

The Opinion Pages | EDITORIAL

National Monuments From Mr. Obama

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD AUG. 26, 2016

Bill Clinton was like a kid with a new toy when, fairly late in his presidency, and to the great annoyance of Congress, he discovered his powers under the Antiquities Act to create national monuments with a stroke of the presidential pen — and then busily set about protecting areas of great scenic, environmental or historical significance that might otherwise be ignored by Congress or threatened by development. President Obama, to the delight of conservationists, is now very much on the same schedule.

On Wednesday, a day before the 100th birthday of the National Park Service, Mr. Obama designated 87,500 acres of Maine's north woods as a national monument, to be added to the park system and protected by the service against commercial exploitation. The transaction cost the government nothing. The land belonged to Roxanne Quimby, who lived in the Maine woods before making a fortune as a co-founder of Burt's Bees and accumulating property with the idea of turning it into a national park. Her family also provided an endowment of \$20 million for maintenance.

Then, on Friday, Mr. Obama used the same authority to greatly expand a national marine monument (established a decade ago by President George W. Bush) off the coast of his native Hawaii. The monument will encompass 582,578 square miles of land and sea, and provide protection from commercial exploitation for an estimated 7,000 species that are increasingly stressed by climate change.

Both designations drew criticism — from timber interests in Maine, fishermen in Hawaii and officials in both places who resent federal stewardship. Though

neither designation will impose economic hardship, there is invariably complaining whenever Washington asserts a public interest in land that states and private interests think should be theirs. But if presidents waited until there was complete agreement, Teddy Roosevelt would never have protected the Grand Canyon and Franklin Roosevelt would never have protected Joshua Tree National Park.

It is our hope that Mr. Obama will continue to seek out good candidates for monument designation, regardless of the political opposition. One controversial but indisputably compelling candidate is known as Bears Ears, an area of about two million acres in southeastern Utah of great natural beauty and rich in Native American artifacts that are increasingly at risk from the kind of thievery and destruction that inspired the Antiquities Act in the first place.

A second candidate is a monument proposal from Representative Raúl Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat, that would permanently forbid mining in 1.7 million acres adjacent to the Grand Canyon. A third, which is rapidly gaining support among Northeastern politicians, would protect a dramatic group of underwater canyons and mountains rising as high as 7,000 feet off the ocean floor and located about 150 miles southeast of Cape Cod. Known as the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts, the monument would be the first in the Atlantic Ocean.

Much of Mr. Obama's late-blooming enthusiasm can be traced to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who oversees the Park Service and who, like her predecessor, Ken Salazar, has been a strong defender of public lands and the chronically underfunded parks system. But she has some unfinished business of her own: dying coral reefs in Biscayne National Park off Miami that need to be put off limits to recreational fishermen, Reagan-era oil and gas leases adjacent to Glacier National Park that need to be canceled, and a leasing plan that seeks to minimize development near Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in Utah that needs to be made final.

To build on what is becoming a strong environmental record, Mr. Obama will need help from the people around him. But ultimately, it's not his personal legacy that's at stake. It's what this generation leaves for the next.

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The Opinion Pages | EDITORIAL

Monuments for Future Generations

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD JUNE 17, 2016

President Obama's visits this weekend to Carlsbad Caverns and Yosemite national parks give him a timely opportunity to think about how, in the twilight of his presidency, he can add to what has already been an admirable record of protecting America's public lands and marine reserves. The parks themselves are in a celebratory moment, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service. But given Congress's preference for partisan infighting over environmental stewardship, it is unlikely to approve any additions to the park system. Still, there is much that Mr. Obama can do on his own using the 1906 Antiquities Act, which allows a president to unilaterally protect areas of great natural or historical value as monuments when Congress is unlikely to act.

Of the proposals now circulating at the White House, four potential monument designations are particularly compelling. The most controversial consists of 1.9 million acres in southeastern Utah known as Bears Ears because of two buttes that loom over the landscape. Bears Ears is rich in natural beauty and priceless Native American artifacts that are increasingly at risk from the pillaging and looting that inspired the Antiquities Act in the first place.

A monument designation would earn Mr. Obama the admiration of conservationists and the many Indian tribes that support the idea. It would also arouse the fury of the political establishment in a state where the federal government already owns nearly two-thirds of the land and where powerful interests would resent the restrictions on off-road vehicles, oil and gas drilling, and other development that the designation would bring. But so what? Mr. Obama has nothing to lose politically, and everything to gain in terms of the environmental

Two other obvious candidates lie underwater. One would involve a fourfold expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, created by President George W. Bush in 2006. The area surrounds the uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and is home to an estimated 7,000 marine and terrestrial species, a quarter of which are found nowhere else on earth.

The other candidate is known as the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts, a dramatic group of underwater canyons and mountains rising as high as 7,000 feet above the ocean floor and located about 150 miles southeast of Cape Cod. The area is largely unexploited now; monument designation would keep it that way. It would also be the first national monument in the Atlantic Ocean.

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One of President Theodore Roosevelt's earliest monument designations, in 1908, protected the Grand Canyon until Congress could declare it a national park. But 1.7 million adjacent acres were not protected, and have since been poisoned by aggressive uranium mining. A 20-year moratorium on mining imposed by the Interior Department in 2012 would be made permanent by a monument proposal put forward by Representative Raúl Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat. Mr. Obama can honor the congressman, Mr. Roosevelt and the act itself by making this proposal

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his own.

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Valdez: What if politicians ruin the Grand Canyon?

[Linda Valdez](#), The Republic | [azcentral.com](#) 3:47 p.m. MST May 8, 2016

There's a fight over the Grand Canyon. Arizonans are on one side. Many of their elected representatives are on the other.

It's a high-stakes battle in a long-running war about whether public land is meant to be used for profit or for conservation.

It's also a question of whether elected officials represent the people who put them in office – or themselves.

VALDEZ: Grand Canyon deserves a buffer

The Canyon is smack in the middle of this controversy. Your grandchildren will be the winners. Or losers.

As a National Park, the Canyon is the embodiment of our national conservation ethic. The park itself enjoys a high level of protection.

But the Grand Canyon is not an island. Federal land around it is managed for multiple uses, which include ranching, logging and mining. What happens on that land can touch the Canyon.

How uranium mining hurts the Canyon

Federal land outside the park boundary was open to uranium mining until 2012 when the Obama administration imposed a 20-year moratorium on new mines.

In a recent op-ed piece in The Hill, Russell Begaye, president of the Navajo Nation, and officials from the Hopi and Hualapai nations talked about the fallout from those pre-moratorium years.

“Uranium mining has left a toxic legacy – poisoning our waters, our homes, our families, and our children,” they wrote. “More than 500 abandoned, un-reclaimed mines contaminate the Navajo Nation, next door to the Grand Canyon.”

MY TURN: Tribes want new vision for the Canyon

They are supporting an effort by Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva to make the mining moratorium permanent for the sake of protecting the Canyon and its watershed from contamination.

Grijalva’s bill to designate 1.7 million acres of federal land around the Canyon as a monument was DOA in the Republican-controlled Congress. So the best chance of protecting the Canyon is if President Obama uses his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the monument unilaterally.

Grijalva is pushing him to do that.

Democrats push for more protections

Fellow Democrat Rep. Ruben Gallego supports the effort. Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, who supported the monument in the past, appears to be hedging her bets now that she’s in a Senate race against Sen. John McCain. She “continues to hear concerns” about a monument designation, but “is interested in working on a compromise,” according to her office. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema’s office did not respond to repeated requests for her position.

In February, a poll found a whopping 80 percent of likely 2016 Arizona voters were in favor of the monument, according to the Grand Canyon Trust. Support for the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument rose to 95 percent among Democrats and 84 percent among independents. There was 65 percent support among of Republicans.

Yes. Even a healthy majority of Republicans thought it was good idea.

Republicans say it’s a ‘land grab’

Arizona Republican Rep. Paul Gosar, who calls the monument idea a “land grab,” offered a bill to curb the president’s power under the Antiquities Act to designate monuments. The other four Republicans in Arizona’s House delegation got on board. Yet Arizona’s Republican elected officials are unified in opposition.

Arizona’s GOP Sens. McCain and Jeff Flake, Gov. Doug Ducey, Attorney General Mark Brnovich and GOP Legislative leadership joined members of the House delegation in signing on to a policy brief from the Arizona Chamber Foundation and the Prosper Foundation that characterizes the idea as a “monumental mistake.”

PRO: Why the Canyon needs more protection

CON: Why a Canyon monument is a bad idea

Other signers include a long list of hunting and fishing groups, the National Rifle Association, the Arizona Mining Association, the state chapter of Safari Club International, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors, and the city or town councils of Bullhead City, Fredonia and Tusayan.

The paper argues that the monument designation would limit the multiple-use management, and frets that "federalizing" land that is already federal would limit local control.

A long-standing sense of entitlement

The members of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission sent a letter in January urging Obama not to create the monument because it "could impose unnecessary rules and regulations," hinder state wildlife management, interfere with forest "harvest," and possibly curb public-land ranching.

Grijalva says those uses would be grandfathered in. This is really about mining.

The Chamber's policy paper says "twenty-first century uranium mining is highly regulated," and that "access to federal lands for mineral exploration and development is critical."

This sense of entitlement to commodity uses of public land reflects history.

Canyon's worth isn't measured in dollars But this good, old Sugar Daddy approach to those who use the public land for personal profit is in direct conflict with preservation of our remarkable natural heritage.

As the nation's population grows and urbanizes, special places like the Grand Canyon become more important to the health of our national soul.

The people get it. Too many elected officials don't.

POLL: Most Arizonans support Canyon monument

The disconnect suggests the average Arizonan sees a value that their elected representatives miss. A value that isn't measured in dollar signs.

Bottom line: Canyon belongs to everyone

Edmond Tilousi, vice chair of the Havasupai Tribe, explained it to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., recently, according to Arizona Republic reporter William V Theobald.

"I have lived in and around the Grand Canyon all of my life, and in later years I saw the wonders of these lands," Tilousi said. "It was then I saw the power and the spirit of God."

Many of the 4.5 million-plus yearly visitors to the Canyon have felt that spirit — one way or another. Soft clouds above hard geology. A condor wheeling overhead. Mule hooves click, clacking down dizzyingly steep switchbacks.

"It's an environmental treasure," says Grijalva, "and to the Native people, it is one of their cathedrals."

The Grand Canyon belongs to every American — the people get that. It should not be imperiled for anyone's profit or political ideology — more politicians need to hear that.

Valdez: Grand Canyon deserves a buffer



Linda Valdez, The Republic | azcentral.com 8:05 a.m. MST February 2, 2016

Linda Valdez: Designating a monument to protect this national treasure isn't a federal land grab. Why it makes sense:



South Kaibab, Grand Canyon | Screamingly steep, shadeless and sun-beaten may not sound like an endorsement, but those are what make the South Kaibab astounding. Most Grand Canyon trails follow a fault line that limits range of vision. But Kaibab is a torpedo, launching from the rim and chasing a ridgeline down and out across the Canyon. At 1.5 miles, you reach the comfy plateau called Cedar Ridge. The trail curves past O'Neill Butte and approaches Skeleton Point, offering your first glimpse of the Colorado River. From here, the trail drops through a natural break in the Redwall Limestone in steep switchbacks that deposit you on the scrubby Tonto Plateau. And when you think the Kaibab can't get steeper, it plunges steeply for the final 2 gorgeous, colorful miles until it reaches the Kaibab Suspension Bridge crossing to Phantom Ranch. | Details: 928-638-7888, www.nps.gov/grca (<http://www.nps.gov/grca>).

(Photo: David Kadlubowski/The Republic)

Let's be clear: Creating a [buffer around the Grand Canyon](http://story/news/arizona/politics/2016/01/30/grand-canyon-monument-buffer-game-and-fish-commissioners-environmentalists-disagree/79078114/) is not a federal land grab.

This is about adding protection to land around the park that is currently under federal control.

It is in Arizona's best interest. The Grand Canyon is our state's signature landmark.

But the issue is much bigger than any one state. The Canyon is a natural wonder of national importance.

As part of the National Park system, it belongs to every American.

That's why President Obama should permanently prevent new uranium mining around the park using the same executive authority under the Antiquities Act that Theodore Roosevelt used to bring the Grand Canyon itself under public protection.

Why Obama must act

The course of action is outlined in a proposal by Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva. His Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument plan makes permanent a 20-year moratorium on new uranium claims that was put in place in 2012.

Grijalva's plan is unlikely to make it through a Republican controlled Congress in an election year, which is why Obama needs to act.

The uranium mining moratorium is temporary and subject to change in a new presidential administration. Making it permanent protects aquifers and streams near the Colorado River from possible radioactive contamination from mining activity.

The 1.7 million acres that would become a national monument under the plan are currently publicly owned and under federal management.

That won't change.

Earth to critics: It's already federal land

A management plan would be written with the participation of interested parties – including ranchers, hunters, tribes, local communities, outdoor enthusiasts and land managers. The proposal specifies that access, hunting, grazing and timber management will continue -- and Obama can make that very clear in his designation.

These facts need to be acknowledged by opponents of the plan.



AZCENTRAL

[Close Grand Canyon's uranium-mining loopholes](http://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2015/08/17/close-grand-canyons-)

(<http://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2015/08/17/close-grand-canyons->

[uranium-mining-loopholes/31743309/](http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/arizona/investigations/2015/12/31/radiation-rise-stalls-uranium-mine-permits-near-grand-canyon/78133164/)

Last month, all the current members of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, as well as some former members, sent a letter to Obama asking him not to designate the monument. They worried about possible changes in land management.

Their letter dismissed concerns about uranium contamination by pointing to the moratorium, and suggesting that "safe technology" might allow for uranium mining near the Canyon in the future.

Permanent protection is better.

Land needs permanent mining protection

Opposition also comes in a policy brief from the Arizona Chamber Foundation and the Prosper Foundation, which calls the monument proposal a move to "designate another 1.7 million acres of Arizona as federal land." No. It's already federal land.

The brief also says monument designation would erode the concept of multiple-use on this federal land. But only new mining claims would be restricted, and that use is currently banned by the temporary moratorium.



AZCENTRAL

Radiation rise stalls uranium mine permits near Grand Canyon

(<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/arizona/investigations/2015/12/31/radiation-rise-stalls-uranium-mine-permits-near-grand-canyon/78133164/>)

The paper argues in favor of local control, but the uranium mining that could threaten the Canyon would be governed by federal law. A permanent federal prohibition is necessary.

The policy brief carries the names of some heavy hitters, including Republicans Gov. Doug Ducey, Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, as well as Republican Reps. Paul Gosar, David Schweikert, Matt Salmon, Trent Franks and Republican state legislative leadership. Also listed in opposition are the National Rifle Association, the Arizona Mining Association and a number of hunting and fishing interest groups.



This uranium mine, photographed in 2011, is located north of Grand Canyon National Park on the Arizona Strip. (Photo: Mark Henle/The Republic)

The document says the plan would "lock" the 64,000 acres of State Trust land and 22,000 acres of private land that are within the proposed boundaries "under federal control."

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These state and private in-holdings are currently within federal land. The ownership won't change.

The proposed monument is simply a buffer on federal land to assure uranium mining does not endanger the Grand Canyon.

Roger Clark of the Grand Canyon Trust said a soon-to-be-released poll done for the organization found 80 percent support for protecting the lands around the Canyon. Support was strong across political parties and demographic groups, the poll found.

The Canyon's value to Arizona is tangible.

According to the National Park Service, more than 4.7 million people visited the Grand Canyon in 2014, contributing an estimated \$509 million to local communities surrounding the park.

Of course, the Canyon's full value cannot be measured in cold cash or reduced to politics or special interests.

The Canyon deserves the protection for its inherent worth as a natural wonder of international significance. It needs to be surrounded by a national monument.

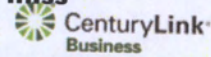
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**Grand Canyon spots you don't
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Sunday Review | OPINION

Obama the Monument Maker

By DOUGLAS BRINKLEY AUG. 27, 2016

President Obama seems most comfortable outside on an 18-hole golf course, not hunting bear in Colorado, as Theodore Roosevelt did while president in 1905, or deep-sea fishing for tarpon in the Texas Gulf, as Franklin D. Roosevelt, an avid angler, did on a getaway from the White House in 1937.

Yet as president, Mr. Obama has visited more than 30 national parks and emerged as a 21st-century Theodore Roosevelt for his protection of public lands and marine reserves. His use of the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives a president unilateral authority to protect federal lands as national monuments, has enabled him to establish 23 new monuments, more than any other president, and greatly expand a few others.

On Wednesday, he set aside some 87,000 acres of federal land along the Penobscot River in north-central Maine as the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The action will safeguard the wild country around the 5,267-foot Mount Katahdin, the state's highest peak. Then, on Friday, he announced a fourfold expansion of a marine monument designated by President George W. Bush off the coast of Hawaii.

The Maine land was a gift to the federal government from the foundation created by Roxanne Quimby, a co-founder of Burt's Bees, maker of lip balm and body care products. She also pledged \$40 million to support the new monument.

Ms. Quimby's gift is a reminder of the role that philanthropists have long played in protecting treasured landscapes. In 1907, the San Francisco Bay Area businessman William Kent presented the first President Roosevelt with a 295-acre

old-growth redwood grove in Marin County, Calif. Today it is Muir Woods National Monument. In 1943, the second President Roosevelt accepted a gift of 222,000 acres in western Wyoming from John D. Rockefeller Jr. The president designated the pristine valley Jackson Hole National Monument, later incorporated into Grand Teton National Park.

Only a fool would argue that the Roosevelts were wrong to have saved those scenic wonders. The same can be said of President Obama's actions last week. In 1846, after adventuring in that northern forest, Henry David Thoreau mused in "The Maine Woods": "Why should not we, who have renounced the king's authority, have our national preserves... for inspiration and our own true recreation?"

Teddy Roosevelt became the first president to use the Antiquities Act when he set aside Devils Tower in Wyoming. Two years later, he protected more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon, offering this rationale as development threatened to overrun it: "Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see."

Since preserving Devils Tower, he and 14 of his successors have designated some 150 national monuments.

Wild landscapes are not the only places that have been protected. President Obama has also pushed the National Park Service to be more multicultural in interpreting America's past. Toward that end, he has established history-minded national monuments honoring César E. Chávez in California; Harriet Tubman in Maryland; the Stonewall Inn in New York; Belmont-Paul, home to the National Woman's Party, in Washington, D.C.; and the Honouliuli Internment Camp, where Japanese-Americans were held during World War II. These places are reminders of the struggles for equality and dignity that have been part of the nation's history.

Now, in the park service's centennial year, President Obama should use his last months in office to preserve more places wild and historic. I suggest these four:

1. Castner Range, Texas

This former artillery range adjacent to the city of El Paso rises up from the desert and comprises 7,000 acres of rugged mountains, canyons and arroyos in the Franklin Mountains. In the 1950s, the novelist Jack Kerouac extolled the view from these heights in “The Dharma Bums”, writing of seeing “all of Mexico, all of Chihuahua, the entire sand-glittering desert of it, under a late sinking moon that was huge and bright.” The Defense Department declared this range “excess land” in 1971.

2. Grand Canyon, Arizona

In 2012, President Obama ordered a 20-year moratorium on new mining claims on one million acres of federal land abutting Grand Canyon National Park. That was a fine start. But 1.7 million acres ringing the rugged canyon should be declared the Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument to protect the entire watershed from new uranium mines and safeguard the health of the Native Americans who have lived there for generations.

3. Bears Ears, Utah

This remote, 1.9 million-acre area is sacred to the region’s native tribes. With an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites, it is one of the nation’s most significant cultural and historical landscapes. But looting and desecration are taking their toll.

4. Gold Butte, Nevada

This 350,000-acre desertscape, not far from Las Vegas, has been called southern Nevada’s “piece of the Grand Canyon.” It’s a mind-boggling geographic vortex where the Great Basin, the Mojave and Sonoran deserts and Colorado Plateau all meet. Sadly, the priceless panels of petroglyphs at Gold Butte, of world-heritage value, were vandalized recently. Increased protection for the ancestral home of the Moapa band of Paiutes and critical habitat for the desert tortoise is sorely needed.

Douglas Brinkley is a history professor at Rice University and the author of “Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America.”

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April 26, 2016, 08:31 am

The Grand Canyon is under siege

By President Russell Begaye, Navajo Nation, Troy Honahnie Jr. and Dawn Hubbs

Ha tay g'am, Wi:Nyi Gacha, Ongtupqa, Tsékooh Hatsoh, Chimik'yana'kya deya'a. ("Grand Canyon" in Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni languages.)

You may not recognize these words, though you know the place they describe. The crown jewel of the U.S. National Park System, a place that leaves all Americans awestruck, one of the seven natural wonders of the world: The Grand Canyon.

We, the people of the Havasupai, Hopi, and Zuni tribes, the Hualapai Nation, the Navajo Nation, and other tribes, know the Grand Canyon as a place of internationally recognized beauty and unparalleled conservation value. But it is much more than that. We trace our ancestry to the Grand Canyon, and many of our ancestors are buried here. We consider the Grand Canyon sacred. It is a place where we see and understand our past, and it is vital to our future, as an eternal home and source of spiritual sustenance.

The Grand Canyon is truly under siege. For decades, uranium mining - first within Grand Canyon National Park, then just outside its boundaries - has marred our canyon home. As recently as the mid-2000s, thousands of new uranium mining claims were filed just north and south of the Grand Canyon National Park.

Uranium mining has left a toxic legacy - poisoning our waters, our homes, our families, and our children. More than 500 abandoned, un-reclaimed mines contaminate the Navajo Nation, next door to the Grand Canyon. The Hopi have yet to determine the full environmental and human cost of uranium milling waste left by mining companies.

We enthusiastically supported the Obama administration's 20-year withdrawal of more than 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining in 2012. And, we have watched in alarm as the uranium mining industry and some of our elected officials have attempted to overturn this withdrawal, promising to do away with it come 2017.

We cannot survive intact as people without an intact Grand Canyon. In the waning days of your administration, we call on you, Mr. President, to do what is right for Grand Canyon, for the people and cultures that depend on Grand Canyon, and for the American people as a whole: designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

This is no abstract idea. We have worked closely with congressional partners to develop the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act. The Act lays out a reasonable and necessary strategy for protecting 1.7 million acres of culturally and biologically invaluable land surrounding Grand Canyon.

We are skeptical that Congress will do its job and pass this important piece of legislation. If it does not, we hope this legislation will serve as a template for you, Mr. President, to declare a monument under the Antiquities Act, which authorizes the President to protect this kind of place from threats.

Despite false claims to the contrary, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will not affect private property rights, grazing, hunting, fishing, or needed forest restoration within the monument.

It will, however, prohibit new uranium mining within monument boundaries, protecting our sacred lands from an industry that is neither adequately regulated by the federal government, nor adequately self-regulating. It is an industry with a disastrous history and the potential to create irreversible damage to our home, our sacred lands, and a world treasure.

Importantly, a monument will also honor the important historical stewardship responsibilities assumed by tribes in the region, and create new opportunities for tribes to work closely with federal agencies to ensure that the Grand Canyon remains vital, sacred, and sustaining for generations to come.

This centennial year of the National Park Service, as America celebrates its commitment to conservation, is also a bittersweet moment for many tribes, as we remember the lands that were taken from us. In this centennial year, in a place of such profound importance to so many Native Americans, we ask you, Mr. President, to finish the job you started.

Stand with us and with the millions of Americans who cherish the Grand Canyon and will applaud its protection. Honor our rich heritage and promising future as a people.

Celebrate conservation in a place where we as native people have known and practiced conservation for millennia, and where the idea of conservation was reborn nearly 100 years ago. Mr. President, We respectfully ask to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage as a National Monument.

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President Begaye, Navajo Nation, Honahnie Jr. is environmental policy advisor and assistant to chairman Honanie, Hopi Nation and Hubbs is director, Department of Cultural Resources and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Hualapai Tribe

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The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Grand Canyon Waters, at the Abyss

By MARK UDALL OCT. 14, 2015

Eldorado Springs, Colo. — I RECENTLY reunited with an old friend — not a person, but a place in Arizona, the state where I was born. It is a timeless place of great antiquity, a shrine of the ages that President Theodore Roosevelt said “man can only mar.”

Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon a national monument in 1908. In so doing, he specifically intended to prevent mining and tourist development from harming one of our nation’s most treasured landscapes. “Keep it for your children, your children’s children and all who come after you,” he said, “as the one great sight which every American should see.”

But mar it we have. An abandoned uranium mine on the canyon’s South Rim has cost taxpayers more than \$15 million to remove toxic wastes from the surface. And contaminated water — flowing underground through the mine’s radioactive ore — continues to poison a spring-fed creek deep within the canyon. It is a permanent loss at an unconscionable cost that should never be borne again.

Roosevelt’s proclamation set aside only a fraction of the Grand Canyon as a national monument. His decision rankled mining and tourist businesses in the booming Arizona territory. Local politicians and profiteers fought the postage-stamp-size monument’s further protection as a national park in 1919.

In 1975, Congress nearly doubled the park’s size, declaring that the entire Grand Canyon “including tributary side canyons and surrounding plateaus, is a natural feature of national and international significance.” Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, a Republican, introduced the bill. My dad, Congressman

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Morris Udall, a Democrat from Arizona, helped unite bipartisan support to better protect Arizona's and America's most famous natural wonder.


The Grand Canyon Enlargement Act, signed into law by President Gerald Ford four decades ago, returned more than 100,000 acres of federal land to the Havasupai tribe. It also effectively banned the building of two new dams in the canyon's upper and lower gorge. But it, too, fell short in protecting the Grand Canyon in its entirety.

Today, four uranium mines operate within the watershed that drains directly into Grand Canyon National Park. Arbitrary boundaries and antiquated rules permit these mines to threaten hundreds more life-giving seeps and springs in the desert basins below. Thousands of new mining claims on public lands that surround the canyon were put on hold by a 20-year moratorium imposed in 2012 by Ken Salazar, then the interior secretary. The National Mining Association and the Nuclear Energy Institute are suing in federal court to end the ban.

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Achieving this hard-won hiatus on new uranium claims took more than five years and one of the broadest coalitions ever aligned to protect the Grand Canyon. The Havasupai, "people of blue-green water," whose sole source of drinking water is at risk, led the way. They were joined then by county supervisors, chambers of

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commerce, ranchers, hunters, bird-watchers, artists, scientists, Arizona's governor, game and fish commissioners and business owners. All united to stop uranium mining from permanently polluting the Grand Canyon and undermining the region's tourism-driven economy.

But the 2012 victory to halt new claims was temporary. Our challenge now is to rebuild that coalition and make the ban permanent. There's no reason to wait. President Obama can protect it now.

Congressman Raúl Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona, plans to introduce the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act next week. It was written in collaboration with Havasupai, Hualapai and Hopi leaders. The Navajo Nation, which banned all uranium mining on its land in 2005, joined in support along with Zuni, Paiute and Yavapai leaders.

The bill aims to protect 1.7 million acres of historical tribal homeland, including water sources and sacred sites. It would preserve the Grand Canyon's rich heritage of "biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values." It would make permanent the 20-year ban on new mining claims but would allow hunting, grazing, recreation and all other uses to continue under existing laws.

Unfortunately, there's almost no chance that the legislation will gain approval in today's gridlocked Congress. But the 1906 Antiquities Act gives the president unilateral authority to set aside federal lands as protected national monuments to stop the looting of archaeological sites and for reasons of "historic or scientific interest."

This past summer, President Obama used this authority to protect over one million acres of federal land in California, Nevada and Texas. Now we must prevail upon the president to permanently protect the Grand Canyon's sacred waters.

Earlier this year, my wife and I were invited to join native leaders on a rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. We've made many such trips before. But this time, at nearly every spring along the way, we stopped to pray.

All water is sacred to those who have learned to live where it is scarce. We

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must defend the Grand Canyon's sacred waters from unconscionable loss.

Mark Udall, who represented Colorado as a Democrat in the Senate from 2009 to 2015, is a member of the board of the **Grand Canyon Trust**.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on October 14, 2015, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: Grand Canyon Waters, at the Abyss.

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http://tucson.com/news/opinion/column/guest/anakarina-rodriguez-help-preserve-our-national-parks/article_0b185843-b8d0-5a0b-b010-49a236292646.html

Anakarina Rodriguez: Help preserve our national parks

By Anakarina Rodriguez Special to the arizona daily star Jul 14, 2016

Recently a group of Latino millennials under the age of 28 decided to break the mold and visit the Grand Canyon. With that, we launched Latinos for Parks.

The goal was to engage young Latinos to visit the parks in our state, and to learn more about what we can do to help protect these sacred lands, because our national parks typically attract visitors who are older and less culturally diverse. *¡Sí, se puede!*

Our group rented a 15-passenger van and loaded our camping gear for an unforgettable three-day adventure to the north. We marveled at the majestic vistas as we hiked, and experienced spectacular sunsets and sunrises each day.

We took the time to thank our park rangers, who are part of a team who serve 11 million visitors to national parks in Arizona. They safeguard our state's most valuable assets, and tell the stories of the American people who helped build our nation.

Along the way we fell in love with the National Park System and now want to protect it for future generations. Our trip proved to us that, as the agency is touting this year, its sites are parks for all.

Our national parks have been described as "America's best idea" and have enjoyed widespread support among the American people. But, as we also found out, our national parks are in trouble.

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Years of congressional underfunding have resulted in a nearly \$12 billion backlog of needed infrastructure repairs that threaten visitor access, safety and historic preservation.

The Grand Canyon that we called home for three days has \$371 million in repair needs, and the list continues throughout the state.

The Petrified Forest is waiting for \$55 million in overdue repairs, while Saguaro needs \$12 million to address its maintenance backlog. National parks in Arizona need our help.

There are 22 national park sites in Arizona. It makes sense to fix our parks. Not only do these parks provide recreational and cultural benefits, they also are expected to attract nearly \$1 billion from tourism in Arizona this year.

According to the NPS' most current figures, in 2014 there were more than 4.7 million visits to Grand Canyon National Park. During those visits people spent \$509 million, supporting 7,846 jobs in the local area and bringing a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$711 million.

According to that same report, at Saguaro, our backyard national park, more than 673,752 visitors spent nearly \$41.6 million in Pima County. That spending supported 610 jobs and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of more than \$58 million. For every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, more than \$10 is returned to the people. That's a good rate of return.

The city of Tucson recognizes the value of our National Parks, and earlier this month passed a resolution asking Congress to invest in a dedicated fund for infrastructure repair. Their vote came just after a similar resolution for our National Parks passed at the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

We also hope you will join us in reaching out to our congressional representatives and encourage them to guarantee federal funding to fix our parks.

We hope that this year you will return to or make a first-time visit to a national park in Arizona.

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Because, as we found out in our trip up north, once you experience the grandeur and beauty of our national parks, you start to believe that you can make a difference in protecting them for future generations to enjoy.

Anakarina Rodriguez is one of the founders of Latinos for Parks. She graduated from Arizona State University's School of Social Work in Tucson in May. Email her at

Rodriguez.Anakarina10@gmail.com

Learn more about our parks

Latino Conservation Week is observed July 16-24. Learn more at <http://www.latinoconservationweek.com/>

A hike up Sentinel Peak with the organizations Latinos for Parks and Latino Outdoors is planned for July 20.

Find out more about Saguaro National Park, which borders Tucson to the east and west, at <https://www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm>

The next fee-free weekend for all our national parks is August 25-28, the National Park Service's 100-year anniversary.

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President Obama Should Proclaim the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Posted by [Guest Blogger](#) on August 15, 2016

By Dean B. Suagee

The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the President to proclaim national monuments to protect historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on national public land. President Obama has used this authority to protect more national public land than any of his predecessors. As his presidency draws to a close, a few candidates for national monument proclamations are still under consideration. One is the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, about 1.7 million acres of federal land administered by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management on either side of Grand Canyon National Park. This proposal is also the subject of a bill sponsored by Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), H.R. 3882. I encourage the President to act on this proposal.

One theme in the Obama Administration's selection of places for designation as national monuments has been to commemorate chapters of American history that have not been much celebrated but, rather, have been largely overlooked or ignored. Examples include monuments honoring Cesar Chavez in California, Harriet Tubman in Maryland, and the Stonewall uprising in New York City. Greater Grand Canyon Heritage is another example of this theme – much of the heritage to be preserved is that of a number of Indian tribes with ancestral and contemporary connections to the Grand Canyon, including Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo, several bands of Paiute, Yavapai-Apache, and Zuni.

The Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem has been inhabited by the ancestors of present-day tribes for a very long time, and many places on national public lands continue to be used by members of living tribal cultures. Many places have historic significance. While traditional tribal uses are generally compatible with many other uses of public lands, federal land management agencies have not always been appreciative of tribal cultural values and have often subordinated tribal interests to the interests of other sectors of the public.

Preservation of tribal cultural heritage is a good reason why President Obama should proclaim the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, but it is not the only reason. There is also the matter of uranium mining, and its associated environmental degradation, such as water pollution and impacts from road construction. Uranium mining on national public lands is subject to the General Mining Law of 1872, which, in effect, makes uranium free for the taking, i.e., free for corporations with the means to take it. There is no return to the taxpayer despite these minerals being on national public lands, and no accountability for the environmental damage it causes. Uranium mining has been going on in the greater Grand Canyon watershed for decades; the number of active mines, and claims that could become mines, fluctuating with international market prices.

Most of the national public land in the proposed Greater Grand Canyon national monument was the subject of a decision in 2012 by then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to “withdraw” it for 20 years from availability for new uranium mining claims under the 1872 Mining Law, using authority delegated to the Secretary in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The withdrawal decision was based on several factors, including elevated levels of uranium and arsenic in springs and wells in areas disturbed by mining and the uncertain but possibly severe effects on plants, wildlife, and livestock. The decision also noted that seven tribes continue to use parts of the withdrawal area for traditional purposes, and that they all believe that new uranium mining would interfere with their use of the area’s natural resources.

The main legal effect of proclamation as a national monument would be to make the prohibition of new mining claims permanent. Most other public uses would still be allowed, including hunting, livestock grazing, camping, and other forms of outdoor recreation. The proclamation by itself would not preserve all the particular places that are important for the tribes. By recognizing cultural heritage as a core reason for the proclaiming the area a national monument however, President Obama can direct the two federal land management agencies that oversee these national public lands to collaborate with each other and the affected tribes (and other stakeholders) in developing and implementing a management plan that demonstrates genuine appreciation for the cultural heritage of the tribes. Future generations of Americans will be grateful.



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The Salt Lake Tribune

Op-ed: Obama should declare this monument ... in Arizona

By Nazz Kurth

First Published Jul 29 2016 06:48PM • Last Updated Jul 30 2016 03:19 pm

Towering ponderosa pine forests, aspen stands, grasslands and meadows — these are not the landscapes people typically picture when envisioning the Greater Grand Canyon area. Yet they're there, on the public lands that lie beyond the rim. And they provide an incredible opportunity to experience the unexpected, to venture into new areas and to push boundaries.

Of course the area also boasts towering cliffs, deeply incised canyons and clear-flowing springs often associated with the Grand Canyon.

Admittedly, as president of Petzl America, my thoughts gravitate to the area's great climbs, but that opportunity for surprise is what ignites the passion for exploration that is central to Petzl's mission, and to so many other companies that will gather in Salt Lake for the Outdoor Retailer show.

Increasingly it seems Americans are tapping into the pioneering spirit inspired by places like the Greater Grand Canyon, stepping out of their comfort zones to try something new in the outdoors. The result is a thriving, and increasingly important, outdoor economy. In Arizona and across the West, outdoor activities generate millions annually for the local economy and are major job creators.

Some adventurers come just for a visit, but a growing number are deciding to stay. Research has shown that people are increasingly interested in living in areas with outdoor recreation opportunities. What was once perhaps a hobby is becoming a way of life for many — and public lands play a central role.

These are places where everyone can go to play, to connect with one another and with nature. The land itself presents the challenge and the opportunity for growth. But the experience is only as good as the environment. The public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon have tremendous potential for profound experiences. However, a climb with a view of uranium mines or a ride through clear cut forest is profound in a different and tragic way.

While these threats jeopardize experiences for sports enthusiasts, we cannot ignore the broader real and long-term risks to local communities and tribal nations, many of which are already living with the polluted water and toxic legacy of past uranium mining.

It's time to step up and safeguard the natural and cultural resources of the Greater Grand Canyon. The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would do just that.

A national monument designation would be good for the environment, good for communities and good for business.

A recent study by the Small Business Majority found that national monuments designated by President Obama have added \$156 million per year to local economies.

President Obama should add Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to his legacy. As a business leader, I know a thing or two about pushing forward practical solutions to help people progress — and this is one of them. We cannot afford to stay static; a national monument is needed to preserve the outdoor experience of these public lands.

Nazz Kurth is president of Petzl America, headquartered in Salt Lake City.

High Country News

FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE WEST

Don't just save the Grand Canyon. Save the wider region, too.

Stephen Trimble | OPINION | June 22, 2016 | *Web Exclusive*

We think we've saved the Grand Canyon. We established a national park that is supposed to remain "forever unimpaired," as the Park Service's enabling legislation put it. But the Grand Canyon is so deeply enmeshed in a spider web of connections to its watershed that a lot of work needs to be done to keep it vital and wild.

The stone ramparts above the abyss look timeless, but they tumble toward the sea under the inescapable power of gravity and erosion. Ponderosa pine forests seem to go on forever across northern Arizona, but their existence depends on the interplay of changing climate, water, insects and fire.

Developers chip away doggedly at the edges of the park, planning massive commercial development at the gateway community of Tusayan and a gondola that will reach deep into the canyon on Navajo land at the remote confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers. We continue to log rare old-growth ponderosa pine forest on the Kaibab Plateau for no good reason.



The Grand Canyon filled with fog.

Erin Whittaker/National Park Service

All of these threats signal that it's time to permanently protect the Greater Grand Canyon watershed. With boundaries embracing a total of 1.7 million acres of public lands on the North and South rims, a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would block new uranium mines that poison streams and contaminate the springs that are essential to wildlife and to Native American religious observance. The Kaibab Plateau, centerpiece of this monument proposal, remains an unprotected island surrounded by preserved parkland and Native American nations.

Theodore Roosevelt famously said on his first visit to the canyon in 1903, "Leave it as it is. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it." The president was right about our ability to destroy. Roosevelt also understood greed. In his 1903 speech on the canyon's rim, he admonished us, saying that we cannot be "pardoned if we simply treat any part of our country as something to be skinned for two or three years. ... Handle it so that your children's children will get the benefit of it."

The key is how best to "handle" the Greater Grand Canyon — the entire landscape that gives this place such integrity. We know we should do no harm. We know we need a clear stage for scientists to save what biodiversity they can, to encourage resilience in the face of climate change, and to map wildlife migration corridors between refuges so we know what lands need protection.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona, has one answer to the question of how we can ensure the Grand Canyon's future. In October 2015, he introduced the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument bill. It has the support of 11 tribes, led by the Havasupai, Hualapai, Navajo and Hopi, Native peoples who consider the Grand Canyon a sacred place and their home. The bill honors the Native peoples' "longstanding historical, cultural and religious connection to the Greater Grand Canyon" and acknowledges the continuity of Native stewardship, "resulting in an accumulated body of traditional ecological knowledge." Such deference to contemporary Native American wisdom in legislative language is unheard of.

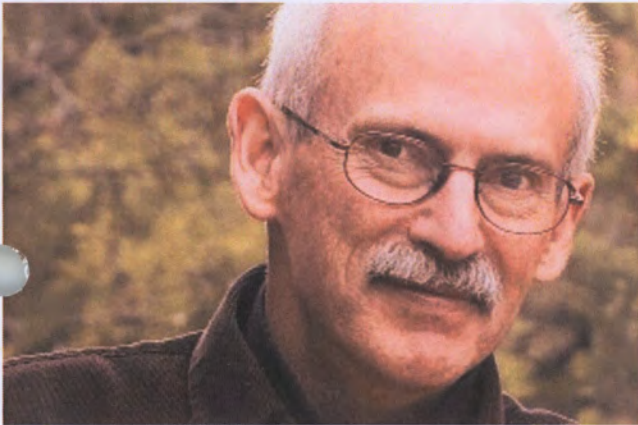
If our gridlocked Congress refuses to act on Grijalva's bill, President Obama can choose to do so, thanks to the powers of the Antiquities Act. The president's administration acknowledged imminent dangers to the Canyon in 2012, when Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar ordered a 20-year ban on thousands of new uranium claims on the public lands surrounding Grand Canyon. Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez calls uranium mines "a devastation to our people." The monument would make Salazar's moratorium permanent.

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The “Grand Canyon” is an abyss, a river, a rim and an infinitely folded relief map of side canyons. It is time and vastness, luminosity and illumination. Its extravagant complexity reaches far back from the rims and deep into America, defining a Greater Grand Canyon that includes the heritage of 12,000 years of humans living in this storied landscape.

In this centennial year of the National Park Service, Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell has pledged to make national parks “decisively more inclusive places” that feel relevant to Native people. She has asked us to “think big.”

President Obama has a chance to act on these goals and honor the integrity of this icon of the irreplaceable. In proclaiming a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, Barack Obama would stand with Theodore Roosevelt in fighting greed, acting on behalf of the future, celebrating diversity and democracy, and protecting the exhilaration and refuge bestowed on all Americans by this wild place.



Stephen Trimble is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News. He teaches writing at the University of Utah Honors College and is the author of Lasting Light: 125 years of Grand Canyon Photography.

Note: the opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of High Country News, its board or staff. If you'd like to share an opinion piece of your own, please write Betsy Marston at betsym@hcn.org (<mailto:betsym@hcn.org>).

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My Turn: We need a new vision for the Grand Canyon

Krishel Augustine, AZ I See It

8:23 a.m. MST May 2, 2016

My Turn: Developing public land near the Grand Canyon risks limited water, beautiful landscapes and tribal culture.

My birthday is usually an exciting time of celebration when I take the opportunity to reflect on the previous year and, most importantly, to look toward the future.

Our nation has a big celebration coming up too, on Aug. 25, when the National Park Service celebrates its 100th birthday.

I am hoping this centennial celebration will be a time for President Barack Obama and all Americans to do more than just celebrate our national parks and other public lands, but to develop a vision for public lands conservation in the next century.

As a former "Miss Teen Navajo Nation," I have the utmost respect for my Navajo culture. I come from a family that is very traditional.

Mining doesn't just hurt a tourist attraction

I am the Tangle Clan, born from the Towering House people. My maternal grandparents are the Apache people and my paternal grandparents are the Zuni people. My strong cultural connection helps to keep me centered at heart.

You may know the Canyon as a tourist attraction that draws five million visitors from around the world every year, but for me, it is my second home; the reservation is my first.

This is why I support [U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva's efforts to protect public lands](#) around the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining and other threats.

"The proximity of mining claims to the Colorado River, which supplies drinking water for some 30 million people, and the danger to the irreplaceable natural wonder of the Grand Canyon calls for urgent action," Grijalva said when he introduced the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act in November.

I agree. Development of the public lands around the Canyon risks Arizona's limited water supplies and — this is important to me — could despoil the landscapes that have cultural significance to my and other tribes.

It is home to sacred cultural sites, rare natural resources, including the Colorado River, and recreational hunting and fishing areas. From the dirt and rocks to the trees and watersheds, this place is steeped in human history and has deep cultural roots.

What Obama must do next

President Obama understands the importance of preserving cultural history. He has protected Chimney Rock in Colorado, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and other places with cultural significance to tribes. He restored the name of Mount McKinley in Alaska to Mount Denali, its Alaska Native name.

His administration also recently protected the sacred Badger Two Medicine area of Montana from oil and gas drilling.

As a singer and songwriter, I know my voice can have an impact, which is why I am speaking up for my tribe and others in seeking continued conservation of our heritage on public lands.

Obama could use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the public lands around the Grand Canyon and the Bears Ears landscape, and I hope he will do so. But then he must do more.

When the president celebrates the National Park Service centennial, he should outline a vision for his successors to ensure Native people are engaged in the protection of public lands.

Involve the tribes in this new vision

That could mean greater tribal engagement in interpretation or protection of key tribal resources in national parks, forests and other public lands. That could mean new initiatives to recruit and hire tribal youth in public lands agencies, especially for positions that could use our cultural understanding. That could mean a more inclusive and welcoming

system of public lands that “show honor, respect and gratitude” to the broad diversity of our nation’s people.

The contributions and sacrifices of American Indian tribes are etched in the hearts of our people, on the landscape of the Grand Canyon and other public lands we all enjoy.

President Obama must lead the way on a public lands vision that honors our cultural traditions — and safeguards our future.



Krishel Augustine, “Miss Teen Navajo 2013-2014,” is a singer and songwriter. She is [part of the Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers Bureau](#). Email her at Augustine.Krishel@gmail.com.

PAYSON ROUNDUP

Grand Canyon As National Monument A Good Thing

by Bob Hernbrode, retired wildlife biologist and former Arizona Game and Fish commissioner

As a wildlife biologist, former Arizona Game and Fish commissioner, and lifelong hunter conservationist, I support the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. National monuments are those special, publicly-owned lands where conservation, preservation, and restoration of wildlife and wild lands are the overriding objectives. A monument surrounding Grand Canyon National Park stunningly meets these criteria — it gives the land long-term protection from exploitation and adds conservation options to the watersheds draining into the Grand Canyon. It will not move the responsibility for land and wildlife management to the National Park Service. Management and protection of the lands proposed for this monument by Representative Grijalva's HR 3882 will still be the responsibility of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Monument status will not move wildlife management lead from the Arizona Game and Fish Department but it will ensure, long term, the department's wildlife trust responsibility to the people of Arizona. A Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Advisory Board that includes representation from the Arizona Game and Fish Department is established as part of the bill. There is no reason that interest groups, working together, could not negotiate a smooth transition that ensures continuation of sound management practices.

Historically the public lands were seen and primarily managed for extractive uses of mining, logging and livestock grazing. Monument status will limit new mining and ensure that logging and livestock grazing do not harm the important values of the monument lands. The monument does not preclude these uses. Creating the Greater Grand Canyon National Monument represents the changing attitudes and needs of the citizens of Arizona. A national monument is not an idea of a radical environmentalist minority; it is an idea that is supported by the vast majority of Arizona citizenry including hunters and anglers.

Creating a national monument surrounding Grand Canyon National Park preserves the unique features of those federal public lands and also the quality of our Grand Canyon. People who oppose monuments are out of step with the vast majority of Arizona citizens. With monument status these important landscapes will not be cordoned off from the public, nor will they be neglected. Monument status best

serves to offer people the opportunity to learn about important aspects of this spectacular landscape and encourage respectful visitation.

Increasingly, the future of wildlife and land management lies in repairing what we humans collectively have messed up. This mandates that there be active management both by the land managers and the wildlife managers to protect and restore the amazing natural resource features of the Kaibab plateau. But everyone involved should recognize that Arizona's wild land resources are important to a broad cross-section of our citizenry; a citizenry that doesn't always see the world the same. To deal with wildlife issues in the 21st century, everyone, especially the Arizona Game and Fish Commission should be willing to work with a broad coalition of interest groups. Rather than labeling everyone who questions their decisions as radical the commission should be the lead in working with others to preserve the unique features of this part of Arizona. Because monument status offers the most secure long-term future for these lands, our wildlife, and for future generations of Arizonans.

Arizona Daily Star

Mike Ivison: For vet, Grand Canyon act worth fighting for

By Mike Ivison Special to the Arizona Daily Star Nov 10, 2015

Everything veterans do, they do for America, its people, its culture, its flagship democracy; that which is ours, America the Beautiful, America the Proud, this land mass. It belongs to us. The beauty it holds is finite. We need to protect and conserve our home, not just by fighting those from without, but by defending that which is within.

I recently saw the importance of this lands protection battle on the home front during a trip through the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. The area surrounding the Grand Canyon is in great danger as uranium mining companies try to construct new mines in the area.

Together with a group of other veterans, my journey started somewhere along the North Rim. Taking Highway 89 north, we passed through the Navajo reservation, a land filled with much beauty. Wide open spaces, mounds of rock and sediment that weren't exactly hills, or rocks, but somewhere in between, dazzled our eyes. Desert shrubbery, with its own magical appeal at the forefront, canyon-esque mountains in the background.

Upon starting the hike in the North Canyon, I was rewarded with a startling realization: the Grand Canyon is full of both trees and wide open spaces! Immediately, our group was surrounded by forest. At certain points, the forest would open up to a more panoramic view, showcasing splashes of yellow among a sea of green as some of the trees were turning with the start of fall.

On our way into the canyon, we crossed a stream, the music of its trickle a soothing presence to our ears. Shortly thereafter, we hunkered down in a dried up creek bed surrounded by maple and pine trees. The night was spent sharing stories of heroism and valor, tragedy and loss. Vietnam, Afghanistan, wounds both physical and mental. We created a bond that night, one that transcended our military brotherhood, a bond made possible by the magic which is nature, an environment which crosses cultural and demographic boundaries, differences in personality and world view, in which people experience their true self.

Morning came, along with a gradual change from forest to canyon lands, making way for the classic panoramic views for which the Canyon is known. The dichotomy of entrapment and absolute freedom left me feeling insignificant yet fulfilled. Nature had changed us, made us stronger, refined, purged of excess, purified in thought.

An experience like this can only happen because nature exists. As a veteran, I am fighting for America. America is home to a beautiful culture, a people who unite in struggle when faced with obstacles, and a land full of beautiful, unadulterated nature. In my fight, I aim to raise awareness that nature is worth saving. At its root, nature is what bonds us as humans, molds us, shapes us, and makes us grow. Who are we to tamper with it, without conscience, and leave behind a wasteland of devastation and pollution?


What will you leave behind? I, like many other veterans, am fighting for what is left behind.

When veterans come back from war, what will they come back to?

When we pass away and leave future generations in our wake, what will they be left with?

I hope it will be a legacy of protected public lands — areas like the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, that can provide solace and meaning to a new generation of veterans.

Mike Ivison is an active duty veteran, rock climber and outdoor enthusiast. Contact Mike at ivism001@gmail.com



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC **Our Historic Chance to Protect the Grand Canyon**

Posted by [Peter Metcalf](#) of [Black Diamond Equipment](#) on November 24, 2015

I'll never forget the first time I laid eyes on the Grand Canyon.

It was late fall of 1974 and I was driving back east to New York after two months of rock climbing and living in Yosemite Valley, California. I had been behind the wheel of my old VW Bug for most of the day, stopping every so often to walk and take in the views.

As the sun kissed the western horizon, I arrived at the South Rim and jumped out of my car. The panorama unfolded before me as I approached the edge. I was floored. Looking across the yawning gap, with its mighty river and layered colors cooling in the dusk, I felt a slack-jawed, spiritual awe. It reminded me of seeing Yosemite for the first time a few months earlier, but this experience was somehow larger, deeper, and more infinite.

Unfortunately, this magnificent landscape is at grave risk from the effects of uranium mining. While Grand Canyon National Park protects this section of the Colorado River and its banks, the surrounding watershed that directly feeds the river is not protected, and it harbors hundreds of uranium claims, several abandoned mines, and several proposed mining sites.

Nearly 30 million Americans depend on the Colorado River for drinking water, yet uranium mining—notoriously toxic and hard-to-contain—is proceeding within the Canyon's tributaries. Past and present mining have rendered groundwater unsafe to drink, with at least one sample showing uranium levels to be 1,200 times the safe limit, according to a [National Park Service report](#).

Abandoned mines near the Grand Canyon have left a toxic legacy. A [2010 US Geological Survey report](#) found that 15 springs and five wells within the watershed had unsafe levels of dissolved uranium "related to mining processes." More than [500 abandoned mines on the nearby Navajo Nation](#) have left [Navajo citizens devastated by organ cancers and other illnesses](#).

In 2012, the [Obama administration passed a 20-year moratorium](#) on new mines within the watershed, but private and foreign mining companies, including [one owned by the Russian government](#), are fighting to have it overturned. Represented by the [National Mining Association](#) these companies are [challenging the ban in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals](#). [Shockingly, the states of Utah, Arizona, Montana, and Nevada have each filed briefs in support of NMA's action](#).

Failing to safeguard the Grand Canyon from uranium mining would not only open our country's most iconic landscape to degradation and jeopardize the health and drinking water of millions. It would also be bad economics. An intact and protected Grand Canyon is crucial to the livelihood of Arizona's citizens. [In 2013, more than 4 million park visitors spent upwards of \\$467 million. Statewide outdoor recreation in Arizona generates 104,000 jobs and \\$787 million in tax revenues.](#)

America has a historic opportunity to protect the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and save this national treasure for future generations. [On November 3, Representative Raúl Grijalva \(D-AZ\) filed legislation that will do just that. The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act would preserve 1.7 million acres surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.](#) Given the unlikelihood of Congress acting, President Obama should use his authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the land a national monument.

I stood there as the sun set. Yellow gave way to pink, vermillion, blue, and finally darkness. I felt very small, but deeply connected to the vast sweep of geologic time, and humbled and inspired by the splendors of our miraculous planet. I've returned to the Grand Canyon several times since, alone and with family and friends. Each time, it reminds me of its incalculable value, challenges my imagination, and invigorates my spirit. We need to seize this chance to protect it.

Next: [6 Painful Lessons I Learned by Hiking the Grand Canyon](#)

Peter Metcalf is the CEO, president and founder of Black Diamond Equipment, a global leader in climbing and ski-mountaineering gear. Metcalf currently serves as a director of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank's Salt Lake City office and a board member of the outdoor industry's Conservation Alliance. Prior to founding Black Diamond in 1989, Peter served as the general manager of Chouinard Equipment, a subsidiary of Patagonia, and completed multiple alpine-style first ascents in the Alaska range. Peter holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Colorado.

the guardian

It's our duty as Americans to protect our national parks for the next hundred years

Rock climber Alex Honnold argues we must do more to defend US national parks from a slew of imminent environmental threats

Alex Honnold

Sunday 22 May 2016 09.00 EDT

Just over eight years ago, I completed a free solo ascent – unroped – of the one of the most beautiful and challenging climbs in the world: a 350 metre crack called Moonlight Buttress in southwestern Utah's Zion national park. At the time, *Alpinist* magazine called it “one of the most impressive free solos ever achieved.”

While I find it hard to articulate exactly why I'm drawn to this type of exposed, unroped climbing, the setting certainly plays a big role. Zion is aptly named: it's a promised land of striking multicolored sandstone cliffs soaring from a green valley below. Though I'm intensely focused when I climb, the gift of doing it in such breathtaking places is not lost on me.

Unfortunately, Zion and other parks and public lands around the US are at risk from a variety of threats. It's easy to assume that these lands are protected, but that's not the case. Especially out west, our shared lands are, as Navajo Nation president Russell Begaye and other tribal leaders recently wrote, “under siege”.

In this centennial year of the National Park Service, let us celebrate the parks and lands that are our birthright to use and enjoy. But let us also commit to protecting these places for the next hundred years and beyond — and recognize that defending these commonly held treasures requires our vigilance and effort.

Zion is one of nine Western parks and lands across Utah, Colorado and Arizona where, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air quality is threatened by dangerous emissions from two 70s-era coal-fired power plants in central Utah. Harmful pollutants, including nitrogen oxides and air pollution, also threaten the families and businesses that call this region home.

Monitoring studies have shown that visibility at Arches and Canyonlands national park is harmed by human-caused haze 83% of the time, relative to the annual average level of natural haze, due in part to pollution from the Hunter and Huntington plants. In fact, Hunter and Huntington, owned by Warren Buffett's PacifiCorp, are so dirty that they account for nearly half of all the nitrogen oxide pollution emitted by Utah's electricity sector.

Not far to the south, the jewel of our national park system – Grand Canyon national park – is fighting a multifront battle. While the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station in nearby Page, Arizona, is among more than 250 coal-fired power plants nationally that have installed or are installing effective controls to reduce haze pollution, Utah's coal-plants continue to emit dangerous nitrogen oxide pollution unabated. And not only does the Grand Canyon have Utah's Hunter and Huntington plants to contend with, but it's dealing with the legacy of toxic uranium mining within and around its boundaries, as well as the specter of new mining development.

The public lands around the Grand Canyon contain abandoned, active and proposed uranium mines and hundreds of claims. Despite devastating illnesses from uranium mining on nearby tribal lands and poisoned waters within the park, four states have joined mining companies like Uranium One, owned entirely by Russia, to overturn a 20-year ban on new mining issued by former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in 2012.

Solutions are within reach. In early June, the EPA will rule on the Hunter and Huntington coal plants, choosing between a plan that would reduce pollution using industry-standard technology, and a proposal by Utah that requires no reductions in harmful emissions. The more the agency hears from Americans before that time, the more likely we are to see a positive outcome.

To make the moratorium on uranium mining in the Greater Grand Canyon permanent, President Obama should invoke the Antiquities Act to declare a National Monument. In doing so, he would have the support of tribal leaders and an overwhelming majority of Arizona voters, as well as a blueprint in House Resolution 3882, a bill submitted in November by Arizona Congressman Raúl Grijalva.

There's a business argument to defending our parks and public lands: they make possible America's outdoor recreation economy, which generates \$646bn in consumer spending and 6.1m direct jobs.

But something more fundamental is at stake.

These wild places are our national heritage: an immeasurably generous gift from previous generations. They provide all of us, regardless of wealth or creed, the opportunity for personal challenge and spiritual renewal. They give us the opportunity to forge, in a uniquely American way, who we are and what we will become.



Supporters, opponents grapple over proposed Grand Canyon monument

[By Isabel Menzel | Cronkite News](#)

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

PHOENIX – Sierra Club and Native American tribal leaders are asking the public to urge Arizona elected leaders to designate 1.7 million acres around the Grand Canyon as a national monument to protect it from mining and logging interests.

A national monument can be designated by Congress or the president, and the Obama administration and the Department of Interior have already shown their support. But the move is controversial, with Arizona senators John McCain and Jeff Flake saying Grand Canyon lands are already protected. They say a monument would rob business interests such as the hunting and logging industry.

“This proposal ... extends far afield from the intent of the Antiquities Act by seeking to lock away 1.7 million acres of land in Arizona – an area larger than the State of Delaware – from hunting, livestock, wildfire prevention, mining, and certain forms of outdoor recreation and tourism,” [McCain and Flake](#) wrote in a letter to Obama.

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry calls the proposal a “monumental mistake.”

“Between lands owned and managed by the federal government and those it holds in trust for the Indian tribes, almost 70 percent of all land in Arizona is under the control of the federal government. Privately-owned land is the foundation of our state’s economic engine, yet less than 20 percent of land in Arizona is privately owned,” the chamber says in a January position paper.

However, a recent poll conducted by the Grand Canyon Trust, which supports the monument, says a majority of Arizona residents who were polled favor the monument.

“I don’t think it’s a political risk,” Laura Varon-Burkhart, a ranger at Montezuma Castle, said at a meeting in May hosted by tribal and environmental leaders. “Eighty percent of people in Arizona support this and these are federal public lands.”

According to the Sierra Club, the proposal is also supported by 21 Arizona indigenous tribes, including the Navajo, Hualapai, Havasupai, Hopi, more than 30 state legislators, and Congressmen Raul Grijalva and Ruben Gallego.

Supporters of the proposed Greater Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument met with Arizona residents in May, asking about 30 people to leverage their power as a constituent by talking to Arizona congressional representatives.

“No matter what you think of this proposal, you’re not powerless,” said Sandy Bahr, the Arizona chapter director for the Sierra Club.

Nearly five million people visit the Grand Canyon every year, according to the canyon website, to hike, fish, take photos or meander down the Colorado River.

Here's what at stake in the proposed Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument, from people and organizations on both sides of the issue:

THE LAND

Supporters who spoke in favor of the monument stressed that it contains the Southwest's largest unprotected old-growth Ponderosa pine forest, the Grand Canyon watershed, and the historic Kanab Creek and Red Butte, which are areas of significant religious and cultural importance to Native American nations.

"We want to protect the remaining old growth, wildlife, cultural values and diverse habitat," Bahr said. "We also want to see fewer signs about not being able to drink the water."

Republican Congressman Paul Gosar, expresses a different view in a statement about an amendment he proposed in 2015 to block the monument.

"A unilateral declaration of the nearly two million acres in the Grand Canyon Watershed as a National Monument would stifle development, kill jobs and erode the extensive cooperation and success that federal and state agencies in Arizona have achieved to date," Gosar wrote.

WILDLIFE

The region offers unique wildlife viewing opportunities, such as potentially spotting rare animals like the Kaibab squirrel, a sub-breed of the animal that has a dark coat and feathery white tail. It lives exclusively in the Kaibab Plateau area.

The area is also home to distinguishing species such as the migratory Kaibab-Paunsagunt mule deer herd, the northern goshawk and the endangered California condor.

However, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission opposed the monument in a 2015 release which states, “the commission expressed concern that the proposed monument was to ‘preserve’ and in some cases lock away these lands rather than conserve them.”

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

Leaders of the Navajo, Hopi, Havasupai and Hualapai tribes supported a bill sponsored by Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Arizona, to protect the area.

Carletta Tilousi, a Havasupai tribal member, said her people are spiritually rooted to an area estimated to have more than 3,000 ancient, Native American archaeological sites many tribes deem sacred.

Some of the region’s natural features, such as the Red Butte, Yellowstone Spring and Antelope Spring are linked to indigenous stories centered around the creation of earth.

“This nature to us is like a church and sharing it with all different cultures is the most important thing,” Tilousi said, adding people need to know about Native American tribes’ connection to the Grand Canyon.

“What is my purpose? Where do I go? Where do I pray to heal? All this is a part of our creation stories,” Tilousi said, urging Arizona residents to support a monument. “We are taught to care for the earth, the land, the animals. And that’s how we are initiated into our life’s responsibilities.

“We all have that responsibility to the land and, now, you do too.”

THE DEBATE OVER MINING, LOGGING AND FARMING

Both sides of the monument issue battle over the impact on industry.

The state chamber, in the January paper, said commercial logging doesn't threaten forests, wildfires do. And the chamber disputes the impact of uranium mining.

"While proponents of the national monument designation argue that it is necessary to prevent uranium mining in the area around the Grand Canyon, scientists within the National Park Service have called the potential environmental impacts of uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region 'very minor to negligible,' " the report says.

Gosar hosted representatives from the mining, ranching and farming industries at an April meeting to discuss the negative impact of a new monument, according to the Phoenix New Times.

But the Sierra Club and other environment groups said uranium mining has the potential to affect water that sustains millions of people. The canyon is home to more than 125 creeks and springs that feed into the Colorado River, the primary water source for the Southwest.

"We believe that it is such a contamination," Tilousi said. "We just had a 100-year flood 12 years ago that ravaged our canyon home (Supai village.) Whatever's on the top will flow down to our village and contaminate our water. That is our biggest fear."

A uranium mine in the Grand Canyon National Park, the Orphan Mine, has contaminated surface waters and is now fenced off from visitors.

"Back in 1986, the Forest Service conducted an environmental impact statement," Bahr said. "They said, 'the mine in the park really just had a

visual impact.' Well, we know now it has contaminated the soil, the water and it has already cost the American taxpayers \$15 million in cleanup costs."

According to Bahr, the monument would not not affect private or state lands, or private property rights and it would not impact existing mining efforts.

"It halts all that and keeps the land as it is," Bahr said.



Fight over Grand Canyon pits Native Americans against John McCain

By [Katie Herzog](#) on Jun 17, 2016

President Obama has already protected over 265 million acres of land and water in the U.S. — more than any other president in history. He's headed out west this weekend to Carlsbad Caverns and Yosemite to celebrate that record, at the same time that there is a battle underway in Arizona to see one more region protected before he exits office.

Sierra Club and Native American tribal leaders have been **organizing local support** for designating 1.7 million acres around the Grand Canyon as the **Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument**. Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, has taken up the cause, proposing a **long-shot bill** to create the monument. Activists argue it would mean better protection for areas that have been harmed by uranium mining (there is a 20-year moratorium on **new uranium mining** in the greater Grand Canyon region). The Orphan Mine, a former copper and uranium mine in the area, closed in 1969 and is now a highly radioactive waste site.

While conservation efforts are popular among residents — **85 percent** support national monuments and a plurality want more to be done for the Grand Canyon area — some lawmakers and business interests are pushing back. Republican Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake have advised Obama against conservation that would “lock away” land from development, even though the designation would only block uranium mining. The opposition is flanked by the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which called the proposal a **“monumental mistake.”**

But activists would say that leaving tribal sites and the Southwest's largest old-growth Ponderosa pine forest unprotected would be its own monumental problem.



Grijalva pushes creation of monument in far northern Arizona

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS | October 12, 2015 @ 12:50 pm

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva is reviving a push to designate a large swath of northern Arizona as a national monument.

Grijalva, a Democrat, said he would introduce legislation next week to create Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument while acknowledging it likely won't get even a hearing in Congress. The goal is to have a template ready that President Barack Obama could consider signing as a proclamation for a new monument, he said.

The proposed 1.7 million-acre monument is a mix of towering cliffs and canyons, grasslands, forest and desert that is popular with hunters, hikers, ranchers and other recreationists. It also includes 1 million acres rich in uranium ore that is temporarily banned from the filing of new mining claims. Grijalva, environmentalists and tribes want to make that ban permanent but have faced stiff opposition from Republicans and the mining industry.

Tribal leaders who joined Grijalva on Monday in a news conference said the creation of a monument would protect the area's water, sacred sites and other cultural resources.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said the tribe has struggled with the effects of uranium mining decades after it ceased on the reservation. He said he'd like to see Obama proclaim the area a national monument, using his

authority under the Antiquities Act and further strengthen his commitment to American Indians.

"We believe this falls right side his agenda," Begaye said.

Grijalva's legislation follows other efforts since 2012 to have the area proclaimed a national monument.

Under a previous proposal, the monument was to be named Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick held a meeting earlier this year to talk about creating such a monument. Environmental groups weighed in on the region's water, large-diameter trees and wildlife corridors.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and sportsmen's groups criticized the effort to sidestep Congress and questioned the expense of running a national monument.

Don Martin of the Mohave Sportsmen Club said Monday he's skeptical of Grijalva's proposal as well.

"Anything that creates a national monument up there on the Grand Canyon is totally not needed, not wanted," he said. "It's just another ploy to lock things up from the American public."

Grijalva said access to recreation and hunting wouldn't change. Whichever federal agency manages the national monument would have three years from its creation to develop a management plan. A council made up of representatives from tribes, the sportsmen community, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, environmental groups, natural resources and science would advise the federal agency.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service now oversee much of the land in the proposal.



Tribes, Grijalva ask Obama to protect 1.7 million acres at Grand Canyon

[By Jessica Swarner | Cronkite News](#)

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

WASHINGTON – Tribal leaders joined Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Tucson, on Tuesday urging President Barack Obama to designate 1.7 million acres around the Grand Canyon as a national monument, bypassing Congress in the process.

Grijalva said he was calling on the president to invoke the Antiquities Act after becoming convinced that his bill to create the same monument would not get “a real, honest, rational hearing” from a Republican-led House.

Grijalva specifically cited opposition from Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Prescott, and Arizona Republican Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, who he said are “on the wrong side of the angels on this one.”

None of those lawmakers could be reached for comment Tuesday on Grijalva’s remarks, but Gosar has been a blistering critic of the president’s use of the Antiquities Act.

After Obama invoked the act in February to create national monuments on about 1.8 million acres of federal land in California, Gosar wrote the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee demanding that they include language in the budget restricting the president’s ability to use

that authority. That letter was signed by 30 House Republicans, including three others from Arizona.

“Presidents on either side of the aisle shouldn’t have unilateral authority to create massive new national monuments by executive fiat without local public input,” the letter stated. “It is, after all, the people living near these national monuments who are most affected by their creation.”

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act would protect 1.7 million acres in the canyon’s watershed, prohibiting mining and other natural resources development. It would make permanent a current 20-year moratorium on uranium mining that was imposed by the Interior Department.

Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson said he is concerned both by the mining ban, and by Grijalva’s attempt to get the president to use the Antiquities Act.

“I was always afraid this might happen,” Johnson said. “This act has been used before to skirt the public.”

Johnson said mining has the potential to add \$29 billion to the economies of Mohave County and Washington County, Utah, and would provide better jobs than tourism could. A national monument designation would block these job opportunities and threaten public access to the federal lands, he said.

But Havasupai Tribe Councilwoman Carletta Tilousi, one of the tribal leaders who joined Grijalva at Tuesday’s news conference at the National Press Club, said the monument designation is vital because uranium mining could destroy her tribe’s land.

“We are nearing extinction,” Tilousi said. “We want my people to remain left alone from international mining companies.”

Tilousi said any money generated by mining likely would not help her tribe.

“We fear that international companies will come in, mine uranium, leave a toxic smell in our water and in our air, and we don’t want that to happen,” she said. “It is not money for us.”

Johnson said the mining companies are more careful than that and would be sure to cause “very little disturbance” to the land.

But Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chairman Art Babbott said that while there would be an economic boost from uranium mining, the risks it poses are “not theoretical” and not worth taking. There would certainly be economic benefits from a monument designation, he said.

“I absolutely am a supporter of the objective and the outcomes that the legislation seeks to achieve,” said Babbott, who was careful to note that it was a personal position and not the official position of the board. “It’s in our economic interest, it’s in our environmental interest.”

Gosar – who organized a meeting in Kingman earlier this month called “Government Land Grabs: Exposing the Truth” – said the Antiquities Act has been abused by the president as a favor to environmental groups. A presentation at the meeting charged that tribal backing for the monument plan was a “myth” and that environmentalists were really behind it.

But speakers at Tuesday’s event included representatives of the Navajo, Hopi and Hualapai, in addition to the Havasupai.

Jackson Slim Brossy, executive director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, read a statement from Navajo President Russell Begaye that said Obama needs to use executive action to extend protection to the Grand Canyon.

"I stand here, with my fellow tribes, with Representative Grijalva, and request executive action now," Brossy said, reading the statement.

"President Obama, come stand with us and support the Greater Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument."



Tribal leaders push for Grand Canyon protection

[William V Theobald](#) , The Republic | [azcentral.com](#) 3:32 p.m. MST April 26, 2016

WASHINGTON — Arizona tribal leaders brought deeply personal arguments to within steps of the White House on Tuesday for why President Obama should designate a national monument around Grand Canyon National Park.

Edmond Tilousi, vice chairman of the Havasupai Tribe, said he struggled to sleep Monday night as he tried to capture what the Grand Canyon means to him and his small tribe before the Tuesday news conference at the National Press Club, just a few blocks from the White House.

"I have lived in and around the Grand Canyon all of my life, and in later years I saw the wonders of these lands," Tilousi said, speaking slowly and quietly. "It was then I saw the power and the spirit of God."

Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Tucson, the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, organized Tuesday's event to draw attention to legislation he proposed to protect 1.7 million acres outside park boundaries.

With that bill unlikely to go anywhere in the Republican-controlled House, Grijalva and the tribes, as well as environmental groups including the Sierra Club, are urging Obama to use his executive authority to designate the Canyon area as a national monument.

Eighty percent of likely voters said they approve of the national monument in a February poll by the Grand Canyon Trust, another supporter of the plan.

Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Arizona, is among the most adamant opponents of the monument designation. He has accused Grijalva of using the tribes as political pawns and said the designation would cost jobs by stifling development and also restrict hunting and timber harvesting.

He has introduced legislation that would put up numerous barriers to any effort by a president to designate a new national monument. The four other Arizona Republican House members are co-sponsors of the bill.

A key goal of those promoting the monument is to ban future mining near the Canyon. In 2012, the Obama administration issued a 20-year ban on new uranium claims near the Canyon.

Troy Honahnie Jr., an environmental-policy adviser to the Hopi Nation, said at Tuesday's news conference that high levels of dissolved uranium have been found in 15 springs and five wells in the area.

Grijalva said he and tribal leaders met previously with administration officials and expected to do so again later Tuesday. He had not talked directly to Obama about the request.

Obama has designated more national monuments than any president, protecting more than 260 million acres of land and waters under the Antiquities Act of 1906. In February, he designated more than 1.8 million acres of California desert as three national monuments.

Tilousi, the Havasupai official, pleaded for Obama to "protect these lands for all generations."

"If these lands and wonders are protected, then and only then I can die happy," he said.

ARIZONA CAPITOL TIMES

Your Inside Source for Arizona Politics, Government and Business

Tribes, Grijalva ask Obama to protect 1.7 million acres at Grand Canyon

By: [Jessica Swarner, Cronkite News](#) May 2, 2016 , 4:00 am

Tribal leaders joined Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., on April 26, urging President Barack Obama to designate 1.7 million acres around the Grand Canyon as a national monument, bypassing Congress in the process.

Grijalva said he was calling on the president to invoke the Antiquities Act after becoming convinced that his bill to create the same monument would not get “a real, honest, rational hearing” from a Republican-led House.

Grijalva specifically cited opposition from Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Prescott, and Arizona Republican Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, who he said are “on the wrong side of the angels on this one.”

None of those lawmakers could be reached for comment on Grijalva’s remarks, but Gosar has been a blistering critic of the president’s use of the Antiquities Act. After Obama invoked the act in February to create national monuments on about 1.8 million acres of federal land in California, Gosar wrote the leaders of the House Appropriations Committee demanding that they include language in the budget restricting the president’s ability to use that authority. That letter was signed by 30 House Republicans, including three others from Arizona.

“Presidents on either side of the aisle shouldn’t have unilateral authority to create massive new national monuments by executive fiat without local public input,” the letter stated. “It is, after all, the people living near these national monuments who are most affected by their creation.”

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act would protect 1.7 million acres in the canyon’s watershed, prohibiting mining and other natural resources development. It would make permanent a current 20-year moratorium on uranium mining that was imposed by the Interior Department.

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But Havasupai Tribe Councilwoman Carletta Tilousi, one of the tribal leaders who joined Grijalva at the news conference at the National Press Club, said the monument designation is vital because uranium mining could destroy her tribe's land.

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come stand with us and support the Greater Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument.”



Poll: Most in Arizona support Grand Canyon buffer

USA TODAY NETWORK Brandon Loomis, The Arizona Republic 6:19 p.m. EST February 19, 2016

PHOENIX — A new poll suggests that Arizona Republicans opposing a new national monument around the Grand Canyon may be in the minority, even within their party.

The results were released Thursday, only a day after a committee in the state House of Representatives voted to fight the plan.

Among likely 2016 Arizona voters, 80% approve of a statewide plan for a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument exceeding 1 million acres and banning new uranium mines, according to the poll sanctioned by the Grand Canyon Trust.

The support included 95% of Democrats polled, 84% of independents and 65% of Republicans. More than half — 58% — of the respondents said they "strongly" support a monument

"That's a very broad and strongly felt endorsement that we're getting from Arizona voters," said Dave Metz of the polling firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates.

The poll of 500 likely voters was taken Jan. 14-17. Metz reported a margin of error of 4.4%.

The polling firm typically works for Democrats. Another poll earlier this winter, in which the firm collaborated with a Republican pollster, found 73% support for the monument plan among Arizona voters.

U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., has proposed a bill to create a 1.7 million-acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument that would make permanent a federal moratorium on new uranium claims on either side of Grand Canyon National Park. The monument would cover much of the Kaibab National Forest and the Kaibab Plateau.

The plan has detractors among Republicans in Arizona's congressional delegation. The Arizona Game and Fish Commission also has opposed it, in part because they say it could limit timber management and access for hunting.

Grijalva, though, said his bill guarantees both continued forestry and hunting access.

"We have strong support from hunters and anglers," he said, noting that 76% of poll respondents who identified themselves that way supported the plan. "We can begin to put aside the shrill debate that will occur on this issue."

But Wednesday, the Arizona House Committee on Federalism and States' Rights advanced a bill meant to restrict the size of the monument if it is approved. HB2585, sponsored by Republican Rep. Bob Thorpe, targets a presidential designation of the monument — a route to preservation that many supporters consider likelier than Grijalva's bill, given Republican opposition.

Thorpe's bill would require a state commission to review any designated monument to ensure it covers the least amount of acreage needed to protect individual resources, as he says the 1906 Antiquities Act demands. If the commission found that more lands were included than necessary, then the state attorney general would be required to act to block the monument's designation.

"There's no public input," Thorpe complained in committee. "This is a stroke of the pen by the president, and then all the sudden a huge chunk of our state is off-limits."

Sierra Club representative Sandy Bahr told the committee that no state commission could pin down the resources to be protected or their minimum required acreage.

"I'm not sure how you'd have GPS coordinates on a California condor or a bighorn sheep," Bahr said.

The committee forwarded the bill on a 5-3 vote, with Democrats opposing.

Presidents have successfully set aside massive monuments for more than a century, going back to the one that would become Grand Canyon National Park. Grijalva said Arizona legislators' efforts were pointless.

"The Antiquities Act is a federal law," he said. "That has been challenged in the past and has survived those challenges."

Arizona tribes have joined the effort to create a monument, largely because they oppose new uranium mining that they fear could taint groundwater springs and the Colorado River.

"We consume the water. We breathe the air," said Havasupai Tribal Councilwoman Carletta Tilousi. "We would like for that to be pure and clean."



Poll: Most in Arizona support national monument buffering Grand Canyon

[Brandon Loomis](#) , The Republic | [azcentral.com](#) 11:25 p.m. MST February 18, 2016

Survey released a day after committee in Arizona House votes to fight plan that would ban mining uranium around national park

A new poll suggests that Arizona Republicans opposing a new national monument around Grand Canyon may be in the minority, even within their party.

The results were released Thursday, only a day after a committee in the state House of Representatives voted to fight the plan.

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Grijalva, though, said his bill guarantees both continued forestry and hunting access.

"We have strong support from hunters and anglers," he said, noting that 76 percent of poll respondents who identified themselves that way supported the plan. "We can begin to put aside the shrill debate that will occur on this issue."

But Wednesday, the Arizona House Committee on Federalism and States' Rights advanced a bill meant to restrict the size of the monument if it is approved. HB2585, sponsored by Rep. Bob Thorpe, R-Flagstaff, targets a presidential designation of the monument — a route to preservation that many supporters consider likelier than Grijalva's bill, given Republican opposition.

Thorpe's bill would require a state commission to review any designated monument to ensure it covers the least amount of acreage needed to protect individual resources, as he says the 1906 Antiquities Act demands. If the commission found that more lands were included than necessary, then the state attorney general would be required to act to block the monument's designation.

"There's no public input," Thorpe complained in committee. "This is a stroke of the pen by the president, and then all the sudden a huge chunk of our state is off-limits."

Sierra Club representative Sandy Bahr told the committee that no state commission could pin down the resources to be protected or their minimum required acreage.

"I'm not sure how you'd have GPS coordinates on a California condor or a bighorn sheep," Bahr said.

The committee forwarded the bill on a 5-3 vote, with Democrats opposing.

Presidents have successfully set aside massive monuments for more than a century, going back to the one that would become Grand Canyon National Park. Grijalva said Arizona legislators' efforts were pointless.

"The Antiquities Act is a federal law," he said. "That has been challenged in the past and has survived those challenges."

Arizona tribes have joined the effort to create a monument, largely because they oppose new uranium mining that they fear could taint groundwater springs and the Colorado River.

"We consume the water. We breathe the air," said Havasupai Tribal Councilwoman Carletta Tilousi. "We would like for that to be pure and clean."

PHOENIX
NewTimes

Arizona Voters Overwhelmingly Support Grand Canyon National Monument, New Poll Finds

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 7 A.M.

BY MIRIAM WASSER

Flying in the face of those who claim it would be unpopular to give the greater Grand Canyon watershed national monument status, **a new nonpartisan poll** finds that not only is there tremendous support for it but that it cuts across geographical and political lines.

“The results were overwhelming, and they demonstrated both strong and broad support [in] Arizona,” says Dave Metz of the research firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, which polled hundreds of Arizona voters in January.

The pollsters discovered that 80 percent of Arizona voters support or strongly support the Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument, as outlined in **a bill U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva** submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives last year.

Grijalva brought together a broad coalition of native tribes, environmental groups, and local stakeholders to design the bill, which if passed, would permanently protect 1.7 million acres of land and prevent any new uranium mines.

“More than half of Arizonans say more needs to be done to protect air, land, and water around the Grand Canyon, and they clearly see establishing that monument as an effective way of reaching that goal,” Metz says, adding that “the sentiment that the area around the Grand Canyon needs protection has grown over time.”

A similar poll conducted in 2009 found only 43 percent of people supported it, and a poll last year found that 73 percent of Arizonans support it.

Local native tribes and environmental groups have talked about wanting national monument status for the Grand Canyon for years, and Grijalva's efforts to make it a reality have solicited nothing short of a political firestorm among enemies of the bill.

Leading the charge is U.S. Congressman Paul Gosar, who has railed against the monument proposal for months. Gosar claims it would cost hundreds of jobs, destroy the local economy, and hinder sportsmen or other recreational users of the area.

In an interview earlier this year, Grijalva told *New Times* that Gosar's "opposition is based on myths" and that he "needs to own up to the fact that he's on the fringe of every public-land argument we have in this country."

The benefit of this, Grijalva explained, helps "put the opposition of some in context with many . . . It's important to deal with what the public wants and thinks, as opposed to letting this discussion be mired in half-truths, false information, and the sheer cry from opposition that doesn't represent the vast majority of the people in Arizona."

Both Metz and Grijalva say they were impressed by the broad appeal of the monument, as men and women across the state expressed support for the idea of national monuments in general and the Grand Canyon monument in particular.

According to the poll results, there is support for the Grand Canyon monument among:

- 76 percent of men and 84 percent of women,
- 65 percent of registered Republicans, 84 percent of independents, and 95 percent of Democrats,
- 78 percent of people living in Congressional District 1, which is where the proposed monument would be,
- 79 percent of white voters, 86 percent of Latino voters, and 87 percent of all voters of color, including Native Americans,
- 81 percent of people living in urban areas, 83 percent in suburban areas, 79 percent in small towns, and 73 percent in rural areas,
- And 76 percent of hunters and anglers.

Unlike past polls, this most recent one also asked voters how their opinion of elected officials could be influenced by a vote for or against the monument:

“Voters were three times as likely to say they would support a politician who backed the establishment of the monument,” Metz says. “So not only do voters indicate that it’s a good idea, but they say that they’ll be more supportive of members of Congress who act to make the monument reality.”

Last year, Grijalva, along with Arizona U.S. Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick and Ruben Gallego, **authored a public letter** detailing their support for the monument. In the months since, however, Kirkpatrick has distanced herself from that stance, explaining that she’s still considering the statements of many local stakeholders.

But with public opinion clearly on his side, Grijalva says he’s ready to continue the fight: “As we go forward, we have strong support from the people in Arizona, the first nations most affected by this monument designation, [as well as] hunters and anglers and people that use our public land.

“I think we can start to put aside the shrill debate that occurs on this issue” and start taking “the steps to build [more] public support.”



Plan to protect 1.7 million acres at Grand Canyon claims new support

SARA WEBER Cronkite News Feb 18, 2016

WASHINGTON — Backers of a bill that would create a new national monument on 1.7 million acres of federal land around the Grand Canyon touted a new survey Thursday that they said shows broad support for the plan.

The telephone survey of likely voters across the state found 80 percent of respondents said they somewhat supported or strongly supported establishing the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, while just 14 percent opposed and 6 percent had no opinion.

“The political firestorm will be shrill, but it’s on strong legal ground,” said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Tucson, who sponsored the bill to create the monument. “The poll helps us to ... build support across Arizona and the rest of the nation.”

Critics of the plan were not impressed, noting that the release of the poll comes a week after President Barack Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to make national monuments out of about 1.8 million acres of federal land in California. That nearly doubled the amount of public land he’s protected during his presidency.

“I think with the current attitude in the country, I can’t believe that that’s what Western voters want,” said Mohave County Supervisor Buster Johnson, in response to the poll results. “It’s another example of the federal government taking land away.”

Johnson said that uranium mining in his county could be worth \$29 million, but that the Department of the Interior set a 20-year moratorium on new mines in 2012. He cited it as another example of federal intrusion that can lead to problems at the local level.

“No one wants to see the Grand Canyon go unprotected,” Johnson said. “We’re just getting far away from the idea of protection. That land could be used to create more jobs.”

But Grijalva said his bill was introduced, in part, to protect the land from uranium mining, as well as to help preserve sacred tribal lands. He was joined Thursday by leaders from the Hopi and Havasupai tribes in a conference call to release the poll.

The poll by FM3 — Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates — was based on phone interviews with 703 Arizonans from Jan. 14-17, and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Flagstaff, whose district includes the Grand Canyon, said in an emailed statement that the monument proposal is “an important issue to our entire state, especially to our tribal communities and the people of northern Arizona. ... I strongly encourage folks throughout Arizona to study this proposal and voice their opinions.”

Grijalva said that since introducing the bill in November he has received a lot of political pushback, particularly concerning recreational activities on the land. But he said the bill includes guaranteed protections for hunting and fishing in the targeted monument area.

To those who have complained about Obama's use of executive authority to create monuments, Grijalva notes that his proposal is a bill that will be considered by lawmakers — although he thinks the president could use his authority if he had to for this monument.

“The Antiquities Act is federal law and we're not there yet,” Grijalva said. “Although I think the president would be on comfortable historic and legal ground to use his executive power.”



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Grand Canyon Monument Supporters Gather More Than Half a Million Signatures

By [RYAN HEINSIUS \(/PEOPLE/RYAN-HEINSIUS\)](#) • JUL 7, 2016

[Twitter \(<http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fzxxjm5y&text=Grand%20Canyon%20Monument%20>\)](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fzxxjm5y&text=Grand%20Canyon%20Monument%20)

Proponents of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument have delivered more than 50,000 petition signatures and comments to the White House. They hope President Obama will set aside 1.7 million acres of public land near the national park before leaving office next year. Arizona Public Radio's Ryan Heinsius reports.



[\(\[http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/knau/files/styles/x_large/public/201607/GRCA_View_From\]\(http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/knau/files/styles/x_large/public/201607/GRCA_View_From\)\)](http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/knau/files/styles/x_large/public/201607/GRCA_View_From)

The Grand Canyon viewed from Pima Point on the South Rim

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The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Center for Biological Diversity, among other groups, say the signatures represent growing support for the national monument. They claim uranium mining on lands adjacent to the Grand Canyon puts the national park's watershed and ecology at risk. Declaring a monument would permanently ban uranium mining there.

More than 20 tribal nations like the Havasupai, Navajo and Hopi, say the designation would protect area sacred and cultural sites. They're also calling for the president to declare the national monument through the Antiquities Act.

Some elected officials, however, like Arizona Congressman Paul Gosar, say such a designation is unnecessary, and would represent a federal land grab. The Arizona Game and Fish Department also opposes the monument, and claims it would hinder wildlife management in the area.

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Coalition pushes for greater environmental protections for the Grand Canyon

Megan Janetsky, The Republic | azcentral.com 5:14 p.m. MST August 24, 2016

The eve of the 100th birthday of the National Park Service was not met in Phoenix with chipper choruses of "Happy Birthday" but rather with calls by local and national organizations to protect the Grand Canyon by halting uranium mining in the area.

Members of Environment Arizona and the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club, which together form the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Coalition, gathered Wednesday in downtown Phoenix to announce their petition to take action on uranium mining and old-growth logging in the Grand Canyon.

With the support of 500 local businesses and a half-million signatures, groups like Environment Arizona and Sierra Club are banding together to send a petition to the Obama administration to create a Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. Some 6,000 of the signatures were gathered in the past week in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado, according to the groups' spokesmen.

"We're calling out President Obama to establish a national monument which would be north and south of the park," said Bret Fanshaw, state advocate for Environment Arizona. "It would be 1.7 million acres of land. It's already federal land, but it doesn't have some needed protections against some pretty destructive activity, like uranium mining and logging."

In 2012, the Obama administration banned any new claims for uranium mining in the Grand Canyon area for 20 years. This move effectively made about 1 million acres of land outside the Grand Canyon National Park off-limits to any new mining developments. After appeals by the National Mining Association on grounds of federal overreach, the case was upheld.

However, Fanshaw believes the fight to end uranium mining has only just begun.

"While we were able to establish a moratorium on any new uranium mining for 20 years starting in 2012, there are still a few that are operating," he said. "We're

hoping to make that moratorium permanent and then permanently protect these lands with a monument."

The moratorium doesn't stop work at any existing mines in the area. According to the Grand Canyon Trust, four uranium mines operate just miles from the North and South Rims. Fanshaw also said that while the 20-year moratorium was a step, the time goes fast.

Paul Hirt, an Arizona State University professor and a senior sustainability scholar, has seen that time trickle away. Hirt said he has been part of the Grand Canyon preservation movement since his late 20s.

"This effort has been ongoing for over a generation. I actually went to a uranium-mining protest in the early 1980s," Hirt said. "I've been in Arizona since 1975, and I've been trying to help and protect important resources in Arizona for over 40 years."

Hirt listed off historic-preservation dates to ralliers carrying signs like "#YesWeCanyon" and explained that it's not a new issue.

"I was involved with a whole variety of conservation issues starting in the early 1980s," he said. "Uranium mining was a great challenge even then. There was active uranium mining at the South Rim up until 1969."

With high hopes, members of the coalition plan to send the petition supporting the designation of a national monument to the Obama administration on Thursday.

"The Grand Canyon is just one of those places where we can't leave it to government or private corporation to decide what to do with it," Hirt said. "We as citizens have to step in."



Public Lands Advocates Rally for Grand Canyon Monument

By RYAN HEINSIUS • AUG 25, 2016

President Obama has designated the [Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument](#) in Maine to honor the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Public lands advocates rallied in Flagstaff yesterday in hopes the president will declare another such monument near the Grand Canyon. Arizona Public Radio's Ryan Heinsius reports.

Members of the group Environment Arizona gathered at Flagstaff City Hall to support the designation of a 1.7-million-acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. They believe it would protect the park from radioactive pollution by banning uranium mining in the area.

"Uranium contamination in our region is not theoretical," says Coconino County Supervisor Art Babbott, who is also in favor of the plan. "These are our lands, these are common lands, they need to be protected as such, and the values that we hold important to us in this region need to be preserved, and that's exactly what this proposal does."

Twenty Southwestern tribes back the proposal. They say a monument would protect Native American cultural sites in the Grand Canyon.

The debate, however, has been divisive. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, and some lawmakers, say a national monument designation would complicate wildlife management and add another layer of federal control.

[Recent polls](#) show a majority of Arizonans support the monument proposal.

Obama Receives 550,000 Signatures Demanding He Designate Grand Canyon National Monument

BY MIRIAM WASSER

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016 AT 5:02 A.M.



View from Crazy Jug Point in the Kaibab National Forest, part of the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

[Jessica Pope, U.S. Forest Service, via Flickr](#)

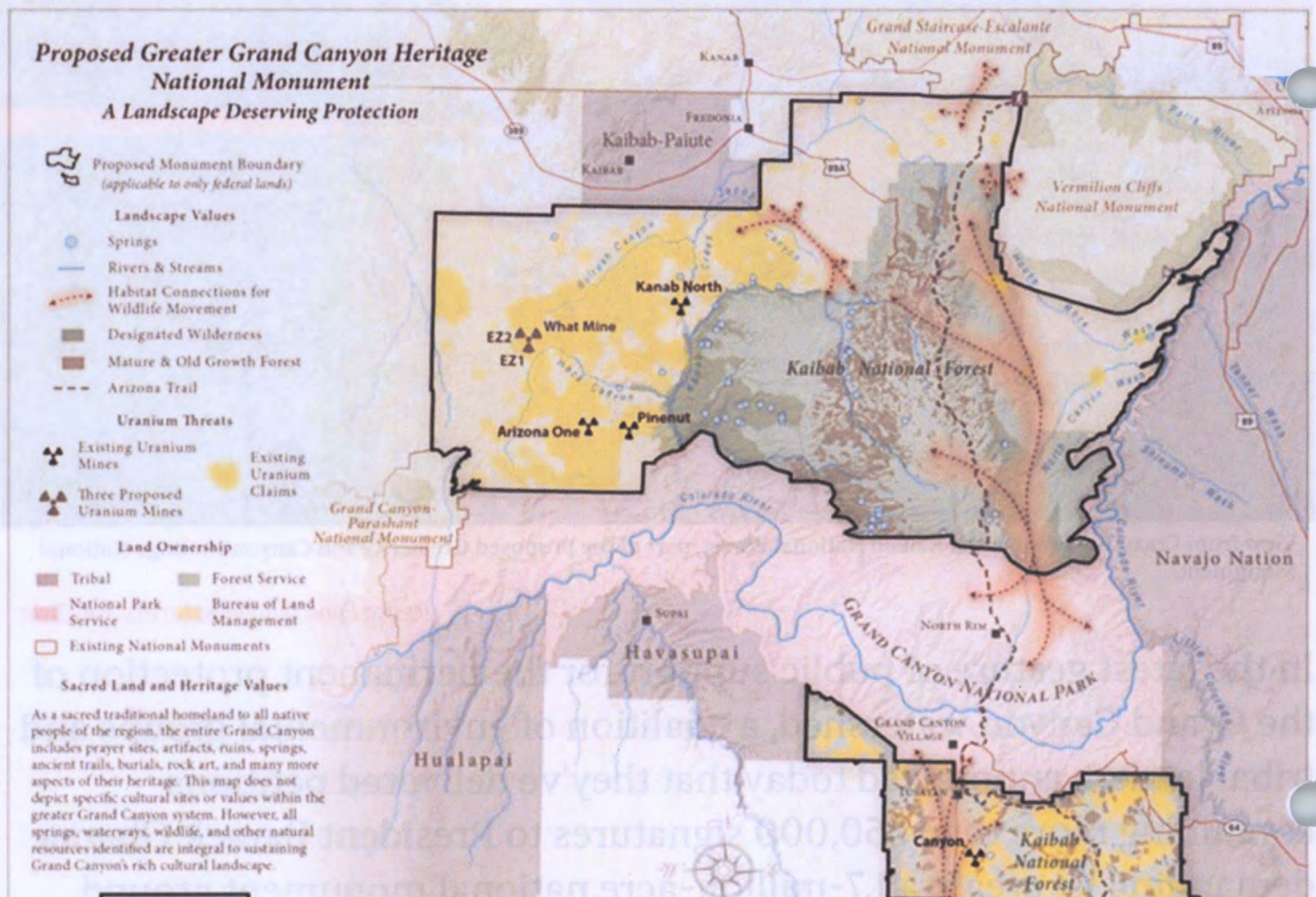
In the latest gesture of public support for the permanent protection of the Grand Canyon watershed, a coalition of environmental groups and tribal leaders announced today that they've delivered petitions containing more than 550,000 signatures to President Barack Obama demanding he create a 1.7-m

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Grand Canyon National Park.

The signatures come from all over the nation and from people with a wide range of interests, according to Celia Barotz, vice mayor of Flagstaff, who says the diversity points to ubiquitous backing for the monument. "I think that the number of signatures supports the argument that the values at stake are so important that people want their voices to be heard," she says.

With a legislative attempt to create the monument led by U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Tucson) stalled in Congress, supporters have turned their attention to plan B: **persuading the president to invoke the Antiquities Act** and use his executive authority to preserve the lands.

Designating the so-called Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would permanently protect much of the watershed to the north and south of the park from uranium mining and other extractive industries, while safeguarding recreational and hunting access and preserving one of the most sacred spots for tribes in the American Southwest. The site encompasses the **Kaibab National Forest** on the north and south rims of the canyon, as well as a swath to the northwest of the forest that is rich in uranium.





A map showing the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

Courtesy of the Center for Biological Diversity

Public-opinion polls indicate that the monument has **overwhelming support in Arizona**, and if today's petition delivery is any indication, it's a sentiment matched throughout the country.

"The Grand Canyon is a culturally significant area which sustains life for many tribal people and cultures, [and] it is encouraging to see the outpouring of support from across all walks of life for the [monument]," Shan Lewis, president of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and vice chairman of the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, said in a written statement about today's announcement.

Katie Davis, who's on the staff of the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups that has helped collect signatures, agrees. "This is significant because protecting the Grand Canyon isn't just an Arizona issue, it's an issue of national significance. We find it encouraging that everyone is coming forward to support the tribes – it's part of a bigger vision of protecting American heritage," Davis says.

"I don't think that half a million people is something that can just be ignored in D.C. when it comes to conservation and environmental protection," she adds.

Sandy Bahr, director of the Sierra Club's Arizona chapter, says the groups have been collecting and sending in signatures for months, but a milestone such as this seemed a good time to announce their progress.

In Bahr's estimation, the petitions send a strong message to Washington: "Look, we've got strong and growing support for this monument, and the American public and Arizonans would really like the president to take action to protect this area."

Congressman Grijalva evidently concurs. "[C]onserving Native American history and culture, protecting the environment and guaranteeing public access to these lands in perpetuity are each important goals, [and] creating the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument meets each of those goals and more," Grijalva said in a statement today.

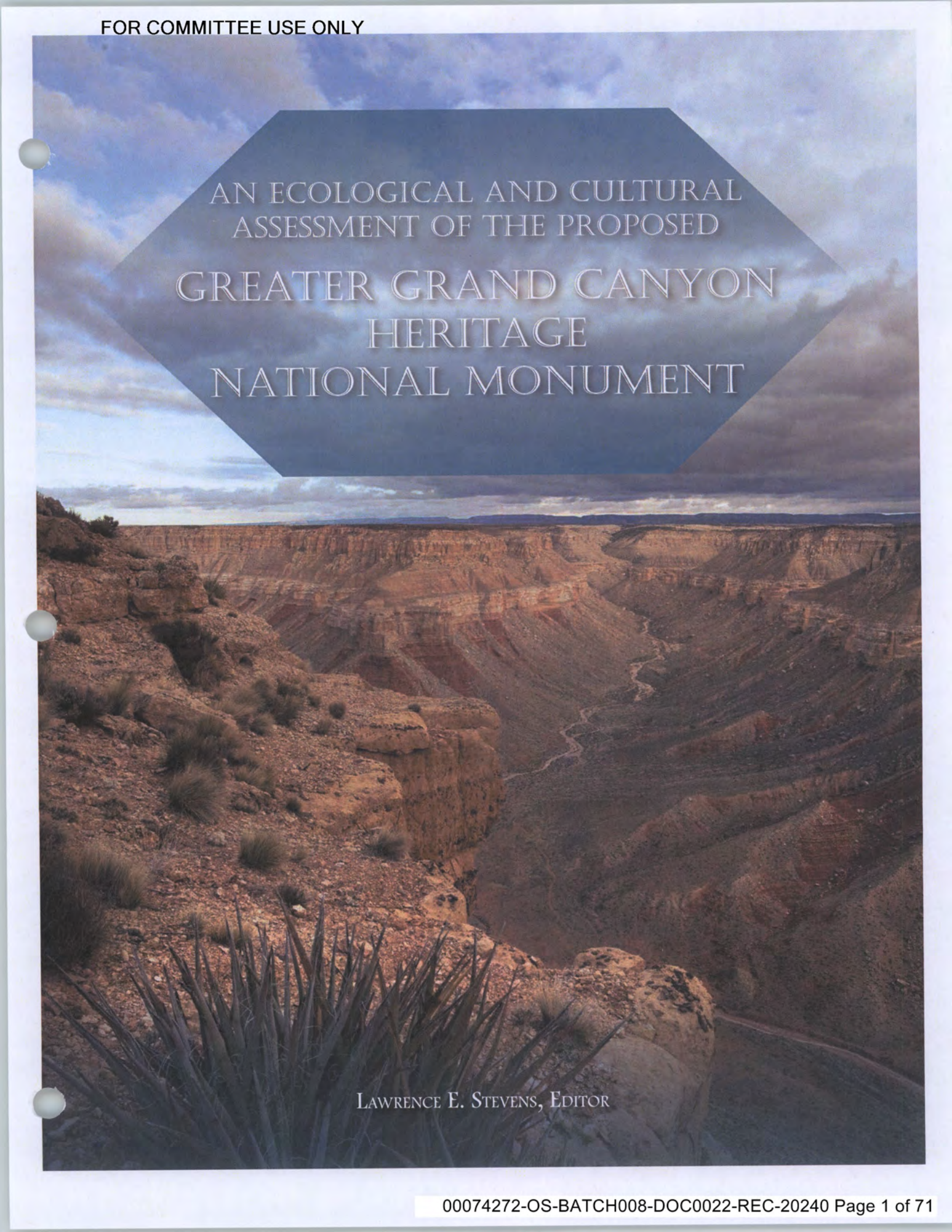
"I firmly believe this administration hears the voice of the people, and I look forward to working with President Obama to protect this land once and for all," he added.

You can **read more about the petition here**.

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AN ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED
GREATER GRAND CANYON
HERITAGE
NATIONAL MONUMENT

LAWRENCE E. STEVENS, EDITOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE NATURAL AND HUMAN HISTORY
OF THE PROPOSED
GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE
NATIONAL MONUMENT



LAWRENCE E. STEVENS, EDITOR

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A VAST, REMOTE, FORESTED LANDSCAPE

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) includes the Kaibab Plateau, House Rock Valley, and the southern part of the Kanab Creek drainage, as well as a portion of the Coconino Plateau immediately south of Grand Canyon National Park. The proposed monument area spans Grand Canyon and is a vast, arid, largely forested landscape on the southwestern Colorado Plateau. GGCHNM is bordered to the west by the Shivwits Plateau, and to the east by the Vermilion Cliffs. The Utah border and Highway 89A create the northern boundary. The eastern margin of the GGCHNM at the edge of Marble Canyon is distinguished by the enormous East Kaibab Monocline, a grand warping of the Earth's crust that elevates the North Rim of Grand Canyon more than 800 m above the South Rim. The GGCHNM then steps westward down an ecological transition, or ecotone, across a profound geological and biological boundary in one of the world's most iconic landscapes. This western ecotone frames the transition between the Colorado Plateau and the southern US desert biomes.

This report was prepared by scientists and researchers of the Museum of Northern Arizona and presents a detailed analysis of the existing physical, biological, and socio-cultural information on the GGCHNM region. This effort augments excellent syntheses by individual federal and state managing agencies including: the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM; 1990, 1992); Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD; BLM and AGFD 1997); U.S. National Park Service (NPS; 1981); and the U.S. National Forest Service (USFS; 2012). We strive to incorporate their reports and scientific studies over the past century into a single overview of the GGCHNM region.

GEOGRAPHY AND CONTEXT

Most of the 6,877 km² GGCHNM lies at elevations between 1,500 and 2,700 m. Seen from the air, the Kaibab Upwarp appears as a domed surface, elongated north-south, sloping abruptly up from the east, and gently down to the west. Erosion and dissection across the Kaibab Monocline characterizes the northern portion of GGCHNM. Along its western side, north of the Park boundary, the monument area includes most of the Kanab Plateau and a section of the Uinkaret Plateau east of the Hurricane Cliffs and the Hurricane Fault. To the east of the Kaibab Plateau, GGCHNM includes lands in House Rock Valley and the northern Marble Platform, wrapping around the base of the Paria Plateau and abutting the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. The GGCHNM region is remote, in large part due to its topographic isolation, its location on the Arizona Strip between the Colorado River and Utah, and because access into the region is seasonal or weather dependent and largely restricted to Highways 89A and 67 and several major dirt roads.

The GGCHNM encompasses public lands, most of it presently administered by the Kaibab National Forest (KNF), BLM, AGFD and NPS. Formal designation and permanent protection for the proposed monument would allow for continued public access, traditional lifeways, rights of way, sightseeing, hiking, wildlife observation, birding, hunting, fishing, and many other activities, including traditional Tribal access and uses. Permanently protecting this area will help conserve and restore grasslands and old growth forests, and protect important archaeological sites, native wildlife, springs and wetlands, endemic species, and wildlife migration routes. The GGCHNM may be jointly managed by the USFS and the BLM. The USFS currently manages

nine national monuments. Although their histories are sometimes complex, four are the result of Presidential proclamations and five are congressionally designated.

SCIENCE VALUES

The information summarized here, and presented in detail in the full report, identifies ten outstanding characteristics of the GGCHNM region, including: 1) its position encompassing the local watershed or drainage surrounding Grand Canyon and the ecotonal transitional boundary from the Colorado Plateau to the Basin and Range Geologic Provinces; 2) its function as a remarkable geohydrological laboratory, with unique springs, seeps, natural ponds and source of headwaters for some of the last remaining pristine streams in the Southwest, 3) its paleoecological significance as a landscape demonstrating vegetation responses to global climate change over the past 50,000 years along a world-class stepped ecotone at the edge of Grand Canyon; 4) its value as a biodiversity hotspot for endemic species and 5) refuge for sensitive and game species; 6) its large north-south escarpment, which serves as a corridor for migratory raptors and other species; 7) its scientific and

management value as a study area for the implementation of restoration projects for wildlife populations and landscapes; 8) the existence of artifacts and sites that date back nearly 8000 years; 9) its place in the tumultuous recent human history of the Grand Canyon region; and 10) its vast, remote, little-developed character that provides tremendous scenic, recreational and dark skies value, while acting as a natural buffer for Grand Canyon National Park in the face of human development. As a result of this comprehensive, science-based analysis, it is clear that the national monument proposal being considered is well supported in this remarkable, iconic landscape. The ten outstanding characteristics are described below, along with the importance of landscape connectivity and the protection of the Grand Canyon's watershed and surrounding lands.

Unique Geographical Significance

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) includes the Kaibab Plateau, House Rock Valley, and the southern part of the Kanab Creek drainage, as well as a portion of the Coconino Plateau immediately south of Grand Canyon



Aerial view looking across the Kaibab Monocline and House Rock Valley with the Vermilion Cliffs and Paria Plateau in the distance. Photo ©Kristen M. Caldon.

National Park, spanning the Grand Canyon and forming its proximal watershed. Bordered on the west by the Shivwits Plateau, to the east by the Vermilion Cliffs, and on the north by Highway 89A and the Utah state line, the proposed monument captures a piece of western geography that has shaped the distribution of humans and wildlife across the southwest for millennia.

The GGCHNM's geographical significance is also due in large part to the unique geological activity that resulted in the enormous East Kaibab Monocline, which elevates the North Rim of Grand Canyon as much as 800 m above the South Rim and the geological and biological western ecotone that frames the transition between the Colorado Plateau and the southern US deserts. Influencing processes from the movement of water to the evolution of native species, this geographical and geological transition zone is of significant scientific value.

Hydrogeology

The GGCHNM region spans one of the most profound geological features in the United States, the chasm of Grand Canyon. The exposure of Colorado Plateau strata reveals not only the vastness of time that has transpired over Earth's history, but also provides a detailed look into the geohydrology that supports the aquifers and hydrologic cycle of this arid region. As such, the GGCHNM is a geohydrological laboratory, which can be studied to better understand how water moves through the Earth and how aquifers function, especially karstic systems. While the proposed GGCHNM does not, itself, contain many flowing streams, it protects the headwaters of a large number of pristine streams and contains numerous ecologically and culturally signifi-

cant springs, seeps, and natural ponds. This landscape also provides recharge to regional aquifers that contribute more than 5% of the base flow of the Colorado river.

Mineral resources are relatively few in the GGCHNM, except for uranium, which is deposited in many breccia pipes throughout the region. The present temporary ban on new mining claims is scheduled to end in 16 years, although some mining in the region is underway. The question of whether to allow uranium mining on the periphery of Grand Canyon remains an important social question, one that warrants careful consideration.

Climate Change and Ecotone Ecology

A remarkable paleoecological transformation has occurred in the GGCHNM over the past 50,000 years. The western margin of the GGCHNM roughly coincides with the boundary between the Sonoran/Mojave/Great Basin floristic provinces to the west, with the Maderan province to the south, and the Intermountain province to the northeast. Analysis of ancient packrat middens and cave deposits has revealed that the pinyon-juniper treeline rose 914 m upslope in less than 7,000 years during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition, as a warmer, drier climate developed. These environmental shifts resulted in the mixing of plant species from the surrounding ecosystems and biomes. Environmental and floristic changes, coupled with the arrival of early humans, resulted in the extinction of the Pleistocene megafauna – elephants, camels, mountain goats, large predators, and giant birds that roamed the plateaus and lowlands, prior to natural desertification. On-going concerns over how ecosystems will function in response to global climate changes, can be examined through space-for-time stud-



A panoramic view looking south to the lower plateau. Elevation and vegetation change dramatically from north to south in the GGCHNM. Photo by Kristen Caldon.

ies across the elevation and aspect gradients that are so abundantly expressed in the GGCHNM. Thus, the region is a unique and critically important natural laboratory in which to study and understand these changes.

A Biological and Evolutionary Hotspot

Desert and plateau springs, deep and enormous karst cave systems, and old growth coniferous forests provide refugia and make the Kaibab an important biological hotspot. The Forest Service manages more than 200 springs on the North Kaibab, many of which harbor rare and sometimes unique life forms. For example, the springs and habitats in the North Canyon drainage support at least 6 rare or endemic species of plants and invertebrates, as well as endangered Apache trout. Many Forest springs have been altered by human activities, but can be easily restored. These springs and seeps are hot spots for biodiversity: stoneflies, beetles, and various amphibians require springs wetland habitats.

A Refuge for Sensitive and Game Species

The GGCHNM region supports at least 1500 plant species, an extraordinary but poorly documented entomofauna with several endemic species, one endangered fish species, 6 amphibian species, more than a dozen reptile species, 112 bird species, and 79 mammal species. Several dozen Kaibab plant and animal species are rare or endemic, and are species of concern to the State of Arizona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the USFS, or other agencies, Tribes, and organizations. The extent of migratory and upland species using the GGCHNM and its role as a corridor, flyway, and refuge is critical to the persistence of those many iconic species and populations.

An Important Migratory Corridor

The long, north-south aligned escarpment of the East Kaibab Monocline has been identified as one of the primary hawk migratory flyways in the Southwest. Cliffs such as these provide migratory pathways for hawks, eagles, and other species, and are well-documented, with more than 20 years of autumn raptor monitoring data available from Hawk Watch International. A large number of raptors migrate through southern Utah and use upwardly-rising air currents that develop as daytime mountain winds along cliff lines. Raptor densities often exceed 30 birds/hr. These observations indicate that the use of escarpments by raptors is commonplace. Continued monitoring is beginning to provide trend assessment capacity, but thorough surveys continue

to be needed to improve resolution of the extent, timing and daily variability of raptor migration along the East Kaibab Monocline and across Grand Canyon. The North Kaibab region also provides an important primary movement corridor for Desert Mule Deer, and likely other large mammals, such as Desert Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Lion from lowland to upland habitats.

Population and Landscape Restoration Ecology

Restoration ecology is being explored and implemented in the region through several different projects. 1) USFS has undertaken springs and forest rehabilitation projects. 2) Endangered California Condors have been released from a site on the Vermilion Cliffs near Marble Canyon, with more than 75 birds presently flying. 3) Pronghorn and Bighorn Sheep population restoration efforts have increased the herd and flock sizes. 4) Non-native tamarisk, an invasive woody tree, has been removed from desert springs along Kanab Creek, and the impacts of tamarisk leaf beetles are being examined throughout northern Arizona. The region has enormous potential for restoration projects to restore old growth forests and their ecological functions. These population and ecosystem management activities demonstrate that the GGCHNM region is an extraordinary natural laboratory in which to test and apply the principles of conservation and restoration ecology.

Exploration and Settlement History

The color and harshness of the GGCHNM region is strongly reflected in its exploration and settlement history. Though the focal point of the region is the Canyon itself, a large portion of its history and development took place in the proposed GGCHNM. Expeditions led by European explorers resulted in the first documentation and interaction with Grand Canyon by those outside American Indian communities. As new settlers moved west from eastern America, early mountain men and pioneers created and maintained trails and villages throughout the proposed monument landscape. Interactions, both peaceful and violent, between American Indian tribes and European settlers influenced the politics and use of the lands and waters in the region. Industries such as cattle operations, mining, and timber harvest popped up, all of which played an important role in the development of local economies. The GGCHNM is a reflection of the dynamic and ever-shifting understanding of the role and influence of human development on the Grand Canyon region, all of which is of great historical importance for all Americans.

Vast, Scenic Landscape that Protects Grand Canyon

The GGCHNM region is a truly vast and largely undeveloped landscape, made more remote and inaccessible due to its geographical features. The Plateau, its escarpment margins, and the surrounding lands, have exceptional regional and global scenic, recreational, scientific, and cultural value. Protection of this region will provide a better buffer from the impacts of human development and climate change, helping to protect Grand Canyon from the onslaught of environmental disruption that so greatly threatens the ecological integrity of the Southwest.

SUMMARY

This landscape analysis indicates that significant geological, biological and human history features and processes exist in the GGCHNM region, and additional research will likely contribute substantial information to understanding the processes and impacts of geological, biogeographic, and global environmental change. The objects, features, and scientific opportunities mentioned herein, coupled with the overall high ecological integrity of most of the landscape, its low human population density and development, and few extractable resources, are values that contribute to the national significance of the proposed national monument.

Protection of these distinctive characteristics of the GGCHNM region will also buffer Grand Canyon National Park from the impacts of rapid population expansion in southern Utah and Nevada, as well as threats just outside the Park. In addition, the proposed National Monument will provide better landscape linkage among the region's Wilderness Areas, protect prominent north-south migration routes, springs, caves, the Kanab Creek drainage, old growth forest stands on the Kaibab Plateau, and sensitive and game populations and their habitats. Much remains to be learned about the GGCHNM region, and future inventories and studies are likely to substantially increase the list of species, identify important, as yet unrecognized, archeological sites, ecological processes, and insights into how climate changes affect or are buffered in complex landscapes. Such research opportunities are only likely to further strengthen the rationale for preserving this geologically, biologically and anthropologically outstanding landscape.

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF THE GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

A VAST, REMOTE FORESTED LANDSCAPE

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) includes the Kaibab Plateau, House Rock Valley, and the southern part of the Kanab Creek drainage, as well as a portion of the Coconino Plateau immediately south of Grand Canyon National Park (Fig. 1.1). The 6,877 km² proposed monument landscape surrounds Grand Canyon and is a vast, arid, largely forested landscape on the southwestern Colorado Plateau. GGCHNM is bordered to the west by the Shivwits Plateau, and to the east by House Rock Valley, the Vermilion Cliffs, and Marble Canyon. The Utah border and Highway 89A creates the northern boundary. The eastern margin at the edge of Marble Canyon is defined by the enormous East Kaibab Monocline, a grand upwarping of the Earth's crust that elevates the North Rim of Grand Canyon more than 800 m above the South Rim. To the west, GGCHNM steps down an ecological transition, or ecotone, across a profound geological and biological boundary in one of the world's most iconic landscapes. This western ecotone frames the transition between the Colorado Plateau and the southern US desert biomes.

This report was prepared by scientists and researchers of the Museum of Northern Arizona and presents a detailed analysis of the existing physical, biological, and socio-cultural information on the GGCHNM region. This effort augments excellent syntheses by individual federal and state managing agencies including: the BLM (1990, 1992); Arizona Game and Fish De-

partment (AGFD; BLM and AGFD1997); U.S. National Park Service (NPS; 1981); and the U.S. National Forest Service (USFS; 2012), incorporating those data with additional scientific studies over the past century to provide an overview of the GGCHNM region. We summarize scientific information on the region's geography, geology, biology, archaeology, and history. We describe the natural and cultural resources of the region and surrounding lands. This region holds great potential for further scientific study and understanding of regionally and globally important issues related to ecosystem ecology and stewardship, elevation gradients, and climate change.

Ten characteristics may warrant consideration of the GGCHNM region. These include: 1) its position encompassing the local watershed or drainage surrounding Grand Canyon and the ecotonal transitional boundary from the Colorado Plateau to the Basin and Range Geologic Provinces; 2) its paleoecological significance as an ecoregion that has responded to dramatic climate change over the past 50,000 years, producing a world-class stepped ecotone landscape; 3) its biological diversity, particularly life found in rare hotspot habitats (i.e., springs, caves, old growth forests, and desert streams); 4) its function as a refuge supporting species of concern (i.e., endemic, endangered species and game species); 5) its several large escarpments, which serve as a migratory corridor for raptors and other species; 7) its scientific and management value as a study area for the implementation of restoration projects for wildlife populations and landscapes; 8) the existence of artifacts and

sites that date back nearly 8000 years; 9) its place in the tumultuous recent human history of the Grand Canyon region; and 10) its vast, remote, little-developed character that provides tremendous scenic, recreational, and dark skies value, while acting as a natural buffer for Grand Canyon National Park. We discuss the regional and national scientific and socio-cultural significance of

these characteristics, as well as the region's scenic values, its present ecological integrity, its population density and its development history.

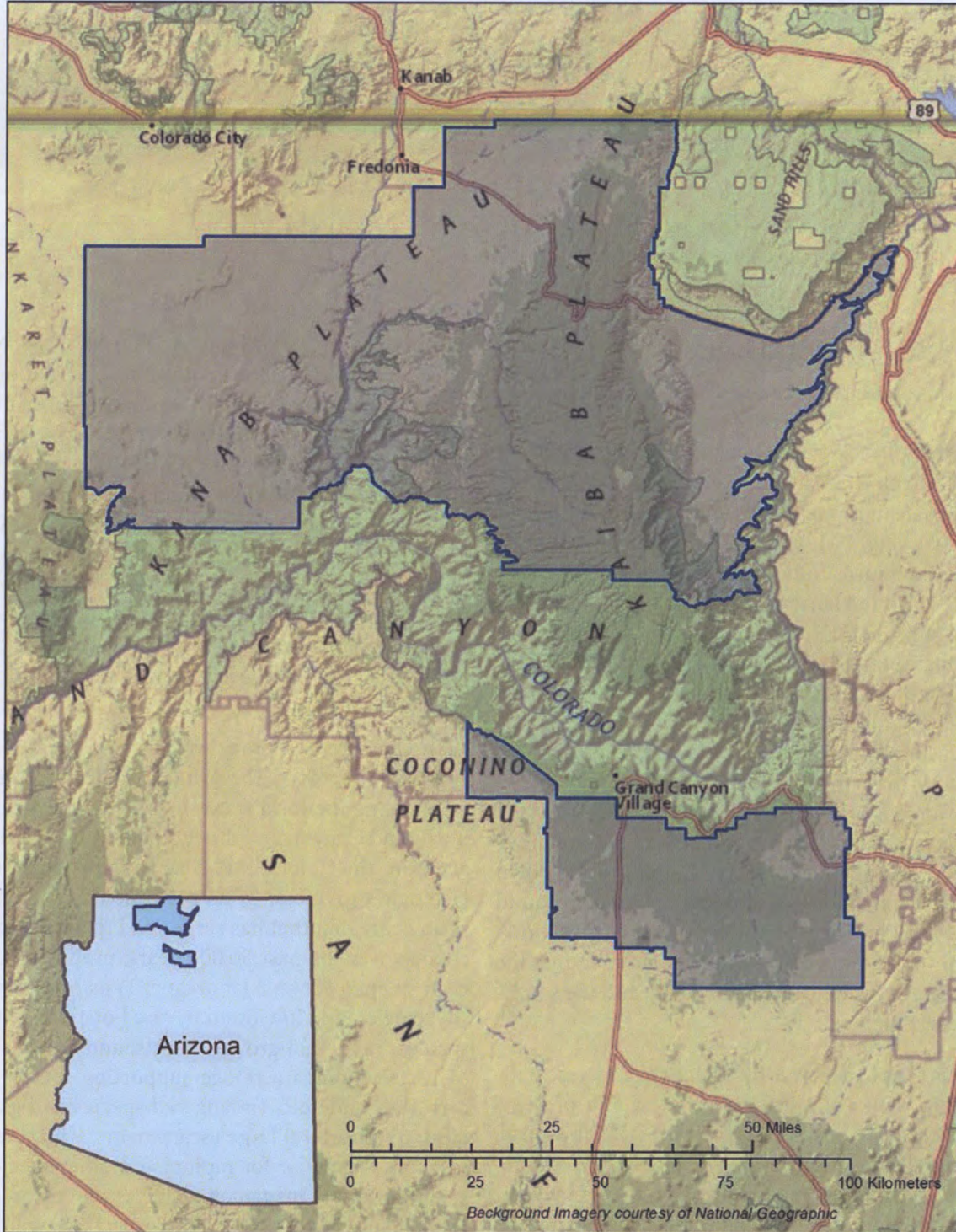


Fig. 1.1 Map of the proposed Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in northern Arizona.

CHAPTER 2



GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

LARRY STEVENS AND JEFF JENNESS

PLATEAU FORESTS, ESCARPMENTS, CANYONS, AND LOW DESERTS

Most of the 6,877 km² GGCHNM lies at elevations between 1,500 and 2,700 m. Seen from the air, the Kaibab Upwarp appears as a domed surface, elongated north-south, rising abruptly up from the east, and gently subsiding down to the west. Erosion and dissection across the Kaibab Monocline characterizes the northern portion of GGCHNM. Along its western side, north of the Park boundary, the monument area includes most of the Kanab Plateau and a section of the Uinkaret Plateau east of the Hurricane Cliffs and the Hurricane Fault. To the east of the Kaibab Plateau, GGCHNM includes lands in House Rock Valley and the northern Marble Platform, wrapping around the base of the Paria Plateau and abutting Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

The GGCHNM region is remote, in large part due to its topography and its location on the Arizona Strip north of the Colorado River, and because access into the region is seasonal and largely restricted to Highway 89A and several dirt roads. From the east, Highway 89A runs up the East Kaibab Monocline to Jacobs Lake. On the west, access is limited to the Fredonia Road (FS Rt. 22), with a maze of smaller forest roads that work west to the headwaters of Kanab Creek. South of Grand Canyon, primary access is provided by Highway 64 from Cameron to the South Rim, and Highways 180 and 64 south to Williams and Flagstaff, 70-80 miles away. Many dirt roads traverse the pinyon-juniper and grasslands that dominate the northern Coconino Plateau.

LAND MANAGEMENT

The GGCHNM is administered by the National Forest Service (Kaibab National Forest, KNF), the Bureau of Land Management (the Arizona Strip region, BLM), and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD; National Park Service 1981; U.S. Bureau of Land Management 1990, 1992). Nationally, the Forest Service manages several national monuments, four of which were designated through acts of Congress, and two of which were designated by presidential proclamation (<https://utah.sierraclub.org/content/grand-canyon-watershed-national-monument>). Formal designation and permanent protection for the GGCHNM will allow for traditional lifeways, continued public access for sight-seeing, hiking, wildlife observation, birding, hunting, fishing, and many other activities, including traditional Tribal access and uses. Permanent protection will allow for continued research opportunities and conservation of natural resources such as old growth forests and grasslands, important archaeological sites, native wildlife, springs and wetlands, and wildlife migration routes. The monument would be jointly managed (like Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument) by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The Forest Service currently manages nine national monuments.

Several other federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over some natural and economic resources in the GGCHNM. The USFWS advises other federal agencies regarding protection of threatened and endangered

species. Federal jurisdiction of the GGCHNM landscape is authorized under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians occupies the largest nearby reservation, which lies just north of the proposed monument. They, the Shivwits and other Southern Paiute bands, as well as, the Hopi and Zuni Tribes and the Navajo Nation claim cultural affiliation with the north side of the landscape. South of Grand Canyon, the Havasupai, Hopi, Hualapai, Navajo, and Zuni claim cultural affiliation. State and private land ownership is limited, with the largest allotment holders in the region being the Grand Canyon Trust on the North Rim and the Babbitt Ranches south of Grand Canyon. The largest nearby communities are Fredonia, Kanab, Colorado City, and Hurricane on the north side, and Tusayan, and Grand Canyon on the south, with the larger cities of St. George, Page, Williams, and Flagstaff lying outside the region (Fig. 1.1).

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

The climate of the GGCHNM is continental and arid, and is variable and often harsh. Low elevations (below 1,000 m) have mean annual temperatures of 17-19° C, with daily minimum and maximum temperatures normally fluctuating from 11-17°C (Sellers et al. 1985; NOAA 2014).

Total annual precipitation from 1976-2012 averaged 244 mm/year at Phantom Ranch, and with 50-100% greater precipitation on the South Rim (2073 m elevation) and 50-300% more on the North Rim (2590 m;

Fig. 2.1), as compared to Phantom Ranch. Precipitation varies greatly among years, ranging from 76-380 mm annually at lowest elevations. About 40% of the annual precipitation falls during the summer “monsoon” rainy season between mid-July and early October. Precipitation is greatest about every five to ten years during strong “El Nino” Southern (Pacific) Oscillation events.

POPULATION DENSITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMICS

There are few private in-holdings, and the GGCHNM region supports a remarkably small human population. The small towns of Tusayan, Grand Canyon, and Jacobs Lake each support only a small number of residents. We estimated the population within the proposed monument boundary by calculating the weighted sum of all the intersecting census block populations. For example, if a census block lay entirely inside the boundary, we added the entire census block population to the cumulative boundary population. If that census block lay only partially inside the boundary, then we multiplied the block population by the proportion of the census block that lay within the boundary. By this logic a census block with 100 individuals, which only lay 70% inside the monument boundary, would only contribute 70 individuals to the total boundary population. Our calculations are presented in Table 2.1 and Fig. 2.2.

This population analysis indicates that approximately 661 individuals reside in the proposed GGCHNM, that 93% of the census blocks in the landscape have no human inhabitants, and that the population has been declining slightly in recent decades (Fig. 2.3).

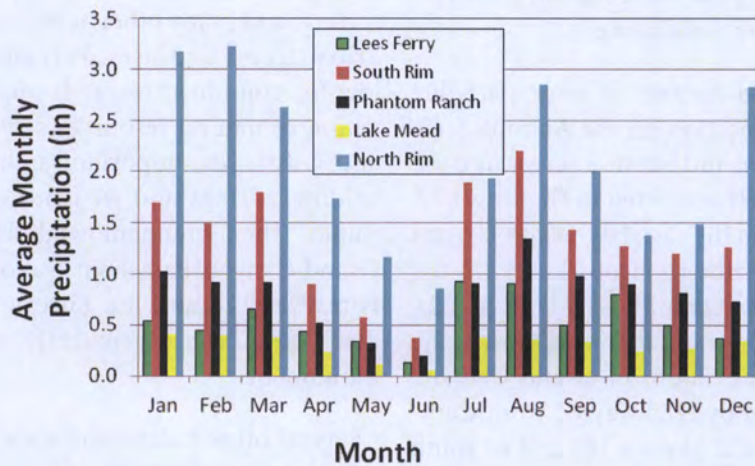


Fig. 2.1: Average monthly precipitation at Lees Ferry, South Rim, Phantom Ranch, Lake Mead, and the North Rim. All stations report a distinctive mid- to late-summer increase in precipitation during the summer monsoons.

Table 2.1 Human population estimates for the GGCHNM in 1990, 2000, and 2010, along with the number of intersecting census blocks and the total number of census blocks having no reported human population.

Census Year	Estimated Population	Total Number of Intersecting Blocks	Total Number of Intersecting Census Blocks with Population > 0	Proportion of Monument with Census Block Population = 0
1991	708	489	29	69%
2000	701	999	47	88%
2010	661	1178	51	93%

The economics of GGCHNM are driven primarily by outdoor recreation, ranching, guided hunting outfitters, forestry (a salvage lumber mill operates in Fredonia, north of the proposed GGCHNM), federal or state governmental services, and visitor services. The Secretary of the Interior declared a moratorium on new uranium mining in 2012. The limited number of residents in the proposed Monument is overshadowed by the large number of seasonal employees in the lodging and dining services industry, and both are dwarfed by the enormous population of visiting tourists that come to the greater Grand Canyon region each year. Grand Canyon National Park alone attracted nearly 5.5 million visitors in 2015. Several thousand other visitors come to the area annually, either to sight-see, recreate, or hunt on the North Kaibab and, to a lesser extent to visit the Tusayan Ranger District. Thus, overall, the socioeco-

nomics of the GGCHNM area are strongly driven by recreational tourism, and particularly by visitation to Grand Canyon National Park.

A LIVING MAP OF THE GGCHNM REGION

Below is a screen shot of a living map series of the landscape, biota, and forests of the GGCHNM region. These interactive maps are available to the public, and are hosted by ArcGIS Online.

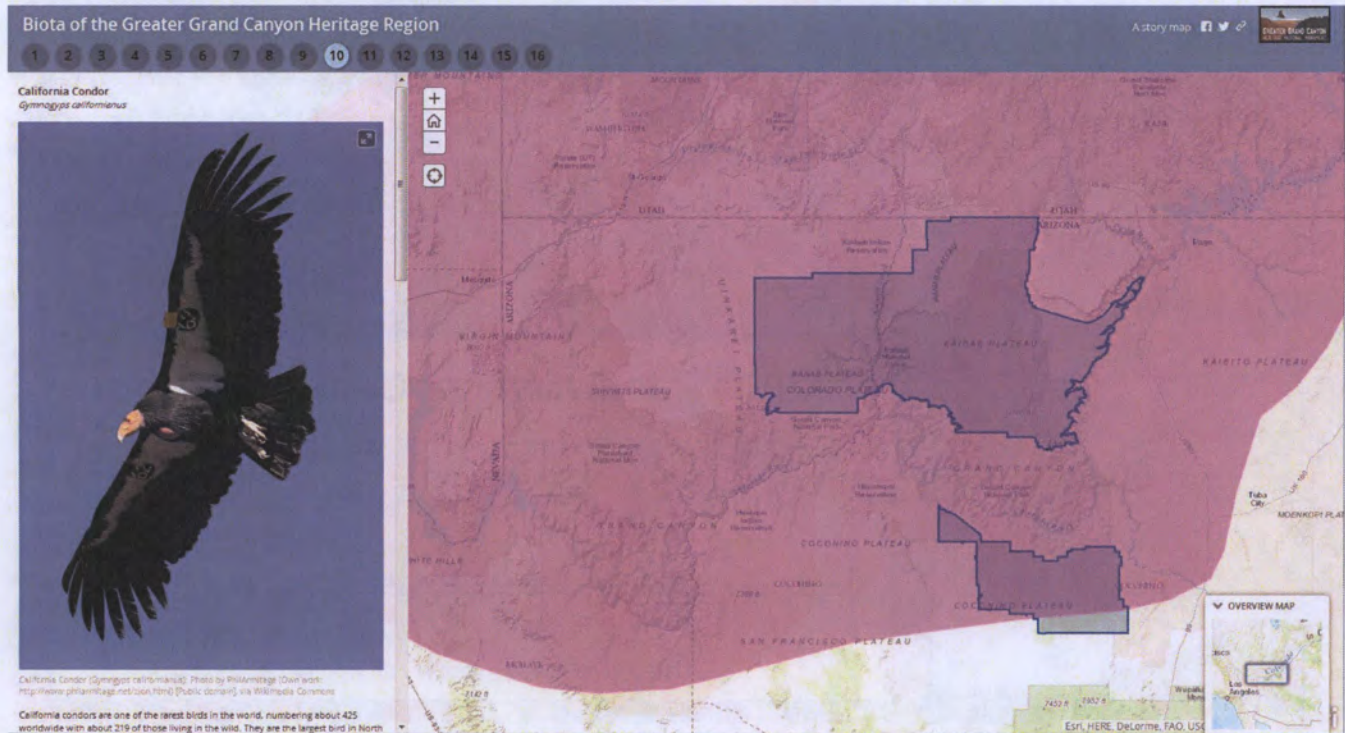


Fig. 2.2 Online interactive maps at <http://arcg.is/1VWOXWX>, <http://arcg.is/1SOmijj> and <http://arcg.is/1qZdWMi>.

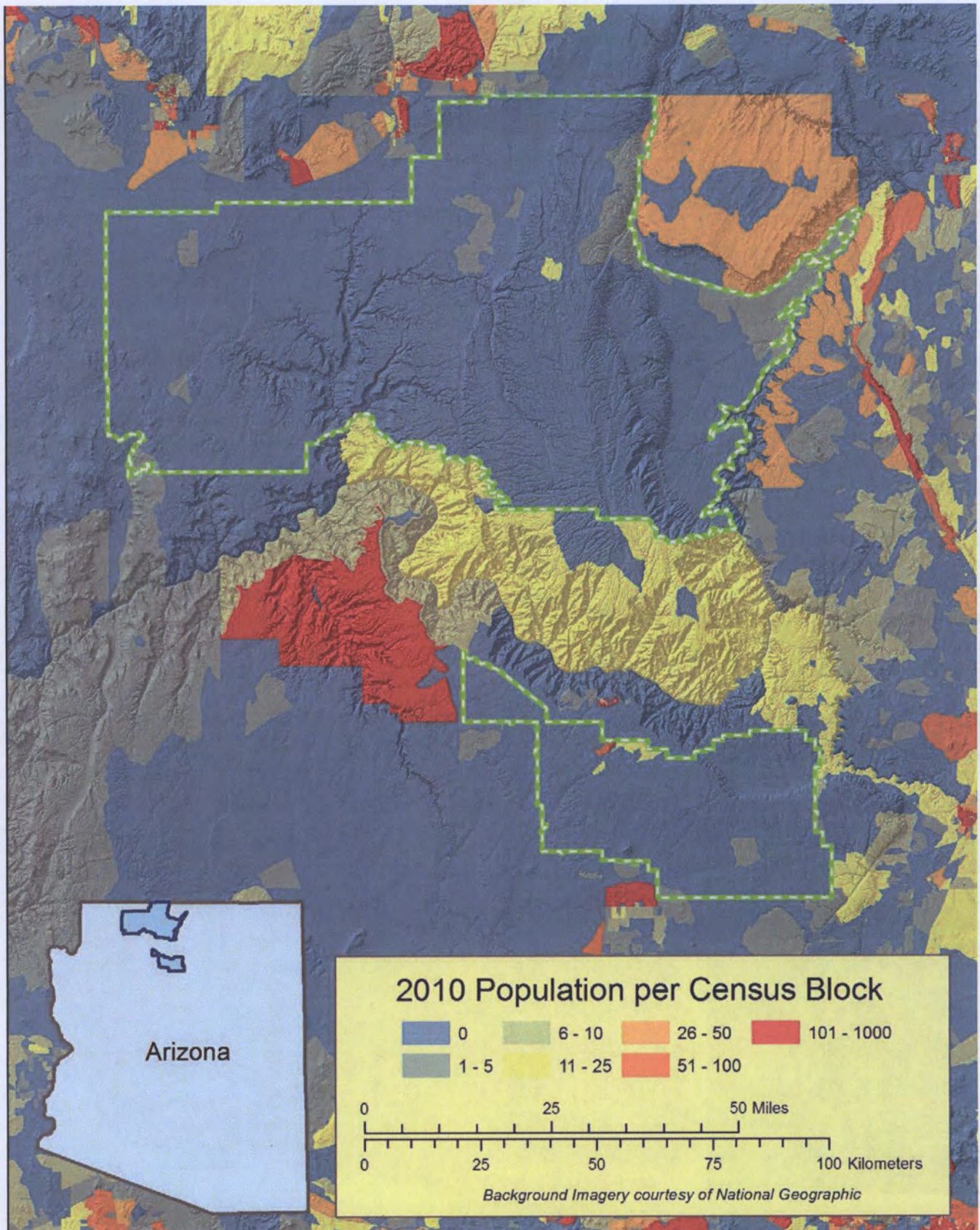


Fig. 2.3 Map of the population of GGCHNM in 2010 (census data coupled with GIS mapping by J. Jenness, SSI Flagstaff).

CHAPTER 3



GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

KATIE JUNGHANS AND LARRY STEVENS

INTRODUCTION

The water feature most directly associated with Grand Canyon is the Colorado River, but this well known and highly visible water source derives 5 to 10% of its baseflow from groundwater aquifers lying beneath the proposed GGCHNM. The proposed monument's landscape supports more than 200 springs, where groundwater emerges from the Earth's surface. Springs are remarkably productive, species rich, and economically important ecosystems, but are anomalous among the thousands of hectares of waterless, rocky and dry-forested lands in this arid regions (Shepard 1993). The arid-land springs of the Grand Canyon region support rare desert ecosystems, supply drinking water to Arizona tourist and residents, and have enormous cultural value for the Native American Tribes in and around the region (Ross 2005). The nature of this region's largely karstic aquifers make the region's springs both productive and susceptible to degradation. Springs and their associated watersheds are at risk due to the substantial use of them by humans, the demand for further development in the region, and their susceptibility to degradation. In this chapter we describe the geohydrology of this vast landscape, and present information on how and why it supports such a wide and diverse array of springs.

GEOHYDROLOGY

The North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park is the southern edge of the Kaibab Plateau. The East Kaibab Monocline uplifted the Kaibab Plateau to elevations from 2400 m to 2800 m. The Kaibab Plateau receives

an annual average precipitation of 669 mm/year, and is generally about 500 m higher in elevation than the South Rim. It receives approximately 250 mm (10 inches) more precipitation than does the South Rim. Winter storms provide about 60 percent of the Kaibab Plateau's precipitation. Extreme runoff events occur in early and late winter during rain-on-snow events, rapidly recharging the system through faults, sinkholes, and karst aquifers before emerging at springs located below the North Rim (Alpine 2010; Ross 2005). The major springs discharging from the Kaibab Plateau Redwall-Muav aquifer include Angel Spring, Emmett Spring, Roaring Spring, Abyss Spring, Tapeats Spring, Thunder Spring, Vasey's Paradise, Ribbon Falls Spring, and the Fence Fault Springs. Roaring Springs is Grand Canyon National Park's municipal water supply, providing water to over 5.5 million visitors in 2015, as well as to Park and concession employees (Brown 2011). Water derived from the GGCHNM supplies these pristine springs and streams with water, and the streams are among the only remaining pristine watersheds in the Southwest, if not the contiguous 48 states.

Several major structural trends control the regional hydrogeology of the Grand Canyon area. Faults, folds, fractures, and dip angles of bedding planes affect groundwater flow direction. South-sloping topography causes water to flow away from the South Rim, causing emergence of large springs below the North Rim and smaller springs below the South Rim. North-south trending faults exist in the western portion of the region; the Kaibab anticline, the Mesa Butte Fault, and the Havasu-Cataract Syncline dominate in the eastern portion.

The Kaibab Plateau is one of five plateaus comprising the North Rim of the Grand Canyon (Ross 2005). It occupies approximately 2460 km² and is the most elevated portion of the Colorado plateau in northern Arizona (Huntoon 1974). The plateau dips gently westward and is structurally bound to the west by the scarps of the Muav Fault Complex, to the east by the East Kaibab Monocline, to the south by the sheer walls of the Grand Canyon and to the north by a regional dip of the Bright Angel Shale (Huntoon 1970, 1974).

On the Coconino Plateau south of the Colorado River, surface streams are ephemeral except for short ground or effluent water supplied perennial reaches. The Little Colorado River and Havasu Creek are the two largest tributaries which drain to the Colorado River. North Canyon and Kanab Creek are the only two substantial perennial streams on the Kaibab Plateau, but many springs emerge there, and natural perennial and ephemeral ponds abound. Surface streams are scarce because most water infiltrates into the aquifer or is lost through evapotranspiration, except during rare heavy rainfall events. The groundwater recharge potential is high on the Kaibab anticline (Alpine 2010).

Springs locations are strongly controlled by the secondary porosity created by dissolution along fault zones. The rock units which occupy the upper most portion of the Grand Canyon section are the most permeable and allow for vertical movement of groundwater. Almost all discharge occurs in springs over 900 m below the canyon rims where the downward movement of groundwater is prevented by units with relatively less permeability, like the Bright Angel Shale. Groundwater flows laterally atop of this layer with lower permeability and has caused extensive dissolution in the overlying Redwall and Muav Limestones. Groundwater flowing through these layers has caused enlarging of joints and fractures, resulting karst features such as caves, caverns, and solution channels. Groundwater preferentially flows within these features and many of the springs and seeps of the Grand Canyon are located at the contact of these permeable and impermeable layers.

Understanding the flow of groundwater in the study area requires comprehension of the geologic setting, and interaction of tectonic structures, and stratigraphy. Paleozoic aged rocks make up the upper 1200 m of exposed stratigraphy in the canyon. These rocks overlay Precambrian sedimentary rocks which rest upon a basement of metamorphic rocks. The Precambrian

rocks have low permeability and are therefore not discussed here because they are not hydrologically significant. The hydrologic properties of the Paleozoic unit may be subdivided into four groups from bottom to top: (1) an impermeable clastic basal unit, (2) carbonates where conductivity is structurally controlled by zones of large permeability, (3) clastic rocks with low hydraulic conductivity, and (4) relatively permeable carbonate and clastic rocks (Huntoon 1974).

Layered zones of permeable and impermeable rocks make up two distinct aquifers: the Coconino-De Chelly Aquifer (C-aquifer) and the Redwall-Muav Aquifer (R-aquifer). The C-aquifer is perched above the R-aquifer and is composed of the Coconino Sandstone (Pc), Permian Toroweap Formation (Pt) and Permian Kaibab Formation (Pk). The R-aquifer is larger, deeper, and is composed of the Cambrian Muav Formation (Cm), Devonian Temple Butte Formation (Dtb), and the Mississippian Redwall Limestone (Mr). The impermeable Bright Angel Shale lies below the R-aquifer, serving as a basal aquitard and key to the R-aquifers existence.

REGIONAL STRUCTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

The GGCHNM region is a karstic plateau, with Paleozoic strata exposed near the Colorado River in Grand Canyon (Fig. 3.1; Billingsley 1978, Beus and Morales 1990). This Paleozoic sedimentary sequence of Grand Canyon formations extends through the GGCHNM and it is underlain by high grade metamorphic basement rocks, which are exposed on the floor of Grand Canyon in crystalline inner gorges. These Paleozoic strata extend west to the Grand Wash Cliffs, where they underlie the Miocene to Pliocene aged lake beds, other volcanic flows and colluvium.

The northern GGCHNM lies between the Kanab Plateau on the west and House Rock Valley on the east. The region is structurally bounded by the Hurricane and Toroweap faults (Huntoon 1990): west-facing escarpments formed by these faults are curvilinear and essentially parallel. The areas where the escarpments bend are generally aligned to the northeast, suggesting a relationship to strike-slip faults in the adjacent Basin and Range province. Young, western fault zones along the western edge of the Colorado Plateau link Basin and Range extension to the GGCHNM region. With continued extension and fault movement, they will eventually form ranges and basins, adding to the extent of the Basin and Range province. The Basin and Range/Colorado Plateau transition is of considerable

interest to modern geologists, and is revealed throughout the GGCHNM region in considerable complexity.

HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC UNITS

The R-Aquifer

The strata that underly the GGCHNM region are superbly exposed in Grand Canyon. Here we focus on those that make up the R-aquifer, the largest and most important regional aquifer. The structure of the R-aquifer includes not only the Redwall Limestone and the overlying strata, but also the deeper confining Bright Angel Shale. All are described below. Fig. 3.1 depicts the general stratigraphic column of the strata described below. Schindel (2015) documented characteristics of the Kaibab Plateau and is synthesized below.

Bright Angel Shale

The Bright Angel Shale has a varying and irregular topography, lithology, and sedimentary structure due to its depositional subtidal marine environment where sedimentation varied with a changing high water line. On average, the thickness ranges from 100-120 m. On the eastern portion of the Kaibab Plateau, the Bright Angel Shale intertongues with the overlying Muav formation and ranges in thickness from a few centimeters to 5 m. The main lithological component is illitic clay, with smaller amounts of chlorite, kaolinite, and beds of fine-grained sandstone and siltstone. Striking purple and green color in the Bright Angel Shale are attributed to iron oxide cement, hematitic ooids, and glauconite forming cliffs or steep slopes. As a regional aquiclude, groundwater is forced to flow along top of the Bright Angel Shale and through the overlying R-aquifer. The topography of the R-aquifer is the main control on groundwater flow direction.

Muav Formation

Lying conformably above the Bright Angel Shale is the Muav Formation. Like the Bright Angel Shale, the Muav Formation was also deposited in a subtidal marine environment and due to changing water levels is inconsistent in thickness and lithology. Thinnest in the south and east of the study area, it has an average thickness of approximately 75-115 m. The laminated carbonate units contain intermittent thin beds of dolomite, calcareous mudstone, packstone, and flat pebble conglomerates in sporadic lenses and widespread in thin beds. Groundwater flows along top of the impermeable Bright Angel Shale, preferentially flowing through porous regions of fine-grained sandstone, conglomerates, and fractures. Unfractured rock units

are largely impermeable. Groundwater dissolution enhances secondary porosity by creating karst conduits in the carbonate materials parallel and orthogonal to fractures (spaced roughly 0.6-2.4 m apart). Many springs discharge from gusher springs at the contact between the Muav and Bright Angel Shale. The largest springs in Grand Canyon National Park discharge at this contact.

Temple Butte Formation

The Temple Butte Formation was deposited in a westward draining tidal channel. It is present in lenses where channels were eroded into the top of the Muav Formation. Thinnest in the north and east, it is usually less than 30 m thick though in places it exceeded widths of 120 m. The Temple Butte Formation is composed of limestone, sandstone, sandy dolostone, and dolostone. Groundwater flows through fractures but, unlike in the Muav Formation, there is little carbonate dissolution in the Temple Butte Formation and karst features are not present.

Redwall Limestone

This unit is separated into four members: Whitmore Wash Member, Thunder Springs Member, Mooney Falls Member, and the Horseshoe Mesa Member. The Whitmore Wash Member is a fine-grained limestone with 0.6-1 m beds. The Thunder Springs Member is comprised of thin beds 2.5 -10 cm of alternating carbonate and chert and usually appears purple to pink in color. The Mooney Falls Member is predominately limestone beds from 0.6 to 6 m thick, forming much of the sheer Redwall cliffs in Grand Canyon. The Horseshoe Mesa Member is revealed in thin beds of limestone and is discontinuous due to partial erosion prior to deposition of later units.

Lying irregularly above the Muav and Temple Butte Formations is the Redwall Limestone. This unit thickens to the west and forms massive sheer cliffs ranging in thickness from 150 to 250 m in width. Groundwater flow following fractures and faults has resulted in significant karstification in the Redwall Limestone, especially in the lower Mooney Falls and Horseshoe Mesa members. Conduits which discharge large springs in the Redwall Limestone and Muav Formation are oriented in the same direction as fractures in the Redwall Limestone and Muav Formation.

Surprise Canyon Formation

When the Redwall Limestone existed at the surface, erosional features were cut into the Horseshoe Mesa

Section	Stratigraphic Name	Thickness (m)	Lithology	Hydrostratigraphy
	P Kaibab Formation	Variable due to erosion	The Harrisburg Member is gypsum dolostone, sandstone, redbeds, chert, and minor limestone. The Fossil Mountain Member is Cherty, fossiliferous limestone and siliciclastic dolomite.	<p>C-AQUIFER</p> <p>Coconino Sandstone is primary water-bearing unit. Upper carbonates have well-developed secondary porosity.</p> <p>From Hart (2002):</p> <p>Transmissivity: 1.34 - 4,690 ft/d</p> <p>Hydraulic Conductivity 0.14 - 81.5 g/d/ft²</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Kaibab chert beds are impermeable; sandy Kaibab bed K = 2.7 x 10⁻³ g/d/ft² (Huntoon 1970).</p> <p>Toroweap massive gypsum K = 0.15 g/d/ft² (Huntoon 1970).</p>
	P Toroweap Formation	80-160 m	Fine-to-medium-grained non-crossbedded sandstone inter-bedded with thin beds of evaporites, carbonates, and fine-grained, cross-bedded sandstone.	
	P Coconino Sandstone	90-120 m	Very fine to fine-grained, rounded cross-bedded eolian quartz sandstone with minor amounts of potassium feldspar.	
	P Hermit Formation	100-110 m	Reddish brown siltstone, sandy mudstone, and very fine-grained silty sandstone.	<p>LEAKY AQUITARD</p> <p>Un-jointed rock samples of both Hermit Formation and massive fine-grained sandstone from the Supai Formation are impermeable: groundwater movement occurs along vertical joints and bedding partings (Huntoon 1970).</p>
	P Esplanade Sandstone	110-110 m	Cross-bedded fine-grained sandstone with thin beds of mudstone and limestone	
	P Wescogame, Manakacha, and Watahomigi Formations	160-170 m	The Wescogame Formation is primarily sandstone. The Manakacha is mixed quartz sandstone and red mudstone. The Watahomigi Formation consists of red mudstone, siltstone, gray limestone, and dolomite.	
	M Redwall Limestone	170-230 m	Overall a thick-bedded, cliff-forming, fine-grained limestone. Horseshoe Mesa Member: thin-bedded, fine-grained light gray limestone. Mooney Falls Member: chiefly pure limestone, with local dolomitization. Thunder Springs Member: alternating thin beds of limestone or dolomite and weathered chert. Whitmore Was Member: fine-grained limestone.	<p>R-AQUIFER</p> <p>Supports base flow to springs >250,000 m³/d (100 cfs). Muav is the primary aquifer on the Kaibab Plateau. Un-jointed samples of the Redwall, Temple Butte and Muav Fm. are impermeable; groundwater moves through bedding plane partings, vertical joints or minor porosity of interbedded clastic constituents. Fault zones composed of breccia and fault gouge readily transmit water (Huntoon 1970).</p>
	D Temple Butte Formation	20-70 m	Predominantly dolomite (often sandy) occurring as lenses.	
	C Muav Limestone	80-100 m	Horizontally laminated or structureless carbonate, dolomite and calcereous mudstone, and minor amounts of fine-grained sandstone or siltstone.	
	C Bright Angel Shale	70-80 m	Greenish shale and mudstone, containing thin beds of course-grained sandstone and conglomerate.	AQUITARD
C Tapeats Sandstone	>100 m	Course-grained sandstone and basal conglomerate with significant quartz cementation.	AQUIFER Minor groundwater flow due to quartz cementation.	

Figure 3.1: Generalized hydrostratigraphic column of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon P=Permian, M=Missipian, D=Devonian, C=Cambrian (Modified from Brown 2011).

member. The Surprise Canyon Formation filled in these features and presently exists in lenticular beds as carbonate layers in these paleovalleys. This formation is likely present within the Kaibab Plateau, but does not exist everywhere in the Grand Canyon (Beus 2003). The fractures of the Redwall Limestone relate to fractures in this formation (Roller 1987). Additionally, the Surprise Canyon Formation is of interest because breccia pipes are associated with it.

Supai Group

The Supai Group lies on top of the Redwall Limestone and is approximately 200-300 m thick, thickening to the east and west. Deposited in a coastal plain under transgression and regression conditions, the resulting lithology and local groundwater flow is varied and complex. This group contains a series of eolian and noneolian carbonate sandstones and red mudstones. The formations, in ascending order, are Watahomigi, Manakacha, Wescogame and Esplanade Formations.

The lower most formation is the Watahomigi Formation, a thinbedded, fine-grained unit composed of dolomite, siltstone, and mudstones. Above the Watahomigi are the Manakacha and Wescogame Formations. These are principally quartz and sandstone beds with thin beds of mudstone and dolomite. Finally, the Esplanade Formation lies atop of the Supai Group as a thick sandstone unit with eolian cross bedding, thickening to the north and west.

Groundwater flowing through these sections of mixed lithologies behaves in irregular ways. Groundwater moves vertically through sand dominated units until it reaches a mudstone or siltstone unit. These less permeable units cause groundwater to travel laterally and lead to discharge on the walls of the canyon. Well-developed joints and faults allow water originating from the top of the Kaibab Plateau to flow rapidly downward. The Supai Formation's mixed lithology, containing intermittent impermeable beds, results in many small perched aquifers which discharge as small springs within this unit.

Hermit Formation

The Hermit Formation is composed of sandstone and sandy mudstone and ranges in thickness from 25 m to 150 m. Beds within this formation are structureless and can be up to 1 m thick. Beds near the base of the unit are predominately sandy, gradually transitioning to mudstone towards the top of the unit. The Her-

mit Shale is impermeable where unfractured and small springs discharge from these regional aquitards.

Coconino Sandstone

The Coconino Sandstone was deposited in large eolian dunes of variable thickness, ranging from 75-150 m. The beds of this unit are composed of crossbedded fine to medium grained quartz sandstone and range in thickness from 1.5-23 m. The C-aquifer is composed of the Coconino Sandstone, Toroweap Formation and Kaibab Formation. Groundwater moved vertically though these formation's fractures and laterally across the Hermit Shale aquitard. The C-aquifer lacks karst features and the springs which emerge from it are small compared to the springs of the R-aquifer.

Toroweap Formation

The Toroweap Formation was deposited in fluctuating marine environments, including shallow ocean, tidal flats, sabkhas, and eolian dune fields. This formation reaches a thickness of 150 m in Western Grand Canyon and pinches out entirely to the east (Ross 2005). This variable depositional environment resulted in dramatic changes and complex groundwater flow paths. The Seligman, Brady Canyon, and Woods Ranch Members make up the Toroweap Formation. The Seligman Member is the lower sandstone and evaporate unit. The Brandy Canyon Member is limestone, topped by the evaporate Woods Ranch Member. Some karst development is present in this formation.

Kaibab Formation

The top of the Kaibab Plateau is capped by the heavily karstified materials of the Kaibab Formation. Deposited in a marine environment with fluctuating sea level, this carbonate-siliciclast ramp thins towards the east of the Grand Canyon. Lying atop of the evaporitic gypsum of the Toroweap formation, the Kaibab Formation contains siliciclastic sediments and carbonates mixed with diagenetic dolomites and chert. The two members of the formation are the Fossil Mountain member, which is 75% sandstone or sandy dolostone, and the Harrisburg Member, a mix of gypsum, dolostone, sandstone, redbeds, chert, and minor limestone.

Unfractured chert-containing limestones have no permeability in the Kaibab Plateau. Heavy karstification has created over 2000 identified sink holes on the surface of the formation. This secondary porosity allows for rapid infiltration of precipitation into the subsurface and is responsible for the development of

uranium-containing breccia pipes. Where the Toroweap and Kaibab Formations are in contact, regions of local impermeability results in discharge of many small springs.

KARSTIC SETTING

Karst is terrain with distinctive hydrology and landforms, and develops in readily soluble materials, such as limestone, marble, and gypsum. Secondary porosity is enhanced by dissolution due to the preferential flow of water along fractures and joints in these rocks. Karst terrains are characterized by extensive underground aquifers, caves, sinkholes, and large springs. Karst carbonate aquifers are highly productive, supplying roughly one-third of the United States with drinking water (Schindel et al. 1996). Karst aquifers with the most extensive secondary porosity are made of dense, massive, pure, and coarsely fractured rocks. Since meteoric waters are the most common cause of dissolution, the majority of karst aquifers are found within tens of meters to the surface elevation (Ford and Williams 2007).

The four modern groundwater basins of the central-eastern part of the Grand Canyon identified by Hunt-oon (1974, 2000) are the Cataract, Black Mesa, Kaiparowits, and Kaibab Plateau. Figure 3.3 depicts the areas of interest, contained in the Kaibab Plateau, Cataract Basin, and Black Mesa. Kaibab Plateau water discharges from unconfined systems, while Cataract and Black Mesa waters discharge from confined aquifers.

The Cataract groundwater basin drains much of the Coconino Plateau, discharging from the R-aquifer at Havasu Springs. Black Mesa basin is approximately 70,000 km², discharging at the Blue Springs complex. These confined aquifers are hypogenic in origin, having formed though a condition called “mixing corrosion” (Ford and Williams 2007). Hypogenic dissolution in the Grand Canyon region occurred below the water table where meteoric waters and deep, upwelling waters mix. Groundwater tends to flow relatively slowly though these isolated pockets of porosity which, unlike vadose karst, lack integrated conduit systems. As a



Figure 3.2: View of stratigraphic layers visible from Gunsight Point. Kanab Creek flows through this portion of the Canyon. Image by Kristen M. Caldon.

result, springs in these basins tend to have small and consistent discharge.

Due to the Kaibab Plateau's elevation, it receives significantly more precipitation than the other basins. Most of this precipitation drains to five major vadose springs where the plateau is dissected by the canyon. This unconfined aquifer is rapidly recharged though a number of sinkholes, then usually descends to the base of the Muav where it discharges from unconfined caves (Hill 2010). The generally unconfined nature of Kaibab Plateau aquifers are subject to seasonal variation in groundwater supply. Snow melt and heavy precipitation during spring cause groundwater mounds to develop above confining layers and provide increased discharge to springs. Groundwater mounds dissipate during the dry summer and fall season, resulting in significantly diminished or ceased spring and seep discharges (Huntoon 1980).

These water bearing units have been uplifted above the regional groundwater base level as the Colorado River cut down to form the Grand Canyon. The surrounding area is well drained due to the plateau's high elevation and topographic isolation caused by the deep canyon cutting. Therefore, most of the regions discharged water leave the plateau through down dip springs and seeps along the walls of the Grand Canyon (Huntoon 1980). The sedimentary beds in the Grand Canyon dip slightly to the south causing a majority of the R-aquifer's regional groundwater to discharge on the North Rim at the base of the confining Muav Formation though large conduit-driven springs (Huntoon 1995).

The conduits in the R-aquifer can rapidly transport large volumes of water with minimal duration of groundwater storage (Huntoon 2000). During severe rain events, flood waters travel several kilometers between the surface of the plateau and the springs in a matter of days. Comparatively, waters in Cataract Basin and Black Mesa Basin take hundreds to thousands of years to travel similar distances (Huntoon 1980).

The Kaibab Plateau sustains high groundwater recharge rates for several reasons. Standing more than 800 m higher than its surroundings, its physical setting creates an orographic barrier. The associated cooler temperatures and higher precipitation allow for lower evaporation rates compared to its desert surroundings. The Kaibab Plateau has no surface streams despite the lowest ratio between potential evaporation and actual precipitation of any portion of the Grand Canyon (Figs. 3.4, Fig. 3.5). This is possible due to the highly porous units which compose the upper portion of the plateau and allow great opportunity for groundwater's vertical migration and recharge of aquifer systems (Huntoon 1980).

Except for Havasu Springs, springs on the South Rim are generally smaller because recharge rates over the area are lower and groundwater flows southward. Grand Canyon National Park relies solely on the North Rim's Roaring Springs its water source. Despite the importance of this water source, the understanding of groundwater's behavior in the R-aquifer is deficient because of its depth, complexity of flow, lack of wells, and remoteness of discharge points (Schindel 2015).

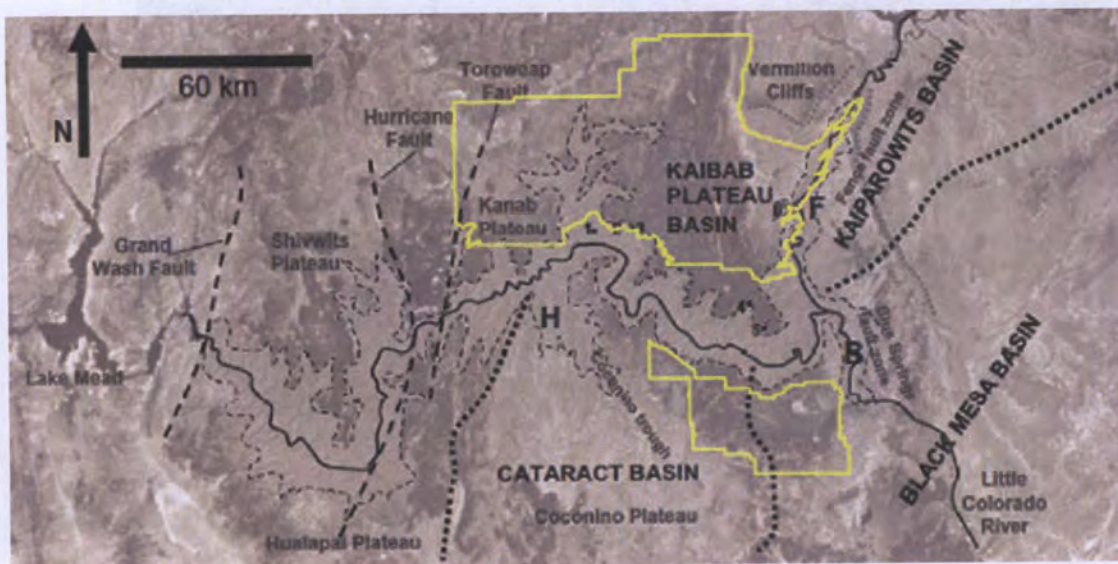


Figure 3.3: Regional geologic structure of the GGCHNM region (after Hill and Polyak 2010).



Figure 3.4 North Canyon Spring on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The spring emerges from the Coconino Formation. Photo by Kristen M. Caldon.



Figure 3.5 A Coconino Sandstone wall overhanging Castle Spring in Kaibab National Forest. Water seeps from beneath the stone wall and channelizes into the terrace below. The site could have supported prehistoric peoples due to its solar radiation budget. In more recent years, the walls have been heavily graffitied, leading to a restoration of the site between 2013 and 2015. Image by Molly Joyce.

VULNERABILITY OF KARST AQUIFERS

Karst environments are particularly vulnerable to human impacts compared to other natural settings due to the nature of their hydrologic properties. Karst hydrologic systems are capable of transporting surface water efficiently downward into a numerous, widely spread conduits with geometries that are rarely understood. Water enters the system essentially unfiltered because limestone soils are generally thin, conduits have large dimensions, and rapid transmission of water may limit filtering and die-off of pathogenic organisms.

Although surficial containments and potentially radioactive ore bodies exist 150-350 m above the regional R-aquifer, these contaminants can reach perched groundwater at detrimentally high concentrations (Alpine 2010). Management of these complex and concealed systems requires specialist knowledge and once damaged can be extremely difficult to restore. European Union countries have recently made considerable effort to protect the quality and quantity of karst systems on the European continent (Ford and Williams 2007).

MINERAL RESOURCES

Potentially valuable minerals are rare on the southern Colorado Plateau, occurring in two types of settings (Billingsley et al. 1997): 1) Breccia pipes that form through collapse of limestone solution chambers and

contain uranium, and sometimes copper and small amounts of silver, and gold; and 2) Small copper deposits that occur in chert breccias within the Harrisburg Member of the Permian Kaibab Limestone. That limited amounts of copper were extracted historically from the region indicates that copper is of little economic importance in the region (G. Haxel, written communication). Other minerals of minor economic interest include gypsum, sand and gravel, flagstone, cinders, gas or oil, asbestos, and ornate minerals. However, the remoteness of the region and the condition of existing roads is an obstacle to profitable extraction. While most mineral resources in the region are of minor economic importance, the same cannot be said about uranium.

Uranium is found in the more than 1,300 solution-collapse breccia pipes on both rims of Grand Canyon (Finch no date). These 30-175 m-wide vertical pipes are filled with ceiling spall and broken rock. Breccia pipes initially formed as solution caverns collapsed in Mississippian-age Redwall Limestone. The ceiling collapses propagated the pipes upward 1,000 m or more through overlying Paleozoic and Mesozoic strata, up to the late Triassic lower Chinle Formation. Collapse of the cavern ceiling continues upward into overlying formations over time, forming rubble-filled columns. The porous breccia pipe materials may become cemented with a variety of minerals, brought in by geothermal water. The uranium ore in GGCHNM breccia pipes is Mesozoic in age, approximately 200-260 million years old, and was deposited at geothermal temperatures of 80-173°C (Wenrich 1985, Ludwig and Simmons 1988, Wenrich and Sulphin 1988).

Some of the highest grade uranium ore in the United States is located in the many mineralized breccia pipes scattered across the Grand Canyon region. Mining of these breccia pipes began in the 1950s and continued intermittently through the early 1990s, mostly in the Kanab Creek drainage found within the proposed GGCHNM boundary. Nearly 8,500 claims for uranium have been filed, and 1,500 exploratory wells have been drilled. At present there are four mining companies

active in the region and the three active uranium mines (Arizona 1, Canyon Mine, and Pinenut Mine) (<https://miningawareness.wordpress.com/2015/06/07/concerns-with-uranium-mining-in-the-grand-canyon-region-usgs/>).

Due to the great depth of the uranium deposits, breccia pipe mines in northern Arizona since the 1980s have been underground operations. Employing subsurface tunnels and access shafts, rock is crushed to fist-sized pieces, brought to the surface in vertical shaft mines, and transported to milling operations for mineral extraction and recovery. Large quantities of waste materials are generated though uranium mining because the ratio of usable uranium to mined rock is low, ranging from tenths of a percent to single digit percentages. Waste materials associated with conventional mining are characterized by low-level radiation, heavy metals, and other inorganic and organic materials.

Uranium mining in northern Arizona left waste rock and low-grade ore exposed at the surface before stricter environmental regulations in the mid-1970s. Remobilization of minerals and radionuclides in these materials allowed for contamination of surface water and groundwater (Fig. 3.6). The great number and extent of breccia piping increases the potential for contamination in karst hydrologic systems, along with the accelerated erosion of mineral deposits associated with mining development, and the presence of uranium and arsenic associated with mined sites caused concern about environmental degradation. Features such as fractures, faults, sinkholes, and breccia pipes provide pathways for downward migration of surface waters and groundwater. This process that dissolves trace elements and radionuclides in mineralized zones, transporting them deeper in the subsurface and into groundwater supplies.

In 2009, the U.S. Geologic Survey conducted an assessment of historical and current water-chemistry data for wells, springs, and streams in the Grand Canyon region. In that study, low levels of uranium were detected in almost all natural water samples (95 percent) and historical water-quality data showed that dissolved uranium in areas with and without mining were generally similar - representing the abundance of natural dissolution and erosion of ore deposits in the area. Samples from

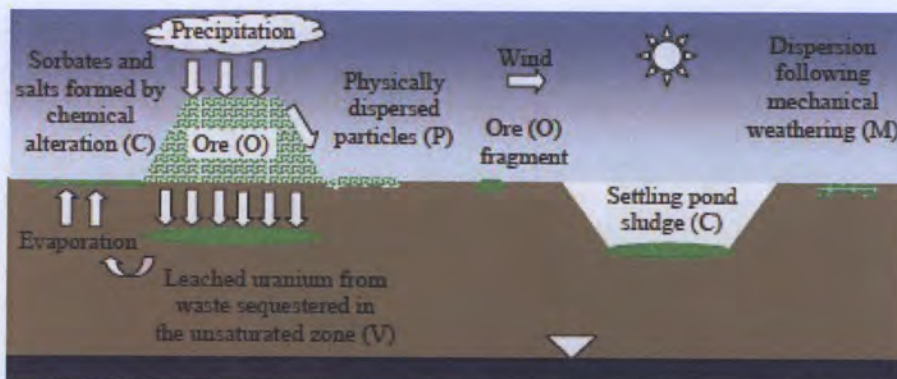


Figure 3.6 Modes of dispersal of stored ore and mined waste at mine sites (Alpine 2010).

15 springs and 5 wells contained uranium concentrations exceeding the Environmental Protection Agencies maximum drinking water standard and were found to be related to natural processes, mining, or a combination of both factors. The groundwater-chemistry relations between concentrations and mining conditions were found to be limited and inconclusive.

Contamination at the surface showed a stronger correlation to mining practices and varied according to physiographic setting, length of time waste materials were exposed at the surface, and effectiveness of reclamation at the site. Wind dispersion of dust caused contamination of soils beyond the mining sites. Surface water spread contaminates across mining sites and beyond into channels and floodplains of stream channels. Experimental simulations of leaching from waste-rock samples found very high uranium concentrations (several hundred to several thousand parts per billion) in some cases.

Contaminates found in natural settings are subject to very large dilution as they mix with their surroundings. The inconclusive groundwater-chemistry results may be a consequence of the travel distance and duration water experiences in this region. Groundwater travels downward approximately 900 m in the Grand Canyon before being discharged, allowing for adequate time for dissolution to occur. Wind and surficial water driven contaminates have a more limited range of dispersion and were thus found more closely associated with mining operations. Though naturally occurring uranium is found throughout the Grand Canyon, the study by the USGS provides evidence that mining practices enhance the susceptibility of increasing environmental uranium contamination.

Threats created public concern included the effects of industrial operations on air, groundwater, and natural

resources in the Grand Canyon region, especially from increased truck traffic and other operations. In 2012 Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced a 20-year withdrawal of 1.07 million acres of federal land from uranium mining (Daly 2012), a decision that was supported by a Federal District Court in 2014. However, neither the announcement nor the subsequent legal contest reduce the number of claims or prevent existing mining operations from continuing. For example, the Canadian mining company Energy Fuels Resources has been approved to reopen its uranium mining operations at Old Canyon Mine, just 10 km south of the South Rim of Grand Canyon.

RECENT PALEOARCHEOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Sediment cores and pollen records over the past 13,500 years were obtained from Fracas Lake (2,518 m elevation) and Bear Lake (2,778 m elevation; Weng and Jackson 1999). They reported that before about 13,000 years ago, the lower elevations of the Plateau were covered by spruce woodland, while upper elevations were covered by tundra. At the conclusion of the Pleistocene epoch 12,900 years ago, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests expanded, but ponderosa pine did not begin to expand into the lower elevations until 11,000 years ago and did not reach the upper elevations until after 9,500 years ago. Spruce, subalpine fir, and ponderosa pine remain in the area, although Engelmann spruce reinvaded the upper elevations after 4,000 yr ago (Fig. 3.7). Based on charcoal in the pond sediments, Weng and Jackson (1999) concluded that forest fires probably facilitated ponderosa pine establishment at higher elevations on the Plateau.

Altschul and Fairley (1989) reviewed the literature on Pleistocene/Holocene paleoenvironmental change on the southern Colorado Plateau, including the Arizona Strip. The arrival of prehistoric humans and Pleistocene/Holocene climate changes are considered the causes of the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna in this region, including elephants, camelids, Harrington's mountain goat, Shasta ground sloth, numerous large predators, and giant *Teratornis* (quasi-raptorial birds). Analyses of packrat middens, plant distribution and general atmospheric circulation models indicated that the jet stream was displaced to the south during the Wisconsin Glacial phase (prior to 12,000 years before present, ybp; Mitchell 1976, Betancourt 1984). Increased frequency of winter storms has likely increased winter precipita-

tion, decreased summer precipitation, and resulted in warmer summer temperatures.

Rapid vegetation change occurred from 12,000 to 8,000 years ago, as boreal spruce, limber pine and dwarf juniper disappeared from lower elevations and species ranges retracted to the upper elevations of the North Kaibab and the San Francisco Peaks. Data from several sites on the southern Colorado Plateau indicate that ponderosa pine, gamble oak, one-seed juniper and, later, pinyon pine, arrived in the region between 10,000 and 7,200 years ago. The present summer monsoon boundary formed during this period, although the present vegetation composition was not fully in place until 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. Geomorphic, palynological and dendrochronological data suggest that droughts were relatively common, with 10-30 yr dry periods from the early AD 200s to the early 900s, increased precipitation from the early 900s to AD 1210, a return to erratic droughts to AD 1500, generally moist conditions from AD 1500 to the mid 1800s, and a return to erratic droughts through the 20th century. Generally, periods of higher moisture availability are associated with pulses of human agricultural activity. While the information assembled is generally applicable to the Kaibab Plateau, much remains to be learned of the region in relation to this general model.



Figure 3.7 A view of Sieber Point from Saddle Mountain. Photo by Kristen M. Caldon.

CHAPTER 4



BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

LARRY STEVENS

BIOMES AND ECOSYSTEMS

The life zones described by C. Hart Merriam (1893, 1894) in and around the San Francisco Peaks and Grand Canyon regions present a snapshot-in-time of vegetation responses to a highly dynamic and changing climate. In the GGCHNM region, these life zones include, from low to high elevation: the Lower Sonoran desert-scrub; the Great Basin conifer woodland pinyon pine, juniper, and big sagebrush Upper Sonoran Zone; the ponderosa pine-dominated Transition Zone; the montane mixed conifer and aspen Canadian Zone; and the subalpine conifer forest Hudsonian Zone. The GGCHNM does not reach sufficiently low elevations for Sonoran-Mohavean desert shrublands, nor high enough elevations for arctic alpine habitat. Nonetheless, the region supports a tremendous range and variety of vegetation types, which form the ecosystems found in the landscape (Brown 1994). Extensive research on Pleistocene and Recent paleontology in the region has revealed dramatic and rapid responses of vegetation to changing climate, particularly since the end of the Pleistocene epoch (e.g., Martin and Klein 1984; Phillips et al. 1987).

VEGETATION

Overview

The vegetation of the GGCHNM region has been the subject of scientific investigations since prior to the turn of the 20th Century (Merriam 1894), and its ecotones and vegetation processes have been the subject of additional botanical studies (e.g., Rasmussen 1941,

Harper and Reveal 1977, Meyer 1978, Brown 1994, McLaughlin and Bowers 1998, Moore et al. 1999). This region lies at the interface between the Mojave, Sonoran, Great Basin Desert biomes with the Plateau Rocky Mountain biome. Brown (1994) and more recently McLaughlin and Bowers (1998) described the floristic provinces of the Southwest, identifying the GGCHNM region as supporting elements of all of the above vegetation assemblages (Fig. 4.1). The interactions among these biomes and floristic provinces over time has resulted in the co-occurrence of at least 1,500 plant taxa, with additional species likely to be detected with more detailed inventories. The region is dominated by a few, rather widely distributed vegetation types, including grasslands, pinyon-juniper woodlands, ponderosa pine forest, aspen, and mixed conifer forests. Although low elevations are sparsely vegetated, canyon slopes and few springs support lush riparian vegetation, and forests and large meadows dominate the upper elevations. Some of the GGCHNM plant assemblages are rare, unusual or unique and reflect long-term changes in climate and the region's unique position and biogeographic history.

Desert Vegetation

The Warm-Temperate Mohave Desertscrub assemblage occurs in lower elevations in Kanab Creek. That drainage supports Mormon tea (*Ephedra* spp.), many desert grass species, saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.), and various cacti and other shrubs. Semi-desert Warm-Temperate Grassland vegetation occurs in patches, particularly on north-facing slopes, and that in the Kanab

Creek drainage. This vegetation type was previously subject to intensive livestock grazing.

Pinyon-Juniper Habitat

The middle elevations of GGCHNM are dominated by junipers and pinyon pines (*Pinus monophylla* and *P. edulis*), which exist in vast woodlands up to elevations of approximately 2,000 m and make up much of the land coverage (Merkle 1952, Holland et al. 1979, Callison and Brotherson 1985, Phillips et al. 1987). The Kanab and northern Coconino Plateaus are dominated by a one-seed and Utah juniper (*Juniperus utahensis* and *J. osteosperma*), as well as pinyon pines (*Pinus spp.*), barbery (*Berberis spp.*). The understory beneath pinyon-juniper stands is typically sparse, with sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*) and scrub oak (*Quercus turbinella*), which is more drought tolerant than its higher elevation counterpart, Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*; Neilson and Wullstein 1985). Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), banana yucca (*Yucca baccata*) and various cacti also are common (Dutton 1882, Hoffmeister and Durham 1971). These vegetation assemblages are part of the Cold-Temperate Grasslands, Desertlands, and Scrublands described in Brown (1994).

Gambel's Oak Shrublands and Chaparral Habitat

South-facing slopes on the plateaus and on canyon sides are covered in mixed shrub-, woodland, and chaparral flora, particularly including New Mexican honey locust (*Robinia neomexicana*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*), and Gambel's oak (*Quercus gambelii*). The latter species forms large stands on sloping colluvial surfaces and strongly dominates upper elevation hillsides. High desert chaparral covers a small percentage of the GGCHNM escarpment edges, and also is part of the Cold-Temperate Scrublands habitat described in Brown (1994).

Sagebrush Habitat

Large stands of bigtooth sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) occur in natural and chained open areas on the GGCHNM region. Snakeweed is abundant, particularly on grazing-disturbed uplands, and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) is also common. Great Basin Sagebrush Desertscrub and Plains Grassland make up a minor percentage of the regional vegetation cover (Holland et al. 1979). Sagebrush Meadow habitat dominated by big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and other shrubs Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*),

banana yucca (*Yucca baccata*) and various cacti also are common (Dutton 1882, Hoffmeister and Durham 1971). This vegetation is part of the Cold-Temperate Grasslands, Desertlands, and Scrublands described in Brown (1994).

Ponderosa Pine Habitat

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) is a widespread western pine that occurs broadly across the GGCHNM at higher elevations, covering a large portion of the uplands. The upper elevation vegetation of the proposed monument is similar to that in the Rocky Mountains (Rasmussen 1941, Merkle 1962). In addition to its occurrence across the North Kaibab, ponderosa pine often occurs as riparian "stringers" in the small drainages that flow off the plateau: water courses in the upper elevation pinyon pine/juniper habitats are marked by long narrow stands of ponderosa pines. The understory beneath ponderosa pine here includes a typically sparse grass, herb, and mixed shrub assemblage, with Gambel's oak, sagebrush, mountain mahogany, and various grasses. Ponderosa pine has been in the region for approximately 10,400 years (Moore et al. 1999).

Mixed Conifer Vegetation

The highest elevations of the GGCHNM exceed 2,700 m, and are dominated by mixed conifer forest, with many open prairie-like meadows. Common high elevation trees include aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), Englemann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), and white fir (*Abies concolor*).

Riparian Vegetation

Riparian habitats make up <0.5% of the landscape area in the Grand Canyon region, but support >35% of the plant species that exist there (Stevens and Ayers 2002). Springs make up <0.01% of the overall landscape, but support >10% of the region's plant species. Therefore, riparian areas, particularly those related to springs are disproportionately rich in species.

The general absence of water precludes development of much deciduous or riparian woody vegetation in this region; however, desert Warm-Temperate Riparian Wetlands occur along low elevation creeks and at springs. Those habitats are dominated by sparse Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Goodding's and coyote willow (*Salix gooddingii* and *S. exigua*), but gallery stands of cottonwood or willow do not presently exist on the proposed Monument. Rather, these Mojave Strandline habitats are more strongly dominated by var-

ious graminoids and herbs, and with peripheral rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosus*), lemonade-berry (*Rhus trilobata*), catclaw (*Acacia greggii*), and other desert grass and shrub species (Brown 1994). Higher elevations support wet meadows, a few perennial streams, and many springs, with aquatic and phreatophytic growth.

Springs vegetation stands out strongly against the non-riparian upland habitats. For example, Big Springs at the Big Springs Ranger Station on the west side of the Kaibab Plateau is a large, cold-water gusher that pours out of the base of the Coconino Sandstone. It supports a lush stand of Gambel's oak, stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and abundant moss, wetland and aquatic plant life. Other GGCHNM regional springs, such as North Canyon Springs, support high concentrations of endemic species of insects and plants. Due to their profuse vegetation and the occurrence of rare species, springs are recognized by the Kaibab National Forest as habitats worthy of special consideration (U.S. Forest Service 2014). However, many springs in GGCHNM have been developed and their water diverted for livestock or human consumption.

Ledbetter et al. (in press) indicate that nearly 200 springs have been documented on the area of the proposed Monument. These Forest springs are known from historical accounts and were hydrologically inventoried during a synoptic study by the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council (2002) and the Springs Stewardship Institute (<http://springsdata.org>). These studies document information on discharge, vegetation, and human use of springs, >75% of which have been largely or completely developed for human use and livestock watering. However, there are many unmapped springs in the region, particularly those emerging from the base of the Coconino Sandstone in the Kanab Creek drainage. Some of those springs are virtually pristine, and support naturally high densities of wetland plants and invertebrates. These springs have direct hydrologic connections to the aquifers of the North Kaibab. In contrast, there is only one known dry springs ecosystem on the southern portion of the GGCHNM.

The biota of GGCHNM springs has been initially described (Clover and Jotter 1944, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council 2002, Ledbetter et. al. in press). Upper elevation GGCHNM springs support several rare, endemic invertebrates, including several elmids beetles, a unique *Nebria* ground beetle, and a unique stonefly species (presently being described by Dr. Richard Bau-

mann, BYU Monte L. Bean Museum), as well as a remarkable array of wetland wildflowers, including a rare, giant-flowered columbine (near *Aquilegiaerulea*). Lower elevation springs supports cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*), redbud trees (*Cercis occidentalis*), and a host of other wetland species.

Management concerns exist over grazing and the invasion of non-native plant species at springs because these habitats host great biological diversity and are fragile and particularly susceptible to invasion (Stevens and Ayers 2002). Castle Spring on North Kaibab Ranger District was used for more than a century for livestock water. It was recently rehabilitated by a joint US Forest Service, Native American, and NGO team to restore its ecological integrity. Although the geomorphic reconstruction of the site was highly successful, management of the site continues to be challenged by a legacy of non-native weed species invasions. Successful removal of non-native plant species from springs has been accomplished at some springs in the region (Burke et al. 2015), but such efforts are time- and labor-intensive. Both the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have fenced off springs to reduce livestock grazing, but more stewardship is needed to reduce landscape and resource damage due to introduced hybrid Bison grazing impacts on springs, spring-fed ponds, and fens.

Rare Plants

As Charles Darwin noted, most species are rare, so it is not surprising that a rather large number of plant species in the proposed GGCHNM are rare. However, some of those species are endemic to the region, and warrant special mention (Table 4.1). Prominent among those are the Kaibab Bigelow's Tanseyaster (Asteraceae: *Dieteria bigelovii* var. *mucronata*), Kaibab bladderpod (Brassicaceae: *Physaria kaibabensis*), listed Fickeisen Plains Cactus (Cactaceae: *Pediocactus peeblesianus* var. *fickeiseniae*), Kaibab *Pediocactus* (Cactaceae: *Pediocactus paradinei*), Kaibab Mexican Skullcap (Lamiaceae: *Scutellaria potosina* var. *kaibabensis*), Kaibab Indian Paintbrush (Orobanchaceae: *Castilleja kaibabensis*), and Kaibab Wright's Birdbeak (Orobanchaceae: *Cordylanthus wrightii* subsp. *kaibabensis*). Of these, only the Fickeisen Plains cactus is federally endangered (http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/Redbook/Fickeisen_Plains_Cactus_RB.pdf).

Table 4.1: Rare, restricted, or endemic plants of the proposed GGCHNM (list compiled by Glenn Rink, Northern Arizona University Department of Biological Sciences, Flagstaff).

Plant Family and Species Name	Distribution Notes
Apiaceae <i>Pteryxia petraea</i>	endemic to GRCA region
Asteraceae <i>Chrysothamnus molestus</i>	endemic to N AZ
Asteraceae <i>Dieteria bigelovii</i> var. <i>mucronata</i>	endemic to the KP
Asteraceae <i>Ericameria arizonica</i>	endemic to rims of GC
Asteraceae <i>Erigeron lobatus</i>	nearly endemic to AZ
Asteraceae <i>Hesperodoria salicina</i>	GC endemic
Asteraceae <i>Hesperodoria scopulorum</i>	endemic to S CP
Asteraceae <i>Hymenoxys subintegra</i>	probably a KP endemic
Asteraceae <i>Packera quercetorum</i>	AZ endemic
Asteraceae <i>Perityle ciliata</i>	early Jones collection
Boraginaceae <i>Cryptantha atwoodii</i>	endemic to the GC area
Boraginaceae <i>Cryptantha semiglabra</i>	endemic to AZ/UT border
Boraginaceae <i>Ellisia</i> sp.	Goodding specimen at ASC
Boraginaceae <i>Phacelia cephalotes</i>	nearly endemic to Strip and SW Utah
Boraginaceae <i>Phacelia constancei</i>	endemic to southern CP
Boraginaceae <i>Phacelia furnissii</i>	endemic to the AZ Strip
Boraginaceae <i>Phacelia hughesii</i>	endemic to the AZ Strip
Boraginaceae <i>Phacelia pulchella</i> var. <i>atwoodii</i>	endemic to AZ Strip and SW Utah
Boraginaceae <i>Phacelia pulchella</i> var. <i>pulchella</i>	endemic to AZ Strip and SW Utah
Brassicaceae <i>Physaria kaibabensis</i>	KP endemic
Cactaceae <i>Coryphantha missouriensis</i>	probably endemic to N AZ
Cactaceae <i>Pediocactus bradyi</i>	endemic to Marble Canyon area
Cactaceae <i>Pediocactus paradinei</i>	endemic to east Kaibab momocline?
Cactaceae <i>Pediocactus peeblesianus</i> var. <i>fickeiseniae</i>	endemic to N AZ
Cactaceae <i>Sclerocactus sileri</i>	endemic to HR Valley/Vermillion Cliffs
Cyperaceae <i>Carex curatorum</i>	endemic to the CP
Cyperaceae <i>Fimbristylis</i>	Goodding specimen at ASC
Euphorbiaceae <i>Euphorbia aaron-rossii</i>	Grand Canyon/Glen Canyon endemic
Fabaceae <i>Astragalus atwoodii</i>	endemic to AZ Strip
Fabaceae <i>Astragalus beathii</i>	endemic to Cameron area, extends into GGCHNM?
Fabaceae <i>Astragalus castaneiformis</i>	N AZ endemic
Fabaceae <i>Astragalus cremnophylax</i> var. <i>hevronii</i>	GC endemic

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Plant Family and Species Name	Distribution Notes
Fabaceae Astragalus cremnophylax var. myriorrhaphis	GC endemic
Fabaceae Astragalus episcopus var. episcopus	endemic to Marble Canyon area/VC
Fabaceae Astragalus episcopus var. lancearius	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Fabaceae Astragalus humistratus var. tenerrimus	probably endemic to GC rims
Fabaceae Astragalus lancearius	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Fabaceae Astragalus mokiensis	endemic to N AZ and S NV
Fabaceae Astragalus pinonis var. atwoodii	endemic to AZ Strip
Fabaceae Astragalus preussii var. latus	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Fabaceae Astragalus straturensis	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Fabaceae Astragalus subcinereus	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Fabaceae Astragalus zionis	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Fabaceae Oxytropis oreophila	apparently a CP endemic
Grossulariaceae Ribes quercetorum	odd outlier from CA, but valid specimen
Lamiaceae Salvia davidsonii	NW AZ endemic
Lamiaceae Scutellaria potosina var. kaibabensis	East Kaibab monocline endemic
Onagraceae Camissonia exilis	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Onagraceae Camissonia gouldii	endemic to N AZ
Onagraceae Camissonia multijuga	endemic to S UT, S NV, and N AZ
Onagraceae Camissonia parryi	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Onagraceae Camissonia specuicola	endemic to GC region
Onagraceae Oenothera cavernae	nearly endemic to GC region
Orobanchaceae Castilleja kaibabensis	endemic to KP
Orobanchaceae Cordylanthus wrightii subsp. kaibabensis	endemic to KP
Plantaginaceae Penstemon laevis	endemic to N AZ and S UT
Plantaginaceae Penstemon linarioides var. viridis	AZ endemic
Plantaginaceae Penstemon pseudoputus	endemic to AZ Strip and S UT
Poaceae Imperata brevifolia	GC is an important refuge for this grass, which probably used to be more common and widespread
Polygonaceae Eriogonum corymbosum var. thompsoniae	endemic to AZ Strip and S UT
Polygonaceae Eriogonum darrovii	nearly endemic to the AZ Strip
Polygonaceae Eriogonum heermannii var. apachense	endemic to AZ, reaches its northern limit at GC
Polygonaceae Eriogonum heermannii var. sulcatum	endemic to GC region and S NV
Polygonaceae Eriogonum jonesii	endemic to areas around GC
Primulaceae Primula specuicola	CP endemic, reaches its southern limit in GC
Rhamnaceae Ceanothus martinii	reaches its southern limit on KP
Rosaceae Ivesia arizonica var. arizonica	endemic to GC region and S NV
Rosaceae Rosa stellata subsp. abyssa	endemic to GC region and S NV

Fickeisen Plains Cactus *Pediocactus peeblesianus* var. *fickeiseniae* (Backeberg) Kladiwa

This small, low-growing cactus species is found only on Kaibab limestone soils on the southern Colorado Plateau. It occurs in small, isolated populations. On the Arizona Strip, it occurs between Mainstreet Valley to the west and House Rock Valley to the east. South of the Colorado River on the Plateau, it occurs from Cataract Canyon east to Gray Mountain and the Little Colorado River. It may be declining due to livestock grazing and drought, as well as non-native species invasion.

Kaibab Indian Paintbrush *Castilleja kaibabensis*
N. Holmgren

This herbaceous perennial is endemic to the Kaibab plateau occupying rocky knolls, usually in the driest, most exposed sites in open meadows at 2500-2740 m (Fig 4.1). It grows in fine silts and clays and rocky, gravelly meadow soils derived from weathered Kaibab limestone in the driest, most disturbed sites in open meadows (AGFD 2003). This paintbrush is remarkable in the variety of color variations it displays in the same population: pale orange, pale red, yellow, soft pink and dull white may all intermingle. *C. kaibabensis* blooms in July and August exhibiting the above mentioned array of colors.

This plant closely resembles *C. lineariaefolia* and *C. integra*, but differs in having bracts divided with fairly acute-tipped lobes and rounded tip, no white, wooly-hairs on stem, and flatter leaves (Grand Canyon National Park, online).

Kaibab Sedge *Carex curatorum* Stacey

This sedge is found only on the Colorado Plateau at elevations ranging from 900-1,300 m. It forms tufts, and droops elegantly at hanging gardens and along stream banks. It can be distinguished from similar *Carex* species by having easily dispersed seeds (achenes) and by not having sheaths and bases apparent from the previous years' growth (Ball and Rezinicek).

FAUNA

Invertebrates

The proposed GGCHNM and surrounding area is one of the entomologically least-studied landscapes in the nation, with the primary entomological attention paid to butterflies. Waltz (1998) recorded 31 species of butterflies and skippers in 5 families on Mt. Trumbull to the west of GGCHNM. The butterflies of the North Kai-



Fig. 4.1 Kaibab Indian Paintbrush, growing in the meadows near Deer Lake, Kaibab National Forest. Photo by Molly Joyce.

bab Plateau have been investigated for several years by Mr. Richard Zweifle of Kanab, Utah, who reports that the most commonly encountered species include: *Coelias eurytheme*, *Abeis nicippe*, *Plebejus melissa*, *Vanessa cardui*, *Nymphalis antiopa*, and *Junonia coenia*. Kaibab Plateau dragonflies also have received some attention: Stevens and Bailowitz (2009) report several dozen species in the region, with *Coenagrion resolutum* regionally restricted to perennial North Kaibab ponds.

Several endemic invertebrate species are known from the GGCHNM, particularly in and around North Canyon. Not only does that drainage support endangered Apache trout (*Oncorhynchus apache*), but also an endemic riparian *Nebria* (Carabidae) ground beetle, a new species of stonefly (being described by R. Baumann of Brigham Young University), and a population of the North Rim endemic Schellbach's Fritillary (Nymphalidae: *Speyeria hesperis schellbachi*). Meadows at the headwaters of that drainage also support the en-

demically Kaibab Variable Tiger Beetle (*Cylindera terricola kaibabensis*), which is tightly restricted to a few North Rim meadows. The endemic Kaibab Monkey Grasshopper (Eumastacidae: *Morsea kaibabensis*) occurs along the east flank of the Kaibab uplife in middle elevation meadows, but is rarely encountered. These and likely other endemic invertebrate taxa exist on and around the proposed monument.

Kaibab Variable Tiger Beetle Carabidae: *Cylindera terricola kaibabensis* Johnson

Adults of this elusive tiger beetle are 8-15 mm long and the body is long and thin with relatively parallel outer elytral (first pair of wings) edges (Fig. 4.2). Colors range

from copper-green to blue-green with narrow, yellowish maculations (markings) that are usually connected. This subspecies is restricted to a few grassy meadows on the Kaibab Plateau of northern Arizona (Stevens and Huber 2004, Pearson, et. al. 2006).

Adults are active during the warm days of summer and feed on soft-bodied invertebrates. They wait, motionless and alert, but ready to sprint after passing prey. These beetles are easily alarmed by movement or vibrations, and fly when approached to within about 2.5 m (Stevens, pers. observations). Their flight is erratic and they usually land in a clump of grass, disappearing immediately.

Larval Kaibab Variable Tiger Beetle have not been studied but are likely similar to those of other members of the subgenus *Cylindera*. General characteristics include a large, flattened head, massive mandibles, and a pronounced dorsal hump on the thorax. They construct vertical burrows in which they wait for passing prey (primarily other invertebrates; Pearson et al. 2006).

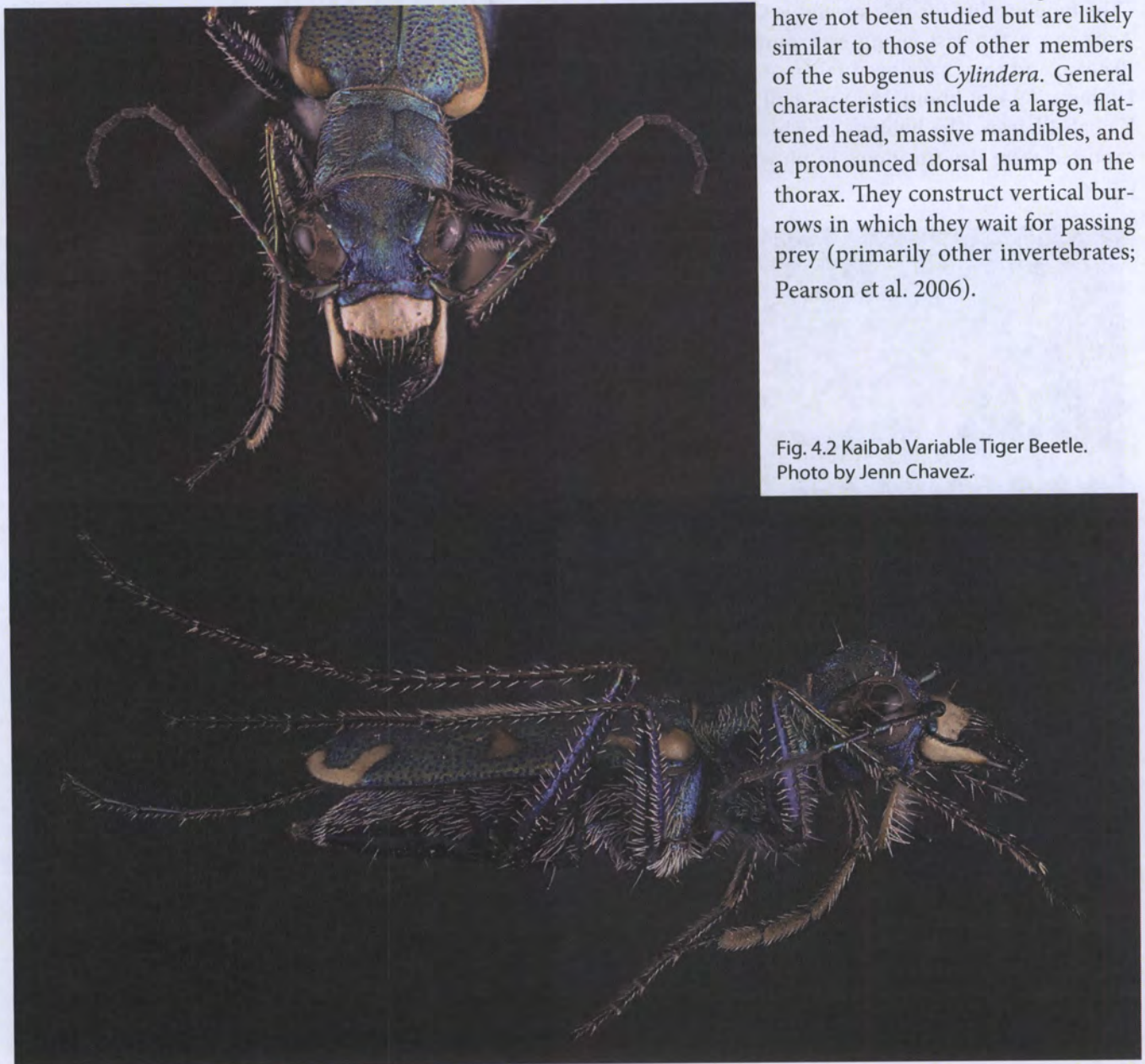


Fig. 4.2 Kaibab Variable Tiger Beetle.
Photo by Jenn Chavez.

Kaibab Monkey Grasshopper Eumastacidae: *Morsea kaibabensis* (Rhen and Grant) Otte

Monkey grasshoppers are distinguishable from katydids and crickets by their short stubby antennae and oddly long, gangly legs (Fig. 4.3). The head is long and set at an angle to the thorax. Many of these species are brightly colored, while some resemble leaves or sticks. The hind legs are thin and elongate, with distinctive spines on the lower half of the tibiae. At rest, many species sit with their hind legs splayed out sideways. The antennae are shorter than the front femora and the majority of species are wingless. Their family feeds on a variety of plant types ranging from grasses and sedges to desert shrubs and ferns.

The type locality for this species is Coconino County, Arizona on the east-facing escarpment of the Kaibab Plateau, and they have been taken as far south as near Highway 89A at about 1800 m, half way up onto the Kaibab Plateau. The habitats in which they have been captured were dry meadows in pinyon-juniper woodlands.



Fig. 4.3 Kaibab Monkey Grasshopper, *Morsea kaibabensis*. Photo by Jenn Chavez.

Persephone's Darner Aeshnidae: *Aeshna persephone*

The larvae of this large darner dragonfly inhabit ponds and slow-moving streams, and move about by pumping water backwards through their abdomens. The larvae are elongate, buff-colored, and have a conspicuous extendable lower mandible.

Adult Persephone's Darners are large, robust dragonflies two wide, yellow-green lateral stripes on the thorax, and having lateral blue spotting very small to absent on abdominal segments 7-10 (Fig. 4.4). The cerci are palmate and wedge-like. Persephone's Darner hindwing length varies from 48-52 mm, and their total body length varies from 72- 75 mm. Persephone's Darner is

similar in appearance to the slightly smaller *Aeshna palmata* Hagen, and within their range of overlap they can be difficult to separate. *A. palmata* has a hindwing length of 43-47 mm, a total body length of 67-70 mm. It has narrower yellow to blue-green stripes on the thorax and on the abdomen the lateral blue spots extend into segments 7-10. Also, its cerci are palmate (Needham et al. 2000).



Fig. 4.4 Persephone's Darner. Photo by Doug Danforth.

Persephone's Darners fly mostly in the late summer and fall and are likely to have just one generation per year. The larval stage has not been well studied, but they probably occupy slow portions of desert mountain streams, where they prey on soft-bodied insects, tadpoles, and perhaps small fish. The adults are notoriously difficult to catch because they fly erratically, follow shadow lines as they patrol, and sometimes rise 10-15 m above the ground (Stevens, pers. obs.).

Persephone's Darner is endemic to the American Southwest and northwestern Mexico. On the southern Colorado Plateau, it has been detected between 1200-2300 m elevation. Persephone's Darners have yet to be found on the Kaibab Plateau, but are found south in Grand Canyon and immediately to the north in Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Kane County, Utah. Therefore, they are expected to occur on the North Kaibab Plateau. Their rarity on the Kaibab Plateau may primarily be due to the natural scarcity of suitable habitat. This species has been found in and along partially shaded desert mountain streams, and also has been documented in open riparian settings near perennial streams. It has rarely been reported away from water in this region, and is almost always confined to middle elevation canyons with permanent or semi-permanent flow.

Kaibab Indra Swallowtail Papilionidae: *Papilio indra kaibabensis* Bauer

A large, iconic black swallowtail, the adults of this regionally endemic subspecies have constellations of sky blue dots arranged in tight patches in a band on both the upper and lower side of the hind wing, and a light yellow band on the underside of the hind wing (Fig. 4.5). This subspecies occurs in mountainous terrain, and is largely restricted to inside Grand Canyon just below the rim; however, it occasionally occurs on to the south of Grand Canyon and has been detected as far to the southeast as Cameron, Arizona (Garth 1950; Stevens 2012). Previously reported as flying in mid-summer, it recently has been found near Saddle Mountain as early as mid-April. Mature caterpillars are large and black and light coral banded, with yellow spots. They feed on members of the parsley family.



Fig. 4.5 Kaibab Indra Swallowtail. Photo by Tom Cheknis.

Grand Canyon Ringlet Butterfly: *Coenonympha tullia furcae* Barnes and Benjamin

This small, buff-colored satyr butterfly has a single dark eyespot near the upper corner of the forewing, and a mottled faun and white pattern on the underside of the hind wing (Fig. 4.6). It flies in abundance in June along the South Rim of Grand Canyon, and occasionally wanders into the forests to the south. It flies in a highly erratic fashion through forest glades, providing only a brief glimpses to those aware of it. The species to which it belongs is widespread throughout the West, but is highly variable regionally, with numerous subspecies described (Garth 1950). Mature caterpillars are small and inconspicuous, and are reported to feed on grasses.



Fig. 4.6 Grand Canyon Ringlet butterfly. Photo by Tom Cheknis.

Schellbach's Northwestern Fritillary Nymphalidae: *Speyeria hesperis schellbachi* Garth

This is a large, showy, rust and black brush-footed butterfly, with dark axes on the upper wings and silver spots on the underside of the hindwing (Fig. 4.7). It is found only along the North Rim of Grand Canyon and the East Rim of Kaibab National Forest (Garth 1950). Like all fritillaries, its larvae feed on violets. They emerge from the egg in autumn and immediately go into winter dormancy, not beginning feeding until the following spring.



Fig. 4.7 Schellbach's Northwestern Fritillary butterfly. Photo by Tom Cheknis.

FISH

Apache Trout Salmonidae: *Oncorhynchus apache* (Miller)

Native fish no longer naturally occur on the Kaibab Plateau; however, Apache Trout were translocated into North Canyon Creek nearly a century ago, and that population has persisted. The North Canyon Apache Trout population has remained pure, and has been used to restock streams in central eastern Arizona in which hybridization with introduced rainbow trout took place.

Herpetofauna

The amphibians and reptiles of the GGCHNM include 8 amphibians and 35 reptiles. The amphibian species primarily occupy wetland habitats, while most of the reptiles are upland taxa, although Terrestrial Garter Snakes are commonly encountered in ponds and along slow-moving streams. Tiger salamanders are also present (Fig. 4.8)

Arizona Tiger Salamander: Ambystomatidae: *Ambystoma mavortium nebulosum* Hallowell

The Arizona Tiger Salamander is found above about 1500 m on the southern Colorado Plateau, where it occurs in ponds (Fig. 4.8).

It can grow to more than 30 cm long and is dark gray or olive in color irregular yellow or greenish markings. It can

be confused with the widely-introduced barred tiger salamander ("water dogs"; *A. m. mavortium*), which has decimated native salamander populations. Neotenic larvae and gilled adults (branchiates) can remain aquatic, and often are cannibalistic. Tiger salamanders are predatory, and feed on a wide array of aquatic and riparian invertebrates and small vertebrates (Brennon and Holycross 2006).

Adult tiger salamanders wander long distances away from perennial ponds on the North Kaibab and elsewhere, particularly during the rainy season. However, as amphibians, they must return to ponds to breed. Both normal and branchiate adults can breed, in either late winter or rarely during the summer monsoon period. Eggs are laid singly or in small masses and often are attached to underwater sticks or vegetation. We have found their eggs under the ice in February in ponds on the North Kaibab, along with mature en-



Fig. 4.8 Tiger Salamander. Photo by Larry Stevens.

demically Kaibab fairy shrimp (Brachinectidae: *Branchinecta kaibabensis* Belk and Fugate). Tiger salamander females can produce up to 2000 eggs each year, and the young hatch within about two weeks, and mature in about two months, unless conditions favor the young remaining in the neotenic form.

Avifauna

We found evidence of at least 121 bird species on and around the North Kaibab and Tusayan Districts. Whereas the bird fauna of Grand Canyon is rather well known (e.g., Brown et al. 1987), that of the Kaibab has been less thoroughly documented. Regional avian studies that provide good background information include those by: Birek et al. 2009; Chambers and Kalies 2011; Blake's (1981) work on 92 bird species he detected on and around Mt. Dellenbaugh; Huey (1939); Rasmussen 1941; Behle 1943; Behle et al. 1958; Wauer and Carter 1965, 1967; the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas (2006); and our own observations.

The East Kaibab Monocline serves as a major raptor migration route across Grand Canyon. Hawk Watch International and Grand Canyon National Park partnered for 17 years, documenting the intensity of raptor migration at Yaki and Lipan Points on the South Rim (http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=578). The hawk migration takes place from late August into early November. The most common hawks observed are: Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Swainson's Hawks, American Kestrel, Osprey, Northern Harrier, with Golden and Bald Eagle, Peregrine and Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Northern Goshawk, and the endangered California Condor.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* (Linnaeus)

The Northern Goshawk is the largest accipiter in the nation. Possessing a long tail and broad rounded wings enables them to maneuver quickly through dense forests. This species is slate gray above and has dense gray barring on the chest. It has a dark gray head with a conspicuous light eyebrow, flaring behind the eye and separating the black crown from a variably gray back. Its barrel shaped chest is white with fine gray barring; appearing light gray at a distance. The tail is gray with black transverse bars. Eye color ranges from yellow, orange, to fiery red in older birds (gray in nestlings). When hunting it perches silently then descends rapidly, taking prey as small as squirrels and as large as grouse, crows, and rabbits.

Northern goshawks occur year-round in the mountains of Arizona. They typically nest in mature or old growth forests, usually above 1800 m, and often select larger tracts of forests. The population on Kaibab Plateau exhibits one of the highest breeding densities known. Their nest is a bowl of sticks lined with bark and greenery high in a tree. These nests contain 1-5 bluish-white eggs (Squires and Reynolds 1997). The female incubates the eggs for 28-38 days and then broods the nestlings, which are fed by both the male and the female. The young begin flying at 35-42 days and become independent at about 70 days (Arizona Game and Fish Department 2013).

California Condor *Gymnogyps californianus* (Shaw)

California condors are one of the rarest birds in the world, numbering about 425 worldwide, with about 219 individuals living in the wild. They are the largest bird in North America, having a wingspan of nearly 3 m and weighing up to >10 kg. Adults are primarily black except for triangle-shaped patches of bright white underneath their wings. These patches are visible when condors are flying overhead and are a key characteristic to positive identification. Males and females are identical in size and plumage. The bare heads of condors are grayish-black as juveniles and turn a dull orange-pink as adults. Condors are members of the New World vulture family and are opportunistic scavengers, feeding exclusively on dead animals such as deer, cattle, bison, rabbits, and large rodents.

Condors do not build nests; instead, an egg about 5 inches in length and weighing around 10 ounces is deposited on bare ground in caves and rock crevices. They typically lay a single egg every other year. The egg hatches after 56 days of incubation and both parents share responsibility for incubation and for feeding the nestling. Young condors leave the nest when they are 5 to 6 months old.

Condors were extirpated from the region early in the twentieth century, and nearly went extinct. However, they were brought back through a captive breeding program and, beginning in 1995, were re-released into the wild. At present, about 73 condors soar over northern Arizona and southern Utah. Many of the condors from northern Arizona and southern Utah frequent Grand Canyon, especially during the summer. They come from all four captive breeding locations. But more importantly, a number of them come from wild nest caves in and around the Grand Canyon. A tag chart and condor

update is online at: https://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/nature/california-condors.htm#CP_JUMP_720673.

The leading cause of condor death in the wild is lead poisoning from spent lead ammunition. Each year 45-95% of the condor population tests positive for lead exposure. A recent press release from the Peregrine Fund reported that trapping and testing results revealed 55 of the 73 condors tested over the winter and early spring showed unsafe levels of lead in their blood. Nearly one-third of those birds had extreme, life-threatening toxicity levels. Over the years, lead poisoning has accounted for just over 50 percent of all condor deaths. As part of an effort to reduce lead exposure in condors, AGFD has provided free non-lead ammunition to big game hunters in Units 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B (the areas condors frequent most during the hunting season). Hunters responded with 80 to 90 percent voluntarily using non-lead ammo or removing their gut piles to benefit condors (Arizona Game and Fish Department online).

MAMMALS

Like most other faunal groups, the mammals of the GGCHNM region are known from only a few scientific studies. Hoffmeister and Durham (1971) and Hoffmeister (1986) listed the mammal species of the region, and distribution and biogeographic anomalies in the region. At present, at least 79 mammal species are known in the GGCHNM. These include 19 species of bats, numerous rodents, Desert Mule Deer and hybrid Bison, as well as numerous meso-predators, such as Long-tailed Weasel, Gray Fox, Coyote, Skunk, Raccoon, Bobcat, and Mountain Lion, and the rare American Black Bear. On the GGCHNM south of Grand Canyon, collared peccary are beginning to colorize the Coconino Plateau. Several predacious species, such as Plains Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus youngi*), Jaguar (*Felis onca*), Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) that once dominated the food web of the region, have been extirpated or driven to extinction creating significant disruptions to trophic processes in GGCHNM ecosystems.

Desert Mule Deer Cervidae: *Odocoileus hemionus* Rafinesque

Ungulate populations have been of enduring subsistence and economic interest to residents and game managers (AGFD) of the GGCHNM region (Fig. 4.9). Desert Mule Deer can grow to be exceptionally large on the Kaibab Plateau. Lack of summer water probably prevents mule deer from remaining at low elevations during the summer; however, they use snow as a water source during the winter, following it downslope as it falls and upslope as it melts. Bostick (1988b) reported two historical cycles of deer population growth on the southern Shivwits to the west of GGCHNM, which occurred with the onset of intensive livestock grazing and the extirpation of native predators. The Kaibab deer population increased in the 1910s and crashed later that decade, the increased again in the 1940s and crashed in the 1950s, and then increased again in the 1960s. Therefore, including the mule deer population rise and crash recorded by Rasmussen (1941), at least three population cycles of desert mule deer occurred over the past century. The primary forage for mule deer on southern GGCHNM points and canyons is cliff rose, which is closely cropped throughout the year. Bostick (1988b) concluded that high deer population levels about 35 ± 10 years (prior to 1988) caused a die-off of cliffrose and sagebrush on the Parashant grazing allotment.



Fig 4.9 Desert Mule Deer.

Desert Bighorn Sheep Bovidae: *Ovis canadensis nelsoni* Merriam

Like pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep were essentially extirpated from the Arizona Strip by the early 1900s, except in lower Kanab Creek and along the southern Grand Wash Cliffs (Fig. 4.10). Bighorn sheep populations are believed to have been more abundant and more widely distributed historically. These animals are



Fig. 4.10 Bighorn sheep perched alongside a cliff face, Grand Canyon National Park. Photo by Larry Stevens.

highly valued by the public for wildlife viewing, photography, and hunting opportunities. Since the late 1970s, the BLM and the AGFD have been cooperatively working to re-introduce desert bighorn sheep. Several of these re-introduction efforts have been successful (U.S. Bureau of Land Management 1997). Populations of desert bighorn occupied the Virgin and Beaver Dam Mountains and the Grand Wash Cliffs, and the total population on the Arizona Strip exceed 500 on BLM administered lands. Augmented water sources (guzzlers) may have helped some of these translocation efforts.

Pronghorn Antilocapridae: *Antilocapra americana* Ord

Pronghorn occur across western US, with ranges from 65 km² to 250 km² (Yoakum 1980). Pronghorn mostly range from 900 to 1800 m elevation, but move higher (to 2700 m) in summer in the Southwest. Arizona pronghorn make much more use of woodland and forest habitat than expected, but their use of these habitats is not well known.

Pronghorn require 0.75 - 1.5 kg of forage/day (dry mass) and up to 1 kg/d on the range (Severson and May 1967, Schwartz and Nagy 1976), and their diet is opportunistic and selective, taking browse year-round, with forbs dominant in spring and summer, and grasses used only in early growth periods (Autenreith 1978, Allen et al. 1984). The success of the pronghorn restoration program has allowed the AGFD to issue hunting permits during the past two decades.

The pronghorn population on the Arizona Strip has declined over the past 50 years, but it has been augmented over the past several decades by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (1978). Pronghorn on the Strip numbered 150-200 head by 1998. Pronghorn occurred on the GGCHNM and surrounding region until at least 1916 (Knipe 1944, Cox and Russell 1973). In 1965 55 Montana pronghorn were released on the Arizona Strip, but the success of the release was not apparent until 1974, when 11 animals were spotted during aerial surveys. The number had increased to 81 animals by 1977.

Kaibab Northern Pocket Gopher Geomyidae:
Thomomys talpoides kaibabensis Goldman

This is a small species of pocket gopher and the subspecies, *kaibabensis*, is distinguished by being smaller yet. A prominent black patch around and behind each ear and chestnut coloring on top of the head distinguish it.

This gopher lives on the Kaibab plateau, in the soils of high mountain meadows surrounded by Ponderosa pine or spruce-fir. In those meadows grow a variety of grasses, weeds and shrubs providing food for at least part of the year. Gestation period is about 18 days, eyes and ears of young do not open until about 26 days after birth. Adult fur grows in at about 3 months of age (Hoffmeister 1986).

Kaibab Squirrel Sciuridae: *Sciurus aberti*
kaibabensis Merriam

This tassel-eared squirrel lives naturally only on the Kaibab Plateau of northern Arizona. It is distinguished from the conspecific Abert's or Tassel-Eared Squirrel that lives south of Grand Canyon by its blackish belly and a tail that is white above and a bit shorter. It was once considered to be a fully different species, but is now considered to be a subspecies of *Sciurus aberti*, the Tassel-eared Squirrel. There is usually some chestnut brown on their head and back. The ear tufts grow longer with age and may extend 1-2 inches (25-50 mm)

above the ears in winter, but are much shorter in summer (Hoffmeister 1986).

Habitat for this squirrel is the ponderosa pine forest where it lives and builds its nests of pine needles and twigs. It feeds on seeds, bark, and twigs of the trees, as well as on subterranean mushrooms. This squirrel's primary food sources are ponderosa pine seeds from pine cones. Young squirrels are born in late spring to early summer (Hoffmeister 1986). The Kaibab squirrel is an excellent example of allopatric speciation – post-Pleistocene colonization and isolation allowed the two lineages to drift apart.

Mountain Lion: Felidae: *Puma concolor concolor*
(Linnaeus 1771)

Mountain lions are large, widespread, solitary cats and are top predators (Fig. 4.11). They are found across the New World, most often in topographically complex terrain. Mountain lions are sit-and-wait predators, feeding on a wide array of mammals, birds and other vertebrates (Hoffmeister 1986). Their populations are declining throughout their range, particularly because of overhunting, and mountain lions have been largely eliminated from portions of their native range, such as southwestern Arizona and in the eastern United States (except in Florida, where it is an endangered subspecies). The GGCHNM region is the last stronghold for mountain lions in Arizona. Here, they feed on deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and smaller mammals, including other predators. Mountain lions generally kill one large prey animal every 10 days. Male lions are larger than females, and can reach a mass of 150 lbs. Both sexes are solitary, highly territorial, and require large home ranges: male collared lions in the Grand Canyon region occupied 124 to 185 mi² ranges, while females occupied 76 to 172 mi². Mountain lions wander widely within their territories, and individuals have been documented traversing Grand Canyon to hunt on the rims. Individuals can live for more than 10 years, but life spans are usually much shorter due to hunting pressures. Female mountain lions can breed at 3 years of age, and can produce three spotted young, which gradually lose their spots but remain with their mother for 18 months. Year-round hunting of these top predators is permitted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department (2016), and 250 and 350 animals are killed each year. About 12% of those killed are taken by predator control agents.



Fig. 4.11 Mountain Lion photo courtesy of <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dbarronoss/> / CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

American Bison Bovidae: *Bison bison* Linnaeus

Bison are not native to Arizona, arriving in 1906 when Charles Jones brought them to the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona and cross-bred them with cattle (Fig. 4.12). He hoped to create a more robust breed, the “cat-talo”. When this effort failed the herd was sold to and maintained by the state of Arizona at House Rock Valley Wildlife Area, east of the Kaibab Plateau (AZ Game and Fish Department 2015). As a result of drought beginning in the late 1990s the herd began to migrate back to the Kaibab plateau. Today there are over 400 bison on the plateau, mostly in Grand Canyon National Park (The Guide, 2015). These large herbivores are impacting water sources, devouring and trampling sensitive vegetation and compacting fragile soils. Grand Canyon National Park is working closely with state and federal managers to attempt to reduce the bison’s negative impacts (The Guide 2015).

FIRE AND FOREST HEALTH

Much of the North Kaibab is a ponderosa pine forest on which fire suppression, grazing and logging have altered forest structure and composition for more than

a century. The pre-Euro-American fire frequency was high, but fire suppression has allowed doghair thickets of young pines to proliferate, and fuel loads to accumulate. Although this appears to be the normal condition for ponderosa pine forests throughout the Southwest, the North Kaibab supports rare stands of old growth forest, which support many characteristic species and are worth protecting from anthropogenically intensified fire threats.

A LIVING MAP OF THE BIOTA OF THE PROPOSED MONUMENT

We present a living map showing examples of the biota that are of special biological and cultural significance to the proposed Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (Fig. 4.13). Explore this map online at: <http://arcg.is/1SOmiyj>.



Fig. 4.12 Bison at the entrance to Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim. Photo by Jeri Ledbetter.

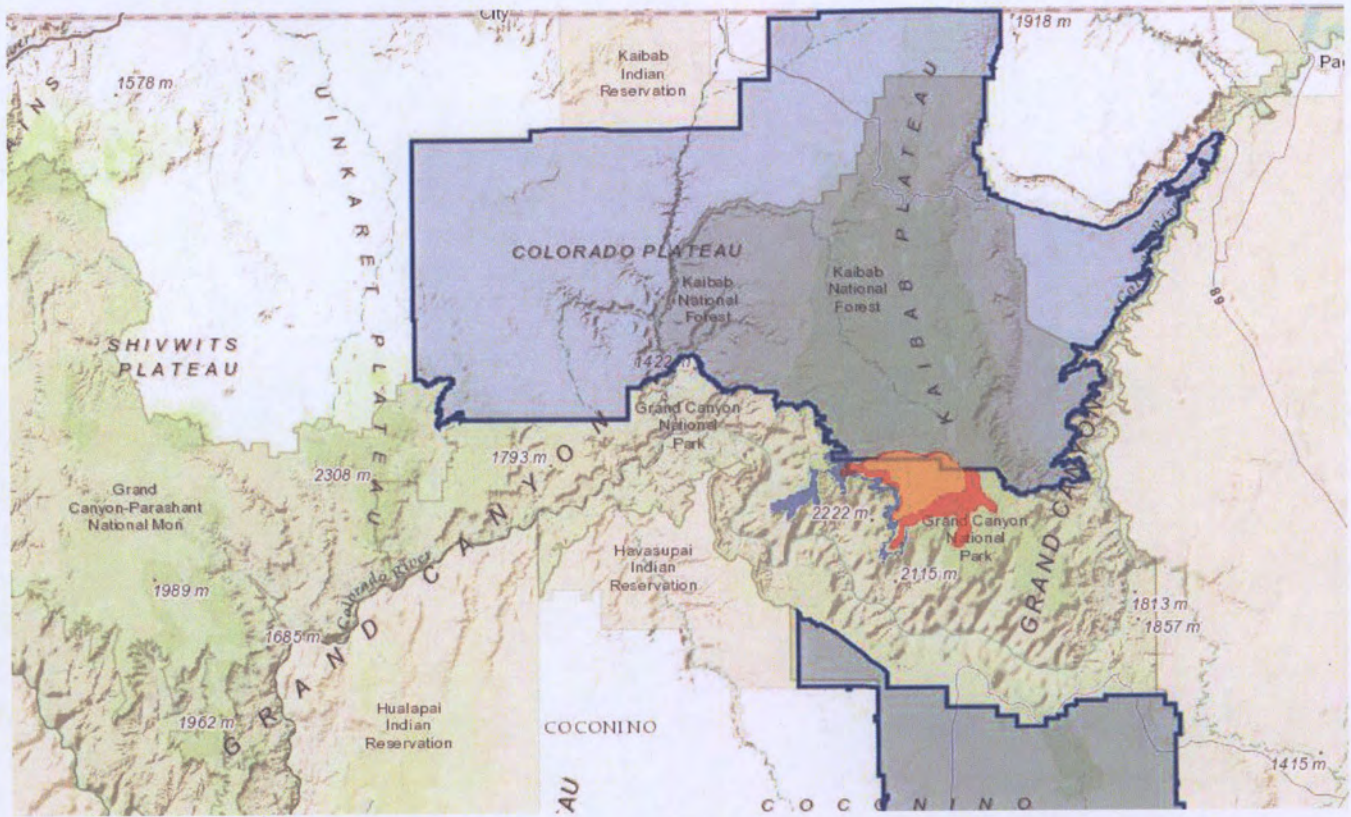
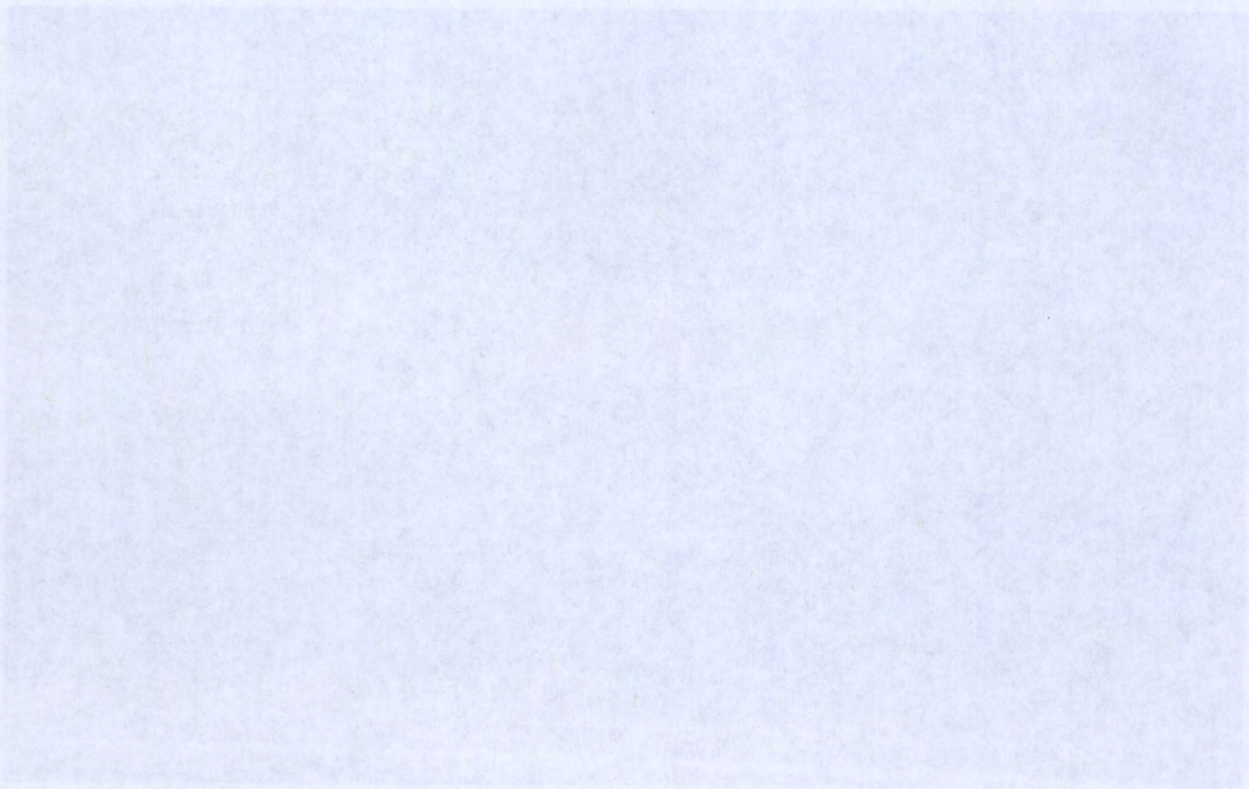


Fig. 4.13 Range map of Bison within the proposed Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. Map produced by Jeff Jenness.



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CHAPTER 5

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT BY ANGLO-EUROPEANS

MOLLY JOYCE AND LARRY STEVENS

INTRODUCTION

Dramatic changes began to occur in the proposed GGCHNM region following the arrival of Europeans. Captain Lopez de Cardenas first set eyes on the landscapes of the Mesa lands and Grand Canyon in 1540, guided to the rim by members of the Hopi tribe (Udall 1987). Typical of early Spanish exploration, the geological formation of the Grand Canyon and its small groups of indigenous cultures were of little interest to explorers like Cardenas and Francisco Vazquez de Coronado. The purpose behind their exploration of the northern territories of New Spain was to discover the Seven Cities of Cibola. Thus, the remarkable chasm and its desolate surroundings were no more than a footnote in their journals. For the next 236 years, the region continued on in obscurity until Silvestre Vélez de Escalante and Francisco Atanasio Domínguez crossed the Kaibab Plateau searching for a water route to the Spanish Missions of Monterey, California. From this point, recognition of the region evolved relatively quickly. This chapter summarizes the 500 years of European exploration and settlement in the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument – a history that is intimately tied to that of the Grand Canyon. Here we highlight the evolution of perspectives held by the men and women, explorers, scientists, artists, politicians, and settlers that transformed the region from an obscure southwestern landscape to one of the most culturally defining monuments on Earth.

Between 1500 and 1775 the Grand Canyon and the Kaibab Plateau remained virtually untouched and was

avoided by early Spanish explorers and Anglo settlers, largely due to political objectives and cultural predispositions of the Spanish crown in the 16th-18th centuries. Spain rejected secularization and disapproved of scientific ideas that spread across Europe during the Age of Enlightenment (Pyne 1998). During the 16th-18th centuries, Spain retained its orthodoxy and acted as the epicenter of the Counter-Reformation, despite accelerated exploration of the New World and intensifying scientific curiosity amongst other European nations. Despite Spain's capacity for naval exploration, its capacity to absorb discoveries within the context of natural history was constrained by religious conservatism. Thus, the first Europeans to set eyes upon the geological wonder were also among those most ill-equipped to appreciate its significance. Focusing exploration on the discovery of Central and South American civilizations, Spanish explorers such as Captain Lopez de Cardenas, Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, and Francisco Atanasio Domínguez placed little role in the Grand Canyon region, recording the giant gorge as an obstacle to be avoided and circumnavigated.

Because of this, it took almost 400 years of exploration and geopolitical contests to transform the region of the GGCHNM into its present state. Transferred from the hands of Spain to Mexico, and finally to the United States, with strong influences of Native Americans, Mormons, and the U.S. government, it now represents a complex cultural landscape. Investigating this history reveals that complexity and multidimensional historical significance. From a geological obstacle to imperialist

Spanish explorers, to a federally protected Wonder of the World, the region has played an enormous role in the lives and cultures it now supports.

EARLY SPANISH EXPLORERS

The story of how the Spanish conquistadors reached the Grand Canyon began 12 years before they set eyes on it. In 1528, Pánfilo de Narváez set out on an expedition to explore northern New Spain (present day Chihuahua, New Mexico, and Arizona), determined to surpass the infamy of his competitor, Hernan Cortés. Narváez left Cuba with 300 Spanish soldiers and 500 horses to claim new land for the Spanish crown. Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico shipwrecked the expedition in Florida, and survivors were attacked and hunted by Alabaman and other southeastern Indian tribes. The expedition barely made it on foot to Galveston Island, and only four of the original 300 survived. One of these men was Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, who became the first European to explore the American Southwest. The one with the most dramatized tales of survival, Cabeza de Vaca trekked across Texas, making first contact with Southern Plains tribes. By 1536, he had walked from Galveston Island, across south Texas encountering Karankawa, Tonkawa, and other Southern Plains tribes, as well as Zuni, and other Puebloan cultures. His journey took him across southern New Mexico and Arizona to Baja California, and down the west coast to Culiacan. Upon reaching Mexico City, Cabeza de Vaca recorded and published an account of his journey, the first ethnographic documentation of North American Indians. This report inspired several Spanish expeditions including that led by Francisco Vazquez de Coronado and his search for the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. Without Cabeza de Vaca's account, exploration to the northern deserts of New Spain would have been delayed by decades or centuries.

On February 23, 1540, Coronado set out from Compostela, the capital of Nueva Galicia, with 300 Spaniards and 1,000 Indians. Amongst his party was Captain Garcia Lopez de Cardeñas. The expedition had reached Cibola in August of 1540 and conquered the Pueblo city of Hawikuh, the first city captured by the expedition (Winship 1904). From Hawikuh, Cardeñas and a small group of soldiers detached from the main expedition to explore regions to the northwest. Members of the Hopi tribe led the men through the Mesa lands of north-eastern Arizona, bringing them through the southern GGCHNM region to the South Rim of Grand Canyon.

As the first Europeans to see the Cañon del Colorado, Cardeñas made little note of the Canyon in his journal. He and his party greatly underestimated the depth of the Canyon, believing the monolithic formations to be "boulders," and the Colorado River to measure a mere 2 m wide (Winship 1904). For three days the party looked for paths to descend to the river for water. Unsuccessful, he assigned three of his men to scout a trail. After many hours, the men returned, unable reach the river. They informed Cardeñas that the Colorado was a great deal larger than they had estimated. They also informed him that the "boulders" Cardeñas observed from above were in fact taller than the Great Tower of Seville, the tallest building in the world in 1540, standing at nearly 90 m tall. The Hopi guides that led the party to the Rim of the Canyon possibly knew of ways to reach the River, but it is likely that they refrained from showing Cardeñas these routes. Seen by Cardeñas as an obstacle, he and his party returned to Coronado 80 days later and continued their trek to the northeast (Winship 1904). A total of 236 years passed until Europeans revisited the region.

THE ESCALANTE-DOMÍNGUEZ EXPEDITION

As the Continental Congress of America declared its independence from England and Captain James Cook launched his third voyage to explore the Pacific Ocean, Juan Bautista de Anza was establishing missions and presidios along the coast of California, and the interior of northern New Spain remained unexplored. Silvestre Vélez de Escalante and Francisco Atanasio Domínguez, both Franciscan priests, launched an expedition to establish an overland trail connecting the inland settlement of Santa Fe with the Spanish presidio of Monterey, California.

The Domínguez-Escalante expedition set out from Santa Fe taking a northern route through Colorado, trekking across northern Utah and along the Great Basin. Harsh winter storms forced the expedition to return southeastward to Santa Fe, circumnavigating the mountains of southwest Colorado. By October 22, 1776, the expedition crossed the Kaibab Plateau, traveling from west to east (Fig. 6.1). They entered the valley where Marble Canyon Trading Post and Lodge are located today, coming up into the valley between the Echo and Vermilion Cliffs (Warner 1995). The expedition was running low on provisions, horses were dying, and the terrain slowed their progress. After crossing the eastern edges of the plain, the expedition descend-

ed “a very high ridge, steep and full of rubble,” making camp beneath a “high cliff of gray (tawny?) rock, naming the spot San Benito de Salsipuedes,” (“San Benito, get out if you can”; Warner 1995). The tall gray cliffs were the Chinle Shale near present day Lees Ferry. In this part of the Grand Canyon, they encountered camps of Indians, whom Escalante called Sabuaganas (Uinkaret Paiute), and with whom they shared Catholic doctrine (Warner 1995). Based on their journals, the Sabuaganas were not responsive to their teachings.

By November 1776 they reached the Hopi village of Oraibi, one of the oldest human settlements in North America, and is located on Third Mesa in Northeastern Arizona. Leaving Arizona, they returned to Santa Fe by January 3, 1777, having never made it to Monterey (Warner 132). The Spanish expeditions of Escalante-Domínguez and Cardenas revealed the limited level of importance that Spain placed on northerly exploration. Of all expeditions throughout the Southwest, only two expeditions mentioned Grand Canyon, although those brief forays have become some of the most cited parts of their explorations (Pyne 1998).

FUR TRAPPERS

The absence of attention paid to the region was due, in part, to Spain’s international policies during the 18th century. New Spain stretched from the Yucatan to the northern borders of Utah, and Nevada, and from the Mississippi River to the Pacific. As the United States, England and France encroached, the borders slowly shifted, and by the beginning of the 19th century, Spain actively blocked further intrusion by the United States; consequently, few Anglo-Americans crossed the land now proposed as the GGCHNM after 1776. After the Mexican Revolution in 1821, the interior of western North America suddenly opened to the United States. Fur trappers rushed into the American Rockies and were among the first to observe and record the American West (Fig. 6.2). James Ohio Pattie, a trapper from Taos,

New Mexico, documented his journeys through the GGCHNM and Grand Canyon region in his *Personal Narrative*, one of several trapper accounts that glorified the American West and its wilderness (Pattie 2006).

In his vague accounts, Pattie described the area surrounding the Canyon as desolate and prison-like (Pyne 1998). He was amongst the few trappers to even note the Canyon in his memoirs. The Canyon’s immense scale forced trappers to avoid it, taking routes farther north along the northern Kaibab Plateau and along the Old Spanish Trail (derived from the Domínguez-Escalante expedition, Fig. 6.2) - a region more plentiful in game. As a result, fur-trapper memoirs recorded their stories in the region that lies within the GGCHNM, lending to the significance of this geographical area. As the 1800s continued, new forces at work in the eastern United States would bring more white settlers to the plateaus overlooking Grand Canyon, continuing to shape the regions historical prominence.

AMERICAN EXPLORATION AND MORMON SETTLEMENT

Throughout the 1840s, the Old Spanish Trail (Fig. 6.2) was a frequently used corridor by fur trappers and explorers, and prospectors who were drawn west to California - growing the Canyon’s reputation in recorded history. Following Mexican Independence, and despite passage by trappers and gold miners, it remained an enigma to the world’s imagination until 1848. Along with the California gold rush (1849), one of the most



Fig. 6.1 Historical Marker dedicated to the Escalante-Domínguez expedition that passed through Houserock Valley, south of Vermillion Cliffs in 1776. Photo by Molly Joyce.

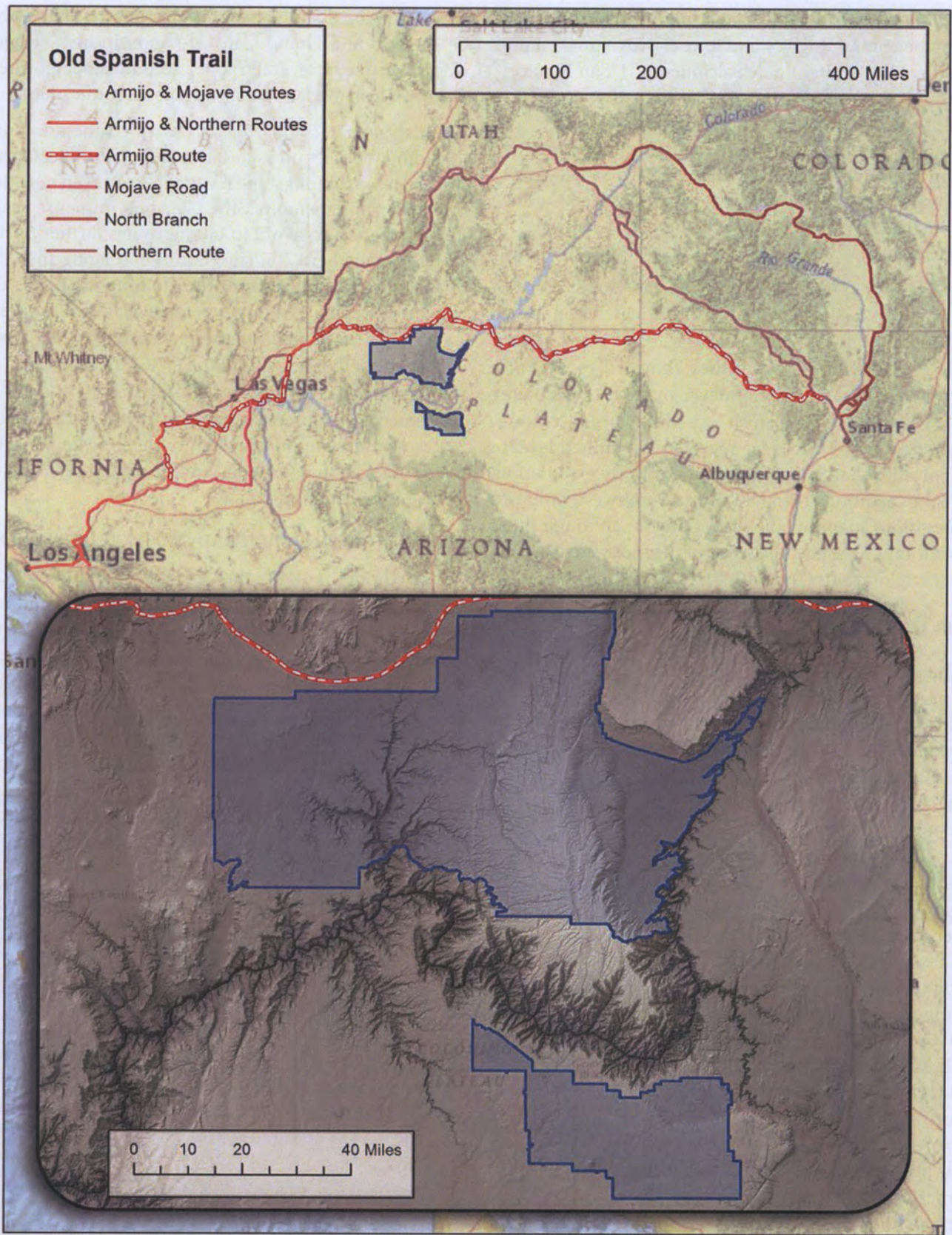


Fig. 6.2 Map depicting the Old Spanish Trail, the official trail established by Escalante and Domínguez. The Armijo Route passes along the northern border of the proposed GGCHNM, and the Escalante-Domínguez journal of their expedition describes visiting areas near Marble Canyon and the Vermillion Cliffs. Map produced by Jeff Jenness.

significant political events to affect settlement in the American West included the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Following the end of the U.S. Mexico War in 1848, the Treaty placed the Canyon and its surrounding country in the middle of a vast new territory belonging to the United States. No longer a remote desert of northern Mexico, 1.36 million km² now fell under U.S. jurisdiction, opening it to people seeking new opportunities west of the Mississippi River.

Facing religious persecution in Illinois and Missouri, Mormon frontiersman left their homes in Illinois and began exploring the unsettled region south of Salt Lake City in 1847. From the Wasatch Front to the deserts of the eastern Sierras they sought sites that would sustain settlements for the state of Deseret (the proposed but never recognized state of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). Colonization of Deseret was successful, particularly across Utah, but the southwestern Colorado Plateau remained less populated than the areas surrounding Salt Lake City. Indigenous tribes, such as Navajo and Paiute, resisted the advancing settlement of Mormon colonists. Relations between the groups grew hostile, developing into violence. Nonetheless, pioneering families and frontiersman established themselves on the Plateau.

As members of the church pushed beyond the settlements of St. George and Cedar City (established in the 1850s) they came into contact more frequently with "Lamanites" - their term for American Indians (Rusho 1981). As a result of the conflicts, Brigham Young encouraged settlers to share the Mormon doctrine with these tribes (Rusho 1981). Upon settling in a new region, missionaries made it their work to evangelize to Paiute, Ute, and Hopi. Generally, their teachings were ignored, as many of these groups had already rejected the teachings of Catholic missionaries more than 70 years before. It was not until the Utah War that relations between Mormons and tribes became more amicable.

Brigham Young ordered Jacob Hamblin, perhaps the most famous and recognized of the Mormon frontiersman, to establish peace treaties with Navajo and Hopi in an effort to bolster relations and missionary efforts, and lead the Southern Paiute mission in Santa Clara, near modern day St. George. Also known as the "Buckskin Apostle," Hamblin was able to successfully established alliances with many of the tribes along the Colorado. However, many groups refused his efforts, including the Hopi. On his return to the northern reaches of the Plateau, he and his men crossed the Colorado

River at the mouth of the Paria river in 1864 (present day Lees Ferry). Further attempts to evangelize to tribes in the region resulted in violent encounters, including one between Hamblin's party and a group of Navajo in 1865. With tensions also growing between the Deseret and the United States, Young encouraged Mormon settlers to abandon the region.

As the Utah War progressed, Young encouraged Hamblin to convince native groups to support the Mormon side. Hamblin made attempts to discourage Navajo bands from raiding Mormon settlements in southern Utah, but he was unable to find any Navajo groups due to hostile relations between the Navajo and the U.S. Army. The United States Army Corps of Topographical Engineers was ordered to survey newly acquired U.S. territories.

Multiple expeditions navigated the GGCHNM region throughout the 1850s, in part to identify a route for the transcontinental railroad, but also to establish supply routes for U.S. troops in the intensifying Utah War (also known as the Mormon War). The Ives Expedition, 1857 to 1858, was sent by the War Department. Led by Lt. Joseph Christmas Ives, they explored the Colorado River. Starting up the mouth of the Colorado River in an iron-sided steamboat called "The Explorer," the expedition explored upriver up near present day Hoover Dam. There the steamboat struck a rock and was incapacitated (Hughes 1978). Abandoning "The Explorer," the expedition trekked overland across Arizona, south of the Grand Canyon. The expedition produced early maps of the Grand Canyon, and now-famous depictions of the region drawn by F.W. Egloffstein.

On September 11, 1857, a party of Arkansas emigrants known as the Baker-Fletcher party left Salt Lake City and, at the suggestion of Hamblin, continued along the wagon trail to Mountain Meadows (in southwestern Utah). A Mormon militia led by John D. Lee (a Mormon leader from Illinois) split the party up and then killed the men, women and children. The event became known as the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Lee attempted to divert blame to Paiute Indians, but rumors circulated confirming Lee's involvement. For his crimes, Brigham Young excommunicated Lee from the Mormon Church and sent him to establish a river crossing along the Colorado River. Lee founded the crossing at present day Lees Ferry, along with a ranch known as Lonely Dell Ranch. Following court orders in 1874, Lee was arrested, convicted in 1876, and executed by military shooting in 1877. Emma, Lee's 17th of 19 wives, took

over the ferry's operations until the Mormon Church bought it from her in 1879 and granted the rights to Warren Johnson.

With tense relations between Mormons, Navajo and other indigenous tribes, as well as the U.S. Army, Hamblin and his men kept watch over plateaus and valleys south of their settlements in St. George. When the Ives Expedition embarked, their presence on the river was not overlooked by Hamblin. He and a small group of men went to investigate the expedition and its motives. They encountered Ives and his men in 1858, before Ives crashed the Explorer. Nothing came of their encounter, despite Hamblin's suspicions of Lt. Ives' purpose for exploring the Colorado River. Hamblin continued monitoring the region and worked to improve relations with tribes, even after the Utah War ended.

The Havasupai, whose historical territory included the banks of the Colorado River in the summer and the plateaus of the South Rim in the winter, were granted their reservation in 1882. It now lies on the southern boundary of present-day Grand Canyon National Park, southwest of Grand Canyon Village, and west of the proposed boundary of GGCHNM. As a tribe with direct ties to Grand Canyon and its surrounding landscape,

the Havasupai befriended some early white settlers like Hance and William Wallace Bass, showing them places of interest within the Canyon. Bass, who had moved to Williams in the early 1880s, first saw the South Rim in 1884. He built a homestead and established copper and asbestos mining claims in the Canyon. Like Hance, Bass realized the business opportunities in tourism Canyon and he converted to guiding tourists through the Canyon (Hughes 1978). Hance established the first trail to the North Rim of the Canyon, and often took visitors to see Supai village. He built a 60-mile stagecoach road from Williams, AZ to the South Rim and his homestead-turned-hotel became a destination for tourists, artists, geographers, and geologists, among others. The Fred Harvey Company and the Santa Fe Railroad eventually bought Bass out in 1923, around the same time that Harold and Nina Bowman founded Jacob Lake Inn on the North Rim.

The Grand Canyon and its surrounding plateaus became more heavily visited after ambitious businessmen, such as Fred Harvey and investors of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad followed the lead of Hance and Bass and capitalized on the tourism industry that now defines the region. The Fred Harvey Company, with the help of Bucky O'Neill and eastern investors,



Fig. 6.3 North of the Grand Canyon's North Rim, the East Kaibab monocline is exposed, due west of Marble Canyon and Lees Ferry. Photo by Kristen M. Caldon.

developed the rail line to the South Rim in 1901 and built lodging there (Hughes 1978). Rumors, stories, and paintings of the Colorado Plateau's unsurpassed beauty reached the East Coast and tourists included artists and natural scientists, as well as heads of state, such as Theodore Roosevelt.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Until the turn of the 20th century, the Grand Canyon region largely passed unnoticed by Spanish, Mormon, and American explorers, and had been avoided by trappers and frontiersmen. It was the last of America's great landscapes to be mapped and still remains incompletely explored. However, it was among the first of America's landscapes to be formally protected. With Theodore Roosevelt's first visit to the South Rim in 1903, the region helped launch a new era of conservation. "Leave it as is," stated Roosevelt. "You cannot improve it. The ages have been at work on it and man can only mar it" (Newman 2011). In the years following his first visit, Roosevelt made several hunting and wilderness expeditions along the Canyon's North and South Rims, as well as into the Canyon itself. He commented on the great abundance of wildlife, and its unique appearance and austere beauty.

Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon and its surrounding forests as a National Game Preserve in 1906 and as a National Monument in 1908 (Newman 2011). He praised the beauty of the Kaibab Plateau – from the abundant wildflowers and towering pines, to Great Horned Owls and juncos. Some species he had no name for such as a "long-crested, dark-blue jay," known today as the Steller's Jay, and "the handsomest squirrels I have ever seen – with black bodies and bushy white tails," unmistakably the Kaibab Squirrel, endemic to the Kaibab Plateau (Newman 2011). In contrast to the geological observations of Powell and Gilbert, Roosevelt made several important, critical observations about the ecology of the region, observations which continue to influence conservation efforts. In the few short years following its designation as a National Monument, Roosevelt noted an observable shift in the wildlife populations of the Kaibab Plateau. In his account of a cougar hunt in 1913, Roosevelt commented on the increasing numbers of the "chief game animal of the Colorado Canyon reserve... the Rocky Mountain blacktail, or mule deer," also known as the Kaibab desert mule deer (Newman 2011). Attributing this to a decrease in human hunting of deer as well as the killing off of cougars, Roosevelt documented a pivotal moment in the federal govern-



Fig. 6.4: View from the Saddle Mountain Trail, overlooking Nankoweap Trail, originally established by John Wesley Powell as a route to the river. Photo by Kristen M. Caldron.



Fig. 6.5 An aerial view of the original Grand Canyon Airport at Red Butte. Photo by Kristen M. Caldon.

ment's role managing wildlife on public lands (Binkley 2006).

At the time of his cougar hunt in 1913, the region was under designation as a National Monument. With a decrease in human hunting (mostly native peoples), and an increase in the number of cougars killed by rangers and hunters, species like the Kaibab deer and other game underwent a massive population explosion (Binkley 2006). Grand Canyon game warden, Uncle Jim Owens, reportedly killed between two and three hundred cougars during his tenure. Although it is easy to see that he did not understand the ecological importance of the big cats, he did admire their deadly skill as hunters, commenting on their social and predatory behaviors. Roosevelt maintained the opinion that removal of predators was an ecological service, enabling every man to better experience wild nature (Newman 2011). As a result of these early land discussions, the Canyon region and the animals and peoples who historically inhabited it during this early period of conservation underwent a drastic reconfiguration.

54

Almost two decades prior to its designation as a National Monument, the federal government declared the area as the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve (1893). The area encompassed the Havasupai reservation and created a barrier between the Havasupai and the forests where they had hunted for game, gathered for other foodstuffs, and grazed horses (Hughes 1978). The Tribe was not able to hunt beyond the reservation borders without game permits.

Transition of the Grand Canyon region from a Forest Reserve to a National Monument, and finally to its designation as a National Park in 1919, ultimately protected Grand Canyon and some of its wildlife from what Roosevelt called "selfish exploiters of the public domain" (Newman 2011). However, the initial impacts of these decisions resulted in massive population fluctuations of Kaibab deer and their natural predators. Overgrazing of aspen, continued predator control, and an increase in human hunting in the 1920s also had major impacts on deer and other wildlife species (Binkley 2006).

Tourism and development continued to increase after designation as a National Park. The cable car built by David Rust at Bright Angel Creek in 1903 was replaced in 1921 by a swinging bridge, and increased automobile traffic inspired Harold and Nina N. Bowman to open Jacob Lake Inn and filling station on the North Rim in 1923. Nina's grandfather, Franklin B. Woolley, authored the summary report of the 1866 cavalry exploration of southern Utah and northern Arizona in 1866 – an area that encompassed St. George, the Kaibab Plateau, and the mouth of the Green River (the chief tributary of the Colorado River). The report included the first official description and map of the Kaibab Plateau. Franklin's brother, Edwin D. Woolley Jr., as one of the first white men to see Grand Canyon from the North Rim. He predicted that people would come from "all corners of the globe and pay large sums of money to gaze at (this true) wonder of the world." Edwin guided the first automobile trip to the North Rim in 1913. He built a road along the way and shipped gas from the nearest filling station in Salt Lake City, a distance of 320 miles. Henry Bowman, Harold's father, also played a major role in improving

automobile access to the Grand Canyon, building the first road from Kanab, Utah to Mt. Carmel.

By the time Harold and Nina established their lodge in 1923, nearly 60 years of exploration, settlement, development, and legal battles had elapsed. The Jacob Lake Inn "was quite an experiment at first," stated Harold. "If we could sell a barrel of gas in one day, we thought we had had good business." It was not until the mid-1930s, after Navajo Bridge was constructed across the Colorado River at Marble Canyon and the crossroads of Highway 89A and Highway 67 south of the North Rim were completed, that their business was able to prosper.

The 1920s marked a decade of development and increased visitation to the South Rim as well. After completion of the rail line to the South Rim, and Bass improved his road to the South Bass area, tourists came by train and automobile to the southern portion of the proposed GGCHNM. In 1927, Parker Van Zandt created a runway and built an airplane hangar near Red Butte south of Grand Canyon Village. He launched the first air tours of the Grand Canyon and secured inves-



Fig. 6.6 Ponderosa Pine dominates the forests of the proposed monument, and has played a seminal role in the history of the region. Photo by Jeri Ledbetter.



Fig. 6.7 Steller's Jay. Photo by Molly Joyce.

tors such as Henry Ford. Amelia Earhart and Charles Lindbergh both landed their planes at that airport. The aerial tour company, Scenic Airways Inc. remained open until the 1960s, when a more central airport was completed at Tusayan.

SUMMARY

Grand Canyon is the focal point of tourism and visitation in northern Arizona, and the history of exploration and settlement continues to profoundly affect the landscape. From Cardenas and Escalante, to Lee, Roosevelt and modern entrepreneurs, these explorers and settlers shaped economic development along the Canyon's Rims. The history of the proposed GGCHNM has been a grand debate on balancing economic and environmental concerns over this vast, rich, scenic landscape, a discourse produced through the lives and actions of Native Americans, explorers, politicians, authors, and artists. Understanding the significance of this enormous suite of ecosystems, few could anticipate 5 million tourists would be drawn to the region annually in the 21st century.

American perception of the Grand Canyon changed dramatically over the past 500 years. People no longer cross the southwestern states with goals of imperialism, ignoring the natural and cultural significance of the GGCHNM landscape. Instead, the myth and grandeur of the region gradually dawned upon them. It has

passed through generations of men and women whose personal ties to the Canyon evolved from exploration to settlement and by opportunistic pioneers, to recreation, pleasure seekers and those hungry for reconnection to the natural world. Hunting, logging, mining, damming, and tourism have altered the GGCHNM over the course of history, and the region continues to play an integral role in land and natural resource conservation philosophy and policy.

CHAPTER 6



LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION HISTORY

KIM CRUMBO AND KATIE DAVIS

INTRODUCTION

Concerns over degradation of the natural values of the Grand Canyon region led to the establishment in 1893 of a forest reserve surrounding Grand Canyon. In fact, between 1882 and 1886, Senator (later President) Benjamin Harrison introduced three Grand Canyon National Park bills that evidently included the North Kaibab (Morehouse 1996:39). In 1903, Theodore Roosevelt visited the region and pronounced: "The Grand Canyon fills me with awe. It is beyond comparison—beyond description; absolutely unparalleled throughout the wide world... Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is. Do nothing to mar its grandeur, sublimity and loveliness. You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see" (Hughes 1979:66). Roosevelt did much to protect the Grand Canyon, but he could scarcely foresee the ensuing century of struggle that lay ahead to preserve this great American treasure.

By 1905, Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt recognized that forests like the Kaibab should be set aside "for the wild forest creatures" ...[to] afford perpetual protection to the native fauna and flora" (U.S. Congress 1905). In 1906, and in accordance with earlier Congressional authorization, Theodore Roosevelt established the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve for "the protection of game animals... recognized as a breeding place therefore..." That designation, while still on the books, has proven ineffective in preserving the

full spectrum of native species and their habitat, especially large carnivores and the Plateau's old growth forests and grasslands.

Two decades after Roosevelt's Game Preserve designation, "Ding" Darling, the head of the U.S. Biological Survey, proposed creating a vast wildlife area on the Arizona Strip. At least one rancher, Preston Nutter, expressed enthusiasm for the idea (Price and Darby 1964:251). As usual, the principal opponents, ranchers (with at least one exception, Mr. Nutter) and loggers, blocked these conservation efforts (Morehouse 1996).

In 1908, Theodore Roosevelt, exasperated by faint-hearted congressional reluctance to protect the Grand Canyon, proclaimed the area a national monument, laying the foundation for the National Park but leaving out most of the forested Kaibab Plateau (Morehouse 1996:37). Efforts to protect the lands surrounding Grand Canyon continued with recommendations for an enlarged, five million-acre national monument including not only the North Kaibab and Tusayan Ranger Districts adjacent to Grand Canyon, but portions of Utah's Dixie National Forest (Morehouse 1996:40).

The Act of Congress, signed by President Woodrow Wilson, established Grand Canyon on February 26, 1919, three months after the end of World War I, in which 16 million humans perished. In 1927, Congress enlarged the Park to include portions of the North Kaibab forest (Hughes 1979:90). In December 1932, Herbert Hoover, of all people, established a 273,145-acre

Grand Canyon National Monument in the Toroweap region of western Grand Canyon (Morehouse 1996:73; Hughes 1979:90).

Traditional opponents to Park additions (logger, ranchers and hunters) emerged again in 1930 and by 1937, adversaries informed Arizona's Senator Hayden that ranchers opposed "loss of any more grazing range" (Morehouse 1996:75,76). Yet, greater threats to the Canyon lay just over the horizon.

In 1922, seven states and the federal government negotiated and signed the Colorado River Compact, defining the relationship between the upper basin states, where most of the river's water supply originates, and the lower basin states, where most of the water demands were developing (Law of the River 2012). At the time, the upper basin states were concerned that plans for Hoover Dam and other water development projects in the lower basin would, under the Western water law doctrine of prior appropriation, deprive them of their ability to use the river's flows in the future. The compact established Lee Ferry as divider between the Upper and Lower Basins (Hughes 1979:97).

One outcome of the compact, the U.S. Geological Survey headed by Claude H. Birdseye, led an expedition down the Colorado River through Grand Canyon in 1923, intent on locating potential dam sites (Hughes 1979: 97; Lavender 1985: 58-65).

In 1950, the Bureau of Reclamation completed a grandiose scheme recommending two major dams in Grand Canyon National Park (Crumbo 1994). Marble Canyon Dam, planned for just below Red Wall Cavern at Mile 39.5, would have flooded 609 km of river up to near the base of Glen Canyon Dam, wiping out one of the world's most enchanting river canyons. A second dam, Bridge Canyon Dam at Mile 236, would have flooded 95 miles of river, including Lava Falls and the lower section of Havasu Creek.

As late as 1966, many considered the dams inevitable, but in June of that year, the Sierra Club paid for full-page advertisements in the New York Times and Washington Post: "Only You Can Save the Grand Canyon from being Flooded—For Profit" (Crumbo 1994). In 1968, after much debate, deceit and political maneuvering, Congress passed, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed, Public Law 90-537 prohibiting the study or construction of hydroelectric dams in Grand Canyon without congressional approval.

On January 20, 1969, his last day in office, President Johnson created Marble Canyon National Monument (Hughes 1979:106). Finally, in 1975, President Ford signed the Grand Canyon Enlargement Act, embracing Marble Canyon and Grand Canyon (Toroweap) national monuments, and protecting the entire Canyon from Lees Ferry to the Grand Wash Cliff.

WATER FLOWS

The Grand Canyon Protection Act of 1992 requires the Secretary of the Interior to "operate Glen Canyon Dam ...in such a manner as to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to, and improve the values for which Grand Canyon National Park... including, but not limited to natural and cultural resources and visitor use." While this Act does not directly influence management of the proposed GGCHNM, it emphasizes the importance of Grand Canyon in regional land management.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Surrounded by desert and isolated by canyons, forests on the Kaibab Plateau have a unique evolutionary history (Keith 2003, Weng and Jackson 1999). The distribution of major forest vegetation types on the plateau generally follows gradients of temperature and moisture that correspond with elevation (Rasmussen 1941 – Figure 1). Ponderosa pine forest intermixes with pinyon-juniper woodland near canyon rims, and it is prominent up to approximately 8,200 feet above sea level, where it transitions to forest dominated Douglas-fir and spruce species. Quaking aspen is ubiquitous and transitional among all forest types on the Kaibab Plateau.

Old growth forests that feature large, fire-resistant ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees are less abundant today than when Europeans settled the region. Industrial logging removed more than 90 percent of old growth structure from ponderosa pine forests in the American Southwest by 1990 (Bailey and Ide 2001, Covington and Moore 1999, USDA 2007). Old growth is more abundant on the Kaibab Plateau due, in part, to its remoteness from commercial infrastructure and relatively short logging history (Sesnie and Bailey 2003). In fact, outside of designated wilderness areas, there is no other forested landscape in the Southwest that contains more old-growth trees and old-growth forest structure

Forest inventory data collected in 1982 and 1990 on the northern Kaibab Plateau near Jacob Lake, Arizona, showed that approximately 53 percent of ponderosa pine forest exhibited old growth structure (Sesnie and

Bailey 2003). Contiguous old growth stands were even more common before 1940, when the U.S. Forest Service developed its first timber management plan for the Kaibab Plateau. Extensive timber harvest in the second half of the 20th century replaced old growth forest with even-aged stands dominated by small trees on approximately 45 percent of the plateau (Sesnie and Bailey 2003: 44-46; Figure 4).

In this regard, ponderosa pine forest structure and composition on the Kaibab Plateau changed in a qualitatively similar fashion to what occurred elsewhere as a result of human management (Covington and Moore 1999). However, the highest density of northern goshawks reported in North America occurs on the Kaibab Plateau primarily because the remaining late seral forest offers relatively abundant nesting habitat (Reynolds and Joy 1998). Objects of scientific interest on the plateau include the remaining old growth forest and associated wildlife populations that are more abundant on the Kaibab Plateau than anywhere else in the American Southwest.

Evidence from fire scars in live trees indicates that frequent, low-intensity surface fires were characteristic of ponderosa pine forests in the period from approximately 1700 to present (Swetnam and Baisan 1996). Fulé and others (2000) reported a mean fire return interval of six-to-nine (6-9) years in ponderosa pine forest on the southern edge of the Kaibab Plateau where lightning strikes are most common. At other plateau locations, mean fire return intervals ranged from five-to-19 years (Fulé et al. 2003, Wolf and Mast 1998). Fires generally occur in dry years, particularly when preceded by one to three years of high precipitation (Swetnam and Baisan 1996, Fulé et al. 2000).

Fulé and others (2002a, 2002b) noted spatial gaps in ponderosa pine forest stands comprising patches of about two (2) hectares or less where crown fires stimulated quaking aspen, indicating a mixed-severity fire regime (Odion et al. 2010, Williams and Baker 2012). According to Rasmussen (1941: 254), "The aspen attains its maximum development above the yellow pine, but areas and scattered groups are present in many parts of' the association. This species apparently forms a primary seral stage in the forest succession near the upper border of the community but it is also found in a variety of local situations."

Mixed conifer forest is transitional between ponderosa pine and spruce-fir communities. With inher-

ently diverse composition and structure, mixed conifer forest exhibits an intermediate fire regime including low-severity and stand-replacing fires that maintain a patchy mosaic of vegetation over broad scales (Odion et al. 2014, Williams and Baker 2012). According to Fulé and others (2003: 483-484), the fire regime of mixed conifer forest varies by slope and aspect:

The transition zone studied here, changing from surface to stand-replacing fires, may be the most complex case for fire regime reconstruction. [E]ven if we were fully able to reconstruct the details of every fire from 1700 to 1879, the pattern of severe burning did not appear to be stable over the spatial and temporal scale of the study. These considerations imply that managers may be best advised to view the historical condition in high-elevation southwestern forests as a relatively general guide to reference conditions, in contrast to the more specific and temporally stable reference data available for lower-elevation ponderosa pine forests.

Elevated densities of small, shade-tolerant, and fire-sensitive tree species like white fir may be an artifact of fire suppression in mixed conifer forest (Fulé et al. 2003), but the effect of fire suppression is not uniform across the Kaibab Plateau.

Frequent disturbance by lightning-ignited fires shaped the structure and composition of conifer forest on the Kaibab Plateau for at least 10,000 years before European settlement. A mixed-severity fire regime with short area rotations coincided with the invasion of ponderosa pine into mesic, spruce-dominated formations as regional temperatures increased at the beginning of the Holocene (Weng and Jackson 1999: 196-197).

Fire disturbance patterns occur in disequilibrium with current climate (Allen et al. 2002). The last decade of the 20th century and first decade of the 21st century were the warmest of the past millennium (Seager and Vecchi 2010). Xeric conditions that prevailed ~6,000 years ago may offer a better analogue to the emerging climate than what prevailed in the past few centuries (Mock and Brunelle-Daines 1999, Seager et al. 2007, Weng and Jackson 1999). Continued warming will necessitate restoration approaches informed

by reference conditions drawn from deeper time than what existed when Europeans settled the area (Noss et al. 2006, Swetnam et al. 1999, Whitlock et al. 2003).

The relatively intact forests of the Kaibab Plateau are highly adapted to natural fire disturbances (Allen et al. 2002, Falk et al. 2006, Fulé et al. 2002b). Additionally, due to its remoteness and limited private acreage, the Kaibab Plateau contains few developed areas and is notable for its absence of structures or established human communities that have the potential to be disturbed by fire. This unique ecosystem presents significant management opportunities to accomplish restoration of natural disturbance processes, and provides ideal conditions to study and observe these phenomena.

Fire should be used to accomplish restoration objectives where it has been artificially suppressed by human management (Brown et al. 2004, DellaSala et al. 2004, Odion et al. 2014). Sustainable forest management will emphasize fire resilience as natural disturbances increase in frequency (McKenzie et al. 2004, Seager et al. 2007, Seager and Vecchi 2010, Weng and Jackson 1999, Westerling et al. 2006, Williams et al. 2010). Fire resilience will be especially important to conservation and recovery of sensitive wildlife species including northern goshawk, Kaibab squirrel, and Mexican spotted owl.

Fulé and Laughlin (2007) studied fire effects to conifer forest structure and composition on the Kaibab Plateau. Use of naturally-ignited wildfires in 2003 caused significant reductions of tree density, canopy cover, and fuel load on burned sites compared to sites that did not burn. "Thinning effects" of fire in ponderosa pine forest, even after fire had been excluded since 1880, was consistent with restoration objectives (Fulé and Laughlin 2007: 144). Therefore, the Kaibab Plateau presents the Forest Service, other state and federal agencies, and scientists with a rare chance to implement and study fire-based restoration projects, while protecting old growth forest characteristics, well into the future.

NATURAL QUIET

Aviators have found the Grand Canyon irresistible since at least 1919 when an Army Air Service pilot braved the canyon's depths by descending about 2,000 feet below the rim (Hughes 1979:100). Expansion of air travel led to construction of an airport in 1965, just outside the Park at Tusayan town (Hughes 1979:104). The airport soon became the state's third busiest as the Can-

yon's once immense silence filled with the whine of aircraft. Often, only the roar a large rapid could mask the often constant aerial drone, while it was not uncommon to find a helicopter hovering directly over the pools of Deer Creek Falls, or along the face of Thunder River. Not all approved. "The prevalence of airplanes and helicopters in and above the Grand Canyon," wrote Edward Abbey "are a distracting, irritating nuisance which should no longer be tolerated by anybody," and many agreed (Crumbo 1994). Public dissatisfaction resulted in passage of the 1987 National Parks Overflights Act. The Act required the agencies to "provide for substantial restoration of the natural quiet and experience of the park and protection of public health and safety from adverse effects associated with aircraft overflight." The fight to restore natural quiet continues to this day, although increases in overflight frequency have been proposed.

THE GRAND CANYON WATERSHED PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

During the first session of the 112th Congress, Representative Raul Grijalva introduced legislation to protect Grand Canyon's immediate watershed outside the Park from additional uranium mining claims and subsequent mining impacts, as described above. The legislation failed to pass, but at public insistence the Secretary of Interior withdrew from future mining claims 1.7 million acres surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. As described in the Mineral Resources section of Hydrogeology Chapter 2, many uranium mining claims exist in the region and two are in or nearly in operation.

The withdrawal order was only for 20 years, and recently some lawmakers introduced legislation to overturn the Secretary's decision demonstrated Congress' unwillingness to provide long-term protection of the natural values critical to the region's economic and environmental welfare. At the time of this writing, at the mining industry has filed least four lawsuits seeking repeal of the withdrawal. Conservationists, led by the Sierra Club and Grand Canyon Wildlands Council are leading the charge to convince the President to follow Theodore Roosevelt's example and fulfill the vision to permanently protect the Grand Canyon on a grander and ecologically complete scale.

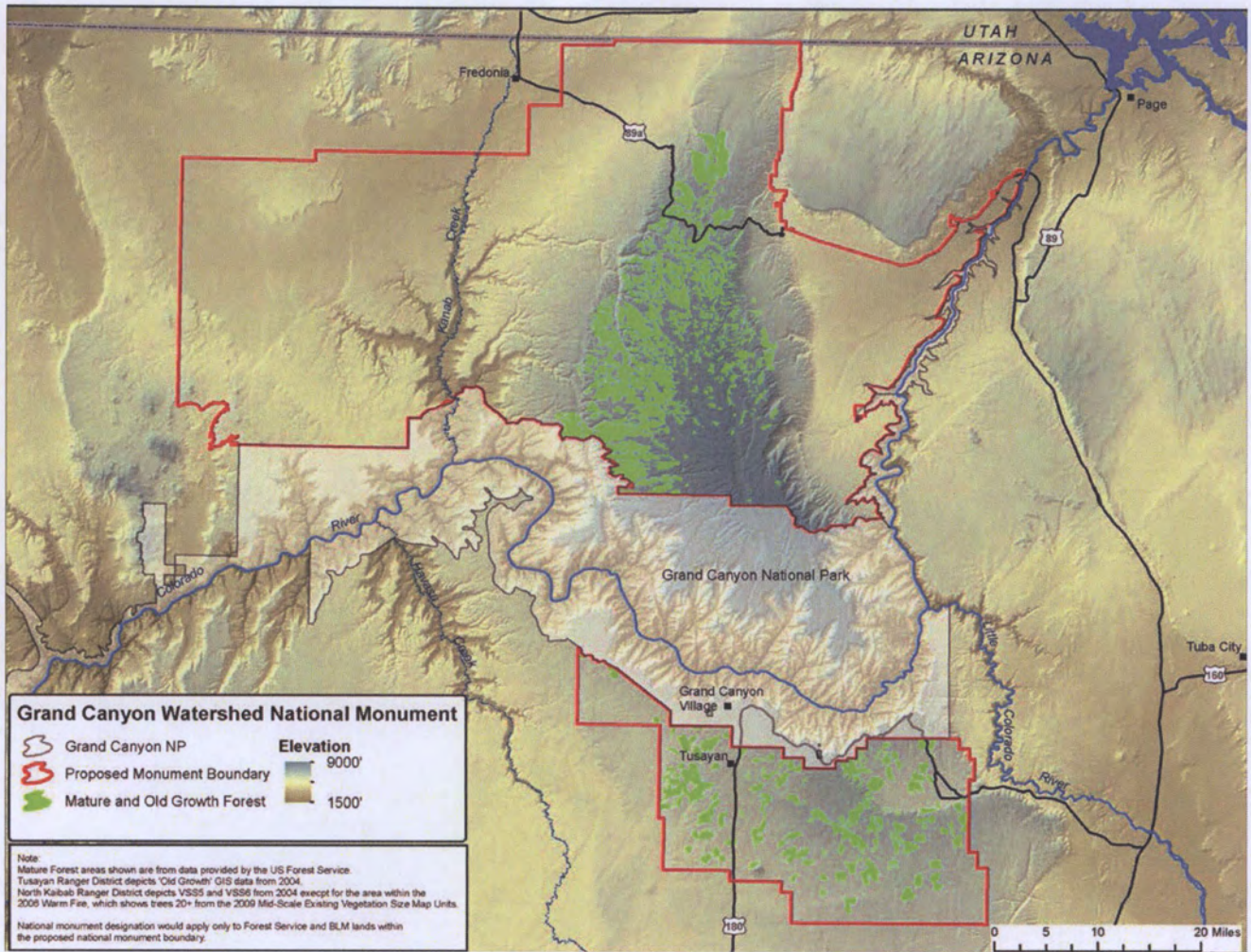
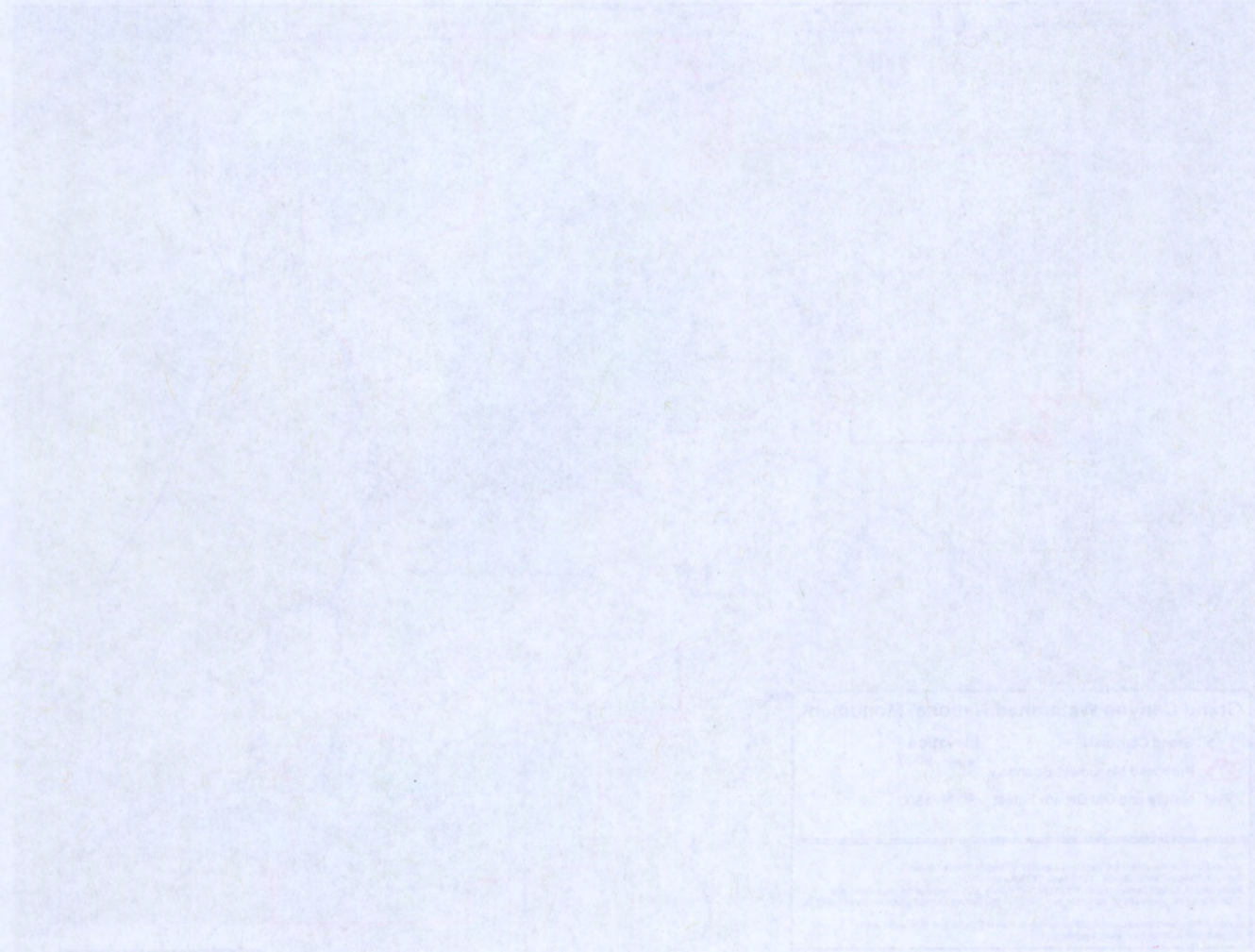


Fig. 7.1 Map showing the location and distribution of mature and old-growth forest structure on the Kaibab Plateau. Produced by the Center for Biological Diversity.



CHAPTER 7



TEN NOTABLE SCIENCE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GGCHNM

UNIQUE GEOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) includes the Kaibab Plateau, House Rock Valley, and the southern part of the Kanab Creek drainage, as well as a portion of the Coconino Plateau immediately south of Grand Canyon National Park, spanning the Grand Canyon and forming its proximal watershed. Bordered on the west by the Shivwits Plateau, to the east by the Vermilion Cliffs, and on the north by Highway 89A and the Utah state line, the proposed monument captures a piece of western geography that has shaped the distribution of humans and wildlife across the southwest for millennia.

The GGCHNM's geographical significance is also due in large part to the unique geological history that resulted in the enormous East Kaibab Monocline, which elevates the North Rim of Grand Canyon more than 800 m above the South Rim. The geographical position of the GGCHNM encompasses the transition between the Colorado Plateau and the southern US desert biomes, influencing everything from the movement of water to the evolution of native species, this geographical and geological transition zone is of significant scientific value.

REMARKABLE HYDROLOGY

The GGCHNM region spans one of the most profound geological features in the United States, the chasm of Grand Canyon. The exposure of Colorado Plateau strata reveals not only the vastness of time that

has transpired over Earth's history, but also provides a detailed look into the geohydrology that supports the aquifers and hydrologic cycle of this arid region. As such, the GGCHNM is a geohydrological laboratory, which can be studied to better understand how water moves through the Earth and how aquifers function. While the proposed GGCHNM does not, itself, contain many flowing streams, it protects the headwaters of a large number of pristine streams and contains numerous ecologically and culturally significant springs, seeps, and natural ponds.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOTONE ECOLOGY

A remarkable paleoecological transformation has occurred in the GGCHNM over the past 50,000 years. The western margin of the GGCHNM roughly coincides with the boundary between the Sonoran/Mojave/ Great Basin floristic provinces to the west, with the Maderan province to the south, and the Intermountain province to the northeast. Analysis of ancient packrat middens and cave deposits has revealed that the pinyon-juniper treeline rose 3,000 feet upslope in less than 7,000 years during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition, as a warmer, drier climate developed. These environmental shifts resulted in the mixing of plant species from the surrounding ecosystems and biomes. Environmental and floristic changes, coupled with the arrival of early humans, resulted in the extinction of the Pleistocene megafauna – elephants, camels, mountain goats, large predators, and giant birds that roamed the plateaus and lowlands, prior to natural desertification. On-going concerns over how ecosystems will

function in response to global climate changes, can be examined through space-for-time studies across the elevation and aspect gradients that are so abundantly expressed in the GGCHNM region.

A BIOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY HOTSPOT

Desert and plateau springs, karst cave systems, and old growth coniferous forest provide refugia and make the North Kaibab an important biological hotspot. The Forest Service manages more than 200 springs on the Kaibab Plateau, many of which harbor rare and sometimes unique life. The springs and habitats in the North Canyon drainage support at least 6 rare or endemic species of plants, invertebrates and endangered Apache trout. Many forest springs have been altered by human activities, but can be easily restored to ensure they remain hot spots for biodiversity: stoneflies, beetles, and various amphibians require springs wetland habitats.

A REFUGE FOR SENSITIVE AND GAME SPECIES

The GGCHNM region supports at least 1500 plant species, an extraordinary but poorly documented entomofauna with several endemic species, one endangered fish species, 6 amphibian species, reptile species, 112 bird species, and 79 mammal species. Several dozen Kaibab plant and animal species are rare or endemic, and are species of concern to the State of Arizona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, or other federal agencies. The extent of migratory and upland species using the GGCHNM and its role as a corridor, flyway, and refuge demonstrate how critical the proposed monument landscape is to the persistence of those many iconic species and populations.

AN IMPORTANT MIGRATORY CORRIDOR

The long, north-south aligned escarpment of the East Kaibab Monocline has been identified as one of the primary hawk flyways in the Southwest. Cliffs such as these provide migratory pathways for hawks, eagles, and other species, which are well-documented. A large number of raptors migrate through southern Utah and use upwardly-rising air currents that develop as daytime mountain winds along cliff lines. The North Kaibab region provides a primary movement corridor for Desert Mule Deer, and likely other large mammals, such as Desert Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*) from lowland to upland habitats.

POPULATION AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION ECOLOGY

Restoration ecology is being explored and implemented in the region through several different projects. 1) The U.S. Forest Service has undertaken springs and forest rehabilitation projects. 2) Endangered California Condors have been released from a site on the Vermilion Cliffs near Marble Canyon, with more than 75 birds presently flying. 3) Pronghorn and Bighorn Sheep population restoration efforts have increased the herd and flock sizes. 4) Non-native tamarisk, an invasive woody tree, has been removed from several desert springs along Kanab Creek, and the impacts of tamarisk leaf beetles are being examined through northern Arizona. Overall, these population and ecosystem management activities demonstrate that the GGCHNM region is an extraordinary natural laboratory in which to test and apply the principles of conservation and restoration ecology.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Much of the current understanding of GGCHNM region archaeology is based on small-scale, superficial surveys, rather than on broad or detailed assessments. However, existing research has revealed Paleoindian artifacts from the region dating to perhaps >6,000 BC; quarries, campsites and chipping areas dating from the Archaic period (ca. 2500 to 300 BC), as well as numerous house sites dating to the Basketmaker II to Pueblo III periods (ca. AD 500-1150); and Southern Paiute occupation (ca. AD 1250-1880). Pictograph sites, caves (including some with feathered arrowshafts, sandals, and woven baskets) and rockshelters containing elaborate rock art have been discovered. These sites and remains are considered by contemporary American Indians to be significant cultural properties. Conservation and further inventory and study of these sites and remains will elucidate the complex relationships between early humans in the GGCHNM and Grand Canyon regions. These sites and remains are considered by contemporary American Indians as significant cultural properties.

A HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND WESTWARD AMERICAN EXPANSION

The color and harshness of the GGCHNM region is strongly reflected in its exploration and settlement history. Though the focal point of the region is the Canyon itself, a large portion of its history and development took place in the proposed GGCHNM. Expe-

ditions led by European explorers resulted in the first documentation and interaction with Grand Canyon by those outside American Indian communities. As new settlers moved west from eastern America, early mountain men and pioneers created and maintained trails and villages throughout the proposed monument landscape. Interactions, both peaceful and violent, between American Indian tribes and European settlers influenced the politics and use of the lands and waters in the region. Industries such as cattle operations, mining, and timber harvest popped up, all of which played an important role in the development of local economies. The GGCHNM is a reflection of the dynamic and ever-shifting understanding of the role and influence of human development on the Grand Canyon region, all of which is of great historical importance for American Indian tribes and the American people.

A VAST, SCENIC LANDSCAPE THAT PROTECTS GRAND CANYON

The GGCHNM region is a truly vast and largely undeveloped landscape, made more remote and inaccessible due to its geographical features. The Plateau, its escarpment margins, and the surrounding lands, have exceptional regional and global scenic, recreational, scientific, and cultural value. Protection of this region will provide a better buffer from the impacts of human development and climate change, helping to protect Grand Canyon from the onslaught of environmental disruption that so greatly threatens the ecological integrity of the Southwest.

SUMMARY

This landscape analysis indicates that significant geological, biological and human history features and processes exist in the GGCHNM region, and additional research is likely to contribute substantial information to understanding the processes and impacts of geological, biogeographic, and global environmental change. The objects, features, and scientific opportunities mentioned herein, coupled with the overall high ecological integrity of most of the landscape, its low human population density and development, and few extractable resources, make the GGCHNM a prime opportunity for enhanced protection.


Protection of the GGCHNM region is not only a worthy undertaking in its own right, but it will help buffer Grand Canyon National Park from the impacts of rapid population expansion in southern Utah and Nevada,

as well as threats just outside the Park. The region has outstanding scenic value, particularly along its eastern, southern and western escarpments. In addition, the proposed National Monument will provide better landscape linkage among the region's Wilderness Areas, protect prominent north-south migration routes, along with springs, caves, the Kanab Creek drainage, old growth forest stands on the Kaibab Plateau, and sensitive and game populations and their habitats on the northern portion of GGCHNM. Much remains to be learned about the GGCHNM region, and future inventories and studies are likely to substantially increase the list of species, identify important, as yet unrecognized, ecological processes, and how climate changes affect or are buffered in complex landscapes. Such data are only likely to further strengthen the rationale for preserving this geologically, biologically and anthropologically outstanding landscape.



An aerial view looking north across House Rock Valley, the East Kaibab Monocline, and the Vermillion Cliffs. Photo by Kristen M. Caldon.

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North Canyon Spring
by Kristen M. Caldon, © 2015



Conversation Contents

Op-ed: 'Midnight monument'? No, Utah leaders had years to make a Bears Ears deal

Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 20 2016 19:14:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
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To:
Subject: Op-ed: 'Midnight monument'? No, Utah leaders had years to make a Bears Ears deal

Op-ed: 'Midnight monument'? No, Utah leaders had years to make a Bears Ears deal

By Terry Tempest Williams and Bill Hedden

First Published 1 hour ago • Updated 1 hour ago

(Terry Tempest Williams . (Courtesy photo) by Ted C. Brummon)

(Terry Tempest Williams . (Courtesy photo) by Ted C. Brummon)



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In a world of fake news, the Utah delegation in step with Gov. Gary Herbert is [participating in fake history](#) when it comes to the Bears Ears National Monument proposal. They decry a "midnight monument" but, in truth, the

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protection of these vulnerable lands has been in the making for several years. It is a tribal proposal supported by the conservation community and supported by the majority of Utahns and Americans.

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Utah Dine Bikeyah was founded in 2010 to push for protection of Bears Ears either through legislation or a presidential proclamation. At the same time, many conservation groups were advocating a Greater Canyonlands Monument for roughly the same area. Rep. Rob Bishop launched his Public Lands Initiative (PLI) three years later, in February 2013, with the express goal of substituting comprehensive legislation for any monument proclamation.

In July 2015 the Hopi, Navajo, Mountain Ute, Uintah and Ouray Ute and Zuni united in the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition, and a delegation of senior administration officials from the Department of Interior and the USDA made a site visit. On Oct. 15, 2015, the Intertribal Coalition delivered to President Obama a detailed proposal for a 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument under a collaborative management model. This had the formal support of all the tribal governments, support that has been repeatedly reiterated throughout this process, up until as recently as two weeks ago.

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This summer, another site visit was made by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who convened a public hearing over the proposed Bears Ears National Monument in Bluff.

Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, and Neil Kornze, the BLM director, and many other high-level government officials were in attendance to hear local concerns and meet with the Utah delegation staff. Over a thousand citizens, most of them Utahns, attended the public hearing in Bluff, where monument supporters heavily outnumbered opponents.

Bears Ears has received more scrutiny than any other monument proposal before it and dozens of opinion pieces have appeared in this paper, as well as in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Washington Post. It has been an open and community-building process that has emerged from the ground up led by the tribes.

It is important to know and restate that Bishop and Rep. Jason Chaffetz received extensive cooperation from conservation groups in the early phases of developing the Public Lands Initiative for eastern Utah counties. Our representatives utterly failed to seriously address the concerns of the Intertribal Coalition, which officially represents five sovereign nations with special trust relationships with the United States government.

In late 2014, Bishop and Chaffetz ceased all pretense of collaboration. It is worth emphasizing that there was never a single meeting about San Juan County with the various stakeholders. Not one. The delegation left that task entirely to the San Juan County Commission, which refused to let anyone not living in the county participate in any

way. When they solicited input from San Juan County residents, 64 percent supported the Bears Ears proposal in writing, but the county adopted a proposal that had the written support of just two people. Bishop's proposal demotes the sovereign Indian nations to mere voices in a large crowd of advisers, chops out 600,000 acres of the Bears Ears area from protection with a gerrymandered boundary that allows every kind of proposed development project in the county to go forward, gives ownership of the roads to Utah so that looting can proceed beyond any control and hands over management of energy development to the state in a breathtaking violation of existing law. This is what passes for a comprehensive legislative proposal from the county. The PLI is a dream map of development for the fossil fuel industry.

The delegation declares that there is no support for the monument beyond environmental extremists, yet 70 percent of Utahns support the monument. All of the tribal governments have reiterated their support repeatedly. Over 20 Pueblo tribes in the American Southwest have formally written of their support along with the 360 tribes of the National Congress of American Indians. Six of the seven Navajo chapters in Utah have passed resolutions in support of the Bears Ears Monument. The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is anything but a top-down act by an "imperial presidency" as Sen. Mike Lee has suggested.

As members of the Utah conservation community, we have been deeply moved and inspired by the tribal leadership of the Intertribal Commission and the Utah Dine Bikeyah. Their strength of character, integrity and grace, not to mention patience, deserves greater respect from Utah's politicians. At a time when we are witnessing the power of indigenous people's resolve to fight for their native rights all over the world from big energy companies, a presidential proclamation to establish Bears Ears National Monument could be seen as an act of justice. The protection of Utah's indigenous people's home ground on Cedar Mesa, where they perform their ceremonies and honor the graves of their ancestors that have been pillaged and desecrated for decades, and at the same time safeguard these fragile lands from oil and gas development, would mark a moment in American history of respect for this nation's first inhabitants.

The irony is apparently lost on Lee in [his opinion piece in the Washington Post](#) when he said, "The administration recently blocked the Dakota Access Pipeline due to strong opposition from local residents. I urge it to give the same respect to the residents of San Juan County." The local residents at Standing Rock were Indians. "The frontlines are everywhere," said Eric Descheenie, former co-chair of the Intertribal Commission and newly elected legislator in the Arizona State House. "Together, tribes and the United States can innovate land management that intersects the best of western science and method with those of traditional knowledge and practice. Enough time has passed. It's been 524 years, Mr. President. Let's get it done."

Terry Tempest Williams is the author of "The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks." Bill Hedden is the executive director of the Grand Canyon Trust. Both live in Grand County.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 14, 2016, at 7:07 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Deseret News: Rumors and rumblings over Bears Ears monument run rampant

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue @amyjoi16

Published: Dec. 14, 2016 2:25 p.m.

Updated: 6 minutes ago

 Comments

1 of 1



Scott G Winterton, *Deseret News*

The Bears Ears area is seen as Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, joins San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally and Gov. Gary Herbert at the Natural Bridges National Monument Visitor Center as they talk about the proposed Bears Ears National Monument on Thursday, June 2, 2016.

Related Links

Bears Ears named one of nation's most 'endangered' places

Jewell 'shocked' at lack of protection for Bears Ears cultural resources

Bishop staffer: Push for Bears Ears monument is 'dishonest'

SALT LAKE CITY — Members of Utah's congressional delegation and Gov. Gary Herbert took to social media Wednesday and will participate in an extended news conference Thursday over rampant rumors a Bears Ears monument designation is imminent.

"We're hearing today that President (Barack) Obama may well be moving forward with a monument designation, possibly designating a monument in the Bears Ears area as early as next week," Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, said Wednesday.

The designation could come as early as Tuesday or Wednesday, noted Lee's office, based on "rumblings" from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"I want to make clear, if heaven forbid this does happen, I will work tirelessly with the incoming Trump administration to make sure that this national monument never gets off the ground; to make sure it is undone, that is defunded, unwritten, rewritten, repealed, whatever it is that we have to do to undo it," Lee said in a video he posted on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Herbert turned to [Twitter](#) on Wednesday to say he had asked the president to refrain from a unilateral monument designation.



On Thursday, Herbert's regularly scheduled monthly news conference on KUED will be expanded from its usual 30 minutes to a full hour.

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The first portion of that news conference will include comments from Herbert, as well as Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, with time set aside specifically to discuss a Bears Ears monument designation.

Lee also wrote an opinion piece published in the Washington Post on Monday, reiterating his objection to a unilateral monument designation that goes against a statement he said Obama made over his dislike of an imperial presidency.

"We can settle this issue through democracy and compromise — unless Obama decides to cut short this debate by declaring a national monument via executive fiat," Lee wrote. "As one of his final acts as president, is Obama willing to take our great nation one step closer to the imperial presidency that he, most Americans and I rightly fear?"

Supporters of a new monument in southeast Utah, including the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, have called on the president to designate 1.9 million acres in San Juan County to ward off threats from mining, off-road vehicle use, and destruction of cultural artifacts from looting and vandalism.

In July, several of the president's top Cabinet officials over public lands, including Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze, visited the region and held public hearings to solicit feedback.

Lee said it was clear from those meetings that there is no consensus on a monument, no clear local "buy-in" from residents and "honest" disagreements on how the land would best be protected.

"The administration recently blocked the Dakota Access Pipeline due to strong opposition from local residents. I urge it to give the same respect to the residents of San Juan County, Utah. They do not want this monument. They do not want outside interests from coastal urban areas dictating to them how to live their lives and manage their lands," Lee's opinion piece stated.

After Congress adjourned last week without voting on Bishop's Public Lands Initiative, environmental groups reiterated their call for protections for Bears Ears, which is a remote and rugged region named for a pair of twin buttes.

"Now that Rep. Bishop has utterly failed to deliver on years of promises to safeguard this region from looting and industrial development, it is time for President Obama to step in where Congress has failed and protect Bears Ears as a national monument," said Scott Groene, executive director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. "Protecting Bears Ears cannot wait any longer."

Bishop's massive public lands bill had a committee hearing in September but has not been acted on since. It proposes to set up **twin national conservation areas** in the region that offer protections, but to a lesser degree than a national monument, which would prohibit drilling and mining.

On Sun, Dec 11, 2016 at 9:09 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Salt Lake Tribune: If Obama declares a mini Bears Ears monument, would anyone in Utah be happy?

By **BRIAN MAFFLY** | The Salt Lake Tribune [CONNECT](#)

First Published Dec 09 2016 05:36PM • Last Updated Dec 10 2016 11:05 am

Bishop and Rep. Jason Chaffetz launched the PLI process in 2013 to forestall Obama's anticipated use of the Antiquities Act to designate a big monument in Utah. They said a legislative approach was the only way the **Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition** could achieve two major provisions of their monument proposal: wilderness designations and tribal co-management that's on equal footing with the federal agencies.

The current version of the PLI would designate 4 million acres of new wilderness across eastern Utah, but provides nothing for Bears Ears tribal co-management — just a single seat on a 10-seat "advisory" board, basically on the same footing as motorized recreation and livestock grazers.

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The congressmen last month asked the coalition to provide legislative language reflecting the tribes' desire for management authority, but nothing has been forthcoming.

"I like the idea of co-management. The president, with or

without the Antiquities Act, cannot produce it," Bishop said in a prepared statement. "It is frustrating that efforts to work with people who claim a great interest in this area are continuously rebuffed with arguments that parrot special interest groups. Ironically, if [the inter-tribal coalition] is banking on a monument, they will never get the co-management they want. We're willing to give it to them."

The tribal coalition leaders, who hail from Navajo, Ute and Puebloan tribes, say they have tried to work legislative angles. But Bishop and Chaffetz did not take their input seriously, they said, so they took their proposal straight to the White House, where they have received a receptive ear.

Meanwhile, the wilderness and national conservation areas the Utah congressmen proposed in the PLI leave out the western reaches of Cedar Mesa, whose remote canyons harbor ancient archaeological sites — as well as uranium deposits that industry hopes to tap.

The bill also fails to safeguard White Canyon and its various drainages, Moki Canyon and Bluff Bench, according to [Friends of Cedar Mesa](#), a pro-monument stewardship group based in Bluff.

"If the monument is any less than what the tribes proposed, there will be important archaeology that is left unprotected," said Ewing, the group's executive director. "There are very good reasons for the boundaries proposed by the coalition. A monument smaller than that is somewhat likely because [Interior Secretary Sally] Jewell came out here to listen and lot of people were saying make it smaller. I'm guessing they are taking that local input under advisement. I am hopeful they won't throw out local input from the Bluff community."

This tourism-oriented town at the southern gateway to Cedar Mesa is far more receptive to a monument than Blanding and Monticello.

Many San Juan County residents spoke out against a monument during Jewell's visit to gauge local sentiment in July. But plenty of tribal members from Utah and adjoining states told Jewell a monument is needed to keep ATVs, looters and industrial development away from places that are valued for gathering medicinal herbs and firewood, reverent spiritual practices, its awesome beauty and ancestral connections.

Tribes and conservationists are not the only ones voicing favor for a monument.

Interior has received endorsements from the outdoor industry, education groups, archaeological societies and even health professionals.

"As a family physician descended from the Anasazi, I see Bears Ears as priceless not only for its history and beauty, but also for its potential to heal and prevent disease," said Garon

Coriz, a member of the Santa Domingo Pueblo who practices in Salina. He is among the 180 medical professionals who signed a Dec. 7 letter declaring a monument would promote physical and cultural healing.

"There are the very real psychological benefits from taking an action that addresses the traumatic historical disenfranchisement of Native Americans," the letter states. "In addition, a growing body of research shows that time spent in the kind of undisturbed natural settings offered by the Bears Ears area fosters emotional health in general, decreasing anxiety, reducing physiological response to stress, and dramatically enhancing concentration, creativity and problem-solving skills."

On the other side, Utah's Wildlife Board, agricultural interest groups, the Utah School Boards Association, and the Legislature have passed resolutions condemning the proposed monument for its potential to step on state prerogatives and harm rural communities.

--

Jessica Kershaw
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
202-208-6416

Conversation Contents

Seth Spackman wants to share the file Bears ears monument power point Burge.pptx with you

Seth Spackman <ssp933@sjsd.org>

From: Seth Spackman <ssp933@sjsd.org>
Sent: Fri Dec 16 2016 14:38:27 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Seth Spackman wants to share the file Bears ears monument power point Burge.pptx with you

To view Bears ears monument power point Burge.pptx, [sign in](#) or create an account.



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Bears ears national monument

1 message

Seth Spackman <ssp933@sjsd.org>

Fri, Dec 16, 2016 at 4:38 PM

To: **CEQ Chair - (b) (6)**, **CEQ Chair - (b) (6)**, "director@blm.gov" <director@blm.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>, "well@ios.doi.gov" <well@ios.doi.gov>

Seth Spackman has shared a OneDrive for Business file with you. To view it, click the link below.

 [Bears ears monument power point Burge.pptx](#)

So me and my class have been doing an assignment regarding the bears ears monument, here is a powerpoint regarding some of the issues

Thanks for checking it out :) - Seth Spackman -Jerika Torgerson -Travis Black - Robin Charley

Conversation Contents

RE: National Trust for Historic Preservation's testimony on H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act (this time with testimony attached)

Attachments:

/103. RE: National Trust for Historic Preservation's testimony on H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act (this time with testimony attached)/1.1 PLI Hearing 9-14-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf

Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>

From: Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>
Sent: Tue Sep 13 2016 14:59:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>
Subject: RE: National Trust for Historic Preservation's testimony on H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act (this time with testimony attached)
Attachments: PLI Hearing 9-14-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf

From: Tom Cassidy
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 4:57 PM
To: Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>; Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>
Subject: National Trust for Historic Preservation's testimony on H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act

Dear Nikki and Neil,

I have attached the National Trust's testimony for tomorrow's legislative hearing on the PLI bill, including our request that the President utilize his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the nationally significant cultural and archaeological resources of the Bears Ears area this year. The testimony also opposes H.R. 5781, the "PLI Partner Act," which would limit the President's authority to proclaim national monuments in certain areas of Utah.

Thank you for all of your efforts to advance protection of this remarkable area.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me if you have any questions concerning our testimony.

Best,

Tom

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. | VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLICY
P 202.588.6078 F 202.588.6462

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
The Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Avenue NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20037
SavingPlaces.org





**HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE HEARING ON H.R. 5780 "UTAH PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE ACT"
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016
TESTIMONY OF STEPHANIE K. MEEKS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Chairman McClintock and members of the Subcommittee, I appreciate the opportunity to present the National Trust for Historic Preservation's perspectives on the recently introduced Utah Public Lands Initiative Act ("PLI") and the importance of protecting the Bears Ears cultural landscape. My name is Stephanie K. Meeks, and I am the President and CEO of the National Trust.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded charitable, educational and nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 in order to "facilitate public participation in historic preservation" and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws. The intent of Congress was for the National Trust "to mobilize and coordinate public interest, participation and resources in the preservation and interpretation of sites and buildings." With headquarters in Washington, D.C., nine field offices, 27 historic sites, more than 800,000 members and supporters and partner organizations in 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust works to save America's historic places and advocates for historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

We appreciate the sustained efforts of House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, Congressman Jason Chaffetz, and members of the Committee to develop a legislative solution to address the long-term conservation of nationally significant lands in Utah. This is a difficult and challenging problem of public policy – ongoing for generations – that deserves an expedient and successful resolution.

We recognize that the existing legislation includes certain improvements over the previous discussion draft, but we are disappointed that H.R. 5780 does not meet our hope for legislation that would generate the broad-based bipartisan support necessary to be signed into law by the President.

Accordingly, we join the broad-based request that the President utilize his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the nationally significant cultural and archaeological resources of the Bears Ears area this year. In addition, the National Trust opposes H.R. 5781, the "PLI Partner Act," which would limit the President's authority to proclaim national monuments in certain areas of Utah.

National Trust Participation

Bears Ears is one of the most significant cultural landscapes in the United States and a landscape that is home to more than 100,000 cultural and archaeological sites, many of which are sacred to tribal communities across the region. The 1.9 million acres of public lands south and east of Canyonlands National Park include Ice Age hunting camps, cliff dwellings, prehistoric villages, and petroglyph and pictograph panels that tell the diverse stories of 12,000 years of human habitation.

Since 2007, the National Trust has been working on legislative proposals with the Utah delegation and other stakeholders to protect this important place. We have also been actively engaged in cultural resource protection issues in Southeast Utah – working to ensure compliance with federal laws designed to avoid impacts to historic and cultural properties and supporting thoughtful planning for and interpretation of cultural resources.

In 2013, we developed and presented maps and narratives describing the National Trust's priorities for resource designations in Southeast Utah to local, state, and national partners, including the offices of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz. Since we named this area one of our National Treasures in 2013, we have committed our expertise and resources to seeking a preservation-friendly solution to land use conflicts in this area. Earlier this year, reflecting our long-standing commitment to the legislative process, we submitted extensive comments on the "Discussion Draft" of the PLI.

Like many Americans, I have had the pleasure of visiting and marveling at the extraordinary cultural resources of the Bears Ears region. This landscape and its resources certainly rival nearby nationally protected areas like Canyon of the Ancients National Monument (established by President Clinton in 2000), Mesa Verde National Park (established by Congress in 1906), Chimney Rock National Monument (established by President Obama in 2012) and Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

It is worth noting that the remarkable resources of Chaco Canyon were first protected by President Theodore Roosevelt as a national monument in 1907. Nearby Hovenweep National Monument was established by President Harding in 1923.

Viability of the Legislative Process

Due to our commitment to securing permanent protection for these nationally significant cultural resources, the National Trust has been hopeful that the long-awaited PLI legislation would be crafted in such a way as to gather the broad bipartisan support necessary to be adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President this year. Unfortunately, the legislation as introduced on July 14 is unlikely to generate such support and in fact has generated significant opposition by many of our conservation colleagues.

We appreciate the proposed establishment of a Bears Ears National Conservation Area, however we are concerned that neither the proposed size (857,000 acres) nor

management provisions are sufficient to protect the nationally significant resources of this area, including such archaeologically valuable lands within the White Canyon drainages and the Allen, Chippean, and Dry Wash Canyons.

We appreciate that there have been multiple improvements from the discussion draft, including, as in section 108, permitting the acquisition of lands within wilderness areas from willing sellers, the removal of language designating certain areas for recreational shooting and removing designation of specific areas for recreational shooting and certain changes restricting the ability of managers to determine grazing levels.

However, we are disappointed that many of the concerns outlined in our February 12 letter on the discussion draft were not addressed, including but not limited to the following:

- We are very concerned with the details of proposed land trades which direct the Department of the Interior to accept, without full environmental analysis, trades proposed by the state of Utah, even when they are problematic for cultural resources. In particular, the National Trust for Historic Preservation joined a protest in 2014 of oil and gas lease sales in the Bluff and Montezuma Creek areas of San Juan County – leases that were deferred to protect cultural resources. The maps submitted with the PLI suggest the Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) will request retention of ownership of surface and mineral rights within the Bears Ears NCA near Bluff – contrary to the concept of a National Conservation Area – along with significant acreage adjoining the NCA to the east. Both the retained and acquired lands contain important cultural resources deserving of protection.
- We are particularly concerned with section 1103, which would create a new program whereby the State of Utah would be granted energy permitting powers now exercised by the federal government. Our reading of this precedent setting proposal is that it would remove the federal protections currently afforded cultural resources, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and other federal laws.
- We are also concerned that the existing and potential use of Master Leasing Plans, which have proven to be helpful collaborative tools to resolve long-standing conflicts over land use would be precluded by the legislation.
- We are concerned that the bill would permit grazing in certain areas where current restrictions protect archaeological and cultural resources and that other areas could be made available to grazing, including in Grand Gulch, Slickhorn, and other canyons on Cedar Mesa.

Additionally, the National Trust agrees with a number of our conservation colleagues who have expressed serious concerns with the sweeping and controversial changes to other long-standing federal laws protecting the nation's natural and cultural resources.

Given the numerous and significant changes necessary to redraft the bill and achieve a bi-partisan compromise, as well as the limited number of legislative days remaining prior to Congress adjourning this fall, we are skeptical that comprehensive legislation can be achieved this year.

Addressing the Urgent Need for Protection

Continued reports of looting, vandalism, and other damaging disturbances of archaeological sites lends particular urgency to the permanent protection of the Bears Ears landscape as soon as possible. In just one of over 50 recent incidents of looting, a 2009 Bureau of Land Management and FBI sting operation resulted in indictments of over 24 people for multiple violations of trafficking an estimated 40,000 stolen artifacts, government property, and Native American cultural items from the Southeast Utah area.¹

Given the time sensitive and significant threat to priceless cultural resources and the absence of a realistic opportunity to enact bipartisan legislation during this Congress, the National Trust supports the protection of the Bears Ears landscape by the President as a National Monument before the end of this year.

We appreciate the substantial time and resources dedicated to the pursuit of a legislative solution to this critical preservation issue by local and national stakeholders, including local governments, our partners in the conservation and preservation community and the staffs of the House and Senate committees and offices of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work to advance preservation solutions with members of the Committee, Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz, and other stakeholders.

¹ Center for American Progress; "Bears Ears Cultural Area: The Most Vulnerable U.S. Site for Looting, Vandalism, and Grave Robbing"; <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2016/06/13/139344/bears-ears-cultural-area-the-most-vulnerable-u-s-site-for-looting-vandalism-and-grave-robbing/>; June 13, 2016 (accessed September 13, 2016)

Conversation Contents

National Trust for Historic Preservation's testimony on H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act

Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>

From: Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>
Sent: Tue Sep 13 2016 14:57:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>
Subject: National Trust for Historic Preservation's testimony on H.R. 5780, Utah Public Lands Initiative Act

Dear Nikki and Neil,

I have attached the National Trust's testimony for tomorrow's legislative hearing on the PLI bill, including our request that the President utilize his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the nationally significant cultural and archaeological resources of the Bears Ears area this year. The testimony also opposes H.R. 5781, the "PLI Partner Act," which would limit the President's authority to proclaim national monuments in certain areas of Utah.

Thank you for all of your efforts to advance protection of this remarkable area.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me if you have any questions concerning our testimony.

Best,

Tom

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. | VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLICY
P 202.588.6078 F 202.588.6462

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
The Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Avenue NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20037
SavingPlaces.org



Conversation Contents

Thank you/Bluff Area

Attachments:

/106. Thank you/Bluff Area/1.1 BearsEars_FINAL_36x48_09122016.pdf

/106. Thank you/Bluff Area/1.2 ProposedAcquired_Bluff_11x17_09122016.pdf

John Andrews <jandrews@utah.gov>

From: John Andrews <jandrews@utah.gov>
Sent: Tue Sep 13 2016 14:45:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Thank you/Bluff Area
Attachments: BearsEars_FINAL_36x48_09122016.pdf
ProposedAcquired_Bluff_11x17_09122016.pdf

Nikki;

Thank you to yourself, Neil Kornze, Tommy Boudreaux and the rest of your team for meeting with Dave Ure, Allen Freemyer and myself last week to talk over southeast Utah land exchange issues. We truly appreciate the amount of time your office has devoted to the school trust land issue.

Per your request at the meeting, we have re-done our conceptual exchange map (attached) to be more clear about where there are conflicts with the so-called "redrock" wilderness proposal. There are only two - one on the large block of lands northwest of Moab, and a much smaller one near Lisbon Valley in San Juan County. We think we can get past this fairly minor issue.

You also asked about the Bluff area, and subsequently forwarded material from Friends of Cedar Mesa about the SITLA proposal in that area. We have now mapped existing oil and gas leasing and other encumbrances (also attached) on the existing SITLA lands at Bluff, and the proposed acquisition area.

The entire existing SITLA Bluff block is leased for oil and gas (shown by the double cross-hatching). In addition, the proposed NCA boundary in the PLI that follows Highway 191 would include a sizeable existing sand and gravel operation (shown in brown), plus powerlines, a large substation, etc. that are not compatible with a conservation designation. We continue to believe that a boundary that tracks the western boundary of the SITLA block makes more sense. We would be happy to engage with FCM about perhaps creating some sort of visual buffer on the cliffs above the town that would

preclude any visual impact from the town.

As to the BLM lands proposed for exchange to SITLA, there are existing federal oil and gas leases on most of the lands, and active oil and gas wells (green dots), as well as lots of historic oil and gas wells. We think the horse is pretty much out of the barn on the leasing/development of this area. SITLA does apply a cultural resources regime equivalent to that of BLM, so there would be protection of any specific cultural resources found in the area. Finally, as we have previously noted, SITLA will be under considerable pressure from the county and the Utah legislature to acquire substantial land in southern San Juan County, and if Bluff isn't the place, it may be difficult to find anything else.

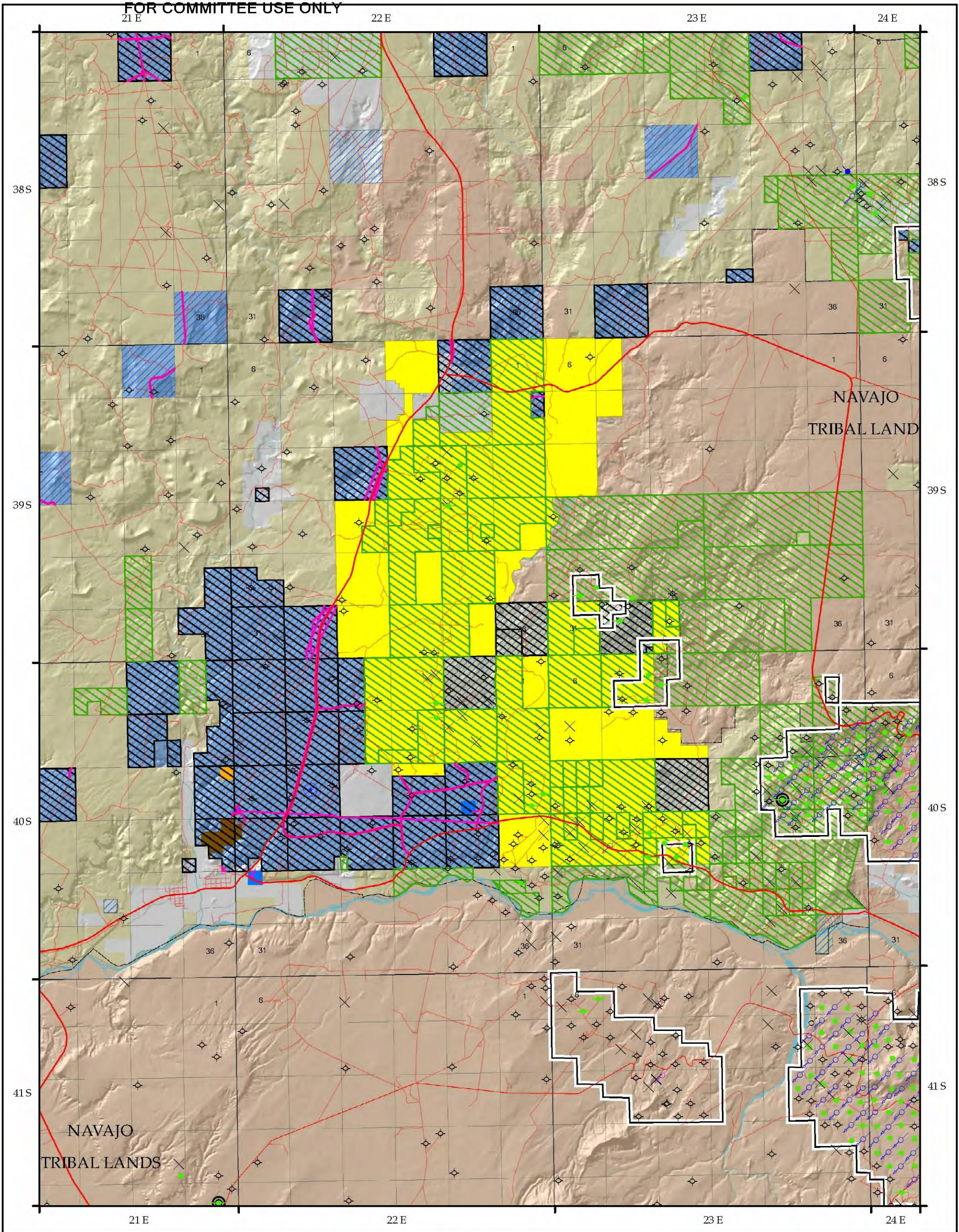
We are happy to engage further with FCM on this issue, as well as your team - I'm sure there may be some middle ground somewhere. Thanks again.

John Andrews

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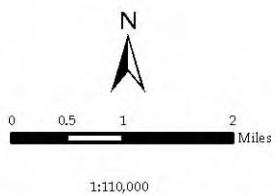
John W. Andrews
Associate Director & Chief Legal Counsel
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
675 East 500 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

(801) 538-5180 (o)
(801) 538-5118 (fax)
(801) 243-8611 (mobile)

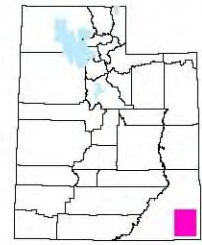


Public Lands Initiative Bluff Block

- Federal Boundary
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ BLM Units
- ▭ Active BLM Oil and Gas Leases
- Wells**
- ⊗ LA - Location Abandoned
- ★ DRL, APD, LOC - New Location
- ⊙ PA - Plugged Abandoned
- POW - Producing Oil Well
- ⊙ RET - Returned APD
- ⊙ SOW - Shut-in Oil Well
- ⊙ TA - Temp. Abandoned
- ⊙ WDW - Water Disposal
- ⊙ WTW - Water Injection Well
- WSW - Water Supply Well
- Trust Lands Active Contracts**
- ▭ Easements
- ▭ Oil and Gas Leases
- ▭ Range Improvement Projects
- ▭ Sand and Gravel Contracts
- ▭ Special Use Lease Agreements
- Status**
- ▭ Federal Lands Proposed to Transfer to SITLA
- Land Ownership and Administration**
- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Private
- ▭ State Trust Lands
- ▭ Other State
- ▭ Tribal Lands
- Trust Lands Mineral Ownership**
- ▭ Full Mineral
- ▭ Partial Mineral



User: katetaley
 Produced: September 12, 2016 SITLA
 Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Name: ProposedAcquired_Bluff_11x17



Data represented on this map is for REFERENCE USE ONLY and is not suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information. SITLA provides this data in good faith and shall in no event be liable for any incorrect results, or any special, indirect or consequential damages to any party, arising out of or in connection with the use or the inability to use the data herein.

Land parcels, lease boundaries and associated SITLA data layers may have been adjusted to allow for visual "best fit." The Surface Ownership Land Status data (if present) are maintained by SITLA to reflect current trust land status and surface ownership. Lakes, rivers, streams, highways, roads, county and state boundaries are distributed by the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center and/or other sources as specified. Contour lines (if present) were generated from USGS 10 meter DEM.

Please Note: While SITLA seeks to verify data for accuracy and content, discrepancies may exist within the data. Acquiring the most updated SITLA ownership GIS data may require contacting the GIS staff directly 801-538-5100 or TLA-GIS@utah.gov. The SITLA GIS department welcomes your comments and concerns regarding the data and will attempt to resolve issues as they are brought to our attention.

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI

Attachments:

/113. Fwd: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI/1.1 Introduced PLI-SITLA trade problems V4-lowrez.pdf

/113. Fwd: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI/1.2 land trades memo vF.pdf

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 09 2016 20:25:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI
Attachments: Introduced PLI-SITLA trade problems V4-lowrez.pdf land trades memo vF.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: David Ure <dure@utah.gov>, Kim Christy <kimchristy@utah.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>, WhitlockJenna <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Ferguson Fred <Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>, "Snider, Casey" <Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov>, "ryan_wilcox@lee.senate.gov" <ryan_wilcox@lee.senate.gov>
Subject: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI

Dear Ms. Buffa: I have attached a memo for consideration by the Secretary regarding a significant issue raised by the Public Lands Initiative legislation (although not limited to the PLI) regarding proposed SITLA trades that would likely accompany any conservation designation in southeastern Utah.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any further information on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Josh Ewing

Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa





(o) 435.414.0343 (m) 801.410.0773

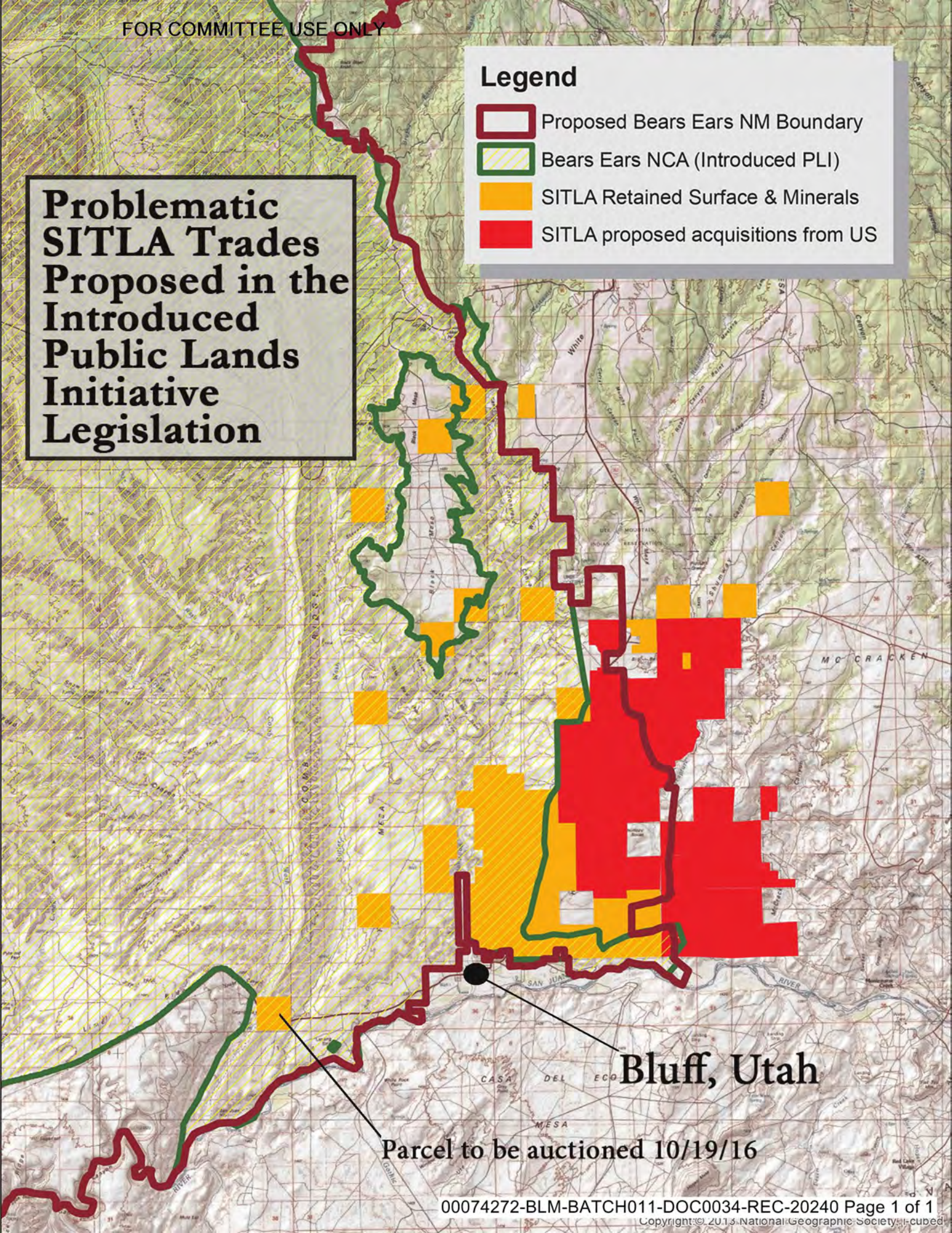
300 E. Main Street, PO Box 338 | Bluff, UT 84512

web: CedarMesaFriends.org twitter: [@joshewing](https://twitter.com/joshewing) facebook: [@cedarmesafriends](https://facebook.com/cedarmesafriends)

Problematic SITLA Trades Proposed in the Introduced Public Lands Initiative Legislation

Legend

-  Proposed Bears Ears NM Boundary
-  Bears Ears NCA (Introduced PLI)
-  SITLA Retained Surface & Minerals
-  SITLA proposed acquisitions from US



Bluff, Utah

Parcel to be auctioned 10/19/16



PO Box 338, Bluff, UT 84512

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary Sally Jewell, US Department of the Interior

From: Josh Ewing, Executive Director

Subject: Problematic land trades near Bluff, Utah proposed by SITLA in connection with conservation proposals in southeastern Utah

Date: September 9, 2016

Background

Friends of Cedar Mesa has previously shared with your office our concerns about the proposed Public Lands Initiative (PLI) Legislation, which would impact DOI administered lands in San Juan County, Utah. This memo focuses on an important but little publicized portion of that legislation with new information.

The PLI proposes a very large land trade between the State of Utah and the United States government, exchanging SITLA lands for DOI lands. A similar land trade would likely be triggered by any use of the Antiquities Act to designate a National Monument in the Bears Ears region.

This memo highlights a specific geography of problematic trades proposed by SITLA, overlapping both the Bears Ears National Conservation Area that would be created by the passage of the PLI and the footprint of the National Monument proposed by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. The trades discussed are visualized on the attached map.

In general, the principle of consolidating land ownership is an excellent idea. Conservation areas are best managed when small dispersed Trust Land holdings are removed, providing continuity of management. Likewise, the Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) can accomplish its mission of maximizing returns for beneficiaries far more efficiently when lands under the Trust's management are consolidated away from sensitive cultural and natural resources.

Unfortunately, trades proposed in the Bluff area are highly problematic for the reasons outlined below. We have shared these concerns directly, in person, with SITLA leadership.

Conservation and scenic values of the area

Many of the lands proposed to be retained or acquired by SITLA in the Bluff area are highly scenic and contain important cultural resources. The Bluff Bench is a viewshed prized by the people of Bluff and the surrounding lands provide the gateway for tourists from around the world who come to Bluff to visit nearby Monument Valley, Valley of the Gods, Comb Ridge, and Hovenweep National Monument.

Although little of the area has been documented by rigorous professional surveys, local archaeologists have identified many unique archaeological sites, including ancient Ancestral Pueblo roads, shrines and pueblos. Importantly, this area contains what may be Utah's highest concentration of Navajo and Ute archaeology, including rare petroglyph panels.

This area has been involved in significant controversy over possible oil and gas leases, which were protested by the Hopi Tribe in the early 2000s and most recently by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Cedar Mesa in 2014. The Bureau of Land Management deferred leasing in this area in 2015 after this most recent protest. Significantly, this area is covered in the upcoming San Juan Master Leasing Plan boundaries, which will seek to balance cultural resource protection and oil and gas development.

Potential for development, privatization and extraction within proposed conservation areas

As one can see from inspecting the attached map, SITLA is proposing to retain ownership of surface and mineral rights on significant lands within the Bears Ears National Conservation Area. This creates the very real scenario of oil drilling, residential/commercial development, or privatization of lands that are specifically proposed for conservation in the PLI. Even more lands are proposed to be acquired by SITLA within the boundaries of a National Monument proposed by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

Combined, the retention by SITLA of lands within the two proposed conservation areas and their proposed acquisition in the area creates the scenario of a major block of SITLA land in Bluff's backyard. The residents of Bluff are very concerned with the possibility of mass industrialization or even large-scale tourism development in this region. While perhaps not imminent due to current market conditions, future industrialization could dramatically impact Bluff's tourism-based economy and devastate the way of life enjoyed by residents. Such industrialization could also have significant impacts on cultural resources in the area. Despite best efforts, subtle archaeology, such as many of the Ute sites in the area, are easily missed and damaged by work crews. And the "setting" of these sites, which is protected by the National Historic Preservation Act, would change forever.

Recommendations and conclusion

If a conservation designation is created in the area, be it NCA or Monument, Friends of Cedar Mesa recommends that federal land managers and SITLA work with local residents and conservation experts to identify lands more suitable for SITLA ownership outside of any designated areas. Proper thought should be given to not creating the scenario for development just outside of a designated area, which would certainly engender significant future controversy.

CC:

- Dave Ure, Director, Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Kim Christy, Deputy Director, Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Jenna Whitlock, UT Acting State Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Rep. Jason Chaffetz
- Rep. Rob Bishop
- Senator Mike Lee

Gary R. Herbert
Governor of the State of Utah

Testimony before the

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Oversight hearing on

“Potential Impacts of Large-Scale Monument Designations”

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Good morning. I am Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the great state of Utah.

Please allow me to thank you, Senator Lee, and my esteemed colleagues in Utah’s congressional delegation, for holding this important hearing.

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For example, while there is meaningful disagreement about *how* to protect the Bears Ears region, there is virtually zero opposition to the idea that this precious area *should* be protected. Everyone in this room believes that the Bears Ears region has natural wonders and scenic vistas that need to be protected. Everyone in this room acknowledges that this region contains resources, remains, and artifacts with immeasurable historic, cultural, and religious significance that must be preserved for future generations. Let’s not lose sight of this consensus.

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Please do not misunderstand me: a single case of vandalism in this area is too much. But the point remains, if we wish to protect and preserve this area, drawing lines on a map that will encourage increased visitation without a corresponding increase in law enforcement and land management resources is not a solution to vandalism and desecration problems. Indeed, it will like worsen them.

Let me use a comparison to further illustrate this point:

- The Bears Ears region being considered today is approximately 1.9 million acres. This is the equivalent of just under 3000 square miles.
- For comparison, the entire state of Rhode Island is just over 1200 square miles.
- Rhode Island currently has 93 state troopers to patrol an area that is, again, about 40% of the Bears Ears region being considered, and that number does not include administrators, or special agents or units.
- The BLM currently has **two** full-time officers assigned to patrol and protect the entire Bears Ears region.
- The police department of the capital of Rhode Island, Providence, is responsible for an area that comprises 20.5 square miles. The Providence Police Department had a budget of **\$69 million** in 2015.
- Meanwhile, the entire budget for BLM National Conservation Lands system nationwide, which is responsible for 50,000 square miles protected lands, was only **\$64 million**.

Proper protection of historical and cultural resources on federal lands requires adequate federal resources, yes, but it also requires the cooperation of local citizens, local law enforcement, local conservation and research groups, and more. A unilateral monument designation – doing something *to* the people of the Bears Ears region instead of *with* them – will provide a disincentive for local cooperation.

Conclusion

To summarize - it is my belief that a unilateral monument designation will divide the people. It will create anger and division. It will provoke protest and may inhibit our ability to resolve tough public land management decisions for decades to come. Even worse, a unilateral monument designation of the Bears Ears will not protect irreplaceable resources, and will, in fact, likely result in the same kinds of increases in vandalism, looting, and environmental degradation that has been documented in the Grand Staircase.

On the other hand, a legislated, consensus solution like the PLI has the potential to bring people together, ensure local cooperation, and put in place a durable solution. Furthermore, congressional action is the only way to guarantee traditional tribal uses of the land, guarantee local input into land management decisions, and to provide the funding resources and tools needed to properly protect this precious region of our state.

It is my strong belief that a legislative solution – one built from the ground up with real involvement from local residents, tribal representatives, county officials, the state legislature, recreation and environmental advocates, energy and access interests – will inevitably create a

better outcome, one with more buy-in and with more lasting power, than a decision made behind closed-doors in Washington D.C.

There is a right way and a wrong way to preserve the Bears Ears for future generations. It is my sincere hope that the President and his administration will learn from history and take the time needed to work with the people of Utah, our state legislature, and the congressional delegation to do it the right way. Please, do this with us, not to us.

Thank you for the chance to share my thoughts with you today.

Conversation Contents

Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI

Attachments:

/117. Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI/1.1 Introduced PLI-SITLA trade problems V4-lowrez.pdf

/117. Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI/1.2 land trades memo vF.pdf

/117. Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI/3.1 Introduced PLI-SITLA trade problems V4-lowrez.pdf

/117. Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI/3.2 land trades memo vF.pdf

Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>

From: Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>
Sent: Fri Sep 09 2016 12:34:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI
Attachments: Introduced PLI-SITLA trade problems V4-lowrez.pdf land trades memo vF.pdf

Dear Ms. Buffa: I have attached a memo for consideration by the Secretary regarding a significant issue raised by the Public Lands Initiative legislation (although not limited to the PLI) regarding proposed SITLA trades that would likely accompany any conservation designation in southeastern Utah.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any further information on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Josh Ewing

Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa

(o) 435.414.0343 (m) 801.410.0773

300 E. Main Street, PO Box 338 | Bluff, UT 84512

web: CedarMesaFriends.org twitter: [@joshewing](https://twitter.com/joshewing) facebook: [@cedarmesafriends](https://facebook.com/cedarmesafriends)

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 09 2016 12:41:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>
David Ure <dure@utah.gov>, Kim Christy
<kimchristy@utah.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>,
CC: WhitlockJenna <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Ferguson Fred
<Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>, "Snider, Casey"
<Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov>,
ryan_wilcox@lee.senate.gov
Subject: Re: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI

Thanks for sending, Josh. We'll take a look.

On Fri, Sep 9, 2016 at 2:34 PM, Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Buffa: I have attached a memo for consideration by the Secretary regarding a significant issue raised by the Public Lands Initiative legislation (although not limited to the PLI) regarding proposed SITLA trades that would likely accompany any conservation designation in southeastern Utah.

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web: CedarMesaFriends.org twitter: [@joshewing](https://twitter.com/joshewing) facebook: [@cedarmesafriends](https://www.facebook.com/cedarmesafriends)

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Sep 12 2016 10:14:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Linda Thurn <lthurn@blm.gov>

CC: "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI
Attachments: Introduced PLI-SITLA trade problems V4-lowrez.pdf land trades memo vF.pdf

please print

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josh Ewing** <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>
Date: Fri, Sep 9, 2016 at 2:34 PM
Subject: Memo: Problematic SITLA trades proposed in PLI
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: David Ure <dure@utah.gov>, Kim Christy <kimchristy@utah.gov>, nkornze@blm.gov, WhitlockJenna <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Ferguson Fred <Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>, "Snider, Casey" <Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov>, ryan_wilcox@lee.senate.gov

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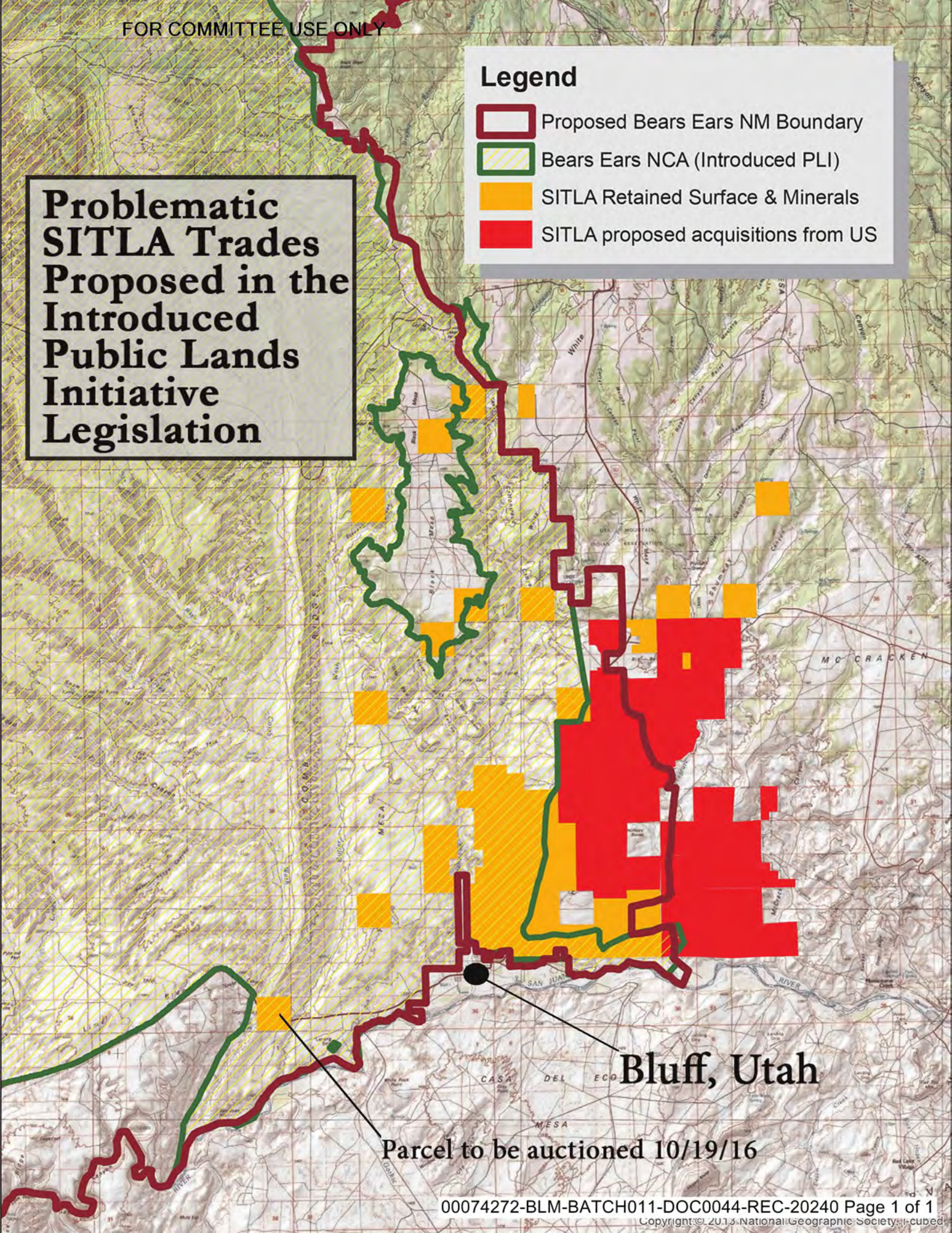
300 E. Main Street, PO Box 338 | Bluff, UT 84512

web: CedarMesaFriends.org twitter: [@joshewing](https://twitter.com/joshewing) facebook: [@cedarmesafriends](https://facebook.com/cedarmesafriends)

Problematic SITLA Trades Proposed in the Introduced Public Lands Initiative Legislation

Legend

- Proposed Bears Ears NM Boundary
- Bears Ears NCA (Introduced PLI)
- SITLA Retained Surface & Minerals
- SITLA proposed acquisitions from US



Bluff, Utah

Parcel to be auctioned 10/19/16



PO Box 338, Bluff, UT 84512

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary Sally Jewell, US Department of the Interior

From: Josh Ewing, Executive Director

Subject: Problematic land trades near Bluff, Utah proposed by SITLA in connection with conservation proposals in southeastern Utah

Date: September 9, 2016

Background

Friends of Cedar Mesa has previously shared with your office our concerns about the proposed Public Lands Initiative (PLI) Legislation, which would impact DOI administered lands in San Juan County, Utah. This memo focuses on an important but little publicized portion of that legislation with new information.

The PLI proposes a very large land trade between the State of Utah and the United States government, exchanging SITLA lands for DOI lands. A similar land trade would likely be triggered by any use of the Antiquities Act to designate a National Monument in the Bears Ears region.

This memo highlights a specific geography of problematic trades proposed by SITLA, overlapping both the Bears Ears National Conservation Area that would be created by the passage of the PLI and the footprint of the National Monument proposed by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. The trades discussed are visualized on the attached map.

In general, the principle of consolidating land ownership is an excellent idea. Conservation areas are best managed when small dispersed Trust Land holdings are removed, providing continuity of management. Likewise, the Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) can accomplish its mission of maximizing returns for beneficiaries far more efficiently when lands under the Trust's management are consolidated away from sensitive cultural and natural resources.

Unfortunately, trades proposed in the Bluff area are highly problematic for the reasons outlined below. We have shared these concerns directly, in person, with SITLA leadership.

Conservation and scenic values of the area

Many of the lands proposed to be retained or acquired by SITLA in the Bluff area are highly scenic and contain important cultural resources. The Bluff Bench is a viewshed prized by the people of Bluff and the surrounding lands provide the gateway for tourists from around the world who come to Bluff to visit nearby Monument Valley, Valley of the Gods, Comb Ridge, and Hovenweep National Monument.

Although little of the area has been documented by rigorous professional surveys, local archaeologists have identified many unique archaeological sites, including ancient Ancestral Pueblo roads, shrines and pueblos. Importantly, this area contains what may be Utah's highest concentration of Navajo and Ute archaeology, including rare petroglyph panels.

This area has been involved in significant controversy over possible oil and gas leases, which were protested by the Hopi Tribe in the early 2000s and most recently by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Cedar Mesa in 2014. The Bureau of Land Management deferred leasing in this area in 2015 after this most recent protest. Significantly, this area is covered in the upcoming San Juan Master Leasing Plan boundaries, which will seek to balance cultural resource protection and oil and gas development.

Potential for development, privatization and extraction within proposed conservation areas

As one can see from inspecting the attached map, SITLA is proposing to retain ownership of surface and mineral rights on significant lands within the Bears Ears National Conservation Area. This creates the very real scenario of oil drilling, residential/commercial development, or privatization of lands that are specifically proposed for conservation in the PLI. Even more lands are proposed to be acquired by SITLA within the boundaries of a National Monument proposed by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

Combined, the retention by SITLA of lands within the two proposed conservation areas and their proposed acquisition in the area creates the scenario of a major block of SITLA land in Bluff's backyard. The residents of Bluff are very concerned with the possibility of mass industrialization or even large-scale tourism development in this region. While perhaps not imminent due to current market conditions, future industrialization could dramatically impact Bluff's tourism-based economy and devastate the way of life enjoyed by residents. Such industrialization could also have significant impacts on cultural resources in the area. Despite best efforts, subtle archaeology, such as many of the Ute sites in the area, are easily missed and damaged by work crews. And the "setting" of these sites, which is protected by the National Historic Preservation Act, would change forever.

Recommendations and conclusion

If a conservation designation is created in the area, be it NCA or Monument, Friends of Cedar Mesa recommends that federal land managers and SITLA work with local residents and conservation experts to identify lands more suitable for SITLA ownership outside of any designated areas. Proper thought should be given to not creating the scenario for development just outside of a designated area, which would certainly engender significant future controversy.

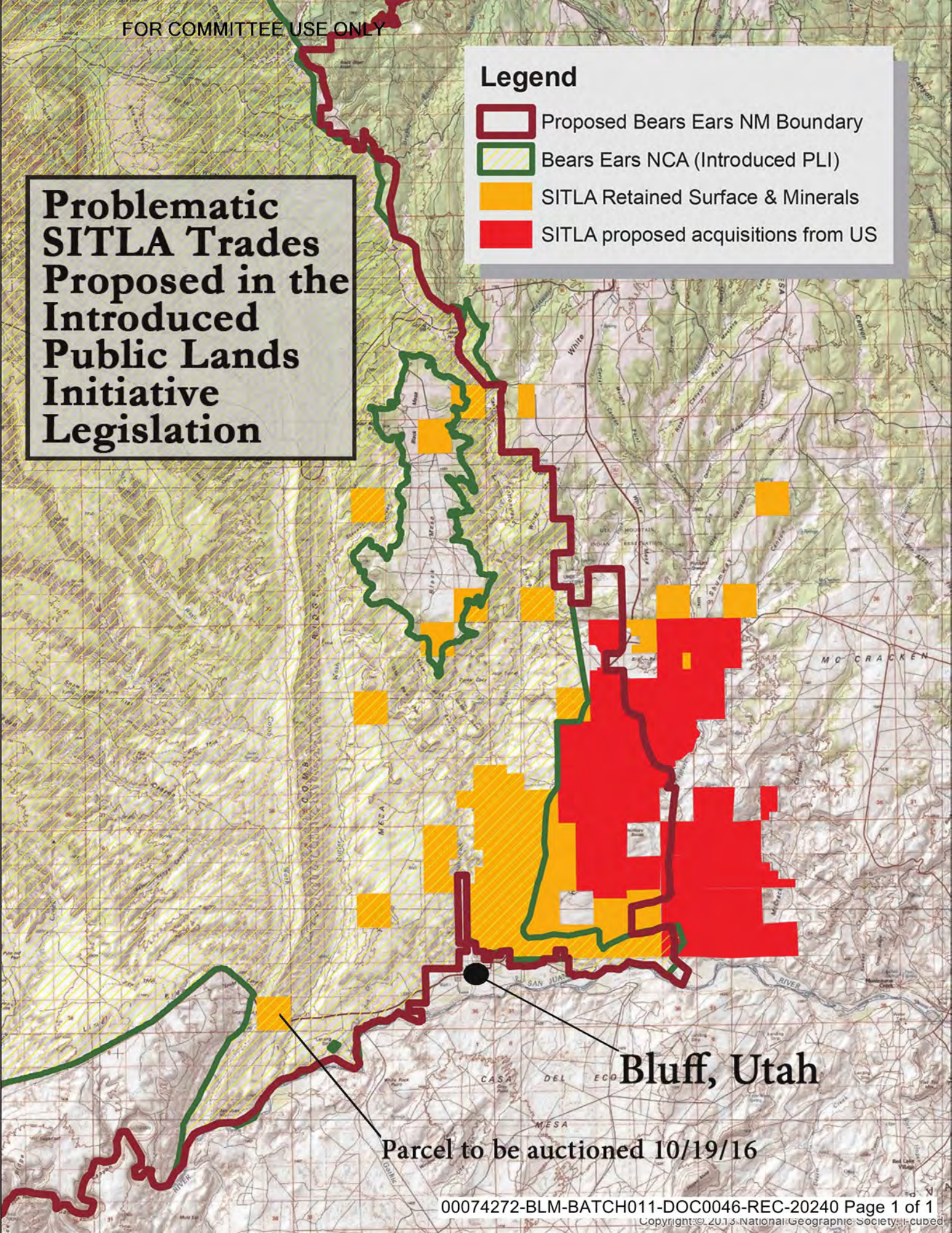
CC:

- Dave Ure, Director, Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Kim Christy, Deputy Director, Utah State Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Jenna Whitlock, UT Acting State Director, Bureau of Land Management
- Rep. Jason Chaffetz
- Rep. Rob Bishop
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- Rep. Jason Chaffetz
- Rep. Rob Bishop
- Senator Mike Lee

Conversation Contents

Utah Gov. Herbert hints he could pitch plan to protect Bears Ears | The Salt Lake Tribune

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Wed Sep 07 2016 17:41:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Utah Gov. Herbert hints he could pitch plan to protect Bears Ears | The Salt Lake Tribune

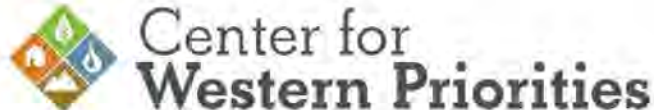
<http://www.sltrib.com/news/4326093-155/utah-gov-herbert-hints-he-could>

Conversation Contents

RESPONSE to Gov. Gary Herbert's new secret plan to protect Bears Ears

Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>

From: Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>
Sent: Wed Sep 07 2016 17:04:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: RESPONSE to Gov. Gary Herbert's new secret plan to protect Bears Ears



CONTACT

Aaron Weiss, Media Director
Center for Western Priorities
aaron@westernpriorities.org
720-279-0019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

RESPONSE to Gov. Gary Herbert's new secret plan to protect Bears Ears

DENVER—In response to news that Utah Governor Gary Herbert is [preparing his own plan](#) to protect the Bears Ears region, the Center for Western Priorities released the following statement.

Jennifer Rokala, Executive Director:

"We're happy to see Governor Herbert acknowledge that Congressman Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative is effectively dead. Like so many involved, the governor agrees that Bears Ears is in urgent need of protection. When Interior Secretary Jewell sits down with the governor in the coming weeks, we're confident she will take his input seriously alongside that of tribal governments and other stakeholders."

READ MORE

- [Four truths and a lie: Utah public lands edition](#)
- [Take Rep. Rob Bishop's Inkblot Test](#)
- [In new national monuments, President Obama continues to allow native uses, elevate](#)

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[tribal voices](#)

- [In President Obama's final months, four monumental opportunities](#)

###

The Center for Western Priorities is a conservation policy and advocacy organization focused on land and energy issues across the American West.

[Center for Western Priorities](#) | 820 16th Street Ste 450, Denver, CO 80202 | 303.974.7761

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Looking for Opportunities for Dialogue

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Sep 07 2016 12:35:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Larry Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Looking for Opportunities for Dialogue

FYI. Please see below.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Snider, Casey" <Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov>
Date: September 7, 2016 at 12:50:32 PM EDT
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Ferguson, Fred" <Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>
Subject: **FW: Looking for Opportunities for Dialogue**

Nikki

Please see the attached email I just sent to Regina. I also spoke with Gavin this AM. To his credit he is trying, but simply put the tribes will not speak to our offices. Im not sure what to do at this point, but I am happy to keep trying. I will also send along any response I get on my end.

Hope all is well

Casey

From: <Snider>, Casey Snider <casey.snider@mail.house.gov>
Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 12:48 PM
To: "rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org" <rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org>
Cc: "alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us" <alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us>, Gavin Noyes <gavin@xmission.com>, "Ferguson, Fred" <Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>, Cody Stewart <codystewart@utah.gov>
Subject: Looking for Opportunities for Dialogue

Regina

Sorry to bother you as I recognize you are extremely busy, but I wanted to follow up with you. Over the last few weeks I've tried to catch you via text and phone. Unfortunately we have been unable to connect at this point.

I understand that members of your board spoke last night here in Utah regarding the Bears Ears proposal to the Rotary club. We are happy to create an atmosphere for a similar conversation on our end, not necessarily in a public forum with point and counter point, but in some sort of designated official meeting which would seek to see if a legislative solution exists to address some of the outstanding needs of the tribes.

I have spoken with members of your staff as well as with the Governors office here in Utah. If some sort of opportunity does exist for some form of communication we would love to help facilitate it.

Happy to chat at any time.

Thanks again

Casey

Conversation Contents

Poll Confirms Majority of Utah Voters Want to Protect Bears Ears

Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>

From: Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>
Sent: Mon Aug 29 2016 13:58:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Poll Confirms Majority of Utah Voters Want to Protect Bears Ears



CONTACT

Aaron Weiss, Media Director
Center for Western Priorities
aaron@westernpriorities.org
720-279-0019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 29, 2016

Poll Confirms Majority of Utah Voters Want to Protect Bears Ears

The only debate is over how, not if, the region needs protection

A poll released Friday by the conservative UtahPolicy.com blog confirms a majority of likely Utah voters support protecting the Bears Ears region, either through legislative or executive action.

The poll, which was conducted in late July and early August, found 35 percent of Utahns support Rep. Rob Bishop's proposed Public Lands Initiative, while an additional 19 percent support a presidential monument designation using the Antiquities Act. The combined percentage of those in support of protecting Bears Ears, [54 percent](#), outnumber those who do not support protection by a nearly two-to-one margin. It's an increase of six points [over the previous UtahPolicy.com poll](#), which asked a slightly different question in May.

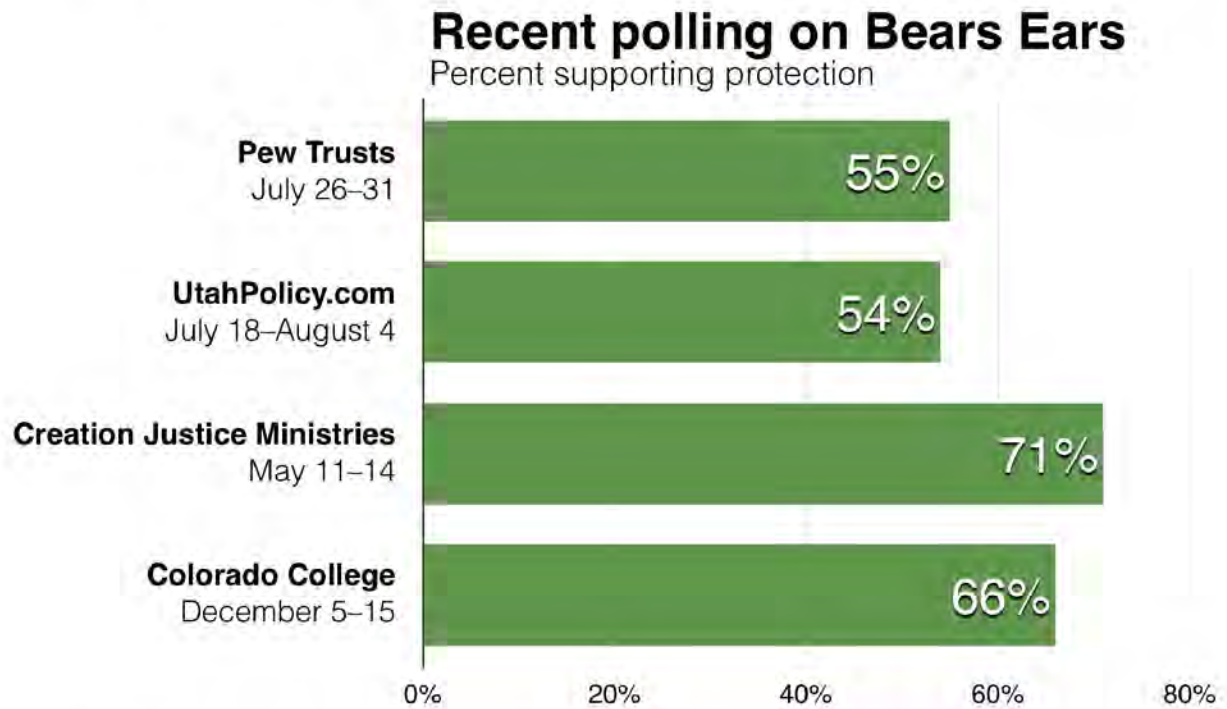
"Although some tried to frame this poll as anti-Bears Ears, a look at the actual results shows it's completely consistent with other polls which confirm a clear majority of Utah voters want to protect the Bears Ears landscape," said **Jennifer Rokala, executive director at the Center for Western Priorities**. "While a legislative solution should be a viable option, it's unfortunate that

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Congressman Bishop chose to run out the clock on the PLI, rather than crafting the grand bargain he'd promised for three years."

With 33 working days left on the congressional calendar, Rep. Bishop has yet to schedule a hearing or markup on the PLI; this despite controlling the calendar of the House Natural Resources Committee, which he chairs. Bishop has also not announced any Democratic support for his bill, which would require a 60 vote supermajority to clear the Senate before the end of the legislative session.

"The reality is that Congressman Bishop could and should have introduced a viable bill nine months ago. Instead, he wasted precious time on an ideologically-driven discussion draft he knew had no chance of passing," Rokala said. "The congressman finally introduced a bill this summer, albeit one with a multitude of problems, but he's left himself with an impossibly steep legislative hill to climb, considering the calendar. President Obama should listen to the voters of Utah—if a dysfunctional Congress can't do its job, he needs to step up and protect Bears Ears."



Learn more

- [Bears Ears Opponents Distorting Truth About Tribal Access to National Monuments](#)
- [For 80 years, politicians have been all talk but no action when it comes to Bears Ears](#)
- [In President Obama's final months, four monumental opportunities](#)
- [Opponents of Bears Ears monument blame badgers for looting and grave robbing](#)

For more information, visit westernpriorities.org. To speak with an expert on public lands, contact Aaron Weiss at 720-279-0019 or aaron@westernpriorities.org.

###

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The Center for Western Priorities is a conservation policy and advocacy organization focused on land and energy issues across the American West.

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Conversation Contents

Thank you

"Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>

From: "Crandall, Megan" <mcrandal@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 16 2016 13:54:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Neil,

I just received your nice thank you letter regarding the Bears Ears meeting in Bluff. Thank you so much for taking the extra time to pen a quick personal note on it -- I know you have a million and ten things going on and I really appreciate it.

Megan

--



Next 100 Coalition's Four-Month Plan for Fostering an Inclusive Approach to America's National Public Lands

Immediate steps that President Obama can take to cement his legacy and ensure his successors pioneer an inclusive approach to the conservation of our shared natural and cultural heritage.

Introduction

In 2016, we celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service. This is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's conservation legacy, especially the strides taken by President Obama to protect more public lands and waters than any other president, and coalesce around a new vision for the next century.

To achieve this new vision for conservation, and spark the necessary cultural and operating changes within the agencies responsible for protecting our public lands and waters, the Next 100 Coalition asks President Obama to demonstrate his leadership and continued commitment to fostering an inclusive approach for our system of public lands by issuing a Presidential Memorandum on the Centennial of the National Park Service, August 25, 2016.

The Presidential Memorandum should direct the Park Service, Forest Service and other federal land management agencies to be more inclusive **in the sites protected, stories told, communities engaged, and people hired as stewards of our incredible system of national parks, forests and other national public lands – and install a system for public accountability on said matters.** In particular, the Presidential Memorandum should:

- Appoint an Action Committee/Ombudsperson at the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which would oversee incorporation of the following principles laid out in the Presidential Memorandum and be accountable to the public in the management of America's system of public lands and waters.
- Direct the White House Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to review federal land management agency ongoing efforts to recruit and hire staff with more diverse backgrounds. The OPM should engage in strategy meetings between OPM Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCOs) and Human Resources staff for land agencies and collaborate with agencies to develop an action plan to identify and create opportunities for a new generation of leaders that are inclusive and targeted at recruiting from non-traditional communities and establish a supportive environment and career pathways for those employees, and create internal incentives for building a more diverse workforce and multicultural workplace. We would request that a formal, annual report on progress be generated for public accountability.
- Announce a formal review of federal programs across agencies that are designed to reach culturally-diverse communities to identify ways to increase participation from

those communities and to improve access to public lands and waters for those constituencies.

- Launch a Master Interpretive Plans pilot project, working with public and private partners to demonstrate how outreach and educational messaging around a single theme can be coordinated across different agencies, sites and public lands.
- Direct the Secretary of the Interior to review the agency strategy on landscape-scale conservation, in consultation with tribes, to more fully encompass cultural landscapes and to acknowledge the need to design conservation and climate change mitigation programs that protect habitats, ecosystems and natural processes and also recognize peoples' histories, livelihoods and beliefs.
- Announce the expansion of youth internship programs in federal land management agencies and ensure agencies work with community-based organizations and diverse partners with ties to communities of color to identify, recruit and retain youth employees.
- Announce enhanced coordination across agencies and investment in federal partnerships with historically black colleges and universities, tribal colleges and universities, and other formal educational programs for underserved communities to connect youth with paid internships, mentors, and ultimately full-time careers in federal land management agencies.
- Launch a Step Up Program to get high school students nationwide engaged with federal land management agencies and empower leaders from communities of color already serving in federal land management agencies to provide leadership and guidance in engaging culturally diverse communities.
- Hold a Partnership Summit to identify and celebrate accomplishments and outline action to meet remaining challenges in workforce diversity, community partnerships and engagement, expanded cultural relevance and inclusivity. Engage federal land agency leaders and career employees and employee associations, Next 100 Coalition and other similar partners in a dialogue on what models are working and best practices, and set actionable next steps that partners can take forward into a next administration. .

In addition to the Presidential Memorandum, we believe there are additional steps the White House, CEQ and federal land management agencies can take in the next four months to enhance the diversity and inclusivity of our system of national public lands:

Access to Public Lands

- Leverage the National Park Foundation, National Forest Foundation, U.S. Travel and other private partners to announce with the U.S. Department of Commerce and federal land management agencies a coordinated effort to advertise the range of experiences already available to visitors to America's national parks and other public lands — everything from rugged backcountry activities to vacations with concierge services. Agencies need innovative new ideas to connect with visitors from culturally-diverse communities and demonstrate how our national public lands relate to their personal experiences and varied travel interests.
- Recognize tribal and other diverse farming and ranching communities who live near public lands as essential partners in protecting and caring for our federal lands. In

particular, federal agencies should work with communities to address and mitigate conditions that contribute to forest fires and other related disasters that impact the land, and assure fair access to the lands to which they are historically connected.

- Direct the agencies to coordinate and identify ways to leverage programs across agencies to proactively reach out to diverse communities near our public lands – especially national parks – to foster awareness in these communities of our public lands, and invite access. Work with partners in these communities to develop outreach plans to educate about opportunities to better facilitate access, and ensure that diverse communities feel welcome to visit – and see the benefits of – our public lands.

Historical, Cultural, Sacred and Spiritual Heritage

- Direct the National Park Service to complete the update of National Register Bulletin 38, “Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties,” a guidance document that incorporates the cultural values of Indian tribes and other traditional communities into the federal National Historic Preservation program.
- Announce agency support for permanent and full federal funding for the Historic Preservation Fund to enable federal land management agencies to work with partners, local communities and tribal governments to assess our existing system of national parks and other public lands and waters for missing or incomplete storytelling. These efforts should focus on identifying aspects of the American story that are absent or are inadequately or inaccurately addressed so that the system reflects the broader, more complex stories of our collective heritage as a nation of many cultures and experiences.
 - Direct the agencies to publically educate about the importance of programs like the Historic Preservation Fund (which is the only source of funding for many Tribal Historic Preservation Offices) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in Congress, leveraging the Centennial.
- Since 1964, the stateside grants of the LWCF have been a source of funding to states and local governments for acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The federal side of the LWCF is largely used for acquisition of lands and waters by land management agencies for conservation and recreational purposes. Neither the state nor the federal side expressly authorizes funding for projects sponsored by tribal governments. To begin to address this omission, direct the Department of the Interior to report on (1) whether any LWCF grants have ever been made to tribal governments and (2) if the answer is yes, how many grants have been made to tribes and for how much.

Landscape-Scale Conservation

- Build on President Obama’s legacy of protecting critical natural and cultural landscapes by using the Antiquities Act to protect vulnerable landscapes that are important to all Americans by January 2017, including Bears Ears, Gold Butte, Castner Range, and the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage area.
 - Several bills are pending in Congress to protect sites that could instead be designated under the Antiquities Act by President Obama, should public support be adequate: Birmingham Civil Rights National Historical Park, Freedom Riders Historical Park, Cesar Chavez National Historical Park and Penn School –

- Reconstruction Era National Monument.
- Engage the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and diverse community-based groups in a process to identify ways to better access and expand the farmland protection program, the regional conservation program and programs of other federal agencies to identify and protect historic, culturally diverse farms, ranchers and rural sites.
- Finalize the Moab Master Leasing Plan (MLPs) and use that opportunity to set the stage for additional planning efforts to address oil and gas conflicts around national parks, protect critical landscapes and allow local communities to be an active part of the process. Announce a commitment to launching MLPs for the important cultural landscapes surrounding Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado and Chaco Cultural National Historical Park in New Mexico.
- Announce a new partnership with tribal colleges to launch a multi-year study of culturally-significant resources on national public lands.
- Announce new USDA and Department of the Interior (DOI) memorandums of understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding brownfield restorations. This is critical to protecting open space near urban and rural populations. After restoration, areas could be managed by a state, local or tribal government agency, or by private partners, to benefit local communities.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Launch a new initiative with a partner independent of the federal government (such as with a university) to identify and recommend strategies and programs that engage the needs of an increasingly diverse American population. It is important for our federal land management agencies to have reliable data about how culturally diverse communities now use and relate to national parks and other public lands in order to inform land management plans.
- Develop a strategy at CEQ to identify and share best practices among agencies for identifying and engaging new partners in diverse communities. Aim to replicate public-private partnership programs such as My Brother's Keeper in federal land management agencies.
- USDA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which have robust partnerships and programs with tribal communities, and community-based organizations representing Latino, Native American, African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, veteran and women farmers, could begin to share their partnership strategies and facilitate introductions to other agencies to ensure these small farmers can share their land and water stewardship knowledge and provide input on federal land management planning processes.
- Review authority for each agency to engage in cooperative agreements with community based organizations and recommend any changes needed.

Workforce Diversity

- The Park Service expects that 25% of its workforce will retire in the next year; other agencies face a similar situation. Use this fact in public communications to underscore the urgency and commitment to hiring a new generation of land stewards who reflect the diversity of America.
- Identify best practices across federal land management agencies in diverse hiring and retention. NRCS, for example, has people of color in more than half of its state leader positions. Those best practices should be shared among agencies to inform management strategies on building a more inclusive workforce.
- Ensure agencies engage national and local partners such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Council of La Raza, Japanese American Citizens League, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, League of United Latin American Citizens and others to enhance internal and external diversity outreach and hiring initiatives. Convene and attend stakeholder meetings and conferences, as appropriate for recruitment purposes.
- Host a meeting of thought leaders and key public and private partners along the lines of what the Administration has done to spur veteran hiring in the private sector to identify and launch effective new multicultural hiring initiatives within land management agencies.
- Empower leaders from communities of color already serving in federal land management agencies through employee organizations such as the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees and the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees, formal mentorships, recruitment and retention initiatives to provide leadership and guidance in engaging culturally diverse communities.

Youth Workforce Initiatives

- Build upon, and expand to include other communities of color, successful programs like the Latino Heritage Internship Program (created through partnership with Hispanic Access Foundation and the Park Service).
- Direct the agencies to report back on partnerships with historically black colleges and universities and tribal colleges and universities. Identify the work being done already and identify ways to connect youth with paid internships, mentors and ultimately full-time careers. Expand into other land agencies at DOI and USDA, and include a Direct Hire Mandate.
- Work with community-based organizations to recruit youth and entry-level staff candidates, especially from the local communities (both rural and urban) around parks and federal lands. Look to successful programs, such as the Forest Service's partnership with tribes that has resulted in job opportunities for Native American youth.
- Announce new mentorship programs with partner community-based organizations, looking to NRCS as an example.

Our Public Lands: **An Inclusive Vision for the Next 100 Years**

Throughout history, our public lands - including national parks, forests, monuments and other areas - have played an important role as part of America's identity. Unfortunately, these lands have not always been reflective of our country's demographic and ethnic diversity. This disconnect is becoming more apparent as the face of our country continues to change at a rapid pace and more urgent because the future of our public lands will depend upon public support from *all* people.

Our public lands are facing pressure in Washington, D.C., where some members of Congress would like to sell them off -- and strip the President of his authority to protect our existing national parks and monuments or to create new ones. These attacks are happening alongside increasing commercial and energy development which is putting pressure on our public lands and threatening valuable historical and cultural treasures. Across the country, many of our communities have too little open space; and climate change, air and water pollution are risking our families' health and our future.

Without a broad base of support, we are at risk of losing the historic, cultural, natural, spiritual, economic and recreational resources that our public lands currently provide and of missing opportunities to identify and conserve other valuable resources for future generations.

As America's National Park Service celebrates its centennial this summer, we have a responsibility to create a vision for the next century that focuses on the importance of public lands for all. We must find ways to engage all segments of our population so that they become active users, owners and supporters of public lands.

A more inclusive approach to our country's public lands over the next 100 years must be driven by three guiding principles:

- **REFLECT THE FACES OF OUR COUNTRY:** Our public lands must reflect the demographic and ethnic diversity of our nation's people among visitors, the agencies' workforce and in the designation of new units. This will require a cultural shift within the agencies responsible for managing and overseeing these spaces and a commitment from people outside the agencies to join together to support this approach.
- **RESPECT FOR ALL CULTURES:** Our public lands play a unique role in capturing the many different historical, cultural and spiritual stories that have shaped this country; celebrating acts of bravery and sacrifice, recognizing the unique contributions of all people, and providing opportunities for atonement and healing. We need to make sure that the full range of these stories are being told at existing and new park sites and public lands. Protecting cultural and natural landscapes that tell America's complex history will help us learn from our past, honor our ancestors and educate future generations.
- **RESPONSIBILITY TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE ALL PEOPLE:** The future of our public lands depends upon public support from all people. Moving forward, we must actively and authentically engage a diverse range of communities in new and meaningful ways to build support for our public lands and shape the direction of our future public lands and natural resources policies.

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We must use this opportunity to challenge America in its second century of conservation to create a system of public lands that engage, reflect and honor our nation's entire people. By doing so, the 21st century will be about protecting our current public lands and designating new landscapes that more broadly reflect America's rich and varied culture.

Maite Arce
President/CEO
Hispanic Access Foundation



Frank & Audrey Peterman
Founders
Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers
Bureau



José G. González
Founder
Latino Outdoors



Vanessa Braided Hair
Co-Founder
ecoCheyenne

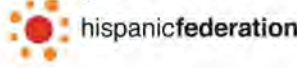


Peter Conroy
Co-Chair
Freedom Riders Park
Charles Person
Original Freedom Rider



Dr. Carolyn Finney
Author
Black Faces White Spaces

Jose Davila
Vice President for Policy &
Government Relations
Hispanic Federation



Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director
Creation Justice Ministries



Jocelyn Torres
Nevada Program Director
Conservation Lands Foundation



Japanese American Citizens League



Sarah Milligan-Toffler
Executive Director
Children & Nature Network



Mark Masaoka
Policy Director
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council



Rue Mapp
Founder and CEO
Outdoor Afro



Camilla Simon
Director
HECHO



Mark Magaña
President
GreenLatinos



League of United
Latin American Citizens



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Teresa Ana Martinez

Teresa Ana Martinez
Executive Director
Continental Divide Trail Coalition



Steve Dunwoody

Steve Dunwoody
California Director
Vet Voice Foundation



Donald Cravins, Jr.

Donald Cravins, Jr.
Senior Vice President for Policy
National Urban League



Loretta E. Pineda

Loretta E. Pineda
Executive Director
Environmental Learning for Kids



Christine M. Alonzo

Christine Alonzo
Executive Director
The Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy
and Research Organization



Pamela Rivera

Pamela Rivera
Partnership & Constituency Advocate
VOCES



Rebecca DeLaRosa

Rebecca DeLaRosa, MPA
Interim Executive Director
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California



Lorette Picciano

Lorette Picciano
Executive Director
Rural Coalition



Jes Ward

Jes Ward
Executive Director
cityWILD



Chad Brown

Chad Brown M.Sc.
Founder & Executive Director
Soul River Inc. - Runs Wild



Glenn Nelson

Glenn Nelson
Founder
The Trail Posse

Hillier C. Patton

Hillier C. Patton
President
The Dignitas Agency



Pastor Frank Ruiz

Pastor Frank Ruiz
Co-Founder
Por La Creación
Faith Based Alliance



Angela Florez

Angela Florez
Director of Leadership Programs
Valle del Sol



Luke Miguel Argleben

Luke Miguel Argleben
Student Advocate

Xavier Morales

Xavier Morales
Executive Director
The Praxis Project



Jessica Reeves

Jessica Reeves
Chief Operating Officer
VotoLatino



Angelou C. Ezeilo
Founder & CEO
Greening Youth Foundation

Mauricia M.M. Baca

Mauricia M.M. Baca
Executive Director
Outside Las Vegas Foundation





Teresa Baker
Founder
African American Nature & Parks
Experiences



Hilary O. Shelton
Director
NAACP Washington Bureau



**Natural Resources Defense Council ▪ The Wilderness Society ▪ Sierra Club ▪
National Wildlife Federation ▪ American Rivers ▪ The Trust for Public Land ▪
Alaska Wilderness League ▪ Conservation Lands Foundation ▪ Clean Water
Action ▪ League of Conservation Voters**

June 9, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

Re: "Parks for All: A Vision for the Second Century of Conservation"

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your work to protect an invaluable and unique American asset – our national public lands. As we celebrate the centennial of the National Park System this year, you have a unique opportunity to set the course for the second century of conservation. Our public lands are a place which should reflect and include all the country's faces, respect all cultures and engage all voices.

Representing 28 percent of the U.S. land mass, the 640 million acres of national public lands provide countless benefits, yet, they are threatened more than ever. Some state and federal legislators and special interests seek to seize them for private profit. Mining and drilling scar their plains and forests. Roads fragment their habitat. Sadly, a football field of natural area in the West disappears every two and a half minutes. Public lands provide a refuge -- even they are being chipped away by commercial development.

Our public lands are our common ground. They are a place for us to unite and connect. In them, we can reflect and honor the diverse heritage and cultures that make this nation great. Last month, a diverse coalition of over 30 civil rights, environmental justice, conservation and community organizations announced a set of policy recommendations including for a Presidential Memorandum that would move us toward an inclusive system of national parks and other public lands. As organizations committed to making ourselves more inclusive and diverse, we applaud this coalition's efforts and urge you to embrace the recommendations outlined in the report and act in the near term on the recommendation for a Presidential Memorandum.

We thank you for your leadership in protecting many new parks and monuments that reflect, honor and engage all Americans. Without your continued leadership and action now, we risk losing the historic, cultural, natural, spiritual, economic and recreational resources that our public lands can provide to all our nation's communities and families.

Sincerely,

Michael Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club

Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

Jamie Williams
President
The Wilderness Society

Brian O'Donnell
Executive Director
Conservation Lands Foundation

Collin O'Mara
President & CEO
National Wildlife Federation

Cindy Shogan
Executive Director
Alaska Wilderness League

Will Rogers
President and CEO
The Trust for Public Land

Robert Wendelgass
President
Clean Water Action

Wm. Robert Irvin
President and CEO
American Rivers

Sharon Buccino
Director, Land & Wildlife
Natural Resources Defense Council

Cc: Christy Goldfuss, Manager, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Cecelia Muñoz, Director, White House Domestic Policy Council
Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Conversation Contents

Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues

Attachments:

- /138. Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues/1.1 Ute Ltr Connor re Uncompahgre Opinion 6 21 16.pdf
- /138. Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues/2.1 Ute Ltr Lee Bishop Chaffetz re HR 5780 (8 2 16).pdf
- /138. Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues/4.1 Ute Ltr Lee Bishop Chaffetz re HR 5780 (8 2 16).pdf
- /138. Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues/5.1 Ute Ltr Lee Bishop Chaffetz re HR 5780 (8 2 16).pdf

Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>

From: Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>
Sent: Thu Jun 23 2016 08:15:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov"
<michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues
Attachments: Ute Ltr Connor re Uncompahgre Opinion 6 21 16.pdf

Hi Michael,

During the Ute Indian Tribe's meeting with you on May 12th you raised a handful of questions related to moving forward with the Tribe's request for restoration of lands within its Uncompahgre Reservation under the IRA. Please find attached a letter and legal opinion responding to those questions. The Tribe looks forward to hearing your views on this and any other issues you think we may need to address.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for your consideration.

Rollie Wilson
Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP
401 9th Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 450-4887
Cell: (202) 340-8232
Fax: (202) 450-5106
www.ndnlaw.com

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Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>

From: Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>
Sent: Tue Aug 02 2016 09:33:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov"
<michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues
Attachments: Ute Ltr Lee Bishop Chaffetz re HR 5780 (8 2 16).pdf

Hi Michael,

The Ute Indian Tribe was pleased to meet with the Secretary a couple of weeks ago as a part of her meetings on the Utah Public Lands Initiative and the Bears Ears Monument issues. As a part of his comments, Ute Chairman Shawn Chappoose asked the Secretary to understand the broader impacts of the PLI, beyond Bears Ears, and the attempted taking of the Ute Indian Tribe's lands—the same lands that the Tribe seeks to have restored to trust status under the Indian Reorganization Act.

Now the legislation has been introduced for the PLI, H.R. 5780, the Tribe requests the assistance of DOI in opposing this legislation and its impacts on the Reservation. The Tribe also asks that DOI move forward with steps to restore the Tribe's lands under the IRA to finally put an end to decades of conflict with Utah over the status of the Tribe's lands.

Please find attached a recent letter the Tribe sent to members of the Utah Delegation regarding H.R. 5780. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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From: Rollie Wilson <rwilson@ndnlaw.com>
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 10:20 AM
To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov" <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Tana Fitzpatrick <tana.fitzpatrick@bia.gov>, Lawrence Roberts <Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov>, "jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov" <jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov>, "bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov" <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>

"nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>

Subject: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues

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"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 02 2016 09:35:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: rwilson@ndnlaw.com
Subject: Re: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues

Thank you for your note. I am out of the office and will only have occasional access to email. If your matter is time sensitive, please feel free to contact Kelly Orr, Acting Chief of Staff, at 202-208-3801.

Neil

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 02 2016 10:14:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Jack Haugrud <Jack.Haugrud@sol.doi.gov>, justin.pidot@sol.doi.gov,
To:

joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov, Liz Pardue
<lpardue@blm.gov>

Subject:

Fwd: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration
Issues

Attachments:

Ute Ltr Lee Bishop Chaffetz re HR 5780 (8 2 16).pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>

Date: August 2, 2016 at 10:33:52 AM CDT

To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov" <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, "tana.fitzpatrick@bia.gov" <tana.fitzpatrick@bia.gov>, "Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov" <Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov>, "jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov" <jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov>, "bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov" <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>

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Rollie Wilson

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To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
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Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 02 2016 10:14:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Dawn Pagenkopf <dmpagenk@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues
Attachments: Ute Ltr Lee Bishop Chaffetz re HR 5780 (8 2 16).pdf

Dbb please

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>
Date: August 2, 2016 at 10:33:52 AM CDT

To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov" <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, "tana.fitzpatrick@bia.gov" <tana.fitzpatrick@bia.gov>, "Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov" <Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov>, "jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov" <jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov>, "bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov" <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>
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From: Rollie Wilson <rwilson@ndnlaw.com>
Date: Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 10:20 AM
To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov" <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Tana Fitzpatrick <tana.fitzpatrick@bia.gov>, Lawrence Roberts <Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov>, "jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov" <jody.cummings@sol.doi.gov>, "bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov" <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>
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"Pagenkopf, Dawn" <dmpagenk@blm.gov>

From: "Pagenkopf, Dawn" <dmpagenk@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 02 2016 10:16:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues

Printed and added!

On Tue, Aug 2, 2016 at 12:14 PM, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov> wrote:

Dbb please

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rollie Wilson <RWilson@ndnlaw.com>
Date: August 2, 2016 at 10:33:52 AM CDT
To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov" <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov> ,

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"Hanson, Joshua" <joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov>

From: "Hanson, Joshua" <joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 03 2016 08:31:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues

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—
Joshua F. Hanson
Branch of Public Land
Division of Land Resources
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Rm. 5525
Washington, D.C. 20240

Phone: (202)208-3463
Email: joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov

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"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 03 2016 08:31:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Ute Ltr and Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration Issues

Thank you for your note. I am out of the office and will only have occasional access to email. If your matter is time sensitive, please feel free to contact Kelly Orr, Acting Chief of Staff, at 202-208-3801.

Neil



UTE INDIAN TRIBE

P. O. Box 190

Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Phone (435) 722-5141 • Fax (435) 722-5072

June 21, 2016

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

The Honorable Michael Connor
Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street – MS 7328
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Legal Opinion on Restoration of the Uncompahgre Reservation

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor:

Please find attached a legal opinion that was requested at our meeting on May 12, 2016 in relation to the Ute Indian Tribe's request for restoration of lands to trust status within the Uncompahgre Reservation. The legal opinion addresses several questions raised by the Solicitor's office at that meeting, in particular, whether the Tribe is required to have an "economic interest" in the lands as discussed in the case of *Bowman v. Udall* and whether NEPA would be triggered by any restoration action taken by the Secretary.

As you will see, the legislative and factual histories surrounding the Uncompahgre Reservation make an even stronger case for restoration than the restoration that was addressed in the *Bowman* case. It is therefore our position that restoration of these lands is both appropriate and lawful. Restoration of our land base will go a long way to correct the longstanding dispossession of the Tribe's lawful interests in these lands.

As more fully discussed in the legal opinion, for decades the Federal Government incorrectly presumed the Uncompahgre Reservation to be disestablished. However, consistent with the Tribe's longstanding views, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals has now ruled that the Uncompahgre Reservation was neither diminished nor disestablished. The Supreme Court's denial of certiorari in Uintah and Duchesne County's challenge to that ruling conclusively affirms the Tenth Circuit's determination on the status of the Reservation and confirms the Reservation remains fully intact.

**Ute Indian Tribe
Legal Opinion on Uncompahgre Restoration**


**June 21, 2106
Page 2 of 2**

Because the Uncompahgre Reservation was never disestablished nor diminished, the lands within the Reservation were never restored to the public domain and the Ute Indian Tribe's title to lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation was never extinguished, the lands are eligible for restoration pursuant to Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and the existing 1945 Secretarial Order of Restoration that restored to the Tribe "all lands which are now [in 1945] or may hereafter be classified as undisposed-of opened lands of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Restoring the lands pursuant to this 1945 Order would not require new Secretarial action be taken to effect the restoration. We therefore request that the Department review this process further to determine if restoration of the Uncompahgre Reservation pursuant to the authority set forth in the Secretary's Order of 1945 will serve as a more effective means to restore these lands to Tribal ownership.

Whether under the 1945 Order or a new order, to facilitate the Ute Indian Tribe's request for restoration of lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation, we are open to discussing a waiver and release of claims for past damages associated with the United States' holding and administration of these lands and would be amenable to establishing a transition period during which valid existing rights and revenue allocation agreements would be recognized and maintained with respect to the lands that would be restored.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached opinion, please let us know. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shaun Chapoose".

Shaun Chapoose
Chairman, Ute Tribal Business Committee

CC: Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Larry Roberts
Solicitor Jodi Cummings



FREDERICKS PEEBLES & MORGAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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**CONFIDENTIAL AND
ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED OPINION**

TO: Ute Indian Tribal Business Committee
FROM: Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP
RE: Restoration of the Uncompahgre Reservation under *Bowman v. Udall*
DATE: June 21, 2016

This legal opinion addresses the legal authority by which the Secretary of the Interior can restore lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation to tribal ownership. This opinion addresses the “requirements” found in the dicta of *Bowman v. Udall* as they may relate to any restoration of lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation.

I. *Bowman* Factors

Lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation are eligible for restoration under Section 3 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (“IRA”), which provides the Secretary the authority to restore “remaining surplus lands of any Indian reservation” to tribal ownership if he finds it to be in the public interest.¹ In *Bowman v. Udall*, 243 F. Supp. 672 (D.D.C. 1965), the district court discusses, in dicta, the various factors it considers necessary to find lands eligible for restoration to tribal ownership under the IRA.² According to the analysis in the *Bowman* opinion, land is eligible for restoration to tribal ownership if (i) the land constitutes “surplus lands of any Indian reservation” within the meaning and purpose of the IRA, (ii) the land was held by the United States for the benefit of the tribe such that the tribe maintained an economic interest, and (iii) the restoration to tribal ownership is in the public interest, which includes not disturbing other validly

¹ 25 U.S.C. § 463(a).

² The factors discussed in *Bowman* are purely dicta and were not in any way related to the holding of the case. The holding in *Bowman* resolved only whether the State of Arizona and other non-Indian plaintiffs had standing to enjoin the Secretary from restoring the subsurface minerals located within the San Carlos Apache “Mineral Strip” to tribal ownership.

held rights to the lands.³ The most significant factor the *Bowman* case emphasizes is the existence of an economic interest on the part of the tribe.

In some ways, the situation of the Uncompahgre Reservation is similar to that of the San Carlos Apache "Mineral Strip" in *Bowman* in satisfying the court's criteria. In both instances, the reservations were established by Executive Order, then the surplus tribal lands were opened to allotment by congressional action, and meanwhile the tribes preserved their respective interests. However, one notable difference between these cases is the level of economic interest retained by each tribe.

While the San Carlos Apache Tribe's lands were ceded to the federal government in exchange for the proceeds from sales to non-Indians, the Tribe was never legally dispossessed of its lands. Even though the United States took actions in an attempt to dispose of the Uncompahgre Reservation as if the lands were ceded, such actions were not carried out. As the Supreme Court and Tenth Circuit have made clear, the Uncompahgre Reservation was neither disestablished nor diminished. Further, no record of Congressional approval of the Department's actions exists and without such Congressional action, the Tribe's legal interest in its Reservation has never been extinguished. Given these factors there is a much stronger basis for the restoration of the lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation than there was in *Bowman*.

II. History of the Uncompahgre Reservation

The 1.9 million acre Uncompahgre Reservation was set aside by President Arthur on January 5, 1882.⁴ In 1894, the U.S. approved the first of two allotment acts seeking to allot the Uncompahgre Reservation and open the Reservation to non-Indian settlement.⁵ The 1894 Act failed, however, as it resulted in no allotments and no restoration of lands to the public domain.⁶ Upon the failure of the 1894 Act, Congress passed a similar Act in 1897 but this time included a deadline for allotment. The pertinent language of the 1897 Act states as follows:

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby directed to allot agricultural lands in severalty to the Uncompahgre Ute Indians now located upon or belonging to the Uncompahgre Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, said allotments to be upon the Uncompahgre and Uintah reservations or elsewhere in said State. And all the lands of said Uncompahgre Reservation not theretofore allotted in severalty to said Uncompahgre Utes shall, on and after the first day of April, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, be open for location and entry under all the land laws of the United States; excepting, however, therefrom all lands containing gilsonite, asphalt,

³ *Bowman*, 243 F. Supp. at 678, 680.

⁴ Exec. Order of Jan. 5, 1882, I. Kapp. 901 (2d ed. 1904), LD 12.

⁵ Act of Aug. 15, 1894, ch. 290, 28 Stat. 286, 337-338 (the "1894 Act").

⁶ The 1894 Act required the Secretary to identify the portions of the Reservation unsuited/unrequired for allotments and thereafter, said identified lands would be, *by proclamation* be restored to the public domain and made subject to entry. See 28 Stat. 286, 337-339 (1894) (emphasis added). No proclamation was ever made and, therefore, no lands were restored to the public domain under the 1894 Act.

elaterite, or other like substances.⁷

Significantly, the language of the 1897 Act does not contain unequivocal terms sufficient enough to infer dispossession of the Uncompahgre lands. In *Mattz v. Arnett*, the Supreme Court found no diminishment or disestablishment where Congress merely opened the reservation “to settlement, entry, and purchase under the land laws of the United States”⁸ This position was further clarified in *Solem v. Bartlett*.⁹ In *Solem*, the Court looked to the operative language of the allotment act, stating that “rather than reciting an . . . agreement to ‘cede, sell, relinquish and convey’ the opened lands, the . . . [Allotment] Act simply authorizes the Secretary to ‘sell and dispose’ of certain lands.”¹⁰ In both *Mattz* and *Solem*, the Court found the “reference to the sale of Indian lands . . . suggests that the Secretary of the Interior was simply being authorized to act as the Tribe’s sales agent” and did not take ownership of the land from the Tribe.¹¹

As with the allotment actions in *Mattz* and *Solem*, 1897 Act contains no statement discontinuing or vacating the reservation, abolishing the boundaries, or returning it to the public domain; the Uncompahgre was being sold directly from the still-existing Uncompahgre Reservation. The 1897 Act did not diminish nor did it disestablish any portion of the Uncompahgre, it merely opened the lands for allotment and later disposition to non-Indians “under all the land laws of the United States.”¹² As in *Mattz* and *Solem*, Congress could have terminated the reservation status, but it chose not to. By opening the land to non-Indian settlement without first terminating the reservation, the U.S. became the Tribe’s agent, charged only with selling the Tribe’s land, not removing the land from tribal ownership and terminating its beneficial interest.¹³

⁷ Act of June 7, 1897, ch. 3, 30 Stat. 62, 87 (the “1897 Act”).

⁸ *Mattz v. Arnett*, 412 U.S. 481, 504 (1973) (the *Mattz* Court stated that in the late 1800s, “Congress was fully aware of the means by which termination could be effected” and was accustomed to using unequivocal terms to achieve such a purpose” and that Congress often used language such as “reservation is hereby discontinued,” “a portion of the . . . Indian Reservation . . . be, and is hereby, vacated and restored to the public domain,” and “the reservation lines of the . . . Indian reservations be, and the same are hereby, abolished.”).

⁹ *Solem v. Bartlett*, 465 U.S. 463 (1984).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See *South Dakota v. Yankton Sioux Tribe*, 522 U.S. 329 (1998) (finding diminishment when act provided that Tribe would “cede, sell, relinquish, and convent to the U.S. all their claim, right, title, and interest in and to all the unallotted lads within the limits of the reservation” and the “U.S. pledged a fixed payment of \$600,000 in return; *Solem*, 465 U.S. 472-475 (finding that act “opened but did not diminish” reservation and that Secretary of the Interior was “simply being authorized to act as the Tribe’s sales agent” when act authorized Secretary to “sell and dispose” of portions of reservation land); *Rosebud Sioux Tribe v. Kneip*, 430 U.S. 584, 597 (1977) (finding diminishment when act was ratification of negotiated agreement with tribe that opened lands to settlement and appropriated and vested in the tribe \$2.50 per acre in payment for the express cession and relinquishment of “all” of the tribe’s “claim, right, title and interest” in the unallotted lands); *DeCoteau v. District County Court*, 420 U.S. 425, 436 (1975) (finding diminishment when tribe agreed to “cede, sell, relinquish, and convey to the U.S. all their claim, right, title, and interest” in reservation for payment of sum certain; *Seymour v. Superintendent of Washington State Penitentiary*, 368 U.S. 351 (1962) (finding no diminishment when act did not provide that reservation land was “vacated and restored to the public domain”); *Duncan Energy v. Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation*, 27 F.3d 1294, 1297 (8th Cir. 1994) (finding no diminishment when act “merely authorized the Secretary of the Interior to ‘surve[y] and to sell and dispose of . . . all the surplus unallotted and unreserved lands with [a] portion of said reservation.”).

¹² *Supra* Note 7.

¹³ See *U.S. v. Jackson*, 697 F.3d 670, 672 (8th Cir. 2012) (“If a surplus land Act simply offered non-Indians the opportunity to purchase land within established reservation boundaries, then the entire opened area remained Indian country.”).

Ultimately, only 83 allotments were ever approved within the Uncompahgre Reservation.¹⁴ Absent a more unequivocal Congressional statement restoring the unallotted land to the public domain, or a subsequent act of Congress, the land not sold pursuant to the “land laws of the United States” is still legally Tribal land. Therefore, the Tribe retains to this day, a continuing economic interest in all lands not allotted. However, the U.S. did not recognize the Tribe’s beneficial ownership in its lands following allotment, absent compensation. Therefore, these lands could be categorized as surplus lands within the meaning of the IRA as determined in *Bowman*.

III. Surplus Lands

The unallotted lands of the Uncompahgre Reservation are technically the lands that remained undisposed of and in tribal ownership after the allotment process was carried out. They are technically “surplus lands” within the meaning of the IRA, but the Tribe was never legally dispossessed of them by either allotment act. The consistent position of the Interior Department since the enactment of the IRA has been that “surplus lands” are those lands “held in some manner for the benefit of the Indian tribes”; the “plain meaning is [that surplus lands are] the undisposed portion of land which was opened to disposal before 1934 because it was surplus to the needs of the Indians at that time.”¹⁵

In *Bowman*, the term “surplus lands” was not intended to include “all remaining undisposed-of ceded lands.”¹⁶ Rather, “surplus lands” were meant to include only those ceded lands which the United States disposed of for the benefit of the Indians, thereby securing the Indians’ economic interest in the lands.¹⁷ The Solicitor’s Office in 1962 stated that “it is most logical to empower the Secretary to return to the tribe any land which the Government holds for their benefit.”¹⁸ The *Bowman* court opined that the Secretary could only restore to tribal ownership those lands in which the Indians retained, following disposition, some level of economic interest.¹⁹

IV. Economic Interest

As stated above, the Tribe retains an economic interest in its Reservation by virtue of never being legally dispossessed of its beneficial ownership. Beneficial ownership of land is the highest form of economic interest one can have in real property. Considering the level of economic development that has occurred within the exterior boundaries of the Uncompahgre Reservation since the 1897 Act and the fact that no compensation was ever paid to the Tribe, the Tribe has continuing claims for rents, royalties, etc., for the unauthorized use of its land and resources.

Despite its other actions, even the federal government endeavored to protect the Uncompahgre Reservation lands for the benefit of the Tribe, further acknowledging the Tribe’s

¹⁴ See Act of Mar. 1, 1899, ch. 324, 30 Stat. 924, 940-41.

¹⁵ Solicitor’s Opinion, 69 I.D. 195, M-36599 (Nov. 28, 1962).

¹⁶ *Bowman*, 243 F. Supp at 682, quoting Assistant Secretary Oscar Chapman in his June 15, 1938 Opinion.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Supra* Note 15.

¹⁹ *Bowman*, 243 F. Supp at 682, quoting Solicitor’s Opinion of January 17, 1960.

continuing economic interest. On September 26, 1933, the Secretary by Order temporarily (and wrongly) withdrew the Uncompahgre Reservation lands from the perceived “public domain,” pending legislation to establish a permanent grazing reserve to be maintained for the benefit of all landowners in the area, including the Tribe.²⁰ Significantly, the Secretary’s 1933 withdraw order was specifically based on authority that was only applicable to existing Executive Order Indian Reservations. The Secretary cited to Section 4 of the Act of March 3, 1927 (44 Stat. 1347) providing that, “changes in the boundaries of reservations created by Executive order . . . for the use and occupation of Indians shall not be made except by Act of Congress: *Provided*, That this shall not apply to temporary withdrawals by the Secretary of the Interior.” Thus, in 1933, despite claims to the contrary, even the Secretary recognized the ongoing existence of the Uncompahgre Reservation.

In another example of the federal government’s recognition of the Tribe’s ongoing interests in their Reservation, a July 20, 1935 agreement that placed the grazing reserve under the administration of the Taylor Grazing Act, took the unusual step of requiring that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs “concur in all matters . . . relative to the administration under the Taylor Grazing [Act]. . . .”²¹ The Commissioner of Indian Affairs concurrence was required to protect the ongoing interests of the Tribe. In addition, under this agreement merely leases – not vested property rights – to the lands were distributed to non-Indian stockmen.²² And, finally, throughout this time grazing fees for the Indians were waived.²³

V. The Uncompahgre Reservation was Part of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation at the Time of the 1945 Secretarial Restoration Order

Alternatively, there is a strong case which can be made that the Uncompahgre Reservation was already restored to the Tribe in 1945. In that year the Secretary issued an Order of Restoration (“Order”) restoring all unpatented lands to the Uintah and Ouray Reservation pursuant to Sections 3 and 7 of the IRA. The order provided in pertinent part:

. . . there are now remaining undisposed of within said area *approximately 217,000 acres of unallotted lands*, which need closer administrative control in the interest of better conservation practice. . . . Whereas, the Tribal Council, the Superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Agency, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs have recommended restoration of tribal ownership of such *undisposed-of surplus unallotted lands in the said reservation*, . . . I hereby find that restoration to tribal ownership of *all lands which are now or may hereafter be classified as undisposed-of opened lands of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation* will be in the public interest, and the said lands are hereby restored to tribal ownership for the use and benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah, and are added to and made a part of the existing reservation, subject to any valid existing

²⁰ Compare to *Bowman*, 243 F.Supp at 674. There the Secretary withdrew the lands pending enactment of legislation to preserve the Tribe’s interests in the lands.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Solicitor’s Opinion (Dec. 10, 1946).

rights.

Order of Restoration, 10 Fed. Reg. 12409 (emphasis added).

While in one section the language of the Order refers to the “approximately 217,000 acres of unallotted lands,” an argument can be made that United States has interpreted the Order as having restored *all* unpatented lands to the Reservation. *See e.g.*, 59 I.D. 393, 396 (1947), II Opinions of the Solicitor of the Department of Interior Relating to Indian Affairs, 1917-1974, at 1434, 1435-1436 (1979) (“The order restores ‘all lands which are now or may hereafter be classified as undisposed-of opened lands’ of the reservation”), *quoted in Ute Indian Tribe v. Utah*, 521 F. Supp. 1072, 1144; Solicitor Memo (July 7, 1994)(“the 1945 Order of Restoration by the Secretary of the Interior restored to the Tribe ‘both the ownership of and the jurisdiction over all open undisposed of lands[.]’”).

Despite the issuance of the 1945 Order, the Uncompahgre Reservation lands were not restored due to the Federal Government’s position that the Uncompahgre Reservation had been disestablished. This position has been directly repudiated by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Ute Indian Tribe v. State of Utah* (“*Ute III*”), which found the Reservation had been neither diminished nor disestablished following allotment. *Ute III*, 773 F.2d 1087 (10th Cir. 1985). In *Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation v. State of Utah* (“*Ute V*”), the Tenth Circuit reaffirmed its holding that neither the 1894 nor the 1897 Allotment Acts diminished or disestablished the Reservation. *Ute V*, 114 F.3d 1513 (10th Cir. 1997).

The Supreme Court has denied certiorari in the *Ute* line of cases and there exists no other appellate court in the Nation with subject matter jurisdiction related to the diminishment or disestablishment of the Uncompahgre Reservation. It is therefore settled that at the time of the 1945 Order, the “undisposed-of opened lands of the reservation” included all lands which were then or thereafter classified as such. The Tribe maintains that the Uncompahgre Reservation should have been so classified and given the language of the Order and the holdings in *Ute III* and *Ute V* they are the rightful property of the Tribe.

VI. Analysis: NEPA and the Acquisition of Land into Trust within Exterior Borders of a Reservation

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a prospective law, originally enacted in 1970 to promote the enhancement of the environment and is applicable to most federal agency actions in Indian country. In general, NEPA applies to “Major Federal Actions” that are subject to Federal control and responsibility. As discussed above, the lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation were transferred from the Tribe absent legal authority. These lands should have been restored to the Tribe under the IRA and pursuant to the 1945 Order; that they were not restored does not change the fact that they were opened and undisposed-of lands. The 1945 Order restored *all* opened and undisposed-of lands to the Tribe. The recognition of this fact necessitates the mandatory restoration of the Uncompahgre lands to the Tribe. Such a mandatory action is not

subject to the requirements of NEPA.²⁴ Further, the IRA and the 1945 Order predate NEPA by at least twenty-five years and any action taken pursuant to both the IRA and the Order would not be subject to NEPA, a prospective law.

The restoration of the Uncompahgre lands is further mandated because the lands qualify as excess real property within the boundaries of an Indian Reservation pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 523. Where real property is determined to be “excess”, the Secretary of Interior is charged with taking receipt of the real property, in trust for the benefit and use of the group, band, or tribe of Indians, within whose reservation the excess real property is located.²⁵ Excess property is defined as “property under the control of a federal agency that the head of the agency determines is not required to meet the agency’s needs or responsibilities.”²⁶

Under 40 U.S.C. § 523, the Secretary’s act of taking of the land in trust for a tribe is mandatory where such lands are determined excess and are located within the exterior boundaries of a reservation. It is clear from the holdings in *Ute III* and *Ute V* that the Uncompahgre lands are within reservation boundaries. It is also clear the Uncompahgre lands qualify as “excess real property” because the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) never obtained legal rights to the Uncompahgre lands. Absent legal authority to possess the lands, the BLM cannot assert a legitimate claim that it needs or is ultimately responsible for the Uncompahgre lands. Therefore, the Secretary or the Director of the BLM has the responsibility to determine the Uncompahgre lands are excess to the BLM’s needs and responsibilities and can thereafter transfer the lands from the BLM to the BIA to hold in trust for the benefit of the Tribe. Finally, where land is transferred pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 523, NEPA does not apply because the action is mandated by statute.²⁷

The process outlined in 40 U.S.C. § 523 has been used previously on the Reservation, first in relation to the transfer of the Duchesne Governmental Community to the BIA from Forestry (2000), and more recently in relation to the transfer of the Midview Dam and Reservoir from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to the BIA (2013). It is clear from historical communications between the BOR and the Solicitor’s Office in Salt Lake City that transfers pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 523 are considered mandatory.²⁸ Because they are mandatory, the NEPA analysis is simply not required.

²⁴ The IRA does not contain mandatory language that would remove the Secretary’s discretion nor is there a separate statute present that removes discretion. For example, in *Nev. v. United States*, the District Court for the District of Nevada found that 25 C.F.R. §§ 151.10 applied only to instances where the Secretary had discretion to take land into trust for a tribe but that, combined with a statute that contained mandatory language, the Secretary no longer had discretion. See *Nev. v. United States*, 221 F. Supp. 2d 1241, 1246-1247, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17282, *12 (D. Nev. 2002) (“The regulations in 25 C.F.R. § 151.10 apply only to those instances where taking the land into trust for a tribe is a discretionary function of the Secretary. The statute at issue in this case provides that the land ‘... shall be held in trust by the United States for the tribes’. Shall is a mandatory term, indicating the lack of discretion on the part of the Secretary.”)

²⁵ See 40 U.S.C. § 523(a)-(b).

²⁶ 40 U.S.C. § 102(3).

²⁷ See 59 IAM 3-H, Indian Affairs National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidebook, § 3.3.3 (Aug. 2012).

²⁸ Memo from SLC Field Office Field Solicitor to BOR Provo Area Manager, *Legal Opinion Regarding Disposal of Excess Real Property in Duchesne, Utah* (March 18, 1997) (“[Reclamation] has little discretion but to transfer these [excess] lands to the United States in trust for the Ute Indian Tribe.”).

Assuming *arguendo* the transfer does not fall under the 1945 Order or 40 U.S.C. § 523, the restoration is still exempt from NEPA because land conveyances are categorically excluded from NEPA where no change in land use is planned.²⁹ Exceptions to the categorical exclusions listed in 516 DM 10 are identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, but none of the listed exceptions apply to this transaction. The only anticipated change involved in this transaction is the transfer of title to the land. There are no anticipated changes in land use and the current land uses for which NEPA would be triggered were already subjected to NEPA analyses. Additionally, any future development within the Uncompahgre would still be subject to NEPA on a project-by-project basis.

VII. Conclusion

Unlike the San Carlos Apache Tribe in *Bowman*, the 1894 and 1897 Acts opening the Uncompahgre Reservation never deprived the Tribe of their possessory rights to the lands, subject to the Tribe's restoration request. The *Bowman* court couches the continuing tribal right to land in terms of an economic interest and neither the 1894 nor the 1897 Act restored the lands of the Reservation to the public domain, which would have been the necessary action that would have needed to be taken to deprive the Tribe of that interest. This legal ownership constitutes the Tribe's unbroken and continuing economic interest. These facts, plus the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals³⁰ continuing recognition of the Uncompahgre Reservation as neither diminished nor disestablished, establish decisively that the lands subject to the Tribe's restoration request within the Uncompahgre Reservation are clearly eligible for immediate restoration to the Tribe under the factors found in the dicta in the *Bowman* opinion.³¹

²⁹ 516 DM 10.5(I)

³⁰ The Tenth Circuit in *Ute Indian Tribe v. State of Utah* ("*Ute III*") found that the 1894 and 1897 Acts did not diminish or disestablish the Uncompahgre Reservation. *Ute III*, 773 F.2d 1087 (10th Cir. 1985). The court relied on a recent Supreme Court holding that clear congressional intent to diminish a reservation is required before diminishment will be found, *Solem*, 465 U.S. 463 (1984). The court also determined the phrase "restore to the public domain" does not equal a congressional state of mind to disestablish. *Id.* at 1092. Because the phrase could have equally plausible differing meanings, it does not reliably establish the "clear and unequivocal evidence of Congress' intent to change boundaries" as required by *Solem*. The court found that "there was never an understanding on the part of the Tribe that they would lose their reservation as a result of the 1897 Act." *Id.*

In light of a partially conflicting Supreme Court decision in *Hagen v. Utah*, the Tenth Circuit revisited *Ute III* and in *Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation v. State of Utah* ("*Ute V*"), the court reaffirmed its holding that the Uncompahgre Reservation's boundaries were not erased by the 1894 and 1897 Acts. *Ute V*, 114 F.3d 1513 (10th Cir. 1997). The Supreme Court in *Hagen* did not address the status of the Uncompahgre Reservation, so there was no need for the Tenth Circuit to depart from its earlier judgment regarding that part. The federal government is bound by the Tenth Circuit's decisions regarding the status of the Uncompahgre Reservation. "Upsetting a final decision by recalling and modifying a mandate is and ought to be a rare and disfavored thing in a legal system that values finality. *Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation v. Utah*, 790 F.3d 1000, 1004 (10th Cir. 2015) ("*Ute VI*"). *Ute III* settled the boundary issue, confirmed by *Ute V* after *Hagen*, and yet again in *Ute VI*, despite repeated attempts by the State to infringe upon the tribe's sovereignty. The Supreme Court denied certiorari for these cases and there exists no other appellate court in the Nation with subject matter jurisdiction related to the diminishment or disestablishment of the Uncompahgre Reservation.

³¹ As in *Bowman*, the restoration could be tailored as necessary not to infringe upon others' vested property rights. Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act expressly declares that the creation of a grazing district, or the issuance of a permit pursuant to the provisions of the Act, "shall not create any right, title or estate in or to the lands." Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, Pub. L. 73-482, 59 Stat. 1269. Grazing permits issued pursuant to the Taylor Grazing Act do not vest property rights, but exist as "mere privileges to graze livestock – privileges which can be withdrawn... without payment or compensation." *Bowman*, 243 F. Supp. at 678.



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Re: Impacts of H.R. 5780 on the Ute Indian Tribe's Uintah and Ouray Reservation

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We are very disappointed that the bill introduced on July 14, 2016, H.R. 5780, includes few of these revisions. Even worse, the bill continues to propose taking more than 100,000 acres of our Uintah and Ouray Reservation lands for the benefit of others. Given the lack of revisions to the bill and impact on our Reservation, the Ute Indian Tribe has no choice but to oppose the bill and ask that the legislation be revised and a new bill be introduced prior to any hearings.

Even the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) expressed its lack of support for the bill as introduced. In recent meetings SITLA reported to us that it had withdrawn proposals included in draft legislation that would exchange SITLA lands for lands within our Reservation. In addition, following introduction of the bill, SITLA expressed surprise to us that these provisions were still in the bill. SITLA recommitted to work in concert with the Tribe rather than attempt to take our lands and resources. Revisions and introduction of a new bill are needed prior to any hearings to address SITLA's current position.

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In addition, the bill continues to be based on incorrect interpretations of federal case law. In our revisions, we requested that the bill include a provision that would require the trust restoration of lands within our Reservation under the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) the same as was done on many other reservations across the United States. In a July 13, 2016 letter, Senator Lee and Congressman Bishop rejected that request based primarily upon their statement that: “The controlling majority opinion in the 10th Circuit’s *Ute III* decision specifically held that Congress’ clear intent was that the Uncompahgre band not hold title to the land in question.”

This is incorrect. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Ute III*, *Ute Indian Tribe v. Utah*, 773 F.2d 1087 (10th Cir. 1985) (en banc), cert. denied, 479 U.S. 994 (1986), analyzed the history of the Uncompahgre Reservation and held “that the opening of the Uncompahgre Reservation was never formally or informally negotiated between the federal government and the Tribe of Indians [and that t]here was never an understanding on the part of the Tribe that they would lose their reservation as a result of the 1897 Act.” The Court then expressly concluded: “Therefore, we hold that the Uncompahgre Reservation has not been disestablished or diminished.” *Ute III* at 1093.

In both *Ute V*, *Ute Indian Tribe v. Utah*, 114 F.3d 1513 (10th Cir. 1997), and *Ute VI*, *Ute Indian Tribe v. Utah*, 790 F.3d 1000 (10th Cir. 2015), the Tenth Circuit reiterated and reaffirmed this holding. In *Ute VI*, after again reaffirming that the Uncompahgre Reservation was neither disestablished nor diminished, the Tenth Circuit bluntly stated: “we hope this opinion will send the same message: that the time has come to respect the peace and repose promised by settled decisions.” *Ute VI*, 790 F.3d at 1013. Thus, on three separate occasions over the past thirty years, the Tenth Circuit held that Congress did NOT take, remove or eliminate the Tribe’s title to the land in question. As a result, these lands are eligible for restoration under the IRA.

We are also concerned that Tribal water development provisions we proposed for Title X of the bill were disregarded. As introduced, the bill proposes a water study for Uintah and Duchesne Counties, albeit to include an assessment for storage of the Ute Indian Tribe’s water and the use of water rights currently held by the Tribe. See Title X, Section 1003. However, the Tribe has already studied its storage needs for lands under the Uintah Indian Irrigation Project (Project) using Tribal water rights and has developed a plan for Tribal storage of its water rights. The Tribe has been waiting since 1906, when Congress authorized the Project, for the Tribal storage required to make water delivery under the Project more predictable and successful. There is no longer any need to study the issue. The Project simply needs to be built to benefit the Tribal and local economy.

We ask that these issues be resolved before the end of August 2016 or the Tribe will be forced to defend its homelands and strongly oppose the bill. As we stated in our June 22, 2016, letter, the Ute Indian Tribe would like to make clear its position on the bill:

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We appreciate your consideration of the Tribe's position and look forward to the full inclusion of the Tribe in the Utah Public Lands Initiative and H.R. 5780. As you know, the era of taking Indian lands and resources for the benefit of non-Indians is over. We are local managers too and ask that the bill be revised to increase our ability to manage our lands and resources for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe and the entire State of Utah.

Sincerely,



Shaun Chapoose, Chairman
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- With the removal of provisions affecting the Uncompahgre Reservation and the inclusion of the "technical" changes, the Tribe could support legislation that includes its economic development proposals.
- In addition to the above, the Tribe would be a full supporter and strong advocate for legislation that also requires the restoration of lands within the Uncompahgre Reservation to trust status under existing law.

We appreciate your consideration of the Tribe's position and look forward to the full inclusion of the Tribe in the Utah Public Lands Initiative and H.R. 5780. As you know, the era of taking Indian lands and resources for the benefit of non-Indians is over. We are local managers too and ask that the bill be revised to increase our ability to manage our lands and resources for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe and the entire State of Utah.

Sincerely,



Shaun Chapoose, Chairman
Ute Tribal Business Committee

Conversation Contents

SLT: Energy, outdoor industries divided over plan for energy development near Moab

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Jul 29 2016 16:24:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
 Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Kimberly Brubeck <kbrubeck@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_Klein@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>
CC: <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: SLT: Energy, outdoor industries divided over plan for energy development near Moab

Comprehensive look at the Moab MLP in this week's Salt Lake Trib:

Energy, outdoor industries divided over plan for energy development near Moab

By **BRIAN MAFFLY** | The Salt Lake Tribune [CONNECT](#)

First Published Jul 28 2016 07:00AM • Last Updated Jul 28 2016 08:58 pm

(Jessica Miller | The Salt Lake Tribune) Corona Arch trail in Moab, Utah

Public lands » BLM aims to “balance” drilling and recreation near parks.



[Share This Article](#)

Utah's first master lease plan, which would govern energy development on 785,000 acres of public land around Moab, is nearing completion with the release of a final Environmental Impact Statement identifying a preferred vision for balancing mineral extraction and recreation near two of Utah's iconic parks.

By year's end, the [Bureau of Land Management](#) hopes to finalize its Moab plan, one of five master lease plans, or MLPs, it has [proposed for scenic lands in Utah](#) specifying where oil and gas and potash leases may be issued in the future. The proposed plan would bar leasing on 145,000 acres adjacent to Canyonlands and Arches national parks and prohibit surface occupancy on another 306,000 acres.

Much of these lands are open for development under the BLM's Moab and Monticello resource management plans, prompting state leaders to complain that the plan "negates" the hard work that went into revising these plans in 2008.

"The analysis and proposed decisions do nothing but pile restriction upon restriction within particular areas, assuming that the

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restrictions will prevent harm to the recreational landscape, while simultaneously opining that a severely handicapped fluid mineral industry can still proceed in an economic fashion," wrote Kathleen Clarke, the governor's public lands policy director, in the state's official comments.

The Moab MLP drew kudos from environmental and recreation groups that heralded it as a template for responsible mineral management moving forward.

"They have responded to what diverse stakeholders have told them: that we need to balance all the economic values of public lands, and not favor some at the expense of others," said Chris Saeger of the Western Values Project. "If future presidential administrations want to avoid the conflicts that have come along with energy development on public lands, they would do well to continue the inclusiveness and collaboration that come with this new approach to managing public lands.

Others called it "a watershed moment for our national parks."

"The Moab [master leasing](#) plan recognizes that parks are part of larger landscapes that should be managed with care and cooperation with local communities and the National Park Service," said retired park superintendent Ellis Richard, founder of Park Rangers for Our Lands.

The plan would not extinguish existing leases covering 228,000 acres — about a third of the planning area. But these leases could be subject to new environmental safeguards, according to the BLM's acting Canyon Country district manager, Beth Ransel.

"It is putting a framework for responsible energy development, while still providing adequate protections for the outstanding recreation resources there," Ransel said. "Current leases would not be interfered with. ... One objective was to ensure more certainty for industry so when they would like to develop in this area, there would be more predictability."

The planning area includes the lands surrounding Arches and to the north and east of Canyonlands. Among the places that would earn additional protections are Fisher Towers, Porcupine Rim, Six-Shooter Peaks and Goldbar Canyon, all of which face pressure from energy development.

The Obama administration initiated [master leasing](#) following the intense controversies during the waning months of former President George W. Bush's tenure, when vast tracts of land near Utah parks went on the auction block. The idea was to perform careful analysis before leases are sold in areas with high recreational, scenic and natural value, rather than after, making the approval process for actual drilling smoother, proponents say.

"The proposed plan takes a landscape-level approach to balancing the protection of the iconic scenery in and around Moab and access to the rich energy resources found there," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a news release. "As the first Master Leasing Plan in Utah, the collaborative process that led to the proposed plan should serve as a model for how communities can work together to balance development with the protection of world-class environmental, cultural and recreational resources."

The final EIS, which was posted on the [Federal Register](#) on Tuesday, opens a protest period through Aug. 22. A final decision is expected by the end of the year.

Industry and state officials, however, made clear they are not pleased with [master leasing](#), denouncing it as a legally suspect process that adds unnecessary layers of review on leasing and development proposals.

"It needlessly locks away yet more lands without Congressional consent, closing 57 percent of the area to development while imposing redundant constraints on the remaining area that will make it extremely difficult to produce energy that all Americans own," said Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at Western Energy Alliance. "It's simply about shutting down development."

Saeger rejected that characterization, noting the plan would close off 32 percent of the planning area to leasing. Much of the remaining acreage would be subject to protective measures that could complicate drilling.

"In the face of a historic compromise in Moab that included local officials, industry, recreational interests and millions of Americans, the only industry response is a misstatement of the facts that undermine the findings. Sgamma's comments are further proof that the oil and gas industry has no interest in compromise or engaging with western communities who are working day and night to support a diverse and vibrant economy in the West," he said.

The plan also identifies 58,300 acres for potash leasing where oil and gas leasing would not happen. State officials objected to this provision, arguing that it serves no purpose to segregate potash and energy leases.

"Leasing on the same tract can lead to a net reduction in infrastructure," Clarke's office wrote in the state comments. "Joint

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exploration operations near Hatch Point show that petroleum and potash companies work together to share roads, drilling pads and drill holes to minimize surface disturbance."

The state is urging the BLM to suspend the [master leasing process](#) in favor of legislative solutions to Utah's land-use conflicts sponsored by Rep. Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop.

Meanwhile, the BLM is preparing environmental reviews for MLPs covering the San Rafael Desert and for lands outside Cisco along the eastern Book Cliffs. Further down the pipeline are MLPs for lands outside Dinosaur National Monument and along the White River in the eastern reaches of the Uinta Basin and for San Juan County, including areas within the proposed Bears Ears National Monument.

[Brian Maffly covers public lands for The Salt Lake Tribune.](#) Maffly can be reached at bmaffly@sltrib.com or 801-257-8713.

Twitter: [@brianmaffly](#)

On Thu, Jul 21, 2016 at 3:37 PM, Duran, Leah

<leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Feds release plan for oil, gas, potash leasing in Moab](#)

The Eagle // AP // July 21, 2016

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Bureau of Land Management has released its master plan for the development of oil and gas and potash deposits in the Moab region. The Deseret News reports that the BLM on Wednesday released the management plan, which covers nearly 1250 square miles south of I-70 in San Juan and Grand counties. The plan, which is the first ever stand-alone federal land management plan, has been praised by environmental groups for its balanced approach to recreation, conservation and energy development, but Gov. Gary Herbert's office has said it is too restrictive for business. The plan proposes to close 226 square miles to mineral leasing, enforce a "no surface occupancy" stipulation one energy development on more than 340 square miles and to reduce the density of well sites and space pads.

[EPA prodding over climate change revealed in oil and gas plan](#)

Washington Examiner // John Siciliano // July 21, 2016

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department sparred over climate change before finalizing a major new plan Wednesday that will set the tone for mineral and energy development in the West. The "Master Leasing Plan" for the Moab region took years to pull together, reflecting a "culmination of a significant effort" by Interior's Bureau of Land Management, local, state and federal partners "to provide for responsible development and conservation" over nearly 785,000 acres of federal lands, the Interior Department said. The master plan is part of a "sweeping" new push started six years ago by the Obama administration to reform oil and gas development in the Moab to ensure the environment was being adequately protected.

[Sportsmen Say Moab MLP Is Key Step in Leasing Reforms](#)

Ammoland // Justin Stakes // July 21, 2016

Denver, CO -(AmmoLand.com)- The proposed first-of-its-kind management plan for public lands in the Moab, Utah, area marks a major milestone in efforts to look before leasing lands that are important to fish, wildlife, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. The Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development coalition said the proposed Moab Master Leasing Plan released Wednesday by the Bureau of Land Management is a significant, on-the-ground culmination of oil and gas leasing reforms prompted in large part by attempts to open public lands near Arches National Park to drilling. The SFRED coalition supports using Master Leasing Plans, or MLPs, to identify vital fish and wildlife habitat and potential negative impacts on habitat, waterways, hunting and angling before leases are issued.

##

On Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 5:43 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Below and attached please find the latest draft of the Moab MLP/RMP/FEIS release that Interior will issue on Wednesday around 11am EDT.

Please let us know if you have edits to this release prior to 2pm EDT tomorrow (Tuesday).

Thank you,
Jessica

Interior Releases Updated Blueprint for Responsible Development in Moab

Proposed Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement & Proposed Resource Management Plan Underscore Landscape-level Approach to Minimize Conflicts, Facilitate Responsible Development

MOAB, Utah— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Canyon Country District today released an updated blueprint to accompany a proposed plan designed to guide mineral development in and around Moab, Utah while protecting important cultural and recreational sites. The Moab Master Leasing Plan and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments/ Final Environmental Impact Statement (MLP/FEIS) are the culmination of a significant effort by the BLM and interested members of the public, community stakeholders, and other local, state, and federal partners to provide for responsible development and conservation in the area.

“The proposed plan takes a landscape-level approach to balancing the protection of the iconic scenery in and around Moab and access to the rich energy resources found there,” said Secretary Jewell. “As the first Master Leasing Plan in Utah, the collaborative process that led to the proposed plan should serve as a model for how communities can work together to balance development with the protection of world-class environmental, cultural and recreational resources.”

The planning area for the Moab Master Leasing Plan (MLP) covers approximately 785,000 acres of public lands in Grand and San Juan counties surrounding Arches and Canyonlands National parks. Major land uses in the area include a wide array of private and commercial recreation activities, oil and gas production, mining and livestock grazing. Recreational use of these lands, which contain a vast array of arches, natural bridges, mesas, and spires, draws 2 million visitors a year and supports hundreds of local jobs and the bulk of the local business community. Some of the area also holds significance for Native American tribes. The Proposed Plan was developed after careful consideration of the more than 28,000 public comments received.

“The BLM is proud of the work we do to protect special places and facilitate robust and responsible energy development on public lands,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “The work that went into the Moab MLP demonstrates that commitment by resolving natural and cultural resource conflicts up front.”

The Moab MLP is an example of the success of the oil and gas leasing reform initiative launched by the BLM in 2010 which called for the development of MLPs to provide a framework for determining which areas are appropriate for oil and gas leasing and development. The Moab MLP reflects the balance and benefit of both recreation and the mineral and commodity extraction industry. Diverse recreational activities on BLM-managed lands in Utah provided \$460 million in local and national economic benefits in 2014; oil, gas, and coal activities on BLM-managed lands in Utah provided \$981 million in local and national economic benefits during the same time period.

MLPs were launched by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in May 2010 as part of a sweeping oil and gas leasing reform initiative to address a leasing system that was close to the breaking point with nearly half of all proposed parcels receiving community protests and a substantial proportion resulting in litigation. The plans establish a framework for determining which areas are appropriate for responsible exploration and development of oil and gas resources while protecting the area’s conservation resources. The reforms were designed to encourage stakeholder input early in the planning process, which reduces protests and litigation and provides developers with greater certainty. MLPs also provide direction for resolving resources conflicts, protecting important conservation resources, supporting outdoor recreation, and other activities that benefit local communities and public land visitors.

The proposed Moab MLP and associated final environmental impact statement exemplifies the thoughtful planning and intensive analysis that can be achieved through a robust and collaborative process. In crafting the Moab MLP, the BLM brought together a diverse set of stakeholders, including local community members, industry representatives, recreation enthusiasts, tribes, and other interested parties from across the country; and worked closely with the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and other state and local agencies in the planning process. The BLM also solicited public feedback on preliminary alternatives and held public meetings.

Copies of the Final EIS are available online (<http://go.usa.gov/xcbEh>) and will ultimately be available at the BLM Utah

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State Office in Salt Lake City, the Canyon Country District Office in Moab, and the Monticello Field Office in Monticello. The Notice of Availability will publish in the Federal Register on July 22, 2016, and will start a 30-day public protest period and 60-day Governor's consistency review. Additional information and review instructions are in the Dear Reader letter on the website. Further information is available from MLP Project Manager Brent Northrup, at the BLM Canyon Country District Office, by calling (435) 259-2100.

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Conversation Contents

Christian Bears Ears Op Ed in Indian Country Today

Shantha Ready Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>

From: Shantha Ready Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>
Sent: Fri Jul 29 2016 12:35:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Christian Bears Ears Op Ed in Indian Country Today

Dear Neil:

As you know, Creation Justice Ministries has been very active in supporting the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's call for a Bears Ears National Monument. (See our page of polling and support statements at www.creationjustice.org/bears-ears). Today, I was published alongside Navajo United Methodist pastor Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete in Indian Country Today on this topic. Thought I'd pass it along. We're sharing it through denominational networks and social media.

Grace and Peace,
Shantha

--

Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries
110 Maryland Ave. NE #203, Washington, DC 20002
202.827.3975 (office) 760.408.0688 (mobile) shantha@creationjustice.org
www.creationjustice.org * [facebook.com/CreationJustice](https://www.facebook.com/CreationJustice) * [@CreationJustice](https://twitter.com/CreationJustice)

Check out our 2016 Christian education resource, *Care for God's Creatures*: www.creationjustice.org/creatures

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/07/29/christian-call-stewardship-bears-ears>

A Christian Call to Stewardship of Bears Ears

By: Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete and Shantha Ready Alonso

July 29, 2016

Published in Indian Country Today Opinion Section

The cultural, spiritual, historical, and ecological riches of God's creation are abundant in the area known as Bears Ears in southeast Utah. With the White Mesa Ute Reservation to the East, the Colorado River to the west, and the San Juan River and Navajo Nation to the South, Bears Ears is comprised of 1.9 million acres of national public lands. The land contains an estimated 100,000 cultural sites, including petroglyphs, ancient cliff dwellings, graves, Mormon pioneer sites such as Hole-in-the-Rock trek, and other areas of significance.

Currently, these lands are tended by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service. Today, Native American tribes are seeking active engagement in future management of the area.

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In July of 2015, leaders from five Tribes founded the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. A historic consortium of sovereign tribal nations united in the effort to conserve the Bears Ears cultural landscape, members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition include the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribe. A total of 26 Tribes have expressed support for protecting the Bear Ears region for future generations of Americans.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposes President Obama use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate the Bears Ears region as a national monument and protect its historical and scientific objects. They propose a collaborative management strategy by the Tribes and Federal agencies. This is the first proposal of its kind.

In May 2016, Creation Justice Ministries commissioned a poll to gauge public support for protecting Bears Ears. The poll, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, found that 71 percent of Utah voters support the designation of a Bears Ears national monument, whereas 20 percent opposed it. Support for designating these public lands as a National Monument is broad-based across age, gender, religion, political party, and geographic regions of the state. **Voters see a wide-range of benefits to increasing protections for the public lands in the Bears Ears area** to safeguard unique historic artifacts and sites (83 percent), for children to get outside and explore nature (83 percent), and to conserve natural areas and wildlife habitat (78 percent). You can see the full results of the poll, as well as response to questions about the poll's methodology at www.creationjustice.org/bears-ears

The poll results affirmed what Episcopalians from Navajoland and other faith communities in Creation Justice Ministries' network knew from experience: Utahns respect God's creation and have reverence for our neighbors' history, spirituality, and culture. The Episcopal Church, together with its ecumenical partner Creation Justice Ministries, supports the Bears Ears monument proposal for two main reasons: the health and integrity of God's creation, as well as racial reconciliation and justice. The two reasons for support go hand-in-hand.

Native American traditional wisdom about stewardship of God's creation is too often dismissed. This attitude has not only contributed to centuries of physical as well as cultural violence toward Native Americans; it has also been a detriment to everyone. *We all* depend on the integrity of God's creation. The tribes leading the Bears Ears national monument proposal have experience living sustainably on the land since time immemorial, and traditional knowledge related to Bears Ears is irreplaceable. Now, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is offering the United States a true gift: partnership in a national monument which will help our nation to learn from them.

Members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition hold the Bears Ears immediate landscape, as well as the lands fanning out from its twin plateaus, as traditional sacred lands. Native American relationship and visits to Bears Ears are essential for maintaining their culture and spirituality. The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition has explained to the public that that ruining the integrity of these lands compromises tribes' ability to heal. As Christians, our response is that we, too, need this special place for healing.

For far too long, stewardship of God's creation has not been a priority, and the Native American culture, history, wisdom to care for their ancestral lands has been dismissed. A Bears Ears National Monument would advance these causes, and it is time to get it done.

Rev. Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete (Dine') is the Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in

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Yuma, Arizona. Originally from Brigham City, Utah, she is full-blood Navajo. A graduate of Haskell Indian Jr. College, Ottawa University, and Hiff School of Theology, she was a social worker for her tribe before she became ordained.

Shantha Ready Alonso is the Executive Director of Creation Justice Ministries, a Christian organization that brings together 38 denominations, fellowships, and communions to protect, restore, and rightly share God's creation. In 2017, Creation Justice Ministries' focus topic will be environmental justice from Native perspectives.

Read more at <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/07/29/christian-call-stewardship-bears-ears>

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Fri Jul 29 2016 12:36:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: shantha@creationjustice.org
Subject: Re: Christian Bears Ears Op Ed in Indian Country Today

Thank you for your note. I am out of the office and will only have occasional access to email. If your matter is time sensitive, please feel free to contact Kelly Orr, Acting Chief of Staff, at 202-208-3801.

Neil

Conversation Contents

BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument

Attachments:

/142. BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument/1.1 image002.jpg

/142. BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument/4.1 image002.jpg

Lee Anderson <leea@bluegreenalliance.org>

From: Lee Anderson <leea@bluegreenalliance.org>
Sent: Thu Jul 28 2016 13:00:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
"nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>,
"Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov"
To: <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>, "kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov"
<kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov"
<nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "john_blair@ios.doi.gov"
<john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument
Attachments: image002.jpg

Hello,

I'm reaching out to you today as, this afternoon, the BlueGreen Alliance sent out a press release applauding the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA), along with UA Locals 140, 669, and 798 for their recent resolution endorsing the creation of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. As a courtesy, I've included our press release below, which also includes a link to the UA's resolution on our website.

Should you have any questions regarding the UA's resolution or be interested in talking further about the proposed Monument, please do let me know.

Best regards,

Lee Anderson
Director of Legislation and Policy
BlueGreen Alliance

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1020 19th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
o: 202-706-6913
m: 412-427-4941
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Eliza Levy, elizal@bluegreenalliance.org, 202-706-6920

United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Resolves to Support Designation of Bears Ears National Monument

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 28, 2016) The BlueGreen Alliance today applauded the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) for its recent [resolution](#) to support designation of Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument. In addition, three UA local unions—Local Unions 140, 669, and 798—signed onto the resolution. The Bears Ears region covers 1.9 million acres of national public lands. Twenty-six tribes are advocating for President Obama to designate these lands as a national monument because Bears Ears is important for the livelihoods and cultural practices of many of these tribes.

“Bears Ears and the surrounding 1.9 million acres of public land hold a rich history of the Native American tribes whose livelihoods, identities, and cultural practices are connected to these beautiful and currently unprotected lands. Our union has many Native American members who call this land their spiritual home,” said William P. Hite, General President of the United Association. “We believe that these lands should receive permanent protection under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and are proud to support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in the preservation and protection of these ecologically and culturally significant lands.”

Boasting 18 wilderness study and inventoried road less areas and over 100,000 archeological sites, the Bears Ears region is threatened by looting, vandalism, and damage from off-road vehicles, which is causing permanent damage to cliff dwellings, burial grounds, and wildlife habitats, as well as the scenic beauty of the land.

“It is important that this land is protected and remains intact so that we can enjoy its rich history and ecological resources for generations to come,” said Kim Glas, Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance. “We strongly support ensuring the preservation and protection of Bears Ears, and urge the Obama administration to move quickly to protect these historically significant lands. We are incredibly proud of the UA for leading on this issue.”

The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry

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of the United States, Canada (UA), affiliated with the national building trades, represents approximately 340,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, service technicians and welders in local unions across North America. The UA provides the premier training programs available in the industry today, including five-year apprenticeship programs, extensive journeyman training, a comprehensive, five-year instructor training program, and numerous certification programs.

###

The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of America's largest labor unions and environmental organizations. We work together to turn today's biggest environmental challenges into our biggest economic and job-creating opportunities. Together with 15 million members and supporters, we are a powerful, unified voice calling for good, family-sustaining jobs, a clean environment and a thriving and fair American economy. <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org>

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Jul 29 2016 07:24:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Lee Anderson <leea@bluegreenalliance.org>
"nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>,
CC: "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>,
"kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>,
"john_blair@ios.doi.gov" <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument

Thank you, Lee!

On Jul 28, 2016, at 3:00 PM, Lee Anderson <leea@bluegreenalliance.org> wrote:

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Lee Anderson

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<image002.jpg>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Eliza Levy, elizal@bluegreenalliance.org, 202-706-6920

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UA for leading on this issue.”

The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada (UA), affiliated with the national building trades, represents approximately 340,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, service technicians and welders in local unions across North America. The UA provides the premier training programs available in the industry today, including five-year apprenticeship programs, extensive journeyman training, a comprehensive, five-year instructor training program, and numerous certification programs.

###

The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of America's largest labor unions and environmental organizations. We work together to turn today's biggest environmental challenges into our biggest economic and job-creating opportunities. Together with 15 million members and supporters, we are a powerful, unified voice calling for good, family-sustaining jobs, a clean environment and a thriving and fair American economy.
<http://www.bluegreenalliance.org>

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Fri Jul 29 2016 07:24:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument

Thank you for your note. I am out of the office and will only have occasional access to email. If your matter is time sensitive, please feel free to contact Kelly Orr, Acting Chief of Staff, at 202-208-3801.

Neil

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Fri Jul 29 2016 08:34:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument
Attachments: image002.jpg

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lee Anderson <leea@bluegreenalliance.org>

Date: July 28, 2016 at 3:00:25 PM EDT

To: "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>, "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>, "kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov" <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "john_blair@ios.doi.gov" <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: BlueGreen Alliance Announces Labor Support for Bears Ears National Monument

Hello,

I'm reaching out to you today as, this afternoon, the BlueGreen Alliance sent out a press release applauding the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA), along with UA Locals 140, 669, and 798 for their recent resolution endorsing the creation of the proposed Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. As a courtesy, I've included our press release below, which also includes a link to the UA's resolution on our website.

Should you have any questions regarding the UA's resolution or be interested in talking further about the proposed Monument, please do let me know.

Best regards,

Lee Anderson
Director of Legislation and Policy
BlueGreen Alliance
1020 19th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036
o: 202-706-6913
m: 412-427-4941
www.bluegreenalliance.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Eliza Levy, elizal@bluegreenalliance.org, 202-706-6920

United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Resolves to Support Designation of Bears Ears National Monument

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 28, 2016) The BlueGreen Alliance today applauded the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) for its recent [resolution](#) to support designation of

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Bears Ears landscape in southeastern Utah as a national monument. In addition, three UA local unions—Local Unions 140, 669, and 798—signed onto the resolution. The Bears Ears region covers 1.9 million acres of national public lands. Twenty-six tribes are advocating for President Obama to designate these lands as a national monument because Bears Ears is important for the livelihoods and cultural practices of many of these tribes.

“Bears Ears and the surrounding 1.9 million acres of public land hold a rich history of the Native American tribes whose livelihoods, identities, and cultural practices are connected to these beautiful and currently unprotected lands. Our union has many Native American members who call this land their spiritual home,” said William P. Hite, General President of the United Association. “We believe that these lands should receive permanent protection under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and are proud to support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in the preservation and protection of these ecologically and culturally significant lands.”

Boasting 18 wilderness study and inventoried road less areas and over 100,000 archeological sites, the Bears Ears region is threatened by looting, vandalism, and damage from off-road vehicles, which is causing permanent damage to cliff dwellings, burial grounds, and wildlife habitats, as well as the scenic beauty of the land.

“It is important that this land is protected and remains intact so that we can enjoy its rich history and ecological resources for generations to come,” said Kim Glas, Executive Director of the BlueGreen Alliance. “We strongly support ensuring the preservation and protection of Bears Ears, and urge the Obama administration to move quickly to protect these historically significant lands. We are incredibly proud of the UA for leading on this issue.”

The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States, Canada (UA), affiliated with the national building trades, represents approximately 340,000 plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, service technicians and welders in local unions across North America. The UA provides the premier training programs available in the industry today, including five-year apprenticeship programs, extensive journeyman training, a comprehensive, five-year instructor training program, and numerous certification programs.

###

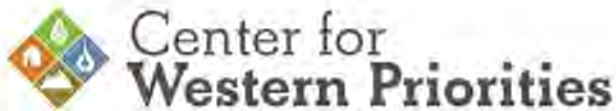
The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of America's largest labor unions and environmental organizations. We work together to turn today's biggest environmental challenges into our biggest economic and job-creating opportunities. Together with 15 million members and supporters, we are a powerful, unified voice calling for good, family-sustaining jobs, a clean environment and a thriving and fair American economy. <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org>

Conversation Contents

STATEMENT in response to one-sided Senate field hearing on Bears Ears monument proposal and the Public Lands Initiative

Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>

From: Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>
Sent: Wed Jul 27 2016 16:26:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: STATEMENT in response to one-sided Senate field hearing on Bears Ears monument proposal and the Public Lands Initiative



CONTACT

Aaron Weiss, Media Director
Center for Western Priorities
aaron@westernpriorities.org
720-279-0019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 27, 2016

STATEMENT in response to one-sided Senate field hearing on Bears Ears monument proposal and the Public Lands Initiative

DENVER—In response to Utah Senator Mike Lee’s one-sided field hearing against the proposed Bears Ears National Monument, the Center for Western Priorities released the following statement.

Jennifer Rokala, Executive Director:

“After today’s hearing, it’s clear why the tribal backers of a monument designation say they’ve been disrespected throughout the process. When Governor Herbert refers to a thoughtful tribal proposal for a national monument as ‘a political tomahawk,’ he continues that sad tradition of dismissing Native voices.

“At today’s hearing, Congressman Rob Bishop said his Public Lands Initiative was ‘done,’ and he’s not open to making major changes to the bill. The PLI, as it stands today, is a non-starter, with no support from conservation groups. If Rep. Bishop is unwilling to craft an actual ‘grand bargain,’ as he has promised for three years, it’s

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incumbent on President Obama to protect Bears Ears using his authority under the Antiquities Act.”

###

The Center for Western Priorities is a conservation policy and advocacy organization focused on land and energy issues across the American West.

[Center for Western Priorities](#) | 820 16th Street Ste 450, Denver, CO 80202 | 303.974.7761

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [view email in browser](#)

Conversation Contents

Fwd: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative

Attachments:

/147. Fwd: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative/1.1 Utah PLI Field Hearing 7-27-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 26 2016 18:09:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative
Attachments: Utah PLI Field Hearing 7-27-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>
To: Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>
Subject: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative

Dear Nikki and Neil,

I have attached the National Trust's testimony for tomorrow's field hearing in Blanding, Utah on the recently introduced Utah Public Lands Initiative Act ("PLI") and the importance of protecting the Bears Ears cultural landscape. As you will see, we are now requesting the President use his Antiquities Act authorities to designate a Bears Ears National Monument before the end of the year.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me if you have any questions concerning our testimony.

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Best,

Tom

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. | Vice President for Government Relations and Policy
P 202.588.6078 F 202.588.6462

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Watergate Office Building

2600 Virginia Avenue NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20037

SavingPlaces.org<<http://savingplaces.org>>

[http://www.preservationnation.org/assets/photos-images/nthp/LOGO_email.png]

[http://www.preservationnation.org/assets/photos-images/nthp/LOGO_email.png]



**National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

**SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FIELD HEARING: UTAH PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE
SAN JUAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, BLANDING, UTAH
JULY 27, 2016
TESTIMONY OF STEPHANIE K. MEEKS
PRESIDENT AND CEO
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Senator Lee and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present the perspectives on the recently introduced Utah Public Lands cultural landscape. My name is Stephanie K. Meeks, and I am the President and CEO of the National Trust.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded charitable, educational preservation laws. The intent of Congress was for the National Trust to coordinate public interest, participation and resources in the preservation and offices, 27 historic sites, more than 800,000 members and supporters and partner organizations in 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

We appreciate the sustained efforts of House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, Congressman Jason Chaffetz, and members of this Committee to develop a legislative solution to address the long-term conservation of nationally significant lands in Utah. This is a difficult and challenging problem of public policy ongoing for generations that deserves an expedient and successful resolution.

We recognize that the existing legislation includes certain improvements over the previous discussion draft, but we are disappointed that H.R. 5780, the PLI bill, as introduced on July 14, does not meet our hope for legislation that would generate the broad-based bipartisan support necessary to be signed into law by the President.

Accordingly, we join the broad-based request that the President utilize his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the nationally significant cultural and archaeological resources of the Bears Ears area this year. In addition, the National Trust opposes H.R. 5781, the PLI Partner Act, national monuments in certain areas of Utah.

National Trust Participation

Bears Ears is one of the most significant cultural landscapes in the United States and a landscape that is home to more than 100,000 cultural and archaeological sites, many of which are sacred to tribal communities across the region. The 1.9 million acres of public lands south and east of Canyonlands National Park include Ice Age hunting camps, cliff dwellings, prehistoric villages, and petroglyph and pictograph panels that tell the diverse stories of 12,000 years of human habitation.

Since 2007, the National Trust has been working on legislative proposals with the Utah delegation and other stakeholders to protect this important place. We have also been actively engaged in cultural resource protection issues in Southeast Utah working to ensure compliance with federal laws designed to avoid impacts to historic and cultural properties and supporting thoughtful planning for and interpretation of cultural resources.

In 2013, we developed and presented maps and narratives describing priorities for resource designations in Southeast Utah to local, state, and national partners, including the offices of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz. Since we named this area one of our National Treasures in 2013, we have committed our expertise and resources to seeking a preservation-friendly solution to land use conflicts in this area. Earlier this year, reflecting our long-standing commitment to the legislative process, we submitted

Like many Americans, I have had the pleasure of visiting and marveling at the extraordinary cultural resources of the Bears Ears region. This landscape and its resources certainly rival nearby nationally protected areas like Canyon of the Ancients National Monument (established by President Clinton in 2000), Mesa Verde National Park (established by Congress in 1906), Chimney Rock National Monument (established by President Obama in 2012) and Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

It is worth noting that the remarkable resources of Chaco Canyon were first protected by President Theodore Roosevelt as a national monument in 1907. Nearby Hovenweep National Monument was established by President Harding in 1923.

Viability of the Legislative Process

Due to our commitment to securing permanent protection for these nationally significant cultural resources, the National Trust has been hopeful that the long-awaited PLI legislation would be crafted in such a way as to gather the broad bipartisan support necessary to be adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President this year. Unfortunately, the legislation as introduced on July 14 is unlikely to generate such support and in fact has generated significant opposition by many of our conservation colleagues.

We appreciate the proposed establishment of a Bears Ears National Conservation Area, however we are concerned that neither the proposed size (857,000 acres) nor management provisions are sufficient to protect the nationally significant resources of

this area, including such archaeologically valuable lands within the White Canyon drainages and the Allen, Chippean, and Dry Wash Canyons.

We appreciate that there have been multiple improvements from the discussion draft, including, as in section 108, permitting the acquisition of lands within wilderness areas from willing sellers, the removal of language designating certain areas for recreational shooting and removing designation of specific areas for recreational shooting and certain changes restricting the ability of managers to determine grazing levels.

However, we are disappointed that many of the concerns outlined in our February 12 letter on the discussion draft were not addressed, including but not limited to the following:

- Expansion of energy planning areas. We are particularly concerned with section 1103, which would create a new program whereby the State of Utah would be granted energy permitting powers now exercised by the federal government. Our reading of this precedent setting proposal is that it would remove the federal protections currently afforded cultural resources, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and other federal laws.
- We are also concerned that the existing and potential use of Master Leasing Plans, which have proven to be helpful collaborative tools to resolve long-standing conflicts over land use would be precluded by the legislation.
- We are concerned that the bill would permit grazing in certain areas where current restrictions protect archaeological and cultural resources and that other areas could be made available to grazing, including in Grand Gulch, Slickhorn, and other canyons on Cedar Mesa.

Additionally, the National Trust agrees with a number of our conservation colleagues who have expressed serious concerns with the sweeping and controversial changes to other long-standing federal laws protecting natural and cultural resources.

Given the numerous and significant changes necessary to redraft the bill and achieve a bi-partisan compromise, as well as the limited number of legislative days remaining prior to Congress adjourning this fall, we are skeptical that comprehensive legislation can be achieved this year.

Addressing the Urgent Need for Protection

Continued reports of looting, vandalism, and other damaging disturbances of archaeological sites lends particular urgency to the permanent protection of the Bears Ears landscape as soon as possible. In just one of over 50 recent incidents of looting, a 2009 Bureau of Land Management and FBI sting operation resulted in indictments of

over 24 people for multiple violations of trafficking an estimated 40,000 stolen artifacts, government property, and Native American cultural items from the Southeast Utah area.¹

Given the time sensitive and significant threat to priceless cultural resources and the absence of a realistic opportunity to enact bipartisan legislation during this Congress, the National Trust supports the protection of the Bears Ears landscape by the President as a National Monument before the end of this year.

We appreciate the substantial time and resources dedicated to the pursuit of a legislative solution to this critical preservation issue by local and national stakeholders, including local governments, our partners in the conservation and preservation community and the staffs of the House and Senate committees and offices of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work to advance preservation solutions with members of the Committee, Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz, and other stakeholders.

¹ Center for American Progress; "Bears Ears Cultural Area: The Most Vulnerable U.S. Site for Looting, Vandalism, and Grave Robbing"; <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2016/06/13/139344/bears-ears-cultural-area-the-most-vulnerable-u-s-site-for-looting-vandalism-and-grave-robbing/>; June 13, 2016 (accessed July 20, 2016)

Conversation Contents

National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative

Attachments:

/148. National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative/1.1 Utah PLI Field Hearing 7-27-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf

Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>

From: Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>
Sent: Tue Jul 26 2016 13:52:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>
Subject: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative
Attachments: Utah PLI Field Hearing 7-27-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf

Dear Nikki and Neil,

I have attached the National Trust's testimony for tomorrow's field hearing in Blanding, Utah on the recently introduced Utah Public Lands Initiative Act ("PLI") and the importance of protecting the Bears Ears cultural landscape. As you will see, we are now requesting the President use his Antiquities Act authorities to designate a Bears Ears National Monument before the end of the year.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me if you have any questions concerning our testimony.

Best,

Tom

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. | VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLICY
P 202.588.6078 F 202.588.6462

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
The Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Avenue NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20037
SavingPlaces.org



"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 26 2016 13:54:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: tcassidy@savingplaces.org
Subject: Re: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative

Thank you for your note. I am on work travel with no email access. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact Kelly Orr, Acting Chief of Staff, at 202-208-3801.

Neil

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 26 2016 14:20:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org>
CC: Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative

Thanks, Tom!

On Jul 26, 2016, at 3:53 PM, Tom Cassidy <TCassidy@savingplaces.org> wrote:

Dear Nikki and Neil,

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our testimony.

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Tom

Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr. | VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLICY
P 202.588.6078 F 202.588.6462

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The Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Avenue NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20037
SavingPlaces.org



<Utah PLI Field Hearing 7-27-16 - National Trust Testimony FINAL.pdf>

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 26 2016 14:20:12 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: National Trust Testimony for ENR Committee July 27 field hearing in Blanding Utah on Utah Public Lands Initiative

Thank you for your note. I am on work travel with no email access. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact Kelly Orr, Acting Chief of Staff, at 202-208-3801.

Neil



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FIELD HEARING: UTAH PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE
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Senator Lee and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present the National Trust for Historic Preservation's perspectives on the recently introduced Utah Public Lands Initiative Act ("PLI") and the importance of protecting the Bears Ears cultural landscape. My name is Stephanie K. Meeks, and I am the President and CEO of the National Trust.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded charitable, educational and nonprofit organization chartered by Congress in 1949 in order to "facilitate public participation in historic preservation" and to further the purposes of federal historic preservation laws. The intent of Congress was for the National Trust "to mobilize and coordinate public interest, participation and resources in the preservation and interpretation of sites and buildings." With headquarters in Washington, D.C., nine field offices, 27 historic sites, more than 800,000 members and supporters and partner organizations in 50 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, the National Trust works to save America's historic places and advocates for historic preservation as a fundamental value in programs and policies at all levels of government.

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In 2013, we developed and presented maps and narratives describing the National Trust’s priorities for resource designations in Southeast Utah to local, state, and national partners, including the offices of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz. Since we named this area one of our National Treasures in 2013, we have committed our expertise and resources to seeking a preservation-friendly solution to land use conflicts in this area. Earlier this year, reflecting our long-standing commitment to the legislative process, we submitted extensive comments on the “Discussion Draft” of the PLI.

Like many Americans, I have had the pleasure of visiting and marveling at the extraordinary cultural resources of the Bears Ears region. This landscape and its resources certainly rival nearby nationally protected areas like Canyon of the Ancients National Monument (established by President Clinton in 2000), Mesa Verde National Park (established by Congress in 1906), Chimney Rock National Monument (established by President Obama in 2012) and Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

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We appreciate the substantial time and resources dedicated to the pursuit of a legislative solution to this critical preservation issue by local and national stakeholders, including local governments, our partners in the conservation and preservation community and the staffs of the House and Senate committees and offices of Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work to advance preservation solutions with members of the Committee, Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz, and other stakeholders.

¹ Center for American Progress; "Bears Ears Cultural Area: The Most Vulnerable U.S. Site for Looting, Vandalism, and Grave Robbing"; <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/news/2016/06/13/139344/bears-ears-cultural-area-the-most-vulnerable-u-s-site-for-looting-vandalism-and-grave-robbing/>; June 13, 2016 (accessed July 20, 2016)

Conversation Contents

Fact sheet: Four things reporters should know before this week's Senate field hearing in Utah

Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>

From: Center for Western Priorities <info@westernpriorities.org>
Sent: Tue Jul 26 2016 10:47:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Fact sheet: Four things reporters should know before this week's Senate field hearing in Utah



CONTACT

Aaron Weiss, Media Director
 Center for Western Priorities
aaron@westernpriorities.org
 720-279-0019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 26, 2016

Fact sheet: Four things reporters should know before this week's Senate field hearing in Utah

Utah Senator Mike Lee will lead a [field hearing](#) of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in Utah this Wednesday, ostensibly to discuss the proposed Bears Ears National Monument and Representative Rob Bishop's long-delayed Public Lands Initiative.

The Center for Western Priorities is pleased to provide [this quick reference guide](#) to reporters in attendance:

1) The field hearing is all politics, not policy

Sen. Lee's hearing comes less than two weeks after Interior Secretary Sally Jewell held a series of [very well-attended](#) public meetings and toured the Bears Ears region. Secretary Jewell took time to listen to supporters and opponents of a Bears Ears



monument. Utah's entire congressional delegation was invited to participate.

By contrast, this week's hearing is designed to be a dog-and-pony show with one-sided testimony from only those opposed to a monument designation.

2) Utah politicians have a long history of disrespecting tribes

May 2014: San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman [leads a "protest"](#) ATV ride through archaeological and cultural sites. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert [donates \\$10,000](#) to Lyman's defense.

January 2016: Tribal leaders walk away from Public Lands Initiative because Rep Rob Bishop doesn't ["respect the sovereignty of tribes."](#)

June 2016: Utah State Rep. Mike Noel [blames badgers](#) for looting and grave robbing at Bears Ears.

3) No conservation groups support the Public Lands Initiative

Despite Rep. Bishop touting a few cautiously optimistic quotes when he unveiled the final PLI language, no conservation groups support the PLI as it stands today. One of the last conservation groups at the table, Friends of Cedar Mesa, blasted Bishop for making "egregious" last-minute changes to the bill that are ["a huge step in reverse."](#) Friends of Cedar Mesa highlights 14 specific provisions Bishop inserted into the PLI that the group opposes.

4) Rob Bishop has only 33 working days left

After starting on the Public Lands Initiative [in April 2013](#), Rep. Bishop made excuses for years of delays in producing an actual bill. His first draft, released this past January, was [so poorly received](#) that Rep. Jason Chaffetz took over the revision process in an attempt to salvage the bill.

Now, with the prospect of a presidential monument designation looming, Rep. Bishop is pretending the PLI has a chance of passing despite a shortened congressional calendar in an election year. Bishop has just [33 working days](#) left to shepherd his immense, complex bill through both houses of Congress, but he has yet to even take the first step by scheduling the PLI for markup.

[Download the PDF](#)

For more information, visit [westernpriorities.org](#). To speak with an expert on public lands, contact Aaron Weiss at 720-279-0019 or aaron@westernpriorities.org.

###

The Center for Western Priorities is a conservation policy and advocacy organization focused on land and energy issues across the American West.

[Center for Western Priorities](#) | 820 16th Street Ste 450, Denver, CO 80202 | 303.974.7761

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: FCM's formal opposition to the introduced PLI

Attachments:

/157. Fwd: FCM's formal opposition to the introduced PLI/1.1 FCM-PLI Introduction Opposition Letter.pdf

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 19 2016 17:35:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>, jpool@blm.gov, p2wilkin@blm.gov, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FCM's formal opposition to the introduced PLI
Attachments: FCM-PLI Introduction Opposition Letter.pdf



PO Box 338, Bluff, UT 84512

The Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 19, 2016

Subject: Opposition to Introduced PLI Legislation

Dear Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz:

After receiving legislative language shared with Friends of Cedar Mesa on July 8th and maps shared on July 12th, we drafted a letter in response to the Public Lands Initiative legislative text. In that letter we expressed our appreciation for the hard work of your staff to engage in meaningful and constructive conversations with us on ways to improve January's Discussion Draft. We shared a draft of that letter with your staff and also provided a quote for the PLI rollout expressing gratitude for having been involved with the process and our hopes that our remaining concerns with the bill could be addressed in the legislative process.

After the official release of the PLI legislation, however, our hopes of the bill evolving to one we could support have been dashed. Very problematic provisions were added to the bill after it was shared with us, and we were never made aware of the "PLI Partner Act" before the public roll out. Combined, these last minute changes lead us to conclude that a reasonable, win-win compromise is not forthcoming.

As you know, Friends of Cedar Mesa has been engaged in the Public Lands Initiative process for more than 3 years. We attended every meeting in San Juan County and have made every effort to work with our friends, neighbors, and elected officials. Because we are the local, on-the-ground group, we feel Friends of Cedar Mesa may be the most invested in finding a legislative solution of all the conservation groups at the table.

While we continue to believe that a legislative solution to conservation needs in southeastern Utah would have been the preferable path, we now have no faith that our legislative delegation is seeking a true compromise, even by our terms (and we're the right flank of the conservation community).

Despite all our efforts to work constructively on this legislation, **we oppose the language in the bill as introduced.** We cannot abandon our mission to help protect the natural and cultural resources of public lands in San Juan County by supporting a bill with provisions likely to result in resource damage on the ground. Last minute land trades added to the bill would extend the footprint of cultural resource damage, decimate Bluff's economy and dramatically change our way of life.

Provisions we oppose in the introduced language of the Public Lands Initiative bill include:

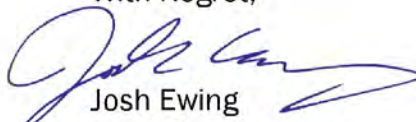
1. **Proposes a massive block of SITLA land on top of Bluff to facilitate large-scale energy development that would devastate Bluff's tourism-based economy and our quality of life.** This is an egregious change to the PLI drafts we saw in January, June and just four days before the release of the PLI. It's a huge step in reverse. After all the efforts FCM took to help refine a bill that could be the resolution to local cultural resource and conservation needs, this last-second proposal is an insult to the idea of public process and constructive negotiations with the Utah Delegation. In the old version, we found it worrisome that SITLA wanted a few sections around Bluff. Now we see what SITLA really wants: a larger block of land in FCM's backyard than they are asking for in Lisbon Valley. If SITLA gets its way, the new welcome sign to those coming to Bluff would be a series of oil rigs and fracking operations.
2. **Retains ownership and mineral development rights by SITLA on lands inside the Bears Ears NCA north of Bluff (Tank Mesa & Cottonwood Wash),** therefore failing to protect internationally significant archaeology from energy development. This means drilling and privatization could occur within the NCA, completely opposed to the entire point of creating a Conservation Area.
3. **Does not trade out SITLA parcel on the southern end of the Comb Ridge that will be otherwise be sold to the highest bidder this October.** With this move, SITLA shows its intent to create the only privatized section of the Comb Ridge. This last second change comes despite FCM and the community of Bluff expressing strong opposition to the sale at a community meeting on June 7th at which Director Ure assured the community if the PLI passed the sale would be moot. This significant square mile of what should be public land contains important archaeological and recreational values and deserves the protection afforded to the rest of the Comb Ridge in an NCA or Monument.
4. **Leaves surface rights to three other key SITLA parcels on Cedar Mesa to SITLA,** creating the potential for serious land management conflicts or privatization of lands that should be traded out so they can be permanently made public land.
5. **Gives the State of Utah, which already lacks transparency and public process when handling drilling permits, undue authority in any type of energy development on all available public lands** in San Juan County. This delegation of authority would expedite energy development on lands that would be better served by a Master Leasing Plan process that requires thoughtful planning for cultural resources and other land uses. Title XI on energy development gives no mention of the significant cultural resources in Utah, opening up a pathway to conflict over streamlined energy development in archaeologically dense areas like Montezuma Canyon and Alkali Ridge.
6. **Fails to protect important archaeological and recreation areas in the White Canyon drainages and Southern Abajo areas** (Allen Canyon, Chippean Canyon and Dry Wash Canyon).
7. **Fails to protect two important sections of the internationally significant San Juan River corridor as a "Recreational River,"** despite recommendation for such designation by the official BLM study.
8. **Opens up sensitive archaeological areas now closed to grazing (inside and outside of NCAs)** to damage from cattle in cultural sites. Likewise, internal conflicts in the bill potentially direct grazing in wilderness to be resumed in places where it has been eliminated to protect cultural and recreational resources. FCM cannot support any language with the potential to

open Grand Gulch, Slickhorn, and the other canyons on Cedar Mesa to cattle grazing.

9. **Fails to adequately involve local people in decision making for the Indian Creek National Conservation Area** by creating no local stakeholder advisory group and giving primary advisory status to a committee of county commissioners and state officials who do not know the area at all.
10. **Despite the positive step of naming the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail a National Historic Trail, creates conflict with existing land use plans by facilitating the overriding of group size limitations in the trail corridor.** In addition, the location of the HITR Trail on the map is likely incorrect and the language does not allow for the exact location of the trail to be confirmed after it is designated.
11. **Gives blanket approval to an ATV route in Recapture Canyon on the route that is already damaging archaeological sites.** The language is not definitive as to whether compliance with the NHPA and NAGPRA are automatically granted with the application or whether the Section 106 process must be followed. Because this route bisects sensitive archaeological sites, the bill must require compliance with these laws and rerouting if deemed necessary to protect the resource.
12. **Fails to resolve RS 2477 litigation in Wilderness and NCA areas,** meaning the actual protection for those areas may be far less than in other Wilderness and NCAs around the country.
13. **Cherry stems at least one road in wilderness on Cedar Mesa that is currently closed for cultural resource protection and wilderness characteristics.** The Hardscrabble road on Cedar Mesa was closed as part of an open public process that resulted in the 2008(A) RMP.
14. **Releases the Cross Canyon and Squaw Papoose WSAs from management that would protect wilderness values.** These are archaeological rich areas that will be very difficult to develop anyway, due to high archaeological densities. Releasing these is a symbolic move that, in our view, allows for easy attack of this bill as reducing current protection of important lands.

Leaving critical, sensitive archaeological areas out of the path to protection while streamlining activities likely to irreparably harm cultural resources across vast tracks of land makes the introduced bill something we strongly oppose. We have worked for years through a process we hoped would lead to a tenable bill we could improve on through the markup process. Failing a massive effort at a true compromise negotiation, it now appears the time to make the large corrections needed is too short. In light of the failure of the PLI process to achieve a legitimate compromise that has hopes of bi-partisan support, Friends of Cedar Mesa has no choice but to fully support President Obama protecting the Bears Ears region as a National Monument.

With Regret,


Josh Ewing
Executive Director

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Thank you!

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 18 2016 13:02:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Lawrence Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cody Stewart** <codystewart@utah.gov>
Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 10:28 AM
Subject: Re: Thank you!
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Nicky,

I have to compliment you on a wonderful trip. As I recently relayed to the Governor's Chief of Staff, your team orchestrated a comprehensive, balanced, well-run, and effective trip of southeast Utah. I also have to compliment you on the listening session on Saturday. We were worried it might get out of hand but it went off brilliantly. Kudos to you and your team!

I genuinely believe there is a window of opportunity for us to reach a fair and reasonable resolution for the Bears Ears region. Let's keep the dialogue going the next few weeks and commit to finding a solution that works for everyone. Governor Herbert is more than willing to engage in that effort and see it through to a positive and collaborative outcome.

It was great spending time with you this last week and hopefully it marks just the beginning of more frequent interactions.

Best,

Cody

Cody Stewart
Policy Director
Governor Gary Herbert
801 538-1039

On Sun, Jul 17, 2016 at 12:50 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Team - I wanted to send a brief thank you for all of your help with the trip and for your patience with us as we worked our way through the state.

I'm looking forward to many more conversations about Utah with each of you, but in far less pretty places.

Thanks again,
Nikki

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 18 2016 13:40:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Lawrence Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Buffa, Nicole** <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

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Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 3:40 PM
Subject: Fwd: Thank you!
To: Sally Jewell <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>

And more... Let me know if you would rather me not forward these all to you, I'm getting many nice notes from people.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk** <rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org>
Date: Sun, Jul 17, 2016 at 11:52 AM
Subject: Re: Thank you!
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "ALomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us" <ALomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us>, "Carleton.Bowekaty@ashiwi.org" <Carleton.Bowekaty@ashiwi.org>, Malcolm Lehi <mlehi@utemountain.org>, "davisfilfred@navajo-nsn.gov" <davisfilfred@navajo-nsn.gov>, "nakaidinee@yahoo.com" <nakaidinee@yahoo.com>

Nicole,

Thank you all for obliging the request and following through. I imagine it was hotter on the stage in the hot seat. It took some patience through the heat but what I reminded myself is, we have to practice self-discipline within our ceremonies. This was very reminiscent of that. Please extend our gratitude to Secretary Jewell, Undersecretary Bonnie and staff for their time and presence. It was a success, this is what we work hard for. This was one of our asks. The visit and listening venue for all to be heard. The gift we as tribal leaders lobbied for. As you stated, this a part of the necessary process. Please communicate our appreciation for the opportunity. We now look forward to our next steps in the process. Please stay in contact. I prayed for safe journeys home and that you all found things as you left them. It was our honor to host the group in our home. Blessings to each of you all and your families.

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
Ute Mtn. Ute Tribal Councilwoman
Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition Co-Chair

> On Jul 16, 2016, at 5:56 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

>

> Dear courageous Tribal leaders - I just wanted to send a very quick
> thank you for the tremendous amount of effort and heart you guys put
> into this weekend and this day.

>

> I can't imagine how difficult it must have been to hear some of the
> things you heard today. But what happened in that meeting, was an
> important and necessary event. And so many important and good things
> were said too. So thank you!

>

> And thank you for being such generous and gracious hosts yesterday.
> The Secretary (and all of us) had a wonderful visit with you guys.

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- >
- > I am looking forward to talking soon!
- >
- > All my best,
- > Nikki

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Conversation Contents

SL Trib opinion

Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Sun Jul 17 2016 19:13:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: nkornze@blm.gov
Subject: SL Trib opinion

Tribune Editorial: Public Lands Initiative is too little, too late

(Scott Sommerdorf | The Salt Lake Tribune) Dineh native 9-year old Donald West Jr. plays with a kite with one of the Bears Ears in the background as a meeting with native people and U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell proceeds in a meadow atop the Bears Ears, Friday, July 15, 2016.

Published: July 16, 2016 03:03PM
Updated: July 16, 2016 09:01PM

Political gamesmanship over the Bears Ears reached its apex this week as Utah congressmen finally introduced their Public Lands Initiative bill while the manager of those lands, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, trekked across the Utah red rock.

For Rep. Rob Bishop, the bill's introduction is culmination of an effort begun more than three years ago and represents thousands of hours of work from diverse interests. If passed, it would settle large and small disputes over public lands from Flaming Gorge to Lake Powell. It would add thousands of wilderness acres, expand one national monument (Dinosaur) and create another in Emery County.

But it wouldn't create a monument in San Juan County, and that is what's behind Jewell's high-profile journey through southeastern Utah. Indian tribes and environmentalists have coalesced around the idea of a national monument in the sacred lands surrounding the Bears Ears that would give Native Americans a unique management role to preserve both the heritage of their past and their traditions still practiced.

With Bishop and Rep. Jason Chaffetz unwilling to go there — in large part because their PLI process was driven by county commissioners in San Juan and elsewhere — the

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Indians have turned to President Obama to declare the monument under the Antiquities Act.

For their part, Bishop and Chaffetz made concessions since their draft PLI bill came out earlier this year. They added a large chunk to a conservation area around the Bears Ears, but they left vague what would be allowed in the area, including energy development. It grants an Indian role in management of part of the area, but not enough to satisfy the tribes. The Indian groups had earlier said they were stonewalled by the PLI process and walked away.

A key difference this time is removing a requirement that no current or future president could declare a monument in eastern Utah. That provision was considered sacrosanct by the congressmen when their draft came out. That has helped keep the White House talking, but the other changes haven't been enough to bring the tribes back.

Jewell was standing at the Dead Horse Point overlook Thursday when she turned to Fred Ferguson, Chaffetz' chief of staff, to comment about tribal representatives walking away from PLI talks. "They were probably frustrated by their last experience, Fred, so there's definitely some bridge building you're going to have to do."

The reality is that the PLI has problems that go beyond the Bears Ears. In too many places it bent toward the energy industry, and it would allow the counties to claim roads where there aren't any and shouldn't be. The PLI's county-driven process never accepted that it was about America's land, and so it never gave adequate voice to the tribes or to national environmental groups. That cost the congressmen years that could have gone into real talks.

Instead, we get a mad scramble at the end, and the Utahns in Congress look like they have been outplayed. A negotiated settlement would have been better, but a Bears Ears monument declaration looks like the only viable solution at this point.

Sent from my iPad

Conversation Contents

Fwd: PLI

Attachments:

/164. Fwd: PLI/1.1 UPLI Comment Letter 7 15 16 final.pdf

/164. Fwd: PLI/2.1 UPLI Comment Letter 7 15 16 final.pdf

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sun Jul 17 2016 07:29:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PLI
Attachments: UPLI Comment Letter 7 15 16 final.pdf

More.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Cors <tcors@TNC.ORG>
Date: July 15, 2016 at 6:08:24 PM MDT
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Chris Adamo
(b) (6), "Harding, Stephenne S. EOP/CEQ"
(b) (6)
Subject: PLI

See attached the letter TNC just sent on PLI.

Tom

Tom Cors
Director, Lands
US Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy
tcors@tnc.org
919-636-2297

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Sun Jul 17 2016 07:34:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>, jpool@blm.gov, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PLI
Attachments: UPLI Comment Letter 7 15 16 final.pdf

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From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Date: July 17, 2016 at 9:29:15 AM EDT
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
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Subject: PLI

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Tom

Tom Cors
Director, Lands
US Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy
tcors@tnc.org
919-636-2297

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fax [801] 531-1003
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July 15, 2016

Honorable Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Casey.Snider@mail.house.gov

Honorable Jason Chaffetz
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov

RE: Comments on Utah Public Lands Initiative Act (Introduced 7/14/16)

Dear Congressman Bishop and Congressman Chaffetz:

We appreciate the effort you and members of your staffs have put into developing the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act (PLI Act) for southeastern Utah. In our view, the PLI Act introduced in Congress on 7/14/16 has been improved from the PLI "Discussion Draft" released on 1/20/16. There are changes which have strengthened the measure from a conservation standpoint, but the bill continues to have serious limitations.

Accordingly, The Nature Conservancy cannot support PLI in its current form. Also, we wish to be clear that The Nature Conservancy opposes the "PLI Partner Act" limiting presidential authority to designate national monuments in certain parts of Utah, which was also introduced in Congress on 7/14/16.

We do appreciate provisions which have improved the PLI Act. These include: Indian Creek NCA – The Indian Creek region has been added as an NCA which advances research programs of the Canyonlands Research Center and identifies research uses as beneficial. Wild and Scenic Rivers – The bill grants Wild and Scenic River Status to approximately 357 miles of the Green, Dolores, San Juan and Colorado Rivers in Uintah, Carbon, Emery Grand and San Juan Counties.

The above improvements do not, in our view, compensate for the following shortcomings:

- Energy Language – Title XI of the bill proposes to establish a state program with jurisdiction over federal lands energy leasing thereby bypassing not only federal control but also undermining successful collaborations such as the Moab Master Leasing Plan. This provision would not apply simply to selected and limited energy zones, but to all public land in seven counties. This is unprecedented and not a provision the Conservancy can support.
- NCA Language – The current NCA language in many instances does not track standard NCA language which has been adopted previously by Congress. This will make the measure more difficult to pass.
- NCA Management Plan Consultation – Requiring the "relevant Secretary" to submit a letter to Congress if he/she does not accept the recommendations of the Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Advisory Committee is an unnecessary burden.
- Land Exchanges – Though NEPA will apply in a limited fashion to the proposed land exchange(s), there is no allowance for the continued protection of critical plant and

animal habitat or natural features when federal lands are transferred to the State. In addition, because standard federal appraisal requirements are waived, there is high potential for a valuation imbalance which will be unacceptable to many members of Congress.

- Composition of Public Lands Initiative Planning and Implementation Committee – Of 22 members, only one is required from the conservation community, and the overall weighting favors representatives likely opposed to many conservation measures.
- Long-Term Grazing Certainty – While certain grazing language has been improved, Title XIII, Sec. 1303 seems to contradict other grazing language and suggests that Congressional language, rather than sound range science, will set grazing levels. In addition, there is unacceptable language indicating that such grazing levels would be set for lands outside areas designated in the Title.
- Bourdette Draw Recreation Area – Setting aside Bourdette Draw to promote off-highway vehicle recreation may impact critical habitat for greater sage-grouse, undermining efforts to avoid a listing under the Endangered Species Act.
- Other – Grazing language in the section regarding the proposed Price Canyon State Forest exchange needs improvement, the conveyance of the Seep Ridge Utility Corridor should take into account key natural features, proceeds from land disposals should be re-invested in Utah conservation projects, similar to the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and NCA boundaries need refining.

The above list reflects our initial reaction to the PLI Act as introduced; we may have additional comments in the coming days.

In sum, while the version of PLI which has now been introduced in Congress has been strengthened in certain respects, more work is needed. The Conservancy's overall goal is to achieve the best conservation outcomes possible for the seven county region. Ideally, these outcomes can be realized through the PLI Act and the legislative process. However, if this is not possible, we acknowledge the declaration of a National Monument at Bears Ears would offer significant protection for key lands in San Juan County which is vitally needed at this time.

This letter reflects the views of our Utah Chapter at the staff level and, at this point in time, does not necessarily reflect the views of our Utah Board or The Nature Conservancy as a whole.

Thank you again for the work which has gone into the PLI process. Don't hesitate to contact me or Sue Bellagamba if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dave Livermore
Utah State Director

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The Nature Conservancy in Utah
559 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

tel [801] 531-0999
fax [801] 531-1003
nature.org/utah

July 15, 2016

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Dave Livermore
Utah State Director

Conversation Contents

The end: Utah Readout Number 4

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sat Jul 16 2016 21:28:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, KMAC <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Larry Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
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Subject: The end: Utah Readout Number 4

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The moderator, Sally, and Robert Bonnie opened up the meeting, all emphasizing that we were there to listen. Sally also briefly talked about the previous three days in Utah and how she had heard from so many and learned

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--The widow of former Congressman Bill Orton, who died in an ATV accident in 2009, spoke about how he lost his election in '96 because of the way Grand Staircase-Escalante was designated and the way the administration "lied to people." She emphatically said that this process has been different, and thanked Pres Obama and stakeholders for an open and fair process.

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--Phil Lyman's daughter spoke about her family's long history there,

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-- Phil Lyman spoke about people and groups coming from the outside, who aren't parts of the community, saying what's best for area and putting up misleading signs.

-- Rebecca Benally argued that a monument is not best for the Navajo people - it's a sacred area and a monument will draw attention and crowds. She said the area would already be protected if current laws were enforced, and presented SJ with letters against the monument.

-- Bruce Adams agreed that we know areas need protection, but he doesn't believe 1.9 mil acre monument will increase protection (rather, they need boots on the ground and money). He emphasized that they're a law abiding people who use land properly by obeying the laws.

-- Mike Noel, the State Rep, spoke briefly against the monument. State Sen David Hinkins was also present.

-- Sally spoke about the importance of protecting the land not just for our grandchildren, but for generations beyond that, and managing resources wisely. She reiterated that she hasn't had a chance to read PLI yet. Robert Bonnie also spoke.

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Sally thanked the tribes for their hospitality and said that everyone believes that areas here deserve protection, and we are all working toward that end in various ways. She made clear that traditional tribal activities in the area should continue. We were joined by representatives from Hatch, Bishop and Chaffetz's offices. Jon Jarvis, Larry Roberts, Robert Bonnie, and Neil Kornze were also there and played a role.

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Edit: The groups are estimating 1500-1800 attendees, **with 1000-1200** supporters.

Also this readout was for Saturday. Not Friday. Because today is Saturday. :)

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audience was quiet and respectful, and only expressed themselves with loud and sustained applause for the county commissioners after they spoke. All county commissioners emphasized that they and their constituents oppose a monument. The Utah Delegation joined us.

-- Phil Lyman spoke about people and groups coming from the outside, who aren't parts of the community, saying what's best for area and putting up misleading signs.

-- Rebecca Benally argued that a monument is not best for the Navajo people - it's a sacred area and a monument will draw attention and crowds. She said the area would already be protected if current laws were enforced, and presented SJ with letters against the monument.

-- Bruce Adams agreed that we know areas need protection, but he doesn't believe 1.9 mil acre monument will increase protection (rather, they need boots on the ground and money). He emphasized that they're a law abiding people who use land properly by obeying the laws.

-- Mike Noel, the State Rep, spoke briefly against the monument. State Sen David Hinkins was also present.

-- Sally spoke about the importance of protecting the land not just for our grandchildren, but for generations beyond that, and managing resources wisely. She reiterated that she hasn't had a chance to read PLI yet. Robert Bonnie also spoke.

Blue Mountain Dine/Descendants of Ka'yelli (1 hour, Monticello) - This meeting was run by Rebecca Benally and had about 30 attendees representing local Najavos who each took turns speaking to Sally and Robert about their opposition to a monument. USDA and the Utah delegation joined us. Concerns included promises previously broken by the government (they believe they won't still be able to collect firewood, medicine, etc), and that outside groups wrote the proposal and are controlling the Intertribal Coalition and holding secret meetings. They also talked about local agency, saying tribal proponents don't live here and Navajo nation leadership are working against Utah Navajo. The Utah delegation joined us.

PRESS: For all of the events above, reporters from The Deseret News, Salt Lake City Tribune, and the AP joined us, among others.

Monticello BLM Field Office Visit - We made a quick visit to the BLM Field Office to visit with employees and give out a few awards. Sally took questions and answers for awhile. The staff were so appreciative to get the time with her.

Quick Visit with Leland Pollack - At Sen. Hatch's request, we met quickly with Garfield County Commissioner Leland Pollack. Kelsey from Rep. Chaffetz's office joined us (Fred Ferguson headed back to DC after the SJ County Commission meeting). Leland used his time speaking in opposition to the Monument proposal.

CLOSE HOLD - Recapture Canyon Tour and Hike - We hiked through the Recapture Canyon trail where Phil Lyman led his ATV protest. Can fill folks in on it when I'm back.

FRIDAY

Hike to the Moon House (Cedar Mesa) - We began the day with a rigorous hike to the Moon House. We were accompanied by Bishop and Chaffetz staff, CLF, TWS, and many members of the press. On the hike we saw evidence of looting and the amazing antiquities within Cedar Mesa.

Bears Ears Tribal Gathering (in the Manti-la Sal National Forest, 4 hours) -The gathering was mainly held in a tent at the base of the Bears Ears themselves. It was well attended by a mix of tribal leaders, NGOs, and tribal members and their families. We began the visit with a "circle in the round" type meeting with all who had gathered at the base of the Bears Ears. Tribal leaders from the Hopi, Zuni, Ute, Navajo, and Uintah tribes called on President Obama to designate a national monument. They spoke of their long connection to the land, and of people desecrating their ancestral graves with looting, ATVs, and other destructive activities. They also discussed collaborative management, using science but also the traditional knowledge of people who have cared for this land for generations.

Sally thanked the tribes for their hospitality and said that everyone believes that areas here deserve protection, and we are all working toward that end in various ways. She made clear that traditional tribal activities in the area should continue. We were joined by representatives from Hatch, Bishop and Chaffetz's offices. Jon Jarvis, Larry Roberts, Robert Bonnie, and Neil Kornze were also there and played a role.

Following the meeting there was traditional drumming, singing and dancing, a Hopi dinner, and an emotional meeting and exchange of between our federal officials and tribal leaders inside a teepee. There was also piñon pine ice cream. Thank god. It has been very hot and dry here.

TODAY - Sally and others are currently on a hike to see more evidence of looting and will then head to the public meeting, which begins at 1pm. It's going to be all hands on deck so I don't expect to be able to take notes as I normally do. But between Liz and I, we'll cobble something together.

On Jul 14, 2016, at 2:51 PM, Nicole Buffa
<nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi Team - Below are Liz and my notes from yesterday.

The notes below don't convey the spectacular job Francis and Kerry and the detail have done to make an incredibly complicated trip totally seamless. And a big thanks to John Blair and Maria and his team for all the list making and tracking and inviting and behind-the-scenes coordinating -- we'd be lost without them out here.

For those of you here in UT, please feel free to add more/correct/embellish!

WEDNESDAY

Meeting with Governor Herbert (60 minutes, Salt Lake City) - The Secretary met with

Governor Herbert at the airport to discuss her upcoming trip. The Governor could not join Sally's trip because he was attending a NGA meeting. The small meeting was an hour long. It was very productive and covered the PLI, UT's economy, Bears Ears, among other things. I can provide more details when we're back.

Emery County Commission Meeting (45 minutes, Emery County) - This meeting was attended by three county commissioners (including the chairman), a former commissioner, and officials from the Emery County Public Lands Council. There were about 15 or 20 members of the public there. It was a respectful crowd and they remained silent throughout the meeting. Ray Peterson, the public lands administrator, discussed the county's Public Lands Council's proposed land management plan, in development since the 1990's. Representatives from Bishop and Chaffetz's office, Sen. Hatch's office, and Gov. Herbert's office ("the Utah Delegation") met us at the meeting and discussed PLI's pending introduction. Press: Emery County Progress (print) and a local tv station.

San Rafael Swell Tour (3 Hours, Emery County) - Ray Peterson led a tour of the Swell, accompanied by the Utah Delegation, reps from Ride with Respect, TNC, and SITLA. The tour stopped at the very scenic Wedge Overlook, ancient rock art at Buckhorn Wash, and the Swinging Bridge, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Throughout the tour we discussed the PLI's land management proposals for the area. Press: Emery County Progress (print)

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members discussed the Moab MLP as well as the PLI and Bears Ears proposals, and opinion about both the PLI and Monument Proposal was fairly evenly divided on the council. Sally spoke eloquently about the PLI, the Bears Ears, and the soon-to-be-released Moab MLP FEIS. The Utah delegation got lost on the way to the meeting, so they arrived quite late, but eventually joined the conversation. Press: two local papers and the local NPR affiliate.

We've had a long but good day today and many more members of the press have been tagging along with us. We are currently at the San Juan County Commissioners' meeting. The room is filled with opponents, but so far, everyone is being respectful. Will send more later.

Conversation Contents

Religious Leaders' Bears Ears Press Release

"Shantha Ready Alonso, Creation Justice Ministries"
<shantha@creationjustice.org>

From: "Shantha Ready Alonso, Creation Justice Ministries"
<shantha@creationjustice.org>
Sent: Fri Jul 15 2016 14:38:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <shantha@creationjustice.org>
Subject: Religious Leaders' Bears Ears Press Release

Good afternoon,
As promised, here is what we sent on Thursday.
Grace and peace,
Shantha

From: Shantha Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>
Date: Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 10:22 AM
To: Shantha Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>
Subject: Press Release: Religious Leaders Support Bears Ears National Monument

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
July 14, 2016
Contact: Shantha Ready
Alonso, [760.408.0688](tel:760.408.0688) (mobile) shantha@creationjustice.org

Christian Leaders Call for Permanent Protection of Bears Ears

A Bears Ears National Monument is a Step Toward Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Washington, DC – Today, leaders from fourteen Christian denominations and organizations called on the Obama Administration to permanently protect a 1.9 million-acre area in southeast Utah known as Bears Ears. They would like President Obama to follow the recommendation of a coalition of five tribes to make the area a national monument. Their call to action came in [a letter](#) released days before Administration officials plan to visit Bluff, Utah for a listening session about protecting Bears Ears.

The letter included a recognition of the historic nature of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal

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coalition's proposal, as well as the urgency to protect the area now, given repeated destruction of antiquities in Bears Ears. The letter said the "reckless erasing of history, as well as the desecration of sacred places, must stop." The religious leaders' letter also expressed respect for the tribes' expertise: "The tribes leading the Bears Ears national monument proposal have experience living sustainably on the land since time immemorial, and traditional knowledge related to Bears Ears is irreplaceable. Now, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is offering the United States a true gift: a national monument which will help our nation to learn from them."

Rev. Dr. Genny Rowley of the Alliance of Baptistss said, "As decision-makers gather in Bluff this week, my prayer is that we continue moving towards protecting Bears Ears by designating it National Monument. Honoring the sacredness of this land is an opportunity for justice and reconciliation, in a process led by tribal leaders who continue to graciously offer their wisdom and stewardship."

Evangelical Lutheran Church in American Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton said of the letter, "The Gospel calls the ELCA to the ministry of justice and reconciliation in upholding the dignity of Native American people and enhancing the wellbeing of their communities, which includes the care and stewardship of land and all creation."

Creation Justice Ministries Executive Director Shantha Ready Alonso said, "With the release of this letter, we want Administration officials, leaders of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and other community members who gather in Bluff to know they will be in religious communities' thoughts and prayers. May our nation have the wisdom to protect what is sacred."

Creation Justice Ministries represents the creation care policies of 38 Christian communions, including Baptist conventions, mainline Protestants, Historically Black Churches, Peace Churches, and Orthodox communions. Learn more at www.creationjustice.org

###

CHRISTIAN LEADERS ON BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT PROPOSAL

Our national parks and monuments are an extraordinarily powerful tool for the people of the United States to tell our collective story. It is critical to ensure that the story includes historic and current contributions and wisdom of Native people. Rooted in, and in continuity with, our Lutheran faith and ministry, it is with great hope and joy that we support the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal coalition's recommendation for a Bears Ears National Monument."

Bishop Jim Gonia

Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[\(Read his full statement here.\)](#)

"We must protect our God-given treasures on earth and recognize the treasures of Native Americans. Both are consistent with a number of resolutions adopted by conventions of the Episcopal Church."

Bishop Scott Hayashi

Episcopal Diocese of Utah

[\(Read his full statement here.\)](#)

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“National parks and monuments are sacred places where we take Sabbath – where we learn, play, and pray. Now is the time to accept the gifts of knowledge and stewardship being extended to us by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition. Let’s permanently protect Bears Ears through the establishment of a Bears Ears National Monument.”

Rev. Rebecca Kemper Poos

Immediate Past Moderator, Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ
Senior Minister, Congregational United Church of Christ in Buena Vista, CO

[\(Read her full statement here.\)](#)

“As Christians we believe all people are made in the image of God, with inherent dignity and worth. As Lutherans, by our baptism, it is our commitment to respond to the unending call of peace and justice work. A Bears Ears National Monument is a step towards justice for our communities that have suffered dehumanization for centuries. It is with the gift of tribal leadership that may contribute to ongoing healing and preservation of culture.”

Prairie Rose Seminole

Program Director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Shantha Ready Alonso

Executive Director

Creation Justice Ministries

www.creationjustice.org

[@CreationJustice](#)

[Sent from my thumbs. Please excuse brevity and type-os.](#)

Conversation Contents

Utah Readout Number 1

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Jul 14 2016 14:51:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, KMAC
CC: <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Utah Readout Number 1

Hi Team - Below are Liz and my notes from yesterday.

The notes below don't convey the spectacular job Francis and Kerry and the detail have done to make an incredibly complicated trip totally seamless. And a big thanks to John Blair and Maria and his team for all the list making and tracking and inviting and behind-the-scenes coordinating -- we'd be lost without them out here.

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Conversation Contents

Veterans to Attend Bear Ears National Monument Hearing

Garett Reppenhagen <repp@vetvoicefoundation.org>

From: Garett Reppenhagen <repp@vetvoicefoundation.org>
Sent: Thu Jul 14 2016 10:04:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: Veterans to Attend Bear Ears National Monument Hearing

Thanks for your hard work and dedication to hearing public input on Bears Ears National Monument

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.

###

<http://www.vetvoicefoundation.org/press/local-utah-veterans-attend-bears-ears-national-monument-hearing>

--

Garett Reppenhagen
US Army 1st Infantry Division OIF Veteran
Rocky Mountain West Coordinator
Vet Voice Foundation
719-235-7030

REPP@vetvoicefoundation.org
www.vetvoicefoundation.org

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Tomorrow.

"Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu Jul 14 2016 05:27:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Tomorrow.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Iacobucci, Francis** <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Jul 14, 2016 at 5:25 AM
Subject: Re: Tomorrow
To: Leland Pollock (b) (6)
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kerry McNellis <kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov>, "jwhitloc@blm.gov" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>, "william_mcintee@ios.doi.gov" <william_mcintee@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

Leland -

Would you be able to stop by the BLM field office at 4:45pm today? 365 North Main Street Monticello, UT 84535. Thanks.

Francis

On Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 5:23 PM, Leland Pollock (b) (6) wrote:
Ok

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2016, at 3:12 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Sorry, Leland. The Bears Ears gathering isn't the right place to meet logistically. We'll circle back with you.

On Jul 13, 2016, at 3:02 PM, Leland Pollock (b) (6) wrote:

Yes I will be there whenever you tell me, if I need to I will be there tomorrow as well, I am very appreciative of this time so I will take whatever time I can get.

Leland.

Just give me a time and a place and I'm there.

Thank you again for this time

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2016, at 2:32 PM, Kerry McNellis
<kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Leland - are you going to the Bears Ears gathering on Friday? That will be the near opportunity for a few minutes with the Secretary.

Thanks,
Kerry

Kerry J. McNellis
Deputy Director
Office of Scheduling and Advance
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
kerry_mcnellis@ios.doi.gov | C: [202-809-2193](tel:202-809-2193)

On Jul 13, 2016, at 11:14 AM, Leland Pollock
(b) (6) wrote:

Is there anyway we can change that to Friday? Anytime Friday will work.
Leland.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2016, at 10:23 AM,
Nicole Buffa
<nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
wrote:

Hi Leland - We'd love to visit

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with you tomorrow when we're
over with

the San Juan County folks or
around there.

Francis and Kerry - Please let
Leland know when he might
be able to

see the secretary for five
minutes. He knows we have
practically no

time and promises to be quick!

Thanks,

Nikki

--

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling and Advance
Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
202.208.5723 (direct)

***All scheduling requests for Secretary Jewell should be sent to scheduling@ios.doi.gov

--

Jenna Whitlock, Acting State Director
Utah BLM
(801) 539-4010 office
(801) 503-6254 cell

Join the Conversation!



Conversation Contents

Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter

Attachments:

/181. Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter/1.1 Bears Ears Religious Leaders Letter 2016.pdf

Shantha Ready Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>

From: Shantha Ready Alonso <shantha@creationjustice.org>
Sent: Wed Jul 13 2016 14:03:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter
Attachments: Bears Ears Religious Leaders Letter 2016.pdf

Dear Neil,

Please find attached a religious leaders' letter to President Obama and Secretary Jewell in support of the Bears Ears National Monument proposal. We will release it to the media tomorrow morning.

I hope Secretary Jewell and any other traveling team members from the Administration have safe trips and meaningful visits to Utah this week!

Grace and Peace,

Shantha

--

Shantha Ready Alonso

Executive Director, Creation Justice Ministries

110 Maryland Ave. NE #203, Washington, DC 20002

202.827.3975 (office) 760.408.0688 (mobile) shantha@creationjustice.org

www.creationjustice.org * facebook.com/CreationJustice * [@CreationJustice](https://twitter.com/CreationJustice)

Check out our 2016 Christian education resource, *Care for God's Creatures*: www.creationjustice.org/creatures

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240



July 14, 2016

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell,

As leaders of major faith communities in the United States, we affirm the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal coalition's proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah.

The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is historic because it is being led by five tribes that have unified for the cause of protecting their shared heritage: the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Indian Tribe. Twenty-six tribes have expressed support for the proposal.

The Bears Ears region has more than 100,000 archaeological sites across 1.9 million acres. This area has more archeological sites than Utah's Mighty Five National Parks combined. Petroglyphs, burial sites, and ancient cliff dwellings are valuable parts of our collective history. These antiquities are under imminent threat from continuing grave-robbing, vandalism, careless visitation and a lack of management resources. In fact, in the first four months of 2016, there have been five reported serious incidents of cultural resource damage. This reckless erasing of history, as well as the desecration of sacred places, must stop.

Native American traditional wisdom about stewardship of God's creation has too often been dismissed. This attitude has not only contributed to centuries of physical, cultural, and spiritual violence toward Native Americans; it has also been a detriment to everyone. We *all* depend on the integrity of God's creation. The tribes leading the Bears Ears national monument proposal have experience living sustainably on the land since time immemorial, and traditional knowledge related to Bears Ears is irreplaceable. Now, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is offering the United States a true gift: a national monument which will help our nation to learn from them.

As religious communities, we are on a journey towards racial justice and reconciliation, as well as healing the relationships among land and people. A Bears Ears National Monument would be a profoundly meaningful place for our communities to participate in the healing process. Please use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate the Bears Ears region as a national monument.

In hope,

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Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Chicago, IL

Bishop George E. Battle
Senior Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, NC

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ
Cleveland, OH

Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon
Director of Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ
St. Louis, MO

The Reverend Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Louisville, KY

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary
General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church
Washington, DC

Sister Simone Campbell
Executive Director
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Washington, DC

Nathan Hosler
Director, Office of Public Witness
Church of the Brethren
Washington, DC

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Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach
Co-Coordinator
American Baptist Creation Justice Network
Natick, MA

Rev. Dr. Genny Rowley
Eco-Justice Community Chair, Alliance of Baptists
Board Chair, Utah Interfaith Power and Light
Salt Lake City, Utah

Shantha Ready Alonso
Executive Director
Creation Justice Ministries
Washington, DC

The Episcopal Church

Conversation Contents

FW: Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter

Attachments:

/182. FW: Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter/1.1 Bears Ears Religious Leaders Letter 2016.pdf

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

From: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Jul 13 2016 13:53:06 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Larry Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Karen Hyun <karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter
Attachments: Bears Ears Religious Leaders Letter 2016.pdf

FYI. johnblair

From: Shantha Ready Alonso [mailto:shantha@creationjustice.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 3:51 PM
To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov; Jensen, Kimberly <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>; steven_avila@ios.doi.gov; john_blair@ios.doi.gov; terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov
Cc: Melissa Rogers (b) (6)
Subject: Bears Ears Religious Leaders' Letter

Dear Nikki, Kimberly, Steven, John, Terri, and Melissa:
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July 14, 2016

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell,

As leaders of major faith communities in the United States, we affirm the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal coalition's proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument in southeast Utah.

The Bears Ears National Monument proposal is historic because it is being led by five tribes that have unified for the cause of protecting their shared heritage: the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Indian Tribe. Twenty-six tribes have expressed support for the proposal.

The Bears Ears region has more than 100,000 archaeological sites across 1.9 million acres. This area has more archeological sites than Utah's Mighty Five National Parks combined. Petroglyphs, burial sites, and ancient cliff dwellings are valuable parts of our collective history. These antiquities are under imminent threat from continuing grave-robbing, vandalism, careless visitation and a lack of management resources. In fact, in the first four months of 2016, there have been five reported serious incidents of cultural resource damage. This reckless erasing of history, as well as the desecration of sacred places, must stop.

Native American traditional wisdom about stewardship of God's creation has too often been dismissed. This attitude has not only contributed to centuries of physical, cultural, and spiritual violence toward Native Americans; it has also been a detriment to everyone. We *all* depend on the integrity of God's creation. The tribes leading the Bears Ears national monument proposal have experience living sustainably on the land since time immemorial, and traditional knowledge related to Bears Ears is irreplaceable. Now, the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition is offering the United States a true gift: a national monument which will help our nation to learn from them.

As religious communities, we are on a journey towards racial justice and reconciliation, as well as healing the relationships among land and people. A Bears Ears National Monument would be a profoundly meaningful place for our communities to participate in the healing process. Please use the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate the Bears Ears region as a national monument.

In hope,

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Chicago, IL

Bishop George E. Battle
Senior Bishop
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, NC

Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Indianapolis, IN

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
United Church of Christ
Cleveland, OH

Rev. Dr. Traci Blackmon
Director of Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ
St. Louis, MO

The Reverend Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Louisville, KY

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary
General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church

Sister Simone Campbell
Executive Director
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Washington, DC

Nathan Hosler
Director, Office of Public Witness
Church of the Brethren
Washington, DC

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Rev. Dr. Ian Mevorach
Co-Coordinator
American Baptist Creation Justice Network
Natick, MA

Rev. Dr. Genny Rowley
Eco-Justice Community Chair, Alliance of Baptists
Board Chair, Utah Interfaith Power and Light
Salt Lake City, Utah

The Episcopal Church

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Bears Ears controversy ramps up with Jewell's visit, Bishop's planned legislation | Deseret News

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Jul 13 2016 04:08:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Bears Ears controversy ramps up with Jewell's visit, Bishop's planned legislation | Deseret News

FYI. This article is fine. More of a preview for the bill.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ferguson, Fred" <Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov>
Date: July 13, 2016 at 6:01:54 AM EDT
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <Tommy_Beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: **Bears Ears controversy ramps up with Jewell's visit, Bishop's planned legislation | Deseret News**

Wanted to pass along. And if I could make an editorial comment, Gavin's words are very telling. I'm amazed he said that publicly.

<http://m.deseretnews.com/article/865657937/Bears-Ears-controversy-ramps-up-with-Jewells-visit-Bishops-planned-legislation.html>

Fred Ferguson
Chief of Staff
Rep. Chaffetz (UT-03)
202-631-0560 cell

Conversation Contents

Additional revised PLI maps

Attachments:

/188. Additional revised PLI maps/1.1 UPI_Wilderness_071316.pdf
/188. Additional revised PLI maps/3.1
UPI_StateFederalExchangeMap_071216.pdf

"Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>

From: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 12 2016 16:00:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
CC: Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Additional revised PLI maps
Attachments: UPI_Wilderness_071316.pdf

Nikki, Neil,

FYI -- over the past 12 hours, we have received several requests for PLI map revisions from Fred and Casey Snider, including requests for new maps of the proposed SITLA exchange, the Book Cliffs mineral withdrawal, and the Ashley Karst geological area (affects USFS).

The modifications to the wilderness and NCA maps are generally:

- Range Creek (in Carbon County) is no longer proposed for wilderness designation, and it will remain a WSA;
- 8 cherry stems for wilderness designation within the proposed Bears Ears NCA have been removed; and
- A portion of the Colorado River NCA that overlapped with the Sand Flats Recreation Area has been removed.

The parcels proposed for exchange to SITLA have changed, but the extent of the changes is unclear. We just received new data and are waiting for the map to be finalized.

The attached revised wilderness overview map has been transmitted to Fred, but we are still working on a revised overview map of all the designations for internal review purposes.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

Jamie

--

Jamie Pool
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Legislative Affairs Division (WO 620)
(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 12 2016 16:01:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional revised PLI maps

Thank you for the update. We'll just have to see what happens...

On Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Pool, Jamie <jpool@blm.gov> wrote:
Nikki, Neil,

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(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

"Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>

From: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 12 2016 19:53:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional revised PLI maps
Attachments: UPI_StateFederalExchangeMap_071216.pdf

Nikki, Neil,

As mentioned earlier, attached is the revised SITLA exchange map we transmitted to Fred tonight. It depicts lands proposed for exchange in all counties affected by PLI.

Jamie

On Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 6:01 PM, Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Thank you for the update. We'll just have to see what happens...

On Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Pool, Jamie <jpool@blm.gov> wrote:
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(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

--

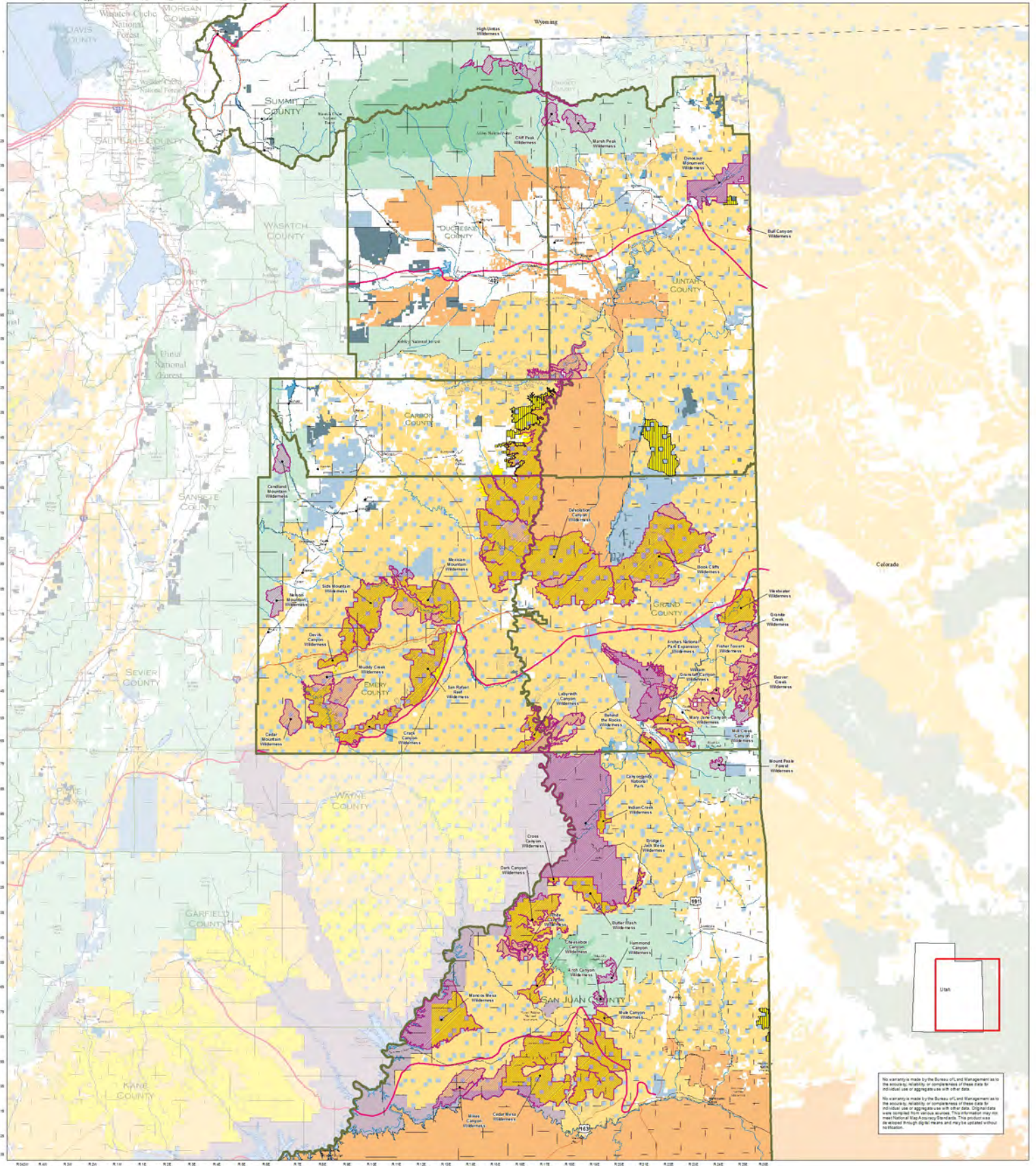
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Jamie Pool
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Legislative Affairs Division (WO 620)
(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY Utah PLI Wilderness Map

This map prepared at the request of Representative Rob Bishop and Representative Jason Chaffetz
July 13, 2016



- Proposed Wilderness Areas
- Wilderness Study Areas Proposed for Release
- BLM Wilderness Study Area
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Indian Reservation
- National Park Service
- Private Land
- State Land
- State Parks and Recreation
- State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
- US Forest Service
- US Forest Service Wilderness Area
- Historic Trails
- Interstate
- Federal Routes
- State Routes
- Rivers or Streams

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NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_North_American_1983
Datum: D_North_American_1983

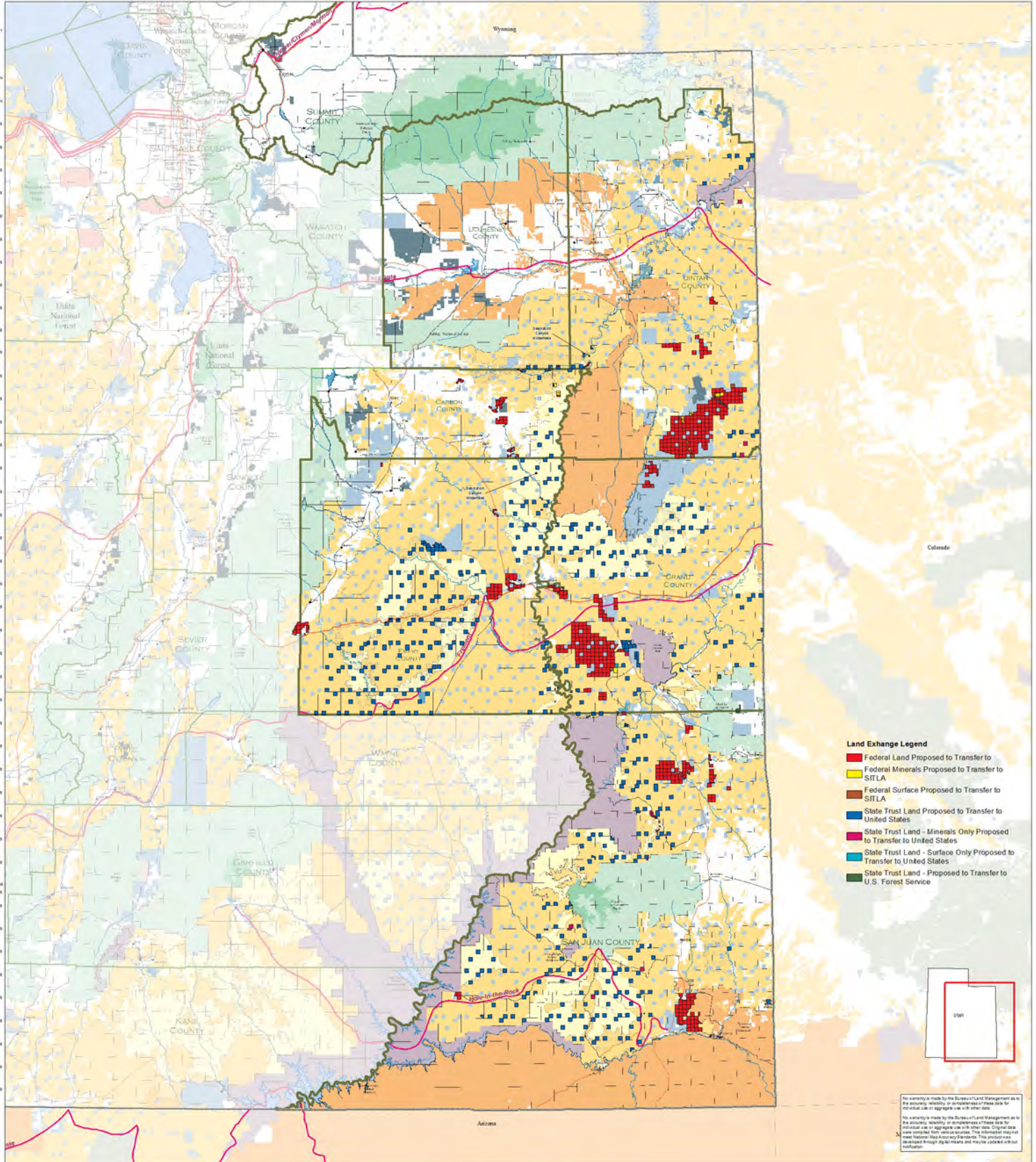


Scale = 1:400,000 when plotted at 30" x 40"

0 12.5 25 50 Miles

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY State and Federal Land Exchange Map

This map prepared at the request of Representative Rob Bishop and Representative Jason Chaffetz.
July 12, 2016



- Land Exchange Legend**
- Federal Land Proposed to Transfer to
 - Federal Minerals Proposed to Transfer to SITLA
 - Federal Surface Proposed to Transfer to SITLA
 - State Trust Land Proposed to Transfer to United States
 - State Trust Land - Minerals Only Proposed to Transfer to United States
 - State Trust Land - Surface Only Proposed to Transfer to United States
 - State Trust Land - Proposed to Transfer to U.S. Forest Service

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- BLM Wilderness Study Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Parks and Recreation
- Historic Trails
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- Indian Reservation
- State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
- Interstate
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service
- Federal Route
- Private Land
- US Forest Service Wilderness Area
- State Route
- State Land
- Rivers or Streams

Scale = 1:500,000 when plotted at 30" x 40"
NORTH

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N
Projection: Transverse_Mercator
Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_North_American_1983
Datum: D_North_American_1983



Conversation Contents

Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson

Attachments:

/195. Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson/3.1
UPI_OverviewMap_LabyrinthCanyon_071116.pdf
/195. Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson/3.2
UPI_OverviewMap_AbajoMountains_071116.pdf
/195. Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson/4.1
UPI_WildScenicRiversMap_071116.pdf

"Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>

From: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 11 2016 13:18:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
CC: Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson

Nikki, Neil,

FYI -- Fred reached out over the weekend and this morning to urgently request the following four additional maps:

1. A map depicting all of the areas proposed for designation within San Juan County;
2. A zoomed-in map depicting the proposed Labyrinth Canyon NCA and Wilderness within Grand County;
3. A zoomed-in map depicting the western Abajo Mountains (the southern half of the proposed Indian Creek NCA and the northern half of the proposed Bears Ears NCA); and
4. An updated Wild & Scenic River designation map that includes additional wild and recreational designations for the San Juan River.

Our Utah GIS team is working on these now, and we will share with you and transmit to Fred as soon as we receive. Please note that only the WSR designation map includes new data/boundary changes.

Thanks,
Jamie

--

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Jamie Pool
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Legislative Affairs Division (WO 620)
(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 11 2016 14:30:57 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson

Thanks for the update!

On Jul 11, 2016, at 3:18 PM, Pool, Jamie <jpool@blm.gov> wrote:

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Bureau of Land Management

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(202) 912-7138
jpool@blm.gov

"Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>

From: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 11 2016 18:05:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson
Attachments: UPI_OverviewMap_LabyrinthCanyon_071116.pdf
UPI_OverviewMap_AbajoMountains_071116.pdf

FYI -- attached are the zoomed-in maps of the western Abajo Mountains and Labyrinth Canyon areas requested by Fred Ferguson. The completed WSR map will follow.

Jamie

On Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 4:30 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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"Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>

From: "Pool, Jamie" <jpool@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Jul 11 2016 18:06:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Additional maps requested by Fred Ferguson
Attachments: UPI_WildScenicRiversMap_071116.pdf

FYI -- attached is the WSR map.

On Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 8:05 PM, Pool, Jamie <jpool@blm.gov> wrote:

FYI -- attached are the zoomed-in maps of the western Abajo Mountains and Labyrinth Canyon areas requested by Fred Ferguson. The completed WSR map will follow.

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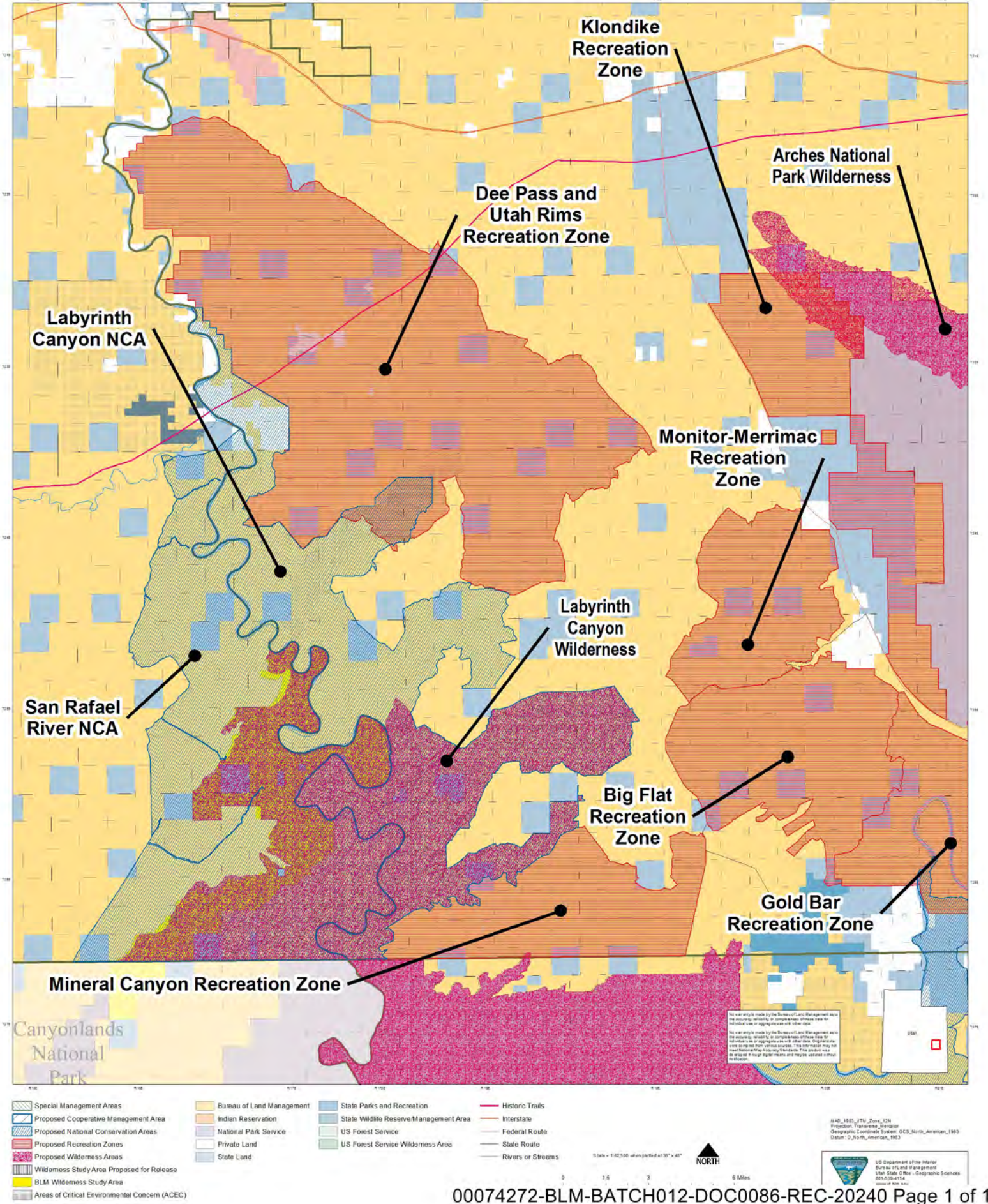
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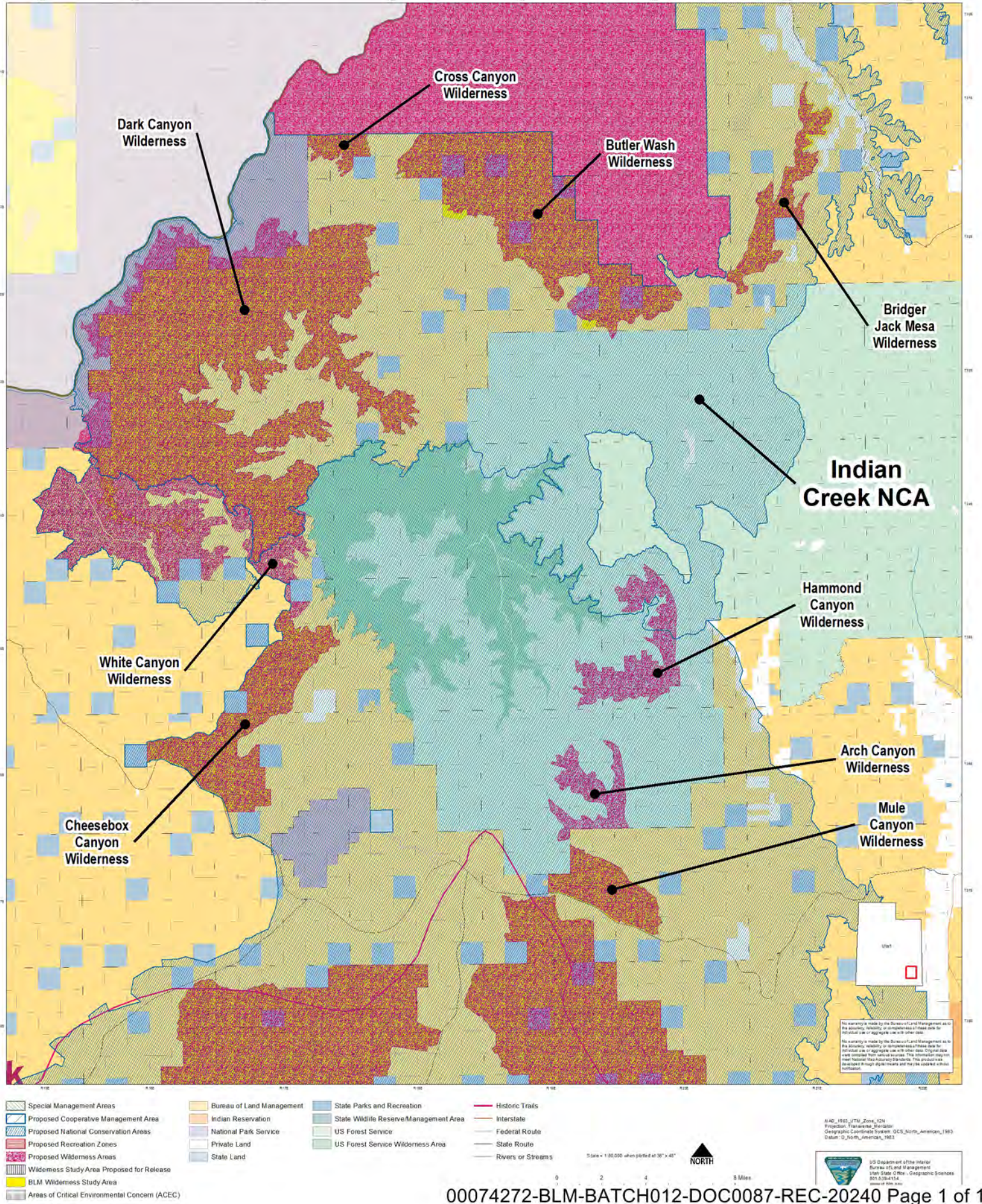
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY Utah PLI Labyrinth Canyon Area Map

This map prepared at the request of Representative Rob Bishop and Representative Jason Chaffetz.
July 11, 2016



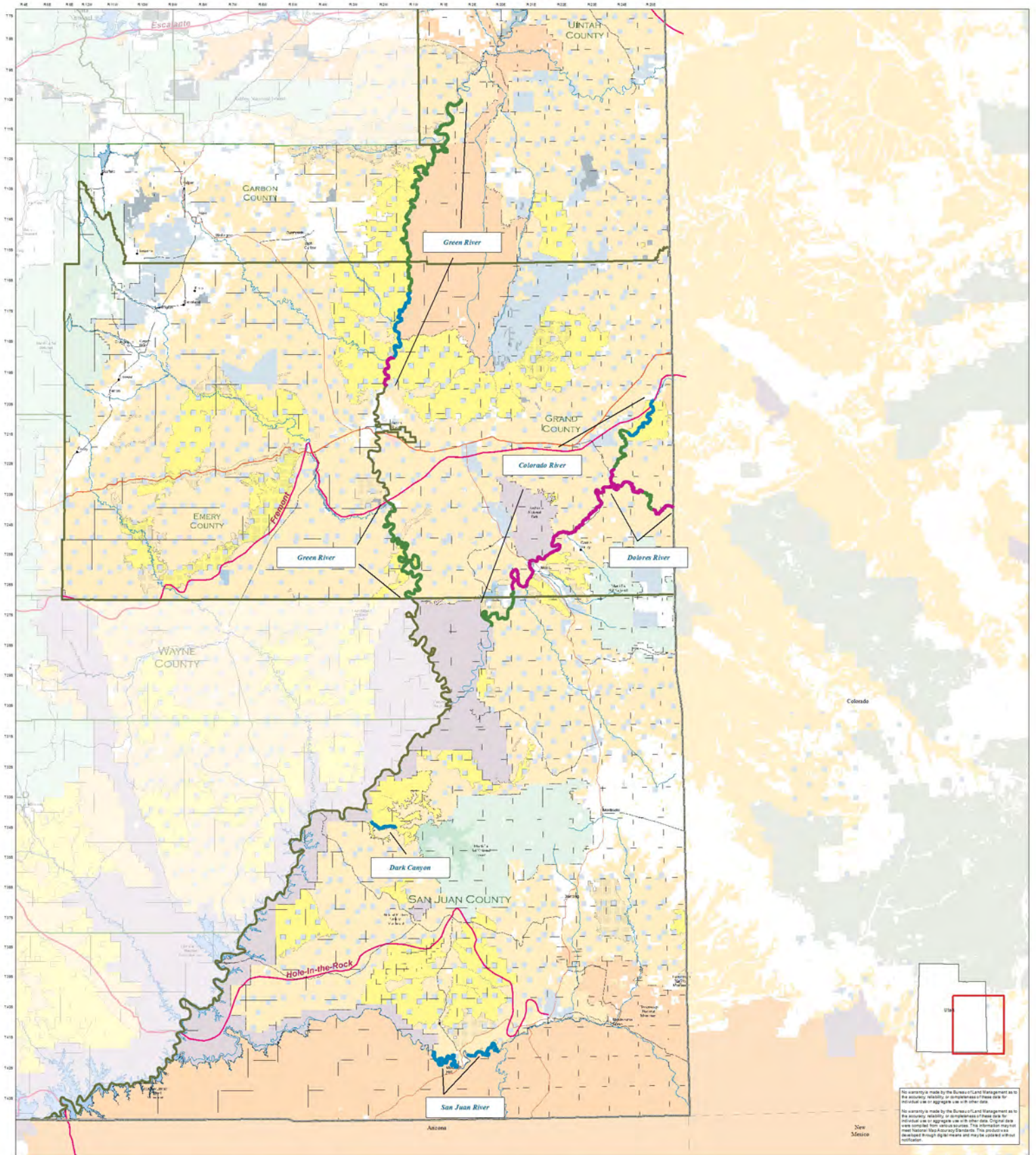
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY Utah PLI Abajo Mountains Area Map

This map prepared at the request of Representative Rob Bishop and Representative Jason Chaffetz.
July 11, 2016



FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY Utah PLI Wild and Scenic River Map

This map prepared at the request of Representative Rob Bishop and Representative Jason Chaffetz
July 11, 2016



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Proposed Recreational Rivers | Bureau of Land Management | State Parks and Recreation | Historic Trails |
| Proposed Scenic Rivers | Indian Reservation | State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area | Interstate |
| Proposed Wild Rivers | National Park Service | US Forest Service | Federal Route |
| BLM Wilderness Study Area | Private Land | US Forest Service Wilderness Area | State Route |
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) | State Land | | Rivers or Streams |

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NAD 1983, UTM, Zone 12N
Projection: Transverse_Mercator
Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_North_American_1983
Datum: D_North_American_1983



Scale = 1:375,000 when plotted at 30" x 40"

0 5 10 20 Miles



FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1504

June 23, 2016

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I encourage you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the Bears Ears region to the National Park System. I support protecting this region and sharing these important natural, archeological, and cultural resources of Southern Utah, which lie north of the Navajo Nation and the San Juan River, east of the Colorado River, and west of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation.

At over 1.9 million acres, the Bear Ears region contains abundant cultural resources, including well-preserved cliff dwellings, rock and art panels, artifacts, and Native American burials. It offers unparalleled research, educational, and recreational opportunities for scientists, educators, outdoor enthusiasts, and families.

The landscape of the region is most stunning yet fragile lands of the American west and includes magnificent red rock formations, deep carved canyons, long mesas, and rock arches. The region gets its namesake, Bears Ears, from twin buttes that lie at the heart of the majestic Cedar Mesa.

The Bears Ears region has always been important to Native American people that consider it a homeland. Many Native Americans use the lands today as a place for healing, ceremonies, and the gathering of firewood, plants, and medicinal herbs. A group of Indian nations – Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Uintah and Ouray Ute, and Ute Mountain – have petitioned to protect this area under the Antiquities Act.

Despite support from archeologists and tribal groups, these incredible places remain threatened by oil, gas, and tar sands development and rampant off-road vehicle use – activities which, while appropriate elsewhere, simply should not occur on a landscape so fragile and precious. These lands also are constantly threatened from looters that deface artifacts and plunder graves for relics.

Protecting this landscape, habitat, and priceless archeological resources is support by environmental groups nationwide, including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Sierra Club, National Resources Defense Council, the Wilderness Society, Conservation Lands Foundation, and Grand Canyon Trust.

I have long worked to protect this precious region. Given this great potential and the tremendous public and tribal support demonstrated, I support declaring the Bears Ears as a unit of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dick Durbin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dick" and last name "Durbin" clearly distinguishable.

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

The New York Times | <http://nyti.ms/1OARdxW>

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Grand Canyon Waters, at the Abyss

By MARK UDALL OCT. 14, 2015

Eldorado Springs, Colo. — I RECENTLY reunited with an old friend — not a person, but a place in Arizona, the state where I was born. It is a timeless place of great antiquity, a shrine of the ages that President Theodore Roosevelt said “man can only mar.”

Roosevelt proclaimed the Grand Canyon a national monument in 1908. In so doing, he specifically intended to prevent mining and tourist development from harming one of our nation’s most treasured landscapes. “Keep it for your children, your children’s children and all who come after you,” he said, “as the one great sight which every American should see.”

But mar it we have. An abandoned uranium mine on the canyon’s South Rim has cost taxpayers more than \$15 million to remove toxic wastes from the surface. And contaminated water — flowing underground through the mine’s radioactive ore — continues to poison a spring-fed creek deep within the canyon. It is a permanent loss at an unconscionable cost that should never be borne again.

Roosevelt’s proclamation set aside only a fraction of the Grand Canyon as a national monument. His decision rankled mining and tourist businesses in the booming Arizona territory. Local politicians and profiteers fought the postage-stamp-size monument’s further protection as a national park in 1919.

In 1975, Congress nearly doubled the park's size, declaring that the entire Grand Canyon "including tributary side canyons and surrounding plateaus, is a natural feature of national and international significance." Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, a Republican, introduced the bill. My dad, Congressman Morris Udall, a Democrat from Arizona, helped unite bipartisan support to better protect Arizona's and America's most famous natural wonder.

The Grand Canyon Enlargement Act, signed into law by President Gerald Ford four decades ago, returned more than 100,000 acres of federal land to the Havasupai tribe. It also effectively banned the building of two new dams in the canyon's upper and lower gorge. But it, too, fell short in protecting the Grand Canyon in its entirety.

Today, four uranium mines operate within the watershed that drains directly into Grand Canyon National Park. Arbitrary boundaries and antiquated rules permit these mines to threaten hundreds more life-giving seeps and springs in the desert basins below. Thousands of new mining claims on public lands that surround the canyon were put on hold by a 20-year moratorium imposed in 2012 by Ken Salazar, then the interior secretary. The National Mining Association and the Nuclear Energy Institute are suing in federal court to end the ban.

Achieving this hard-won hiatus on new uranium claims took more than five years and one of the broadest coalitions ever aligned to protect the Grand Canyon. The Havasupai, "people of blue-green water," whose sole source of drinking water is at risk, led the way. They were joined then by county supervisors, chambers of commerce, ranchers, hunters, bird-watchers, artists, scientists, Arizona's governor, game and fish commissioners and business owners. All united to stop uranium mining from permanently polluting the Grand Canyon and undermining the region's tourism-driven economy.

But the 2012 victory to halt new claims was temporary. Our challenge now is to rebuild that coalition and make the ban permanent. There's no reason to wait. President Obama can protect it now.

Congressman Raúl Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona, plans to introduce the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act next week. It was written

in collaboration with Havasupai, Hualapai and Hopi leaders. The Navajo Nation, which banned all uranium mining on its land in 2005, joined in support along with Zuni, Paiute and Yavapai leaders.

