANGE.—At the request of the State, not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall complete exchanges for State land located within the boundaries of the Conservation Areas designated by section 201.

(3) NO CONDEMNATION.—Within the Conservation Areas designated by section 201 the use of eminent domain or condemnation shall be prohibited.

(4) INCORPORATION IN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.—Any land or interest in land located inside the boundary of a Conservation Area designated under section 201 that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the Conservation Area.

**SEC. 2075. ADDITIONAL PURPOSE FOR DOCS VALLEY, STONE BRIDGE DRAW, STUNTZ DRAW, BEACH DRAW, AND DIAMOND MOUNTAIN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS.**

Nothing in this title shall effect or preclude existing or future sage grouse conservation projects, including the management of vegetation through mechanical means within the Docs Valley, Stone Bridge Draw, Stuntz Draw, Beach Draw, and Diamond Mountain National Conservation Areas designated under section 201.

**SEC. 2086. ADDITIONAL PURPOSE FOR COLORADO RIVER NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.**

To provide for the management, development, protection, and use of drinking water within the Colorado River National Conservation Area.

**Comment [A57]:** For clarity, this language should be included in section 204 (purposes) above.

**TITLE III—WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS**

**SEC. 301. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The following Watershed Management Areas are hereby established in the State of Utah, subject to valid existing rights:

(1) ASHLEY SPRING.—The “Ashley Spring Watershed Management Area”, consisting of approximately 10,951 acres of the Ashley National Forest in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016.

(2) DRY FORK.—The “Dry Fork Watershed Management Area”, consisting of approximately 9,640 acres of the Ashley National Forest in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016.

**Comment [A58]:** Though this section is not in the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, the principle objections which are outlined in this TA are most likely applicable to the language regarding the Forest Service as well. Requests for TA on this section should be directed to USDA and the Forest Service.



(3) **CASTLE VALLEY.**—The “Castle Valley Watershed Management Area”, consisting of approximately 34,247 acres of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016.

(4) **WIDDOP MOUNTAIN.**—The “Widdop Mountain Watershed Management Area”, consisting of approximately 8,025 acres of the Ashley National Forest in Summit County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016.

(5) **EAST FORK SMITHS FORK.**—The “East Fork Smiths Fork Watershed Management Area”, consisting of approximately 3,178 acres of the Ashley National Forest in Summit County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016.

**(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter “Secretary” in this title) shall file a map and legal description of the Watershed Management Areas with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) **EFFECT.**—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may correct minor errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(3) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**SEC. 302. ADMINISTRATION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Watershed Management Areas are—

(1) to ensure the protection of the quality of water in the Watershed Management Areas;



(2) to allow visitors to enjoy the scenic, natural, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values of the Watershed Management Areas;

(3) to provide for the management, development, and use of drinking water within the Watershed Management Areas;

(4) to allow for the reintroduction of beavers in appropriate Watershed Management Areas;

(5) to allow for reintroduction of native flora (land and aquatic), bird, fish and animal fauna in Watershed Management Areas;

(6) to provide for the restoration of watersheds and re-establish ecosystem health in areas damaged or threatened by insects, disease or prior land use; and

(7) to provide for the restoration of ecosystems damaged or threatened by overpopulation of any plant, aquatic or animal species.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall manage the Watershed Management Areas—

(1) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (a); and

(2) in accordance with—

(A) the laws generally applicable to the National Forest System;

(B) this title; and

(C) any other applicable law.

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of each Watershed Management Area.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with local and tribal governments,



the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local governments, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

**SEC. 303. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) **MOTORIZED VEHICLES.**—Except in cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles shall be permitted only on designated routes within the Watershed Management Areas.

(b) **NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—Nothing in this title affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

(c) **ROAD CONSTRUCTION.**—The Secretary shall be permitted to construct roads for administrative or emergency purposes, or if a temporary road is needed to facilitate forest management projects to protect or enhance watersheds. The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under a project under this section not later than three years after the date on which the forest management project is completed.

(d) **OVERSNOW VEHICLES.**—Where permitted prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall authorize the use of snowmobiles and other over snow vehicles within the Watershed Management Areas when there is at least six inches of snow coverage.

(e) **FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.**—In accordance with this title and in consultation with State, tribal, and local government and water or irrigation districts who own or control water resources within Watershed Management Areas, the Secretary may carry out measures to prevent wildland fire and reduce hazardous fuels, insects, and diseases in the Watershed Management Areas to protect or improve water quality or to maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure.

(f) **WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS.**—Nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in Watershed Management Areas designated under section 301.



(g) POST-FIRE REHABILITATION.—The Secretary may conduct post-fire rehabilitation in the Watershed Management Areas, consistent with this title and in accordance with applicable law.

(h) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct vegetation management projects within the Watershed Management Areas if projects protect or improve water quality or maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure.

(i) FOREST MANAGEMENT.—Within the Watershed Management Areas, timber harvesting may be used if the primary purpose is to restore or improve forest health and watershed function or to further the purposes described in this title.

(j) LIVESTOCK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the Watershed Management Areas designated under section 301, the grazing of livestock established before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue subject to reasonable regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary.

(2) PROTECTION OF EXISTING USES.—Existing livestock grazing shall continue in accordance with the following guidelines:

(A) There shall be no reductions of grazing in the areas designated by this title simply because an area is, or has been designated by this title.

(B) The number of livestock permitted to graze in areas designated by this title shall continue at approximate stocking levels prescribed in the grazing permit that existed on January 1, 2016, and additional or suspended animal unit months shall be authorized to graze as range conditions allow or if range treatments improve conditions. Animal Unit Months shall only be diminished as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process.

(C) The maintenance of existing grazing supporting facilities in an area prior to its designation by this title (including fences, placement of salt and minerals, line cabins, water wells and pipelines, stock tanks and ponds), shall continue. Such maintenance may include the use of off-highway vehicles or mechanized tools and equipment.

(D) The construction of new grazing improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities in areas designated by this title is authorized if in accordance with the applicable land management plan.



(E) The use of off-highway vehicles for emergency purposes such as care of sick animals or the placement of feed and water in emergency situations is authorized by the applicable grazing permit holder or an employee or agent thereof.

(F) Access to historic and traditional water sources for the purpose of watering livestock shall be maintained.

(G) The trailing of domestic livestock shall continue and shall not be limited by the designations made under section 301.

(3) UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.—In instances in which historic grazing locations, access, or use is disputed by the grazing permittee, data and information provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture shall be given consideration by the Secretary to establish historic access, locations, or use.

(k) EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Nothing in this title precludes the Secretary from renewing easements or rights-of-way in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with this title and existing law.

(l) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around a Watershed Management Area designated by section 301.

(m) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside a Watershed Management Area can be seen, heard, felt or smelled within the Watershed Management Area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the Watershed Management Area.

(n) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—Commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the Watershed Management Areas are authorized to the extent necessary to realize the recreational purposes of the areas.

(o) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State of Utah with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping within the Watershed Management Areas.

(p) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall provide the owner of State, tribal or private property within the boundary of a Watershed Management Areas access to the property.



(q) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—Structures and facilities, including future and existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects (including guzzlers) in the Watershed Management Areas are authorized.

(r) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title—

(1) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the Watershed Management Areas designated by this title;

(2) affects any water rights in the State of Utah existing on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States;

(3) establishes a precedent with regard to any future Watershed Management Area designations; or

(4) shall restrict or prohibit the upstream diversion of water rights held under Utah State law.

(s) EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit motorized access and road maintenance by local municipalities or irrigation districts and other water right holders for those maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of water resource facilities that currently exist or which may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in Watershed Management Areas designated by section 301 subject to such reasonable regulations deemed necessary by the Secretary.

(t) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this title, the Federal land within the Watershed Management Areas designated by section 301 are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the Federal land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(u) ASHLEY SPRING AND DRY FORK.—The management plans for the Ashley Spring and Dry Fork management areas shall include provisions for the development of containment ponds, water pipes, and other improvements to deliver water to the Ashley Valley should the flow of Ashley Spring become diminished or impaired.



(v) WILDERNESS REVIEW.—The Secretary may not promulgate or issue any system-wide regulation, directive, instruction memorandum or order that would direct management of the Federal lands designated as Watershed Management Areas in section 301 in a manner contrary to this title.

## **TITLE IV—SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS**

**Comment [A59]:** Though this section is not in the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, the principle objections which are outlined in this TA are most likely applicable to the language regarding the Forest Service as well. Requests for TA on this section should be directed to USDA and the Forest Service.

### **SEC. 401. HIGH UINTAS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 19,191 acres of the Ashley National Forest in Uintah and Duchesne County, Utah, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Utah PLI High Uintas Special Management Area Map” dated June 24, 2016, is established as the High Uintas Special Management Area.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the High Uintas Special Management Area (hereinafter referred to in this title as the “Area”) are to maintain the natural values of the area and to allow for the continued use of oversnow vehicles.

### **SEC. 402. HIGH UINTAS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter “Secretary” in this title) shall file a map and legal description of the Area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(b) EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States Forest Service.

### **SEC. 403. ADMINISTRATION OF THE HIGH UINTAS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.**

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the Area in accordance with—

(1) the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);



(2) this title; and

(3) other applicable laws.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of the Area.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with State, local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local governments, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

(3) USES.—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the Area that would further the purposes outlined in subsection 401(b) and the following guidelines:

(A) Maintain the existing, outstanding natural values of the Area.

(B) Allow for the continued use and access of oversnow vehicles, including snowmobiles.

(C) Allow for non-motorized recreational opportunities to occur within the Area including skiing, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and camping.

(D) Prohibit mineral development.

(E) Prohibit new permanent road construction.

(F) Prohibit commercial timber harvesting.

**SEC. 404. HIGH UINTAS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) **WITHDRAWALS.**—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Area established under section 401 is withdrawn from—

- (1) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(b) **FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.**—In accordance with this title, the Secretary may take such measures in the Area as are necessary for the control of fire, insects, and disease (including the coordination of the activities with a State or local agency).

(c) **WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS.**—Nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in the Area designated under section 401.

(d) **LIVESTOCK.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Within the Area designated under section 401, the grazing of livestock established before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue subject to reasonable regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary.

(2) **PROTECTION OF EXISTING USES.**—Existing livestock grazing shall continue in accordance with the following guidelines:

(A) There shall be no reductions of grazing in the areas designated by this section simply because an area is, or has been designated by this title.

(B) The number of livestock permitted to graze in areas designated by this title shall continue at approximate stocking levels prescribed in the grazing permit that existed on January 1, 2016, and additional or suspended animal unit months shall be authorized to graze as range conditions allow or if range treatments improve conditions. Animal Unit Months shall only be diminished as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process.

(C) The maintenance of existing grazing supporting facilities in an area prior to its designated by this section (including fences, placement of salt and minerals, line cabins, water wells and pipelines, stock tanks and ponds), shall continue. Such



maintenance may include the use of off-highway vehicles or mechanized tools and equipment.

(D) The construction of new grazing improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities in areas designated by this section is authorized if in accordance with the applicable land management plan.

(E) The use of off-highway vehicles for emergency purposes such as care of sick animals or the placement of feed and water in emergency situations is authorized by the applicable grazing permit holder or an employee or agent thereof.

(F) Access to historic and traditional water sources for the purpose of watering livestock shall be maintained.

(G) The trailing of domestic livestock shall continue and shall not be limited by the designations made under section 401.

(3) UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.—In instances in which historic grazing locations, access, or use is disputed by the grazing permittee, data and information provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture shall be given consideration by the Secretary to establish historic access, locations, or use.

(e) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Area.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE AREA.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the Area can be seen, heard, felt or smelled within the Area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the Area.

(f) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—Commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the Area are authorized to the extent necessary to realize the recreational purposes of the areas.

(g) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction of the State of Utah with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping and use of helicopters to maintain healthy wildlife populations, within the Area.

(h) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall provide the owner of State or private property within the boundary of the Area.

(i) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—Structures and facilities, including future and existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects (including guzzlers) in the Area are authorized.

(j) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title—

(A) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the High Uintas Special Management Area;

(B) affects any water rights in the State of Utah existing on the date of enactment of this Act;

(C) establishes a precedent with regard to any future special management areas designations; or

(D) shall restrict or prohibit the upstream diversion of water rights held under Utah State law.

(2) UTAH WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of State law to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to the Area.

(3) EFFECTS ON STATE WATER RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall not take any action that adversely affects—

(A) any water rights granted by the State;

(B) the authority of the State in adjudicating water rights;

(C) definitions established by the State with respect to the term “beneficial use” or “priority of rights”;

(D) terms and conditions for groundwater withdrawal;



(E) the use of groundwater resources that are in accordance with State law; or

(F) other rights or obligations of the State as established under State law.

(4) EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(A) Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit off-highway vehicle access and road maintenance by local municipalities, water districts or irrigation districts, for those maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of water resource facilities that currently exist or which may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in the Area.

(B) Nothing in this title shall be construed to encumber, transfer, impair, or limit any water right, or recognized beneficial use, including access to, development, and use of livestock water rights as defined by State law.

(k) PERMANENT ROAD CONSTRUCTION.—After the date of enactment of this Act, except as necessary for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the Secretary shall not construct any permanent road within the Area.

(l) TEMPORARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary is authorized to construct temporary passenger vehicle roads for administrative or emergency purposes. The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under this subsection not later than 3 years after the date the road is constructed.

(m) USE OF OFF-HIGHWAY OR MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the Area and to protect public health and safety, the use of off-highway vehicle or motorized vehicles is prohibited.

(n) COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVESTING.—Commercial timber harvesting within the Area is prohibited.

(o) OVERSNOW VEHICLES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall authorize the use of snowmobiles and other oversnow vehicles within the High Uintas Special Management Area when there is at least six inches of snow coverage.

**SEC. 405. LITTLE WEST FORK BLACKS FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the approximately 8,231 acres of the Wasatch Cache National Forest in Summit County, Utah as generally depicted on the map entitled “Utah PLI Little West Fork Blacks Special Management Area Map” dated June 24, 2016, is established as the “Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area”.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the shall file a map and legal description of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(2) EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States Forest Service.

**SEC. 406. ADMINISTRATION OF LITTLE WEST FORK BLACKS FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.**

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area is to manage, maintain, and restore watershed and ecosystem function and aquatic habitat within the Area.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area—

(1) in a manner that promotes, protects, and manages the resources of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area described in subsection (a); and

(2) in accordance with—

(A) the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.);



(B) this title; and

(C) other applicable laws.

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary of the Interior does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local governments, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations of the State, local governments and tribes.

(d) USES.—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the special management area that would further the purposes outlined in subsection (a) and the following:

(1) Include skiing, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, snowmobiling, motorcycle riding, off-highway vehicle use, snowshoeing, and camping.

(2) Allow for reintroduction of native flora (land and aquatic), bird, fish and animal fauna in Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area.

(3) Restore watershed function and health and re-establish ecosystem health in areas damaged or threatened by insects and disease.

(4) Restore the balance of the ecosystem health damaged or threatened by overpopulation of any plant, aquatic or animal species.

(5) Allow hazardous fuels reduction and forest health treatments to restore watershed and ecosystem function, reduce hazardous fuels, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

**SEC. 407. LITTLE WEST FORK BLACKS FORK SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

**(a) OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except in cases in which off-highway vehicles are needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of off-highway vehicles shall be permitted only on designated routes within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area.

(2) **MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—

(A) is consistent with off-highway vehicle and mechanized use of the designated routes authorized under the applicable travel management plan;

(B) does not significantly damage designated critical habitat or cultural resources; and

(C) does not interfere with private property or water rights.

(3) **CLOSURE.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the State and affected County, may temporarily close or permanently reroute, subject to paragraph (4), a route if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the route is significantly damaging designated critical habitat or cultural resources;

(B) the route threatens public safety;

(C) closure of the route is necessary to repair damage to the designated route; or

(D) closure of the route is necessary to repair resource damage.

(4) **REROUTING.**—Portions of the designated route that are temporarily closed may be permanently rerouted by utilizing a previously closed route or constructing a new route.



(5) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any designated routes that are open, have been rerouted, or are temporarily or permanently closed through—

(A) use of appropriate signage within the Conservation Area; and

(B) use of the Internet and Web resources.

(b) NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Nothing in this section affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

(c) PERMANENT ROAD CONSTRUCTION.—Except as necessary for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the Secretary shall not construct any permanent roads within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) TEMPORARY ROAD CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary shall be permitted to construct temporary roads to implement the purposes of the area, including constructing temporary roads for fuel reduction, forest health treatments and prescribed burns. The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under a project under this section not later than three years after the date on which the forest management project is completed.

(e) OVERSNOW VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall authorize the use of snowmobiles and other oversnow vehicles within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area when there is at least six inches of snow coverage.

(f) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary may—

(1) carry out measures to manage wildland fire and treat hazardous fuels, insects, and diseases in the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area; and

(2) coordinate those measures with the appropriate State or local agency.

(g) WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS.—Nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in the Area designated under section 405.

(h) LIVESTOCK GRAZING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area, the grazing of livestock in which grazing is established before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue subject to reasonable regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary.

(2) PROTECTION OF EXISTING USES.—Existing livestock grazing shall continue in accordance with the following guidelines:

(A) There shall be no reductions of grazing in the areas designated by section 405 simply because an area is or has been designated.

(B) The number of livestock permitted to graze in areas designated by section 405 shall continue at approximate stocking levels prescribed in the grazing permit that existed on January 1, 2016, and additional or suspended animal unit months shall be authorized to graze as range conditions allow or if range treatments improve conditions. Animal Unit Months shall only be diminished as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process.

(C) The maintenance of existing grazing supporting facilities in an area prior to its designation by section 405 (including fences, placement of salt and minerals, line cabins, water wells and pipelines, stock tanks and ponds), shall continue. Such maintenance may include the use of off-highway vehicles or mechanized tools and equipment.

(D) The construction of new grazing improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities in areas designated by section 405 is authorized if in accordance with the applicable land management plan.

(E) The use of off-highway vehicles for emergency purposes such as care of sick animals or the placement of feed and water in emergency situations is authorized by the applicable grazing permit holder or an employee or agent thereof.

(F) Access to historic and traditional water sources for the purpose of watering livestock shall be maintained.

(G) The trailing of domestic livestock shall continue and shall not be limited by the designations made under section 405.



(3) UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.—In instances in which historic grazing locations, access, or use is disputed by the grazing permittee, data and information provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture shall be given consideration by the Secretary to establish historic access, locations, or use.

(i) EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Nothing in this title precludes the Secretary from renewing easements or rights-of-way in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with this title and existing law.

(j) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area designated by section 405.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area can be seen, heard, felt or smelled within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area.

(k) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—As permitted as of January 1, 2016, commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area are authorized to the extent necessary to realize the recreational purposes of the areas.

(l) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this section affects the jurisdiction of the State of Utah with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area.

(m) ACCESS.—Consistent with the purposes of section 406(a), and as authorized as of the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall provide the owner of State, tribal, or private property within the boundary of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area access to the property.

(n) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title—

(A) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Areas designated by section 405;

(B) affects any water rights in the State of Utah;

(C) establishes a precedent with regard to any future Special Management Areas designations; or

(D) shall restrict or prohibit the upstream diversion of water rights held under Utah State law.

(2) UTAH WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of State law to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Areas.

(3) EFFECTS ON STATE WATER RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall not take any action that adversely affects—

(A) any water rights granted by the State;

(B) the authority of the State in adjudicating water rights;

(C) definitions established by the State with respect to the term “beneficial use” or “priority of rights”;

(D) terms and conditions for groundwater withdrawal;

(E) the use of groundwater resources that are in accordance with State law; or

(F) other rights or obligations of the State as established under State law.

(4) EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(A) limit off-highway vehicle access and road maintenance by local municipalities, irrigation districts, or water districts for those maintenance activities



necessary to guarantee the continued viability of water resource facilities that currently exist or which may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area designated by section 405; and

(B) encumber, transfer, impair, or limit any water right, or recognized beneficial use, including access to, development, and use of livestock water rights as defined by State law.

(o) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with the purposes of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area, nothing in this section prevents the Secretary from conducting vegetation management projects within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area.

(p) COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVEST.—Consistent with the purposes of the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area commercial timber harvest is authorized if the primary purpose of harvest is to restore or improve forest resiliency and watershed function or to further the purposes described in section 405.

(q) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land within the Little West Fork Blacks Fork Special Management Area designated by section 405 are withdrawn from—

- (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the Federal land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

**SEC. 408. DESOLATION CANYON, NINE MILE CANYON, WHITE RIVER AND BOOKS CLIFFS SPORTSMEN'S SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

(a) Establishment.—Subject to valid existing rights, the following areas in the State of Utah are hereby established as Special Management Areas:

(1) DESOLATION CANYON.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 8,770 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Carbon County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Desolation Canyon Special Management Area”.

**Comment [A60]:** The Department believes that further discussion is needed on sections 408-413. We agree that these areas deserve additional protection. The Department does not believe that protection is possible in the current draft. We would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors on language to ensure protection of resources within the Nine Mile Canyon, White River, and Book Cliffs areas. As noted in section 101(2) of Division A, the Department's position is that all of the existing Desolation Canyon WSA should be included as part of the proposed Desolation Canyon Wilderness.

(2) NINE MILE CANYON.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 41,301 acres; 26,210 acres in Carbon County and 15,091 acres in Duchesne County administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Carbon County and Duchesne County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Nine Mile Canyon Special Management Area”.

(3) WHITE RIVER.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 15,790 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “White River Special Management Area”.

(4) BOOKS CLIFFS SPORTSMENS.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 42,351 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016, is established as “Book Cliffs Sportsmens Special Management Area”.

(b) Purposes.— The purposes of the Desolation Canyon, Nine Mile Canyon, and White River Special Management Areas (hereinafter referred to as the “Areas”) established under subsection (a) is to—

(1) protect, conserve, and enhance the unique and nationally important historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, recreational, archaeological, natural, and educational resources of the Areas;

(2) maintain and enhance cooperative and innovative management practices between resource managers, private landowners, and the public in the Areas; and

(3) recognize and maintains historic uses of the Areas.

(e) Books Cliffs Sportsmens Special Management Area Purposes.— The purpose of the Book Cliffs Sportsmens Special Management Area (hereinto referred to as the “Book Cliffs Area”) is to protect hunting and fishing opportunities and habitat, manage and restore fish and wildlife habitat, and facilitate hunting and fishing opportunities in a natural environment.

**SEC. 409. DESOLATION CANYON, NINE MILE CANYON, WHITE RIVER AND BOOKS CLIFFS SPORTSMEN'S SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**



(a) In General.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall file a map and legal description of the Areas and the Books Cliffs Area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(b) Effect.—The map and legal description prepared under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(c) Public Availability.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

#### **SEC. 410. ADMINISTRATION OF THE DESOLATION CANYON, NINE MILE CANYON, AND WHITE RIVER SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.**

(a) Plan Required.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of each of the Areas.

(b) Recommendations And Consultation.—The Secretary shall prepare the management plans in consultation and coordination with the State, local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

#### **SEC. 411. DESOLATION CANYON, NINE MILE CANYON, AND WHITE RIVER SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) Applicability.—The general provisions of section 204 shall apply to the Areas.

(b) Exception.—The withdrawal provided by 204(a) shall not apply to the Desolation Canyon Special Management Area, White River Special Management Area, and the Nine Mile Canyon Special Management Area.

(c) Oil And Gas Leasing.—The Secretary may lease oil and gas resources in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) subject to the following conditions:

~~(1) The minerals may be accessed only by directional drilling from a lease held on the date of enactment of this Act and accessed through surface estate that is adjacent to, and outside of, the Areas.~~

~~(2) The lease shall prohibit surface occupancy and surface disturbance for any mineral activities within the Areas.~~

~~(d) Nine Mile Canyon Additional Provisions.—~~

~~(1) Energy development, including access needs for energy development, within the Nine Mile Canyon Special Management Area shall be allowed under the terms of the West Tavaputs Plateau Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision of July 2, 2010.~~

~~(2) Upon enactment of this section, the current Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation made under FLPMA (site) shall be permanently removed from the Nine Mile Canyon Special Management Area.~~

**SEC. 412. BOOK CLIFFS SPORTSMENS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

~~(a) Management Plan.— Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinto referred to as the “Secretary”) shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of the Book Cliffs Area.~~

~~(1) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.— The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with the Advisory Council described in subsection (d) below. If the Secretary of the Interior does not incorporate the recommendations submitted by the Advisory Council into the management plan the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations of the Advisory Council.~~

~~(2) REQUIREMENTS.— The management plan shall be written in accordance with section 408(e).~~

~~(3) USES.— The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Books Cliffs Area that would further the purposes of the Books Cliffs Area.~~



(b) ~~Vegetation Management.~~—Within the Book Cliffs Area, the Secretary may authorize vegetation management, including mechanical treatments, to the extent necessary to control fire, insects, or disease or to promote and improve wildlife habitat and diversity as consistent with the purposes of the Book Cliffs Area.

(c) ~~Mineral Leasing.~~—the Secretary may lease oil and gas resources in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) in the Books Cliffs Area subject to the following conditions:

(1) ~~The area may be accessed only by directional drilling from a lease held on the date of enactment of this Act on surface estate that is adjacent to, and outside of, the Books Cliffs Area.~~

(2) ~~The Books Cliff Area may be accessed only by directional drilling if the mineral lease entered into includes a non-waivable stipulation prohibiting surface occupancy and surface disturbance for any mineral activities within the Books Cliffs Area.~~

(d) ~~Wilderness Review.~~—The Secretary may not promulgate or issue any system-wide regulation, directive, instruction memorandum or order that would direct management of Federal lands designated under section 408 in a manner contrary to this title.

**SEC. 413. BOOK CLIFFS SPORTSMEN'S SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

(a) ~~Establishment And Purpose Of The Book Cliffs Sportsmen's Special Management Area Advisory Committee.~~—

(1) ~~ESTABLISHMENT.~~—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish and maintain the Book Cliffs Sportsmen's Special Management Area Advisory Committee (referred to in this title as the "Book Cliffs Advisory Committee") to perform the duties in subsection (b).

(2) ~~PURPOSE.~~—The purpose of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the Book Cliffs Special Management Area.

(b) ~~Duties.~~—The Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretary of the Interior with regard to—

(1) implementation of the Book Cliffs Special Management Area Management Plan; and

(2) administration of the Book Cliffs Special Management Area.

(c) Appointment By The Secretary.—

(1) APPOINTMENT AND TERM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint the members of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee for a term of 5 years beginning on the date of appointment. The Secretary of the Interior may not reappoint members to more than three terms.

(2) BASIC REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee established meets the requirements of subsection (d).

(3) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make initial appointments to the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) VACANCIES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make appointments to fill vacancies on the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee as soon as practicable after the vacancy has occurred.

(5) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall not receive any compensation.

(d) Composition Of Book Cliffs Advisory Committee.—

(1) NUMBER.—The Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall be comprised of no more than 11 members.

(2) COMMUNITY INTERESTS REPRESENTED.—Book Cliffs Advisory Committee members shall reside in the State of Utah and be representative of the following members:

(A) State Division of Wildlife Resources Director or one designee.

(B) Game bird hunting organization.

(C) Wildlife conservation organization.

(D) Big game hunting organization.

(E) Cold water fishing organization.



- (F) Tourism, outfitter, or guiding industry.
- (G) Hunting or shooting equipment retail industry.
- (H) Ute Tribe.
- (I) Forest or rangeland management specialist.
- (J) Ranching industry in Uintah County.
- (K) Uintah County Commission Chairman or designee.

(3) PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STATUS.—No individual serving under section 402 may be an officer or employee of the Federal Government or State of Utah Government.

(4) BALANCED REPRESENTATION.—In appointing Book Cliffs Advisory Committee members from the two categories in section 402, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide for balanced and broad representation from within each category.

(5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of the Interior shall select the chairperson of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee for a term of 5 years beginning on the date of appointment.

(e) Annual Book Cliffs Advisory Committee Report.—

(1) REPORT SUBMISSION.—The Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall submit a report no later than September 30 of each year to the Secretary of the Interior, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. If the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline in any year, the Secretary of the Interior shall advise the Chair of each such Committee of the reasons for such delay and the date on which the submission of the report is anticipated.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the activities of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee during the preceding year;

(B) the reports and recommendations made by the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior during the preceding year; and

~~(C) an accounting of actions taken by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of the recommendations;~~

~~(f) Other Book Cliffs Advisory Committee Authorities And Requirements.—~~

~~(1) STAFF ASSISTANCE.—The Book Cliffs Advisory Committee may submit to the Secretary of the Interior a request for periodic staff assistance from Federal employees under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.~~

~~(2) MEETINGS.—~~

~~(A) FREQUENCY.—The Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary of the Interior, the Chairperson, or a majority of the members. Meetings shall be held no fewer than 1 time a year. A majority must be present to constitute an official meeting of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee.~~

~~(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—All meetings of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall be announced at least one week in advance in publications of general circulation and shall be open to the public.~~

~~(3) RECORDS.—The Book Cliffs Advisory Committee shall maintain records of the meetings of the Book Cliffs Advisory Committee and make the records available for public inspection.~~

## TITLE V—ARCHES NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION

SEC. 501. ARCHES NATIONAL PARK EXPANSION,  
Section 1 of Public Law 92-155 is amended—

(1) by inserting the following after paragraph (2)—

“(3) Effective on the date of enactment of the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act, the boundary of the park shall include the area consisting of approximately 18,779 acres and depicted as Arches Expansion on the map entitled ‘Utah PLI Park and Monument Map’ dated June 24, 2016.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) in paragraph (4), as so designated by paragraph (2) of this provision, by striking “(1) and (2)” and inserting instead “(1), (2), and (3)”.

**Comment [A61]:** The Department supports defining the boundaries for this expansion using Public Land Survey System (PLSS) aliquot parts instead of a topographic line. This would be consistent with the original established park boundary and simplify management for both the NPS and the BLM. If the sponsors are interested, we can provide updated maps to address this issue.



## TITLE VI—JURASSIC NATIONAL MONUMENT

### SEC. 601. JURASSIC NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) PURPOSES.—To conserve, interpret, and enhance for the benefit of present and future generations the paleontological, scientific, and educational, ~~and recreational~~ resources, there is established in Emery County, Utah, subject to valid existing rights, the Jurassic National Monument (hereinafter referred to in this title as the “Monument”).

**Comment [A62]:** Edited to ensure manageability.

**Comment [A63]:** The Department recommends including a definitions section for all abbreviations in this title. See section 202 of Division A above.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Monument shall consist of approximately 867 acres of Federal land in Emery County, Utah as generally depicted on the map entitled “Utah PLI Park and Monument Map” dated June 24, 2016, to be known as the “Jurassic National Monument” and to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

#### (c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.

**Comment [A64]:** Edited for consistency with the mapping requirements in sections 2193(c), 2202(c), and 2404 of Public Law 111-31.

(1) IN GENERAL.—~~Two years~~ As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (~~hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”~~) shall ~~submit file a map and legal description of the Monument with~~ to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a map and legal description of the Monument.

**Comment [A65]:** The Department recommends including a definitions section for all abbreviations in this title. See section 202 of Division A above.

(2) EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

#### (d) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Monument only by donation, exchange, transfer from another agency, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) LAND EXCHANGE.—At the request of the State, not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete exchanges for State land located within the boundaries of the Monument designated by this title.

(3) NO CONDEMNATION.—Within the Monument designated by this section the use of eminent domain or condemnation shall be prohibited.

(e) ~~WITHDRAWALS.~~—Subject to valid existing rights, any Federal land within the Monument or any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States for inclusion in the Monument after the date of enactment of this section is withdrawn from—

Comment [A66]: Edited for consistency with section 2103(g) of Public Law 111-11.

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the Federal-public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing laws, geothermal leasing laws, and minerals materials laws.

(f) ~~MANAGEMENT PLAN.~~—

Comment [A67]: Edited for consistency with the management planning requirements in Title I of the bill and Public Law 111-11.

(1) ~~PLAN REQUIRED.~~—~~Not later than two years~~As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management-comprehensive plan for the long-term management of the Monument, including consideration of enhanced transportation routes, outdoor recreation planning, and promotion of scientific research.

(2) ~~RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.~~—~~In developing the management plans required under paragraph (1), the relevant Secretary shall consult with appropriate state, local, and tribal government entities, members of the public, and the Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with State, local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local governments, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations of the State and local governments and tribes.~~

(3) ~~USES.~~—~~The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the Monument that would further the purposes outlined in subsection (a).~~

(g) ~~ADMINISTRATION.~~—~~The Secretary shall administer the Monument in accordance with—~~

(1) ~~the management plan; and~~

(2) ~~any other applicable laws.~~

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Monument—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the area; and



(B) in accordance with—

(i) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(ii) this title; and

(iii) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(b) USES.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Monument that the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in section 601(a) of this title.

(c) **MOTORIZED VEHICLES**.—Except in cases in which motorized and mechanized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in the Monument shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated by the management plan for the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles.

**Comment [A68]:** Edited for consistency with other BLM-managed National Monuments and section 2104(f) of Public Law 111-11, and to ensure adequate conservation of the natural and cultural resources for which the area would be designated.

(h) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Monument designated by this section.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE MONUMENT.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the Monument can be seen, heard, felt or smelled within the Monument shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the Monument.

## **TITLE VII—WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

### **SEC. 701. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.**

(a) **ADDITIONS**.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(213) COLORADO RIVER.—The following segments in the State of Utah, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(A) The approximately 12.6 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated July 11, 2016, as a wild river.

“(B) The approximately 12.6 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a scenic river.

“(C) The approximately 52.2 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a recreational river.

**Comment [A69]:** To ensure consistency with all other WSR designation laws, this language should include the identification of beginning and ending points for individual segments. For example, section 1976 of Public Law 111-11 references an overview map when initially describing all the segments of the Virgin River to be designated within and adjacent to Zion National Park. After that, it provides more detail on the individual segments.

**SEC. 1976. ZION NATIONAL PARK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION.**

(a) *Designation.*—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as amended by section 1852) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(204) Zion national park, utah.—The approximately 165.5 miles of segments of the Virgin River and tributaries of the Virgin River across Federal land within and adjacent to Zion National Park, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Wild and Scenic River Segments Zion National Park and Bureau of Land Management’ and dated April 2008, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classifications:

“(A) Taylor creek.—The 4.5-mile segment from the junction of the north, middle, and south forks of Taylor Creek, west to the park boundary and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a scenic river.

“(D) The approximately 27.1 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a scenic river.

“(214) DOLORES RIVER.—The following segments in the State of Utah, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(A) The approximately 5.6 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a recreational river.

“(B) The approximately 5.8 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a scenic river.

“(C) The approximately 11.5 mile segment in Grand County as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a recreational river.

“(215) GREEN RIVER.—The following segments in the State of Utah, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as follows:

“(A) The approximately 69.5 mile river segment in Uintah, Carbon, Emery, and Grand Counties as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a scenic river.

“(B) The approximately 19.2 mile river segment in Emery and Grand Counties as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a wild river.

“(C) The approximately 8.5 mile river segment in Emery and Grand Counties as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated June 11, 2016, as a recreational river.

“(D) The approximately 109.4 mile river segment in Emery and Grand Counties as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated July 11, 2016, as a scenic river.

“(216) DARK CANYON.—The approximately 6.3 mile river segment in San Juan County, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated July 11, 2016, as a wild river.

“(217) SAN JUAN RIVER.—The approximately 17.2 mile river segment in San Juan County, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as generally depicted on the Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map dated July 11, 2016, as a wild river.”

**Comment [A70]:** The legislative map displays two segments for the San Juan River. These segments should be listed separately to ensure consistency with other WSR designation laws.



~~(b) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around a wild and scenic river designated by this title.~~

~~(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside a wild and scenic river designated under this title can be seen, heard, felt or smelled within the wild and scenic river shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the wild and scenic river.~~

~~(be) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of the Interior may acquire land or interest in land within the boundaries of the wild and scenic river areas designated by this title only by donation, exchange, or transfer from another agency, or purchase from a willing seller.~~

~~(cd) NO CONDEMNATION.—Within the areas designated by this title the use of eminent domain or condemnation shall be prohibited.~~

~~(e) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—Commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the wild and scenic rivers designated by this title are authorized to the extent necessary to realize the recreational purposes of the areas.~~

~~(f) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall file a map and legal description of the river segments designated by this title with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.~~

~~(2) EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary of the Interior may correct minor errors in the map or legal description and provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected counties.~~

~~(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.~~

**Comment [A71]:** Edited for consistency with section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(b)), which requires that segment boundaries include average of not more than 320 acres of land per mile measured from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river. A corridor is necessary for the management of federal lands and the protection of river values for which it would be designated.

**Comment [A72]:** Edited to enhance manageability.

**Comment [A73]:** Edited to ensure consistency with section 101(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

**Comment [A74]:** Edited for consistency with section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## **TITLE VIII—ASHLEY KARST NATIONAL GEOLOGIC AND RECREATION AREA**

**Comment [A75]:** Though this section is not in the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, the principle objections which are outlined in this TA are most likely applicable to the language regarding the Forest Service as well. Requests for TA on this section should be directed to USDA and the Forest Service.

### **SEC. 801. ASHLEY KARST NATIONAL GEOLOGIC AND RECREATION AREA.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Subject to valid existing rights, including the rights of a tribe, the approximately 110,838 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Special Management Area Map dated June 30, 2016, are hereby established as the “Ashley Karst National Geologic and Recreation Area”.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Ashley Karst National Geologic and Recreation Area (hereinto referred to in this title as the “Area”) are to provide recreational opportunities, protection and management of water resources, utilization of commercial forest products and withdrawal of minerals from development.

### **SEC. 802. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall file a map and legal description of the Ashley Karst National Geologic and Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the “Area”) with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(b) **EFFECT.**—The map and legal description prepared under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description and provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or topographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

### **SEC. 803. ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary shall administer the Area in accordance with—

- (1) the National Forest Management Act of 1976 ([16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.](#));
- (2) this title; and
- (3) other applicable laws.



(b) **MANAGEMENT.**—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of the Area.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations of the State, local and tribal governments.

(d) **USES.**—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the Area that would further the purposes outlined in subsection 801(b) of this title and the following guidelines:

(1) Provide for recreational opportunities to occur within the Area including skiing, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, snowmobiling, designated trails for motorcycle riding and off-highway vehicle use, snowshoeing, camping, and other recreational activities consistent with this title.

(2) Provide for active forest management, utilizing commercial harvesting for hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention, control of insects and disease, and to improve watershed health.

(3) Prohibit mineral development.

(4) Promote the long-term protection and management of the water resources and underground karst system.

#### **SEC. 804. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) **OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The use of off-highway vehicles and motorized vehicles shall be permitted within the Area.

(2) **MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary shall designate existing routes in a manner that—

(A) uses Forest Service roads and routes existing as of January 1, 2016, and also new roads authorized by this title;

(B) does not significantly damage designated critical habitat or cultural resources; and

(C) does not interfere with private property or water rights.

(3) CLOSURE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State and affected County, may temporarily close or permanently reroute, subject to paragraph (4), a route if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the route is significantly damaging designated critical habitat or cultural resources;

(B) the route threatens public safety;

(C) closure of the route is necessary to repair damage to the designated route; or

(D) closure of the route is necessary to repair resource damage.

(4) REROUTING.—Portions of the designated route that are temporarily closed may be permanently rerouted by utilizing a previously closed route or constructing a new route.

(5) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any designated routes that are open, have been rerouted, or are temporarily or permanently closed through—

(A) use of appropriate signage within the Conservation Area; and

(B) use of the Internet and Web resources.

(b) PRIORITY ROUTES.—Marsh Peak South Road and South Fork Road, as depicted on the Utah PLI Special Management Area Map, shall be open for off-highway vehicle use. Administrative access to Whiterocks Lake for general and emergency purposes shall be allowed for the United States Forest Service, State and local governments, and applicable water user association or utility company.



(c) ROUTE CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall study the feasibility and public interest of constructing new routes as needed to increase or enhance hiking and motorized recreational opportunities and purposes of the area.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED.—If the Secretary determines that the construction of a route is feasible the may construct the route.

(B) USE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.—A route authorized under this subsection may be constructed by volunteers, with volunteer services and contributions from non-Federal sources.

(d) NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Nothing in this title affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land located within the Area.

(e) OVERSNOW VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall authorize the use of snowmobiles and other oversnow vehicles in the Area when there is at least six inches of snow cover.

(f) FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.—In accordance with this title, the Secretary may—

(1) carry out any measures to manage wildland fire and treat hazardous fuels, insects, and diseases in the Area; and

(2) coordinate those measures with the appropriate State, tribal, or local agency.

(g) WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS.—Nothing in this title precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in the Area designated under this title.

(h) LIVESTOCK GRAZING.—Within the Area designated under section 801, the grazing of livestock established before the date of enactment of this Act shall continue subject to reasonable regulations as prescribed by the relevant Secretary.

(1) PROTECTION OF EXISTING USES.—Existing livestock grazing shall continue in accordance with the following guidelines:

(A) There shall be no reductions of grazing in the areas designated by this title simply because an area is, or has been designated by this title.

(B) The number of livestock permitted to graze in areas designated by this title shall continue at approximate stocking levels prescribed in the grazing permit that existed on January 1, 2016, and additional or suspended animal unit months shall be authorized to graze as range conditions allow or if range treatments improve conditions. Animal Unit Months shall only be diminished as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process.

(C) The maintenance of existing grazing supporting facilities in an area prior to its designation by this title (including fences, placement of salt and minerals, line cabins, water wells and pipelines, stock tanks and ponds), shall continue. Such maintenance may include the use of off-highway vehicles or mechanized tools and equipment.

(D) The construction of new grazing improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities in areas designated by this title is authorized if in accordance with the applicable land management plan.

(E) The use of off-highway vehicles for emergency purposes such as care of sick animals or the placement of feed and water in emergency situations is authorized by the applicable grazing permit holder or an employee or agent thereof.

(F) Access to historic and traditional water sources for the purpose of watering livestock shall be maintained.

(G) The trailing of domestic livestock shall continue and shall not be limited by the designations made under section 801(b).

(2) UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.—In instances in which historic grazing locations, access, or use is disputed by the grazing permittee, data and information provided by the Utah Department of Agriculture shall be given consideration by the Secretary to establish historic access, locations, or use.



(i) EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Nothing in this title precludes the Secretary from renewing easements or rights-of-way in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with this title and existing law.

(j) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Area designated by section 801.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE AREA.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the Area can be seen, heard, felt or smelled within the Area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the Area.

(k) OUTFITTING AND GUIDE ACTIVITIES.—Commercial services (including authorized outfitting and guide activities) within the Area are authorized to the extent necessary to realize the recreational purposes of the areas.

(l) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State of Utah with respect to the management of fish and wildlife on Federal land in the State, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping within the Area.

(m) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall provide the owner of State, tribal or private property owners within the boundary of the Area access to the property.

(n) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—Structures and facilities, including future and existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects (including guzzlers) in the Area are authorized.

(o) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title—

(A) shall constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water rights with respect to the Area designated by section 801;

(B) affects any water rights in the State of Utah;

(C) establishes a precedent with regard to any future designations; or

(D) shall restrict or prohibit the upstream diversion of water rights held under Utah State law.

(2) UTAH WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of State law to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to the Area.

(3) EFFECTS ON STATE WATER RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall not take any action that adversely affects—

(A) any water rights granted by the State;

(B) the authority of the State in adjudicating water rights;

(C) definitions established by the State with respect to the term “beneficial use” or “priority of rights”;

(D) terms and conditions for groundwater withdrawal;

(E) the use of groundwater resources that are in accordance with State law; or

(F) other rights or obligations of the State as established under State law.

(4) EXISTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(A) Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit off-highway vehicle access and road maintenance by local municipalities or water or irrigation districts for those maintenance activities necessary to guarantee the continued viability of water resource facilities that currently exist or which may be necessary in the future to prevent the degradation of the water supply in the Area designated by section 801.

(B) Nothing in this title shall be construed to encumber, transfer, impair, or limit any water right, or recognized beneficial use, including access to, development, and use of livestock water rights as defined by State law.

(p) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—Nothing in this title prevents the Secretary from conducting vegetation management projects within the Area.



(q) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act the Federal land within the Area is withdrawn from—

- (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the Federal land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(r) **FEES.**—Except for improved campgrounds, within the Area the United States Forest Service is prohibited from the collecting or requiring fees for access or use.

**DIVISION B—INNOVATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT,  
RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**TITLE I—SCHOOL TRUST LAND  
CONSOLIDATIONS**

**Comment [A76]:** The Department has major concerns with this title (Title I) as currently drafted. Any language considered must protect the federal taxpayers, federal treasury, and include proper public input, as well as the environmental review process.

**SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that the land exchange authorized and directed by this title furthers public objectives referenced in section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716) including—

- (1) promoting better management of Federal conservation areas by removing inheld State trust land sections;
- (2) securing Federal ownership and protection of land with significant wildlife, recreational, scenic, cultural and other public values;
- (3) assisting the State of Utah and local governments in economic development and community expansion through the consolidation of State trust lands in manageable blocks near several Utah communities; and
- (4) advancing public education through increased opportunity for economic development of Utah school trust lands, in furtherance of the land grants made under the Utah Enabling Act, Act of July 16, 1894 (28 Stat. 107, chapter 138).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this title to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the exchange of land between the State of Utah and the United States.

**SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the lands identified on the Map as “Federal Land”, “Federal Land—Minerals Only”, and “Federal Land—Surface Only” administered by the Bureau of Land Management located in Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan and Uintah Counties, Utah.

(2) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the following map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management and entitled “State and Federal Land Exchange Map” dated July 12, 2016.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “non-Federal land” means the lands identified on the Map as “State Trust Land Proposed for Transfer to United States”, “State Trust Lands—Surface Only Proposed for Transfer to United States” and “State Trust Lands—Minerals Only Proposed for Transfer to United States” located in Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan and Uintah Counties, Utah, as generally depicted on the Map.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Utah, acting as trustee under the Utah State School and Institutional Trust Lands Management Act (Utah Code Ann. 53C-1-101 et seq.) through the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

**SEC. 103. EXCHANGE OF LAND; RESERVATION OF INTERESTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If the State offers to convey to the United States title to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall, subject to the provisions of this title—

(1) accept the offer; and

(2) on receipt of the right, title, and interest of the State in and to the non-Federal land, convey to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) **VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.**—The exchange authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(c) **COSTS.**—Costs of the land exchange shall be allocated in accordance with section 206(f)(2)(B) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 ([43 U.S.C. 1716\(f\)\(2\)\(B\)](#))

(d) **TITLE APPROVAL.**—Title to the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this section shall be in a form acceptable to the Secretary and the State.



(c) RESERVATION OF INTEREST IN POTASH.—

(1) With respect to Federal land that contains potash resources, the Secretary shall reserve an interest in all potash resources.

(2) The interest reserved by the United States under paragraph (1) shall consist of—

(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the State as consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop potash resources;

(B) 50 percent of the amount that would have been received by the Federal Government under the royalty rate applicable on July 1, 2015, if the potash resources had been retained in Federal ownership; and

(C) 50 percent of any other payment received by the State pursuant to any lease or authorization to develop the potash resources.

(3) Upon receipt of any funds from potash leasing and development on lands in which the Secretary has reserved an interest, the State shall pay the Secretary amounts attributable to the reserved interest of the United States in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) (A) Any amounts due under paragraph (3) shall be paid by the State to the United States not less than quarterly.

(B) The State may deduct an administrative fee of three per cent from all payments due to the United States under paragraph (2).

(5) NO OBLIGATION TO LEASE.—The State shall not be obligated to lease or otherwise develop potash resources in which the United States retains an interest under this subsection.

(f) RESERVATION OF WELLBORE INTEREST IN OIL AND GAS.—

(1) The Secretary shall reserve a wellbore interest in each oil and gas well on Federal land that has been determined by the Secretary to be capable of production in paying quantities as of the date of conveyance.

(2) The wellbore interest reserved to the United States under paragraph (1) shall consist of the amount of all royalties attributable to an oil and gas well located on Federal land as of the date of conveyance.

(3) Upon receipt of any funds attributable to the reserved wellbore interest of the United States, the State shall pay the Secretary all such amounts in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) (A) Any amounts due under paragraph (2) shall be paid by the State to the United States not less than quarterly.

(B) The State may deduct an administrative fee of three per cent from all payments due to the United States under paragraph (2).

(5) The reserved wellbore interests of the United States in oil and gas under this section shall automatically terminate on the date that is 10 years after the enactment of this Act.

(6) The United States shall share all revenue received with respect to its reserved wellbore mineral interest in oil and gas with the State of Utah in accordance with section 35(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(a)).

(g) APPURTENANT WATER RIGHTS.—Any conveyance of a parcel of Federal land or non-Federal land under this title shall include the conveyance of water rights appurtenant to the parcel conveyed.

(h) CONVEYANCE OF PARCELS IN STAGES.—Parcels of Federal land and non-Federal land may be exchanged in phases as mutually determined by the Secretary and the State.

#### **SEC. 104. WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LANDS PRIOR TO EXCHANGE.**

Subject to valid existing rights, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the Federal land is conveyed, the Federal land is withdrawn from mineral location, entry or patent under the mining laws, from leasing and entry under the mineral leasing laws, and from mineral material disposal.

#### **SEC. 105. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 AND FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 COMPLIANCE.**

(a) PUBLIC INTEREST.—The land exchange authorized and directed by this title is in the public interest.

(b) SCOPING AND ANALYSIS.—Notwithstanding any other law, in preparing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) with respect to the land exchange contemplated by this title—

(1) the Secretary is not required to identify any actions other than the proposed action and the no action alternative; and



(2) the Secretary is not required to analyze the environmental effects of alternative conveyances or actions other than the offer submitted by the State under subsection 103(a).

(c) PRESUMPTION OF PLAN ADEQUACY.—Conveyances of Federal land to the State in accordance with this title are presumed to comply with any land use plan enacted under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712).

#### SEC. 106. STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND AFTER EXCHANGE.

(a) ADMINISTRATION OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—In accordance with section 206(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716(c)), the non-Federal land acquired by the United States under this title shall become part of, and be managed as part of, the Federal administrative unit or area in which the land is located.

##### (b) GRAZING PERMITS.—

(1) If land conveyed under this title is subject to a lease, permit, or contract for the grazing of domestic livestock in effect on the date of acquisition, the entity acquiring the land shall allow the grazing to continue for the remainder of the term of the lease, permit, or contract, subject to the related terms and conditions of user agreements, including permitted stocking rates, grazing fee levels, access rights, and ownership and use of range improvements.

(2) To the extent allowed by Federal or State law, on expiration of any grazing lease, permit, or contract described in paragraph (1), the holder of the lease, permit, or contract shall be entitled to a preference right to renew the lease, permit, or contract.

(3) If land conveyed by the State under this title is used by a grazing permittee or lessee to meet the base property requirements for a Federal grazing permit or lease, the land shall continue to qualify as a base property for the remaining term of the lease or permit and the term of any renewal or extension of the lease or permit.

##### (c) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.—

(1) The Secretary and the State shall make available for review and inspection any record relating to hazardous materials on the land to be exchanged under this title.

(2) The costs of remedial actions relating to hazardous materials on land acquired under this title shall be paid by those entities responsible for the costs under applicable law.

#### SEC. 107. BOOK CLIFFS CONSERVATION AREA.

Subject to valid existing rights, the mineral estate in the non-Federal lands acquired by the United States under this title, and the existing mineral estate in the Federal land, located in Grand County, Utah, as depicted on the Maps as "Book Cliffs Conservation Area" is withdrawn from location, entry and patent under the mining laws and the operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials and geothermal leasing laws.

## **TITLE II—GOBLIN VALLEY STATE PARK**

### **SEC. 201. LAND CONVEYANCE.**

At the request of the State of Utah, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, without consideration, the approximately 9,995 acres of Bureau of Land Management land identified as "Utah PLI Goblin Valley State Park Map" on the map entitled Utah PLI Goblin Valley State Park Expansion Map and dated June 24, 2016, to the Utah State Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

### **SEC. 202. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF GOBLIN VALLEY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the State of Utah, in accordance with this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the State for the management of the Federal land described in subsection (b) which shall be known as the "Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area".

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The area subject to the cooperative agreement is Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Emery County, Utah, comprising approximately 152,678 acres, identified as "Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area" on the map entitled Utah PLI Goblin Valley State Park Map and dated June 24, 2016.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area is to promote outdoor recreation, such as off-highway vehicle use, mountain biking, rock climbing, and hiking.

(d) TERMS.—The cooperative agreement shall—

(1) clarify the roles, responsibilities, and limitations, of the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Utah with regard to recreation management within the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area;

(2) extend only to recreational activities, including off-highway vehicle and non-off-highway vehicle use, within the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area, and shall not affect other land management within the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area, or recreational activities outside the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area;

(3) require that recreational activities within the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area shall continue to be managed in accordance with—

**Comment [A77]:** The Department has significant concerns with a transfer of this size because the BLM-managed lands within Goblin Valley are a premier recreation destination with facilities developed at significant taxpayer expense, contain occupied habitat for several endangered species, include wild horse herd management areas, grazing allotments, primitive and non-primitive recreation use, and unpatented mining claims. In the past, the Department has supported legislated, no-cost public purpose conveyances if they meet standards under the Recreation & Public Purposes Act (RPPA) and have been determined to be suitable for transfer out of federal ownership under the BLM's well-established NEPA process, which provides for robust public participation.

The Department would like to work with the sponsors on boundary adjustments to the proposed conveyance and on language ensuring consistency with the RPPA and other applicable law to address these concerns.



(A) the San Rafael Swell National Conservation Area and Crack Canyon Wilderness established by this title; and

(B) applicable Federal laws;

(4) require new route and trail construction for motorized and non-motorized use to further recreational opportunities and minimize resource conflict;

(5) address the establishment, distribution, and uses of, any revenues generated by recreational activities (including entrance fees) within the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area; and

(6) specify that the State agency administering the Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area shall be the Utah State Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

**Comment [A78]:** The Department cannot support this provision as drafted. This would be the first legislative Cooperative Management Area on BLM-managed lands. Before providing edits, we would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors to get a better understanding the purpose and vision for this area.

### TITLE III—PRICE CANYON STATE FOREST

#### SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

**Comment [A79]:** The Department cannot support this Title as drafted. As noted in the comment on Title I above, any language considered must protect the federal taxpayers, federal treasury, and proper public input.

(1) MAPS.—The term “Map” means the map entitled Utah PLI Price Canyon State Forest Map and dated July 1, 2016.

**Comment [A80]:** Based on a review of the latest GIS data and acreage listed in the bill, the map does not accurately show the State lands to be exchanged. The Department would be happy to work with the sponsors to provide an updated map.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the 13,324 acres identified as “BLM Lands Proposed for Transfer to State Sovereign Land” located in Carbon County, Utah, as generally depicted on the Map.

(3) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Federal land” means the 14,939 acres identified on the Map as “State Sovereign Land Proposed for Transfer to BLM” located in Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah, as generally depicted on the Map.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Utah’s Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.

**Comment [A81]:** It is the Department’s longheld position that exchanges must include provisions for complete environmental review, public interest determination, appraisal, and equalization of values through land adjustment. These elements are critical for any land exchange because they provide public engagement and opportunities to consider mitigation for impacts to environmental and cultural resources, and to help ensure that unknown or unforeseen issues are not overlooked.

#### SEC. 302. EXCHANGE OF LAND.

(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this title to consolidate intermingled State sovereign lands in an area of Carbon County, Utah, to create the State of Utah’s first State Forest.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—If the State offers to convey to the United States title to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall—

(1) accept the offer; and

(2) on receipt of the right, title, and interest of the State in and to the non-Federal land, convey to the State all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(c) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—The exchange authorized under subsection (a) shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(d) TITLE APPROVAL.—Title to the Federal land and non-Federal land to be exchanged under this section shall be in a form acceptable to the Secretary and the State.

#### SEC. 303. LIVESTOCK GRAZING.

For lands acquired by the State under this title in which grazing is established before the date of enactment of this Act, the grazing of livestock shall continue at levels existing as of January 1, 2016.

## **TITLE IV—DEER LODGE LAND EXCHANGE**

#### SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association” means the Deer Lodge Homeowners Association.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 157 acres of National Forest System land in Daggett County, Utah, identified as “Deer Lodge Cabin Site” on the map.

(3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Utah PLI Deer Lodge Land Exchange Map” and dated June 24, 2016.

(4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Federal land” means the parcel of approximately 77 acres of private land located in Uintah County, Utah, and identified as “Land to Be Acquired by USFS” on the map.

**Comment [AB2]:** Though this section is not in the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, the principle objections which are outlined in this TA are most likely applicable to the language regarding the Forest Service as well. Requests for TA on this section should be directed to USDA and the Forest Service.



(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 402. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) CONVEYANCE OF LAND.—No later than two years after enactment of this title, if the Association offers to convey to the United States all right, title, and interest of the Association in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall convey to the Association, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land, subject to valid existing rights.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING LAW.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, the Secretary shall carry out the land exchange under this title in accordance with section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(c) TITLE.—As a condition of the land exchange under this title, title to the non-Federal land to be acquired by the Secretary shall be acceptable to the Secretary.

(d) CONDITION.—As a condition of the land exchange under this title, the Association shall agree to retain as undeveloped open space the approximately 40 acres of meadow area identified as “Open Space” as generally depicted on the map.

**TITLE V—SCOFIELD LAND TRANSFER**

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Scofield Land Transfer Act”.

SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CARBON COUNTY.—The term “Carbon County” means Carbon County, Utah, within which the Scofield Reservoir property is located.

(2) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means any person or entity ~~(for a successor in interest to a person or entity)~~ that, according to the records in the office of the Recorder for Carbon County, as of the date of enactment of this Act, claims title to, or an interest in, the Federal land.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—

**Comment [A83]:** The Department has testified on earlier versions of this language and has flagged two related concerns that have not been addressed:

1. The bill does not provide any funding for the costs of administering the various requirements associated with the land transfer. Costs include monitoring the construction and retrofitting of structures to ensure they are secured and preserving public access to Reclamation lands and the reservoir.

2. BOR expressed “serious concerns” with the trust fund in testimony because the fund set up in the Treasury would be “small and narrowly focused”, and would be used by the beneficiaries for the conveyance.

The Department would like to work with the sponsors to address these concerns.

**Comment [A84]:** Claimant’s are eligible to take ownership of Federal land either through fee simple [Sec. 503 (d)(1)(A)(i)] of a life estate [Sec. 503 (d)(1)(A)(ii)].

The concept of “a successor in interest to a person or entity” works for fee simple land transfers, but it does not work for a life estate because by definition the property interest associated with a life estate terminates upon the death of the owner. This is important because the fair market value of a life estate is going to be less than a fee simple property interest because it is limited in time.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Federal land” means the land acquired by Price River Water Conservation District and transferred to the United States for use in the construction and operation of the Scofield Dam and Reservoir located between the normal water surface elevation and the property boundary elevation in the Scofield Reservoir basin.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Federal land” does not include—

(i) any mineral or subsurface rights to the land described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) the 205 acres of land adjoining the Scofield Reservoir, as adjudicated in the case styled *United States v. Dunn* (557 F.3d 1165 (10th Cir. 2009)).

(4) FLOOD SURCHARGE ELEVATION.—The term “flood surcharge elevation” means the elevation of 7640.3 in the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, which corresponds to the elevation of the crest of Scofield Dam.

(5) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Scofield Reservoir Fund established by section 503(d)(9)(A).

(6) LIFE ESTATE.—The term “life estate” means—

(A) if the claimant is a person, an interest of the claimant in the Federal land that will revert to the United States on the date of the death of the claimant; and

(B) if the claimant is an entity, an interest in the Federal land of a person designated by the claimant that will revert to the United States on the date of the death of the designated person.

(7) NORMAL WATER SURFACE ELEVATION.—The term “normal water surface elevation” means the contour elevation of 7621.8 in the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, which corresponds to the elevation of the crest of the spillway of Scofield Dam.

(8) PROPERTY BOUNDARY ELEVATION.—The term “property boundary elevation” means the contour elevation 7630, as surveyed by McGonagle and Ulrich, Land Surveyors, in 1926, which was transmuted to the current elevation of 7638.9 in the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 and which corresponds to 1.4 vertical feet below the crest of Scofield Dam.

(9) ROADS.—The term “Roads” means the streets, improved and unimproved, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, that—



(A) are located on the Federal land;

(B) are intended for public access via motorized vehicle to the Federal land claims of the claimants; and

(C) extend to the shoreline of Scofield Reservoir.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(11) STRUCTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “structure” means any improvement located on the property of a claimant, as in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including—

(i) a residence;

(ii) a shed;

(iii) a workshop;

(iv) a garage;

(v) a carport;

(vi) a deck;

(vii) a boathouse; or

(viii) an incidental building.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “structure” includes any infrastructure associated with a residence that is not owned by a public or private utility, including water, power, sewer, and improvements to Roads.

**SEC. 503. CONVEYANCE OF SCOFIELD PROJECT LAND.**

(a) SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the conveyance of the Federal land under this title, it shall be the responsibility of Carbon County—

(A) to enter into an agreement with the Secretary to pay the costs associated with a full physical and title survey of the Federal land in order to delineate the boundaries associated with the Federal land, Federal easements, or other Federal interests in land; and

(B) subject to paragraph (2), to initiate and complete a full physical survey of the Roads and the parcels located within the Federal land that are eligible to be conveyed to the claimants, and, in any case in which a land description or record of ownership in any record of Carbon County conflicts with a claim of a claimant with regard to an existing physical feature or facility, propose boundaries and land descriptions to resolve the dispute.

(2) UNRESOLVED DISPUTES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a claim to a parcel or portion of a parcel of Federal land cannot be resolved in accordance with the applicable land description in the records of Carbon County by the applicable deadline for an election under subsection (d)(6), the claimant shall stipulate to, accept, and submit to the Secretary the land description developed by Carbon County to resolve the dispute in order to meet the election requirement of subsection (d)(6) by not later than 180 days after that deadline.

(B) FAILURE TO STIPULATE AND ACCEPT.—If a claimant fails to stipulate to and accept the land description of Carbon County by the date described in subparagraph (A), the authority to convey the affected parcel or portion of a parcel of Federal land pursuant to this section shall be terminated with respect to the disputed claim.

(b) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the conveyance under this section, Carbon County shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary to pay the costs associated with an appraisal of the fair market value of each property interest requested by a claimant relating to the conveyance by the Secretary under this title.

(2) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of a property interest under paragraph (1) shall be determined by the Secretary in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—It shall be the responsibility of Carbon County to notify each claimant of any trespass or encroachment by the applicable claimant on the Federal land, including the existence of any trespassing or encroaching structure of the claimant.



(d) AUTHORIZATION TO CONVEY FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To resolve the issues of trespass and encroachment on the Federal land by the claimants, the Secretary may, in accordance with paragraphs (5) and (6)—

(A) on an election by a claimant—

(i) subject to paragraph (2), convey to the claimant fee interest in the claimed portion of the Federal land that is located above the normal water surface elevation, as determined by the results of the survey required under subsection (a), subject to all valid rights-of-way, licenses, and easements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) subject to paragraph (3), grant to the claimant a life estate permitting the continued occupation of the claimed portion of the Federal land above the normal water surface elevation, as determined by the results of the survey required under subsection (a), subject to all valid rights-of-way, licenses, and easements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) subject to paragraph (4), on an election by Carbon County, convey to Carbon County fee interest in the Roads, as determined by the survey required under subsection (a), subject to all valid rights-of-way, licenses, and easements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) CONVEYANCE REQUIREMENTS.—A conveyance under paragraph (1)(A)(i) shall be subject to—

(A) the claimant paying to the Secretary the fair market value of the fee interest in the claimed portion of the Federal land, as determined by the Secretary under subsection (b), exclusive of the value of any structures;

(B) provisions under which the claimant shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the United States for all claims by the claimant or others arising from—

(i) the design, construction, operation, maintenance, or replacement of the Scofield Dam and Reservoir;

(ii) the survey of claims, description of claims, delineation of boundaries, conveyance documents, conveyance process, and recording of deeds associated with the conveyance; and

(iii) any damages associated with any structure or chattel of the claimant that may be displaced in a flood event;

(C) the United States retaining a flood easement as well as an access easement for purposes of monitoring and enforcing the requirements of subparagraph (D) with respect to the entire portion of Federal land conveyed; and

(D) deed restrictions requiring that—

(i) to prevent any structure on the portion of the Federal land conveyed from being displaced during a flood event, the claimant shall—

(I) secure or tie down all existing structures; and

(II) if replacing or rebuilding such a structure, limit the replacement or rebuilding to the number and type of structures in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) all activities carried out by the claimant under clause (i) with respect to a structure be carried out in accordance with applicable standards for structures that may be submerged, flooded, or inundated, as contained in—

(I) the International Building Code (as adopted by Utah Administrative Code R156-56); or

(II) any other building code or engineering standard that is—

(aa) similar to the International Building Code;

(bb) widely used; and

(cc) nationally recognized.

(3) LIFE ESTATE REQUIREMENTS.—A life estate granted under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall be subject to—

(A) the claimant paying to the Secretary the fair market value of the life estate on the claimed portion of the Federal land, as determined by the Secretary under subsection (b), but excluding the value of any structures;

(B) provisions under which the claimant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States for all claims by the claimant or others arising from—



(i) the design, construction, operation, maintenance, or replacement of the Scofield Dam and Reservoir;

(ii) the survey of claims, description of claims, delineation of boundaries, conveyance documents, conveyance process, and recording of deeds associated with the conveyance; and

(iii) any damages associated with any structure or chattel of the claimant that may be displaced in a flood event; and

(C) restrictions equivalent to the deed restrictions described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(D), as applicable.

(4) CONVEYANCE OF ROADS REQUIREMENTS.—A conveyance under paragraph (1)(B) shall be subject to—

(A) Carbon County paying to the Secretary a sum determined to be acceptable by the Secretary;

(B) provisions under which Carbon County shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the United States for all claims by Carbon County or others arising from—

(i) the design, construction, operation, maintenance, or replacement of the Scofield Dam and Reservoir;

(ii) the survey of claims, description of claims, delineation of boundaries, conveyance documents, conveyance process, and recording of deeds associated with the conveyance; and

(iii) any damages associated with structures or chattel of Carbon County that may be displaced in a flood event;

(C) the United States retaining a flood easement as well as an access easement for purposes of monitoring and enforcing the requirements of subparagraph (D) with respect to the entire portion of the Roads conveyed; and

(D) restrictions equivalent to the deed restrictions described in clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (2)(D), as applicable.

(5) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before conveying the Federal land under paragraph (1)(A)(i) or the Roads under paragraph (1)(B) or granting a life estate under paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the Secretary shall comply with all applicable requirements under—

(i) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(ii) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(iii) any other applicable law.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this title modifies or alters any obligations under—

(i) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);  
or

(ii) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(C) COSTS.—Before the initiation of any conveyance under this title, Carbon County shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the costs associated with achieving environmental compliance under this paragraph.

(6) DEADLINE FOR ELECTION.—

(A) CLAIMANTS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each claimant shall notify the Secretary in writing whether the claimant elects to receive—

(i) a fee interest in the claimed portion of the Federal land, in accordance with paragraph (1)(A)(i); or

(ii) a life estate in the claimed portion of the Federal land, in accordance with paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

(B) CARBON COUNTY.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, Carbon County shall notify the Secretary in writing whether Carbon County elects to receive a fee interest in the Roads, in accordance with paragraph (1)(B).

(7) FAILURE TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OR COMPLETE TRANSFER.—

(A) NOTICE OF ELECTION.—If a claimant fails to submit to the Secretary a notice of an election in accordance with paragraph (6)(A), any future claim by the claimant with respect to the Federal land shall be terminated.



(B) TRANSFER.—

(i) CLAIMANTS.—If, due to a failure by the claimant to act in furtherance of the transfer of fee interest or life estate under this section, no transfer of the claimed Federal Land has been recorded with the Recorder of Carbon County by the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any claim by the claimant with respect to the Federal land shall be terminated.

(ii) CARBON COUNTY.—If, due to a failure by Carbon County to act in furtherance of the transfer of fee interest, no transfer of the Roads has been recorded with the Recorder of Carbon County by the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the authority of the Secretary to convey the interest in the Roads shall be terminated.

(C) QUIET TITLE.—On extinguishment of a claim under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Secretary shall take such action as is necessary to quiet title to the applicable portion of the Federal land, including removal of persons, entities, structures, and materials encumbering the applicable portion of the Federal land.

(8) PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.—Any Federal land transferred to a claimant in fee under paragraph (1)(A)(i) or to Carbon County under paragraph (1)(B) shall not be included or taken into consideration in the allocation of any payment in lieu of taxes under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code.

(9) TRUST FUND.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “Scofield Reservoir Fund”, to be administered by the Secretary and made available, without fiscal year limitation, for—

(i) the costs associated with administering the conveyance requirements as set forth in subsection (d);

(ii) monitoring and enforcing the requirements of paragraphs (2)(C) and (4)(C) regarding maintaining access to, and eliminating encroachment and private exclusive use of, the Federal land surrounding the Scofield Reservoir; and

(iii) providing enhanced public recreational opportunities at Scofield Reservoir, to the extent additional funds are available following the completion of clause (i).

(B) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—There shall be deposited in the Fund any amounts received as consideration for—

- (i) a conveyance under subparagraph (A)(i) or (B) of paragraph (1); or
- (ii) the granting of a life estate under paragraph (1)(A)(ii).

## **TITLE VI—LAND CONVEYANCES**

### **SEC. 601. LAND CONVEYANCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—As outlined in the paragraphs below, if requested by the specified entity, the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, shall convey the following Federal land to that entity without consideration:

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights and notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), not later than ~~180 days~~ 1 year after the date on which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture receives a request from the respective entity specified in subsection (b) for the conveyance of the respective Federal land specified in subsection (b), the Secretary concerned shall convey to the respective specified entity, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the respective specified Federal land.

#### (b) FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCES.—

(1) CANYONLANDS FIELDS AIRPORT.—The approximately 561 acres of land depicted as “Canyonlands Fields Airport”, on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, to Grand County, Utah, for use as an airport.

(2) MOAB TAILINGS PROJECT.—Upon completion of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project, the approximately 474 acres of land depicted as “UMTRA Conveyance”, on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, shall be conveyed to Grand County, Utah.

(3) HUNTINGTON AIRPORT EXPANSION.—The approximately 1,398 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as “Huntington Airport”, to Emery County, Utah, for expansion of the Huntington Municipal Airport.

(4) EMERY COUNTY RECREATION AREA.—The approximately 479 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as “Emery County Recreation Area”, to Emery County, Utah, for public recreational purposes.

(5) EMERY COUNTY SHERIFFS SUBSTATION.—The approximately 644 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30,

**Comment [A85]:** In the past, the Department has supported legislated, no-cost public purpose conveyances if they meet standards under the Recreation & Public Purposes Act (RPPA) and have been determined to be suitable for transfer out of federal ownership under the BLM’s well-established NEPA process, which provides for robust public participation. While many of these parcels may be appropriate for transfer if additional conditions are satisfied, others may not be for various reasons, including the presence of significant natural and cultural resources, lack of a well-defined public purpose, a size inappropriate for the intended use, and conflicts with current uses such as recreation or mineral development. In addition, numerous parcels are encumbered by withdrawals for public water reserves, water supply, and power site reserves.

**Comment [A86]:** Edited to ensure consistency with section 2601 of Public Law 111-11 and other legislated land conveyances, including language requiring that receiving entities assume all costs associated with the transfer and that the conveyances are consistent with NEPA and the R&PP Act. The Department’s position is that these elements are critical for any legislated land conveyance because they provide public engagement and opportunities to consider mitigation for impacts to environmental and cultural resources, and to help ensure that unknown or unforeseen issues are not overlooked.



2016, as "Emery County Sheriff's Substation", to Emery County, Utah, for a substation for the Emery County Sheriff's Office.

(6) BLANDING OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA.—The approximately 5,197 acres of land depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Blanding Outdoor Recreation Area", to Blanding City, Utah, for use as an outdoor recreation area.

(7) CAL BLACK AIRPORT.—The approximately 1,917 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Cal Black Airport", to San Juan County, Utah, for a municipal airport.

(8) BLUFF AIRPORT.—The approximately 403 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Bluff Airport", to San Juan County, Utah, for a municipal airport.

(9) MONTICELLO WATER STORAGE AND TREATMENT PLANT.—The approximately 165 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Monticello Water Storage and Treatment Plant", to Monticello City, Utah, for a water storage and treatment plant.

(10) BLANDING SHOOTING RANGE.—The approximately 21 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Blanding Shooting Range", to San Juan County, Utah, for a public shooting range.

(11) PARK CITY CONVEYANCE I.—The approximately 2.5 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Park City Conveyance I", to Park City, Utah, for public recreation and open space.

(12) PARK CITY CONVEYANCE II.—The approximately 1 acre generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Park City Conveyance II", to Park City, Utah, for public recreation and open space.

(13) LISBON VALLEY.—The approximately 398 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Lisbon Valley", to Utah State University for education and research.

(14) WELLINGTON.—The approximately 645 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Wellington", to Utah State University for education and research.

(15) RANGE CREEK RESEARCH STATION EXPANSION.—The approximately 1,663 acres depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June

30, 2016, as "Range Creek Research Station Expansion", to the University of Utah for education and research.

(16) ASHLEY SPRING.—The approximately 1,103 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Ashley Spring", to Uintah County, Utah, for use as open space and for watershed protection and drinking water development.

(17) SEEP RIDGE UTILITY CORRIDOR.—The approximately 2,633 acres in Uintah County generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Seep Ridge Utility Corridor", to the State of Utah, for use as rights-of-way for public utilities.

(18) BLUFF RIVER RECREATION AREA.—The approximately 177 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Bluff River Recreation Area", to Bluff Service Area, for use as recreation and municipal facilities.

(19) EMERY INFORMATION CENTER.—The approximately 80 acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Emery County Information Center", to Emery County, Utah, for an information and visitor center to promote public lands.

(20) SUMMIT COUNTY CONVEYANCE.—The approximately \_\_\_ acres generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Land Conveyances Map and dated June 30, 2016, as "Summit Conveyance", to Summit County, Utah, for public recreation and open space.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each of the land conveyances authorized in subsection (a) with the Committee on Natural Resources.

(c) COSTS.—Any costs relating to the conveyances authorized under subsection (a), including any costs for surveys, environmental clearances, and other administrative costs, shall be paid by the respective entities specified in subsection (b).

(d) USE OF FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal land conveyed under subsection (a)—

(A) shall be used for the respective purposes specified in subsection (b) or any other public purpose consistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the "Recreation and Public Purposes Act") (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.); and

**Comment [A87]:** The Department believes that further discussion is needed on the proposed conveyances. Based on a preliminary analysis, a number of these appear to be requesting more acreage than needed. Others would convey lands with significant archeological resources that the federal government has a responsibility to protect or would conflict with proposed wildernesses. Finally, some conveyances do not have a clear statement of purposes or public need. The Department would like to work with the sponsors on boundary adjustments or language to address these concerns.

**Comment [A88]:** The Department notes it is not common practice to create formal legal maps and descriptions for legislated conveyances.



(B) shall not be disposed of by the respective entities specified in subsection (b).

(2) REVERSION.—If the Federal land conveyed under subsection (a) is used in a manner inconsistent with paragraph (1), the Federal land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary concerned, revert to the United States.

## TITLE VII—LAND DISPOSALS

### SEC. 701. LAND DISPOSALS.

(a) Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall within two years dispose of Federal lands identified as “Lands for Disposal” on the map entitled “Utah PLI Land Disposal Map” dated June 25, 2016.

**Comment [A89]:** The Department notes that while the disposal of some of these parcels may be appropriate if undertaken consistent with section 203 of FLPMA (including environmental review, public participation, and appraisals), other parcels may be better suited for retention in federal ownership. We encourage the sponsors to consider an approach for land disposals similar to those outlined in Public Law 106-298 and Public Law 108-424. We also encourage the sponsor to look at successful models that ensure a closer relationship between supply and demand.

## TITLE VIII—HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK TRAIL RECREATION ZONES

### SEC. 801. ESTABLISHMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, to enhance existing and future recreational opportunities in Grand County, Uintah County, and San Juan County, Utah, the following areas are hereby established as Recreation Zones:

**Comment [A90]:** It is the Department's position that sections 801-814 of this title are unnecessary because the BLM already manages all or major portions of the proposed zones as either Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) or open OHV areas, which were established in the relevant land use plan through a public process. It is unclear how the designation of the proposed zones would be different from these existing designations.

(1) GOLDBAR RECREATION ZONE.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 23,051 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand County, as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Goldbar Recreation Zone”.

(2) MONITOR AND MERRIMAC RECREATION ZONE.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 17,371 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Monitor and Merrimac Recreation Zone”.

(3) KLONDIKE RECREATION ZONE.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 24,968 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Klondike Recreation Zone”.

(4) BIG FLAT RECREATION ZONE.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 25,311 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the “Big Flat Recreation Zone”.

(5) MINERAL CANYON RECREATION ZONE.—Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 20,423 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand

County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Mineral Canyon Recreation Zone".

(6) DEE PASS AND UTAH RIMS RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 210,587 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Grand County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone".

(7) YELLOW CIRCLE RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 7,436 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in San Juan County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Yellow Circle Recreation Zone".

(8) CAMEO CLIFFS RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 47,130 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in San Juan County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Cameo Cliffs Recreation Zone".

(9) JENSEN HILLS RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 4,849 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map and dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Jensen Hills Recreation Zone".

(10) RED MOUNTAIN RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 10,298 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Red Mountain Recreation Zone".

(11) DEVILS HOLE RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 550 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Devils Hole Recreation Zone".

(12) BOURDETTE DRAW RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 20,560 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Bourdette Draw Recreation Zone".

(13) RED WASH RECREATION ZONE.— Certain Federal land, comprising approximately 1,916 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Uintah County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Red Wash Recreation Zone".



**SEC. 802. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than two years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “Secretary”) shall file a map and legal description of each of the Recreation Zones established by section 801 with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(b) **FORCE AND EFFECT.**—The maps and legal descriptions submitted under this section shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may make any minor modifications of any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description and provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected counties.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—A copy of the maps and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

**SEC. 803. GOLDBAR RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.**

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Goldbar Recreation Zone are to promote outdoor recreation (including off-highway vehicle use, mountain biking, and hiking), provide for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails, prevent future energy and mineral development, and conserve indigenous plants and animals.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the Goldbar Recreation Zone in accordance with—

(A) this title;

(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(C) other applicable laws.

(2) **USES.**—Uses and management of the Goldbar Recreation Zone shall—

(A) require coordination and consultation with State and local governments;

(B) provide for recreational opportunities including camping, biking, hiking, and off-highway vehicle use (including motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);

(C) prohibit future mineral development;

(D) provide for new route and trail construction for non-off-highway vehicle use; and

(E) conserve indigenous plant and animal species.

(3) ~~MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.~~—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes for off-highway and motorized vehicles in a manner that—

(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;

(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and

(C) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails.

(4) ~~WITHDRAWALS.~~—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the Goldbar Recreation Zone, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Goldbar Recreation Zone after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

#### ~~SEC. 804. MONITOR AND MERRIMAC RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.~~

(a) ~~PURPOSES.~~—The purposes of the Monitor and Merrimac Recreation Zone are to promote outdoor recreation (including off-highway vehicle use, mountain biking, rock climbing, and hiking), provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle and non-off-highway vehicle trails and routes, and to prevent future mineral development.

(b) ~~ADMINISTRATION.~~—The Secretary shall administer the Monitor and Merrimac Recreation Zone in accordance with—

(1) this title;

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and



(3) other applicable laws.

(e) USES.—Uses and management of the Monitor and Merrimac Recreation Zone shall—

(1) coordinate and consult with State and local government;

(2) provide for recreational opportunities including, biking, hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use (including motoreycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);

(3) prohibit future mineral and energy leasing; and

(4) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-off-highway vehicle use.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated off-highway vehicle routes in a manner that—

(1) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;

(2) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and

(3) allows for the construction of new off-highway and non-off-highway vehicle trails.

(e) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the Monitor and Merrimac Recreation Zone, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Monitor and Merrimac Recreation Zone after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

#### SEC. 805. KLONDIKE RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Klondike Recreation Zone are to promote outdoor recreation (including off-highway vehicle use, mountain biking, rock climbing, and hiking), provide for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails, and to prevent future mineral development.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the Klondike Recreation Zone in accordance with —

(1) this title;

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(3) other applicable laws.

(c) USES.—Uses and management of the Klondike Recreation Zone shall —

(1) coordinate and consult with State and local government;

(2) provide for recreational opportunities including biking, hiking, rock climbing, and off-highway vehicle use (including motorecycling, all-terrain vehicle riding and four-wheeling);

(3) prohibit future mineral and energy leasing;

(4) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway and non-off-highway vehicle use; and

(5) provide managerial flexibility to route off-highway vehicle trails in a way that minimizes conflict with non-off-highway vehicle trails.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes for off-highway vehicles and motorized vehicles in a manner that —

(1) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;

(2) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and

(3) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails.

(e) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the Klondike Recreation Zone, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Klondike Recreation Zone after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from —



- (1) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

~~SEC. 806. BIG FLAT RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.~~

~~(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Big Flat Recreation Zone are to promote outdoor recreation (including off highway vehicle use, mountain biking, rock climbing and hiking), provide for new off highway vehicle route construction and promote mineral development.~~

~~(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the Big Flat Recreation Zone in accordance with—~~

- ~~(1) this title;~~
- ~~(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);~~  
and
- ~~(3) other applicable laws.~~

~~(c) USES.—Uses and management of the Big Flat Recreation Zone shall—~~

- ~~(1) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~
- ~~(2) provide for recreational opportunities including rock climbing, biking, hiking, off-highway vehicle use (including motoreycling, all terrain vehicle riding, and four wheeling);~~
- ~~(3) provide for future mineral leasing with no surface occupancy stipulations;~~
- ~~(4) allow the continuation of existing mineral leasings; and~~
- ~~(5) provide for new route and trail construction for off highway vehicle and non-off-highway vehicle use.~~

~~(d) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes for off highway and motorized vehicles in a manner that—~~

- ~~(1) is consistent with off highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

(2) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and

(3) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails.

~~SEC. 807. MINERAL CANYON RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.~~

~~(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Mineral Canyon Recreation Zone are to promote non-motorized outdoor recreation (including mountain biking, rock climbing, and hiking), provide for new non-motorized route construction, prevent future mineral development, maintain boating access, maintain airstrip access, and maintain access and use of country borrow areas for unprocessed gravel.~~

~~(b) ADMINISTRATION.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Mineral Canyon Recreation Zone in accordance with—~~

~~(A) this title;~~

~~(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and~~

~~(C) other applicable laws.~~

~~(2) USES.—Uses and management of the Mineral Canyon Recreation Zone shall—~~

~~(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~

~~(B) provide for non-motorized recreational opportunities including biking and hiking;~~

~~(C) prevent future mineral leasing or claims;~~

~~(D) provide for new route and trail construction for non-motorized vehicle use;~~

~~(E) maintain access for boating;~~

~~(F) maintain access for aircraft to the existing airstrip; and~~

~~(G) maintain access to and use of the county borrow areas for unprocessed gravel.~~



(3) ~~MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.~~—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes for off-highway and motorized vehicles in a manner that—

(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;

(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and

(C) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails.

(4) ~~WITHDRAWALS.~~—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the Mineral Canyon Recreation Zone, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Mineral Canyon Recreation Zone after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

~~SEC. 808. DEE PASS AND UTAH RIMS RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.~~

(a) ~~PURPOSES.~~—The purposes of the Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone are to promote off-highway vehicle recreation, provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle trails and non-motorized trails, and allow mineral development.

(b) ~~ADMINISTRATION.~~—

(1) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The Secretary shall administer the Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone in accordance with—

(A) this title;

(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(C) other applicable laws.

~~(2) USES.—Uses and management of the Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone shall—~~

~~(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~

~~(B) provide for recreational opportunities including rock climbing, biking, hiking, and off-highway vehicle use (including motorcycleing, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);~~

~~(C) provide future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that minimizes impacts to outdoor recreation; and~~

~~(D) provide for new route and trail construction for motorized and non-motorized use.~~

~~(3) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes for off-highway and motorized vehicles in a manner that—~~

~~(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

~~(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and~~

~~(C) allows for the construction of new off-highway and non-off-highway vehicle trails.~~

~~(4) WHITE WASH CROSS COUNTRY TRAVEL AREA.—The approximately \_\_\_\_\_ acres identified as the “White Wash Cross Country Travel Area”, located within the Dee Pass Recreation Zone, on the map entitled “Utah PLI Recreation Zones Map” and dated June 30, 2016, is open to cross country off-highway vehicle travel.~~

~~SEC. 809. YELLOW CIRCLE AND CAMEO CLIFFS RECREATION ZONE  
MANAGEMENT.~~

~~(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Yellow Circle Recreation Zone and Cameo Cliffs Recreation Zone are to promote off-highway vehicle use, provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle and non-motorized trails, and allow energy and mineral leasing and development.~~

~~(b) ADMINISTRATION.—~~



~~(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Yellow Circle Recreation Zone and Cameo Cliffs Recreation Zone in accordance with—~~

~~(A) this title;~~

~~(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (13 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);~~

~~(C) other applicable laws; and~~

~~(D) San Juan County Public Entry and Access Rights.~~

~~(2) USES.—Uses and management of the Yellow Circle Recreation Zone and Cameo Cliffs Recreation Zone shall—~~

~~(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~

~~(B) provide for recreational opportunities including rock climbing, biking, hiking, and off-highway vehicle use (including motorcycleing, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheeling);~~

~~(C) provide future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that considers impacts to outdoor recreation; and~~

~~(D) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-motorized use.~~

~~(3) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated off-highway and motorized vehicle routes in a manner that—~~

~~(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

~~(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and~~

~~(C) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails.~~

~~SEC. 810. JENSEN HILLS RECREATION ZONE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.~~

~~(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Jensen Hills Recreation Zone is to promote off-highway vehicle recreation, provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle trails and non-motorized trails, and to promote energy and mineral leasing and development.~~

~~(b) ADMINISTRATION.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Jensen Hills Recreation Zone in accordance with—~~

~~(A) this title;~~

~~(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and~~

~~(C) other applicable laws;~~

~~(2) USES.—Uses and management of the Jensen Hills Recreation Zone shall—~~

~~(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~

~~(B) provide for recreational opportunities including, biking, hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use (including motorcycleing, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);~~

~~(C) allow future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that minimizes impacts to outdoor recreation;~~

~~(D) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-motorized use to further recreational opportunities; and~~

~~(E) allow cross-country off-highway vehicle travel where authorized under the applicable travel management plan.~~

~~(3) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—~~

~~(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

~~(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process;~~



(C) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails; and

(D) allows for continued cross-country off-highway vehicle travel where authorized under the travel management plan.

~~SEC. 511. RED MOUNTAIN RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.~~

~~(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Red Mountain Recreation Zone is to promote off-highway vehicle recreation, provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle trails and non-motorized trails, and to promote energy and mineral leasing and development.~~

~~(b) ADMINISTRATION.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Red Mountain Recreation Zone in accordance with—~~

~~(A) this title;~~

~~(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and~~

~~(C) other applicable laws.~~

~~(2) USES.—Uses and management of the Red Mountain Recreation Zone shall—~~

~~(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~

~~(B) provide for recreational opportunities including, biking, hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use (including motoreveling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);~~

~~(C) allow future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that minimizes impacts to outdoor recreation and sensitive plant and animal species; and~~

~~(D) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-motorized use.~~

~~(3) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—~~

~~(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process; and

(C) allows for the construction of new off-highway vehicle and non-motorized routes and trails.

**SEC. 812. DEVILS HOLE RECREATION ZONE MANAGEMENT.**

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Devils Hole Recreation Zone is to promote off-highway vehicle recreation, the construction of new off-highway vehicle trails and non-motorized trails and routes, and to promote energy and mineral leasing and development.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall administer the Devils Hole Recreation Zone in accordance with—

(A) this title;

(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(C) other applicable laws.

(2) **USES.**—Uses and management of the Devils Hole Recreation Zone shall—

(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;

(B) provide for recreational opportunities including, biking, hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use (including motoreveling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);

(C) allows future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that considers impacts to outdoor recreation;

(D) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-motorized use; and

(E) allows cross country off-highway vehicle travel where authorized by the applicable travel management plan.

(3) **MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—



(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;

(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process;

(C) allows for the construction of new off-highway vehicle and non-motorized trails; and

(D) allows for continued cross-country off-highway vehicle travel authorized under the applicable travel management plan.

**SEC. 813. BOURDETTE DRAW RECREATION ZONE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Bourdette Draw Recreation Zone is to promote off-highway vehicle recreation, provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle trails and non-motorized trails, and to promote energy and mineral leasing and development.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall administer the Bourdette Draw Recreation Zone in accordance with—

(A) this title;

(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(C) other applicable laws.

(2) **USES.**—Uses and management of the Bourdette Draw Recreation Zone shall—

(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;

(B) provide for recreational opportunities including, biking, hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use (including motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);

(C) allow future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that minimizes impacts to outdoor recreation and sensitive plant and animal species;

(D) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-motorized use; and

~~(E) allow cross country off-highway vehicle travel authorized under the applicable travel management plan.~~

~~(3) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—~~

~~(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

~~(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process;~~

~~(C) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails; and~~

~~(D) allows for continued cross country off-highway vehicle travel where authorized under the applicable travel management plan.~~

~~SEC. 814. RED WASH RECREATION ZONE ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.~~

~~(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Red Wash Recreation Zone is to promote off-highway vehicle recreation, provide for the construction of new off-highway vehicle trails and non-motorized trails, and to promote energy and mineral leasing and development.~~

~~(b) ADMINISTRATION.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall administer the Red Wash Recreation Zone in accordance with—~~

~~(A) this title;~~

~~(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and~~

~~(C) other applicable laws.~~

~~(2) USES.—Uses and management of the Red Wash Recreation Zone shall—~~

~~(A) coordinate and consult with State and local government;~~

~~(B) provide for recreational opportunities including, biking, hiking, rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use (including motoreveling, all-terrain vehicle riding, and four-wheeling);~~



(C) allow future mineral and energy leasing and development in a manner that minimizes impacts to outdoor recreation;

(D) provide for new route and trail construction for off-highway vehicle and non-motorized use; and

(E) allow cross-country off-highway vehicle travel authorized under the applicable travel management plan.

~~(3) MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall manage existing designated routes in a manner that—~~

~~(A) is consistent with off-highway and motorized vehicle use of the routes designated in the applicable travel management plan;~~

~~(B) allows for adjustment to the travel management plan within the regular amendment process;~~

~~(C) allows for the construction of new non-off-highway vehicle trails; and~~

~~(D) allows for continued cross-country off-highway vehicle travel where authorized under the applicable travel management plan.~~

**SEC. 815801. HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK TRAIL.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAIL.**—Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(31) **HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK TRAIL.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The corridor known as the ‘Hole-in-the-Rock Trail’ as generally depicted on the map titled ‘Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map’ dated June 30, 2016.

**Comment [A91]:** The route depicted on the map is generalized. The Department would like to work with the sponsors to prepare an updated map depicting with the exact location of the trail.

“(B) **PURPOSES AND USE.**—

“(i) The purposes of the National Hole-in-the-Rock Trail is to promote cultural, recreational, and historic values and promote motorized and non-motorized recreation.

“(ii) The Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation shall be a cooperating agency regarding trail management.

“(iii) The issuance of regulations regarding group size and fee areas shall be done in accordance with the cooperating agencies.

“(iv) The use of motorized vehicles is not authorized for any portions of the National Hole-in-the-Rock Trail within wilderness designated by Title I of Division A of this Act or other law.

Comment [A92]: Edited for consistency with the Wilderness Act.

~~“(C) MANAGEMENT PLAN.~~

Comment [A93]: Edited for consistency with section 5(e) of the National Trails System Act.

“(i) ~~PLAN REQUIRED.~~— Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall develop a management plan for the long-term management of the historic trail.

“(ii) ~~RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.~~— The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the Secretary of the Interior does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local, and tribal governments into the management plans, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations of the State local governments and tribes.”

**SEC. 816. RECAPTURE CANYON.**

(a) ~~APPROVAL OF RIGHT OF WAY.~~— San Juan County, Utah’s application for a Title V Right of Way, originally submitted to the Bureau of Land Management Monticello Field Office in the State of Utah on March 30, 2006, and later amended on November 13, 2012, is approved.

(b) ~~PURPOSE OF RIGHT OF WAY.~~— The purposes of the Title V Right of Way, as stated by the County’s application, is to perform routine maintenance to existing trails and routes in an effort to encourage travel in the canyon to remain on a single established route through the canyon that minimizes impacts to the surrounding environment.

(c) ~~APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.~~— In granting the application, compliance with section 306108 of title 54, United States Code, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act shall apply to the right of way to avoid adverse impact to archaeological sites.

**SEC. 817. BIG BURRITO NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL.**

The 9.3 mile proposed non-motorized trail within the Sand Flats Recreation Area, approved by the Bureau of Land Management Moab Field Office on December 18, 2016, and commonly known as the Big Burrito Non-Motorized Trail, shall not be subject to administrative or judicial review.

Comment [A94]: This trail has been established through the land use planning process with full public participation under FLPMA and NEPA.



**TITLE IX—RED ROCK COUNTRY OFF-HIGHWAY  
VEHICLE TRAIL**

**SEC. 901. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

- (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah.
- (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.
- (3) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the Red Rock Country Off-Highway Vehicle Trail established under section 902.
- (4) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means land owned by the Bureau of Land Management as depicted on the Utah PLI Recreation Plans Map and dated \_\_\_\_.

**Comment [A95]:** The Department believes that the best approach for this concept would be through a public process allowing for the consideration of multiple alternatives. The Department would like to work with the sponsors on language consistent with section 1977(c) of Public Law 111-11, which would initiate such a process.

**SEC. 902. DESIGNATION.**

- (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate a trail system in the County—
  - (A) for use by off-highway vehicles; and
  - (B) to be known as the “Red Rock Country Off-Highway Vehicle Trail”.
- (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In designating the trail, the Secretary shall prioritize a long distance route for off-highway vehicles that is generally depicted on the Utah PLI Recreation Plans Map and dated June 30, 2016, that—
  - (A) connects the Federal land adjacent to Moab, Utah, to the Federal land adjacent to Grand Junction, Colorado, ~~through the Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone;~~
  - (B) connects the Federal land adjacent to Moab, Utah, to the Federal land adjacent to Green River, Utah, ~~through the Dee Pass and Utah Rims Recreation Zone;~~
  - (C) connects the Federal land adjacent to Moab, Utah, to the Federal land adjacent to Monticello, Utah, ~~through the Cameo Cliffs Recreation Zone;~~
  - (D) uses existing routes, where feasible, which may include the Kokopelli Trail, the Orange Trail, and Trail 1;
  - (E) minimizes the use of graded roads; and

**Comment [LP96]:** This provision and the below edited for consistency with edits to Title VIII above.

(F) creates a recreational experience that provides—

- (i) opportunities for scenic vistas;
- (ii) challenging terrain for off-highway vehicle travel;
- (iii) connections to other existing trail systems or trails;
- (iv) minimal conflicts between off-highway vehicle and non-off-highway vehicle users; and
- (v) off-highway vehicle singletrack and doubletrack options where feasible.

(3) MAP.—A map that depicts the Trail shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

#### SEC. 903. MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage future designated routes on the Trail in a manner that—

- (1) is consistent with section 902; and
- (2) does not interfere with private property or water rights.

(b) CLOSURE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the State and the County, may temporarily close or permanently reroute, subject to subparagraph (C), a route on the Trail if the Secretary determines that—

- (1) the route is significantly damaging designated critical habitat or cultural resources;
- (2) the route threatens public safety;
- (3) closure of the route is necessary to repair damage to the Trail; or
- (4) closure of the route is necessary to repair resource damage.

(c) REROUTING.—Portions of the route that are temporarily closed may be permanently rerouted by utilizing a previously closed route or constructing a new route.

(d) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any designated routes on the Trail that are open, have been relocated, or are temporarily closed through—



(1) use of appropriate signage within the Trail; and

(2) use of the Internet and Web resources.

(e) **NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—Nothing in this title affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

(f) **ADDITIONAL ROUTE CONSTRUCTION.**—

(1) **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall study the feasibility and public interest in constructing new routes as part of the Red Rock County Off-Highway Vehicle Trail to further off-highway vehicle recreational opportunities.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION.**—

(A) **CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED.**—If the Secretary determines that the construction of a route on the Trail is feasible, construction is authorized.

(B) **USE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.**—A route on the Trail may be constructed under this subsection through the acceptance of volunteer services and contributions from non-Federal sources to eliminate the need for Federal expenditures to construct the route.

(3) **COMPLIANCE.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall comply with—

(A) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(B) this title; and

(C) other applicable law.

## **TITLE X—LONG-TERM INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTAINTY**

### **SEC. 1001. INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH.**

(a) **MCCRACKEN MESA MINERAL TRANSFER.**—All right and interest in the Federal minerals located within the McCracken Extension of the Navajo Nation shall be transferred to the Utah Navajo Trust Fund.

**Comment [A97]:** Due to these issues' long and complicated history, the Department cannot support these provisions as drafted without further analysis.

(b) USE OF ROYALTIES.—The Act of March 1, 1933 (47 Stat. 1418), is amended in the first section, by striking “37½” each place it appears and inserting “62.5”.

**SEC. 1002. UTE INDIAN TRIBE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA.**

(a) SPLIT ESTATE UNIFICATION.—With respect to any land within the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, where the United States holds title to the surface or mineral estate in trust for the Ute Tribe but a Federal agency owns or manages the corresponding mineral or surface estate, the title to interests owned or managed by the Federal agency shall be held by the Secretary of the Interior in trust for the benefit of the tribe in order to unify the surface and mineral estates for the benefit of the tribe.

(b) MINERALS TRANSFER.—The Bureau of Land Management shall transfer title to the mineral estate of public lands within the Hill Creek Extension (originally established under the Act of March 11, 1948 (62 Stat. 72)) south of the south boundary of Township 11 South, Salt Lake Base & Meridian, other than lands for which selection applications have been filed by the State of Utah with the Bureau of Land Management under authority of the Hill Creek Cultural Preservation and Energy Development Act, Public Law 133-133, to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be held in trust for the benefit of the Ute Tribe.

**SEC. 1003. WATER STUDY FOR UINTAH AND DUCHESNE COUNTIES.**

The Secretary of the Interior, using existing authorities through the Bureau of Reclamation, shall undertake a water study that includes a needs, opportunities and constraints assessment in Uintah and Duchesne Counties for storage of Ute tribal water and the use of water rights currently held by the Ute Tribe.

**Comment [A98]:** The Department continues to analyze the appropriateness of this study authorization as it relates to the authorization of the Ute Indian Rights Settlement of 1992 (Title V (89-579)).

**TITLE XI—LONG-TERM ENERGY DEVELOPMENT  
CERTAINTY IN UTAH**

**SEC. 1101. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

Within Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne and San Juan counties in the State of Utah, the increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the rural Utahns and the American people. It is the sense of Congress that the Federal departments and agencies involved in energy development projects on Federal lands in Utah shall take appropriate actions, including Federal primary delegation, to expedite projects that will increase the production or development of energy and mineral resources on Federal lands.

**Comment [A99]:** The Department has broad concerns with this title because it is contrary to the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission and sets aside critical public participation components of the land use planning process, including NEPA and other laws.

**SEC. 1102. ACTIONS TO EXPEDITE ENERGY-RELATED PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The State of Utah—

(1) may establish a program covering the permitting processes, regulatory requirements, and any other provisions by which the State would exercise the rights of the State to develop and permit all forms of energy resources on available Federal land



administered by the Price, Vernal, Moab, and Monticello Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(2) shall submit, as a condition of certification under section 1103(a), a declaration to the Department of the Interior that a program under paragraph (1) has been established or amended.

(b) AMENDMENT OF PROGRAMS.—The State of Utah may amend a program developed and certified under this subtitle at any time.

(c) CERTIFICATION OF AMENDED PROGRAMS.—Any program amended under subsection (b) shall be certified under section 1103(a).

#### SEC. 1102. PERMITTING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS.

(a) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—Upon submission of a declaration by the State of Utah under section 1102(a)(2) —

(1) the program under section 1102(a)(1) shall be certified; and

(2) the State shall receive all rights from the Federal Government to permit all forms of energy resources covered by the program.

(b) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.—

(1) No later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Governor of the State of Utah shall make an election as to whether the State of Utah will process permits for the development of any form of energy resource on available Federal land within the area covered by the Field Offices referenced in section 1102(a)(1). In the event the Governor elects to assume the permitting as set forth herein, he shall notify the Secretary of the Interior of his decision within 60 days.

(2) Upon an election to assume permitting as set forth in paragraph (1), the process shall be in accordance with Federal statutes and regulations.

#### SEC. 1104. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) JURISDICTION.—The United States District Court for the District of Utah shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action brought pursuant to this title.

(b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—The Court shall set any civil action brought under this section for expedited consideration.

#### SEC. 1105. COMPLETION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAND EXCHANGE PROCESS.

The land exchange application, referred to as UTU 78673 pending before the Moab Field Office, shall be considered in the public interest and completed.

## **TITLE XII — LONG TERM TRAVEL MANAGEMENT** **CERTAINTY**

### **SEC. 1201. RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR CERTAIN ROADS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**— Subject to valid existing rights and consistent with this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall acknowledge the State of Utah's and its counties' ownership of, and shall forever disclaim all Federal interest in, a right of way for public travel and access on all roads claimed as Class B, that are paved as of January 1, 2016, and identified as rights of way in judicial actions in the Federal court system as of January 1, 2016, in Uintah, Duchesne, Carbon, Emery, Grand, and San Juan counties, Utah.

(b) **APPLICABLE LAW.**— A right of way disclaimed under subsection (a) shall constitute the United States acceptance of the county's and State's RS 2477 ownership and that all Federal ownership authority is extinguished. The State and counties in return shall withdraw lawsuits in the Federal court system affecting those individual disclaimed roads.

#### **(c) ADMINISTRATION.—**

(1) Each right of way disclaimed by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions covered by subsection (b) of this title shall consist of the full geographic extent authorized by Utah State law in effect as of January 1, 2016.

(2) Each right of way disclaimed pursuant to this title may be abandoned pursuant to Utah State law.

(3) The right of way area of disturbance shall generally remain the same as of January 1, 2016.

### **SEC. 1202. GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CERTAIN ROADS.**

The recommendations of the Grand County Council, as depicted on the map entitled "Grand County PLI Final Map 4-17-2015" and dated April 17, 2015, for Hey-Joe Canyon, Tenmile Canyon, and Mineral Canyon roads shall be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior, with the seasonal closures beginning the Tuesday following Memorial Day through Labor Day.

### **SEC. 1203. UINTAH COUNTY ROAD CERTAINTY.**

Not later than two years after the enactment of this Act, and subject to valid existing rights and consistent with this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall grant a title V right of way to Uintah County for public travel and access upon all Class D roads, as claimed by the Uintah County on its duly adopted 2016 transportation map, and as described by GPS centerline

**Comment [A100]:** The Department recognizes the enormous scope and importance of this issue both to the people of Utah and to successful public land management. However, we have broad concerns with this title because the claimed routes are currently subject to active litigation in federal district court and many are located in sensitive resource areas, including priority sage-grouse habitat and specially designated areas. Further dialog and coordination are needed before the Department could consider a legislative approach to this complex issue.



description on file with Uintah County as a January 1, 2016, and that are also identified on the 2008 Vernal Resource Management Plan Transportation Plan.

## TITLE XIII—LONG-TERM GRAZING CERTAINTY

### SEC. 1301. CURRENT PERMITTED USE.

Unless otherwise specified by this title, and pursuant to existing permits, on Federal lands managed by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior in Summit, Duchesne, Uintah, Grand, Emery, Carbon, and San Juan Counties, the grazing of domestic livestock shall continue and any adjustments in the numbers of livestock permitted should be made as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process.

**Comment [A101]:** The Department has broad concerns with this title because it is contrary to the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission and sets aside critical public participation components of the land use planning process, including NEPA and other laws.

### SEC. 1302. BIGHORN SHEEP.

On Federal lands managed by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior in Summit, Duchesne, Uintah, Grand, Emery, Carbon, and San Juan Counties, the viability or existence of bighorn sheep shall not be used to remove or alter the use of domestic sheep or cattle where such use was permitted as of January 1, 2016.

### SEC. 1303. PROTECTION OF GRAZING LANDS.

To recognize the importance of public land grazing to the economy and culture of rural Utah, and to the State of Utah in general, it is the sense of Congress that this title shall ensure public grazing lands, including areas outside the areas designated in this title, not be reduced below current permitted levels, except for cases of extreme range conditions where water and forage is not available. The areas of public land that have reduced or eliminated grazing shall be reviewed and managed to support grazing at an economically viable level.

## DIVISION C—LOCAL PARTICIPATION

### TITLE I—LOCAL PARTICIPATION AND PLANNING

#### Sec. 101. Definitions.—

(a) Advisory Council.—The term "Advisory Council" means the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Council established under section 102(a) of this title.

### SEC. 102. PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall jointly establish an advisory council, to be known as the "and maintain the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee Council" (in this title referred to as the "Advisory Committee") to perform the duties in subsection (b) to (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary concerned on with respect to the

**Comment [A102]:** Edited for consistency with advisory councils established for other BLM-managed conservation designations, including section 2407 of Public Law 111-11 and section 131 of Public Law 106-399.

**Comment [A103]:** To ensure an effective advisory process, the Department encourages the sponsors to incorporate other advisory councils established by this Act into the Advisory Council established by this section with delineated membership. See comment on section 110 of Division D.

development and implementation of the management plans required by this Act and with respect to implementation of the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act.

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall advise the relevant Secretary with regard to—

(1) implementation of this title; and

(2) policies or programs that encourage coordination among the public, local elected officials, and public lands stakeholders, and the State, tribes, and the Federal Government.

(b) Applicable Law.—The Advisory Council shall be subject to—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(cd) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARIES.—

(1) NUMBER.—The Advisory Committee shall be comprised of no more than 22 members.

(2) COMMUNITY INTERESTS REPRESENTED.—Advisory Committee members shall reside in the State of Utah and represent the following:

(A) GOVERNMENTAL INTERESTS.—

(i) The Utah State Director of the Bureau of Land Management or a designated representative of the Director.

(ii) The Regional Forester of Region 4 of the United States Forest Service or a designated representative of the Forester.

(iii) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region.

(iv) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Navajo Region.

(v) A representative of the National Park Service.

(vi) The Governor of the State of Utah or a designated representative of the Governor.

Comment [A104]: The Department recommends including NPS on this advisory council.



(vi) The Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources or a designated representative of the Director.

(vii) The Chairperson of the Summit County Council or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

(viii) The Chairperson of the Uintah County Commission or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

(ix) The Chairperson of the Duchesne County Commission or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

(x) The Chairperson of the Carbon County Commission or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

(xi) The Chairperson of the Emery County Commission or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

(xii) The Chairperson of the Grand County Council or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

(xiii) The Chairperson of the San Juan County Commission or a designated representative of the Chairperson.

**(B) COMMUNITY INTERESTS.—**

- (i) The grazing community.
- (ii) The off-highway vehicle community.
- (iii) The sportsmen or hunting community.
- (iv) The energy development industry.
- (v) The guides and outfitters community.
- (vi) The non-off-highway vehicle recreation community.
- (vii) The conservation community.
- (viii) Archaeological, cultural, and historic interests.

(ix) Biological interests.

~~(c) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARIES~~ TERMS.—

(1) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall make initial appointments to the Advisory Committee not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) APPOINTMENT AND TERM ~~TERM LENGTH.~~—Members of the Advisory Council shall be jointly appointed by ~~The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall jointly appoint the members of the Advisory Committee for a term of 5 years beginning on the date of appointment.~~

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member may be reappointed to serve on the Advisory Council for not more than 3 terms. ~~The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture may not reappoint members designated under subsection (d)(2)(B) to more than 3 terms.~~

(4) VACANCIES.—The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall fill vacancies on the Advisory Committee as soon as practicable after the vacancy has occurred.

(d5) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall jointly select the chairperson of the Advisory ~~Committee~~ Council for a term of 5 years beginning on the date of appointment.

(e5) SERVICE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory ~~Committee~~ Council shall serve without pay ~~not receive any compensation.~~

~~(d) COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.~~—

~~(f3) PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STATUS.~~—No individual serving ~~member of the Advisory Council appointed to represent the interests under outlined in subparagraph (c)(2)(B) may be an officer or employee of the Federal Government or State of Utah.~~

(g4) BALANCED REPRESENTATION.—~~In appointing Advisory Committee members from the two categories in section 2, the~~ The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall provide ensure that membership of the Advisory Council is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the Advisory Council for balanced and broad representation from within each category.

(he) ANNUAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT.—



(1) **REPORT SUBMISSION.**—The Advisory Committee shall submit a report no later than September 30 of each year to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. If the Advisory Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline in any year, the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture shall advise the Chair of each such Committee of the reasons for such delay and the date on which the submission of the report is anticipated.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the activities of the Advisory Committee during the preceding year;

(B) the reports and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture during the preceding year; and

(C) an accounting of actions taken by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture as a result of the recommendations.

~~(f) OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS.~~

~~(i) STAFF ASSISTANCE.~~—The Advisory ~~Committee~~Council may request and the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture may provide periodic staff assistance from Federal employees under the jurisdiction of the relevant Secretary.

~~(j) MEETINGS.~~—

~~(1A) FREQUENCY.~~—The Advisory ~~Committee~~Council shall meet at the call of the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture, the Chairperson, or a majority of the members. Meetings shall be held no fewer than 1 time a year. A majority constitutes a quorum for business of the Advisory Committee.

~~(2B) OPEN MEETINGS.~~—All meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be announced at least one week in advance in publications of general circulation and shall be open to the public.

(3) **RECORDS.**—The Advisory Committee shall maintain records of the meetings of the Advisory Committee and make the records available for public inspection.

**DIVISION D—BEARS EARS NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION AREA**  
**TITLE I—BEARS EARS NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION AREA**

**SEC. 101. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) The lands within Bears Ears National Conservation Area have been used by Native Americans for thousands of years.

(2) The unique, intact archaeological record found throughout the Bears Ears National Conservation Area is sacred to numerous Native American tribes and Pueblos and is of great significance to American history.

(3) Tribes and Pueblos maintain deep connections and commitments to the lands within the Bears Ears National Conservation Area and continue to rely on and use these lands for ceremonies, spiritual rejuvenation, gathering herbs, firewood and cedar poles, hunting for game, and caretaking of sacred places.

(4) Many local residents, many with early pioneer heritage, have similarly strong attachments to the land and associated lifestyles, both vocational and avocational.

(5) Many visitors develop similar attachments and appreciation for these landscapes.

**SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT.**

Certain Federal land, comprising of approximately 857,603 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in San Juan County as generally depicted on the map entitled Utah PLI National Conservation Area Map dated June 30, 2016, to be known as the "Bears Ears National Conservation Area".

**Comment [A105]:** For clarity and consistency with other enacted NCA designation laws, this section should reference an accompanying map at an appropriate scale, similar to the regional wilderness maps referenced in section 1971 of Public Law 111-11. (County by county maps).

**SEC. 103. MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—~~Not later than two years~~ As soon as practicable from after the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall ~~file a map and legal description of the National Conservation Areas established by sections 201 of this title with~~ submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate ~~a map and legal description of the National Conservation Area established in section 102 of this title.~~

**Comment [A106]:** Edited for consistency with other sections of this title and with other NCA designation laws, including sections 2103(c), 2202(c), and 2404 of Public Law 111-11.

(b) **FORCE AND EFFECT.**—Each map and legal description submitted under this section shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the relevant Secretary may make minor modifications of any clerical or typographical errors in the map or legal description



provided that prior to any modifications, clerical or typographical changes, these changes are reported to the State of Utah and the affected county.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service.

**SEC. 104. ADMINISTRATION OF BEAR EARS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.**

(a) **PURPOSES.**—In accordance with this title, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws, the relevant Secretary shall manage the Bears Ears National Conservation Area (hereinafter referred to as “Bears Ears”) established by section 102 in a manner that—

(1) protects, conserves, and enhances the unique and nationally important historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, recreational, archaeological, natural, and educational resources of Bears Ears;

(2) maintains and ~~enhances~~ encourages cooperative and innovative management practices between resource managers, private landowners, and the public in Bears Ears;

**Comment [A107]:** Edited for enhanced manageability.

(3) recognizes and maintains historic uses of Bears Ears;

(4) provides for traditional access by ~~indigenous persons~~ for culturally significant subsistence, including but not limited to traditional gathering, wood cutting, hunting, and cultural and religious uses within Bears Ears;

**Comment [A108]:** This term needs to be defined in this title.

(5) consistent with the Native American Graves Repatriation and Protection Act (Public Law 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.; 104 Stat. 3048), the National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665; 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.), and the Utah State Antiquities Act (UCA 9-8-301-308) protects and preserves and minimizes disturbance to ~~Native American archaeological covered sites and properties, including human remains, from permitted uses of Bears Ears; and~~

**Comment [A109]:** Edited to ensure that all sites protected by the statutes listed are covered, not just native american archaeological sites. May also want to consider including reference to Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

(6) integrates Native American Traditional Ecological Knowledge as defined in 36 CFR 219.19 to improve social, economic, and ecological sustainability in accordance with U.S. Forest Service 2016 Planning Rule regulations (36 C.F.R. 219).

(b) **MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—

**Comment [A110]:** Edited for consistency with the management planning requirements in Title II of the bill and Public Law 111-13.

(1) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than ~~2 years~~ as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Secretary shall develop a ~~management comprehensive plan for the long-term management of each Conservation Area~~ the Bears Ears National Conservation Area.

(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSULTATION.**— In developing the management plans required under paragraph (1), the relevant Secretary shall consult with appropriate state, local, and tribal government entities, members of the public, and the relevant Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation and coordination with local and tribal governments, the public, and the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act. If the relevant Secretary does not incorporate recommendations submitted by the State, local governments, and Indian tribes into the management plans, the relevant Secretary shall submit a written explanation before the effective date of the management plan to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

**SEC. 105. GENERAL PROVISIONS MANAGEMENT.**

The General Provisions in title II section 2064 of Division A of this Act shall apply to this title.

**Comment [A111]:** Edited for organizational clarity.

**SEC. 106. COOPERATING AGENCIES.**

The Secretary of the Interior shall designate and involve as cooperating agencies interested tribes and Pueblos that trace their culture and heritage to the lands within the Bears Ears National Conservation Area in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

**SEC. 107. BEARS EARS TRIBAL COMMISSION.**

(a) **CREATION OF COMMISSION.**— In preparing the management plan subject to section 104(b) for the Bears Ears, the Secretary of the Interior and Agriculture shall create a Commission consisting of tribal representatives and federal agency staff, in recognition of the importance of tribal participation to the care and management of the area's natural and cultural resources.

**Comment [A112]:** These suggestions reflect initial thoughts from the Department and could be bolstered and further refined by any input or reactions that we receive from the Tribes in the future. We continue to encourage the Tribes to offer their thoughts and recommendations to you and urge you to continue seeking their input.

a. Appointment by the Secretaries

i. Appointment and term – The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall appoint:

1. Three federal members, one each from BLM, NPS, and USFS; and

2. No more than seven elected officers of tribal governments or their designated employees.

3. Members shall serve a term of five years beginning on the date of appointment.

ii. Basic requirements – The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture shall select tribal members of the Commission who demonstrate:



1. A historical or geographical connection to the objects and lands of the Bears Ears National Conservation Area;

2. Relevant traditional knowledge; and

3. The ability to contribute to the management of the National Conservation Area.

iii. Duties - The Commission shall provide information and proposals as needed to integrate the Tribes' traditional knowledge and special expertise where relevant to the care and management of the Bears Ears National Conservation Area's natural and cultural resources, including in the development of the Management Plan developed under section 104(b) of this title. The Agencies shall carefully consider these proposals, and may use all applicable federal authorities to ensure that this Management Plan and management decisions incorporate, as appropriate, the information and proposals provided. Such input from the Commission may include, but need not be limited to:

1. Protections for and use of sacred sites;

2. Cultural and educational programming;

3. Plants, animals, species, resources;

4. Traditional use, such as gathering firewood;

5. Historical and archaeological resources;

6. Impacts of off-road use and off-road vehicles to cultural and environmental resources;

7. Recreational use, such as climbing; and

8. Resource use, such as grazing, timber production, and mining.

#### **SEC. 108. TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT.**

In employing individuals to perform any administrative, interpretation, construction, maintenance, or other service in the Bears Ears National Conservation Area, the Secretary of the Interior shall give priority consideration to members of tribes that meet publically posted job qualifications and criteria consistent with standard Federal hiring practices.

#### **SEC. 109. TRIBAL LIAISON.**

The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint a liaison to the tribes that enter into cooperating agency status pursuant to section 106. The liaison shall work to ensure the voice and perspectives

of the cooperating tribal entities are represented in the management of the Bears Ears National Conservation Area.

SEC. 110. ~~BEARS EARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE COUNCIL~~.—Under the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish and maintain a subcommittee to advise the Secretary of the Interior with regard to—

**Comment [A113]:** The Department encourages the sponsors to consider establishing this advisory council as a subcommittee with delineated membership under the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee established under Division C. Edits in this section for clarity. See note on section 102 of Division C.

(a) development and implementation of the management plan required under section 104(b) of this title; and

(b) administration of the Bears Ears National Conservation Area.

~~(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF THE BEARS EARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—~~

~~(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish and maintain the Bears Ears Advisory Committee to perform the duties in subsection (b).~~

~~(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the Bears Ears National Conservation Area.~~

~~(b) DUTIES.—The Bears Ears Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretary of the Interior with regard to—~~

~~(1) implementation of the Bears Ears National Conservation Area Management Plan; and~~

~~(2) administration of the Bears Ears National Conservation Area.~~

~~(c) APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARY.—~~

~~(1) APPOINTMENT AND TERM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall appoint the members of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee for a term of five years beginning on the date of appointment. The Secretary of the Interior may not reappoint members to more than three terms.~~

~~(2) BASIC REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the Bears Ears Advisory Committee established meets the requirements of subsection (d).~~



(3) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make initial appointments to the Bears Ears Advisory Committee not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) VACANCIES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make appointments to fill vacancies on the Bears Ears Advisory Committee as soon as practicable after the vacancy has occurred.

(5) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee shall not receive any compensation.

(d) COMPOSITION OF BEARS EARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) NUMBER.—The Bears Ears Advisory Committee shall be comprised of no more than 10 members.

(2) COMMUNITY INTERESTS REPRESENTED.—Bears Ears Advisory Committee members shall reside in the State of Utah and be representative of the following members:

(A) One representative with historical expertise in the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail.

(B) One representative with paleontological expertise.

(C) One representative with archaeological or historic expertise.

(D) One representative of the off-highway vehicle community.

(E) One representative of the non-off highway vehicle recreation community.

(F) One representative from the conservation community.

(G) One representative from the sportsmen community.

(H) One representative from the livestock grazing community.

(I) One representative of the San Juan County commission.

(J) One representative of the Tribal Collaboration Commission.

(3) ~~PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STATUS.~~—No individual serving under section 2 may be an officer or employee of the Federal Government or State of Utah Government.

(4) ~~BALANCED REPRESENTATION.~~—In appointing Bears Ears Advisory Committee members from the two categories in section 2, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide for balanced and broad representation from within each category.

(5) ~~CHAIRPERSON.~~—The Secretary of the Interior shall select the chairperson of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee for a term of five years beginning on the date of appointment.

(e) ~~ANNUAL BEARS EARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT.~~—

(1) ~~REPORT SUBMISSION.~~—The Bears Ears Advisory Committee shall submit a report no later than September 30 of each year to the Secretary of the Interior, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. If the Bears Ears Advisory Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline in any year, the Secretary of the Interior shall advise the Chair of each such Committee of the reasons for such delay and the date on which the submission of the report is anticipated.

(2) ~~CONTENTS.~~—The report required by paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the activities of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee during the preceding year;

(B) the reports and recommendations made by the Bears Ears Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Interior during the preceding year; and

(C) an accounting of actions taken by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of the recommendations.

(f) ~~OTHER BEARS EARS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS.~~—

(1) ~~STAFF ASSISTANCE.~~—The Bears Ears Advisory Committee may submit to the Secretary of the Interior a request for periodic staff assistance from Federal employees under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(2) ~~MEETINGS.~~—



(A) FREQUENCY.—The Bears Ears Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary of the Interior, the Chairperson, or a majority of the members. Meetings shall be held no less than one time per year. A majority must be present to constitute an official meeting of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee.

(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—All meetings of the Bears Ears Advisory Committee shall be announced at least one week in advance in publications of general circulation and shall be open to the public.

Each of the National Monuments and NCAs designated by Congress and managed by the BLM is unique. However, all of these designations have certain critical elements in common, including withdrawal from mineral entry under the public land, mining, and mineral leasing laws; limiting off-highway vehicles to roads and trails designated for their use; and language that charges the Secretary of the Interior with allowing only those uses that further the conservation purposes for which the unit is established.

To promote effective management and to ensure consistency with these critical elements and other NCA designation laws, including sections 1974 and 1975 of Public Law 111-11, the purposes sections for the proposed NCAs should be individually tailored to each NCA and should more clearly define the specific resources, objects, and values for which the areas would be designated.

A few examples of standard purposes language follow:

Beaver Dam Wash NCA (section 1975[a] of Public Law 111-11):

*"Purpose.--The purpose of this section is to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Area."*

Red Cliffs NCA (section 1974[a] of Public Law 111-11):

*"(a) Purposes.--The purposes of this section are--*

*(1) to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the National Conservation Area; and*

*(2) to protect each species that is--*

*(A) located in the National Conservation Area; and*

*(B) listed as a threatened or endangered species on the list of threatened species or the list of endangered species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1))."*

Dominguez-Escalante NCA (section 2402[b] of Public Law 111-11):

*(b) Purposes.--The purposes of the onservation Area are to conserve and protect for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations--*

*(1) the unique and important resources and values of the land, including the geological, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, natural, scientific, recreational, wilderness, wildlife, riparian, historical, educational, and scenic resources of the public land; and*

*(2) the water resources of area streams, based on seasonally available flows, that are necessary to support aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species and communities.*



**Statement of  
Neil Kornze  
Director  
Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands  
H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act  
September 14, 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 5780, the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act, which is a sweeping bill that provides direction for the future management and use of Federal lands within Summit, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne, and San Juan Counties in eastern Utah. H.R. 5780 establishes numerous public land units that are somewhat similar to existing conservation designations, including 41 wilderness areas, 11 National Conservation Areas (NCAs), six Special Management Areas (SMAs), a National Monument, approximately 357 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, an approximately 120-mile National Historic Trail, and an expansion of Arches National Park on lands currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The bill also proposes a large-scale land exchange with the State of Utah's School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), directs a number of land conveyances, requires the sale of some public lands, designates 13 recreation zones, and establishes an off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail. Finally, H.R. 5780 includes several land management provisions that would transfer the BLM's permitting authority for all energy development to the State of Utah, require that grazing continue at current permitted levels in perpetuity, restore grazing in areas where it has been reduced or eliminated for resource protection, and grant perpetual, no-cost rights-of-way for certain roads claimed by counties and the State of Utah.

The Department of the Interior (Department) sincerely appreciates the sponsors' efforts to address a broad range of challenging resource and management issues in eastern Utah. Due to the length and complexity of the bill, this testimony will briefly summarize the views of the Department. While the Department supports many of the goals of H.R. 5780, we have significant concerns with numerous provisions and are opposed to the bill as it is currently written. In particular, the Department opposes the nonstandard management language for many of the proposed conservation and special management designations, which are repeated throughout the bill and would result in significantly less protection than in other similarly-designated areas. Additionally, the Department strongly opposes the unprecedented language transferring all energy development and permitting authority within the affected counties from the Federal government to the State of Utah, proposed limits on the BLM's management of grazing, and the automatic granting of Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477 right-of-way claims that are currently subject to active litigation with no showing that they have satisfied applicable legal standards. A number of additional important concerns are detailed below. We defer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding provisions in the bill concerning the lands and interests in lands under their administration.

## **Background**

Eastern Utah is a land of spectacular natural beauty, important historical resources, and areas of special significance to a number of Tribes. The lands managed by the BLM and NPS in this region range from rolling uplands and snow-capped peaks to free-flowing rivers and colorful red-rock canyons. This varied and magnificent terrain provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bison, and several sensitive bird and fish species. The southeastern portion of this area, in particular, also contains thousands of vulnerable cultural and archaeological sites, including well-preserved cliff dwellings and rock art. Home to premier recreation hubs like Moab, the public lands in eastern Utah provide popular destinations for outdoor enthusiasts, including off-highway vehicle users, hikers, mountain bikers, rock climbers, and hunters. Many of these public lands also provide opportunities for grazing, energy development, and other commercial activities.

## **Division A – Conservation & Special Management Designations**

### ***Wilderness***

Title I of Division A would designate 41 new wilderness areas on over 2.4 million acres of Federal land in Summit, Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne, and San Juan Counties in eastern Utah. The designations are on lands managed primarily by the BLM (over 1.56 million acres), but also include lands managed by the NPS (over 469,000 acres) and the USFS (over 119,000 acres). The BLM-managed lands that would be designated as wilderness by H.R. 5780 include areas of stunning beauty, secluded places offering opportunities for solitude, and important wildlife habitat. For example, the proposed Cedar Mesa Wilderness contains an extensive canyon system that features spectacular sandstone cliffs and pinnacles and an abundance of cliff dwellings and other archeological resources. This area's striking scenery provides an exceptional opportunity for primitive recreation, including hiking, photography, and horse packing. Similarly, the proposed Crack Canyon Wilderness includes colorful badlands of eroded soils, cliffs, and rock monuments, including fins which form a sawtooth sandstone ridge, and knobs, caves, and arches. Scenic, geologic, and archaeological features and wildlife habitat in this area are remarkable, and the narrow, twisting canyons offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

We recognize the hard work of the sponsors and other members of the Utah delegation in seeking consensus on BLM and NPS wilderness designations and Wilderness Study Area (WSA) releases. We believe that the areas identified in the bill could be managed as wilderness.

However, the Department is very concerned that the bill, as currently written, contains language that would prevent the effective management of these areas for their wilderness values. For example, Title I of Division A would permit motorized access within all of the proposed wilderness areas for the maintenance of future water infrastructure, a provision that is ambiguous and could be interpreted to permit broad manipulation of the hydrology of the landscape. The Department strongly opposes this troubling exception to the Wilderness Act of 1964. It is without precedent for BLM- and NPS-managed wildernesses, would undermine each agency's ability to protect, enhance, and maintain wilderness values and opportunities for the public, and is at odds with one of the core values associated with wilderness – to prohibit the use of motorized equipment. The Department notes that the Congressional Grazing Guidelines, outlined in Appendix A of the report accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress and H.R.



5487 of the 96th Congress, already provide for a specific, generous management approach that has worked well for grazing within BLM-administered wilderness areas.

Additionally, the bill omits essential, standard language requiring that any wildlife water development structures and facilities within the proposed wilderness areas enhance wilderness values and minimize their visual impacts. Moreover, Title I of Division A includes provisions requiring the BLM to maintain trail and fence lines within proposed wilderness and potentially eliminating the Secretary's discretion to permanently close a trail or remove a fence line for resource protection. The Department opposes this language, which would effectively pass the historic responsibility for maintenance of fences from the authorized grazing permittee to the BLM.

