

NATIVE WISDOM SPEAKS AT BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

WILL AMERICA LISTEN?



BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT: 80 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Bears Ears National Monument was designated in 2016 after one of the longest, most thoroughly researched, and broadly supported National Monument campaigns in U.S. history.



In fact, the first major proposal to protect Bears Ears dates back to the 1930s, when Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes proposed a 4-million acre “Escalante National Monument” across southern Utah.

In 1961, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall instructed the National Park Service to develop a proposal for the creation of a National Park in the Canyonlands of southeastern

Utah. The original Park Service proposal envisioned a nearly 1-million acre National Park, which would have included large portions of the present-day Bears Ears National Monument. By the time President Lyndon Johnson signed the law establishing Canyonlands National Park in 1964, however, political pressure from the Utah delegation had reduced the park to less than 300,000 acres, leaving much of the Bears Ears region unprotected.

In 2010, spiritual and traditional leaders of the Navajo Nation who live in Utah began interviewing local elders in order to communicate the Navajo people’s cultural needs and land stewardship values to elected officials. An initial proposal for federal protection of the Bears Ears cultural landscape was prepared by Tribes in August 2010 and contributed to Utah Senator Bob Bennett’s effort to draft a land-use bill for San Juan County. Senator Bennett left office in January 2011 without passing legislation.

In 2013, Utah Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz announced that they intended to sponsor a federal land-use bill to resolve land-use issues between the supposedly competing goals of conservation and economic development. They advocated to have Bears Ears protected as part of the bill called the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) and recognized the need for strong co-management by Tribes. The Obama administration clearly indicated to the Utah delegation that it would refrain from taking executive action on Bears Ears in order to give Congress the opportunity to resolve the matter through the PLI.

In 2015, five Tribes with ancestral ties to Bears Ears — Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Indian Tribe, Hopi Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni — made the historic decision to form the Bears

“Bears Ears is not just a place full of trees, plants and animals. It is life and we are woven into it to protect it for it is in our nature to be the lords and protector of these lands. When we lose that connection, our connection with our culture, Mother Nature and the cosmic energy of space will be lost.”

~ Shiprock, New Mexico

Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a formal partnership to advocate on a government-to-government level for the creation of Bears Ears National Monument. On October 15, the Coalition submitted a formal proposal to the Obama administration for the creation of the Monument. This marked the first time in history that Tribes petitioned a President of the United States of America to create a National Monument under the Antiquities Act.

In January 2016, Congressman Bishop released a discussion draft of his PLI, which called for the protection of the Bears Ears region as two separate National Conservation Areas. Introduced to Congress in July 2016, the PLI covered several counties in eastern Utah and contained numerous poison pills, including the attempted transfer of 100,000 acres of the Ute Indian Tribe’s Uncompahgre Reservation to the state of Utah for fossil fuel development. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) called PLI’s provisions “unprecedented” and “problematic,” and noted that the BLM “strongly oppose[d]” them in a September 2016 committee hearing. The PLI could not attract any co-sponsors beyond Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz, and never advanced to the floor of the House. Failing to gain a single sponsor, the bill was never introduced in the Senate. On December 16, the 114th Congress adjourned without acting on the PLI.

On December 28, 2016, following Congress’ failure to act to protect the region, President Obama designated Bears Ears National Monument, creating the Nation’s first truly Native American national monument.



Bears Ears Buttes, Abajo Mountains, Lime Ridge and Comb Ridge at sunset. Photo by Tim Peterson, flown by LightHawk.

REDUCING BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT WOULD BE AN AFFRONT TO TRIBES AND AN ATTACK ON AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS

The recommendation to eliminate all or parts of Bears Ears National Monument, even through Congressional action, would be an affront to the sovereign tribal nations who worked tirelessly to protect their cultural heritage for future generations.

- Bears Ears National Monument was designated at the behest of five sovereign tribal nations — Navajo, Hopi, Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni — who all share strong historical, spiritual, and cultural ties to these public lands. The 200+ member Tribes of the National Congress of American Indians also resolved their support for the Monument. Not one tribal government has expressed opposition.
- The Bears Ears region holds more than 100,000 Native American cultural and archaeological sites that have been threatened by rampant looting and grave robbing. The Monument also contains countless contemporary historical sites of significance to members of the Mormon faith. The recommended shrinkage of the Monument's boundaries would once again put these historical, cultural, and sacred sites and artifacts at risk.
- Interior Secretary Zinke's "review" of Bears Ears National Monument was not transparent, ignored years of local community engagement, failed to adequately engage the public, Native Nations, and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Secretary Zinke's visit to Utah was a one-sided process, where he failed to hold a single public meeting and refused to meet with any of the elders or community leaders who developed the monument proposal. Simply put, Secretary Zinke ignored Tribes during his review.

