

TRI-UTE COUNCIL



Joint Inter-Tribal Resolution # 16-001

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 Tri-Ute Council are 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, the three Ute Tribes of Utah and Colorado including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, and Southern Ute Indian Tribe 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 Utes, 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 region is unsurpassed in the world for its integrity and abundance of archaeological resources.

WHEREAS, the National Monument area 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 region is comprised of primarily Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas and lands and U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas.

WHEREAS, the Utes and Native Americans have a unique and important cultural and historical ties to the land and its wildlife and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Utes' 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 Americans 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;

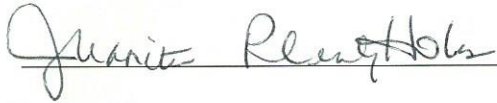
WHEREAS, the Bears Ears National Monument will best be Collaboratively Managed with the full and active involvement of the Tribes that share ancestral and ongoing ties to the region.

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 Tri-Ute Council 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 Tri-Ute Council at a meeting on June 14, 2016 in Towaoc, Colorado with a quorum present.



Juanita Plentyholes, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Colorado



Clement Frost, Southern Indian Ute Tribe, Ignacio, Colorado



Ute Indian Tribe Representative, Ft. Duchesne, Utah

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary