



For Immediate Release

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**Local Utah Veterans Attend
Bears Ears National Monument Hearing**

(Bluff, UT) - Vet Voice Foundation welcomes Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie, as well as Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Roberts, and Forest Service Associate Chief Dan Jiron to Bluff, Utah to hear comments from tribes, local citizens, and other stakeholders about the proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument on public lands in the region.

Vet Voice Foundation members are encouraged for the opportunity to be heard at this event, which will be held on Saturday, July 16 at 1 pm at the Bluff Community Center.

This public meeting will come after Obama administration officials spend the preceding days touring the region and meeting with stakeholders. This investment of time and energy demonstrates the commitment by the Obama administration natural resource agency leaders to benefit from hearing multiple viewpoints and offers the community a chance to show their overwhelming support of the conservation of this amazing cultural landscape.

Military veterans proved their support for President Obama designating Bears Ears as a National Monument in a Vet Voice Foundation (VVF) [letter](#) signed by 247 veterans from the Four Corners states (UT, CO, NM, and AZ), including 35 Utah veterans.

VVF announced the veteran letter in a [press release](#) on May 26, 2016. The letter expressed support for the designation of Bears Ears National Monument that would protect 1.9 million acres of public lands, preserve more than 100,000 Native American cultural sites, and while also protect incredible recreation opportunities for visitors and important habitat for iconic American wildlife.

Veterans in the local area will attend the meeting to advocate for the protection of this critical part of the iconic American West.

"These are public lands that continue to heal our nation's service members as they recover and recuperate from serving overseas," said Garrett Reppenhagen, Vet Voice Foundation's Rocky

Mountain Director. "As veterans, we feel it is an extension of our patriotic duty and service to our country to continue working to protect the lands we love."

Our elected representatives in Washington DC have been unable to act in the interest of the majority of Americans regarding the future of the Bears Ears region. This public meeting will verify it is time President Obama steps forward and uses the Antiquities Act, as previous presidents of both political parties have done in the past, to designate Bears Ears National Monument.

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