In place of the problematic language on wildlife water developments, motorized access to water infrastructure, and trail and fence maintenance within the proposed wilderness areas, we urge the sponsors and the Subcommittee to instead adopt the standard wilderness management language that has been used by Congress for decades, including in the successful Washington County, Utah, conservation bill included as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11, Subtitle O). The Department would also like the opportunity to work with the sponsors and Subcommittee on a number of additional amendments, including boundary adjustments for manageability and to eliminate overlapping or incompatible designations, time frames, and clarifications regarding outfitting and guide activities, mapping requirements, the jurisdictional coordination of wildfire management, and the role of the Utah Department of Agriculture in BLM grazing administration. In addition, we would like to work on language addressing legacy Primitive Area classifications for the Grand Gulch and Dark Canyon areas.

Title I of Division A also proposes to release nearly 81,000 acres of BLM-managed land from WSA status. While the Department appreciates the use of standard WSA release language in this title, we believe that the Desolation Canyon and Jack Canyon WSAs contain such extraordinary scenic resources and recreational opportunities that protection of those areas is essential.

Together with Turtle Canyon, these areas represent the largest complex of unprotected WSAs in the lower 48 states. The extremely rugged terrain of the Desolation Canyon and Jack Canyon WSAs contributes to their scenic quality, remoteness, and habitat for species such as bighorn sheep and raptors, which are sensitive to development. Moreover, these WSAs have an extensive system of deep canyons and feature arches, pinnacles, and other erosional elements not known to occur elsewhere. In addition, the diversity of wildlife within these areas is unusual compared with the public lands surrounding them. We would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors and the Subcommittee on language and boundaries that would ensure the continued protection of outstanding resources in these areas.

Finally, the Department opposes section 110 of this title, which could be construed to prohibit the designation of Class I airsheds under the Clean Air Act for lands proposed as NPS-administered wilderness in the bill. All NPS-administered wilderness areas are currently managed as Class I airsheds, which means that the wildernesses proposed by the bill would be managed to a lesser standard. The Department is particularly concerned that this language would

eliminate or reduce the existing Class I airsheds associated with both Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park.

### ***National Conservation Areas***

Title II of Division A designates 11 new NCAs covering more than 1.35 million acres on BLM-managed lands. The spectacular and diverse landscapes of the BLM's National Conservation Lands currently include 21 NCAs nationwide. All of these designations have certain critical elements in common, which have consistently been followed in a bipartisan manner during the Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama Administrations. These elements include withdrawal from the public land, mining, and mineral leasing laws; limiting off-highway vehicles to roads and trails designated for their use; language that charges the Secretary of the Interior with allowing only those uses that further the conservation purposes for which the NCA is established; and language ensuring that lands within the NCA are managed at a higher level of conservation than lands outside of such designations.

The management language for all 11 NCAs proposed by this title does not comport with these standards and repeatedly makes exceptions that would conflict with the primary objective of conserving the significant natural and cultural resources within the proposed areas. For example, the purposes for which the NCAs are to be established are overly broad. As a result, the BLM would have to manage these areas for purposes that may prevent effective resource protection.

The Department urges the sponsors to clearly define the specific resources, objects, and values to be protected for each of the proposed NCAs consistent with the purposes for which the BLM's National Conservation Lands were established. The Department opposes language in the bill requiring that the BLM "recognize and maintain historic uses" of the NCAs because such uses may be incompatible with the protection of resources for which these areas are to be designated.

Title II of Division A also includes unacceptable grazing language that would make it more difficult to achieve rangeland health standards in the proposed NCAs. In fact, this language would create lower standards for grazing in the proposed NCAs than it would on public rangelands that are outside of the proposed conservation units. The Department opposes this grazing language, which not only represents a significant deviation from all other NCA designation laws, but also from the management of grazing on all other public lands. As with the proposed wilderness designations, the Department strongly recommends that the sponsors and Subcommittee adopt the standard NCA management language that Congress has used for decades, including in the Washington County, Utah, provisions of Public Law 111-11.

For the sake of efficient management, the Department also encourages the sponsors to consider designating a single NCA for the lands surrounding the Dinosaur National Monument, which would include the bill's proposed Beach Draw, Diamond Mountain, Docs Valley, Stone Bridge Draw, and Stuntz Draw NCAs and would consist of approximately 44,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands. Manageability and interagency coordination would be improved by combining these five geographically clustered NCAs into a single NCA managed under a single management plan.

The San Rafael Swell, a portion of which is proposed for NCA designation under the bill, is one of the most spectacular areas managed by the BLM. The terrain of this area varies from sheer



cliffs and dazzling canyons to more gently carved badlands broken by shallow washes. The fins and folds of the San Rafael Reef jut through the southeast side of the area and feature dramatic cliffs, pinnacles, the knobs of Goblin Valley, twisted canyons, and valleys of stunning colors. Few canyons can compare to the entrenched, narrow gorges of the Black Boxes of the San Rafael River, which twists and turns through the San Rafael Swell. The Department recognizes and applauds the vision of the sponsors to protect this special area. We believe that this vision would be best reflected through the designation of a single NCA encompassing the approximately 750,000 acres proposed as the San Rafael and Muddy Creek NCAs, the proposed Goblin Valley Cooperative Management Area, as well as other adjacent lands that contain similar resources, such as the currently excluded area between the proposed Cedar Mountain and Muddy Creek Wildernesses. Again, a single management plan for this area, consistent with the goals and purposes for which NCAs are designated, would significantly enhance manageability.

Similarly, the Department notes that the proposed Labyrinth Canyon and San Rafael River NCAs are separated only by the Green River. We believe that manageability for these areas would be improved by combining them into a single NCA under a single management plan.

Finally, the Department would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors on a number of additional amendments to this title, including boundary modifications for manageability, time frames, language addressing potentially incompatible overlapping designations, and clarifications and other edits regarding management plan development, mapping requirements, WSA release, and travel management planning.

### ***Special Management Areas***

Title IV of Division A proposes four new Special Management Area (SMA) designations on approximately 108,200 acres of BLM-managed public lands for the Desolation Canyon, Nine Mile Canyon, White River, and Book Cliffs areas, and two other SMAs on approximately 27,400 acres of national forest land. Under the bill, each of these BLM-managed SMAs would be open to oil and gas development at the Secretary's discretion and subject to surface occupancy restrictions. The management guidance that comes with these new designations does not seem to differ greatly from the BLM's existing authorities and management practices. As a result, we do not see a reason to create this new category of public land designations. However, we recognize the significant wildlife, cultural, and other values contained in these areas and would like to work with the sponsors and Subcommittee on provisions that would ensure meaningful protection for these areas.

### ***Arches National Park Expansion***

Title V of Division A adds approximately 19,000 acres to Arches National Park. The Department supports this expansion because management of these lands in accordance with the park's General Management Plan would enhance visitor enjoyment and protect irreplaceable resources, including paleontological resources. The eastern portion of the expansion would contribute significantly to the ability of the NPS to protect principal views from key points within the park. The small southern addition, while within the exterior park boundary, is a BLM Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP Act) lease held by Grand County. The existing arrangement works well; however, NPS ownership of this area may require changes to current management and recreational use. The Department would like to work with the sponsors and the

Subcommittee on additional amendments to this title, including boundary adjustments to address these management challenges.

### ***Jurassic National Monument***

The BLM currently manages the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry in Emery County, Utah, to protect and conserve its unique paleontological resources, which includes the densest concentration of Jurassic resources in the world. Title VI of Division A designates this area as an 867-acre National Monument, and the Department applauds the sponsors for putting forward a vision to permanently protect this special place. To ensure adequate conservation of the world-class paleontological resources of this area, the Department would like to work with the sponsors on amendments to ensure consistency with other National Monument designation laws, language limiting motorized and mechanized vehicles to roads and trails designated for their use, time frames, management plan development, mapping requirements, and clarifications that the BLM would manage the proposed National Monument.

### ***Wild & Scenic Rivers***

Title VII of Division A appears to designate approximately 357 miles of rivers on lands managed by the BLM and NPS as wild, scenic, or recreational rivers for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Department supports the designation of the proposed river segments, but we strongly encourage the sponsors and Subcommittee to adopt the standard designation language that has been used by Congress for decades. In addition, we would like to work on time frames, mapping requirements, and technical amendments to this title for consistency with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including language identifying beginning and ending points for individual river segments, ensuring standard protective corridors, and enhancing manageability.

## **Division B – Land Management & Economic Development**

### ***School Trust Land Consolidations***

Title I of Division B proposes the exchange of approximately 328,000 acres of Federal land and approximately 5,700 acres of Federal mineral estate to the State of Utah, and approximately 288,000 acres of State land and approximately 8,000 acres of State mineral estate to the United States. This title, however, is unacceptable as currently drafted as it does not include public interest determinations according to standard practice under FLPMA, complete environmental and cultural review, standard appraisal language, or equalization of values – four provisions that are critical on any land exchange because they provide for public engagement and opportunities to consider mitigation for impacts to environmental and cultural resources, and to help ensure that unknown and unforeseen issues are not overlooked.

While Congress has in the past determined that individual land exchanges are in the public interest, this generally occurs when the BLM has already had an opportunity to identify the parcels as potentially suitable for disposal through the land use planning process. Based on an initial review of the final legislative maps, it is not yet clear whether that is the case in this situation. In addition, some of the lands proposed for exchange out of Federal management in the bill contain sensitive cultural, paleontological, and natural resources and recreational uses, and active oil and gas leases. The BLM does not typically exchange such lands out of Federal ownership and seeks to ensure continued protection of these important resources. Moreover, the Department is concerned about the potential effects of the proposed exchange on valid existing



rights and grandfathered uses. Therefore, the Department opposes the proposed exchange as currently written and urges the sponsors to adopt standard language regarding public interest determinations according to standard practice under FLPMA, complete NEPA and cultural review, appraisals, and equalization of values. The Department would also like to work with the sponsors on additional amendments, including potential boundary adjustments for manageability and to ensure protection of important resources, time frames, and language ensuring that royalties for potash and oil and gas are consistent with existing law. The Department also believes that Federal land should not be used to pay for the administrative costs of the exchange, and we would like to work with Congress to ensure that the BLM has the resources needed to implement this title. Additionally, the Department notes that the Book Cliffs roadless area mineral withdrawal provision is unclear as currently written, and we are unsure if it would achieve its intended purpose. We would like to work with the sponsors to clarify this language to ensure continued protection of the important wildlife habitat and natural resources of this area.

Finally, the Department notes that section 103(g) of this title may threaten the Federal reserved water right for Arches National Park, which was negotiated and finalized by the State of Utah and the NPS a year ago to protect seeps, springs, and streams in the park. The Arches Federal reserved water right extends within the Entrada formation underneath a block of parcels to be exchanged west of Arches. The Department would like to work with the sponsors and Subcommittee on language ensuring that the exchange does not adversely impact this important agreement.

#### ***Land Transfers, Conveyances, & Disposals***

Title II of Division B requires the conveyance, at no cost, of nearly 10,000 acres of BLM-managed lands to the State of Utah to expand the Goblin Valley State Park. It also requires that the BLM, at the State of Utah's request, enter into a cooperative agreement whereby approximately 153,000 acres of BLM-managed land surrounding the enlarged park would appear to be managed by the Utah State Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

In the past, the Department has supported minor conveyances for the expansion or establishment of public parks in various western states. We would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors and Subcommittee to address a number of concerns with the proposed Goblin Valley State Park conveyance, including boundaries, the presence of occupied endangered species habitat, conflicts with wild horse herd management areas and unpatented mining claims, and investments made in recent years by the BLM. The Department would also like to work with the sponsors on time frames and language ensuring consistency with the R&PP Act and other applicable laws. The Department also believes that legislation establishing a Cooperative Management Area (CMA) for the lands surrounding Goblin Valley State Park is unnecessary. The BLM has a long record of successfully using cooperative agreements for the management of public lands in Utah, such as the Sand Flats Recreation Area near Moab, without the need for implementing legislation.

Title III of Division B would exchange approximately 13,300 acres of Federal land in Carbon County, Utah, to the State of Utah and approximately 15,000 acres of State land in Grand and

San Juan Counties, Utah, to the United States for the purpose of creating the Price Canyon State Forest. The Department opposes this title as drafted because the exchange includes the BLM-managed Price Canyon Recreation Site, located just north of the cities of Helper and Price, Utah, which is popular with the public and has substantial recreation use. The BLM has invested more than \$1 million in recent years to improve access and infrastructure for public use at this site. In addition, the exchange does not include public interest determinations under FLPMA, complete environmental and cultural review, standard appraisal language, or equalization of values. As discussed above, these elements are critical for successful land exchanges. The Department strongly encourages the sponsors to adopt standard language regarding public interest determinations under FLPMA, complete environmental and cultural review, appraisals, and equalization of values. The Department would also like to work with the sponsors on additional amendments, including boundary adjustments for manageability and to ensure protection of important resources, and time frames.

Title V of Division B deals with longstanding encroachment and reservoir boundary issues on Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) managed lands at Scofield Reservoir. While the requirement to secure properties within the flood surcharge elevation at Scofield is constructive, the bill's language places long-term responsibility on the BOR to monitor and enforce these requirements, which could pose a significant budgetary impact. The Department continues to have concerns about the safety of the facility with the structures located in the surcharge space. Separately, section 503(d)(5)(C) places responsibility for administrative costs to the subject lands with Carbon County; BOR would implement this provision under the terms of a mutual agreement with the county. The Department continues to have concerns with the trust fund as indicated in earlier testimony, and we look forward to working with the Subcommittee to further refine that provision.

Title VI of Division B would transfer 20 parcels of public land – encompassing approximately 18,000 acres – to various State and local governmental entities for a variety of purposes. As discussed above, the Department has previously supported legislated, no-cost public purpose conveyances if they meet standards under the R&PP Act and are determined to be appropriate for transfer out of Federal ownership. While many of these parcels may be appropriate for transfer if additional conditions are satisfied, others may not be for various reasons, including the presence of significant natural and cultural resources, lack of a well-defined public purpose, acreage inappropriate for the intended use, conflicts with wildernesses proposed by Title I of Division A, and conflicts with current uses such as recreation or mineral development. In addition, numerous parcels are encumbered by withdrawals for public water reserves, water supply, and power site reserves. The Department appreciates the sponsors' work to address concerns with other parcels proposed for transfer in earlier public discussion drafts, including the Sand Flats, Fantasy Canyon, and Dugout Ranch areas. The Department would like to work with the sponsors on additional amendments, boundary adjustments for manageability and protection of sensitive resources, time frames, mapping requirements, language ensuring consistency with the R&PP Act and NEPA, including the addition of standard reversionary clause provisions.

Title VII of Division B would require the Secretary to dispose of approximately 5,400 acres of BLM-managed lands, subject to valid existing rights, within two years of enactment. While sale of some of these parcels may be appropriate if undertaken consistent with section 203 of FLPMA



(including environmental review, public participation, and appraisals), other parcels should remain in Federal ownership. We encourage the sponsors to consider an approach for land disposals similar to those outlined in the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432) and the Owyhee Public Land Management provisions of Public Law 111-11, and we would like to work with the sponsors on time frames and language ensuring consistency with FLPMA and NEPA, should disposal of some of these parcels be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of FLPMA.

### ***Recreation & Trails***

Title VIII of Division B would designate 13 new recreation zones on approximately 414,500 acres of BLM-managed public lands. The Department notes that the BLM already manages all or major portions of the proposed zones as either Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) or open OHV areas, which were established in the relevant land use plan through a public process. It is unclear how the designation of the proposed zones would differ from the existing administrative designations. Further discussion would be necessary to understand the purpose and need for the proposed zones.

Additionally, Section 815 of this title would designate the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail as a National Historic Trail under the National Trails System Act. This trail would traverse approximately 120 miles of BLM and NPS-managed lands. While the Department supports the designation of this trail as a National Historic Trail, we note that the route depicted on the legislative map accompanying the bill is very general. We would like to work with the sponsors to prepare an updated map depicting the exact location of the trail. Moreover, we are extremely concerned that portions of this trail, which would be designated to “promote motorized and non-motorized uses,” would bisect the proposed Cedar Mesa Wilderness. The Department strongly opposes such a provision on motorized and mechanized use within wilderness as it is counter to the purposes for which wilderness areas were established, and we would like to work with the sponsors and Subcommittee on additional amendments, including boundary adjustments for clarity and language ensuring consistency with the National Trails System Act.

Title VIII of Division B includes language regarding Recapture Canyon (section 816) and the Big Burrito Non-Motorized Trail (section 817). Section 816 would approve San Juan County’s application for a FLPMA Title V right-of-way in Recapture Canyon and outline the purposes for this right-of-way. The BLM is currently going through a public process to evaluate potential trails and routes through this area of rich archaeological treasures that was home to Ancestral Puebloans. A draft environmental assessment for these potential trails and routes was released on September 9, 2016. The Department opposes this section. Section 817 exempts the proposed 9.3-mile Big Burrito Non-Motorized Trail from administrative or judicial review, presumably in perpetuity. The Department notes that the BLM established this trail through a public process and that it is in use today; the purpose of this language is unclear and cannot be supported in its current form.

Title IX of Division B would establish the Red Rock Country Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail, a 90-mile motorized recreation trail in Grand County, Utah. The Department has supported similar efforts in the past and, with some alterations, could support this effort.

### ***Tribal Mineral Transfer***

Title X of Division B would transfer minerals beneath a portion of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation to the Ute Tribe and would direct that all split estate lands and minerals that are currently managed by a Federal agency be held in trust for the Tribe. This title also transfers the Federal minerals beneath a portion of the Navajo Nation to the Utah Navajo Trust Fund and modifies the royalty payment due to the State of Utah. The Department notes that the intent of the provisions in this title is unclear, and we would like to work with the sponsors and Subcommittee to get a better understanding of the purpose and vision for this title.

### ***Energy Permitting & Development***

The Department oversees a robust oil and gas development program on Federal lands in Utah, and we are proud of the BLM's safe and effective management of this important energy source. As of the end of FY 2015, BLM Utah managed nearly 9,000 wells on over 1.1 million acres that are currently producing oil and gas resources in the state. In FY 2015 on BLM-managed lands in Utah, the agency approved three times more drilling permits (847) than were actually drilled (218). As of the end of FY 2015, 2000 drilling permits are ready for use without any further action by the BLM. To date in FY 2016, 243 applications for permit to drill were approved, but only 14 were drilled. In light of this strong performance and the agency's long history of successful management of mineral resources, the Department strongly opposes Title XI of Division B, which authorizes the State of Utah to take over the permitting processes, regulatory requirements, and development of all energy sources on Federal lands within Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne, and San Juan Counties, Utah. This title is also contrary to the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission and ignores critical public participation components of the land use planning process, including NEPA and other laws.

### ***Highway Rights-of-Way***

Title XII of Division B would recognize the existence and validity of certain claims of "Class B" road rights-of-way in Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne, and San Juan Counties, Utah, that were paved as of January 1, 2016. In addition, the Secretary would be required to convey to the State of Utah easements across Federal lands for the current disturbed widths of these purported roads. This title would also require the Secretary to grant perpetual, no-cost rights-of-way for certain "Class D" roads claimed by Uintah County.

The Department recognizes the enormous scope and importance of this issue both to the people of Utah and to successful public land management. However, we have broad concerns with this title because most, if not all, of the claimed routes are currently subject to active litigation and many are located in sensitive resource areas, including priority sage-grouse habitat and specially designated areas. As a matter of policy, we do not believe that R.S. 2477 rights-of-way asserted by the State should be automatically recognized as valid and existing rights-of-way. In establishing the validity of an R.S. 2477 claim through the judicial process, the burden of proof is on the claimant to demonstrate that they have satisfied the applicable legal standard. In contrast, this title's recognition of all county assertions as valid would reverse existing legal precedent and would establish perpetual rights over public lands without applying applicable legal tests. Further dialog and coordination are needed before the Department could consider a legislative approach to this complex issue.



### ***Grazing***

The Department strongly opposes Title XIII of Division B, which would require that grazing on all Federal lands in Summit, Duchesne, Uintah, Grand, Emery, Carbon, and San Juan Counties, Utah, continue at current permitted levels. Although this title includes an exception for “extreme range conditions where water and forage are not available,” this language is unclear and could prevent the BLM from addressing deteriorating range conditions. Given the broad scope of this language, the Department may identify additional concerns as we continue our analysis. The Department also does not support managing rangelands according to arbitrary targets of use, which may be inappropriate depending on resource condition. As we have previously testified, the Department instead supports management of rangelands by adjusting targets of use according to resource conditions and through transparent processes, working with the affected permittees and the public under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. In addition, this title includes language directing that public grazing lands, including areas outside of those otherwise designated by this title, that have “reduced or eliminated grazing shall be reviewed and managed to support grazing at an economically viable level.” The Department strongly opposes this language because it is inconsistent with the BLM’s multiple use and sustained yield mission and ignores critical public participation components of the land use planning process, including FLPMA, NEPA, and other laws. Furthermore, this language could inadvertently undermine the application of the Congressional Grazing Guidelines to the wildernesses proposed under Title I of Division A.

Title XIII of Division B also includes language on bighorn sheep management. This language is contrary to BLM policy guidance on improving coordination and management of bighorn sheep habitat to minimize conflicts with domestic sheep and goats released in March 2016, which reflects extensive public outreach and input, represents a thoughtful management approach, and is aligned with USFS policy and efforts on this issue. The Department opposes this provision because it would limit the BLM’s efforts to sustain and manage bighorn sheep populations on public lands.

### **Division C – Advisory Committee**

H.R. 5780 would establish a “Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee” (PLI Advisory Council) and would require the Secretary to consult and coordinate with this committee in developing management plans for many of the designations proposed in the bill, including NCAs, SMAs, the Jurassic National Monument, and the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail. Under this title, in the event this council’s recommendations on the management plans are not adopted, the Secretary would be required to provide a written explanation to Congress outlining the reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

The Department has supported advisory councils for many NCAs and National Monuments, and we believe that the local input and involvement that they provide is beneficial in the management of public lands. Based on an initial review of the bill, however, it is unclear if this advisory committee would be consistent with both FACA and with other advisory councils for BLM-managed NCAs and National Monuments. The Department would like to work with the sponsors and the Subcommittee on language ensuring that the PLI Advisory Council meets these elements, which we believe would be essential for it to function effectively. The Department also encourages the sponsors to consider incorporating other advisory councils established by the

bill into the PLI Advisory Council – perhaps through subcommittees or other mechanisms – which we believe will be beneficial for the participants and the agencies involved.

#### **Division D – Bears Ears National Conservation Area**

The Bears Ears area of southeastern Utah is a unique landscape that combines extraordinary natural features, irreplaceable cultural resources, and areas of great importance to a number of Tribes. It has been proposed for protection by members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, State and Tribal leaders, and local conservationists for at least 80 years.

This region contains some of the most significant cultural and natural resources anywhere in the West, with thousands of vulnerable cultural and archaeological sites spanning thousands of years – from the Paleoindian Period 12,000 years ago to Mormon pioneers in the 1800s. Visitors to this remarkable area are rewarded with spectacular canyon vistas surrounded by high mesa tops dotted with juniper trees and pinyon pines. Hikes into the canyons reveal ancient cliff dwellings, kivas, and rock art left by the Ancestral Puebloans more than a thousand years ago.

H.R. 5780 establishes two new NCAs encompassing a total of nearly 1.3 million acres of BLM-, NPS-, and USFS-managed lands in this part of San Juan County – the approximately 858,000-acre Bears Ears NCA and the approximately 434,000-acre Indian Creek NCA. The Bears Ears NCA represents the largest of the proposed NCAs in H.R. 5780. The Department notes that the same unacceptable and nonstandard management language that applies to the other proposed NCAs would also apply to the Bears Ears NCA, including the omission of language that permits only those uses compatible with the conservation purposes for which the area is to be designated. While the bill does provide for additional opportunities for Tribal and other stakeholder input into the management planning process, it does not appear to contain the cooperative management language that the Tribes have requested, and we encourage the sponsors to continue to reach out to the Tribes directly for their input. The Department would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors on the care and protection of the world-class cultural and natural resources of the area and on additional amendments regarding definitions, time frames, management plan development, mapping requirements, and boundary adjustments for manageability.

#### **Conclusion**

The Department of the Interior greatly appreciates the sponsors' ambitious effort to address difficult resource and land management issues in eastern Utah and supports many of the goals of H.R. 5780. However, the Department opposes this bill in its current form for the reasons articulated above. The Department has a number of substantive as well as additional modifications to recommend, and we look forward to continuing to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee to address those issues.



**Oral Statement of Neil G. Kornze**  
**House Natural Resources Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Federal Lands**  
**H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today. The Utah Public Lands Initiative Act provides direction for the future management and use of public lands across eastern Utah. This is a vast undertaking, and I commend Chairman Bishop and Chairman Chaffetz for the time and commitment that they and their staffs have brought to this effort. Unfortunately, the Department cannot support the bill as written.

### **Introduction**

Eastern Utah has been blessed with spectacular natural beauty, important ancient Native American ruins and cultural sites, and world class outdoor recreation destinations. The public lands in this area are also used for grazing and mining and energy development.

In July, Secretary Jewell and I had the opportunity to visit Eastern Utah along with several staff from the Utah congressional delegation, and a member of the Governor's staff. At the San Rafael Swell, we joined Emery County Commissioners to see Utah's "Little Grand Canyon," with stunning views of the San Rafael River thousands of feet below us. We visited the challenging cliffs at Indian Creek, which are known to rock climbers worldwide. In the Bears Ears area, we hiked with your staff deep into canyons that revealed rock art and incredible ancient cliff dwellings. In many areas we found the ground littered with pieces of pottery that were left there by former inhabitants many hundreds of years ago.

Many tribes have a long and rich history in this area, including the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Utes, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Indian Tribe. These lands continue to hold special significance for them today.



Now, throughout our visit through eastern Utah we heard a strong common theme, one that's embodied in parts of this legislation. There is a broad consensus that many areas deserve special attention, conservation and protection.

## **Conservation**

Moving to some of the details of the legislation, this bill would establish a significant number of conservation units throughout Eastern Utah.

Unfortunately, the bill strays significantly from the standard, time-tested management language that Congress has used for decades when it protects public lands. We are very concerned that the areas in focus here would be left without the real protection they deserve.

For example, we applaud the sponsors' choice to designate a variety of spectacular landscapes as National Conservation Areas, including the San Rafael

Swell, Indian Creek, and the Bears Ears. These areas contain some of the most significant cultural and natural resources anywhere in the West. However, the management language in the bill undermines the BLM's ability to actually protect these special areas. We also strongly believe that the Tribes deserve – and must have – a meaningful seat at the table in managing the Bears Ears area.

### **Land Management & Economic Development**

Division B of the bill proposes significant land exchanges between the BLM and the State of Utah, provides for the transfer of lands to local communities, and would require the disposal of large areas of public land. While we can support many of these goals, the Department continues to believe that there are more efficient and cost-effective ways to reach the same end. As we have repeatedly testified, the reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act would be a better answer in many of these cases.



H.R. 5780 would also transfer management of oil and gas activities on Federal lands in six counties to the State of Utah; and would seriously limit the BLM's management of grazing, which could prevent us from making reasonable adjustments when they are needed. The Department opposes these provisions and draws the subcommittee's attention to the BLM's long history of safe and effective management of both energy development and grazing.

## **Conclusion**

We greatly appreciate the work Chairman Bishop and Chairman Chaffetz have done to address these incredibly challenging land management and resource issues. The Department supports many of the goals of H.R. 5780, although we cannot support the bill in its current form.

The State of Utah has been blessed with some of the most remarkable natural resources in the nation. I share the Chairmen's commitment to conserving these wonders for generations to come. My written statement provides much greater detail on the challenges still before us, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Sponsors.

We can accomplish a great deal by working together.



**PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA FOR THE CREATION OF BEARS EARS NATIONAL  
MONUMENT**

The Inter-Tribal Coalition has submitted this proposal to give ample time for the President to review and hopefully sign a proclamation under the Antiquities Act, or allow time for Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz to review the proposal and present their own plan. (pg. 19)

**PROPOSALS and ASKS**

**Monument Boundaries:**

- The Inter-Tribal Coalition would like to meet with departmental officials to explain the reasoning and appropriateness behind the proposed boundaries. (pg. 20)

**Collaborative Management:**

- The Agencies and the Tribes shall collaborate jointly on all procedures, decisions, and other activities except as otherwise provided in the Proclamation. (pg. 22)
- In the case of impasse or undue delay, the Agencies and the Tribes shall proceed to appropriate mediation. If such mediation fails, the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture shall in a written opinion explaining the reasons, make the relevant decisions. (pg. 22)

**The Bears Ears Management Commission and the Monument Manager:**

- **Management Commission:** This Commission would be the policy making and planning body for the monument. It would be a federally-created entity but not a federal agency. It would have eight members, one from each Tribe and one from each Federal agency. The Tribal members would receive salaries. The Commission members would choose a chairperson. The Commission would report to the Secretaries annually on the success of administering the monument and on plans and needs for the upcoming year. (pg. 29)
- **Monument Manager:** The Manager would be hired, and could be fired, by the Commission. The Commission will set performance standards for the Manager and conduct annual performance reviews. The Commission chairperson will have the direct supervisory relationship with the Manager. The Manager would report directly to the Commission. Senior staff and operational staff will be hired by the Manager. Monument offices should be located in the best location for visitors to the monument. (pg. 29)
- The Bears Ears presidential proclamation should direct agencies to use their best efforts to provide funding under the Indian Self-Determination statutes and other authorities for collaborative Management at Bears Ears. (pg. 30)
- The BLM, Forest Service, and Park Service should work together with the Tribes and manage Bears Ears as one, with, for example, the management plan and operations generally applying throughout the monument. (pg. 30)

**Monument Planning and Operations:**

- The management plan would be developed by Monument staff, with the Commission providing specific direction to staff regarding plan design and content, as well as review throughout the process of plan development. Members of the public and other key stakeholders would have ample opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan through normal NEPA

processes. Presumably, the proclamation would direct that this plan be completed within the customary three years. (pg. 30)

- Commission members will develop day-to-day operations procedures. The Manager will be responsible for day-to-day operations and designing an organization that accounts for basic functional areas. (pg. 31)
- This proposed monument will be open to all members of the public. (pg. 31)

#### **Possible Opportunities:**

- Opportunity to develop a world-class program or institute in Traditional Knowledge at the proposed monument. (pg. 31)
- Collaboration in traditional map art. (pg. 32-33)
- Opportunity to truly infuse Native values into public lands administration by pulling upon both indigenous knowledge and Western science. (pg. 33)

#### **Federal-Tribal Agreements Supplemental to the Proclamation:**

- The Commission and Manager would benefit from MOAs or MOUs, created before or shortly after the proclamation, to chart out the nuts and bolts of their relationship. (pg. 34)
- To secure funding for the Commission over the long term, the proclamation should encourage contracting and compacting under the Tribal Self-Governance Act and other statutes. (pg. 34)

#### **Threats to the Bears Ears landscape:**

- All existing mineral rights should be honored, but future mining should be prohibited. (pg. 35)
- A major objective of the proclamation should be to keep most of Bears Ears road-less. (pg. 35)
- Monument status would lead to better management of off-road vehicle use, looting, and grave robbing. (pg. 35)

#### **Uses to be Resolved in the Proclamation:**

(pg. 36-37)

- A permanent withdrawal from the mining laws, for both location and leasing, of all lands within the monument.
- A permanent withdrawal from all other forms of leasing, selections, sales, exchange, and other forms of disposition under the public land laws, other than those exchanges that further the purposes of the monument.
- Motorized vehicle use should be permitted only on designated roads. Non-motorized mechanized vehicle use should be permitted only on roads and trails designated for their use consistent with the purposes of the monument. The management plan directed by the proclamation should include a transportation plan designating the roads and trails available for motorized or nonmotorized vehicle uses.
- State of Utah and Ute Mountain Ute hunting and fishing laws should continue to apply within the monument.
- The Secretaries should be directed, upon request of the State of Utah, to negotiate with the state for an exchange of the state inholdings within the monument.
- The Secretaries should be authorized to draft regulations specifically governing matters related to the monument.
- The proclamation should provide for Collaborative Management, hopefully in the fashion that we have recommended in this proposal.
- The Secretaries should, working jointly with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Management Commission, be directed, within three years, to complete a management plan setting forth



requirements for the proper care and management so that all monument uses will proceed in a manner fully consistent with the purposes of the monument. The management plan should, to the maximum extent permitted by law, ensure the protection of Native American sacred and cultural sites in the monument and provide access to the sites by members of Indian tribes for traditional and cultural uses, including gathering of minerals, medicines, berries and other vegetation, forest products, and firewood.

- Grazing under existing permits or leases should continue under existing law.
- Firewood gathering should continue under current management proscriptions and then be subject to such provisions as adopted in the management plan.
- The monument should be added to the National Landscape Conservation System.
- There will also be several standard proclamation provisions, mostly relating to protecting existing rights, generally and specifically protecting Tribal rights, Federal withdrawals, rights of inholders, and existing water rights.

**Uses to be Addressed in the Management Plan:**

- With management standards in place, the Secretaries and the Commission will collaboratively administer and enforce the standards in the management plan. The management plan would also address non-regulatory matters such as scientific studies, including archaeology. (pg. 38)

# **Gold Butte Media Clip Book**

**August 18, 2016 – September 23, 2016**



**Petroglyph Panel in Gold Butte (T. Rylander)**



## Table of Contents

US Interior Chief Tours Solar Plant on Tribal Land in Nevada .....	3
Gold Butte Speaker Series opens Wednesday .....	5
Gallego, Reid call for more protection for federal lands, not less .....	6
Gold Butte's Ghost Town .....	8
Obama the Monument Maker .....	10
Protect Gold Butte as a National Monument now .....	12
National Parks and Monuments Free Today for 100th Anniversary .....	13
National Park Service Centennial .....	14
Protection of Nevada's Heritage is not a partisan issue .....	16
Gold Butte cannot wait any longer .....	17
Act now to protect Gold Butte .....	18
3 House Democrats Call for New National Monuments .....	19
Transfer of 87K acres to feds points to possible Maine park .....	20
Social media metrics for #protectgoldbutte, August 18-22 .....	22
Senator Harry Reid and Rep. Dina Titus are applying the pressure this week to protect Gold Butte .....	23
Reid, Titus, & Vegas Heavy Hitters Go All In For Gold Butte .....	24
Tribes push for national monument at site of Bundy standoff .....	26
Pressure for a new national monument .....	27
Jon Ralston interview with Rep. Dian Titus .....	27
Reid: Gold Butte National Monument "will happen before the first of the year" .....	28
Reid says he's 'confident' Obama will designate Gold Butte a national monument .....	31
In Nevada, Tribes Push To Protect Land At The Heart Of Bundy Ranch Standoff .....	33
Grazers, campers, ATVs damaging Nev.'s Gold Butte — report .....	35
Tribal Activists Push White House To Make Gold Butte A National Monument .....	38



## US Interior Chief Tours Solar Plant on Tribal Land in Nevada

Writer: Ken Ritter

Published: September 15, 2016

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell toured a vast solar energy array Thursday that's about ready to go online on an Indian reservation in Nevada, and signed an agreement with a tribal leader that gave a go-ahead for a similar plant nearby.

The nearly complete 250-megawatt Moapa Southern Paiute Solar Project was, in 2012, the first sun-to-electricity plant approved on tribal lands in the U.S.

A document that the nation's top land administrator signed with Moapa Band of Paiute Indians tribal Chairman Robert Tom put the 100-megawatt Aiya Solar Project past that same hurdle, called a record of decision.

Aiya — a name derived from the Southern Paiute word for tortoise — would be the third solar array planned by private partners with the tribe, which has about 350 members and a sprawling 112-square-mile reservation about 40 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

"This is the first tribe in the United States to have utility-scale solar on the reservation," Jewell said as she observed plentiful sunshine that she characterized as "spilled solar energy."

Of the 59 utility-scale renewable projects on federal land in the U.S., Jewell said, the Moapa have the only three on tribal land.

The tribe also plans a 200-megawatt solar plant on another part of a reservation perhaps best-known to Interstate 15 motorists for its travel stop and fireworks stand at a freeway exit leading to Nevada's Valley of Fire State Park.

"We hope this charts a path for a brighter future for all of Indian country as these resources are harnessed," Jewell said, "just as non-renewable energy resources were harnessed on Indian lands going back for many years."

Tribal Chairman Robert Tom called the solar projects key to providing financial and cultural security for descendants of the first inhabitants of an area west of the Colorado River that includes the scenic and artifact-rich Gold Butte area.

"It means a lot in economic development, as stewards of our land, and for our culture and our traditions." Tom said as he walked down a neat row of some of the nearly 4 million black panels, each resembling a very thin flat-screen TV. The entire site covers almost 2.2 square miles.

The sun was relentless. The view seemed limitless, some 20 miles from Arrowhead Canyon mountains on the west to the North Muddy Mountains in the east. There wasn't a tree or a cloud in sight.

Officials with First Solar Inc., the developer of both the existing and the proposed Ayia projects, said each solar panel collects energy with a hair-thin film of photovoltaic cadmium telluride pressed between glass plates.

Brian Kunz, a vice president of the publicly-traded firm, said the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has a 25-year agreement to buy the electricity — enough to power perhaps 100,000 homes.

Project manager Geoffrey Dewhurst said the system is already collecting electricity. After testing, which Dewhurst compared with "clicking batteries



together in the desert." the site should begin feeding the power grid by the end of the year.

Kunz declined to say how much the company invested to complete the project after buying it in 2013 from the initial developer, K Road Power Holdings. But he said a similar project might cost about \$500 million.

Jewell was making her third stop at a renewable energy site around the country since Friday, when she and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz talked in Boston about a wind energy project in the Atlantic Ocean.

On Wednesday, she stopped in Palm Springs, California, to highlight a renewable energy and conservation plan for 10 million acres of public land in the desert

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-interior-chief-tours-solar-plant-tribal-land-42122075>

## **Gold Butte Speaker Series opens Wednesday**

Writer: Jud Burkett

Published: September 9, 2016

Jim Boone and Tom Cluff are regarded locally as experts on Gold Butte.

They'll share what they know with everybody on Wednesday night when the Friends of Gold Butte Speaker Series in Mesquite returns for the 2016-17 season.

In their presentation, titled "Meet Gold Butte!," Boone and Cluff will speak about the ecology and geology of the area. In addition, Susan Holladay will show her photography of Gold Butte, and the Friends of Gold Butte will show a pair of short movies that highlight the cultural, historic and natural wonders of the region.

The speaker series runs from September through April. All monthly events are held inside the Mesquite Community Theatre, 150 N. Yucca St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Presentations begin at 7 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.

Located south of Mesquite, between the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Gold Butte covers some 350,000 acres. The Friends of Gold Butte is a non-profit organization with about 500 members that is working to achieve permanent protection for an area that they affectionately describe as Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2016/09/09/gold-butte-speaker-series-opens-wednesday/90149680/>



## Gallego, Reid call for more protection for federal lands, not less

Writer: Adam DeRose

Published: September 9, 2016

WASHINGTON – Western lawmakers joined Olympic pentathlete Margaux Isaksen Thursday to warn against attempts to move federal lands into state or private hands and to call on the president to use his authority to expand national monuments.

Isaksen joined Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Phoenix, and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada after writing a letter to a Colorado newspaper recently in which she lauded public lands for shaping her into the three-time Olympic athlete she is today.

“It’s part of America’s heritage. It’s something that’s not only important for our generations, but important for generations to come,” she said.

But Gallego said that heritage could be threatened by Republican-backed legislation.

“One of the biggest risks we’ve seen is the efforts by ... Republicans to use different types of legislation to either strip away some of these protections or to stop any future protections,” Gallego said, referring specifically to proposals backed by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah.

Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, introduced a bill to settle an ongoing land dispute in the Bears Ears region. The Utah Public Lands Initiative designates parts of the lands in eastern Utah for conservation purposes, others for recreational purposes and parts for development under “the belief that conservation and economic development can coexist.” according to a release about the bill.

The bill was introduced in July, but has yet to get a hearing.

“We’ve seen this land seizure movement that originated in Utah essentially stall in most of the Western states,” said Aaron Weiss with the Center for Western Priorities, which supports keeping public lands in federal hands.

Weiss cited a 2016 Colorado College poll in which only 33 percent of those surveyed in Western states supported proposals to shift management of public lands from the federal government to states. Fifty-eight percent of respondents opposed such efforts.

The opposition to such transfers was even stiffer in Arizona, where 29 percent of respondents supported state control of national public lands, while 65 percent surveyed opposed the idea, according to the poll.

Groups such as the American Lands Council say it’s not a matter of taking lands away from the public, but of putting those lands under the control of states which can better manage them based on local interests.

“The federal government routinely sells off our public lands to the highest bidder, and there is nothing the states can do about it,” said the council’s CEO Jennifer Fielder.

“Public lands are awesome, we just want them managed a lot better than what we are seeing from the distant, dysfunctional Washington, D.C., bureaucracy that presently controls over half of all land in western America.” said Fielder.

She criticized Reid as hypocritical, claiming the Obama administration sold \$85 million worth of public lands in Nevada this spring alone.

Reid on Thursday praised public lands in Nevada, specifically the Gold Butte site that he said

President Barack Obama should designate as a national monument, using his authority under the Antiquities Act.

Gallego said he supports efforts to name a 1.7 million acre site around the Grand Canyon as a national monument to protect its cultural and ecological importance.

“At a minimum we really need to look at the Grand Canyon National Monument designation,” Gallego said. “We all understand the Grand Canyon is our national park, but it’s also what feeds into it that is really important.”

Gallego said public land is important to veterans like him so they can “take a timeout from the

world” after returning from combat. That is especially true in a state like Arizona, which is home to the largest Ponderosa pine forest in the world and dramatic desert landscapes, in addition to the Grand Canyon.

“We certainly have a lot of work to do to protect our nation’s treasure, and we’ll have to keep doing it, unfortunately,” Gallego said.

Weiss said he is optimistic that the tide is moving away from efforts to remove stewardship of public lands from the federal government.

“We’re not declaring victory, but we’re confident that reasonable politicians from both parties realize this is not a winning issue,” he said.

<http://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2016/09/09/gallego-reid-call-for-more-protections-for-federal-lands-not-less/>



## Gold Butte's Ghost Town

Writer: Jud Burkett

Submitted: September 1, 2016

Since my first visit to Gold Butte earlier this year, I've been eager to get back out there.

My first trip was a guided visit with folks from Friends of Gold Butte to the Falling Man Petroglyph Site and Whitney Pockets. It was an amazing day, but I felt like I'd just scraped the very tip of the iceberg when it comes to all there is to see out there.

I knew there was a ghost town a good ways down into Gold Butte so for my second foray into the area I thought I'd take a trip down to the town site and see what there was to see along the way.

The town of Gold Butte was established when gold was discovered in the area in 1906. Due to the lack of wood and other construction materials in the area, however, it was less of a permanent settlement and more of a tent city.

While the town boasted about 2,000 residents, a post office and a saloon at its peak, the gold played out rather quickly and, by 1909, the post office in Gold Butte was closed due to a lack of residents in the area.

Mining in the area continued long after the town ceased to exist, however. Up until the end of the first World War, a nearby copper mine sent shipments of ore down to St. Thomas, another Nevada ghost town that until the recent drought lay under the waters of Lake Mead. From St. Thomas, the ore was shipped out by rail until falling copper prices made the mine unprofitable. There was also a lone pair of prospectors who called Gold Butte home for decades after everyone else had called it quits.

Arthur Coleman and William Garrett met in 1916 in Gold Butte as the town was already fading into

history. Locals reportedly called them the "odd pair" and "the long and the short of it," partly because Garrett, a rancher from Texas, stood about six feet tall while Coleman was just 5-foot-1.

The two men lived at Gold Butte, running cattle, scouring for gold on the hillsides and distilling moonshine in the shack they shared until Coleman died in 1958 at the age of 82. Garrett died three years later in 1961 at the age of 81. Both men were buried in Gold Butte and their graves are among the few signs of former human habitation left in Gold Butte.

In April 2014, while Bureau of Land Management officers and supporters of Cliven Bundy were facing off in Bunkerville, about 30 miles north of the ghost town, Coleman's grave was desecrated, and pieces of his coffin and bones were left scattered around the gravesite.

Authorities have been unable to determine who was responsible or why they vandalized the grave. The bones were collected by the Clark County Coroner's Office and sent for DNA testing but the results were inconclusive.

Earlier this year, Coleman's remains were returned to the site and reinterred. The mortuary in Moapa Valley donated a pair of concrete burial vault lids that were placed over both Coleman and Garrett's graves to hopefully deter anyone else from violating the site.

While there's not a lot left of the ghost town at Gold Butte, there are some foundations, the rusting parts of old machinery and a few abandoned mine shafts. It's a long journey out there, it's over 30 miles down the main Gold Butte road to the town site but there are plenty of BLM signs directing the way.

After leaving Interstate 15 at the Bunkerville exit, you turn right just after crossing the bridge over the Virgin River. The road is paved for the first half of the journey, all the way to Whitney Pockets, although I use the term "paved" very loosely.

From there the road is dirt but well graded and could very easily be traveled in a car but at least having a higher clearance vehicle would be wise.

This is rugged country. Be prepared, bring plenty of water and make sure your spare tire is properly inflated. While the road is graded, there are sharp rocks out there than can make quick work of a tire if you hit them at just the right angle.

I took a short detour along the way and stopped at the Devil's Throat, a sinkhole that's about 80 feet wide and 120 feet deep. I'm sure there's a fascinating story behind the formation of this huge hole in the earth but it suffers

from the fact that there is nothing out there that describes what you're seeing. When Gold Butte is protected as a national monument, as I believe it should be, I'm looking forward to things like interpretive signs that I'm sure will be among some of the first improvements made out there.

Driving through Gold Butte, I had to marvel at some of the rock formations I passed along the way. Red sandstone, gold colored sandstone, jagged cliffs and other spectacular geological formations dot the landscape at irregular intervals. I passed through a valley filled with Joshua trees just before arriving at Gold Butte and had to stop numerous times to pull out my camera and grab pictures.

It's an enormous and vast landscape and while I feel like I'm getting to know it a little better, I still think I might be able to spend a lifetime out there, like Garrett and Coleman did, and still not have seen all there is to see in Gold Butte.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/life/outdoors/2016/09/01/gold-buttles-ghost-town/89668546/>



# The New York Times

## Obama the Monument Maker

Writer: Douglas Brinkley

Published: August 27, 2016

President Obama seems most comfortable outside on an 18-hole golf course, not hunting bear in Colorado, as Theodore Roosevelt did while president in 1905, or deep-sea fishing for tarpon in the Texas Gulf, as Franklin D. Roosevelt, an avid angler, did on a getaway from the White House in 1937.

Yet as president, Mr. Obama has visited more than 30 national parks and emerged as a 21st-century Theodore Roosevelt for his protection of public lands and marine reserves. His use of the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives a president unilateral authority to protect federal lands as national monuments, has enabled him to establish 23 new monuments, more than any other president, and greatly expand a few others.

On Wednesday, he set aside some 87,000 acres of federal land along the Penobscot River in north-central Maine as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The action will safeguard the wild country around the 5,267-foot Mount Katahdin, the state's highest peak. Then, on Friday, he announced a fourfold expansion of a marine monument designated by President George W. Bush off the coast of Hawaii.

The Maine land was a gift to the federal government from the foundation created by Roxanne Quimby, a co-founder of Burt's Bees, maker of lip balm and body care products. She also pledged \$40 million to support the new monument.

Ms. Quimby's gift is a reminder of the role that philanthropists have long played in protecting treasured landscapes. In 1907, the San Francisco Bay Area businessman William Kent presented the first President Roosevelt with a 295-acre old-growth redwood grove in Marin County, Calif. Today it is Muir Woods National Monument. In 1943, the

second President Roosevelt accepted a gift of 222,000 acres in western Wyoming from John D. Rockefeller Jr. The president designated the pristine valley Jackson Hole National Monument, later incorporated into Grand Teton National Park.

Only a fool would argue that the Roosevelts were wrong to have saved those scenic wonders. The same can be said of President Obama's actions last week. In 1846, after adventuring in that northern forest, Henry David Thoreau mused in "The Maine Woods": "Why should not we, who have renounced the king's authority, have our national preserves... for inspiration and our own true recreation?"

Teddy Roosevelt became the first president to use the Antiquities Act when he set aside Devils Tower in Wyoming. Two years later, he protected more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon, offering this rationale as development threatened to overrun it: "Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see."

Since preserving Devils Tower, he and 14 of his successors have designated some 150 national monuments.

Wild landscapes are not the only places that have been protected. President Obama has also pushed the National Park Service to be more multicultural in interpreting America's past. Toward that end, he has established history-minded national monuments honoring César E. Chávez in California; Harriet Tubman in Maryland; the Stonewall Inn in New York; Belmont-Paul, home to the National Woman's Party, in Washington, D.C.; and the Honouliuli Internment Camp, where Japanese-Americans were held during World War II. These

places are reminders of the struggles for equality and dignity that have been part of the nation's history.

Now, in the park service's centennial year, President Obama should use his last months in office to preserve more places wild and historic. I suggest these four:

### **1. Castner Range, Texas**

This former artillery range adjacent to the city of El Paso rises up from the desert and comprises 7,000 acres of rugged mountains, canyons and arroyos in the Franklin Mountains. In the 1950s, the novelist Jack Kerouac extolled the view from these heights in "The Dharma Bums", writing of seeing "all of Mexico, all of Chihuahua, the entire sand-glittering desert of it, under a late sinking moon that was huge and bright." The Defense Department declared this range "excess land" in 1971.

### **2. Grand Canyon, Arizona**

In 2012, President Obama ordered a 20-year moratorium on new mining claims on one million acres of federal land abutting Grand Canyon National Park. That was a fine start. But 1.7 million acres ringing the rugged canyon should be declared the Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument to

protect the entire watershed from new uranium mines and safeguard the health of the Native Americans who have lived there for generations.

### **3. Bears Ears, Utah**

This remote, 1.9 million-acre area is sacred to the region's native tribes. With an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites, it is one of the nation's most significant cultural and historical landscapes. But looting and desecration are taking their toll.

### **4. Gold Butte, Nevada**

This 350,000-acre desert landscape, not far from Las Vegas, has been called southern Nevada's "piece of the Grand Canyon." It's a mind-boggling geographic vortex where the Great Basin, the Mojave and Sonoran deserts and Colorado Plateau all meet. Sadly, the priceless panels of petroglyphs at Gold Butte, of world-heritage value, were vandalized recently. Increased protection for the ancestral home of the Moapa band of Paiutes and critical habitat for the desert tortoise is sorely needed.

Douglas Brinkley is a history professor at Rice University and the author of "Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/28/opinion/sunday/obama-the-monument-maker.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/28/opinion/sunday/obama-the-monument-maker.html?_r=0)





## **Protect Gold Butte as a National Monument now**

Guest Writer: Brenda Slocumb

Submitted: August 25, 2016

In response to Michael Davidson's article regarding protection of Gold Butte, I strongly agree that the area needs protection. Gold Butte is truly an historic, cultural and geological treasure that should be properly managed and preserved for future generations. The damage reported is real, and will affect the land for years to come.

By and large, people that visit places such as Gold Butte are there to learn, enjoy and respect the natural and historic wonders available to them. Gold Butte's landscape is rugged, beautiful and fragile, and unfortunately has been impacted

negatively by disrespectful human activities. In this case, a few careless acts have spoiled the landscape for others.

This issue has been politicized to death by numerous groups seeking to lump it together with other issues and garner support for political agendas, rather than seeking to do the best thing possible for the land itself. This is not a partisan issue. Regardless of political affiliation, this is simply a case of doing the right thing. Protect Gold Butte as a National Monument now.

## National Parks and Monuments Free Today for 100th Anniversary

Writer: Suzanne Potter

Published: August 25, 2016

LAS VEGAS — All national parks and monuments are free to visit through August 28 in honor of the founding of the National Park Service 100 years ago. Conservation and political leaders, including Senator Harry Reid and Representative Dina Titus gathering at the Federal Building in Las Vegas to celebrate places such as Lake Mead, Great Basin and Tule Springs.

Mauricia Baca, executive director at the nonprofit Outside Las Vegas Foundation, said the state's public lands are an integral part of the Nevadans' quality of life.

"The national parks are among our greatest treasures," Baca said. "And we need to really value them and care for them."

But the state Legislature had different ideas about federal public lands. In May 2015, state lawmakers passed a joint resolution calling on Congress to transfer 7 million acres of federal land to the State of Nevada.

Conservation advocates such as Baca have renewed their call for President Obama to create a new national monument at Gold Butte.

"Currently, without that designation, elements such as the petroglyphs that exist in Gold Butte are really out there receiving no care and no special attention," Baca said. "And they need that extra level of protection so that we have that legacy that can endure for generations."

According to Baca, the outdoor economy generates almost \$15 billion a year in Nevada.

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-08-25/public-lands-wilderness/national-parks-and-monuments-free-today-for-100th-anniversary/a53732-1>



# MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

## National Park Service Centennial

Guest Writer: Special to the MLN

Submitted: August 24, 2016

LCV and U.S. Reps. Grijalva, Titus, and O'Rourke Call for New Parks. The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) along with Rep Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Dina Titus (D-NV), and Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) held a tele-press conference to mark the centennial of the National Park Service and call for the protection for more special places.

On the call, LCV and these members of Congress discussed the importance of our national parks, the need to build an all-encompassing parks system, which is reflective of our country's rich history and diverse cultures and to highlight the efforts to permanently protect spaces, including the Greater Grand Canyon, Gold Butte, and Castner Range.

"Establishing Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will protect the natural and cultural resources of the Grand Canyon region and diversify our national parks system at the same time," said Congressman Grijalva. "That's why I've been working with Native American and environmental advocates for the past 18 months to highlight the importance of getting this done before President Obama leaves office. Naming this monument will defend our magnificent open spaces from privatization, save our cultural heritage from vandalism and neglect, preserve centuries of history, and tell an important story about the future of our public lands. I look forward to seeing it through."

"Gold Butte is Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, and we need to protect this incredible landscape for future generations," said Congresswoman Titus. "The cultural and historical resources there provide a glimpse into Nevada's past; preserving them and the precious open spaces and wildlife will provide a boost to our outdoor

recreation economy and help us tell our story for years to come."

"Castner Range is the crown jewel of West Texas," said Congressman O'Rourke. "It deserves to be protected and preserved in its natural state."

"Over the past 100 years our national parks have been a huge part of our nation's history. In the next 100 years we need to continue to grow our parks system to ensure that we are not only safeguarding the diverse cultures and history of our country but are protecting more magnificent landscapes as well," said LCV President Gene Karpinski. "No one understands this more than President Obama who has already permanently protected over 265 million acres of land and water and worked to build a more inclusive parks system by designating places like the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, the Stonewall National Monument, the César E. Chávez National Monument, the Pullman National Monument, and more."

"As the National Park System heads into its next 100 years it is our duty to preserve these parks and natural resources by recognizing the value that protected land has for our generation and generations to come," said VP & National Director of LCV's Chispa Program Jennifer Allen. "Our legacy should be to protect our nation's treasures, the places providing all our communities with exceptional recreational opportunities to gather, celebrate and explore, and a chance to get back to our native roots."

The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will help to permanently protect land and waters sacred to Native Americans, sensitive habitats, and historic places surrounding the Grand Canyon National Park. As Ranking Member on the

House Natural Resources Committee Congressman Grijalva has been a leading voice in helping to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. This monument is supported by regional tribes and people in Arizona and across the county.

The Gold Butte National Monument will conserve the unique scenery, wildlife, cultural heritage as well as the historic and prehistoric resources in southern Nevada. Gold Butte is where visitors can go hiking, hunting and birdwatching while learning about this historic mining town from the early 1900's. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), Congresswoman Titus, and people all over Nevada

and the Southwest are working to protect Gold Butte for generations to come.

The Castner Range National Monument will safeguard this beautiful landscape that has important ecology, geology and waterways as well as significant cultural sites and historic military sites in El Paso, Texas. Congressman O'Rourke along with community leaders, local business, conservation groups and neighborhood associations all support designating the Castner Range National Monument, because it will preserve this pristine landscape that has significant archaeological and historical resources as well as military sites and ancient rock imagery sites.

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2016/08/national-park-service-centennial/>





## **Protection of Nevada's Heritage is not a partisan issue**

Guest Writer: Berry Chapman

Submitted: August 24, 2016

Protection of Nevada's Heritage is not a partisan issue. In the article published August 18, "Reid says he's 'confident' Obama will designate Gold Butte a national monument", Senator Heller and Congressman Hardy talk about a Congressional process for Gold Butte as optimal and conservationists agree.

Friends of Gold Butte and other groups spent years working with locals developing support, hearing concerns and with Senator Reid's help crafted a bill that then sat in Congress for years because Senator Heller and party refused to acknowledge the tremendous effort all sides showed in the creation of that bill. A Congressional process was preferred from the beginning but proved to be ineffective even when everyone had a seat at the table.

The problem is while we sit and talk about the details those details are being destroyed and lost. Gold Butte cannot wait another 10 plus years for a Congressional process that will lead us nowhere. If we wait for that there will be little left to protect. Gold Butte needs protection now. Senator Reid and Representative Titus both know it. Hopefully the Senator is right and President Obama is realizing Gold Butte can't wait any longer – for another damage report as Representative Titus stated.

A recent poll found that over 70% of all Nevadans: democrat, republican, and in between, think Gold Butte should be protected as a national monument. It's clear that Nevadans want to see a Gold Butte National Monument now.



## **Gold Butte cannot wait any longer**

Guest Writer: Sandy Ramaker

Submitted: August 24, 2016

I was so disappointed to see the last report put out by Friends of Gold Butte documenting all the destruction that's taken place in Gold Butte since the Bundy stand-off in April 2014. I saw the article published August 18<sup>th</sup>. "Reid says he's 'confident' Obama will designate Gold Butte a national monument"; and I'm furious to hear that it's still continuing! I would have thought bringing attention to the destruction and making clear that these actions are not permitted, the first time would have led to enforcement or at the very least some self-policing.

Gold Butte is such a treasure! The petroglyphs, historic sites and rock features are for all Americans

to enjoy, not destroy. Gold Butte cannot wait any longer for protection.

Friends of Gold Butte is a group of recreationists and concerned locals who are watching one of their favorite places to explore endure irreversible destruction and don't want to stand idly by saying nothing. This group is highlighting disrespect some visitors are expressing at Gold Butte and they are asking for someone to make it stop. We need to join them, as Nevadans who care for the public lands in our backyard and ask President Obama to stop this destruction before, as Representative Titus mentioned, another damage report is compiled and released. Gold Butte cannot wait any longer. We need to protect Gold Butte now.



## **Act now to protect Gold Butte**

Guest Writer: Dr. Janet Carter

Published: August 24, 2016

Anyone who has enjoyed our beautiful public lands such as Lamoille Canyon here in Elko County can appreciate how important it is to protect such areas from damage and vandalism. Yet elsewhere in our state, the lands of Gold Butte are being increasingly degraded.

The recently released report, *Damage in Gold Butte, Nevada*, tells of an increase in vandalism and related incidents in this Nevada treasure. Gold Butte has great historical importance to our state, and contains prehistoric petroglyphs, amazing wildlife, and remains of Civilian Conservation Corps infrastructure projects from the 1930s. Yet these

historical sites have been victims of graffiti, vandalism, illegal off-road vehicle use, non-permitted water developments, and other serious threats to the environmental and historical value of these lands.

Every day that Gold Butte goes unprotected more pieces of this incredible piece of Nevada landscape are lost forever. Now is the time to protect this area for all of us to treasure and enjoy. Please join me in asking President Obama to use the Antiquities Act as it was intended and designate Gold Butte as a National Monument.

[http://elkodaily.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-act-now-to-protect-gold-butte/article\\_c053f764-f39c-5043-988a-6bdceb2966d5.html](http://elkodaily.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-act-now-to-protect-gold-butte/article_c053f764-f39c-5043-988a-6bdceb2966d5.html)

### 3 House Democrats Call for New National Monuments

Writer: Jack Fitzpatrick

Published: August 23, 2016

Three western House Democrats called for President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to create a new national monument in each of their states Tuesday, as the National Park Service nears its 100th birthday on Thursday.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, renewed his call for Obama to preserve a large swath of land around Grand Canyon National Park. Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.) promoted the idea of a monument in the Gold Butte area of southern Nevada. And Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-Texas) called for the Park Service to incorporate an old U.S. Army artillery range, left unused since 1966, at Castner Range, in El Paso.

League of Conservation Voters President Gene Karpinski told reporters on a conference call he is "cautiously optimistic" about the potential creation of a national monument in Maine Woods, a proposed 87,000-acre area in Maine.

The lawmakers acknowledged that conservation advocates aren't likely to see Congress pass legislation creating new national parks, so they're calling on Obama to use the controversial Antiquities Act, which allows the president to establish large portions of land as monuments without Congress's consent. Since taking office, Obama has set aside 260 million acres of land and water as national monuments, according to the White House.

<https://morningconsult.com/alert/3-house-democrats-call-new-national-monuments/>



## Transfer of 87K acres to feds points to possible Maine park

Writer: Corbin Hair

Published: August 23, 2016

A reported transfer of more than 87,000 acres from the founder of Burt's Bees to the federal government today suggests that President Obama is likely to declare a national monument in central Maine in the coming days.

Maine's Penobscot County Registry of Deeds said 13 deeds covering 87,563 acres in the area of the proposed monument were transferred at 10:10 a.m. from a company owned by Roxanne Quimby, the skin care millionaire, to an entity listed as "The United States of America," the Bangor Daily News reported.

The deeds were reportedly signed by Quimby as the grantor and by Rachel McManus, a deputy realty officer with the National Park Service, as the grantee.

Gene Karpinski, president of the League of Conservation Voters, told reporters on a call today that his group has been "very active in the Maine woods effort." He added: "We are cautiously optimistic that we will hear something about that soon. I couldn't say any more than that. And obviously, the big date is just around the corner on Thursday, so stay tuned and let's see what we hear."

Karpinski was referring to the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, a high-profile event that Obama may use to attract attention to the official designation of a new monument.

When asked to confirm or comment on the land transfer, White House spokesman Patrick Rodenbush said only that "I don't have any announcements for you today."

A representative of the Quimby family did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Arizona Rep. Raúl Grijalva, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, told reporters that the timing of such an order "is the White House's prerogative." But he also said, "I think that that is potentially something that could happen sooner than later."

Obama could use the 1906 Antiquities Act to create the Maine Woods and Waters National Monument, despite local and congressional opposition to the proposal (Greenwire, June 2).

Such a move would be a major victory for Quimby and her son, Lucas St. Clair, the public face of the family's monument campaign. They initially sought to have Congress pass legislation establishing the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park but last year began focusing on securing a presidential monument designation as an interim step (Greenwire, Dec. 1, 2015).

The Quimby family has argued that protecting the forests once relied on by the state's hard-hit timber industry would create new economic opportunities for the region and ensure public access to the land.

But many former mill workers and Rep. Bruce Poliquin (R-Maine), who represents the region, are against the monument proposal because they believe it would hamper a potential revitalization of the timber industry and could lead to restrictions on snowmobiling, hunting and other recreational pursuits.

Meanwhile, Grijalva and Democratic Reps. Dina Titus of Nevada and Beto O'Rourke of Texas also

called on the president to create monuments in their states, which they said would protect important natural and cultural resources.

During the call organized by LCV, Grijalva reiterated his support for protecting 1.7 million acres of the Grand Canyon watershed. Titus, whose

district includes much of Las Vegas, advocated for a monument in the 350,000-acre area north of Sin City known as Gold Butte. And O'Rourke pitched the recreational and educational potential of his plan to turn the 7,000-acre Castner Range near El Paso, Texas, into a park.



# Social media metrics for #protectgoldbutte, August 18-22

## Real-time Tracker #ProtectGoldButte

AUG 18 AUG 22

474

150

775,026

1,859,070

### Timeline



### Top Posts

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**Senator Harry Reid and Rep. Dina Titus are applying the pressure this week to protect Gold Butte**

Writer: Steve Sebelius

Published: August 21, 2016

Starting at 9:45 <http://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/politics-now-82116>





## Reid, Titus, & Vegas Heavy Hitters Go All In For Gold Butte

Writer: Andrew Davey

Published: August 19, 2016

Yesterday, something incredible happened at The Foundation Room. And no, it had nothing to do with any illicit affairs involving any Hollywood celebrities.

Rather, US Senator Harry Reid (D), Rep. Dina Titus (D-Paradise), & other key Southern Nevada community leaders made it clear where they stand in the ongoing saga over Gold Butte & the Bundys. Yesterday, they made it clear they want President Obama to #ProtectGoldButte before he leaves office.

In front of an audience of local media & Gold Butte advocates, Senator Reid threw down. After sharing a personal story of a favorite hiking spot near Searchlight that would later be lost to development, Reid vowed to everything in his power to ensure the same fate wouldn't fall upon Gold Butte. He then excoriated Congressional Republicans, such as Reps. Crescent Hardy (R-Bunkerville) & Joe Heck (R-Henderson), for blocking nearly every bill aiming to protect environmentally sensitive public lands. And even though Reid didn't mention them by name, it wasn't too difficult to figure out how Senator Reid feels about the #BundyRanch "Range War" against the federal government.

Just before Reid took to the podium to read #BundyRanch to filth, Titus sang the praises of Gold Butte.

But wait, why would the Congresswoman who represents the Fabulous Las Vegas Strip care at all about a plot of open space near the Arizona state line? Titus explained the importance of public lands like Gold Butte for all of Nevada. For one, some of those 42 million tourists who visit Las Vegas every

year want to go out and actually experience "The Wild West" for themselves. Why not welcome these visitors with open arms to our beautiful open spaces?

This sentiment was echoed by none other than Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resort Association. She noted how protecting special places like Gold Butte is good for business.

Former Nevada Sheriffs & Chiefs Association President and current Mesquite resident Frank Adams chimed in with another important perspective. Not only does Adams live just a short drive away from Gold Butte, but he's also a registered Republican. So what on earth was he doing at The Foundation Room? For Adams, this isn't a partisan issue.

And that wasn't the only show of unity on top of Mandalay Bay yesterday. Former Chair of the Nevada Band of Paiutes William Anderson explained the significance of Gold Butte for Native Americans. He spoke just after Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority (LVCVA) President Rossi Ralenkotter reiterated the economic significance of protecting critical public lands. Both asked for bold action to #ProtectGoldButte before it's too late.

At the end of the program, we were asked to look outside. From a distance, there was Gold Butte. Way out there was the land we were talking about over here. It's way out there, yet it's only about 100 miles away. And as "out there" as it seems, it's a part of our story here.

So how will this story end? Will Gold Butte continue to be the plagued by #BundyRanch lawlessness? Will it be stuck in some sort of odd legal purgatory? Or will it be saved? Will there be a brighter future for “Nevada’s Piece of the Grand Canyon”?

<http://letstalknevada.com/author/andrew-davey/>

Much has been said about the “divisive rancor” that’s come to define this election season. Perhaps not enough is being said about what brings Nevadans & Americans together. One such issue is protecting public lands like Gold Butte. So why are certain elected “leaders” treating it like it’s “controversial”? And how much more public outcry must there be until The White House takes action?



## **Tribes push for national monument at site of Bundy standoff**

Writer: Kirk Siegler

Published: August 19, 2016

With President Obama's term in office set to draw to a close, Native American tribes are ramping up pressure on the administration to designate several national monuments on federal land in the West to protect archaeological and cultural resources that they consider sacred.

Vernon Lee, a former tribal councilman for the Moapa Band of Paiutes, scoffed when rancher Cliven Bundy began claiming that his family of pioneers had ancestral rights to land on Gold Butte, Nev.

The tribe was granted the land in the 1800s, but the U.S. government has since shrunk its land holdings tenfold. Now, the tribe's reservation is just a small sliver near a coal-fired power plant, north of where Bundy made a standoff against Bureau of Land Management officials in 2014.

"To be quite candid, I wish they would give it all back," Lee said. "But realistically, that probably won't happen."

Instead, the tribe is urging Obama to designate a national monument at Gold Butte, where cow pies and gunshot holes pepper ancient petroglyphs, pottery and arrowheads on the BLM land the tribe was once able to protect.

Tribal activists, however, are pessimistic, especially given the controversy surrounding the administration's national monument proposal at Bears Ears in Utah.

"I can't help but think we're just playing political football," Lee said. "I don't think anybody wants to move and do anything for Indian Country because it's not a popular thing to do, and it's all about the votes" (Kirk Siegler, NPR, Aug. 18). — NS



### **Pressure for a new national monument**

Writer: Steve Sebelius

Published: August 18, 2016

Senator Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus are applying the pressure this week. Both want President Obama to declare the Gold Butte area a national monument before he leaves office. Reid says he has talked with the president about it multiple times. the land has been a flashpoint in the

debate over who should control public lands. this week on politics now. Dina Titus tells Steve Sebelius about their efforts: "You not only have to designate it, you have to put some resources behind it so you would have some fences, so surveillance, be able to really protect it"

<http://my.tvey.es/f4WRj>



### **Jon Ralston interview with Rep. Dian Titus**

Writer: Jon Ralston

Published: August 18, 2016

Interview from 0.0 to 5:03

<http://www.ktnv.com/ralston>



## Reid: Gold Butte National Monument "will happen before the first of the year"

Writer: Jud Burkett

Published: August 18, 2016

LAS VEGAS — Sen. Harry Reid is sure of it: Gold Butte will soon become a national monument.

The Senate Minority Leader, along with Nevada Democratic Rep. Dina Titus, William Anderson, former chairman of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, and representatives from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and the Nevada Resort Association, held a press conference on Thursday to announce the release of a new report detailing damage done over the past year at Gold Butte near Mesquite.

Reid told reporters and supporters of the effort to provide greater protection to Gold Butte that he would continue to push President Obama to designate Gold Butte as a national monument and that "it is going to happen before the first of the year."

Reid, who introduced legislation in 2013 that would have designated Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area, said the only reason Gold Butte hadn't already received greater protection was because "Republicans hate public lands."

Gold Butte is an area of about 350,000 acres of public lands that sits between the Overton Arm of Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument just west of Mesquite. Most of the area is currently designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in order to protect the habitat of endangered desert tortoise and bighorn sheep, along with significant cultural resources in the area like petroglyphs, historic mining sites and pioneer-era artifacts.

Gold Butte is currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management but was left

unmanaged and unpatrolled for more than two years following the 2014 standoff between Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and BLM officials who sought to remove Bundy's cattle from the area.

Bundy has since been arrested in connection with the standoff and his illegal grazing of cattle in Gold Butte, but his livestock still roam the area.

One of the most significant signs of damage detailed in the new report produced by the Friends of Gold Butte, a non-profit group dedicated to achieving permanent protection for the land, is an intensive system of irrigation trenches and livestock watering tanks that have been placed in Gold Butte.

"The appalling thing about it is it's 22 miles of trenching and laying water pipe in the ground," said Jaina Moan, executive director of Friends of Gold Butte. "That's like the width of the Las Vegas Valley. It's a pretty significant thing for somebody to do on a landscape that's designated as an area of critical environmental concern to protect a species that is threatened with extinction."

Other damages detailed in the report include illegal incursions of off-highway vehicles into sensitive areas destroying vegetation and tortoise habitat and significant damage to cultural and historical artifacts in the area, including petroglyph panels that have been riddled with bullet holes.

"For thousands of years, our people have roamed this area. We don't have books. We don't have documents that show where we're from and what we're about," said Anderson. "What we did was we'd tell stories, and we also had other signs like petroglyphs, and we'd pass it on from generation to generation."

"To find out that things are being done there to desecrate the land, to have skeletal remains removed, to have pottery removed, Indian paint removed, to have people actually shoot at the petroglyphs —they have no respect for our culture."

Anderson was particularly upset at vandals who completely removed the ancient rock writing from the area.

"People are cutting into the rock and removing the petroglyphs from the rock. It leaves this empty space where once our people had something that we'd share. To me, I want to share that with my son, and hopefully other generations will be able to share that and say, 'This is our culture; this is our tie to where we're at.'

Titus said the need to protect Gold Butte from further damage is gaining traction, not just among environmentalists but in the Las Vegas business community.

"This is not some new frivolous effort; it's not just a few little greenies wanting to save a patch of the desert out there that's not significant. This is our piece of the Grand Canyon," she said. "This is a place that deserves to be protected. Our business and our industry (leaders) are recognizing it, too. This is about quality of life, and it also brings economic income to the area, especially as we appeal to international tourists who want to come here and visit."

Titus added that greater protections for Gold Butte are favored by a majority of Nevadans, as well.

"A poll shows 71 percent of people across all party lines think this is a good idea," Titus said. "So as we look at the damage done — 22 miles out there of trench that's been dug — we've got to protect it now. We cannot wait another year for another report."

When asked if she felt a monument designation might lead to another standoff and what the government's response might be, Titus said "I think that's already in progress."

She added, "You've seen arrests made; you've seen charges filed; you've seen public opinion shift, even in the neighborhood where the Bundys were in Mesquite. The legitimate ranchers and industry here in Nevada did not support the Bundys because they pay their fees, so I don't think you're gonna have the kind of standoff that you had before. I think those days are over."

While Republicans in Congress have blocked his attempts to legislate further protections for Gold Butte, Reid said, the land deserves to be preserved.

"That little place — a lot of people think is not worth the trouble, not far from Las Vegas — it is stunning in its uniqueness, and it's something we have to preserve and protect," Reid said. "Why hasn't it been done up to this time? I'll tell you why: Republicans hate public lands. They have done everything they can to destroy our ability to work on public lands. Things that used to be routine like naming places, changing boundaries of places, we don't do that now. There's a group of people in the House and the Senate who hate public lands, and they're able to stop everything."

Reid pointed out that there is a way around the GOP and their hatred of public lands, however.

"Theodore Roosevelt, the Republican president, had the same problem a long time ago, and he did something about it," said Reid. "His people checked on it, and there was a law on the books, the Antiquities Act, and he said, 'I'm going to use that. I'm going to go around Congress and do it on my own.'"

Reid said President Obama can and should use that same Antiquities Act.

"I've talked with the president; I'll continue to do so; I'm going to see him again on Thursday," Reid said. "He knows how I feel about this. I've talked to the Secretary of the Interior. We're going to continue pushing this. It's going to happen."

And Reid encouraged those in attendance to continue the push to protect Gold Butte.



“I’m here today to protect part of America, part of Nevada; that is so meaningful that we all should care, as I know we do. So let’s be missionaries.

Let’s tell others how important this is. We need to tell people: Keep your damn hands off of public lands.”

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/2016/08/18/reid-gold-butte-national-monument-happen-before-first-year/88973730/>



## Reid says he's 'confident' Obama will designate Gold Butte a national monument

Writer: Michael Scott Davidson

Published: August 18, 2016

U.S. Sen. Harry Reid said Thursday he's "confident" that President Barack Obama will designate Gold Butte as a national monument before leaving office in January.

"It's going to happen," Reid, D-Nev., the Senate minority leader, said to an audience of more than 50 gathered inside Mandalay Bay's Foundation Room.

"We just want it to happen before the first of the year."

Such a designation would be the president's second in Nevada, and would widen federal protections to maintain Gold Butte's historic significance.

Gold Butte lies south of Mesquite near the Arizona border. It is roughly 350,000 acres of government-protected conservation land and wilderness managed by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

The property is home to the desert tortoise, a historic mining town and ancient Native American petroglyphs and artifacts.

But those natural and historical resources are being threatened, a local conservation advocacy group reported.

Reid's remarks came during a press conference to announce the release of the second damage report created by Friends of Gold Butte.

The nonprofit group's executive director, Jaina Moan, said the report documented vandalism, illegal incursions by off-road vehicles and 22 miles

of illegal trenches through habitats to lay a water pipe.

"We felt like it was important for people to realize and understand the extent of the damage that was happening out there," Moan said. "We don't believe this is the way you treat our public lands." Neither does Reid.

In 2013 and 2015, he proposed legislation to protect Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area. But the bills did not come to fruition.

On Thursday, Reid made it clear he blamed the Republican Party for the efforts' failures.

"They have done everything they can to destroy our ability to work on public lands," he said.

But Obama can bypass Congress using executive authority under the Antiques Act of 1906 to designate Gold Butte as a national monument. Doing so would allow the property to be managed more like a national park.

Obama has used the power in Nevada before.

In 2015 he designated the 704,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument in remote areas of Lincoln and Nye counties.

Expanding protections for Gold Butte could limit further development and commercial use of the property.

Now with defiant Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy and some of his anti-government militia backers in jail, it seems like a prime opportunity for



the Obama administration to step in. In April 2014, Bundy and law enforcement had an armed standoff after federal officials began rounding up Bundy's cattle that were grazing in Gold Butte.

Speaking at Thursday's press conference, Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., said it's time for the government to protect the area.

"We cannot wait another year for another (damage) report," she said.

Other lawmakers, including U.S. Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., and Congressman Crescent Hardy, R-Nev., have opposed a national monument designation.

"The establishment of any new national monument in the State of Nevada, regardless of location, ought to be considered in the public Congressional

process," Heller wrote in an April letter to Obama. "Only through this type of process, not unilateral action by the executive, can we ensure all parties, including those who support and oppose a given measure, have an equal opportunity to voice their opinions."

On Thursday, Heller spokesman Neal Patel said Heller's position has not changed.

Hardy offered a similar view on the issue.

"The Gold Butte stunt we saw on the Strip today further peddled the false narrative that designating a national monument is the only way to protect our public lands," he said in a statement. "I think there's a better way to protect our natural heritage, and it starts by allowing Nevada's elected representatives to have a vote in Congress."

<http://m.reviewjournal.com/news/nevada/reid-says-he-s-confident-obama-will-designate-gold-butte-national-monument>

## In Nevada, Tribes Push To Protect Land At The Heart Of Bundy Ranch Standoff

Writer: kirk Siegler

Published: August 18, 2016

When rancher Cliven Bundy claimed his family of Mormon pioneers had "ancestral" rights to the federal land in and around Gold Butte, Nevada, Vernon Lee scoffed.

"As a native, and as the tribe that actually had that land granted by the federal government back in the 1800s, he really doesn't got a right at all," Lee says. "If anybody's got a right it would be the Moapa Band of Paiutes."

A former tribal councilman, Lee is sitting on a lawn chair in the shade of his mobile home on the Moapa River Reservation.

An air conditioner hanging from a side window hums. He swats away flies as he recalls how the tribe's land once included all of Gold Butte, but was later shrunk tenfold by the US Government. Today the reservation is just this small sliver of desert north of Cliven Bundy's place and adjacent to a coal-fired power plant.

"To be quite candid I wish they would give it all back, but realistically that probably won't happen," Lee says.

So the Southern Paiute tribes in Nevada are proposing another plan. Now that Bundy and many of his militia followers have been arrested by federal authorities, they sense a small window of opportunity before President Obama leaves office. They want him to designate Gold Butte as a national monument.

"We want to protect the lands, we want to protect the animals and we want our sacred sites protected," Lee says. "Right now the best thing we can think of is to go on the side of this creation of a monument."

### Vandalism of Sacred Sites

Such a designation would be a bittersweet end to an especially rough few years for the tribes. After the armed standoff on the Bundy Ranch, the federal government stopped managing Gold Butte entirely due to safety concerns. Until recently, it was lawless.

Kenny Anderson, cultural director for the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, recounts a recent walk through Gold Butte with a group of elders.

He noted that the Bundy family's cows are still trespassing in the area.

"There was petroglyphs that they were walking on, there was cow patties everywhere," Anderson says. "And I'm saying, dang, what the heck?"

It's not just the cows that Anderson and other tribal members are concerned about. They've documented evidence of people shooting bullets at ancient petroglyphs carved into rocks, theft of pottery and arrowheads. There are photos of off-road vehicle tracks cutting across plants native people have gathered for centuries to make paint and baskets.

"I don't know if it's because of they weren't told about things like this or maybe they weren't concerned with what history is," Anderson says. "It's a mystery."

Thursday in Las Vegas, tribal leaders joined U.S. Senator Harry Reid and other conservationists to issue a more detailed report of what they say is extensive damage and vandalism in Gold Butte. The event followed a recent announcement that the federal Bureau of Land Management has resumed



its field work in the remote area east of Las Vegas, after a more than two year absence.

#### Seizing the Moment

In the end, the irony is that the Bundy standoff may end up helping the tribes' cause. There's a lot more public attention being paid to these historical lands than in recent memory. And not just in Nevada either. There's a plan to transfer ownership of the National Bison Range to tribes in Montana. In Utah, five tribes that want to create a massive, jointly-managed national monument have the ear of the Obama Administration.

National monument designations that bypass Congress are hugely controversial. University of Colorado historian Patty Limerick says it's not uncommon for a president to wait until the very last minute.

"Bill Clinton and his secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt had quite a realistic recognition that the Democrats were not going to be carrying Utah in the 1990s," Limerick says. "So they could go ahead with national monuments, whether or not the people of Utah thought that was a cool idea or not."

In this presidential election year, the politics in a state like Nevada are even more sensitive. And that has a lot of tribal activists like Vernon Lee feeling pessimistic.

"I don't think anybody wants to move and do anything for Indian Country because it's not a popular thing to do," Lee says. "And it's all about the votes."

Lee says in Indian Country, justice is slow to come, if it comes at all.

<http://kvcnews.org/post/nevada-tribes-push-protect-land-heart-bundy-ranch-standoff#stream/0>

## **Grazers, campers, ATVs damaging Nev.'s Gold Butte — report**

Writer: Scott Streater

Published: August 18, 2016

Sensitive federal lands in southeast Nevada near the site of a federal showdown two years ago with rancher Cliven Bundy continue to be damaged by illegal grazing activity, vandals and all-terrain vehicles, according to a report by a conservation group that is pushing for the area to be designated a national monument.

The report, conducted by Friends of Gold Butte and released today at a Las Vegas ceremony attended by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Nevada Rep. Dina Titus (D), documents widespread damage to "virgin desert terrain" caused by, among other things, a 22.5-mile network of water tanks, troughs and pipelines that appear to be associated with illegal livestock grazing activity.

The group, which documented the damage during site visits and "field observations" conducted from September 2015 through April 2016, also reports finding "numerous illegal vehicle" tracks from ATVs crossing into environmentally sensitive areas of Gold Butte.

In some instances, fences designed to protect sensitive wildlife and their habitat have been "cut or taken down," apparently by ATV users forging new pathways through the desert. There are so many of these tracks, the report says, "it would be impossible to photograph, catalogue, and maintain data for them all."

All of the damage outlined in the report was documented within the Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The 350,000-acre area — located about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas, between the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and the Lake Mead

National Recreation Area — is comprised mostly of formally designated ACECs to protect desert tortoise and bighorn sheep.

But the Bureau of Land Management, which designated the Gold Butte ACEC in 1998, has not actively managed the area since the armed standoff between BLM and ranchers in early 2014 "due to safety and security concerns," the agency said in June.

"In the absence of a land management presence, Friends of Gold Butte has witnessed an increasing level of damage near historic and cultural sites as well as disturbance to sensitive desert areas that are habitat for threatened and endangered species," the report says.

The group argues the ongoing damage underscores the need for President Obama to use his authority to designate the area a national monument. Reid has also asked Obama to consider designating Gold Butte a national monument before he leaves office.

"We released this report because we think people need to know the threats to our natural and cultural resources in Gold Butte," said Jaina Moan, Friends of Gold Butte's executive director. "The need to protect Gold Butte is urgent. It needs and deserves a national monument designation."

Moan said Nevada residents for 15 years have been asking that elected officials "find a legislative solution to protect the nationally significant cultural, historic and natural treasures in Gold Butte."

Titus last year sponsored legislation to designate the 350,000-acre Gold Butte National Conservation



Area, designate a portion of those lands as wilderness, and establish a visitor center and field office in Mesquite, Nev. Reid sponsored a companion bill in the Senate.

The bills stalled last year in both Republican-led chambers.

Reid, who described the Gold Butte area as "stunning in its uniqueness," said at the Las Vegas ceremony that he will continue to push Obama to designate the area as a national monument.

"He knows how I feel about this," Reid said. "We're going to continue pushing this. It's going to happen."

The Friends of Gold Butte report hints that the area is a lawless expanse of federal land where people do as they please, much to the detriment of the region's natural resources.

Indeed, the 1,000 or so head of cattle from Bundy's 160-acre ranch in Bunkerville, Nev., are still roaming on federal land in and around the Gold Butte region.

Bundy is currently in jail facing federal felony charges for the 2014 standoff.

BLM has said it has no plans to round up the illegally grazing cattle as the agency works with the Justice Department on the Bundy legal matter.

But the group reports finding "22.5 miles of illegal trenching" used to connect water tanks and troughs across the area.

Construction of this watering network on federal land along the northern and western edges of the Virgin Mountains required the "use of heavy equipment to trench into virgin desert landscape," which the report says "destroys tortoise burrows and habitat" in the conservation area.

"In addition, rusted fuel tanks and large tires serve as water tanks and troughs and have created a trail of toxic, industrial trash across the desert," the

report says. That can be seen on Google Earth in one area, the report notes.

A cut fence designed to protect the Horse Spring has allowed "feral burros and cows" to trample the riparian vegetation, the report says. The fence cutting was intentional, it suggests, noting "a salt block has been placed" in the area "to encourage cattle."

At one location on Gold Butte Road near Juanita Springs, the livestock brand "VO" that is used by the Bundy Ranch was "painted on the asphalt." At least five information and direction signs in the area were painted with the "L-V" brand used by the Finicum Ranch.

#### Ongoing trouble

Today's damage report is the second in the last year; Friends of Gold Butte released the first damage report in August 2015.

That report found a large water tank, a trough and pipelines had been illegally installed in the area, apparently associated with Bundy's illegally grazing livestock (Greenwire, Aug. 19, 2015).

"More water tanks and troughs have been discovered," today's report says.

The second report comes just two months after BLM Director Neil Kornze toured the Gold Butte area for the first time since the 2014 standoff with armed ranchers led by Bundy (Greenwire, June 17).

Kornze wanted to "get a firsthand look" at the damage done by the illegal grazing and other activities, an agency spokesman said, and to assess what needs to be done to repair the lands.

Kornze and other BLM officials touring the area in June found that in addition to the illegal grazing, vandals have caused significant damage to the area, specifically to some of the region's red sandstone formations.

Much of the Whitney Pocket camping area, where Kornze hiked in June, "is littered with toilet paper

and human waste," according to the Friends of Gold Butte report.

Members of the group visiting Whitney Pocket also witnessed a camper dumping "black water with toilet paper from their [recreational vehicle] holding tanks before leaving camp; they also dumped what appears to be motor oil at their campsite."

The report also notes extensive damage to Cabin Canyon Corral — a large stock corral built by ranchers using closely spaced upright posts. Campers, according to the report, "have removed

most of the upright posts and used them for firewood, leaving little of the original corral."

At another site, the group found a "freshly chopped down" Joshua tree.

"This damage is egregious and ranges from persistent vehicle incursions into pristine habitat to vandalism to illegal trenching across 22 miles of desert to lay pipe for unauthorized water systems," Moan said. "Protection is the only way for us to truly address all of these issues."





## Tribal Activists Push White House To Make Gold Butte A National Monument

Writer: Kirk Siegler

Published: August 18, 2016

RENEE MONTAGNE, HOST:

Today in Las Vegas, tribal leaders will join Nevada's senior senator, Harry Reid, in releasing their latest report tracking the widespread vandalism of ancient cultural artifacts on a piece of federal land there. NPR's Kirk Siegler reports the tribes are pressuring the Obama administration to permanently protect the area known as Gold Butte, a place they consider sacred.

KIRK SIEGLER, BYLINE: When rancher Cliven Bundy claimed his family of Mormon pioneers had ancestral rights to the land in Gold Butte, Nev., Vernon Lee scoffed.

VERNON LEE: As a native and as the tribe that actually had that land, you know, granted by the federal government back in the 1800s, he really doesn't got a right at all. If anybody's got a right, it would be the Moapa Band of Paiutes.

SIEGLER: Lee, a former tribal councilman, is sitting on a lawn chair in the shade of his mobile home on the Moapa River Reservation. An air conditioner hanging from a side window hums. He swats away flies as he recalls how the tribes' land once included all of Gold Butte but was later shrunk tenfold by the U.S. government. Today, the reservation is just this small sliver of desert north of Cliven Bundy's place and adjacent to a coal-fired power plant.

LEE: To be quite candid, I wish they would give it all back. But realistically, that probably won't happen.

SIEGLER: So the Southern Paiute tribes in Nevada are proposing another plan. Now that Bundy and his militia of followers are in jail, awaiting a federal conspiracy trial, they sense a small window of

opportunity before President Obama leaves office. They want him to designate Gold Butte as a national monument.

LEE: We want to protect the lands. We want to protect the animals. And we want our sacred sites protected. And right now, the best thing we can think of is to go on this side of this creation of a monument to get those protections.

SIEGLER: Now such a designation would be a bittersweet end to an especially rough few years for the tribes. After the armed standoff on the Bundy ranch, the federal government stopped managing Gold Butte entirely, due to safety concerns. Until recently, it was lawless. Bundy's cows are still trespassing. Kenny Anderson is cultural director for the Las Vegas Paiute tribe.

KENNY ANDERSON: We were out there a while back with a bunch of elders. There was a lot of cattle roaming this area, stomping on stuff. There was petroglyphs that they were walking on. There was cow patties everywhere, and I'm just, like, dang - what the heck?

SIEGLER: It's not just the cows that Anderson is concerned about. He shows me a thick stack of documents detailing evidence of people shooting bullets at petroglyphs and theft of ancient pottery and arrowheads. There are photos of off-road vehicle tracks cutting across plants his people have gathered for centuries.

ANDERSON: I don't know if it's because of they weren't told about things like this, or maybe they weren't concerned with what history is. It's a mystery.

SIEGLER: But the irony here is that the Bundy standoff may end up helping the tribes' cause. There's a lot more public attention being paid to these historical lands than in recent memory - and not just here in Nevada either.

There's a plan to transfer ownership of the National Bison Range to tribes in Montana. In Utah, five tribes that want to create a massive, jointly managed national monument have the ear of the Obama administration. National monument designations that bypass Congress are hugely controversial. Western historian Patty Limerick says it's not uncommon for a president to wait until the very last minute.

PATTY LIMERICK: Bill Clinton, I guess - and his secretary of interior, Bruce Babbitt - they had quite a realistic recognition that the Democrats were not going to be carrying Utah in the 1990s. And so they would go ahead with national monuments whether

or not the people of Utah thought that was a cool idea or not.

SIEGLER: Now in Nevada, in a presidential election year, the politics are even more sensitive.

LEE: (Unintelligible) Just go in - over the left.

SIEGLER: And you'll meet a lot of tribal activists, like Vernon Lee, who are still pretty pessimistic.

LEE: I can't help but think we're just playing political football. I don't think anybody wants to move and do anything for Indian country because it's not a popular thing to do, and it's all about the votes.

SIEGLER: Lee says, in Indian country, justice is slow to come, if it comes at all. Kirk Siegler, NPR News, Las Vegas.

<http://www.npr.org/2016/08/18/490449974/tribal-activists-push-white-house-to-make-gold-butte-a-national-monument>



## SUPPORT FOR PERMANENTLY PROTECTING GOLD BUTTE

### Local Elected Official Support

Mesquite City Council Resolution  
Richard Green, Councilman, City of Mesquite  
Karl Gustaveson, Former Councilman, City of Mesquite  
Susan Holecheck, Former Mayor, City of Mesquite  
Gerri Schroder, Councilwoman, City of Henderson  
Ricki Barlow, Councilman, City of Las Vegas  
Bob Coffin, Councilman, City of Las Vegas  
Isaac Barron, Councilman, City of North Las Vegas  
Clark County Commission Resolution  
Clark County Latino Democratic Caucus

### State Elected Official Support

Moises Denis, Senator, State of Nevada  
Ruben Kihuen, Senator, State of Nevada  
Tick Segerblom, Senator, State of Nevada  
Elliot Anderson, Assemblyman, State of Nevada  
Nelson Araujo, Assemblyman, and NHLC Vice Chair, State of Nevada  
Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada  
Irene Bustamante-Adams, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada  
Richard Carrillo, Assemblyman, State of Nevada  
Olivia Diaz, Assemblywoman, and NHLC Chair, State of Nevada  
Edgar Flores Assemblyman, and NHLC Secretary/Treasurer, State of Nevada  
Dina Neal, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada  
Heidi Swank, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada  
Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus

### Federal Elected Official Support

Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Dina Titus, Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives  
Shelley Berkley, Former Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives  
Steven Horsford, Former Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives

### Tribal Nations

Moapa Band of Paiutes Members  
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

Native American Student Association

### Business & Tourism Organizations

Culinary Workers Union, Local 226  
Hispanic Museum of Nevada  
Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority  
Latin Chamber of Commerce  
Nevada Resort Association

### Businesses

Advanced Marketing Collateral  
Advantage Landscape  
Anchor Chiropractic  
AVI Wear  
Axiom Consulting Solutions  
Big Horn Olive Oil Company  
CMWireless  
CP Group  
Coosha Travel  
Craig Tann Group  
Desert Wildlife Consultants LLC  
Design SLS  
deSpain deSigns  
Einstein Bros Catering  
Emenai de Quince Photo  
Expo Ease  
Expressions Catering  
Eetza Research Associates  
Faiss Foley Warren  
FortuneDNA  
G.A.T.E. – International American Consulting Group  
Gaia Flowers  
GlutenZero Bakery  
Greenway Pest Services  
Hunter Marketing Group  
KEEN Footwear  
McKinney-James & Associates  
Man G  
Morton Group  
Nevada Outside  
Nuila Events  
Onsite Lasermedic  
Olsen Strategic Group, LLC  
Palm Mortuary  
Patagonia  
PI Media  
Quick Claim USA

R&D Events  
RE Editorial Services, LLC  
Ready Golf & Gear  
Realty Executives  
Reliable Banner  
Sage Design Studios, Inc.  
SH Architecture  
Soft Water Specialist  
Soul Appeal  
Strategic Note Network  
TerraFerma Real Estate  
The Atrium at Henderson  
The Dignitas Agency  
The Perkins Company  
Topsy Totes  
Urban Cairn Productions  
Vadeal Print  
Valley Paralegal Services  
VegasGiant  
Vik Chohan Photography  
WonderLand

**Community Groups**

After-School All-Stars Las Vegas  
Battle Born Progress  
College of Southern Nevada Hispanic Student Union  
Elaine Wynn, Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation  
Hispanics Enjoying Camping Hunting and the Outdoors  
Hispanics in Politics  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley  
Nevada Conservation League  
Nevada Arts Council Board Members  
Outside Las Vegas Foundation  
Paradise Democratic Club  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Southwest Las Vegas Democratic Club  
UNLV Young Democrats  
Vet Voice Foundation

Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group  
Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

**Scientist and Archeologist**

Professor Melissa K. Giovanni, Geosciences, UNLV  
Professor Rosales-Lasgarde, Environmental Science, Nevada State College  
Nevadans for Cultural Preservation  
Nick Sanies, Interpretive Naturalist and Geologist

**Conservation & Recreation Organizations**

Armargosa Conservancy  
Back Country Horsemen of Nevada  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – Nevada Chapter  
Conservation Lands Foundation  
Conserve Southwest Utah  
Desert Fossil Hiking Club  
Environment America  
Friends of Gold Butte  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Friends of Red Rock Canyon  
Friends of Sloan Canyon  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Natural Resource Defense Council  
Protectors of Tule Springs  
Red Rock Audubon Society  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club: Southern Nevada Group  
Sierra Club: Toiyabe Chapter  
Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Pew Charitable Trusts  
The Wilderness Society  
UNLV Wilderness Club

Updated: 8/4/2016



# Gold Butte Clip Book

## June 8, 2015



Petroglyph Panel in Gold Butte (T. Rylander)

## Table of Contents

Start acting like real conservatives .....	4
Nevada’s proposed national monument full of artwork, undisturbed land .....	5
Nevada: Road-trip from Las Vegas to Death Valley an eclectic blend of experiences.....	8
Let’s Talk Gold Butte .....	10
Preserving public land is profitable .....	11
Mesquite City Resolution Scales Back Support For Gold Butte NCA Legislation .....	12
Preservation is worth the effort.....	15
Lands are worth preservation.....	16
Counter point .....	17
Terrible Idea?.....	18
Thanks council.....	19
Opinion: City Council comments get out of hand .....	20
Locals Care Too.....	22
Council splits votes; passes new resolution for Gold Butte support .....	23
Council limits support of NCA area .....	24
#NVLeg Live Thread: Day 87 .....	27
#MesquiteNV City Council Votes To Weaken Support to #ProtectGoldButte .....	28
Let’s “Bubble Wrap” #MesquiteNV City Council .....	30
Social Media Coverage: April 28, 2015 Mesquite City Council.....	33
What’s going on?.....	35
Council to cut Gold Butte NCA protection .....	36
Chamber shows new video .....	38
Protect Gold Butte .....	39
Tuesday Council Meeting to revisit Gold Butte Resolution.....	40
Gold Butte full of treasures.....	42
A monumental push: Reid plans to designate two more areas for protection .....	44
Protecting Gold Butte .....	46
City supports NCA for Gold Butte .....	47
#MesquiteNV City Council Speaks on #ProtectGoldButte.....	49
Long meeting agenda draws out-of-towners .....	51
Social Media Coverage: April 14, 2015 Mesquite City Council.....	53
#MesquiteNV – The Gateway to Gold Butte .....	54
City may flip on Gold Butte designation .....	56
Bye, Bye BLM? .....	58
Bird and Hike’s Jim Boone on exploring—and championing—Nevada’s wilderness .....	61



What's in store for Nevada after Harry Reid retires.....	63
What now? Here's how Harry Reid will likely spend his last months in the Senate .....	68
Another trip to the state's scenic back roads .....	72
BLM Working to Restore Gold Butte .....	74
Encourage Efforts to Preserve Lands .....	76
More National Parks .....	77
Environmental Issues.....	78
Protecting Nevada Lands.....	79
"Nevada is working to conserve its natural lands" .....	80
Protect Nevada's future by securing our past, preserving our lands .....	81
Hardy needs to protect Gold Butte .....	82
Obama flexes muscles on resources with eye on legacy .....	83
ProgressNow Nevada Thank You Ad.....	88
Conservation bill could block Yucca rail route, but prospects shaky.....	89
#NVLeg Special Report: This Land Is Our Land.....	92
Social Media Coverage: February 19, 2015 Public Meeting in Las Vegas.....	95



### **Start acting like real conservatives**

Guest Writer: Tony Barron

Published: June 2, 2015

Kudos for the excellent guest column on public land (“Conservation a conservative value; Hardy’s kneejerk opposition is not,” Las Vegas Sun, May 20). It did a great job of pointing out the hypocrisy of claiming to be a conservative but being opposed to conservation. While the piece dealt mainly with Basin and Range, the same arguments apply to Gold Butte.

Gold Butte has been the subject of bills introduced in Congress to designate it as a National Conservation Area with wilderness. Gold Butte richly deserves and badly needs permanent protection, preferably as an NCA. But if the anti-conservationists prevail in Congress and the bills do not see the light of day, then its designation as a national monument would achieve that protection and be much preferred to no action at all.

It is past time to protect these special areas so all Americans, now and in the future, can enjoy their wonders and so Nevada can begin to enjoy the economic benefits protected lands have proved to bring. It’s time for “conservatives” to live up to their name and start conserving our precious public lands.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/jun/02/start-acting-real-conservatives/>





## **Nevada's proposed national monument full of artwork, undisturbed land**

Writer: Henry Brean

Published: May 23, 2015

HIKO -- Nevada's new National Monument-in-waiting isn't really on the way to anywhere.

From Las Vegas, you head north along 120 miles of rural highway, then hang a left into one of the emptiest spaces in a state famous for its emptiness.

There is no pavement here. No services, cellular or otherwise. The only city is "City," a massive earthen sculpture by Michael Heizer that's said to be one of the world's largest pieces of art, still unfinished after more than 40 years.

The ranch and small farm where Heizer lives alongside his masterwork contains some of the only occupied buildings in the entire 704,000-acre expanse now proposed as Basin and Range National Monument. Save for a few other ranch houses tucked away in the canyons, the only structures you're likely to find are the empty husks of ghost towns.

That's reason enough to preserve it, says Jim Boone, our guide on this overcast Wednesday: "Just the fact that it's a really big piece of undisturbed land. It's a huge undeveloped area."

Boone is a Las Vegas ecologist and outdoorsman who runs an ever-expanding online encyclopedia of adventures called [birdandhike.com](http://birdandhike.com). He's traveled across the proposed monument at least a dozen times since his first visit there more than a decade ago. Most of those trips have come since February, when he agreed to lead tours set up by the nonprofit Conservation Lands Foundation and other backers of the monument.

A few months ago, he shepherded Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and others on a two-day outing that included a campout and a rare audience with Heizer in his "City."

Today's tour is cozier — just a reporter, a photographer, Boone and his wife, Liz.

We begin at the southeastern corner of Basin and Range, in the only portion of the monument with a paved road running through it. From state Route 318 north of Hiko, we turn east and then north into the White River Narrows Archaeological District on a dirt road that traces portions of the old highway right of way. Here, early people scratched symbols onto stone, turning outcrops of pale rhyolite into art galleries that would outlast even the ice age river that once flowed there.

In a few places, the ancient drawings have since been scratched over with graffiti or blasted with guns. The richest concentration is at a place called the Amphitheater, just down an embankment from state Route 318, where a thick band of petroglyphs march in a line across the flat expanse of rock. As we puzzle over their meaning, a semi rumbles past on the highway behind us, the word "Navajo" printed in bright orange letters across its trailer.

## A MONUMENTAL IDEA

The White House is said to be considering executive action under the 1906 Antiquities Act to make this part of a national monument, a move that would ban oil and gas exploration, wind and solar farms, water exportation and other development, including a potential rail corridor for nuclear waste shipments to Yucca Mountain.

“We’re hopeful, so we say ‘when,’ not ‘if,’ ” Boone says of the possible presidential action.

The idea has divided Nevada’s congressional delegation, with Democrats encouraging the president to act and Republicans opposing the creation of new monuments without legislative approval — something this Congress is unlikely to give.

The area now being considered is about 100,000 acres smaller than what U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., proposed in his original monument bill, but it’s still plenty big. It takes in a portion of Lincoln and Nye counties that’s larger than Rhode Island yet home to fewer people than you might see at a busy Starbucks. At its heart are Coal and Garden valleys, two shallow bowls of scrub brush covering at least 300 square miles each. Boone directs us there on a dirt road that angles northwest from the highway and through a low pass in the Seaman Mountains.

Coal Valley is vast and empty and dotted with cattle. A few muddy ponds hint at recent rain.

The cows near the road stare at us intently, then bolt when someone gets out of the Jeep to take their picture. A pair of golden eagles circle overhead, harassed by ravens.

We train our binoculars on a black speck and a plume of dust at the far side of the valley that turns out to be a person on an all-terrain vehicle riding along behind a group of running cows. Boone says the ranchers he’s talked to in the area seem to back the monument, so long as it doesn’t keep them from doing what they’ve always done.

The monument’s advocates insist the move will protect two of the last unspoiled basins in the entire Great Basin without disrupting the lives of those who cherish and depend on them. Ranchers would still get to ranch. The military would still get to train. Tourists would still get to tour.

Opponents argue the land is already well protected, both by its own geography and by existing federal management. Permanently locking away all 700,000 acres from any future development will make things worse for a pair of rural counties where all but a fraction of the land is already under federal control, they say.

## LONESOME IN THE CITY

We cross from Coal to Garden Valley through Water Gap, a break in the Golden Gate Range where a small wash the color of chocolate milk rushes under the road through three oversized pipes. Despite the gap’s name, Boone says this is the first time he has seen water moving through it.

A nearby hill offers an elevated view of Heizer’s home and the “City” behind it. But even through binoculars, it’s hard to make much sense of what we see. We get only a hint of Heizer’s meticulously engineered concrete sculptures — think Mayan by way of Mars — which he has arrayed at each end of a long plaza lined with trenches and carefully groomed mounds of gravel.

The famously reclusive artist, now 70, is often described as difficult, even cruel, but Heizer was nothing but cordial and accommodating during the tour he granted earlier this year, Boone says.



He thinks Heizer's creation could be finished and ready to welcome its first visitors within the next few years. But for now, this "City" is not open to tourists. A sign near the metal gate at the edge of Heizer's property warns that trespassers will be "immediately reported to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department for arrest and prosecution."

We head south, away from "City," on a network of dirt roads that traverse the valley. As big as it is, Heizer's work vanished quickly in the distance, swallowed whole by the far bigger bigness of land and sky.

Boone says Garden Valley is generally greener than Coal and grazed mostly by sheep, though we don't see any on this day. Instead, a lone pronghorn antelope bounds across the road in front of us.

Dark clouds drape gray curtains of rain over the Quinn Canyon Range to the west and the taller, snowcapped Grant Range to the north.

This landscape is typical of what geologists know as the Basin and Range province: narrow mountain blocks bracketed by long north-south valleys formed as the Earth's crust was stretched and broken by extensional faults. The province extends north into Idaho and Oregon and south into Mexico, but nowhere is it more pronounced and uniform than from Utah's Wasatch Front to the Sierra Nevada.

Boone says parks have already been established for most of the major habitat types found in North America, particularly those considered iconic in one state or another. The one that's missing is ours.

"The basin and range ecosystem is Nevada, and yet nowhere do we have basin and range protected within the National Conservation System," he says. "This sort of fills in a gap."

But is that reason enough to carve out a massive new monument? Even some conservationists candidly acknowledge that there are other places in the region more deserving of designation, chief among them the Gold Butte area in northeastern Clark County.

Boone doesn't consider it a choice of one over the other. He remains hopeful that Basin and Range will win President Barack Obama's signature, and Gold Butte will, too.

#### EARLIER ARTISTS

Our tour ends with a trip over Mount Irish on a narrow, rocky path through pinyon and juniper.

From there, the road descends past the abandoned town of Logan into the Mount Irish Archaeological District, a 640-acre collection of cliffs and boulders used for centuries by hunter-gatherers who marked their passage with thousands of petroglyphs.

Boone says no one alive today really knows what the symbols mean. All we know is they've been there a long time, and they're out there still

nevada-3-proposed-national-monument-full-artwork-undisturbed-land



## **Nevada: Road-trip from Las Vegas to Death Valley an eclectic blend of experiences**

Writer: Ian Robertson

Published: May 17, 2015

There was plenty of sand, sun and sagebrush along the endless ribbon of Nevada highways as our mini-bus headed from Las Vegas towards the Mojave Desert and into Death Valley.

Beyond the city limits, there was also an amazing array of colours, endless blue skies, mountains, plus several unexpected lakes and rivers.

The state is famous for old west history, ghosts and ghost towns, but this traveller's tale focuses on very-much-alive places and people along the way, including:

### **GOLD BUTTE**

Covering 145,686 hectares between the Colorado and the Virgin rivers, near the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and popular Valley of Fire State Park, Gold Butte was named after an early 1900s Clark County mining town.

The hot, dry area spotted with cattle ranches and farms was once occupied by Moapa and Piute Indians, whose ancestors left thousands of rock-art figures on dark reddish-brown sandstone crags that jut off the desert floor. On one tall crag beside Gold Butte Rd., reached from Hwy. 115, swirling winds over uncountable millennia had carved doorways and myriad shapes in outcroppings.

Also a must for photographers are coconut-size buds on Joshua trees, plus white, pale yellow and deep orange wild flowers on grass or cactus, which provide shade for tortoises, lizards and roadrunners.

A Friends of Gold Butte staffer told us the environmental preservation group conducts hikes and photo sessions, while lobbying for the region to become a National Conservation Area.

### **MESQUITE**

This farm community (pop. 15,276 or so) settled by Mormon pioneers between 1878 and 1882 along the Mesquite River, has a small museum.

Among the local artifacts are a rare arc lamp movie projector from the now closed Elwood Theatre, a foot-treadle sewing machine, military uniforms worn by locals and numerous typewriters -- including one that children of the Internet age can try out.

A travellers' stopping point along Hwy. I-15 between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Las Vegas and Los Angeles, Calif., Mesquite has several casino resorts, many public golf courses, plus an airport that offers skydiving.



## NEED TO KNOW

The annual Gold Butte Days in Mesquite offers a street fair, outdoor activities, live entertainment and a street race. See [facebook.com/GoldButteDays](https://www.facebook.com/GoldButteDays).

<http://www.shorelinebeacon.com/2015/05/14/nevada-road-trip-from-las-vegas-to-death-valley-an-eclectic-blend-of-experiences>



## **Let's Talk Gold Butte**

Guest Writer: Mayor Al Litman

Published: May 7, 2015

The issue of Gold Butte is in the hands of the U. S. Government. In fact, it always has been regardless of what has been said by Mr. Bundy or anyone else. Mesquite's contribution has been a series of resolutions offering support in some fashion for a Federal designation of an NCA with Wilderness. I'll explain later what this means.

Gold Butte for those not totally familiar with it is a large, mostly unexplored piece of desert with mountains, around the size of Rhode Island, or somewhere near 350,000 acres depending on whom you listen to.

Gold Butte was actually a town in Clark County established in 1908 with mining pre-dating it by several years. Little remains today. By the way, no significant amount of gold was ever found there. The area does have interesting geology, history, prehistory, and wildlife typical of the area and climate.

Currently a part of Gold Butte is designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern which means there are areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, and scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes. An ACEC designation is an administrative one made by the B.L.M. To go into detail about this designation with take another full article, so we will leave it at that for now.

Lets define an NCA or National Conservation Area. This designation is different from ACEC's in that Congress, not the B.L.M., designates them however, they are administrated by B.L.M. There are sixteen of them in the nine western states and Alaska. They go from eighteen acres to 1.2 million acres in size. You are probably familiar with Red Rock Canyon in Las Vegas and Sloan Canyon in Henderson.

To add further to the ACEC's, and the NCA, is the Wilderness designation. The Wilderness Act of 1964 is a general legal authority for congress to designate and agencies to manage wilderness. It is designed to provide long-term protection and conservation of Federal Public Lands. It covers land largely inaccessible with no permanent improvements and only altered by the forces of nature. To summarize, it must be designated by Congress only, but can also be undesignated or changed as to boundaries by Congress. This is a key point in understanding the ramifications of Wilderness designations.

Wilderness is managed by four Federal agencies, B.L.M., Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the national parks Service. Within the Wilderness designation are numerous rules and regulations to define what can and cannot be done. It covers water rights, search and rescue, hunting and fishing, roads, mineral exploration, vehicles, livestock grazing and much more.

This article is the first in a series that I hope will lay the groundwork for a discussion of where our Federal Government may be going and what options may be in our future. I wrote this, not to take a stand or position on Gold Butte, but to hopefully better bring about an understanding of our area and what might lie ahead.

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/05/lets-talk-about-gold-butte/>





### **Preserving public land is profitable**

Guest Writer: By Christian Francisco Gerlach

Published: May 6, 2015

The recent editorial “This land is our land, but Republicans see it differently” ([lasvegassun.com](http://lasvegassun.com), April 27) accurately depicts the real motivations behind the effort to take back public lands. The Sun deserves recognition for this truthful, no-holds-barred piece.

The fact is there are elected officials who are “on board with dumping federal lands off our ledger sheet” to balance the federal budget in the short term. The problem with this line of thinking is one negates the realization that in the long term there are far more profits to be made from preserving the land rather than pillaging it.

The editorial puts it best in pointing out the states will be more apt to sell the land they get from the federal government both for the short-term economic gain and as a land-management tactic. The states lack the resources to properly manage the land. The states will jump at the chance to help fill in budgetary shortfalls, and with the new asset of land in hand, they will see dollar signs before they see the long-term benefits that come with conservation.

The figures that prove there is true value to shared and protected public lands can be found in many studies. One of the larger studies by the Outdoor Industry Association found that Nevada’s economy enjoys about \$14.9 billion in annual economic activity from which the state can draw revenues.

Thank you again!

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/may/06/preserving-public-land-profitable/>



## **Mesquite City Resolution Scales Back Support For Gold Butte NCA Legislation**

Writer: Vernon Robison

Published: May 6, 2015

The Mesquite City Council made key alterations to its position on proposed federal protection of the Gold Butte complex in a new resolution passed on Tuesday, April 28 by a split 3-2 vote.

In this action, the Council struck down two previous resolutions, passed in 2009 and 2010, replacing them with new language which, Council members said, aimed to more accurately reflected the current views of the general public in the community.

The new resolution retained the Council's earlier support for a National Conservation Area (NCA) designation on the vast area to the south of the city limits. But rather than falling in line with past federal legislation proposed by Nevada delegation members in Congress, as the previous resolutions had done, the new resolution suggested several conditions on any NCA legislation being passed.

First, the new resolution stated that no additional areas should be designated as federal wilderness. Currently the Gold Butte complex contains two wilderness areas totaling 27,863 acres. But proposed legislation for the NCA would add more than 200,000 additional wilderness acres to the area.

Another condition in the resolution was made to ensure that traditional access to the area be retained. It states that existing roads should not be closed at any time for any reason, "excepting only acts of God." In that case the roads could only be closed for emergency purposes for brief periods of time.

The resolution also states that "no restriction shall be made relating to the access or use of mechanical or motorized vehicles."

In addition it preserved the rights for the Virgin Valley Water District (VVWD) to access and develop its water rights in the area in the future as needed.

The resolution further requests that any advisory council established to govern a new NCA should allow for various seats to be appointed by City Council of Mesquite. It also requests that any visitor's center for a Gold Butte NCA be located within the city limits of Mesquite.

Finally, the new resolution proposed to trim the size of the NCA so that it's northern boundary would run east and west through the Whitney Pockets area. This cuts the proposed NCA acreage by about a quarter of the total proposed. It would leave out areas closest to Mesquite including Bitter Ridge, Black Ridge and the Virgin Peaks, The Virgin Mountain range is where the VVWD water rights are located.

This last condition was, perhaps, the most contentious at the meeting. During nearly two hours of public comment, several residents questioned when and how this addition had made it into the final draft of the resolution at all. Some even alleged that violations of open meeting law had taken place with the item being added out of the view of the public.



But during his comments, Councilman Kraig Hafen explained that he had requested the condition to be added during a technical review meeting that had been held in public on April 21. He asked deputy city clerk Tracy Beck to read the minutes of a segment of that meeting where he had made that request.

“Just to put it on the record right now, there has been absolutely no open meeting violations,” Hafen said.

Councilwoman Cindi Delaney said that she had difficulty supporting the change in proposed NCA boundaries. “I think it needs further study as to where exactly the line should be drawn,” Delaney said. “So I am not in favor of that one.”

Councilman Rich Green said that he was taken by surprise by the boundary change because he had not remembered it being a part of the discussion at the earlier tech review meeting. “I don’t recall that discussion, but even so, it is still subject to change and revision here at this meeting,” Green said. “I am not in a position to support the changing of boundaries.”

Another hot topic of discussion was the restrictions which the resolution placed upon any new wilderness designations.

During public comment, many expressed fear that establishing these vast areas as wilderness would restrict access to their favorite areas.

Jay Tobler, a Mesquite resident for 66 years, talked about how he and his family used to visit a remote scenic point on the Virgin Mountain range where they could look out over the Virgin Valley communities from a distance and even watch the July 4th fireworks below. He said that this is impossible now as the area is now in a federally-designated Wilderness Instant Study Area and has restricted access.

“I think that folks are getting kind of greedy about wilderness,” Tobler said. “We don’t need more federal control in these areas than we already have.”

But others stressed the collective value of establishing wilderness areas. “Wilderness is a basic human right for our citizens,” said Michelle Burkett of Mesquite. “We don’t need to have the noise of engines and motors on every part of the countryside.” Some also disputed the idea that the proposed new wilderness designations at Gold Butte would close any existing roads.

“New wilderness has only been proposed in already roadless areas,” said Jesy Simons of Las Vegas. “The existing roads through them will remain open, meaning that you can still take vehicles on them. None of the proposed wilderness areas have roads into them anyway so it makes no difference in accessing them.”

Later on, during his comments, Councilman George Rapson disputed the logic of this argument.

“I have been reassured again and again that these proposed wilderness designations have no roads, they don’t affect access, so it doesn’t matter,” Rapson said. “Well, if it doesn’t matter, it doesn’t matter.”

You can’t have it both ways. As it is, there are no roads in there. No one is suggesting any new roads be added. So whether it is officially designated wilderness or not, there is no motorized access. It will be, for all intents and purposes, wilderness; nothing changes and everyone is happy.”

Rapson emphasized that things should remain the same: no more wilderness, nor more road closures, no more restrictions on motorized vehicles. He said he stood firm on that position.

If all that was understood, he would favor an NCA designation for Gold Butte, Rapson said. But he noted that even this would not be an instant fix to all of the problems.

“There are 300,000 acres out there,” he said. “There is not going to be a cop on every corner just by making it an NCA. It won’t prevent people from popping off their .45s out there. It won’t prevent people from drinking beer and throwing the bottles on the ground. Those things will still happen.”

During his comments, Mayor Al Litman expressed misgivings about the wording of the resolution. He said that there was a lot of language that needed “cleaning up.” He didn’t believe that it could be completed in that agenda.

“I’d ask that we table this and bring it back after it is complete,” Litman said. “To vote on it tonight would be skimming it over very quickly.”

Rapson asked Litman what ambiguities in the resolution were specifically troubling to him.

Litman responded that the resolution needed more definition of what exactly constitutes motorized vehicles. He said that he could also not agree with the Whitney Pockets boundary change. In addition, the portion of the resolution dealing with the acceptable timeframe for emergency road closures was not realistic, he said.

The initial draft of the resolution stated that emergency road closures could not last for more than 24 hours. “Frankly, these are not monumental issues,” Rapson said.

In reference to the road closures, Rapson allowed that the wording could be changed to permit for seven calendar days closure to repair the road and get it open again.

“The important thing is that there needs to be some definition of the word temporary,” Rapson said.

“Temporary could be closing the road for 100 years if you are comparing it to a millennium or two or three or five. So, in my mind, there has to be some definition of that term.”

“I think that we have worn this thing out,” Rapson concluded. “I want to see it end tonight; no more postponing or research. I’d like to make a motion and if it passes it passes; and if not, I guess we will go from there.”

Rapson made a motion to accept the resolution with the small changes that had been introduced at the meeting. The motion was approved with Rapson, Hafen and Withhelder voting in favor, Delaney and Green were opposed.

Several people spoke at the final public comment period of the meeting expressing disapproval of the Council’s action. Many of these urged the mayor to veto the resolution. But in a conversation with the PROGRESS on Friday morning, the mayor stated he had no plans to veto the action.

<http://mvprogress.com/2015/05/06/mesquite-city-resolution-scales-back-support-for-gold-butte-nca-legislation/>





### **Preservation is worth the effort**

Guest Writer: Valerie McNay

Published: May 4, 2015

With the recent observance of Earth Day (April 22) it seems fitting to recognize many of the incredible places we have in Nevada that help to make our state home.

The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Mount Charleston Wilderness Area, Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, Great Basin National Park and so many other places are protected for us and for future generations.

One common thread to all these places, as Amber Phillips pointed out in a recent article, is Sen. Harry Reid ("A Monumental Push: Reid plans to designate two more areas for protection," Las Vegas Sun April 19). He had a hand in protecting all of these areas and continues to build on this legacy by working most recently to protect Gold Butte and Basin and Range. I have followed his effort to protect Gold Butte starting with the passage of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002. Since then, local advocates have been working hard to protect the cultural, natural and historic treasures in Gold Butte and have built a long and diverse list of supporters calling for protection of this area.

Another place activists have been rallying behind is Basin and Range, working to protect the landscape and the art found within its boundaries. Knowing what all the existing protected public lands do for our quality of life and our economy, imagine what protecting two more incredible landscapes will do to for us, our state and our future

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/may/04/preservation-worth-effort/>



### **Lands are worth preservation**

Guest Writer: Christopher Ryan

Published: May 1, 2015

I fully support and applaud Sen. Harry Reid's efforts to instill permanent protection of some of Southern Nevada's most treasured lands. I am hopeful that Congress and the White House will see the benefits of keeping these lands open to the public rather than viewing them as a commodity better suited for corporate consumption or to appease a rancher-turned-sensationalized-cult-hero.

I consider myself an outdoor and off-road enthusiast. Therefore, I am especially fond of Gold Butte for its wide variety of natural beauty. The rock formations are unique in that they cannot be found anywhere within driving distance of the Southern Nevada area. There is a wide array of wildlife representative of the Silver State, such as the bighorn sheep, the desert tortoise, the banded Gila monster and many other indigenous species. I also must mention the ancient campsites, caves and rock art that serve historical as well as educational purposes.

To the north are Basin and Range, which have their own cultural and recreational value and are also included within Rep. Dina Titus' and Reid's proposals.

In my opinion, these lands fit the criteria of the Sun's definition of a "national monument" and therefore should be permanently protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy. Hopefully common sense prevails and Nevada will be kept in its natural grace rather than a skin of concrete.

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/may/01/lands-are-worth-preservation/>



## Counter point

Guest Writer: Michael M. McGreer

Published: April 30, 2015

Ammon Bundy is misleading the public (Opinion "Bundy objects to legislative testimony," *Desert Valley Times* Tuesday April, 28, 2015) when he claims that his father (Cliven) "owns" 11 water rights. Bundy applied and received permits to use water from 11 streams feeding into the Mesquite community wells. These "permits" were never adjudicated.

The state water engineer gives anyone claiming a water right a non-adjudicated permit. In order for the permit to be adjudicated (verified) a request must be filed with the state water engineer. To date, neither the water board nor the city council has request such an adjudication.

Each of Bundy' cows typically eats 26 pounds of public owned feed each day. Therefore, Bundy is stealing 9,490 pounds per year or 949,000 pounds of feed from the public.

Each cow consumes approximately 50 gallons of water each day. That is 18,250 gallons of water per year or 1,825,000 gallons per year for 100 head. That is about 5.6 acre-feet of water. An acre-foot is equal to 325,851 gallons. One-acre foot is approximately enough water to support a family of five for a year.

Therefore, Bundy is taking enough water to support five families of five to water his illegally grazing cattle, which are consuming about 949,000 pounds of feed from the public domain each year. And neither the city council nor the water board cares.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/04/30/letters-editor/26660011/>

## **Terrible Idea?**

Guest Writer: Tony Barron

Published: April 30, 2015

Sawing people in half usually ends well on the stages in Las Vegas.

But city Councilman Kraig Hafen's new idea of cutting the proposed Gold Butte NCA in half, eliminating all of the north portion, is a terrible idea.

He would exclude all of the Virgin Mountains and all of the mountains north bajada with its rich history of hundreds of CCC check dams. He would also eliminate all of the Arrowhead Trail highway which was the highway from Salt Lake to Los Angeles about 100 years ago.

His proposal would exclude Little Virgin Peak and the Gold Butte Twin Peaks. All of the easiest to reach recreational destinations would be purged from the proposed NCA.

Adding, in this case, injury to injury, Kraig and some other council members want to forbid any further wilderness designation in Gold Butte, despite the fact that the proposed wilderness areas are already de facto wilderness and would not close a single mile of legal roads.

The truly ironic and annoying thing is that Mesquite certainly, with the influx of retirees in the last five years, has become even more supportive of public lands than ever before. It's time for the City Council to stop "advancing to the rear" and simply reaffirm the original Gold Butte proposal, Resolution 649, designating all of Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with wilderness.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/04/30/letters-editor/26660011/>



# The Spectrum

## **Thanks council**

Guest Writer: Mary Meyers

Published: April 30, 2015

The revised resolution by the Mesquite City Council is much appreciated.

The wilderness designation is above and beyond what is necessary for Gold Butte.

This is public land and should be open to the public without onerous government restrictions.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/04/30/letters-editor/26660011/>

## **Opinion: City Council comments get out of hand**

Writer: Jesselyn Bickley

Published: April 30, 2015

I just want to remind everyone that the resolution the Mesquite City Council passed Tuesday holds no legal weight in the eyes of anyone, anywhere.

Congress isn't going to look at it and immediately make changes. It is just a written statement of support, or in this case "sort of" support, of designating a National Conservation Area in Gold Butte.

I know it's still a very important issue to several residents and Gold Butte lovers. I understand that this resolution basically reflects how the town feels. But if you really stop to think about it, the way it is written mostly reflects how the community feels about the issue.

About half of the comments at City Council reflect those who want federal protection for Gold Butte. The other half want nothing to do with it and think the feds should just stay out of it.

Well, Council drew the NCA line at Whitney Pockets and That should make everyone a little irritated. They still supported a NCA designation but not all the way. So really, no one is getting what they want.

I once heard a true compromise occurs when neither sides are really happy with the agreement. I think that's what we have here.

I think what really matters is that everyone loves Gold Butte and can help protect it, whether that be by picking up trash or supporting (or opposing) federal legislation.

But the way the last two City Council meetings ran it felt like Mesquite was going to have the final say so on the matter. I had to keep reminding myself just because Council wrote down in a resolution what it wanted to see didn't mean it would happen. Like I said before, this is just a statement of support, or lack thereof. When people stormed Council about medical marijuana facilities in the city I understood. Council was the final stop, it would give the ultimate ruling.

In the last month though, I felt like very few people's comments evolved.

Those who didn't want federal protection still didn't want federal protection. They said almost the exact things at the second meeting that they did at the first. Federal protection, as far as the council was concerned, was expected. Maybe it would have been better and more constructive to give tips, like Councilman Kraig Hafen did, about what to do with the disagreement. He said to push it back. There you go, an idea.

The other side kept repeating the same things as well. Gold Butte needs protection, Gold Butte needs protection. I would have liked to have heard why the area north of Whitney Pockets needed protection because that's what had changed since the last meeting.



I'm not saying I agree with Hafen or Councilman George Rapson for that matter. I am simply saying they both saw something they didn't like in the bill and made a suggestion to change it. That's what I feel the public should have done as well — offered solutions instead of endless complaints.

Don't even get me started on the petty personal attacks that happened Tuesday night either — on both sides. I was a little bit embarrassed to be sitting there listening to grown men and women sling mud at each other. If you're going to consume my night with public comment I'm okay with that; I just ask that you make it constructive, intelligent, and stick to the subject at hand.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/04/30/city-council-comments-get-hand/26660061/>



## **Locals Care Too**

Guest Writer: Jim Weber

Published: April 30, 2015

So your headline reads “Out-of-towners address issues related to Gold Butte” perhaps misleading some to assume there is little local support for the Gold Butte National Conservation Area. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact that our Public Lands and Gold Butte are also of considerable interest and support from citizens outside the Virgin Valley should be noticed by the Council as well as the anonymous “city staff” that determined the issue should be brought to the Council probably in hopes of withdrawing previous City support.

I’m sure those actions didn’t disappoint MLN. MLN has a history of gushing at every outburst from a delusional local rancher as though it contained messianic qualities. But more importantly, our reputation as a City is at stake. We can be seen as progressive and welcoming City or as a closed haven for those who can’t locate a flux capacitor to experience the nineteenth century.

Last month the Indiana State Government learned a bitter lesson about legislating in an echo chamber. The City Council should take note. They have a choice between what’s easy and what’s smart and in the best interests of the City. The right choice is clear.

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/04/locals-care-too>



## **Council splits votes; passes new resolution for Gold Butte support**

Writer: Stephanie Frehner

Published: April 29, 2015

Tuesday night's regular City Council meeting was another long one, as 40 people, both local residents and several out-of-town visitors, spoke against any changes in the existing Resolutions 649 and 669 for more than 90 minutes.

The new Resolution, 867 was motioned by Councilman George Rapson, seconded by Councilman Kraig Hafen, that would support an National Conservation Area designation for the Gold Butte area with no additional Wilderness areas and that temporary closures of roads due to an 'Act of God' are reopened within seven working days. Mayor Al Litman voiced his opposition to the language in the Resolution before a motion was made, stating that the language was too ambiguous, much like Senate Bill 199, and in regards to terms of road closures and access for mechanized vehicles.

"Frankly these are not monumental issues here," stated Rapson. "This is a Resolution, it is not a legal document. It's simply a statement of position (by the City). We could over-engineer this thing and have a 40 page legal document."

The revised resolution also had an exception that would allow the Virgin Valley Water District to have access to existing water rights in the area and be able to build and construct necessary facilities.

Rapson's motion was approved with three votes for it made by Rapson, Hafen and Councilman Geno Withelder. Councilman Rich Green and Councilwoman Cindi Delaney voted against it. Comments in the final public comment portion of the meeting had several people calling for the Mayor to veto the decision. Litman spoke with the MLN Wednesday morning stating that he would let the Resolution stand as council had voted.

Other items covered in the meeting Tuesday night included approval for the week of May 17-23, 2015 as "National Public Works Week", accepting of a presentation from the Colorado River Commission regarding the City receiving power from Hoover Dam and approving the Operation Location Agreement with the Nevada Institute of Autonomous Systems, which would operate drone testing on City property near Exit 112.

Council also voted unanimously to keep the current candidate filing fee of \$25 per applicant instead of raising the fee to \$100.

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/04/council-splits-votes-passes-new-resolution-for-gold-butte-support/>

## **Council limits support of NCA area**

Writer: Jesselyn Bickley

Published: April 29, 2015

Council limits support of NCA area.

Public comment filled the majority of a contentious, three-hour Mesquite City Council meeting Tuesday about a resolution giving Council's support on trimming the size of the National Conservation Area to end at the Whitney Pockets area.

Comments ranged from the location of the line at Whitney Pockets, to Open Meeting Law violations, to personal attacks, to tortoises eating cow waste.

Two previous resolutions regarding designating Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area (NCA) with wilderness areas were brought before the Council for review during the April 7 Technical Review meeting. During the April 14 Regular City Council meeting, City Hall was flooded with hours of public comment from both sides of the issue.

Some said Gold Butte didn't need any federal protection while others rallied for a NCA designation. At the April 14 meeting Council directed staff to write a new resolution that didn't support wilderness, ensured existing roads stayed open and ensured no potential water rights for Mesquite were restricted.

Once the new resolution was approved, the old resolutions would be rescinded.

A NCA designation would ensure federal protection for the Gold Butte area. A wilderness designation means there is no mechanized or motor vehicles permitted or building of permanent or temporary structures. It is the strictest designation, according to *nps.gov*.

Only Congress can designate wilderness in an area, the site says.

City Attorney Bob Sweetin drafted the resolution and presented it to Council at the April 21 Technical Review meeting. The draft included the three points Council had requested.

At that meeting Mesquite Councilman George Rapson requested additional adjustments to the resolution including no restrictions of mechanized or motorized vehicles.

City Liaison Officer Aaron Baker said that if Gold Butte received a NCA designation, per federal legislation, Mesquite would have a representative on an advisory council that would be established. This language was added to the Mesquite resolution, indicating Mesquite would like to be represented at the advisory council.

Baker also pointed out if Gold Butte is designated an NCA there would be a visitor's center built within Mesquite city limits. Council agreed to have that language drafted into the resolution as well.

The council also agreed to define "temporary" in the resolution.



City Council member Kraig Hafen said during the tech review he had a few suggestions on defining the Gold Butte complex itself and added he would like to see the NCA boundary line at Whitney Pockets.

This means everything north of the Whitney Pockets area that backs up to the Mesquite/Bunkerville areas including Bitter Ridge, Black Ridge and the Virgin River Peaks, would not be inside the NCA boundary. Everything south of Whitney Pockets would.

This change would keep NCA regulations out of the community's "backyard."

Hafen's comment on the Whitney Pockets boundary line was brief and wasn't further discussed by council. Some residents and council members seemed surprised when the item showed up as a new condition on the resolution.

Councilman Rich Green said Tuesday he was surprised to see the NCA designation at Whitney Pockets and did not agree with the idea.

Councilwoman Cindi Delaney said she also had concerns about the Whitney Pocket line.

"I think that needs further study as to where exactly the line should be," she said. "So, I'm not in favor of that one."

Several residents said the same thing, that the bill was drastically different than what was presented at the tech review April 21.

Mesquite resident Bill Hurd questioned who had altered the bill and requested action be taken against whomever it was.

"The differences between what the council desired at those open meetings and the resolutions are so extreme that they were obviously made deliberately and not by error," Hurd said Tuesday.

Hurd said if it was Sweetin who made the changes, without direction, he should be fired; if one or two council members made the changes outside the open meetings they should resign, and lastly if three or more council members requested changes outside the open meeting action should be taken against them for breaking the state's Open Meeting Law (OML).

The OML requires a quorum at a meeting open to the public.

Hafen Tuesday night made a show of having Tracy Beck, deputy city clerk, read the minutes from last week's tech meeting to prove the state's Open Meeting Law was not violated.

"So I would welcome Mr. Hurd, since you brought it up, I'm not gonna resign. I would invite you and your colleagues who have experience writing letters of supposed open meeting violations, I would submit to you to file it tonight," Hafen said. "If you need some help, you can get it to me and I will see it gets to the proper hands. Put it on the record that there has been absolutely no open meeting violations."

Hafen added that Sweetin took his direction from staff, that he did not go off on his own adding changes to the resolution.

Rapson said some of the changes that were made needed clarification.

He said he didn't intend for there to be "no wilderness" but "no additional wilderness," no additional restrictions on mechanized or motorized vehicles and no additional road closures.

Delaney agreed, adding that no wilderness would indicate that the Council wanted to have previously designated wilderness area revoked, which is not the Council's intent.

Mesquite Mayor Al Litman was excused from last week's tech review but said Tuesday he couldn't agree with the resolution as it was written. He said he thought the language was ambiguous and needed clarification.

Delaney said earlier in the meeting that reviewing the resolution was a process and Council could still make changes.

Litman wanted to define motorized/mechanized vehicles; change the time frame of temporary; review the Whitney Pockets, and define what could happen to close the roads temporarily since "Act of God" seemed broad.

Rapson disagreed with the mayor and said Council was "beating a dead horse." He made a motion to change the definition of temporary from 24 hours to seven days for road closures and added there will be no additional wilderness designations.

Currently there are two wilderness areas designated in the Gold Butte area, Lime Canyon and Jumbo Springs, according to Baker.

The motion passed 3-2 with councilmembers Delaney and Green voting against it.

Rapson left out of his motion to add no more additional road closures or additional restrictions on motorized/mechanized vehicles.

Sweetin told the *Desert Valley Times* Thursday although Rapson didn't include the items in his resolution it wasn't necessary.

"The Council was discussing future legislation regarding a National Conservation Area," Sweetin said. "They weren't looking at anything that would impact current the Area of Critical Environmental Concern regulations."

The resolution holds no legal weight, as pointed out by several at Tuesday's meeting. It is simply a statement of support on behalf of Mesquite.

Several people spoke at the second public comment period of the meeting urging the mayor to veto the resolution and bring it back at another time.

Baker said Wednesday the mayor has no plans to veto the resolution.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2015/04/29/council-approves-gold-butte-resolution/26579967/>





## #NVLeg Live Thread: Day 87

Writer: Andrew Davey

Published: April 29, 2015

Road trip! We hit the road again yesterday. You'll find out even more about where I went and what I saw, but I can tell you right now about a certain something I witnessed last night.

Want to know what I saw?

7:30 AM:

So my LTN Editorial Board colleagues quite graciously gave me a wonderful tour of Mesquite yesterday. Isn't it pretty out there? And why is this so damned hard for the Mesquite City Council to understand?

Elaine has more details on the Mesquite City Council ultimately voting 3-2 to walk back support for protecting Gold Butte. I just find it perplexing that this very council, the council who just rebuked #BundyRanch #Crazytown two weeks ago, caved into pressure by the Bundys and their allies. I also find it perplexing that they ultimately settled for a "split the baby solution" (with a resolution only supporting protection for half of Gold Butte, and a resolution that calls for nearly unlimited vehicle access everywhere) that pleases no one.

Council Members Kraig Hafen & George Rapson stated this resolution is only as valuable as the paper it's printed on, as they believe the federal government will somehow go ahead and take action to protect Gold Butte with or without them. With that kind of attitude, they essentially risk creating that very reality. As US Senator Harry Reid (D) & President Obama consider next steps on Gold Butte, they & US Rep. Dina Titus (D-Paradise) are actively seeking local input. If the Mesquite Council majority continue to thumb their noses at the feds like this, they only risk forfeiting their own seats at the table.

And then, there's their odd attitude about the future of Gold Butte. Of course, they remind me of State Senate Majority Leader Michael Roberson (R-Henderson) pushing SJR 1 in his attempt to "split the baby" on public lands policy in Carson City. He & his allies have tried to sell it to "TEA" drinkers in the Building as "real action", yet they've assured more level-headed folks in there that it's only ceremonial.

So why waste time on it? SJR 1 certainly doesn't change federal policy, but it does endorse #BundyRanch insurrectionist lawlessness. Yet because it doesn't really change any real policy, the #BundyRanch crew are not satisfied with it. They wanted the original AB 408, and no ceremonial BS will satisfy them or Assembly Member Michele Fiore (R-Las Vegas).

You know what happens when one splits the baby? The baby dies, and one is then charged with murder. Both the Mesquite City Council and the Nevada Legislature should keep this in mind.

<http://letstalknevada.com/nvleg-live-thread-day-87/>





## **#MesquiteNV City Council Votes To Weaken Support to #ProtectGoldButte**

Writer: Elaine Hurd

Published: April 29, 2015

By a vote of 3 to 2, Mesquite City Council voted to weaken the city's commitment to National Conservation with Wilderness at Gold Butte by passing Resolution 867 during a 3-1/2+ hour meeting last night. Councilpersons Kraig Hafen, George Rapson and Geno Withelder voted yes. Councilpersons Rich Green and Cindi Delaney voted no. Mayor Al Litman stated he could not support Resolution 867 in its current form and recommended that council not take a vote last night and continue to improve the document. Councilman Rapson ignored him and made a motion that was seconded by Hafen and Withelder added his vote.

An audience of about 100 people sat through more than 50 public comments before and after Resolution 867 passed with minor changes. I counted 24 people who were opposed to Resolution 867 in its current form and who support NCA with Wilderness at Gold Butte and 17 who are opposed to the federal government's involvement in Gold Butte and who supported Council's subsequent action. Three other speakers sounded neutral on the matter.

Resolution 867 will replace Resolutions 649 that was passed (unanimously) in 2009 and 669 that was passed in 2010 and re-affirmed by city council in 2012. Both resolutions positioned Mesquite in support for Gold Butte as National Conservation with Wilderness, which is higher level of protection than its current status as Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Two language changes to Resolution 867 included changing "no Wilderness" to "no additional Wilderness". Gold Butte currently has two Wilderness areas within its 350,000 acre complex. Wilderness can only be established or eliminated through an Act of Congress and the new wording of Resolution 867 will not contest the status of those two existing Wilderness areas. The other change was language regarding the time frame the City wants for the agreed duration of a temporary road closure from 24 hours to seven days.

Two other controversial statements in the resolution remained. One subject to confusion was the Council changing the boundaries of the NCA area, cutting it in half. At the Technical Review meeting on Tuesday, April 21 when Council reviewed the first draft of the Resolution, there was no discussion on boundary changes for NCA. There was a reference to back up material and maps that would be sent to council members after the meeting, per Kraig Hafen's request, as he stated that he preferred Whitney Pockets as a boundary area. That request for additional materials became a boundary change without any open discussion by council members. I was in the room, as were several other observers, who did not consider that to be a request for a boundary change. But Councilman Hafen insisted this action was proper. City Attorney Bob Sweetin explained the Resolution was drafted according to the instructions of Council at the Technical Review meeting.

The other statement that "no restriction shall be made relating to the access or use of any mechanical or motorized vehicle" indicates that all vehicles can go anywhere within the Gold Butte area. Even the current status of ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) restricts motorized vehicles to "designated routes" (the government name for the over 500 miles of existing roads).



Several speakers encouraged Mayor Al Litman to veto Resolution 867, thereby keeping the first two resolutions in place, in order to allow for City Council to continue working on Resolution 867 and clear up confusing language as well as fully discuss the impact of the city proposing a boundary change.

Every council member except Kraig Hafen has stated support of Gold Butte being protected as a National Conservation Area. Hafen and Rapson did, however, vote to rescind the original resolution in 2012, so their positions remained consistent. Geno Withelder, however, voted both in 09 and 10 to support the two original resolutions. He flip flopped. Al Litman, Cindi Delaney and Rich Green were consistent in their support for reasonable protections for Gold Butte. Al Litman voted to continue support in 2012. Both Delaney and Green expressed their support during the 2013 campaign.

What does this mean? City council's action has no legal bearing. It is simply a statement of support or no support from a nearby community. Legislation has been proposed in the United States Congress and its language continues to be adjusted. This matter has been adjudicated by multiple agencies, experts and interest groups for more than a decade.

The issue is more about perception than substance. It was clear from the high-fiving and back slapping of the anti-government folks after the vote that they felt they got a "win." It is the opinion of many that it is not helpful for Mesquite to be perceived as supporting anti-government rhetoric. Like it or not, this is the valley where Cliven Bundy led an armed civilian militia showdown with the federal government last April over illegally grazing cows at Gold Butte. A number of speakers warned city council that a vote to weaken its support of federal protection for Gold Butte would poorly position the city in the eyes of the county, state and federal government. It is my opinion that Mayor Al Litman had the right solution — keep working on the resolution so council could come to a consensus and be comfortable with the final result. That opinion was also openly shared by Councilpersons Delaney and Green.

This was a 50-50 split. Three council members vs two council members and mayor. The mayor does not have a vote except in a tie, but Mayor Litman's statement was clear. He does not like much of what's in Senate Bill 199 and he wants the city on record stating where it has preferences, so he asked that the previous resolutions be re-considered. But he didn't think Resolution 867 was written well enough to make a coherent and proper statement.

I think this was a slipshod process on something that is critically important to the reputation of Mesquite. It deserved more due diligence from council members. Hardly anyone from the county, state or federal governments pays attention to the actions of city council because it mostly tends to local matters. But they are paying attention to this vote because it is also a county, state and federal matter.

Let's Talk Nevada writers will continue to write about this topic. Below are video clips of council's discussion and vote, from my handheld camera. A compilation of comments is being edited together and will be published later, as will a better version of the below comments on our YouTube channel. If you are interested in viewing what precisely was said, you can click on the links below.

<http://letstalknevada.com/mesquiteny-city-council-votes-to-weaken-support-to-protectgoldbutte/>





## Let's "Bubble Wrap" #MesquiteNV City Council

Writer: Elaine Hurd

Published: April 27, 2015

Councilman Kraig Hafen's brother, Tilman, said "bubble wrap me" at the last city council meeting while opposing the city's resolution to federally protect Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness.

After watching the actions and attitudes of this city council, I've concluded the only way to save our city is to "bubble wrap" and stifle them before it's too late.

Arrogant and ignorant doesn't begin to describe these council members. They may also be operating outside the bounds of the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

I attended this past Tuesday's technical review meeting and recorded the discussion on re-wording of the National Conservation Area Resolution for Gold Butte. It was agreed at the City Council meeting on April 14, 2015 that a new resolution would be drafted to replace 649 and 669 which are statements in line with the Clark County Commission that Mesquite City Council agrees that Gold Butte should be protected as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness.

These original resolutions were passed by Mesquite City Council in '09 and in '10 and re-affirmed in '12. Then suddenly, THIS city council decides to re-visit the resolutions since they aren't in better alignment with Cliven Bundy's views and that of his pioneer family brethren who contend Gold Butte is theirs to use and abuse without restriction. Council even picked the first anniversary of Cliven's armed civilian militia invasion that forced federal officers to stand down to avoid bloodshed as the **perfect time** to re-visit these resolutions — which did not HAVE to be brought up at all.

[HERE](#) is the draft resolution that was discussed at the Technical Review meeting on April 21.

Geno Withelder, Cindi Delaney, Kraig Hafen, George Rapson and Rich Green talked about how they do not want any wilderness designated at Gold Butte. Never mind that Gold Butte already has two Wilderness Areas that never were and never will be accessible by any road. This has been explained to them over and over again, but THIS city council appears unable to grasp the concept.

Council agreed that temporary road closures at the discretion of the BLM might be necessary due to natural disasters and public safety; also that water accessibility should not be infringed— which language is already in the bill. These guys like to keep saying the big bad federal government is trying to infringe on our water rights— which it isn't, but it sounds good to the anti-government crowd.

That's about all that was said regarding proposed Resolution 867. They all nodded that it looked pretty good. City Attorney Bob Sweetin stated he would draft new wording based on this discussion.

[HERE](#) is the draft resolution that surfaced Thursday to be presented at Mesquite City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 28.



It says "*The Gold Butte area shall not have any area designated as "wilderness."* That's not any MORE area – but ANY at all. Never mind there are already two wilderness areas.

It says "*any National Conservation Area designation north of the area commonly known as Whitney Pockets, more technically known as the southern portion of Township 16 South, Range 70 East would be overbearing and unnecessary, as such area are not comparable in either presentation, historical or cultural value or recreational value, to areas such as Whitney Pockets or Gold Butte;*"

In other words, THIS city council is re-writing the boundary of the established and agreed upon National Conservation Area, essentially cutting it in half. At no time were any boundary issues discussed at the technical review meetings of April 7 or April 21 or the City Council meeting of April 14. This is out of bounds, unvetted, and has never been discussed within the view of the public.

And ... "*The roads throughout the Gold Butte complex shall not close at any time, day or night, even if the area is designated as a National Conservation Area, for any reason, excepting only acts of God, in which case the roads may be closed for bona fide emergency purposes for not longer than 24 hours.*"

Dictating road closure timing for "acts of God?" Who made these guys civil engineers?

Or how about this statement "*the citizens and the Council of City of Mesquite do not want restrictions that would prevent accessing any part of the Gold Butte Complex by way of motorized vehicles, a necessary consequence of a wilderness designation.*"

THIS city council speaks only for itself – not ALL citizens of Mesquite as regards the federal protection of Gold Butte. Council is ignoring citizens who WANT Gold Butte to get full federal protection ... and there never were any roads in "wilderness."

Reality Check — Gold Butte does not belong to Mesquite or Bunkerville. It is federal land, managed by the federal government and it will stay that way .... despite Cliven Bundy's attempts to change it. Mesquite happens to be the Gateway City to an area of historical, ecological and wildlife significance.

Remember ... the original agenda item placed by Attorney Sweetin on April 7 was cryptic and non-descriptive as if they were trying to sneak through a vote to vacate these resolutions without anyone noticing. Members of council acted **oh so offended** that we suggested it might be so ... like watching a child deny his hand was in the cookie jar with crumbs all over his face.

Why even bring up the existing Gold Butte resolutions? According to Cindi Delaney THIS city council is peeved at the BLM for not extending comments on its Resource Management Plan. At the council meeting she said "*The BLM was up here ..... and like happens a lot of time in Clark County and the state of Nevada, Mesquite got treated like the ugly step child. They didn't want to give us a separate hearing or some time for people to come talk. We all got a little worked about it and we all were talking about it and I think Mr. Sweetin said maybe we should re-look at these things.*"

The truth is that the BLM held open its comment period for 150 days including two extensions. THIS city council was too disorganized to pay any attention until the last minute and "got a little worked about" the BLM not accommodating ITS timetable. THEN when the BLM agreed to come and make a presentation, answer questions, and take public and City Council comments the City CANCELLED the meeting, saying it had received unspecified threats. But, of course, council never told us lowly citizens what those threats were or who they came from. Can any of us guess who might have threatened the City if it met with the BLM? Council eventually held the meeting after wasting time.

The citizens of Mesquite have a problem here. Either THIS city council is meeting secretly and illegally outside of the public view and changing things up, or we have one or two self serving bullying council members who dictate their terms to everyone else outside of regular order ... or ... we have a new city attorney who is off the reservation “doing his own thing” – bringing up these resolutions that fuel controversy, then wording the new one to reflect his own beliefs and to try to drive his own agenda.

Which is it? We'll let you know when we get answers – principals of *Let's Talk Nevada* didn't get call backs or email responses on Friday, but expect to hear from city officials today.

So ... here we go again. Tuesday at 5 p.m, Mesquite City Hall, 10 East Mesquite Boulevard. Be there to give your public comments on Gold Butte as National Conservation Area with Wilderness. Phone is 702-346-5295.

Email to Council and Mayor is [HERE](#).

<http://letstalknevada.com/lets-bubble-wrap-mesquitenv-city-council/>



# Social Media Coverage: April 28, 2015 Mesquite City Council

<https://storify.com/jackieomdb/nevadans-speak-up-to-protectgoldbutte-in-gomesquit>

Date range

Apr 28 - Apr 29

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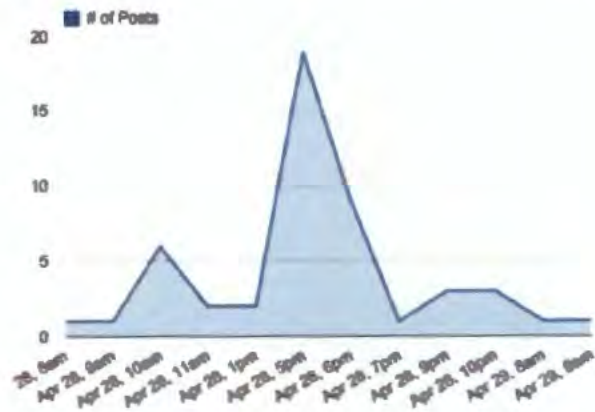
49  
posts

16  
users

6,515  
reach

20,408  
impressions

## Timeline



## Top Posts

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Tip: Click on a post's date to be taken to original post

- Jeey Simons** @WVest\_Jeey Apr 28 5

Tom Cluff clarifies for #MesquiteNV that Wilderness is designated by Congress not by executive order. #KeepItPublicNV #protectgoldbutte
- Protect Nevada** @ProtectNevada Apr 28 5

Another packed room of #protectgoldbutte supporters at the @GoMesquiteNV city council meeting! #keepitpublicNV #protectNV
- Friends of NV Wild** @FriendsOfNVWild Apr 28 4

Thanks @LasVegasSun for speaking up for our #publiclands! <http://t.co/47YQe81R6> #KeepItPublicNV #ProtectNV
- Protect Nevada** @ProtectNevada Apr 28 4

#Publiclands conservation is "a pillar of our American values" <http://t.co/js2rAg52L4> #KeepItPublicNV @MarkAmodeiNV2 @RepHardy

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TWEETREACH SNAPSHOT FOR  
**#protectgoldbutte**

ESTIMATED REACH

**18,184**

ACCOUNTS REACHED

EXPOSURE

**97,395** IMPRESSIONS



ACTIVITY

**201**

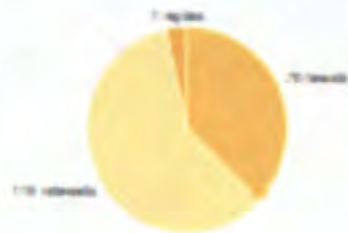
TWEETS

**34**

CONTRIBUTORS

**8**

DAYS



TOP CONTRIBUTORS

**19.9k**

IMPRESSIONS



**@DianeSnaveley**

**37**

RETWEETS



**@goldbutte**

**45**

MENTIONS



**@goldbutte**

MOST RETWEETED TWEETS

**7**



Friends of Gold Butte @goldbutte  
 "Wildlife depends on wilderness areas to survive"  
 @GoldSquirtTV The Byron George #protectgoldbutte

**6**



Friends of Gold Butte @goldbutte  
 Rock sculptures from Little Friend #ProtectGoldButte  
 v.donorsus.com/2261461?sp=it&u=friend/Coop/26

**5**



Friends of Gold Butte @goldbutte  
 Great abstract from Jay Giroux @friendsilverd  
 @GoldSquirtTV #ProtectGoldButte



# The Spectrum

## **What's going on?**

Guest Writer: Elaine Hurd

Published: April 27, 2015

### **What's going on with this City Council?**

I attended the technical review meeting on Tuesday when members discussed wording of Resolution 867 on federal protection for Gold Butte. What was agreed is different than what is being presented at the City Council meeting on Tuesday night.

In particular, radical boundary changes for the National Conservation Area were added after the meeting. Gold Butte is a magnificent tourist magnet of historical, ecological and wildlife significance that has been and always will be managed by the federal government.

It is time for members of this City Council to quit indulging itself with self serving games and start acting responsibly on behalf of this city.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/04/27/letters-editor/2648188/>

# The Spectrum

## **Council to cut Gold Butte NCA protection**

Writer: Staff Reporter

Published: April 27, 2015

The Mesquite City Council is scheduled to vote on a resolution regarding a National Conservation Area (NCA) designation for Gold Butte Tuesday at its regular meeting at 5 p.m.

Old resolutions that were approved by previous councils supported an NCA designation with possible wilderness areas. The current council, however, disagreed with those resolutions and decided not to support any wilderness areas in Gold Butte.

Council directed staff to draft a new resolution regarding support for an NCA in Gold Butte that will be reviewed at tonight's meeting. If the Council approves the resolution, the old one will officially be repealed. If not, council can instruct staff to further amend the new resolution.

The new resolution includes language saying "a wilderness designation would be overly burdensome and impractical for the visitors of Gold Butte..." according to city documents found at [www.mesquitenv.gov](http://www.mesquitenv.gov). According to [nps.gov](http://nps.gov), a wilderness designation is "the highest level of conservation protection for federal lands." It is an area where "the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," the site says.

It further explains wilderness "as an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions..."

"Only Congress may designate wilderness or change the status of wilderness area," the site says.

A wilderness designation would prohibit permanent roads and generally does not allow motorized equipment, motor vehicles, mechanical transport, temporary roads, permanent structures or installations, according to [nps.gov](http://nps.gov).

The new resolution also includes language regarding the potential road closures; restricting mechanical or motorized vehicles; potential Virgin Valley water rights; an advisory council being established, and a visitor's center being built inside Mesquite city limits.

The resolution also says a NCA designation north of Whitney Pockets would be overbearing and unnecessary. Local special interest group Friends of Gold Butte (FOGB) disagrees with the proposed resolution according to a call to action posted on their [Meetup.com](http://Meetup.com) page.

"In this resolution, the council is asserting that the area of the proposed NCA be cut in half," the page says. "This is a dangerous proposal. Drawing the boundary at Whitney Pockets would fail to protect habitat for the desert bighorn sheep and the desert tortoise."

The call to action asks supporters to write City Council members and to attend the meeting tonight to voice concerns.



In other scheduled business, council will hold a public hearing before voting whether to change the candidacy filing fees in Mesquite. Currently the fee is \$25, one of the lowest in Clark County. It passed the fee will change to \$100. If Council agrees to pass the change any future funds collected from the increase will be placed into the general fund, according to city documents.

The meeting begins at 5 p.m., on the second floor in council chambers in City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2015/04/27/council-cut-gold-butte-nca-protection/26482945/>

# The Spectrum

## **Chamber shows new video**

Writer: Jesselyn Bickley

Published: April 23, 2015

The Mesquite-Area Chamber of Commerce showed its new video at the Community Forum Thursday. The video is designed to attract new business and tourism to Mesquite, according to Noel Smith, chamber president-elect.

The video was paid for with a 2013 grant from the Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) and a matching grant from the Mesquite Regional Business Inc. (MRB), Smith said. Outgoing MRB CEO Gaye Stockman said the grant from her agency was \$1,000, making the cost of the production about \$2,000.

Todd Simon, THS-Visuals Motion Pictures, spent three days in Mesquite last fall filming different areas in the city including casinos, the Mesquite Fine Arts Gallery, Mesquite Sports and Events Complex, Virgin Valley Heritage Museum, local dining, the Mesquite Community Theater and several golf courses.

The finished product shows Long Drive competition at the MSEC, classes at the art gallery, a family touring the museum, people playing and riding at the Awesome Adventures Park, skydiving, kayaking on the Virgin River, hiking in Gold Butte, dining, hotels, the Mesquite Toes-Tap Team practicing, gambling and more. The production is packed with local people

The video is available on the chamber's new website, [www.mesquitechamber.org](http://www.mesquitechamber.org). It's planned to be on the MRB website; NCOT, [travelnevada.com](http://travelnevada.com); and Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's (LVCVA), [www.lvcva.com](http://www.lvcva.com), website as well.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2015/04/23/chamber-shows-new-video/26268453/>



# The Spectrum

Protect Gold Butte

Guest Writer: Richard Cooper

Published April 23, 2015

I am writing to voice my disagreement with the Mesquite City Council's decision to discuss repealing their resolution to support Gold Butte.

Events of the last year have made it obvious that local control and local ownership of our wild lands is not always in the best interest of the public and the taxpayer. Many times local control disrespects our land and our public will for the sake of an individual's profits.

A local rancher has used the public's land and refused to pay rent. Why should we trust this rancher to pay rent to the state or county or respect any other form of law and order. Especially when he can bully and intimidate local officials with his gang.

Please support free access to and protection of our federal, state and local public lands that support tourism and economic development for all Americans.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/04/23/letters-editor/26268097/>



## **Tuesday Council Meeting to revisit Gold Butte Resolution**

Writer: Stephanie Frehner

Published: April 23, 2015

According to Tuesday's Technical Review Meeting, the Mesquite City Council will revisit the potential Resolution 867 that would replace Resolutions 649 and 669, which supported designating Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area.

Through discussions, it was clear that there is still some fine-tuning that will need to take place, but the council will be addressing the new verbiage at the April 28 meeting. On the cover sheet for the item, it states that "The proposed resolution resolves that 649 and 669 be repealed and that Gold Butte be designated a National Conservation Area subject to: (1) no wilderness designation; (2) the roads remaining open; and (3) access to water not being restricted."

However, there are other areas in which the council will need to decide if they wish to have it included in the resolution including, but not limited to, a possible advisory council, location of a visitor's center (if one is built for Gold Butte), core values, designated roads and the "expression of a position relative to the Virgin Valley Water District." As per Aaron Baker, the City Liaison, an email received from VVWD Manager Kevin Brown stated that the VVWD was against the designation of Gold Butte as an NCA as the language exists in the current bill. The language that Brown and the VVWD would like in the Federal Bill will be provided in the Regular Agenda on the City's website, [www.mesquitenv.gov](http://www.mesquitenv.gov), on Thursday morning. Council will also discuss specific road issues.

Other items on the agenda include a presentation from the Colorado River Commission (CRC) regarding power from the Hoover Dam and consideration of Resolution 866, supporting their draft establishing allocations from a resource pool for the Boulder Canyon Project (Hoover Dam).

Currently, the City of Mesquite uses two megawatts of power per month at \$95 per megawatt hour (MWH). Reaching an agreement with the CRC could drop their fees to \$65 per MWH. The CRC could approve the agreement, if reached, for up to 50 years, saving the city a substantial amount of money over time.

In other business for the next meeting, council received sufficient materials and information to move forward with an agreement and establishment related to Nevada Institute for Autonomous Systems (NIAS). The Institute will have access to 1400 acres near the Exit 112 area for testing.

Council will also hold a Public Hearing for the adoption of Bill No. 491 as Ordinance 491 which would amend Chapter 8 Elections application fees. Currently, the applicants for Council and Mayor pay a nominal \$25, which is the minimum allowed by the State of Nevada. While there is no requirement to raise the fee, council will be discussing the possibility of doing so, bringing Mesquite up to the levels of other municipalities in the state that charge upwards of \$100 per application.

The April 28 Council Meeting will begin at 5 p.m. at City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Boulevard.



<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/04/tuesday-council-meeting-to-revisit-gold-butte-resolution/>

# The Spectrum

## Gold Butte full of treasures

Writer: Brandon Mullens

Published: April 20, 2015

The next time you hike or travel to Gold Butte, Red Rock, Whitney Pocket or any other prehistoric, or historic locations be cautious of its resources and treasures.

During a Friends of Gold Butte education series last week, Rayette Martin, executive director of Nevadans for Cultural Preservations, explained the cultural resources in Southern Nevada and how you can help protect them.

Martin, a cultural anthropologist with more than 10 years of experience exploring the Nevada outdoors, said she has 18 years of supervisory and volunteer management experience. She enjoys working with the public.

Some prehistoric cultural resources that can be found throughout the southern end of the Silver State include rock shelters, hunting blinds, pottery, stone tools, rock art and agave roasting pits, Martin said. Historic cultural resources include mines, ghost towns, purple glass and even rusty cans.

“Pretty much anything that’s been there for 50 years or more is a cultural resource,” Martin said. “There’s evidence that people have been here over 12,000 years or longer, (but) it’s debatable. Some of the things that tell us this are the rock shelters, roasting pits that are quite common and the petroglyphs and pictographs found in Gold Butte.”

There are lots of resources that people don’t seem to notice or look interesting to them, such as arrowheads, Martin said. Cans that are scattered throughout desert are also very important to anthropologists.

“They tell us how many people were in the area, how long they stayed and what time frame they were there,” she said. “You can also track the can scatters to see where people moved. You can also tell the diets of miners that were there.”

Martin also said people like to collect the purple or blue glass they find scattered around but there’s lots of new glass being manufactured and people don’t know whether the glass is new or old.

“When in doubt, leave the glass there,” she said.

A major reason why cultural resources and artifacts are important to Nevadans is because it belongs to all of us, she said. It’s where future generations are going to live. It also belongs to the Native Americans.

“I’ve actually heard from some Native Americans that nature is a museum,” Martin said. “That coming across those items and those places is part of the experience. They don’t see museums the way we do, by having them in a building. So when you take an item away from its context, from the rock shelter, heat or landscape, it doesn’t have the same meaning or significance.”

Sadly, some artifacts are stolen; rock shelters are marked with graffiti. Some use rock sculptures for target practice or trash is burned, Martin said.



The audience gasped when Martin showed rock art with more than a hundred sketched figures inside of a cave in the Red Rock area near Las Vegas that had been scratched out.

“They took so much time to scratch it out that they lost a finger nail,” Martin said. “That’s intentional, pre-meditated angry-type destruction.”

Martin gave the crowd some tips and advice to protect historic areas and their resources.

- Take pictures not things.
- Stay on trails. Many cultural resources are very close to jeep and hiking trails. Leaving the trails in vehicles can cause damage to sensitive cultural areas.
- Enjoy the rock art without touching it. Oils from your hands can damage the art.
- Use extreme caution when visiting mines and buildings; many of them are unstable.

“The ‘trash’ is a part of us all, Native Americans and families of the pioneers,” Martin said. “If you want to know about the treasure back then, you can tell by the trash.”

If you see any suspicious activities in these historic sites, or damages, contact the NVFCP at 702-466-3013, or [info@nvfcp.org](mailto:info@nvfcp.org). For more information, visit [www.NVFCP.org](http://www.NVFCP.org).

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2015/04/20/gold-butte-full-treasures/26096187/>



## **A monumental push: Reid plans to designate two more areas for protection**

Writer: Amber Phillips

Published: April 19, 2015

Until late last year, environmentalists' and tourism officials' dream of Congress bestowing a national monument outside Las Vegas seemed like a long shot.

A bill to protect almost 23,000 acres of prehistoric fossil beds outside North Las Vegas had languished in Congress for several years.

But thanks in part to Sen. Harry Reid's behind-the-scenes jockeying in 2014, Tule Springs National Monument is becoming a reality.

Now Reid is pushing for two more national monuments in Nevada to protect more than 1 million acres of desert outside Las Vegas.

Three national monuments within a four-hour drive from the Strip would be beyond tourism officials' wildest dreams. But such a turn of events would be a nightmare for many Nevada Republicans, and they may not be able to stop it from happening.

### **What is a national monument?**

Designation as a national monument offers one of the highest levels of federal protection for a swath of land in America. Congress or the president create monuments to protect land with historical or cultural significance. Examples include Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

National monuments differ slightly from national parks in that the parks, such as the Grand Canyon, are created to protect educational or scenic land.

### **What does Reid want to protect?**

Reid reintroduced a bill in January that would create a conservation area over 350,000 acres of desert scrub near Gold Butte, the mining ghost town northeast of Lake Mead. The area's colorful rocks, canyons and petroglyphs are popular with hikers, bikers and off-roaders.

Reid also reintroduced a bill that would withdraw 800,000 acres of land in Lincoln and Nye counties from oil and gas drilling. The move would ensure that Nevada artist Michael Heizer could protect "City," a miles-long Earth sculpture he has carved and built in the desert over decades.

Democratic Rep. Dina Titus recently introduced two similar bills in the House of Representatives.



But the bills have almost no chance of advancing in Congress during Reid's remaining 21 months in office. His next-best option is to convince President Barack Obama to protect the land by designating it part of two new national monuments.

### **Why is this controversial?**

The Republican-controlled Congress is reluctant to hand the federal government control of so much land and close it off to development, particularly energy development in rural Clark, Lincoln and Nye counties. The Gold Butte proposal is particularly contentious because it covers the land where Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy led an armed standoff with federal officials last year.

Republican Sen. Dean Heller introduced legislation with Nevada's three House Republicans to take away the president's power to create national monuments.

"If it's something the state government wants, the local government wants, the federal government wants, that's fine," Heller said. "I just want things to go through the process."

But Reid appears to be forging ahead, making his case in public meetings and letters to administration officials. In February, he and Titus invited a high-ranking official from the Department of the Interior to a public meeting in Southern Nevada filled with supporters in favor of protecting the land.

"Legislation has always been Reid's priority, but he's not opposed to designations," Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said.

### **What will happen?**

There's a very real chance Reid could get his wish and see Obama designate two new national monuments in Southern Nevada before both leave office in January 2017.

Reid has gathered a diverse and powerful group of supporters: the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Nevada Resort Association, wilderness activists, MGM Resorts International CEO Jim Murren and Barrick Gold Corp.

The president, whose administration has designated 16 national monuments since 2009, tends to choose projects that have strong local support and a clear public input process, said Matt Keller, of the Wilderness Society.

"It's a challenge to move these things, and lawmakers have to find openings when they have them," Keller said. Reid already is credited with creating Northern Nevada's Great Basin national park and more than 60 protected wilderness areas. Leaving a 30-year career in the U.S. Senate with three national monuments to his name would be the capstone of Reid's environmental legacy.

"These are our lands," he told KNPR. "They are federal lands. They belong to everybody in America."

<http://m.lasvegassun.com/news/2015/apr/19/reid-making-monumental-push/>



## **Protecting Gold Butte**

Guest Writer: Kathryn McQuade

Published: April 16, 2015

When I first moved to Mesquite from the east, I really did not have an appreciation of the desert environment. I felt it was dry and barren and lacking diversity. Since moving here, I have made an effort to study and explore our area through reading and hiking. I now realize how very fragile our desert ecosystem is, and how difficult it is for the plants, animals and insects to survive and thrive in our harsh conditions. This appreciation for the fragility of our environment is why I am asking you to continue to support the protection of Gold Butte.

I have hiked through many portions of Gold Butte, and have seen first hand some of the destruction of the area through people's irresponsible littering of paper, plastic, home articles, tires, also going off trail with ATVs, shooting holes in ancient artifacts and leaving shotgun and bullet casings on the ground.

The current violations are evidence that Gold Butte will continue to be abused if we don't move to protect it. While the Federal Government is not always seen as the perfect custodian, it has far more resources available than State and Local Governments that are struggling today to balance budgets.

All the various outdoor constituents should be able to enjoy this wonderful area, but each must do it in a responsible and thoughtful manner, to preserve its beauty and health for everyone today and into the future... not just for the benefit of a few special interests. National Parks and federally protected areas receive the publicity and are drawing more and more tourist each year, particularly millennials who prefer active vacations. This of course would be good for Mesquite, the city that is the gateway to Gold Butte.

So in the words of Theodore Roosevelt, an avid sportsman, a good businessman and exceptional leader:

“We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation.”

“I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.”

“Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.”

Your vote today is not just for the people in this room, but for future generations and how we as a city will be defined in the future. I ask you to vote to support protecting our area.

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/04/protecting-gold-butte/>



## City supports NCA for Gold Butte

Writer: Jesselyn Bickley

Published: April 15, 2015

After being bombarded with comments for nearly 90 minutes Tuesday night on making Gold Butte a National Conservation Area (NCA), the Mesquite City Council voted to support the designation as long as there is no wilderness area connected to it.

City Councils in 2009 and 2010 had previously approved the support for the NCA "with wilderness," but this Council has a problem with the wilderness designation.

"These support virtually any legislation with a NCA designation," Councilman George Rapson said. "My problem is not with NCA, it's with wilderness."

Council passed a motion to draft a new resolution that supports legislation for a NCA designation but with no wilderness, no road closures and no restrictions on Virgin Valley water rights.

The old resolutions will be officially repealed should the new resolution be approved at the next City Council meeting, April 28 at 5 p.m.

Mesquite Mayor Al Litman prefaced the public hearing on Gold Butte by saying it had nothing to do with Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy and his battle with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) over unpaid grazing fees.

Bundy last week held an anniversary celebration in Bunkerville to commemorate the group's alleged "victory" over the BLM.

However, several speakers brought Bundy into the discussion Tuesday night include two members of the Moapa Band of Paiutes.

Vickie Simmons of the Moapa Band disputed Bundy claim that his family has ancestral rights to the land and he shouldn't have to pay grazing fees.

"This is not Bundys' ancestral land; it is my tribe's ancestral land," Simmons said. "I support protection of Gold Butte. This will be no place to be should you turn these resolutions backward."

Former Mesquite City Councilman Karl Gustavson said it's unfortunate that Gold Butte and the Bundys can't be separated into separate items because of the situation that attracted national attention last year.

"The Bundy situation was a real step backward for the community," he said. "I voted on both these resolutions as a positive. I'm very disappointed. People are going to look at it and think they (the City Council) agree with what happened a year ago. I don't agree with it and I hope the rest of you don't either."

Resident John Williams questioned why the item was even being considered.

“Who wants to overturn it?” Williams asked. “Today is the wrong day to do it. There is no worse PR move for the city than to be attached to Bundy.”

Tony Barron agreed and said Gold Butte is not just the backyard of the city’s pioneers. He said Gold Butte deserves protection.

“We can be known as the gateway to Gold Butte, or the gateway to Bunkerville,” Barron said. For more on Tuesday’s Mesquite City Council meeting see Friday’s edition of the Desert Valley Times online at [www.thespectrum.com/Mesquite](http://www.thespectrum.com/Mesquite).

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2015/04/15/city-supports-nea-gold-butte/25823187/>





## **#MesquiteNV City Council Speaks on #ProtectGoldButte**

Writer: Elaine Hurd

Published: April 15, 2015

More than 100 people packed Mesquite City Council Chambers Tuesday night. The majority of citizens were there to weigh in on whether the city should continue its support for Gold Butte to obtain National Conservation Area with Wilderness federal protection.

Mesquite City Council passed Resolution 649 in 2009 and Resolution 669 in 2010 affirming support. Resolution 669 was voted on again and approved in 2012. The resolutions were brought up for discussion because only one current council member, Geno Withelder, was on council when the resolutions were passed and the Bureau of Land Management is preparing its Lands Management Plan.

Currently Gold Butte is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) but more resources to better manage the land will become available if it obtains the National Conservation Area with Wilderness federal designation.

Gold Butte is at the center of the federal government's conflict with Cliven Bundy over his illegal use of the land to graze about 900 head of cattle. BLM officers began a court ordered roundup of his cattle last spring which led to an influx of armed militia into the area to defend Bundy's claim to grazing rights. BLM officers were forced to withdraw from the area after a standoff closed the I-15 freeway and nearly led to a shoot-out on April 12, 2014. Reportedly, BLM officers no longer enter the area because of threats.

I counted 41 people who spoke on these resolutions, with 31 in favor of keeping them in place and 10 opposed. When someone asked how many people in the room were from Mesquite, more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the audience raised their hands. Several others had traveled from Las Vegas and Henderson.

Speakers pointed out that hiking, camping and off road riding along with enjoying the beauty of Gold Butte is what brought them to the area. Several pleaded for the desert ecosystem to be protected and ancient artifacts be safeguarded.

Jaina Moan, Executive Director of Friends of Gold Butte, emphasized the importance of Gold Butte to Mesquite's local economy because communities within close proximity to federal lands see a boost in visitors and new residents.

Opponents to the resolutions largely complained about restrictions that would be imposed if Gold Butte was designated National Conservation Area with Wilderness. Brian Haviland of the Bunkerville Town Council reminded Mesquite City Council that Bunkerville opposes these resolutions. He stated that Gold Butte is part of Bunkerville's township, not Mesquite's.

Vicki Simmons of the Moapa Band of Paiutes told the crowd "it is not (Cliven) Bundy's ancestral land, it is my (family's) ancestral land." The crowd cheered.

Former Mesquite City Councilman Karl Gustavson said he is disappointed these resolutions were being re-visited during the one year anniversary of the Bundy-BLM conflict and he reiterated his support for Gold Butte's federal protection.

Upon completion of comments, each city council member made a statement about Gold Butte's designation as National Conservation with Wilderness. In 2012, Councilmen Kraig Hafen and George Rapson voted to rescind Resolution 669. Each one explained why they had problems with the Wilderness Area but did not entirely oppose it being a National Conservation Area.

Councilman Rapson made a motion that these resolutions be rescinded and replaced by a new one that supported Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area, however specifying that no additional wilderness be added, all existing roads remain open and ensuring water rights be protected. Councilman Rich Green clarified that the existing resolutions would remain in place unless and until the new resolution passed. The second was made by Councilwoman Cindi Delaney.

Here is a video of each council person's statement. Councilman Geno Withelder participated by phone, so the video is audio. This is a hand-held camera from the audience.

During Closing Public Comments, Jaina Moan clarified what was in the NCA proposal and offered to work with City Council so the process of establishing Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness could move forward. She expressed confidence that everyone's concerns can be met.

<http://letstalknevada.com/mesquitenv-city-council-speaks-on-protectgoldbutte/>





## **Long meeting agenda draws out-of-towners**

Writer: Stephanie Frehner

Published: April 15, 2015

Tuesday's City Council meeting brought a completely packed house, with over 130 in attendance. But it wasn't filled with locals concerned about the new library proposal or sale of land around Exit 118. No, it was out of town residents who claim to visit Mesquite for its location adjacent to Gold Butte.

The item on the agenda was to discuss the council's position on existing resolutions that showed support for turning Gold Butte into an NCA, or National Conservation Area. The existing Resolutions, #649 and #669 have been in effect since October 2009 when signed by then-Mayor Susan Holecheck. Five and a half years have passed without changes to the area, and with the recent developments with the Bureau of Land Management, city staff determined that it would be good to bring the resolutions back to council to discuss. There was no mention in the materials that any action would be taken, but the possibility was there.

For more than 90 minutes, attendees stood up and spoke for three minutes, sometimes more, of why they want Gold Butte protected and what it means to them. Some even went so far as to threaten that they would never come back to Mesquite if the council were to overturn the resolutions.

But then there was one tall gentleman who stood up and spoke his opposition to making Gold Butte an NCA. Brian Haviland, a member of the Bunkerville Town Board stated that "The BTAB is against wanting to have an NCA dedication in our area. The Gold Butte area is within the Bunkerville Township, it is our town... we do not feel it will help us." He was one of only a few who spoke in opposition of the support.

After the comments were finished each council member stated their position and concerns, most citing that they don't have a problem with the NCA portion on protection, but more with the wilderness aspect. That section allows for some unclear lines and undesirable regulations that would hurt those who want to enjoy the area.

Ultimately, the council voted unanimously to rescind the two resolutions once a new resolution with more specific details was approved, potentially at the next meeting.

Other business of Tuesday's meeting included approving talks with the Library District in how to proceed with building a new library at 105 W Mesquite Boulevard. Dr. Ronald Heezen, the Library District's Executive Director, was in attendance and stated that building the new 16,000 square foot library could be the boost that the city needs to bounce back from the recession. The land, which was purchased for \$1.7 million dollars in 2009, is now only worth about \$500,000. With it being empty, it's considered one of the 'eye sores' of the town.

If things move along with the city and the Library District, the new \$7 million library could be finished in as little as 1 ½ years. Heezen noted that newer libraries usually see a 200% increase in usage and that both the old and new buildings would be staffed by the district through their Outreach Services Division. He also noted that there are many possibilities for the design of the new building, which the community may have some part of.

For now, though, it looks like more talking is in store. With Councilman Rich Green's motion to approve, the rest of the council approved 5 – 0 to move forward with the talks.

The council also approved a new employment agreement with City Manager Andy Barton, which would increase his salary by 6% over a two-year period, or \$3450 per year. Cited in the agenda materials, "there are sufficient funds in this year's CMO budget to accommodate this expense. This will be a budgeted expense for fiscal year 2015-2016." This is Barton's first raise since he was hired in April 2012, and there would be no changes to his benefits or duties.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 at 5 p.m. Among agenda materials, were public notices of a City Council Budget Workshop on May 13 and 14 at 3 p.m. each day at City Hall and public comments will be accepted at those times. A copy of the tentative budget will be on file at the City Clerk and Treasurer's offices as well as the City's website at [www.mesquitenv.gov](http://www.mesquitenv.gov). A formal Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 3 p.m. at Council Chambers

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/04/long-meeting-agenda-draws-out-of-towners/>





**Social Media Coverage: April 14, 2015 Mesquite City Council**

<https://storify.com/jackieomdb/nevadans-speak-up-for-protectgoldbutte-in-gomesqui>



## **#MesquiteNV – The Gateway to Gold Butte**

Writer: Jaina Moan

Published: April 13, 2015

On Tuesday, April 14, the Mesquite City Council will reexamine their support for protecting the Gold Butte region as a National Conservation Area (NCA). There are many reasons why this beautiful place should be protected, but the economic benefit of protecting Gold Butte should resonate with everyone who cares about Mesquite. As the “Gateway to Gold Butte,” Mesquite will attract both new visitors and new residents and the economic gains to the community will be sustaining for generations.

The first boost Mesquite will see are the direct benefits from increased numbers of tourists who will travel to the area to visit Gold Butte. These initial, curious visitors will have heard about the recent national recognition and permanent protection for Gold Butte and will be drawn to the excitement of exploring its natural and cultural resources. Most of these visitors will pass through Mesquite. They will buy gas, food, drinks and gear as they prepare for a day of exploration. Some visitors will stay the night or several nights. They will combine a visit to Gold Butte with a round of golf on Mesquite’s picturesque courses and enjoy the gaming opportunities in Mesquite casinos. They will buy souvenirs and leave with fond memories of their visit. Some will likely return to explore more areas in Gold Butte.

Over time, as more people hear about Gold Butte and its beauty, more visitors will be attracted to the region, generating additional economic gains for the City of Mesquite. Jobs will be created to support more tourists, new businesses and restaurants will open, and tax revenue will increase.

A permanent protection for Gold Butte will also attract new residents. People like to live in areas that are surrounded by natural beauty. All Mesquite residents appreciate the dramatic landscapes such as Flat Top Mesa and the Virgin Mountains. Permanently protecting Gold Butte will safeguard these dramatic vistas and open spaces, providing one more compelling reason to call Mesquite home. A study released in March 2014 by the Center for Western Priorities reported that retirees are three times more likely to move to counties that have a higher percentage of protected lands. The report further estimated that between 2000 and 2010, over 65,000 jobs have been created in Nevada to support retirees—these jobs were created in a range of industries including health care, housing, construction, banking, and entertainment (<http://westernpriorities.org/goldenrush/>).

Are you skeptical about the promise of such economic gains? Studies have shown that Americans love to spend time outdoors and our passion for hiking, camping, hunting, OHV riding, and birding contributes significantly to our economy. The Outdoor Industry Association estimates that consumer spending in the U.S. outdoor recreation industry in 2012 totaled 64.6 billion dollars and supported 6.1 million jobs. In Nevada alone, the outdoor recreation industry contributed 14.9 billion dollars, supported 148,000 jobs, and raised 1 billion dollars in tax revenue (<http://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy/recreation/economy.html>).

There are many examples of how other gateway communities have benefited by proximity to protected lands. Headwaters Economics, an independent non-profit research group, has been tracking the economic performance of seventeen western communities that are located adjacent to newly created national monuments (designated between 1982 and 2011). Their analysis looks at four indicators of economic growth: population, employment, personal income, and per-capita income. Their results show that all seventeen communities experienced



economic growth in these areas following the designation of the national monument in their region (<http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/reports/national-monuments>).

Protected lands are also attractive to international tourists. Earlier this year, the *Las Vegas Review Journal* reported that the Nevada Commission of Tourism is focusing its outreach efforts to attract more international visitors to rural Nevada (<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/tourism/rural-nevada-seen-growing-international-tourist-draw>). Travelers from other countries appreciate the unique attractions that Nevada offers and protected lands are at the top of the list. It is easy to see why. Open, wild land is becoming increasingly rare in or world. The United States is one of only a few countries that has set aside land for the purpose of preservation. Our decision to protect Gold Butte today will result in a sustainable economic benefit as more people travel to experience land in its pristine state.

Permanent protection of Gold Butte will provide a reliable and sustaining economic benefit for the City of Mesquite and its residents. It is an important resource for our community. We have the opportunity to ensure that it stays that way for our future generations to benefit from and enjoy. Please attend the Mesquite City Council meeting on Tuesday evening to voice your support for permanently protecting Gold Butte.

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*Jaina Moan is the Executive Director for Friends of Gold Butte, a non-profit organization working to achieve permanent protection for Gold Butte's biological, geological and cultural resources through education, community outreach and advocacy. [www.friendsofgoldbutte.org](http://www.friendsofgoldbutte.org)*

<http://letstalknevada.com/mesquitenv-the-gateway-to-gold-butte/>

## **City may flip on Gold Butte designation**

Writer: Staff Writer

Published: April, 12, 2015

The Mesquite City Council is scheduled to vote Tuesday on whether to continue supporting Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area or withdraw previously approved backing for the designation.

Written as "Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 649 and Resolution 669," it's easily missed on Tuesday's regular council meeting agenda.

Resolution 649, passed in October 2009, shows support for legislation deeming Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with wilderness.

"Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved by the mayor and City Council (that) the City of Mesquite, Nevada, supports the designation of the Gold Butte Complex as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness," the resolution says. "The city further urges Congress to enact these designations and mandate that an effective management plan be implemented that secures the interests of neighboring jurisdictions."

Resolution 669, passed in May 2010, also supports the NCA designation but includes a list of inclusions seeking a committee to start drafting legislative language for the NCA designation as well as other things.

The council doesn't have to alter any previously-passed resolution Tuesday night. It can amend them, leave them alone or change the opinion.

In other business, the Council has scheduled a public hearing on a bill that would change the residency requirement to be eligible for the office of mayor or city council from one year to two.

The bill is designed to ensure candidates for mayor or City Council are "thoroughly familiar with the City of Mesquite, its issues and its citizens," according to background documents.

The Council has also scheduled a public hearing Tuesday on whether there should be an increase in candidacy filing fees. The fees haven't been reviewed or adjusted since 1999, making them among the lowest in Clark County, said background documents.

City staff recommends raising the filing fee to \$100 from its present \$25.

This bill also changes the time when candidates must file to run to the first two weeks of March in the election year. The statute now says no more than 70 days, but no less than 60 days before the primary election.

In other agenda matters, the Council will hear from Las Vegas-Clark County Library District representatives on building a new library on the vacant lot in front of the current library and vote for or against supporting a new facility.

The vote will not bind the city in any way.

The new facility would come at no cost to the city.



The meeting begins at 5 p.m., at City Hall, 10 E. Mesquite Blvd.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/mesquite/2015/04/13/city-may-flip-gold-butte-designation/25734699/>



## **Bye, Bye BLM?**

Writer: Elaine Hurd

Published: April 10, 2015

The Mesquite City Council will vote on Tuesday to withdraw the city's support for Gold Butte to be federally protected as a National Conservation Area.

This is a big deal.

I'm guessing you missed the discussion on what it means for our community, which you'd think we should have since the Virgin Valley has gained national notoriety for armed civilian militia driving out the federal government from Gold Butte. Not to mention that BLM officers continue to be threatened if they enter the area.

*"Yo, Cliven Bundy, we're with you, bro."*

It was listed on the City Council's administrative agenda on Tuesday as "*Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 649 and Resolution 669.*" When it came up for a brief discussion, no one whispered the words "Gold Butte" and it seemed a little cryptic. So I stopped City Attorney Bob Sweetin as he was leaving the technical review meeting to confirm that these were the Gold Butte resolutions and asked which city council persons requested it be put on the agenda. He wouldn't name names but explained that only Geno Witthelder was on the council when these resolutions passed and it is part of the record used by the Bureau of Land Management in its recent Land Management Plan. Hence, these initiatives are being re-visited.

Yes, new people get elected each go-around when voters decide who to support based on candidates' positions. Four of six city council persons and mayor were on the ballot in 2013. I'm guessing you missed the candidates debate on whether the city should continue its support for Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness. I did. That's because it was old news, a done deal. But that was before Cousin Cliven led an armed civilian insurrection against the federal government to keep this land all in the family. Now Mesquite City Council will decide – again – on whether to rescind these resolutions.

*"We've got your back, buddy Bundy."*

On October 27, 2009 Resolution 649 [HERE](#) was adopted that says City Council of the City of Mesquite supports federal legislative designation of Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness. Read Minutes [HERE](#). It was a unanimous vote in favor with Councilpersons Donna Fairchild, Geno Witthelder, Karl Gustavson, David Bennett and Randy Ence voting yes.

On May 11, 2010 Resolution 669 [HERE](#) was passed which updated the city's preferences on the management of this land. It re-affirms the City of Mesquite's support for Gold Butte to be protected as a National Conservation Area. Read Minutes [HERE](#). City council members who voted in favor of Resolution 669 were Geno Witthelder, Randy Ence, Donna Fairchild and David Bennett. Karl Gustavson voted no.

You might remember another vote, whether to rescind Resolution 669, when Mesquite City Council voted on April 24, 2012. Mayor Mark Wier cast the deciding vote keep the resolution in place. Councilmen Kraig Hafen



and George Rapson voted to rescind it. Councilmen Karl Gustavson and Al Litman voted to let it stand. Councilman Geno Witthelder was absent. You can read the minutes from that meeting [HERE](#).

What has changed since 2009, 2010 and 2012? Cliven Bundy's shameful militia showdown with the federal government, and thus Councilman Kraig Hafen has rounded up the votes on City Council to rescind these two resolutions. This is the local component in an apparent overall land grab strategy at the state and federal level. *"Our great grand pappies settled this land – its ours!"*

This is how we got here. The great reservoir of support for Gold Butte to be federally protected, as reflected in that unanimous city council vote in 2009, was drained through a misinformation campaign and intense lobbying effort by the opposition. Pioneer family politicians like Crescent Hardy, Kraig Hafen (and others) were infuriated by those resolutions and have lobbied against Gold Butte federal protection ever since.

Mesquite used to call itself "The Gateway to Gold Butte." Festivals and hiking tours were organized to draw tourists and educate locals about the unique beauty and history of the area. It is a positive attribute to promote our city. Supporters did not effectively re-gain support of business leaders or citizens in response to that relentless opposition campaign. Gold Butte became a contentious issue and more than one person told me they were tired of arguing over it. People became confused.

The backdrop to this was Cliven Bundy who continues to defy court orders to remove his cows from Gold Butte. He has considerable support in Bunkerville and Moapa Valley ... but we're talking about Mesquite where golf course owners, casino owners, businesses and homeowners have made a tremendous economic investment. Mesquite is the economic driver of the Virgin Valley.

The prudent and conservative thing to do is keep Resolutions 649 and 669 in place ... which was re-affirmed as recently as 2012. That was only one city council election ago.

Why does this argument matter? Either our Open Land is protected under the jurisdiction of the federal government for future generations to enjoy – to camp, to ride, to hike, to visit. Or it isn't. We choose to protect its historical value, its art and artifacts, its wildlife, its ecological balance. Or we don't. Gold Butte is particularly critical to a gateway city like Mesquite that relies on tourism, families and retirees to keep the economy humming along. Without Gold Butte, we lose a unique treasure that draws increasing numbers of visitors and new residents to our city.

When people say to me, "well, I don't like the federal government and its restrictions," I explain that local control will lead to private ownership and the land will be taken away from everyone. Like ... DUH! The federal government has been preserving open space for more than a century now. It's a tourism magnet, revenue enhancer and property value builder.

Now, dear reader, you have a choice. You can retreat into your cocoon of apathy and let Cliven Bundy win this one without debate, or you can send emails to our city council and mayor and tell them that Gold Butte is a natural treasure and must be protected, and that the city should keep Resolutions 649 and 669 in place. And/or you can call and/or you can show up at City Hall Tuesday at 5 p.m. and speak during public comments at the beginning of the meeting — you've got three minutes max.

You will hear each one of our council members say this has nothing to do with Cliven Bundy. **WRONG**. It has **EVERYTHING** to do with Cliven Bundy. His destructive crusade is a visible backdrop to this vote on Tuesday.

My goodness! Look at the calendar! It is one year **THIS VERY WEEK** when armed militiamen chased BLM federal officers through the streets of Mesquite when they agreed to stand down to avoid a shootout with

civilian militia along the I-15. All because Cliven defied court orders, wouldn't remove his cattle from Gold Butte and called in armed civilians to protect him. I heard excuses from elected Mesquite officials that this was a Bunkerville issue and a federal issue and the City couldn't do a thing. Now they will vote on whether to join the Bundy choir of anti-government zealots right after Cliven's big celebration party out at the ranch. Is this furthering Mesquite's positive reputation? I'm guessing you missed the condemnation of Bundy's actions by our city council and mayor. I did, too.

*"Happy Anniversary, Cliven. We've got a present for you in honor of your victory over the feds."*  
Will that be the message Tuesday night? Or will wiser heads prevail?

<http://letstalknevada.com/bye-bye-bfm/>



**Bird and Hike's Jim Boone on exploring—and championing—Nevada's wilderness**

Writer: Kristen Peterson

Published: April 1, 2015



It's inevitable that searching the Internet for Southern Nevada hikes, geology or birding will land you on Jim Boone's [birdandhike.com](http://birdandhike.com). The same can be said for online hunts regarding snakes in Nevada or bristlecone pine on Mount Charleston. Need to navigate Wilson's Pimple Loop Trail at Red Rock? Bird and Hike can help with that, too. Boone is ubiquitous. A birder with a Ph.D. in ecology, he's covered much of the region's wilderness areas, studied its mammals, vegetation, geology and vistas, then shared his findings online, providing anything from GPS coordinates and access routes to bird species and trail levels of difficulty. Launching the site in 2002 to counter the lack of web-available public information, the former senior scientist with the Yucca Mountain Project comes with a background in biology, rock climbing and park rangering. Most recently, he's assisted the Conservation Lands Foundation on informative tours to Basin and Range as part of the effort to promote conservation there.

**You pretty much have this Valley covered. Is there any hike you haven't done?** All the places in between. There are an infinite number of places to hike. Every ridge, every canyon, every wash and every mountaintop.

**What's your favorite?** There are so many ways to judge your favorite. If your favorite is the place you go back to the most, Goldstrike Hot Springs would probably fit. But I think the area I like the most is the Sheep Range. It's wild and remote, and it's well-managed, so you don't have people driving their ATVs all over the desert. And it's quiet. It's the kind of the thing we would hope could happen at Gold Butte.

**What is the status of Gold Butte?** Gold Butte has been on the radar for conservation for quite some time. There are a lot of nice, wide-open spaces out there, but it's a pretty heavily used area by off-roaders. While

most off-roaders are responsible people, there are a few that will go out there and drive wild, run over the bushes and break up the soil crust, run over tortoises and damage rock art sites and other cultural sites.

**Is it a matter of educating or enforcing?** It's both. Part of the goal of protecting Gold Butte is to get some small amount of monitoring out there by some land management agency people. There are vast, open spaces with grand scenery and tall mountains and broad valleys and wild erosional patterns in the rocks and world-class archeological sites with just amazing amounts of rock art. It's just pristine

**Who are you trying to reach with your website?** Those who have never gone out and have no idea what is out there. The way I write the descriptions is far more detailed than your average hiker might need, but I'm trying to demystify the outdoors for the people who haven't been there before.

**Do crowds at these geographic and prehistoric cultural sites concern you?** It's a conundrum that you've got to have people that get out and see it so they'll fall in love with it and be willing to protect it. But on the other hand, huge crowds of people just by their simple presence degrade the area.

**I'm guessing Basin and Range is too distant and remote to be adversely affected by recreation?** That's the same thing people said about Central Park. When Central Park was developed it was way out in the sticks, and who would ever go out there? It's that really, really long-range vision. We've got to get out in these faraway places and set them up as conservation lands so they don't just get whittled away over time.

**How do visitors respond to Basin and Range?** They stand in the basin, they look this way and see forever into the distance, they turn that way and see forever into the distance and they come away with, 'Ya know, I never thought a basin could be so beautiful,' because usually a basin is what you're driving through to get somewhere else.

<http://lasvegasweekly.com/as-we-see-it/weekly-qa/2015/apr/01/bird-and-hike-jim-boone-hiking-las-vegas/>





## **What's in store for Nevada after Harry Reid retires**

Writers: Yesenia Amaro, Ben Botkin, Henry Brean, Jennifer Robison, Howard Stutz, Steve Tetreault and Richard N. Velotta

Published: March 28, 2015

U.S. Sen. Harry Reid's Friday announcement that he will not seek re-election in 2016 left many Nevadans wondering what the future holds for the Silver State after its most powerful voice at home and in Washington passes from the scene.

In ways big and small, Reid was known to bring home the bacon for Nevada projects he liked — and to work tirelessly to kill those he did not.

Here's a look at Reid's role in key Nevada issues, and what the future may hold without him:

### **YUCCA MOUNTAIN**

Reid's announcement sets off a 22-month race between those who hope he can drive the final nails into the coffin of Yucca Mountain before he leaves, and those who see an opportunity to revive the mothballed nuclear waste project after his departure, or even before.

Making use of his seniority and clout, Reid almost singlehandedly relegated the proposed industrial site and underground disposal system for radioactive material to the dustbin of history. On Friday, he repeated that "Yucca Mountain is dead," a disposal plan now outdated and too expensive to revive.

The emergence of Republican majorities on both sides of Congress has sparked talk of a Yucca comeback but it remains to be seen whether that has legs or is merely a dead-cat bounce.

"I can well imagine somebody deciding that money should be spent for the license to go forward," opening years of new technical battles and litigation, said Mary Olson, Southeast director of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, an environmental advocacy group.

"We are ready, willing and able to go more rounds on this," Olson said.

But without Reid, she said, "We'll have to go to 10,000 hammers instead of one."

David Blee, executive director of the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council, said Reid may be tested anew on Yucca Mountain before he leaves office.

"He's been a polarizing force on the nuclear energy front," Blee said. "The way he has operated was by sheer power. The fact he is a lame-duck leader is going to have a bearing."

Bob Halstead, director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects, said the state will maintain a vigorous fight against a project it views as unsafe and threatening to the Nevada economy.

“Sen. Reid’s announcement does not change the state’s strategy on legal and regulatory matters and it does not change our chances of winning on the safety issues” in any license proceeding, Halstead said.

## WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Reid used his clout in Washington to help keep water flowing to constituents and money flowing to water agencies back home.

“Sen. Reid has been a champion for water issues not only in Southern Nevada but across the state,” said John Entsminger, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Entsminger said Reid’s “seminal” achievement for water and the environment in the state was the 1998 passage of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. The legislation, since attacked by critics as classic pork-barrel politics, freed federal land for sale to developers and directed the proceeds to state-level conservation and other initiatives.

Ten percent of that money was earmarked for new water infrastructure to serve the growing community. To date, the authority’s share of SNPLMA totals roughly \$288 million.

Reid has also pushed legislation to protect Lake Tahoe, settle disputes on the Walker and Truckee rivers, untangle lawsuits blocking conservation work on the Colorado River, and, most recently, pump federal money into a pilot project aimed at keeping more water in Lake Mead.

Entsminger doesn’t expect Reid’s focus on water to change over the next 22 months.

“I think we can count on the senator to continue to call attention to the drought on the river and in California,” he said.

As for life after Reid, the valley’s top water manager remains hopeful that Nevada’s loss of political clout won’t hurt its standing on the Colorado River.

## PUBLIC LANDS

Conservationists had a strong ally in Reid.

The 22,650-acre Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument became a reality in December, when President Barack Obama signed legislation protecting the fossil-rich area that Reid had championed.

He also had a hand in designating millions of acres as wilderness.

Reid’s role extended well beyond Nevada. He also took a strong stance against efforts to weaken or scrap the federal Antiquities Act, which allows the president to declare an area a national monument without congressional approval.

“I am certain that after the announcement phones were ringing among conservationists about Sen. Reid’s announcement of retirement,” said Lynn Davis, senior program manager for the National Parks Conservation Association’s Nevada field office. “There is no question this reverberated not only among Nevadans, but also among conservationists around the country.”



Conservationists hope Reid's successor will inherit his approach of getting all parties at the table on public lands issues.

Reid may also leave some unfinished business, including legislation to designate 350,000 acres in Gold Butte northeast of Las Vegas as a national conservation area. The vast swath of land has petroglyphs, sandstone ridges and shuttered mine sites. Republicans in Congress oppose the designation, but longtime conservationist John Hiatt said he wouldn't be surprised if Reid uses the coming 22 months to end-run his opposition.

"It could happen," Hiatt said. "It could be designated as a national monument by the president. I'm sure that's still in his bag of tricks."

## GAMING

The American Gaming Association told its members Friday the casino industry can't wait until Reid's last day in Washington to find a "new champion."

A few hours after Reid's announcement, AGA CEO Geoff Freeman sent a missive touting Reid's leadership, but also addressed key imperatives with the pending retirement.

Freeman said one person can't replicate Reid's efforts.

"This is going to take 30 people to protect and promote the industry," Freeman said. "We can always count on the Nevada delegation, but it's also time for champions to emerge from other gaming states, such as Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio and Illinois. There are 1.7 million jobs tied to gaming and we need to protect those jobs."

During Reid's 2010 re-election campaign, MGM Resorts International executives credited him with saving the financially troubled CityCenter development and the 22,000 construction and resort jobs associated with the project. Reid used his influence as Senate majority leader to help keep the CityCenter's financial backers from walking away from the Strip development during the financial industry's meltdown.

Las Vegas Sands Corp. Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Andy Abboud agreed with Freeman's assessment.

"I think it spreads out among several people," Abboud said. "He was the most respected member in either the House or the Senate on gaming issues. In that regards, he's irreplaceable."

Freeman said Reid helped "transform gaming" into today's industry. But with casinos in 40 states, the stakeholders have grown.

"Sen. Reid has been an instrumental champion of gaming and it will require a much larger group of casino proponents to rival his passion and effectiveness," Freeman said.

On Friday, Reid indicated during an interview on KNPR's State of Nevada that he "wouldn't stand in the way" of the Senate considering legislation that would ban online gaming during his final months in office.

## IMMIGRATION

Luz Marina Mosquera, director at Hermandad Mexicana Transnacional in Las Vegas, said Reid's retirement could have an impact on immigration reform.

Mosquera credits Reid with playing a role President Barack Obama's actions on immigration, such as his November executive action that would prevent millions of people in the country illegally from being deported. In 2012, Obama also used his executive power to allow young people in the country illegally, known as DREAMers, to stay and work in the country without fear of deportation.

Reid was always pressing for immigration reform, Mosquera said.

"He was someone who aside from representing us as Nevada, he was advocating for immigrants," she said Friday. "We all got very sad. Now who is going to help us? We are no longer going to have him there for our state and for our immigrant community."

And the work on immigration is not done.

"The battle continues," she said. "The battle isn't done."

## TRANSPORTATION

Southern Nevada transportation leaders say they'll continue to enjoy the relationship they've had with other members of Nevada's congressional delegation, but the loss of Reid and his seniority will make securing infrastructure funding a little harder.

Tom Skancke, a member of the Nevada Transportation board and an advocate for a high-speed rail network, said state officials probably won't realize until he's gone how valuable Reid has been as an advocate for state projects.

"His influence will be substantially missed," Skancke said. "He's been an advocate for infrastructure of all kinds throughout his career and he's been a supporter of high-speed rail for more than 30 years. It's not going to be easy to fill those shoes."

In an interview aired by Nevada Public Radio on Friday, Reid said he's still hopeful that he could help secure a Federal Railroad Administration loan for construction of a high-speed line between Southern California and Las Vegas. But if it doesn't happen by September, he said, "I'm afraid we've lost it."

Tina Quigley, general manager of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, said Reid has been an example for other members of the state's congressional delegation on how to advocate on behalf of a constituency on transportation matters.

"It's going to be a big loss," Quigley said. "But regardless of your politics, you can't deny that Harry Reid brought millions of transportation dollars to Southern Nevada throughout his career."

Quigley said Reid and four other members of the delegation will be speakers at next month's groundbreaking for the I-11 Boulder City Bypass project. Noting the support and help from other members of the delegation, Quigley said, "We'll be in good hands."

## GREEN ENERGY



Nevada's clean energy industry has had no stronger supporter than Reid, who often said the Silver State's rich solar, geothermal and wind resources could make it the "Saudi Arabia of renewable energy."

But it's taken the senator's own brand of power to push the state toward green energy.

Most notably, Reid challenged NV Energy's plans to build or buy as much as 4,500 megawatts of coal generation in 2006, said Lydia Ball, a Las Vegas-based consultant to the Clean Energy Project and a former Reid aide. That included fighting NV Energy's \$5 billion, 1,500-megawatt Ely Energy Center, which the utility put on indefinite hold in 2009.

"Sen. Reid was the one who was willing to lead that conversation and say, 'This isn't the direction Nevada should be going,'" Ball said. "He really opened it up to allow solar in particular to develop."

Reid's efforts didn't always work out.

After claiming in 2012 that NV Energy hadn't "done enough to allow renewable energy to thrive," Reid pressed the utility to buy power from a proposed \$5 billion solar project that Chinese company ENN planned near Laughlin. But the utility already exceeded the state's requirements on its renewable portfolio, and there was no guarantee the Public Utilities Commission would allow a purchase agreement. The ENN plant never materialized.

Still, Nevada's solar-industry jobs more than doubled in 2014, making it the country's fastest-growing state for solar employment, the Solar Foundation reported in February. Nevada ranked No. 7 for solar jobs, with 5,900 positions, and No. 1 for jobs per capita.

What's more, NV Energy got 18 percent of its generation from renewables in 2013, up from less than 5 percent in 2003, and is on track to receive at least 25 percent of its power from green energy by 2025.

"We're all feeling bittersweet. We owe Sen. Reid a debt of gratitude for his leadership," Ball said. "You can't help but think about how we're losing our strongest, biggest, oldest champion."

Ball and NV Energy officials agreed the sector is now strong enough to support itself after Reid retires.

"Sen. Reid has been a champion of Nevada's energy independence. He's been an advocate for Nevada's investments in renewable energy and efficient natural gas generation," said Paul Caudill, NV Energy's president and CEO. "His leadership was instrumental in bringing the One Nevada transmission line to fruition, which is yielding daily benefits to our customers. These projects are among his legacies, and will ensure that our state continues to pursue a thriving sustainable energy future for all Nevadans."

Reid will use his remaining months in office to advocate for clean energy. He's scheduled to speak on the topic at an April luncheon of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/what-s-store-nevada-after-harry-reid-retires>



## **What now? Here's how Harry Reid will likely spend his last months in the Senate**

Writer: Amber Phillips

Published: March 28, 2015



Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., announces his retirement in a YouTube video to his supporters on Friday, March 27, 2015.

For Sen. Harry Reid, it's legacy time. In announcing his retirement Friday, Nevada's senior Democrat said he wanted to leave while he was ahead.

"I want to go out at the top of my game," Reid said in an interview the same day with Nevada Public Radio.

These final two years in the Senate are critical for Reid to ensure that's what happens. Without a grueling 20-month campaign, Reid has a chance to cement his legacy in the state in everything from transportation to wind farms.

Here's some of what he's likely to focus on in the final two years of a 34-year career in Congress:

### **Renewable energy**

The same day Reid announced his retirement, another announcement circulated in Las Vegas: In two weeks, Reid would be headlining a talk there on the clean energy economy.

It was a sign of Reid's continued commitment to shutting down Nevada's coal economy while building up its wind, solar and geothermal industry.

He helped secure hundreds of millions of dollars in the 2009 economic stimulus bill to build renewable projects in the state and has helped upgrade Nevada's grid through transmission lines to ship solar, wind and geothermal energy generated in the desert to cities like Los Angeles.

Reid said Friday he planned to fight in Congress to maintain tax cuts for the renewable energy industry.



"I am going to continue doing everything I can to have a cleaner source of energy for electricity production, and one really good way to do that is with solar," he said.

For his work in renewable energy and much more, Reid "deserves a monument," said Nevada Democrat and confidante Billy Vassiliadis.

### **Public lands**

Reid is an environmentalist at heart, and he's worked to secure hundreds of thousands of acres of wilderness in Nevada for federal protection.

"I am so moved by what he's done for Nevada," said Neil Kornze, a former Reid aide and the director of the Bureau of Land Management, the agency that manages most of the public land in the state. "I look at the maps of the West, specifically the map of Nevada, and I see Harry Reid's mark in every county, in every community."

And the entire Colorado River basin can thank Reid, who helped maneuver a behind-the-scenes water treaty with Mexico, said former Las Vegas water czar, Pat Mulroy.

"There wouldn't be a reservoir on the All American Canal if it wasn't for Sen. Reid," she said.

The job's not over: Reid has filed two bills in the Senate — not without controversy — that would protect thousands more just a few hours in and around Clark County.

One is the Gold Butte Basin and Range, which Reid waxed about Friday:

"Gold Butte is a beautiful place not far out of Las Vegas at all. I have been there, such wonderful archaeological wonder with hieroglyphics on those rocks it is really a beautiful place and we need to protect that because with the tremendous growth in Las Vegas area that will be destroyed."

### **Yucca Mountain**

"Yucca Mountain is dead," Reid also declared Friday. "It will never be a high-level nuclear repository."

As talks to restart the project [gained momentum in Congress](#), this was one of several times in the past few weeks Reid has felt compelled to declare dead a 1980s law consigning the Nevada desert to store the nation's commercial nuclear waste.

Reid has been influential in putting the brakes on Yucca Mountain, and he indicated Friday he would continue serving as a roadblock for it. Even as he was planning his retirement announcement, Reid said he had lunch with the Secretary of Energy this week, who also "doesn't want it to happen."

Reid pointed out he would still be able to block legislation in the Senate for the next two years.

"So there is going to be no legislation passed to either create Yucca Mountain or do anything to change how it now exists."

### **The economy**

As President Barack Obama mentioned when he phoned into KNPR to surprise Reid, the then-Senate majority leader helped stop the nation from spiraling into a depression in the 2008 economic meltdown. Back home, Reid was part of boardroom-level negotiations back home to save CityCenter, the \$9.2 billion MGM Resorts development project that threatened to implode and take Las Vegas down with it.

As Nevada's economy is on the rebound, Reid said Friday he believed a critical component of protecting its growth was protecting collective bargaining rights and labor power in the workplace.

"I think that we need to strengthen the middle class, and one reason to do that is through organizing workers so that they get good working conditions, good wages, good benefits," he said.

In fact, Reid's relationship with organized labor was a cornerstone in building the state's Democratic Party. Unions were the foundation of his 2010 re-election win against Sharron Angle. They bused voters to the polls and funneled money to his campaign.

Reid's relationships with unions weren't always affectionate.

National trade groups urged Reid and Senate Democrats to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project. Reid blocked Keystone legislation from passing while he was majority leader. Unions also slammed him for his role in passing the Affordable Care Act, health care reform that Reid's staff was influential in crafting. This month marked the fifth anniversary of the law, known as Obamacare. Reid was one of few lawmakers who publicly praised the law for helping more than 8 million Americans enroll in health care plans.

## **Politics**

The godfather of the modern-day Nevada Democratic Party doesn't appear to be stepping down from one of his favorite roles anytime soon.

He made sure Friday to come out with an endorsement of who he wants to replace him: former Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto.

And he promised he'd do everything he could to raise money for her, as well as for Nevada Democrats, Senate Democrats and for Hillary Clinton, should she run for president.

Speaking of presidential politics, Reid's one paragraph will likely include his ability to push Nevada's presidential primary to the top of the list; the first in the West and first four overall.

Now, the nation's eyes are expected to be on Nevada in 2016.

"We're what most refer to as a flyover state," said Chris Miller, the chairman of the Clark County Democratic Party. "If it weren't for Sen. Reid being the majority leader in U.S. Senate, there's a lot of things we wouldn't have in Nevada."

## **Assessing his own legacy**

In interviews, Reid normally shies away from talking about his legacy. But he ended his public comments Friday on Nevada Public Radio with a thought on that subject:



"I want people to remember me as someone who never forgot where he came from," Reid said, "and who fought every day of his life to make sure that the kids like Harry Reid — these little boys from Searchlight and these kids in these teeming big cities — that we could look to me and say, 'You know, if Harry Reid could do it, I could do it.'"

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2015/mar/28/what-now-heres-how-harry-reid-will-likely-spend-hi/>

**Another trip to the state's scenic back roads**

Writer: Rich Moreno

Published: March 28, 2015

Last week I wrote about the Bureau of Land Management's Back Country Byways in Northern Nevada so this week I'll take a look at the program's scenic back roads found in the rest of the state.

Nevada has a total of eight National Back Country Byways, which are roads off the beaten track that have been selected by the BLM for their scenic beauty and natural attractions. Most of these routes are not paved so a high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended.

In addition to the five I previously mentioned (California Trail Byway, Lovelock Cave Byway, Fort Churchill to Wellington Byway, Mountain Wilson Byway, and Lunar Crater Byway), the others include:

- **Bitter Springs Trail Back Country Byway**—This scenic drive begins at Valley of Fire State Park and winds 28 miles along the foothills of the Muddy Mountains, through several dry washes, past a handful of abandoned mining operations and ends on North Shore Drive in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. The byway intersects with the Old Spanish Trail, a pioneer route traveled by Spanish explorers as early as the 1770s. For more information, contact the BLM Las Vegas office, 702-647-5000.
- **Gold Butte Back Country Byway**—This 62-mile ride begins about 90 miles northeast of Las Vegas and five miles south of Mesquite. The road offers magnificent views of red and white sandstone cliffs and rock formations as well as plenty of desert wildlife. If you stop along the way, you can find petroglyph sites, sinkholes and the ruins of the historic mining camp of Gold Butte, established in 1908. For more information, contact the BLM Las Vegas office.
- **Red Rock Canyon Back Country Byway**—This 15-mile loop actually winds through the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, which is about a half-hour west of Las Vegas. One of the few paved byways, the one-way road offers self-guided trails with interpretive signs, picnic areas, and scenic vista pullouts. The Red Rock Visitor Center offers guided tours and programs. There is a \$5 charge per vehicle. For more information, contact the BLM Las Vegas office.

Two final Back Country Byways worth mentioning that aren't in Nevada but skirt the border between Nevada and California are located in the state's Northwestern corner. They include:

- **Surprise Valley/Barrel Springs Back Country Byway**—This 93-mile road begins and ends in Cedarville, California, which is about 23 miles east of Alturas (northwest of Reno). This lengthy journey passes through historic communities, like Lake City and Fort Bidwell, and crosses into Nevada's wide-open Great Basin country. For more information, contact the BLM Cedarville office, 530-279-6707.
- **Buckhorn Back Country Byway**—This rustic byway begins on Nevada State Route 447 on the edge of Duck Flat, about 40 miles northeast of Gerlach. The single-lane gravel road climbs to a high plateau of sagebrush and pinon-covered hills and passes several small lakes. It ends at Ravendale on U.S. 395, between Susanville and Alturas. For more information, contact the BLM Cedarville office, 530-279-6707.



<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/local/15632310-113/another-trip-to-the-states-scenic-back-roads>

## **BLM Working to Restore Gold Butte**

Writer: Brandon Mullens

Published: March 19, 2015

JJ Smith, restoration project manager at the Bureau of Land Management, informed an audience of the ecology of the Gold Butte area and its issues of endangered species and plants at the Friends of Gold Butte Education Series Wednesday at the Community Theatre.

When studying ecology, ecologists focus on four things, Smith said:

- The interactions of organisms between them and the environment.
- Movement and materials of energy through ecosystems.
- Succession of ecosystems over time.
- The abundance of distribution of organisms.

Smith said he and his restoration crew do quite a few restoration projects in desert environments.

“They’re very difficult and it takes a lot of time and money,” he said. “The chances of success are sometimes very low. Mainly because there’s not much water, making restoration here more difficult than anywhere else I’ve worked. And because we have pre-major challenges like red brome grass.”

Red brome is a big problem in the desert because it uses a lot of water; it crowds out other species; and it causes wildfires, Smith said.

“Wildfire is the perhaps one of the biggest problems in the deserts,” Smith said. “and most of the trees and bushes and other species cannot sustain a fire. It’s a real problem.”

Smith said they’ve tried many ways to try and prevent wildfires, or grow the native plants that used to inhabit the area.

One way is an aerial seeding study where they flooded areas with many different native seeds to try and regrow the stuff that died. However, 85 percent of the seed gets eaten, mostly by ants, birds and other animals.

“It’s a big waste of money, most of the time,” Smith said. “It also doesn’t take care of the red brome grass that remains there and grows back.”

Another way of bringing back the native plants to the desert is growing them in greenhouses and having volunteers plant them out in the desert, but the problem with that is that it’s incredibly expensive and takes a lot of time, he said.

A third option is using the technology to pinpoint the areas to focus on, such as where red brome is and where the burn areas are and where it starts.



“We’ve been using satellite data and satellite imagery and modules to figure out where are the best targets to look at,” he said. “We also use satellites to measure the reflectance so we can see when the red brome comes up.”

The final way is using a lot of herbicides, which Smith has not done yet, to try and reduce patches of weeds at least to keep adjacent areas from burning.

“This is something we’re looking into but it’s not a popular idea,” Smith said.

Smith also noted that there are animals like spring snails and the Moapa dace are becoming part of the endangered list because some plants and other predators are infecting their habitats.

“We are a hot spot full of endangered species.”

Smith said they have worked to restore the Muddy River, and the BLM started acquiring land to help keep the Moapa dace alive because talapia was becoming an invasive species.

“It worked its way up into Lake Mead and it started eating the dace,” Smith said. “What we did was put a fish barrier, or dam, to keep fish from coming upstream, and then we started restoring the surrounding habitat to make the conditions in the water better for the fish.”

The testing they’ve done has worked out well, and they think they have a good chance of restoring the native species back into the system, Smith said.

He said the Virgin River is having the same problems as the Muddy River, which they hope they can get working on within a couple of years.



### **Encourage Efforts to Preserve Lands**

Guest Writer: Brian DiMarzio, Las Vegas

Published: March 19, 2015

To the Editor:

While we celebrate the amazing achievement realized late last year with the designation of Tule Springs Fossil Beds as a national monument, we must remember we cannot stop our efforts.

Sen. Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus have introduced companion bills to protect two other Nevada treasures: Gold Butte and Basin and Ridge. They need and deserve our appreciation and support. These lands need immediate protection for open space, wildlife, art and cultural resources. We know achieving these goals will not be easy.

Please take the time to call or email Reid and Titus to say thank you and to let them know we are behind them. Perhaps even more important, contact the other members of our Nevada delegation to let them know how important these areas are, not only for our enjoyment of these beautiful areas, but also to our tourist economy. As a Realtor in Las Vegas, I am concerned about doing all we can do to make Southern Nevada a place people want to make their home.





### **More National Parks**

Guest Writer: Jim Boone, Las Vegas

Published: March 17, 2015

To the Editor:

California, Arizona and Utah have large federal conservation lands that attract tourists from around the world. In Las Vegas, visitors from around the world use our city as a hub to visit Death Valley, the Grand Canyon and Zion — all of which are in other states. We could keep these visitors in Nevada, and keep their tourist dollars here, if we developed park areas of similar quality.

With Red Rock Canyon, the Spring Mountains, Lake Mead, Valley of Fire and Great Basin as our base, we could add Gold Butte and Basin and Range to create our own grand circle of parks in Nevada. By keeping tourists in our state, or even just connecting our parks with those in other states, Nevada could develop an energetic outdoor tourist economy in gateway communities on par with our neighbors.

Gold Butte (Clark County), with its many wonders, is well-known to local outdoor enthusiasts, but Basin and Range (Lincoln and Nye Counties) is little-known. Basin and Range offers grand vistas, from enormous unspoiled basins to snow-capped mountain ranges, with a cultural history spanning the last 11,000 years and remarkable geologic formations. Conserving Basin and Range would also enable Nevada ranchers to stay on the land as they have for generations, keep open miles of back roads and conserve the unspoiled view from Michael Heizer's land art project, "City."

Basin and Range is already federal land, so enormous benefit could be gained in Nevada by drawing a line on a map, changing the name of the enclosed area and constructing a couple of campgrounds. This seems like a no-brainer for rural economic development.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/letters-uncooperative-gop-drags-down-us>

## **Environmental Issues**

Guest Writer: Bon Kruder, Mesquite

Published: March 9, 2015

To the Editor:

I attended Hardy's town hall meeting and he was quite confident, perhaps arrogant, that "his people" were taking very good care of the land around here, speaking on Gold Butte.

I could include scores of additional photos of dumped couches, appliances, carpet and heaps of garbage all over the Virgin Valley, particularly out in the Bunkerville wilderness, which is Crescent's backyard — so to speak.

My hiking friends and I pack out garbage every time we visit our desert wilderness. Mr. Hardy should be ashamed to claim he's an environmentalist, which he did, at his latest public forum at Mesquite City Hall.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/mesquite/2015/03/09/letters-editor/24668065/>





## **Protecting Nevada Lands**

Guest Writer: Tim Castille, Mesquite

Published: March 8, 2015

To the editor:

Thank you for the article about the public lands meeting hosted by Sen. Harry Reid and Rep. Dina Titus ("Lands bill could hamper Yucca Mountain Project," Feb. 20 Review-Journal). I attended the meeting, and the room was packed with Southern Nevada residents who expressed overwhelming support for public lands protection.

It was heartening to see people of all ages and backgrounds attest their love and appreciation for Gold Butte, Tule Springs and the Great Basin. Given the turnout at the meeting, the numerous testimonials made by people in support of public lands and the noticeable lack of opposition, I believe that this is not an issue that has two sides. It seems to me that all Nevadans love their public lands, and there is overwhelming support for protecting these treasured places.

<http://m.reviewjournal.com/opinion/letters-construction-defect-law-full-flaws>



## **“Nevada is working to conserve its natural lands”**

Writer: Valdemar González

Published: February 28, 2015

Everyone knows Las Vegas for its hotels and casinos, shows and entertainment services. Although many also know the beauty of surrounding natural areas like Lake Mead or Red Rock Canyon, few know that work is continuing to protect more public lands.

The major national parks like the Grand Canyon were not established overnight, nor easily, and this is also true for smaller areas like the new Tule Springs in Southern Nevada. At the end of last year, Congress passed a law protecting Nevada’s lands which created the Tule Spring Fossil Beds National Monument. El Mundo covered the ceremony where Senator Harry Reid, Representative Dina Titus and now former Representative Steven Horsford established this national monument.

According to information from the office of Senator Reid, Tule Springs, with more than 22,000 acres, contains the greatest number of animal fossils from the Ice Age in the Southwest area of the country.

Thanks to the legislative work of Reid, Titus and Horsford, who voted to pass this law, Southern Nevada now has a natural area protected for its archeological and scientific value, but which is also available for recreation, which means tourism, which drives the largest sector of the local economy.

In this vein, the struggle continues for a law designating the Gold Butte area a natural monument in North Las Vegas. Senator Harry Reid and then Representative Steven Horsford – both Democrats – brought the bill for federal protection of Gold Butte, a site which must be protected for the enjoyment of the people now and for future generations according to North Las Vegas Councilman Isaac Barrón, perhaps its strongest supporter.

If Congress approves the bill to protect Gold Butte, it will put Gold Butte on the tourism map, so that visitors from afar will have another reason to visit Las Vegas. Councilman Barrón has also said that he considers it an ideal place for residents of North Las Vegas and the rest of the valley to spend time outdoors with their families.

On February 18, 2015, Senator Reid and Representative Titus held a public forum regarding conservation of Nevada’s natural resources, where Barrón championed the necessity for a law to protect Gold Butte.

[http://issuu.com/elmundolv/docs/em-lv\\_20150228\\_a](http://issuu.com/elmundolv/docs/em-lv_20150228_a)





## **Protect Nevada's future by securing our past, preserving our lands**

Guest Writer: Isaac Barron

Published: February 27, 2015 2 a.m.

There is true economic and communal value in protecting public lands.

Sen. Harry Reid and Rep. Dina Titus recently held a public meeting to gather our community's input on the opportunities to preserve Nevada's public lands. Our diverse community attended the meeting in numbers demonstrating our shared love for open spaces and public lands. I appreciated this opportunity to speak on behalf of the community I represent in North Las Vegas and the students I teach and advise at Rancho High School. I want to thank our national leaders for hosting this discussion and protecting our community's interests.

The recently designated Tule Springs National Monument will be an economic catalyst for our region. The unique urban nature of Tule Springs will support local economic growth by attracting more tourists to our region as well as enticing tourists to stay longer to explore our newest national treasure. Tule Springs provides a unique border by surrounding the northern edges of North Las Vegas and the greater Las Vegas Valley. This protective border to our community will attract more families and increase the quality of life for our residents.

These economic benefits also can be experienced in cities such as Mesquite and Alamo as they fight to permanently protect the spectacular lands and cultural resources in their communities. Nevada has been blessed with a bounty of natural beauty and archeological artifacts; it has a wealth of places worthy of permanent protection as administratively designated national monuments.

I love to be outdoors. I try to get out every hunting season with my family to bond and grow together. We have loved to fish, camp and get outdoors for years now. The open spaces surrounding our valley offer the chance to unwind, find oneself, and commune with nature and family. I want to see the same opportunity to enjoy the natural and historical resources afforded to our future generations.

As a teacher at Rancho High School and as a father, I know the experience of recreation on public lands can positively influence a child's development and life. Witnessing the awe-inspiring beauty of rolling hills and majestic mountains can give a child a new perspective and help them overcome the adversity faced in their day-to-day lives. As an educator, I know firsthand the issues that some of our youths face, and helping them is my passion.

We need to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our public lands today and that the future generations I have the pleasure of educating every day do too. Protecting areas such as Tule Springs, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range Province will not only preserve traditions of hunting and camping, but will also serve to recognize the importance of public lands to our culture, our families and our economy.

*Isaac Barron is a teacher at Rancho High School and a North Las Vegas councilman representing Ward 1.*

<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/feb/27/protect-nevadas-future-securing-our-past-preservin/>



### **Hardy needs to protect Gold Butte**

Guest Writer: Bryon George, Mequite

Published: February 26, 2015

To the Editor:

Representative Hardy was quoted as saying, "I think it's time the federal government got out of our state." (*Rep. Hardy expects to see some action on federal land issues, MLN Feb. 19, 2015*) What is not clear from the article is how he proposes to protect our public lands for future generations. Our treasured places, like Gold Butte, cannot be protected with good intentions alone and the state/city/county does not have the financial resources to effectively manage a 350,000 acre habitat without bankrupting us.

Hardy also noted that he views these lands as "laboratories of industry." I urge Hardy to consider the sustainable economic gains that can be realized by protecting Gold Butte and other Nevada lands for the enjoyment of future generations. Protected lands are good for rural, local economies – certainly better than extractive and exploitative industries that privatize and destroy the land.

We all want to see this special place that is our backyard in Mesquite protected. Congressman Hardy, as a freshman in Congress, should work with the rest of the delegation to work to make that happen, or he should move out of the way so Gold Butte gets the permanent protection it deserves and that the majority of us here in Mesquite support.

<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2015/02/hardy-needs-protect-gold-butte/>



# Greenwire

## Obama flexes muscles on resources with eye on legacy

Writer: Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: February 23, 2015

President Obama has quickly built a hefty portfolio on natural resource issues.

In the last two years, Obama has designated or expanded a dozen national monuments, preserved more than 1.1 million acres in the West and moved to permanently ban drilling in the oil-rich Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

And in the last month he's proposed the biggest expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration in a generation, paving the way for drilling rigs to plumb mostly virgin waters from Virginia to Georgia, while permitting the first oil production in the nation's largest petroleum reserve. Last Friday, his administration unveiled major rules governing Arctic oil exploration.

While Obama still has nearly two years left in the White House, his allies and critics are already sizing up his record on resources -- and thinking about what's to come.

If history is any indication, Obama's pace of executive actions on lands and waters could accelerate.

Consider that President Clinton in his last year in office designated or expanded 18 of his 19 national monuments, permanently setting aside more than 3.3 million acres, according to National Park Service **data**.

Obama last week designated three new monuments covering 22,000 acres in Illinois, Colorado and Hawaii, calling parks, monuments and waters the "birthright of all Americans."

Other major land and energy decisions are fast approaching:

- The administration will decide in coming months whether to permit Royal Dutch Shell PLC to drill in the relatively pristine Chukchi Sea off Alaska's North Slope, where there are an estimated 15 billion barrels of oil.
- The Bureau of Land Management will write or finalize major rules governing hydraulic fracturing, methane venting and flaring, and royalties.
- And BLM will finalize unprecedented new protections for sage grouse across tens of millions of acres of Western rangelands, an effort some conservationists are comparing to Clinton's sweeping 2001 roadless rule.

"What Obama is doing is setting a platform for action over the next two years," said Bill Meadows, former president of the Wilderness Society. "There's so much more that can be done, and I think he's enjoying it."

Not enjoying Obama's action: Republican lawmakers.

"This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations," House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) said after Obama's monuments announcement last week. "Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency."

While Republicans accuse Obama of flouting Congress and putting a regulatory muzzle on the nation's energy renaissance, they appear powerless to stop him.

The 1906 Antiquities Act gives presidents almost unchecked powers to ban oil drilling, mining and logging across enormous swaths of the American West. Clinton famously used the law in 1996 to designate the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, blocking development of a massive coal deposit and enraging lawmakers in the Beehive State.

Obama has so far used the law more diplomatically, designating monuments only where there is broad political support and, incidentally, only in states that voted for him in 2012.

He's used the act 16 times, setting aside land at a faster clip than Clinton, but with fewer acres. But it's tough to draw comparisons, since every acre conserved is not equal.

A big test will be whether Obama will protect landscapes in hostile territory -- such as the half-million-acre Boulder-White Clouds in central Idaho and nearly 2 million acres surrounding Canyonlands National Park in Utah. Republican lawmakers in those states are urging Obama to stand down as they seek legislative protections.

But top Obama aides say the president has plenty of ink in his pen for creating monuments if Congress fails to act.

Green groups are also seeking protections of 1.7 million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon, more than 1 million acres in the Southern California desert and 350,000 acres of Nevada's Gold Butte, a vast desert of multihued rocks, petroglyphs and slot canyons.

#### **Obama getting 'the hang of it'**

Conservationists say Obama has gone from timid to bold on resource issues.

They point to Obama's proposal last month to designate some 12 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness -- barring access to an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil that Alaskan officials badly want to supply the depleted Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System.

The move was symbolic, since only Congress can decide whether the refuge is opened to drilling. But it reversed a Reagan administration plan seeking full oil and gas development in the 1.5-million-acre coastal plain -- a major policy stamp for the next 15 years.

And in contrast with the Fish and Wildlife Service's draft ANWR wilderness proposal -- which was quietly unveiled in August 2011, barely getting noticed in the media -- Obama and his advisers touted the final wilderness plan with gusto. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Chief of Staff Tommy Beaudreau stopped by the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the Alaska Wilderness League to celebrate the proposal.

It was a poke in the eye to the Alaska congressional delegation, including Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"He's growing more comfortable using the administrative powers at his disposal," said Mike Matz, director of U.S. public lands for the Pew Charitable Trusts. "His administration has gotten ... the hang of it."

Matz credited John Podesta, the president's senior counselor on global warming, who founded the liberal Center for American Progress, for prodding Obama to act. Podesta in summer 2012, while at CAP, called monument designations "good politics," arguing they could burnish Obama's re-election bid in key Western battleground



states. The ANWR announcement came at a politically advantageous time, given that gasoline prices were plunging as domestic oil production in the Lower 48 soared.

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt played a similar role with Clinton by challenging the 42nd president to match the conservation achievements of past commanders in chief, Matz said.

"In Obama, you had another instigator in John Podesta," Matz said. "You need someone who can make the administration comfortable up and down the ranks."

Greens question whether Obama will keep up the momentum as key staffers depart and the administration heads for the home stretch.

Podesta left the White House this month to join Hillary Clinton's political team as she considers jumping into the 2016 presidential race. And Mike Boots, the acting chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, who is viewed as another champion for land protections, plans to leave the administration in March.

In addition, Obama is already laying claim to protecting more land and waters than any other president. The claim is true if you count the president's decision last September to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to more than 490,000 square miles.

Some conservationists fear he'll rest on his laurels. But others see new allies arriving at the White House.

A fresh arrival hailed by green groups is Christy Goldfuss, a former National Park Service political appointee who worked under Podesta at CAP, who is being groomed to take the helm at CEQ, sources said.

Environmentalists are also enthusiastic about Michael Degnan, a former Sierra Club representative, and Angela Barranco, who are both at CEQ, as well as Jewell's Deputy Chief of Staff Nikki Buffa, BLM Director Neil Kornze, and Agriculture Department Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie.

Last Wednesday, Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor attended a public meeting in Las Vegas with Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.) to discuss their proposals to protect more than 1 million acres at Gold Butte and at Garden and Coal valleys, which include remote archaeological sites and a massive public art project.

Connor's attendance suggests the administration could be considering the area for a future monument. Jewell and Bonnie in December also visited Northern California's Berryessa Snow Mountain region, where conservationists are clamoring for a 350,000-acre monument designation.

#### 'Not a love fest'

Douglas Brinkley, a history professor at Rice University who has written extensively on land conservation, said Obama must act with more pluck to rival Clinton's conservation legacy.

Neither president will rival the achievements of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson or Jimmy Carter, who make up the "Mount Rushmore" of land conservation, according to Brinkley.

But Obama, who has already earned the title of "the climate change president," faces few political risks in pushing the conservation envelope, Brinkley said.

"The political atmosphere couldn't be better for the president to be brave in using the Antiquities Act."



The administration has put its stamp on public lands in more subtle ways, too, by implementing controversial oil and gas leasing reforms in 2010 that were followed by a steep drop in BLM lands leased for drilling, and by yanking 77 George W. Bush-era oil and gas leases that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar argued were too close to national parks in Utah.

BLM issued 1,157 oil and gas leases in fiscal 2014, a 20 percent drop from the previous year and the lowest amount in at least a quarter-century, according to agency statistics released last month. Over the past five years, the agency has leased an average of 1.5 million acres annually, down significantly from the 4 million acres the George W. Bush administration leased annually during its final five years in office.

Oil production has grown steadily on Western federal lands, but nowhere near as fast as on private tracts overlying shale plays in states like North Dakota and Texas. The administration's critics blame BLM red tape, while others attribute the discrepancy to geology.

Natural gas production has dropped steadily on federal lands -- even as it has soared elsewhere -- and oil production has fallen under Obama's watch in the Gulf of Mexico, though some of the drop can be attributed to the halt in drilling following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill.

"[For] people pushing for more government control and less extraction on federal lands, Obama is their savior," said Dan Kish, senior vice president for the Institute for Energy Research, a free-market advocacy group. "He's basically given them all they want and more."

Oil backers offered tempered praise for Obama's decision last month to open the Atlantic Ocean to future leasing, though they blasted his decision to ban development within 50 miles of shore, a restriction some fear will preclude exploration altogether.

The leasing proposal "slams the door on industry and on new jobs, increased economic activity, added revenue and strengthened energy security," said Randall Luthi, president of the National Ocean Industries Association.

But Meadows, the Wilderness Society former president, said Obama is far from a conservationist lap dog. Obama's "all of the above" energy platform has included a heavy emphasis on natural gas drilling, coal leasing in Wyoming and drilling in the Arctic Ocean, Meadows said. "This is not a love fest by any means," he said.

#### 'Very pragmatic'

According to Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton Interior official, Obama has been "bullish" on the future of oil and gas development.

The administration has implemented unprecedented safety reforms in the Gulf of Mexico and is preparing two major rules governing hydraulic fracturing and the venting and flaring of methane -- moves that should facilitate continued development of federal minerals, he said.

"The Obama administration has reformed and improved the safety and environmental sustainability of oil and gas development on public lands and waters more profoundly than any other recent president," Bledsoe said. "This administration, in my view, has been very pro-oil and gas development, even while protecting pristine landscapes from development and creating a record area of new national monuments."

Bledsoe said it is politically remarkable that less than five years after the BP PLC oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the administration is poised to open the Atlantic.



Moreover, the administration has taken a flexible approach to conserving the greater sage grouse, Bledsoe said, by taking lessons from the northern spotted owl, whose protection under the Endangered Species Act in the early 1990s led to dramatic reductions in logging.

"They're very pragmatic," Bledsoe said. "It's a window into the adaptability of the Obama administration's view of conservation broadly."

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060013840/print>



**ProgressNow Nevada Thank You Ad**  
Published: February 20, 2015

Las Vegas Review-Journal      Published: February 20, 2015      Page 136

# THANK YOU

**Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus**  
and the  
**Department of Interior**

Thank you for hearing the voices of Nevadans who value public lands like Gold Butte, Basin and Range, and others. Protections for these places are crucial for their enjoyment by all Nevadans, and for our economic future.

**Follow the action at #ProtectNV**

Paid for by ProgressNow Nevada

A photograph of a desert landscape at dusk or dawn. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, there are dark, scrubby bushes and a prominent, reddish-brown rock formation in the middle ground.





## Conservation bill could block Yucca rail route, but prospects shaky

Writer: Henry Brean

Published: February 19, 2015 12:27a.m.; Updated: February 19, 2015 6:59p.m.



Virginia Barron, center right, sits among members of the public during a conversation about conservation issues in southern Nevada at Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015, in Las Vegas. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and U.S. Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., hosted the conversation that addressed such topics as the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, Gold Butte and pending legislation in the 114th Congress., among other items. (Ronda Churchill/Review-Journal)

Though its sponsors insist it wasn't their intent, a Nevada lands bill pending in Congress could throw up another road block to a Yucca Mountain Project.

The legislation, introduced last year by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, would restrict mining and energy exploration on more than 800,000 acres of federal land in two lonesome valleys straddling Lincoln and Nye counties.

The Senate Minority Leader has said he wants to withdraw the land in Garden and Coal valleys to protect "City," noted artist Michael Heizer's sprawling earth sculptor roughly the size of the National Mall. Supporters of the bill want a national monument dedicated to "City" and to the pristine basin-and-range landscape around it.

The designation would also block a future rail corridor for nuclear waste shipments to the proposed Yucca Mountain repository, which Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman acknowledged Wednesday while saying Yucca Mountain is not why Reid introduced the bill or decided to target so much land for withdrawal. That's just a welcome side-effect, Orthman said.

Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., who quietly introduced a House version of the bill last week, also said Yucca Mountain has nothing to do with it.

Motivations aside, the legislation faces an uphill battle in a GOP-led Congress already pushing back against such lands bills. Rep. Crescent Hardy, R-Nev., has vowed to fight the bill and a measure, also sponsored by Reid, to designate 350,000 acres at Gold Butte in northeastern Clark County a conservation area. Both areas are in Hardy's congressional district.

The two bills also are drawing opposition from local officials and some rural residents.

And the push for increased protection of Gold Butte is further complicated by the lingering dispute between federal authorities and Cliven Bundy, whose cattle roam the area in defiance of court orders and aborted government round-ups.

Titus said she still hopes to work on the lands bills with Hardy, whom she described as "more open" to protecting Gold Butte than in the past.

On Wednesday, Titus and Reid hosted a "conversation about conservation" in Las Vegas for an audience of several hundred.

The enthusiastic crowd packed the jury assembly room at the Lloyd George U.S. Courthouse to celebrate the new Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument at the northern edge of the Las Vegas Valley and to call for the protection of Gold Butte and Garden and Coal valleys.

The preservation pep rally was for the benefit of Michael Connor, the deputy U.S. secretary of interior, who had just toured Tule Springs.

Gold Butte, less than 100 miles northeast of Las Vegas, is in particular need of preservation, said Reid via video link from Washington, where he is recovering from eye surgery.

"What a loss it would be if we didn't protect it," he said. "If we don't do something, it will be gone in a matter of decades."

Titus, in person, said the lands must be preserved "for us, for the whole country and for generations to come."

Art lovers argue that Heizer's masterwork warrants special protection and could become a World Heritage site one day. "City" has been described as one of the most ambitious pieces of art ever, a network of sculpted berms,



plazas and geometric shapes a 1.5 miles long and 900 feet wide inspired by ancient cities of South and Central America.

For a piece like that, “you need the scale of Nevada,” said Michael Govan, head of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. “It is almost finished, and that’s why its protection is so paramount.”

Several dozen people spoke of what Gold Butte, Tule Springs and the lonely valleys of the southern Great Basin mean to them.

Just one person opposed the conservation measures. The man, who called himself “John Q. Public,” railed against the treatment of Bundy and criticized the government for trying to kick the public off public land.

The audience hissed and booed and shouted him down, receiving an obscene gesture in return.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/water-environment/conservation-bill-could-block-yucca-rail-route-prospects-shaky>



## **#NVLeg Special Report: This Land Is Our Land**

Writer: Andrew Davey

Published: February 19, 2015

Every so often, I can hear Woody Guthrie singing when I travel to and through the wide open expanses of Nevada (that is, when I'm not hearing "Wide Open Spaces", one of my favorite Dixie Chicks songs). This land is your land. This land is my land. This land was made for you & me.

When did we lose track of this very American dream? When did "this land is made for you & me" become "controversial"?

Ever since Cliven Bundy launched his "Range War" against the rule of law, his extreme "TEA Party" allies have been trying to "shift the Overton Window" and make the concept of public lands seem "controversial". Bundy's buddies in the Nevada Legislature are pushing SJR 1 to demand the federal government transfer wide swaths of federal public land to the State of Nevada so the state can turn the land over to developers and other commercial interests. And US Rep. Cresent Hardy (R-Mesquite) vows to "fight tooth and nail" any attempt by US Senator Harry Reid (D) to secure federal protection for Gold Butte.



Yet when Senator Reid and US Rep. Dina Titus (D-Paradise) held a joint community meeting on the state of Nevada's public lands, the crowd gathered at the Lloyd George Federal Building in Downtown Las Vegas expressed overwhelming support for preserving Gold Butte, Tule Springs, and Garden Valley (in Lincoln County).

Mesquite community leaders, such as Former City Council Member Karl Gustaveson and current Virgin Valley Water District Board Member Sandra Ramaker, spoke in favor of creating a National Conservation Area (NCA) for Gold Butte. So did the Nevada Resort Association's Virginia Valentine. So did Sean Fellows on behalf of Sig Rogich and Rogich Communications. So did local business leader & philanthropist Jenna Morton. So did the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority (LVCVA). And so did Paiute Nation tribal leaders. And so did many more Southern Nevadans.



Democrats, Nonpartisans, and Republicans all stated their support for federal protection for Nevada's environmental treasures at Lloyd George yesterday. Educators, students, art lovers, history buffs, health care professionals, business executives, sportsmen, hikers, and others from all walks of life professed their love for Nevada's natural wonders... And their desire to keep these wonders public and preserved.



Really, the only opposition came from someone who was referring to himself as "John Q. Public". He spoke of Harry Reid's "BLM goons", being forced into "gay marriage", "abortion on demand", "environmental junk science", "domestic terrorists", and the kind of material one typically hears from the "black helicopter" crowd.

I had heard from several folks at Grant Sawyer who were concerned about Bundy supporters causing a scene at the event. But in the end, only "John Q. Public" rose to make his nonsensical rant before making a dramatic (yet peaceful) exit.

So why are Crescent Hardy and several Republican state legislators behaving as if most Nevadans agree with the Bundy Bunch and "John Q. Public"? Why are they claiming they have some sort of mandate to privatize these critical public resources?





This land is your land. This land is my land. This land is all our land. Nevada was made for you and me.

<http://letstalknevada.com/nvleg-special-report-this-land-is-our-land/>



# #ProtectNV Social Media Impressions February 17 - 20th

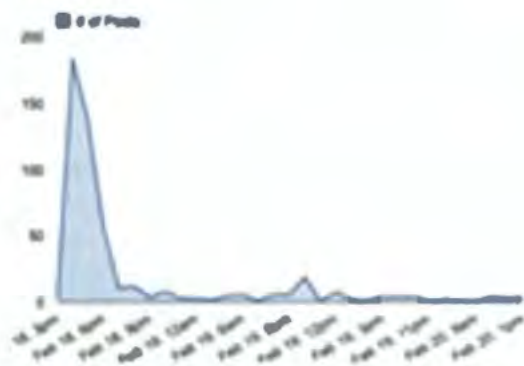
510  
posts

137  
users

415,594  
reach

1,014,968  
impressions

## Timeline



## Top Posts

Tip: Click on a post's date to be taken to original post

- Friends of Nevada Wilderness** unread post  
Feb 18, 2015  
Over 200 conservationists of all ages and backgrounds have come together under one roof to urge protection for Southern Nevada's most precious wild lands. Thank you Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman...  
10
- Friends of Nevada Wilderness** unread post  
Feb 18, 2015  
These Valley High School students are so excited to learn more about the public land protection process at the meeting today! #ProtectNV #SaveGenerationsOfWildlands  
10
- Friends of NV 1000** unread post Feb 19, 2015  
@SenatorReid "To see it is to believe it" in #GoldButte. We couldn't agree more! #ProtectGoldButte #ProtectNV  
#SaveIt #GoldButte #NV  
10

## Location



## Demographics



## Share of Posts



goldbutte publiclands  
protectgoldbutte  
basinandrange

## Sentiment



## **Bears Ears Support**

**June 1, 2016**

*Note: All supporters below are explicitly endorsing a National Monument designation except those shown with an \* that have simply endorsed permanent protection for the Bears Ears area.*

### **Tribal Government Support**

- Navajo Nation
- Hopi Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Hualapai Tribe
- Pueblo of Acoma
- Cochiti Pueblo
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Pueblo of Jemez
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Nambe
- Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo
- Picuris Pueblo
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of Sandía
- Pueblo of San Felipe
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Santa Ana
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo
- Taos Pueblo
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
- Zia Pueblo
- Utah Navajo Commission
- 6 of 7 UT Navajo Chapter Houses

### **Tribal Organizational Support**

- Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition
- National Congress of the American Indian
- Native American Rights Fund
- Utah Diné Bikéyah

### **General Public Support**

- Creation Justice Ministries Poll – May 2016 statewide poll of UT voters showing 71% support and 20% opposition to a Bears Ears National Monument.
- Public Opinion Strategies poll memo on Creation Justice Ministries Poll.
- Colorado College 2016 Conservation in the West Poll – December 2015 poll of UT voters identified 66% support and 20% opposition to a Bears Ears National Monument.



- 1,300+ postcards of support from local Native American residents in favor of a Bears Ears National Monument

#### **Archaeology Support**

- Archaeology Southwest
- Crow Canyon Archaeology Center
- 500+ individual archeologists in support of Bears Ears protection

#### **Recreation Support**

- Outdoor Industry Association\*
- Outdoor Alliance\*
- Conservation Alliance
- Access Fund\*
- Friends of Indian Creek\*
- Patagonia
- Osprey Packs
- Black Diamond
- Kuhl
- Petzl
- Keen Footwear
- Ibex Outdoor Clothing
- Ruffwear Performance Dog Gear
- Mountainsmith
- The North Face
- Timberland
- Smartwool

#### **Diverse Ally Support**

- Veterans Voice Foundation
- Veterans sign-on letter from 247 regional signers
- Operation Climb On
- Latino Conservation Alliance
- HECHO – Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- Latino Outdoors
- Hispanic Federation
- Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

#### **Faith Support**

- Creation Justice Ministries
- Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance
- First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City
- First United Church of La Grange
- Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah
- His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Tzinle Lhundup

### **Conservation Support**

- Friends of Cedar Mesa
- Grand Canyon Trust
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- The Wilderness Society
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Sierra Club
- Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
- Pew Charitable Trusts\*
- National Parks Conservation Association
- National Trust for Historic Preservation\*
- Alaska Wilderness League
- Wildlands Network
- Great Old Broads for Wilderness
- WildEarth Guardians
- Elders Rising
- Utah Native Plant Society
- Living Rivers/Colorado River Keeper
- Canyon Country Rising Tide
- Canyonlands Watershed Council
- Brigham Young University's Earth Stewardship Club
- Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources, Utah State University
- Wild Utah Project
- Coloradans for Utah Wilderness
- Californians for Western Wilderness
- Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness
- Iowa City Friends for Utah Wilderness
- New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness
- Jackson Audubon Society
- Minnesota Friends for Utah Wilderness
- Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America
- Michigan Friends of Red Rock Wilderness
- Ohio Friends for Utah Wilderness
- Grosse Pointe Audubon Society
- Salem Audubon Society
- Grand Rapids Audubon Club

### **Editorials and Op-eds - 2016**

- Editorial: Obama should create a Bears Ears National Monument, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, April 24, 2016.
- Editorial: Noel's conspiracy theory is insulting, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, April 28, 2016.
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- Op-ed: Herbert is wrong about Bears Ears monument, and it's not just Navajos who know it, Herman Daniels Jr., Navajo Nation Councilman, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, February 27, 2016.
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## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 19, 2016

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

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### **Navajo Nation calls on President Obama to protect Bears Ears**



*Photo: Members from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council delivered a letter on behalf of Council to the Utah Diné Bikéyah and Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition supporting the Bears Ears initiative to declare the area a national monument on May 18, 2016 in Monument Valley, Utah. His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang (center) joined the members at the event.*

**MONUMENT VALLEY, U.T.** – On Wednesday during a community event in Monument Valley, Utah, members from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council provided a statement to the Utah Diné Bikéyah and Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, regarding the Navajo Nation’s official position to urge President Barack Obama to establish Bears Ears as a national monument.

Elected officials from various tribes, Native American spiritual leaders, members from the Utah Diné Bikéyah and the inter-tribal coalition, and local community members gathered to celebrate

the tribes' shared connection to Bears Ears and to respond to the Utah State Legislature's efforts to oppose the tribes' proposal for permanent protection of sacred ancestral lands in southeastern Utah.

At the event, His Holiness Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang, a Tibetan spiritual leader who traveled to Bears Ears in support of cultural exchange with the tribal communities, joined Council members and the coalition to promote the protection of Bears Ears.

In a letter to the Utah Diné Bikéyah board members and the inter-tribal coalition, Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) stressed the importance of the cultural exchange with His Holiness and the unification of the tribes to engage in meaningful dialogue to protect Bears Ears.

"The Bears Ears represents an important piece of our history as Diné people, as the birthplace of our leader, Chief Manuelito. The Bears Ears Buttes (Shash Jaa') are part of our identity, our past, our future, and our healing process, and should be protected as a national monument. Your work and efforts have led us to this point," said Delegate Brown.

Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa), who is the appointed spokesperson for the Navajo Nation regarding Bears Ears, said the alliance of Utah tribes exemplifies the strong support for the proposed national monument and its importance to affected tribes.

"Elected Navajo leaders are united in our support of a 'Bear Ears National Monument.' With the overwhelming support of local Navajo people, the Navajo Nation is proud to be working with the Ute Mountain Ute, Hopi Tribe, Zuni Tribe, and the Uintah and Ouray Ute Tribes to secure important protections for lands that represent our shared heritage."

Delegate Filfred added that the Bears Ears area is a unique cultural landscape that is considered sacred by the Navajo and many surrounding tribes, and faces constant threat of land, water, natural resource, and cultural desecration.

The coalition's proposal is supported by Navajo Nation leaders, which include the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and several Utah Navajo chapters.

At the beginning of May, Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi Tó'ii) said that Navajo leaders sent a letter to President Obama expressing support for a national monument under the U.S. Antiquities Act of the Bears Ears area.

"The Navajo Nation is asking President Obama for a 'Bears Ears National Monument,'" said Delegate Phelps. "This is the first time tribal nations have come together to propose a national monument to protect our cultural life-ways, and we are optimistic that President Obama will respond to the proposal."



Council Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. (Shonto, Naa'tsis'áán, Oljato, Ts'áh Bii Kín) said the event is a reminder that the Bears Ears area is place of substantial spiritual and cultural significance.

"Bears Ears is a grassroots effort, a cultural effort, and a spiritual effort for the Navajo Nation and our sovereign tribal partners," said Delegate Daniels. "Our cultural connection to these lands are strong and unwavering, just like the support from the tribal governments. As we gather to celebrate and to share our cultural connections to Bears Ears, our goal is to heal the land and people to mend rifts between all, and to protect our heritage for generations to come."

In July 2015, community members from five federally recognized tribes – Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, and Ute Tribe of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation – created the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. The coalition delivered its proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument to Congress and the White House in Oct. 2015.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council

# Utah Tribal Leaders Association



San Juan Paiute Tribe

## **Joint Inter-Tribal Resolution # June 9, 2016 Tribal leaders Support TO BEAR EARS**

**TITLE: Support for Presidential designation of the Bears Ears National Monument to protect cultural, historical, and natural resources on federal lands in San Juan County, UT**

**WHEREAS**, we, the Tribal Leaders of Utah invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian Nations, rights reserved and secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian People, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote health, safety, and welfare of our Indian People, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

**WHEREAS**, Native Nations of Utah including the Ute, Paiute, and Navajo claim historic and ongoing ties to the lands, animals, plants, resources of San Juan County, Utah; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Bear's Ears National Monument* is the ancestral home of many additional Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos, and the White Mountain and Jicarilla Apache Tribe, also assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these Monument lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation reservation, the Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms.

**WHEREAS**, the National Monument is unsurpassed in the world for its integrity and abundance of archaeological resources.

**WHEREAS**, the National Monument has been inhabited for greater than 12,000 years by multiple indigenous cultures, who roamed, and built civilizations on these lands.

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears National Monument is comprised of primarily Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas.

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans have unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land and its wildlife and other natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans' connections to the land support Native life and culture in important, life sustaining ways, including: subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering of nature's materials for medicinal, spiritual and other uses, preservation of tribal sacred places and as sources of economic development; and



WHEREAS, Native American have shown quality and excellence in managing lands and natural resources to protect the cultural integrity of the homeland of Native peoples; and

WHEREAS, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices;

WHEREAS, to prevent this rapid destruction of lands in southeastern Utah is important to Native peoples, formal protection as a National Monument is required;

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument will best be Collaboratively Managed with the full and active involvement of the Tribes that share ancestral and ongoing ties to the region.

WHEREAS, formal protection of southeastern Utah lands as a National Monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Utah Tribal Leaders Association extends its support for the Bears Ears National Monument designation by President Obama that reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Utah Tribal Leaders Association at a meeting on

June 9, \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 in Cedar City, Utah with a quorum present.

*Virgil Jonson*

Virgil Jonson, Chairman Utah Tribal Leaders Association

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

*Covina Bow, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah  
Zelta Johnson, Confederated Tribes of Goshute*

*[Signature]*  
DAVIS FILFARO NAVAJO NATIONAL  
2ND COUNCIL

*Michael Paul White Mountain  
White Tribe Council*

*Merran' Adley  
Northwestern Band Shoshone, Natchez  
Tribal Council Secretary*

*Nay = Ornedon San Juan So Paiute*

*Cadon Ben  
Skull Valley Band of Goshute 2*



April 16, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**RE: Bears Ears Initiative**

President Obama,

The Bears Ears region is distinctive and significant in both culture and tradition to surrounding tribes, including the Navajo Nation. It is a unique cultural landscape including ancient villages, cliff dwellings, rock art, and the gravesites of our ancestors. The Bears Ears region is especially important to the Navajo Nation (Diné) as the birthplace of Headman Manuelito, an important figure in our contemporary history who helped our people return from Bosque Redondo to our Diné homeland after the Long Walk. Diné relate to the Bears Ears and the surrounding lands much like non-native people relate to a relative. When we visit the Bears Ears region, we greet these places by their names as if they were people - other than human people - with whom we can communicate, and who can communicate with us. Through this relationship, we are able to negotiate healing, not just of body, but also of mind, soul, and heart, but also as a community and society.

With this, the Navajo Nation respectfully requests that 1.9 million acres of federal public lands around the Bears Ears Buttes (Shash Jaa") in southeastern Utah be designated a national monument pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906. Furthermore, because of the Navajo people's direct tie to this land, there must be co-equal management of these lands that is respectful and will ensure protection of our history that exists in every part of this region. While your administration may be criticized using your Presidential authority, for the Navajo Nation and many tribes, your action will be one that will be remembered amongst our People for centuries as protecting our sacred resources, our history and our memories while preserving what we consider a place of healing and spirituality.

At the 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference that you stated you will "*review tribal proposals to permanently protect sacred lands for future generations.*" Throughout your 8 years in office, you have been a friend to tribes and our initiatives, we can only hope and pray before you leave office you will "Protect the Bear Ears".

Respectfully,

**THE NAVAJO NATION**

Handwritten signature of Russell Begaye in blue ink.

Russell Begaye, President

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, Vice President



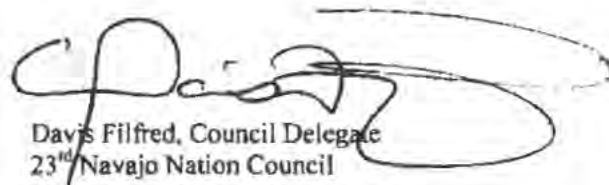
Re: Bears Ears Initiative

Page 2

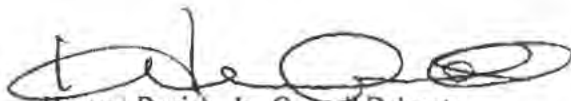
April 16, 2016



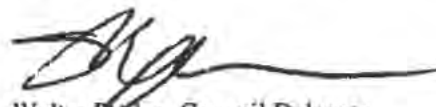
LoRenzo Bates, Speaker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council



Davis Filfred, Council Delegate  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council



Herman Daniels, Jr., Council Delegate  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council



Walter Phelps, Council Delegate  
23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Christina W. Goldfuss, Managing Director,  
White House Council on Environmental Quality

# THE HOPI TRIBE



Herman G. Honanie  
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

April 18, 2016

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of all *Hopisinom* (the Hopi People) it is my honor to re-affirm the Hopi Tribe's strong support for designation of the Bears Ears region in Southeast Utah as a national monument. Specifically, the Hopi Tribe requests that you assert your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to accomplish this long-overdue goal for Native people throughout the Southwest.

The modern day federal lands of the Bears Ears region are our Tribe's ancestral lands. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office has long since documented our people's relationship to the Bears Ears region. As articulated in detail in Hopi Tribal Council Resolution AI#042-2016/H-035-2016, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to ancestral Puebloan groups that inhabited the Bears Ears. Our ancestors settled and lived in the Bears Ears region during their long migration back to *Tuuwanasavi* (the Center of the Earth) on the Hopi Mesas.

We have requested avoidance and preservation of our ancestors' remains, but the federal land managers of the Bears Ears regions simply lack the capacity to do so. While we have spoken out before about this situation, most recently in September 2014 about the need to permanently protect this region through a special designation like a national monument, those calls have fallen on deaf ears in Congress.

