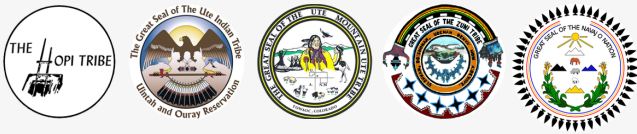


THE BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

SPRING NEWSLETTER



A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS

Greetings Bears Ears community. We hope that you and your loved ones continue to be safe and healthy as we recognize the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been an extremely long and difficult year for people all over the world, and our hearts continue to go out to our Indigenous communities and others who have been heavily impacted by this virus. However, as we have all seen with this year there is renewed hope that soon the pandemic will loosen its grip on our

daily lives and we may be together again with those we most cherish. Thus, it is vital that we remain vigilant in our safety precautions and continue to follow CDC guidelines to protect those most vulnerable. We send well wishes to all of you and look forward to when we can move forward together and celebrate a new chapter.

In looking to all this year has to offer, we are extremely optimistic about the future of Bears Ears and the ongoing efforts to protect its cultural and natural resources. As you may have noticed, Bears Ears has been in the news a lot recently, and we are excited to update you on our latest activities and current events that impact our work.

OUR REQUEST STANDS: PROMPT ACTION IS NEEDED TO RESTORE PROTECTIONS FOR BEARS EARS

On his first day in office, President Biden issued an executive order that directed the Interior and Agriculture Departments



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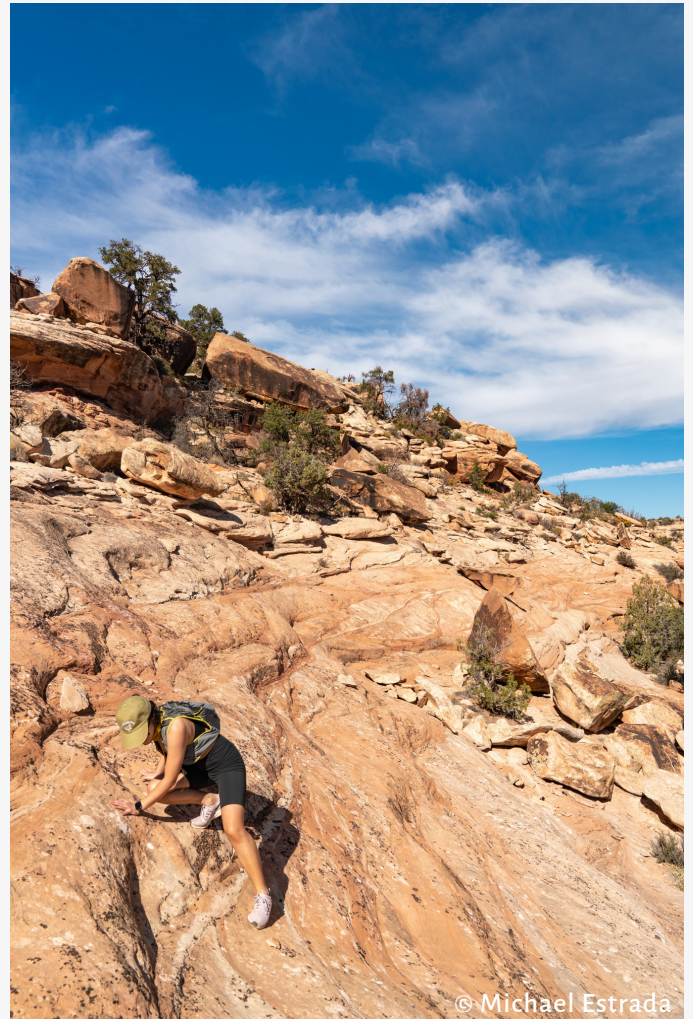
to conduct a 60-day review of the illegally-reduced Bears Ears monument boundaries. Since then, there have been a host of discussions held around the future of Bears Ears. We recently issued a press release which reaffirms our original request to the administration and calls for swift action to restore protections for this cultural region. Here is an excerpt:

"We have asked that President Biden act quickly to restore the Bears Ears National Monument and to expand it to the full 1.9 million acres we originally proposed... We remain open to dialogue with others about the most effective ways to protect and manage this special place... However, we still believe that protections need to be quickly restored to protect Bears Ears, and its rich, but fragile, cultural and natural resources."