"Bears Ears is my ancestral homeland; it's where my great-great-grandfather hunted and led his people of southeastern Utah to seek refuge during the 1864 round-up of the Navajos for the Long Walk. My maternal grandparents told me several stories of the sanctuary that Bears Ears provided. They always built their homes within view of the mountain and each time I see the ears, it makes me feel safe and connected to my ancestors and family."

~ Kirtland, New Mexico



The Colorado River, Lockhart Basin and Hatch Point. Photo by Tim Peterson.

President Trump does not have the legal authority to modify sections of Bears Ears National Monument. Such an action will be immediately challenged in court.

- Legal scholars agree: No president has the legal authority to rescind or alter a National Monument. In a comprehensive analysis, legal scholars conclude that the Antiquities Act "deliberately provides for one-way designation authority. The President may act to create a national monument, but only Congress can modify or revoke that action."
- The underlying facts that led President Obama to establish Bears Ears National Monument in 2016 remain unchanged in 2017: the unique "landmarks," "structures," and other "objects of scientific and historic interest" are still there, and still deserving of the protections afforded by a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act.
- Secretary Zinke's recommendation is an assault on the Antiquities Act, which was signed by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to safeguard and preserve cultural and historical sites and "other objects of scientific interest" on federal public lands for all Americans to enjoy. Sixteen presidents — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — have used this Congressionally delegated authority to protect important public landscapes from the Grand Canyon (Arizona), to Acadia (Maine), to Canyons of the Ancients (Colorado).



64% OF UTAHNS SUPPORT BEARS EARS AND 2.7 M PEOPLE SPOKE OUT

Bear Ears National Monument was the only Monument to be given an expedited review period of just 45 days after the April 26, 2017 Executive Order. This rushed and short-sighted process stands in stark contrast to the seven years of planning, elder interviews, and community meetings that revealed the rationale for designating Bears Ears National Monument.

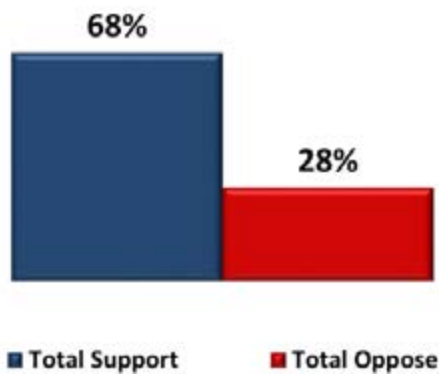
On May 5, 2017, the Department of the Interior announced a 60-day formal public comment period for 27 National Monuments under review in the executive order. However, the public comment period assigned to Bears Ears National Monument — a mere 15 days — was only a fraction of the time allotted for all the other National Monuments. In response to public outcry following Secretary Zinke’s interim recommendation to shrink Bears Ears National Monument, the comment period for Bears Ears was re-opened. The secondary, extended public comment period closed on July 10, 2017.

In early May of 2017, Secretary Zinke visited Utah on a four-day “listening tour,” during which he spent most of his time with anti-Monument activists and politicians. During the entire four days, Secretary Zinke met with the leaders of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition for only one hour. He did not visit the predominantly pro-monument town of Bluff, Utah, or any Native American communities south of Blanding, Utah, where 60 percent of the local population resides.

To see Utah Diné Bikéyah’s press release on Secretary Zinke’s tour, please visit: <https://goo.gl/isk2KU>

On May 22, 2017, the Republican polling firm Public Opinion Strategies released a poll of Utah voters:

Support for keeping the current number of National Monuments

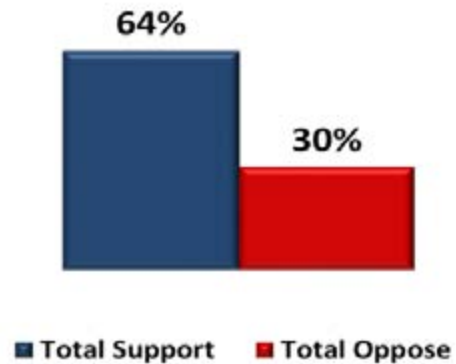


The survey found that by a **two-to-one margin** voters supported **Keeping the Current Number of National Monuments**.