Beginning in July 2015, the Hopi Tribe joined with four other sovereign nations to establish the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (Coalition) to jointly advocate for permanent protection of the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears Region as a national monument, and to establish a collaborative management regime assuring co-equal Tribal engagement in future management. We appreciate your staff's willingness to meet with representatives of the Coalition, and take seriously your commitment at the 2015 Native Nations Conference to "review tribal proposals to permanently protect sacred lands for future generations." The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is exactly that, and is unprecedented as the first national monument proposal to come forth from sovereign Native American Tribes. The Hopi Tribe believes a national monument designation for the Bears Ears that comes with strong tribal collaborative management can help to stop the centuries of looting and grave robbing that continue in this area. It can also be a meaningful



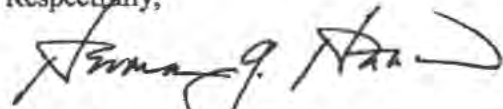
recognition of tribal sovereignty, while ensuring that the public lands of the Bears Ears remain open to all, and managed in such a way that they can forever be cherished by future generations.

Our proposal, which was delivered to your staff on October 15, 2015, was also delivered to the Utah Congressional Delegation for potential inclusion in legislation via their proposed Public Lands Initiative. Unfortunately, the Delegation refused to incorporate this proposal into their legislation, and instead proposes large-scale destructive development throughout Native American ancestral lands, and even on our Tribal partners Trust lands. Even those areas that are identified for "conservation" lack meaningful protection and are proposed to be managed by the decidedly anti-conservation state and county governments. As a result, the Hopi Tribe, along with the Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribes, which comprise the Coalition, have been forced to abandon the insensitive and simply unacceptable Public Lands Initiative.

The Antiquities Act was created precisely for the protection of cultural and historic objects. Such objects permeate the Bears Ears, and were left behind as "footprints" of ancient villages, trails, petroglyphs, springs, as well as our ancestors' remains. Hopi ancestors who lived in the Bears Ears continue to inhabit the land today, and are part of a living landscape that sustains our Hopi identity. This deep and timeless connection to the Bears Ears is the basis for our request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to establish a Bears Ears National Monument.

If the Hopi Tribe can be of any assistance, please contact Hopi Vice-Chairman Alfred Lomahquahu who serves as the Hopi Representative to, and co-chairs the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition at [alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us](mailto:alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us) or 928-734-3112.

Respectfully,



Herman G. Honanie, Chairman  
THE HOPI TRIBE



Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice-Chairman  
THE HOPI TRIBE

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Christina W. Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality

# THE HOPI TRIBE



Herman G. Honanie  
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr.  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Leigh Kuwanwisiwma, Director  
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

**FROM:** *Making Wadsworth*  
Making Wadsworth, Tribal Secretary  
Hopi Tribal Council

**DATE:** March 25, 2016

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL FOR A PRESIDENTIAL  
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING BEARS EARS NATIONAL  
MONUMENT – A.I. #042-2016/H-035-2016



The Hopi Tribal Council on March 22, 2016, by motion and majority vote, approved the above mentioned Action Item and Resolution.

By passage of this Resolution, the Hopi Tribal Council hereby supports the permanent long term protection of cultural and natural resources and sacred sites on these public lands through a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Offices of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office are hereby authorized to continue consultations with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition for the purpose of developing a proposal for the Presidential Proclamation.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at 928 734-3131. Thank you

c: Office of Chairman  
Office of Vice Chairman  
Office of the Treasurer  
Office of Financial Management  
Office of Executive Director  
Office of General Counsel  
Department of Natural Resources  
File



HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-035-2016

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and the Hopi Tribal Council is empowered by the Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe, ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (d), and (k), respectively: "To represent and speak for the Hopi Tribe in all matters for the welfare of the Tribe . . ."; "To advise with the Secretary of the Interior and other governmental agencies. . ."; and "To protect the arts, crafts, traditions, and ceremonies . . ."; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IV-EAGLE HUNTING TERRITORIES AND SHRINES, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe provides that the Tribal Council shall negotiate with the United States Government agencies concerned, and with other tribes and other persons concerned, in order to secure protection of the right of the Hopi Tribe to "...secure adequate protection for its outlying, established shrines . . ."; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution H-098-2011, the Hopi Tribal Council adopted the 2011 revised Hopi Pötskwaniat, the Hopi Tribal Consolidated Strategic Plan, which established Hopi Tribal goals "Towards Preservation & Protection of Cultural Resources", "to fulfill the constitutional responsibilities in the protection and preservation . . ." and to "continue the preservation and protection of cultural resources including archeological sites, traditional cultural properties and other historical properties."; and

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-035-2016

WHEREAS, Hopi migration is intimately associated with a sacred Covenant between the Hopi people and the Earth Guardian, in which the Hopi people made a solemn promise to protect the land by serving as stewards of the Earth, and in accordance with this Covenant, ancestral Hopi clans traveled through and settled on the lands in and around southeastern Utah during their long migration to *Tuwanasavi*, the Earth Center on the Hopi Mesas; and

WHEREAS, the land is a testament of Hopi stewardship through thousands of years, manifested by the "footprints" of ancient villages, sacred springs, migration routes, pilgrimage trails, artifacts, petroglyphs, and the physical remains of buried *Hisatsinom*, the "People of Long Ago," all of which were intentionally left to mark the land as proof that the Hopi people have fulfilled their Covenant, and the Hopi ancestors buried in the area continue to inhabit the land, and they are intimately associated with the clouds that travel out across the countryside to release the moisture that sustains all life; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi footprints and clouds are part of a living, sacred landscape that nourishes and sustains Hopi identity, and this landscape is steeped in cultural values and maintained through oral traditions, songs, ceremonial dances, pilgrimages, and stewardship, and as a cultural landscape, the archaeological sites and physical terrain situates the Hopi people in time and space, providing a geographical conception of history and religion that connects the past, present and future; and



HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-035-2016

WHEREAS, these lands are part of our ancestral lands and Hopi history and cultural values associated with ancestral sites and landscapes are deep and abiding, and pursuant to Hopi Tribal Council Resolution H-70-94, the Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to Ancestral Puebloan cultural groups in the greater Cedar Mesa area, and the Hopi Tribe supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties; and

WHEREAS, in the attached letter from Chairman Herman Honanie dated September 30, 2014 to President Barack Obama, Senator Orin Hatch, Senator Mike Lee, Congressman Rob Bishop, Congressman Jason Chaffetz, Congressman Jim Matheson, and Congressman Chris Stewart, the Hopi Tribe supported the designation of the greater Cedar Mesa area in southeastern Utah as a National Conservation Area or National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is fully aware that over the last few decades the archaeological, natural and geographic resources in the region have been severely impacted by looting, federal management inadequacies, industrial development, and rampant visitation including increased motorized and recreational access and inappropriate all-terrain vehicle use, and the Tribe has encouraged the Bureau of Land Management to enforce the laws protecting cultural and natural resources on public land in San Juan County and not to acquiesce to local political and illegal

HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-035-2016

actions by proposing to make illegal motorized trails into legal motorized roads on public lands that contain irreplaceable cultural resources that have been looted for over a century and continue to be looted today; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Tribes, composing the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, have developed a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT that will enhance the protection of cultural landscapes and the sites within them.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribe hereby supports the permanent long term protection of cultural and natural resources and sacred sites on these public lands through a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribal Council supports the proposal that BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT will be co-managed with stakeholder decision making by the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Tribes, composing the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, since such a designation and co-management could accomplish the goal of prioritizing protection of cultural resources while also allowing flexibility in management of traditional Native American uses including wood, plants, medicine, ancestral sites, shrines, and hunting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based on over century of looting and grave robbing in San Juan County, Utah, the Hopi Tribe hereby supports a provision in the proposal for



HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-035-2016

the BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT that provides for protection, preservation, and avoidance of our ancestor's human remains and associated funerary objects.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Offices of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office are hereby authorized to continue consultations with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition for the purpose of developing and supporting a proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT, which recognizes these lands as Hopi ancestral lands and requires Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition co-management in policy formulation, management, and evaluation of results.

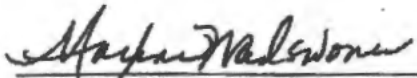
HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION  
H-035-2016

CERTIFICATION

The Hopi Tribal Council duly adopted the foregoing Resolution on March 22, 2016 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 13 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstaining (Chairman presiding and not voting) pursuant to the authority vested in the Hopi Tribal Council by ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (d), and (k) of the Hopi Tribal Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, as ratified by the Tribe on October 24, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on December 19, 1936, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. Said Resolution is effective as of the date of adoption and does not require Secretarial approval.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Herman G. Honanie, Chairman  
Hopi Tribal Council

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maxine Wadsworth, Tribal Secretary  
Hopi Tribal Council





# UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

P.O. Box 248  
Towaoc, Colorado 81334-0248  
(970) 565-3751

April 13, 2016

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of the people of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to express our support for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and to state the Tribe's interest in the protection of natural and cultural resources within the Bears Ears region. The five tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (Navajo, Hopi, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni) operate jointly and formally under a Memorandum of Understanding that governs our sovereign actions. Individually and together, we strongly support your formal designation of the 1.9 million acres of public lands including and surrounding the Bears Ears Buttes in southeast Utah as a national monument utilizing the Antiquities Act of 1906.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has numerous important and sacred interests in the region surrounding Bears Ears. Not only does the Tribe have federal trust lands (both reservation land and allotments) that are held in trust for the best interests of the Tribe and the related Tribal Members, but we also have private fee lands. Our Tribal Members reside in a small community named White Mesa, within San Juan County, Utah, where the proposed Bears Ears National Monument is located. Our ancestors have occupied the region for generations, and our people are intrinsically tied to the lands; our individual and collective health and prosperity depends upon the health of these lands. Few things are more important to us than the protection and preservation we can put in place today on these invaluable natural and cultural resources.

Working as a part of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, we prepared and submitted a formal proposal to protect the Bears Ears region on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. In addition to your administration receiving the proposal, we also delivered it to Representatives Rob Bishop (R, UT) and Jason Chaffetz (R, UT). At that time, we requested that the representatives incorporate our proposal in their draft Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI) legislation. Regrettably, the draft PLI released on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, failed to incorporate our proposal, wholly ignored our



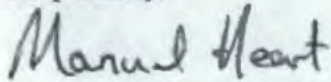
concerns, and failed to adequately protect the Bears Ears in both size and scope. Worse still, the supposed "protections" that the PLI draft proposes erode existing protections already in place, while allowing destructive development on Native American ancestral lands, including the Trust lands of our Tribal partners. As such, the PLI is insensitive to our interests and the interests of Native Americans who live in and have long-standing ancestral ties to Utah.

In service of protecting the lands and preserving the important cultural and natural resources that are so valuable to us at Bears Ears, we appreciate your staff's willingness to meet with us and other representatives of the Coalition to hear our vision for a Bears Ears National Monument that includes robust tribal collaborative management.

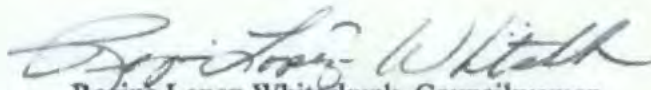
We sincerely thank you for your commitment made at the 2015 Native Nations Conference to: "*review tribal proposals to permanently protect sacred lands for future generations.*" Our Bears Ears National Monument proposal is the first national monument proposal submitted by sovereign Native American Tribes, and our formal agreement to work together to protect Bears Ears is truly historic. One voice alone can be lost in a canyon, but with many voices we create a song. With the togetherness of our coalition, the five core Tribes and the more than 270 other Tribes who have passed resolutions of support, we have that bond; we sing our collective song as a group of indigenous people to protect our ancestral lands for our people today and for future generations.

Both Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Councilwoman, and Malcolm Lehi, Councilman and representative for the White Mesa community, are the appropriate contacts with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe regarding Bears Ears. Regina can be reached at [rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org](mailto:rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org), or 970-564-5601, and Malcolm Lehi at [mlehi@utemountain.org](mailto:mlehi@utemountain.org), or 435-678-3396. Please do not hesitate to reach out to him/her with any questions or concerns

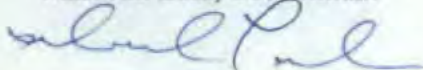
Respectfully,



Manuel Heart, Chairman

  
Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Councilwoman

Malcolm Lehi, Councilman





CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Christina W. Goldfuss, Managing Director,  
Council on Environmental Quality



**UTE INDIAN TRIBE**

P. O. Box 190  
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026  
Phone (435) 722-5141 • Fax (435) 722-5072

July 14, 2015

*Via Email and Hand Delivery*

**Re: Ute Indian Tribe's Support for Preserving the Bears Ears Region**

Dear Messrs. Manual Heart and Kenneth Maryboy:

The Tribal Business Committee ("Business Committee") of the Ute Indian Tribe ("Tribe") supports the permanent protection of the Bears Ears region in the form of a National Conservation Area, or alternatively, as a new National Monument. Providing better stewardship and stronger protections preserves Native American heritage for current and future generations.

Native American traditional and cultural sites need protection from outside threats such as mineral development, indiscriminate off-road vehicle use, and looting. Not only is the Bears Ears region a natural wonder, it is a cultural landscape that contains archaeological and sacred sites, and has been traditionally used for collecting traditional medicines and for ceremonies. With the increase in recreational use, this region deserves status as a National Conservation Area.

Without federal protection, this extraordinary landscape that is culturally significant to so many Native American groups faces the likelihood of destruction. Therefore, the Ute Indian Tribe joins the Native American tribes and Pueblos that have already publically expressed their support to protect the Bears Ears region. Native American heritage cannot be ignored. It is time for the Bears Ears region to finally have the federal protection it deserves.

Sincerely,

Shaun Chapoose  
Chairman, Ute Tribal Business Committee

Cc: Malcolm Lehi, Council Member, Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council





**ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
ZUNI, NEW MEXICO**

March 7, 2016

**RESOLUTION NO. M70-2016-P014**

**Permanent Protection of Bears Ears Region through National Monument Designation**

**WHEREAS**, the Zuni Tribal Council, consisting of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and six Tenientes is declared to be the legislative authority of the Pueblo of Zuni by Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Zuni Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zuni Tribal Council, Pursuant to Article VI, Section 1(d) of the Constitution of the Zuni Tribe, to represent the tribe, and to act in all matters that concern the welfare of the tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zuni Tribe, Also known as the Pueblo of Zuni, is a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, to protect the traditional cultural properties and sacred sites of ancestral Pueblo people is paramount to all and each Pueblo's cultural preservation now and in the future, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears region of Southeastern Utah is historically, culturally, and spiritually tied to Native American tribes, including but not limited to, the Navajo, Hopi, Ute, and Zuni people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears region of Southeastern Utah holds immense importance for all the Pueblo people' identity and history, including and but not limited to, villages, shrines, burials, rock inscriptions, dwellings, and ancient transportation routes, as well as natural resources necessary for traditional and spiritual practice; and

**WHEREAS**, archaeological and cultural sites in the Bears Ears region face destruction, desecration, and violation from irresponsible motorized travel, energy development, mining, uneducated visitors, and looting of ancestral sites and burials; and

**WHEREAS**, to prevent harm and mitigate existing damage to the Bears Ears region the Pueblo of Zuni is seeking permanent protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the Antiquities Act of 1906 is an invaluable and essential tool in protecting Native American sacred and cultural sites in perpetuity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblo of Zuni is a member of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a partnership with Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, and Uintah & Ouray Ute which is supported by the National Congress of American Indians and a total of 26 tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is asking for a national monument designation using presidential authority for the Bears Ears region under the 1906 Antiquities Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblo of Zuni supports collaborative management of the Bears Ears region between tribes and the federal government, and the government to government relationship shall ensure proper protection, preservation and management of the sacred ancestral sites and regions for all Pueblo people and Native Americans as whole; and

**THEREFORE NOW, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pueblo of Zuni, along with the other nineteen Pueblos, as well as Ute Mountain, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Navajo, and Hopi Nations stand together as one unified Native American coalition dedicated to the permanent protection of the Bears Ears region and its cultural and natural resources through a national monument designation

**ZUNI TRIBAL COUNCIL:**

Absent-Cox  
Val R. Panteah, Sr., Governor

Head Councilmember - VACANT

Carleton R. Bowekaty  
Carleton R. Bowekaty, Councilman

Councilmember - VACANT

Birdena Sanchez  
Birdena Sanchez, Lt. Governor

Virginia R. Chavez  
Virginia R. Chavez, Councilwoman

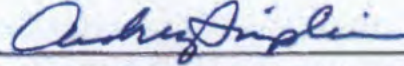
Audrey A. Simplicio  
Audrey A. Simplicio, Councilwoman

Eric Bobelu  
Eric Bobelu, Councilman



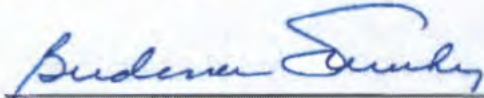
**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Zuni Tribal Council at a duly called meeting at Zuni, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining on March 7, 2016.



Audrey A. Simplicio, Tribal Council Secretary  
Pueblo of Zuni

**APPROVED / DISAPPROVED**



for Val R. Panteah, Sr., Governor

3/7/16

Date

**HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION NO. 06-2015  
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
HUALAPAI TRIBE OF THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION  
PEACH SPRINGS, ARIZONA**

**TITLE: Support for conservation of the Bear's Ears region to protect cultural, historical, and natural resources on federal lands in San Juan County, UT**

**WHEREAS**, we, the Hualapai Tribe does hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Hualapai Tribe recognizes the historic and ongoing ties to the lands, animals, plants, resources of San Juan County, Utah by Native American people; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed *Bear's Ears National Conservation Area/ National Monument* is the ancestral home of many Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Navajo, the Hopi, Zuni, Acorna, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos along with the Ute Mountain, Southern, and Uintah & Ouray Utes, the San Juan, Kaibab, and Utah Paiute Tribes and the White Mountain and Jicarilla Apache Tribes, all of whom assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these Conservation Area/ Monument lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed National Conservation Area/ National Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation reservation, the Conservation Area/ Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms. Containing an intricately rich ecological system, the Navajo and other Tribes depend upon the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. Cedar Mesa, the Conservation Area/ Monument's centerpiece offers sprawling vistas while Comb and Butler Washes, as well as Moki, Red, Dark, Grand Gulch, and White canyons support verdant ribbons of riparian habitat. Desert Bighorn Sheep grace the lower desert lands while the 11,000 foot Abajo Mountains host forests of Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, Fir and Aspen, providing a home to Mule Deer, Elk, Black Bear and Mountain Lion, sacred icons of the mesa's original peoples. Paramount for the Navajo, the majority of the regions current inhabitants, is the proper management of the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument's native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter and medicine and its cultural sites that are central to their spiritual practices.

**WHEREAS**, the proposed National Conservation Area/ Monument includes towering cliffs and mesas bisected by sheer canyons, which expose sedimentary layers revealing a geologic history stretching back to when a sea covered this landscape. Containing unsurpassed cultural and paleontological resources, the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument is world renowned for the integrity and abundance of its archaeological resources. Six cultural special management areas are within the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument boundaries: Alkali Ridge National Historic Landmark, the Hole-in-the-Rock Historical Trail and the Grand Gulch, Big Westwater Ruin, Dance Hall Rock, Sand Island Petroglyph Panel, the Newspaper Rock Petroglyph Panel, and the Buder Wash Archaeological District National Register site. Also occurring in the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument's 19 distinct geologic units are scientifically significant vertebrate and non-



vertebrate paleontological resources that are particularly abundant in the Cedar Mountain, Burro Canyon, Morrison, and Chinle Formations.

**WHEREAS**, the proposed National Conservation Area/ National Monument has been inhabited for greater than 12,000 years by multiple indigenous cultures, who utilized, traveled through, and built civilizations on these lands. At the Lime Ridge Clovis site is evidence of Paleoindian occupation and the archaeological record indicates widespread use between 6000 B.C. and A.D. 100 by Archaic Peoples. Possessing numerous Archaic Period sites of varying size and complexity are Cedar Mesa, Elk Ridge, and Montezuma Canyon. Other notable sites include Alkali Ridge, Cowboy Cave, Old Man Cave, and Dust Devil Cave. Perhaps the most intensive occupation of the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument lands was during the time that archaeologists have called the Formative Period (AD 100 – AD 1300), which resulted in very large numbers of archaeological sites ranging from small lithic scatters to large, highly complex village sites. The region continued to be occupied and utilized by the ancestors of present-day Southern Paiute, Ute, Navajo, Apache, and various Puebloan cultures for many centuries, up until modern times.

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Bear's Ears Conservation Area/ National Monument is comprised of primarily Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands with Wilderness Characteristics and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas. Vast, remote desert mesas cut by sheer walled serpentine canyons provide unparalleled solitude and scenic quality that is comparable to or exceeds those found in nearby national parks and monuments, such as Canyonlands, Arches, Grand Staircase, Natural Bridges, Hovenweep, and Mesa Verde.

**WHEREAS**, priority management values to protect within the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument are: cultural, archaeological, wildlife, and natural & scenic resources. An essential aspect of the proposed Conservation Area/ Monument's management is to better protect these resources and to ensure their ongoing and sustainable use.

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans have unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land and its wildlife and other natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans' connections to the land support Native life and culture in important, life sustaining ways, including: subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering of nature's materials for medicinal, spiritual and other uses, preservation of tribal sacred places, and as sources of economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, Native American have shown quality and excellence in managing lands and natural resources to protect the cultural integrity of the homeland of Native peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, southeastern Utah includes many areas of vital importance to Native peoples' identity and history;

**WHEREAS**, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices;

**WHEREAS**, to prevent this rapid destruction of lands in southeastern Utah is important to Native peoples, formal protection as a national conservation area or national monument is required;

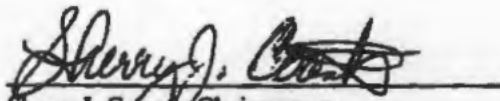
**WHEREAS**, formal protection of southeastern Utah lands as a National Conservation Area/ Monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:

- Protection will be a permanent part of a national system of protected lands that carry strong and clear legal definitions of the primacy of conservation of cultural, historical and ecological values that define Native connections to these lands.
- Protection as a national conservation area or national monument creates important opportunities for consultation of Native Americans and participation in management of these resources and increased funding for the protection of these resources with an emphasis on conservation and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources.
- Protection should be at the largest landscape level possible, providing connectivity of wildlife and plant habitats, ecological integrity of the region and be comprehensive in its protection of Native sacred sites, which cannot be considered out of the context of the larger landscape.
- Protection of lands in southeastern Utah as a national conservation area or national monument will be a top priority for concerned federal agencies, with public involvement and a prioritization of staffing, resources and cooperation with Native peoples.

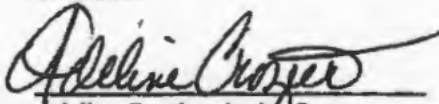
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hualapai Tribe extends its support for the Bear's Ears National Conservation Area or National Monument designation that reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned as Chairwoman of the Hualapai Tribal Council hereby certify that the Hualapai Tribal Council of the Hualapai Tribe is composed of nine (9) members of whom nine (9) constituting a quorum were present at a Regular Council meeting held on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2015; and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of (9) in favor, (0) opposed; pursuant to authority of Article V, Section (a) of the Constitution of the Hualapai Tribe approved March 13, 1992.

  
Sherry J. Counts, Chairwoman  
HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

ATTEST:

  
Adeline Crozier, Assis. Secretary  
HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL



# All Pueblo Council of Governors

## Officers

Governor E. Paul Torres, Chairman  
Governor Val Panteah Sr, Vice Chairman  
Governor Terry Aguilar, Secretary

2401 12th Street NW Suite 200 N Albuquerque NM 87104

Acoma June 16, 2015

Cochiti

Isleta RE: All Pueblo Council of Governors Support Efforts to Protect Bears Ears Cultural Landscape

Jemez

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress:

Laguna

Nambe

The All Pueblo Council of Governors, which represents the nineteen Pueblos of New Mexico and one in Texas, has engaged in multiple discussions over the past three years about the need to protect important landscapes and cultural sites in southeast Utah. These lands contain the homes of our ancestors, including thousands of sacred sites and many cultural resources significant to Pueblo people.

Oldkay

Owingoh

Picturis

To make official our collective interest in and concern for this area, we passed a resolution (No. APCG 2014-07) in November of 2014 supporting the protection of the greater Cedar Mesa area via a "permanent protection mechanism, such as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument."

Pujonque

Sandia

Sari

Felipe

When we passed that resolution, several proposals had been put forward by different groups interested in the region. At the time, we did not favor one proposal or geographic boundary over another. Now, the various groups working to protect the area have unified behind a single proposal and boundary that has been called the "Bears Ears" cultural landscape. This proposal would protect the sacred sites and cultural resources described in our November resolution. Through this letter, we extend our support to the efforts to protect the Bears Ears cultural landscape and confirm our intention for Pueblo people to be actively engaged in future protective and management efforts in the area.

Sari

Hidolomus

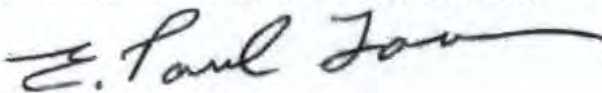
Santa Ana

Santa Clara

Sincerely,  
ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Santo

Domingo



Taos

Governor E. Paul Torres  
Chairman

Tesuque

Yaleta Del Sur

Zia

Zuni



# All Pueblo Council of Governors

2401 12th Street NW Suite 200 N. Albuquerque NM 87104

Officers:

Governor: E. Paul Torres, Chairman

Governor Arlen Quetawki, Vice Chairman

Governor Terry Aguilar, Secretary

## RESOLUTION

### ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

#### RESOLUTION NO. APCG 2014-17

#### **Support for the Protection of Cultural Resources and Sacred Sites on Public Lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region**

**WHEREAS**, the All Pueblo Council of Governors ("APCG") is comprised of the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia and Zuni, and one pueblo in Texas, Ysleta del Sur, each having the sovereign authority to govern their own affairs;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the All Pueblo Council of Governors is to advocate, foster, protect, and encourage the social, cultural & traditional well-being of the Pueblo Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, through their inherent & sovereign rights, the All Pueblo Council of Governors will promote the language, health, economic, and educational advancement of all Pueblo people; and

**WHEREAS**, each APCG member is a federally recognized Pueblo Nation within the United States with the sovereign right to protect its traditional cultural properties and sacred sites, whether or not they are located within each pueblo's current exterior boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of the traditional cultural properties and sacred sites of Pueblo people is paramount to each pueblo's cultural preservation now and into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the greater Cedar Mesa region is located in southeast Utah and includes the Montezuma Canyon, the Indian Creek Corridor and Beef Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the greater Cedar Mesa region includes hundreds of thousands of sites of vital importance to the pueblo peoples' identity and history, including villages, shrines, burials, rock paintings and etchings, ancestral dwellings, and ancient roads; and

**WHEREAS**, these ancestral sites are under constant threat of grave digging, cultural vandalism, looting of cultural sites, indiscriminate off-road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Pueblo peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to traditional practices; and

**WHEREAS**, to prevent the rapid destruction of the lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region, the Pueblos are seeking the formal and permanent protection mechanism, such as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument; and

**WHEREAS**, the APCG believes the Greater Cedar Mesa region needs to be a National Conservation Area or a National Monument because it will provide important consistency and



quality management of these lands and define standard principles of management, establish consultation with Native Americans, and emphasize the primacy of conservation and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, through consultation and coordination with the APCG's member cultural preservation offices, or designated offices, APCG seeks to exercise administrative responsibilities to negotiate and enter into agreements with the necessary and proper entities which will ensure protection, preservation and management of these sacred ancestral sites and regions for the Pueblo people and its members; and

**WHEREAS**, while the APCG recognizes the important role of other tribes and groups in advocating for protection of the area, APCG's support of a designation for the greater Cedar Mesa area should not be perceived as support for any specific proposal for the area. Discussion of many details of management and boundaries are ongoing and the APCG intends to have an active voice in those discussions;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the All Pueblo Council of Governors supports the permanent, long-term protection of cultural resources and sacred sites on public lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region through designation such as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument.

#### CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned officials of the All Pueblo Council of Governors hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. APCG 2014-17 was considered and adopted at a duly called council meeting held on the 19th day of November 2014, and at which time a quorum was present and the same was approved by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain, and 8 absent.

**ALL PUEBLO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS**

By: E. Paul Torres  
Governor E. Paul Torres, APCG Chairman

ATTEST:

Terry A. Cuila  
Governor Terry A. Cuila, APCG Secretary

# Tribal Leaders Eager to Show Secretary Unmatched Cultural Landscape and Urgent Need for a Bears Ears National Monument

 [www.bearscoalition.org/bears-ears-inter-tribal-coalition-encouraged-by-secretary-jewells-intention-to-visit-bears-ears/](http://www.bearscoalition.org/bears-ears-inter-tribal-coalition-encouraged-by-secretary-jewells-intention-to-visit-bears-ears/)

## Tribal Leaders Eager to Show Secretary Unmatched Cultural Landscape and Urgent Need for a Bears Ears National Monument

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2016

CONTACT: Eric Descheenie, Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition (480) 323-9416 [email protected]  
Natasha Hale, Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition (505) 906-8303  
[email protected]

BEARS EARS, UT -Leaders of the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition welcomed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's commitment to visit the Bears Ears region and hear about its importance to Tribal Nations and local citizens. Earlier today, Secretary Jewell delivered a major conservation speech at National Geographic in Washington, D.C. During the speech she outlined a conservation agenda for the next century that is more inclusive of the broad spectrum of American citizens and one that advances protections for important cultural and natural lands. Jewell listed Bears Ears among the places she intends to visit and noted the long history of efforts to conserve the area.

"It is not possible to fully appreciate the importance of the Bears Ears region to Native Americans without seeing the sites that our ancestors walked, talking with Tribal members about their connections to the land and wildlife and experiencing the beauty of the region firsthand," said Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Councilwoman of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Co-Chair of the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition. "We are excited that Secretary Jewell will be able to experience the Bears Ears cultural landscape."

"By visiting the Bears Ears region, Secretary Jewell will be able to see why it is so important to our people. Unfortunately, she will also see evidence of the looting and vandalism that our ancestral sites are facing and the urgent need to protect the Bears Ears region as a National Monument," said Alfred Lomaquahu, Hopi Vice Chairman and Co-Chair of the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition.

An unprecedented coalition of Tribal governments from the Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi, Navajo, and Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray have joined together to seek a Bears Ears National Monument that protects archaeological and cultural resources; preserves historic sites, items of spiritual significance and ongoing cultural activities; protects native fish, wildlife and plants; provides access for hunting, ceremonies, fuel wood and herb collection; preserves wilderness and scenic values and allows for Tribal collaborative management of the area. Responding to six years worth of grassroots legwork, Tribes have coalesced around their aboriginal lands facing ongoing looting, vandalism and destruction of cultural and sacred sites. The Bears Ears coalition has presented a detailed proposal for a National Monument for the area to President Obama.

"Protecting the Bears Ears as a National Monument is supported by all of the Tribal governments in the region, local grassroots Navajo and Ute people and the vast majority of the citizens of Utah. We are looking forward to Secretary Jewell's visit and hope President Obama will act swiftly to protect the Bears Ears as a National Monument," said Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation Vice President.

"Protecting Bears Ears was unanimously supported by the Navajo Nation Council and it has overwhelming support from grassroots Navajo people and Navajo Chapters in Utah," said Davis Filfred, Navajo Nation Council Delegate



(Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa).

To learn more about the Bears Ears region, the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition, and the Coalition's proposal for a National Monument with collaborative management, visit: [www.ProtectBearsEars.org](http://www.ProtectBearsEars.org)

###

## Press Release 10/15/15

[www.bearscoalition.org/five-tribes-formally-petition-president-obama-and-congress-to-create-tribally-co-managed-bears-ears-national-monument-in-utah/](http://www.bearscoalition.org/five-tribes-formally-petition-president-obama-and-congress-to-create-tribally-co-managed-bears-ears-national-monument-in-utah/)



### **Five Tribes Formally Petition President Obama and Congress to Create Tribally Co-Managed Bears Ears National Monument in Utah**

#### **For Immediate Release**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 15, 2015) — The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition — an historic partnership of five sovereign Tribal Nations — today formally presented to the Obama Administration [their proposal](#) for the creation of a 1.9 million acre, collaboratively managed national monument in southern Utah. A copy of the proposal was also delivered to Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz of Utah.

The Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Tribes created the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in July of this year with the mission to protect and preserve the Bears Ears region, to which they have ancestral and contemporary ties. The sovereign-led proposal is formally supported by an additional 19 Tribes as well as the [National Congress of American Indians](#).

"This proposal originates from the heart of Indian Country," said Eric Descheenie, Co-Chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and advisor to Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye. "By protecting these sacred ancestral lands we can take a very important step towards healing."

The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is named for the Bears Ears buttes — two prominent landforms at the center of a landscape rich in antiquities, with more than 100,000 archaeological and cultural sites that are sacred to dozens of tribes. However, rampant looting and destruction of the region's structures, artwork, and gravesites is ongoing, and oil, gas and potash extraction also loom as threats. "This destruction of our sacred sites—including the gravesites of our ancestors—deeply wounds us," said Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Councilwoman to the Ute Mountain Ute. "Bears Ears should have been protected long ago. It has been central to our creation and migration stories since time immemorial."



"The Antiquities Act was written to protect Native American artifacts on public lands," said Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice Chairman to the Hopi Nation. "But this is the first time tribes have ever come together to call on the President to use the Antiquities Act."

The collaborative management the proposal calls for—between Tribes and the federal government—would not change the ownership of the land; tribes and agency officials would be working together as equals to make joint decisions. As with any national monument, members of the public and key stakeholders will have ample opportunity to contribute to the development of plans and policies.

Prior to presenting their proposal to the Obama Administration, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition delivered copies to Representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz of Utah. Reps. Bishop and Chaffetz have been working on a Public Lands Initiative, which seeks to address federal land management in the Bears Ears and other regions of eastern Utah. However, as the Bears Ears proposal details, Tribes have been excluded despite their [extensive efforts](#) to have the proposal considered as part of the Public Lands Initiative.

Still, at a press conference at the National Press Club, the tribes emphasized that the proposal is an opportunity to bring people together—including Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz. "It's not just for us to get healed," said Willie Grayeyes, chairman of Utah Diné Bikéyah, a nonprofit that developed and built grassroots support for the proposal among tribal members. "It's for our adversaries to be healed too. We can come out dancing together."

The proposed monument would be open to all members of the public.

###

## Contact

Natasha Hale at 505-906-8303 or .

The full proposal, timeline, B-roll, photos and other media resources can be accessed at:  
<http://www.bearsbearcoalition.org/media-resources/>

Share This



## NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

### The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #EC-15-002

#### **TITLE: Supporting the Presidential Proclamation of the Bears Ears National Monument, Including Collaborative Management Between Tribal Nations and the Federal Agencies**

##### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

###### PRESIDENT

Brian Claudioosby  
Swinomish Tribe

###### FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Randy Nola  
Nanagansett Tribe

###### RECORDING SECRETARY

Aaron Payment  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa  
Indians of Michigan

###### TREASURER

Artan Melendaz  
Rano Spatika Indian Colony

###### REGIONAL VICE- PRESIDENTS

###### ALASKA

Jerry Isaac  
Native Village of Tankecross

###### EASTERN OKLAHOMA

S. Joe Crittenden  
Cherokee Nation

###### GREAT PLAINS

Leander McDonald  
Spirit Lake Nation

###### MIDWEST

Roger Rader  
Potawatomi Band of Potawatomi

###### NORTHEAST

Lance Gumba  
Shinnecock Indian Nation

###### NORTHWEST

Fern Sharp  
Quinalt Indian Nation

###### PACIFIC

Rosemary Morillo  
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians

###### ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Ivan Posey  
Shoshone Tribe

###### SOUTHEAST

Ron Richardson  
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe

###### SOUTHERN PLAINS

Stephen Smith  
Kiowa Tribe

###### SOUTHWEST

Manuel Heart  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

###### WESTERN

Len George  
Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe

###### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jacqueline Johnson-Pete  
Tingit

###### NCAI HEADQUARTERS

1516 P Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.466.7767  
202.466.7797 fax  
www.ncai.org

**WHEREAS**, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, since time immemorial, the Bears Ears and surrounding land in Southeastern Utah have been a homeland and place of spiritual and cultural significance to tribal people. This living landscape continues to nurture, strengthen, and sustain tribal people, and tribal people remain dependent on these public lands to maintain our traditional livelihoods and cultural practices, such as hunting, gathering, and ceremonial uses.

**WHEREAS**, for the last century, tribal nations and tribal members have experienced removal from these ancestral homelands, and afterward, limited access to the land. Tribal nations and tribal members have also witnessed the looting of graves and sacred sites, and threats from more modern land uses such as off-road vehicle use and energy development.

**WHEREAS**, tribal leaders from Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni and Uintah & Ouray Ute formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition with the goal of protecting and preserving the homeland area of the Bears Ears region.

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's chosen outcome is for President Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the Bears Ears National Monument, and secure permanent protection for these lands.

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition requests that President Obama proclaim the 1.9 million Bears Ears National Monument to honor the worldviews of our ancestors and Tribes today.



**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposal asks that the new monument be managed under a path-breaking, comprehensive, and entirely workable regime of true Federal-Tribal Collaborative Management.

**WHEREAS**, the Bears Ears National Monument has every opportunity to serve as the shining example of the trust, the government-to-government relationship, and innovative, cutting-edge land management.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby urge President Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the Bears Ears National Monument and, by doing so, provide permanent protection for these lands.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Uintah & Ouray Ute, and Ute Mountain Tribes that comprise the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and their shared goal of permanently protecting the Bears Ears region.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NCAI does hereby support the Bears Ears National Monument being meaningfully co-managed between the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Tribes and federal management agencies for the purpose of honoring the trust relationship, protecting tribal sacred homelands, and preserving traditional and cultural ways of life.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee of the National Congress of American Indians, held via a poll of Board Members, September 20, 2015 in Washington, D.C. with a quorum present.

  
Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:

  
Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE OF THE  
NAVJAO NATION COUNCIL

23<sup>RD</sup> Navajo Nation Council---First Year 2015

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE UTAH DINÉ BIKEYAH CONSERVATION PROPOSAL FOR THE FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF BEAR'S EARS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA/NATIONAL MONUMENT IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH, TO PROTECT NATIVE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON FEDERAL LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

WHEREAS:

1. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §102(A). All powers not delegated are reserved to the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §102(B). The Navajo Nation Council shall supervise all powers delegated. 2 N.N.C. §102(C).
2. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is one of five standing committees of the Navajo Nation Council and is comprised of all twenty-four members of the Navajo Nation Council. The Committee is authorized to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 180 and 701(A)(6).
3. The Navajo Nation includes communities in San Juan County, Utah; these communities depend on federal lands and resources within San Juan County, Utah; a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Utah Dine Bikeyah, A Utah Non-Profit Corporation and the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources is attached as Exhibit B; and
4. The Navajo Nation members occupy a special status as both U.S. citizens and members of the Navajo Nation whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and



5. Bear's Ears area within San Juan County, Utah, is part of the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument to consist of 1.9 million acres and would include additional Wilderness units within and outside of its boundary. This region is the ancestral home of many Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos along with the Ute Mountain, Southern, and Uintah Ouray Utes, the San Juan, Kaibab, and Utah Paiute Tribes and the Jicarilla Apache Tribes which assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these lands. The Bear's Ears region is also the birthplace of Navajo Headman Manuelito; and
6. The proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and the Navajo Nation; the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms containing intricately rich ecological systems; the Navajo and other Tribes depend upon the land within the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. Cedar Mesa, the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument's centerpiece, offers sprawling vistas of Comb and Butler Washes, and extends beyond to Moki, Red, Dark, Grand Gulch, and White canyons that each support verdant ribbons of riparian habitat. Desert bighorn sheep grace the lower desert lands while the 11,000 foot Abajo Mountains host forests of ponderosa pine, spruce, fir and aspen, providing a home to mule deer, elk, black bear and mountain lion, sacred icons of the mesa's original peoples. Paramount for the Navajo, the majority of the regions inhabitants, is the proper management of the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument's native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter and medicine and its cultural sites that are central to their spiritual practices; and
7. This region contains unsurpassed cultural and paleontological resources; the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument is world renowned for the integrity and abundance of its archaeological resources. Six cultural special management areas are within the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument boundaries: Alkali Ridge National Historic Landmark, the Hole-in-the-Rock Historical Trail and the Grand Gulch, Big Westwater Ruin, Dance Hall Rock, Sand

Island Petroglyph Panel, the Newspaper Rock Petroglyph Panel, and the Butler Wash Archaeological District National Register site. Also occurring in the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument's 19 distinct geologic units are scientifically significant vertebrate and non-vertebrate paleontological resources that are particularly abundant in the Cedar Mountain, Burro Canyon, Morrison, and Chinle Formations; and

8. The proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument has been inhabited for more than 12,000 years by multiple indigenous cultures, which crossed, and built civilizations on these lands. At the Lime Ridge Clovis site is evidence of Paleoindian occupation and the archaeological record indicates widespread use between 6000 B.C. and A.D. 100 by Archaic Peoples. Possessing numerous Archaic Period sites of varying size and complexity are Cedar Mesa, Elk Ridge, and Montezuma Canyon. While other notable sites include Alkali Ridge, Cowboy Cave, Old Man Cave, and Dust Devil Cave. The heaviest occupation of the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument lands was perhaps by the Formative Period Peoples (AD 100-AD 1300) who left very large numbers of archaeological sites ranging from small lithic scatters to large highly complex village sites; and
9. The proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument includes Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands with Wilderness Characteristics and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas. Vast, remote desert mesas cut by sheer walled serpentine canyons provide unparalleled solitude and scenic quality that is comparable to or exceeds those found in nearby national parks and monuments, such as Canyonlands, Arches, Grand Staircase, Natural Bridges, Hovenweep, and Mesa Verde; and
10. Priority Management values to protect within the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument are: archaeological, wildlife, natural and scenic resources. An essential aspect of the proposed National Conservation Area/National Monument's management is to better protect these resources and to ensure their ongoing and sustainable use; and
11. Native Americans have unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land, its wildlife and other natural resources; and the Navajo people have traditional ties to this particular landscape for hunting, medicinal herbs, food gathering, firewood gathering and the grazing of livestock; and



12. Native Americans have shown quality and excellence in managing lands and natural resources to protect the cultural integrity of the homeland of Native peoples; and
13. These areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices; and
14. To prevent this rapid destruction of lands in the San Juan County region important to Native peoples, formal protection as a national conservation area or national monument is required; and
15. Formal protection of the area as a National Conservation Area/National Monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:
  - A. Protection will be permanent, part of a national system of protected lands that carry strong and clear legal definitions of the primacy of conservation of cultural, historical and ecological values that define Native connections to these lands.
  - B. Protection as a national conservation area or national monument creates important opportunities for Native American co-management of these resources and increased funding for protection with an emphasis on conservation and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources.
  - C. Protection should be at the largest landscape level possible, providing connectivity of wildlife and plant habitats, ecological integrity of the region and be comprehensive in its protection of Native sacred sites, which cannot be considered out of the context of the larger landscape.
  - D. Protection of the region as a national conservation area or national monument will be a top priority for concerned federal agencies, with public involvement and prioritization of staffing, resources and cooperation with Native peoples.

16. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support the federal designation of 1.9 million acres in San Juan County, Utah, as the Bear's Ears National Conservation Area/National Monument. Resolutions in support of the federal designation are attached as Exhibit A.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL'S NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE EXTENDS ITS SUPPORT FOR:**

1. The designation of the 1.9 million acres in San Juan County, Utah, as the Bear's Ears National Conservation Area/National Monument.
2. The designation of identified roadless areas as wilderness under the Wilderness Act.
3. Establishment of Collaborative Management Agreement(s) between the Navajo Nation, other Tribes and the federal government to improve management and elevate the Native American voice in the long-term sustainable management of the region.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 15 in favor, 0 oppose, 0 Abstain this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2015.



Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Alton Joe Shepherd

Second: Honorable Jonathan Nez



## Bear's Ears

*A Proposed National Conservation Area/ National Monument*



**An Initiative of the Navajo Nation and Utah Diné Bikéyah**

In February 2010 former Utah Senator Bob Bennett invited Utah Navajo residents to develop a proposal on issues such as wilderness, conservation, and development of public lands in San Juan County, Utah. An assessment was carried out under the authority of all seven Navajo Chapter Houses in Utah that built on interviews with dozens of elders and medicine men. The initial result of this work was the creation of a "Navajo Lands of Interest" map that was widely circulated among Navajo communities and elected officials on and off reservation. This map was the basis of subsequent discussions between the Navajo Nation and San Juan County aimed at developing a shared legislative proposal to advance to Congressman Bishop. Today, more than two years after formal discussions began, and eighteen months after submitting the Bear's Ears proposal, the Navajo Nation is still waiting for a San Juan County response.

In April 2013, the Navajo Nation and the Utah Diné Bikéyah organization proposed the creation of the 1.9 million acre Bear's Ears National Conservation Area and wilderness designations. This approach provides the best management for a diversity of uses, while directing resources towards priority cultural and biological resource protection. To honor our deep history in this region, we are also proposing that the Navajo Nation, other Tribes, and Utah Diné Bikéyah have a formal role in planning and managing the Bear's Ears National Conservation Area/ National Monument.

This region has been used by Native People for millennia, contains some of our country's richest archaeological sites and continues to serve as a pilgrimage site for many tribal members due to its historical significance. It is significant as the birthplace of Navajo Headman Manuelito and as the former center of civilization for many modern day Pueblo

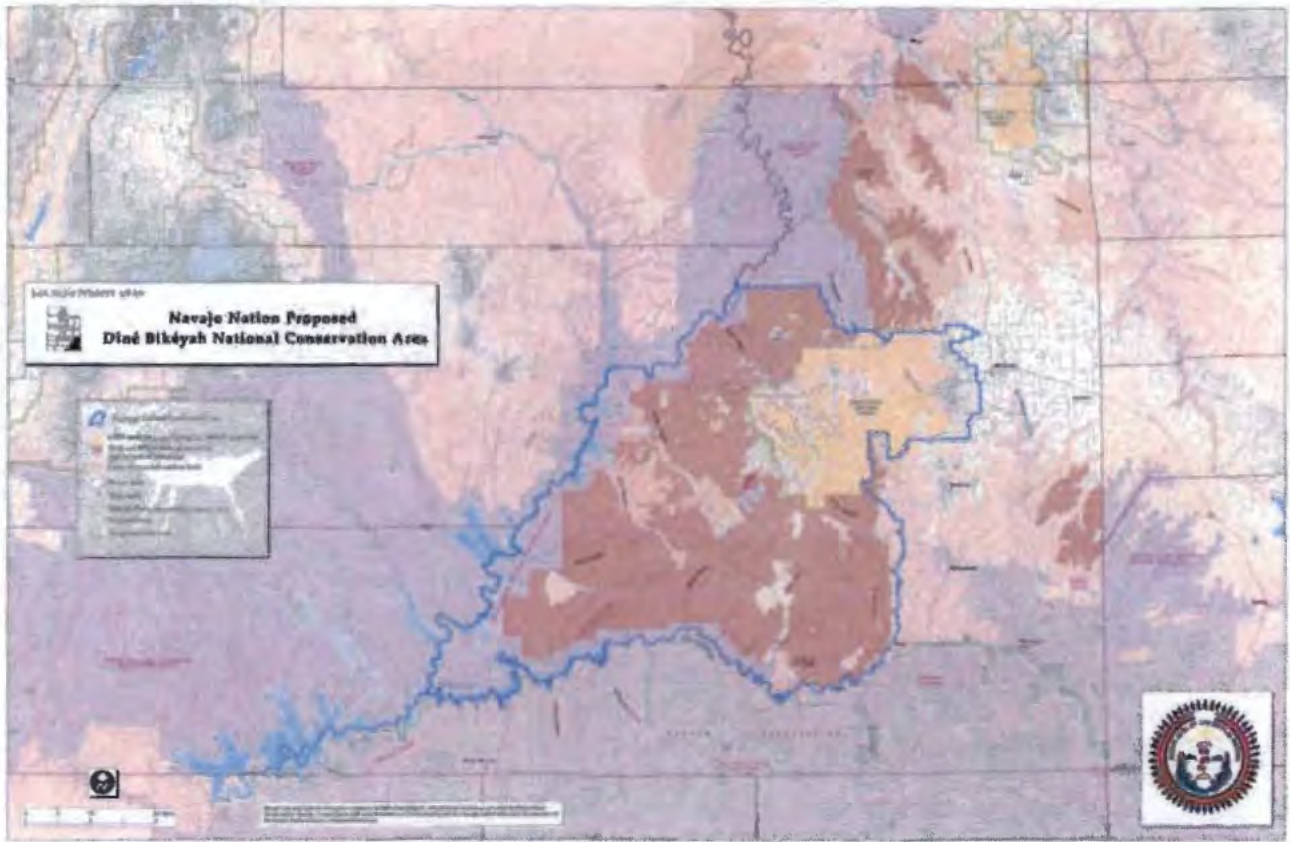
Nations, including the Hopi. The Navajo Nation and Utah Diné Bikéyah organization have proposed this conservation region be set aside to protect traditional activities and sacred places to include Cedar Mesa, White Canyon, Dark Canyon, Comb Ridge, Nokai Dome, Abajo Peak, Ruin Park, the San Juan River, and Comb Ridge.

As part of Congressman Bishop's Eastern Utah Land-Use Initiative several Tribal Nations and Navajo Chapter Houses have been adopting resolutions of support for the Bear's Ears proposal. The Hopi Tribe and All Pueblo Council of Governors have endorsed protection for the region, and all seven Navajo Chapter Houses in Utah have taken supportive action. Most recently Utah Navajo communities have come together at eight Town Hall meetings where they discussed the proposal and hand-wrote nearly 400 public comments that were submitted to San Juan County on November 30th. 64% of the total responses during the public process that ended requested designation of the Bear's Ears NCA/NM and wilderness.

Utah Navajo People have been actively advancing protection for this region for nearly five years and continue to educate and involve all US citizens who hold interests in these lands. Native American Tribes have seldom had their voices heard in the debate over public lands and it is time to recognize the depth of history and intergenerational stewardship exhibited by Tribes across these landscapes. Protection is welcome whether through Congressional or administrative action. Local people are determined to take action to make this happen and we hold out hope that one day soon our voices will finally be heard.

Ahyéhé- Thank you.





Utah Diné Bikéyah, 501(c)3 non-profit organization  
[utahdinebikeyah@gmail.com](mailto:utahdinebikeyah@gmail.com)  
Phone: (801) 521-7398

[www.utahdinebikeyah.org](http://www.utahdinebikeyah.org)



**RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION  
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

NUCAUG-616-14

**SUPPORTING CONSERVATION DESIGNATION TO PROTECT CULTURAL,  
HISTORICAL, AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON FEDERAL LANDS IN SAN  
JUAN COUNTY, UTAH**

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Utah Commission is a subunit of the Navajo Nation and hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Utah Commission recognizes the historic and ongoing ties to the lands, animals, plants, resources of San Juan County, Utah by Native American people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Diné Bikéyah, *the Peoples Sacred Land*, National Conservation Area/ Monument is the ancestral home of many additional Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Navajo, accompanied by the, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos along with the Ute Mountain, Southern, and Uintah Ouray Utes, the San Juan, Kaibab, and Utah Paiute Tribes and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these Conservation Area/ Monument lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Conservation Area/ Monument is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation Reservation, the Conservation Area/ Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms. Containing an intricately rich ecological system, the Navajo and other Tribes depend upon the Conservation Area/ Monument to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. Cedar Mesa, the Conservation Area/ Monument's centerpiece offers sprawling vistas while Comb and Buder Washes, as well as Moki, Red, Dark, Grand Gulch, and White canyons support verdant ribbons of riparian habitat. Desert Bighorn Sheep grace the lower desert lands while the 11,000 foot Abajo Mountains host forests of Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, Fir and Aspen, providing a home to Mule Deer, Elk, Black Bear and Mountain Lion, sacred icons of the mesa's original peoples. Paramount for the Navajo, the majority of the regions inhabitants, is the proper management of the Conservation Area/ Monument's native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter and medicine and its cultural sites that are central to their spiritual practices.

**WHEREAS**, the National Conservation Area/ Monument includes towering cliffs and mesas bisected by sheer canyons expose sedimentary layers revealing a geologic history stretching back to when a sea covered this landscape. Containing unsurpassed cultural and



**WHEREAS**, the Greater Cedar Mesa region of southeastern Utah includes many areas of vital importance to Native peoples' identity and history;

**WHEREAS**, these areas are under constant threat of cultural vandalism, looting of Native cultural sites, indiscriminate off road vehicle use that damages areas sacred to Native peoples, energy development footprints that negatively impact lands of historic and cultural importance, and general degradation of wildlife and plant habitats of importance to Native traditional practices;

**WHEREAS**, to prevent this rapid destruction of lands in the Greater Cedar Mesa region important to Native peoples, formal protection as a national conservation area or national monument is required;

**WHEREAS**, formal protection of the Greater Cedar Mesa region as a national conservation area/ monument will provide important consistency and quality to management of these lands, and define principles of management that will positively affect Native values on these lands in the following ways:

- o Protection will be permanent, part of a national system of protected lands that carry strong and clear legal definitions of the primacy of conservation of cultural, historical and ecological values that define Native connections to these lands.
- o Protection as a national conservation area or national monument creates important opportunities for consultation of Native Americans and participation in management of these resources and increased funding for the protection of these resources with an emphasis on conservation and preservation of the region's cultural and natural resources.
- o Protection should be at the largest landscape level possible, providing connectivity of wildlife and plant habitats, ecological integrity of the region and be comprehensive in its protection of Native sacred sites, which cannot be considered out of the context of the larger landscape.
- o Protection of the Greater Cedar Mesa region as a national conservation area or national monument will be a top priority for concerned federal agencies, with public involvement and a prioritization of staffing, resources and cooperation with Native peoples.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Utah Commission hereby extends its support for a National Conservation Area or National Monument designation that reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.



**RED MESA CHAPTER**  
Red Mesa, Navajo Nation, Utah



Resolution RM- 011-08-09-10

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**RESOLUTION OF THE RED MESA CHAPTER  
SUPPORTING THE "UTAH NAVAJO SAN JUAN COUNTY LAND-USE LEGISLATIVE  
PROPOSAL" TO PROTECT NAVAJO RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON FEDERAL LANDS FOR  
FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

**WHEREAS:**

1. RED MESA CHAPTER is officially recognized and certified as a political unit of the Navajo Tribal Government pursuant to Navajo Tribe Council Resolution No. CJ-20-55; and
2. RED MESA CHAPTER includes community members that live in San Juan County and depend on its federal lands and resources; and
3. RED MESA CHAPTER community members occupy a special status as both U.S. citizens and members of the Navajo Nation whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and
4. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Utah Senator Bob Bennett announced the intention to pursue the creation of a Congressional land-use bill that will likely result in the designation of wilderness, boundary and management changes to National Parks and monuments, and the zoning of different regions of the county for protection and development; and
5. Senator Bennett's office has requested information from the Utah Navajo related to land use, natural resource use, and motorized access needs of the Utah Navajo community members; and
6. The Utah Navajo are in the process of creating a land plan to inform this and future land management processes in which the Tribe holds interests.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the official position of the RED MESA CHAPTER, regarding the creation of San Juan County Land-Use Legislation is as follows:

1. The RED MESA CHAPTER supports the "Utah Navajo Land-Use Proposal" submitted to Senator Bennett's office on \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.
  2. The RED MESA CHAPTER supports the designation of a special management area (such as a National Conservation Area) in which the Navajo people's interests in these landscapes are acknowledged and co-management, shared decision-making, and revenue sharing are explored.
  3. The RED MESA CHAPTER supports the designation of current roadless areas in San Juan County as wilderness.
  4. RED MESA CHAPTER community members are in the process of identifying motorized access routes to ensure that routes currently used to access ceremonial, hunting, gathering, and firewood collecting sites are not disrupted by wilderness designation.
-





Council Delegates:  
Davis Filfred  
Kenneth Maryboy

**Aneth Chapter**  
**Aneth, (Navajo Nation) Utah**  
**RESOLUTION OF**  
**THE ANETH CHAPTER**

**AC-AUG-10-161**



Chapter Officers:  
John Billie, President  
Bill Todachennie, Vice-President  
Brenda Brown, Secretary/Treasurer  
Calvin Thomas, Grazing Committee

**THE ANETH CHAPTER MOVES TO ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE**  
**"UTAH NAVAJO SAN JUAN COUNTY LAND-USE LEGISLATIVE**  
**PROPOSAL" TO PROTECT NAVAJO RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON**  
**FEDERAL LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to 2 NTC Section 4002, The Aneth Chapter is a duly certified chapter of the Navajo Nation who has the power and authority to approve and rescind resolutions enacted thru its membership; and
2. Through the Established Plan of Operations, The Aneth Chapter delegates the authority to the Elected Chapter Officers to enact plans that are in the best interest of the community; and
3. The Aneth Chapter has the authority to act on behalf of its community to recommend, support, and approve community related projects; and
4. The Aneth Chapter has accept to support the announcement made by Utah State Senator, Bob Bennett on March 23rd, 2010, of the intention to pursue the creation of a Congressional Land-Use Bill that will likely result in the designation of wilderness, boundary and management changes to National Parks and Monuments and the zoning of different regions of the county for protection and development; and
5. Senator Bennett's office has requested information from the Utah Navajo related to land use, natural resource use, and motorized access needs of the Utah Navajo community members; and
6. The Utah Navajo are in the process of creating a land plan to inform this and future land management processes in which the Tribe holds interests; and
7. The Aneth Chapter accepts and approves this request, which was presented before the Aneth Chapter Membership in which a legal quorum was present.

Herman Daniels Jr., President  
Albert Holiday, Vice President  
LaNell Mesnard-Parrish, Secretary/Treasurer  
Shirlee A. Bedonk, CSC



Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate  
Benedict Daniels, Grazing Official  
Peggy Abrigo, AMS  
Phone: 435-727-5850 Fax: 5852

Scanned & emailed  
11/18/14 - spa

*Oljato Chapter, PO Box 360455, Monument Valley, Utah 84536*

## **RESOLUTION OF THE OLJATO CHAPTER**

Resolution No: OLJ11-15-2014

### **SUPPORTING THE UTAH DINE BIKEYAH CONSERVATION PROPOSAL IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH TO PROTECT DINE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON FEDERAL LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**WHEREAS, OLJATO CHAPTER** is officially recognized and certified as a political unit of the Navajo Tribal Government pursuant to Navajo Tribe Council Resolution No. CJ-20-55; and

**WHEREAS, OLJATO CHAPTER** includes community members that live in San Juan County and depend on its federal lands and resources; and

**WHEREAS, OLJATO CHAPTER** community members occupy a special status as both U.S. citizens and members of the Navajo Nation whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and

**WHEREAS, the Diné Bikéyah, the Peoples Sacred Land,** is a National Conservation Area/ National Monument proposal of 1.9 million acres in size and includes additional Wilderness units within and outside of its boundary. This region is the ancestral home of many Southwestern Native American Tribes, including the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos along with the Ute Mountain, Southern, and Uintah Ouray Utes, the San Juan, Kaibab, and Utah Paiute Tribes and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe, assert their affiliation, occupation and enduring use of these lands; and

**WHEREAS, the National Conservation Area/ Monument** is bordered on the west by the Colorado River and on the south by the San Juan River and Navajo Nation Reservation, the Conservation Area/ Monument is characterized by prodigious topographic diversity and striking landforms. Containing intricately rich ecological systems, the Navajo and other Tribes depend upon the Conservation Area/ Monument to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. Cedar Mesa, the Conservation Area/ Monument's centerpiece offers sprawling vistas while Comb and Butler Washes, and extends beyond to Moki, Red, Dark, Grand Gulch, and White canyons that each support verdant ribbons of riparian habitat. Desert Bighorn Sheep grace the lower desert lands while the 11,000 foot Abajo Mountains host forests of Ponderosa Pine, Spruce, Fir and Aspen, providing a home to Mule Deer, Elk, Black Bear and Mountain Lion, sacred icons of the mesa's original peoples. Paramount for the Navajo, the majority of the regions inhabitants are the proper management of the Conservation Area/ Monument's native plants and wildlife that are food, shelter and medicine and its cultural sites that are central to their spiritual practices.

**WHEREAS, this region contains unsurpassed cultural and paleontological resources;** the Conservation Area/ Monument is world renowned for the integrity and abundance of its archaeological resources. Six cultural special management areas are within the Conservation Area/ Monument boundaries; Alkali Ridge National Historic Landmark, the Hole-in-the-Rock Historical Trail and the Grand Gulch, Big Westwater Ruin, Dance Hall Rock, Sand Island Petroglyph Panel, the Newspaper Rock Petroglyph Panel, and the Butler Wash Archaeological District National Register site. Also occurring in the Conservation Area/ Monument's 19 distinct geologic units are scientifically significant vertebrate and non-vertebrate paleontological resources that are particularly abundant in the Cedar Mountain, Buzzo Canyon, Morrison, and Chinle Formations.



- o Protection of the region as a national conservation area or national monument will be a top priority for concerned federal agencies, with public involvement and a prioritization of staffing, resources and cooperation with Native peoples.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Oljato Chapter extends its support for

- Designation of the full extent of the Dine Bikeyah National Conservation Area/ National Monument in San Juan County, Utah
- Designation of identified roadless areas as Wilderness, under the Wilderness Act
- Establishment of Co-management Agreement(s) between the Navajo Nation/ other Tribes and the federal government to improve management and elevate the Native American voice in the long-term sustainable management of the region

**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Oljato Chapter at a regular duly called meeting at Oljato, Navajo Nation, Utah at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 47 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstained, this 9 day of NOVEMBER 2014.

1<sup>st</sup> Motion by: Nelson Yellowman

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Herman Daniels Jr., Chapter President

LaNeil Menard-Parrish  
\_\_\_\_\_

LaNeil Menard-Parrish, Secretary/Treasurer

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion by: Harve Holiday

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Albert Holiday, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Benedict Daniels, Grazing Officer

## **RESOLUTION OF THE OLIJATO CHAPTER**

### **SUPPORTING THE "UTAH NAVAJO SAN JUAN COUNTY LAND-USE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL" TO PROTECT NAVAJO RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON FEDERAL LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

#### **WHEREAS**

1. OLIJATO CHAPTER is officially recognized and certified as a political unit of the Navajo Tribal Government pursuant to Navajo Tribe Council Resolution No. CJ-20-55; and
2. OLIJATO CHAPTER includes community members that live in San Juan County and depend on its federal lands and resources; and
3. OLIJATO CHAPTER community members occupy a special status as both U.S. citizens and members of the Navajo Nation whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and
4. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Utah Senator Bob Bennett announced the intention to pursue the creation of a Congressional land-use bill that will likely result in the designation of wilderness, boundary and management changes to National Parks and monuments, and the zoning of different regions of the county for protection and development; and
5. Senator Bennett's office has requested information from the Utah Navajo related to land use, natural resource use, and motorized access needs of the Utah Navajo community members; and
6. The Utah Navajo are in the process of creating a land plan to inform this and future land management processes in which the Tribe holds interests.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the official position of the OLIJATO CHAPTER, regarding the creation of San Juan County Land-Use Legislation is as follows:

1. The OLIJATO CHAPTER supports the "Utah Navajo Land-Use Proposal" submitted to Senator Bennett's office on \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.
  2. The OLIJATO CHAPTER supports the designation of a special management area (such as a National Conservation Area) in which the Navajo people's interests in these landscapes are acknowledged and co-management, shared decision-making, and revenue sharing are explored.
  3. The OLIJATO CHAPTER supports the designation of current roadless areas in San Juan County as wilderness.
  4. OLIJATO CHAPTER community members are in the process of identifying motorized access routes to ensure that routes currently used to access ceremonial, hunting, gathering, and firewood collecting sites are not disrupted by wilderness designation.
-





**For Immediate Release**  
May 17, 2016

**CONTACT:**  
Melissa Schwartz, 240-997-6251

## **New Utah Poll Shows Strong Support for Protecting Bears Ears Region** ***71 Percent Support National Monument Designation for*** ***1.9-Million Acres of Existing Public Lands in Southeast Utah***

*Salt Lake City, UT* – Creation Justice Ministries today released a statewide Utah poll showing strong statewide support amongst registered voters for protecting public lands in southeast Utah’s Bears Ears area as a national monument.

“This poll demonstrates that Utah voters strongly support designating the Bears Ears area as a National Monument,” said **Shantha Ready Alonso, Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries**. “Voters value protecting cliff dwellings, Mormon pioneer artifacts, and other unique historic sites from looters. They want to continue enjoying recreational activities, conserve wildlife habitat, and provide opportunities for families and children to spend time together and explore nature.”

A detailed rundown of the poll, which was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, is provided online in the poll summary document ([bit.ly/BEfindings](http://bit.ly/BEfindings)) and the poll interview schedule and responses ([bit.ly/BE-QA](http://bit.ly/BE-QA)).

“Voters throughout Utah overwhelmingly support increased protection for existing public lands in the Bears Ears region,” said **Lori Weigel, Partner with Public Opinion Strategies**. “Support for designating these public lands as a National Monument is broad-based across age, gender, religion, political party, and geographic regions of the state.”

Some of the key findings of the poll are:

- **Seven-in-ten Utah voters (71 percent) support designating the Bears Ears area as a National Monument versus 20 percent that oppose.** Support for designating these public lands as National Monuments is widespread with majorities of all key subgroups of the electorate statewide express this sentiment, including
  - 75 percent of voters in the Salt Lake area, 71 percent on the Wasatch front and 67 percent in the rest of the state;
  - 92 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 63 percent of GOP voters; and
  - 65 percent of sportsmen.

- **Voters see a wide-range of benefits to increasing protections for the public lands in the Bears Ears area** to safeguard unique historic artifacts and sites (83 percent), for children to get outside and explore nature (83 percent), and to conserve natural areas and wildlife habitat (78 percent).
- **Utah residents express a strong affinity for the outdoors by reporting high rates of outdoor recreation and visiting national public lands.** A stunning 89 percent say they have visited national public lands in the last year. In addition, 84 percent regularly participate in at least one of a number of outdoor recreation activities with hiking (57 percent) and camping (57 percent) reported as the most frequent activities.

The strong statewide support for protecting Bears Ears as a national monument is consistent with the efforts of the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition](#), a partnership of five sovereign Indian nations—the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni. This coalition has asked for President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to designate the [Bears Ears National Monument](#) and stem the tide of looting and other damage to these sacred lands and cultural sites.

“Utah voters know protecting Bears Ears is the right thing to do,” said **Episcopal Bishop of Utah, the Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi**. “It is time we show reverence and recognition for the historical, cultural, and spiritual significance of the land in the proposed Bears Ears national monument.”

“Spending time in God’s good creation nourishes the body, mind and spirit,” said **Baptist chaplain at University of Utah Hospital and Creation Justice Ministries board member Rev. Dr. Genny Rowley**. “Utahans understand how precious the integrity of creation is, as reflected in these poll numbers. The proposed Bear’s Ears National Monument supports this widely held value.”

For this poll, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a telephone survey of 500 registered voters who are likely to vote in the November 2016 presidential election. The survey was conducted May 11-12 and 14, 2016. The margin of sampling error for this representative statewide sample is +/-4.38%.

###

#### **About Creation Justice Ministries**

Creation Justice Ministries (formerly the National Council of Churches Eco-Justice Program) represents the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations throughout the United States. Creation Justice Ministries equips, educates and mobilizes faith communities to protect, restore, and rightly share God’s creation. Learn more at <http://www.creationjustice.org>.

#### **About Public Opinion Strategies**

Public Opinion Strategies is the largest Republican polling firm in the country. Since the firm’s founding in 1991, they have completed more than 10,000 research projects, interviewing more than five million Americans across the United States. Public Opinion Strategies’ research is well respected, and prestigious media outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, NBC News, and CNBC rely on Public Opinion Strategies to conduct their polling. The firm conducts opinion research on behalf of hundreds of political campaigns, as well as trade associations, not-for-profit organizations, government entities, and industry coalitions throughout the nation.





## PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Lori Weigel, Public Opinion Strategies

RE: Utah Voters Support Protection of Bears Ears Area as National Monument; Place High Importance on Protecting Historic Sites and Artifacts in the Area

DATE: May 16, 2016

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The national polling firm, Public Opinion Strategies, recently completed a survey of Utah voters regarding a potential National Monument designation for the Bears Ears area in southeastern Utah.<sup>1</sup> The survey results show that **voters throughout the state overwhelmingly support designating the Bears Ears area as a National Monument**, thereby protecting these areas from development, mining and other resource extraction activities. Support is significant among all demographic, geographic and partisan sub-groups in the state.

Support may in part be due to the electorate's high rates of outdoor recreation and visiting national public lands. Residents place a high level of importance on ensuring that these public lands are protected as a way to safeguard historic artifacts and sites, for wildlife, and for families.

Among the key specific findings of the survey are the following:

- **Seven-in-ten Utah voters (71 percent) support designating the Bears Ears area as a National Monument.** As just 32 percent of voters indicated having heard something about the proposal, survey respondents received a brief explanation of the proposal in order to ensure all respondents had the same level of information on the topic:

*"As you may know, some of the national public lands in Utah are designated as national monuments, with protections for natural areas and water similar to those in national parks. The public can view camp, fish, hike, hunt, view wildlife, ride ATVs and enjoy other recreation and ranchers can lease land for grazing in Utah's national monuments. They are also protected from development, mining and other kinds of resource extraction."*

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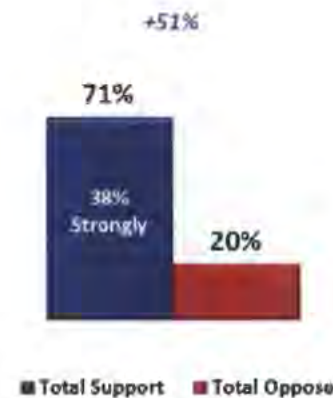
<sup>1</sup> **Methodology:** From May 11-12 and 14, 2016, Public Opinion Strategies completed 500 telephone interviews with registered voters in Utah who are likely to vote in the November 2016 presidential election. The margin of sampling error for this representative statewide sample is +/-4.38%. Margins of sampling error for subgroups within the sample will be larger. Some percentages may sum to more than 100% due to rounding.

*One proposal that originated with five local Native American tribes is to protect 1.9 million acres of existing public lands surrounding the Bears Ears buttes south of Canyonlands National Park as a National Monument, in large part to protect ancient cliff dwellings and sacred Native American sites."*

Again, the overwhelming majority of Utah voters support the proposed protection of these public lands with National Monument designation, with nearly two-in-five strongly in support, as one can see in the graph below. Opposition is fairly minimal.

- **Support for designating these public lands as a National Monument is widespread and broad-based.** Majorities of all key subgroups of the electorate statewide express this sentiment, including:

Support for Increased Protection



- 77 percent of women and 65 percent of men;
- 85 percent of voters under age 25, 72 percent of 25-34 year olds, 71 percent of 35-44 year olds, 68% of 45-64 year olds and 72 percent of seniors;
- 75 percent of voters in the Salt Lake area, 71 percent on the Wasatch front and 67 percent in the rest of the state;
- 92 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 63 percent of GOP voters;
- 65 percent of sportsmen; and
- 68 percent of those indicating their religion as Latter-Day Saints/Mormon.

Notably, support is even more intense among those who indicate having heard something about the proposed National Monument designations prior to the survey as those who had not. Among those already aware of the proposal, 70 percent express support for the idea, but the intensity of support is ten points higher than overall - nearly half (48 percent) are strongly in support.

- **Voters offer a wide range of rationales for their support for National Monument designation for these public lands surrounding the Bears Ears buttes.** We provided respondents with the opportunity to tell us the reasons they support the proposal. Most focused on the importance of preserving the lands due to the Native American history and artifacts there, and a desire to ensure that these natural and historic areas are protected for future generations. There is also a strong sense that public lands are important for outdoor recreation and that should be prioritized over commercial activities.

*"I think so much of our lands, the Indian ruins and stuff, have been ruined by people. I think they need to be protected." -- GOP senior woman in Salt Lake County*

*"I am definitely for preserving that part of our national heritage, it is very important. I have visited some of the cliff dwelling ruins, those in New Mexico and Arizona. While I'm not Native*



*American myself...I still see so much value in making sure that we preserve those kinds of monuments and the land regions around them for future generations. I'm very strongly for that for personal experience." – GOP 35-44 year old man in Utah County*

*"The reasons I would support is so that we could use it for camping and hiking, especially if it has Indian relics. That's fabulous history for the next generation to see, know, and learn about. Pictures aren't the same as seeing it for real. That's why I would support it." – GOP 35-44 year old woman in Utah County*

*"I've seen too much abuse of our land for the sake of making money. Raping our wilderness to get resources out of there and not cleaning up after yourself, I don't like that. I think nature is part of our identity and heritage, and it needs to stay that way." – GOP 35-44 year old man in Weber County*

*"Just because I think it's important to preserve land and keep it from other interests that might destroy it." – GOP 55-64 year old woman in Utah County*

*"I'm a coal miner, so we've got to be able to access some. But the more ground that we set aside as national parks, and national monuments, the better I think." – Democratic 55-64 year old man in Carbon County*

*"Mostly just the way I was raised up, a largely Boy Scouting and active outdoor family. I spent the better half of my childhood down in southern Utah in those national parks and national lands down there and I would very much like to see those expanded or at least maintained and not diminished at all." – GOP 35-44 year old man in Salt Lake County*

- **Notably, some opponents appear to be confused about what can and cannot take place on these lands.** For example, some worried about grazing and whether that would be affected, or even camping and hunting. A few respondents expressed concern about federal government owning more land in the state (possibly not focusing in on the fact that these are already national public lands), some are concerned about the economy of Utah being affected, and a number simply wanted additional information.

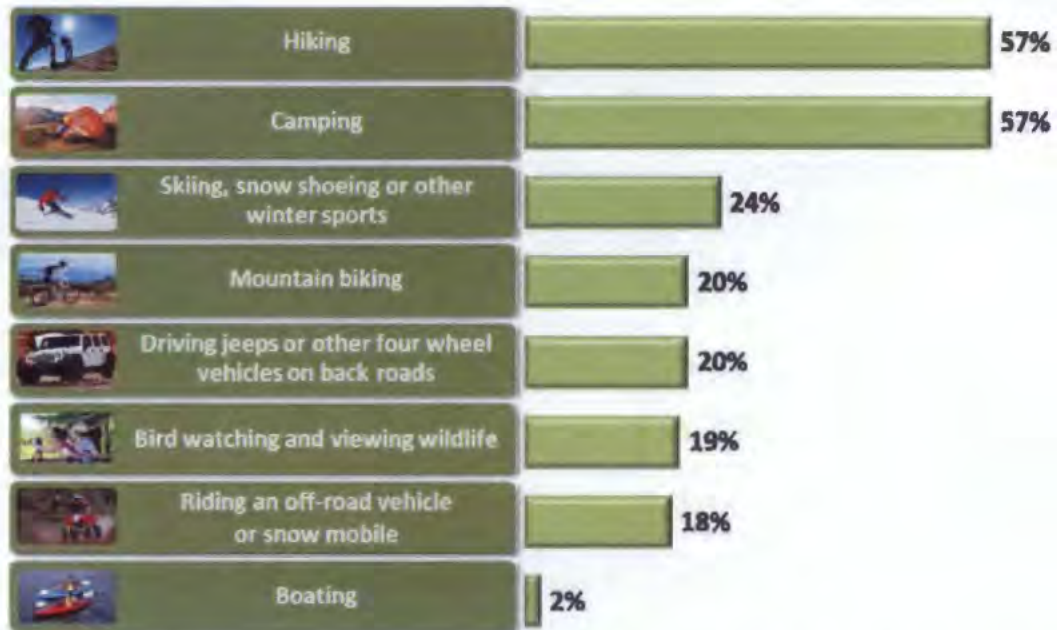
- **Voters see a wide-range of benefits to increasing protections for the public lands in the Bears Ears Buttes area, particularly as a way to safeguard historic artifacts and sites, for wildlife, and for families.** As the following table highlights, the top-tier benefits in importance for Utah voters are ones linked to history, children/families and wildlife.

Benefit	% Agreeing or Very Important	% Total Important
Better protect petroglyphs, cliff dwellings, Mormon pioneer artifacts, and other unique historic sites from looters and vandals	83%	96%
Provide opportunities for children to get outside and explore nature	83%	95%
Conserve natural areas and wildlife habitat	78%	96%
Protect the home of more than one hundred thousand Native American archaeological and cultural sites including cliff dwellings and ancient sites, considered sacred by many tribes.	78%	95%
Protect habitat for threatened animals, such as bighorn sheep, eagles and dozens of other types of birds	73%	96%
Provide families with affordable places to vacation, recreate and spend time together	72%	94%
Continue to allow recreational opportunities for those who come to hike, camp, hunt, ride off-road vehicles and recreate here	65%	94%
Sustain small businesses that create jobs in nearby communities	65%	94%
Protect for local residents and visitors some of the best outdoor recreation in the region, including world famous attractions like rock climbing at Indian Creek, rafting the San Juan River, hunting on Elk Ridge, Four Wheel Driving the Hole in the Rock Trail, and Hiking through Grand Gulch	65%	94%
Provide access for off-road vehicle users, horseback riders, cyclists, and hikers	48%	90%
Preserve opportunities for local ranchers to graze livestock on these lands	46%	85%
Increase the number of rangers and enhance services for visitors	43%	89%
Preserve opportunities for hunting	34%	78%

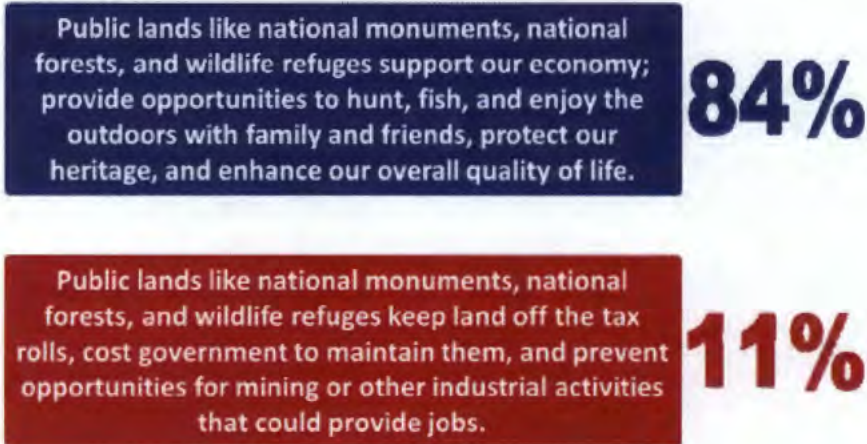
- **Utah residents do in fact express a strong affinity for the outdoors by reporting high rates of outdoor recreation and visiting national public lands.** A stunning 89 percent say they have visited national public lands in the last year, with GOP voters more likely to say they have visited (92%) than either independents (89%) or Democrats (83%).

In addition, the overwhelming majority of voters in the state report regularly participating in at least one of a number of outdoor recreation activities (84 percent statewide), with hiking (57 percent) and campaign (57 percent) reported as the most frequent activities. The reported rates of participation are quite significant:





- **Voters tend to reject concerns about public lands broadly.** When given two viewpoints about public lands protection, voters overwhelmingly say they agree more with a statement detailing positive benefits, rather than concerns.



- **In conclusion,** the survey clearly demonstrates support among Utah voters for national public lands broadly, and for a specific proposal to designate the Bears Ears buttes area as a National Monument. They perceive many aspects of the designation of this area as important, particularly, the benefits for protecting historic artifacts and sites, conserving wildlife habitat, and providing nature and recreation opportunities for families and children.





# Utah

## Support National Monument Designation



"One proposal which originated with local Indian tribes is to protect nearly two million acres of existing public lands surrounding the Bears Ears Buttes south of Canyonlands National Park as a **National Monument**, in large part to protect cliff dwellings and sacred American Indian sites. Would you support or oppose designating these existing public lands as a national monument?"

## Elected Officials Should Find Common Ground on Conservation

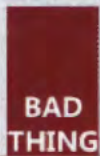
Utah has the highest proportion of voters who think that "issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife...should be issues where elected officials and state leaders should work together and seek to find common ground" rather than that they "should not compromise if there are differences" (8%).



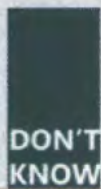
45%



25%



30%



## Protecting the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument



*Utah voters more likely to oppose state taking control of national public lands (47%) than support it (41%)*

- ❖ **66%** support presidential authority for National Monument designation
- ❖ **76%** support treating wildfires as natural disasters in budgeting;
- ❖ **70%** support continuing investment in LWCF



Bears Ears Local Organizing - 1,300+ Postcards collected at local Native American events



PHOENIX AZ 85001

09 MAY 2016 PM

Dear President Obama,

Please support Native American Tribes by designating the 1.9 million acre Bear's Ears National Monument. This living cultural landscape represents our collective heritage and is symbolic of a future respect for the land and each other.

Bears Ears is important to me because:

It's important to our culture and heritage, it  
keeps our identity

Name: (b) (6)

Email Address: (b) (6)

Address: (b) (6)

City, State, Zip: Maricopa, AZ, 85139

Utah Diné Bikéyah  
314 W 300 S, Ste 225  
SLC, UT 84101

Photo on front by Utah Diné Bikéyah

841091-468830

841 082 1 316C8885/15/16  
NOTIFY SENDER OF NEW ADDRESS  
UTAH DINE BIKEYAH  
312 S DENVER ST STE 215  
SALT LAKE CITY UT 84111-3054  
EFT 0411205400 \*2016 0515 00 21



**RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO MOUNTAIN CHAPTER  
OF THE NAVAJO NATION**

RESOLUTION NO: NM15/309-2014

Alex Bitsadie  
*President*

Junie R. Holgate  
*Vice-President*

Elle Jean Badoni  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Lucille S. Krause  
*Grazing Committee  
Member*

Jonathan Nez  
*Council Delegate*

**SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF UTAH DINE' BIKE' YAH, INC PURSUANT TO  
PROPOSED LAND DESIGNATION FOR A NATIONAL MONUMENT AND/OR NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION AREA WITHIN THE SOUTH EASTERN STATE OF UTAH AND IN SAN  
JUAN COUNTY OF THE STATE OF UTAH.**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Navajo Mountain Chapter is recognized as local government body of the Navajo Nation Government pursuant to 2.N.N.C., Section 4004; and vested with the authority to discuss all matters affecting the Navajo people and its nation; furthermore, pursuant to 2 N.N.C., Section 4028, (a) the local Navajo chapter is authorized to make recommend to appropriate entities to the Navajo Nation and other local agencies for appropriate relief or actions of the matters impacting; and
2. The Navajo people of Navajo Mountain, Utah are apart of the San Juan County residents just as their forefathers did for generations before them and according to the Federal laws they have unique political recognition whereby they are citizen of the Navajo Nation, San Juan County, the State of Utah and the United States America; and
3. By virtue of the Civil Rights Act, these Navajo people have the same and equal rights as other ethnic groups throughout the United States; therefore, their interest in the public land (Bureau of Land Management) is perpetual and dating back long before the discovery; and
4. Furthermore, the area of interest and proposed for land designation reflects a very high interest for the Native American people throughout the Colorado Plateau, more specifically, the Navajo people have traditional ties to this particular landscape for hunting, medicinal herbs and organic food gathering areas plus firewood gathering and grazing of livestock before Columbus sat foot on this continent and even before of the Treaty of 1886, between the Navajo people's Headmen and the Federal Government.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Navajo Mountain Chapter hereby supports the efforts of Utah Dine' Bike'yah, Inc pursuant to proposed land designation for a national monument and/or national conservation area within the south eastern State of Utah and in San Juan County of the State of Utah.





# TEEC NOS POS CHAPTER GOVERNMENT

P. O. Box 106, Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, Navajo Nation 86514  
Highway 160 BIA School Road #5114 Chapter Government Building  
Telephone #928-656-9662 Facsimile #928-656-3661

# TNPCH-42-010

## RESOLUTION OF THE TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER

### SUPPORTING THE "UTAH NAVAJO SAN JUAN COUNTY LAND-USE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL" TO PROTECT NAVAJO RIGHTS AND INTERESTS ON FEDERAL LANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

#### WHEREAS

1. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER is officially recognized and certified as a political unit of the Navajo Tribal Government pursuant to Navajo Tribe Council Resolution No. CJ-20-55; and
2. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER includes community members that live in San Juan County and depend on its federal lands and resources; and
3. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER community members occupy a special status as both U.S. citizens and members of the Navajo Nation whose ancestral lands encompass all of San Juan County; and
4. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, Utah Senator Bob Bennett announced the intention to pursue the creation of a Congressional land-use bill that will likely result in the designation of wilderness, boundary and management changes to National Parks and monuments, and the zoning of different regions of the county for protection and development; and
5. Senator Bennett's office has requested information from the Utah Navajo related to land use, natural resource use, and motorized access needs of the Utah Navajo community members; and
6. The Utah Navajos are in the process of creating a land plan to inform this and future land management processes in which the Tribe holds interests.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the official position of the TEEC CHAPTER, regarding the creation of San Juan County Land-Use Legislation is as follows:

1. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER supports the "Utah Navajo Land-Use Proposal" submitted to Senator Bennett's office on August 12, 2010.
2. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER supports the designation of a special management area (such as a National Conservation Area) in which the Navajo people's interests in these landscapes are acknowledged and co-management, shared decision-making, and revenue sharing are explored.
3. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER supports the designation of current roadless areas in San Juan County as wilderness.
4. TEEC-NOS-POS CHAPTER community members are in the process of identifying motorized access routes to ensure that routes currently used to access ceremonial, hunting, gathering, and firewood collecting sites are not disrupted by wilderness designation.

#### CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the TEEC CHAPTER at a duly called Regular meeting at Teec Nos Pos Chapter, NAVAJO NATION, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 26 in favor, 0 opposed, and 01 abstained, this 12 day of AUGUST, 2009. MOTION BY: Wallace Ledacheeny SECOND BY: Elsie Dee

Roy Kady, President

John MacDonald, Sr., Vice President

Verma Francisco, Sec./Treas

Francis Redhouse, Council Delegate

Dale Redhouse, Grazing Officer

#### CHAPTER OFFICERS

Roy Kady    John MacDonald, Sr.    Verma Francisco  
PRESIDENT    VICE PRESIDENT    SECRETARY/TREASURER

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dale Redhouse    Francis Redhouse    May Howard    Susie Joe  
GRAZING OFFICER    COUNCIL DELEGATE    COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR    OFFICE SPECIALIST

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The presidency and members of Brigham Young University's Earth Stewardship Club would like to express their support for the designation of the Bears Ears region of southeastern Utah as a national monument. We ask you to use your authority to protect this unique and beautiful landscape that is precious to Native Americans and to all Americans.

The 1.9-million-acre Bears Ears landscape encompasses a staggering variety of unprotected natural features from slot canyons to mountain peaks, wildlife habitats, and cultural treasures. The region houses over 100,000 archaeological and sacred sites such as ancient rock art works, cliff dwellings, great houses, shrines, and burials, and remains spiritually significant to many Native Americans. These treasures of history and culture are in danger of being damaged or erased by vandalism, off-road vehicle use and resource extraction. Similar threats face the ecosystems and biodiversity of this region, which includes the Colorado River watershed. By designating Bears Ears a National Monument, you will provide protection for a landscape of unlimited value.

Tribal leaders have shown their overwhelming support for protecting their heritage as a national monument through the unprecedented Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. A majority of Utahns also support their vision. As students and residents of Utah with a keen love for our nation's natural and cultural heritage, the members of BYU Earth Stewardship hope that we, our fellow Americans, and our children will have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Bears Ears as a pristine natural and cultural landscape for years to come.

President Obama, please make this vision for southern Utah's--and the nation's--heritage a reality by designating Bears Ears a national monument.

Sincerely,

Jared Meek, President, BYU Earth Stewardship  
Anne Thomas, Vice President, BYU Earth Stewardship

Cc Secretary Sally Jewell, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture



From: Sarah Stock  
Canyon Country Rising Tide  
484 Sundial Dr.  
Moab, UT 84532



**CANYON COUNTRY  
RISING TIDE**

**(435) 260-8557**

**CCRT@RISEUP.NET**

**CANYONCOUNTRYRISINGTIDE.ORG**

To: President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Bears Ears National Monument

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of Canyon Country Rising Tide, an all volunteer grassroots organization fighting for Climate Justice on the Colorado Plateau, I would like to urge you to designate the Bears Ears National Monument. I would also like this to be done in a way that does not trade out School Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA) in order to create sacrifice zones for fossil fuel development in other areas.

We must protect this area for many reasons, and we will in one way or another. This area is important for the tribal people of the area as it is one of the few places where high elevation herbs and wood can be gathered. It is also culturally important, with over 100,000 archeological and sacred sites including thousands of ancient rock art works, cliff dwellings, great houses, shrines, and burials.

Threats to this area are immense and put at risk our very ability to live on the Colorado Plateau as fossil fuel development continues to contribute to climate change. There are tar sands deposits, oil, gas, potash, and uranium all of which threaten our precious and scarce water resources. Tar sands, oil and gas also contribute to climate change. While I'm on the subject, I should probably tell you that we intend to keep ALL future leases of fossil fuels on federal lands in the ground. We are a growing movement, you have plenty of support to designate this special area as a National Monument.

Canyon Country Rising Tide also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all. Let the tribes take the lead.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stock  
Resident of the Colorado Plateau  
Canyon Country Rising Tide

Cc Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

# LIVING RIVERS

## COLORADO RIVERKEEPER<sup>®</sup>

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

May 28, 2016

RE: Proposed Bears Ears National Monument

Dear President Obama

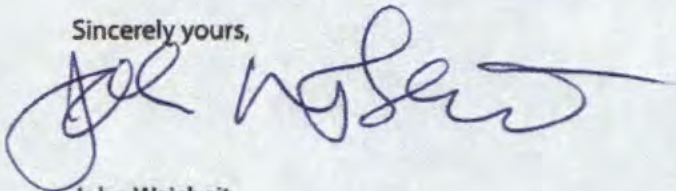
My name is John Weisheit and I live in the southeast corner of Utah. I have been a professional guide on the rivers and lands of the Colorado Plateau for over 35 years. As co-founder of Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper, our organization supports the proposal to protect Bears Ears.

When the Civil War ended, there yet remained a blank spot on the map of the United States and it's center was the canyon country of southern Utah. Two of America's most gifted scientists, John Strong Newberry and John Wesley Powell, prepared illustrated reports for Congress about their findings of this isolated landscape. They correctly noted that the lands held little economic opportunity for settlers. However, they considered the human and natural history of this landscape to be priceless. In the 150-years that have since passed, their original assessments remain quite accurate.

In 1935, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes recommended to President Roosevelt that he reserve 4 million acres of land in southern Utah as a National Monument. Utah's Governor Henry H. Blood (Democrat) resisted this recommendation, claiming the greater value of the land was to exploit it's natural resources. To this day, Governor Blood's anticipated values for the Bears Ears area never materialized.

Mr. President, if you used your executive authority to designate Bears Ears National Monument, you would do a great honor to the American people, past, present and future.

Sincerely yours,



John Weisheit  
Co-founder of Living Rivers & Colorado Riverkeeper

Cc:

Sally Jewell, Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 "C" St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250



May 4, 2016

William H. King  
Chair, Utah Native Plant Society  
1564 S. Wasatch Drive  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108  
801-582-0432  
mzzzyt@aol.com



President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: UNPS Support for the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.

Dear Mr. President,

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition has written to you requesting the designation of Bears Ears National Monument, San Juan County, Utah under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Their primary reason for the request is to protect some 100,000 archaeological sites as well as sacred lands.

The Utah Native Plant Society (UNPS) Board of Directors has voted on March 31, 2016 to support the designation of Bears Ears as a National Monument. In addition to protecting the 100,000 archeological sites and sacred lands, Bears Ears would make a wonderful reserve, provide additional protection and collaborative management for the many rare plants, animals and fish that live within the proposed National Monument.

There are nearly 900 species of plants within or near the proposed monument borders of which over 100 are on our UNPS Rare Plant List including one Federally listed as a Threatened species, *Carex specuicola*, Navajo Sedge. In addition, there are 7 plant species of high conservation concern and 34 species on our Watch List. See the list below. Additionally, there are more than 50 plant species of medium conservation concern in or near the proposed park borders.

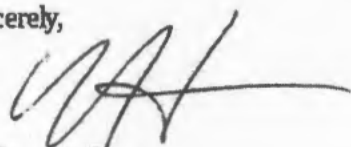
The Department of Natural Resources, State of Utah, in a letter to us dated April 5, 2016 has identified 20 recent records of species of animals and fish that are near or in the borders of the proposed National Monument that they identify as sensitive, species of concern: Allens big-eared bat, American three-toed woodpecker, big free-tailed bat, bluehead sucker, burrowing owl, Colorado pikeminnow, desert night lizard, flannelmouth sucker, great plains toad, greater sage-grouse, Gunnison's prairie-dog, northern goshawk, razorback sucker, roundtail chub, southwestern willow flycatcher, spotted bat, spotted owl, Townsend's big-eared bat, Yavapai mountainsnail and yellow-billed cuckoo. They also have a historical record occurrence for common chuckwalla.

The proposed National Monument rises from desert plateaus of 3,700 feet to a nearly alpine level at Abajo Peak of 11,368 feet. There are many underlying geological substrates and unique habitats such as hanging gardens, which sustain diverse and rare species. This is a spectacularly beautiful part of the Western United States, the kind of wide open vistas and endangered habitats that should be preserved for future generations.

The Utah Native Plant Society was formed in 1978 out of a concern for imperiled rare plant species. We operate as a non-profit under IRS section 501(c)3. We have more than 300 members including professional botanists and ecologists, Federal and State agency employees and just plant lovers of all kinds.

Thank you for considering the designation of Bears Ears National Monument.

Sincerely,



William H. King

**Utah Native Plant Society Rare Plant List for Proposed Bears Ears National Monument, extracted from:**

*Calochortiana* February, 2016 Number 3 (in process)

**Extremely High Priority Species:**

*Carex specuicola*, Navajo Sedge

**High Priority Species:**

*Xylorhiza glabriuscula*, Moab woodyaster

*Lepidium moabense*, Moab pepperwort

*Astragalus cutleri*, Cutler's milkvetch

*Sphaeralcea janeae*, Jane's globemallow

*Aliciella latifolia* ssp. *imperialis*, Cataract glia

*Eriogonum racemosum* var. *nobilis*, Bluff wild buckwheat

*Krascheninnikovia lanata* var. *ruinina*, Ruin Park winterfat

**Watch List:**

*Adoxa moschatellina*, Moschatel

*Oxypolis fendleri*, Fendler's cowbane

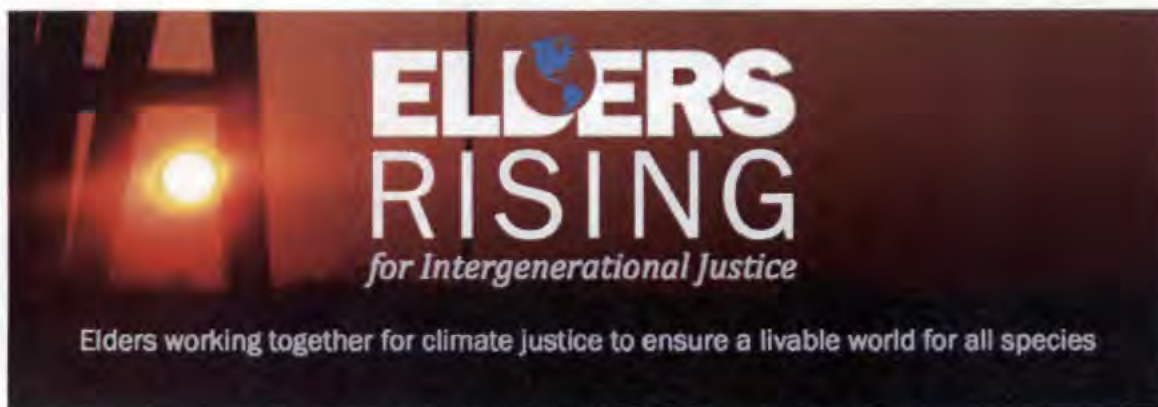
*Arida parviflora*, Small-flower aster

*Baccharis viminea* var. *atwoodii*, Atwood's seep willow

*Erigeron religiosus*, Religious daisy



*Helianthella parryi*, Parry's little sunflower  
*Layia platyglossa*, Coastal tidytips  
*Pectis angustifolia* var. *angustifolia*, Narrowleaf pectis  
*Perityle specuicola*, Alcove rock-daisy  
*Symphotrichum ericoides* var. *pansum*, White heath aster  
*Atriplex obovata*, New Mexico saltbush  
*Carex curatorum*, Canyonlands sedge  
*Cladium californicum*, Saw-grass  
*Astragalus monumentalis*, Monument milkvetch  
*Astragalus naturitensis*, Naturita milkvetch  
*Astragalus piscator*, Fisher milkvetch  
*Pediomelum aromaticum* var. *Tuhyi*, Tuhy's breadroot  
*Nama hispida*, Hairy nama  
*Nama retrorsa*, Howell's nama  
*Allium geyeri* var. *chatterleyi*, Chatterley's onion  
*Plantanthera zothecina*, Alcove bog-orchid  
*Andropogon glomeratus*, Bushy bluestem  
*Imperata brevifolia*, Satintail  
*Phlox lutescens*, Yellowish phlox  
*Eriogonum cernuum* var. *psammophilum*, Sand Dune nodding wild buckwheat  
*Eriogonum scabrellum*, Westwater wild buckwheat  
*Portulaca halimoides*, Dwarf purslane  
*Dodecatheon pulchellum* var. *zionense*, Zion shooting star  
*Primula specuicola*, Cave primrose  
*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*, Carolina tassel-rue  
*Ceanothus vestitus* var. *franklinii*, Franklin's desert lilac  
*Geum aleppicum*, Erect avens  
*Potentilla nivea*, Snow cinquefoil  
*Rubus neomexicanus*, New Mexico thimbleberry



Elders Rising – PO Box 2491, SLC, UT 84110-2491 – [elders.rising@gmail.com](mailto:elders.rising@gmail.com) –  
<https://www.facebook.com/eldersrisingforintergenerationaljustice/>

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Cc:  
Sally Jewel, Secretary of The Interior  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

Dear President Obama,

Elders Rising is writing to ask you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument that honors ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to the region. Elders Rising is a local group of senior citizens from Salt Lake City who have organized to protect our children's and grandchildren's future from climate change and other destructive environmental trends.

As you may know, the monument designation is supported by more than 70% of the people of Utah, despite our legislature's goal to turn Utah's precious public lands over to the state and private parties for fossil fuel and other forms of unrestrained development.

The Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

By protecting Bears Ears, you'll ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity and of critical importance to the Colorado River Basin upon which 40 million Americans rely, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

Elders Rising also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership



with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

Jill Merritt, PhD  
On behalf of Elders Rising

successful Canadian model of partnering with indigenous nations to manage and protect sacred landscapes.

**Gold Butte** – Encompassing over 350,000 acres of low-elevation slickrock and Joshua tree desert, designation of a Gold Butte National Monument would protect an entire ecosystem, rich with indigenous rock art, rare desert tortoises, and a recreational wonderland that complements nearby National Park units at Zion and Grand Canyon. This area is threatened by off-road vehicle activity as well as the famously controversial livestock overgrazing that precipitated the armed standoff at Bunkerville in 2014. Designation of the Gold Butte National Monument will send a strong message that the U.S. Federal Court system is not to be flouted, and that federal lands belong to all Americans, not just the grazing permittees that lease their forage.

**Grand Canyon** – This proposal would protect 1.7 million acres of spectacular canyon country and high-elevation rimpop ecosystems from being despoiled by the uranium industry. The lands nominated for protection include springs that feed the waterways of Grand Canyon National Park, some of which have already been polluted by the uranium industry. Local indigenous nations have fought for years to prevent the desecration of these lands, which form an important ecological corridor connecting northern New Mexico with the central Rockies ranges of Utah. Protecting this monument will provide resolution for a legislative proposal that has been stalled by Congressional gridlock, and will make good on Secretary Salazar's 20-year moratorium on uranium mining with permanent protections that will go far in completing the conservation effort for the world's most spectacular canyon landscape.

There are other National Monument candidates worthy of your designation, such as Heart of the Great Basin in central Nevada encompassing key sage grouse habitats and the spectacular Toiyabe and Toiyabe mountain ranges, but the three western Monument candidates described above are ripe for designation today. Your National Monument designations should include strong provisions that guarantee the protection of fragile archaeological sites and sensitive wildlife habitats for all time. We urge you to proceed with all due haste to perfect the conservation protection for these national crown-jewel landscapes.

Very sincerely yours,



Greg Dyson  
Wild Places Program Director

Cc: Sally Jewel, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture





May 20, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20500-0003

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of our 168,458 members and supporters across the West and throughout the nation, we are writing to thank you for your good work in designating National Monuments such as Basin and Range, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railway, and the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, and to encourage you to continue to build on your legacy of landscape conservation with the creation of several additional National Monuments in the American West.

WildEarth Guardians is a western conservation organization, with offices in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, California, Wyoming, Montana, and Oregon, and one of our primary areas of focus is protecting wild places, particularly on public lands. While many potential National Monuments (such as Maine Woods) lie outside the West and are also deserving of National Monument status, our expertise is in western landscapes, and we commend to your attention the following outstanding additions to our National Monument system:

**Bears Ears** – This potential National Monument spanning 1.9 million acres includes spectacular slickrock canyon country neighboring the beautiful (but unfortunately small) Natural Bridges National Monument. It includes national treasures such as Grand Gulch, a canyon that harbors cliff dwelling ruins in the alcoves at virtually every curve of the canyon, some of the richest known archaeological sites in North America. This area is threatened by oil and gas development and illegal off-road vehicle activity, as well as pot-hunting. The failure of the Utah Public Lands Initiative to achieve a balanced conservation outcome offers the administration an opportunity to demonstrate its leadership on behalf of all Americans, not just local county residents. Of priceless value to indigenous peoples of the region and with the support of 71% of the Utah population, this unit offers an opportunity not only to protect archaeological and cultural sites, but also to protect sources of traditional foods and medicines, and to create a Monument under co-management, a first American experiment with the



June 1, 2016

Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I write to request that you designate the Bears Ears region in the state of Utah as a National Monument for all Americans.

The area is not only impressive in its beauty, wildness, solitude and vital habitat, it is ancient and sacred land to Native Americans from all over the region. In fact, the Bears Ears proposal is the result of years of discussion among tribal elders and leaders and is supported by five sovereign tribal governments – Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi and Ute Indian Tribe. Each has passed resolutions calling for Bears Ears protection as a National Monument. We add our voices to that of our Native friends.

As leader of the Greater Wasatch Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, I represent over 300 senior women and men in Northern Utah who love the outdoors and work to preserve and protect wild places for all. Bears Ears is one of those places that needs our help. A National Monument designation will protect the over 100,000 archeological and sacred sites from ongoing looting and vandalism, preserve inspirational vistas and scarce solitude from threats of oil and gas drilling, tar sands, uranium and potash mining; and safeguard habitat for diverse plants and animals that make up a remarkable and irreplaceable part of our country.

National parks and monuments are not only part of our past, they represent our collective future. As Secretary Jewell has acknowledged, it is time that America's national parks and public lands reflect the diversity of the American story.



Page Two

President Obama, we ask that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past and future of this national treasure for all Americans, and for all time.

Respectfully submitted,

Valoree Dowell  
For the Greater Wasatch Broadband

Cc: Secretary Sally Jewell, U. S. Department of the Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture



May 19, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, a national organization that engages and ignites the activism of elders to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands, we send our thanks for your visionary actions to preserve lands and cultural history for future generations by creating new national monuments, using the authority of the Antiquities Act. Our organization, and its more than 8000 members and supporters, has worked hard to achieve protection of natural and cultural resources in Utah. We write today to send our full endorsement for designation of the Bears Ears National Monument in San Juan County, Utah.

This unparalleled region of mesas and canyons, populated with the remnants of ancient civilizations, has long merited greater federal protections. We have worked with local groups like Friends of Cedar Mesa and Utah Diné Bikéyah, as well as with national organizations, to build the groundswell of local and national support for meaningful protective designation.

The Utah Congressional delegation has long obstructed Congressional ability to serve the desires of the American people, thwarting efforts to garner protections for these lands. The time has now come to act. The well-preserved Ancestral Puebloan archaeological sites of greater Cedar Mesa suffer daily from looting and vandalism. The situation has grown increasingly dire with social media, GPS-identified sites, and an ever-growing population, coupled with understaffed and underfunded federal land management agencies. You, Mr. President, hold the power to set these lands aside to ensure our national heritage is passed on to the future intact.

Congressman Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative (PLI) would not accomplish the protection that this region needs, nor is there a guarantee that any version of the PLI could pass in this Congress. However, through the PLI process, a majority of the citizens of San Juan County Utah voiced desire for protection of Cedar Mesa. Support for a monument is strong: locally, nationally, and from diverse voices.

The request for monument designation by the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition is unprecedented and should be honored. Tribal voices and desires must be integrated into the planning and management to ensure their current and ongoing uses are accommodated, while meeting resource protection needs for all Americans. Please designate the Bears Ears National Monument!

Respectfully,

Shelley Silbert  
Executive Director





*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

May 31, 2016

**President Jimmy Carter**  
*Honorary Chair*  
Georgia

President Barack Obama  
The White House

**Honorable Robert Mrazek**  
*Chair Emeritus*  
New York

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**Andy Schlickman**  
*Chair*  
Illinois

Dear Mr. President,

**Betsy Loyless**  
*Vice Chair*  
Maryland

On behalf of our 100,000 members we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the culturally rich region of the Bears Ears in San Juan County, Utah, as a national monument.

**Bob Osborne**  
*Treasurer*  
Virginia

The Bears Ears region is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located in the 1.9 million acres of land managed by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service.

**Toni Armstrong**  
*Secretary*  
Missouri

**Steve Barker**  
California

The Bears Ears proposal is the result of years of discussions among tribal elders and leaders and is supported by all tribal sovereign governments in the region. The Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi, and Ute Indian Tribe Nations have passed resolutions calling on you to protect Bears Ears as a national monument. As Interior Secretary Jewell has states, it is long past time that America's national parks and public lands reflected the diversity of the American story.

**Tom Campion**  
Washington

**Ellen Ferguson**  
Washington

**Kristen Grimm**  
District of Columbia

**Gareth Martins**  
Colorado

**Mike Matz**  
Colorado

**Debbie S. Miller**  
Alaska

**Jay Nelson**  
Alaska

**Lorraine Netro**  
Yukon, Canada

**Richard Spener**  
Missouri

**Lillian Stone**  
Alaska

We also support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all time.

Wildly Yours,

Cindy Shogan  
ED



[AlaskaWild.org](http://AlaskaWild.org)

Main Office: 122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 \* Tel: 202-544-5205 \* Fax: 202-544-5197

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**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

July 10, 2013

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
United States House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
United States House of Representatives  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Stewart  
United States House of Representatives  
323 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Via email to: [Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Bishop, Chaffetz and Stewart:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide information about our priorities for resource designations in Eastern Utah.

As you are aware, the public lands of San Juan County are among the most culturally significant in the country. Cedar Mesa and Montezuma Canyon have archaeological site densities that rival and perhaps exceed those found within many nearby national parks and monuments. Also contributing to San Juan County's cultural significance is the resource diversity, ranging from evidence of Paleoindian occupation more than 11,000 years ago to the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail pioneered by Mormon settlers in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Finally, perhaps nowhere in the United States are so many well-preserved cultural resources found within such a striking and relatively undeveloped natural landscape.

For these reasons, we believe that several areas in San Juan County merit consideration for legislative designations. In the attached materials, we outline five such areas in priority order—Cedar Mesa, Montezuma Canyon, Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, Ruin Park and Indian Creek— and provide detailed information, including a map, supporting our

**Western Field Office**

1420 Odgen Street, Suite 203 Denver, CO 80218

• [denveroffice@savingplaces.org](mailto:denveroffice@savingplaces.org) • 303.623.1504 • 303.623.1508 • [www.PreservationNation.org](http://www.PreservationNation.org)



submission. Yet, only 3% of BLM land here has been surveyed for cultural resources, so while we enthusiastically submit the attached ideas for your consideration, the areas proposed do not represent *all* of the important archaeological sites in San Juan County but rather are based on the information known today.

Under separate cover, we also intend to submit our ideas for protection of cultural resource sites in Nine Mile Canyon.

We propose general boundaries for these areas as shown on the attached maps which were drawn to include land that is principally managed by the BLM. However, within these boundaries are a number of SITLA and private land parcels that would not be subject to federal legislative designation.

We are interested in participating in your tour planned for Monday, August 12. Thank you again for inviting our input. We look forward to continuing our participation in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Pahl". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Barbara Pahl  
Western Vice President

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, the undersigned organizations are writing to express support for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's (Coalition) proposal to protect the Bears Ears cultural landscape as a new national monument.

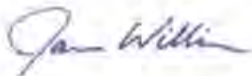
The proposal would permanently protect the Bears Ears area, as well as provide for its collaborative management with representation from the tribes that comprise the coalition. We support the creation of a unique, jointly-managed national monument that honors the traditional and ancestral ties of Native American people to these lands, while protecting this world-class landscape for all Americans.

Like the Coalition, which has detailed its concerns repeatedly to Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz, our organizations have also invested significant time and resources in the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) process during the past three years. Like the Coalition, we share deep concerns about the PLI legislation in the Bears Ears region. The failure of the PLI process to engage anyone outside of San Juan County has prevented critical perspectives and sovereign nations from being heard. Unfortunately, the recently released (January 20, 2016) draft PLI fails to adequately protect this important landscape.

Given the sacredness of the Bears Ears landscape to the Coalition and the outstanding archeological, ecological, cultural, geological, and recreational values of the area, we urge you to designate a Bears Ears National Monument with meaningful collaborative management as envisioned by the Coalition. When considering the awe-inspiring values of this unmatched landscape and the immediacy of the threats there, it is clear that permanent protection cannot wait.

We stand ready to support the Coalition and your administration to make this a reality.

Most respectfully,

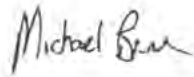


Jamie Williams, President, The Wilderness Society

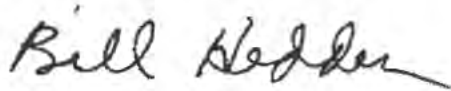


Scott Groene, Executive Director, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance





Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club



Bill Hedden, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Trust



Josh Ewing, Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa



Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director, Conservation Lands Foundation



Sharon Buccino, Director, Land and Wildlife Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

CC: Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell  
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Tom Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service  
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

## **Statement from The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah**

The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, believes that we must protect our God-given treasures on earth and recognize the treasures of Native Americans. Both are consistent with a number of resolutions adopted by conventions of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Hayashi goes on to say that we must act in a way that isn't "jeopardizing the future by actions of today that may result in the exploitation of precious and culturally important lands". Certainly protecting the Bears Ears, by designating it as a National Monument, is a way to ensure that we do not exploit these precious lands that have also been so culturally important to Native Americans for centuries, as well as treasures for us all in centuries to come.





## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LA GRANGE

100 West Cossitt Avenue, La Grange, Illinois 60525

Telephone: 708.352.1250 Fax: 708.352.1252

Website: [fumclg.org](http://fumclg.org) Find us on Facebook!

May 17, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

For some years now our Committee and congregation have taken a special interest in the protection of the red rock wilderness lands in southern Utah. We are writing to encourage you to designate the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah.

As people of faith, we believe Earth belongs to God and we are its stewards. There is no better place to practice that stewardship. The jaw-dropping beauty and unsurpassed wilderness of the greater Bears Ears region recalls the spiritual searching of Christianity's ancient desert fathers and the solitude the enabled Jesus, Moses, and Elijah to commune with God. The region is also a spiritual home to the ancestors of the many Native Americans.

By protecting Bears Ears, you'll preserve sacred resources that continue to be vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau as a place of subsistence, spirituality, and healing. You'll safeguard tens of thousands of important cultural sites, including cliff dwellings, villages and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. And you'll ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity and of critical importance to the Colorado River Basin upon which 40 million Americans rely, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

Despite its glory, the region faces significant threats, including potential oil and gas drilling, tar sands mining, potash mining and damaging off-road vehicle (ORV) use in sensitive areas, resulting in damage to irreplaceable archeological and natural resources.

The Bears Ears region, along with its neighboring wild lands, is one of the largest and most spectacular remnants of our natural heritage – it cries out for the strongest possible protections the President can provide. We urge you to designate it as a national monument.

Sincerely,

Janice Miller

On Behalf of the Environmental Justice Committee

Rev. Lisa Telomen

Lead Pastor

CC: Interior Secretary Sally Jewel  
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

Our mission is to create an environment that nurtures a meaningful relationship with God and fosters growth in Christian Discipleship.



# First Unitarian Church

Member, Unitarian Universalist Association

May 23, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

It is with a sense of urgency that the Environmental Ministry of First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City is writing to ask that you designate the Bears Ears region of Utah as a National Monument.

Bears Ears has spiritual and cultural importance to the indigenous nations of the region and includes more than 100,000 cultural sites on 1.9 million acres of public land. It is important to recognize and safeguard such an area, not only for Native Americans, but for all the people of the United States. Most of us find spiritual renewal in such magnificent landscapes and, historically, we have been remiss in our treatment of such significant regions.

The Bears Ears area, rich in biodiversity and important to the Colorado River Basin, is threatened by fossil fuel development, by the looting and vandalism of sacred sites, and by unrestricted use of damaging practices such as four-wheeling by off-road vehicles.

Designation of the Bears Ears region of Utah as a national monument is the first proposal by Native Americans to protect indigenous cultural and natural resources under the Antiquities Act, and 71% of Utahns support the proposal. The Environmental Ministry of the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City also supports the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition's proposal for tribal, collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. It has the potential to create a world-class institute which brings traditional knowledge together with scientific and conservational concepts. Please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument to protect both the past and future of this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Rev. Tom Goldsmith,  
Senior minister

Rev. Matthew Cockrum,  
Minister of Congregational Life

Joan M. Gregory,  
Co-Chair, Environmental Ministry

Cc: Secretary Sally Jewel, Department of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture



President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,  
Our non-profit organization, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance (AKA: "MESA"), reflects the values and views of many thousands of LDS citizens and their supporters in asking you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument that honors ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to the region. These lands were once home to the ancestors of many Utah tribes before they were assigned to "reservations".

The Bears Ears area of Utah is probably the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in our nation. National monument designation would protect over 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service. It would offer protection to traditional Native American land use. And it would preserve sacred resources that are a place of subsistence, spirituality and healing for our Native American brothers and sisters across the Colorado Plateau.

By protecting the Bears Ears, you'll be safeguarding thousands of cliff dwellings, villages and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. You'll be keeping pristine and accessible for generations to come a magnificent landscape, immensely rich in biodiversity. You'll also be protecting the Colorado River Basin that 40 million Americans rely upon.

MESA supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. We believe this new monument has the potential to become a world-class institute of learning and land management that would showcase how traditional knowledge & stewardship principles harmonize with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past and the future of this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

Ty Markham, Chair  
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance (MESA)

Cc: Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture



NATIONAL OFFICE  
P.O. Box 613  
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703-785-9570  
djenkins@conservativestewards.org

CONSERVATIVES FOR RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

[conservativestewards.org](http://conservativestewards.org)

May 23, 2016

The Honorable President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing on behalf of Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship (CRS), a national grassroots organization of stewardship-minded conservatives, to request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act—which was introduced by a Republican, passed by a Republican Congress and Signed into law by a Republican president—to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument.

This area, which is rich in historically significant Native American artifacts at risk to vandalism, is exactly the kind of place Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt had in mind back in 1906 when the Antiquities Act was passed and signed into law.

The Bears Ears region, which is perhaps the most significant unprotected archaeological area in the United States, is under constant threat from looting and vandalism. There were more than a dozen serious looting cases reported between May 2014 and April 2015.

The odds that congress will move to adequately protect Bears Ears in the foreseeable future are slim and none. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT), who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, is in fact peddling woefully inadequate legislation that would leave thousands of ancient cultural sites and other antiquities unprotected, including North America's oldest rock art image.

Chairman Bishop and a number of other Utah elected officials have proven time and again that they are not concerned with the responsible stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Bishop, when asked about the Native American rock art in the new Basin and Range National Monument infamously said "*Ah, bull crap. That's not an antiquity.*"

We are also convinced Chairman Bishop's claim that monument designation lacks local support is unfounded. There have been two recent public opinion polls indicating that more than two thirds of Utahans support a Bears Ears National Monument. The most recent of these, conducted in May by Public Opinion Strategies, documented widespread support across party affiliation, age group, and



location (rural/urban). In fact, 63 percent of Republican voters in Utah support monument designation.

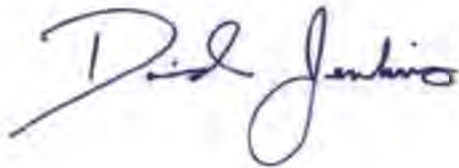
CRS also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

Once again we ask that you please proclaim the Bears Ears National Monument. By doing so, you will leave a legacy that protects this national treasure for all time. As President Reagan said:

*"This is our patrimony. This is what we leave to our children. And our great moral responsibility is to leave it to them either as we found it or better than we found it."*

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Jenkins  
President

cc: Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

# LATINO CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



May 17, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Obama,

Our undersigned organizations are members of the Latino Conservation Alliance, a unique coalition that works collaboratively to advocate for our public lands and waters, and the opportunity for all Latino families to access and enjoy them. We write today to express our support for your protection of the Bears Ears area of public lands in Southern Utah as a national monument.

Our organizations believe strongly that it is important for the full diversity of America's history and heritage be protected in our national public lands. The public lands that would be protected by the Bears Ears National Monument contain 100,000 Native American cultural sites including sacred burial grounds, artifacts and petroglyphs – all of which is tragically vulnerable to vandals, looters and grave-robbers. These lands continue to be used by tribes for traditional purposes, and by all families for reconnecting to nature and each other.

We appreciate your designation of the Cesar Chavez National Monument, as well as the California Desert, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks and the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monuments – public lands where Hispanic and Native American history is now protected for the benefit of our children and grandchildren and our local economies. We are also grateful for your investment in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, so that all families can enjoy close-to-home recreation as well as clean water, clean air, and open space. Please continue to ensure that all Americans can benefit from our system of public lands by protecting the Bears Ears National Monument.

Sincerely,

Camilla Simon  
Executive Director  
HECHO

Mark Magaña  
President  
GreenLatinos

José G. González  
Founder  
Latino Outdoors

Maite Arce  
President/CEO  
Hispanic Access Foundation

José Calderón  
President  
Hispanic Federation

Cc: Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior  
Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture  
Cecelia Munoz, Director, White House Domestic Policy Council  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality





# Obama should listen to Native Americans to preserve Bears Ears

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016 - 1:45 PM



Photo supplied/Jeff Clay

Michael Cumming, founder of Operation Climb On, in Short Canyon in Bears Ears.

## **MICHAEL CUMMING, Guest Columnist**

The five Native American tribes calling on President Obama to protect 1.9 million acres of their ancestral homelands as the Bears Ears National Monument say that it will bring healing to the land, plants, animals and to the collective human spirit.

As the founder of Operation Climb On (<https://www.facebook.com/operationclimbon/>), a therapeutic climbing program for veterans, I can testify firsthand about the healing power of Bears Ears.

I served almost twelve years as a military infantryman, including a couple of combat deployments to Iraq. When I left active duty, I faced a lot of the issues other veterans confront when they return to civilian life. I fell into alcohol abuse, lost my family and became suicidal because of the memories that haunted me night and day.

At my lowest point, with the help of a counselor, I discovered that climbing — especially out in nature with my fellow veterans — helped me to heal from the trauma of war. When I realized that getting out on the rock was a lifeline for other veterans as well, I created Operation Climb On.

We use the same guideline that worked for me – spending time in the great outdoors with a group of veterans climbing and camping together.

Recently, I took a trip with fellow veterans, including one who is Navajo, down to the Bears Ears. I knew a slot canyon, one of many in this amazing landscape of mesa, mountain, cliff, and canyon, which was perfect for canyoneering.

We spent the first day strapped into our climbing harnesses, stepping back over sheer cliff edges into space, learning once again to put trust in a friend anchoring the rope above us, as we descended a serpentine canyon at times only as wide as our shoulders.

The next day we roamed a rolling sandstone mesa, guided by a local professional archaeologist, dropping down into hidden canyons to marvel at ancient cliff dwellings and images of animals and other cryptic figures etched and painted on to the cliff walls.

In the evenings, we simply hung out around the campfire, listening to each other's stories, as an almost unbelievable number of stars studded a pitch black sky.

Once again, the combination of pristine natural beauty, climbing, and veterans, enhanced by the absolute wonder of exploring age-old stone villages and rock art worked its alchemical magic. The veterans returned home reconnected and reinvigorated.



Just consider these reflections my fellow veterans shared with me after the trip:

*"I was reminded that climbing is all about you on the wall trusting a friend, just like you did in combat, instead of bottling up all your fears. That's how we lose guys. They bottle it up and the lid blows off. A trip like this to Bears Ears actually saves lives."*

*"It sounds simple and it is. But too often veterans tend to get isolated. We lose our sense of community. Climbing and camping together, especially in a place like this, restores community."*

*"I just want to see this land preserved so that I can return here with friends and family and show them what I have experienced, and so future generations can come and have the same experience too. That would be pretty amazing."*

The Native American tribes asking President Obama to protect Bears Ears are right that a national monument offers an opportunity for healing. Veterans are among those who would benefit deeply.

Veterans have given so much for our country. Protecting Bears Ears would do so much for them. Operation Climb On hopes that President Obama acts soon.

*Michael Cumming is a combat veteran living in Salt Lake City who founded Operation Climb On, a therapeutic climbing program for veterans.*



May 26, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Barack Obama:

We, the undersigned members of Vet Voice Foundation (VVF), support protecting Bears Ears as a National Monument. The designation of this critical landscape would protect 1.9 million acres of public lands, preserving more than 100,000 Native American cultural sites while also providing incredible recreation opportunities for visitors and important habitat for iconic American wildlife.

This letter also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a partnership of five sovereign Indian nations urging you, Mr. President, to take similar action. From the Code Talkers of World War II to the 42,000 tribal members who served in Vietnam, Native Americans have been a foundation of the US Military fighting force.

For decades Native Americans have been calling for the protection of the Bears Ears region. This historically and culturally significant landscape is threatened and has suffered rampant looting, grave robbing, and destruction of historic villages, structures and rock art – all due to the lack of protection.

As a military veterans, we have not forgotten the oath we swore to sacrifice ourselves to defend the lands we love. The commitment we feel from our service to defend the American way of life extends to the public lands that belong to all American citizens.

Protected open spaces are also important to veterans reintegrating to civilian life. Research shows the solace of a personal experience in the outdoors has huge healing contributions to even the most severe mental health conditions. Our national public lands are also a place where veterans repair and renew bonds with family and friends after long deployments.



In the absence of leadership by state leaders and the US Congress, your administration has the opportunity, and the authority, to set in place permanent protection measures for this historic region.

As your final year in office winds down, there is still work to be done to protect America's last great wildlands, places of important cultural and historical significance, and places veterans use to heal from the trauma of war. Proclaiming Bears Ears as a National Monument would honor the ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to this sacred region of southeastern Utah and also ensure that world class recreation opportunities continue to be accessible.

As veterans we served to protect our nation's citizens, values and lands. Native Americans volunteer in the Armed Forces more than any other U.S. demographic to defend this great country. We have the opportunity to continue that oath and ensure that future generations are provided the chance to learn, explore, recreate, nurture and heal in a cherished piece of American history. Please designate Bears Ears as a National Monument.

