



UTE INDIAN TRIBE
P. O. Box 190
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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