Moreover, the survey found that in a two to one margin : **Utah voters supported keeping Bears Ears National Monument at its current size.**

Support Bears Ears National Monument



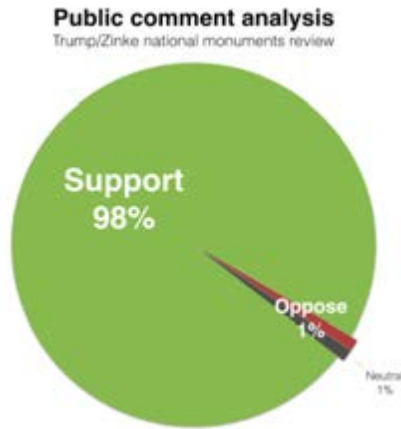
To see Utah Diné Bikéyah’s full press release including Public Opinion Strategies official results visit: <https://goo.gl/rMP7Az>

On May 26th, 2017, the first public comment period under the Executive Order for Bears Ears National Monument closed. During a brief 15-day window, over 700,000 comments were submitted, with the vast majority expressing strong support for Bears Ears National Monument.

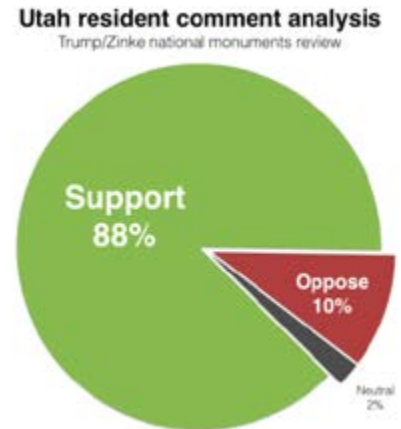
On June 10, 2017, in a move that turned back the clock 100 years on tribal relations, Secretary Zinke recommended shrinking Bears Ears National Monument, but offered no specifics. The Secretary also re-opened the public comment period. To view Utah Diné Bikéyah’s press release, please visit: <https://goo.gl/gxzjBc>



On July 10, 2017, the public comment period for all monuments under review closed. An analysis by the Center for Western Priorities found 55% of submitted comments specifically mentioned Bears Ears National Monument, with nearly unanimous support for keeping the monument intact. Overall, 98% of



comments supported keeping or expanding National Monument designations. Among Utahns who submitted comments, 88% supported maintaining Monument status for Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.



To view the full report, please visit: <https://goo.gl/DoqEYU>

THREATS TO BEARS EARS

Tribes strongly advise Secretary Zinke and President Trump not to slam the door on the generous offer to share our stewardship knowledge with our fellow Americans. As Native people and sovereign nations, we deserve a voice in public land management. If the Trump administration attempts to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument, such an act would be viewed by Tribes as yet another broken promise to Native people. It also slams the door on our offer to share our stewardship knowledge with our fellow Americans and suppresses our voice in public land management.

Bears Ears National Monument recognizes and utilizes Native American history and traditional knowledge. It is a step forward in the relationship between the United States and Native American tribes on our shared path to healing.

Before the designation of Bears Ears National Monument, looting, grave robbing, and vandalism threatened to erase thousands of years of shared American history. Native communities have passed knowledge of plants, animals, land, and human history from generation to generation since time immemorial. To protect the sensitive nature of these spaces, Native people have never shared much of this information publicly or privately.

Native American grass-root communities and sovereign tribal governments worked in tandem within the federal government to gain Monument designation for the Bears Ears region. They celebrated on December 28, 2016, when their hard work and good faith efforts were realized in the designation of Bears Ears National Monument.

Attempting to modify the boundary of Bears Ears National Monument not only reduces protections for burial sites, ancestral ruins, and traditional plants, but it also shrinks the healing power of this designation for all Americans. Secretary Zinke never even met with local Native Americans to learn what resources we care about or where they are located.

Recently plant biologists at the University of Utah have identified potato starches on ancestral artifacts dating from at least 11,000 years ago. The starches belong to what Native people call “Wild” or “Indian” potatoes. These potatoes are a continued part of Native American people’s diets. The University of Utah researchers, in collaboration with Utah Diné Bikéyah, are now looking to traditional knowledge holders for answers of cultivation, usage, and migration of the potato. Bears Ears National Monument is a place that protects this living history — a place that fosters the blending of Western science and traditional knowledge to create healing and understanding for all Americans.

Learn more about ongoing cultivation of Tribes’ ancient potato: <https://goo.gl/MEemXai>



Photos by Tim Peterson.



SOVEREIGN TRIBAL NATIONS AND LOCAL TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT BEARS EARS →

BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition formed in 2015 when five Tribes – Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi, and Navajo – came together to call on President Obama to protect our ancestral homelands by designating Bears Ears National Monument. This historic Coalition continues to support the Bears Ears Tribal Commission and to defend the Monument through education, political advocacy, and inter-tribal relationship building.

“In recognition of the importance of tribal participation to the care and management...a Bears Ears Commission is hereby established to provide guidance and recommendations.”

~ Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation

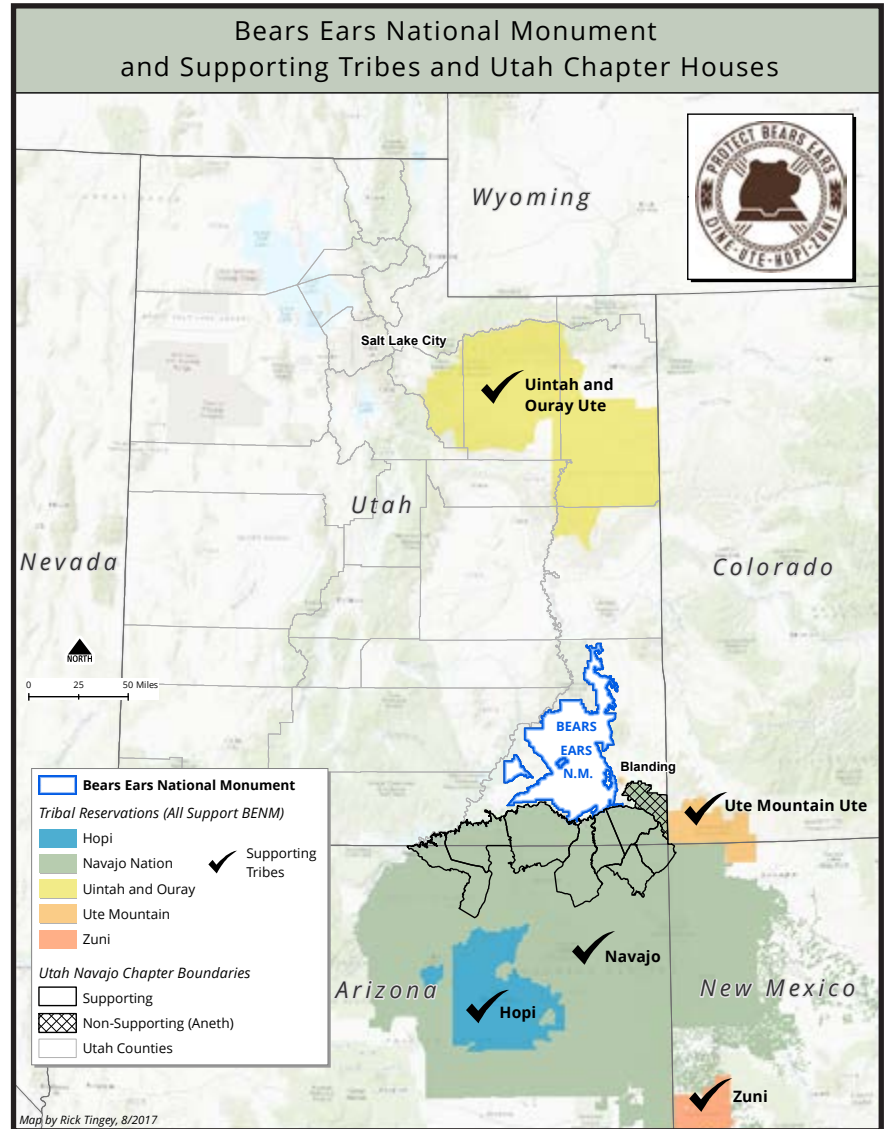
BEARS EARS COMMISSION

The Bears Ears Commission is an independent advisory body established by presidential proclamation to collaboratively manage Bears Ears National Monument. The Commission is comprised of delegates from the five tribes, each appointed by their respective Tribal governments to represent that Tribe, and to advance the integration of traditional knowledge in the management planning process and in day-to-day Monument management.