Sincerely,

THE UNDERSIGNED:

Jim Albee  
Logan, UT 84321

Timothy Cowdrick  
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Jim Blackburn  
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Mike Eberlein  
Park City, UT 84060

Andrew Bloebaum  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dan Felsen  
Midvale, UT 84047

Barry Bonifas  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Michael Glenn  
Lindon, UT 84042

Bill Bradbury  
Smithfield, UT 84335

George Hatsis  
Saint George, UT 84770

Patrick Cassity  
Park City, UT 84068

Jean Hawrylo  
Brigham City, UT 84302

David Vigil  
Walsenburg, CO 81089

Wayne Wathen  
Littleton, CO 80130

Lynn Welch  
Monument, CO 80132

Mike Winget  
Denver, CO 80229

David Winsett  
Boulder, CO 80303

Robert Wise  
Eaton, CO 80615

John Crandall  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Phillip Bateman  
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

Samuel Bensonhaver  
Albuquerque, NM 87122

Patrick Berry  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Barbara Bilbo  
Fort Stanton, NM 88323

Philip Ciaffa  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Charles Denk  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Kenf Duerre  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Donald Evans  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Arnold Farley  
Corrales, NM 87048

Frank Fisher  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Robert Fralick  
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Glenn Gill  
Carson, NM 87517

Jan Gloyd  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Amanda Graham  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Chilton Gregory  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Elaine Gross  
Albuquerque, NM 87187

Richard Gutierrez  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Alexander Hale  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Bob Hayes  
Socorro, NM 87801

Dick Hogle  
Española, NM 87532

Michelle James  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Carol Kain  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Shirley Kane  
Corrales, NM 87048



Donald Martinez  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Laura Ramirez  
Golden, CO 80401

Michael Mation  
Denver, CO 80212

Garett Reppenhagen  
Jefferson, CO 80456

Jordan McCaffrey  
Boulder, CO 80304

Paul Ries  
Granby, CO 80446

Judy McDonald  
Victor, CO 80860

Don Savage  
Walsenburg, CO 81089

Larry McLaughlin  
Aurora, CO 80016

Ben Schrader  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

John Mitchell  
Cedaredge, CO 81413

David Schroeder  
New Castle, CO 81647

Mark Modine  
Morrison, CO 80465

Liter Spence  
Cortez, CO 81321

Richard Montoya  
Windsor, CO 80550

John Stutts  
Erie, CO 80516

James Murray  
Louisville, CO 80027

John Sulak  
Denver, CO 80202

Nicole Navratil  
Arvada, CO 80002

Diane Swanson  
Aurora, CO 80017

Murray Neill  
Evergreen, CO 80439

Samuel Taylor  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

Todd Olk  
Littleton, CO 80122

Don Thompson  
Alamosa, CO 81101

Richard Plambeck  
Lafayette, CO 80026

Kevin Tong  
Golden, CO 80401

David Potocnik  
Colorado Springs, CO 80902

Robert F. Tschiemer  
Aurora, CO 80013

Jeanne Puerta  
Denver, CO 80227

Frank Turner  
Pueblo, CO 81007

Gary Granat  
Palisade, CO 81526

Rick Hall  
Loveland, CO 80538

Ronald Harden  
Loveland, CO 80538

Jim Harris  
Littleton, CO 80120

Bill Hatcher  
Littleton, CO 80124

Thomas Heidger  
Montrose, CO 81401

Eric Hughes  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Thomas Hutton  
Clifton, CO 81520

Patrick Jacobs  
Longmont, CO 80501

Roy Jellison  
Aurora, CO 80010

Mark Johannsen  
Dolores, CO 81323

Parvin Johnson  
Crestone, CO 81131

William Judge  
Durango, CO 81301

Bob Justis  
Telluride, CO 81435

Joel Kaplan  
Loveland, CO 80538

Jane Anne Karl  
Evergreen, CO 80439

Larry Kimball  
Cotopaxi, CO 81223

Curtis Konkell  
Grand Junction, CO 81507

Robert Lajeunesse  
Denver, CO 80221

Lisa Jo Laptad  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Margaaret Latourrette  
Denver, CO 80224

Edward Laurson  
Denver, CO 80235

Al Lesser  
Lakewood, CO 80215

Lloyd Lewis  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Theodore Link  
Littleton, CO 80130

Wilbur Little  
DenverCO 80231

John Lundgren  
Boulder, CO 80303

Tom Lutes  
Bayfield, CO 81122

JD MacFarlane  
Denver, CO 80207

Greg Marsh  
Arvada, CO 80004



Jim Beckenhaupt  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Michael Berry  
Durango, CO 81301

Christine Boisse  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Jim Bolen  
Durango, CO 81301

Lloyd Burton  
Denver, CO 80220

Ken Calkins  
Greeley, CO 80634

David Cantrell  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Jane Clevenger  
Loveland, CO 80537

Norvelle Couch  
Parker, CO 80134

Kim Croft  
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Lawrence Crowley  
Louisville, CO 80027

William Cutts  
Colorado Springs CO 80910

Bernie Dahlen  
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Jim Darby  
Longmont, CO 80501

Janver Derrington  
Grand Junction, CO 81504

Joanne Dixon  
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Linda Drescher  
Golden, CO 80401

Valerie Etter  
Clifton, CO 81520

Steve Evans  
Denver, CO 80239

Richard Fleck  
Denver, CO 80209

Charles Fletcher  
Denver, CO 80206

Wayne Flick  
Cimarron, CO 81220

Joe Floyd  
Denver, CO 80205

Larry Forrest  
Denver, CO 80228

Leroy Frankel  
Longmont, CO 80501

Thomas Paul Frazier  
Denver, CO 80233

Frank Fullerton  
Aurora, CO 80013

Allen Fuqua  
Denver, CO 80221

Terry Gomoll  
Windsor, CO 80528

Dale Goodin  
Denver, CO 80227

Dan Mcdonnell  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Norman Mearns  
Prescott, AZ 86305

Kurt Ohm  
Prescott, AZ 86301

Barry Osterlitz  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Tim Owens  
Tucson, AZ 85712

Juan Perez-Otero  
Tucson, AZ 85711

James Pierce  
Green Valley, AZ 85614

Kathryn Richardson  
Eagar, AZ 85925

Richard Riley  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Bryan Ruth  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Wil Schaefer  
Tucson, AZ 85704

John Schempf  
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Stewart Schrauger  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Philip Shook  
Tempe, AZ 85281

Richard Skinner  
Tucson, AZ 85705

Preston Smith  
Dewey, AZ 86327

Marvel Stalcup  
Sedona, AZ 86351

Karen Stoutmeyer  
Sun City West, AZ 85375

Dave Swihart  
Chandler, AZ 85225

Tobey Thatcher  
Sahuarita, AZ 85629

James Wilson  
Peoria, AZ 85383

Dewayne Wilson  
Yuma, AZ 85367

Wayne Andrews  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Douglas Arndt  
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

William Bacher  
Greeley, CO 80634

GeorgeBacon  
Cedaredge, CO 81413

Virginia Baksa  
Lafayette, CO 80026

JJ Barrera  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Vernon Batty  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

John Beach  
Greeley, CO 80631



Stephen Brittle  
Phoenix, AZ 85051

Alanna Brook  
Phoenix, AZ 85006

Edward Brown  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Tom Bullington  
Tucson, AZ 85745

James Burton  
Glendale, AZ 85306

William Chopak  
Oracle, AZ 85623

CarltonClark  
Tucson, AZ 85749

Caroline Deegan  
Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Nick Evans  
San Tan Valley, AZ 85143

Dave Ewoldt  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Thomas Foster  
Saint David, AZ 85630

Frank Gabelman  
Tucson, AZ 85735

John Gibson  
Peoria, AZ 85345

Paul Godsey  
Tucson, AZ 85730

Jean Goetinck  
Tucson, AZ 85746

Donald Gorney  
Tucson, AZ 85739

Lewis Green  
Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Jerry Greenberg  
Chandler, AZ 85226

Terry Greene Harvey  
Green Valley, AZ 85622

Thomas Halstead  
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John Turnbull  
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Peter Ossorio  
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Robert Wells  
Roswell, NM 88201

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
CC: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
CC: Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

June tbd, 2016 [letter in process]

Dear President Obama:

Outdoor industry companies depend on wild, scenic and untrammelled landscapes where our customers can escape to find rejuvenation, discovery and inspiration while doing what they love to do. The outdoor industry in Utah alone generates \$12 Billion in consumer spending and more than 122,000 jobs. Sustaining this economic driver necessitates that we protect the places that our customers visit and explore. The Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah epitomizes the kind of unique and internationally significant place we need to have protected not only for its economic value to our industry but also for its cultural value to future generations.

We fully support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal to create a unique collaboratively managed National Monument that respects and celebrates the traditional and ancestral ties of Native American people to these lands, while also protecting this amazing area for all Americans. Having a strong Native American voice in land management at Bears Ears will result in environmentally sensitive policies and decisions. The undersigned outdoor industry companies urge you to exercise your authority to protect the Bears Ears area as soon as possible.

While there are many, many reasons to protect the Bears Ears, the reason we in the outdoor industry understand best is the value of this area for recreation and respectful adventure. As outdoor industry leaders, we acknowledge that the Bears Ears region is indeed America's most significant unprotected cultural landscape. We know that recreation on these lands, with their sacred cultural areas and more than 100,000 archaeological sites must be carried out respectfully and with the utmost commitment to leave-no-trace principals.

The Indian Creek area and many more remote climbing areas are world famous climbing destinations almost every climber dreams of visiting one day. The Bears Ears is also home to dozens of remote slot canyons where canyoneers test their skills while being inspired by scenery carved over the millennia. Backpackers and hikers visit Bears Ears in all four seasons to explore wild red-rock canyons that intrigue visitors with unmapped cliff dwellings or rock art panels around almost every bend in the canyon. River runners travel from around the world to float the San Juan and Colorado rivers, which border the region on the south and west. Many others visit for the remarkable history and archaeology of the region. These visitors will all benefit directly from Native American engagement in management and interpretation of the Bears Ears National Monument.

For all of these reasons, we wholeheartedly endorse the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument, and pledge our support to helping to make the designation a reality.

Sincerely,

Osprey Packs  
Ibex Outdoor Clothing  
Ruffwear Performance Dog Gear  
Black Diamond  
Patagonia  
Mountainsmith  
The North Face  
Timberland  
Smartwool



May 27, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of Interior  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Christy Goldfuss  
Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Madams and Sir,

The undersigned recreation and conservation organizations are strong supporters of permanently protecting the Bears Ears region in southeastern Utah from impacts caused by looting, vandalism, resource extraction and careless or irresponsible visitation. We support collaborative management of federal lands at Bears Ears in a way that honors the traditional and ancestral ties of Native American people to these lands, while also protecting this world-class landscape for all Americans. In addition to the region's deep cultural significance to Tribes, it also includes thousands of locations where recreationists experience and appreciate this powerful and undeveloped landscape.

The Bears Ears area contains many world-class recreation opportunities that we believe will benefit from a protective status and management. In particular, we want to draw your attention to the Bear Ears region's internationally renowned Indian Creek rock climbing area, as well as many other important climbing resources including Lockhart Basin, Arch/Texas Canyon, Comb Ridge, Valley of the Gods, and as many as 100 other dispersed climbing locations. In addition to premier rock climbing opportunities, the Bears Ears region includes a diversity and quality of outdoor recreation resources (e.g., paddling, mountain biking, canyoneering, hiking, backpacking, and backcountry skiing) that make this area iconic and singularly important.

Rock climbing and other sustainable recreational activities throughout the area provide outstanding opportunities for the public to experience the unique historic and scientific values of the Bears Ears region. Accordingly, if a Bears Ears National Monument is

established, we believe it must allow continued, sustainably-managed, responsible recreation where such activities are consistent with the protection of the Bears Ears region's other unique values.

We urge you to take action to permanently protect Bears Ears.

Respectfully,

Access Fund

American Alpine Club

Conservation Lands Foundation

Friends of Cedar Mesa

Friends of Indian Creek

Outdoor Alliance

The Wilderness Society

The Conservation Alliance

League of Conservation Voters

National Parks Conservation Association

CC: Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Tom Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service  
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service





**Black Diamond**



**patagonia**



**KÜHL**

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## Outdoor Industry Leaders Denounce Utah Legislature's Short Sightedness on Bears Ears

*Protection of this spectacular area would be a boon to the state's economy and preserve important recreation sites*

### Contact:

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**Salt Lake City, UT** (May 18, 2016) – Outdoor industry leaders expressed disappointment following the Utah State Legislature's adoption of a resolution opposing the protection of the Bears Ears region in the Southeastern part of the state. A national monument designation for Bears Ears would protect more than 100,000 archeological sites as well as some of the most sought-after recreational opportunities in the nation. A recent [Colorado College poll](#) found 66 percent of Utahns support the creation of a Bears Ears National Monument, while a mere 20 percent oppose.

"The Bears Ears region is rich in cultural sites and recreation opportunities, and deserves protection," said **John Sterling, Executive Director of The Conservation Alliance**, a group of more than 200 outdoor industry companies that support protecting places for their recreation benefits. "The Conservation Alliance is disappointed by this attempt by the Utah State Legislature to thwart efforts by five sovereign tribal nations and supportive stakeholders to protect this important place," said Sterling in response to the legislature's recently adopted resolution opposing a Bears Ears National Monument. "The area is treasured by the outdoor recreation community for its unparalleled climbing, hiking, mountain biking, canyoneering and camping opportunities."

"Outdoor industry companies depend on wild, scenic and untrammeled landscapes where our customers can escape to find rejuvenation, discovery and inspiration while doing what they love

to do. The outdoor industry in Utah alone generates \$12 billion in consumer spending and more than 122,000 jobs,” added **Peter Metcalf, Founder of Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd.**, based in Salt Lake City, UT. “Protecting an area like Bears Ears is not only the right thing to do for its cultural values, but it will protect for future generations the activities our customers love and use our products for. As a Utah business leader, it is about time that the legislature embraced an opportunity like Bears Ears instead of throwing up roadblocks.”

“While there are many, many reasons to protect Bears Ears, the reason the outdoor industry understands best is the value of this area for recreation and respectful adventure,” stated **Mark “Roody” Rasmussen of the Petzl Foundation**, based in West Valley City, UT. “As outdoor industry leaders, we acknowledge that the Bears Ears region is indeed America’s most significant unprotected cultural landscape. I’m deeply disturbed by the actions of the legislature and hope they change course on this issue.”

“As a company with a retail presence in Utah for nearly 30 years, Patagonia and its customers know the importance of the cultural significance and recreational potential of the Bears Ears region,” said **Lisa Pike Sheehy, Patagonia’s VP of Environmental Activism**, a Ventura, California-based company with a retail store in Salt Lake City. “The Utah legislature is clearly out of touch with its citizens by opposing national monument designation for Bears Ears and we are deeply disappointed by today’s actions.”

“Once again the Utah State Legislature clearly demonstrates they are not representing the Citizens of Utah who have decidedly come out in favor of the Bears Ears National Monument proposal. The Utah Legislature’s actions beyond a doubt show they are representing the private interests of a few individuals and corporations above the overwhelmingly majority,” said **Kevin Boyle President and Founder of KUHL**, a Salt Lake City-based apparel manufacturer.



important recreation asset that is worthy of Wild and Scenic protections.

Like you, we believe that economic development through energy and mineral extraction, conservation and recreation can co-exist. Further, as our outdoor recreation economy study reports, protecting recreation assets is, in fact, economic development. This is evident in Utah, with opportunities for a strong and sustainable future for recreation-based economic development and access to outdoor recreation that is the envy of the country, if not the world.

We hope to see the recommended changes in the Public Lands Initiative legislation when it is introduced and an improved balance between mineral and energy development and the recreation assets that are critical to Utah's, and the nation's, recreation economy. OIA prefers to support legislation as the first option to address these important issues and we hope to support PLI, but without several changes to this draft, OIA's energies must shift to other vehicles for protecting recreation in Southeast Utah. The outdoor recreation community has participated in this process in good faith but we cannot support a bill that undoes important pillars that are foundational to the growth and success of the outdoor recreation industry.

We look forward to continuing our productive dialogue and thank you again for your attention to the interests of the outdoor industry.

Sincerely,



Amy Roberts  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Industry Association

Public Lands Solutions has done an excellent analysis on the discussion draft, as have some of our local recreation users and businesses. Since they are on the ground we have utilized their expertise, as well as our own understanding of the PLI discussion draft, to point out some of our biggest concerns with the proposed legislation:

- The discussion draft disregards the Moab Area Master Leasing Plan (MLP) proposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). OIA was involved in this process and is supportive of the outcome as it allows for continued energy development while transitioning to a more sustainable economy through local zoning and fosters an understanding of what the highest priority use of the land is in a specific area. Acknowledging the Moab MLP in the PLI would move Utah's recreation assets, tourism destinations and gateway communities' economies to an updated model that would well serve Moab and other areas.

We also suggest that the PLI support areas outside of the Moab MLP through a similar planning process.

- The Antiquities Act and the Wilderness Act are fundamental laws that support the outdoor recreation industry, the recreation economy and important recreation assets that are in the national interest. Rollbacks of grazing, wildfire or air quality restrictions that seek to amend or are not aligned with the Wilderness Act or any diminishment of the Antiquities Act will not be supported by OIA.

Further, codifying existing grazing in other National Conservation Areas (NCA), and Recreation zones will likely negatively impact recreation.

- Another concern from our analysis of the PLI maps, is that many disputed roads in proposed Wilderness and other areas, such as proposed NCAs, would be codified, ignoring litigation still in the works.
- We are disappointed that Bluff area is left out of the Bears Ears NCA. The Bluff area has many recreation assets that need to be protected to ensure diversity for the local economy and recreation opportunities for future generations.
- The draft PLI fails to protect the San Juan River as a Wild & Scenic River. People come from across the world to raft the San Juan and it is an



February 3, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20540

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Outdoor Industry Association Stance on Utah's Public Land Initiative Discussion Draft**

Dear Congressman Bishop and Congressman Chaffetz,

We would like to express our gratitude to you, and your staff in particular, for the time, energy and resources that have gone towards crafting the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) over the past few years. We are pleased to see recreation interests were included in your on-the-ground approach to resolving land and water conflicts that are important to outdoor businesses in Utah, their customers and many others across the country whose inspiration, and customers have been, and we hope will continue to be, linked to Utah for decades.

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) represents thousands of manufacturers, suppliers and retailers that make up the growing \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy. Utah is critical to this growing sector with 122,000 Utah jobs directly related to the outdoor economy, Utahans spending \$12 billion on outdoor products, and as a home to over 60 outdoor industry companies.

Additionally, Outdoor Retailer held in Salt Lake City twice a year brought upwards of \$50 million to the local economy in 2015 and more than 50,000 visitors to the area. Recreation on Utah's public lands and waters is a cornerstone of Utah's economy and the outdoor recreation community.

As we focus on how the outdoor industry inspires healthy people, and creates healthy economies, we understand economic diversity is important, and the role that all of Utah's industries play in that diversification. However, we also realize that energy and mineral development near iconic recreation destinations, or extraction that is prioritized and expedited in adjacent areas, undermines the protections of these recreation assets we have fought so hard for throughout the PLI process.

OPEN LETTER FROM THE BELOW SIGNED ARCHAEOLOGISTS

TO

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Dear President Obama:

As the 110th Anniversary of the Antiquities Act nears, one of America's most significant cultural landscapes remains unprotected. More than a century of looting, grave robbing and vandalism in the Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears region has insulted Native American spirituality, marred the scientific record, and erased American history. These crimes against both the past and the future continue at an alarming rate, with several dozen incidents in the last two years. Increasing visitation combined with a severe lack of resources for effective management and enforcement also create newer but no less menacing challenges to archaeology in the region.

Yet so much remains to be saved, if only we take action now. The Bears Ears cultural landscape is full of stunning and remarkably well preserved cliff dwellings. Countless mesa-top pueblos, shrines and ancient roads attest to the tenacity of ancient inhabitants. Internationally important petroglyph and pictograph panels inspire visitors with the artistry of ancient storytellers. Undisturbed burials still cradle the ancestors of many regional Native American tribes. The preservation and density of these cultural resources rival and perhaps exceed those found within many nearby national parks and monuments. With more than 100,000 archaeological sites, the Bears Ears region is filled with exactly the kinds of "objects" the 1906 Antiquities Act was created to protect.

As professional or avocational archaeologists, we have a particular appreciation for the cultural, scientific and human importance of this area. For well over 100 years, archaeological research in Bears Ears and specifically in Cedar Mesa area has contributed greatly to knowledge of the prehistoric and historic cultures of the American Southwest. With the vast majority of archaeological sites in Bears Ears still undocumented, respectful research can and should continue to inform our knowledge of the past.

President Obama, please ready your pen to create a National Monument should Congress continue its failure to protect this internationally significant cultural landscape. By so doing you will preserve a landscape of immeasurable cultural and scientific value, recognize the spiritual significance of this place to Native American people, and create a legacy that will be cherished by future generations.

Sincerely,

Undersigned Professional Archaeologists

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Dale Frost, TX  
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Marc Gaede, CA  
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Claude Garcia, FL  
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Madeleine Sellers, UT  
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Susan Seyden, NC  
Michael Shackley, NM  
Phillip Shelley, NM  
William Shields, AR  
Donna Shoemaker, CA  
JoAnn Shults, ID  
Nikki Shurack, NM  
Cheryl Shushan, MA  
D Sifuentes, CA  
Deb Silverman, CO  
Rebecca Simon, CO  
Rebecca Simon, CO  
Marcia Simonis, UT  
Sheryl Sinclair, CA  
April Smith, AZ  
Jan Smith, UT  
Jaye Smith, AZ  
Rachel Smith, CO  
Susan Smith, UT  
Joe Sneed, NM  
Brian Snyder, AZ  
Mary Sojourner, AZ

Rob Sorensen, FL  
Ryan Spittler, CO  
Jane Starks, NM  
Alex Stavis, NY  
Patricia Stavish, CO  
Paul Stirniman, CO  
David Stoker, AZ  
Rebecca Stoneman-  
Washee, UT  
Jamie Stott, UT  
Jenepher Stowell, CA.  
Kate Stratford, UT  
Mark Stuart, UT  
Kevin Taylor, CA  
Wendy Teeter, CA  
Kenneth Thomas, UT  
Martha Thomas, UT  
Terry Thomas, UT  
Kate Thompson, CO  
Kellam Throgmorton, NY  
Nancy Tibbetts, NM  
Larry Tice, AZ  
Jonathan Till, UT  
Peter Trosclair, CO  
Marilyn Unruh, AZ  
Sharon Urban, AZ  
Melissa Utermoehlen , UT  
Scott Van Keuren, VT  
Mark Varien, CO  
Anne Vassar, WA  
Fred Vaughan, NC  
Tim Viereck, NM  
Marien Villaman, VA

Diane Vogt-O'Connor, MD  
Connie VonSleichter, UT  
Mariah Wade, TX  
Nicholas Walendziak, UT  
Charlotte Walter, CA  
Ryan Washam, UT  
Catherine Wasklewicz, VT  
Laurie Webster, CO  
Stephanie Welch, AZ  
Kate West, NY  
Sebastian Wetherbee, CO  
Gina Wetzel, MA  
Elizabeth White, CO  
Dennis Wignall, UT  
James William, UT  
Matthew Wilson, ID  
JaNae Winder, UT  
Thomas Windes, NM  
Taylor Witcher, UT  
David Witt, NY  
Sandra Wolf, AZ  
Michael Wolfe, UT  
Robert Workman, UT  
F Scott Worman, MO  
Tom Wright, AZ  
Kathy Wullstein, OK  
Brian Yaquinto, CO  
Andy Yentsch, UT  
Liz Young, UT  
Stefan Zachary, WI  
Josh Zettel, UT





**CROW CANYON**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER**  
Discover the Past, Share the Adventure

TO: The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

FROM: Deborah Gangloff, President & CEO

Date: September 1, 2015

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is an archaeological non-profit that conducts research in the Mesa Verde Region of the American Southwest. This area is the traditional home to the ancestral Pueblo and other tribes. Crow Canyon conducts its research in the context of public education programs, by inviting the public to not just learn about archaeology, but to do it. Our educational programs for youth through seniors aim to create a more culturally- and scientifically-literate society. All our programs are conducted in partnership with American Indian tribes, especially those descendent populations of the ancestral Pueblo in New Mexico and Arizona. Our national policy advocacy agenda calls for the protection of cultural resources, access to those resources for research, and adding the voices of tribal peoples to the national public lands policy debate.

Crow Canyon has long been interested in the protection of the tremendous cultural resources in the Bears Ears area. Many of our education programming includes trips to this unique landscape in SE Utah. Our concern with the threats in that area, including vandalism, unchecked development, and irresponsible visitation, has led to our involvement for years in efforts to seek additional protection for these lands.

Crow Canyon offers to serve as a resource to the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition to help further their efforts for protection. Contact me at 970-564-4385 or [dgangloff@crowcanyon.org](mailto:dgangloff@crowcanyon.org).



June 1, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

**Re: Support for a Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906**

Archaeology Southwest has long supported the establishment of a Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. Although we have patiently promoted congressional action since 2014, we are now convinced that it is time for you to take action under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish Bears Ears National Monument.

Archaeology Southwest is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. Our focus is the U.S. Southwest, and for three decades, we have practiced a holistic, conservation-based approach to exploring the places of the past. We call this Preservation Archaeology. By exploring what makes a place special, sharing this knowledge in innovative ways, and enacting flexible site protection strategies, we foster meaningful connections to the past and respectfully safeguard its irreplaceable resources. Today, Archaeology Southwest has more than 1,300 members from across the United States.

In 2014, in a special double issue of our award-winning quarterly *Archaeology Southwest Magazine*, we devoted all 52 pages to the cultural and natural wonders of Bears Ears, known then as "Greater Cedar Mesa." In my regular "Back Sight" column for that issue I stated the following:

"Advocacy is at the core of Preservation Archaeology at Archaeology Southwest. This double (actually, double-plus) issue of *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* expanded as needed to meet our specific advocacy goal—to promote federal action on a national conservation area or a national monument to better protect Greater Cedar Mesa.

"Greater Cedar Mesa is not only a tortuous and fantastic landscape, but also a cultural one. People transformed the natural landscape to varying degrees in order to meet biological, social, and spiritual needs. Traces of their lives include millennia-old Paleoindian dart points, kinetic panels of pecked and painted rock art, arrow-straight Chacoan roads, astonishingly pristine cliff dwellings, subtle artifact scatters signifying Cedar Mesa's past as an agricultural 'breadbasket,' standing and fallen logs of Navajo hogans, and segments of routes hard-wrought by Mormon pioneers.





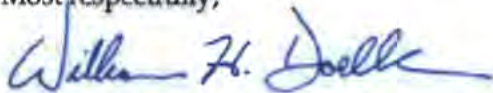
"Each archaeological site—and there are some 56,000 of them within the boundaries proposed by the Friends of Cedar Mesa—is part of a much greater story that is gradually emerging. Enduring protection is essential to fully realizing the depth and breadth of that saga. Near-term action by Congress could achieve long-term protection by establishing a national conservation area and wilderness areas.

"Absent congressional action, a presidential proclamation could create new national monument. Almost every president since Theodore Roosevelt has used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to accomplish conservation goals in the national interest. Greater Cedar Mesa plainly qualifies to benefit from these powerful fifty words of the Antiquities Act: 'The President of the United States is authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments...'

"The stunning natural beauty of Greater Cedar Mesa is a fitting complement to the extraordinary archaeological and historical riches that abound across its cultural landscape. We must pass this legacy on to future generations. The opportunity for action is imminent."

Today, as in 2014, it is indeed time to establish the Bears Ears National Monument.

Most respectfully,



William H. Doelle, Ph.D.  
President and CEO



RE: The Proposed Bears Ears National Monument: The Fight to Protect Culture and Utah's Public Lands

In San Juan County Utah, south of Moab and east of Lake Powell, lies an area of such significance that it has caught both the attention of state and national news over the last year. Known as Bears Ears, or the Bears Ears region, this aesthetically jaw-dropping and culturally diverse place is home to Natural Bridges National Monument, the Abajo Mountains, Cedar Mesa, White Canyon, hundreds of thousands of ancient Native American ruins and the famous Bears Ears, two red buttes that rise above the Juniper forests about fifty miles west from Blanding, Utah.

Named by the Native Americans who have occupied these lands for hundreds of years, these buttes and the surrounding 1.5 million acres have recently come under fire due to a quarrel spawned by the political elites over what ought to be done with our public lands. Recently, the flames of that debate have been fanned by a draft bill known as the Public Lands Initiative. On the surface, this bill is framed as a great compromise to settle the multi-decade dispute over state versus federal land management. Within the text of the bill however, this draft most notably transfers most of Utah's 30 million plus acres of public land to state control, with over 2.5 million of those acres allocated for mining and energy development.

A large swath of this energy development will penetrate the Bears Ears region. It is difficult for many to understand why an area of such significance would be under so great a threat, which is why over sixty percent of San Juan county residents wish the Bears Ears region would be designated as a national monument. Meanwhile, environmental groups, coalitions of university students and hundreds of Utah citizens have shown up at public hearings and comment periods about Bears Ears in massive numbers to express the need for a national monument. Most importantly, in 2015 a coalition of Hopí, Zuni, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute and Uintah Ouray Ute natives came together to express the deep, multi-tribe significance of the area and petition for national monument designation. Yet despite this clear opposition, the county commissioners, Utah state legislature, Governor Herbert and the two congressman who proposed the Public Land Initiative are claiming to speak for all of Utah and moving quickly to ensure that this land will not be protected with monument designation.

It is a mistake of geography that arguably one of the most beautiful and culturally diverse landscapes on earth is now threatened by a few powerful Utah representatives, an area that has been occupied by Native Americans for millennia. These are the lands that dozens of Native American tribes have hunted in, worshiped in, fought in and lived in for hundreds of years.



Today, the region faces threats of drilling and mining, irresponsible motorized impacts, dramatic increases in unmanaged visitation and looting and grave-robbing. Imagine if the only place where your ancestors were buried and where the heirlooms were left behind was driven over by ATVs and looted. There have been twenty-five documented cases of looting in Bears ears over the last few years, with many more cases going unreported.

On Wednesday, May 18th, Governor Herbert and the state legislature convened to propose a resolution in opposition to designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. This special session was once again occupied by hundreds of Utah citizens who are organizing to stand in firm opposition to the land grab our state is engaging in. Members of our club watched as our state legislators skewed the number of Navajo people who do not support the monument, siting 7,000 Navajo constituents despite the fact that this only makes up around 8% of the Navajo Nation population, not to mention all the other tribes who have shown near unanimous support.

It is clear that other interests, whether they be for fossil fuel development, an illogical desire for state ownership, or anything else, are at play with the politicians in our state. But these interests are not in line with us constituents. Recent polling in our state shows that over 70 percent if Utah citizens and the vast majority of Native Americans want Monument designation. Even more frustrating, someone or some group recently distributed brochures in San Juan County, near where the monument would be designated, with misinformation about the numbers of Native Americans who support designation. Clearly, the opposition feels the need and desperation to resort to confusion as a tactic.

Bears Ears has the potential to further sanctify public land as a resource that can't be bought by state interests. More importantly however, it may become one of the first, jointly managed monuments, finally putting some decision power back into the hands of the land's original stewards and inhabitants. For all these reasons, the Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources supports the Bears Ears National Monument.

Sincerely,  
Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources  
Utah State University, Logan, Utah

President

Darren Bingham, Class of 2016  
[Darren.health.solutions@gmail.com](mailto:Darren.health.solutions@gmail.com)  
330-635-3188

Vice President

Logan Christian, Class of 2017  
[logchristian@gmail.com](mailto:logchristian@gmail.com)  
435-363-6159



## WILD UTAH PROJECT

824 S 400 W, STE B117  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
(801)328-8550  
info@wildutahproject.org

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The Wild Utah Project, representing about 450 local Utah supporters, requests that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument that honors ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to the region. We would like to note that the Wild Utah Project also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument.

As you undoubtedly know, the Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service. By protecting Bears Ears, you'll preserve sacred resources that continue to be vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau as a place of subsistence, spirituality, and healing. You'll safeguard tens of thousands of important cultural sites, including the cliff dwellings, villages and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people.

Wild Utah Project is a small, non-profit conservation science research group. We provide the "scientific ammunition" behind our fellow conservation organization's wilderness and land preservation campaigns. As such, we deeply understand the ecological and biological significance of the Bears Ears/Cedar Mesa area. The Bears Ears encompasses a highly biodiverse area with outstanding wildlife habitat and rich ecological assemblages. Variable geography, geology and soil types that result from unique geological formations, coupled with a range of elevation have resulted in a high diversity of ecotypes ranging from lush grasslands to conifer forests. Most of the land in the proposal is wild and provides important habitat for plants and animals. In fact, hundreds of species of birds, mammals, and reptiles can be found here. Importantly, both perennial and ephemeral streams that run off the Bears Ears, especially those with riparian vegetation, are vital to the survival of native plants and wildlife because they provide refuges and stopovers for neotropical migrant birds within otherwise dry and inhospitable habitat, as well as offering important migration corridors for larger species such as deer, mountain lions and bears. These stream corridors are generally among the most biologically diverse, productive and threatened habitats in southern Utah and the Colorado Plateau. In addition, dozens of perennial springs dot the Bears Ears. Some of the rarest species in Utah and the most spectacular biotic assemblages are those associated with the springs and seeps that dot the landscape in this region.



In short, this landscape of high mountain peaks, deep sinuous canyons, and long broken mesas provide irreplaceable habitat for wildlife and plants, and deserves to be adequately protected. If it's not, we can see what happens here in Utah to landscapes that are not protected... oil and gas drilling, potentially along with tar sands, uranium, and potash mining will inevitably degrade this critical wildlife habitat, given enough time and presumably no foreseeable change from the "energy status quo" (more fossil fuels, little interest in renewables) here in Utah.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

Allison Jones  
Executive Director  
Wild Utah Project

Cc Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

# Californians for Western Wilderness

A project of Resource Renewal Institute



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Frank Wheat

## Coordinator

Michael J. Painter  
(415) 752-3911

P.O. Box 210474  
San Francisco  
CA 94121-0474

e-mail:  
info@caluwild.org

May 17, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 830 members and supporters of Californians for Western Wilderness, a citizens organization dedicated to encouraging and facilitating citizen participation in actions affecting wilderness and other public lands in the West. Our members use and enjoy the public lands in Utah and all over the West.

We have long supported protection for the spectacular wild places of Utah, treasuring the landscape there. But equally important is the cultural history of the state, stretching back millennia. One of the richest cultural and archaeological landscapes in Utah (if not the world) is found in the southeast part of the state. A coalition of Native American tribes has proposed the establishment of a Bear Ears National Monument, covering a significant portion of the area.

Californians for Western Wilderness supports this proposal wholeheartedly. Noteworthy is its call for co-equal, collaborative management among the various tribes and agencies of the United States government. This would be a welcome development, given the legacy of the past.

We have been very pleased with your use of the authority granted you under the Antiquities Act of 1906. Its frequent use can only serve to strengthen that authority. We respectfully request that you continue that legacy by designating the Bears Ears National Monument.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Painter  
Coordinator



# Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness

19160 Pierce Ct., Homewood, IL 60430

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

May 25, 2016

Dear President Obama,

The Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness encourages you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah by designating it as a national monument. The Antiquities Act was enacted in 1906 primarily for protection of the Native American cultural resources in the southwest. The Bears Ears Monument is the first request from Native Americans themselves for use of the Act to honor and preserve ancestral and contemporary Native American cultural treasures. These treasures are the heritage of all humankind – they are part of our story, no matter our current cultural affiliation.

The Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on 1.9 million acres of public lands presently managed by Federal agencies. By protecting Bears Ears, you'll preserve sacred resources that continue to be vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau. You'll safeguard tens of thousands of important cultural sites, including the cliff dwellings, villages, and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. And you'll ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity and of critical importance to the Colorado River Basin upon which 40 million Americans rely, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

The Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to be a world-class initiative for learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all of us and for all time.

Sincerely,

Rita Billon  
Rev. Terry Clark  
Peter Cole

Clayton Daughenbaugh  
Nils Larsen  
Eric Lombard

Anne McKibbin  
Jeff Miller  
Pat Spagat

Cc: Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture



IOWA CITY FRIENDS FOR UTAH WILDERNESS  
1130 CHURCH ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245

May 28, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The Iowa City Friends for Utah Wilderness is writing to ask you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument that honors ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to the region.

The Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

By protecting Bears Ears, you'll preserve sacred resources that continue to be vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau as a place of subsistence, spirituality, and healing. You'll safeguard tens of thousands of important cultural sites, including the cliff dwellings, villages and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. And you'll ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity and of critical importance to the Colorado River Basin upon which 40 million Americans rely, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

The Iowa City Friends of Utah Wilderness also support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

Dan McRoberts  
on behalf of the Iowa City Friends for Utah Wilderness



**New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness**  
**3505 Calle Cuervo NW**  
**Apt 928**  
**Albuquerque New Mexico 87114**

May 28, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama;

The ***New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness*** are writing this letter to ask you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect as a national monument the Bears Ears area in southeastern Utah. Currently, this area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States.

A monument designation would offer protection to and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. By protecting Bears Ears, you will preserve sacred resources that continue to be vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau as a place of subsistence, spirituality, and healing. You will safeguard tens of thousands of important cultural sites, including the cliff dwellings, villages, and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. And you will ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

The ***New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness*** also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all time.

Respectfully,

Beverly Garrett, volunteer for  
New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness

Cc Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

***Jackson Audubon Society***

**2023 Crispell**

**Clark lake. MI 49234**

May 18, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The federal lands in the Bears Ears region of southern Utah deserve and need the highest level of protection available. The Jackson Audubon Society encourages you to recommend they be protected as a national monument.

This area, the northern half of which lies in the southern half of a National Audubon "Important Bird Area" provides crucial habitat for many creatures, is home to tens of thousands of sacred Native American cultural and archeological sites, and is composed of some of the most beautiful areas on America's public lands. In much of the region utter silence and the darkest of most brilliant night skies reign. These natural treasures were sacred to many in the past and continue to inspire and draw visitors from around American and the world – they deserve lasting protections.

Protecting the Bears Ears area is also important to mitigating the effects of climate change in this vulnerable desert region, which scientists predict to be among the worst affected. When considered in conjunction with other protected landscapes on the Colorado Plateau, the greater Canyonlands region is large and diverse enough to play a significant role in helping to protect the region's fragile soils, air quality and water supplies, as well as allowing plants and animals to adapt or migrate to healthy new homes.


Yet the region faces significant threats, including potential oil and gas drilling, tar sands mining, potash mining, and damaging off-road vehicle (ORV) use in sensitive areas resulting in damage to irreplaceable archeological and riparian resources and habitat for plants and animals. All these threats underscore the need for permanent protection.

Please act before you leave office to designate it as a national monument.

Sincerely,



Connie Spotts, President



Minnesota Friends of Utah Wilderness  
2820 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Suite 100  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

May 30, 2016

President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Sally Jewel, Secretary  
Department of Interior  
1849 "C" St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear President Obama:

Many Minnesotans are hikers and backpackers in Utah's spectacular and threatened wilderness. We have come to treasure our time spent there and believe that public lands in the Bears Ears region need and warrant the most protection available to them from their owners, ourselves and the American public, through our federal government. We ask that you designate the Bears Ears region a National Monument with the authority granted you under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

The Bears Ears region is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States with more than 100,000 cultural and sacred sites including thousands of ancient rock art works, cliff dwellings, great houses, shrines, and burial sites located on 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use as the Bears Ears proposal is the result of years of discussions among tribal elders and leaders and is supported by all tribal sovereign governments in the region.

Protecting the Bears Ears region is important to mitigating the effects of climate change in this vulnerable desert region, which scientists predict to be among the worst affected. Most of the land in the proposal is wild and provides important habitat for plants and animals. It's a landscape of high mountain peaks, deep sinuous canyons, long broken mesas, and stately red rock cliffs. The Bears Ears region is large and diverse enough to play a significant role in helping to protect the region's fragile soils, air quality and water supplies, as well as allowing plants and animals to adapt or migrate to healthy new homes.

The threats to Bears Ears are many. They include the potential for gas and oil development, potash mining, tar sands mining and uranium mining. There are ongoing, immediate threats from looting and vandalism including over two dozen serious incidents in the last two years. This damage is facilitated by the proliferation of roads and off-road vehicle intrusions. Local officials, themselves opposed to all efforts at conservation, have been guilty of participating in and encouraging these intrusive activities, sometimes even forging unauthorized and illegal entry into regions designated closed to motorized vehicles to protect the fragile cultural resources. All these actions threaten the Bears Ears region, emphasizing the need for permanent protection of the whole area.



While local officials oppose conservation measures, polls show 71% of Utahans support the Bears Ears National Monument proposal while only 20% oppose. As Interior Secretary Jewell has stated, it is long past time that America's national parks and public lands reflected the diversity of the American story.

The Bears Ears region is one of the largest and most spectacular remnants of the Wild West – a vital part of our national heritage crying out for the strongest possible protections - which is why the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition and 25 other tribes have also called on you to designate the region National Monument status. It is important to us as well that the Bears Ears be protected for these same cultural and spiritual resources.

**To properly manage the conservation and archeological resources of this great piece of our national natural heritage, we strongly encourage you to act now to ensure the Bears Ears region is managed to complement the values that we all cherish under National Monument status.**

Sincerely,

Tracy Farr

Amy Garcia

Kathlene Audette-Luebke

Becky Siekmeier

Kayla Grover

Ray Schmidt

Jonathan Graves

Paul Lindfors

Barry Drazkowski

Craig Luedemann

Larry Dolphin

William Haider

Joshua Houdek

Kevin Proescholdt

Bart Cannon

John Siekmeier

Martin Momsen

Bernard P. Friel

On behalf of the Minnesota Friends of Utah Wilderness



## MINNESOTA DIVISION IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

2233 University Avenue West, Suite 339 • Saint Paul, MN 55114 • 651.221.0215 • [ikes@minnesotaiikes.org](mailto:ikes@minnesotaiikes.org) • [www.minnesotaiikes.org](http://www.minnesotaiikes.org)

May 18, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America is writing to ask you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument that honors ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to the region.

The Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

By protecting Bears Ears, you'll preserve sacred resources that continue to be vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau as a place of subsistence, spirituality, and healing. You'll safeguard tens of thousands of important cultural sites, including the cliff dwellings, villages and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. And you'll ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity and of critical importance to the Colorado River Basin upon which 40 million Americans rely, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans.

President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past -- and future -- of this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

Barry Drazkowski  
President, Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America

Cc Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior    Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

---



Michigan Friends of

**RED ROCK WILDERNESS**

WORKING TO PRESERVE OUR NATION'S NATURAL HERITAGE IN UTAH



May 19, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing on behalf of the members of Michigan Friends of Red Rock Wilderness, a group dedicated to preserving the wilderness areas of the desert southwest, especially those found in Utah. Besides the incomparable natural and scenic qualities of these lands, they also contain one of the greatest concentrations of archeological treasures in the world. This letter is to specifically ask you to designate a portion of southeast Utah, as detailed in the **Bears Ears Proposal**, a national monument. The proposal was painstakingly developed over the course of years by a coalition of the Five Native American tribes in that region, and, while this land is federal and belongs to us all, it also has the support of over 70% of Utah residents.

We believe this is an outstanding opportunity for you to utilize your presidential authority under the Antiquities Act to protect over 100,000 archeological and Native sacred sites, which include ancient rock art, dwelling structures, in situ pottery, and burials. These places are now in continual jeopardy from looting, vandalism, drilling, mining, and reckless ORV use. Granting monument status to them would help to preserve not only America's natural legacy, but also its rich cultural heritage.

While those of us in Michigan Friends of Red Rock Wilderness live far from these places, most of us have visited them, and are convinced that they are precious to all of us, and that it is the duty of all Americans to work for their preservation.

Thank you for giving the **Bears Ears National Monument** proposal your thoughtful attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Dengate".

Patrick Dengate  
Board of Directors, Michigan Friends of Red Rock Wilderness

*Cc: Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel  
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack*



**OHIO FRIENDS FOR UTAH WILDERNESS**

3731 Mountview Rd., Columbus, OH 43220

May 23, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As members of Ohio Friends for Utah Wilderness, we are writing to ask that you exercise your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears region in southeastern Utah as a national monument, which would honor the longstanding Native American connections to the area.

Bears Ears deserves such designation for numerous reasons. More than 100,000 cultural sites exist within this landscape, including intact Ancestral Puebloan dwellings, delicate petroglyphs and pictographs, and irreplaceable kivas, pots, and other artifacts. Currently unprotected, these sites are vulnerable to looting, desecration, and misuse. To contemporary Native Americans throughout the Colorado Plateau, Bears Ears serves as a sacred spiritual enclave. Creating a national monument here would help assure that this meaningful connection continues for future generations.

Additionally, Bears Ears comprises a landscape of peerless beauty and biodiversity. Intimate red rock canyons and quiet mesas shelter unique flora and fauna. As part of the Colorado River basin, this area has witnessed a burgeoning population, as well as renewed attention from extractive industries. Designating Bears Ears National Monument would forever shield this landscape from rampant development.

Ohio Friends supports the collaborative proposal suggested by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Shared federal and tribal stewardship would create an amalgam of traditional knowledge, scientific endeavor, and conservation ethos unrivalled elsewhere in the world. This stands as a rare opportunity to inaugurate the new century of conservation recently championed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

President Obama, please employ the Antiquities Act to designate a national monument at Bears Ears. Current and future generations will applaud your foresight in protecting such a sacred and enchanting portion of our nation's public land.

Sincerely,

Linda Beaty    John Beaty    Mike Carano    Robbin Clark    Dan Clark  
Brendan R. Hurst    Paul Lamberger    Bill Menrath    Dan Nelson

cc: Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior  
cc: Secretary Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture



# Grosse Pointe Audubon

443 St. Clair  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
22-May-2016

Dear Mr. President:

My name is William Rapai, and I am president of the Grosse Pointe Audubon Society. I am writing to ask you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument.

The Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the United States. A monument designation would offer protection to traditional Native American land use and more than 100,000 cultural sites located on the 1.9 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and National Park Service. By protecting Bears Ears, you'll preserve sacred resources that are vital to tribal communities across the Colorado Plateau as a place of subsistence, spirituality and healing. You'll safeguard thousands of important cultural sites, including cliff dwellings, villages and rock art panels of the Ancestral Puebloan people. And you'll ensure that this magnificent landscape, rich in biodiversity and of critical importance to the Colorado River Basin upon which 40 million Americans rely, will remain pristine and accessible for generations of Americans to come.

The Grosse Pointe Audubon also supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. This new monument has the potential to create a world-class institute of learning and land management, bringing traditional knowledge into partnership with scientific, ecological, and conservation values, for the benefit of all Americans. President Obama, please use your authority under the Antiquities Act to proclaim Bears Ears National Monument, and leave a legacy that protects the past—and future—of this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Rapai'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Rapai  
President  
Grosse Pointe Audubon

CC: Secretary Sally Jewel, Department of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture



# Salem Audubon Society

*Birding • Education • Stewardship*

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing on behalf of our organization to urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate a Bears Ears National Monument in the spectacular canyon country of southeast Utah. Such a designation would honor ancestral and contemporary Native American connections to these lands, as well as ensure that the area's high mountain peaks, deep canyons, and beautiful red rock cliffs are preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Bears Ears area is the most significant unprotected cultural landscape in the country. It contains over 100,000 archeological and cultural sites including thousands of ancient rock art works and cliff dwellings. All the sovereign tribal governments in the regions-Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain, and Ute Indian Tribe-have passed resolutions calling on you to protect Bears Ears as a national monument. And while Utah's politicians have expressed opposition to the idea, polls show 71% of Utahans support a Bears Ears National Monument. These lands belong to all of us, and their future should not be determined by a vocal local minority.

We appreciate this area's cultural significance, but also care about it because it provides habitat for a wide variety of animals and plants. Oil and gas drilling, mining, and other activities have degraded wildlife habitat across the American West. At a time when once-common birds of the West such as the Sage Grouse are seriously declining, we need to protect the ecological integrity of our remaining wild public lands. These lands belong to all of us and their future should not be determined by a vocal local minority.

As Secretary of the Interior Jewell has said, it is long past time that America's national parks and public lands reflect the diversity of the American story. Salem Audubon Society supports the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's proposal for tribal collaborative management of the Bears Ears National Monument. Doing so is an opportunity to bring traditional knowledge together with scientific and conservation values for the benefit of all Americans.

We urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to establish a Bears Ears National Monument and leave a legacy that protects this national treasure for all time.

Sincerely,

David Harrison  
Conservation Chair  
Salem Audubon Society

CC Secretary Sally Jewell, Dept. of Interior, Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

189 Liberty Street NE, Suite 210 • Salem, OR 97301-3599 • 503-588-7340  
Email: [audubons@qwestoffice.net](mailto:audubons@qwestoffice.net) • [www.salem-audubon.org](http://www.salem-audubon.org)



Edward R. Bolt  
Chairman, Conservation Committee  
Grand Rapids Audubon Club  
233 Glenhaven NW  
Grand Rapids MI 49504

May 31, 2016

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington DC 20500

Re: Bears Ears National Monument Proposal

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the Grand Rapids Audubon Club, we request that you designate the Bears Ears region in southeastern Utah as a National Monument, using the Antiquities Act. The land borders the Colorado River to the west, the San Juan River and Navajo Nation on the south, and White Mesa Ute Reservation on the east. Even though we are residents of Michigan and physically 'far away' from this area, we are aware of the importance of preserving this tract (1.9 million acres) of pristine land.

It is important to declare it a National Monument because it continues to be subject to looting and destruction of cultural sites, and exploited (defaced and fragmented) by the extractive industries for oil, gas, and potash, while uranium mining remains a threat.

A collaboratively-managed Bears Ears National Monument has the support of more than 25 tribes across the Southwest, for whom much of it is sacred. Additionally, over 70% of resident Utahns favor preserving this spectacular natural area - how American is that? It is significant that so many tribes have united in support of this proposed National Monument. *All people* would benefit from this designation, preserving vistas, archeological sites, herbal plants biotic communities, and promoting the fast-growing and green industry of eco-tourism. With support of five sovereign tribal governments and 71% of Utah citizens, surely this is will of the American people! Surely future generations and visitors to the area will thank us for having the long-term vision to preserve this place for all.

President Obama, please ensure that this treasure is not passed by and lost to our checkered history of land use.

Sincerely,  
Edward R. Bolt\*  
Past President, Grand Rapids Audubon Club  
Chairman, GRAC Conservation Committee

copy:  
Secretary Sally Jewel, Dept. of Interior  
Secretary Tom Vilsack, Dept. of Agriculture

*\*Letterhead & signed copy being sent by U.S. Mail*

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Editorial: Obama should create a Bears Ears National Monument

The Salt Lake Tribune, April 24, 2016

Just about everyone who spoke at Wednesday's meeting of the Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands was arguing for President Obama to order the creation of a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah.

So that is exactly what Obama should do.

Most of the support for the monument proposal came from the overflow audience, which included regular citizens, environmental activists and, most importantly, representatives of Utah Dine Bikeyah and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition which is comprised of five tribes including the Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute, Uinta-Ouray Ute and the Navajo Nation.

Most of the opposition came from the members of the misnamed commission. But the attitude of commission members who so fiercely stand against the idea was so dismissive, uninformed and short-sighted that they were actually, if inadvertently, making the case for Obama to unsheath the federal Antiquities Act and make a specific preservation plan for the area that is sacred to so many Native Americans, individually and as members of a collection of nations.

The unreasoning devotion to the idea that the Bears Ears region, and the rest of the 31 million acres of federal land within Utah's boundaries ought to belong to the state of Utah or private developers dominates the commission, the Legislature, the office of Gov. Gary Herbert and the narrow wing of the Republican Party that bestrides its caucus and convention system.

That argument might have some practical and ethical standing if there was even a glimmer of understanding shown by state officials that preservation is, in so many cases, in the long-term interests of Utahns, both native and newcomer.

If there was any appreciation of the fact that the Bears Ears area includes thousands of scientifically and culturally significant sites.

If there was any hint that our leaders grasp the fact that decisions made about this and other national monuments, parks and wilderness areas aren't about Utah. They aren't about the few who rule over the many in the Legislature or on the San Juan County Commission. They aren't even really about the United States of America.



They are about natural and cultural heritage and treasures that belong to all humanity. That the United States, by accidents of history and geography, happens to own that land and owns the duty to care for it in ways that make it available, first to the descendants of those who lived there millennia ago, then to the rest of us.

The borders on the white man's maps — counties, states, nations — matter little except to assign responsibilities. They do not convey or imply the right of those who happen to live on one side of some of those borders to covet and exploit these lands for their own short-term political and economic gain.

The president has held off any plans he may have on protecting Bears Ears or any other portions of Utah in deference to the Public Lands Initiative put together by Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

But, after years of back and forth, and much outcry from the Navajo and others that their concerns were not heeded, the PLI has yet to be introduced as a bill. If it were put before Congress, there is little indication that, with so much opposition from the tribes and environmental groups from across the nation, it would have a chance to become law.

Thus should Obama end the delay, the bickering and the suspense and create the [Bears Ears National Monument](#).

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Editorial: Noel's conspiracy theory is insulting

The Salt Lake Tribune, April 28, 2016

Debates over public policy, especially matters as important as how to manage millions of acres of federal land in Utah, ought to pivot on the strength of each competing position. A good idea is a good idea, and a bad one is a stinker, no matter who thought it up or where their money comes from.

Thus it would be wrong to distract from such important questions by contending that, oh, say, Utah state Rep. Mike Noel is leading the crusade against any new national monuments in Utah only because his political [campaigns are paid for](#) largely by real estate, oil, coal and billboard interests.

Clearly, Noel is a grown-up, able to make up his own mind about such weighty issues, not a puppet who snaps to whenever his donors call on him.

And, of course, the people who give money to Noel and his fellow lawmakers are, as we are incessantly reminded, not the least bit interested in buying a politician's vote or ear. They are, you may rest assured, only seeking good government. The greatest good for the greatest number.

So why, then, is Noel thumping the tub of the Utah Constitutional Defense Council, [demanding an investigation](#) into where the alliance of Native American nations that is calling for a Bears Ears National Monument is getting its money?

Could it be that Noel assumes that anyone who disagrees with him would only do so if they were on the take? Is he so dismissive — with an attitude bordering on racism — of the tribes' petition that he considers Native peoples and their elected leaders unable to know their own minds? Easily manipulated by nefarious environmental activists?

We cannot peer into the man's soul to know what his true motivations are. But it sure looks like it.

Of course Native groups such as the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition](#), Utah Dine Bikeyah and their constituent tribes and bands are happy to receive organizational, moral and, yes, financial support from like-minded individuals, organizations and corporations. They would be fools not to.

And it should come as no surprise to anyone that such groups as the Southern Utah



Wilderness Alliance are working toward the same ends as the Native groups. They all want President Obama to set aside 1.9 million acres of federally owned land in southeast Utah as a Bears Ears National Monument. There is nothing secret or untoward about it.

Sadly, it is possible that Gov. Gary Herbert, locked in a primary election fight that requires him to brush up his anti-federal credentials, might go along with Noel's

demand. Of course, as the Bears Ears leaders say, if he wants to know where that group is getting its support, all he has to do is pick up the phone.

Whatever Noel's motivation is, it seems clear that every time he opens his mouth to speak against the idea of a new national monument in Utah, he pushes us closer to the day that we get one.

Could that have been his goal all along? The world may never know.

# MOAB SUN NEWS

## **It's about time to protect Bears Ears**

Moab Sun News, May 26, 2016

The Bears Ears area has a rich human history, incredible natural beauty and large untrammeled landscapes that deserve protection as a national monument by President Obama. And although it may surprise many people who have only recently heard about the national monument campaign, the desire to protect Bears Ears is not new; concerted efforts to permanently protect the area have been under way for 80 years.

The groundwork for protection began in 1906, when Congress passed the Antiquities Act in response to the looting and grave-robbing taking place in the Four Corners region, at places like Mesa Verde. The Ancestral Puebloan sites found there are intimately tied to the more than 100,000 archaeological sites found within the 1.9-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument proposal today.

Despite identical problems of looting, vandalism and grave-robbing that happened at Mesa Verde, the problems at Bears Ears have only grown. Already in 2016, five major incidents of looting and vandalism are under investigation by the Bureau of Land Management in the Bears Ears region.

Specific efforts to protect Bears Ears date back as far as 1907, when Dean Byron Cummings of the University of Utah led an expedition into the Bears Ears area. His expedition's research, along with support from a local Blanding visionary named Zeke Johnson, resulted in the designation of Natural Bridges National Monument in 1908. This designation, however, was based largely on geologic and scenic merit.

Subsequently, the Manti-La Sal National Forest boundaries were extended "to afford [the Ute Mountain Utes] what protection the forest service could give them," according to J.C. Brown, an engineer who accompanied Cummings on the expedition.

Brown had a good relationship with Jim Mike, a Ute/Paiute living in the area. It became personally important to Brown that the forest boundaries be extended after he asked Jim Mike why the Utes wanted to continue living in the area. Jim Mike responded, "My papa sit down here, my grandpapa sit down here, I want to sit down here."

So, while Natural Bridges National Monument was established in honor of unique and astounding geological spans, the Manti-La Sal National Forest extension was established to



protect the traditional hunting, gathering and agricultural practices of Native Americans who call the area home.

The Ute Mountain Ute and San Juan Southern Paiute roamed the Bears Ears region until 1923, when they were imprisoned and forced onto their current reservation lands, including those surrounded by the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

The baton for protection was picked up again in the 1930s, when Harry A. Aurand, an oil company executive with a soft spot for the region, spearheaded an initiative to designate a monument twice the size of Yellowstone National Park. This landscape-scale effort would have covered most of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument area, in addition to the majority of the current Bears Ears proposal.

While Aurand's proposal did not make it to the president's office, a proposal for a smaller, 53,000-acre national monument that would have surrounded Arch Canyon did. In 1940, the draft proclamation for this smaller national monument rose all the way up to President Roosevelt's desk. Unfortunately, Pearl Harbor was bombed and all of the efforts of the previous decade to secure protection for the Bears Ears region were swallowed by efforts to win World War II.

It was not until 1962 that a call to protect the area would rise again. Under Utah Sen. Frank Moss' leadership, the boundaries of Natural Bridges National Monument were expanded. Sen. Moss also worked with former U.S. Interior Secretary Stewart Udall to establish Canyonlands National Park.

The original Canyonlands proposal was nearly 1 million acres and had significant overlap with the northern portion of the Bears Ears proposal. Due to pressure from opposition groups, unfortunately, Canyonlands National Park was reduced to only a quarter of its originally proposed size – 257,000 acres – when it was established in 1964. (Congress later increased the size of Canyonlands to today's 330,000 acres.)

Piecemeal protective measures within Bears Ears followed in subsequent decades, but the conservation values within Bears Ears arguably remain the greatest of any unprotected unit of public land in the United States. President Obama has the opportunity to protect Bears Ears for all tribes, for all citizens, and for all time and he should do so before he leaves office.

While we may not recover what has been lost over the past 100 years due to looting, vandalism and mining, we can protect the globally significant cultural assets that remain. Utahns have led every effort to protect this region over the past century, and it is no surprise that the Native American elders and leaders from San Juan County may finally succeed where others have failed. Mr. President, please finish the job.

## **Obama should listen to Native Americans to preserve Bears Ears**

Standard-Examiner (Ogden), May 19, 2016

The five Native American tribes calling on President Obama to protect 1.9 million acres of their ancestral homelands as the Bears Ears National Monument say that it will bring healing to the land, plants, animals and to the collective human spirit.

As the founder of [Operation Climb On](#), a therapeutic climbing program for veterans, I can testify firsthand about the healing power of Bears Ears.

I served almost twelve years as a military infantryman, including a couple of combat deployments to Iraq. When I left active duty, I faced a lot of the issues other veterans confront when they return to civilian life. I fell into alcohol abuse, lost my family and became suicidal because of the memories that haunted me night and day.

At my lowest point, with the help of a counselor, I discovered that climbing — especially out in nature with my fellow veterans — helped me to heal from the trauma of war. When I realized that getting out on the rock was a lifeline for other veterans as well, I created Operation Climb On.

We use the same guideline that worked for me — spending time in the great outdoors with a group of veterans climbing and camping together.

Recently, I took a trip with fellow veterans, including one who is Navajo, down to the Bears Ears. I knew a slot canyon, one of many in this amazing landscape of mesa, mountain, cliff, and canyon, which was perfect for canyoneering.

We spent the first day strapped into our climbing harnesses, stepping back over sheer cliff edges into space, learning once again to put trust in a friend anchoring the rope above us, as we descended a serpentine canyon at times only as wide as our shoulders.

The next day we roamed a rolling sandstone mesa, guided by a local professional archaeologist, dropping down into hidden canyons to marvel at ancient cliff dwellings and images of animals and other cryptic figures etched and painted on to the cliff walls.

In the evenings, we simply hung out around the campfire, listening to each other's stories, as an almost unbelievable number of stars studded a pitch black sky.

Once again, the combination of pristine natural beauty, climbing, and veterans, enhanced by the absolute wonder of exploring age-old stone villages and rock art worked its alchemical magic. The veterans returned home reconnected and rejuvenated.

Just consider these reflections my fellow veterans shared with me after the trip:



*"I was reminded that climbing is all about you on the wall trusting a friend, just like you did in combat, instead of bottling up all your fears. That's how we lose guys. They bottle it up and the lid blows off. A trip like this to Bears Ears actually saves lives."*

*"It sounds simple and it is. But too often veterans tend to get isolated. We lose our sense of community. Climbing and camping together, especially in a place like this, restores community."*

*"I just want to see this land preserved so that I can return here with friends and family and show them what I have experienced, and so future generations can come and have the same experience too. That would be pretty amazing."*

The Native American tribes asking President Obama to protect Bears Ears are right that a national monument offers an opportunity for healing. Veterans are among those who would benefit deeply.

Veterans have given so much for our country. Protecting Bears Ears would do so much for them. Operation Climb On hopes that President Obama acts soon.

*Michael Cumming is a combat veteran living in Salt Lake City who founded Operation Climb On, a therapeutic climbing program for veterans.*

# THE HILL

## Time to make Utah's Bear Ears region a national monument

The Hill (Washington DC), May 16, 2016

By Peter Metcalf

Recently, as we celebrated National Parks Week, Secretary [Sally Jewell](#) spoke about the importance of our protected public lands both for our economy as well as our national identity. She spoke of “places that future generations should have the chance to experience for themselves.” Yet, every day lands with incredible antiquities are at risk of ongoing looting or development.

There is potentially no landscape in the lower 48 states that better personifies what Secretary Jewell meant than the culturally rich, breathtakingly beautiful, recreationally inspiring Bear Ears region of southern Utah.

With more than 100,000 cultural sites, Bears Ears is considered sacred by dozens of tribes who trace their ancestors to these lands. Yet serious cases of grave-robbing and theft of artifacts are reported on a regular basis. This is a place that should have been protected long ago. It is a region of unimaginable richness that connects us with our history, our humanity, and the natural world. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

In addition to the immense spiritual and cultural value to Native American people, it is also an unparalleled recreational asset to our nation that must be cared for and sustained if it is to continue to offer the kind of self-exploration and discovery that draws visitors from around the globe. In the past few years, Utah has had some of the country's highest population and economic

growth driven by our proximity to and the sustainable use of our public lands. People come to Utah to experience its history and to delight in the outdoor recreation opportunities in such pristine areas.

Protecting and stewarding our state's wild iconic landscapes are integral to our state's identity and vibrant economic future. Unfortunately Utah's political leadership continues to look backwards with an almost exclusive focus on extractive industries, failing to understand that it is our protected landscapes that attract and retain the best and the brightest to our state.

Creating a Bear Ears National Monument represents the opportunity to protect for posterity one of the most beautiful, unique, desert and canyon ecosystems left in the world. Its nearly 1.9 million acres of existing public lands are relatively untouched by extractive industry, much as they were thousands of years ago. This is an environment that challenges the imagination, encourages outdoor adventure, sustains many cultures, and helps forge who we are as a society. I say this as both a proud American and Utah resident.

When you look at Bears Ears, you see broad support for protection – from local Navajo Chapter Houses, to 25 Native American Tribal Governments throughout the Southwest, to a full 66 percent of Utah residents based on recent polling conducted



by Colorado College. Yet, it is disheartening to see our state leaders fail to show respect to the Tribal Nations and the Native American communities in our state who are calling for the protection of Bears Ears.

With a non-functional Congress unable to pass legislation of nearly any type and Utah's Congressional leaders' failure to take the Tribes' proposal seriously, not incorporate the enthusiastic support of America's outdoor industry or the majority of Utah's citizens, it's time for the President to step in and use his authority under the Antiquities Act to declare a national monument protecting Bears Ears.

This needs to happen quickly, before the lands are diminished further from a growing

assault by off-road vehicles, antiquity looters, and a myriad of extractive industries eyeing opportunities to exploit the landscape for their own private, short-term gain. Native Americans have led this initiative, and all Americans should stand behind them in asking Congress and the president to act now and preserve a landscape essential to our collective heritage.

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*Peter Metcalf was the founder and long-time CEO of Black Diamond. He lives in Park City and is currently on the board of the Outdoor Alliance and several other non-profit, business and government connected Boards.*

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Op-ed: Protect Bears Ears before the grave robbers have taken it all

Salt Lake Tribune, May 7, 2016

I had been told of an alcove that held a small, sheltered archaeological site up a canyon west of Blanding, Utah. One morning I hiked up the bottom of the wash, scrambling over tumbled boulders and slogging through loose sandy gravel in the dry creekbed. Brightening light showed that the canyon widened just ahead, and as I rounded an angular, upturned boulder, the ceiling of an alcove arched above me. I had reached the site.

Images of what appeared to be bighorn sheep pecked into the sandstone seemed to frolic and dance. A crumbling portion of an ancient wall butted against the cliff and came straight out, the only remnant of a former room. And just below the wall, undercutting it, contributing to its ongoing demise, was a gaping wound, a ragged hole torn from the quiet strata that made up this ancient site. Looters had been here. Vandals, thieves, pillagers and plunderers had ripped pieces of the past from this peaceful place. I walked to the edge of the pit, the size of an ATV, and fell to my knees.

Sand grains cascaded down the sloping edges of the hole in miniature landslides. Stones, flecks of charcoal, pockets of powdery ash and clumps of hardened clay protruded from the sides of the crudely

excavated gash. Clinging to a small juniper twig was a short length of z-twist cordage, an ancient piece of string. A flake of pink chert, sharp as a knife, lay near the bottom of the hole, evidence of long ago toolmaking. A pointed sliver of calcined bone, probably from a rabbit, stuck straight up from a clump of ash. A bit of a corncob protruded from the side of the hole, and just beneath it a flash of orange caught my eye — a fragment of a feather, with a tiny knot of cordage clinging to its shaft.

And then I saw it. A tiny bone, not much bigger than a small paper clip. I drew in my breath, wondering. And next to it, others, and I knew. Wrist and finger bones. The bones from a person's hand. A small person. A child's hand. The looters had dug into a grave. A child's grave. The place where years ago a family had placed the body of their dear child, perhaps with some special, meaningful family heirlooms to accompany her, to keep her safe. And now thieves had dug her up and stolen from her. Desecrated her. Sadness darkened the entire canyon.

Who was this child? Does anyone remember her? Is her existence completely forgotten? Are the offerings her family placed with her at the end of her short life displayed in someone's living room? This beloved child



deserves more than to have her bones scattered by looters lusting for some ancient goodie to show others, or to sell for a pittance.

Looting is a regular occurrence in the Bears Ears region and, according to archaeologists who patrol the area, is on the increase. First protected by the Antiquities Act and later by other statutes, heritage resources lure the lowest of thieves, the worst kinds of profit-seekers — grave robbers. Without increased protection and rigorous pursuit and prosecution of looters and collectors, the legacy of the ancient ones, the heritage of today's tribal people, will be shamelessly destroyed.

Utah's First District Rep. Rob Bishop hates the Antiquities Act and has stated that all who support it should die. He and his

colleagues demean the motives of tribes that seek to protect the Bears Ears. They vilify those who wish to protect this unique and immensely beautiful region. They see antiquities as an impediment to development and profiteering, and turn a blind eye to grave robbing and looting.

Unlike their representatives, Utahns support protection and preservation of ancient places. Because of that, I add my voice to the chorus of tribes and citizens imploring President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create the Bears Ears National Monument and stop the hateful, purposeful destruction of this anointed place.

*Kevin T. Jones is the former state archaeologist of Utah. He lives in Salt Lake City.*

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Dabakis: Protect Bears Ears, Obama, because Utah leaders won't

By Jim Dabakis

Salt Lake Tribune, April 9, 2016

I just returned from meetings in Washington, D.C. It is evident that Utah's governor and the entire GOP delegation have been whispering a shameful campaign of disinformation about the historic proposal to protect Bears Ears.

Last July, leaders from five tribes (Hopi, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute, Pueblo of Zuni and Ute Indian) founded the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, representing a historic consortium of sovereign tribal nations united in the effort to conserve the Bears Ears cultural landscape. A total of 26 tribes have expressed strong support. Native American peoples are also seeking active engagement in future management of the area.

The 1.9 million acres of land, some of the most rugged and beautiful in America, is all in San Juan County. It also has an astonishing 100,000-plus archaeological sites.

Shamefully, Utah's GOP elected officials seem to see this sacred land as one big fossil fuel and mineral extraction feeding trough. These politicians are adamantly opposed to ideas that are not rooted in giving top priority to the 19th century economy of coal, fossil fuels and mineral extraction.

The electeds are determined to pick winners and losers. Following the Soviet model, they boldly march in with your money where leery venture capital refuses to go, often to the benefit of their out-of-state, international corporate friends.

For example, the recent decision by the Legislature and governor to throw \$53 million in state dollars into a private developer's fanciful project to build a coal-exporting port in Oakland, Calif.

There is serious talk about doubling down on dumb with an additional \$100 million in public money to build a railroad spur to get this coal to their yet to be built Oakland port.

Isn't it obvious that the future lies not in 19th century coal and extractions but rather in the world's biggest growth industry, tourism? Instead of handing out hundreds of millions in welfare to huge corporations, Utah should recognize the 21st century's gold is in ecologically friendly backpacking, boating, climbing, cycling, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, sensible OHV/off road and geocaching. Utah's sensible future is as the world leader is in outdoor recreation, not with polluting, cyclical fossil-fuel commodities.

Envision planes from Asia and Europe landing every day in St. George and Moab, bringing the world to see the most magnificent places on earth. Right now, Utah does not have the infrastructure to handle a serious step-up in tourism and outdoor recreation.

Building that in a green way should be a top state economic development priority. Protecting



Bears Ears and getting facilities and the underlying framework to host tourists in an ecological way work hand-in-hand in creating a bustling economy for Utah's next 100 years.

The state is all talk about caring about parks and outdoor recreation. While there seems to be plenty of bucks for their fossil fuel projects, state funding for our magnificent 43 state parks has gone from a paltry \$12 million in 2008 to \$4 million in 2015. That is shameful. Imagine the neglect if they got their hands on 31 million acres of public land?

Because so many Utah GOP elected officials love billboards along scenic byways and have yet to meet a fossil-fuel corporation that they don't love and want to hug, I urge you to contact the president, and, as a Utahn, ask him with the stroke of a pen to save precious Bears Ears. We certainly cannot depend on the governor, the Legislature and the Utah D.C. delegation to do it.

*Jim Dabakis is a Democratic state senator representing Salt Lake City.*

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Op-ed: Recent national monuments have protected local interests

Salt Lake Tribune

March 26, 2016

By John Ruple

It has been said that "we are entitled to our opinions, just not our own facts." Recent debate over the Public Lands Initiative and Bears Ears National Monument proposal makes this a good time to review the facts about national monument designations.

For 110 years, the Antiquities Act has empowered presidents to protect lands having historic or scientific interest. Indeed, 15 of the last 19 presidents, Republicans and Democrats alike, have designated national monuments. Grand Canyon, Capitol Reef and Arches national parks all began as national monuments.

Critically, the Antiquities Act affords presidents the ability to craft monument designations that are responsive to local concerns. President Obama, for example, recognized the importance of water to westerners when, in creating the Basin and Range National Monument, he stated that the monument neither created new federal water rights nor altered existing state-issued water rights. In creating the Browns Canyon National Monument, he expressly recognized state "jurisdiction and authority with respect to fish and wildlife management." In creating the Río Grande Del Norte National Monument, he protected utility line rights-of-way within the monument. Similarly, the Basin and Range National Monument proclamation states that, "nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to affect authorizations for livestock grazing, or administration thereof, on federal lands within the monument. Livestock grazing within the monument shall continue to be governed by laws

and regulations other than this proclamation." And of course monument proclamations apply only to federal land. As the San Gabriel Mountain National Monument proclamation and every other recent proclamation make clear, monuments are established "subject to valid existing rights." These kinds of assurances, and more, are common in monument proclamations.

Recent national monument proclamations also universally require managers to create a management plan in consultation with state, local and tribal government because, as all six members of Utah's congressional delegation recently noted, "the wisest land-use decisions are made with community involvement and local support, ... [and] the most effective land management policy is inclusive and engaging, not veiled or unilateral."

That is why, in creating the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, President Obama directed monument managers to "provide for public involvement in the development of the management plan including, but not limited to, consultation with tribal, state and local governments. In the development and implementation of the management plan, [federal agencies] shall maximize opportunities ... for shared resources, operational efficiency, and cooperation."

Furthermore, monument designations do not, as some have claimed, limit American Indian access or use — to do so would violate the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which



declares that "it shall be the policy of the United States to protect and preserve for American Indians their inherent right of freedom to believe, express, and exercise the traditional religions ... including but not limited to access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites."

In fact, in designating the Chimney Rock Mountains National Monument, President Obama required the Forest Service to "protect and preserve access by tribal members for traditional cultural, spiritual, and food- and medicine-gathering purposes, consistent with the purposes of the monument, to the maximum

extent permitted by law." Virtually identical language is found in each of the six most recent monument proclamations.

If President Obama does create the Bears Ears National Monument, we should expect that he will take similar steps to protect state, local and tribal interests. Let's set aside political rhetoric and debate the Bears Ears proposal and Public Lands Initiative with these facts in mind.

*John Ruple is an associate professor of law (research) at the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law, and a fellow with the University's Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment.*



# Indian Country TODAY MEDIA NETWORK

## It's Time to Heal Bears Ears

Indian Country Today Media Network - 3/4/16

By Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk

In the past, policies and laws have always been written as prescriptions for us Native American people to follow, including when it comes to protecting the lands, dwellings, art, and final resting places of our ancestors. But now, for the first time, Native American people are using the law of the United States—the Antiquities Act of 1906—to ask the president of the United States to protect our cultural and spiritual homeland: an area we call the “Bears Ears” in southeastern Utah.

Our elders have called for the Bears Ears, which sheltered our ancestors for thousands of years, to be protected, not only for us, but for all people. And our leaders have listened to this people’s movement. A coalition of sovereign nations: the Ute Mountain Ute, Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, and Uintah and Ouray Ute, have brought a proposal to Washington D.C. to ask President Obama to protect 1.9 million acres around Bears Ears as a national monument. These 1.9 million acres are all public lands, held by the United States government, but right now, they are unprotected.

This first-of-its kind national monument proposal is a strong statement that we, as Native Americans, are a part of the solution. We are the circle that surrounds the box, where the policies and laws live. We are here to provide education, support, and solutions and we are also asking for our seat at the table, to help collaboratively manage the lands of our ancestors once a national

monument is created. The Antiquities Act was passed to protect antiquities, but it should also honor the connections Native Americans still have to the land by giving us a voice in decisions about how our ancestral lands are managed.

Native Americans have always maintained a relationship with the land. Bears Ears is home to the dwellings of our ancestors, the final resting places of our people, and sacred areas where our people still collect traditional herbs and medicines today. But it is also home to oil and gas and potash. Like so many ancestral lands, the Bears Ears are threatened not only by looters and grave-robbers, but by mining and oil and gas companies, all of whom are inflicting wounds.

The land and its precious resources need to be healed, but there are other wounds as well, which is why healing forms the inner core of our Bears Ears movement. Relationships between tribal nations have been healed as we work together toward a common goal. And now the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is looking to heal the relationship with the United States government. We are not wielding the hatchet of war, but rather extending our hand to say: join us in encouraging the spirit of healing.

We understand the work is vast, and disagreements are sure to come, but we are all seated at the same table, actively engaged, ready to learn from one another,



encouraged by our elders, ancestors, and the many tribes who support our efforts.

Once a national monument is created, we must work together to help educate visitors, locals and, most importantly, the younger generations. We must listen to the history of the early settlers and their stories and historical connections to this area to make sure existing and future management plans are founded on a clear understanding of the value of this land.

We believe Bears Ears should be protected, for all people; the laws to make this a reality

exist. It is up to Native Americans to ask the United States government to use them to protect these lands, which are part of our past, and our present. We are all human beings at the end of the day, breathing in the same air, walking on the same land and citizens of the same United States of America.

*Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk is the head councilwoman of Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and a member of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. She lives in Towaoc.*

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Op-ed: Herbert is wrong about Bears Ears monument, and it's not just Navajos who know it

Salt Lake Tribune, Feb, 27, 2016

By Herman Daniels Jr.

Gov. Gary Herbert recently [delivered a letter](#) to President Obama urging him to refrain from designating a new national monument in the state.

The governor raised the specter of the controversial Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument designated under the Clinton administration and warned that "history shows this sort of action will only exacerbate an already tense situation and will further perpetuate the longstanding public lands conflict."

In so doing, Herbert chose to conveniently ignore longstanding efforts by Native Americans, including Utah Navajos, to protect the Bears Ears.

Herbert's assessment of the repercussions of a possible Bears Ears National Monument is both biased and inaccurate. While national monuments do impact local communities, studies and experience show that most monuments spur economic growth, create jobs for locals and are a positive addition to communities. A Bears Ears National Monument would benefit local Native and non-Native American residents of San Juan County financially and practically, to say nothing of the natural and cultural resources it would protect. Additionally, the Bears Ears landscape is deserving of attention for the immense role it plays in the social,

cultural and spiritual lives of Native American people in the region.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition — a partnership of Zuni, Navajo, Hopi, Uintah and Ouray Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes — is seeking national monument status to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Bears Ears, including cliff dwellings, rock art and the gravesites of our ancestors, for generations of Americans to come. The Public Lands Initiative, unfortunately, fails to satisfactorily protect the region and does not respect Native American connections to the Bears Ears. Rather than including meaningful input from tribes, the PLI process has, on the whole, actively excluded the valuable opinions of Native Americans whose ancestral ties to this land date back thousands of years.

Despite false statements that seek to minimize the strong popular support for a Bears Ears National Monument, as a Navajo Nation council delegate who represents Utah Navajos, I know that we are not divided. The other tribes represented in the coalition are also firm in their support.

While a small handful of local Utahns oppose a national monument designation, we cannot ignore the large majority that supports one.



The Bears Ears region is already public land, and it should remain public for all Utahns and Americans to enjoy. This is a people's movement at its heart. The goal is to heal the land and people, to mend rifts between all, not to divide.

Presidential use of the 1906 Antiquities Act has been criticized for a century, primarily by those who wish to develop public lands instead of protect them. However, throughout the past century challenges have failed. The reality is that the Antiquities Act is an invaluable tool in the protection of public lands for the future.

These "longstanding public lands conflicts" are nothing new, and should not discourage

the president from designating Bears Ears — the country's most significant unprotected cultural landscape — a national monument.

Herbert's views do not represent the majority of Utah's Navajos, who overwhelmingly support a Bears Ears National Monument. And with two out of three Utahns supporting permanent protection of a Bears Ears National Monument, according to the 2016 State of the Rockies poll, it seems the governor is out of touch with what most Utahns want, too.

*Herman Daniels Jr. is a Navajo Nation Council Delegate representing Shonto, Naa'tsis'Áán, Oljato and Ts'ah Bii Kin.*

# Deseret News

## Op-ed: My view: Bears Ears and public lands

From Chris Frazer

Deseret News, Feb. 24, 2016

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865648204/My-view-Bears-Ears-and-public-lands.html>

Let me take you on a trip to San Juan County in southeastern Utah in the region proposed for the Bears Ears National Monument. You can stop your car almost anywhere, walk into the canyons, step over sagebrush, and duck under juniper tree branches. You can breathe in the antiquity.

I like this description. It's adapted from a travel column published in the Salt Lake Tribune nearly 70 years ago (May 16, 1948). The reporter, C.R. Sundwall, beckoned the reader to this part of southern Utah, which he found aloof to time, untrammled, and storied by indigenous people. This was a region of distinct beauty, serenity and honor.

But wait. The next sentences in Sundwall's article are every bit as descriptive, but not for the good of the people or the land and, maybe, defensible in retrospect of the time.

Sundwall invited readers to "knock on the door to the nearest log home." There, he writes, "you can witness the ancient culture of the Indians personified in personal belongings scrounged from the lands." These "unbroken vases, pots other objects made by the Indians" have been "exhumed from ancient homes or from the burying ground of the Indians who roamed the land at the time of the cliff dweller, about 1200 AD."

Articles about San Juan County, published over the next decade, segue from the valuable items

stolen from on the land — or close to its surface — to gouging the land for what lies below. The business page of the Ogden Standard-Examiner (June 26, 1953) reported that more than 125,000 acres of land in Southeastern Utah were leased within 10 days of a "blow-out" in a gas well drilled in the Bears Ears area of San Juan County. Four years later, Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. drilled a 4,300-foot Mississippian formation wildcat in this exact same area. A portion of the land was acquired from Salt Lake oilmen.

Looting and gas, oil and mineral exploration are not confined to the past. These were not signs for the time.

You would think that sensible reasonable people know that it's wrong to loot and rob. Yet, people continue to plunder the vases, pots and other objects from the Bears Ears region for selfish, personal gain. It's kind of like the actions of the thief who broke into my mother's house after my father had died and scrounged through her dresser, stealing items she had set aside in his memory. WWII medals, his favorite watch, and Catholic Rosary given to him by his own mother were connections from his life that she cherished.

You would think that oil and gas developers would be mindful of areas rich in cultural, historical and aesthetic value. OK, so I'm naive. Currently in San Juan County, there are 23 oil and gas producing operators on 524 currently



producing wells on file. In 2014, oil production was at its highest since 1985 (40,911,258 BBL and 41,079,871 BBL, respectively). Oil and gas companies are pushing for new leases in the Bears Ears region, particularly on Cedar Mesa and Tank Mesa.

So, here we have a history in the Bears Ears region of San Juan County marked by looting native artifacts and increasing oil and gas exploration in fragile surroundings.

We are also at a time in history when we have a chance to learn from past misuse; we have a chance to preserve into perpetuity the canyons, surrounding sage and tree sprinkled lands and to keep the remaining artifacts where they belong and with whom they belong.

The Bears Ears National Monument proposed by a coalition of five tribes would protect 1.9 million acres of unprotected land, 100,000 archeological sites and 18 wilderness study

areas and inventoried roadless areas. We have a chance to make good to a people and a land.

Well, let me take you on a trip to San Juan County in southeastern Utah. It's a beautiful place. It's a culturally cherished place. Let us not surrender to the "melancholy feeling" that possessed Weber County engineer J.C. Brown, when in 1923, he stood and viewed caves in the ledges along a canyon, realizing that this spectacular land and these remnants of ancient people could be doomed by the failure to protect them. We can't let that happen. National monument status is clearly the direction to travel.

*Chris Fraizer is the managing editor of a magazine published locally for an international audience of public safety dispatchers and calltakers.*



# Indian Country TODAY MEDIA NETWORK

## Preservation Is a Civil Rights Issue

Jonathan Bailey Indian Country Today Media Network

2/25/16

When it comes to treating Native peoples and their ancestral lands with respect, some politicians and outdoor enthusiasts seem to have a double standard. When ISIS ravages the antiquities in the Middle East, it is a deplorable show of terrorism, when your neighbors, politicians, decision-makers, and even individuals you consider as friends and family are vandalizing, developing, and otherwise destroying the antiquities and heritage of Native American peoples, it is declared as progress.

We have politicians and decision-makers who believe that Native American heritage is not worthy of preservation. Utah congressman Rob Bishop is quoted saying that Native American sites, specifically in reference to prehistoric paintings and carvings, are “not antiquities.” Utah also intends to spend fourteen million tax dollars on a conquest to eliminate federal management from Utah public lands—a move that Utah can only afford if thousands upon thousands of sacred Native American sites are bought, sold, and developed in favor of corporate and private interests.

**Bottom line:** we can start by listening to the many tribes who have allied to protect a region in southern Utah, known as the Bears Ears, as a National Monument. The 1.9 million acre proposal would provide better federal protections to a valued cultural landscape that would be otherwise vandalized, looted, and prospected for development.

We can continue by paving access for Native peoples to become a part of the political process by reforming a voting system that impedes many from voting. We must also become more inclusive to Native peoples with land management decisions, including full observance of the “good faith efforts” required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation act, to identify cultural sites and mitigate damages from undertakings on [Bureau of Land Management](#) land. We can also repair a land management system that has not grown up with the cumulative impacts of social media, illegal off-road trail pioneering, and the disclosure of sensitive locations. We should also no longer allow lease proposals to be recycled when they were pulled in favor of Native American heritage.

Another blatant disregard for Native American heritage comes in the form of the [Public Lands Initiative](#) (or PLI), working almost exclusively in favor of corporations and poorly managed off-road access. In short, the PLI would open loopholes within all special management designations therein, allowing for any and all protections to be significantly diminished. Furthermore, the bill would allocate all BLM lands within six counties, which is not currently protected or protected within the PLI, as open for energy development. The bill also blatantly acts against the 25 tribes requesting sacred lands to be preserved as the Bears Ears National Monument. Within the PLI, the tribes’



proposal would be cut by nearly 800,000 acres, downgraded to a National Conservation Area, and would weaken the idea of cooperative management by relegating the Native American voice down to two "management advisors."

The bill also transfers massive amounts of BLM land into state management, including 156,000 acres of the culturally-rich San Rafael Swell. Considering that the state of Utah has historically unfavorable responses to cultural resources and a record which heavily favors development at any cost, land swapping in Utah's favor is, in essence, judicial murder to these fragile cultural environments. Finally, the bill encourages an increase in off-road vehicle use in landscapes where sensitive cultural resources are in danger of or currently being destroyed by trail pioneering. Many of these trails actively drive upon or access sacred sites, fracturing artifacts, increasing

vandalism, and, at times, dismembering human burials.

We, as a people, must strive for better. Although preserving the treasured vestiges and landscapes of the ancestors to Native peoples is a blatant civil rights issue, these places also overwhelmingly inhabit public lands where it is each and every U.S. citizen's duty and opportunity to respect, treasure, and protect the past for the very same rights of their children and grandchildren.

*Jonathan Bailey is an artist devoted to the protection and long-term preservation of cultural resources and the landscapes that enclose them. His work can be found in his latest book: "[Rock Art: A Vision of a Vanishing Cultural Landscape](#)" with essays by Lawrence Baca, Greg Child, Andrew Gulliford, James Keyser, William Lipe, Lawrence Loendorf, Lorrان Meares, Scott Thybony, and Paul Tosa or via his [website](#) or [Instagram](#).*

# Deseret News

## Bishop's PLI gives away public lands that belong to all Americans

By Mitch Hescoc

By George Handley

Deseret News

Published: Sunday, Feb. 21 2016 12:00 a.m. MST

The PLI is motivated by the almost religious fervor for state's rights that has seized the West. There are certainly good reasons to distrust the federal government, but there is danger too in such categorical trust in the virtues of local control.

Congressman Rob Bishop's long-awaited Public Lands Initiative is especially disappointing to those who share increasing concern about our failure to take proper care of God's creation. It's not hard to look across the magnificent landscapes of Utah and feel awestruck by what God has given us and feel a desire to conserve the land's health and beauty as good stewards. These lands should remain safe in the public trust for future generations.

Such a guarantee, unfortunately, is not part of Congressman Bishop's plan. The PLI was advertised as a partnership, a collaborative, good-faith process to provide long-term certainty for the protection and balanced use of Utah's most precious resource — our bountiful lands. However, the PLI favors fossil fuel interests over all the other stakeholders involved. Five Native American tribes realized this before the rest of us when they left the "collaborative" process in disgust in December.

We have seen more criticism than praise of the proposal from such reputable conservation organizations such as the Grand Canyon Trust, the Center for Western Priorities, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship (CRS), Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and others. Bishop conveniently dismisses them as the criticisms of "extremists." Stewardship, we believe, involves helping human well-being but in the broadest sense: working for our material and spiritual health and assisting present and future generations. Extraction for short-term gain at the cost of our health and the health of the earth is no "grand bargain."

The PLI is motivated by the almost religious fervor for state's rights that has seized the West. There are certainly good reasons to distrust the federal government, but there is danger too in such categorical trust in the virtues of local control. How can we trust advocates for private and state interests to live up to the high demands of our responsibilities for creation care when they so consistently ignore science or contradict the basic principles of ecological health? The proposed expediting of oil and gas leasing processes would prevent even the most minimal review of environmental impacts or potential destruction of irreplaceable cultural, historic or natural resources. Even in some areas designated as "recreation zones," the PLI promotes disruptive mineral and energy development.

While Congressman Bishop says he is balancing these reckless development plans with a portion of the bill dedicated to "conservation," these are designations in name only. The congressman's



definitions of “wilderness,” “national conservation areas” and “national monuments” make unprecedented changes to these protections, allowing grazing to continue in perpetuity and allowing industrial development right up to the edges of “protected” areas, like the Bush administration’s effort to open drilling adjacent to Arches National Park.

“Wilderness Study Areas” are given up for development; according to Congressman Bishop, their virtues have been studied enough. The PLI undermines the integrity of important laws like the Wilderness Act that provide the highest levels of protection to our most treasured places.

In addition to its conservation shortcomings, Congressman Bishop’s proposal deserves special criticism for its determination to give away public lands that belong to all Americans. While the PLI wants to give away hundreds of miles of trails and footpaths and tens of thousands of acres of national public lands to the development interests of the state of Utah, this is neither the wish of the majority of Utahns nor of Americans. These lands should be protected so that all who visit — from both inside and outside of Utah — can experience the beauty of God’s creation.

Let Utahns keep sharing the wonder and awe of creation with future generations and with all Americans. Scrap this bill and come up with a plan that takes seriously our responsibility to reduce our impact on the planet and that values Utah’s lands for their spiritual and not merely their extractive value.

We need a plan that answers the call to be stewards of God’s gifts. Congressman Bishop’s PLI is not that plan.

*Mitch Hescox is president of the Evangelical Environmental Network and George Handley is author of the memoir, "Home Waters," and a board member of LDS Earth Stewardship.*

# THE HILL

## Senate blocks poorly disguised assault on Native American heritage

*The Hill*, February 19, 2016

Carleton R. Bowekaty, *councilman for the Pueblo of Zuni*

There is great enthusiasm in Indian Country for the preservation of our living cultures, the celebration of our history and the protection of our sacred sites. For more than a century, several Native American sites have been thoughtfully protected by Congress and presidents of both parties. Yet areas of great importance to our people still remain unprotected. This is why an unprecedented partnership of the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni tribal governments has formed to honor, protect and preserve our heritage. The first such tribally led proposal, for a Bears Ears National Monument in Southeast Utah, reflects the shared history and deep connection our people have with these public lands.

While the response to our proposal in Native American circles, and with the public in Utah, has been heartening, some in Congress have resorted to centuries-old tactics to divide Native people – disingenuously pitting one tribal group against the other. The latest such attempt played out in the U.S. Senate recently where Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) pushed an amendment to eviscerate the very law that was originally passed to help protect Native American

sacred religious and cultural sites – the Antiquities Act.

Places like Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, Chimney Rock in Colorado and Hovenweep in Utah are all examples of sites important to the Native American community that were protected through the Antiquities Act. The Antiquities Act is also responsible for the protection of more than half of what are now our National Parks.

Lee's amendment would not only block the protection of the Bears Ears National Monument, but all future sites of historic, cultural and natural wonder. Protecting public lands continues to have great support. In January, the Colorado College released a poll showing that 80 percent of Westerners, including Utahans, are in favor of future presidents protecting public lands with a national monument designation. People around the West continue to call on the president to use his authority to protect our heritage, wildlife habitat and access to outdoor recreation. Yet, despite this, Lee and others continue to pursue failed efforts to obstruct communities' efforts to



safeguard important historic, cultural and natural sites.

These are not merely symbolic protections we seek. The ancestral lands of the Bears Ears region continue to face rampant and ongoing looting and destruction of artwork and gravesites. These are acts that literally rob Native American people of spiritual connections, as well as a sense of place and history. They are insults to the dignity of our societies and traditional knowledge.

When President Theodore Roosevelt used the Antiquities Act to protect the Grand Canyon he said, "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve upon it; not a bit. What you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you." This is a sentiment that rings true for the Bears Ears. Our people have lived in the Bears Ears region since time began. Our

traditional oral stories speak of this area and certain spiritual resources are found only here.

By visiting Bears Ears and giving our prayers and conducting our ceremonies, we heal our bodies and help heal the land itself. This is why we are working on a proposal to bring people together.

It is clear that the Native American community and the American people still understand the wisdom of allowing the president to directly protect public lands. And it is clear that there are places that are still in dire need of appropriate safeguards. Therefore, we are glad that the majority of senators opposed Lee's efforts to undermine a bedrock law that has allowed for the honor and protection of Native American sites across the country.

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Op-ed: Why the PLI failed American Indians in San Juan County

Salt Lake Tribune, Feb 15 2016

By Willie Grayeyes

The [op-ed by Rep. Jason Chaffetz](#) ("PLI gives tribes more of what they want in Bears Ears," Feb. 7) demonstrated exactly why Native Americans have been failed by the Public Lands Initiative and by members of Congress who continue to tell us they know what is best for tribes.

While it is disappointing that Chaffetz and Rep. Rob Bishop ignored the Bears Ears conservation proposal developed by their own constituents and tribal governments, it is far more insulting that they now argue it is good for tribes.

Utah Diné Bikéyah is a grassroots Native American nonprofit that created the Bears Ears proposal and has engaged with Chaffetz's office at every step of the PLI. We are saddened that after the effort and ambition that went into trying to resolve entrenched land-use challenges in Utah, the result is a widely disdained proposal that has little or no chance of passing Congress.

The premise of Chaffetz's hollow argument is instructive as to the roots of this failure. Chaffetz presumes a Bears Ears National Monument signed into law by President Obama would require management of the area by the National Park Service and that management would disregard tribes' concerns. Had he read our detailed proposal that we hand-delivered to him, he would know that the five tribes of the Inter-Tribal Coalition are asking for a national monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Our proposal gives tribes a seat at the table in management decisions to avoid the kind of past conflicts that have occurred. In fact, many of President Obama's national monuments are managed by the BLM and Forest Service and explicitly guarantee Native American access for gathering and traditional uses.

Just as alarming is Chaffetz's claim that the PLI proposal to transfer Native American sacred sites and tribal reservation lands to the state of Utah for development is "good" for tribes. These are our ancestral lands and our reservations, which are to be held in "trust" by the federal government. The PLI would throw all trust out the door and transfer tribal lands to oil and gas developers.

Finally, Chaffetz fails to even contemplate the question of how the PLI gets signed into law, given the broad opposition from tribes, conservationists, recreationists and others.

It is not surprising that the draft PLI is so problematic. Tribes were forced to walk away from the PLI because it repeatedly failed to respect Native Americans who are the majority of citizens in San Juan County. The Bears Ears proposal received 64 percent of all of the San Juan County citizen comments of support during the public comment process, yet the county and Bishop and Chaffetz ignored this result. We strongly suspect others were similarly failed by the false promise of the PLI.

Utah Diné Bikéyah cares deeply about the future of San Juan County, whose majority of citizens are Native American, but we view land conservation and cultural preservation as the foundations of a strong



local economy for generations to come. We believe that depleting public lands of their natural resources is an economic dead end.

We don't yet know if President Obama is willing to act on behalf of tribes, but we do know that the PLI has failed to listen to Native Americans in San Juan County and has completely ignored those tribes outside Utah who trace their ancestors to these lands. Simply put, we believe that the Obama administration may do a better job of listening to tribes through respectful government-to-government dialogue than the Utah delegation has done.

Native Americans look forward to advancing a Bears Ears National Monument that will protect our public lands, strengthen all people and promote the kind of healing our country needs.

*Willie Grayeyes is chairman of Utah Diné Bikéyah and lives in Navajo Mountain.*

# ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL



## Cedar Mesa land proposal good for all

By Kevin K. Washburn / Law Professor, University Of New Mexico

Albuquerque Journal

Sunday, February 7th, 2016 at 12:02am

Just on the other side of the Four Corners, in Utah's San Juan County, there is an area known as Cedar Mesa, an amazing plateau that rises to 6,500 feet. It is the site of deep canyons and red rocks.

Just to the north is a strikingly beautiful feature that rises to nearly 9,000 feet called the Bears Ears, so named for the silhouette it produces when viewed from the south.

On Bears Ears are high-altitude forests filled with quaking aspens, tall pines and wild game of all sorts. Surrounding Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears is a landscape with more than 100,000 petroglyphs and numerous ancient Indian dwellings, proving that this land has been visited by Indian tribes, and their predecessors, for thousands of years.

The area is also a dream location for hikers, campers and hunters and other visitors to the public lands.

A coalition of tribes, led by the Hopi and the Navajo, and including the Utes of Colorado and Utah and several of New Mexico's pueblos have asked President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to declare this landscape a national monument to be protected alongside other nearby national treasures, such as Arches, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. Their request has been joined by national and regional conservation groups.

Protecting this sort of resource is precisely the reason Congress gave presidents this power in the Antiquities Act in 1906.

President Teddy Roosevelt used the law to protect New Mexico's own Chaco Canyon and Gila Cliff Dwellings as well as the Grand Canyon before it became a national park. All of these are national treasures.

The truth is that it would not be economically costly to protect Bears Ears. This area remains undeveloped largely because it has never been viewed as having especially rich mineral resources. Though the archeological resources don't have a measurable price tag like coal, oil and gas, many people agree that the archeology is far richer than any mineral resources that could be extracted. And the ancient art needs much stronger protection from looters.

In addition to approaching the White House for a national monument, interested citizens of the region have also encouraged congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz, both Utah Republicans, to develop legislation to protect the area. Tribes have been outspoken about the need for management of this land and have expressed frustration that both congressmen have seemed to ignore tribal concerns and have refused to engage with tribes even when they sat in the same room.

After much foot-dragging, Bishop and Chaffetz last month finally released a public



land initiative for this area that is focused more on facilitating mineral development and less on protecting archeological resources.

Bishop, who chairs the House Natural Resources Committee, has bristled at criticism from tribes. To punish the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation for expressing past frustrations, Bishop has proposed to transfer thousands of acres of federal land within the tribe's Uncompahgre Reservation to the State of Utah in exchange for state lands outside the reservation. His stated purpose was to consolidate within the reservation the scattered parcels of state land held for the state education trust fund to facilitate mineral development and "maximize revenue for Utah's schoolkids."

Of all the federal land that exists throughout Utah, Bishop's decision to focus the consolidation effort on taking the land

within the Ute Indian reservation is diabolically genius. It pits the Indian tribe against schoolchildren. Let's hope that our own congressional delegation opposes Bishop's cynical and vindictive strategy.

The fact is, all of us must compromise on the use and protection of federal public lands and resources. If partisan members of Congress are more interested in being vindictive than developing real negotiations, then the White House may have no choice but to lead the effort to develop a sensible plan

President Obama has angered the left for allowing drilling in the Arctic Ocean and angered conservatives – and even Indian tribes – for attempting to reduce our nation's reliance on coal-fired power. The president knows how to hear from all of the constituents and make hard but fair decisions. Bears Ears should be protected.

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Op-ed: PLI fails to protect America's treasures, including Bears Ears, so Obama should

By Scott Groene - Salt Lake Tribune

First Published Feb 06 2016 03:00PM

Rep. Rob Bishop recently unveiled his draft legislation for the public lands of eastern Utah — what he calls the "Public Lands Initiative" (PLI). Unfortunately, it is a fossil fuel development bill that would roll back wilderness protection and further the state's land grab efforts.

The PLI actually grew out of a congressional hearing on America's Red Rock Wilderness Act in 2009. First introduced by Utah Rep. Wayne Owens, the act would designate roughly 9.5 million of the 23 million acres of Bureau of Land Management land in the state as wilderness.

At the 2009 hearing, the Utah senators and representatives testified in unison that the act should be put on hold while they were given a chance to resolve Utah's wilderness issues.

Seven years later, the PLI shows that the delegation has failed.

The draft PLI is an assault on our public lands. It dedicates more land to permanent fossil fuel development than it conserves as wilderness. It opens up lands currently managed like wilderness for coal mining and oil and gas drilling. In fact, less public land would be managed as wilderness than is the case today. The land it does designate as wilderness includes unprecedented caveats and loopholes.

It also completely fails the Bears Ears region. Parts of Bears Ears would be

dedicated to oil and gas, uranium or potash development. And the bill designates a vast network of dirt trails for off-road vehicles that would facilitate more vandalism of cultural resources.

Finally, the PLI shamelessly furthers the state of Utah's land grab fever by giving away thousands of miles of dirt roads, two-tracks, and cow trails as "highways." And it gifts the state and counties tens of thousands of acres of public lands for pet projects.

This one-sided affair is opposed by Native American tribes, outdoor recreation interests and conservation organizations. Support is mustered only from the usual anti-wilderness suspects such as the fossil fuel lobby.

What we have is déjà vu all over again.

In other words, we've seen such bills before. Over a dozen times across two decades, in fact, the Utah congressional delegation has conjured up bills written for a small number of southern Utah's local politicians representing less than 5 percent of Utahns. All were bills that failed to recognize that these lands belong to all Americans — to you and to me. For that reason their efforts have always crashed in Congress.

In contrast, during the same period two Utah wilderness bills have succeeded: both recognized the public's role in land management and both had the conservation community's support.



While the PLI's vision might be red meat for a few, its radical provisions will not pass Congress and would not escape a presidential veto.

But there is a silver lining to all of this. The PLI's failure is likely to result in President Obama designating the Bears Ears National Monument, as requested by the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Northern Ute, and Uintah and Ouray Ute nations. Twenty-five Native American tribes with ties to the Bears Ears region have expressed their support for protecting this living cultural landscape.

The Utah delegation knew that a one-sided proposal would force the president to act. Now that we have seen the failed PLI attempt, we urge President Obama to act quickly to conserve the Bears Ears.

This is an outcome that two-thirds of Utahns and large numbers of San Juan County residents have already said they want. If it

happens, state political leaders should join with us in celebrating the protection of America's most significant threatened cultural landscape.

If they choose to rant and rave instead, it will only add to the poisonous political atmosphere reflected by Phil Lyman's illegal off-road vehicle protest ride or the seizure of Malheur by armed extremists. That will also make it unlikely that there will be future agreement on Utah wilderness because their rhetoric will not allow it.

The time has come for Utah's politicians to recognize that these lands belong to all Americans and that ideologically-driven, anti-public-land legislation like the PLI is, and always has been, doomed to failure. With this turn, then we can truly start the difficult work of resolving differences to benefit Utah and America's red rock wilderness.

*Scott Groene is executive director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.*

# Los Angeles Times

## Op-Ed: It's time for Obama to make Bear Ears in Utah a national monument

*Los Angeles Times*, January 21, 2016

Bruce Babbitt

Out west, there's a group proposing alternative ways of managing federal lands. It isn't the one occupying that wildlife refuge in Oregon; it's a coalition of Native American tribes that has proposed a new type of national monument in southern Utah.

Navajo, Hopi, Ute and Zuni tribal members — the original occupants of this region — are seeking, in their words, “to work constructively and respectfully with the Federal agencies” to protect nearly 2 million acres of their ancestral lands.

Navajo, Hopi, Ute and Zuni tribal members -- the original occupants of this region -- are seeking ... to protect nearly 2 million acres of their ancestral lands.

Across the centuries native groups have left evidence of their occupancy in the remains of thousands of stone villages, cliff dwellings, hogans, pit houses and granaries. In recent decades an increasing number of visitors have been drawn to the spectacular landscape in this remote corner of Utah, east of the Colorado River and south of Canyonlands National Park. The region also has attracted vandals intent on grave robbing and looting these prehistoric sites. Miners and ranchers have at times denied tribes access to sacred sites and areas for gathering medicinal herbs and plants.

Tribal leaders are not demanding return of these ancestral lands. They acknowledge that public lands are part of our national patrimony, and should be held in perpetuity for the use and enjoyment of all Americans.

The tribes are, however, seeking a larger role in the protection of their sacred sites and access to places of ceremonial importance. Management of the land, they contend, should incorporate traditional knowledge and respect for the spiritual values inherent in the natural world. In the words of a Ute tribal member, Malcolm Lehi, “We can still hear the songs and prayers of our ancestors on every mesa and in every canyon.”

For nearly five years tribal representatives met with local residents, state officials and congressman Rob Bishop, a Utah Republican who claimed to be drafting consensus land-use legislation that would address their concerns. Talks failed to reach agreement.

So in October the tribes submitted a petition to President Obama, requesting he designate this area a national monument using his authority under the Antiquities Act. It would be called Bears Ears after a distinctive landform rising above Cedar Mesa in the center of the region.



It's a new model of national monument, however, that the tribes are proposing. Lands currently controlled mainly by the Bureau of Land Management, but also including some held by the Forest Service and the National Park Service, would be jointly administered by a partnership between the tribes and the federal agencies.

The secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture would retain final decision-making authority in the event that management issues could not be worked out at the ground level. Differences would be subject to mediation before final decision by the secretaries. All existing uses and vested rights, including the grazing rights held by local ranchers, would be recognized and protected.

Bishop and the rest of the Utah congressional delegation voiced opposition to the tribal proposal right away. And Wednesday, Bishop finally released a draft of his land-use bill, which would clear the way for accelerated oil and gas leasing and road development.

The Bishop bill then drops a poison pill, by means of a "gag rule" so unusual that it is without precedent in land management

legislation. It stipulates that federal agencies cannot consider or take into account any tribal recommendation that has not been endorsed in advance by either the state of Utah or a local county commission.

Bishop's legislation is a disappointing conclusion after five years of negotiations. Native Americans will certainly see it as a diversionary tactic, designed to forestall a monument declaration by the president.

The next move is Obama's. To be sure, he should request and consider responses and suggestions from all sides on the tribes' national monument proposal. He can shape or modify it on many points relating to boundaries, preparation of management plans, dispute resolution and the roles the Forest Service, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management will play.

But these issues of enhanced land and cultural protection have festered long enough in Utah. The president should resolve them now by creating Bears Ears National Monument.

*Bruce Babbitt was secretary of the Department of the Interior from 1993 to 2001.*

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Our Turn: Tribes unite to protect lands

Arizona Republic, December 20, 2015

Eric Descheenie and Alfred Lomahquahu

At this month's United Nations Conference on Climate Change, there was increased recognition for the need for all leaders to work collaboratively with indigenous peoples, the original caretakers of the earth, to solve the world's problems.

The Indigenous Elders And Medicine Peoples Council released a statement emphasizing how, "we must work in unity to help Mother Earth heal so that she can bring back balance and harmony for all her children."

This is exactly what Native American tribes are doing to protect our ancestral lands - the Bears Ears, beautiful forest and high plateau lands located in San Juan County, Utah. This is a place of traditional religious significance to tribes of the southwest United States.

Our people have lived in the Bears Ears country since time began. The land is a unique place where we practice religious traditional rights for the purpose of attaining or restoring health for human communities and our natural world as an interconnected and inextricable whole.

Traditional leaders depend on the preservation of these lands for healing. Yet despite this connection, this landscape remains unprotected, leading to ongoing looting and rampant destruction of the structures, artwork and grave sites. These acts literally rob Native American people of spiritual connections, as well as a sense of place and history.

In Paris, the Indigenous Elders And Medicine Peoples Council talked about the shared responsibility to "create real solutions and do something right for the future of all life." In that vein, the five sovereign tribal governments of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, Zuni Tribe, Hopi Tribe, and Navajo Nation delivered a formal proposal in October requesting U.S. President Barack Obama exercise his authority via the Antiquities Act to designate the Bears Ears a national monument.

Our proposal combines both Western science and Traditional Knowledge in establishing something never accomplished before; true collaborative management between the United States government and five Indian Nations. It has the potential to shape intergovernmental cooperation throughout the country and the world, as we help turn back the tide of the exploitation that injures us all.

This came from local tribal members' years of work living in southeastern Utah. In 2012 local tribal members tried to work with local county officials and Congressional leaders to protect Bears Ears. This effort was intended to participate in the Utah Congressional Public Lands Initiative aimed at resolving some of Utah's most challenging public land disputes, due in part to proposed development through mining and energy extraction.



After having their input routinely pushed to the side or not considered altogether, these leaders shifted their attention to neighboring tribes who also maintain traditional relationships with the Bears Ears. Responding to the injustice sustained, the people's torch was willfully handed to our unified governments. In doing so, we evoke and elevate our people's rights to a true government-to-government relationship, an even stage earned on the backs of our ancestors.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition stands with our people. Our intention is to preserve and protect our ability to heal as a people. The land must be able to provide for a healthy and satisfying life now and into the future. Our children-all of our children-depend on it.

*Eric Descheenie is an adviser to the Navajo Nation president and Alfred Lomahquahu is vice chairman of the Hopi Tribe. They co-chair the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.*

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Get on board with public lands

Salt Lake Tribune, May 31, 2016

After another wonderful week outdoors in southern Utah, we drove home to avoid the Memorial Day weekend traffic and give our space to workers going outdoors this weekend.

I was awed by the thousands of people on the roads headed outdoors in their camping rigs with all kinds of gear, obviously headed into Utah's fabulous national parks and public lands.

An Outdoor Industry Association study found that outdoor recreation generates an economic engine of \$637 billion in revenue each year in the U.S.

It is incredulous to me and many others that our Utah congressional delegation and state

Legislature would oppose public lands and attempt to take this economic benefit away from we, the people, or that they would obstruct the Bears Ears National Monument.

I'm a Wyoming native. Over 60 years, I've seen what happened when the billionaires came in and bought the big ranches and special places, ultimately shutting off public access to wild country. It's our responsibility to protect, preserve and restore our wild lands for future generations, and I urge Utah's politicians to get on board with this.

Lance Holter, Salt Lake City

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Bears Ears would be a truly 'Native' monument

Salt Lake Tribune, May 30, 2016

I went to the Utah Capitol last week to hear members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition present their argument in favor of the Bears Ears National Monument. It is clear to me that there is significant support for the monument among Utah's native tribes and Rep. Rob Bishop's portrayal of this group as "outsiders" is nothing short of an intentional misinformation campaign.

If designated, this monument will be the most deeply and truly "Native" of all federal, public land units. This will provide the best protection against the ongoing desecration of American Indian antiquities that are continually looted in areas accessible by ORV. It will ensure that the

Bears Ears is managed with the greatest environmental sensitivity. The natural beauty and inspiration of this landscape will be forever preserved for ours and future generations to experience and enjoy.

Monument designation for these lands which are not only sacred for Utah's native communities, but are national and even global treasures, is the best means of stewardship for what we humans can narrow-mindedly destroy, but cannot create. Let's please protect and preserve, for future generations of all Americans, the wonders of the Bears Ears.

Matt Adolphson, Salt Lake City



# THE DAILY SENTINEL

## Push on to protect Bears Ears

Unlikely allies call for monument designation of 1.9 million acres of world-class climbing, cultural sites

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (CO), May 28, 2016



*1 North Six Shooter Peak, center-left, and South Six Shooter Peak, center-right, are prized climbing areas that would become part of a proposed Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah. Climbers have formed a common alliance with a union of five Native American tribes to press for federal protection of the major swath of land near Canyonlands National Park, which in addition to the world-class climbing routes contains more than 100,000 Native American archaeological and cultural sites.*

Five tribes whose ancestors once hunted the canyon country of eastern Utah, who their descendants say still haunt those rocks, have joined forces with unlikely allies in urging a new national monument in Utah.

The tribes are joined by newcomers who see fun, challenge and solitude in those same rugged places.

The various players in the proposal to establish a 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument are joined together by new recreational opportunities and age-old traditions of the rough country.

Bears Ears gets its name from a pair of bluffs that conjure up the image of an approaching bear.

Opponents of the monument proposal also have long memories, as well as different views of how to manage the steep walls of twisting ochre canyons that are a hallmark of the northernmost reaches of the monument proposal.

President Bill Clinton's 1996 designation of the 1.8 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument without consulting local officials still rankles, said Jonathan Cox, spokesman for Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

Backers of the Bears Ears monument gathered last week with the aid of Aspen-based EcoFlight at Canyonlands Airport to fly over the northernmost portion of the proposed national monument, in hopes that they can get the ear of President Obama to extol the Bears Ears area.

The idea of a national monument grew out of a gathering of the tribes — the Navajo, Utes, Ute Mountain Utes, Hopi, and Zuni — in response to a bill by U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, that would set aside 1.2 million acres in a national conservation area.

What the monument proponents want, however, is recognition — recognition of the tribes' historical connection to the lands and recognition of the recreational and economic potential of rock climbing there.

Supporters are hoping that any monument proclamation includes mention of rock

climbing as an important, recognized, activity.

Cornell Tsalat, a Zuni medicine man from Zuni, New Mexico, said the monument would keep the land as it is and has been since his forebears set foot in the ruddy desert dust.

"Our ancestors lived around here for centuries, for time immemorial," Tsalat said. "We never left these places."

The turquoise prized by Zunis and other tribes is a sign that Zunis have been — and still are — present, Tsalat said.

Monument designation would go far to underscore the importance of the high mesas and canyons that hold at least 100,000 Native American archaeological and cultural sites.

Rock climbers also feel a bond with the territory, though for different reasons, said Caroline Gleich, a professional athlete and rock climber from Salt Lake City.

"There is such an emotional connection to the rocks" for climbers, who search them for handholds and footholds, Gleich said.

The Indian Creek region around Six Shooter peaks is hallowed territory for climbers.

A climber visiting France need only mention having ascended "the Creek" to be immediately understood as having climbed Indian Creek, Gleich said.

From the air, the Wingate sandstone — the remains of sand dunes dating back to the late Triassic Period 200 million years ago, when the first dinosaurs were exploring the earth — looks like orange- and red-edged jigsaw pieces scattered about in uneven, ruffled fashion against a green and khaki backdrop.

From below, the steep walls of the canyons feature remarkably consistent vertical cracks that allow climbers to scramble up with a minimum of equipment, Gleich said.

Climbers want to work with the tribes, Gleich said, down to groups approaching a wall by following in one another's footsteps so as to disturb as little an area as possible, and by packing out their own waste.

Climbers also would respect areas deemed out of bounds by the tribes, she said.

Climbers, in addition, could be a separate set of watchers for the tribes, helping them locate ancient, long-forgotten sites or similar activities, Gleich said.

The two groups share a disdain for energy development within the proposed Bears Ears monument borders.

Development for energy and potash — used in the production of fertilizers — is deemed to be the biggest threat to the area, especially on Hatch Point, which sits between Indian Creek and the snowcapped La Sal Mountains to the east.

For climbers, Gleich said, development would be an unwelcome disturbance of the isolation and connection with nature that can be found among the rocky walls.

Coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, "It's there for a purpose" inside Mother Earth and ought to be left alone, said Tsalat.

The Zuni people "don't want that disturbed," Tsalat said, adding with a smile, "That's more than likely why we don't have casinos."

Getting the five tribes to agree on a common goal — Tsalat nodded when the task was compared to peace breaking out among fans at a Denver Broncos-Oakland Raiders football game — was no small feat.

Joining the tribes with climbers could be a potent political force, though.

There are 3 million to 6 million climbers in the United States, a potentially significant voting bloc, said Erik Murdock, policy director for the Access Fund, which was



founded to support access to climbing locations.

It's a more natural alliance than it might appear, said Octavias Seowtewa, also a Zuni medicine man.

"Before there was a Utah or Arizona, there was one vast land that our people used," Seowtewa said. "Look at it this way, our ancestors were the first climbers."

## **Letter to the Editor: More is better**

The St. George Spectrum, May 28, 2016

The solution is to limit the number of visitors, perhaps via a lottery-reservation process. And where do the excess visitors go? Not just to Bryce, Capitol Reef, Grand Canyon -- they're getting overcrowded, too.

They need to go to additional new national parks and monuments. There is a great need for more parks and monuments -- and the state and its more rural counties should be in the forefront of such advocacy: San Rafael Swell, Bears Ears, Greater Canyonlands, Book Cliffs, etc. And we need to advocate for the funding required to manage, operate and maintain these new parks and monuments

Ignore the governor, Mike Noel and our congressional delegation. The future of rural Utah is in more parks and monuments, not less.

Joe Andrade

Salt Lake City



# THE DAILY SENTINEL

## Combat vet climber finds particular solace in Bears Ears

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (CO), May 28, 2016

When the American Alpine Club put out a call to its members for letters about the values in the proposed Bears Ears National Monument, 251 Coloradans wrote in.

One of those Coloradans, Scott Partan of Avon, said he found comfort on the sheer rock walls of Indian Creek after two combat tours in Iraq.

Partan, a New Hampshire native who enlisted in the Army right out of high school, served two tours and then went to college in Georgia, where he graduated in three years.

“I didn’t have time to think and decompress,” Partan said.

Eventually he began to suffer from depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide.

A friend introduced him to climbing in the White Mountains in New Hampshire and he found “a purpose and a mission.”

“I realized that climbing was kind of an answer,” Partan said. “It helped me deal with replacing the intensity of combat in a healthy way.”

In combat and in climbing, “You get a little scared and you have to have your ducks in a row and have your gear ready.”

An even better answer lay in the mountains of Colorado and eventually, the red-rock climbing in neighboring Utah, he said.

“Before I even touched the rock, I realized healing properties in the way the place felt,” Partan said.

Indian Creek, he said, “makes me feel like a normal person again.”

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Native Americans have a voice, and they're using it

Salt Lake Tribune, May 27, 2016

Utah Republicans work overtime to paint the image of a dictatorial President Obama making Bears Ears National Monument on a whim. This federal bogeyman scare tactic is getting as old and weak as the ruins so many desperately want to protect. They want to beat the anti-government drums so they can further entrench this poorly-informed mentality that gives them great political success in rural areas.

In reality, this effort came from Native Americans who believe this land should be protected now and not in the year 2050 after fracking and strip mining have taken their toll. State officials had a chance to work with Natives in establishing protections, but they burned that bridge over years of missing deadlines, ignoring

communications, and even breaking the law by driving ATVs through lands closed for the protection of artifacts.

They need to stop the disrespect and crying foul when they don't get their way. Implying Natives are influenced by "outside," "greedy" environmental groups, as if they couldn't think of this on their own, is paternalistic and borders on racist.

Natives are not the white man's burden. Natives have a voice, and to the Republicans' dismay, they're using it.

Garon Coriz, M.D.

Salt Lake City

*Originally from Santa Domingo Pueblo*



# Deseret News

## Letter: 'Utah values'

Deseret News, May 26, 2016

"Utah values" is a phrase we hear frequently, mostly in the political arena and ostensibly to convey that they live by a higher standard. Let's look at recent examples of our politicians' supposed Utah values:

Governor Herbert engages in a "pay-to-play" lobbying session. Once it became public, he was irritated that he was exposed, claiming he thought he was among friends, as if being among friends behind closed doors somehow makes it okay.

His Republican challenger, Jonathan Johnson, receives \$500,000 in contributions from his business partner. Like all other politicians, he baldly asserts that he somehow, against all human inclinations, won't be influenced by the money.

Our legislators use fallacious justifications in allocating millions of dollars to charter

schools instead of our underfunded public teachers and schools.

Just check out how many legislators will benefit from the prison relocation or the \$55 million extravaganza to invest in an out-of-state coal port, to name but a few! One legislator has already been identified as having an undisclosed development project near the existing prison.

Representative Bishop opposes the Bears Ears monument. Coincidentally, Bishop receives significant support from the coal and oil industries that would love nothing more than to decimate our lands.

When politicians quote their "Utah values", it would serve us all well to examine what is in it for them! Utahns deserve better.

Scott F. Young  
Salt Lake City

# THE DENVER POST

## denverpost.com

### In Colorado, a greater appreciation for public lands

The Denver Post, May 25, 2016



Mark Maryboy speaks as Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) and Tribal leaders stand in support of protecting the Bears Ears at a rally today in the Utah State Capitol Rotunda in Salt Lake City, May 18. Attendees at the rally called for President Obama to protect sacred sites and honor ancestral lands by designating Bears Ears National Monument.

Congratulations to Colorado for passing Public Lands Day, recognizing that land protection is important. Contrast that to Utah: Last week, the Utah legislature passed a resolution condemning a proposed Bears Ears National Monument. This proposal came from a coalition of five Native American tribes wanting to protect lands that are densely populated with ancient ruins in beautiful Colorado Plateau red-rock canyons. This is a first for the nation, a proposal to the White House by Native Americans to protect antiquities using the Antiquities Act. Utah's politics has created a hard-line anti-conservation movement and has been pushing to win state control over federal public lands that will lead to less access and more exploitation and money for commercial land-use advocates.

I hope we can avoid that sentiment and support public land protection for the most beautiful lands in the nation and the Bears Ears in our Colorado Plateau backyard.

**Thomas Alley, Broomfield**



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Bears Ears rally inspires, but hearing disappoints

Salt Lake Tribune, May 24, 2016

By Valoree Dowell

I attended the rally and hearing at the Utah State Capitol May 17 concerning support of Bears Ears National Monument.

The rally inspired. Native Americans, in Salt Lake and from Monument Valley, representing many thousands of tribal members, spoke in one positive, humble and honest voice encouraging President Obama to preserve and protect this sacred and irreplaceable land. Former enemies called one another "brother," united for the future of their ancient homelands for all.

In contrast, the hearing disappointed. Representatives pontificated in divisive, prideful voices, insisting Utah is a country unto itself, disregarding the fact that Bears Ears is public land belonging to all

Americans. A single Native American (conveniently from Mike Noel's district) "represented" the native opposition to a monument. At one point, this august body considered amending their resolution opposing any presidential action to create a national monument by claiming the president has only "alleged" authority to employ the Antiquities Act — an Act ratified by the U.S. Congress in 1906 and used by presidents from Teddy Roosevelt on to protect treasures beyond measure.

I add my voice to the rational and overwhelming support — beyond the House chamber — for Bears Ears National Monument.



## **This Green Earth - May 24, 2016**

KPCW, May 24, 2016

In the first half of the program, Chris and Nell speak with Christopher Wolsko, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Oregon State University about a recent study comparing liberal and conservative views on environmental stewardship. In the second half of the program, Peter Metcalf stops by to discuss the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.



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## False documents fuel controversy in Bears Ears National Monument debate

FOX 13, MAY 24, 2016



SALT LAKE CITY -- On her way to Salt Lake City from southern Utah, Cynthia Wilson stopped at a gas station. What she found on the bulletin board proved upsetting.

"It's really offensive for the Navajo people," said Wilson, a member of the Navajo Nation.

The flier she spotted was an invite to join a designation party for Bears Ears. It read in part, "Utah Navajos, stay away from our party."

"It's highlighted that everyone's invited except the Utah Navajos," said Wilson, holding up a copy of the flier.

Bears Ears is roughly 1.9 million acres of land in southern Utah named for the Bears Ears Buttes. Besides sharing similar

geographical features of Canyonlands National Park, it is home to tens-of-thousands of archaeological sites. Parts of the land are considered sacred to the Navajo Nation.

Wilson is the outreach coordinator for Diné Bikéyah, an advocacy group trying to earn the land a designation as a national monument.

Diné Bikéyah means "land of the people" in Navajo. The flier she found falsely stated it was an invite to join the group for the celebration.

It is not the only misleading document Wilson has discovered. A letter that appears to be from the U.S. Department of Interior includes claims that President Obama is

preparing to take land away from the Navajo Nation.

The Department of Interior responded, writing:

"It has been brought to our attention that an inauthentic news release has been circulating around the Navajo Nation. This was not sent out from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs or from the U.S. Department of Interior.

President Obama has no intentions of reducing the size of the Navajo Reservation. The Secretary of the Interior is still committed to placing 500,000 acres of land into trust nationwide by the end of President Obama's term."

The letters and fliers are another sign of what has become a bitter fight. Several Utah lawmakers, including Gov. Gary Herbert, sit on the other side of the debate.

"Talking about the desire we have for them 'not' to designate a national monument here

in Utah," said Herbert last week during a rally on the steps of the state capitol.

Herbert was surrounded by members of the Navajo Nation against designation.

Within the Navajo Nation there is a split on the issue. The president of the Navajo Nation sent a letter to President Obama requesting the designation and Diné Bikéyah has collected thousands of postcards in support.

The postcards and rallies are both legitimate ways of debating the hotly contested issue.

The forged letters may border on criminal as forgeries of government documents. The Utah Attorney General's office told FOX 13 News it has not received any complaints about the letters. The Salt Lake office of the FBI also stated it is not investigating.

Whether or not a law has been broken, the fliers are finding it hard to gain purchase. Wilson took every flier and false document down, posting a link to the forgeries on the Diné Bikéyah website: <http://utahdinebikéyah.org/fake-letters/>



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Rolly: Bears Ears opponents posting phony fliers, letters to scare Utah Navajos

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, May 24 2016

Somebody is playing dirty tricks in San Juan County in an apparent attempt to turn American Indians against the proposed [Bears Ears National Monument](#).

A phony news release purportedly from the Department of Interior was posted at the post office in Bluff and in several gas stations in the county, saying the Interior Department was poised to take over more than 4 million acres of the Navajo Nation Reservation.

A statement issued by [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#) (UDB), a nonprofit American Indian grass-roots organization, said the falsified Interior Department news release was accompanied by a fabricated flier supposedly from UDB that invited the public to celebrate a new [Bears Ears National Monument](#), except Utah Navajos, who were directed to "stay away from our party."

"This is a clear attempt to turn people against a [Bears Ears National Monument](#) by spreading lies, inciting racism and impersonating federal officials," said Cynthia Wilson, UDB's community outreach coordinator. "These tactics are despicable and likely criminal."

The flier about the party, posted at locations in Mexican Hat and Bluff, said "Lots of good food will be provided by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Great Old Broads for Wilderness and Friends of Cedar Mesa."

Those are environmental groups that Bears Ears opponents have tried to claim are using American Indians for their own aims to lock up more Utah land.

The flier said Interior Secretary [Sally Jewell](#) will be in attendance at the party and President Barack Obama will make the Bears Ears announcement that day, July 17.

"No Utah Navajos are invited because we in Window Rock are taking your sacred land and stopping your wood cutting and other activities on this land and you have been complaining about that," it added.

A third fraudulent letter also has been circulating in San Juan County.

It claims the [Bears Ears National Monument](#) would ban firewood gathering and American Indian access for sacred activities. In fact, monument designation would protect such activities.

The letter was purportedly signed by Albert Holiday, vice president of Navajo Nation's Oljato Chapter.

"Most members of Dine Bikeyah that are supporting the national monument, like Alfred Lomahquahu (vice chairman of the Hopi Tribe) and Eric Descheenie (executive of the Navajo Tribe) are receiving significant financial remuneration from environmental groups for their support to make the Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa their personal playground for these environmental groups," said the letter.

That is not true, either, and Holiday vehemently denies having anything to do with the letter, which means his name was forged.

"I did not write this letter," Holiday said. "I fully support President Obama designating the [Bears Ears National Monument](#), and so does the Navajo Nation's Oljato Chapter."

The accusations in the phony news release, flier and letter are similar to claims made by some Utah legislators, county commissioners, members of the congressional delegation and others opposed to the [Bears Ears National Monument](#).

Rep. [Mike Noel](#), R-Kanab, has asked that the Utah attorney general's office investigate relationships between tribal members and "special interest groups" like Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. He also has suggested American Indian groups are being manipulated by special interest groups.

Some in Utah's congressional delegation have hinted that tribal leaders are receiving personal gains by supporting the monument, similar to the allegations made in the phony letter attributed to Holiday.

[Gavin Noyes](#), executive director of UDB, sent an email in March to [Casey Snider](#), legislative director on public lands for Rep. Rob Bishop, after listening to Snider talking about Bears Ears on the radio. Snider claimed Bishop's office received a letter from a UDB Board member who is now opposed to Bears Ears.

"Can you share this letter with me, or tell me who this person purporting to be a UDB board member is?" Noyes wrote. "Nobody has left our board over the past five years, so I presume this person must be a sitting member."

Noyes did not get an answer from Snider.

In 2015, Noyes documented incidents dating back to 2012 for a discrimination report issued by University of Utah professor [Dan McCool](#), which was part of a [lawsuit](#) the Navajo Nation filed against San Juan County, alleging violations of the Voting Rights Act.

They included a statement by San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman, saying the Navajos "lost the war" and have no right to comment on public land management and ranchers in San Juan County telling American Indians to "get back on the reservation."

Andrew Jackson would be proud.



## Forged Federal Document Complicates A Growing Fight Over National Monument Designation In Utah

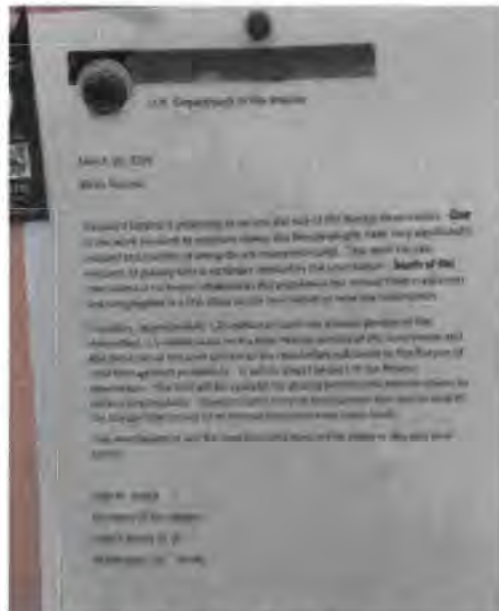
An escalating battle over Bears Ears pits state lawmakers against environmental groups, and splits Native Americans.

Huffington Post, May 24, 2016

Advocates of a contentious national monument designation for Utah's Bears Ears area are concerned that local residents will be misled about the designation dispute after forged federal documents and deceptive flyers addressing it were distributed in public spaces nearby.

Cynthia Wilson, community outreach coordinator for Native American pro-monument group [Utah Diné Bikéyah](#), found the [misleading documents](#) at a U.S. post office in Bluff and multiple gas stations in San Juan County in the past week. They include a falsified letter purporting to be from Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell that claims President Barack Obama is preparing to reduce the Navajo Nation by 4.15 million acres. The letter claims the Navajo no longer need their land in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, and thus it will be opened up for grazing and commercial purposes.

"This was not sent out from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs or from the U.S. Department of Interior," a Department of Interior spokesperson said in a statement to The Huffington Post. "President Obama has no intentions of reducing the size of the Navajo Reservation."



UTAH DINĀ© BIKĀ©YAH

A falsified document purporting to be from Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell that was posted at a U.S. Post Office in Bluff, Utah. A coalition of five Native American tribes supported by two dozen others is behind the [Bears Ears proposal](#), pushing for a 1.9-million-acre swath of land in southeast Utah to [be designated a national monument](#) under the 1906 Antiquities Act. The group says the area [should be preserved](#) because of its wealth of archaeological sites, as well as its cultural, spiritual and medicinal significance to many Native tribes.

The proposal has drawn fierce opposition from the state's Republican-dominated legislature, Gov. Gary Herbert (R), local lawmakers and some Native Americans who believe they will lose access to the land for cultural and spiritual purposes. Last week, the governor signed a resolution from the legislature formally opposing the designation.