[To read our full statement](#), please click here or visit our website at bearssearscoalition.org.

BE VIGILANT! MORE VISITORS EYE BEARS EARS AS SPRING APPROACHES

Warmer weather combined with increased media attention has drawn many people to look to Bears Ears as a place to visit in the coming weeks. We acknowledge that many of us are also searching for safe, outdoor, and socially distanced activities to do as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to heavily impact our communities.



However, we would like to reiterate that this cultural region is still without the protections and oversight that it needs to preserve its cultural and natural resources. Looting, vandalism, and misinformed visitation behaviors have contributed to the destruction of sacred sites and to the land itself. Thus, we hope you will continue to follow and share these visitation guidelines we have provided for you. We can all lessen our impacts to the land and help to protect the more than 100,000 sites in the region by remembering to #VisitWithRespect and encouraging others to do so, as well. Here is what you can do to help:

- Visit the Friends of Cedar Mesa Visitor's Center in Bluff, Utah before heading out to the landscape. This center provides additional visitor information to help protect resources.
- Please do not take cultural objects (pottery shards, corn cobs) as "souvenirs."
- Please do not touch rock art or make your own. These images relay stories told from generation to generation.
- **Leave no trace.** Be prepared and make a plan to pack out everything you (and your pet) bring into the landscape.
- Please don't share a site's geotag, GPS coordinates, or location on social media, as this can attract large foot traffic to an unprotected space.
- Please continue to follow CDC guidelines regarding the ongoing pandemic. Wear a mask, wash your hands, social distance, and if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to the virus, please do not travel to protect the health of others.

May we continue to learn, collectively, how to become better stewards of the land so that current and future generations may experience Bears Ears in all of its beauty and cultural significance.

HAPPY WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!



This month, we celebrate the matriarchs of our communities at home and throughout the world. The movement to protect Bears Ears and ensure its longevity would not have been possible without the women of our Native communities. The constant energy, ingenuity, and beauty put forth by women to heal Mother Earth is felt each and every day. We honor and acknowledge the contributions of women to our work and the efforts to make the world a more equitable place for all. Although we recognize there is much work to be done, to ensure their safety and prosperity, we are grateful for the foundational steps taken to get us here. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Additionally, we would like to highlight a recent op-ed by Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, published by The Salt Lake Tribune titled, *Rep. Haaland's nomination represents a moment of healing for Indigenous peoples and the land*. Ms. Lopez-Whiteskunk is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the former Co-Chair of the Bears Ears Inter-

Tribal Coalition. In her article, she speaks to the significance of Rep. Deb Haaland's rise to all Indigenous peoples, as well as the importance of Indigenous women leaders - particularly in respect to land restoration and community resilience. We encourage our readers to [check it out](#) and share!



DEB HAALAND CONFIRMED AS INTERIOR SECRETARY

Representative Deb Haaland (NM-01) of Laguna Pueblo made history last week when she was confirmed as the first Native American to lead the U.S. Department of Interior. The now Madam Secretary is also the first Indigenous person in history to lead a cabinet agency. We offer our sincere congratulations to Secretary Haaland on this monumental achievement, and recognize that this is a joyous moment for not only our Indigenous communities, but for all communities in the country. Secretary

Haaland has promised to be a champion for addressing climate change, protecting public lands, and engaging meaningfully with sovereign Tribal nations. We look forward to her leadership and commend her strength and resilience in paving the way for so many Indigenous peoples.



STAY UPDATED AND INFORMED

There is a lot of news surrounding Bears Ears right now, and it can be easy to get lost in the noise - but we are here and ready to keep you informed! Follow us on social media or visit our website to learn about our latest advocacy efforts, and get involved in the movement to protect the Bears Ears region.



@bearssearscoalition



@savebearssears



Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

Thank you - Elahkwa - Ahéhee' - Tog'oiak' - Kwakwhay - Askwali