The Bears Ears Commission works closely with land managers from the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. These federal agents are mandated to “meaningfully engage the Commission” and “carefully and fully consider integrating the traditional and historical knowledge and special expertise of the Commission.” **The Bears Ears Commission is tribal collaborative management in action.**



Bears Ears Tribal Commissioners James Adakai, Carleton Bowekaty, Alfred Lomahquahu, Shaun Champoose, and Terry Knight. Photo by Tim Peterson.



“The Secretaries shall meaningfully engage the Commission... and carefully & fully consider integrating the traditional and historical knowledge and special expertise of the Commission.”

~ Proclamation, Bears Ears National Monument



COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT PLANNING - TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND IT'S IMPORTANCE



Cultural Site above Cedar Mesa. Photo by Tim Peterson.

The Bears Ears Tribal Commission is currently in the process of crafting a federal land management plan that is more informed by and aligned with traditional indigenous knowledge. As the original inhabitants of the Bears Ears cultural landscape, Tribes possess many thousands of years of stewardship expertise. In fact, Native cultures have evolved in tandem with the Bears Ears cultural landscape. Now, that vast body of Native wisdom is actively shaping the way public lands are managed for all Americans.

Native American Tribes have inhabited, utilized, and stewarded the Bears Ears cultural landscape since time immemorial. Over countless generations, Tribes developed profoundly sophisticated understandings of our surrounding environment – the land, plants, animals, and weather patterns that we continue to rely on for physical and spiritual sustenance. Native people have learned to read the landscape because our very survival depended on understanding its subtle shifts and signals. In this way, our Ancestors were scientists in every sense of the word. Through songs, stories, and precise oral transmissions, our peoples have recorded and conveyed this essential information across centuries. Native people today still possess these immeasurable stores of knowledge, carefully guarded and passed down from generation to generation. We know which plants can save a life, and where to find them, and how to harvest them. We know which prayer songs belong to each being, and we acknowledge every one as family. We know how to give and receive gifts from the world around us in order to maintain balance.

In sharing our traditional knowledge of Bears Ears, Tribes are offering the American people a remarkable gift. Tribes stand ready to teach the world how to listen to this sacred ancestral

“As Tribes, we will gather ourselves together to continue the fight to save our lands for the future of not just Native people, but all people who connect with these lands. Bears Ears National Monument is more than just mere federal land to us, as it may be to many other stakeholders – it is a living landscape; it has a pulse. It is offensive for politicians to call the Bears Ears National Monument ‘an abuse’. To the contrary, it is a fulfillment of our duty to preserve our cultures and our ancestral lands, and its designation was the result of a long, deliberative process to fight for our ancestors as well as access for contemporary use of the lands by our Tribal members.”

~ Shaun Champoos, Ute Indian Tribe
Business Committee member and Bears
Ears Tribal Commissioner

landscape and visit with respect. In so doing, Tribes may also offer key insights about living sustainably in a warming world. After all, no one knows better how to survive in the rugged, arid landscape of Bears Ears than those of us who have dwelled here since the beginning of time. **Now, Tribes are preparing to teach America how to care for this place for the next 10,000 years — a gift invited through law in the Bears Ears National Monument Proclamation.**





Photo by Tim Peterson



Row of small photos by Utah Dinee Bikéyah

Dear Mr. President,

As President of the United States, you can create common ground for all American citizens to stand upon. By honoring the land, you will honor all people who serve as stewards of these public lands. Everyone has a stake here, but for us as Native Americans these are lands we call home. We live an indigenous truth here and we are ready to share what we have learned over the past 12,000 years as we chart a path forward together.

Your energy would be most powerfully spent by honoring the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument set by the Bears Ears Intertribal Commission and supported by Tribes across this country. We ask you to transform your leadership into an act of advancing Native American priorities that will help everyone in society. Please work with us in forging a new way forward in the name of commonality for all people for all time.

If you are serious about making America great, you can further that greatness by honoring the historic proposal and your federal trust obligation to the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Ute Mountain, and Ute Indian Tribes. We ask that you consider fulfilling the original proposal we requested for a 1.9 million acre boundary as a gesture of healing toward all Indigenous People across these United States of America.



PROTECTBEARSEARS.ORG

~ Willie Grayeyes – Chairman, Utah Diné Bikéyah

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PHOTO CREDITS FOR COVER: Top pano: Tim Peterson, 2nd row, right: Blake McCord, 3rd row, left & center: Blake McCord, Bottom row, left: Tim Peterson, Remaining (crowd, basket, group): Utah Diné Bikéyah