The Obama administration, which has extended federal protection to more land than any previous administration, has not confirmed it will do so for Bears Ears. But Jewell plans to visit Utah this summer, which has increased speculation that Obama plans to designate Bears Ears a monument.



UTAH DINĀ© BIKĀ©YAH  
Falsified document announcing a party to celebrate the national monument designation of Bears Ears. "Utah Navajos, stay away from our party," it reads.

Wilson also found a flyer purporting to be from Utah Diné Bikéyah and announcing a party to celebrate the creation of the Bears Ears monument. But the flyer warned some Native Americans to stay away: "Everyone is invited except Utah Navajos," it read.

In an email to HuffPost, Utah Diné Bikéyah characterized the document as racist, and executive director Gavin Noyes said he didn't know why it was written.

"Our opponents have been spreading the lie that 'Tribes are puppets' of outside interest groups (which of course they are not) and are being paid to take these positions (also false)," Noyes said. But since most Utah Navajos support the monument, he said, he suspected it was intended to make them feel like Utah Diné Bikéyah had used them to create a national monument.



UTAH DINĀ© BIKĀ©YAH  
Forged documents found on counter at U.S. Post Office in Bluff, Utah.

A forged letter that purported to be from Albert Holiday, vice president of the Navajo Nation's Oljato Chapter and a supporter of a monument, claimed that the Bears Ears proposal would bar Native Americans from



using the land for cultural and sacred activities. In fact, the plan would actually allow for such uses.

"I couldn't believe it," Holiday told HuffPost. "My people are all for the monument."

The letter was deeply upsetting for Holiday. "I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep," he said.

"This is a clear attempt to turn people against a Bears Ears National Monument by spreading lies, inciting racism, and impersonating federal officials," Wilson said in a statement. "These tactics are despicable and likely criminal."

An employee at the gas station where Wilson found some of the documents told HuffPost she had seen them there as well. A Bluff post office representative said he was unable to comment about the documents.

The dispute over Bears Ears has grown increasingly charged as summer nears. State lawmakers are uneasy over what they see as federal overreach similar to Bill Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act in 1996 to create [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument](#). [Utah State Rep. Mike Noel \(R\)](#) and other lawmakers called on the state's attorney general to "ferret out" environmental groups he believes have funded and co-opted the tribal coalition so the land can be designated without the say of state local leaders.

## Meehan: Seeking the shimmer

Core Samples – Park Record (Park City, UT), May 24, 2016

We mostly idled away the days back then, my trusty shipmate standing watch over our sturdy craft with a book and a cocktail while I banged ankles and knees and elbows and such doing a bit of the old route-finding up in the rock.

Being deep within and atop exposed sections of that intricately layered and eroded geological strata known as the Glen Canyon Group bordered on the ecstatic. There was something about the Kayenta Formation at the bottom of the slots followed by a deep layer of Navajo Sandstone often capped with Carmel Formation that rubbed me the right way.

It was all about interpreting old hiking maps while tramping about in quite possibly the same pair of Vasque Sundowners Moses wore when he parted the Red Sea. Their comfort level, however, approached that of my old Neatsfoot-oil bathed Junior Gilliam baseball glove, the sweet spot of which, not unlike its operator, never saw much action. We made a few trips to what I now like to refer to as, thinking positively, the extreme southwestern edge of the soon to be designated Bears Ears National Monument.

The San Juan River Arm of Lake Foul became a favorite haunt with Louis L'Amour, of all people, providing the initial nudge.

His "The Haunted Mesa" had been lent to me by a workmate of the time and had wallowed in the bedside stack for a spell until no more Tony Hillerman Navajo mysteries were left to re-read.

Did I mention that the northern boundary of the Navajo Nation reposed just across the narrow band of flat water along the opposite shore of the San Juan Arm?

Although certainly not by today's standards, water level was low for that trip. That meant we couldn't motor as far up the Arm as we wished and the negotiations with the red rock would involve burning more daylight than normal accessing trailheads into "Johnie's Hole," a central plot location in the L'Amour novel.

Utilizing his own brand of literary "magic realism," old Louis had his protagonist discover a shimmering portal into which the ancestral puebloans who once occupied the area had returned to a former world of their creation myth -- thereby solving the mystery surrounding their collective disappearance from the Southwest circa 1300 A.D.

Having already visited many of the "ruins" throughout the Colorado Plateau that were deserted by the indigenous people in question back in the day, I found L'Amour's handling of the "where did they go" question to be relatively inventive. So, obviously, I had to put my hiking boots on the ground of



this small desert oasis to see if I could sense a similar vibe.

Getting there would involve that old nemesis "route finding," of course, and therein laid the rub. If one had trouble visualizing the destination, certainly following previous trails upon the slickrock wouldn't necessarily be a "slam dunk." And with the round trip from boat to Johnie's Hole and back needing to be accomplished during daylight, a sense of adventure pervaded the mission.

A couple of pre-imagined variables quickly asserted themselves into the equation. First, without Cairns to be seen anywhere, imprinting into short-term memory the directional relationships between hoodoos and buttes and mesas for my return trip became imperative. And secondly, it didn't take long at all to lose sight of the boat. Even with the mostly accurate Kelsey hiking guide in my pack, the time prior to locating the mouth of the tributary canyon to Johnie's Hole saw me pretty much bruised and muddy but totally awash in the rapture inherent to wandering those seemingly sacred convolutions.

It's always about the journey anyway in those parts, and this day of bushwhacking up Castle Creek played out as no exception. Although the "portal" didn't call out to me with its signature shimmer, I did get to Johnie's Hole and back to the boat in time for a relaxed evening put-put back to camp further down the San Juan.

The upside, in retrospect, was that, although the human footprint of earlier uranium mining dotted the landscape, nowhere did the telltale signs of relatively recent resource extraction technology come into play.

And that is why when this particular flashback day from nearly 30 years ago is screened in memory alongside the current movement for a Bears Ears National Monument, sites sacred to the oral history of the sovereign tribes involved become all that more meaningful. Protect Bears Ears!

*Jay Meehan is a culture junkie and has been an observer, participant, and chronicler of the Park City and Wasatch County social scenes for more than 40 years.*

GLENWOOD SPRINGS  
**POST INDEPENDENT**

postindependent.com

## **Letter: Protect Utah lands**

Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent, May 22, 2016

Southeastern Utah is a place of unmatched beauty and history. For many locals of the Roaring Fork Valley, this place is a destination for climbing at Indian Creek, rafting the San Juan River, and hiking on Cedar Mesa or in the Valley of the Gods. But the region's wilderness qualities and rich archaeological history are at risk.

We are all too familiar with fighting oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide. The Bears Ears area in Utah is facing the same issue and more. Prehistoric sites of ancient Native American activity are being looted and "collected" at an alarming rate. Dwellings that were filled with whole pots and thousands of pottery shards are now barren. Illegal grave robbing has desecrated countless cliff dwellings.

As people who use this land every summer, we have a responsibility to help solve these problems. Luckily we have the support of many locals in southeastern Utah. The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is an unprecedented effort from multiple Native American tribes to help save the historic and natural beauty of the Bears Ears region. Organizations like Friends of Cedar Mesa and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance are working with the local tribes to urge President Obama to approve a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument. There are over 100,000 sensitive archaeological sites in the Bears Ears area that need protection that can only be provided by a monument.

Now we must stand together like we did for Thompson Divide to ask the president to protect this amazing place that offers so many opportunities to recreate and relive America's prehistoric past.

Leo Tonozzi

Colorado Rocky Mountain School senior

## **The Salt Lake Tribune**

### **Letter: People's voice is clear on Bears Ears, but leaders ignore**

Salt Lake Tribune, May 22, 2016



The people's voice was loud and clear at the rally in the Capitol rotunda. More than 70 percent of Utahns stand with the sovereign tribal governments in asking the president to designate the Bears Ears National Monument.

Unfortunately, our elected officials represent only their own interests. For the House, the language of the resolution was not nasty and mean-spirited enough, so it needed amending.

They wanted the alleged president to avoid using the alleged Antiquities Act to protect the thousands of alleged archaeological and sacred sites. They feel they are entitled to impose more destruction on Native Americans than we have already done.

Fortunately, we will soon have the opportunity to send a bunch of them packing.

Jill Merritt, Salt Lake City

## The Salt Lake Tribune

### Letter: 'Utah way'? Profit first

Salt Lake Tribune, May 21 2016

The Utah Legislature has demonstrated once again the meaning of democracy in passing a resolution against creating Bears Ears National Monument despite the wishes of the majority of Utah citizens and the majority of affected tribe members.

I guess our elected leaders are protecting us from ourselves. As adults, we just can't be trusted to make educated decisions, and our opinions don't matter.

There is no way that we are going to show American Indians that we empathize with their spiritual beliefs or respect their rights to land that we wrestled from them in years past, or keep the land as it is for all Americans to enjoy for perpetuity.

That just wouldn't be "the Utah way," would it?

No, no. We need to keep the land available for future profit. That's what we do, regardless of what the majority wants.

Because our Legislature knows best. Democracy at its finest!

Michael Feldman, Salt Lake City



**Indian Country**  
**TODAY MEDIA NETWORK**

## Prayers and Spiritual Energy: High-Ranking Tibetan Monk Visits Bears Ears

Indian Country Today, May 20, 2016



In a room filled with song, two mighty spiritual traditions came together this week to celebrate sacred ground, and the life force that emanates from Mother Earth herself.

Tribal leaders supporting the creation of Bears Ears National Monument hosted the renowned Tibetan monk His Holiness the Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang, the highest leader of the Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism and United Nations Ambassador for Mountain People of the world. Along with the leaders, His Holiness visited the monument's namesake, a pair of sacred buttes that rise above the iconic landscape, to pray together and share in the sacredness of the land to be protected. The entourage then returned to Monument Valley to share an afternoon of song, traditional Navajo food and a discussion that was part rally and part public meeting.

"I think this environmental partnership is very important," Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang told about 100 local residents assembled at the Monument Valley Welcome Center. He emphasized that Bears Ears is a "special place" and that protecting the environment is a global imperative,

especially in the face of climate change. "You have a special duty."

Even as these spiritual traditions united for a brief moment, the Utah legislature was meeting in a special session to pass a resolution formalizing their opposition to the request for a National Monument designation from President Barack Obama.

The simultaneous events showcased both sides of a movement that is gaining wide attention as the time for a Presidential designation draws near. The Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition, made up of leaders from the Ute Mountain Ute, Uintah and Ouray Ute and Hopi tribes, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Navajo Nation, unveiled a formal request last fall for President Obama to use his Antiquities Act powers to designate the 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. The proposal includes the idea to share management of the monument between the federal and tribal governments, in order to protect deeply significant cultural resources across the landscape that are being threatened by mining and grave looting, among other insults.

"We have old hogans up there, sweat lodges," said Albert Holiday, vice chairman of the Navajo Nation's Oljato Chapter and a board member of the grassroots conservation group Utah Diné Bikéyah, which helped conceive of the monument years ago. "There are petroglyphs. We have herbs. We have to protect that."

Most attendees were in support of the designation, but some arrived to learn more.

"All I can say is I haul wood up there, and I collect herbs up there," said a wary Marlene Allen, Navajo. Referring to a nearby Utah



state park that used to be open access, she added, "Gooseneck is a park now. You have to pay. But we used to go up there and have a picnic."

Overall, a quiet spirituality underscored the afternoon's events—from the simple sharing of a meal, to a common recognition of the sacredness of Mother Earth. Locals stood in awe as the monks, smiling, made their way to the center of the room after an hour-long, mud-induced delay coming down from the twin sacred buttes. His Holiness, resplendent in his maroon robes, was followed by his monk traveling companions. Albert Holiday, vice chairman of the Oljato Chapter of the Navajo Nation, noted that traditionally, Navajo pray before eating. But he switched it up, instead leading the room in celebratory song, joined by some of the attendees, including Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation employees on staff at the Welcome Center.

Reverence and awe were palpable as the music took over and the monks sat, eyes closed, soaking it all in. Afterward, residents served up traditional fare, including mutton stew in bowls, fry bread and traditional corn mush.



Albert Holiday, center, vice chairman of the Navajo Nation's Oljato Chapter in Monument Valley, leads Navajo tribal members and visiting Tibetan monks in a song before lunch, at a May 18 meeting about Bears Ears National Monument. (Photo: Anne Minard)

Meanwhile, about 400 miles away, an estimated 250 people were gathered in Salt Lake City, sporting "Support Bears Ears" t-shirts and banners, for a more raucous rally in favor of the designation. It was happenstance that the visit by Drikung Kyabgön Chetsang coincided with a special legislative session, but the Salt Lake City rally had been planned specifically to counter the politicians' move. After an hour of discussion, Utah's House of Representatives voted 64-10 to pass an anti-designation resolution; the state senate passed it 22-5. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert was expected to sign it on May 20.

The lengthy document sets out many details of the state's opposition, including a statement by Herbert that another monument designation in Utah would "inflame passion, spur divisiveness, and ensure perpetual opposition," and suggesting that the Antiquities Act allows for "improper unilateral national monument designations" without state input.

Since Congress passed the Antiquities Act in 1906, presidents from both parties have used it to designate nearly 150 monuments. Utah politicians have historically opposed the creation of federal lands in their state, a feeling that intensified after the Clinton-era Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996.

Utah's federal representatives, Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz, have proposed a plan called a Public Lands Initiative that would set aside significantly less acreage and leave the door open for energy development, which Bears Ears supporters oppose.

Bears Ears National Monument, by contrast, would prioritize land and cultural resource protection across the 1.9 million acres, which includes all or part of the Manti La Sal National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Natural Bridges National Monument. In addition to

protecting cultural antiquities, the designation would protect the ecologically and hydrologically contiguous Canyonlands Basin, only a third of which occurs within Canyonlands National Park to the west. Proponents of Bears Ears have requested that traditional Native land uses, including wood gathering and herb collection, be expressly allowed to continue throughout the monument.

Twenty-four pueblos and tribes have passed resolutions supporting Bears Ears. The Navajo Nation sent a letter of support to President Obama on April 16.

“While your administration may be criticized for using your Presidential authority, for the Navajo Nation and many tribes, your action will be one that will be remembered amongst our people for centuries as protecting our sacred resources, our history and our memories while preserving what we consider a place of healing and spirituality,” the letter stated. It was signed by Navajo President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, Speaker LoRenzo Bates and three Navajo Nation Council representatives from the Bears Ears area.

Navajo Nation Council delegates Herman Daniels, Jr., Davis Filfred and Nathaniel

Brown, all of whom represent nearby chapters, attended the Monument Valley gathering.

“The Navajo Nation president supports it. The Navajo Nation Council supports it. We’ve been using that land for centuries. So I am in support,” Daniels said.

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition and head councilwoman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, has been working for nearly a year toward the designation. She said the best part has been traveling to the various tribes.

“At the end of this week, I’ll be in Hopi,” she said. “We’re pinpointing a date to go to Zuni, and then Northern Ute. That’s been one of the most enlightening parts of this process. You hear their stories. You hear them speaking their language.”

Lopez-Whiteskunk said the Coalition is staying positive despite the opposition by Utah politicians.

“Our grandparents taught us to take things in stride,” she said, “and be patient.”

*Anne Minard, a journalist and recent law school graduate, has been conducting legal research for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.*





The preferred alternative to PLI is the [Bears Ears National Monument](#). Proposed by an [inter-tribal coalition](#), its goal is to set aside 1.9 million acres including Indian Creek, Valley of the Gods and Comb Ridge as well as 100,000+ archaeological sites, many of which are sacred or critical to Native American cultures.

There are less than 300 days left before President Obama leaves office and he will not designate a Bears Ears National Monument unless it has overwhelming support. He needs to know that, just as each of us has unique and inherent gifts, so does the land. Development and resource extraction has its place, but not here. Democracy has power, but only if you raise your voice.



**TAKE ACTION!**

Help protect Bears Ears in southeastern Utah. Ask President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to create the Bears Ears National Monument. [Sign the petition](#)

**Update 5/23/16:** To learn more and see what's at stake, please watch [Defined By the Line](#), a short film by Fitz Cahall and Patagonia. Social media activists can share the video, photos and a [link to the petition](#) using the [#ProtectBearsEars](#) hashtag on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Thank you for making your voices heard!



Kitty Calhoun is a [Patagonia ambassador](#), [Chicks Climbing guide](#) and resident of Castle Valley, Utah. She first roped up in South Carolina at 18. She started ice climbing a year later, which led to winter ascents in the Rockies where her passion for alpine climbing began. While guiding for the [American Alpine Institute](#), she climbed dozens of peaks in Peru, Bolivia, Alaska, Argentina, and Nepal. In recognition of her accomplishments, she received the [American Alpine Club's Underhill Award](#) in 1991. For more from Kitty, check out her [previous stories](#) on The Cleanest Line and her [TEDxTalk](#) at Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island.





## Bears Ears designation wouldn't harm anglers, hunters

Logan Herald Journal, May 19, 2016

By now, most people should be aware the federal government is considering declaring the Bears Ears area of southeastern Utah a national monument.

The proposed monument would set aside approximately 1.9 million acres of public land under the Antiquities Act. This is considerably larger than the approximately 1 million acres identified for lesser protections under Rob Bishop's and Jason Chaffetz's Public Lands Initiative.

The Antiquities Act was enacted in 1906 and allows presidents to designate monuments from the public domain. There are individuals who argue this act was intended to protect small archeological and historic sites, and this claim is partially true. Section 2 of the act, however, states that, "the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation ... other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments."

While the implication may have been that monuments would be small, no size limitations were described in the act.

In 1908, Theodore Roosevelt used the Antiquities Act to protect the Grand Canyon. This monument was given national park status in 1919. Two of Utah's best known national parks followed the same

path. In 1909, the area that became Zion National Park in 1919 was declared a national monument. Bryce Canyon was set aside as a national monument in 1923 and became a national park in 1928.

Nearly every president since 1906 has used this act to proclaim large monuments. For example, George W. Bush designated 200,000 square miles in the Pacific Ocean as a national monument intended to protect seabirds and other marine life.

While many people have pointed out the 1906 Antiquities Act is an out-of-date approach for protecting federal lands, these same people are generally willing to rely on the General Mining Act of 1872 and Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as the foundation of how minerals, oil, gas and coal are extracted from public lands.

It is evident many of these laws need to be updated, but until Congress can find a way to compromise between conservation and extraction, an updated legal approach is unlikely. The result is a limited, often outmoded set of tools that can be used to manage public lands.

The primary reason Utah is concerned with the designation of Bears Ears is grounded in how the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was set aside in the 1996.

This Southern Utah monument was declared during President Bill Clinton's reelection

campaign. Utah's political representatives were notified only a day in advance and the ceremony for this new monument occurred in Arizona's Grand Canyon National Park.

Utah's political representatives are clearly against designation of Bears Ears beyond what is considered in the Public Lands Initiative. Although Utah may again receive limited notification of monument designation, the state should not be surprised. That is because much of the leadership of the Native American tribes in the area has actively supported this national monument.

In contrast, Mike Noel, a lawmaker from Southern Utah, seems to suggest the only local support that matters is local political support. Such a conclusion seems strange given Bear Ears is the ancestral home of many of these tribes.

Should outdoor enthusiasts be concerned with a new national monument in the state? Very few recently designated monuments have been converted into parks, so hunters

are likely to be able to continue pursuing game in the Bears Ears area.

I hunted deer in and near the Grand Staircase-Escalante before and after this area was designated a national monument. The biggest change I noticed was not in the federal land management, but the increasing difficulty of getting a deer tag to hunt the area. The fact that land management has not changed is what would have been expected, since at the time of designation most of the existing activities were allowed to continue.

While many have sought to frame the question of Bears Ears as one of local control, it seems to be more about which set of locals will be in control and how the term local is defined.

The designation of this area as a monument will likely ensure hunters and anglers can continue to hunt and fish the area long into the future. To that end, the group of locals (however this term is defined) that include hunters and anglers should have little concern with the designation of Bears Ears as a national monument.



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## New survey finds 71 percent support Bears Ears monument in Utah

Salt Lake Tribune, May 17, 2016

Recent survey shows overwhelming support, 71 percent to 20 percent, but critics say it was "a classic push poll"; a group of American Indians join governor, lawmakers in protest at the Capitol.

[Creation Justice Ministries](#), a Washington, D.C.-based group that seeks to protect spiritually significant places, commissioned the statewide telephone survey of 500 voters, which found support for a monument outpolled opposition, 71 percent to 20 percent.

"Voters value protecting cliff dwellings, Mormon pioneer artifacts and other unique historic sites from looters," said Shantha Ready Alonso, the group's executive director. "They want to continue enjoying recreational activities, conserve wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for families and children to spend time together and explore nature."

Tuesday's dueling media events came on the eve of the Utah Legislature's special session, during which lawmakers are expected to pass a [resolution](#) imploring President Barack Obama to not designate any monument in Utah under the Antiquities Act without legislative approval. The [resolution's](#) chief proponents stood with the American Indians, renewing their opposition to a monument the president is widely assumed to be considering as his tenure comes to an end.

Marie Holiday of the Navajo Oljato community said she fears she will have to travel 80 miles farther to gather firewood

and pinyon nuts if the proposed 1.9 million-acre area becomes a monument. She and the others at the Capitol want a conservation plan, but not one controlled by the federal government.

"We want a conservation area so we have access to land we have used for many years," said Chester Johnson, of the Aneth Chapter. "This land relates to our ways that are traditional. We get food there. We get medicine."

Monument backers, like Willie Grayeyes and Mark Maryboy of Utah Dine Bikeyah, couldn't agree more and believe a monument is the best way to ensure both preservation of a fragile landscape and access for traditional practices.

Despite numerous monument endorsements from Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute and other tribal leaders, Utah lawmakers say tribal support is a "charade" manufactured by groups fronting for environmentalists.

That charge was repeated Monday by U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, when he spoke on [Trib Talk](#), The [Salt Lake Tribune's](#) online public affairs video chat.

He dismissed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition as "an outside group funded by outside resources, and their call for a monument is the opposite of what would be most beneficial."

Bishop said a national monument designation would impose all sorts of land-

use restrictions and prevent tribal members from playing an active role in management.

"The coalition is proposing a plan of management that is totally unworkable and would lead to a great deal of disappointment," he said. "Their hunting and gathering practices are in conflict with the very nature of a monument. Once you have a monument, you turn over all sorts of operational control to the land manager. There has not been a monument where the types of gathering techniques they want are allowable. It is specifically allowed in our conservation efforts."

Bishop, the House Natural Resources Committee chairman, is the chief architect of the Utah Public Lands Initiative, which he says offers a compromise between development and conservation in seven eastern Utah counties and proposes a national conservation area for Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears buttes.

Bishop said he expects to introduce the bill — in the works for three years — to Congress "very, very soon."

A "unilateral" monument designation from Obama could derail the entire process, Bishop warned.

"There is no local buy-in," Bishop said. "There is no one who lives in that area who wants a monument. You have to go at least a five-hour drive away from that area to find someone who wants a monument."

That assertion is ridiculous, according to leaders of Utah Dine Bikeyah, the grass-roots tribal group that began developing the Bears Ears conservation initiative in 2010. They say they have engaged at least 7,000 tribal members who live in or near San Juan County and have seen minimal opposition to a monument. Supporters include Utah Navajo Nation Council's two Utah delegates, Herman Daniels and Davis Filfred; and Ute Mountain Ute tribal council

members Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk and Malcolm Lehi.

The polling that documented — or conjured, depending on perspective — broad monument support was conducted between May 11 and 14 and has a margin of error of 4.38 percentage points.

"Support for designating these public lands as a national monument is broad based across age, gender, religion, political party and geographic regions of the state," said pollster Lori Weigel of Public Opinion Strategies.

Among Republicans, Mormons and sportsmen, the poll found 63, 68 and 65 percent, respectively, support a monument designation. However, two-thirds of the respondents did not know much about the monument proposal, so the pollster provided a brief description.

That component "pushes the outcome toward a supportive result by painting an image of a national monument where recreation and grazing are protected, which doesn't square with Utah's actual experience with national monuments," said David Buer of the Sutherland Institute. He referenced the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, where grazing has declined in the two decades since President Bill Clinton designated it.

Yet the poll found even stronger monument support among the one-third familiar with the Bears Ears debate.

"Two in five said they were strongly in support," Weigel said. "It extended across geographic lines, 67 percent in rural areas."

Some monument supporters say political leaders are out of step with most Utahns. The region's archaeological sites warrant a national monument, according to Josh Ewing, a Bluff resident who runs Friends of Cedar Mesa, because they remain under



constant threat of looting, careless visitors and illegal ATV incursions.

He says ideology is trumping facts among opponents partly because it is primary season, which fosters a political "race to the right."

"It shouldn't come down to a popularity contest or political gamesmanship," Ewing said. "The ideological opposition to a monument is not supported by the public, either in San Juan County or across the state. To kowtow to this ideology is to ignore the will of the people and the morally right thing to do."



## As Navajos Voice Opposition for Bears Ears, New Poll says 71% of Utahns Support it

KUER – Utah NPR affiliate, May 17, 2016

[Listen Here](#)

Navajo leaders from San Juan County gathered at the State Capitol Tuesday to voice their opposition to a potential Bears Ears National Monument.

While the proposed monument has received broad support from Native American leaders, about two dozen Navajo people living in San Juan County met on the Capitol steps to say they oppose it.

Marie Holiday says she supports the original idea of turning Bears Ears into a national conservation area, but a national monument would be going too far. She says many Navajos in Monument Valley go to Bears Ears to collect firewood, herbs and other resources.

“If that becomes a national monument, I know there’s going to be a restriction,” Holiday says. “And we have to go somewhere else, and that’s about 80 to more

than 100 miles away for our people to get firewood.”

Also on Tuesday, a [new poll](#) was released that shows 71% of Utahns support designating Bears Ears a national monument. The poll was commissioned by Creation Justice Ministries, a Christian environmental group. Shantha Alonso is the DC-based group’s executive director.

“Most Utahns share the values of preserving God’s creation as well as protecting cultural and historical riches around us,” she says.

Alonso says the poll also found that Utahns support protecting historical sites and wildlife habitat, and value public lands for recreational opportunities they provide.

Lawmakers will consider a resolution to formally oppose the proposed monument on Wednesday.





## Letters: The Fight to Protect Culture and Utah Lands: The Proposed Bears Ears National Monument

Logan Statesman (USU student newspaper), May 17, 2016

In San Juan County Utah, south of Moab and east of Lake Powell, lies an area of such significance that it has caught both the attention of state and national news over the last year. Known as Bears Ears, or the Bears Ears region, this aesthetically jaw-dropping and culturally diverse place is home to Natural Bridges National Monument, the Abajo Mountains, Cedar Mesa, White Canyon, hundreds of thousands of ancient Native American ruins and the famous Bears Ears, two red buttes that rise above the Juniper forests about fifty miles west from Blanding, Utah.

Named by the Native Americans who have occupied these lands for hundreds of years, these buttes and the surrounding 1.5 million acres have recently come under fire due to a quarrel spawned by the political elites over what ought to be done with our public lands. Recently, the flames of that debate have been fanned by a draft bill known as the Public Lands Initiative. On the surface, this bill is framed as a great compromise to settle the multi-decade dispute over state versus federal land management. Within the text of the bill however, this draft most notably transfers most of Utah's 30 million plus acres of public land to state control, with over 2.5 million of those acres allocated for mining and energy development.

A large swath of this energy development will penetrate the Bears Ears region. It is

difficult for many to understand why an area of such significance would be under so great a threat, which is why over sixty percent of San Juan county residents wish the Bears Ears region would be designated as a national monument. Meanwhile, environmental groups, coalitions of university students and hundreds of Utah citizens have shown up at public hearings and comment periods about Bears Ears in massive numbers to express the need for a national monument. Most importantly, in 2015 a coalition of Hopi, Zuni, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute and Uintah Ouray Ute natives came together to express the deep, multi-tribe significance of the area and petition for national monument designation. Yet despite this clear opposition, the county commissioners, Utah state legislature, Governor Herbert and the two congressman who proposed the Public Land Initiative are claiming to speak for all of Utah and moving quickly to ensure that this land will not be protected with monument designation.

It is a mistake of geography that arguably one of the most beautiful and culturally diverse landscapes on earth is now threatened by a few powerful Utah representatives, an area that has been occupied by Native Americans for millennia. These are the lands that dozens of Native American tribes have hunted in, worshiped in, fought in and lived in for

hundreds of years. Today, the region faces threats of drilling and mining, irresponsible motorized impacts, dramatic increases in unmanaged visitation and looting and grave-robbing. Imagine if the only place where your ancestors were buried and where the heirlooms were left behind was driven over by ATVs and looted. There have been twenty-five documented cases of looting in Bears Ears over the last few years, with many more cases going unreported.

This Wednesday, the 18th, Governor Herbert and the state legislature will convene to propose a resolution in opposition to designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. This special session will once again be occupied by hundreds of Utah citizens who are organizing to stand in firm opposition to the land grab our state is engaging in. All are welcome to attend, to support a wise path for Utah citizens, Native

Americans and the protection a beautiful cultural landscape.

—Logan Christian

logchristian@gmail.com

*Logan Christian is an Environmental Studies major at USU with minors in Geography and Sustainable Systems. He interns for the Sustainability Office, helping students write Blue Goes Green grants to enhance our institutional sustainability and support USU's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050. He is the co-president of an active campus club called the Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources. This year, he is working on a research project to assess the perceived vulnerability and risks of climate change among Native Americans. Logan likes to read, play guitar, backpack and volunteer around Cache Valley.*



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## BLM wants to pay people who help find looters, vandals

Cedar Mesa » Thieves strike burial sites and rock art in Bears Ears, further demonstrating need for monument, conservationists say.

Salt Lake Tribune, May 6, 2016



Last January, Utah hiking guide Vaughn Hadenfeldt was exploring Sacred Mesa near Bluff when he discovered the remains of an archaeological treasure that someone had tried to remove from the landscape. Armed with a rock saw, chisel and seriously poor judgment, the culprit had cut part of a 2,000-year-old petroglyph from the rock, leaving a conspicuous scar where an intact piece of art was once on permanent display.

Last January, Utah hiking guide Vaughn Hadenfeldt was exploring Sacred Mesa near Bluff when he discovered the remains of an archaeological treasure that someone had tried to remove from the landscape. Armed with a rock saw, chisel and seriously poor judgment, the culprit had cut part of a 2,000-year-old petroglyph from the rock, leaving a conspicuous scar where an intact piece of art was once on permanent display.

Such incidents have become all too familiar in Utah's San Juan County, which has more archaeological sites per square mile than any other U.S. county, totaling about 250,000. Federal officials fear looting is on the rise, with at least 25 incidents reported to the Bureau of Land Management's Monticello field office since 2011.

And because the BLM lacks the resources to adequately monitor these cultural treasures, it's turning to private-sector partners — and the public — for help. For the first time, the agency is offering a standing reward of \$2,500 for information leading to the conviction of those who steal or vandalize archaeological sites and artifacts on Utah's public lands, officials announced Wednesday at a gathering of BLM staff and program partners in the Natural History Museum of Utah.

"These resources are the story of Utah's past. They are priceless, they are irreplaceable and when they are gone, they're gone," said Jenna Whitlock, the BLM's acting Utah director. "We are aiming to eliminate looting and vandalism in Utah, but we need help from our friends. It is up to us all to ensure our cultural resources are here tomorrow. These places have very special, religious and spiritual meaning to Native American communities today. Looting damages Utah's heritage, and it is against the law."

Those with information can report such crimes by calling 800-722-3998. The new \$2,500 reward was among a suite of measures announced Wednesday under the a program called [Respect and Protect](#).

The reward money comes from private funds put up by Bluff-based [Friends of](#)



[Cedar Mesa](#), one of many groups advocating for a national monument on the archaeologically rich lands associated with Bears Ears. About a fifth of San Juan County's archaeological sites are found on Cedar Mesa and surrounding features west of Bluff and Blanding that are part of the proposed monument.

Moments before Wednesday's announcement, Whitlock and the group's executive director, Josh Ewing, signed a memorandum of understanding that had been in the works for at least a year. Ewing hopes to expand the arrangement to include state trust lands, the Forest Service and the National Park Service — agencies whose San Juan County holdings also are home to troves of at-risk sites.

The Sacred Mesa theft occurred only a few miles west of Ewing's home in Bluff. The perpetrator had used a rock saw in a failed effort to separate the image from the rock, according to Ewing.

"When the rock saw didn't work, they took out a chisel and they totally ruined this piece of history, sacred to Native Americans, and they didn't even do a good job," Ewing said. The thieves removed the left side of the petroglyph, which presumably came off in pieces.

"That's the kind of person we need to catch," he said. "You are not going to educate them out of doing that sort of activity. That's a law enforcement thing."

In the past year, three ancient burial sites on Cedar Mesa have been looted, according to Ewing. In search of pots and other artifacts, the looters sometimes toss human remains

aside, leaving a testament to their callousness.

"Pot hunters are looting at places where people aren't looking," Ewing said. "They use ATVs on illegal roads, getting way out in the backcountry."

Carelessness is responsible for as much damage as looting, but that problem can be solved through public awareness. Ewing has encountered several instances where visitors knocked down ancient walls, [drove through archaeological sites](#) and plundered ancient structures for firewood.

"A lot of people just don't know that a dog running around a ruin can erode a site and cause a wall to fall down, or that if they are not watching their child, they could pick up a piece of charcoal and ruin a 3,000-year-old pictograph," Ewing said. In other instances, visitors thoughtlessly scratched their names across rock art or added their own flourishes to the ancient works.

"There is also an unprecedented increase in the use of public lands, and some of these places are being loved to death by well-meaning visitors," Whitlock said, "but they don't have the information they need." Visitation at Cedar Mesa and Comb Ridge — areas that have very little in the way of interpretive and trailhead facilities — has climbed to about 150,000.

The BLM has teamed with the nonprofit Tread Lightly to get the word out. The new program "will empower Utah's public to enjoy their cultural and natural heritage in a way that minimizes damage to these places," said Lori McCullough, executive director of Tread Lightly. Her group is taking [Respect](#)



and Protect on the road for campaign launch events in five Utah towns this summer.

Whitlock also announced an expansion of the BLM's site-steward program and

encouraged people to volunteer to periodically check on sites and document abuses they see.

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Bears Ears monument a needed first step

The Salt Lake Tribune, April 29, 2016

I am grateful for the recent editorial urging President Obama to protect Bears Ears. I wholeheartedly agree with The Salt Lake Tribune in the significance of this proposed monument. As the editorial says, "Decisions made about this and other national monuments, parks and wilderness areas aren't about Utah ... They aren't even really about the United States of America. They are about natural and cultural heritage and treasures that belong to all humanity."

Our public lands are central to my identity. As a Utah millennial, these lands are my spiritual refuge and teacher of humility. In the digital age, it is critical to preserve places in which young people can experience solitude, silence and deep time.

Most importantly, it's time to end our shameful disrespect of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's request to protect their ancestral homelands. Utah officials have dramatically failed so far — from Rep. Bishop's Public Lands Initiative to insulting and uniformed claims made by state officials at the meeting of the Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands last week. On April 19, Interior Secretary Jewell called for more diverse voices in public lands. Protecting Bears Ears is a necessary first step. Obama should protect Bears Ears now.

Brooke Larsen

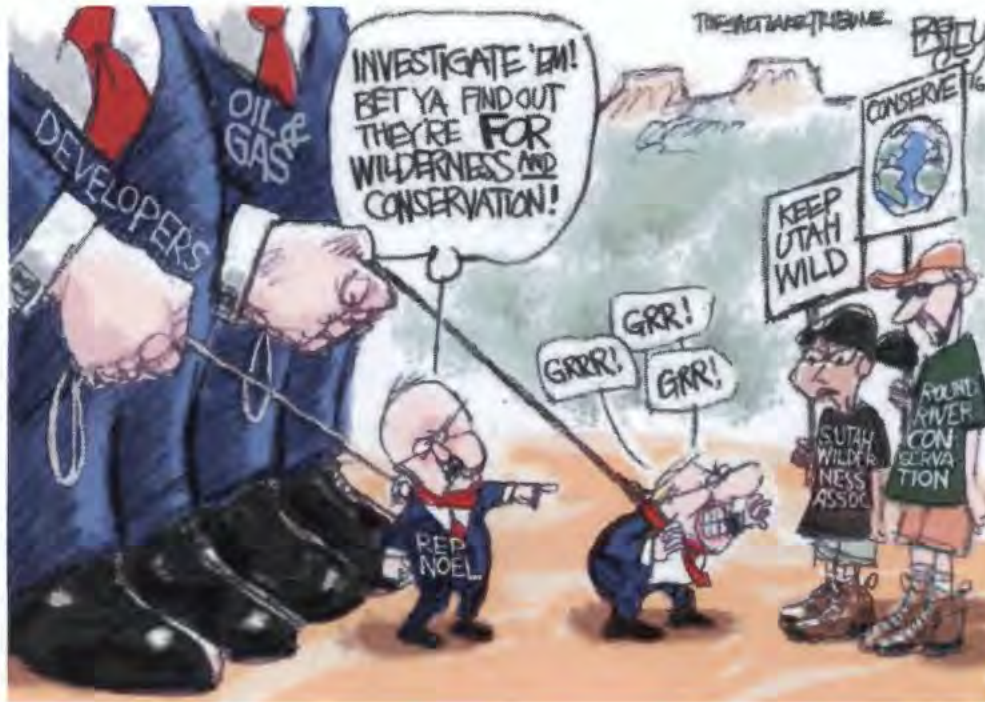
Salt Lake City



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Bagley Cartoon: The Bears Ears Inquisition

The Salt Lake Tribune, April 28, 2016



## MOAB SUN NEWS

### Letter: Don't leave Bears Ears to developers' whims

Moab Sun News, April 28, 2016

I just started reading Edward Abbey's "Desert Solitaire" again. It's been 30 years since the first time I read it, which roughly coincided with the first time I saw Arches National Park. I can't remember if the book inspired my visit or vice versa. Either way, 30 years later, I'm lucky to call Castle Valley home.

When Edward Abbey worked at Arches in the early 1960s, it was still categorized as a national monument.

Back in the 1920s, there was an argument over whether Arches should be protected as a national monument or left to the whims of capitalism. Luckily, President Hoover

signed a proclamation creating Arches National Monument.

Fortunately, our current Interior Secretary Sally Jewell believes in preserving our public lands for future generations. When President Obama nominated Secretary Jewell, he said, "She knows that there's no contradiction between being good stewards of the land and our economic progress; that in fact, those two things need to go hand in hand."

On April 19, Secretary Jewell gave a speech called "The Next 100 Years of American Conservation." Look it up and watch this video – it's inspiring to know that we have "public servants" with the conviction of Sally Jewell. I didn't know much about her before, but now she's my new heroine.

She made lots of great points in her speech, but what struck me was her urgent call for making national parks and monuments important to all Americans. She feels that we need to do more to include Native Americans in the public lands conservation process.

Of course, I'm talking about the plea to preserve Bears Ears as a national monument. An unprecedented coalition of five Native American tribes are calling on President Obama to defend this sacred area against the callous lack of respect for nature and ancient culture that some public officials are promoting.

Imagine if Arches National Park never received the protection it deserved. Think how Arches would look today if no one had the courage to stand up for its preservation almost a century ago. And think of the incalculable loss of economic benefits to Moab and the surrounding area.

There is an enormous amount of resistance from a small number of powerful interests against creating a new monument, saying that Utahns don't support the preservation of this area. Those of us who are thinking about long-term benefits to future generations need to let President Obama, Secretary Sally Jewell and Native Americans know we stand with them to support the creation of a new Bears Ears National Monument.

## MOAB SUN NEWS

### Opinion: Return Bears Ears to Native Americans

Moab Sun News, April 28, 2016

One of the controversies du jour is whether the Bears Ears should be designated a national monument. I cannot speak for Native Americans who have an interest in the territory, and there are mixed reports as to the Native American position, though it seems the majority are in favor of monument designation. San Juan County,

local landowners, ORV users, et al., predictably oppose any designation. The common refrain is that Obama is coming to take "our land."

What a joke.



Before Columbus “discovered” America, there were millions of people living in the Americas. They had built cities that rivaled or exceeded those of Europe. They populated just about every nook and cranny, including southeastern Utah. (Do you understand that the population of what is now San Juan County during the Anasazi period exceeded what it is today?)

Our white Eurocentric culture has a huge debt to pay. All of the heavily populated areas of the United States, and all of our great cities are built on stolen land. Our Anglo ancestors committed genocide on the Native Americans – there is no other word for it. Those we didn’t kill were forced onto barren, forsaken lands that no one wanted, unless and until something valuable was found on those lands that our government had promised to the displaced Natives. When that happened, we just killed some more Natives, stole the land again, and moved them to someplace even worse.

It’s time to start trying to repay that unpayable debt. Not only should the Bears Ears be designated a national monument, we should just give it (back) to the Native Americans. It is mostly public land after all – it belongs to all of us, not just radicals like Mike Noel, the bumbling Bundy gang and their ATV ridin’, gun totin’, artifact stealin’, welfare ranchin’ ilk.

Given our sorry history with Native Americans, giving them back this small chunk of land is the very least we can do. It would be interesting to see how much of their old culture the Native Americans have managed to retain, and whether their “management” of the land might offer us civilized folk any lessons on conservation, respect and humility.

Steve Russell  
Moab

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Why should Obama care what Utahns think?

The Salt Lake Tribune, April 28, 2016

When President Clinton designated the Grand Staircase Escalante Nation Monument there was a great deal of consternation among our legislators for not being included in the decision. Remember, Clinton finished third behind Ross Perot in Utah in the previous election.

Now we have Sen. Mike Lee, who vowed to oppose everything the Obama administration put forth, and Sen. Orrin Hatch, who opposes most everything as well. We have a state Legislature that is willing to spend millions of dollars suing the federal government to take back lands we never owned in the first place. Our congressional

representatives almost always vote against any Democratic proposals. During the last election, Mitt Romney received virtually all the Utah votes and President Obama was just a blip on the radar.

Yet, now that the president is considering naming the Bears Ears a national monument, our legislators want a full voice in the decision. How can they expect a full voice when they have kept their backs turned on the president all during his presidency?

David G. Klemm

Murray



# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Mike Noel asks constitutional council to investigate group calling for national monument in Utah

Salt Lake Tribune, April 27, 2016

Making good on his recent threat to investigate Bears Ears supporters, Utah lawmaker Mike Noel on Wednesday persuaded colleagues on the state Constitutional Defense Council to ask Attorney General Sean Reyes to "ferret out" environmentalists' ties to the tribal groups proposing a national monument in San Juan County.

Without offering much in the way of proof, Noel, a Republican representative from Kanab, said the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition](#) is being manipulated by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance or other groups into pushing for a national monument. Such a designation, he said, would actually impede tribal members' wood gathering and other traditional activities on Cedar Mesa and other areas covered by the 1.9 million-acre monument proposal.

One Navajo Nation Council called the move insulting.

"We speak for ourselves and our tribal members who have overwhelmingly called on us to make sure Bears Ears becomes a national monument," said Davis Filfred, a Navajo Nation Council delegate who represents Utah's Mexican Water, Aneth,

Teec Nos Pos, Tolikan and Red Mesa chapters.

The elected councils of five Colorado Plateau tribes — Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi and Ute — have formed the coalition to urge President Barack Obama to use the Antiquities Act to designate Bears Ears before he leaves office in January. The proposal itself was developed by a grassroots nonprofit known as [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#), which has landed endorsements for a monument from 24 nearby tribes. Many trace their ancestral heritage to Cedar Mesa, which is covered in tens of thousands of archaeological sites left by the Anasazi.

Noel denounces this tribal buy-in as a "charade" manufactured by meddling outside environmental groups that pay [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#) board members and bankroll their lobbying forays to Washington. His call for a probe into the group's finances and relationships drew numerous rebukes.

Under pressure from the lone Democrat at the table Wednesday, Rep. Brian King, of Salt Lake City, the Constitutional Defense Council expanded its resolution and will probe all groups involved with Bears Ears, both for and against the monument.

King said Noel's probe smacks of a "witch hunt" and falls outside the scope of the

council's statutory duties, which focus on asserting state sovereignty against an overbearing federal government.

Investigating those with whom the council has a political disagreement is an "intimidation bullying tactic," King said.

Noel says a lot is at stake for Utah, claiming Obama is contemplating a "megamonument" that could include San Rafael Swell and expansion of the Grand Staircase.

"It's a constitutional issue," Noel said. "I would like to have more information and understanding of who are the players."

If lawmakers want to know, all they have to do is pick up a phone, said [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#) Chairman Willie Grayeyes.

"Our door is open, and our financials are all online," Grayeyes said. "The state of Utah should consider calling us and asking us how we are funded before launching an investigation. We buy our office furniture at the secondhand store, we have dozens of volunteers and our board members are all unpaid."

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk likened Noel's proposal to espionage conducted by Southern states against black people during the Civil Rights era.

"It's shameful that in 2016, the state of Utah is using similar tactics against tribal nations," said Lopez-Whiteskunk, councilwoman for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and co-chairwoman of the tribal coalition. "As tribal people and nations, we continue to stand in solidarity and urge

President Obama to designate the Bears Ears National Monument."

It is widely assumed the president is poised to act on the tribes' request, rekindling long-simmering resentment over President Bill Clinton's 1996 designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has placed an [anti-monument resolution](#) on the agenda of the May 18 special session of the Legislature, saying it is irresponsible for Obama to even contemplate a Bears Ears monument without consulting local leaders.

Utah environmentalists, meanwhile, make no secret of their support for Bears Ears.

[Round River Conservation Studies](#), a Salt Lake City-based group devoted to ecological research and education, assisted [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#) in developing the Bears Ears proposal, initially envisioned as a national conservation area authorized by Congress. The group later hired a [Round River](#) staffer, Gavin Noyes, as its executive director, but the group's leadership consist entirely of Navajo and Ute tribal members devoted to traditional religious practices.

Among the many people who have donated to [Utah Dine Bikeyah](#) is David Garbett, a Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance staff attorney who flatly rejects the idea that his group exerts any influence over the tribal groups.

Noel's probe is insulting and will likely backfire, he said. Numerous people inside and outside of San Juan County



support Utah Dine Bikeyah's work, which is uniting tribal members across the state and reservation boundaries, he added.

"That's called participating in a public process. Yet they are treating supporters like

a gang of drug dealers, like they are out doing something illicit," Garbett said.

"[Noel] is showing that the president really needs to step in."



## **Salt Lake Tribune calls for President Obama to designate Bears Ears National Monument**

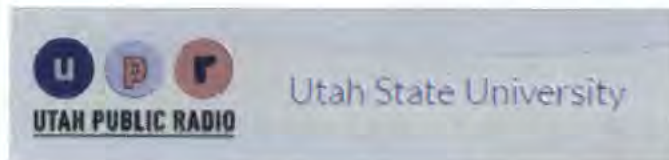
By Tom Yoder • Apr 26, 2016 KSJD, Dryland Community Radio, Dove Creek/Dolores., CO

[Listen Here](#)

KSJD Newscast - April 25th, 2016

The Salt Lake Tribune is calling for President Obama to designate a 1.9-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah. In an editorial Sunday, the newspaper notes a proposed alternative – draft legislation produced by a years-long Public Lands Initiative by two Utah congressmen – has drawn intense criticism from many Native American leaders and environmentalists and has not even been introduced yet. The Public Lands Initiative involved hundreds of meetings with different constituencies in eastern Utah. Its proposal calls for a 1.1-million-acre Bears Ears National Conservation Area instead of a monument. However, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition, which includes the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni tribes, pulled out of the initiative process late in 2015, saying their input had largely been ignored. The Tribune says if the initiative’s proposal were put before Congress, “there is little indication that, with so much opposition from the tribes and environmental groups from across the nation, it would have a chance to become law.” However, the editor of the San Juan Record in San Juan County has spoken out against the monument. In a column, Bill Boyle argues that the initiative involved local input while the monument proposal was “created in a laboratory far from San Juan County”.





## Inter-Tribal Group Seeks Bears Ears Protection

Utah Public Radio, Utah State University, April 25, 2016



A coalition of Native American tribes is calling on the Obama administration to designate the Bears Ears region of southern Utah as a national monument.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is seeking to protect the area, which the coalition said has significant cultural and historic meaning.

The coalition includes the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni and Ute Indian Tribe.

Carlton Bowekaty, a councilman with the Pueblo of Zuni, said the area was home to many of the tribe's ancestors.

"The reason why these areas are so important to us is that it allows us to reconnect to our history," he explained. "Our history is passed orally, and a lot of our prayers and history comes through in certain terms we don't always understand."

The region contains massive red rock canyons, high mesas, and more than 100,000 Native American archaeological and cultural sites.

However, Bowekaty said it remains largely unprotected and is threatened by looting and off-road vehicle damage.

The coalition's effort took a major step toward its goal this week when Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced she would visit Bears Ears and confer with tribes and local citizens about its importance.

Bowekaty said his Zuni tribe feels the coalition is key to the area becoming a national monument.

"We definitely feel that we have a connection that extends beyond our reservation and, in partnering with the other tribes, this is one of those moments where the tribes can extend that handshake across reservation lines for the greater good of our people," he stressed. In addition, Davis Filfred, a Navajo Nation Council delegate from Utah, said the Bears Ears effort is unanimously supported by the Navajo Nation Council, and has overwhelming support from grassroots Navajo people and Navajo Chapters in Utah.

## Utah recreation mecca considered for monument status: Local outdoor industry depends on Cedar Mesa

Local outdoor industry depends on Cedar Mesa

The Durango Herald, April 24, 2016



BLUFF, Utah – Want to climb sheer cliffs at Indian Creek, raft the San Juan River, explore Comb Ridge, ski the Abajos, jeep into Arch Canyon, or backpack Grand Gulch to visit ancient ruins?



Durango Herald file

*Beef Basin is an area being considered for federal protection under the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. One can see the canyons above the Colorado River and Lake Powell.*



photo

Jim Mimiaga/The Journal

*A panel of outdoor recreation advocates discussed the proposed Bears Ears National Monument at a recent conference in Bluff, Utah, sponsored by Osprey Packs and Friends of Cedar Mesa. From left: climbing guide Jason Keith; John Palmer, of Deer Hill Expeditions; Dalen Tail of Four Corners Adventures; and Sam Mix of Osprey Packs.*



Courtesy Stephanie Smith

Apparently a lot of people do. But the recreation mecca of southeast Utah is at risk of being overrun. And some believe creating the 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument is the answer for improved management.



Friends of Cedar Mesa are advocating for such a solution, which would require President Barack Obama to designate the national monument under the Antiquities Act to further protect ruins and fragile desert. There are an estimated 56,000 archaeology sites at Cedar Mesa.

During a conference in Bluff last month, a panel of outfitters weighed in on the proposed monument.

Dallin Tait, of Four Corners Adventures, said a monument runs the risk of increasing the area's popularity.

"It will bring more and more people, so education becomes very important," he said. "A lot of visitors do not know what they are doing. They want to see the ruins but don't understand the etiquette: not to climb on them, not to disturb artifacts, and don't touch the rock art. So as a business, before the tour we heavily focus on education and respect of the land."

Local businesses such as Opsrey Packs in Cortez, and Deer Hill Expeditions in Mancos, also depend on the wildlands of southeast Utah for their businesses.

"Public lands are our lifeblood because that is where users of our gear go," said Sam Mix, corporate outreach for Osprey. "The Leave No Trace principle is our guiding light, and the information is put in the pockets of our packs. Teaching outdoor ethics is the obligation of every outdoor company."

Deer Hill Expeditions provides educational tours for city kids. Base camp manager John Palmer said introducing youth to wilderness settings is a critical learning moment the company takes seriously.

"Exposing them to such a beautiful area comes with responsibility to educate," he said. "We connect them with these places on a human and environmental level."

When city kids see an ancient ruin for the first time in Grand Gulch, or along the San Juan River, they're taught its cultural significance to today's Native American tribes, a lesson they hopeful will take home and pass on.

"We rely on these wild areas, and if they don't survive, there goes our business," Palmer said.

A big challenge is lack of funding for the local National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management agencies in the area.

"If you want to prove the BLM is incompetent, bleed them to death," said Jason Keith, a climbing guide and member of Friends of Indian Creek. "We need more funding support for the BLM; they are handcuffed and don't have enough of a presence in areas being overrun."

Improved funding for way signing is one solution, says Josh Ewing, director of Friends of Cedar Mesa, and would limit the overall footprint to the sensitive area.

"When visitors come, right now it's unclear where to go," he said. "Directing them through a signed loop with more established campgrounds and educational kiosks is what they are looking for."

Another solution is to require all visitors to Cedar Mesa to watch a video of Leave No Trace ethics and proper etiquette around Native American sites and artifacts. Watching the videos is already required for hikers and backpackers at Grand Gulch.

Controlling human nature is tricky, Ewing said, and requires specialty training.

Friends of Cedar Mesa is hosting seminars for site stewards and volunteers on how to interact with visitors violating the rules.

"Yelling and screaming at a family who is climbing on ruins is not the right approach," he said. "How you handle that situation is key to getting the positive message out on how to enjoy the area while protecting it at the same time."

The BLM recently approved new rules for Cedar Mesa that prohibits camping on archeology sites, and bans the use of ropes or climbing aid to access sites.



# At Issue:

## Should Obama designate Bears Ears a national monument?



REGINA LOPEZ-WHITESKUNK  
COUNCILWOMAN, UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

WRITTEN FOR CQ RESEARCHER, APRIL 2016

**W**orking with other tribes, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is proposing a 1.9 million-acre national monument named for the Bears Ears — two prominent buttes at the heart of an area rich in history, containing more than 100,000 cultural sites sacred to dozens of tribes. Bears Ears, in southeast Utah, should have been protected long ago, yet grave robbing, looting and the destruction of cultural sites continue today.

Our Ute people have lived in the Bears Ears country since time immemorial, long before Utah or the United States existed. We are intrinsically tied to this place; our individual and collective health and prosperity depend upon these lands. Few things are more important to us than the protection we can offer Bears Ears today.

Native Americans from many tribes continue to use Bears Ears as a place for healing, ceremonies and the gathering of medicinal herbs. Our people are surrounded by the spirits of our ancestors and embraced by the ongoing evolution of our culture and traditions. Bears Ears is also a place for teaching children — both Native American children and the world's children — about lasting connections with sacred and storied lands.

Working as part of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition — a formal body including the Hopi, Navajo, Ute and Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and Zuni tribal governments — we submitted a proposal to protect the Bears Ears in 2015 to Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz and to President Obama.

We requested that Bishop and Chaffetz incorporate our proposal into their draft Utah Public Lands Initiative legislation. Unfortunately, the bill fails to incorporate Native interests and falls far short of what is needed to protect our ancestral lands. This is why we have asked the Obama administration to do what the Utah delegation would not — listen to tribes and to all Americans who want Bears Ears protected.

Our proposal is the first national monument plan submitted by sovereign Native American tribes, and our formal agreement to work together to protect Bears Ears is truly historic. One voice alone can be lost in a canyon, but with many voices we create a song. With the togetherness of our coalition and the support of the National Congress of American Indians and tribal governments and the communities they represent, we sing our collective song and call for the protection of our ancestral lands for today and for future generations.



BRUCE ADAMS  
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WRITTEN FOR CQ RESEARCHER, APRIL 2016

**T**he intended purpose of a presidential designation of a national monument through the Antiquities Act is to take action quickly to protect objects and lands and to avoid possible damage to resources. Such a process assures there are no imminent threats to unprotected lands and resources that cannot wait for protective measures to be developed by Congress. This is not the case in southeast Utah, and such a top-down executive process is not warranted.

Proponents of presidential designation of a 1.9 million-acre national monument in southeast Utah often state the need to protect "unprotected" lands from imminent threats. Public lands in southeast Utah are not "unprotected." They are managed under laws, regulations, policies and land-use plans. These plans, developed over a period of years by agencies using staff expertise and input from the public and Native American tribes, prescribe management that ensures the protection of cultural and other sensitive resources and provides for the use and enjoyment of natural resources in accordance with laws and regulations.

All permitted uses on public lands are regulated by law, regulation and policy to minimize surface disturbance, prevent erosion and negative impacts on water quality, avoid damaging cultural resources, wildlife and other sensitive resources and preserve certain landscape views and character. Monument designation would not of itself strengthen these laws, regulations or policies.

Presidential designation is not the best or most democratic method of establishing a monument. Such unilateral designation bypasses the congressional deliberation and public participation processes that normally are part of monument or other land-designation processes. Presidential designations often lack local public support, input or planning, which are critical to the successful design and management of any special land designation. Such unilateral designation excludes consideration of other types of designations such as national conservation areas, which may be more appropriate.

A better approach for developing land designations is the ground-up process that has been underway in southeast Utah for the past few years. This is the Public Lands Initiative proposed by Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz. San Juan County's proposal for this initiative is based on input from a broad range of county residents and interests including Native American tribes. The proposal includes wilderness as well as national conservation area designations and is a far more democratic approach to this issue.

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Jewell sees why Bears Ears monument is needed

Salt Lake Tribune, April 23, 2016

Tuesday, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell eloquently laid out the moral reasons for a Bears Ears National Monument. In rethinking conservation in the year of the national park centennial, she reminded us that "we haven't done enough to celebrate the contributions of Native Americans."

Jewell wants to make national parks and public lands "relevant" to every culture and "decisively more inclusive places" in order to "tell a more complete story of America." She wants us to "think big," on a "landscape-level" scale.

She brought herself to tears near the end of her speech, when she imagined taking a grandchild to old growth forest or listening to a howling Yellowstone wolf. She came

close to bringing me to tears, too — as she crisply outlined why modern conservation values lead directly to the Bears Ears.

By protecting these lands that sweep south from Canyonlands to the Navajo Nation, we protect canyons actively consecrated and blessed by native prayers, living libraries of indigenous traditional knowledge. We respond to the secretary's call to protect "places with incredible antiquities at risk of looting."

Let's make sure the secretary hears that we support her vision when she visits Utah. Speak up for the Bears Ears.

Stephen Trimble  
Salt Lake City

## Letter: Were rude legislators scarred by childhood?

Salt Lake Tribune, April 23, 2016

There was an overflow crowd at this week's meeting at the Legislature's public lands committee. From the overflow room, I could not always tell who was speaking, but Rep. Mike Noel was definitely one of them.

I was deeply saddened for the legislators speaking against the Bears Ears Monument because it seems they did not get the love and care as children that would have provided them with more compassion and better manners. Their rudeness to the public

they serve, and to the native speakers they opposed, was shocking and embarrassing!

To suggest that the unprecedented coalition of tribes are being selfish, after all we have done to them over the last centuries, showed a completely unjustified sense of entitlement. Many thanks to Sen. Jim Dabakis for role-modeling a better way to behave.

Jill Merritt  
Salt Lake City



# Deseret News

## Letter: Bears Ears monument

Deseret News, April 23, 2016

In her recent speech addressing “The Next Hundred Years of Conservation,” Secretary Sally Jewell highlighted the need for a “course correction” regarding conservation in the United States.

In her recent speech addressing “The Next Hundred Years of Conservation,” Secretary Sally Jewell highlighted the need for a “course correction” regarding conservation in the United States. Among these corrections was the need to engage those from different backgrounds and different walks of life who are often on the fringes of conservation conversations. This is evident in our own state surrounding the matter of Bears Ears. Utah's legislators have sought a specific narrative from San Juan County. In doing so, they have attempted to overshadow certain Native voices seeking monument designation. Such designation

would preserve cultural landscape and provide protection from further threats of looting and vandalism.

It is time for these voices to be heard and for action to be taken.

I hope President Obama designates Bears Ears as a National Monument. My understanding and appreciation of the landscape is minimal compared to those living on the land. However, as a Utahn, I can say I fully support and appreciate their efforts. For the next hundred years of conservation, it is essential that these voices are heard above the clamor of anti-conservation and anti-federal government rhetoric. I am hopeful.

Madison Hayes  
Salt Lake City

# The Salt Lake Tribune

## Letter: Hinkins' rudeness simply unacceptable

Salt Lake Tribune April 22, 2016

I attended the recent hearing of the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands at which the Bears Ears National Monument was discussed.

Local media coverage reported that "Republican commission members showed little interest in what Wilson, Lopez-Whiteskunk or other monument supporters had to say, cutting off their comments before they could finish." This description vastly understates what occurred.

The visuals were stunning. The commission consisted entirely of older, white men. The speakers were predominantly Native American and female.

The behavior was shocking. Sen. David Hinkins, R-Orangeville and commission co-chair, merits special mention. With obvious

disdain, he interrupted and dismissed the testimony of those with whom he disagreed, repeating questions with no regard for the answers given.

He twice demanded to know why a male tribal representative was not present to testify, clearly communicating that a woman's voice was insufficient, despite her position as a Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council leader and co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

Even putting aside the racist and sexist implications, Hinkins should be faulted for appalling rudeness. His conduct is simply unacceptable in a society that values respectful discourse.

Joanne Slotnik  
Salt Lake City



# The Washington Times

## **Jewell commits to Utah visit to hear conservation proposals**

The Washington Times, April 19, 2016 (AP story)

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Utah is among the places Interior Secretary Sally Jewell plans to visit this summer to hear about proposals for conserving public lands.

American Indian tribes and Utah's congressional delegation have been at odds over land management in southeastern Utah.

The tribes and conservation groups have called on President Barack Obama to designate 1.9 million acres as the Bears Ears

National Monument. They say the land is under constant threat from off-road vehicles and looting.

Members of Utah's congressional delegation have said any monument designation will be met with fierce opposition. They unveiled a plan earlier this year to protect 4 million acres of public land. The plan also would free up more than 1 million acres for recreation, and oil and gas development.

# mountain

Treading lightly on sacred land  
Mountain Online, April 12, 2016



*Exploring and protecting Utah's Grand Gulch.*

Words and photos by Sage Marshall

As my father and I scramble to the Perfect Kiva ruin, the evening sun tints the canyon walls gold. We find faded rock art, an impeccably preserved interior room, and a wooden ladder that protrudes from the circular "perfect" kiva. Built between 900 and 1150 CE, most of the adobe and wood of the roofing is original, although some of it was partially restored in the 1970s. Inside, the kiva smells like a thousand-year-old closet. Shrunken corncocks and ceramic shards litter the dirt floor.

Perfect Kiva sits five miles down Bullet Canyon in Southeastern Utah, 111 miles south of Moab. It and Grand Gulch comprise the 37,580-acre maze known as the Grand Gulch Primitive Area. The Ancestral Puebloans lived in cliff dwellings here from

1,500 BCE to 1300 CE, when they joined the Hopi and Zuni tribes.

Today, Grand Gulch is the center of a 1.9-million-acre swath of land that five Native American Tribes are petitioning to be designated as Bears Ears National Monument (the "Bears Ears" are twin buttes). The tribes are fighting to protect and co-manage the land with the federal government. As they outline in their mission statement: They hope, "to make this National Monument the most deeply and truly 'Native' of all federal public land units."

President Obama can exert executive power to protect the land, as he's already done with 1.8 million acres in California and 590,000 acres in Idaho, but many Utah legislators and residents oppose federal intervention. The typical response prioritizes the economic development of the ranching, mining, and oil industries.

Although this is my father's first time visiting the area, it's not mine: I came on a guided school trip years ago, and was profoundly affected when my group's guide led us to a nearly intact pot hidden behind a random boulder. Our guide brought us to hidden ruins in unnamed side canyons, but he never showed us the enigmatic whole pot that he had found years earlier. In fact, he vowed to never return, hoping that it wouldn't be found by anyone else. After the trip, he had us shuffle our pictures before posting them on social media. He wanted us to protect certain artifacts from possible looters. We learned to respect the relics by leaving them in their natural resting places.



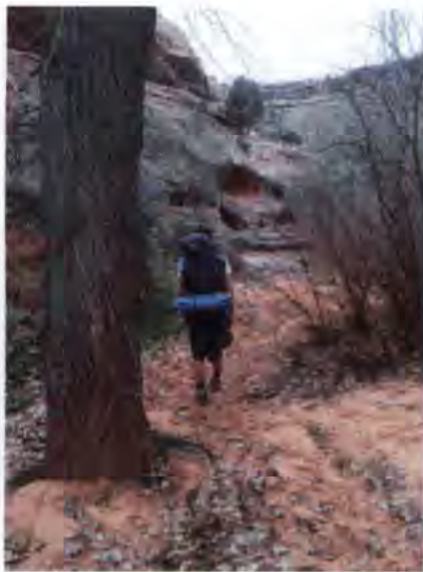
Currently, Grand Gulch Utah is a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) managed by the Bureau of Land Management, meaning that the land is temporarily protected but lacks permanent defense. Utah Congressman Rob Bishop developed a compromise that would conserve a large portion of the land, including Grand Gulch, in return for the rapid development of other “less important WSA’s.” The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition opposes the compromise. Instead, they are lobbying for President Obama to protect the entire cultural landscape.

On the second day of our trip, my father and I lose track of our distance-traveled in the ebbs and curves of the canyon, and miss the turnoff for upper Grand Gulch. In the lower section, the trail fades in and out. We scramble back and forth across the creek bed to examine small ruins tucked against the canyon wall. My thoughts turn to the early white explorers who also braved this rugged terrain—and who removed thousands of artifacts, including mummified bodies, in the late nineteenth century. As I graze my hand across plaster walls and fumble with decorated ceramic shards, I can’t help

wondering what I would have done in a similar situation.

Today, most visitors respect the ruins. Yet just one BLM police officer is responsible for all of San Juan County, and Puebloan artifacts are disappearing. The visitor book at Perfect Kiva overflows with complaints about vanishing potshards. One of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition’s main objectives is to “... finally [put] an end to the inexcusable, centuries-long grave-robbing, looting, and destruction.” It seems like a small ask.

As we hike out on the third day, I look back on the vast chasm that contains the scattered remnants of a civilization. Across from me, the layered sandstone wall marks a curve in the canyon, and I can no longer spot the wide and sandy floor. My dad lets out a throaty howl in his embarrassing way, but upon hearing his voice echo through the isolated canyon, I raise my head and join him. When I get home, I’ll send President Obama a letter, inviting him to backpack Grand Gulch with us. Make your voice heard by signing this petition: [bearscoalition.org/action](http://bearscoalition.org/action).





## Friends of Cedar Mesa

### Rogue ATVers highlight need for protection & education

Friends of Cedar Mesa (blog), April 7, 2016

<http://www.friendsofcedar mesa.org/rogue-atvers-highlight-need-for-protection-education/>

Most days at Friends of Cedar Mesa, our motivation comes the internationally significant landscapes we work to protect. The beauty of the scenery, the depth of the history, and the people we work with provide plenty of “juice” for us to keep working hard.

Some days, however, motivation comes from a different place – anger, frustration, and disbelief at the behavior of irresponsible people who act like the land is “theirs” not “ours.”



In 2014, FCM organized a trail project, rerouting the hiking trail to avoid a sensitive archaeological site – through which ATVers drove this weekend.

Over the weekend, a FCM board member reported extensive new damage from off-trail ATV abuse in the Lower Fish Creek area. You might recall this is where FCM [organized a hiking trail rerouting project](#) to protect a Pueblo I archaeological site (rare for Cedar Mesa). Following an archaeological clearance, volunteers that day worked hard to make a

responsible hiking trail into Lower Fish Creek Canyon.

On Sunday, April 3rd, ATV riders completely disrespected the work that had been done and rules prohibiting cross-country riding. The rider or group of riders tore up the trail we built and rode directly through the archaeological site we were protecting, as well as another, larger archaeology site. The riders drove right past “no vehicles” signs to travel cross country through fragile soils, pulling doughnuts in cryptobiotic crust and thrashing riparian habitat – almost all within a Wilderness Study Area.



Here's the spaghetti like path the ATV riders took tearing around cross country and on the hiker trail.

\*[see the end of this blog post for images of the damage.](#)\*

This incident comes on the heels of another new illegal road, which was created the weekend before (March 26-27) in the Green Spring area. In that instance, a larger vehicle, probably a jeep driven by a rancher checking on cattle, drove more than 1.5 miles off of highway 276 cutting



Archaeological and Cultural Treasures of the Proposed  
Bears Ears National Monument

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Prepared for Utah Dine Bikeyah

## Introduction

The ancient past makes itself undeniably present in a few places on earth—the Giza pyramids, Machu Picchu, Stonehenge, and Ankor Wat come to mind. And the Bears Ears region ranks right up there with them. Picturesque cliff dwellings confront the senses as we try to imagine how and why people would choose to live in such precarious and spectacular places. Striking, mysterious figures etched and painted on stone faces many hundreds of years ago touch our souls. The unspoiled landscape harkens to a time when the population of the region was many times what it is today, and we cannot escape wondering what happened, what has changed, how have we so affected this land and its people that they seem to have slipped away? The Navajo family gathering wood and the Ute man hunting deer continue the ancient and timeless ways, yet those traditions are largely uncelebrated by the modern visitor. We can still learn from the descendants of those ancient ones, and elevate our own appreciation of the venerable cultures that called this incredible landscape home for thousands of years. The archaeological and cultural treasures of Greater Bears Ears are ours to protect, preserve, and embrace.

The area is rugged and remote, and most visitors do not venture far from the paved roads, yet those more inaccessible canyons and mesas hold some of the most incredible, significant, and abundant archaeological sites in North America. Archaeologists and adventurers have been combing the nooks and crevices of Southeastern Utah for over a hundred years. The sights they have seen and the stories they have to tell fill volumes; we have compiled here a taste of those observations, just enough to share some of the knowledge and wonder we have gained walking these ancient paths. This is a region we love and cherish, and which we hope will be cared for and sustained for many centuries to come.



The great value of the cultural resources of the Bears Ears area derives from several aspects of geography and prehistory that converge to elevate the importance of the archaeological record here. First, the area is a resource-rich refuge. The Abajo Mountains provide runoff that waters several million acres of high desert mesalands and canyons. The precious liquid flows outward from the mountains, nourishing upland forests and meadows, creating ribbons of rich riparian vegetation, hydrating pinon-juniper woodlands, and depositing alluvial soils necessary for farming. The resource concentration afforded by the geography sustained the hunting and gathering Archaic denizens of the region for thousands of years. When horticultural economies arrived in the area, populations grew and flourished, filling nearly every available space with homes, storage facilities, resource acquisition sites, and magnificent art. And when droughts came and critical resources declined, the population that had once flourished proved too large to sustain, and the cultural and economic systems collapsed, leaving an abundance of abandoned traces of the prior inhabitants' lives. The dry climate preserved many of those places, leaving them as if they had been abandoned yesterday. Despite decades of looting, the archaeological presence in the area remains, nearly unrivaled in North America for its richness, diversity, and incredible preservation.

And why is this valuable to us today? For its historic and artistic value, of course, but most significantly and irreplaceably because it constitutes a database, a library, of information about how many thousands of people over the millenia lived in this remote and spectacular region. Perhaps the most unique and significant aspect is the significance of knowledge contained here for our survival into the future. As global warming affects our lives and economies today, we have an opportunity to learn from those who came before. How did a warming climate influence the citizens of the Bears Ears? How did they cope with changes in

the precipitation regime and in average temperatures? Were they able to stave off the deleterious effects for a time, and how? What were the triggers that finally led to a precipitous drop in population? Why did the later arriving Utes and Navajos never achieve similar population levels?

The Bears Ears ecosystem and its cultural record are an incredible heritage resource for all citizens. For Native Americans, it is a place of healing, and a place of great significance to cultural heritage and practices. For all citizens, it is a place to learn about the past, about our shared heritage, and about how we might cope with challenges of the future. From the Colorado River to the San Juan, from Canyonlands to Recapture Canyon, the Bears Ears is a treasure of great cultural and scientific significance, a gift from the past, and it is a great challenge to our generation to recognize its importance and protect and preserve it for the generations to come.

For convenience, we have divided the Greater Bears Ears area into smaller geographic segments, to facilitate discussion. Significant portions of the region, including the Greater Canyonlands area, covering Canyonlands National Park, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and areas included in the Bears Ears proposal, are well-described in many publications. Areas along highway U-95 from Blanding to Lake Powell, across Cedar Mesa, are also substantively reported, and we summarize existing knowledge that is readily available. In this report we draw attention to both these well-known places as well as some of the lesser-known areas of the Bears Ears region, areas which nonetheless are home to ancient places of immense significance and beauty. The cultural resources of the areas designated Red House, Red Canyon, White Canyon/Fable Valley, and Headwaters, as well as Cedar Mesa and Greater Canyonlands, are addressed in the following sections.



## Cedar Mesa

Renowned among archaeologists as a place of profound significance that is largely unappreciated and generally imperiled, Cedar Mesa is the heart of the Bears Ears area, center of perhaps the last remaining substantial archaeological districts in North America. Cedar Mesa, and the mountains, mesas, and canyons that surround it, comprises an island of antiquities, a land of ancient mysteries and abandoned homes, ritual, and dreams that continues to inspire and inform. With proper care, it will continue to teach and reach us far into the future.

The Cedar Mesa portion of the study area is home to one of the oldest archaeological sites in Utah—the Lime Ridge Clovis site (Davis 1989). The Clovis culture, dating from the late Pleistocene, or last ice age, is represented by distinctive projectile points often associated with the bones of extinct mammals, including notably, the butchered bones of mammoths. The Lime Ridge Clovis site is the best example of a site dating to this period in the state and region, as it contained at least 294 artifacts, including two clovis points, several partial clovis points, and many scrapers, used in butchering, working hides, woodworking, and other tasks. A site such as the Lime Ridge Clovis site is unusual in this region, as erosion and deposition in the area is such that soils old enough to contain artifacts dating to this ancient period are uncommon.

The Cedar Mesa area is home to a moderate number of sites dating to the archaic period, but the most significant archaeological presence in this area dates to the time of the Ancestral Puebloans. Spangler, Yentsch, and Green (2010) provide a detailed and masterful summary and analysis of the state of archaeological knowledge for the area, a document that is remarkable in its comprehensive, clear depiction of the incredible and significant archaeological and heritage resources of the region. Their preface provides an excellent introduction to the resources of the area:

Archaeological inquiry in this region has a long and colorful history, beginning in the final decades of the 1800s with a flurry of museum expeditions to acquire artifact collections and continuing through the present with the scientifically oriented research of the Cedar Mesa Project and the efforts of several public-private partnerships, particularly in the Comb Wash area. Collectively, cultural sites within the study area represent human adaptations to the canyons and plateaus of southeastern Utah over the past 10,000 years, although evidence of a substantial occupation by hunter-gatherers prior to about 500 B.C. is quite rare. By about A.D. 1, perhaps earlier, large numbers of Basketmaker II farmers had arrived in the region, perhaps from southern Arizona. These groups were organized at the family level, used a variety of irrigation techniques to grow maize and squash, constructed large storage cists in alcoves and rockshelters, and interred their dead in relatively rich funerary contexts. By about A.D. 400, the region had been largely abandoned, perhaps due to deteriorating climates that made farming less viable.

The region appears to have remained sparsely occupied, if at all, until about A.D. 650 when Basketmaker III farmers returned. These farmers used dry farming techniques to exploit the sandy loams on the mesa top, constructed larger and more elaborate pithouses, also on the mesa top, and manufactured distinctive grayware ceramics that may have been a technology associated with cultivation of beans. This florescence was brief, lasting maybe 50 to 75 years, and the intensity of the occupation was not as great as that witnessed during Basketmaker II times. By the early A.D. 700s, the mesa-top farms had been abandoned, perhaps in response to deteriorating climates. Some populations may have shifted to higher elevations northeast of Cedar Mesa where rainfall was more predictable, and others may have concentrated along Comb Wash. An abandonment of the entire study area during Pueblo times is not supported, although the intensity of the occupations appears to have been considerably less than during Basketmaker II and Basketmaker III times.

By about A.D. 1060, farming of Cedar Mesa and surrounding environs had resumed, as evidenced by a proliferation of dispersed family farms. This florescence was apparently facilitated by regional climatic conditions that were exceptional for dry farming. The Pueblo II florescence in the Greater Cedar Mesa area occurs at the same time that Chaco Canyon emerged as a regional socioeconomic and ceremonial center. There is minimal evidence in the Cedar Mesa area of population aggregations or large community centers such as those in northwest New Mexico, although a number of smaller centers with great kivas and great houses have been identified. These may have integrated the dispersed Cedar Mesa households into a larger social network. The initial Pueblo II expression here exhibits influences from the Mesa Verde region to the east, but by about A.D. 1100 the influences were clearly from the Kayenta Anasazi region to the southwest. This could reflect radical changes in social networks or an outright colonization of the Cedar Mesa area by groups from northeastern Arizona.

By about A.D. 1165, or the beginning of the Pueblo III period of time, the



dispersed farmsteads again exhibited a greater affinity to the Mesa Verde region. The Pueblo III period was characterized by greater climatic variability, with short periods when farming was viable and other periods of extended drought. Farmers shifted their homes to the edges of canyons closer to water sources, and constructed defensible granaries and small kivas on the cliff ledges and in alcoves and rockshelters. Habitations in defensible positions on cliff faces and prominences are common throughout the Southwest at this time, but they are quite rare in the Cedar Mesa region. By about A.D. 1270, the entire region had been abandoned. This abandonment was perhaps the result of an extended drought and the resulting social conflicts arising over limited food supplies. Most of the archaeological resources observed by casual visitors to the region are attributed to the Pueblo II-III period of time.

The Greater Cedar Mesa area appears to have been unoccupied for several centuries following the Pueblo III abandonment. The earliest evidence of Numic and Athapaskan hunter-gatherers suggests these groups arrived in the study area sometime after A.D. 1600. The Numa, or ancestral Utes, migrated into southeastern Utah from the north and west, and their ancestral homeland is found in the southern Great Basin. The Athapaskans, or ancestral Navajos, arrived in the Four Corners region by way of the Rocky Mountains or the Great Plains, and their ancestral homeland is found in western Canada. Although relations between the ethnically unrelated groups were hostile throughout the region, ethnohistoric, ethnographic and historic records indicate the two groups coexisted peaceably in southeastern Utah, with some evidence of economic cooperation and intermarriage. The Late Prehistoric and Historic Period utilization of the Cedar Mesa area by Utes and Navajos was more reminiscent of Archaic hunting and gathering, although there is some evidence of Navajo farming during historic times.

The first Euroamericans in the study area may have been the U.S. government exploring expeditions of the mid 1870s, although it is possible that Spanish explorers, fur trappers, prospectors and adventurers passed through much earlier. Most of the Euroamerican history of the region is associated with the settlement of the region by Mormon pioneers and the famed Hole-in-the-Rock Expedition, which passed through Cedar Mesa and Comb Ridge on their way to establishing a settlement at Bluff in 1880. Ranching was clearly the dominant economic activity in the Greater Cedar Mesa area during historic times, both by Euroamericans and Native Americans. The area has also experienced a minor gold rush, oil drilling and uranium mining, although minimal archaeological evidence of these activities has been documented.

The scientific and aesthetic qualities of the cultural resources of the Greater Cedar Mesa area constitute a national treasure worthy of more aggressive federal management to foster their long-term protection. Only about 2 percent of the study area has been formally investigated, no research has been initiated in several major drainages, and the nature and extent of cultural resources remains largely unknown over much of the study area. Very little is known about human

adaptations here during the Archaic, Pueblo I and Late Prehistoric times. Although the archaeological record constitutes a vast library of untapped scientific knowledge, the integrity of this record continues to suffer from ongoing vandalism, looting, improper visitor behavior, off-road vehicles, livestock grazing and other activities. The extent of site degradation cannot be quantified due to the near-absence of baseline data for most of the area. The paucity of baseline data makes it difficult for land managers to develop strategies whereby adverse impacts can be avoided or minimized. In short, land managers cannot manage archaeological resources if they do not know what those resources are, where the resources are located, the significance of those resources and the nature of the threats to the long term preservation of those resources. (Spangler, Yentsch, and Green, 2010: xi-xii).

The archaeological richness of this region, despite many years of research, is largely untapped, and it faces daily threats from intentional vandalism and looting, unintentional damage by visitors, and collateral damage resulting from construction, development, exploration, and resource extraction. This is a region that is perhaps most remarkable when viewed from a national or international perspective, as the richness of its archaeological resources may seem to be common and inexhaustible to locals, while its uniqueness, richness, and mystery are clear to those who have a more comprehensive perspective.



## Greater Canyonlands

Roughly centered on Canyonlands National Park is an area conservation groups have called the "Proposed Greater Canyonlands Conservation Area", which includes portions of the area covered by the Bears Ears proposal. The Abajo Mountains, White Canyon, Dark Canyon, Beef Basin, and portions of Cedar Mesa north of Utah Highway U-95 are common to both proposals. Significant archaeological research has been conducted in the Greater Canyonlands area, and a recent overview by archaeologist Jerry Spangler (2014) is an excellent introduction to the outstanding archaeological and cultural resources of the area. Much of his narrative applies equally to the Bears Ears proposal.

From the introduction to the document, we learn of the great value of the cultural resources of this remarkable area:

It is hard to imagine a more likely candidate for national monument protection than Greater Canyonlands – the magnificent 1.8 million acres of public land surrounding Canyonlands National Park in southern Utah. It remains one of the last great untouched frontiers of the American West and one of the largest roadless areas in the lower 48 states. It also forms the heart of one of the West's most critical watersheds, upon which 40 million Americans and 15% of our nation's agriculture rely. And its unparalleled recreational opportunities – hiking, rafting, rock climbing, biking – are world-renowned.

But there is another reason why Greater Canyonlands is so deserving of protection under the Antiquities Act: the area holds some of the most scientifically important cultural resources to be found anywhere in North America. Ensnared in ancient alcoves or perched astonishingly on the ledges of sheer canyon walls, human history here is as layered as the sandstone topography that enfolds it.

As unlikely as it may seem when first gazing upon this arid and rugged landscape, human culture not only survived but thrived among the high plateaus, serpentine canyons, and impassable river gorges of Greater Canyonlands.

This wild landscape stands today as a largely untapped and remarkably well-preserved library of almost 12,000 years of human history: from Ice Age mammoth hunters, to ancient farmers who cultivated corn in the arid desert, to infamous outlaws like Butch Cassidy who found refuge here. It is a vast outdoor

museum that could one day unlock the mystery of how humans adapted to a changing climate in the American West.

The area's aridity and isolation have helped preserve remnants of this fascinating history largely intact and undisturbed: spears from Paleoindian hunters; basketry, tools, ceremonial objects and clay figurines from Archaic hunter-gatherers; and the elaborately designed pottery, standing stone structures, cliff dwellings, and brilliantly complex rock art of the Basketmaker, Ancestral Puebloan and Fremont peoples. To venture into this landscape – as anyone willing to tread lightly and respectfully can do – is to walk through time with wonder and awe, marveling at the secrets of our collective past.

Unfortunately, without action, this treasure trove of scientific and historical knowledge will be lost over time. Poorly regulated off-road vehicle use, proposed oil and gas drilling, tar sands mining, and uranium and potash development all threaten to transform the region and open the door to looters and vandals.

With each site that is lost through neglect or malice, another page is ripped from our history.

While the vast depths of the human history of this region fall in the realm of what we today call, somewhat ethnocentrically, "prehistory," meaning originating before the advent of written history in the area, the arrival of paper and pen in the region with the Spanish or even later explorers, by no means signifies the beginning of written history. The great cliff faces, gently sloping wind-carved uplifts, tumbled boulders and slabs, and exposures of fossilized sand dunes form the perfect canvases for millennia of artists, documentarians, shamans, painters and carvers. The stone monoliths and mineral-stained cortex of exposed bedrock are adorned with thousands upon thousands of images, abundantly evocative symbols and depictions of things and ideas, stories and sagas of rich significance to the ancient peoples, seemingly silent, yet which speak sometimes softly, sometimes sonorously, sometimes overwhelmingly to those who will look, see, and listen.



The Greater Canyonlands area, like all regions of the Bears Ears proposed National Monument, hosts a richness of adornment that exceeds the collection of any of the great art museums of the world. Contiguous exposures hundreds of yards long covered with scores of individual elements comprising a composition as great in size and cultural richness as the Sistine Chapel adorns the stark stone, providing a glimpse into the minds and lives of those who once walked these magnificent landscapes. Red-painted lifesize ghost-like figures with intricate interiors of white and black peer from the sheer cliff faces, representing some mythical world we cannot begin to comprehend, thrill us and remind us that we are mere latecomers, visitors to this anointed place. Elaborate abstracts intertwine with depictions that remind us of bighorn sheep, or snakes, or lizards, or humans, or birds, but what are they? We cannot know, as the stories, the sacred and profane cultural richness that gave rise to these images, are gone, lost to the passage of time. But the images draw us, they provoke us, frighten and thrill us, like any great art will, as we need not understand it so much as allow ourselves to be touched by it, to feel the humanity of the artist, even an artist who lived thousands of year ago. Artists through their creations reach out to us and move us, remind us of our shared humanity, cause us to marvel at the artistry and complexity of the world depicted so long ago. And we marvel at the creations as we stand, not in a gallery, but on the same sand, on the same stones where the artist stood so long ago, and we experience the artist's presence in a way we cannot in a gallery, or by seeing pictures in a book.

Thousands of artistic creations are tattooed on the stone faces of the Canyonlands and Bears Ears areas, painted, pecked, carved, etched, scratched, and rubbed, and they give us a direct connection to the humanity of those who created them, in ways only the most uniquely human of all the traces that remain of the people who called this area home can do. We cannot dig up or find many things that connect us directly to the individuals and cultures of the past, as

our most important ways of identifying ourselves—our language, beliefs, songs, stories, jokes, music--those things that make us most human, do not survive in the archaeological record. But the creativity of the ancient ones does persist, and it is moving, illuminating, enriching, and enlightening, and ever so deserving of our protection.

In this report we summarize the resources of the areas common to both the Greater Canyonlands and Bears Wars proposals (Headwaters, White Canyon/Fable Valley), and acknowledge that both areas contain some of the most remarkable and irreplaceable heritage treasures in North America.



## Red House

The rugged, dissected spit of land jutting above the converging Colorado and San Juan Rivers has hindered travelers and harbored residents since Paleo-Indian times. Remote even today, the Red House area, also known as the Red Rock Plateau, constitutes the most southwestern portion of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. Identified sites from the Paleo-Indian period are present, but few, likely due to collection of surface artifacts. Most notable are the abundant Archaic and early Puebloan sites, perhaps more visible here because of the fewer numbers of later Puebloans that would have obliterated some of the earlier record. Navajo and Ute sites are present on the landscape, as are many from the Historic period-- sites related to early Mormon pioneers, mining, cattle ranching, roads connected with all kinds of later activities, and including historic inscriptions.

The discussion area lies between the rivers (now arms of Lake Powell) covering the Colorado River below Halls Crossing, and the San Juan below Clay Hills. Bounded on the north by Red Canyon, on the east by the Red House Cliffs, Grand Flat and Grand Gulch, the land is carved by steep-sided canyons among uplifted sandstone ramparts. Notable features include Wilson Mesa, Nokai Dome, Moqui Canyon, Clay Hills, and the Red House cliffs.

A cursory glance at a map will give clues as to the rich archaeological presence in the Red House district—prominently marked features include “The Fortress” ruins, “The Castle” ruins, many spots just note “ruins” including in Moqui Canyon, itself a reference to Puebloan or Hopi presence. At least two sets of “Moqui steps”—hand and foot holds pecked in sandstone cliffs to aid in climbing—are noted, along with natural features such as arches.

The overall density of archaeological sites is typical for the region—likely averaging between a dozen and twenty sites per square mile, with sites as always clustering in higher

densities in areas with access to resources, especially water. Travel routes—places where canyons or terrain are conducive to foot travel—are characterized by higher site density. Site density is higher in the eastern portion of the unit (the areas close to Grand Gulch and its incredible archaeological presence, and lower in the more arid areas to the west.

The most remote portions of the unit likely harbor some of the least-disturbed sites, although sometimes remoteness has proven to be attractive to the most serious looters, as less-traveled areas are less likely to be watched. Dry alcoves and overhangs are present, and these provide the best preservation of archaeological deposits, rivaling the best preservation anywhere in the world. Sites with standing architecture, rock art, and cave deposits are present in abundance in the area, and these kinds of sites are particularly susceptible to damage by visitors, including those with no intention of damaging sites.

Many sites in the Red House unit are likely eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, perhaps many hundreds. The archaeological resources of the Red House unit are considerable, substantial, significant, delicate, and endangered.

Recognized as a significant archaeological district in the 1950s and 1960s, the University of Utah sent crews to the Red House area, also known as the Red Rock Plateau, to inventory some of the antiquities that would be affected by the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam and the filling of Lake Powell (Jennings 1966; Lipe 1970). Surveys were largely intuitive, scouring areas likely to be inundated, as well as areas likely to yield sites and information representative of the region. Five phases of prehistoric occupation were recognized among the 512 sites recorded, 59 partially excavated, and 36 test-excavated. The work identified four factors that made the Red Rock area attractive to prehistoric people: an abundance of natural rock shelters, many gravel terraces that contain raw materials suitable for chipped stone manufacture, incised



canyons that contain valuable water supplies and useful plants, and wild animals suitable for hunting (Lipe 1970:93).

Representative sites include habitation and burial sites, storage sites including surface granaries and sub-surface storage cists, some filled with corn cobs, defensive sites with walls and peep holes, plazas, a possible “fortress,” large campsites, scattered hearths and hunting sites, and artifact scatters. According to Lipe (1970:124), there are site clusters which characteristically contain one to five substantial living rooms with a firepit and sometimes a mealing bin; 2) a small courtyard or open-air work area, often with a fireplace, and sometimes with a mealing bin or set of loom anchors; 3) a kiva, sometimes with loom anchors in addition to a central firepit with deflector and ventilator; 4) several substantially built rooms, probably never roofed, occasionally containing a hearth or other features; and 5) several well-built masonry storage structures in a variety of shapes and sizes.

The archaeological sites in the Red House region tend to be smaller and more scattered than in some nearby areas, mostly due to the rugged nature of the terrain, but the overall significance of the record here is substantial, and clearly deserving of protection and further investigation.

## Red Canyon

Home to the near-legendary Defiance House, known for its graphic rock art that appears to depict a challenging warrior, the Red Canyon area contains some of the most rugged and remote territory in an area known for its demanding terrain.

Centered on majestic Red Canyon, bounded by the Colorado River on the west, White Canyon and Natural Bridges National Monument and Grand Gulch on the east, The Red Canyon discussion unit includes Cedar Canyon, Mancos Mesa, and Forgotten Canyon.

Archaeological sites in this area, like those in surrounding areas, range from small and elusive to grand and spectacular, and while the dissected nature of the terrain affects the presence and numbers of sites, many can be considered significant, and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Sites dating to the Paleo-Indian period are reported, and many dating to Archaic times are known. Sites dating to the Basketmaker and Puebloan periods are fewer in proportion to nearby regions, likely owing to the steep terrain and limited arable soils. Rock art sites from all cultural periods are common, and significant. Sites related to Navajo use of the area are present, and there are some hints of modern Puebloan presence. Ute sites are significant, and are related to the use of trails across Red Canyon and Mancos Mesa, and the important Piute Pass battle site from 1884. Later historic sites are also prominent, and include historic mines, mining roads, cowboy camps and trails, and historic inscriptions.

The remoteness of this area has likely had a positive effect on site condition, as fewer visitors may mean less human-caused damage. In addition, alcoves and rock shelters are present in the cliffs and canyons, and these often retain the best-preserved archaeological deposits in any region. Standing ruins and rock art on Moss Back Mesa deserve special attention regarding future protection.



Cultural sites in the Red Canyon area are most valuable and best interpreted in relation to those in surrounding areas, as none of these areas existed in isolation. People from nearby areas came here for certain uses, and residents of this area were in contact and interacted with those who surrounded them. Those who left the spectacular and important sites in the Grand Gulch and Cedar Mesa areas were also present in the Red Canyon area, and the same kinds of resource management issues apply here as well. The Colorado River and the resources and access it represents, as well as access down Red Canyon and over Mancos Mesa from regions to the east and north played a significant role in the prehistory of this most intriguing area.

Relative to surrounding regions, some portions of the Red Canyon discussion area have a lower overall site density, likely due to the ruggedness and isolation of the area, although some areas such as Moss Back Mesa are home to surface masonry structures and refined rock art. Many areas show evidence of the impacts of historic use, particularly uranium prospectors and miners of the last century. However, the presence of earlier, Archaic period sites in significant numbers, and the later sites marking the presence of Utes, Paiutes, and Navajos, gives the significance of the Red House area a different cast. Rather than deriving its importance from the presence of Ancestral Puebloan sites (which are here, and which are significant, but in relatively lesser numbers), the significance of the area derives from the smaller, less spectacular, but intensely information-rich campsites, hunting areas, processing and gathering spots, and sacred/ritual sites of the hunter-gatherers of the area, telling a related but completely distinct story from that of the farming cultures.

Hunter-gatherers left subtle and more easily dismissed and destroyed traces on the earth, traces which are nonetheless important and valuable to understanding the human history of the region. These sites provide critical parts of the story of the area, and are also perhaps the most

imperiled—Archaic period baskets and other perishables are some of the most sought-after artifacts on the black market. Additionally, the rock shelters and overhangs that contain those perishables are palimpsests of artifacts and information, often possessing layered sites, occupation upon occupation, covering thousands of years. Each of these sites, due to the protection its overhang provided to early occupants, contains thousands of times the information of open architectural sites. The fact that these sites are targeted by looters and vandals makes their protection a high priority. The Archaic and proto-historic sites of the Red Canyon area have great value for the rare and irreplaceable artifacts and information they contain regarding hunting and gathering in Utah.

A dry, dusty alcove, the sandy surface pock-marked with footprints, crossed by the lines of lizard tails and snake bellies between scattered sticks and wisps of bark and a discarded snakeskin snagged on a fragment of a prickly pear pad, gives few clues to what may lie below. An experienced eye will note the light trace of ash in the eroded slope just outside the dripline of the shelter, and an examination of the tangle of sticks, spines, cactus pads and fruits, bones and pebbles that cascade out of a crack below an indurated pack rat midden reveals a twisted cord fashioned from the fibers of a milkweed plant, and a juniper twig, sharpened and fire hardened. A fire-cracked rock lies near the side of the shelter, and an anthill in a sunny level spot contains among the thousands of tiny pebbles covering its slopes, three tiny pieces of cryptocrystalline chert—one red, one white, one the color of pumpkin pie, conchoidally-fractured, each a link to a hunter, perhaps many thousands of years ago, perhaps a Ute or Navajo of a few centuries ago, who sat in this place and sharpened a tool, preparing to butcher an animal, plane a stick, or haft a projectile point on a hunting spear.



These subtle clues visible only to the trained, observant eye, reveal that this overhang in the craggy cliffs along a forgotten drainage in the Red Canyon region is a library of knowledge that was ancient even at the time of Christ, a one of a kind record of the human past here, a document relevant to the lives lived here over the millennia, an encyclopedia with knowledge valuable to those yet to be born. It is a database and a library, one of hundreds, perhaps thousands in this region, that deserves to be protected and cherished, not neglected and left to the ravages of thieves and plunderers.

## White Canyon/Fable Valley

The major canyons draining the Grand Gulch Plateau and the Abajo Mountains to the west and northwest cross this spectacular region of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. Historic and prehistoric people traveled the canyons and mesas between the well-watered, game rich mountains, the arable lands of the plateaus and drainages, and the powerful Colorado River, making homes, obtaining sustenance, and carrying on cultural traditions that go back millennia.

Bounded by White Canyon on the south and west, Natural Bridges National Monument and the Grand Gulch Plateau on the southeast, Woodenshoe Canyon and the upper reaches of the Abajo Mountains on the east, Beef Basin on the north, and the spectacular Cataract Canyon portion of the Colorado River on the west and north, the White Canyon/Fable Valley area stands out as a prime example of the unique geography and ecosystems of the Canyonlands region.

Here archaeologists have found artifacts from the earliest peoples in the region—the mammoth and bison hunters of the late Pleistocene ice age, and an unbroken record of human presence spanning over 10,000 years, including significant traces of Navajo, Ute, and Mormon/white settlement and industry. The record of human habitation in this most rugged and foreboding landscape is rich and abundant, and stands as a testament to human cultural resilience and tenacity.

Archaeologist Steven R. Simms's statement regarding the archaeology of this area, including the Headwaters (Abajo Mountains uplands), captures his estimation of the value of the archaeology of this area:

The swath of country from White Canyon, across the dissected maze of drainages along and above Woodenshoe Canyon, east across Elk Ridge, and Beef Basin to the southern slopes of the Abajos is perhaps the richest, most spectacular display of Ancestral Puebloan archaeology in Utah, and perhaps even the Four Corners region. While this claim may seem extravagant, the areas in question stand out because of the wilderness quality of the areas. There are other areas with



a lot of archeological sites, but many if not most of those places, are horrifically modified by overgrazing, erosion, farming, oil drilling, excessive road building, mining, and vandalism.

The resource of these areas is significant for archaeological science because this is relatively high country as Ancestral Puebloans go. Also, it is on the northern borderlands of the Ancestral Puebloan world. As such it holds significance for descendant tribes including the Hopi, Zuni, Rio Grande pueblos, Navajo, and Ute, across the Four Corners area. This level of significance transcends the boundaries and politics of state of Utah.

These areas are also significant to heritage tourism because of the state of preservation, and the natural beauty in which the archaeology resides. The area does have considerable road access, but there is enormous acreage where roads will never be built. Thus, many of the sites are remote, and invite a backcountry experience as well as traditional forms of tourism in some portions of these two areas.

Diagnostic artifacts from the Paleo-Indian Clovis and Folsom cultures are present in the area, indicating an archaeological record spanning over 10,000 years. Many sites from the hunting-gathering cultures of the Archaic period, from about 8,000 years ago until about 2,000 years ago are present, mostly consisting of stone tool scatters, but including as well the deeply buried layers in caves and alcoves. Dominating the archaeological landscape are sites from the Basketmaker and later Anasazi/Ancestral Puebloan periods. Present, but in relatively smaller numbers compared to lower elevation areas such as Cedar Mesa, are sites left by Ute, Navajo, and other historic tribal groups, including some sites possibly related to the modern Puebloan cultures.

The White Canyon/Fable portion of the proposed monument embodies the contrast between readily-accessed areas and more remote ones, as this zone contains both. The major highway in the region crosses this portion of the proposed monument, while at the same time it contains some of the most remote sections, such as Dark Canyon and the Dark Canyon Plateau. Areas with ready access present the opportunity for bringing visitors into close contact with the

treasured resources for which the monument will be named—the natural and cultural treasures that grace this land. Bringing visitors close enough to see and touch the resources enables guests to have personal experiences with the natural and cultural world, and to learn about and appreciate the land and its peoples, past and present. Creating opportunities for teaching requires creating appropriate spaces and facilities, which can affect the resources. In addition, providing opportunities for hiking and other forms of access to the land poses potential problems for resource protection.

Conversely, the remote areas with wilderness characteristics are more fragile, more valuable, and more vulnerable. Keeping visitors on a short trail near a visitor center can be challenging enough, but assuring that persons who are out of sight are not damaging the land and its resources poses challenges of a different sort. The terrain and the resources of the White Canyon/Fable Valley portion of the proposed monument are representative of the Bears Ears area as a whole, but perhaps the juxtaposition of the modern with the ancient, the developed with the wild, is a little more pronounced here, and serves to illustrate the great potential of the proposed monument. Some of the management challenges which currently face public land managers here will be better addressed in the context of a National Monument.



## Headwaters

Constituting the upper reaches of the Bears Ears area, including the Bears Ears themselves, the Headwaters area can be considered the source of the most critical resources in this generally desert environment—winter snowpack feeding the streams that flow down through the surrounding countryside, relatively lush vegetation, including the plants, seeds, fruits, and nuts of importance to native peoples, and of course, the game animals attracted to those resources. The Headwaters area is the key to life in this region, and has been since the earliest people arrived here over 10,000 years ago. It is the fount of nourishment, the key to provisioning, sustaining, and perpetuating human lives and culture, and as such, houses the shreds and patches of past lives that preserve the knowledge of those who lived before.

Stretching west from the high points of the Abajo Mountains at over 11,000 feet, the Headwaters unit reaches to the upper portion of Milk Ranch Point on the south, to the Woodenshoe Buttes on the southwest, Beef Basin on the northwest, and Salt Creek Mesa and Cathedral Butte on the north. The unit includes forested higher elevation slopes, rolling meadows, deeply dissected canyonlands, substantial mesas, and running streams. Archaeological sites are present in significant numbers in all environmental zones of the Headwaters.

Paleo-Indian period sites are present in the area, and due to their age and the active erosional/depositional environment of the area, are relatively infrequent, but extremely important. Archaic period sites are abundant, and are especially prominent in the Dark Canyon area. Sites assignable to the Basketmaker period are likewise present in substantial numbers, particularly from Basketmaker III times, with hundreds of sites dating to this time period.

Puebloan period sites are abundant, and remarkable for many reasons, especially the unrivaled preservation of perishable items in many of the more sheltered sites. Sites from the Pueblo I period are numerous, and constitute the greatest concentration of sites from this period outside Mesa Verde (see Wilshusen, et al. 2012). Sites from the Pueblo II and Pueblo III times are fewer in number but are impressive in size and preservation. Historic use of the area by Navajo and Ute people is reasonably well documented, although the archaeological record is less substantial than that of earlier periods.

Historic era sites related to European occupation are numerous and significant. The important historic economic pursuits of ranching and mining are well represented by many sites that document the pursuits of the early historic pioneers and explorers.

The upland areas of Elk Ridge and the surrounding drainages like Dark Canyon are rich in archaeological resources, and despite the abundance of sites, the archaeology of the areas is relatively less spoiled and damaged by visitation and vandalism. The concentration of sites is significant—the Elk Ridge area is estimated to contain the largest concentration of Pueblo I sites outside of Mesa Verde, with current inventory at approximately 1000 recorded sites (Allison, et al, 2012). Some consider this area to be an archaeological “gold mine” of research potential for understanding the Basketmaker to Pueblo transition.

An example of the remarkable archaeological presence in this area is a site on U.S. Forest Service property in the area of Woodenshoe Canyon, provided by archaeologists who worked at the site:

The site is located on a sandstone ledge and a shallow alcove above the ledge. This ledge is located about 700 ft. above the canyon floor.

The site includes 21 structures, use areas adjacent to the structures, and two structure foundations. Investigations, including excavations, at the site revealed ample and well-preserved architectural features and artifacts. The site is



considered to be a PIII period site; tree-ring dates indicate that most of the 18 sampled trees were cut in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The majority of the rooms at were likely living rooms and there were a few storage rooms. Several structures may have had a ceremonial function, although there were no unambiguous kiva-like structures. Excavations in living rooms revealed numerous artifacts, particularly on the floors, including, for example, willow mats, ceramic vessels, baskets, spindle whorls, sandals and sandal fragments, a net fragment, cotton rope fragments, a yucca leaf hairbrush, wooden beads, reed blinds, manos, mauls, projectile points, wooden and bone awls, planting sticks, weaving battens, quids, feather blanket cordage fragments, and a mountain sheep horn spindle whorl, scoop and spoon. The bone awls were mainly from deer and one was from a bird (perhaps turkey). Other animal bones were also recovered. The living rooms had fire hearths and a few of these were part of a more complex system that included a deflector and ventilator shaft. Some room floors, constructed on sandstone, were leveled with clay and covered with mats that added a degree of insulation.

Architectural features were generally well-preserved and afforded the opportunity to study walls, roofs with ladder poles and rungs, doorways, and floors. In one structure nine loom ties were found in the floor.

Use areas near structures included features such as mealing bins with associated manos and metates. There was also a log pile of about 15 juniper and Douglas fir logs, most cut, trimmed, and ready to be used.

In addition to the perishable remains mentioned below, a good many examples of economic plants (corn, beans, and squash) were found in almost every structure and area. Corn was clearly the most abundant with cobs, husks, stalks, and charred kernels found. There were also many pieces of other plant material recovered, including, for example, juniper bark, sticks and twigs, cactus pads and roots, pieces of yucca, etc.

This summary, which discusses the excavations in only the most general terms, indicates the great amount of information recovered from the Woodenshoe site. Having the structures and artifacts so well preserved gave us the opportunity for a window into the everyday life of the Ancestral Puebloans. As we spent several weeks living on the same ledge where the site is located, we came to understand something of their world and to admire their ingenuity and abilities.

The higher elevation of this region, the lack of highway access, and winter snowpack have to date helped protect the archaeological record of the Headwaters somewhat more than in surrounding areas. Additional measures to ensure that the archaeological riches of this area persist into the future are needed.

## Summary and Conclusions

The proposed Bears Ears National Monument is a land with an exquisite archaeological record representing 11,000 years of rich cultural expression, family life, architectural masterpieces, agricultural triumphs, technological innovation, and artistic expressions of mystery and beauty, all testaments to human tenacity, genius, and determination. These links to the deep past are valuable to the people of today and the future for the wealth of information and inspiration they represent, and the beauty and spiritual power they embody.

Protection of antiquities is critical as we move forward, as they are a finite resource, never to be renewed. There will not be another cliff dwelling or great kiva constructed, no additional Barrier Canyon pictographs will be painted on the canyon walls. Each stone tumbled from a standing wall, each flake of paint from a rock art panel, each sherd that finds its way into a visitor's pocket is lost forever, a part of the story of the ancient ones never to be revealed.

And walls are tumbling, paint is flaking, and sherds are being pocketed at an alarming rate. The stories of the past are becoming more and more remote, less and less clear, farther and farther removed from our world. New steps must be taken to stop the destruction.

Archaeological sites do not just occur, they are places where ancient people did things that left a trace on the earth—the ancient ones dropped tools, moved earth, built walls, cooked game. And of the many places where those who came before made marks on the earth, only a small percentage of them have survived the ravages of time—erosion, deposition, landslides, rockfalls, floods, windstorms, animal burrows, falling trees—all of these processes and more have degraded, diminished, and destroyed the stories of the early peoples. And where those snippets of past lives are by extraordinary good fortune preserved to this day, they face perhaps the most pervasive of the threats that have torn at them for so long—the actions of modern



people. Protection by a National Monument will help slow the destruction of these most important links to the past.

From the first time an ancient hunter-gatherer picked up a stone tool from a camp site left by an earlier group, people have been taking things from archaeological sites to re-use, as curiosities, as objects of beauty or mystery, as items of power or healing. Taking from archaeological sites could be called the world's second-oldest profession, and it continues unabated to this day. The thousands of objects seized by federal agents over the years in the vicinity of the Bears Ears attest to the ravenous desire many have for relics of the past. And the number of objects taken by law enforcement amounts to only a tiny fraction of those lifted, looted, and plundered from the tender and easily pierced earth within which they lay. Looters claim to respect those of the past, yet they desecrate their graves, tossing their bodies aside to get at the pots, baskets, arrowheads, beads and figurines they desire to possess, to sell, to lust over. These looters do not honor those who came before, they mock and diminish them. They view the ancients as something other than themselves, as practitioners of barbaric religions, as inferiors whose value today lies merely in the artistic, exotic objects they produced. And even casual visitors at times cannot bear to leave a beautiful object behind. Some sites in San Juan County have been so scoured that not a single painted potsherd remains, and some appear to have been "vacuumed" of all surface artifacts. A National Monument is needed to further isolate thieves from the precious places they so desire to pillage, and to educate and inform visitors to lessen further losses.

While archaeological sites in the area are currently granted certain protections under federal law, they still suffer great damage from permitted developments such as roads, wells, mines, logging, grazing, and pipelines. Archaeological sites evaluated as not eligible for the

National Register of Historic Places are given no protection at all—they are not even considered when planning or permitting a project. And even sites evaluated as meeting the criteria for the National Register are often damaged and destroyed, as federal agencies rarely have the funds to completely excavate an endangered site, and are reluctant to force a developer or other agency to pay the full costs of mitigation. Thus valuable information and cultural heritage is lost each day to development on federal land.

Perhaps most compelling is the fact that archaeological research methods are advancing dramatically each year. Technology is racing ahead, bringing significantly better, faster, and less destructive research. Each site lost today is worth ten sites of yesterday in terms of information potential. A handful of soil and a few artifacts can reveal vast detail about past environments, technology, and even the DNA of the people, plants, and animals. It is hard to even estimate how much is lost when a site is looted. Restrictions on future development through National Monument designation are necessary to protect the incredible cultural and archaeological resources of the Bears Ears. Future generations will praise the wisdom of such a designation, and if the developers prevail, those yet to come will curse the shortsightedness of this generation, and will hang their heads in shame.



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# Protecting the Whole Bears Ears Landscape

*A Call to Honor the Full Cultural and Ecological Boundaries*

A report submitted by  
The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition



**October 18, 2016**

Prepared by:



PROTECTING THE WHOLE BEARS EARS LANDSCAPE  
A Call to Honor the Full Cultural and Ecological Boundaries

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface: The Coalition's Request of the President

1. Introduction
2. The Meaning of "Objects of Historic and Scientific Interest" under the Antiquities Act
3. The Extensive Research and Analysis Supporting the Proposed Boundaries
  - A. The Bears Ears Landscape: The Peoples' History
  - B. The Bears Ears Landscape: A Geographic History
  - C. Ethnographic Mapping Methodology
  - D. Threats- Mining, Looting, and Off-roading
4. The Regions of the Bears Ears Landscape
  - A. The Confluence Region
  - B. The White Canyon Region
  - C. The Indian Creek Region
  - D. The Headwaters Region
  - E. The Cedar Mesa region

5. Conclusion

Acknowledgements

Appendices

- A. Maps: Cultural Resources Atlas
- B. Map: Threats to the Bears Ears Region





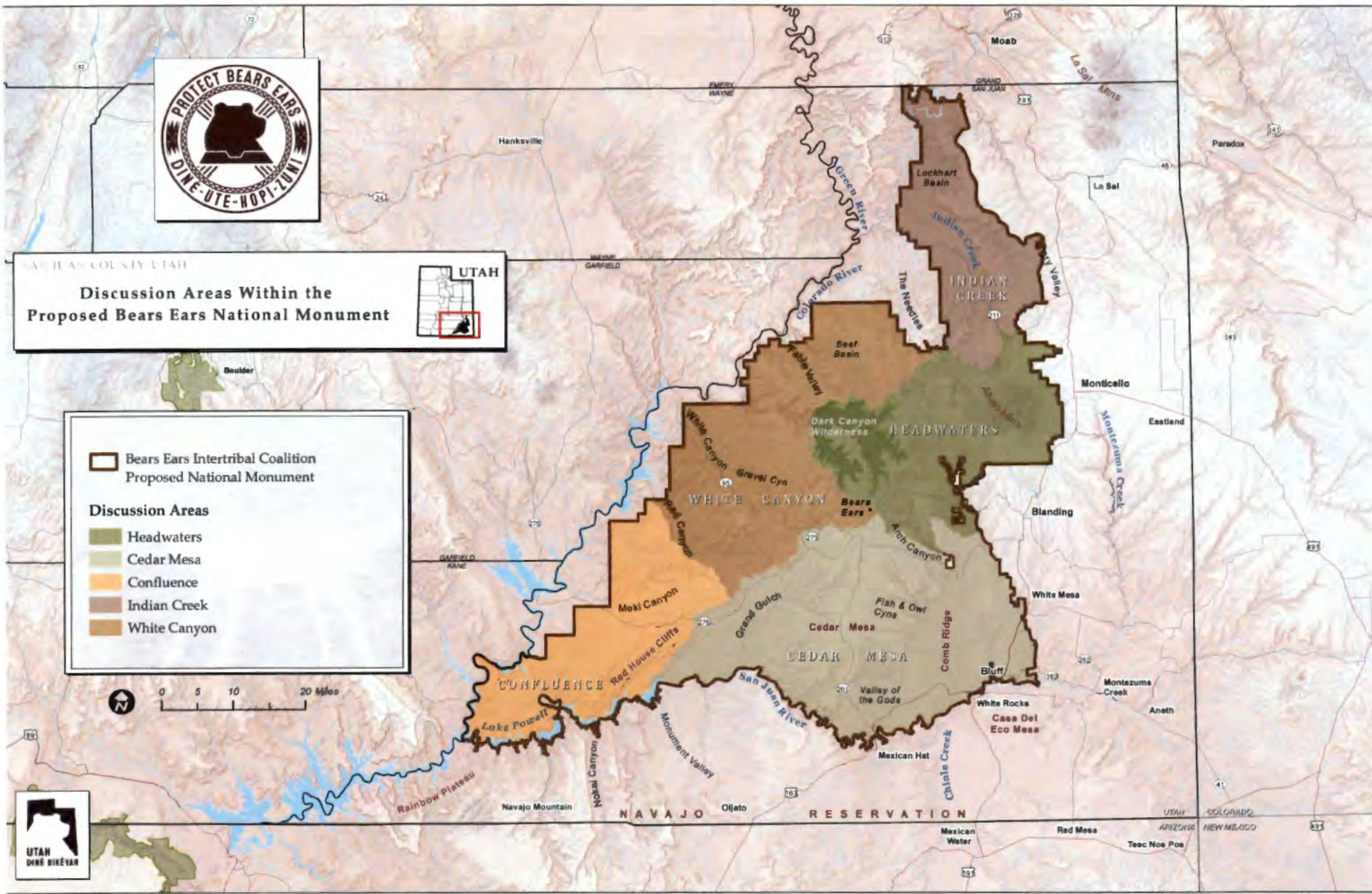
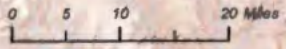
Discussion Areas Within the Proposed Bears Ears National Monument



Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument

**Discussion Areas**

- Headwaters
- Cedar Mesa
- Confluence
- Indian Creek
- White Canyon



## Preface: The Coalition's Request of the President

In October 2015, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition—composed of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray Reservation, Hopi Nation, and Zuni Tribe—submitted a proposal to President Obama for a Bears Ears National Monument. The proposal formally recommended a landscape of 1.9 million acres to serve as the geographic reach of the national monument. We submit this report to urge, if President Obama does proclaim a national monument, that the recommended 1.9 million acre landscape be preserved fully intact.

The waves of people, in and out of government, connected with the inspirational Bears Ears movement all want this national monument to be a surpassingly great addition to the American conservation system. We all want it to stand as a monument to a wondrous part of the natural world as well as to the long and profound connection to it by Native peoples. If the boundaries remain intact, the designation of this living cultural landscape will go down in history as one of the most ecologically and socially significant decisions ever created as a matter of conservation and Indian policy.

The Coalition's recommendation on boundaries is the result of the integrity of an extraordinary process that is rare, if not unprecedented, among national monuments. As we explain in detail in *Section 3 (The Extensive Research and Analysis Supporting the Proposed Boundaries)*, intensive work began in 2010 and continued for 6 ½ years. It is a joined enterprise of Traditional Knowledge and western sciences: It reflects the careful, dedicated, and knowledgeable work of hundreds of Native people and dozens of academics. Their work shows that the Bears Ears landscape is one discrete unit, bound together in numerous ways, and it blends perfectly with other protected federal and tribal lands. As the pages that follow will elaborate, this is an opportunity unlike any other, and we hope that President Obama will decide to capitalize upon it.





*"We can still hear the songs and prayers of our ancestors on every mesa and in every canyon."*

*Malcolm Lehi, Ute Mountain Ute*

## 1. Introduction

In remote southeastern Utah lies one of the most intact wild ecosystems in the contiguous United States, as well as tens of thousands of America's best-preserved, yet unprotected, archaeological sites. Fanning up from the confluence of the San Juan and Colorado Rivers –a point long considered sacred by Native peoples of this region – stretches a landscape of deep sandstone canyons, high redrock mesas, and aspen studded mountainsides under a wide turquoise sky. Rising from the center of this 1.9 million acre swath of desert plateau looms a pair of twin buttes, visible for miles in all directions. In every language of every Native culture in the region, this horizon-defining feature translates as "Bears Ears."

Tucked among the folds and promontories of the Bears Ears cultural landscape rest an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites, regarded by researchers as world-class objects of scientific inquiry. Kivas, granaries, rock art panels, graves, and many more historic and prehistoric markers are scattered densely throughout this area, preserved relatively undisturbed

for centuries by the Colorado Plateau's arid climate and rugged terrain. In recent decades, however, awareness of Bears Ears' wealth of archaeological resources has spread faster than the pace of protection. Looting, vandalism, and grave-robbing continue to cause irreparable damage to the incredible cultural and scientific legacy within the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.

For local grassroots Native American people who have inhabited this region since time immemorial and who still utilize this landscape for ceremony and subsistence, the archaeological abundance of Bears Ears offers invaluable laboratories of *in situ* observation. For Tribes, such sites are quite literally the dwelling places of our Ancestors, whose spirits are still very much alive in this landscape.

The entire 1.9 million acre Bears Ears cultural landscape is densely inhabited by the stories, histories, prayers, and practices of people and place over millennia. Human beings – grandmothers, fathers, children – have been interacting with the Bears Ears ecosystem for thousands of years, during which time our Ancestors developed deeply nuanced narratives and complex protocols for regulating those interactions and stewarding these lands. A modern researcher cannot fully understand the objects of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument without seeking to understand the unbroken legacy of traditional wisdom still practiced today by grassroots Native people.

Traditional wisdom constitutes a profound form of stewardship that we consider to be an “object” of historic and scientific value unto itself. The value of indigenous ways of knowing and interfacing with ecosystems is increasingly recognized by western science and scholarship under the term *Traditional Knowledge*. Traditional Knowledge is derived from keen observations carried out and passed down over hundreds or thousands of years. It represents another way of knowing the social and ecological landscape. It is a method of scientific inquiry that is not separate from science, but invaluable to scientists in places where it remains intact – places such as Bears Ears. The proposed Bears Ears National Monument poses a unique and unprecedented opportunity to integrate Traditional Knowledge into modern land management strategies by honoring the wisdom of traditional Native ceremonial-ecological practices that have been in continuous use at Bears Ears since time immemorial.



## 2. The Meaning of “Objects of Historic and Scientific Interest” under the Antiquities Act

President Obama’s authority to proclaim national monuments comes from the Antiquities Act of 1906, which allows a president, “in his discretion,” to protect “objects of historic or scientific interest.” The act also provides that any national monuments “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” The Antiquities Act has proved to be a broad and powerful source of authority for presidents and we are not aware of any concern about President Obama’s legal authority to set aside the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears landscape as a national monument. Still, we will briefly address that issue.

The term “object” might seem, upon first glance, to suggest a very narrow presidential authority. Further, the impetus for the 1906 Antiquities Act was to protect relatively small archaeological sites, a fact that might seem to limit the potential breadth of the word “object” in the statute. The meaning of “objects of historic or scientific interest” as used in the Antiquities Act, however, has proved to be sweeping. Under court decisions and presidential proclamations, it extends, for example, to vistas, landscapes, ecosystems, grasses, medicinal plants, animals, and geologic formations. Every court challenge to presidential proclamations under the Act has been unsuccessful. Basically, the courts have found that Congress intended for presidents to have broad leeway in the short and spare Antiquities Act—thus the use of the unusually broad phrase “in his discretion” in the first sentence of the act. As a result, the Antiquities Act easily supports a wide range of objects within the proposed Bears Ears National Monument including historic structures, rock art, earthen rings and mounds, landscapes, geologic formations, plants (such as herbs, medicines, and basketry materials), animals, sacred sites, and historic use areas.

Nor does the “smallest area compatible” language in the Antiquities Act limit president Obama in proclaiming the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears landscape as a national monument. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt declared 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon as a national monument. The United States Supreme Court upheld that action taken “in his discretion.” Later presidential proclamations have declared monuments of even greater size in Alaska, the lower 48 states, and the oceans.



*"We bring to the table direct ties to the land. We don't quite own it but we're here as caretakers; if we can help protect that and justify where our native cultures and customs come from we can protect it in the face of new challenges."*

*Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Ute Mountain Ute, Co-Chair, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition*

### 3. The Extensive Research and Analysis Supporting the Proposed Boundaries

#### A. The Bears Ears Landscape: The Peoples' History

This report seeks to explain the importance of the entirety of the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument boundary. The profound human presence that permeates the Bears Ears cultural landscape brings to life the deep meaning of "objects of historical interest." Every object in the landscape – from the pattern on a shard of Ancestral Puebloan pottery or the opening in the forest used for the Bear Dance to the morphology of desert bighorn sheep – has been shaped and influenced by the long history of people on this landscape. The Ancestors knew well that nature is more than simply an accumulation of land, water, air, plants, and animals. They handed down a compendium of events, people, stories, songs, and ceremonies to ensure sustainable stewardship in the face of ever-shifting conditions – including a changing climate.



The data underlying this report is drawn, in part, from ethnographic research and data analysis conducted by Utah Diné Bikéyah, Round River Conservation Studies, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and others. The report includes both maps and narrative descriptions of the importance and significance of the five geographic regions that comprise the whole of the Bears Ears National Monument: The Confluence, White Canyon, Indian Creek, Headwaters, and Cedar Mesa.

Each of the Bears Ears regions stand as significant historic and cultural landscapes deserving of a national monument designation in its own right. Taken as a whole, these five regions interlace to tell a compelling story of ancient cultures – even reaching into the present day with dwellings established as recently as the 1920s.

Since the beginning of time, numerous indigenous cultures traveled through, inhabited, and built civilizations on these lands. The Lime Ridge Clovis site, located within the Cedar Mesa region, contains extensive evidence of Paleo-Indian occupation. The archaeological record indicates widespread use between 6000 B.C. and 100 A.D. by Archaic Peoples. The heaviest occupation of the proposed monument lands was perhaps by the Formative Period Peoples (AD 100-AD 1300). Most representative of the Formative Period peoples is a single distinct culture known as the Ancestral Puebloan or Anasazi. Today many Pueblo cultures (including the Hopi, Zuni, Cochiti, Acoma, Zia, and Jemez Pueblos) assert their connection to Ancestral Puebloans who once occupied and used the proposed monument lands in Utah. Until very recently, Navajo and Ute travelled, hunted, built hogans and wikiups, and buried their ancestors on these lands.

Today, local Native American people regularly journey to the Bears Ears landscape to continue to perform ceremonies, hunt, gather herbs, medicines, and firewood, and steward their sacred sites (*see* Appendix 1). The cultural practices these Tribes maintain — passed down from generation to generation — are the living counterparts to the historic and scientific objects that deserve protection.

In addition to the rich indigenous cultural legacy at Bears Ears, is the modern history of Euro-Americans who have settled and explored this region. Most notable were the Mormon pioneers who traversed the mesas and canyons via the unlikely Hole-in-the-Rock Trail to settle adjacent to the proposed monument in Bluff, Utah. Also, the Bears Ears region has become a revered destination for rock climbers, hikers, backpackers, and other outdoor enthusiasts seeking

solitude and escape from modern civilization. Visitation to the region increases every year, requiring additional resources to manage increased challenges that accompany use. Without sufficient supervision and stewardship, damage can and does result. Six major cases of mutilation and theft of ancient historic objects have been reported by the BLM in 2016 alone.

In order to protect the natural, paleontological, archaeological, historical, and sacred objects identified in this report—and so that local customs and cultures, particularly Native American traditions, are able to continue in perpetuity— this report demonstrates that the proposed 1.9-million-acre boundary is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected within the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.



*“We as Native Americans are very spiritual. We’re not doing this on our own—there’s a higher power that’s with us and working with us. We have to recognize that power is with us and ask it to come and guide us. With this, let’s all work together and pray together.”*

*Alfred Lomahquahu, Hopi Nation, Co-Chair, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition*

## **B. The Bears Ears Landscape: A Geographic History**

Extreme topographic relief, low levels of habitat fragmentation, and high biological diversity characterizes the proposed Bears Ears National Monument landscape. The Bears Ears



region is located within San Juan County, Utah, a rural county in southern Utah with a total population of 7,389, a majority of which is Native American. The Utah portion of the Navajo reservation is 1.3 million acres (mostly lying between the San Juan River and the Arizona border) and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe also has substantial acreage in San Juan County including allotted lands inside the proposed Bears Ears boundary. In addition to the high density of cultural resources, intact ecosystems, and scenic grandeur within the proposed Bears Ears National Monument, the area is well known among destination hunters for its abundant wildlife, especially its healthy mule deer, elk, and desert big horn sheep population.

Bears Ears National Monument presents the opportunity to steward 1.9 million acres of unparalleled archaeological and biological resources alongside a wellspring of Traditional Knowledge from our distinct traditional cultures. Ultimately, Native ways of knowing may help our species come to understand that science and spirit are two ears emerging from the same skull.



*“Using our oral history with the scientific findings, it is evident that our ancestors did indeed inhabit the surrounding Bears Ears area at one point in time. Our migration history, our songs and prayers that we practice today do reference that area.”*

*Octavius Seowtewa, Zuni Tribe*

### C. Ethnographic Mapping Methodology

In 2010, Utah Diné Bikéyah, Round River Conservation Studies, the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, and several academic experts initiated an ambitious project of ethnographic mapping, also referred to as “cultural mapping,” for the Bears Ears region. This project was designed as a primary authoritative resource for the purpose of determining the proper boundaries of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. Spanning more than six and a half years, this cultural mapping effort including three years of thorough ethnographic research, an intensive interviewing regime, and data analysis. Personal interviews included more than seventy Native American interviewees in Utah who live adjacent to the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Utah Navajo Chapter Houses were early collaborators in the process, and were later joined by the Hopi, Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribes. Many experts and consultants have contributed to this research including Mark Maryboy, former San Juan County Commissioner; Barbara Dugelby, PhD in Human Ecology; Rick Tingey, GIS Specialist; Bryan Evans, MS Land and Natural Resource Planning; Chris Lockhart, PhD in Anthropology; Kim Heinemeyer, PhD in Conservation Biology; Dennis Sizemore, MS in Wildlife Biology; Fred White, Director of the Navajo Division of Natural Resources; Alan Downer, PhD in Archaeology; and Gavin Noyes, Masters in Public Policy.

Navajo cultural interviews were conducted by Mark Maryboy, a traditionalist and former Navajo elected official fluent in English and Diné languages, with an extensive background in public land and natural resources policy. Mr. Maryboy participated in ethnographic training from Round River staff which included conducting map based, questionnaire interviews. Interviewees were selected according to the location of their home (selecting approximately equal numbers from each Native community in Utah) and their depth of traditional knowledge. Interview length depended on the traditional knowledge of each Native American participant and varied between one and ten hours.

Native American Tribes hold site-specific data from the interviews and many other sources used for the ethnographic mapping project. This report represents only a portion of existing data and all data and is compartmentalized within hydrologic units called Hydrologic



## Bears Ears National Monument – An Unparalleled Opportunity for Tribal Empowerment

The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is the single most significant opportunity to emerge in many decades to combine tribal empowerment, cultural preservation, and landscape conservation. Eighty years after FDR's Interior Secretary first proposed a large national monument in this region, President Obama is uniquely positioned to provide genuine protection for this place. Designating the Bears Ears National Monument is a fitting capstone to the President's efforts to advance justice for Native Americans, renew government-to-government relationships with tribes, and add to and diversify America's conservation estate.

- **From Tribes and For Tribes:** Bears Ears is the first (and only current) national monument proposal ever crafted by local tribal Leaders and advanced by tribal governments to protect their ancestral lands. The Antiquities Act of 1906 has been used to establish some relatively small national monuments to protect particular sites of ancient culture, but never before have tribes come together to utilize the Act to protect *their own* heritage. Bears Ears is a hand-in-glove fit for the objectives of the Act, and it would be particularly appropriate to give these tribes a collaborative role in its management.
- **Historic Inter-Tribal Coalition and Tribal Support:** The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is a truly historic collaboration between the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute and Uintah Ouray Ute to protect their shared ancestral lands. These tribes have at times been antagonists, and their unified voice on this proposal is historic in itself. The Coalition offered the Bears Ears National Monument proposal after years of grassroots organizing in tribal communities, ethnographic work with tribal elders, and collaboration with other stakeholders. More than 20 other tribes across the west, as well as the Utah Tribal Leaders Association and the National Congress of American Indians, have formally supported designation of this cultural landscape. Nothing close to this breadth of tribal support has ever been seen before in federal land conservation efforts.
- **The Nation's Most Deserving Lands:** Tribes, archaeologists and other scientists have long recognized Bears Ears as the most culturally important unprotected landscape in America. The Bears Ears region has been home to dozens of cultures over thousands of years—sacred ground cherished by modern descendants of these cultures. With at least 100,000 archeological sites within its boundaries, the BEITC's proposal contains the densest collection of Native American cultural resources in North America, if not the world. The conservation community and the outdoor recreation community are also united in support of the tribes' proposal. No other unprotected landscape comes close to the cultural, archeological, scenic and recreational value of Bears Ears, and these groups will celebrate the Tribes' success on Bears Ears and fight to defend the designation for decades to come.
- **Real Threats Abound:** The cultural and biological resources of the Bears Ears are acutely threatened by rampant grave robbing and vandalism and irresponsible off road vehicle use. In 2009, a major FBI bust in the vicinity of the Bear's Ears uncovered the largest-ever criminal ring of looters selling artifacts, but new instances of looting have recently been documented. With the complicity of some local government officials, an illegal ATV ride was conducted across sacred sites in the area in May 2014.
- **Process Perfect:** The Bears Ears proposal has fully conformed to the process the Obama Administration outlined more than five years ago for national monuments: local grassroots tribal supporters – historically disenfranchised in Utah and beyond – began the campaign more than seven years ago; diverse allies lent their support; Congress considered but failed to act to protect the area; DOI/USDA hosted public and private meetings that demonstrated overwhelming support for conservation; and the President's action will honor and empower voices underrepresented in America's public lands.
- **The Lessons of History:** Establishment of the Bears Ears National Monument would be a landmark exercise of presidential authority, not only for the protection it provides to a priceless collection of cultural and natural resources, but as a long-overdue act in respecting and empowering tribes and their cultures. Presidents of both political parties have used their authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish well over one hundred national monuments. Some have generated local controversy, but almost uniformly, opponents' complaints have quickly faded, and the general public, including local areas, have come to strongly support such action. An excellent demonstration of this is a nationwide ad campaign that the Utah State Office of Tourism has been running encouraging the public to visit the Utah "Mighty Five" national parks. Four of these five were first protected by Presidential national monument proclamations using the Antiquities Act, often with local opposition—Zion (protected by President Taft), Bryce Canyon (Harding), Arches (Hoover) and Capitol Reef (FDR).

Unit Codes (HUCs) (*see* Appendix 1). This allows different geographies to be compared according to the values and uses identified by individuals in the elder interviews. “Watershed selection frequencies” were derived from the original data (*see* Appendix 1). This data source was created using a technique that masks sensitive data provided by elders by only counting the number of times each unit of land was selected by interviewees within each response category.

Interviewees were instructed to draw points, lines, and polygons on 36”x 36” maps and the interviewer labeled each point or polygon according to type of cultural use. The result of more than 70 interviews are that every acre of public land within San Juan County was identified as important for a variety of objects. Native American decision-makers later determined the optimal (most efficient) boundary selection to represent locations, activities, and objects of greatest value within the smallest area.

Ethnographic data was captured and organized at a much finer scale than indicated in the maps in Appendix 1. The Native American Tribes own the unconsolidated data detailing responses (points, polygons, and verbal descriptions) of each individual to each question, and this report is intended to provide an overview of cultural responses. The Coalition requests the opportunity to respond to any site-specific questions that may arise as boundaries are scrutinized.

In addition to the ethnographic data, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) collects myriad information about certain species (primarily those that are hunted, or are at risk of being listed as threatened or endangered) but has little or no information about many species that are of high importance to Native American Tribes (*i.e.*, jackrabbits, raptors, beavers, lizards, etc.). Some of this information can be derived from habitat type data, but some is simply unavailable. UDWR habitat models were created through a collaborative inter-agency process called the “Southwest Regional Gap Analysis” that predicted habitat for 820 vertebrate species across a five-state region. For each species, relationships were identified utilizing landscape vegetation types, elevation, and other variables known to determine wildlife distribution and seasonal movement within the species known range. These habitat models make several assumptions including that each identified habitat will include species occurrences within it, but no assumptions are made about the abundance of species within the region. It is not assumed that species utilize each polygon every year (but at least one year out of the past ten), and it is



assumed a species spends a portion of their life history (breeding, wintering, etc.) in the polygon, but not the entire year.

Tribes, organization, and individuals may hold additional information relevant to lands within and outside of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument that is not represented in this report or by this research. With this in mind, the Coalition is happy to discuss any questions that arise regarding the proposed monument boundaries that are not answered by this report.

#### **D. Threats: Mining, Looting, and Off-Road Vehicles**

Recently named one of the “11 Most Endangered Historic Places” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears region is a landscape at risk to degradation from mineral exploration and extraction, recreational abuse, and cultural resource vandalism and looting. Uranium mining, gravel quarrying, and tar sands development threaten to degrade lands and pollute waterways within the White Canyon, Confluence, and Cedar Mesa regions, while threats of oil, gas, and potash development exist along the eastern Bears Ears boundary, especially in the northeastern and southeastern corners. A uranium mine expansion is currently under review by the BLM in the White Canyon region, the Cedar Mesa region is in line for an oil and gas master leasing plan analysis within five years, and the School Institutional Trust Lands Administration is seeking to consolidate its developable land holdings in an area known as the Bluff Bench.

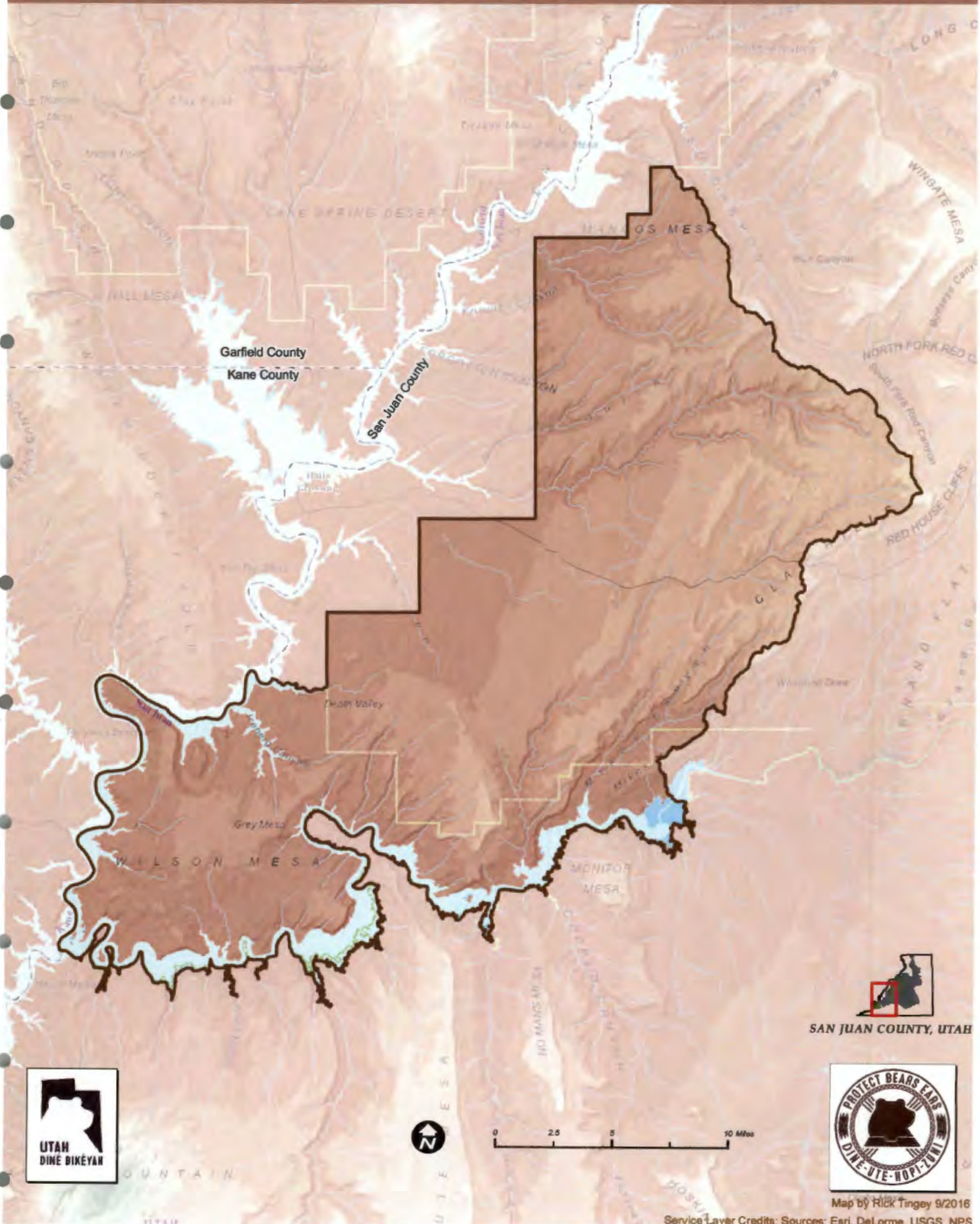
Irresponsible and illegal off-road vehicle use is causing ongoing damage to cultural and natural resources. Not only can off-road vehicle use harm cultural sites, destroy fragile desert soils, and detract from the experience of other visitors, it also provides ready access to cultural sites that correlates with an increase in vandalism and looting. New protections for the Bears Ears region will lead to better management of off-road vehicles, safeguarding important cultural sites and improving the experience of everyone who visits. As you read this, the Bears Ears region is experiencing both intentional and unintentional cultural resource vandalism and looting. At least twenty-four serious incidents have been reported in the last two years, and most cases of looting and damage go unreported and unprosecuted.

Because existing threats from mineral development, off-road vehicle use, and cultural resource looting are increasing, it is imperative that the most threatened regions within the

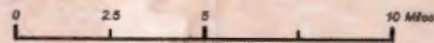
proposed 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument be designated and protected for the cultural resources they contain; most specifically at risk are the White Canyon, Red Canyon, Bluff Bench, and Hatch Point areas. By acknowledging that the whole Bears Ears National Monument, is one great cultural region, management can place special emphasis on cultural and natural resource conservation as well as spiritual understanding, healing, and growth. Without bold and decisive action, this 1.9 million acre landscape will continue to be diminished one uranium mine, one oil well, one open-pit potash mine, one illegal off-road vehicle trail, and one stolen cultural artifact at a time.



# CONFLUENCE REGION



SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH



Map by Rick Tingey 9/2016

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



#### 4. Regions of Bears Ears National Monument

##### A. Confluence Region



*“Areas where ancient sites are located are important because there still remain their spirits to protect those that are still living today and these are places where Navajos used to live long before the arrival of the white people.”*

*Clara Maryboy, Navajo Nation*

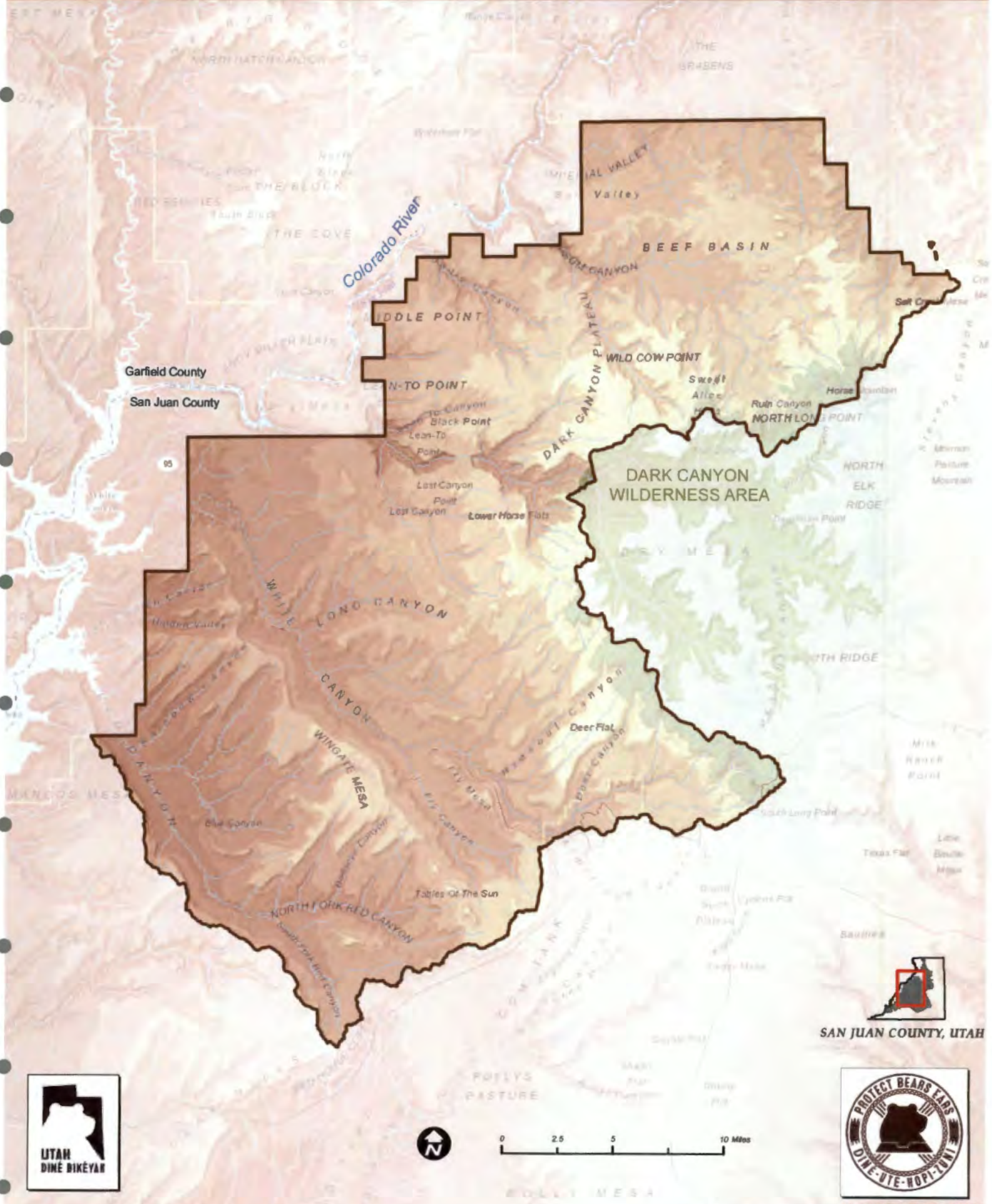
Comprising the southwestern corner of the Bears Ears National Monument boundary, the Confluence region – a remote, dissected spit of land jutting above the converging Colorado and San Juan Rivers – has harbored residents and hindered travelers since Paleo-Indian times. Bounded by the Colorado River to the west and Lake Powell and San Juan River to the south, this area is home to significant archaeological sites that have not been subjected to thorough scientific study. In addition, the Navajo consider the confluence of the San Juan and Colorado Rivers as sacred due to its role in the emergence story of the Diné People.

The rugged topography and wildness of this region rivals anything in the lower 48 states and therefore has, in part, resulted in the Confluence region harboring some of the least disturbed archaeological sites in the United States. As archeologist Kevin T. Jones has observed, “Many sites in the Confluence unit are likely eligible for the National Register of Historic Places,

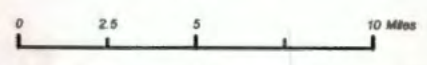


perhaps many hundreds.” In particular, the Confluence region contains significantly more Archaic and early Puebloan sites than any of the other four regions of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. These archaeological resources are substantial, delicate, and endangered. Due to the rugged terrain, these resources tend to be smaller and more scattered than in some nearby areas, yet the overall significance of the record here is substantial, and clearly deserving of protection and further investigation. The archaeological resources in the Confluence region hold an untapped wealth of knowledge for scientists and Native Americans that, with protection, can last for generations to come.

# WHITE CANYON REGION



SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH

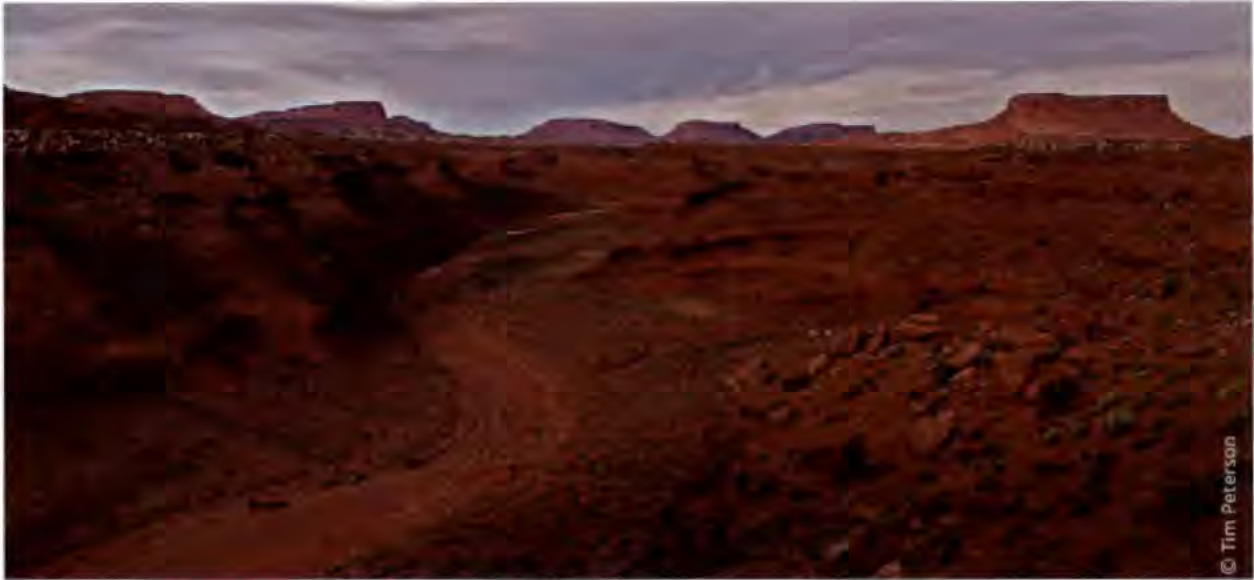


Map by Rick Tingey 9/2016

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



## B. White Canyon Region



*“The entire county is considered sacred. Where lightning strikes occur on the ground, tree, rock and cliff are considered sacred sites. Ancient sites are included, these sites they were once used as homes, shelters and hiding places during the time when Navajo were rounded up to be moved to Hweeldi.”*

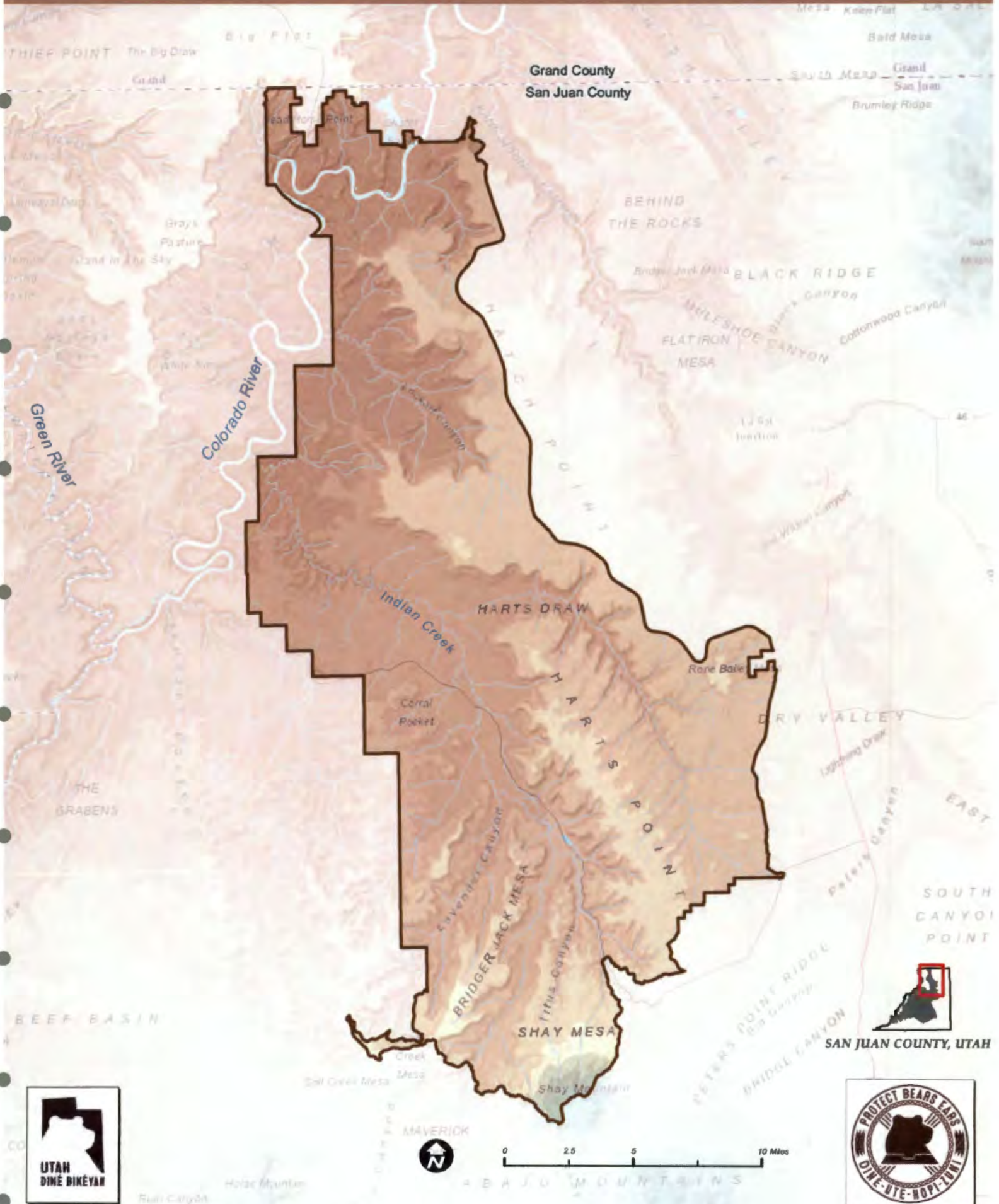
The White Canyon region is bounded by Red Canyon to the west and south, Natural Bridges National Monument and the Grand Gulch Plateau to the southeast, Woodenshoe Canyon and the upper reaches of the Abajo Mountains to the east, Beef Basin to the north, and the spectacular Cataract Canyon portion of the Colorado River to the northwest.

The White Canyon region is remote and contains abundant and significant rock art sites from all cultural periods. Archaeological sites in this area range from small and elusive, to grand and spectacular, with many considered significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The presence of early Archaic period Ancestral Puebloan sites in significant numbers – with later sites marking the presence of Utes, Paiutes, and Navajos – results in a different type of significance for the White Canyon region. This significance derives from small but intensely information-rich campsites, hunting areas, processing and gathering spots, and sacred ritual sites of the hunter-gatherers of the area. These sites tell a related yet entirely distinct story from that of the farming cultures. Importantly, the White Canyon region is revered for its many “*Nahonidzho*,” or “escaping places,” in protecting Utah Navajos from the traumas of the Long Walk. Here archaeologists have found artifacts from the earliest peoples to inhabit the region: the mammoth and bison hunters of the late Pleistocene ice age. These traces connote

an unbroken record of human presence spanning over 10,000 years, and include recent historic sites significant sites to Mormon and Anglo settlers who moved through the region. The White Canyon Region stands out as a prime example of the unique geology, paleontology, and ecology of the canyon country region.



# INDIAN CREEK REGION



Map by Rick Tingey 9/2016

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



### C. Indian Creek Region



*“These are considered places of ceremonies, these activities are practiced on a daily basis by the Diné when traveling on or along the road, offerings are made to certain plants for protection, healing or blessing.”*

*Richard Yanito, Navajo*

Comprising the northeastern portion of the Bears Ears National Monument boundary, the Indian Creek region includes lands adjacent to the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. This area includes Hatch Point, Lockhart Basin, Harts Draw, Harts Point, and Indian Creek, named because of the high number of Native American residents during the early days of American settlement.

The Indian Creek Region hosts a richness of adornment that exceeds the collection of any of the great art museums of the world. Contiguous exposures hundreds of yards long covered with scores of individual elements comprising a composition as great in size and cultural richness as the Sistine Chapel adorns the stark stone, providing a glimpse into the minds and lives of those who once walked these magnificent landscapes. Red-painted life size ghost-like figures, representing some mythical world we cannot begin to comprehend, thrill us and remind us that we are mere latecomers, visitors to this anointed place.



The Indian Creek region – which likely experiences the highest current rate of visitation in all of the Bears Ears National Monument proposal – also provides crucial habitat connectivity and a necessary buffer between Canyonlands National Park and the adjacent BLM-managed public lands currently threatened by mineral development and irresponsible motorized recreation.





## D. Headwaters Region



*“Bears Ears, Blue Mountain, and La Sal are considered important historical sites as these are ancestral lands where offerings are placed.”*

*Dorothy Jones, Navajo*

The Headwaters unit of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument is comprised of the uplands of the Abajo Mountains, Elk Ridge, Upper Dark Canyon, the Bears Ears buttes, and surrounding woodlands. The dense fir and aspen forests in the Headwaters highlands provide firewood to heat homes, as well as habitat for wild game species including elk and deer, upon which Native people have relied for subsistence for millennia. Though one does not typically associate dense forest canopy, lush understory, and snow with the redrock Colorado Plateau, in fact such biomes provide the foundational inputs of water and wildlife that animate the rocky mesas and canyons that fan out from these precipitation-netting peaks.

These are the places the Navajo refer to as “*Nahodishgish*,” or “places to be left alone” for the rejuvenation of life. Like other isolated mountain ranges of southern Utah including the La Sals and the Henry Mountains, the Abajos are verdant “sky islands” containing critical snowpack for the ecological functioning of the lower elevation redrock canyon landscapes that emblemize this region. The Headwaters region is the crucial high elevation oasis that the sacred Bears Ears buttes are perched upon.

As such, the Headwaters region is the key to life in the whole area, and has been since time immemorial. The Hopi and Zuni people know the Headwaters as the location of the most powerful medicines that have served their community. The Navajo Chief, Manuelito, was born

there. The Ute people still call the Headwaters region home, where they hold public lands grazing permits, allotment lands, and commune with their ancestors. Ute leaders like Posey and historic village sites and places he defended and fought for are held in high regard. Ute locations such as Arch Canyon, Hammond Canyon, Allen Canyon, Dark Canyon, and Elk Ridge are revered for the important role they have played in shaping Ute culture in the past and for their importance to future generations. The Headwaters region is the fount of nourishment and central to provisioning, sustaining, and perpetuating human lives and culture. For these reasons, the Headwaters houses the shreds and patches of past lives that preserve the knowledge of those who lived before. Archaeological sites are abundant and significant numbers in all environmental zones of the Headwaters region.



# CEDAR MESA REGION



Map by Rick Tingey 9/2016

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS



## E. Cedar Mesa Region



*“South of Monticello, South of Blanding and South of Bears Ears, are places where Navajos used to live, these are considered important locations, sacred residential and ceremonial grounds even to this day.”*

*Albert Howard, Navajo*

Cedar Mesa, the broad plateau stretching south and east from the Bears Ears buttes, provides an abundance of contemporary uses for local Native American residents. This unit includes the scenic Arch Canyon complex to the north and Grand Gulch to the west. Cedar Mesa’s eastern edge is bounded by Comb Ridge – a striking uplift that runs almost precisely north-south for some 40 miles within the proposed monument – with its long views and side-canyons rich with the ancient structures and art of the Ancestral Puebloans.

The close proximity of timber resources on Cedar Mesa is of central importance to Native communities as is the density and integrity of Ancestral Puebloan dwellings in this region. Sustainable and equitable management of this critical resource is a primary consideration of practical and political significance for regional residents. Cedar Mesa thus typifies the dual compelling interests that the proposed Bears Ears National Monument seeks to mediate: the necessity of modern use and access counterbalanced with the pressing need to preserve some of the most precious stores of prehistoric structures in the world.

Importantly, Cedar Mesa is home to one of Utah’s oldest known archaeological sites, the Lime Ridge Clovis site, which dates back nearly 12,000 years to the last ice age. The Lime



Ridge Clovis site is the best example of a site dating to this period in the state and region. The Hopi and Zuni Tribes hold some of the greatest potential for explaining some of the great wonders that have perplexed archaeologists who have flocked to this region for decades.

## 5. Conclusion

We, tribal leaders of the Coalition and our many friends, wish to extend our lasting thanks to President Obama and the many members of his Administration who have worked on responding to our proposal to protect the 1.9 million acre Bears Ears landscape. The matter has, from the beginning, been entangled in many ways with congressional consideration of the Public Lands Initiative (PLI). While we understand the Administration's desire to wait until it could determine how and whether Congress would respond to the PLI, we now believe that the time has come where the Administration can make its decision as to creating a Bears Ears National Monument. We hope that this report will be of use to you in deciding upon one critical issue, the size of the monument.

While one may be tempted to view the boundaries put forth in the PLI as instructive for the Bears Ears National Monument, we feel this is an erroneous approach that fails to recognize the origins, driving forces, and consequences of each of these proposals.

The PLI boundaries trace to a series of actions by the San Juan County Commission that displayed a kind of raw discrimination rarely seen in the actions of American governments. In 2014, in an episode detailed in *Exhibit One* of our original proposal, the San Juan County Commission announced a process to hear comments from local citizens on various proposals so that the Commission would have a basis for advising the Utah congressional delegation as to what action should be taken in the PLI on federal lands in San Juan County. As part of this process, Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) submitted a proposal. The Commission advised UDB that it would place its proposal on a county handout alongside other locally developed initiatives to allow San Juan County citizens to select their preferred PLI proposal. Surprisingly, only a few days before voting, the San Juan County Commission changed its position and informed UDB that its proposal would not appear as an official option in the San Juan County public process.

Regardless, UDB encouraged Native American citizen engagement in the process. Extraordinarily, when the comments were tallied, the UDB proposal received over 400 votes, 64% of all votes received by the county. When the time came to make a decision, however, the San Juan County Commission selected the high-development proposal, created and advocated by themselves, which had received only 2 comments of support, or less than 1%. San Juan County



submitted the development oriented proposal to the Utah delegation, which ultimately became the basis for the current PLI boundaries.

Some changes have been made to San Juan County's recommendations since that initial proposal but, by and large, the PLI remains heavily supported by mineral development interests. The unsavory beginnings and heavy emphasis on mining interests makes the PLI proposal one that cannot nearly match the care and integrity of the Coalition's proposed boundaries.

We are proud of how we have developed and presented, over many years, our recommendation for the proper boundaries necessary to protect the Bears Ears landscape for both past and future generations. We hope that this report gives you insight into the thorough process and careful deliberation that went into determining the proposed Bears Ears National Monument boundary. We are convinced that the proposed 1.9 million acre boundary is necessary for proper protection of cultural and natural resources, and will result in a visionary Bears Ears National Monument that will become the hallmark of cooperation and coordination between Native American tribes and the federal government in the twenty-first century. Again, we are satisfied that this matter is in good hands, and are comfortable in knowing that this Administration and this President will craft the final decision.



Alfred Lomahquahu

Hopi Vice-Chairman

Co-Chair, Bears Ears

Inter-tribal Coalition



Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Council Member

Co-Chair, Bears Ears

Inter-tribal Coalition

## Acknowledgments

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and all who care about the Bears Ears landscape, have a tremendous debt of gratitude to Utah Diné Bikéyah. UDB established the boundaries that the Coalition has recommended. They did it with a comprehensive effort of research and community involvement that gives these boundaries their integrity. UDB also played a major role in the development of this report. Our thanks go out to Willie Grayeyes, UDB Board Chair, and the other nine members of the UDB Board who has each been responsible for communicating with and representing their own communities in Utah through this proposal over the past five years. The UDB Executive Director, Gavin Noyes, has been absolutely indispensable. His deep engagement in developing the boundaries themselves and this report has been a great service.





Appendix A- Maps- Cultural Resource Atlas

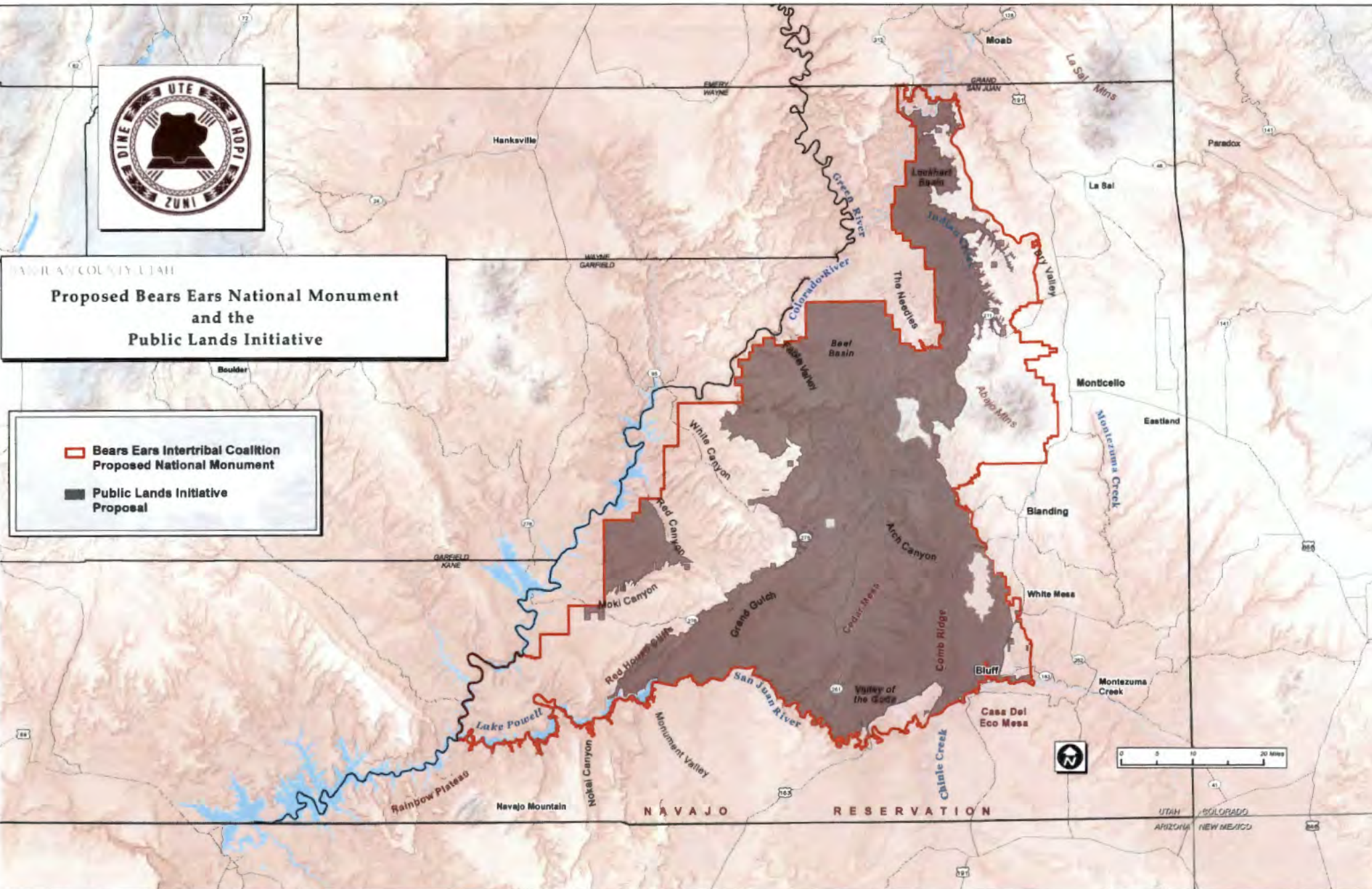


PROVIDING COUNTY DATA

### Proposed Bears Ears National Monument and the Public Lands Initiative

 Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument

 Public Lands Initiative Proposal







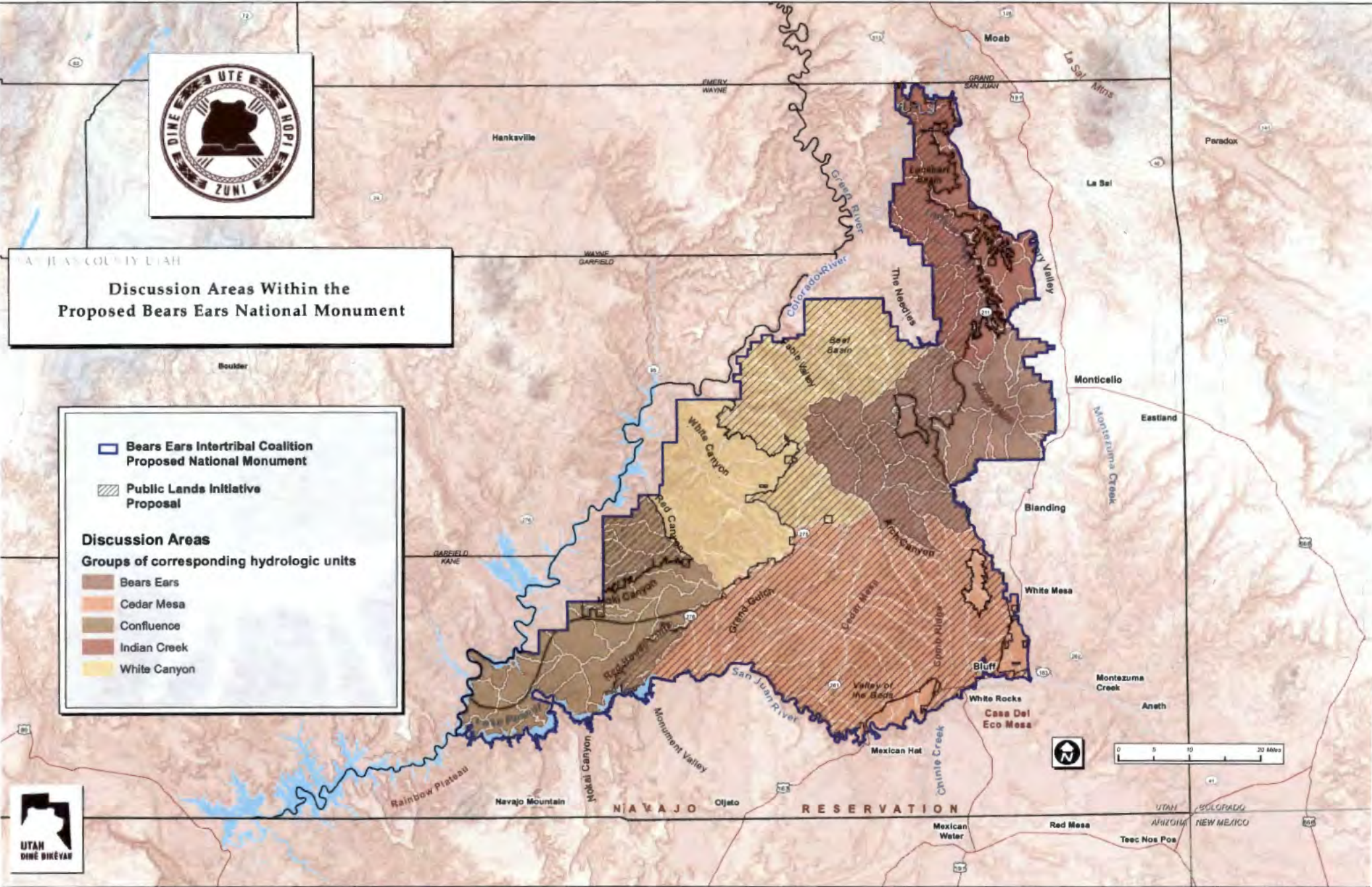
Discussion Areas Within the Proposed Bears Ears National Monument

**Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument**

**Public Lands Initiative Proposal**

**Discussion Areas**  
Groups of corresponding hydrologic units

- Bears Ears
- Cedar Mesa
- Confluence
- Indian Creek
- White Canyon







Capitol Reef National Park

Hanksville

Moab

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

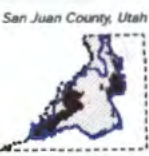
Paradox

**Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative Identified Most Frequently As Important Across All Land Uses**

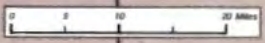
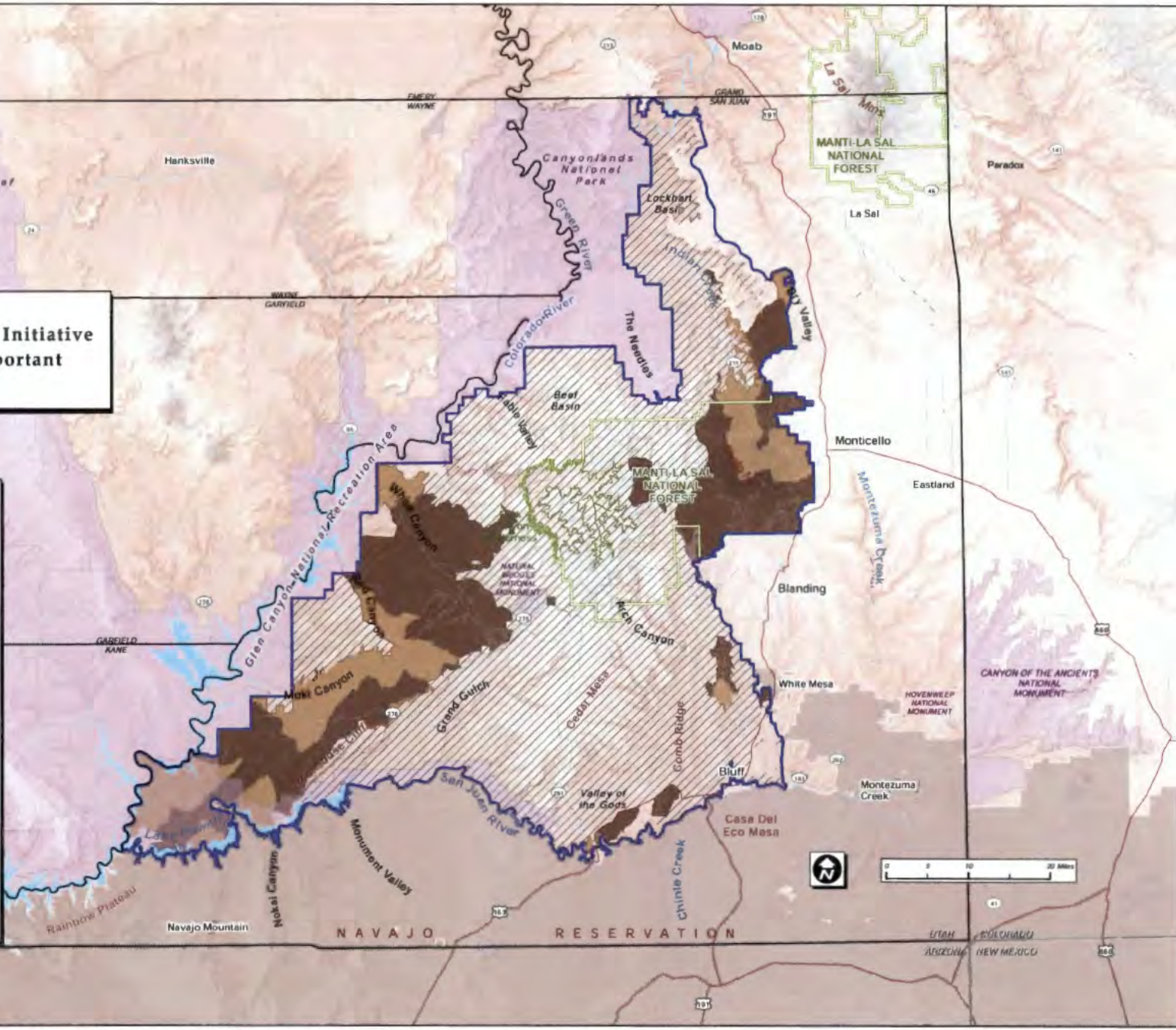
**Areas Identified Most Frequently Excluded by the Public Lands Initiative**

Areas with this shading capture the top 25% of the cumulative land selection frequency

Areas with this shading capture the top 50% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% area)



- Areas Within Bears Ears Proposal Excluded from PLI Proposal
- Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument
- Public Lands Initiative Proposal



NAVAJO RESERVATION

UTAH ARIZONA COLORADO NEW MEXICO





Capitol Reef National Park

Hanksville

EMERY WAYNE

Moab

GRAND SAN JUAN

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

Paradox

La Sal

SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH

### Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative Important for Native American Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering

Boulder

WAYNE GARFIELD

#### Land Selections Related to Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering in Areas Excluded by the Public Lands Initiative

Areas with this shading capture the top 25% of the cumulative land selection frequency

Areas with this shading capture the top 50% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% area)

Areas with this shading capture the top 75% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% & 50% areas)

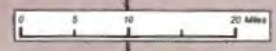
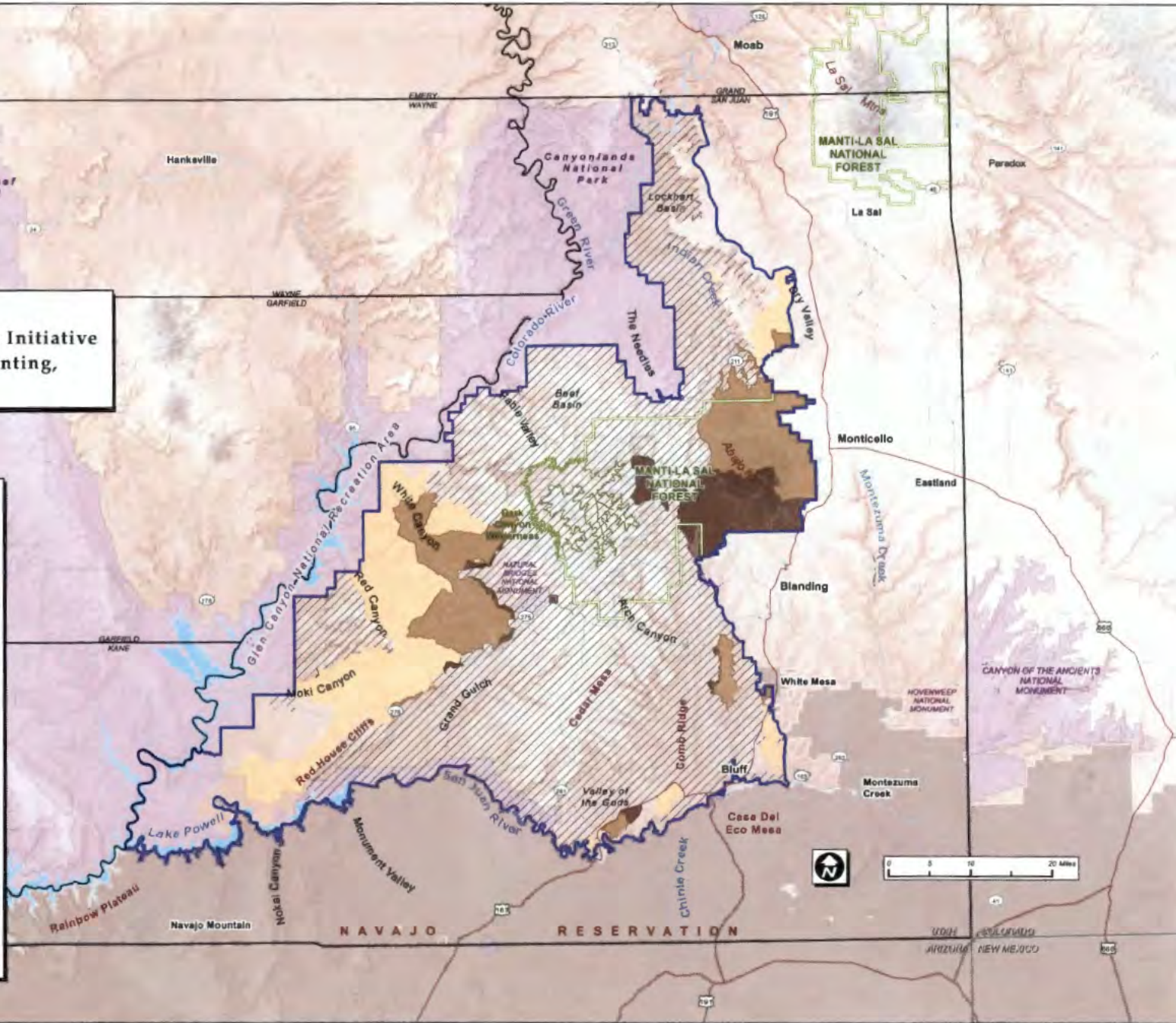
San Juan County, Utah



Areas Within Bears Ears Proposal Excluded from PLI Proposal

Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument

Public Lands Initiative Proposal



NAVAJO RESERVATION

UTAH ARIZONA NEW MEXICO





SAN JUAN COUNTY UTAH

**Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative  
Important for Native American  
Ceremonial Land Uses**

**Land Selections Related to  
Ceremonial Land Uses  
in Areas Excluded by the  
Public Lands Initiative**

Areas with this shading capture the top 25% of the cumulative land selection frequency

Areas with this shading capture the top 50% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% area)

Areas with this shading capture the top 75% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25 & 50% areas)

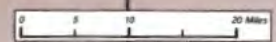
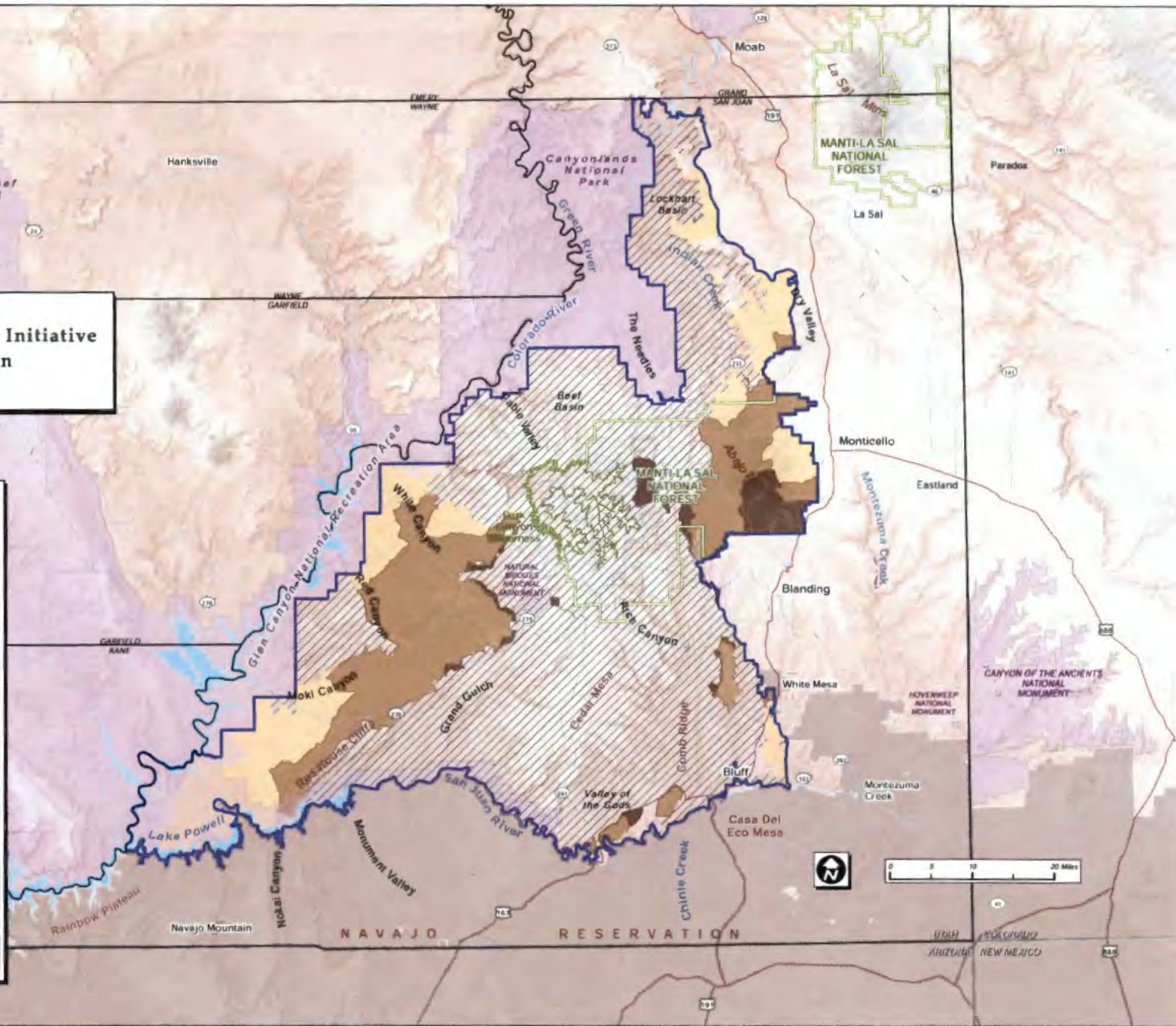
San Juan County, Utah



■ Areas Within Bears Ears Proposal Excluded from PLI Proposal

□ Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument

▨ Public Lands Initiative Proposal



UTAH ARIZONA NEW MEXICO



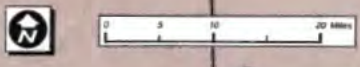
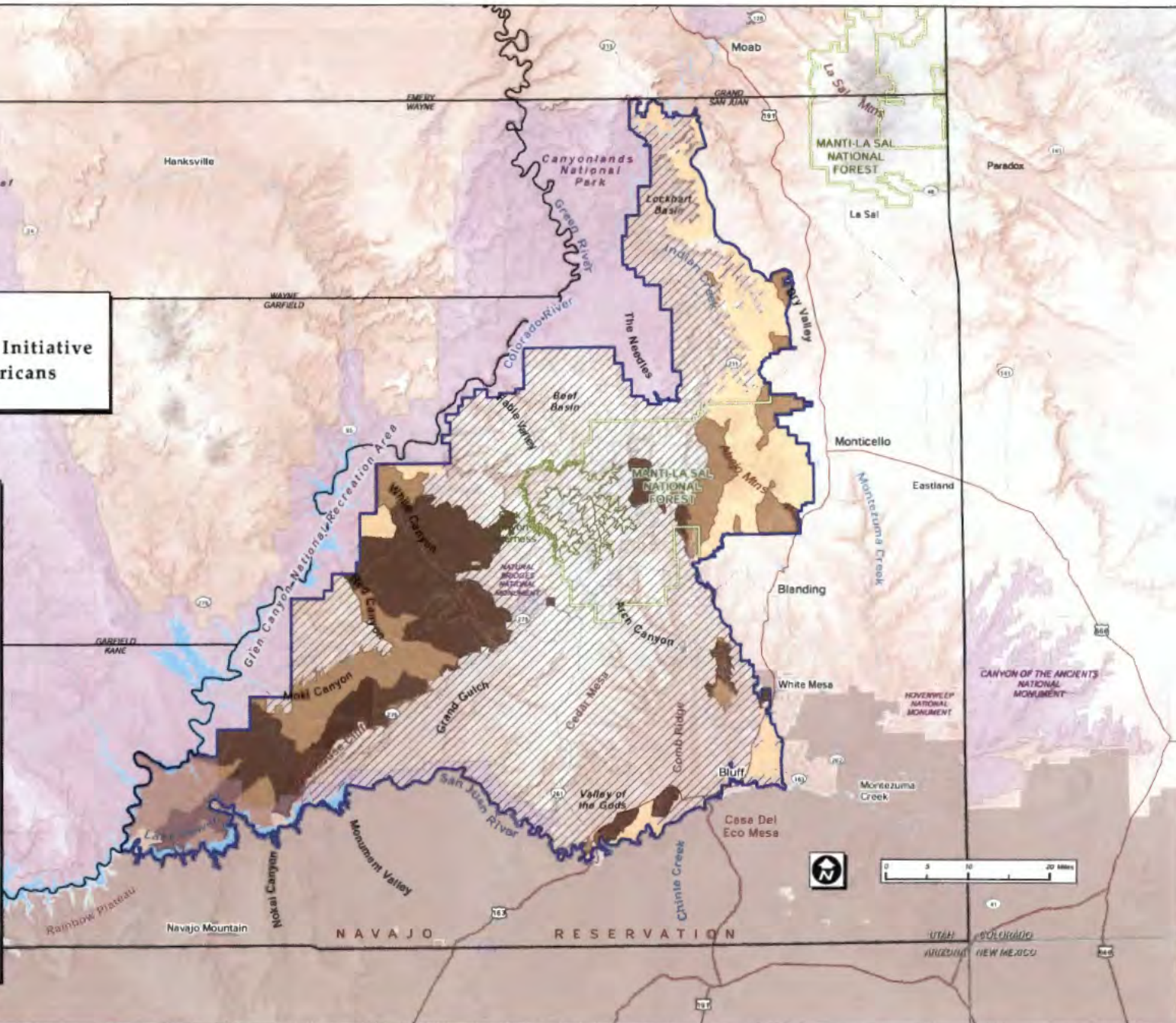


**Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative Considered Sacred by Native Americans**

**Land Selections Related to Sacred Areas in Areas Excluded by the Public Lands Initiative**

- Areas with this shading capture the top 25% of the cumulative land selection frequency
- Areas with this shading capture the top 50% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% area)
- Areas with this shading capture the top 75% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% & 50% areas)
- Areas Within Bears Ears Proposal Excluded from PLI Proposal
- Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument
- Public Lands Initiative Proposal

San Juan County, Utah







Capitol Reef National Park

Hanksville

Moab

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

Paradox

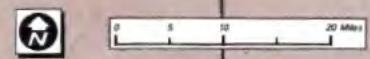
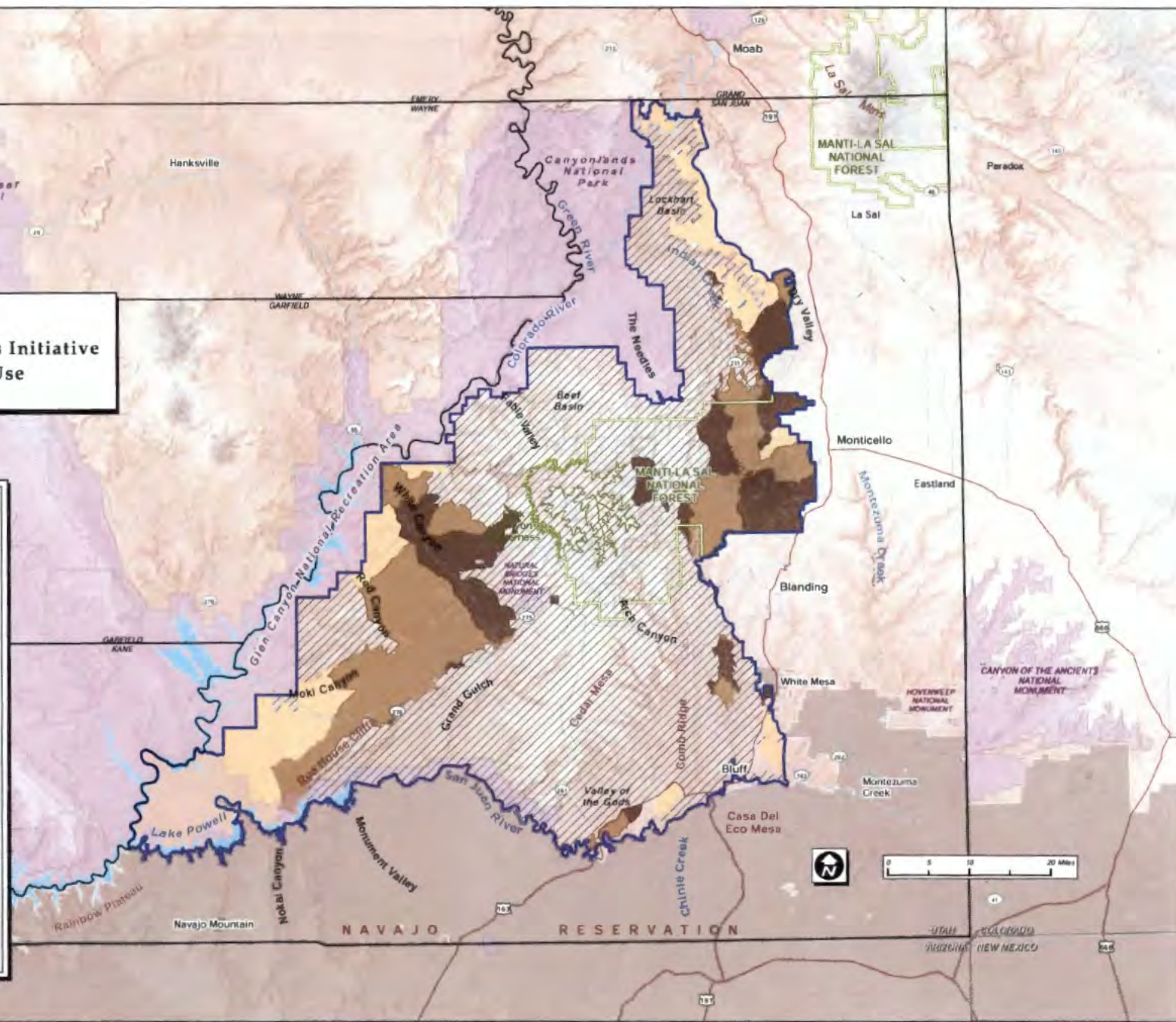
**Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative Important for Historic Land Use**

**Land Selections Related to Historic Land Use in Areas Excluded by the Public Lands Initiative**

- Areas with this shading capture the top 25% of the cumulative land selection frequency
- Areas with this shading capture the top 50% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25% area)
- Areas with this shading capture the top 75% of the cumulative land selection frequency (in addition to the 25 & 50% areas)



- Areas Within Bears Ears Proposal Excluded from PLI Proposal
- Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument
- Public Lands Initiative Proposal



UTAH COLORADO ARIZONA NEW MEXICO





Capitol Reef National Park

Hanksville

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

La Sal

Paradox

**San Juan County Utah**  
**Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative and a Synthesis of Crucial Wildlife Habitats**

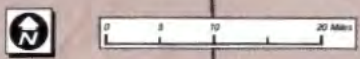
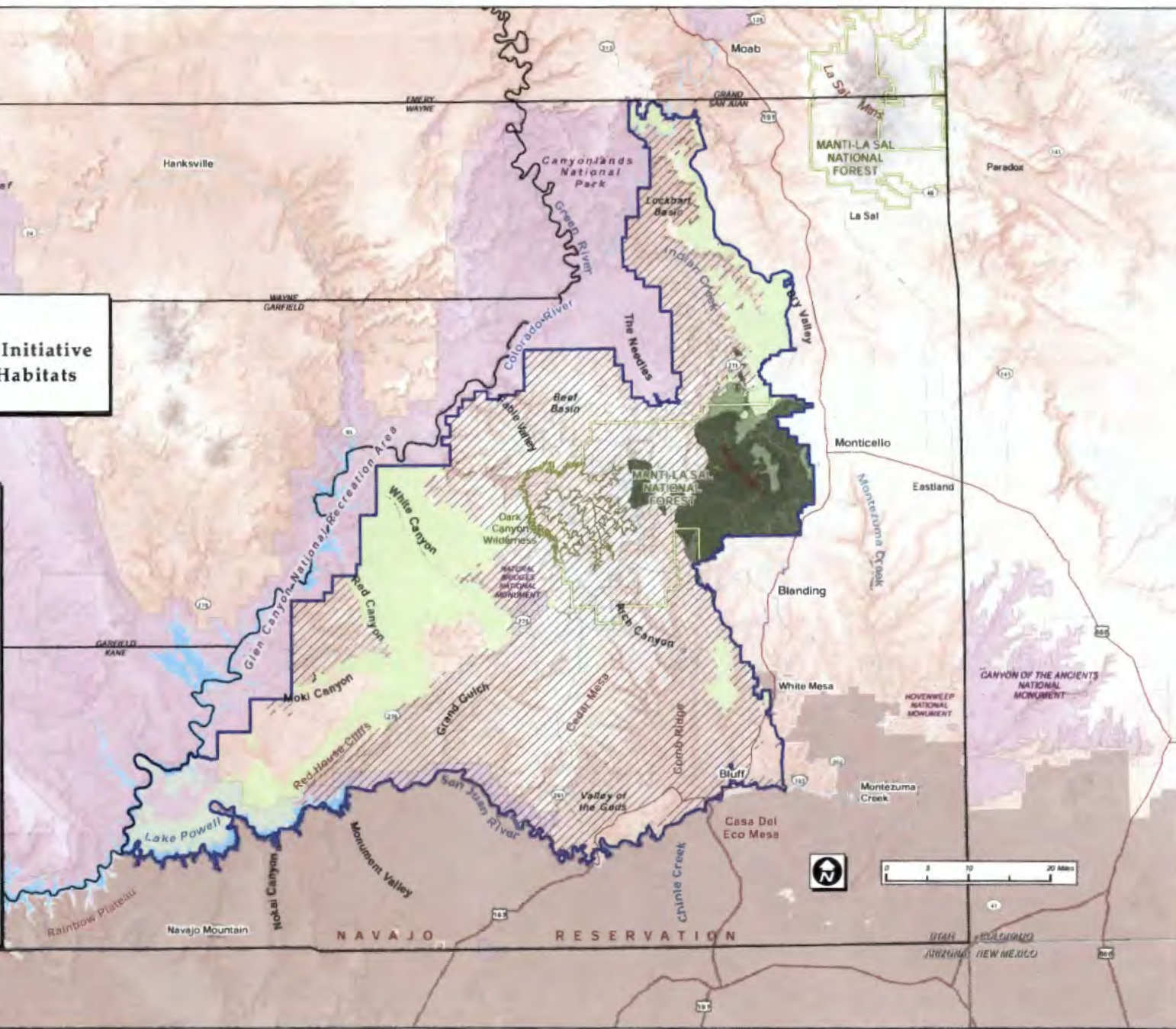
**A Synthesis of Crucial Wildlife Habitats In Areas Excluded from the Public Lands Initiative**

**Number of Overlapping Crucial Wildlife Habitats**

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4
- 5

San Juan County, Utah

- Areas Within Bears Ears Proposal Excluded from PLI Proposal
- Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument
- Public Lands Initiative Proposal



UTAH ARIZONA NEW MEXICO

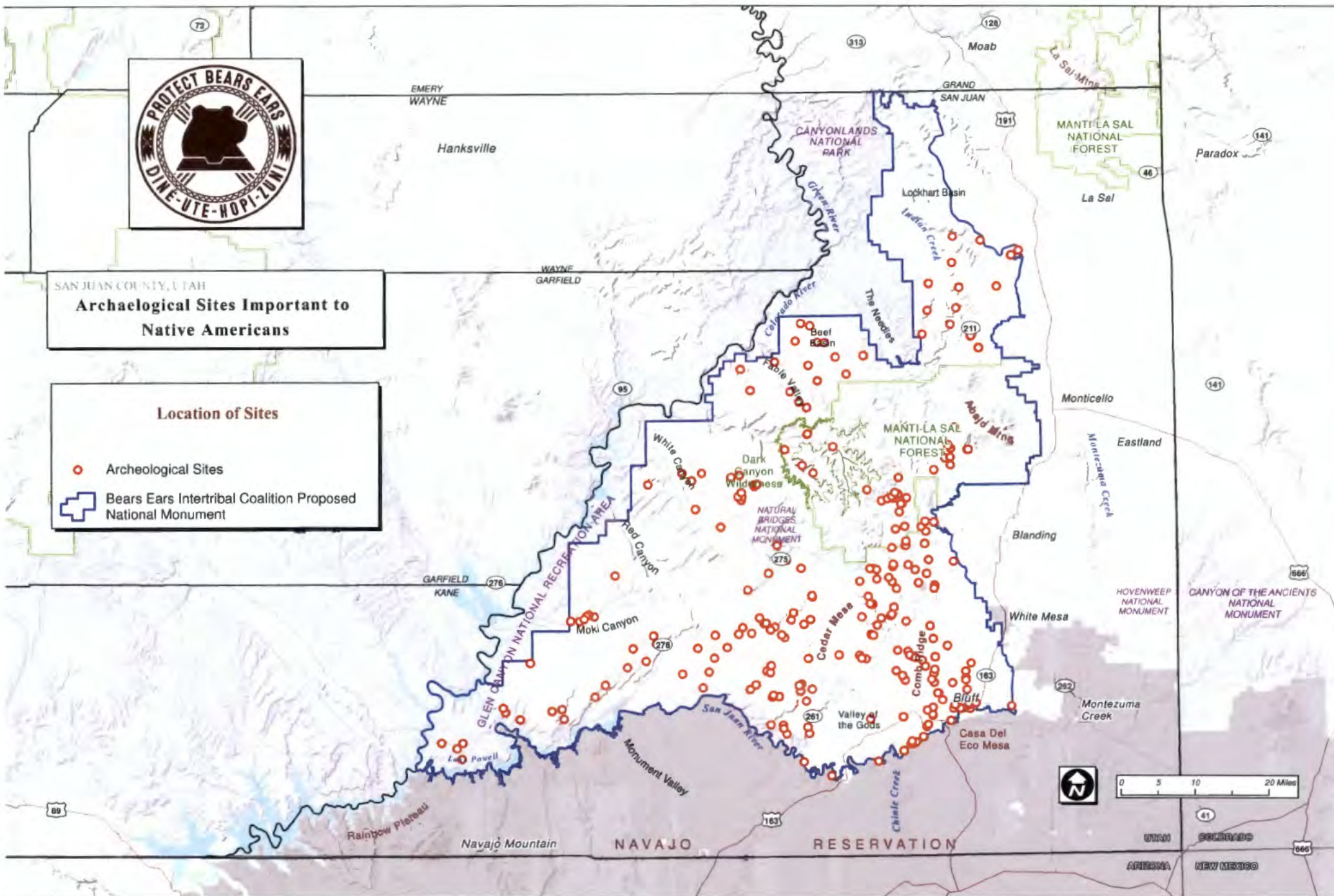




SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH  
**Archaeological Sites Important to Native Americans**

**Location of Sites**

- Archeological Sites
- ▭ Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument



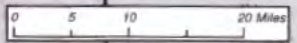
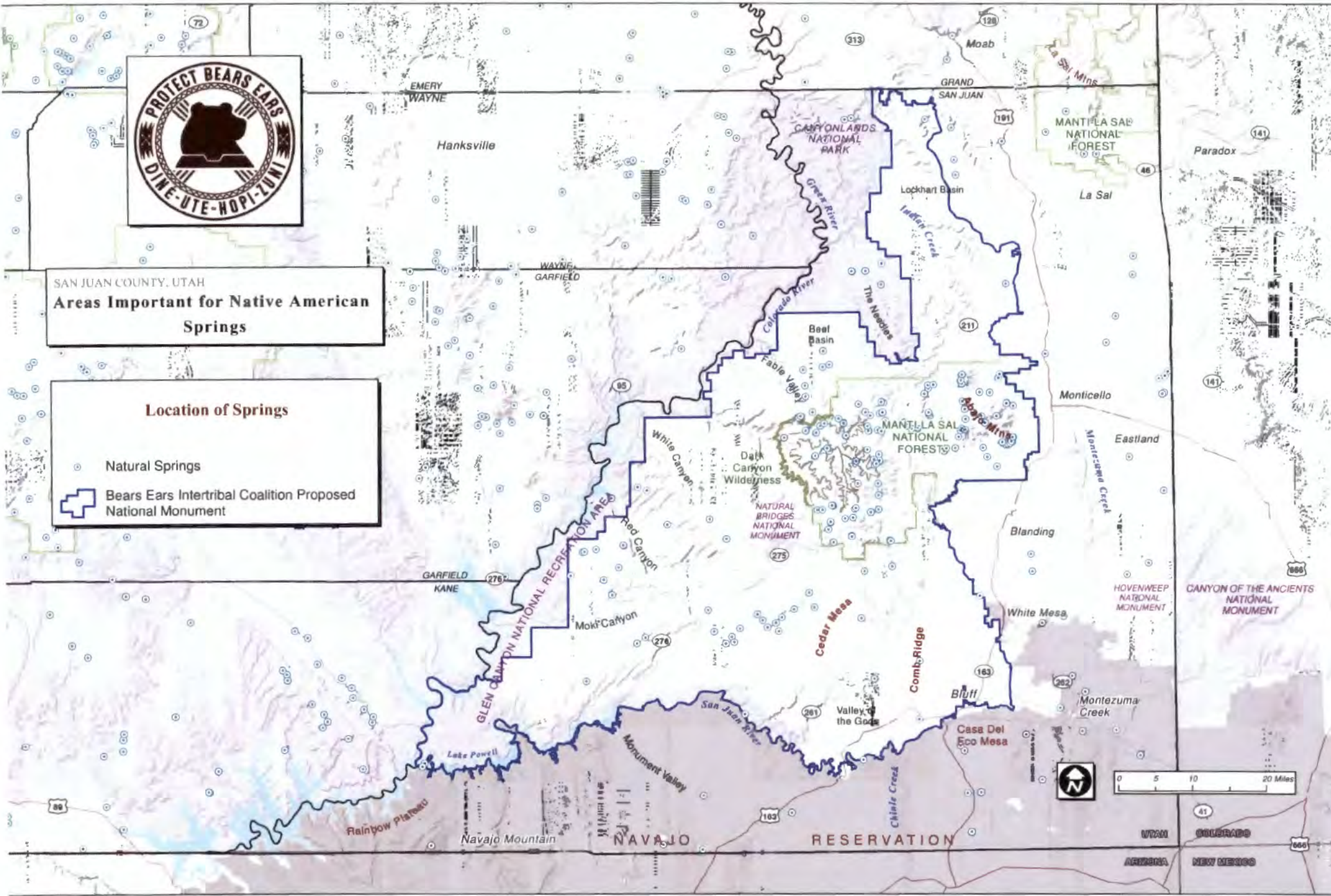




SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH  
**Areas Important for Native American Springs**

**Location of Springs**

- Natural Springs
- Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument



UTAH COLORADO  
ARIZONA NEW MEXICO



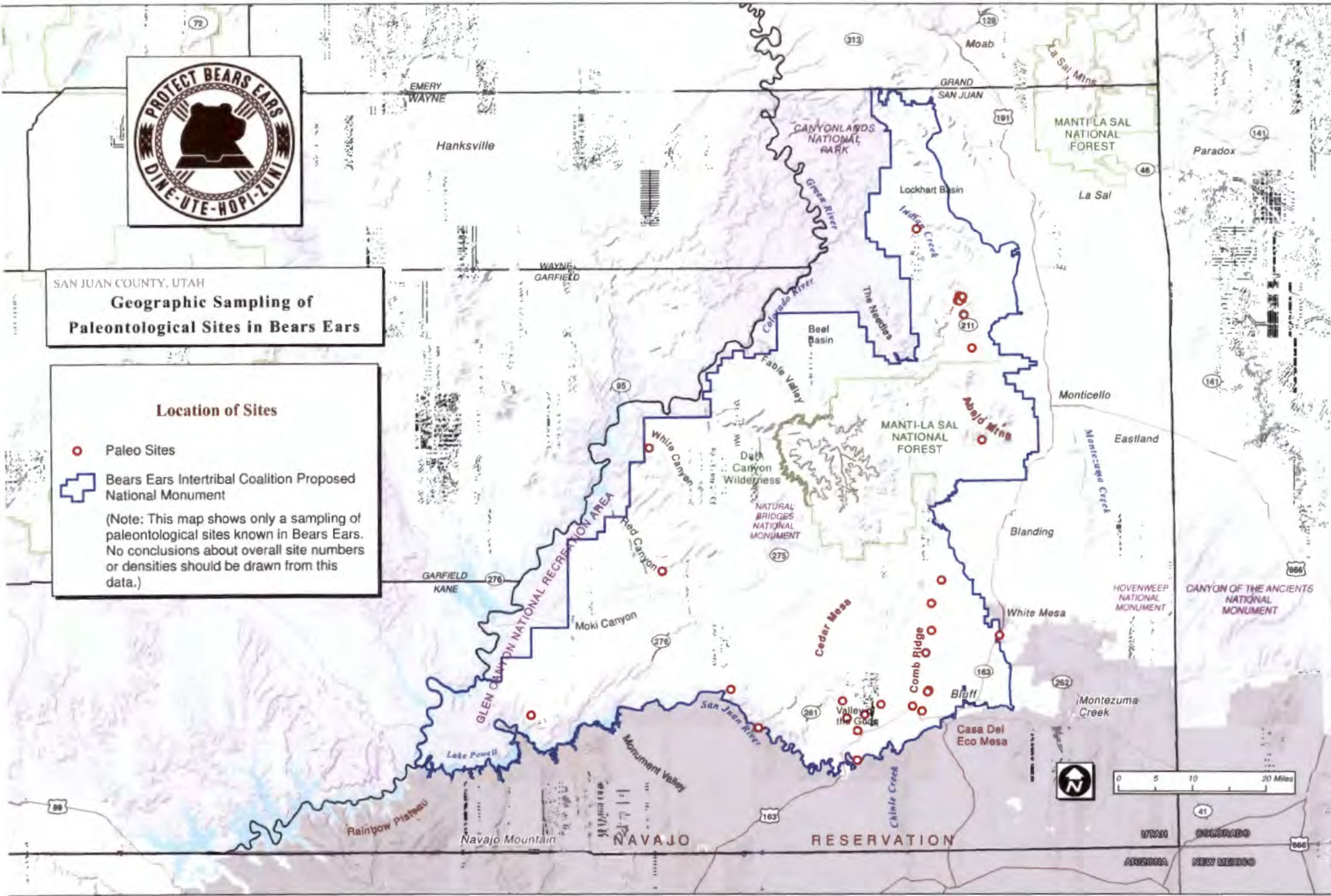


SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH  
**Geographic Sampling of  
Paleontological Sites in Bears Ears**

**Location of Sites**

- Paleo Sites
- ⊕ Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument

(Note: This map shows only a sampling of paleontological sites known in Bears Ears. No conclusions about overall site numbers or densities should be drawn from this data.)



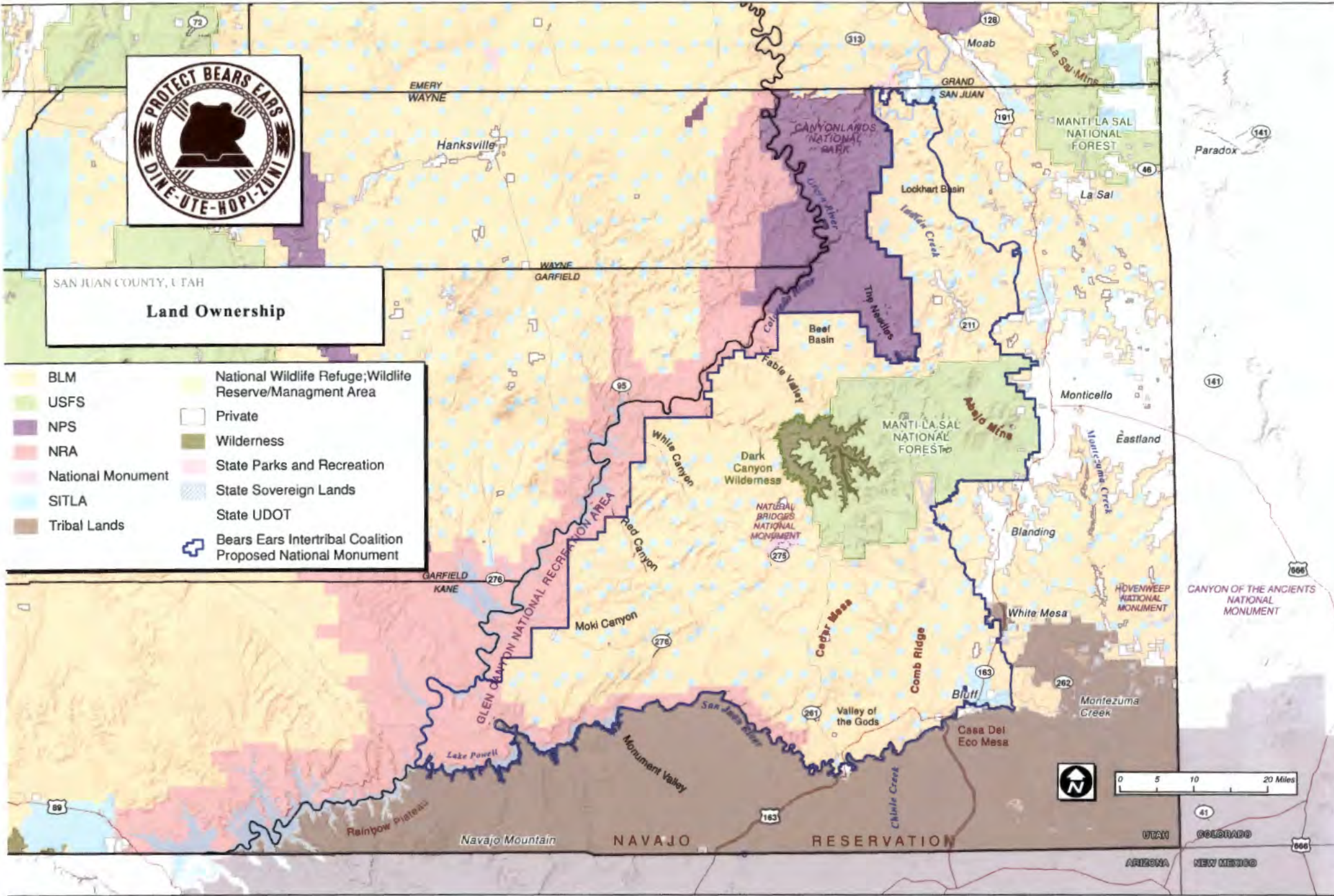




SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH

### Land Ownership

- BLM
- USFS
- NPS
- NRA
- National Monument
- SITLA
- Tribal Lands
- National Wildlife Refuge; Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
- Private
- Wilderness
- State Parks and Recreation
- State Sovereign Lands
- State UDOT
- Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Proposed National Monument



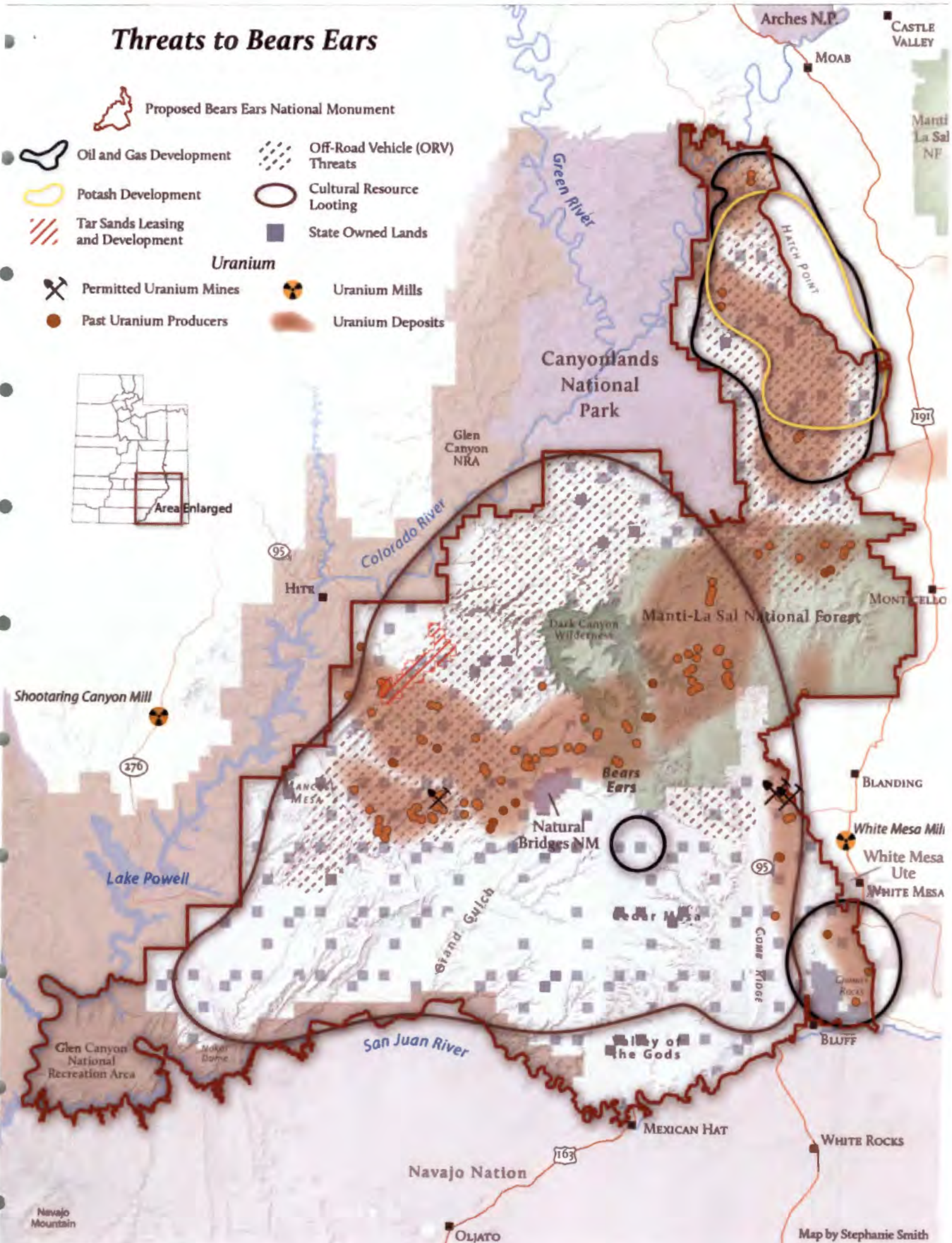
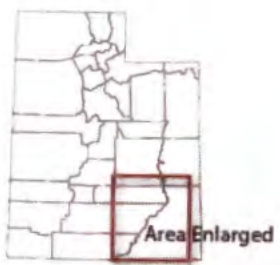
Appendix B- Maps- Threats to the Bears Ears Region



# Threats to Bears Ears

-  Proposed Bears Ears National Monument
-  Oil and Gas Development
-  Potash Development
-  Tar Sands Leasing and Development
-  Permitted Uranium Mines
-  Past Uranium Producers
-  Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Threats
-  Cultural Resource Looting
-  State Owned Lands
-  Uranium
-  Uranium Mills
-  Uranium Deposits

## Uranium



# UTAH PLI FIELD TOUR

July 13-15

*2016*





GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING

Grand County Council Chambers  
125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah

AGENDA  
Wednesday, July 13, 2016

6:30 p.m.

*ST did*

- Call to Order
- Discussion with Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
  - Congressmen Bishop's Public Lands Initiative
  - BLM's Draft Moab Master Leasing Plan
  - Other
- Adjourn

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs requests wishing to attend County Council meetings are encouraged to contact the County two (2) business days in advance of these events. Specific accommodations necessary to allow participation of disabled persons will be provided to the maximum extent possible. T.D.D. (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) calls can be answered at: (435) 259-1346. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may also call the Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1 (888) 346-3162

It is hereby the policy of Grand County that elected and appointed representatives, staff and members of Grand County Council may participate in meetings through electronic means. Any form of telecommunication may be used, as long as it allows for real time interaction in the way of discussions, questions and answers, and voting.

At the Grand County Council meetings/hearings any citizen, property owner, or public official may be heard on any agenda subject. The number of persons heard and the time allowed for each individual may be limited at the sole discretion of the Chair. On matters set for public hearings there is a three-minute time limit per person to allow maximum public participation. Upon being recognized by the Chair, please advance to the microphone, state your full name and address, whom you represent, and the subject matter. No person shall interrupt legislative proceedings.

Requests for inclusion on an agenda and supporting documentation must be received by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to a regular Council Meeting and forty-eight (48) hours prior to any Special Council Meeting. Information relative to these meetings/hearings may be obtained at the Grand County Council's Office, 125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah; (435) 259-1346.

A Council agenda packet is available at the local Library, 257 East Center St., Moab, Utah, (435) 259-1111 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

*Liz Tubbs  
Mary McGinnis  
Guy Lon  
Lynn  
Chris*

*Beth  
Norm  
Mark*



**GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Elizabeth Tubbs (Chair) · Jaylyn Hawks (Vice Chair)  
Chris Baird · Ken Ballantyne · A. Lynn Jackson  
Mary McGann · Rory Paxman

May 17, 2016

Congressman Rob Bishop  
c/o Fred Ferguson and Casey Snider  
[Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov)  
[Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov](mailto:Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov)

Representative Jason Chaffetz  
c/o Kelsey Berg  
[kelsey.berg@mail.house.gov](mailto:kelsey.berg@mail.house.gov)

Department of the Interior:  
Tommy Beaudreau (Chief of Staff): [tommy\\_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov](mailto:tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov)  
Nikki Buffa (Deputy Chief of Staff): [Nicole\\_buffa@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

White House:  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director at the White House Council on Environmental Quality -

(b) (6)

Michael Degnan, Deputy Associate Director at Council on Environmental Quality -

(b) (6)

Dear Congressman Bishop, Representative Chaffetz, et al:

The Grand County Council would like to thank you again for undertaking the Public Lands Initiative. We understand that this is not an easy task. We also understand that Congressional legislation comes with long lasting effects and consequences. We therefore feel that it is important that any Congressional lands bill relating to Grand County be well drafted and that all major concerns have been vetted and rectified.

On March 1, 2016 Grand County sent a letter outlining several concerns regarding Congressman Bishop's draft legislation. This letter entailed several very substantive concerns that we feel must be addressed. To date Grand County has not received any response to our concerns. We've attached a copy of this letter.

Additionally, on March 11, 2016 a press release regarding the Public Lands Initiative was issued that erroneously included Grand County as a signatory. We would like to make it clear that Grand County was not a signatory to this press release.



Grand County remains a partner in good faith with the Public Lands Initiative process; however, we do not support the current draft legislation. We understand that this is an iterative process, and we look forward to receiving a response to our concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth A. Tubbs, Chair  
Grand County Council

Encl.



**GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**Elizabeth Tubbs (Chair) · Jaylyn Hawks (Vice Chair)**  
**Chris Baird · Ken Ballantyne · A. Lynn Jackson**  
**Mary McGann · Rory Paxman**

March 1, 2016

Honorable Congressman Rob Bishop  
c/o Fred Ferguson and Casey Snider  
[Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov)  
[Casey.Sneider@mail.house.gov](mailto:Casey.Sneider@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Bishop;

Thank you again for providing an opportunity for Grand County to participate in the Public Lands Initiative. Grand County took the charge to develop public land designation recommendations very seriously. From the outset this was billed as a "local, bottom-up, stakeholder driven process". Over the period of more than 2 years, two different County Councils devoted substantial blocks of time to hold public workshops during which stakeholders and various interest groups had opportunities to formally present their recommendations to the Council. We held public meetings and hearings where the citizens of Grand County could express their ideas and concerns. The Council members took "straw votes" at each workshop which were then voted on in the final documents submitted to your office in March of 2015, for inclusion in the Draft Bill. As the duly elected representatives of the citizens of Grand County, we believe that this is a fair representation of compromise for our community.

There are numerous areas where the Draft Bill departs from the recommendations forwarded to you. In General, Grand County stands by the recommendations as originally presented. We respectfully request that these be re-instated in the legislation. Insofar as these were developed with the input of a variety of stakeholders, partners, and citizens, we feel the knowledge and interest of the entities and individuals on the ground should carry the greatest weight. Enclosed you will find the document which lists all of the priorities and recommendations as originally submitted, annotated with a comparison between these and the Draft Bill.

There are parts of the Draft Bill which are a major departure from our submission that we feel require special mention. These are as follows:

1. Land Conveyance to the State of Utah for the Seep Ridge Utility Corridor. Grand County expressly voted against this.
2. Land Conveyance to Grand County of the Sand Flats Recreation Area (SFRA). This was evaluated by the SFRA Stewardship Committee who does not support the conveyance, and the County Council expressly voted against this.
3. Granstaff wilderness boundary must be amended to allow for the lower portion of "The Whole Enchilada" mountain biking trail.
4. The wilderness boundary NE of Green River at the mouth of Floy Canyon was drafted by Grand County to allow for a potential mountain biking trail at the request of the City of Green River. The Discussion Draft boundaries would eliminate this possibility.

**Council's Office · 125 E. Center St. · Moab, UT 84532 · (435) 259-1346 · [www.grandcountyutah.net](http://www.grandcountyutah.net)**

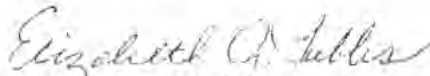


5. The County Council voted against including Antiquities Act exemptions.
6. The County Council has officially expressed their support for the Master Leasing Plan.
7. Grand County did not designate any "Energy Planning Areas" and intended that lands within Grand County not specifically designated otherwise would be managed according to the BLM's resource management plan.
8. The "Colorado River NCA" does not include watershed management/protection as a purpose.
9. Several SITLA trade-ins are located outside of the area Grand County designated for such. And, the trade-ins around the side canyons of Labyrinth Canyon were especially addressed as being unfavorable.

There are numerous other areas which, in many cases adversely affect current use and, in some cases restrict economic opportunity. Please refer to the "comparison" notes under each section of the management objectives submitted with our original recommendations.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on developing a bill that honors the work of the many stakeholders and ultimately produces a bill which Grand County can fully support.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth A. Tubbs, Chair

Grand County Council

cc: Congressman Chaffetz, c/o Wade Garrett, [Wade.Garrett@mail.house.gov](mailto:Wade.Garrett@mail.house.gov)  
Grand County Council

Enclosures

**GRAND COUNTY'S RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**  
**for Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative**  
**March 31, 2015**

**Bookcliffs Area North of I-70**

1. Wilderness and Roads
  - Keep all Bookcliffs roads cherry stemmed as identified on the map (leave as is)
  - Remainder of Bookcliffs roads will be closed
  - Designate wilderness as indicated on attached map
  - Establish a right of way sufficient for maintenance and repairs of cherry stemmed roads to handle safety issues

Comparison:

1. There have been some subtractions and additions made to the wilderness boundaries. Of note is the subtraction of wilderness between Hay Canyon and East Canyon, some additions and subtractions around Danish Flats and Thompson Springs, and an addition near Green River (which was left out of the County recommendation at the request of the City of Green River for recreational purposes). See attached map. Grand County's recommendations is green with black dots. Congressmen's recommendations are in solid green.
2. There is the addition of the "Seep Ridge Utility Corridor" as a public purpose conveyance to the State of Utah. The Council expressly voted against this.
3. There is the creation of the "Book Cliffs Sportsmens NCA". This is also an exchange proposal roughly bounded by east and west Willow Creeks and Steer Ridge.
4. Cherry Stemmed roads appear to be the same in both proposals.

**Watershed and East Arches Area**

1. Wilderness and Roads
  - Keep all Westwater/Big Triangle/Beaver Creek roads cherry stemmed as identified on the map (leave as is)
  - Remainder of Westwater/Big Triangle/Beaver Creek roads will be evaluated in coordination with the BLM using a "no net loss" kind for kind exchange policy
  - Designate wilderness as indicated on attached map
  - Establish a right of way sufficient for maintenance and repairs of cherry stemmed roads to handle safety issues
  - Negro Bill Wilderness designation was amended from the Wilderness Study Area boundaries to accommodate a mountain biking trail
  - Mill Creek wilderness boundary was amended to include parcels that were exchanged from SITLA to BLM



Comparison:

1. Some wilderness was subtracted from the Westwater/Beaver Creek County proposal. Wilderness was added in the Granite Creek area and the Beaver Creek wilderness was extended south into the Forest Service. See map.
2. There is the addition of wilderness in Professor Valley/Mary Jane Canyon/Fisher Valley. This doesn't appear to encapsulate the Fisher Towers or any filming locations. See map.
3. There are some wilderness additions and subtractions in the Grandstaff and Millcreek area. \*\*\*Of particular note is that the lower portion of the Whole Enchilada mountain bike trail is within the Congressmens' wilderness proposal. Grand County made certain to clip this wilderness area to facilitate this trail. Also of note is that a significant amount of wilderness is proposed within the Sand Flats SRMA (some areas of the SRMA are currently managed for natural character). There is also a public purpose conveyance of the Sand Flats SRMA, which is incompatible with a simultaneous wilderness designation. More on that below\*\*\* See Map.
4. It's not clear what will happen with the roads within proposed wilderness in this area. The draft proposal maintains our color coding (red for cherry-stemmed, and blue for 'to be evaluated').
5. The congressional draft includes a conveyance of the Sand Flats SRMA to the County. It also proposes wilderness within the same. Not sure how that is supposed to work. The Sand Flats Advisory Committee doesn't support conveying Sand Flats to County ownership, and the Council voted against it.

2. "Castle Valley National Conservation Area" designation

- Watershed protection applies to the USGS designated Castle Valley and Moab City watershed; within the watershed there will be elimination of large point sources of pollution and best management of vegetation and soil fertility
- No road or trail closures
- Allow filming
- Allow hunting
- No new mineral claims or leasing
- Viewshed protection for Delicate Arch
- Continued grazing
- Continued fire mitigation activities
- Allow consideration of new roads & trails
- Keep current SRMAs
- Wood gathering permits remain
- Local Advisory Committee with a request that the committee members be appointed by the Grand County Council
- Local Manager

Comparison:

1. This NCA's boundaries were amended and parts of the County's proposal were split out into a separate Arches Park Expansion and a "Castle Valley Special Management" area. Additionally the name was changed to "Colorado River" NCA.
2. Watershed protection is specifically listed as a purpose of the "Castle Valley Special Management Area". However, watershed management is not listed as a purpose for the "Colorado River NCA".

The Moab area watershed is within the boundaries of the NCA, but not the special management area. This has the effect of providing watershed management as a purpose for the Castle Valley watershed, but not the Moab watershed (Colorado River NCA.)

3. The NCA's boundaries were amended to remove protection from the peaks of the Northern Range of the La Sal's (this area is, however, partly within the special management area); the boundaries were amended such that the NW side of the Colorado river is no longer protected (the County's NCA proposal uses the existing boundary of the 3 rivers withdrawal); the NCA proposal for the east side of Arches was converted into a park expansion (however, again, the NW side of the river was removed for some reason). A significant portion of the NCA was removed south of the Dolores/Colorado confluence.

4. The NCA and Special Management Areas remove new mineral claims, however, it is unclear if it applies to oil/gas. The area around Manns Peak/Burro Ridge appears to fall outside any congressional designation.

5. The Colorado River NCA and Castle Valley Special Management area overlap to a significant degree. I'm not sure how that is supposed to work.

6. Grazing is maintained, however, in an unorthodox manner. Current grazing flexibility is being limited by the congressional draft, levels can be increased, but not decreased. Grazing levels typically fluctuate depending on the conditions of the range.

3. Expand Utah Rims SRMA as per attached map

The boundaries appear to be the same as the County's.

4. Expand Arches National Park as per attached map

The NCA on the eastern portion of Arches was converted over to a park expansion. The boundaries are identical except that the NW side of the Colorado river is left out. The boundaries on the NW park expansion were extended north. Also of note is that land currently patented to Grand County near the boat docks are included as part of the park expansion. The current park is also proposed for wilderness (not the expansion however). Even though the map shows solid wilderness, I assume the draft really only intends wilderness as per the NPS proposal and what is currently being managed as wilderness. See map.

## Greater Big Flat Area and the Labyrinth Canyon Region

1. Wilderness

- Designate Behind the Rocks wilderness as per the attached map
- Close the mountain biking trail

Done. Our proposal and the draft are the same.

2. "Labyrinth Canyon Special Management Area" designation

- Ten Mile Canyon
  - Leave the Ten Mile Road open from Dripping Springs to the Midway road
  - Close Ten Mile Road from Midway to the Green River

Appears similar on the draft map. No specifics though in the draft.

- Establish an unconditional No Surface Occupancy area as indicated on attached map

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- Unconditional NSO to apply to: oil & gas, hard rock mining, potash, and any kind of extractive industry. Ineligible for exemption or waiver.

Converted to the Labyrinth Canyon NCA. Boundaries are mostly the same excepting some state parcels and proposed state trade-ins.

- Establish an area along the Green River as mineral withdrawal and no new leasing as per attached map

This is proposed as Labyrinth Canyon wilderness in the draft. Boundaries are identical.

- All routes along the Green River in the Labyrinth Canyon Special Management Area to be open to OHV from the first of October through Easter Sunday, and closed from after Easter Sunday through the last day of September
  - The road down Spring Canyon will remain open to the river year-round for boating access
  - The B Road portion of Mineral Bottom Road will remain open year-round

The details seem to appear on the map, however the contextual details are not in the draft.

See map.

3. "Moab Recreation Area" designation comprised of the following six recreation zones, with management objectives as follows:

There are general provisions, and also area specific provisions. Again, there is the unorthodox grazing provision, which allows grazing levels to go up but never down.

- a. White Wash/Dee Pass

- Purpose:
  - OHV recreation
  - Mineral development
- Allow new motorized and non-motorized trails
- Allow all other types of recreation
- Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
- White Wash area open for cross country travel per BLM RMP

The boundaries were expanded to include upper ten mile. Otherwise seems to be the same. This area and the Utah Rims area are consolidated in the draft proposal.

- b. Monitor/Merrimac

- Purpose:
  - Recreation: Motorized, non-motorized, climbing
  - Viewshed
- Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
- Allow new motorized and non-motorized trails
- Provide protection for rare plants
- Allow existing county borrow pits
- Trade two northern SITLA parcels out
- Honor valid existing lease rights
- No new mineral claims or leasing

Boundaries appear to be retracted to the cliff line on the eastern edge. Includes prohibition of new mineral and energy leasing as a management principle, however, doesn't include withdrawal language as in the NCAs.

c. Gemini Bridges South

- Purpose:
  - Recreation: Motorized and non-motorized
  - Energy development
- Allow new non-motorized routes
- Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
- Honor valid existing lease rights
- Allow future leasing with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation
- No lease retirement
- Create a management area Advisory Committee, committee to be appointed by the County Council: Purpose to provide coordination with federal, state and county management of area
  - Representative from the oil lessees/operators
  - Representative from the motorized recreation
  - Representative from the non-motorized recreation
  - Representative from SITLA
  - Representative from the County Council
  - Representative from BLM
  - Representative from conservation community

Renamed 'Big Flat Recreation Zone'. SW boundary was considerably retracted. Advisory Committee is missing.

d. Amasa Back/Goldbar

- Purpose
  - Recreation: Motorized and non-motorized
  - Viewshed
- Allow new non-motorized routes
- Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
- Consider biological resources in recreation management
- No new mineral claims or leasing
- Lease and claim retirement
- Trade out State lands

Boundaries appear to be the same. Management principles appear similar.

e. Bar M/Klondike (Arches West)

- Purpose:
  - Recreation – Mountain biking and climbing
  - Viewshed protection for Arches National Park
- No new mineral claims or leasing



- Trade out SITLA parcels
- Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
- Sovereign trail system remains open for OHV use
- Allow new non-motorized trails

Two large State sections appear to be retained and the boundaries are adjusted as such. Boundaries were expanded on the north end, however they conflict with the Park expansion and a SITLA trade-in on the west side of 191. Management principles are similar.

f. Mineral Canyon

- Purpose
  - Recreation: non-motorized focus
  - Viewshed
- Boating access
- No new mineral claims or leasing
- Lease and claim retirement area
- Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
- Allow new non-motorized trails
- Trade out SITLA lands
- Keep airstrip open
- Keep county borrow areas open

The boundary appears to be retracted to facilitate a State trade-in. Management principles are similar.

4. SITLA Trade-in Area

- Grand County approves SITLA trade-ins as per attached map

Significant trades are exhibited in the draft, both inside and outside of the designated area. Grand County should consider asking about royalty sharing agreements so that a major loss of mineral lease funds doesn't occur with future development.

## Other Grand County Areas

1. Wild & Scenic River Management Objectives

- Designate Wild & Scenic Rivers as per the BLM's suitability inventory (see attached maps) for the Colorado, Dolores, and Green Rivers

Appears to be the same.

2. Rights of Ways & Roads in Wilderness

- Establish a right of way sufficient for maintenance and repairs of cherry stemmed roads to handle safety issues
- "No net loss" policy for roads in Grand County consistent with the 2008 Travel Management Plan; that losses and gains are kind for kind trade outs; and will utilize the BLM's process for Travel Plan evaluation

- Valid and existing rights will be given access

There is no net-loss policy per-se. However, Title XII would grant title to all class B and D roads currently designated in the current BLM RMP travel plan. Title XII also prescribes that Grand County's travel designations will be partially honored in the Labyrinth area. It's also worth noting that not all roads in the current BLM travel plan are rs2477 claims, and not all rs2477 claims are approved in the Travel Plan.

3. Canyonlands Field Airport

- Grand County requests an area immediately adjacent to the airport, subject to a map to be prepared by the Airport Manager/Board, for a transfer of federal lands to Grand County for airport expansion purposes

Present in the draft.

Other:

In general there are several provisions in 'Title I: Wilderness' that are unorthodox or contradicted by the Wilderness Act.

The Master Leasing Plan would be nullified.

Title XI stipulates that all lands within the PLI planning area owned by the BLM and being open to extractive leasing will become 'Energy Planning Areas' with several provisions designed to expedite leasing and development. There is a small inexplicable polygon near 313/191 labeled as "Energy Plan".

Grazing provisions are not status-quo.

Title IX Red Rock Country Off-Highway Vehicle Trail is included in the draft. Not considered by the County.

Some kind of Antiquities Act restriction is anticipated.



RESOLUTION NO. 3046

A RESOLUTION OF THE GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
APPROVING THE COUNCIL'S PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS, AS AMENDED,  
AS THE FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR DESIGNATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES  
FOR CONGRESSMAN ROB BISHOP'S  
PROPOSED PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2015, the Grand County Council voted to approve the Council's preliminary recommendations from the open, public County Council Workshops of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, as amended on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, as the formal recommendations for designations and management objectives to submit to Congressman Rob Bishop for the proposed Public Lands Initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, Exhibit A is the cover letter and regional map sent to Congressman Bishop on April 9, 2015, such letter having been ratified by the County Council in an open public meeting of April 21, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, Exhibit B details Grand County's recommended designations and management objectives submitted to Congressman Bishop; and

**WHEREAS**, Exhibit C illustrates in map form Grand County's recommended proposal that has been submitted to Congressman Bishop.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that on April 21, 2015 the Grand County Council ratified a letter sent to Congressman Bishop April 9, 2015 (Exhibit A), and that on March 31, 2015 the Grand County Council formally approved the Council's preliminary recommendations from several open, public County Council workshops in 2015, as amended, as the formal recommendations for designations and management objectives (Exhibit B), with mapped boundaries (Exhibit C), representing Grand County's recommended proposal for Congressman Rob Bishop's proposed Public Lands Initiative.

**RESOLUTION PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Grand County Council in open session this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015, by the following vote:

Those voting aye: Tubbs, Hawks, Baird, McGann

Those voting nay: Ballantyne, Jackson, Paxman

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Grand County Council

Diana Carroll  
Diana Carroll, Clerk/Auditor

Elizabeth A. Tubbs  
Elizabeth A. Tubbs, Chair

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**EXHIBIT A**  
**Cover Letter and Regional Map**





**GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**Elizabeth Tubbs (Chair) · Chris Baird (Vice Chair)**  
**Ken Ballantyne · Jaylyn Hawks · A. Lynn Jackson**  
**Mary McGann · Rory Paxman**

April 9, 2015

Honorable Rob Bishop  
c/o Fred Ferguson and Casey Snider  
[Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov)  
[Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov](mailto:Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to resolve several long-standing public land use issues via your willingness to act as our congressional sponsor for a public lands bill.

On March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year the Grand County Council met in a Special Meeting to vote on the final recommendations for inclusion in your bill. The meeting was the culmination of many months of work by two different councils, public input, public hearings and an extensive public comment period. Over the past several weeks Grand County has submitted preliminary recommendations, based on outcomes and "straw" votes during our on-going workshops, so that our recommendations could be included in your draft map. Since your time-frame to publish the draft map has somewhat changed, we would now like you to consider only our final recommendations, approved by a majority vote of the council, for inclusion in the draft map. Note that our final vote included some amendments to previous "straw" votes. Grand County's final overall map and specific shape files are downloadable from <http://grandcountyutah.net/866/Public-Lands-Recommendation-Mar-31>. And the final recommended management objectives, including designations outlined below, are attached (and also available online).

You may recall that, for purposes of efficiency, we divided the County into three regional areas (Bookcliffs Area North of I-70, Watershed and East Arches Area, and Greater Big Flat Area & Labyrinth Canyon Region). We have also established "Other Grand County Areas" that cross these regional areas. The regional map is again provided, and the recommended management objectives reference these regions.

Attached are management objectives (as illustrated on the map for the following:

- Bookcliffs Area North of I-70
  - Wilderness and roads
  
- Watershed and East Arches Area
  - Wilderness and roads
  - "Castle Valley" NCA designation
  - "Utah Rims" OHV SRMA expansion
  - Arches National Park expansion
  
- Greater Big Flat Area and Labyrinth Canyon Region
  - Wilderness
  - "Labyrinth Canyon" Special Management Area designation

- o "Moab" Recreation Area designation to include six management zones (White Wash/Dee Pass; Monitor/Merrimac; Gemini Bridges South; Amasa Back/Gold Bar; Bar M/ Klondike (Arches West); and Mineral Canyon)
- o SITLA trade-in area
- Other Grand County Areas
  - o Wild & Scenic River management objectives
  - o Rights of ways & roads in wilderness
  - o Canyonlands Field Airport expansion/request of federal lands

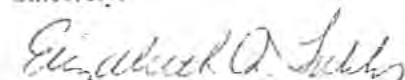
I would like to add that much of the work that went into developing the management objectives for the areas/designations listed above was accomplished by a multi-stakeholder group loosely referred to as the Big Flats Workgroup. This group, led by two Council Members during 2014, met numerous times to hash out solutions to issues in an area where many interests compete. The road to forwarding these recommendations would have been a lot longer and more difficult to navigate without that foundation. The newly seated Council involved in this process has participated in many meetings and has had to quickly become familiar with many complex issues to bring this to a conclusion. Although the Council and the community have not reached consensus, we hope that everyone will find the resulting compromise acceptable.

It is important to note that, at the beginning of this process in 2013, a Council study committee was designated who developed three alternatives initially to be considered for inclusion in the public lands bill. All three alternatives included a recommendation to set aside a swath of land for a potential "transportation corridor" through the Bookcliffs, from Uinta County/Grand County border to I-70. During subsequent workshops, however, this concept was not supported by a majority of the Council and, you will note, it is not a recommendation forwarded by Grand County. Likewise, language relating to the Antiquities Act was also not supported by a majority of the Grand County Council and is not included in our proposal, though we recognize that this may be incorporated regardless.

It is also important to note that the accuracy of the shape files are intended only to be illustrative of our intentions. However, where existing landmarks (such as roads, trails, property boundaries, political boundaries, etc.) exist it will be necessary to seek more authoritative data. While most of our boundaries will likely be self-evident, some may come from data that you may not have (local trail systems, watershed boundaries, etc.). Feel free to contact us with any questions as we would be happy to clarify.

Once again, thank you for championing a locally derived solution to federally owned land management in Grand County. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth A. Tubbs, Chair  
Grand County Council

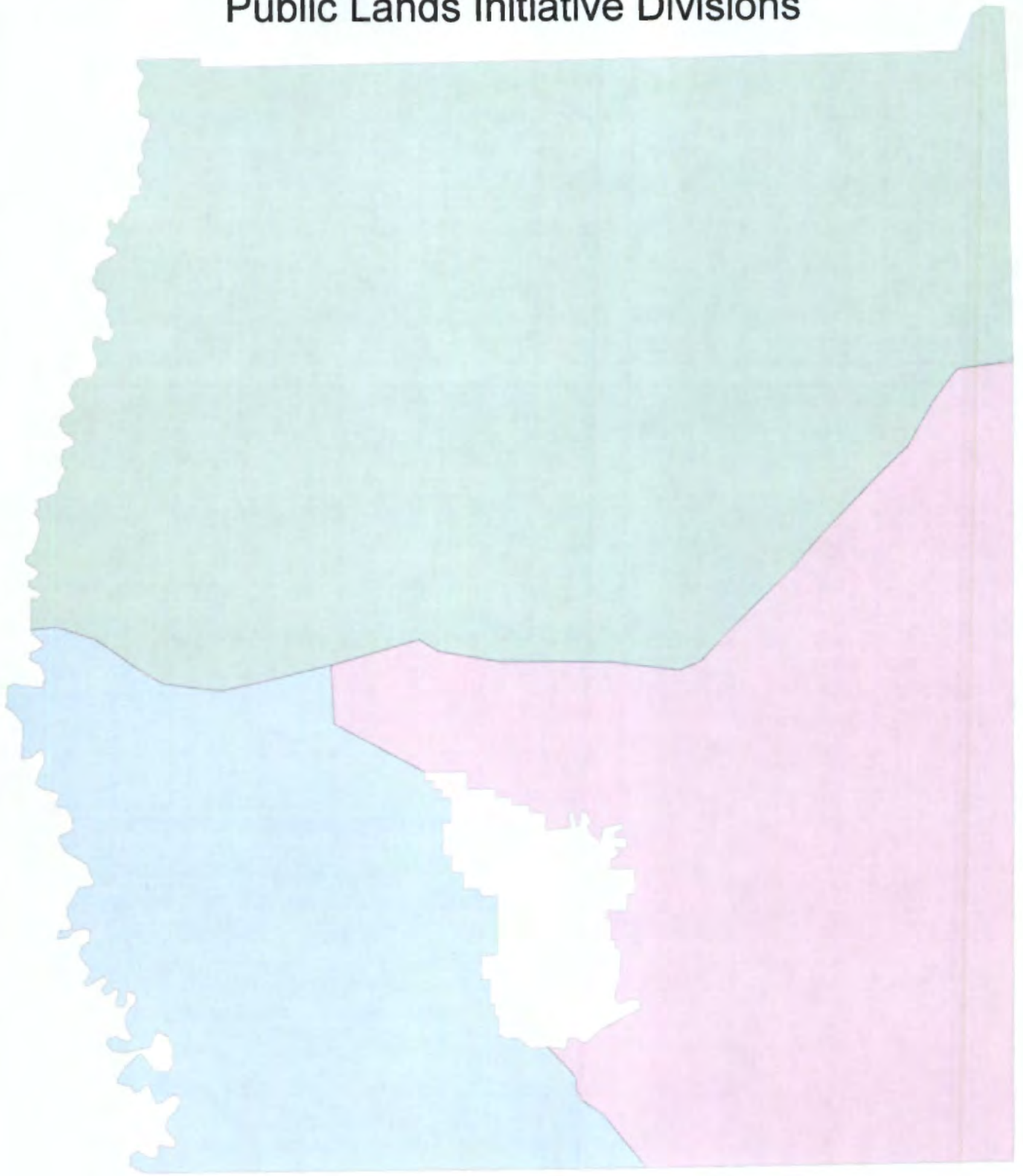
cc: Congressman Chaffetz, c/o Wade Garrett, Wade.Garrett@mail.house.gov  
Grand County Council

Attachments: Recommended management objectives; map & .shp files (online)

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# Public Lands Initiative Divisions



## Legend

-  Bookcliffs
-  Greater Big Flats
-  Watershed & E. Arches

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**EXHIBIT B**  
**Recommended Designations and Management Objectives**



**GRAND COUNTY'S RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**  
**for Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative**  
**March 31, 2015**

**Bookcliffs Area North of I-70**

1. Wilderness and Roads
  - Keep all Bookcliffs roads cherry stemmed as identified on the map (leave as is)
  - Remainder of Bookcliffs roads will be closed
  - Designate wilderness as indicated on attached map
  - Establish a right of way sufficient for maintenance and repairs of cherry stemmed roads to handle safety issues

**Watershed and East Arches Area**

1. Wilderness and Roads
  - Keep all Westwater/Big Triangle/Beaver Creek roads cherry stemmed as identified on the map (leave as is)
  - Remainder of Westwater/Big Triangle/Beaver Creek roads will be evaluated in coordination with the BLM using a "no net loss" kind for kind exchange policy
  - Designate wilderness as indicated on attached map
  - Establish a right of way sufficient for maintenance and repairs of cherry stemmed roads to handle safety issues
  - Negro Bill Wilderness designation was amended from the Wilderness Study Area boundaries to accommodate a mountain biking trail
  - Mill Creek wilderness boundary was amended to include parcels that were exchanged from SITLA to BLM
2. "Castle Valley National Conservation Area" designation
  - Watershed protection applies to the USGS designated Castle Valley and Moab City watershed; within the watershed there will be elimination of large point sources of pollution and best management of vegetation and soil fertility
  - No road or trail closures
  - Allow filming
  - Allow hunting
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - Viewshed protection for Delicate Arch
  - Continued grazing
  - Continued fire mitigation activities
  - Allow consideration of new roads & trails

- Keep current SRMAs
  - Wood gathering permits remain
  - Local Advisory Committee with a request that the committee members be appointed by the Grand County Council
  - Local Manager
3. Expand Utah Rims SRMA as per attached map
  4. Expand Arches National Park as per attached map

## **Greater Big Flat Area and the Labyrinth Canyon Region**

1. Wilderness
  - Designate Behind the Rocks wilderness as per the attached map
  - Close the mountain biking trail
2. "Labyrinth Canyon Special Management Area" designation
  - Ten Mile Canyon
    - Leave the Ten Mile Road open from Dripping Springs to the Midway road
    - Close Ten Mile Road from Midway to the Green River
  - Establish an unconditional No Surface Occupancy area as indicated on attached map
    - Unconditional NSO to apply to: oil & gas, hard rock mining, potash, and any kind of extractive industry. Ineligible for exemption or waiver.
  - Establish an area along the Green River as mineral withdrawal and no new leasing as per attached map
  - All routes along the Green River in the Labyrinth Canyon Special Management Area to be open to OHV from the first of October through Easter Sunday, and closed from after Easter Sunday through the last day of September
    - The road down Spring Canyon will remain open to the river year-round for boating access
    - The B Road portion of Mineral Bottom Road will remain open year-round
3. "Moab Recreation Area" designation comprised of the following six recreation zones, with management objectives as follows:
  - a. White Wash/Dee Pass
    - Purpose:
      - OHV recreation
      - Mineral development
    - Allow new motorized and non-motorized trails
    - Allow all other types of recreation
    - Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads



- White Wash area open for cross country travel per BLM RMP
- b. Monitor/Merrimac
- Purpose:
    - Recreation: Motorized, non-motorized, climbing
    - Viewshed
  - Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
  - Allow new motorized and non-motorized trails
  - Provide protection for rare plants
  - Allow existing county borrow pits
  - Trade two northern SITLA parcels out
  - Honor valid existing lease rights
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
- c. Gemini Bridges South
- Purpose:
    - Recreation: Motorized and non-motorized
    - Energy development
  - Allow new non-motorized routes
  - Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
  - Honor valid existing lease rights
  - Allow future leasing with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation
  - No lease retirement
  - Create a management area Advisory Committee, committee to be appointed by the County Council: Purpose to provide coordination with federal, state and county management of area
    - Representative from the oil lessees/operators
    - Representative from the motorized recreation
    - Representative from the non-motorized recreation
    - Representative from SITLA
    - Representative from the County Council
    - Representative from BLM
    - Representative from conservation community
- d. Amasa Back/Goldbar
- Purpose
    - Recreation: Motorized and non-motorized
    - Viewshed
  - Allow new non-motorized routes
  - Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads

- Consider biological resources in recreation management
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - Lease and claim retirement
  - Trade out State lands
- e. Bar M/Klondike (Arches West)
- Purpose:
    - Recreation – Mountain biking and climbing
    - Viewshed protection for Arches National Park
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - Trade out SITLA parcels
  - Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
  - Sovereign trail system remains open for OHV use
  - Allow new non-motorized trails
- f. Mineral Canyon
- Purpose
    - Recreation: non-motorized focus
    - Viewshed
  - Boating access
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - Lease and claim retirement area
  - Follow RMP Travel Management Plan (baseline); allow adjustments per BLM/County consultation process for additions or deletions of roads
  - Allow new non-motorized trails
  - Trade out SITLA lands
  - Keep airstrip open
  - Keep county borrow areas open
4. SITLA Trade-in Area
- Grand County approves SITLA trade-ins as per attached map

## Other Grand County Areas

1. Wild & Scenic River Management Objectives
  - Designate Wild & Scenic Rivers as per the BLM's suitability inventory (see attached maps) for the Colorado, Dolores, and Green Rivers
2. Rights of Ways & Roads in Wilderness
  - Establish a right of way sufficient for maintenance and repairs of cherry stemmed roads to handle safety issues



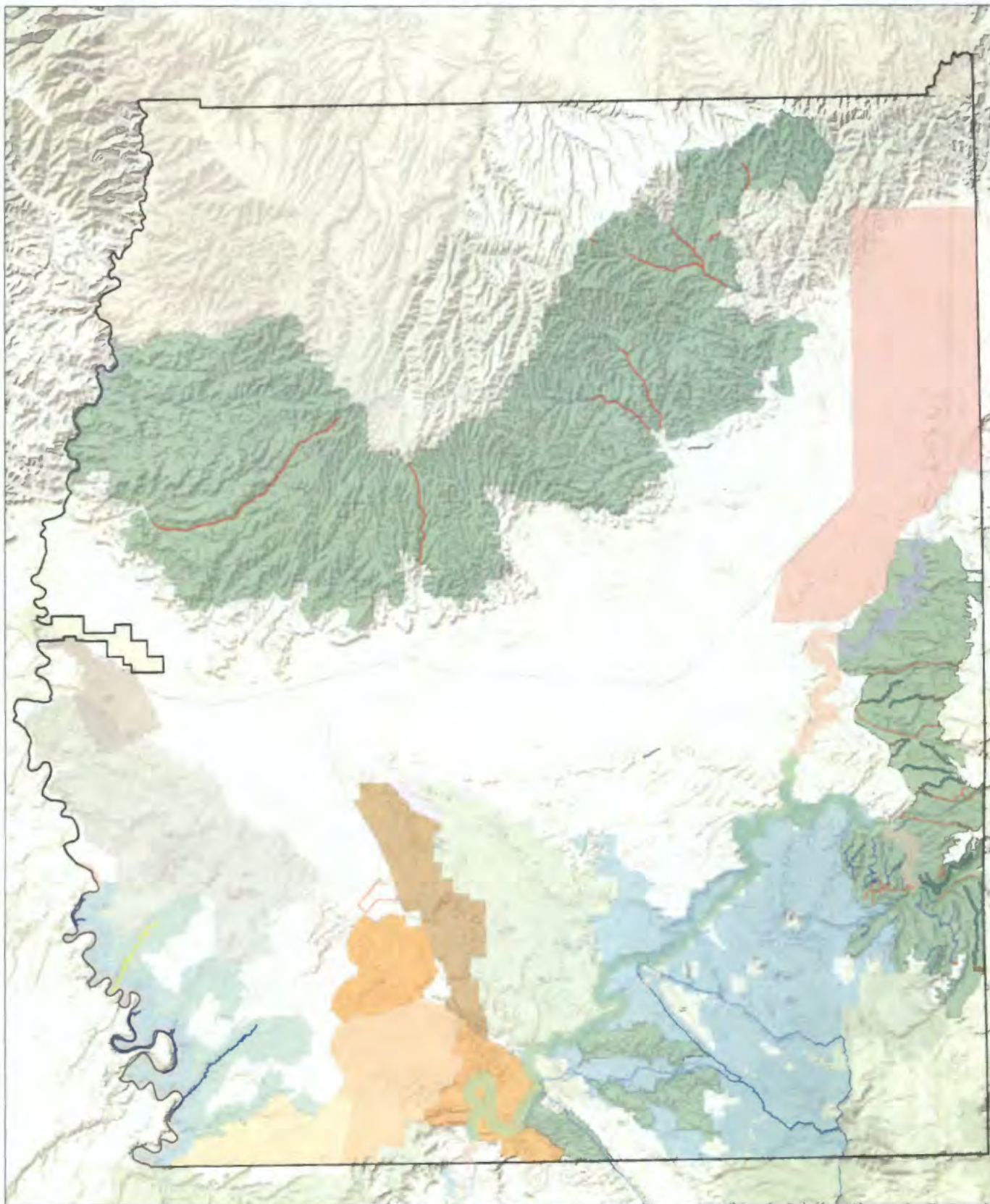
- “No net loss” policy for roads in Grand County consistent with the 2008 Travel Management Plan; that losses and gains are kind for kind trade outs; and will utilize the BLM’s process for Travel Plan evaluation
  - Valid and existing rights will be given access
3. Canyonlands Field Airport
- Grand County requests an area immediately adjacent to the airport, subject to a map to be prepared by the Airport Manager/Board, for a transfer of federal lands to Grand County for airport expansion purposes

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**EXHIBIT C**  
**Map of Grand County's Recommended Proposal**



# Grand Co. Public Lands Initiative Recommendations



## Wilderness

- Wilderness
- Undecided Roads
- Cherry-Stemmed Roads

## Labyrinth Special Management Area

- Labyrinth - Unconditional NSO
- Labyrinth Mineral Leasing Withdrawal
- Seasonal Closure
- Tenmile Route Closed

## Moab Recreation Area

- OHV Expansion - Dea Pass
  - OHV Expansion - Utah Rims
- Recreation Area - Big Flat**
- Name**
- Amasa Back - Gold Bar
  - Bar M - Klondike
  - Monitor Merrimack
  - Gemini Bridges - Big Flat
  - Mineral Canyon

## Arches Expansion

- C.V. National Conservation Area
- Airport Expansion
- SITLA Trade-in Area
- Grand County Border
- Moab Watershed
- Castle Valley Watershed

## Wild & Scenic Suitability

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

(b) (5)

(b) (5)





**GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
Elizabeth Tubbs (Chair) · Jaylyn Hawks (Vice Chair)  
Chris Baird · Ken Ballantyne · A. Lynn Jackson  
Mary McGann · Rory Paxman

May 17, 2016

Mr. Lance Porter  
District Manager, Canyon Country District  
Bureau of Land Management  
82 East Dogwood  
Moab, Utah 84532

RE: Administrative Draft of the Moab Master Leasing Plan FEIS Recommendations

Dear Mr. Porter:

The Grand County Council wishes to again acknowledge the tremendous task undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to develop the Draft Master Leasing Plan (MLP)/ Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). In November 2015, we provided you with our feedback, concerns and recommendations for inclusion in the MLP. As a cooperating agency we trust that our comments received the highest level of consideration.

We wish to reiterate that we believe the designations and management objectives developed in the County's process over the last few years for potential inclusion in Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative (PLI) best reflect the needs of our diverse community and will safeguard the various economic, social and environmental assets for the future of Grand County.

We therefore respectfully request that you incorporate into the MLP the following:

1. Maps and designations found in the final recommendations to the PLI as pertain to oil, gas, and potash development (attached)
2. Management objectives for each designated area found in the PLI as pertain to oil, gas, and potash development (attached)

In November 2015, the Council also recommended changes and clarification to the Draft MLP, Chapter 2 as it pertains to Potash Leasing, and we trust that our specific comments were considered.

The Grand County Council believes that the recommendations for inclusion in the MLP will enhance the ability of the extraction and the outdoor recreation industries to continue to work together in harmony, while also protecting valuable environmental and other assets. These factors are critical to the future economic, social and environmental well-being of Grand County and its' citizens.

We thank you again for your consideration of our recommendations and look forward to completion of this process.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Tubbs,

Grand County Council Chair

Attachments:

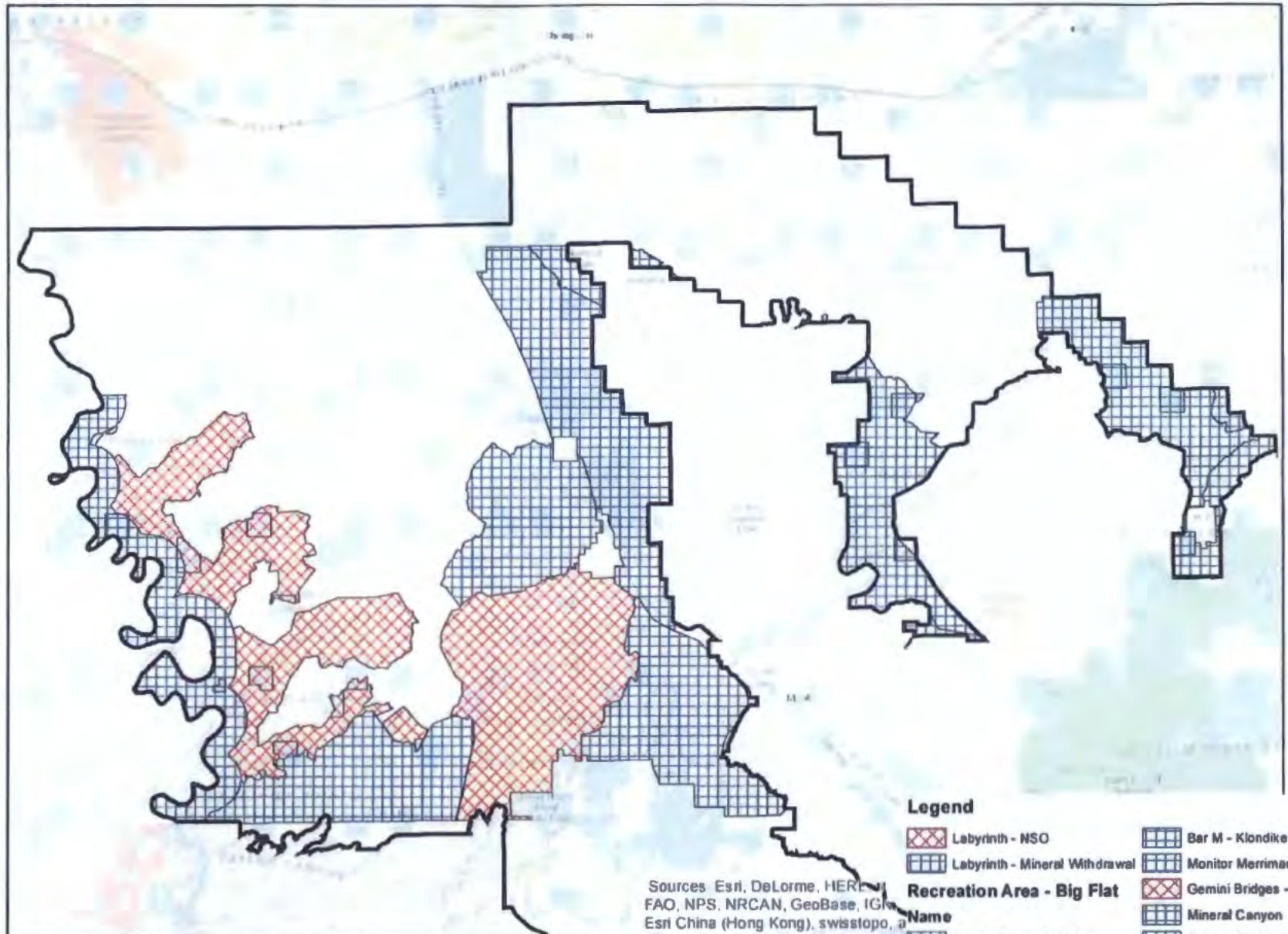
Grand County MLP Comments Oil & Gas from PLI Map

MLP Comments Pertaining to Oil & Gas



# Grand County MLP Comments

## Oil & Gas from PLI



Sources Esri, DeLorme, HERE, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGH, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, a

## MLP COMMENTS PERTAINING TO OIL & GAS AS PER:

### GRAND COUNTY'S RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

for Congressman Bishop's Public Lands Initiative

November 17, 2015

#### **Watershed and East Arches Area**

1. Wilderness
  - Designate wilderness as indicated on attached map
2. "Castle Valley National Conservation Area" designation
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
3. Expand Arches National Park as per attached map

#### **Greater Big Flat Area and the Labyrinth Canyon Region**

1. "Labyrinth Canyon Special Management Area" designation
  - Establish an unconditional No Surface Occupancy area as indicated on attached map
    - Unconditional NSO to apply to: oil & gas, hard rock mining, potash, and any kind of extractive industry. Ineligible for exemption or waiver.
  - Establish an area along the Green River as mineral withdrawal and no new leasing as per attached map
2. "Moab Recreation Area" designation comprised of the following six recreation zones, with management objectives as follows:
  - a. Monitor/Merrimac
    - Honor valid existing lease rights
    - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - b. Gemini Bridges South
    - Purpose:
      - Recreation: Motorized and non-motorized
      - Energy development
    - Honor valid existing lease rights
    - Allow future leasing with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation
    - No lease retirement



- c. Amasa Back/Goldbar
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - Lease and claim retirement
  
- d. Bar M/Klondike (Arches West)
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  
- e. Mineral Canyon
  - No new mineral claims or leasing
  - Lease and claim retirement area

### **Other Grand County Areas**

- 1. Wild & Scenic River Management Objectives
  - Designate Wild & Scenic Rivers as per the BLM's suitability inventory (see attached maps) for the Colorado, Dolores, and Green Rivers

## Table of Contents

Tab 1.....	Delegation Letter
Tab 2.....	PLI by the Numbers
Tab 3.....	PLI Highlights and Changes
Tab 4.....	Bears Ears Summary
Tab 5.....	“Bears Ears controversy ramps up with Jewell’s visit, Bishop’s planned legislation”, Deseret News
Tab 6.....	Maps



Emery County Notes

Grand County Notes



San Juan County Notes

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 7, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We are writing to provide an update on the Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI). Since our meeting with Senior Obama Administration officials on April 29, 2016, much progress has been made on the PLI legislative text. We have received more than 50 detailed comments regarding the draft bill released in January.

We would like to thank participating mainstream non-governmental organizations, staff from the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior (Department), and our partners at the state and county level, the bill text has been amended and strengthened.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Department with an outline of the delegation's legislative strategy and next steps.

**Bill Introduction:** The Utah Public Lands Initiative Act will be formally introduced before the House of Representatives goes into the July/August District Work Period. Many stakeholders, including the Administration, have urged the delegation to introduce a bill to expedite discussions on legislative text and provisions. We agree. A formal bill will allow stakeholders, the Administration, and the public to review the language and associated maps to better prepare for Congressional hearings and bill markup.

**Local Meeting:** We understand that you will be holding a public meeting in southeast Utah with various Administration officials on July 16, 2016. We believe the best format to discuss land management is on the ground with local voices. We are pleased that you have chosen to visit Utah to discuss PLI.

**PLI Field Hearing:** Senator Mike Lee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a formal field hearing to discuss the PLI process and corresponding bill text during the last week in July. We regret that you could not attend and hope the Department will participate in this important discussion about the process, legislation, and path forward.

**Bears Ears Hearing:** Most, if not all, agree that the Bears Ears are deserving of a federal conservation designation. Major disagreements exist on how best to achieve this goal. The delegation intends to convene a formal hearing during the latter half of August. During this



hearing, all sides of the debate will be represented in order to better understand the best path forward for the Bears Ears.

**Legislative Hearing:** The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a legislative hearing on the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act during the September work period. The purpose of the hearing is to hear directly from local counties, impacted stakeholders, and the Administration concerning the multitude of provisions included in the final bill.

**Legislative Markup:** The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold a markup of the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act during the September work period. Legislative markups are necessary components of the legislative process. The markup will provide an opportunity for technical errors to be corrected, amendments to be offered, and language clarified before it goes to the House Floor.


Again, thank you for your commitment to a legislative approach to land management issues in eastern Utah. The above outline provides ample time for the public, the Administration, and other Members of Congress to review the bill in the lead-up to September's hearings and markup.

As we have repeatedly stated, legislation ensures local participation and guarantees a balanced product. The delegation, local elected officials, and many local tribal organizations remain unified in our opposition to the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act in Utah. We look forward to working together.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



Orrin Hatch  
U.S. Senator



Mike Lee  
U.S. Senator



Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress

# **PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE BY THE NUMBERS**

**Seven**

Eastern Utah Counties Covered

**18 million**

Acres of federal land in participating counties

**2013**

Year Reps. Bishop and Chaffetz began PLI process

**More than 1,200**

Meetings with Stakeholders

**4.6 million**

Acres of federal land designated for conservation in PLI (300,000 increase)

**1.15 million**

Acres designated for new recreation or economic development opportunities (10,400 increase)

**360 miles**

Rivers designated wild and scenic and recreational (55 mile increase)

**311,000**

Acres consolidated for SITLA

**18,779**

Acres in Arches National Park expansion

**One**

National Monument Designation (Jurassic)

**[UTAHPLI.COM](http://UTAHPLI.COM)**



## HIGHLIGHTS AND CHANGES TO PLI

- 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region receives permanent, congressional conservation designations. A special Bears Ears Management section has been added; the large majority of the language in this section was provided by Utah Dine Bikeyah (see separate Bears Ears Region overview document for more detail).
- Land-use certainty via limitations to the Antiquities Act will be advanced on a separate track.
- A newly created Public Lands Initiative Planning and Advisory Committee has been added to oversee implementation of the PLI. Members of the Committee are the same persons and local officials who helped craft PLI during the three-year planning process.
- Large-scale energy zones have been eliminated. Instead, administrative reforms to the downstream energy permitting process have been included. The new energy section is modeled off the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission proposal that increases state involvement in the permitting of oil and gas projects. This approach does not affect current leasing procedures or environmental reviews required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Permitting backlogs delay projects and tapping into state resources will allow federal agencies to better focus their time and limited resources to leasing, environmental reviews, and conflict resolution.
- The State-Federal land exchange will follow more recent language and procedures. The Grand Staircase model originally proposed has been removed and replaced.
- Wilderness management language, including livestock grazing and insect control, follows precedent set in Pine Forest, Boulder White-Cloud, and Hermosa Creek lands bills.
- The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food will assist ranchers and federal managers with grazing management in designated wilderness and conservation areas.
- Special management areas and other non-wilderness conservation areas will not negatively impact grazing pursuant to long recognized grazing guidelines that are enumerated in the bill (historically, these guidelines are referenced but never included in the actual text).
- The airshed status of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks will not change.
- Changes to airshed status for wilderness or other conservation areas in the bill can only be made within existing Clean Air Act procedures, not through PLI.
- Over 1,000 miles of disputed R.S. 2477 roads will be resolved favorably for the state of Utah.
- Recapture Canyon will be open to responsible use, consistent with federal archeological and cultural resources laws.
- Uintah County's exhaustive and collaborative process with environmental groups pertaining to travel management and R.S. 2477 roads is recognized in the bill.

- The Big Burrito Mountain Biking Trail in Moab will be opened, consistent with the BLM's December 2015 decision.
- Unlike Washington County, National Conservation Areas in PLI cannot be designated as wilderness by BLM in the future.
- More than 80,000 acres of wilderness study areas will be hard released.
- The Seep Ridge Road utility corridor has been removed from Grand County.
- At the request of conservation and sportsmen organizations, the White River NCA, Book Cliffs Sportsmen NCA, and the Desolation Canyon NCA have been converted to Special Management Areas. These SMAs will be managed identical to National Conservation Areas with the only exception being the allowance of directional drilling. Surface lands within the SMAs will not be disturbed.
- The Nine Mile Canyon NCA will be also be a SMA, but managed identical to a National Conservation Area. The new SMA designation accommodates the agreement reached between the BLM, Bill Barrett Corporation, and The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance in 2010 regarding energy development.
- Sand Flats Recreation Area management will remain unchanged.
- The Book Cliffs Roadless area will be protected from future energy development, safeguarding one of the most significant wildlife area in the state of Utah.
- Many ideas were received regarding Native American Economic development. These ideas have been included and are described below:
  - McCracken Mesa extension of the Navajo Reservation will receive ownership of the minerals located beneath the surface, boosting self-determination and economic development.
  - The formula for the Utah Navajo Trust Fund will be reversed, leaving 62.5% of the Aneth Extension oil and gas royalties in place for Utah Navajo school children (currently, 62.5% of the royalties are sent out-of-state to Window Rock and the Navajo Nation Capitol).
  - Uintah and Ouray Reservation and Hill Creek extension will receive ownership of the minerals located beneath the surface, boosting self-determination and economic development.
  - The bill authorizes an assessment of the needs, opportunities and constraints in Uintah and Duchesne Counties for storage of Ute tribal water and the use of water rights currently held by the Ute tribe



# BEARS EARS REGION

The most notable change in the introduced version of PLI is the section pertaining to the Bears Ears region.

## **The introduced version does the following:**

- Provides permanent, Congressional designation for 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears Region.
- Protection is provided via two National Conservation Areas and a large-scale wilderness area.
- The two NCA model provides for more tailored management that reflects on-the-ground conditions.
  - The Indian Creek NCA is tailored for outdoor recreation and grazing while the Bears Ears NCA is focused on tribal access and cultural resource protection.
  - The two NCA model is supported by various conservation organizations, including The Nature Conservancy, Friends of Cedar Mesa, and The Access Fund.
- An entirely new Division was added in order to elevate management priorities of the Bears Ears NCA.
  - Division D outlines management of the Bears Ears NCA, including provisions to safeguard historical access, gathering, and cultural practices.
  - Division D creates a process for Tribes to enter into Cooperating Agency status with the Department of Interior, giving Tribes a meaningful seat at the management table.
  - Division D creates the Bears Ears Tribal Commission, which is tasked with working with the Secretary of the Interior on the management of the NCA.
  - Division D would require the Department of the Interior to appoint a Tribal Liaison to serve as the primary point of contact for Tribes and the Bears Ears.
  - Division D promotes the employment of Tribal members in the management of the NCA.
  - Division D would also create a separate Advisory Committee comprised of local officials, ranchers, motorized and non-motorized recreationists, sportsmen, and archeological representatives to assist in the planning and management of the NCA.
  - The majority of the co-management language included in Division D was crafted by Utah Dine Bikeyah.
- The introduced bill designates the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail as a National Historic Trail and provides for continued access and use by local foundations and the public

# Bears Ears controversy ramps up with Jewell's visit, Bishop's planned legislation

By [Amy Joi O'Donoghue](#), Deseret News

Published: Tuesday, July 12 2016 8:30 p.m. MDT

Updated: 1 hour ago

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The Bears Ears area is seen on Thursday, June 2, 2016. The proposed 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region contained in a massive public lands bill being unveiled this week would actually be split in two, with the southern portion set aside for traditional Native American uses.

Scott G Winterton, Deseret News

## Summary

Discussion around a proposed national monument for the Bears Ears in southeastern Utah is ramping up with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's planned three-day trip to the region this week and Rep. Rob Bishop's pending release of his public lands bill.

## More Coverage

- [Utah lawmakers pass resolution against proposed Bears Ears national monument](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — The proposed 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region contained in a massive public lands bill being unveiled this week would actually be split in two, with the southern portion set aside for traditional Native American uses.



Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, and chief architect of the measure, said the region on federal lands in southeastern Utah will come with a new management structure that includes a tribal committee to ensure traditional access for wood gathering, ceremonies and gathering of plants.

"We spell out what the management practices will be and the purpose of those," Bishop said. "The lower half is strictly for conservation. ... They will be able to continue those traditional activities in a way that would not be guaranteed under a monument designation."

The final version of Bishop's bill is due to be released late this week, coinciding with a three-day, packed tour of San Juan and Grand counties by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Jewell will meet with tribal leaders of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, visit with San Juan County commissioners and hear from congressional staffers from Bishop's and Rep. Jason Chaffetz's offices.

Cody Stewart, Gov. Gary Herbert's policy adviser, will also be at the talks, with Herbert already committed to attend a meeting of the National Governors' Association.

As the tempo accelerates around the Bears Ears controversy — the coalition is pushing President Barack Obama to declare 1.9 million acres a national monument — all sides in the issue are scrambling for the ear of Jewell, who has promised no designation will be made without local input.

To that end, beyond the intense slate of meetings, tours and hikes, Jewell will host a three-hour community meeting in Bluff to hear from residents on the issue.

## Proposed Bear Ears National Monument



SOURCE: Utah Dine Bileeyah

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

Bishop mapped out some of his plans for the Bears Ears region, saying no one disputes the need for federal conservation area protections. The 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears region would be divided into two roughly equal portions and managed as separate national conservation areas.

While the southern portion would be managed strictly with Native American uses and traditions in mind, the northern half would come under an administrative approach that recognizes existing outdoor recreation uses such as rock climbing in the Indian Creek corridor. The footprint also includes the Mancos Wilderness Area.

The divided conservation area model came at the request of The Nature Conservancy, which owns the 5,200-acre working Dugout Ranch that is also home to scientific research and ancestral Puebloan rock art and dwellings. The concept was pursued in consultation with San Juan County and some tribal representatives.

"This is a dramatic change from January," said Fred Ferguson, Chaffetz's chief of staff. "If you don't recognize the different conditions on the ground, management will be extremely difficult."

The northern region is already heavily used for outdoor recreation and includes some grazing, Ferguson said. Under the new management structure envisioned to protect cultural resources, the tribes will have a co-management position, elevated to cooperating partners in land-use planning, he said, and not simply consulted.



"They will have a seat at the table," Ferguson said. "Candidly, that is very difficult to be created through a monument designation."

The delegation asked the leaders of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to sit down and review the changes in late June, but the offer was rebuffed.

"We are satisfied that a Bears Ears National Monument proclaimed by President Obama under his authority granted by the Antiquities Act presents the best opportunity to protect the Bears Ears landscape and assure a strong Native American voice in monument management," the coalition's letter said.

Coalition leaders bowed out of talks in December, accusing Bishop and Chaffetz of ignoring their input, leaving them out of the public lands initiative process and continually missing deadlines.

Bishop said the latest reaction was disappointing but not surprising.

"I think that is more indicative of the entire issue at hand," he said. "This was an organization whose first priority may not have been trying to sit down and work something out."

Gavin Noyes, executive director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, a nonprofit advocacy organization for indigenous people, said the group long supported a national conservation area for Bears Ears because of the ability to write more language into that approach rather than a proclamation. The group, however, is deferring decisions to the coalition and supporting its position for a monument.

The public lands bill will be the subject of a formal hearing in August by the committee Bishop heads, the House Committee on Natural Resources, which will also hold a markup session on the bill in September.

Bishop's public lands bill, dubbed the "Grand Bargain," has been in the making for more than three years. It was released in draft form in January amid a swell of criticism from environmental groups who say it favored industry over conservation.

Email: [amyjoi@deseretnews.com](mailto:amyjoi@deseretnews.com)

Twitter: amyjoi16

Maps prepared by the  
Department of  
Interior  
can be found on  
[www.UtahPLI.com](http://www.UtahPLI.com)



M-oregon



October 13, 2016

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
911 N.E. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 630  
Portland, OR 97232

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 1400  
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:

I write in advance of the October 14, 2016 public meeting in Ashland, Oregon with U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Conner on the proposal to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. AFRC and its members – some of whom own lands inside and adjacent to the proposed monument expansion – received word of the public meeting and the map on October 7, making it impossible to offer a thorough analysis of the potential impacts ahead of the meeting. However, I do want to highlight serious concerns with the monument expansion and respectfully urge you to advise President Obama not to designate the area and to work with the public and impacted stakeholders on comprehensive legislation instead.

AFRC and its members care deeply about the health and sustainability of public forestlands. In fact, the business model and future success of AFRC members is *dependent* upon the responsible management, ecological health, and long-term sustainability of our national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. No one appreciates the uniqueness of Southwest Oregon's forests more than our local members and the need to protect them for future generations.

AFRC's members are also a key part of the fabric of the rural communities in which they work, live, and recreate. Beyond the tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic activity our members generate, they are also heavily invested in these communities through charitable contributions, volunteer hours, scholarships, and sponsorships. These communities have been devastated by years of broken federal forest policies and are in dire need of a balanced solution to the O&C Lands and rural economic crisis in Western Oregon. We strongly believe the most serious public land management challenge facing Southwest Oregon – and thus the highest priority for Congressional action – is the exposure of our public lands and forests to climate change, catastrophic wildfire, disease, bug infestation, and drought.

AFRC and its members believe science-based, proactive management is not only the best way respond to these pressing challenges but the best way to grow local, rural economies, put Oregonians back to work, and provide sustainable raw materials that will be locally manufactured to produce local wood products every Oregonian uses, every day.



**Unfortunately, a national monument expansion would have the opposite effect by preventing federal agencies from maintaining and protecting these unique public lands for future generations.** Many of the lands within the proposed monument expansion are in need of forest thinning and restoration activities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. In a 2014 environmental assessment (EA) for the Howard Forest Management Project surrounding nearby Howard Prairie Lake, the BLM found these forests to be at “moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components due to altered fire regimes causing increased fire risk.” The BLM determined that without active management these forests would suffer further deterioration into even higher risk fire regimes. The EA found that “the implementation of thinning would promote increased fire-resilient forest stands by removing suppressed trees while retaining larger trees within treated stands.” Unfortunately, this needed forest restoration will not occur if these areas are included in an expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

In the face of a warmer, dryer climate and denser forests resulting from decades of fire suppression and a lack of forest management, there is widespread recognition about the need for active forest restoration across this part of Southwest Oregon. In fact, a 2014 paper titled *A new approach to evaluate forest structure restoration needs across Oregon and Washington, USA* published in *Forest Ecology and Management* by the Nature Conservancy and others, identified most of the lands proposed for inclusion into the National Monument as having “moderate to high active restoration needs.” The authors of this paper determined that these “forest restoration needs were dominated by the need for thinning” and that “disturbance alone cannot restore forest structure.” Far from “protecting” these areas, an expanded national monument will most likely result in the loss of these unique lands to stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire.

**Neighboring private lands, local communities, and the local forest products industry infrastructure will also be put at risk by an expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.** Private forest lands included in – and adjacent to – the expanded national monument will face an elevated risk of catastrophic wildfire, disease, and insect infestations coming from unmanaged neighboring federal lands. Nearby homes and communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) will also face increased wildfire risk as fuel loads continue to increase and forest health deteriorates. An already dwindling local forest products industry infrastructure – sawmills, loggers, and truckers – will face a further reduction in the amount of land available for sustainable, responsible management.

The proposed monument expansion includes a significant amount of private land within its boundaries – much of it in a checkboard pattern with BLM lands. Road access to these lands is often dependent on reciprocal right-of-way agreements between private landowners and the BLM. Maintaining road access across an expanded national monument to privately owned and managed forestland will be made more difficult and expensive. There will be public pressure to close privately constructed and maintained roads, to acquire “inholdings” within the expansion, and increased user-conflicts as ownership boundaries become blurred on-the-ground.

The proposed designation also comes just months after a major revision to BLM’s Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that govern management decisions on more than two million acres of statutorily unique O&C Lands. The RMPs administratively remove 74 percent of the BLM lands in these drier forest types out of ongoing, sustainable forest management and place them into reserves. With less than 26 percent of Southwest Oregon BLM forests designated for ongoing management, we will continue to witness declines in active forest management and the resulting timber harvests.



The new RMPs reduce allowable harvest levels by 40 percent versus the Clinton Northwest Forest Plan, which already slashed historical harvest levels on these BLM forests. A national monument expansion only increases the risk to the remaining local industry any effort to restore the health of our forests.

**Finally, while we do not question Congressional authority to change land management plans and statutes through legislative action, we do have serious concerns about the precedent of administratively withdrawing productive forestlands from the mandates of the O&C Act of 1937.** Less than three years after passage of the O&C Act, the President proposed withdrawing a portion of O&C Lands and to include those lands as part of an existing national monument (Oregon Caves). In a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, the Solicitor explained "the President does not have such authority" pointing out that "Congress has set aside the lands for the specified purposes" of timber production and "administration of the lands for national monument purposes would be inconsistent with the utilization of the O. & C. lands as directed by Congress."

Subsequent opinions from Department of the Interior solicitors dating from the 1940s to 1970s concluded the O&C Lands could not be used for 1) mining; 2) could not be withdrawn for a state park; 3) and could not be included within wilderness study areas otherwise required as part of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.<sup>1</sup>

While AFRC cannot support the administrative designation of a national monument in Southwest Oregon under the Antiquities Act at this time – especially one that includes O&C Lands – we remain committed to working with you and the rest of the Oregon delegation to find workable, balanced solutions to the challenges facing our forests and rural communities. AFRC does believe that unique lands in Southwest Oregon can and should be preserved. But those proposals should be fully vetted by the public with ample time to understand the proposal and its impacts; be comprehensive and include both conservation and economic objectives in order to sustain rural economies and the remaining infrastructure; and be reviewed and passed by Congress.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing more details about this proposal, offering our constructive feedback, and partnering with you to achieve common goals for our state: healthy forests and vibrant, safe communities.

Sincerely,



Travis Joseph  
President  
American Forest Resource Council

Cc:  
Deputy Secretary Michael Connor  
Congressman Peter DeFazio  
Congressman Greg Walden  
Governor Kate Brown

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<sup>1</sup> See Solicitor Opinion, March 9, 1940; Department of the Interior Memorandum, August 25, 1941; Solicitor Opinion, May 17, 1955; and Solicitor Opinion, June 1, 1977



# Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument Recreation Map



<b>Katahdin Woods &amp; Waters National Monument</b> West Of East Branch Penobscot River (No Hunting) East Of East Branch Penobscot River (Hunting Allowed)	River Feature Water Crossing Scenic Overlook Cabin Unimproved Boat Launch Area Campsites Parking	Shelter Information Restroom Fire Lookout Picnic Area Point of Interest Mile Markers	Public Road Trails International Appalachian Trail Baxter State Park Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands	<b>Private Road (High Clearance Recommended)</b> Gravel Road Unimproved Road Abandoned Road
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# Katahdin Woods & Waters Area Map

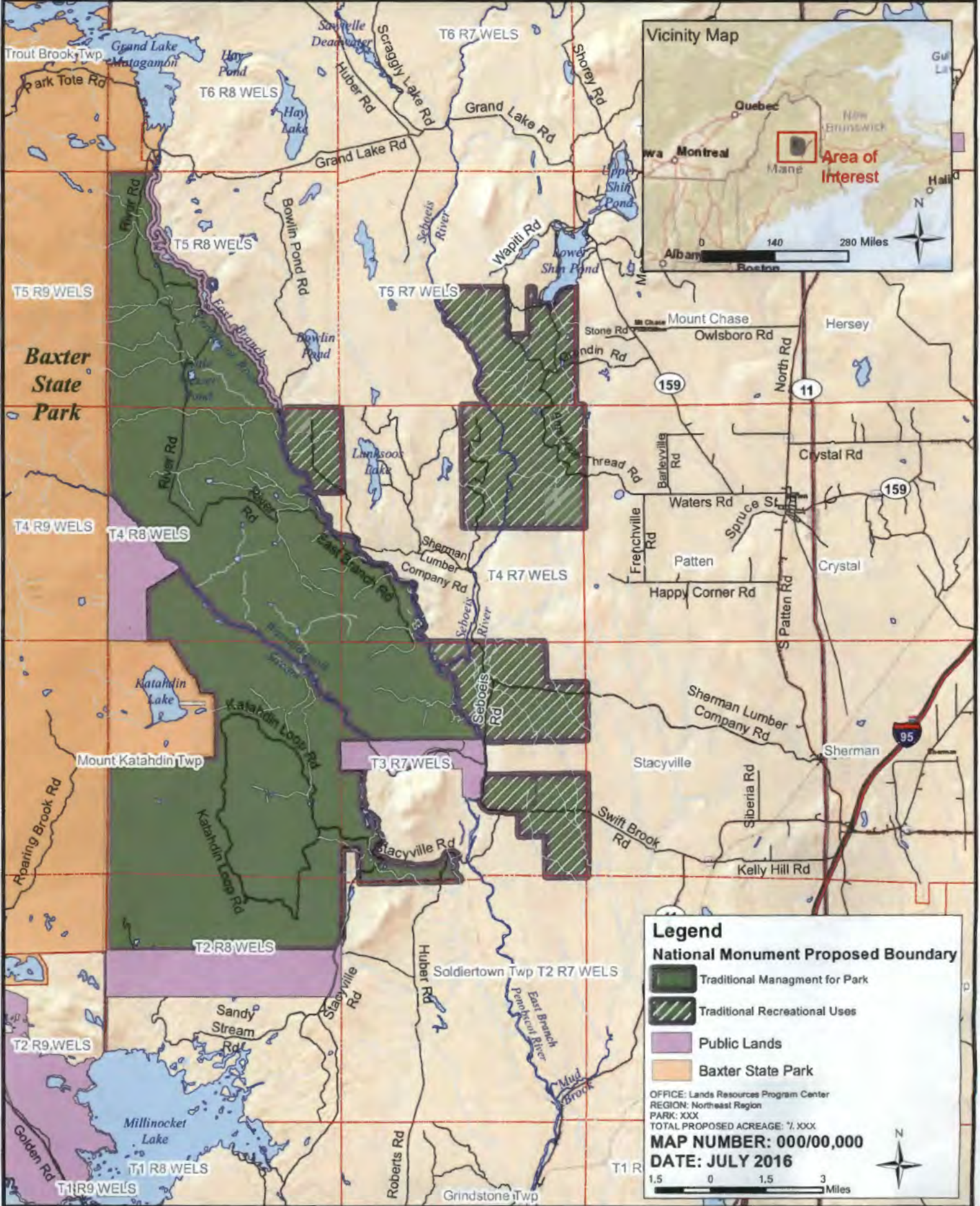


Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile  
 USGS National Wetlands Inventory  
 Prepared by: 1994, 1999, 2004, 2008  
 © 2008 USGS




# Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Proposed Boundary

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior





A photograph of two young children in a forest. The child on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a grey knit hat, smiling slightly. The child on the right is wearing a blue jacket and has their arms raised. They are both holding a large, vibrant autumn leaf with orange, yellow, and red colors. The background shows trees and foliage, suggesting a forest setting.

# A Maine Woods National Monument

A new national monument in Maine would create hundreds of jobs and spur millions of dollars of investment in Northern Maine while protecting access for traditional outdoor activities, including hunting and snowmobiling.

A private, non-profit foundation has proposed donating about 87,500 acres for the creation of the Maine Woods National Monument. In addition, the foundation is committed to establishing a \$40 million endowment for maintenance and operations.

This unique, once-in-a-lifetime \$100 million investment could help to revitalize an economically distressed part of the state, while also ensuring access to one of Maine's most spectacular areas for generations to come.

*A national monument is a place protected for its natural, scientific or cultural significance by Congress through legislation or by the president under the authority granted by the Antiquities Act.*



# Maine Woods National Monument

## An Area of National Significance

**In Order To Become A National Monument,  
The Area Must Meet The Following Criteria:**

NATIONAL  
SIGNIFICANCE

SUITABILITY

FEASIBILITY

### **NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: YES!**

- Permanently protect and provide public use on about 87,500 acres of forests, ponds and portions of the East Branch of the Penobscot River, Seboeis River, Sandy Stream and Wassataquoik Stream.
- Provide unrivaled wildlife habitat for Canada lynx, Ruffed grouse, brook trout, deer, moose, bears and loons and a significant population potential for the restoration of ocean-run Atlantic salmon.
- Interpret the rich history of logging and river drives, the Penobscot tribe and the birth of American conservation

through the eyes of Henry David Thoreau, President Theodore Roosevelt and Percival Baxter.

- Enhance opportunities for hiking, camping, paddling, fishing, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting and snowmobiling.

### **SUITABILITY: YES!**

- This area will also provide year-round access to recreational activities unlike other surrounding public lands and become the largest and most northern natural resource park in the northern temperate network.

- The proposed national monument protects portions of four watersheds and an ecosystem that includes a transition forest between the southern broadleaf deciduous forest zone to the northern boreal forest zone.

### **FEASIBILITY: YES!**

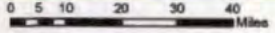
- EPI will donate 87,500 acres of mostly contiguous tracts of land along the East Branch of the Penobscot River. EPI will also donate \$20 million and raise \$20 million toward an endowment for the operation of the national monument.
- The land resides next to Baxter State Park, which is already managed under a "forever wild" policy for the benefit of public use. The national monument would add economic benefits, natural resource protection and visitor enjoyment to the area.



### Proposed National Monument Designation of Elliottsville Plantation, Inc. Land

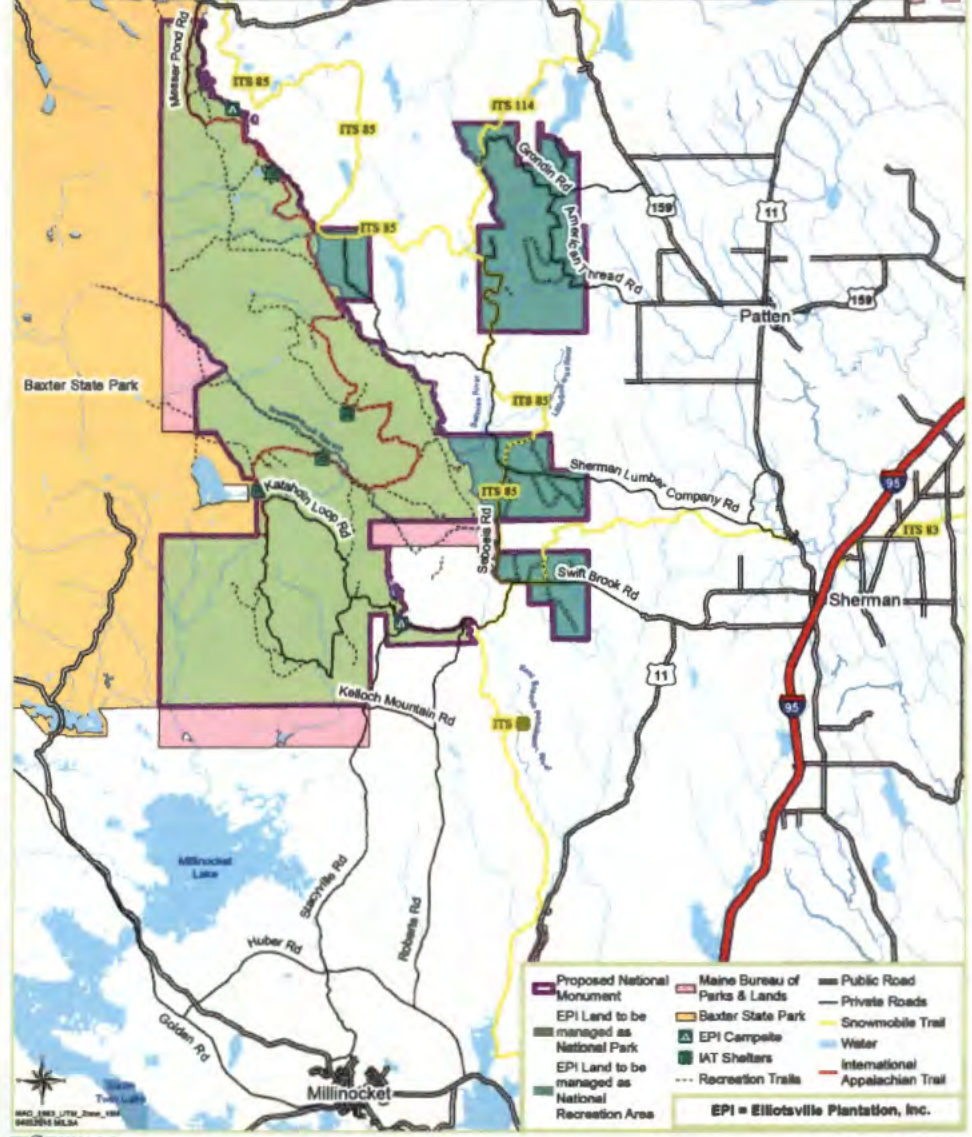


SEWALL  
MAY 2010, UTM, Zone 18N  
06/02/2016 Miles



Data Sources: Sewall, MEGIS, USGS, MEDEP, MEDOT, Esri

### Proposed National Monument Designation of EPI Land



SEWALL  
MAY 2010, UTM, Zone 18N  
06/02/2016 Miles



Data Sources: Sewall, MEGIS, USGS, MEDEP, MEDOT

- Proposed National Monument
  - EPI Land to be managed as National Park
  - EPI Land to be managed as National Recreation Area
  - Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands
  - Baxter State Park
  - EPI Campsite
  - IAT Shelters
  - Recreation Trails
  - Public Road
  - Private Roads
  - Snowmobile Trail
  - Water
  - International Appalachian Trail
- EPI = Elliottsville Plantation, Inc.





### **Can a national monument become a national park?**

*Yes. Some of our country's most famous national parks – including Acadia National Park in Maine – were first designated as national monuments. The national monument designation in Maine could be an interim step to re-designate the area as a national park and a national recreation area.*

---

### **Will the National Park Service have authority to manage land outside the boundary of the national monument?**

*No. The National Park Service will only manage land that will be donated by EPI or other landowners in the area and will not exceed roughly 150,000 acres.*

### **Are local voices included in national monument management planning?**

*Yes. The National Park Service would involve local communities in the management planning process.*

---

### **What is the economic impact of creating a new national monument in Maine?**

*Peer-reviewed economic studies show that a new national park would create hundreds of jobs in the Katahdin region. A new study of other recent national monuments shows an impressive track record of economic success, with them generating more than \$156 million in local economic activity and creating 1,820 jobs. Between 2011 and 2015, more than 3.9 million people visited the newly designated monuments included in the study.*

### **Will the new national monument change the Clean Air Act requirements for Maine?**

*The Clean Air Act of 1977 has established a Class II air shed in the Katahdin region. A new park or monument of any size in the region will not change that air shed status thus allowing for any of the traditional industries that have existed in the past. There is not a single example of the air class standards being changed when a park or monument has been established.*

---

### **Will hunting and snowmobiling be allowed in a national monument?**

*Hunting, snowmobiling and other types of outdoor recreation will continue to be allowed on all of the lands currently open to these traditional activities.*



**PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE (PLI)**  
**San Juan County Area**  
**July 14, 2016**

JARRFIELD COUNTY

Indian  
Creek NCA

Mesa-La  
Piedra National  
Forest

SAN JUAN COUNTY

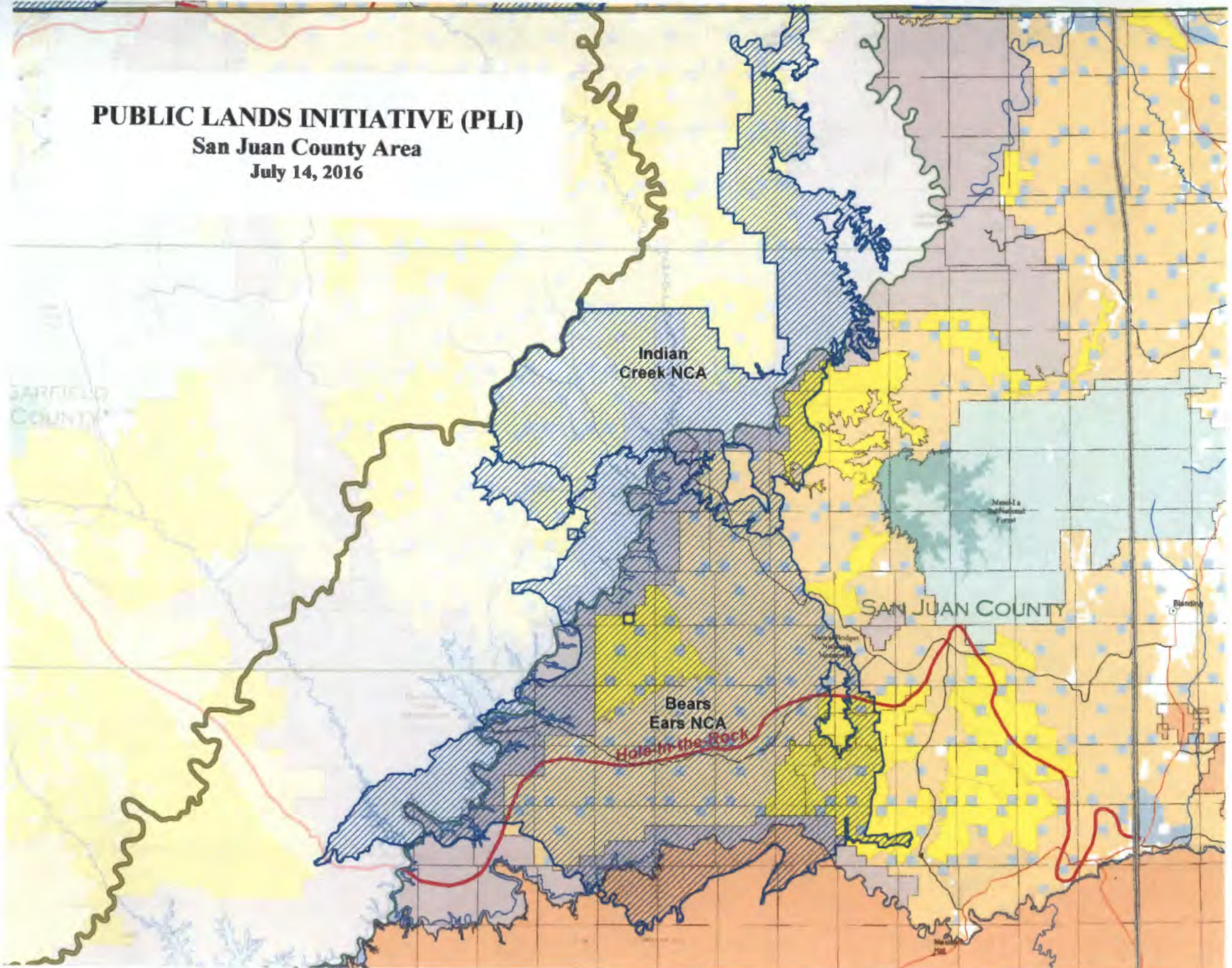
Blanding

Bears  
Ears NCA

Hole-in-the-Rock

SJC. mntz

7/14





7/14 SJ Co.

# Proposed Bears Ears Monument 1.9 million acres

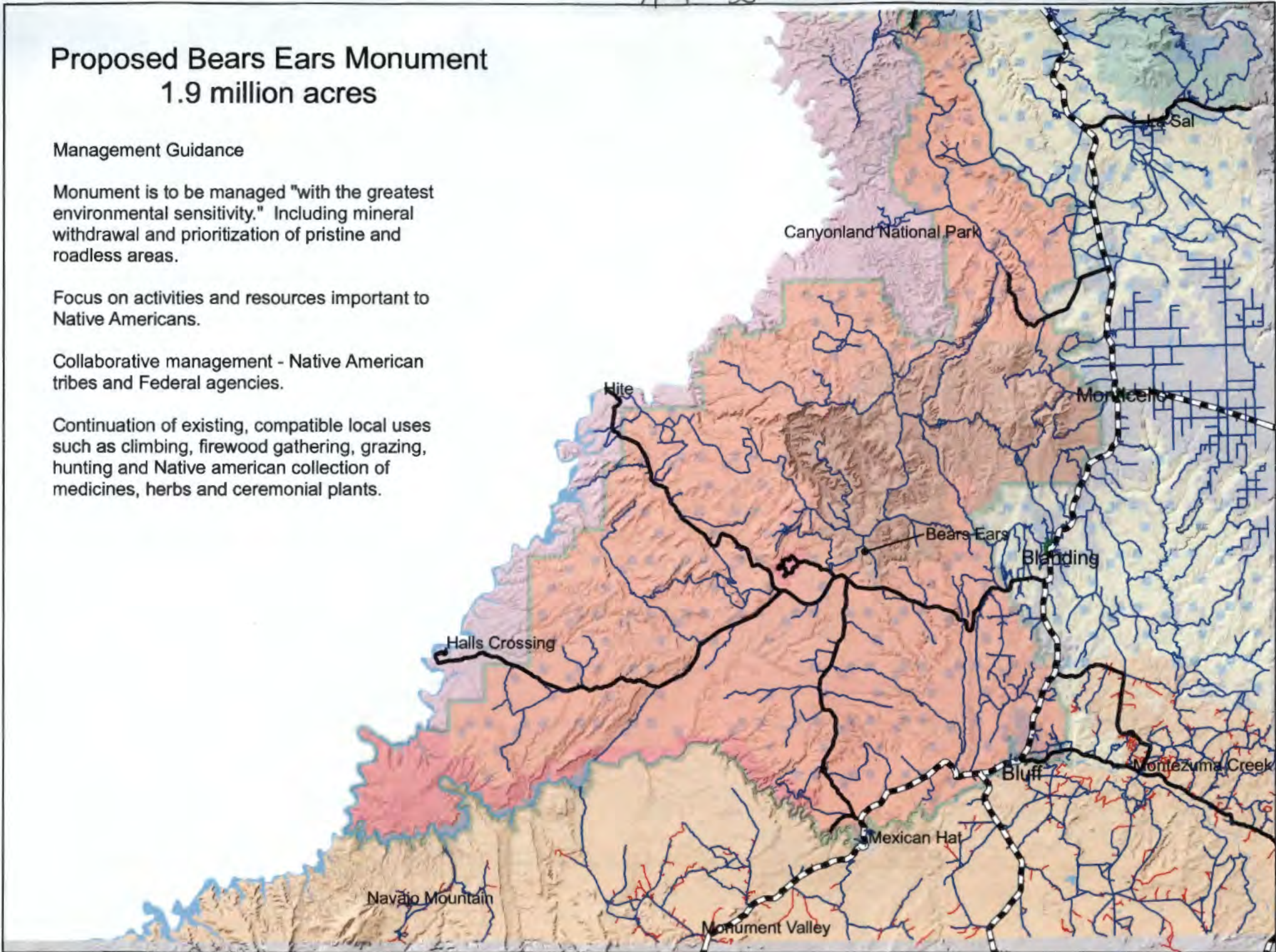
## Management Guidance

Monument is to be managed "with the greatest environmental sensitivity." Including mineral withdrawal and prioritization of pristine and roadless areas.

Focus on activities and resources important to Native Americans.

Collaborative management - Native American tribes and Federal agencies.

Continuation of existing, compatible local uses such as climbing, firewood gathering, grazing, hunting and Native American collection of medicines, herbs and ceremonial plants.



Robert



SJ Co.  
7/14

# San Juan County Lands Council National Conservation Area Proposal

## Acres in Proposed Designated Areas

### National Conservation Areas (including Wilderness areas)

Cedar Mesa NCA	557,880
Indian Creek NCA	145,167
Total in NCAs	703,047

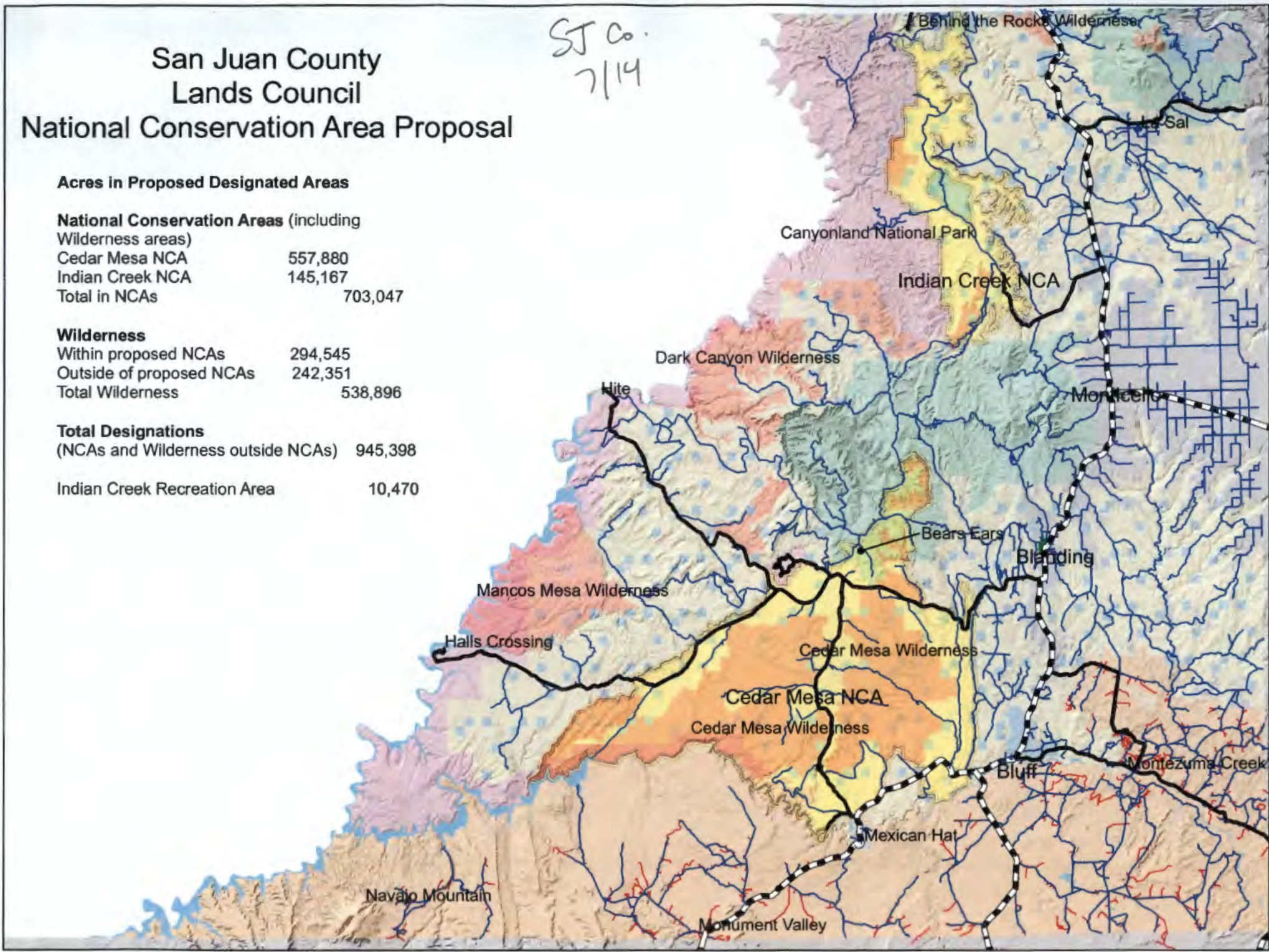
### Wilderness

Within proposed NCAs	294,545
Outside of proposed NCAs	242,351
Total Wilderness	538,896

### Total Designations

(NCAs and Wilderness outside NCAs)	945,398
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Indian Creek Recreation Area	10,470
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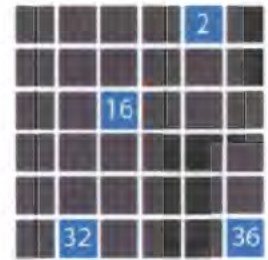
Our mission is to administer trust lands prudently and profitably for Utah's schoolchildren and other trust beneficiaries.



The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration manages state trust lands on behalf of and for the exclusive benefit of eleven state institutions designated by the U.S. Congress in 1894.

## HISTORY

At the time of statehood, Congress granted parcels of land to Utah from which revenue could be generated to support specific state institutions. Most trust land parcels were allocated by apportioning the state into townships, each six by six miles, and dividing each township into 36 square-mile sections. Utah was given sections 2, 16, 32, and 36 in each township for public schools, resulting in a checkerboard of land ownership. All other designated state institutions were granted fixed amounts of acreage selected by the state from the remaining public domain.



More than one-half the original land grant acreage was sold during the first 35 years of statehood. Interestingly, approximately 30 percent of all private land in Utah was originally trust land.

In 1994, realizing the revenue potential of trust lands for public schools and other state institutions, the Utah Legislature created the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration as an independent agency to manage state trust land assets.

Today, SITLA manages 3.4 million acres of land and an additional 1.1 million acres of mineral estate to benefit state institutions, primarily K-12 public schools.

Trust lands, unlike public lands, are held in private trust for the exclusive benefit of these state institutions designated at statehood:

Public Schools  
Public Buildings  
Miners Hospital at the University of Utah  
Public Reservoirs  
School of Mines at the University of Utah

Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind  
Utah State University  
University of Utah  
Juvenile Justice Services  
State Teaching Colleges



## LAND MANAGEMENT



The Administration manages a land portfolio for each beneficiary, generating revenues through oil, gas, and mineral leases, rents, and royalties; real estate development and sales; and surface estate sales, leases, permits and easements.

Revenues generated from each land portfolio are placed into individual trust funds. These investment portfolios are managed and invested by a separate agency, the School and Institutional Trust Funds Office. Investment income earned from each trust fund is distributed to its beneficiary.

Utah's public school system is the largest beneficiary, possessing 96 percent of all Utah trust lands. Revenue generated from school trust lands is transferred into the \$2 billion Permanent School Fund, growing the endowment for public schools. Income earned from the fund is distributed annually to individual school community councils using a per-pupil formula.

The Trust Lands Administration is entirely self-funded with no taxpayer or general fund support. A portion of revenue generated from managing trust lands activity is used for operations and administration.

## UTAH LAND EXCHANGE DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

In addition to its land management mandate, the agency also administers the Utah Land Exchange Distribution Account (LEDA). The Administration collects revenues from leases on lands previously exchanged with the federal government. These oil, gas, and coal royalties are then disbursed to state of Utah accounts and to the 27 counties involved with the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument designation. LEDA was initiated at the time of this designation along with other transfers of trust land in-holdings within national parks, forests, and Indian reservations. The Administration anticipates this responsibility may grow as it continues collaboration with the federal government on land transfers and exchanges.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Trust Lands Administration employs a team of business professionals who manage all facets of land management and administrative operations through four operating groups: Oil and Gas; Minerals; Surface Operations; and Real Estate Planning and Development.



## TRUST LANDS STEWARDSHIP

As land manager and fiduciary of trust land assets that belong to Utah's public schools and other state institutions, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) understands that its fiduciary duty includes the responsibility to preserve these resources for the long-term support of trust beneficiaries, primarily Utah's school children of today and tomorrow.

Consistent with this obligation, SITLA is a strong partner in land exchanges and other transactions which preserve sensitive lands, but remains committed to its primary responsibility of generating revenues for its beneficiaries.

For lands on which development does occur, SITLA manages an effective environmental compliance program. The agency also works with Utah's Resource Development Coordinating Committee and the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to ensure projects are reviewed through state regulatory and environmental processes.

## PRESERVATION

Since 1998, SITLA has been involved in numerous transactions, including land exchanges and sales that have preserved and/or protected more than 560,000 acres of Utah land, an area equivalent to the combined acreage of Arches, Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Capitol Reef national parks.

SITLA has a strong record of partnering with federal and state agencies, counties, and private and non-profit conservation entities to protect Utah lands identified as important for their scenic or recreation value, or as habitat for threatened or endangered species, such as the desert tortoise and dwarf bear claw poppy.

### Notable recent projects include:

- After nearly eight years of delicate political and administrative navigation, SITLA and the BLM finalized the Utah Recreation Land Exchange Act of 2009. The BLM received 25,000 acres of trust lands in the scenic Colorado River corridor near Moab, while SITLA received 35,000 acres of land in areas more suitable for development.
- Sale of 800 acres of prairie dog habitat in Garfield County to the Nature Conservancy helped local, federal, and private agencies protect habitat for the Utah prairie dog, a species listed as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act.
- Conveyance of 17,000 acres of trust lands, located within or adjacent to existing Wildlife Management Areas to the Division of Wildlife Resources in exchange for property located at 5600 West 2100 South in Salt Lake County, protected habitat for waterfowl and big game while enabling SITLA to divest itself of non-performing assets.

## RECLAMATION AND RECREATION

In addition to land sales and exchanges, SITLA works with many partners to rehabilitate lands and provide recreation access.

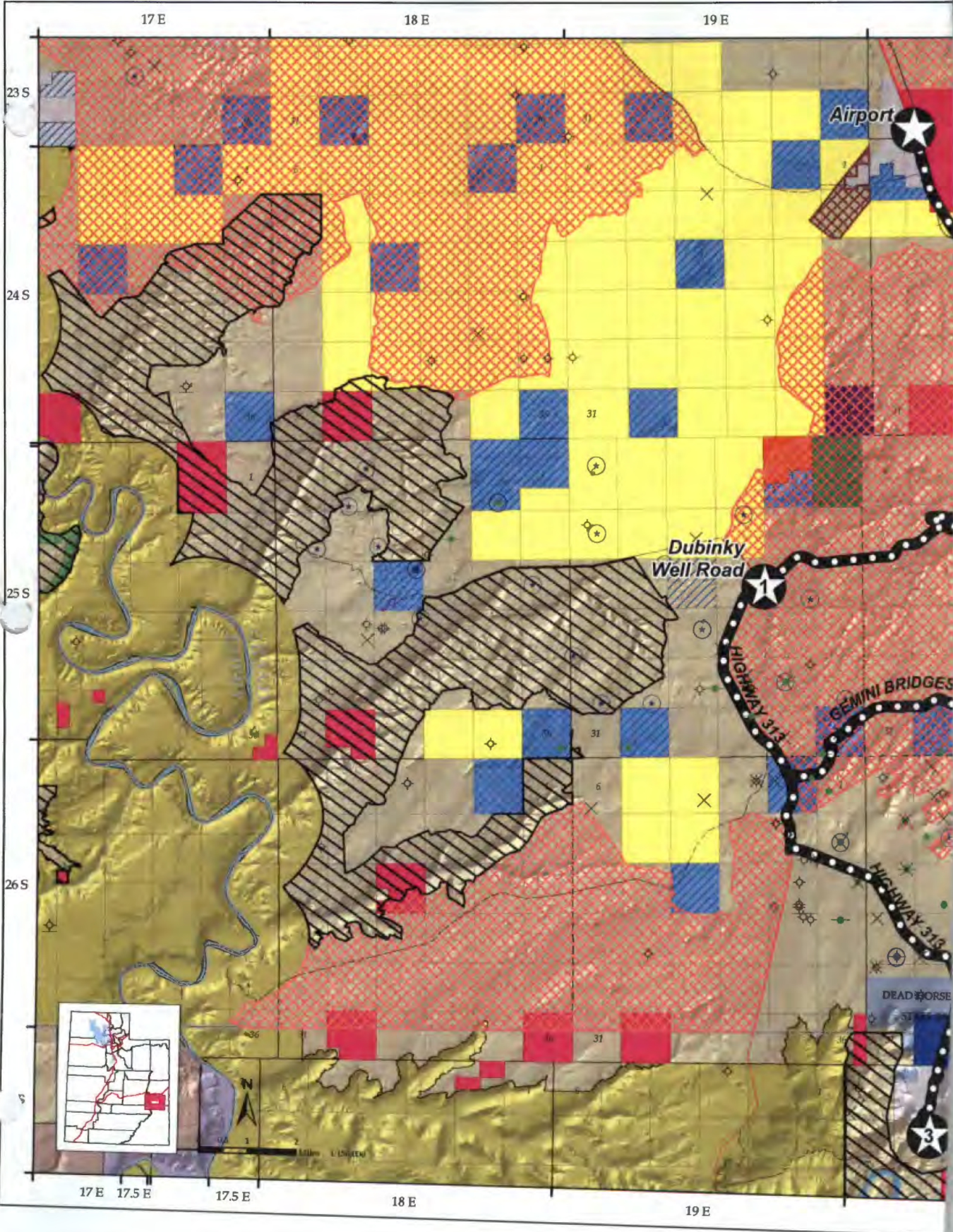
- The Great Hunt Panel, one of the most famous and recognized rock art sites in Utah, is located on trust land in Nine Mile Canyon northeast of Price. SITLA collaborated with a private partner to realign the roadway adjacent to the panel, and installed fencing, walkways, and other protective features, along with an interpretive panel. SITLA partners on this project included: Carbon County, College of Eastern Utah, Utah State University, Castle Valley Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, and the Nine Mile Coalition.
- Taking action against historic resource degradation caused by undisciplined ATV use in the La Sal Mountains, SITLA designated a 135-mile off-highway vehicle trail system on 28,000 acres of trust land. SITLA led several public meetings involving officials from Grand and San Juan counties, representatives from the Divisions of Wildlife Resources and State Parks, and several off-roading groups. This project also involved closure and reclamation of more than 50 miles of unauthorized roads and trails, which were threatening resources on two of the agency's premier land blocks.



SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION CONSERVATION SALES		
	State of Utah	Total Acreage
1/8/1999	Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument and Inholdings	377,000.00
1/16/2001	West Desert Exchange	106,000.00
6/6/2014	Utah Recreation Land Exchange Act	25,000.00
7/9/2014	Hill Creek Extension Land Transfer	18,000.00
<b>Division of Wildlife Resources</b>		
12/2/1998	Big Water Hatchery	265.36
8/6/2001	Wallsburg	586.02
8/6/2001	East Canyon	634.40
8/6/2001	Echo Canyon	931.11
8/6/2001	Hardware Ranch	720.00
10/21/2004	Panguitch Creek	1,196.81
4/15/2005	Cedar Valley	1,010.61
5/11/2007	Little Hole	356.40
8/26/2007	Clear Lake Wildlife Refuge	120.00
3/4/2008	Marshall Draw	1,002.36
12/2/2009	Range and Gordon Creek	1,513.14
6/26/2012	Gordon Springs	688.01
3/15/2013	Locomotive Springs	54.14
4/19/2013	Phase I 5600 West	7,189.58
3/1/2014	Phase II 5600 West	10,878.35
<b>Desert Tortoise Habitat</b>		
12/4/2001	Parcel 3a	579.07
1/28/2002	Snow Canyon	59.42
4/11/2003	Beck Hill	435.13
4/30/2003	Parcel 2a	193.68
4/30/2003	Parcel 2b	60.57
5/14/2003	Parcel E	39.67
10/31/2003	Parcel D	58.70
6/30/2004	Parcel 3a Remnant	19.25
6/29/2004	Entrada	101.68
6/29/2004	Chuckwalla	131.19
<b>Utah Prairie Dog Habitat</b>		
9/29/2005	Mitigation Bank - Parker Mountain Block	800.00
4/28/2008	Prairie Dog Mitigation	220.00
7/15/2013	The Nature Conservancy - Garfield County	800.00
<b>The Nature Conservancy</b>		
8/3/1999	Goshen Bay	440.15
3/15/2001	Pace Hill	560.00
3/15/2001	Parriott Mesa	640.00
3/15/2001	Porcupine Rim	256.10
5/8/2003	Onion Hill - Grand County	640.00
5/18/2007	White Dome #1	55.52
7/15/2008	White Dome #2	135.00
7/23/2009	South Block Astragalus	6.44
11/12/2009	White Dome #3	161.00
4/28/2011	White Dome #4	296.86
<b>Other Projects</b>		
3/6/1998	North Harding	280.00
3/6/1998	Koosharem Reservoir A	320.00
3/6/1998	Koosharem Reservoir B	233.07
12/31/2001	East of Beaver	730.05
2/21/2000	Escalante	3.15
1/17/2002	Castleton Tower	217.30
7/2/2003	Castle Valley	518.00
2/1/2004	Beaver Dam Wash	369.88
8/27/2007	Bluff Parcel A	16.99
8/28/2008	Poppy Mitigation	195.58
3/15/2010	Bluff Parcel B	14.15
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>562,733.89</b>









# Public Lands Initiative



- Tour Stops
- Tour Route
- Wells**
  - LA - Location Abandoned
  - DRL, APD, LOC - New Location
  - OPS - Drilling Operations Suspended
  - PA - Plugged Abandoned
  - POW - Producing Oil Well
  - SOW - Shut-in Oil Well
  - TA - Temp. Abandoned
  - WDW - Water Disposal

- Land Ownership and Administration**
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Recreation Area
  - National Parks, Monuments & Historic Sites
  - Private
  - State Trust Lands
  - State Sovereign Land
  - State Parks and Recreation
  - State Wildlife Reserve / Management Area
  - Other State

- Trust Lands Mineral Ownership**
  - Full Mineral
  - Partial Mineral

- Public Lands Initiative Status**
  - Federal Lands Proposed to Transfer to SITLA
  - Federal Mineral Lands Proposed to Transfer to SITLA
  - Federal Surface Lands Proposed to Transfer to SITLA
  - SITLA Lands Proposed to Transfer to Federal
  - SITLA Mineral Lands Proposed to Transfer to Federal
  - SITLA Surface Lands Proposed to Transfer to Federal
  - \*Special Recreation Management Area
  - \*OHV Expansion Area
  - \*Public Purpose Conveyance
  - \*Moab Energy Plan
  - \*Arches National Park Expansion
  - \*State Sovereign Lands to Federal
  - \*Wilderness

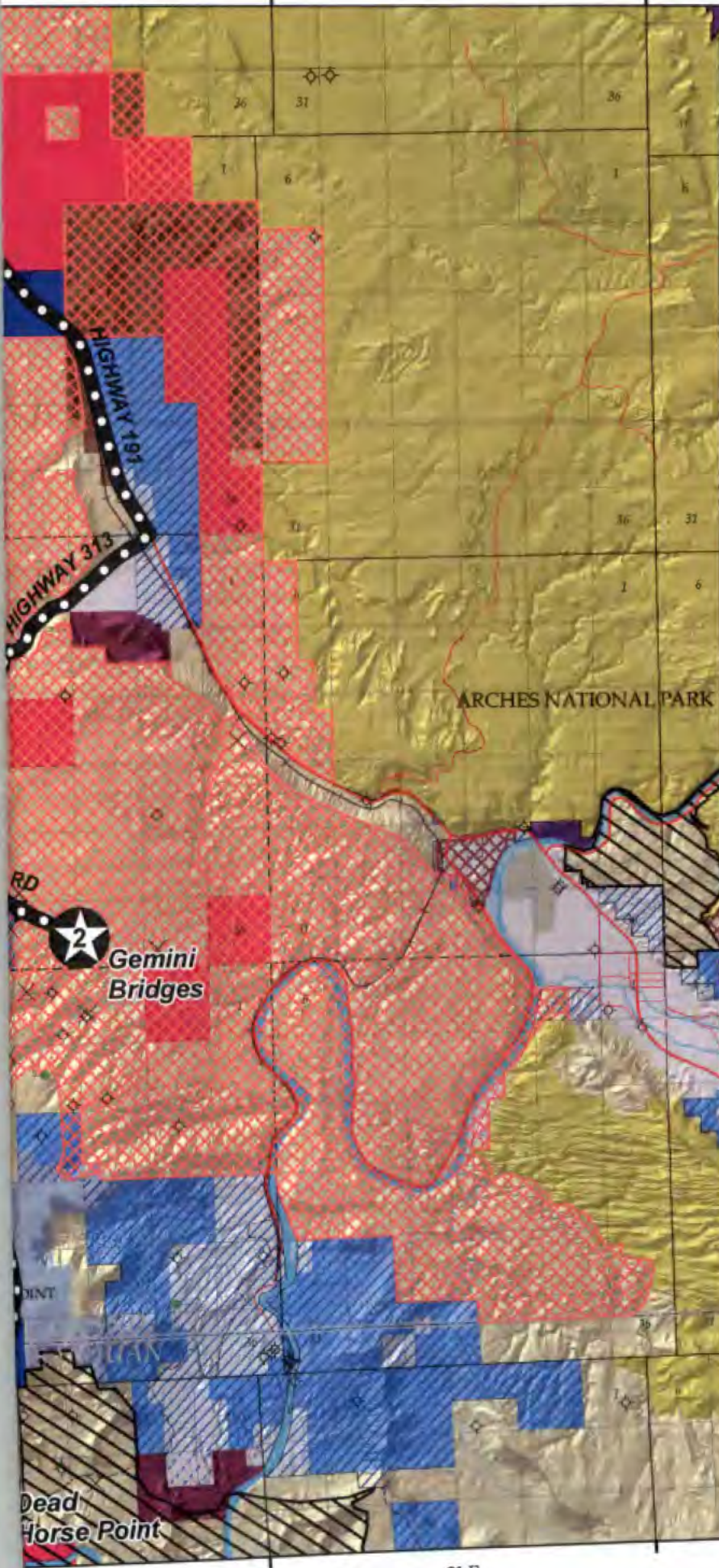
User: latestslay; Produced: July 12, 2016 SITLA; Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N  
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**\*CONFIDENTIAL GRAMA PROTECTED:** This map displays data that is protected by GRAMA records regulations. The data belongs to Forestry, Fire & State Lands. The data was acquired by SITLA on 10/08/15. This map should NOT be shown, distributed or discussed with anyone other than State of Utah Trust Lands Agency Staff without written permission of the data steward.

Data represented on this map is for REFERENCE USE ONLY and is not suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information. SITLA provides this data in good faith and shall in no event be liable for any incorrect results, or any special, indirect or consequential damages to any party, arising out of or in connection with the use or the inability to use the data herein.

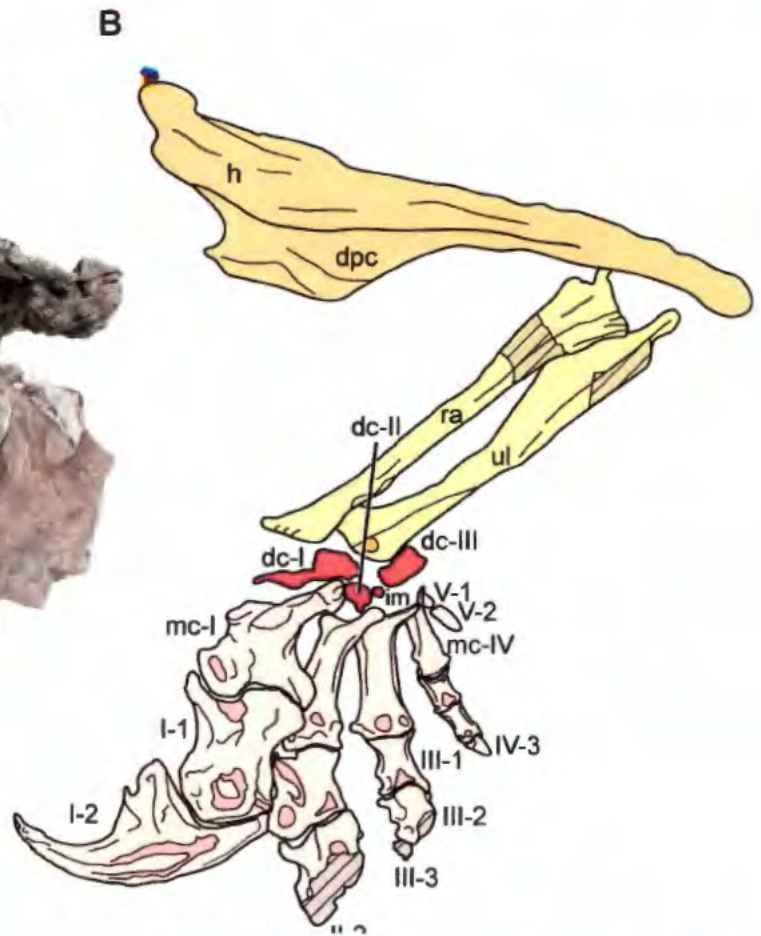
Land parcels, lease boundaries and associated SITLA data layers may have been adjusted to allow for visual "best fit." The Surface Ownership Land Status data (if present) are maintained by SITLA to reflect current trust land status and surface ownership. Lakes, rivers, streams, highways, roads, county and state boundaries are distributed by the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center and/or other sources as specified. Contour lines (if present) were generated from USGS 10 meter DEM.

Please Note: While SITLA seeks to verify data for accuracy and content, discrepancies may exist within the data. Acquiring the most updated SITLA ownership GIS data may require contacting the GIS staff directly 801-536-5100 or TLA-GIS@utah.gov. The SITLA GIS department welcomes your comments and concerns regarding the data and will attempt to resolve issues as they are brought to our attention.





# GEOGRAPHIC SAMPLING OF THE Paleontological Resources in Bears Ears





1

Plant and invertebrate fossils located north of the San Juan River.





Clam fossils in the Chinle Formation, Indian Creek





3

Neocalamites (giant horsetail) fossils, Indian Creek



## Crocodylid and archosauriform fossils, White Canyon area.

48

Vertebrate Paleontology in Utah

Utah Geological Survey

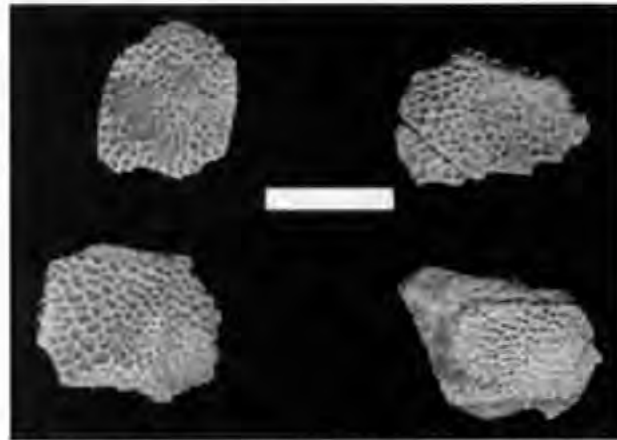


Figure 4. Paramedian armor of the indeterminate archosauriform from the Blue Lizard locality. Scale = 1 cm.

49

Vertebrate Paleontology in Utah

Utah Geological Survey



Figure 5. Limb elements of the crocodylomorph from the Blue Lizard locality. A, B, proximal ends of two left humeri (UCM 76193). C, distal end of a right humerus (UCM 76194). D, proximal end of a left fibula (UCM 76192). E, proximal and distal ends of a left fibula (UCM 76192). Scale = 1 cm.



Figure 6. Armor plates of the crocodylomorph from the Blue Lizard locality. Scale = 1 cm.



Burrows from crayfish in the Chinle Formation



6

Brachychirotherium trackway in  
Wingate Sandstone, Indian Creek





7

Actinopterygian partial skeleton,  
Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge



## Dinosaur bones found at Four Acre Mine Locality

*Miscellaneous Publication 99-1*

Vertebrate Paleontology in Utah

49

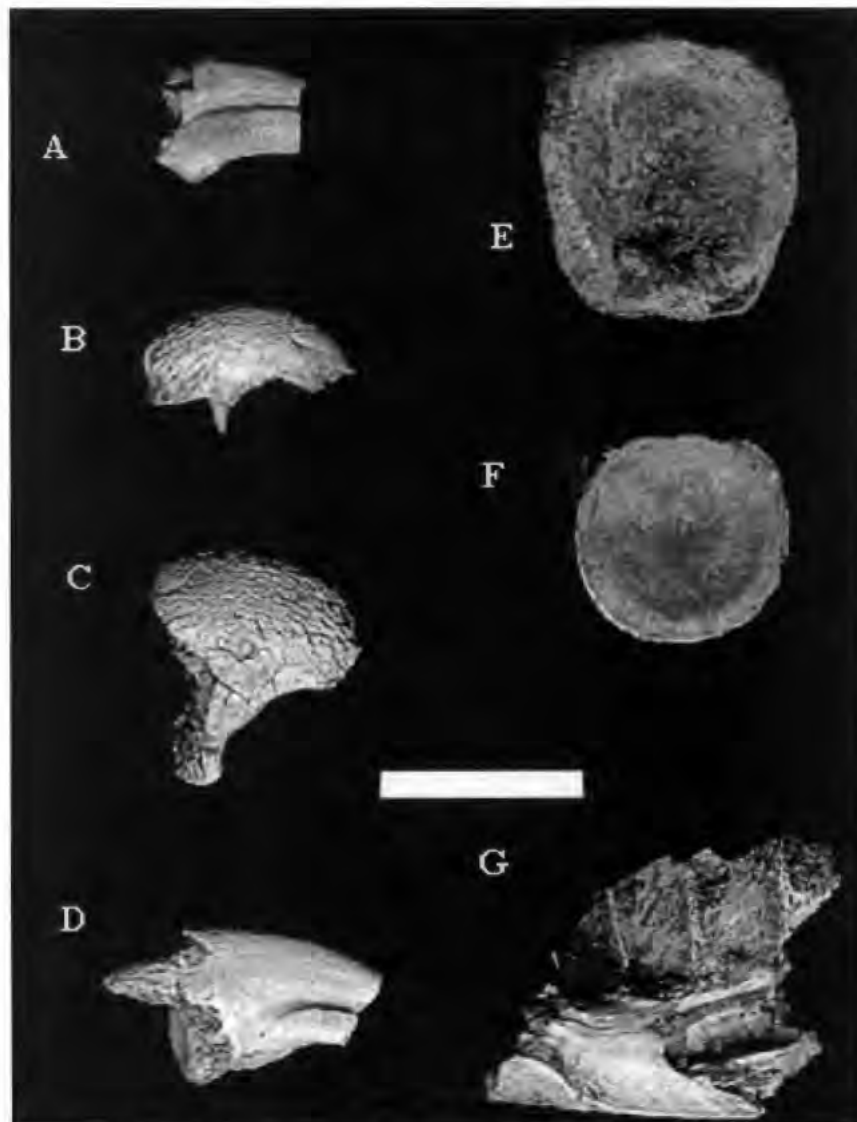


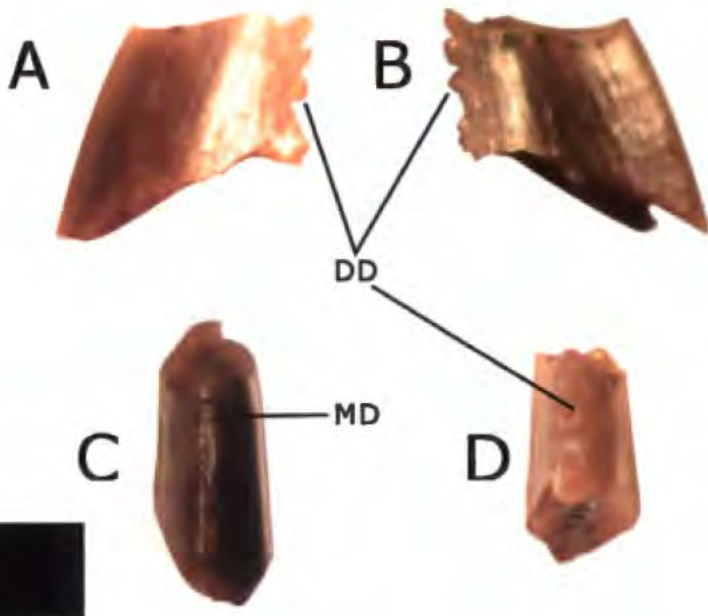
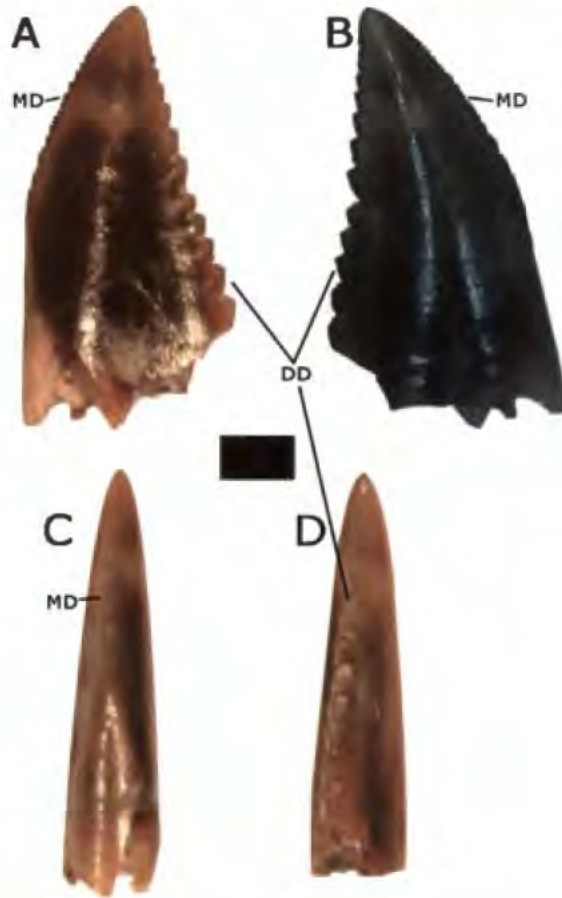
Figure 5. Dinosaur elements from the Four Aces Mine locality. A,B, cranial views of two caudal centra of a ?theropod (UCM 76198). C-E, rounded ungual claws of ?theropod type 1 (UCM 76197). F, flattened ungual claw of ?theropod type 2 (UCM 76197). G, fragmentary right mandible of ?ornithischian (UCM 76501). Scale = 1 cm.



Sauropod and theropod bones from large bone bed, White Mesa



Crosbysaurus teeth and plant fossil remains from Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge. These teeth are Utah's only Triassic age dinosaur teeth.

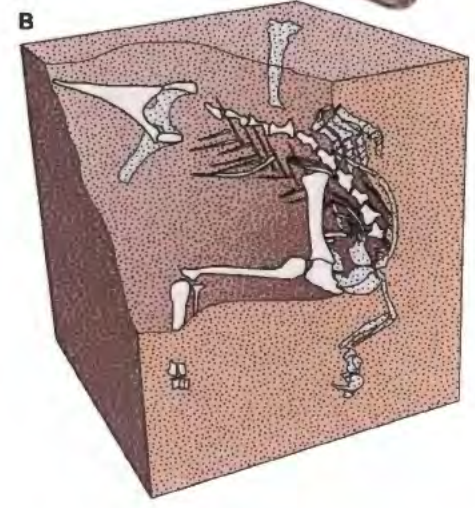
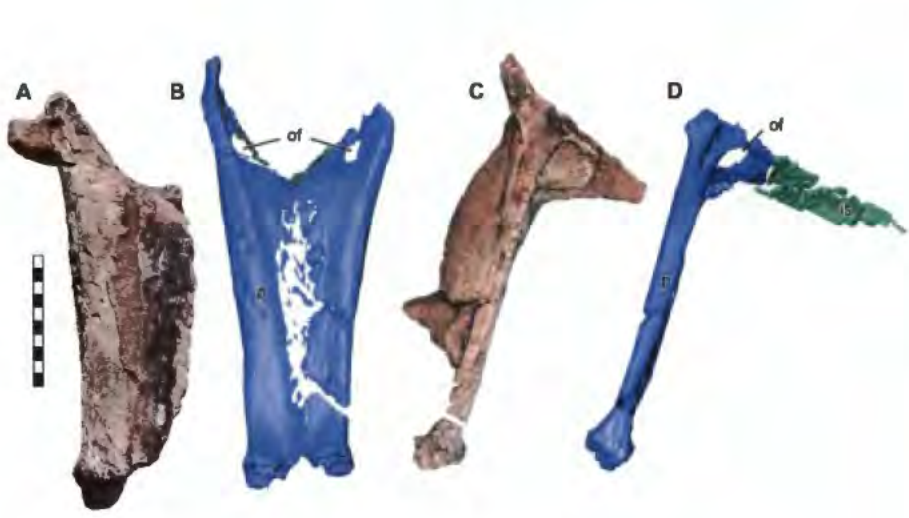
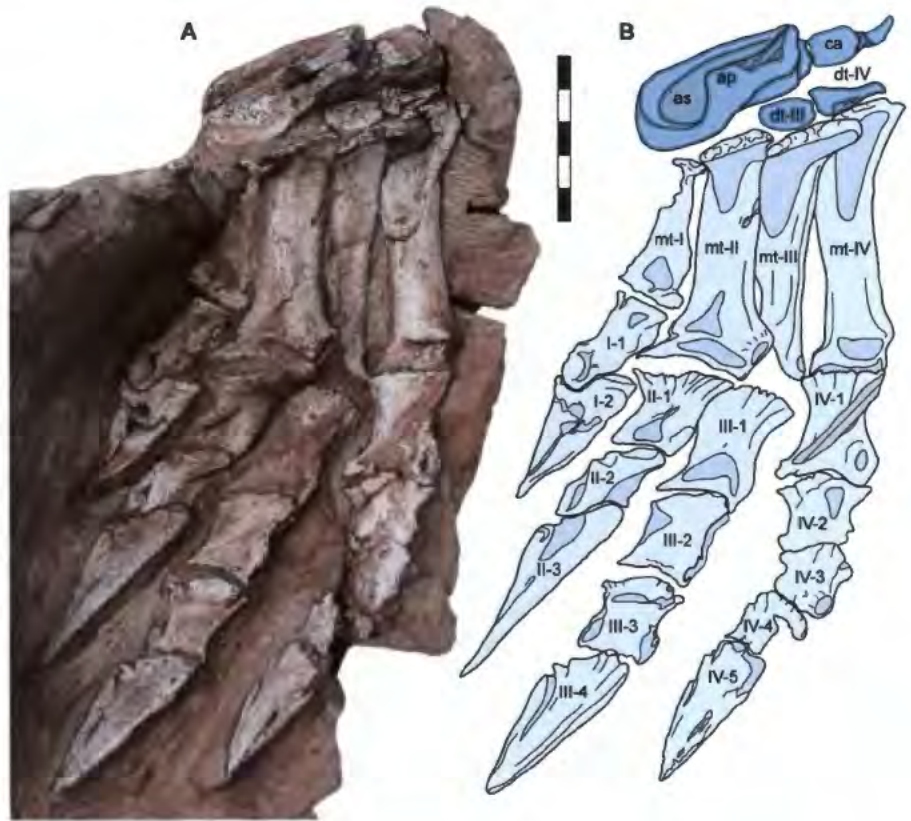








Partial sauropodomorph skeleton,  
Navajo Sandstone, Comb ridge





## Plant fossils, Cutler Formation, Lime Ridge

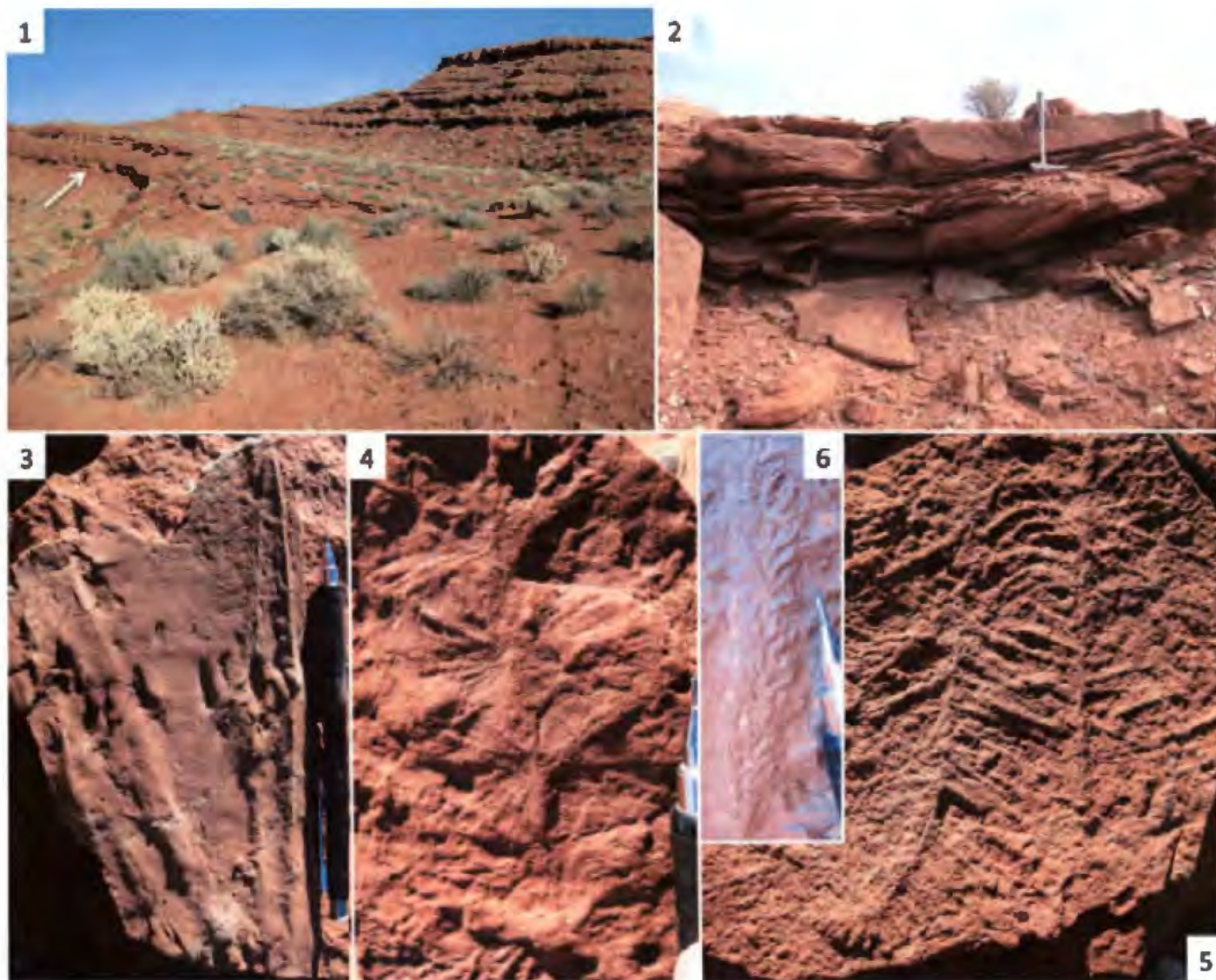


Figure 4. East flank of Lime Ridge. 1. General view of the fossil-bearing channel deposit, from which plant collections (USNM locality 43579) were made, forming the low ridge in the lower portion of the outcrop (white arrow). 2. Detail of fossiliferous channel sediments, comprising a trough-shaped sandstone-filled scour. 3. *Cordaites* sp. foliage. USNM559863. 4. *Annularia* sp. USNM559862. 5. *Walchia* sp. Mat of branches, including a branch base (center left). Pencil barrel for scale in upper right corner. USNM559864. 6. *Walchia* sp. Ultimate branchlet. Field photograph.

Phytosaur bone, Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge

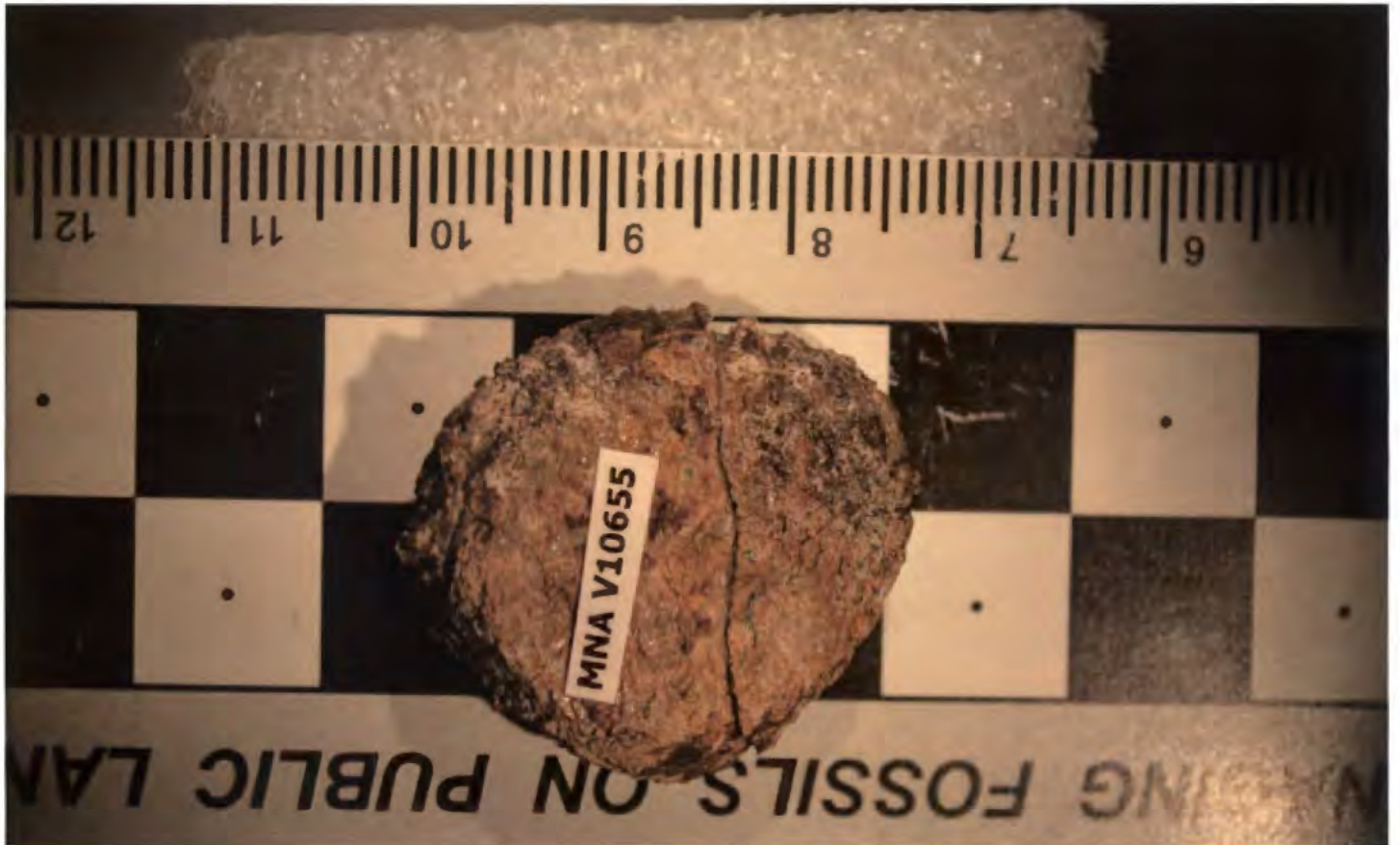




Phytosaur tooth, upper Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge



Phytosaur osteoderm, Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge





## Procolophonid skull, Chinle Formation, Abajo Mountains

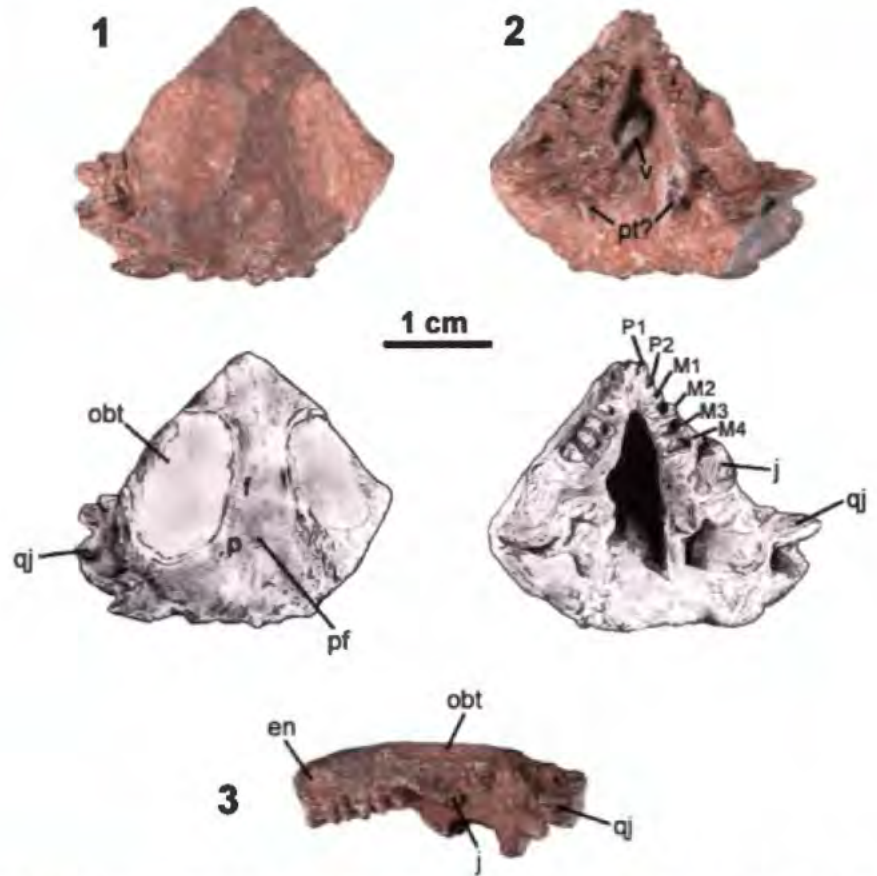


Figure 3. Photograph and illustration of procolophonid specimen MNA V9953 in 1) dorsal view; 2) ventral view; and 3) left lateral view. Abbreviations: en, external naris; f, frontal; j, jugal; M1, M2, M3, M4, maxillary teeth; obt, orbitotemporal opening; p, parietal; pf, pineal foramen; pt, pterygoid; P1, P2, premaxillary teeth; qj, quadratejugal; v, vomer.

Fish fossils, Chinle Formation,  
Indian Creek

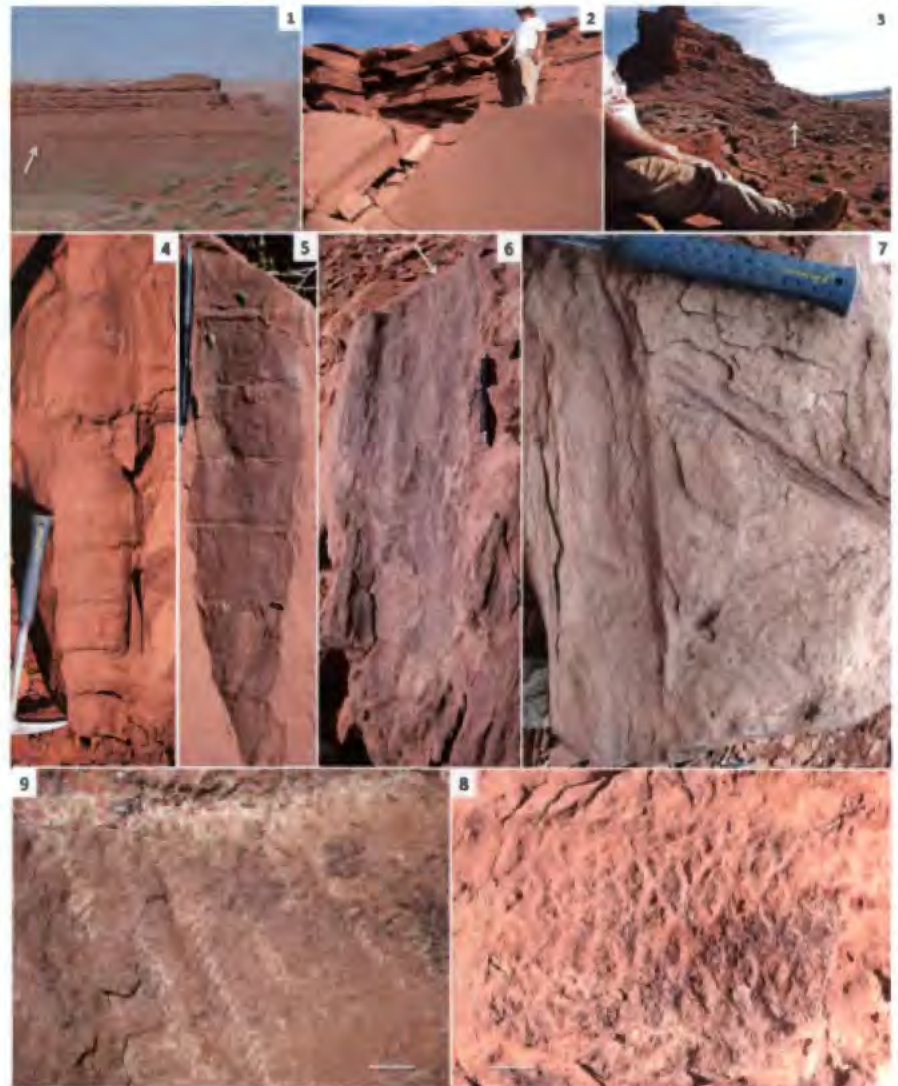




Vandalized phytosaur jaw, Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge



Plant fossils, Cutler Formation,  
Valley of the Gods



FOSSILS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIAN PERMIAN CUTLER GROUP OF NORTHEASTERN UTAH - (SHUBERT, B.A., CHANG, C.H., CHANG, D.S., JONES, S.D., and ANTHONY, B.A.)

**Figure 8.** Valley of the Gods. 1. Seven Sailors Butte. Fossiliferous channel edge marked by white arrow. Channel deposits extend to the right as resistant ledges. 2. Setting Hen Butte. Tabular, planar-laminated sandstone from which *Walchia* sp. (5,9) was collected. 3. Setting Hen Butte. View of fossiliferous channel, base marked by white arrow. 4. *Calamites gigas*. Field photograph. 5. *Calamites gigas*. Field photograph. 6. *Caulopteris* sp. USNM559861. 7. Medullosan pteridosperm stem with reflexed leaf petioles, a less obvious petiole is present in the lower part of the stem. Field photograph. 8. *Sigillaria brardii*. Scale = 1 centimeter. Field photograph. 9. *Walchia* sp. Scale = 1 centimeter. Field photograph.

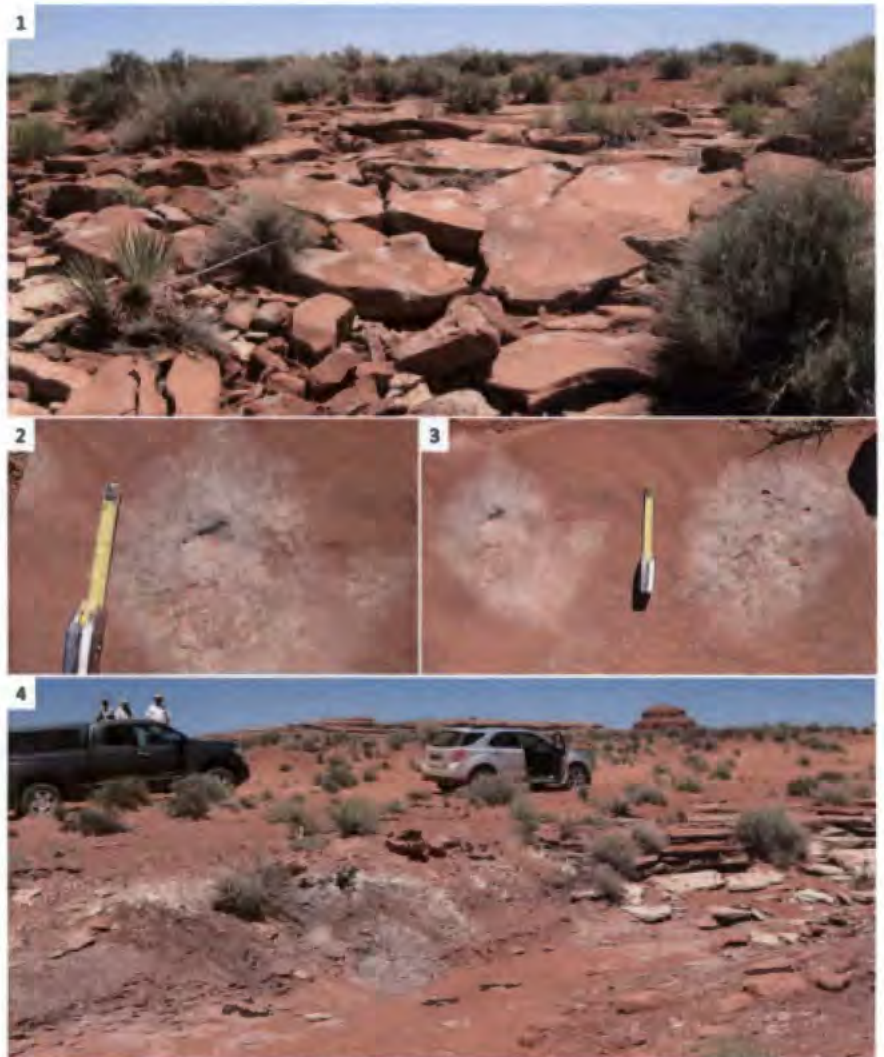


Phytosaur skeleton, Chinle Formation,  
Indian Creek



Plant fossils, Cutler Formation,  
Valley of the Gods

ROBERT BLUMAS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIAN-Permian CUTLER FORMATION SOUTHEASTERN UTAH - Dinkelman, E.L., Cook, C.A., Chang, D.S., Shott, S.D., and Holmes, R.Z.



**Figure 7.** Valley of the Gods, near Setting Hen Butte. 1. Siltstone surface covered with areas of iron reduction. 2. Detail of reduced area illustrating central core and root-like features surrounding the core area. Scale = 10 centimeters. 3. Pair of reduced areas showing similarity of basic structure. Scale = 10 centimeters. 4. Paleosol below the siltstone bed illustrated in (7.1).



Vertebrate trace fossils (footprints),  
Chinle Formation, Indian Creek  
& Invertebrate trace fossils, Chinle  
Formation, Indian Creek



Sphenacodon bones, Cutler Formation, Indian Creek





Phytosaur jaw, Chinle Formation, Indian Creek



What's Next site being prospected,  
Chinle Formation, Indian Creek  
Sorting many bags of fossils, What's  
Next Site, Chinle Formation, Indian  
Creek





## Amniote fossils, Cutler Formation, Valley of the Gods

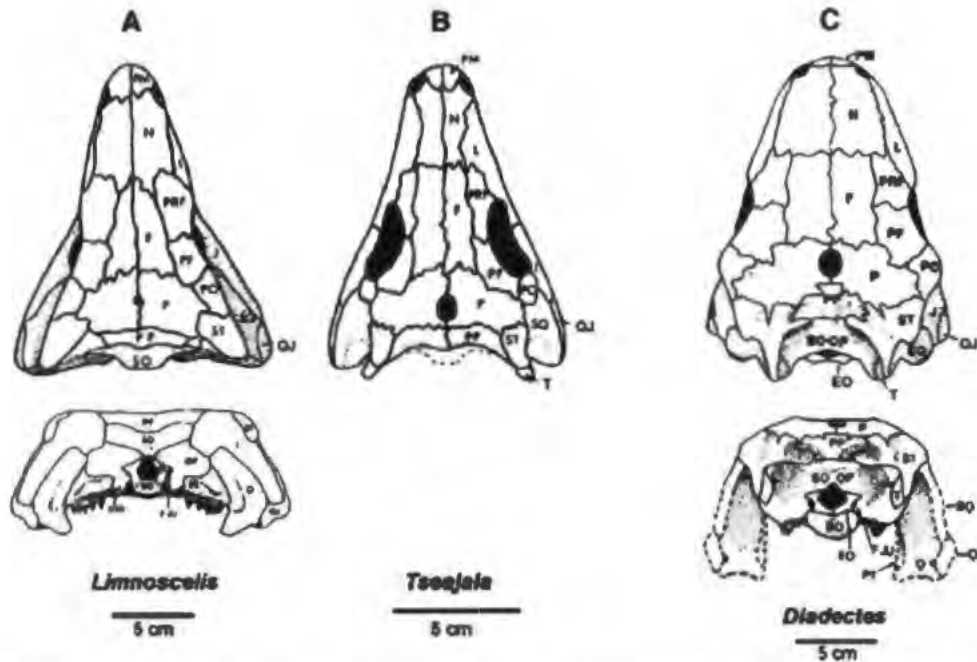


Figure 2. Reconstructions of Late Pennsylvanian and Early Permian Diadectomorph skulls known from southeastern Utah and northern Arizona. A, dorsal and occipital views of the skull of *Limoscelis*; B, dorsal view of *Tesejale*; C, dorsal and occipital views of *Diadectes*. Illustrations after Berman and others (1992). Abbreviations: a, angular; bo, basioccipital; d, dentary; eo, exoccipital; f, frontal; j, jugal; j. for., jugular foramen; i, intertemporal; j, jugal; m, maxilla; n, nasal; op, opisthote; p, parietal; pf, postfrontal; pm, premaxilla; po, postorbital; pp, postparietal; prf, prefrontal; pt, pterygoid; q, quadrate; qj, quadratojugal; sa, surangular; sm, septomaxilla; sp, splenial; sq, squamosal; st, supratergital; t, tabular.

Vertebrate fossil burrows, Navajo Sandstone



FIGURE 2 Selected photographs of NMMNH locality 5600, tetrapod burrow casts in the Navajo Sandstone. A, Overview of the locality showing main burrowed horizon (b). B-D, Mounds (m) formed by burrow mazes. E, Differentially weathered network of burrow casts. F, Complex chamber with multiple entrances (n).



Ambiphibian fossils, Cutler Formation,  
Valley of the Gods

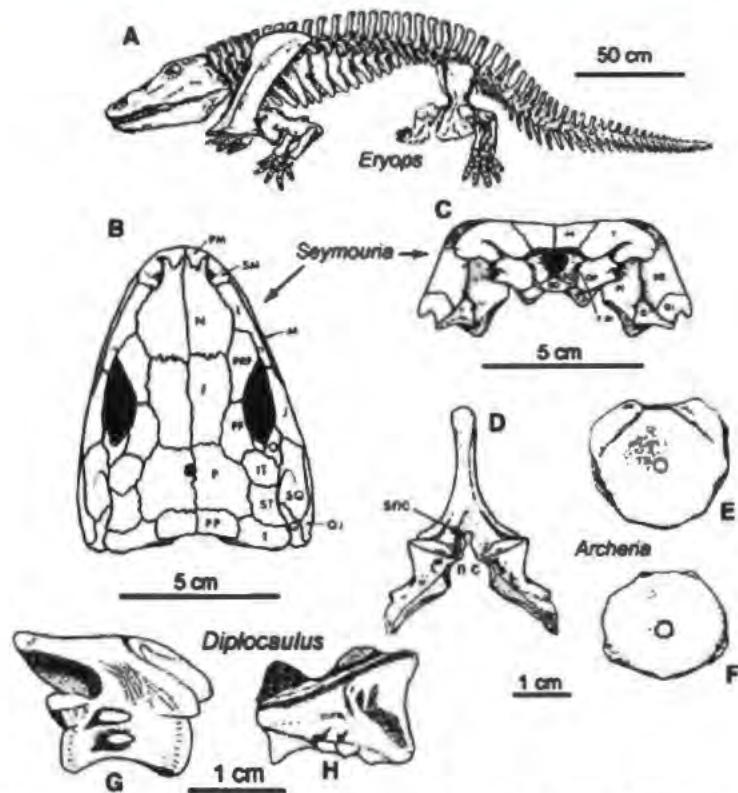


Figure 1. Reconstructions of Late Permian and Early Permian amphibian taxa known from the state of Utah. A, whole body reconstruction of the eurypterid *Eryops*; B and C, skull of the seymouriamorph *Seymouria ssp. nov.* in dorsal and occipital views; D, F, reconstruction of the neural arch, pleurocentrum, and intercentrum of the archerian *Archeria* in dorsal and occipital views; G and H, dorsal vertebra of the neotridian *Diplocaulus* in lateral and dorsal views. A after Romer (1966); B and C, after Berman and others (1992); D, E after Holmes (1989). Abbreviations: BG, basioccipital; EO, exoccipital; F, frontal; FDU, jugular foramen; IT, intertemporal; M, maxilla; N, nasal; n.c., neural canal; ON, opisthotic; P, parietal; PF, postfrontal; PM, premaxilla; PO, postorbital; PT, posttemporal; PRF, prefrontal; PT, pterygoid; Q, quadrate; QJ, quadratojugal; SM, septomaxilla; snc, supraneural canal; SQ, squamosal; ST, suprategoporal; T, tabular.

## Fish fossils, Cutler Formation, Valley of the Gods

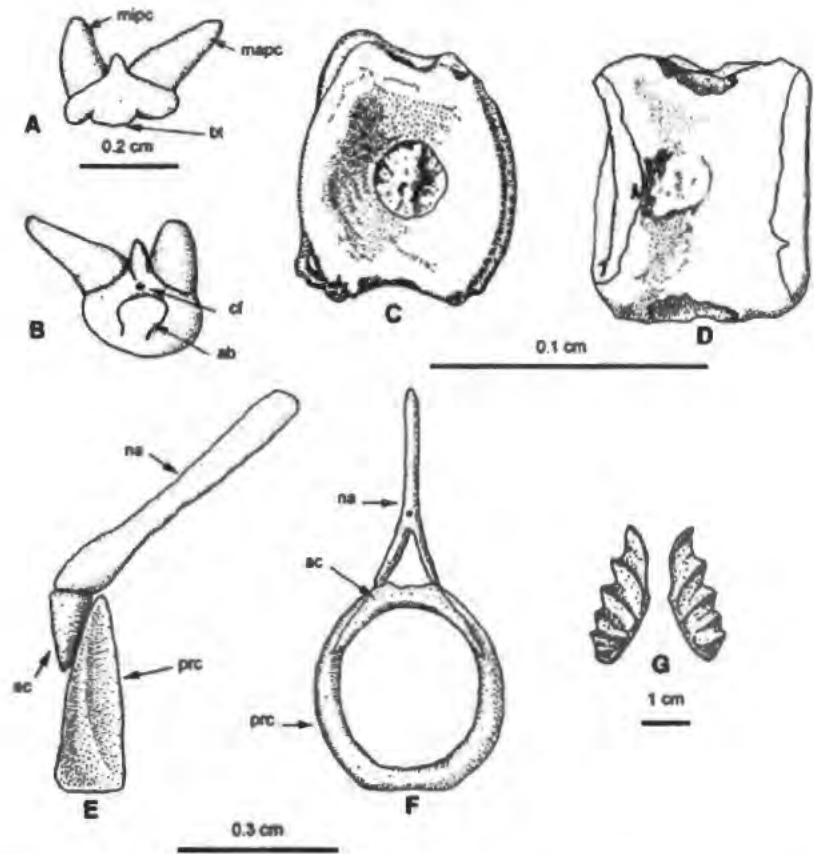


Figure 2. Representative fishes from Late Paleocene exposures of southeastern Utah: A and B, labial and lingual-occlusal views of a tooth of the xenacanthid shark *Odocoileus texensis*; C and D, vertebral centrum of palaeosauroid actinopterygian in end and lateral views; E and F, vertebral elements of the rhinopteran crossosperygian *Leboan strobosus* in lateral and anterior views; G, scandibolus toothplates of the dipnoan *Sagenodon*. C and D after Schultz and Chers (1986). E and F after Thomson and Vaughn (1988). Abbreviations: ab, apical basin; ar, accessory centrum; bt, basal tubercle; cf, central foramen; mpc, minor principle cusp; mapc, major principle cusp; na, neural arch; pr, principle centrum.



Various Pennsylvanian fossils, at  
the mouth of John's Canyon



Dinosaur track site in wash.

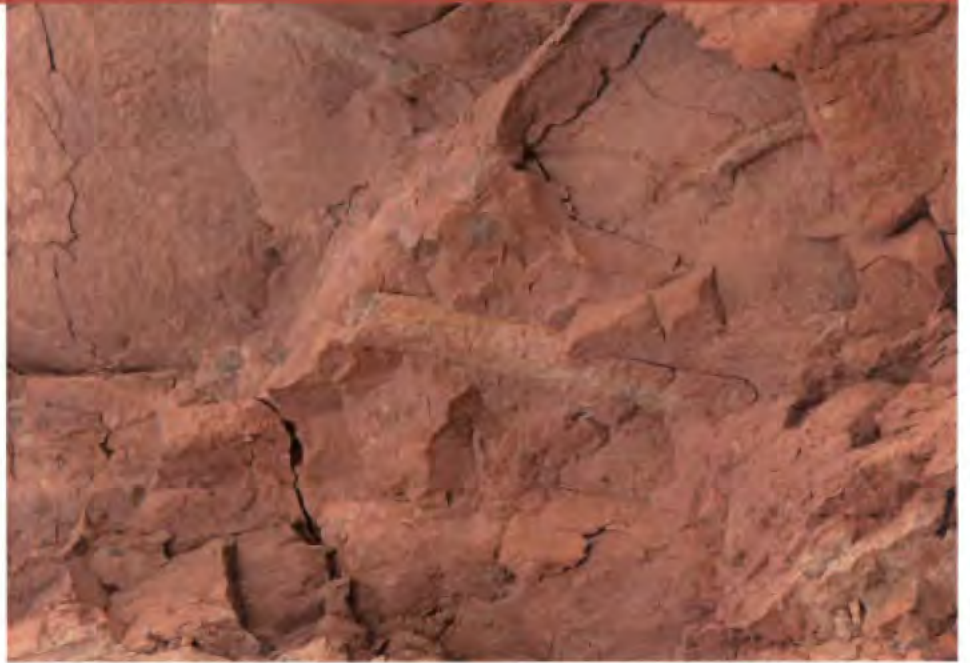




Five well preserved dinosaur tracks on fallen bolder.



Dinosaur bones in cliff near San Juan River





Plant fossils, Chinle Formation, Comb Ridge














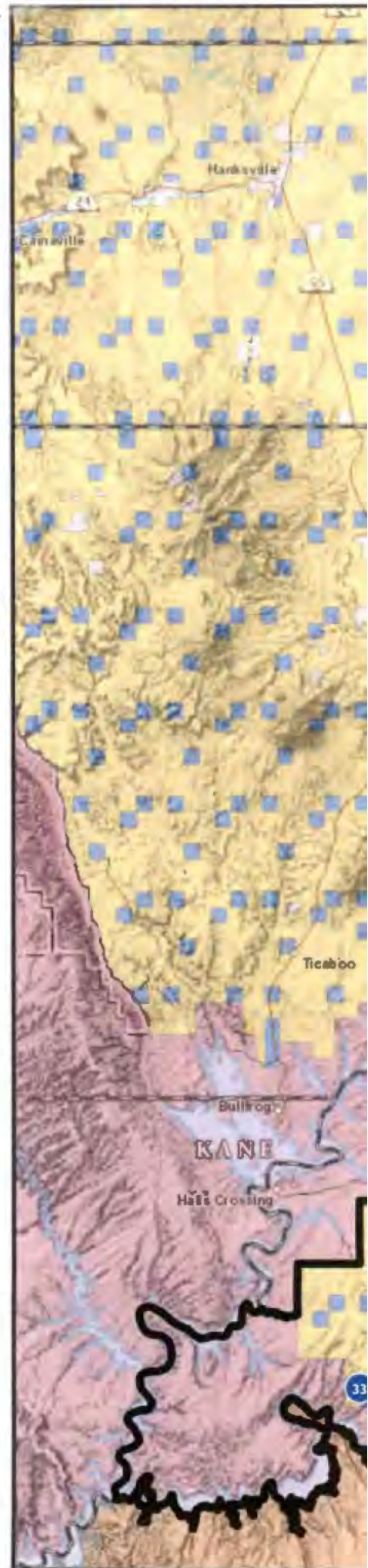
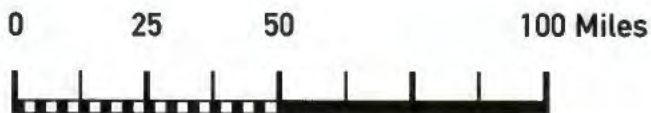




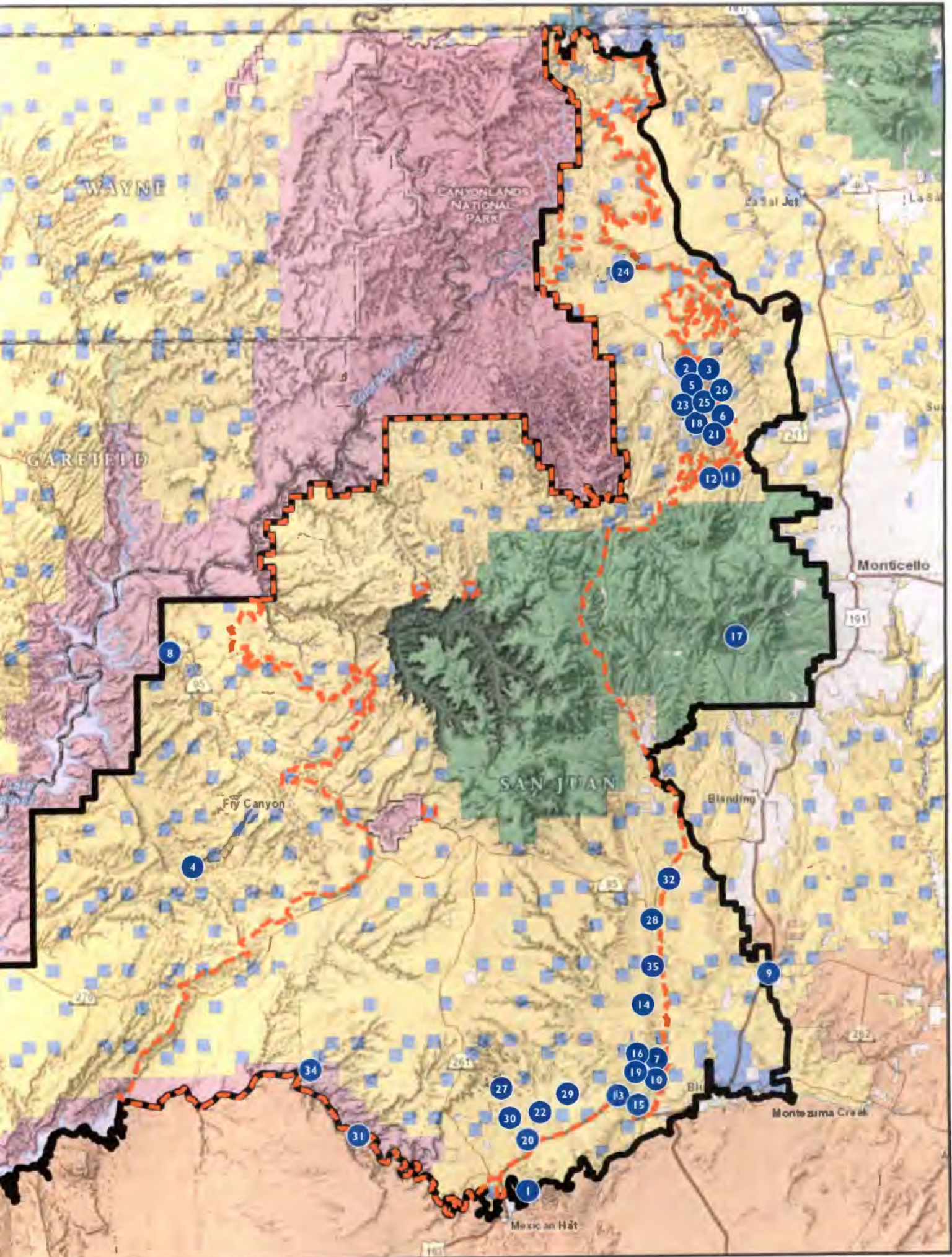
# Geographic Sampling of **PALEONTOLOGICAL** Resources in Bears Ears

## KEY

-  Paleo Sites
-  Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition Proposal
-  PLI Discussion Draft National Conservation Area
-  National Park Service (NPS)
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  National Forest
-  National Wilderness Area
-  Private
-  State Trust Lands
-  State Parks and Recreation
-  Tribal Lands



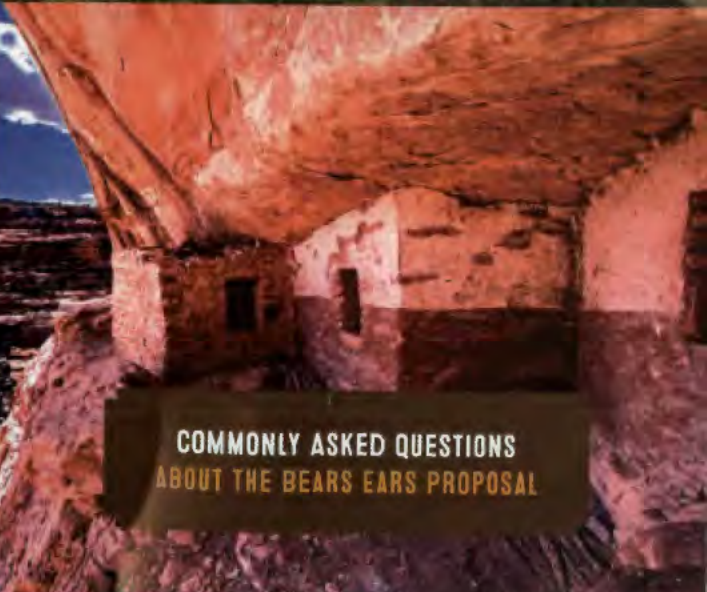








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COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
ABOUT THE BEARS EARS PROPOSAL



## IF BEARS EARS BECOMES A NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA OR NATIONAL MONUMENT...

*Will I be able to collect plants and medicinal herbs?*

Yes. The Bears Ears proposal has been created with Native American uses as the highest priority, including traditional resource gathering.

*Will I be able to collect wood for heating and/or ceremonial uses?*

Yes. Local wood collecting is central to the proposal and will be collaboratively managed in coordination with Tribes. Utah Diné Bikéyah has been working with federal agencies to make it easier for local people to obtain firewood permits and make salvaged firewood available to local communities.

*Will I be able to hunt?*

Yes. Hunting will be allowed and permits will continue to be managed by the State of Utah's Division of Wildlife Resources.

*Will I be able participate in ceremonies in the designated area?*

Yes. The BLM and Forest Service are required to identify the cultural values, religious beliefs, traditional practices, and legal rights of Native American people when making management decisions. Under the Bears Ears proposal, Native American uses will be elevated above other uses for the first time.

*Will I be able to continue to visit sacred places, like ancient cliff dwellings?*

Yes. The majority of sites are open to public access now and will remain open. In the event of site instability or other visitation threats, special accommodations will be made for Native American ceremonial visitation.

*Will I still be able to drive to get to places I have visited for many years?*

Yes. While no roads will be closed by a designation itself, it will trigger a new travel management planning process that will include full public involvement. Utah Diné Bikéyah's position is to maintain important motorized access routes and develop a sensible travel plan that will meet the needs of Native people and the public.

*Will new energy development and mining be allowed?*

Existing leases will still be valid and developable; however new leases or mining claims will not be allowed.

*Will I still be able to camp, hike, backpack, climb, build camp fires, pick pine nuts, mountain bike, bring pets, ride my horse, or drive my ATV?*

Yes. All of these activities will continue to be allowed if Bears Ears becomes a national monument or NCA.

## IF WILDERNESS AREAS ARE DESIGNATED AS PART OF LEGISLATION...

*Will all the roads in wilderness areas be closed?*

No. Wilderness boundaries can be drawn to include the land on both sides of an existing road while leaving the road open. New road construction is not permitted in wilderness areas.

*Can I collect wood/plants within designated wilderness areas?*

Yes. Personal collection of firewood is allowed without the use of mechanized equipment like trucks and chainsaws, just as in current Wilderness Study Areas. Utah Diné Bikéyah has proposed 500-foot firewood cutting corridors along roads next to many proposed wilderness areas, and mechanized equipment could be used within these corridors.

*Will grazing rights continue within the Bears Ears proposal?*

Yes. Permit holders will be allowed to continue grazing livestock, with better management to protect sacred sites, plants, and natural areas.

*Is it legal to collect arrowheads, pot shards, and other artifacts?*

No. These cultural antiquities are protected under federal law. A designation is expected to bring additional management resources to stop looting and desecration that has occurred over the past century.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [PROTECTBEARSEARS.ORG](http://PROTECTBEARSEARS.ORG)**



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When you put you in the picture. When was the  
last time you tried something new? Laughed so  
much you cried? Or fell asleep with the  
sound of open listening to tree frogs and crickets  
at night?

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own canoe, picking blueberries and toasting  
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**tripadvisor**



*"This place should be kept a secret"* - LB Aug, 2013



*"A lake side cabin  
with a fantastic view  
of Mt. Katahdin. This  
place is a North  
Woods paradise!"*

- JH July, 2013