The bill aims to protect 1.7 million acres of historical tribal homeland, including water sources and sacred sites. It would preserve the Grand Canyon's rich heritage of "biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational and scientific values." It would make permanent the 20-year ban on new mining claims but would allow hunting, grazing, recreation and all other uses to continue under existing laws.

Unfortunately, there's almost no chance that the legislation will gain approval in today's gridlocked Congress. But the 1906 Antiquities Act gives the president unilateral authority to set aside federal lands as protected national monuments to stop the looting of archaeological sites and for reasons of "historic or scientific interest."

This past summer, President Obama used this authority to protect over one million acres of federal land in California, Nevada and Texas. Now we must prevail upon the president to permanently protect the Grand Canyon's sacred waters.

Earlier this year, my wife and I were invited to join native leaders on a rafting trip through the Grand Canyon. We've made many such trips before. But this time, at nearly every spring along the way, we stopped to pray.

All water is sacred to those who have learned to live where it is scarce. We must defend the Grand Canyon's sacred waters from unconscionable loss.

Mark Udall, who represented Colorado as a Democrat in the Senate from 2009 to 2015, is a member of the board of the Grand Canyon Trust.

A version of this op-ed appears in print on October 14, 2015, on page A25 of the New York edition with the headline: Grand Canyon Waters, at the Abyss.

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CRESENT HARDY, NV
DARIN LAHOOD, IL

JASON KNOX
STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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NORMA J. TORRES, CA
DEBBIE DINGELL, MI
RUBEN GALLEGO, AZ
LOIS CAPPS, CA
JARED POLIS, CO
Wm. LACY CLAY, MO

DAVID WATKINS
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

July 7, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewel:

I write to invite you and key members of your staff to join me and Tribal representatives for a discussion about the future of the greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed. The discussion would be hosted at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. We would also like to host you along with local elected officials at a public forum to hear from interested members of the public.

The greater Grand Canyon region is home to nationally-significant biological, ecological, cultural, historical, recreational, geological, hydrological, educational, scenic and scientific values, including above-ground tributaries, springs, and interconnected groundwater that contribute significantly to the Colorado River.

Tribal representatives, my staff, and I spent the last year deliberating and cooperatively working to craft a legislative proposal to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (H.R. 3882). The proposed National Monument would secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience the rich history and sacred beauty of this area through collaboration and cooperative management, as well as protecting water quality for millions of Americans.

The decision by your predecessor, former Secretary Salazar, to protect this region from new mining claims through a 20-year withdrawal was courageous and visionary; these protections must now be made permanent. In addition to the merits of our legislative proposal, we would also welcome the opportunity to discuss protections which may be available for this region pursuant to the Antiquities Act.

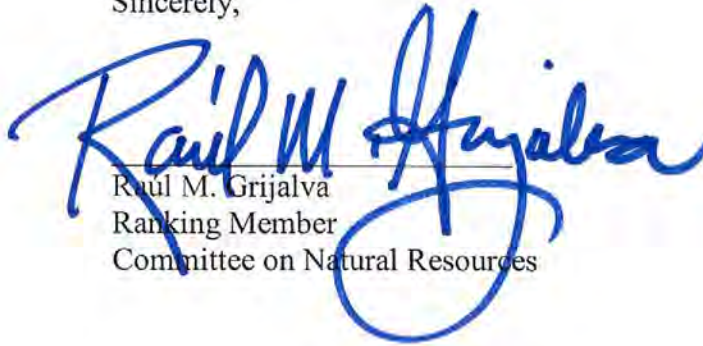
These events could be arranged on the following dates, at your convenience:

- Monday, August 1st through Friday, August 5th
- Monday, August 8th
- Wednesday, August 10th
- Monday, August 15th through Wednesday, August 17th
- Monday, August 22nd through Wednesday, August 24th
- Friday, August 26th

Please have your staff contact David Watkins, Democratic Staff Director, House Natural Resources Committee, regarding this request.

I look forward to your response and to discussing this with you further.

Sincerely,



Raul M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

Conversation Contents

Fwd: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering

Attachments:

/207. Fwd: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering/1.1 Bears Ears Gathering Invitation2016.pdf

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 05 2016 16:04:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Larry Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Sarah Walters <sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, liz_pardue@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering
Attachments: Bears Ears Gathering Invitation2016.pdf

As with last year, it would be great if you guys could attend.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk <rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org>
To: "molly_click@ios.doi.gov" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov" <scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Alfred Lomahquahu <alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us>
Subject: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering

Good afternoon,

Please accept the attached invitation to the 2016 Bears Ears Summer Gathering.

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council
Ph: (970) 564-5601

"Walters, Sarah" <sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Walters, Sarah" <sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 05 2016 17:05:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jon Jarvis
<jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Larry Roberts
CC: <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster
<maureen_foster@nps.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue"
<liz_pardue@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering

The PDF is corrupt.

On Tue, Jul 5, 2016 at 6:04 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
As with last year, it would be great if you guys could attend.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk <rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org>
To: "molly_click@ios.doi.gov" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov" <scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Alfred Lomahquahu <alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us>
Subject: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering

Good afternoon,

Please accept the attached invitation to the 2016 Bears Ears Summer Gathering.

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council
Ph: (970) 564-5601
Cell: (970) 529-6695

--
Sarah Walters

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240
Ph. (202) 208-7163
Fax (202) 208-5320

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 05 2016 18:08:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Walters, Sarah" <sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov>
Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jon Jarvis
<jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Larry Roberts
CC: <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster
<maureen_foster@nps.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue"
<liz_pardue@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering

Will resend from my desk in the morning. I can see it from my phone. But sometimes, there are issues.

On Jul 5, 2016, at 7:05 PM, Walters, Sarah <sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

The PDF is corrupt.

On Tue, Jul 5, 2016 at 6:04 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

As with last year, it would be great if you guys could attend.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
<rwhiteskunk@utemountain.org>
To: "molly_click@ios.doi.gov" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov"
<scheduling_sio@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov"
<nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Alfred Lomahquahu
<alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us>
Subject: 2016 Bears Ears Gathering

Good afternoon,

Please accept the attached invitation to the 2016 Bears Ears

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Summer Gathering.

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk
Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council
Ph: (970) 564-5601
Cell: (970) 529-6695

--

Sarah Walters
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240
Ph. (202) 208-7163
Fax (202) 208-5320

PLACE HOLDER

Attachment is corrupted

“Bears Ears Gathering Invitation2016.pdf”

Conversation Contents

Response from Bears Ears coalition.

Attachments:

/210. Response from Bears Ears coalition./1.1

BearsEarsLetterUtahDelegation062916.pdf

/210. Response from Bears Ears coalition./1.2 ATT00001.txt

"Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>

From: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Sent: Wed Jun 29 2016 21:20:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Response from Bears Ears coalition.
Attachments: BearsEarsLetterUtahDelegation062916.pdf ATT00001.txt



BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

A Partnership of the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Governments

June 29, 2016

Senator Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rob Bishop
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Mike Lee
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Jason Chaffetz
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Hatch and Lee and Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz:

Thank you for your letter of June 24th requesting a meeting with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition regarding your Public Lands Initiative.

As you know, we withdrew from the Public Lands Initiative process late last year. We set out in detail our reasons for withdrawing in a letter to you dated December 31, 2015. In the intervening months, your approach toward our proposal and our coalition have reaffirmed the concerns expressed in our December letter.

Accordingly, we respectfully decline your invitation. We are satisfied that a Bears Ears National Monument proclaimed by President Obama under his authority granted by the Antiquities Act presents the best opportunity to protect the Bears Ears landscape and assure a strong Native American voice in monument management. We hope you will join us in supporting a Bears Ears National Monument.

Respectfully,

Alfred Lomahquahu

Hopi Vice-Chairman

Co-Chair, Bears Ears

Inter-tribal Coalition

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Council Member

Co-Chair, Bears Ears

Inter-tribal Coalition

Conversation Contents

Attachments:

/211. /1.1 Bears Ears PLI Meeting Request[1].pdf

"Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>

From: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Sent: Wed Jun 29 2016 14:53:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject:
Attachments: Bears Ears PLI Meeting Request[1].pdf

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Wed Jun 29 2016 20:52:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Subject: Re:

Thank you for sharing this. It was great to see you today.

Neil

On Jun 29, 2016, at 4:54 PM, Tanner, John (Hatch) <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov> wrote:

<Bears Ears PLI Meeting Request[1].pdf>

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2016

Dear Chairwoman Whiteskunk and Chairman Lomahquahu:

On behalf of our offices, we write to formally request a meeting with you and your fellow tribal leaders, who make up the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit feedback on updated materials regarding the Utah Public Lands Initiative in southeastern Utah.

We understand the limited timeframe under which we are all working and the significant scheduling demands of all those involved. Members of our staff are available to meet with each of you or your designee(s) at your earliest convenience and at a location of your choosing. Following staff level discussions, we would like to find a time of mutual convenience for a larger meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



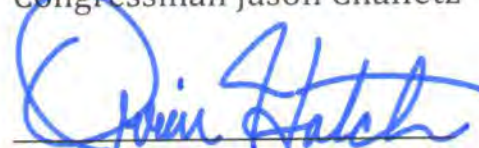
Congressman Rob Bishop



Congressman Jason Chaffetz



Senator Mike Lee



Senator Orrin Hatch

Conversation Contents

Fwd: FW: Meeting with Tommy Beaudreau

Attachments:

/264. Fwd: FW: Meeting with Tommy Beaudreau/1.1 PLI - Nikki.pdf

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Jan 14 2016 15:39:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Meeting with Tommy Beaudreau
Attachments: PLI - Nikki.pdf

See attached from Fred. He asked that I not share this except with you two.

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

The Public Lands Initiative

The Public Lands Initiative (PLI) is a locally-driven effort to bring resolution to some of the most challenging land disputes in the State of Utah. The initiative is rooted in the belief that conservation and economic development can coexist and make Utah a better place to live, work, and visit.

The purpose of this document is to summarize the 20 different sections of the draft legislation, known as the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act.

The PLI Region

The PLI Region covers 7 eastern Utah counties, encompassing approximately 18 million acres of federal land. Member of the Utah Congressional Delegation, local officials, and stakeholders have met over 1,200 times in an effort to craft a comprehensive land-use plan for the entire region.

PLI Process

Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz launched PLI in February 2013. Since that time, more than 120 different stakeholders have submitted more than 65 detailed proposals regarding land management in eastern Utah. Altogether, their offices have held more than 1,200 meetings with local and tribal leaders, interested parties, and subject matter experts.

For more information, please visit www.UtahPLI.com.

Division A – Conservation

The first half of the legislation covers land protection and conservation. This section of the bill offers protection for places like the Bears Ears, Arches, Labyrinth Canyon, and the Book Cliffs (among many many others). In total, the Conservation Division of PLI would designate 4,336,289 acres of federal land and 406 miles of rivers.

Title I – Wilderness

PLI will create 40 wilderness areas covering 2,202,400 acres of federal land. Wilderness is the most restrictive federal land designation and ensures that rugged landscapes will remain intact for future generations to enjoy. PLI will bring the total wilderness acreage in the participating counties to 2,707,443 acres, larger than the entire states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

Title II – National Conservation Areas

PLI creates 14 National Conservation Areas covering 1,916,206 acres of federal land. Like wilderness, NCAs offer protection to worthy landscapes found on federal land. But where NCAs differ from wilderness is that they offer greater flexibility for multiple-uses and opportunities for local involvement in the land management process.

Title III - Special Management Areas

PLI creates five Special Management Areas covering 197,558 acres of federal land. SMA's are located on National Forest System lands and offer similar protection and flexibility of National Conservation Areas.

Title IV – Arches National Park Expansion

The Delicate Arch, one of Utah's most recognizable landmarks, will be further protected under PLI. Arches National Park will be expanded by 19,255 acres, ensuring the area behind Delicate Arch remains untouched and protected.

Title V – Jurassic National Monument

The Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry is home to the largest concentration of Jurassic-era dinosaur fossils in the world. With seasonal closures and limited resources at the current BLM site, a bottom-up process of local stakeholders determined that this site warrants National Monument status as part of the PLI legislative effort. This enhanced status will help to increase visitation and support the mission of this world-class, 867-acre area.

Title VI – Wild and Scenic River Designations

PLI will designate 406 miles of five different Utah rivers as wild, scenic and recreation.

This equals the approximate distance between New York City and Norfolk, Virginia.

Title VII – Ashley Creek Recreational and Special Management Area

Ashley Creek Recreational and Special Management area will facilitate all-season outdoor recreation and forest product development in the vast 110,838 acre area. Mineral development and extraction will be prohibited in order to promote and protect the outdoor recreation experience.

Division B – Opportunity

The second half of the legislation covers recreation and economic development opportunities. Maximizing Utah's education trust fund, local park management, and long-term certainty are accomplished through the various titles of the Opportunity Division. In total, this section would provide for new recreation and economic development opportunities on 1,041,786 acres of land.

Title I – School Trust Land Consolidations

Utah's public education system is supported by a little known state agency called SITLA. SITLA's mission is to manage remote parcels of state land for the benefit of the state's education trust fund. PLI would consolidate roughly 336,441 acres of state land in locations that would maximize revenue for Utah's school kids.

Title IA – Book Cliffs Roadless Area

SITLA will also swap minerals in the Book Cliffs Roadless Area for more accessible minerals in the Uintah Basin. This swap will support the education trust fund while also providing for the 35,891 acre Book Cliffs Roadless Area to be protected and managed by the state of Utah for its scenic and wildlife values.

Title IB – Wilderness Release

PLI will release from temporary wilderness study status five different units totaling 68,370 acres. These lands do not merit wilderness status and will be returned to multiple-use.

Title II – Goblin Valley State Park

The greater Goblin Valley State Park area has experienced a large increase in recreators, campers, and general visitors. A bottom-up process involving BLM, Emery County, and Utah State Parks has identified a solution that would expand Goblin Valley State Park and create a co-management area within the greater park region. PLI expands the park by 9,994 acres and creates a 166,829 acre co-management area that protects resources and manages recreation.

Title III – Price Canyon State Forest

PLI creates Utah's first state forest. Scattered parcels of state lands will be reconsolidated into one location in Carbon County, Utah, creating the 13,321 acre Price Canyon State Forest.

Title IV – Deer Lodge Land Exchange

There are 233 acres of Land Exchanges in the Deer Lodge Exchange.

Title V – Scofield Land Transfers

Land ownership records in and around Scofield State Park are incomplete. Various administrative errors, dating back more than 50 years in some instances, have left homeowners and the federal government at odds over who owns what land. This section seeks to remedy the confusion by creating a framework for the homeowners and the federal government to resolve the disputes.

Title VI – Land Conveyances

PLI empowers state and local land management through the conveyance of 22 parcels of federal land totaling 40,290 acres. The purpose of the conveyances is to facilitate and enhance recreation and public use of local lands. Expansion of the Canyonlands Field Airport, transfer of the historic Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, and creation of the Fantasy Canyon State Park are among some of the conveyances authorized in this section.

Title VII – Land Disposals

There are over 30 Land Disposals in Emery County covering 5,094 acres of land identified in PLI.

Title VIII – Canyon Country Recreation Zones

The Big Flat Working Group divided portions of Grand County into seven different recreation-planning zones. Within each zone, various objectives were outlined, from mineral lease retirement to expanded motorized and mechanized use. This section codifies the work done by the Grand County group.

PLI also creates two recreation zones in San Juan County to facilitate motorized and mechanized recreation. In total, PLI creates 375,689 acres of recreation zones between the two counties.

Title IX – Red Rock County Off-Highway Vehicle Trail

Motorized recreation enthusiasts have long searched for a trail system that connects Grand Junction, Colorado to Moab, Utah to Green River, Utah. The 93 mile Red Rock Country OHV Trail created by PLI would connect these western recreation towns and boost local economic activity.

Title X – Long-term Native American Economic Development

Native American tribes are active participants in the PLI process. The Navajo Nation, Ute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute are among the many tribes that must gain economic development advantages under PLI. Mineral transfers at McCracken Mesa, land transfers along the San Juan River, and other provisions should be included to enhance economic

opportunities for Native Americans. This title needs more work; more ideas from tribal leaders are needed to help enhance economic development opportunities in the tribal communities.

Title XI – Long-term Energy Development Certainty

Geologic experts within the Bureau of Land Management have categorized certain federal lands as being “open” to energy development. Lands determined to be open do not merit protective status. The highest and best use of this land is energy development. PLI ensures that lands identified by experts as being “open” will be leased and developed in a streamlined, timely manner.

Title XII – Long-term Travel Management Certainty

The State of Utah has gained ownership of approximately 78 miles of R.S. 2477 claims through litigation and settlement over the past 19 years. Nearly 36,000 miles remain unresolved. This section seeks to strike a balance that would result in the State of Utah gaining ownership over a large majority of unresolved claims within the PLI counties.

Title XIII– Long-term Land Use Certainty

Lincoln County, Nevada is home to the Basin and Range National Monument. President Obama created this monument just 10 years after the local community enacted the Lincoln County lands bill. This lands bill was created in a process very similar to PLI. The fact the president doubled the size of the Lincoln County lands bill after an exhaustive, locally-driven process is troubling. The Utah Congressional delegation and many local leaders do not want this unilateral action to be repeated. The final PLI bill must include language that guarantees long-term land use certainty. The delegation has language it prefers, but is instead asking PLI participants to craft language that ensures a large-scale national monument is not created within the PLI counties.

Conversation Contents

Meeting request re: Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears

Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>

From: Josh Ewing <josh@cedarmesafriends.org>
Sent: Wed Jan 06 2016 09:49:58 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Meeting request re: Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears

Dear Director Kornze: I'm writing to request a meeting with you regarding efforts to protect internationally significant natural and cultural resources in the Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears areas. I run an organization called Friends of Cedar Mesa, based in Bluff, Utah. We work to steward public lands of southeastern Utah via volunteer projects, research, education, and advocacy.

A small group of us will be visiting Washington DC **Monday, January 25th through Wednesday, January 27th.**

Joining me for meetings will be:

Vaughn Hadenfeldt, Friends of Cedar Mesa Board Chair and longtime backpacking guide
Bill Doelle, Archaeology Southwest Executive Director
Sam Mix, Osprey Packs Conduit for Corporate Outreach

We would like to speak briefly with you about ongoing damage to archaeological resources, the critical importance of this area to recreation enthusiasts from around the world, and our thoughts about possible legislative and administrative actions to conserve this area, including collaborative management ideas.

Please let me know if you would entertain a meeting with us during the above dates. And if you aren't available, perhaps you could suggest a colleague or two at BLM we could meet.

Thanks in advance for considering our request.

--

Josh Ewing

Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa
(801) 410-0773 - PO Box 338, Bluff, UT 84512
cedarmesafriends.org - Twitter: @joshewing - Facebook.com/cedarmesafriends

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Wed Jan 06 2016 09:51:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Claudia B Walker <cbwalker@blm.gov>, Jamie T Harrison <jharriso@blm.gov>
CC: James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Meeting request re: Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears

scheduling

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josh Ewing** <josh@cedar mesa friends.org>
Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2016 at 11:49 AM
Subject: Meeting request re: Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears
To: nkornze@blm.gov
Cc: Claudia_walker@blm.gov

Dear Director Kornze: I'm writing to request a meeting with you regarding efforts to protect internationally significant natural and cultural resources in the Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears areas. I run an organization called Friends of Cedar Mesa, based in Bluff, Utah. We work to steward public lands of southeastern Utah via volunteer projects, research, education, and advocacy.

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Thanks in advance for considering our request.

—
Josh Ewing

Executive Director, Friends of Cedar Mesa

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

(801) 410-0773 - PO Box 338, Bluff, UT 84512

cedarmesafriends.org - Twitter: @joshewing - Facebook.com/cedarmesafriends

Conversation Contents

Utah

Attachments:

I267. Utah/1.1 BEIC_123115_pressrelease_final.pdf

I267. Utah/1.2 BEIC_Bishop_Letter_123115.pdf

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 31 2015 09:30:22 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Lawrence Roberts <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Utah
Attachments: BEIC_123115_pressrelease_final.pdf
BEIC_Bishop_Letter_123115.pdf

Hi All - I just received these docs from the tribal coalition representing the Bears Ears monument proposal. Evidently, the Tribes have decided to end discussions with Bishop and Chaffetz on the PLI, and plan to focus their attention on working with the WH on an Administrative solution. Please take a look and we can discuss at a later date.

Thanks,
Nikki

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 31 2015 09:30:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Utah

Thank you for your note. I am away from the office. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact Anita Bilbao, Chief of Staff, at abilbao@blm.gov or at 202-208-3801.

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Neil



For Immediate Release

Contact: Natasha Hale at 505-906-8303 or BearsEarsPress@gmail.com.

BEARS EARS COALITION FORCED TO BREAK OFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONGRESSMEN CAUSED BY BROKEN PROMISES AND MISSED DEADLINES

DECEMBER 31, 2015 — On December 31st, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition sent a formal letter, which is attached, to Utah Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz, discontinuing discussions over including tribal objectives in the Congressmen’s Public Lands Initiative. The PLI is a process initiated in 2013 by Congressman Bishop to resolve long-standing disputes over conservation on federal public lands in Eastern Utah.

The Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Tribes created the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in July of this year with the mission to protect and preserve the Bears Ears region in Southern Utah. The sovereign-led proposal is formally supported by an additional 19 Tribes as well as the National Congress of American Indians.

The tribes developed a comprehensive proposal for a 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Monument, encompassing a glorious landscape that had been tribal homeland since time immemorial. Indian people were forcibly removed to reservations starting in the mid 1800’s. The area is now federal public land.

The tribes submitted a detailed and creative proposal to President Obama on October 15th. The President has broad authority to create National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and Bears Ears is a leading candidate. The Coalition is hopeful that the President would grant Bears Ears monument status, but decided to try first the Congressional route of the PLI to satisfy recommendations of the Utah delegation.

“Our proposal confirms tribal cooperation and support and is at its core a process of healing, not only for our people, but our land,” stated Zuni Councilman Carleton Bowekaty.

In its letter, the Coalition detailed a long and callous PLI pattern of “not taking seriously” the concerns of tribes. In numerous meetings, the tribes put forward compelling, specific

reasons for protecting Bears Ears. But the Coalition never received any responses to the proposal, positive or negative, just continuing delay.

This has been a problem with the PLI, which has been consistently plagued by missed deadlines. PLI representatives promised a draft proposal by November 30th, and then guaranteed delivery of a report by December 30th, but the draft report has never been delivered. The Coalition still had not received any idea of what the PLI intends to do.

The tribes also faced outright discrimination by the San Juan County Commission. The Commission promised to include the tribal proposal in its citizen survey, but then reneged. A write-in campaign ensued and the tribal proposal received an overwhelming 64% of the votes. The Commission then recommended an industry-supported proposal which received less than 1% of the votes. The Coalition's letter described this as "extraordinary unfairness" and "the kind of raw, heavy-handed political overreaching rarely seen in America today."

"Hopi has been instructed to speak and act with the full authority as a sovereign tribe in order to protect all Tuwakatsi, which includes Bears Ears. As Vice Chairman, I stand by my people's priorities to do so as a member of our Coalition", stated Bears Ears Co-Chair Alfred Lomahquahu.

The tribes concluded that the Coalition had "no choice" but to discontinue PLI negotiations. Now the tribes will turn to the Obama Administration for monument designation under the Antiquities Act. President Obama has on several occasions welcomed tribal national monument proposals.

Ute Mountain Ute Councilwoman Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk stated, "The President has a responsibility to think and act to take care of her because we all share one mother, and that's Mother Earth."

###



BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

A Partnership of the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Governments

December 31, 2015

Hon. Rob Bishop
Hon. Jason Chaffetz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Status of the Bears Ears Coalition-PLI Discussions

Dear Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz:

The Coalition held a day-long meeting on December 30, 2015 at the White Mesa Tribal Headquarters. Most of the meeting consisted of a full-scale review and evaluation of the discussions with PLI. These are the results of our deliberations.

On July 16, 2015, the Coalition, knowing that it would be extremely difficult, set a firm deadline of October 15 for submitting to President Obama and the PLI a comprehensive proposal for a Bears Ears National Monument. After an intensive series of well-attended drafting meetings, we met that deadline. In discussing what steps we should take next, we considered whether we should first negotiate with the PLI to see if congressional action might make it unnecessary for the President to declare a monument under the Antiquities Act. We concluded that we should meet with the PLI first and resolved to make our best effort to achieve a satisfactory congressional resolution.

In doing so, we are very conscious of our obligations to our ancestors. The events leading up to our proposal of October 15, 2015 have been long in the making. Ever since the 1800s, when all Indian people residing in the Bears Ears area were forcibly removed, we have grieved and suffered great pain over the treatment of these ancestral lands. The looting and grave robbing has been extensive, despicable, and continuous. Irresponsible mining and off-road vehicle use have torn up the ground. These and other actions have violated and despoiled our ancestors' homes and other structures. Generations of misuse and other bad conduct have interfered with, and sometimes nearly destroyed, our gathering of medicines and herbs, sacred ceremonies, family gatherings, and individual prayers and offerings, all the things that heal us and the land. But our people revere the Bears Ears area, and we continue to visit it in spite of the conduct of others because for us it remains a special place, where we can be among our ancestors and their songs and wisdom, where the traumas of the past can be alleviated, where we can connect with the land and our deepest values and heal.

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We were very apprehensive about entering into discussions with the PLI. Up to that time, the PLI had never taken us seriously. This was in spite of the fact that we worked tirelessly on the PLI process, putting in as much or more effort as any party involved in the process. We made at least 25 presentations at PLI meetings, complete with maps, a two-page summary of the UDB proposal (the precursor to the pending Coalition proposal), and substantial oral presentations. Congressional staff was present at approximately a dozen of these meetings. We also made eight separate trips to Washington DC to meet with the Utah delegation; at each of those meetings, we made extensive statements complete with maps and a summary of the proposal. At all of these meetings, both in the field and in Washington DC, we asked for comments on our proposal. Our extensive and unwavering efforts to engage in the PLI process are cataloged in great detail in Exhibit One of our proposal.

It was to no avail. In no instance did anyone from the Utah delegation or the PLI make a single substantive comment, positively or negatively, on our proposal.

Our painful experience with attempting to make an inroad into the PLI process was epitomized by our dealings with the San Juan County Commission. Although the proponents of the PLI described the process as "open" and "ground-up." PLI leaders said that they were relying heavily on county commissions. We were repeatedly told to present our proposal to the San Juan County commission.

The San Juan County Commission conducted a public comment process on PLI in 2014. The UDB proposal was identified as "Alternative D." Commission staff agreed to include Alternative D in the list of alternatives. Then the staff changed that commitment and refused to include Alternative D on the list.

Supporters of Alternative D waged a write-in campaign. Despite being omitted from the list, Alternative D received 300 positive comments, 64% of the 467 total comments received. The Commission then completely rejected the results of its own survey—and the wishes of the Indian people who comprise 53% of the population of San Juan County—and selected the heavy-development, low conservation "Alternative B." Alternative B had received just two comments, one half of 1% of the total.

In spite of the extraordinary unfairness of this proceeding—the kind of raw, heavy-handed political overreaching rarely seen in America today—at no time has San Juan County, the PLI, or the Utah delegation ever seen fit to acknowledge it, much less apologize and disown it.

Because of the frustration and resentment caused by this long progression of events, the Native people supporting protection for Bears Ears requested the sovereign Indian nations to take the lead in requesting action from President Obama and attempting to obtain satisfactory legislation from the PLI process. Our five sovereign Indian nations, the Hopi, Navajo, Uintah & Ouray Ute, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni then formally created the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition in July 2015.

Despite all of the past difficulties, after the completion of our proposal on October 15 we entered into these discussions with PLI with open minds. Two meetings have been held, on October 29 at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Headquarters in Towaoc and on November 30 on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. Both meetings were characterized by civil discourse. There was, however, almost nothing substantive from the PLI side. We asked several times for reactions,

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positive or negative, to our proposal but received no substantive responses. The closest was the statement by a PLI staff member at the Towaoc meeting that “we like the idea of cooperative management.” Cooperative management, however, is a broad term with many applications and definitions. Our proposal calls for a strong and unique definition of collaborative management that the staff did not comment on.

At the Coalition meeting on December 30, we reflected on the two recent meetings and realized that they fit into the pattern that we have long experienced with the PLI. At the public meetings on the PLI, the moderators, including the Congressmen, were always polite. When we went back to Washington DC in 2013-2015 for our eight meetings with the Utah delegation and staff, everyone was polite and friendly. They were pleasant meetings. But they offered no substantive engagement at all. The same was true with our recent meetings in Towaoc and Washington DC. Despite our inquiries, PLI representatives had nothing to say about the proposal that we had so painstakingly developed. Once again, we were not being taken seriously.

This was all underscored by the events directly leading up to our recent December 30 Coalition meeting. That day was not supposed to be a Coalition meeting.

At the end of the November 30, 2015 meeting in Washington DC, both sides talked about the next meeting date; we all agreed that December 30 was a most promising date and that we would all check our calendars. For us, this was late: it was a month away, and from the beginning we had made it clear—and PLI staffers agreed—that time was of the essence. Still, we were willing to do it.

On December 15, 2015, PLI staff advised us that Congressman Chaffetz would be unable to attend a meeting on December 30. We promptly responded with our regrets but asked for confirmation that the staff would still be able to meet on December 30. A week later, on December 23, a lead staffer responded that he would be unable to attend the December 30 meeting and we were advised on December 29 that the other staffers could not attend.

These cancellations complicated matters for us considerably. Needless to say, December 30 was not a convenient date for us, but we all had set it aside because of the importance of these negotiations.

In addition, we were shocked by the staff's December 23 email. At the October 29 meeting in Towaoc, the PLI representatives assured us that a PLI draft would be available soon, perhaps as early as November. That did not occur. Then, at the November 30 meeting in Washington DC, PLI staff “guaranteed” that we would receive the PLI draft before December 30. But, to our surprise, on December 23, PLI staff advised us that the promised draft PLI would not be available on December 30. We had depended upon receiving the draft PLI so that we would have a basis for determining the thrust of the PLI's view of our proposal. Now, after 2 1/2 months since providing them with our proposal on the date promised, we had not received a single reaction to it. On December 24, Tribal Leaders convened a conference call to discuss options including discontinuation of discussions with PLI. Coalition members then spent December 30 discussing in detail the state of the negotiations with PLI from beginning to end.

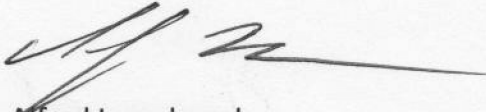
We have come to the conclusion that we have no choice but to discontinue these discussions. Our strenuous efforts to participate in the PLI, and related proceedings before that over the course of the past six years, have been consistently stonewalled. We have never been taken

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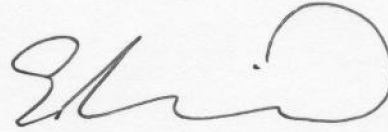
seriously. Now, 2 1/2 months after submitting our proposal to you, we have received no reactions at all from you on our proposal. The promised draft PLI was never delivered. All of this is consistent with PLI's repeated failures to meet deadlines. Our five sovereign tribal nations, and our carefully-drafted comprehensive proposal, deserve far more than that.

Again, time is of the essence. We don't feel we can wait any longer before engaging with the Obama Administration concerning our proposal in the hope that they will advance our proposal via the Antiquities Act. If, at some point, you decide to submit to us a comprehensive proposal for what you specifically intend to include in the PLI legislation and process, including a firm date for passage by Congress, then we will promptly review that submission and advise you as to whether it would be worthwhile for us to re-establish discussions. In the meantime, we have no choice but to turn our attention to working with the Obama Administration.

Respectfully,



Alfred Lomahquahu
Co-Chair
Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition



Eric Descheenie
Co-Chair
Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition

Conversation Contents

Thank you! And encouraging greater diversity of public lands

Attachments:

/268. Thank you! And encouraging greater diversity of public lands/1.1 President Obama Please Protect More Public Lands.pdf

<earthws@aol.com>

From: <earthws@aol.com>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 14:45:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: <Sally_Jewell@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Thank you! And encouraging greater diversity of public lands
Attachments: President Obama Please Protect More Public Lands.pdf

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your leadership on all fronts to protect and expand our publicly-owned lands system.

The members of the Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers Bureau support the expansion of the system and particularly recognize the need for the units managed by the DOI to increasingly reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of our great country.

As you will see from the attached letter we have sent to President Obama, the Center for American Progress has cited the great inequality of having less than 15% representation of diverse ethnicities, women and the LGBT community among our national parks and historic sites. We trust that your long-standing and intimate connections with these issues will inspire you and the administration to institute the lasting changes we are calling for.

Sincerely,

Audrey and Frank Peterman

www.delnsb.com

www.earthwiseproductionsinc.com

Twitter: @Audreypete

Facebook: Audrey Peterman



www.DELnsb.com
3 404.432.2839

A Program of
Earthwise Productions, Inc.
11200 NW 20th Court
Plantation, FL 33323

December 1, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama,

America is forever in your debt for the leadership and sensitivity you have demonstrated in caring for and preserving our publicly-owned lands, and in particular for conserving historic and cultural sites that honor the experiences of our diverse population. As Americans of African, Asian, Hispanic and Native descent who have toured our national parks, forests and wildlife refuges from Alaska to the US Virgin Islands, we know from experience the sense of liberation and belonging that comes from finding our stories reflected in these protected places.

With the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service hurtling toward us, the 50-plus associates in the Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers Bureau join us in encouraging you to continue using the Antiquities Act to increase the number and diversity of units across the public lands spectrum. According to the Center for American Progress, less than 15-percent of units in our National Park System reflect the contributions of non-white Americans, women and members of the LGBT community. The disparity is even greater throughout our national forests and wildlife refuge systems, and lands managed by the BLM.

We encourage you to continue to use the power of your office to protect more of our natural, cultural and historically significant lands and structures across the nation. For example, communities around the country are eagerly seeking the protection of places such as Stonewall Inn in New York City, often regarded as the single-most important place in the evolution of the LGBT movement; Freedom Riders Park in Anniston, Alabama, where the Civil Rights movement was strengthened after Black riders testing the limits of interstate bus segregation were targeted by a mob in 1961; and the Native American-led proposal to protect Bears' Ears in Utah, which is sacred to several tribes.

Please also take steps to enhance your successful Find Your Park/Every Kid in a Park initiative to include new community outreach and diversity recruitment and retention strategies. These kinds of policy and human resources changes will help to ensure that the next Administration has the necessary staff in place to uphold your legacy and continue to

push for greater conservation and protection of critical American places and American stories.

Mr. President: we can hardly overstate the pleasure we derive from being able to claim you as one of the greatest conservation Presidents in our history, alongside Teddy Roosevelt who cautioned at the turn of the 20th Century, *"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune."*

Your leadership has shown you to be eminently worthy Mr. President, of this challenge. We have no doubt that Americans will proudly join us in supporting and celebrating the inclusive public lands system you will have created by the end of your term. Please contact us if we can help with this mission.

With deep thanks and appreciation,

Audrey & Frank Peterman
Founders, Diverse Environmental Leaders Speakers Bureau

<i>Carlos Alcazar</i>	<i>Tony C. Anderson</i>	<i>Midy Aponte</i>	<i>Krishel Augustine</i>
<i>Teresa Baker</i>	<i>Irela Bague</i>	<i>Dorien Blythers</i>	<i>Evonne Blythers</i>
<i>Marcelo Bonta</i>	<i>Gillian Bowser, PhD</i>	<i>Majora Carter</i>	<i>Naomi Davis</i>
<i>Dudley Edmondson</i>	<i>Stacey Evans</i>	<i>Angelou Ezeilo</i>	<i>James Ezeilo</i>
<i>Carolyn Finney, PhD</i>	<i>Iantha Gantt-Wright</i>	<i>Queen Quet</i>	<i>Carolyn Hartfield</i>
<i>Na'Taki Osborne-Jelks</i>	<i>James King II</i>	<i>Drew Lanham, PhD</i>	<i>Jarid Manos</i>
<i>James Mills</i>	<i>Stefan Moss</i>	<i>Mamie Parker, PhD</i>	<i>Nadine Patrice</i>
<i>Celinda Pena</i>	<i>Darryl Perkins</i>	<i>Capt. Bill Pinkney</i>	<i>Naseem Rakha</i>
<i>J.T. Reynolds</i>	<i>C. Richardson-Sutton</i>	<i>Nina Roberts, PhD</i>	<i>Nia Robinson</i>
<i>Lauret Savoy, PhD</i>	<i>Keisha Scovens</i>	<i>Tarsha Scovens</i>	<i>Loan Sewer</i>
<i>Stephen Shobe</i>	<i>Jack Shu</i>	<i>Rachel Stewart</i>	<i>Wandi Steward</i>
<i>Fred Tutman</i>	<i>Bill Vanderberg</i>	<i>Eriquah Vincent</i>	<i>Lizbeth Williams</i>
<i>Sid Wilson</i>			

CC: Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council of Environmental Quality
Beth Cobert, Acting Director, White House Office of Personnel Management

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Daily News Clips

"Roberts, Lawrence" <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Roberts, Lawrence" <lawrence_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 30 2015 11:02:07 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Daily News Clips

FYI - forwarding op-ed on Bears Ears.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mailbox, AS-IA_OPA <as-ia_opa@bia.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2015 at 12:48 PM
Subject: Daily News Clips
To: Ann Bledsoe Downes <ann.bledsoedownes@bia.gov>, "charles.roessel@bie.edu" <charles.roessel@bie.edu>, Elizabeth Appel <elizabeth.appel@bia.gov>, Kathryn Isom-Clause <Kathryn_Isom-Clause@ios.doi.gov>, "Washburn, Kevin" <Kevin.Washburn@bia.gov>, "Roberts, Lawrence S." <Lawrence_Roberts@ios.doi.gov>, "Black, Michael" <Mike.Black@bia.gov>, Phillip Brinkley <phillip.brinkley@bia.gov>, Rellani Ogumoro <rellani.ogumoro@bia.gov>, Sarah Walters <sarah_walters@ios.doi.gov>, Teddi Penland <teddi.penland@bia.gov>, "Thompson, Thomas D" <Thomas.Thompson@bia.gov>, undisclosed recipient <nedra.darling@bia.gov>, undisclosed recipient <sharee.freeman@bia.gov>, undisclosed recipient <robin.shield@bia.gov>, ur <gary.garrison@bia.gov>, ur <sarah.beccio@bia.gov>

Daily News Clips

HOT TOPICS

[Indigenous peoples release joint statement to UN talks in Paris on climate change](#) (native news)

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online)

[Op-ed: Bishop is wrong, Utah's Native Americans want Bears Ears protected](#) (salt lake tribune)

INDIAN LEGISLATIVE/JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

[Supreme Court justice blocks Native Hawaiian vote count](#) (washington post)

[A Dark piece in America's subconscious: Native children in the child welfare system](#) (native news online)

[Struggle for justice on Tribal lands](#) (ny times)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

[USDA seeds grassroots economic development in New Mexico](#) (ICTMN)

[Judge's casino ruling to be appealed by Martha's Vineyard tribe](#) (roundhouse talk)

HEALTH & EDUCATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY

[\\$1M to boost American Indian nutrition research](#) (Minnesota daily)

[For many Native American communities, marriage equality is still forbidden](#) (lgbtq nation)

[Federal involvement doesn't help schools](#) (tyler morning telegraph)

LEADERSHIP & TRIBAL POLITICS

MISCELLANEOUS

[New Indian Deal](#) (national archives)

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Office of Public Affairs - Indian Affairs
Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., N.W., MS-3658-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Main Phone: 202-208-3710
Press Line: 202-219-4152
as-ia_opa@bia.gov

--

Lawrence S. Roberts
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Main number 202-208-7163

Conversation Contents

catch up on Utah issues and a request

"Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>

From: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 19 2015 15:33:13 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: catch up on Utah issues and a request

Neil,

Are you available for a call sometime tomorrow or next week to catch up on BLM issues in Utah, mostly Bears Ears? Also, SITLA has a new executive director and will be in DC during the second week of Dec. Will you be able to make time to meet with him?

John

"Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>

From: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 19 2015 16:34:12 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: catch up on Utah issues and a request

I just got the note that you stopped by the office to see me. Sorry I missed you. Are you around tomorrow?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Tanner, John (Hatch)
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 5:33 PM
To: Neil Kornze
Subject: catch up on Utah issues and a request

Neil,

Are you available for a call sometime tomorrow or next week to catch up on BLM issues in Utah, mostly Bears Ears? Also, SITLA has a new executive director and will be in DC during the second week of Dec. Will you be able to make time to meet with him?

John

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 19 2015 17:10:09 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: catch up on Utah issues and a request

Howdy. (b) (6) so schedules are totally up in the air. Try me tomorrow at 202 208 3801.

On Nov 19, 2015, at 6:34 PM, Tanner, John (Hatch) <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov> wrote:

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"Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>

From: "Tanner, John (Hatch)" <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 19 2015 17:17:25 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: catch up on Utah issues and a request

What!?

Congrats!

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I know how those last few hours/days/weeks are. Good luck.

I'll try you tomorrow.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Neil Kornze
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 7:10 PM
To: Tanner, John (Hatch)
Subject: Re: catch up on Utah issues and a request

Howdy, (b) (6) so schedules are totally up in the air. Try me tomorrow at 202 208 3801.

On Nov 19, 2015, at 6:34 PM, Tanner, John (Hatch) <John_Tanner@hatch.senate.gov> wrote:

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To: Neil Kornze
Subject: catch up on Utah issues and a request

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John

Conversation Contents

Speaking Request

CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)

From: CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)
Sent: Wed Oct 28 2015 10:26:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Speaking Request

Neil: The Friends of Cedar Mesa have asked if I would consider talking at their annual "Celebrate Cedar Mesa" event next year, March 5. In light of the Bears Ears NM proposal, they are interested in hearing about the more inclusive approach BLM has employed in its management of NMs and NCAs -- something I have highlighted in my previous talks while in BLM. We'll be in the Florida Keys (I know, tough duty) during that time, but I said I would consider it if I could not get either you or Kristen to commit to doing it instead of me. They are also seeing if they can get the Secretary to attend, but not sure how that will play with the politics swirling around the Bears Ears proposal and Mr. Bishop's activities. Please let me know if you think you or Kristen might be able to make it and I'll plan accordingly...Carl Sent from my iPhone

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 02 2015 12:53:09 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Speaking Request

Hi, Carl. I appreciate your note. March is probably too far out to know what scheduling options might be, but I'll keep this on my radar.

N

On Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 12:26 PM, CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6) wrote:

Neil: The Friends of Cedar Mesa have asked if I would consider talking at their annual "Celebrate Cedar Mesa" event next year, March 5. In light of the Bears Ears NM proposal, they are interested in hearing about the more inclusive approach BLM has employed in its management of NMs and NCAs -- something I have highlighted in my previous talks while in BLM. We'll be in the Florida Keys (I know, tough duty) during

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that time, but I said I would consider it if I could not get either you or Kristen to commit to doing it instead of me. They are also seeing if they can get the Secretary to attend, but not sure how that will play with the politics swirling around the Bears Ears proposal and Mr. Bishop's activities. Please let me know if you think you or Kristen might be able to make it and I'll plan accordingly...Carl

Sent from my iPhone

CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)

From: CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)
Sent: Mon Nov 02 2015 16:39:13 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Speaking Request

I'll let Josh know, Neil. BTW, do you have time to talk privately tomorrow. Concerns are already being raised about what's being rumored to be BLM's proposal for next year's event that I'd like to share with just you...C

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 2, 2015, at 11:53 AM, Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi, Carl. I appreciate your note. March is probably too far out to know what scheduling options might be, but I'll keep this on my radar.

N

On Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 12:26 PM, CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6) wrote:

Neil: The Friends of Cedar Mesa have asked if I would consider talking at their annual "Celebrate Cedar Mesa" event next year, March 5. In light of the Bears Ears NM proposal, they are interested in hearing about the more inclusive approach BLM has employed in its management of NMs and NCAs -- something I have highlighted in my previous talks while in BLM. We'll be in the Florida Keys (I know, tough duty) during that time, but I said I would consider it if I could not get either you or Kristen to commit to doing it instead of me. They are also seeing if they can get the Secretary to attend, but not sure how that will play with the politics swirling around the Bears Ears proposal and Mr. Bishop's activities. Please let me know if you think you or Kristen might be able to make it and I'll plan accordingly...Carl

Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

UT

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 28 2015 15:47:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: UT

http://www.navaionationcouncil.org/pressReleases/2015/Oct/Council_members_address_misinformation_regarding_Bears_Ears_initiative.pdf

"Seemingly false statements are being made to the media that the Bears Ears proposal is not supported by local chapters and local people," said Delegate Filfred. "This is not accurate. There has been, and continues to be, support from six of seven Utah chapters and the overwhelming support of local Navajo people for the Bears Ears proposal."

--
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Conversation Contents

Would be good to talk

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 13:22:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Would be good to talk

About this early next week. Sound good?

<http://www.bearscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Bears-Ears-Inter-Tribal-Coalition-Proposal-10-15-15.pdf>

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Conversation Contents

Fyi

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Oct 06 2015 06:07:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Kevin Washburn <Kevin.Washburn@bia.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>
Subject: Fyi

TRIBES PUSH FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/5, 32K) reports that “five Four Corners-area tribes have united to propose a 1.9 million–acre Bears Ears National Monument that would be the first truly collaborative land management effort between Native Americans and the federal government.” According to the article, “the Coalition is minting a blueprint for a degree of co-management that has never been tried before.” The plan “embodies true government-to-government relations and truly collaborative decision-making on all aspects of running a protected mass of land.”

Conversation Contents

Trib article

"Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Wed Sep 16 2015 09:18:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Cynthia Moses-Nedd <cnedd@blm.gov>
To: Katherine Kitchell <kkitchell@blm.gov>, Megan Crandall <mcrandal@blm.gov>
CC: Trib article
Subject: Trib article

just FYI. j

Jewell: No Plan B if ‘grand bargain’ lands legislation fails

BY THOMAS BURR

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 03:11PM

UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 07:39PM

Washington • The head of the U.S. Interior Department says there is no Plan B in place if Utah officials, environmentalists and Congress aren't able to strike a deal to protect land in the eastern and southern part of the state — but adds that she would like to see a plan in writing soon.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Tuesday that all eyes are on the effort to craft the Public Lands Initiative by Utah Republican Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz and more details need to be forthcoming.

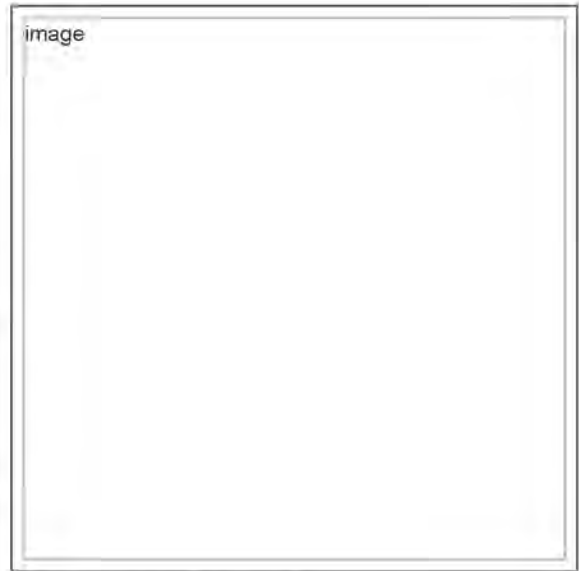
“There is certainly an effort on their part to push that through, and that’s what we’re working with them on at this point in time,” Jewell said at a breakfast hosted by The Christian Science Monitor. “I’m not going to suggest that there is any kind of firm plan if their plan doesn’t work. We need to see a plan.”

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Asked if President Barack Obama would name a new national monument in Utah if the Bishop and Chaffetz effort fails, Jewell didn't answer directly. Instead, she said she looks forward to seeing the details of the plan.

Jewell added that there are some "amazing cultural or natural resources that right now have little or no protection."

Tribal leaders in southeastern Utah are pushing to preserve nearly 2 million acres in an area known as Bears Ears that contains culturally and archaeologically important sites. Legislation has yet to advance to preserve the area and tribal leaders have said they are open to the idea that Obama could use his unilateral power under the Antiquities Act to name a new monument there.



Al Hartmann | Tribune file photo
U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell says she wants to see the compromise plan in writing to protect wild areas in Utah. She didn't raise the threat of a monument designation, but President Barack Obama has warned he would act if Congress doesn't. One area American Indians and environmentalists seek to protect is the Bears Ears in southeastern Utah.

Obama, who has named 19 monuments during his time in office, has said he will designate more if Congress refuses to act.

Chaffetz said Tuesday that he has appreciated Jewell's patience as he and others negotiated a compromise that he hopes to unveil soon. He noted the legislation is currently being drafted, though it's complicated because of all the land under consideration.

"We've had good discussions but everyone wants to see it in black and white on paper," Chaffetz said. "The clock is ticking, I make no bones about it, but we're working in the right direction."

The bill, as Chaffetz has outlined, would extend some level of federal protection for 3.9 million acres in eastern Utah and open up some 365,000 acres in the Uinta Basin for oil and gas exploration.

It also would expand Arches National Park by 50,000 acres; upgrade Dinosaur National Monument; and turn the Cleveland-Lloyd dinosaur-fossil quarry into "Jurassic National Monument."

tburr@sltrib.com

--

Jenna Whitlock, Acting State Director
Utah BLM
(801) 539-4010 office
(801) 503-6254 cell

Join the Conversation!



Conversation Contents

PLI

Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 25 2015 18:28:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
CC: Lara Douglas <ledouglas@blm.gov>
Subject: PLI

Hi Neil and Stephenne -- just a heads up that I spoke today with Uintah County Commissioners (McKee and Stringer) on a number of issues, but including PLI. They indicated that the Hill was briefing the WH and WO BLM? And that they intended to roll out their current (final?) Uintah County proposal to the public next Tuesday, including language concepts. They offered to privately brief me and my District Manager in advance of the public roll-out. I'll do that next Tuesday. They also alerted me to an interesting sounding bill (expected to be dropped soon) that would allow companies to "credit" actions taken to improve air quality in advance of a non-attainment designation. We'll watch for that, but it could potentially be very helpful in the Basin. I'll keep you posted. Thanks. j They offered to Sent from my iPad

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 25 2015 19:00:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Lara Douglas <ledouglas@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: PLI

Thank you for the heads up Jenna!

On Tuesday, August 25, 2015, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi Neil and Stephenne -- just a heads up that I spoke today with Uintah County Commissioners (McKee and Stringer) on a number of issues, but including PLI. They indicated that the Hill was briefing the WH and WO BLM? And that they intended to roll out their current

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(final?) Uintah County proposal to the public next Tuesday, including language concepts.

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They offered to

Sent from my iPad

--

Stephene Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephene_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

"Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 26 2015 11:52:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Lara Douglas
<ledouglas@blm.gov>, Patrick Wilkinson
<p2wilkin@blm.gov>
CC:
Subject: Re: PLI

Stephene -- per our conversation, here's the recent article on PLI. Thanks. j

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/2871995-155/utah-public-lands-deal-would-protect-39m>

Public-lands proposal seeks to create new national monument in Utah before Obama does

BY MATT CANHAM

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PUBLISHED: AUGUST 25, 2015 11:42AM

UPDATED: AUGUST 24, 2015 11:02PM

It has critics on the left and right. The counties involved could back out. Congress could let it die a slow death. And, in the end, President Barack Obama could name a new national monument in Utah.

Or ...

The public-lands compromise that has been three years in the making actually could pass. What might that mean? That's what Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, wanted to talk about Monday when he met with The Salt Lake Tribune's editorial board.

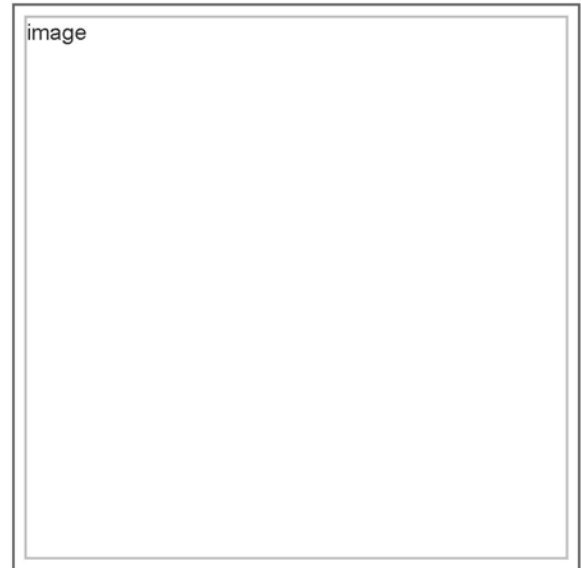
He said the proposal would result in:

- Granting roughly 3.9 million acres of eastern Utah new federal protections in exchange for opening 365,000 acres in the Uinta Basin for oil and gas drilling.
- Expanding Arches National Park by 50,000 acres to include land adjacent to Delicate Arch that the federal government once tried to lease for oil development.
- Upgrading Dinosaur National Monument to a national park.
- Turning the Cleveland-Lloyd dinosaur-fossil quarry, the biggest concentration of Jurassic bones on the planet, into the "Jurassic National Monument." But only if Emery County agrees in votes expected to take place in early September.

Those are among the highlights in a massive seven-county proposal that Chaffetz and Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, have negotiated with county commissioners, environmentalists, outdoor enthusiasts, ranchers and oil companies. They intend to unveil their proposal in the coming weeks and envision a "kumbaya" moment in which Democrats join with Republicans to quickly pass their legislation.

"I just don't believe somebody has to win and somebody else has to lose," Chaffetz said of the complex negotiations. "I think we can create a win-win, and that's what we are trying to do."

Often called the "grand bargain," though Bishop and Chaffetz refer to it as the "public-lands initiative," they see it as a chance to end decades of feuding in these rural counties. The key, according to Chaffetz, is that if passed, no president could unilaterally create a national monument in these counties again. That guarantee



Trent Nelson | Tribune file photo
The Horsfall family, on vacation from Australia, hiking the Fossil Discovery Trail at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, Thursday, September 29, 2011.

would be written into the legislation. Without it, he said, the counties wouldn't go along with designating roughly 2 million acres of new wilderness and adding protection to another 1.9 million acres.

He knows that limiting the power of future presidents may give the president "heartburn," but there's an incentive for the White House to play ball.

"We can get more land designated and protected under this plan than that president could even dream of [through a monument]," Chaffetz said. "That's why, I think to [his] credit, the president hasn't done anything yet."

Utah politicians believe Obama is considering a national monument in San Juan County's Cedar Mesa area, piggybacking on the Bears Ears conservation proposal pushed by a coalition of 25 American Indian tribes, led by the Navajo.

The public-lands initiative would protect some of that area and give the Navajo joint management over 2,000 acres that hold a special meaning to the tribe.

Chaffetz's preview of the bill came four days after conservative state lawmakers and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) blasted the proposal.

Members of the state Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands on Thursday told congressional staffers pitching the plan that their compromise meant to end division would only make things worse.

"When you create wilderness, you create a problem for adjacent counties," said Rep. Mike Noel, R-Kanab. "You create Class I airsheds. It's a cop in your backyard waiting for you to do something wrong."

Noel, along with Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, argue that the deal runs counter to the state's goal of suing the federal government to obtain total control over public lands in the state — about 30 million acres. Chaffetz agrees with that aim and says that is a long-term plan not affected by this legislative proposal.

On the other end of the political spectrum, SUWA argued the plan remains light on conservation and gives too much power to county commissioners to oversee sensitive lands.

"We would love to see if we can reach an agreement," said Scott Groene, SUWA's executive director, "but we are worried this has really veered off the tracks."

Chaffetz has little patience for people on the political "extremes," who are still battling to win greater spoils in a fight that seems to have no end.

"There are a whole lot of reasons why it can get blown up, but this is the most optimistic, thorough plan to do something comprehensive, avoid a civil war and do something meaningful," Chaffetz said. "If people want to come blow it up for whatever reason, on either side of the aisle, shame on them. Be helpful and come to the table, as opposed to just being a bomb thrower and saying no to everything."

After Bishop and Chaffetz unveil their legislation, they'll give all of the interested

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parties time to offer last-minute tweaks, then they will use their positions as chairmen of House committees to seek a fast-track vote.

They will need the support of Utah Republican Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee to get it through the Senate. Chaffetz said he's working to obtain the backing of Utah's other members of Congress. And he has been involved with meetings with the Interior Department and the White House to gain their support.

As he put it: "The timing is right to get 'er done."

mcanham@sltrib.com

Twitter: @mattcanham

—

A primer on the public-lands initiative

Who • Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz have worked with interested counties to develop a proposal that would end debate over what lands should be conserved and what could be developed.

Where • They have seven eastern Utah counties involved. They are Summit, Uintah, Duchesne, Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan.

When • The bill should be unveiled in the next couple of months, with a goal of passing it as soon as possible, since the Obama administration has threatened to create a national monument if it fails.

On Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 7:00 PM, Harding, Stephenne

<stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the heads up Jenna!

On Tuesday, August 25, 2015, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov> wrote:

Hi Neil and Stephenne -- just a heads up that I spoke today with Uintah County Commissioners (McKee and Stringer) on a number of issues, but including PLI. They indicated that the Hill was briefing the WH and WO BLM? And that they intended to roll out their current (final?) Uintah County proposal to the public next Tuesday, including language concepts.

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Stephene Harding
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202-208-6174 (desk)
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--

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Join the Conversation!



Conversation Contents

a nice pairing

"Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Sun Aug 16 2015 10:27:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Lance Porter <l50porte@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Joshua Hanson <j1hanson@blm.gov>, Dylan Fuge <dfuge@blm.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>
To:
Subject: a nice pairing

Hi all -- in case you missed it, the Trib did a big spread on the Staircase and Garfield County's recent emergency declaration, including a SJ reference:

<http://www.sltrib.com/news/2798818-155/is-southern-utah-town-being-stifled>

And below is a link to audio for the Utah State legislature's Commission for the Stewardship of Public Land's recent meeting:

http://utahlegislature.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=19052&meta_id=559231

If you have a minute, take a listen to Cody Stewart's "Recent National Monument Designations." You can click on the link under the audio player and it will skip ahead to that portion of the hearing. Thanks. j

Is southern Utah town being stifled by the feds — or by residents' refusal to roll with new industries?

BY BRIAN MAFFLY

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Escalante • Dave and Erin Treanor’s new business venture in this remote Utah town came at the crossroads of timing and location.

Transplants to Garfield County 11 years ago, they gravitated to Wide Hollow Reservoir to pursue their passion for paddling.

More often than not, they didn’t spend much time on the water as campers from adjacent Escalante Petrified Forest State Park asked to borrow their kayaks and paddleboards.

So when Dave was laid off last year from Turn-About Ranch, inspiration struck. This spring, the Treanors, who have two young children, expanded their new horse-trail-riding business to rent watercraft at the reservoir. Both operations are flourishing, exceeding the couple’s expectations.

The Treanors are a little bit of old Escalante (the horses) and a little bit of new Escalante (the paddleboards). But while they’ve worked out the dichotomy, their neighbors haven’t.

The clash became apparent June 22 when the Garfield County Commission declared a state of emergency. The proclamation portrays Escalante, a town of 850, as a community fading away under the weight of federal land policies that put preservation ahead of extraction.

The Treanors figured they were having a banner year.

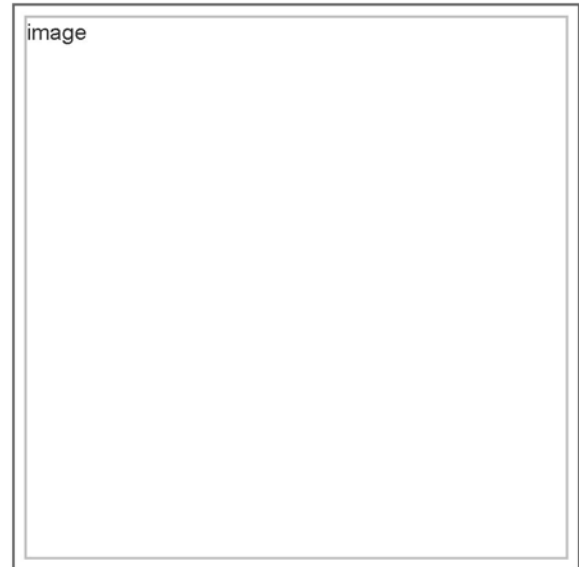
“It’s an exciting time. We’re dying? Really? That’s a bummer,” said Dave Treanor, a candidate for Town Council in a race in which three incumbents face re-election.

“Why send that message just when we are coming back? Most people here are really optimistic.”

Treanor, owner of the guiding service called Rising DT Ranch, is among several Escalante business leaders frustrated with the commission’s declaration. They believe the three-page resolution, which calls on federal land agencies to align their management with the county’s priorities, exhibits a lack of vision for the future and could wind up harming Escalante’s economic prospects by discouraging investment.

—

‘It’s a lie’ • The emergency declaration claims the U.S. Bureau of Land Management,



Chris Detrick | The Salt Lake Tribune
Dave Treanor works with his horses in Escalante Wednesday July 29, 2015. Erin and Dave Treanor own Rising DT Ranch Horse Tours and provide horseback tours around the Grand Staircase National Monument.

which operates the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and the U.S. Forest Service are to blame for the county's economic malaise because policies have "eliminated" multiple use.

Collapsing school enrollment in Escalante — down 67 percent in the town's middle and high school since President Bill Clinton's 1996 monument designation — is the main exhibit in the commissioners' case that Garfield's communities are withering.

In a speech before the San Juan County Commission last week, Town Council member Greg Allen personified the old guard — those who believe Clinton's monument permanently stunted their community. He urged the San Juan County Commission to fight the proposed designation of a national monument around Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa. Allen said claims that the Staircase monument spurs economic growth are distortions perpetrated by those developing tourism operations at the expense of traditional industries.

"There's no other way to say it. It's a lie," said Allen, an Escalante schoolteacher and LDS bishop whose family is involved with logging and ranching. "We are a constricting town. We are going down. I have no idea how we are going to survive."

Mormon settlers first platted the town 130 years ago on a gently sloping bluff above the Escalante River.

Relics of fruit orchards cluster behind homes and alfalfa fields spread from the river, whose banks are choked with invasive Russian olive and tamarisk among native cottonwoods and willow.

This bucolic valley is surrounded by scenic public lands that are simultaneously Escalante's chief asset and biggest source of rancor.

Residents are split about whether it is better to mine, drill and log these lands or preserve them for their ability to draw visitors looking to explore the historic town and nearby slot canyons, plateaus and folded sandstone of the Escalante region, named for the Franciscan missionary who passed through in 1776.

The town and neighbors, including Boulder and Cannonville, long survived on agriculture and traditional extractive industries. But that era was already in decline when Clinton made his 1996 announcement, which chafes leaders in Garfield and Kane counties to this day. Flexing his authority under the Antiquities Act, Clinton set aside 1.9 million acres stretching between Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef national parks.

Many blasted the move as an election-year gambit conducted in secrecy that insulted the desires of locals, slammed the door on harvesting the Kaiparowits Plateau's massive coal reserves and sounded a death knell for surrounding communities.

—

New thinking • Newcomers and those remaking their careers —like the Treanors — are moving past coal.

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Boulder resident Autumn Peterson wants to relocate her company from Fruita, Colo., to make high-end natural finishes in Escalante. Now she fears the emergency declaration will make it hard to get funding to set up a plant east of downtown, where she hopes to put 10 to 15 employees to work.

Two years ago, Karen and Reed Munson, a contractor, opened a hardware store so builders and locals wouldn't have to drive to Cedar City to buy tools and supplies.

Karen Munson, a former Escalante schoolteacher, figures the emergency declaration is just so much whining.

"That bugged me a lot. I refuse to be labeled a victim because of the Grand Staircase," she said. "I was unimpressed with their blaming our problems on the monument."

Munson believes the town has a bright future — as long as people heed the sign behind her counter that poses: "What's the best that can happen?"

"We have exceeded every sales goal we set," Munson said. "I've seen the building standards elevated. We sold 300 trees last year. The paint is just flying off the shelves."

She suspects the declaration could backfire. The town's new school principal, Bert Steele, suddenly has had trouble getting a construction loan approved.

Because housing is so tight in Escalante, the former Salt Lake City school administrator has been living with the Munsons since he moved here last summer.

But now Steele's plans to build a home have fallen into limbo.

Allen, Town Council member Louise Barnes and Garfield County Commissioner Dell Lefevre, a Boulder rancher who represents the eastern half of the county, did not respond to phone messages.

Contacted by phone, Escalante Mayor Jerry Taylor said he was too busy to be interviewed because of flooding at his house in Utah County.

The county's June 22 declaration instructed county staff to set up a meeting within 30 days with federal agencies, the governor's team and the Utah congressional designation to discuss the issues raised in the document. Such a meeting has yet to be arranged.

—

'Ideological scapegoating' • Escalante's plight is hardly unique in rural America.

Communities are struggling across the country, and some are pivoting toward recreation — a shift that makes those vested in agriculture and minerals uncomfortable.

"That economy has long since gone away — as it has in much of rural America," said

Utah State University sociologist Richard Krannich. “That’s happening in Iowa, not just public-lands states in the West.

“A lot of it has to do with technological advances that allow extractive industries to operate with few workers and the globalization of markets.”

During her visit to Salt Lake City this month, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said many factors are responsible for the economic changes in places such as Garfield County, and it’s easy and politically expedient to blame federal agencies.

Krannich calls it “ideological scapegoating.”

“But there is also an underlying reality,” Krannich said, “that the agencies were a lot more interested in resource extraction in the past than landscape preservation.”

There is no denying Escalante is experiencing an uptick in tourism. Motel rooms are filling. Restaurants are busy. Outfitters are leading more clients into the backcountry. In the past few months, a new medical clinic and social hall have opened along Main Street.

Owners, including Chamber of Commerce President Dennis Waggoner, are confident the region’s geological and cultural wonders, trout-filled streams, historic towns and slow pace will continue to lure a growing number of visitors.

Camera-toting tourists, many from Europe and Asia, arrive by tour bus, RV, motorcycle, bicycle and car on scenic State Road 12.

—

Chicken Little mentality? • The county’s political leaders, however, see their glass as half empty.

Garfield County is 93 percent federal land. The Escalante Valley is an island in an ocean of mostly protected land administered by the Dixie National Forest and the BLM. County leaders argue federal agencies are advancing land-use changes that damage the “health, safety and welfare” of the residents and erode the region’s “culture and customs.”

Allen’s presentation in Monticello illustrates the divide in Escalante, pitting natives against so-called “move-ins” — those who came to retire in a place with crisp air, stunning views and starry skies, or to operate businesses catering to visitors, including the Escalante Mercantile, Natural Grocery and Circle D Motel.

Even how you say the town’s name is a point of contention. Allen mocked those who use the Spanish pronunciation.

“You know you are hearing someone who doesn’t understand the community,” Allen, who uses a traditional pronunciation that rhymes with the poker term “ante,” told San Juan commissioners.

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He accused tourism operators of buying up commercial buildings along Main Street and trying to take over the Town Council in an unwanted campaign to change the place.

Others blame town leaders for suppressing growth and innovation.

Builder Mark Austin, who has butted heads with local government for years, believes Escalante has put up unnecessary barriers to economic development and discouraged investment.

For example, the town took years to upgrade its culinary water and storm-water systems. As a result, runoff during monsoonal events regularly floods homes.

A moratorium was placed on new water connections until a few years ago. That reduced opportunities to build new homes and businesses.

And back in the mid-1990s, Escalante leaders passed on a chance to host the new monument headquarters. That facility — along with its \$2.5 million payroll — wound up in Kanab.

Meanwhile, locals say, it is difficult to secure a skilled tradesman to wire a house, plumb a kitchen or hang a door.

Good jobs abound in town for those who acquire the necessary skills, but town leaders keep telling young people their future lies elsewhere.

Despite reports of a takeover, the town's old guard came out on top in Tuesday's primary election.

Allen turned out to be the top vote-getter, followed by two other incumbents. Treanor came in a not-too-distant fourth place, followed by Kevin Worlton, a former South Jordan police officer-turned-police-chief the Town Council fired earlier this year. He and his wife, Rachel, now operate a Main Street convenience store, hiking shuttle service and ATV rental business that employs 16.

Austin, the critic, was the one council candidate who didn't survive the primary cut.

—

Familiar gripes • Local leaders have a long list of complaints against federal land managers.

Chief among them: Cutting off long-held hopes of developing a vast deposit of Kaiparowits Plateau coal. Also: There are few visitor services, paved roads, signs and campgrounds in the preserve. Rangeland health is suffering. The county has to provide emergency services with little compensation. And federal bosses, they assert, aren't hiring enough locals.

Monument managers have little appetite for arguing with county leaders, but they dispute most of the emergency declaration's assertions targeting the BLM.

According to the document, federal land managers refuse to coordinate with the counties and the state. They propose harmful changes to land-management policy without explaining their impact. Finally, “pleas for protection of [the counties’] families have fallen on deaf federal ears.” The agency, the county alleges, even has failed to deliver on promised education and science programs.

“That’s the perception,” said monument spokesman Larry Crutchfield. “I have to treat it like it is reality.

“The BLM is participating with the counties, looking for ideas of how to stimulate the economy and what we can do to improve quality of life, bring in industry and explore ideas for creating economic well-being.”

Grazing permits have remained steady with minimal changes since the monument was created, Crutchfield noted. Actual stocking numbers do rise and fall, he acknowledged, but that’s due to forage availability, which fluctuates with rain.

And the BLM insists it accommodates commercial activity on the monument.

“We keep hearing that filming is not allowed, [that] we killed the film industry on the monument,” Crutchfield said. “There are restrictions on the size of productions. You are not going to have a ‘Ben Hur’ movie. But we have companies come in all the time shooting.”

The monument, meanwhile, has more than tripled the number of special recreation permits for commercial guiding since 2000 to more than 110.

All the permits have gone to local small businesses — including Escalante Canyon Guides, Excursions of Escalante and High Adventure — based in nearby towns, rather than the corporate concessionaires associated with national parks.

Since the monument’s creation, Garfield has become Utah’s most tourism-dependent county, with more than half the economic activity linked to serving visitors, according to state economic data.

“I must be the worst [public affairs officer] ever,” Crutchfield said. “I keep hearing you can’t ride ATVs, you can’t hunt. For 10 years we have been trying to get the word out. We want the public out there enjoying public lands.”

—

A ‘second Moab’ • While federal land managers point to tourism growth in the monument, Escalante old-timers argue tourism isn’t enough to sustain their community.

“For business owners, that might be where the future lies, but not for the people who work for them,” said Link Chynoweth, a fifth-generation rancher and a Mormon bishop. “It’s a pretty delicate balance to keep the community alive and thriving, but how many jobs do you want to come here before you change the characteristic of the town?”

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Garfield County's largest employer is now Ruby's Inn at the entrance to Bryce Canyon, where many of the 400 workers are from Eastern Europe.

"You can't tell me those wages are circulating here in the economy," said Justin Fischer, the county's economic-development director.

And some fear the coming of a "second Moab," a one-time uranium boomtown that has become the West's top recreation mecca at a steep cost to the quality of life for locals.

Once smaller than Escalante, Moab is seen as a victim of its own success at attracting visitors, which numbered 2.5 million last year. Traffic crowds its streets and nearby national parks. Full-time residents have few places to live as the housing stock converts to second homes and vacation rentals. And services and infrastructure are overrun.

"Look at them now. That's sad," said Shannon Steed, an Escalante native whose brothers operated a lumber mill outside of town until it shuttered a decade ago, taking three dozen jobs with it. "It's coming. People don't like Moab and they come here."

Still, even Steed is cashing in on the tourism trade — and restoring the town's architectural heritage while he's at it. He runs a popular steakhouse and hosts bus tours and a guest ranch in renovated structures on the historic Hobe Alvey farm.

He and his wife, Jennifer, renovated the 77-year-old cinema in the center of town and opened it July 4 as the Escalante Showhouse, where they serve meals and stage performances. On opening night, the Showhouse hosted Escalante's Class of 1975 high school reunion, whose members were graduating around the last time a movie was screened in the building.

A huge American flag hangs on the back stage, which is framed with a proscenium covered in ancient lumber Steed salvaged from Alvey barns. He crafted the tables and counters from the building's 2-by-10-inch floor joists.

"I should get notice that I'm the biggest recycler in Escalante," he joked while showing off his building. "I don't know what in Sam Hill I'm going to do with 185 vintage seats."

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Join the Conversation!

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resident Obama's Eleventh-

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From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sat Aug 15 2015 17:31:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Sally Jewell <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Bokar <Emily_bokar@ios.doi.gov>, Rachael Johnson <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: NY Times Bob Semple Column: President Obama's Eleventh-Hour Conservation Efforts

NY Times Bob Semple Column: President Obama's Eleventh-Hour Conservation Efforts

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THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS, VIA PR NEWSWIRE

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
AUGUST 14, 2015

3

Shortly before leaving town for the summer, Congress approved – and President Obama happily signed into law – three bills that, taken together, will preserve as permanent wilderness roughly 275,000 acres of spectacular mountain terrain in Idaho known as Boulder-White Clouds. This was a rare moment for a Congress that has been far more interested in party infighting than environmental stewardship, and a tribute to the perseverance of one person, Congressman Mike Simpson, Republican of Idaho, who spent years engaging with local officials, ranchers, hunters, tribes, off-road vehicle enthusiasts and other stakeholders.

What has not been widely noticed, however, is that the bill's success also owed something to widespread fears in Idaho (and in Congress) that if Congress did not act, Mr. Obama would use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare Boulder-White Clouds a national monument. Such a declaration would offer fewer protections than wilderness designation but would cover a much larger area, greatly reducing access to trails beloved of Idaho's motorcyclists and snowmobilers. So great was this threat that the off-roaders and others in deeply conservative Idaho who despise federal intervention of any sort were persuaded to accept Mr. Simpson's more modest scheme.

It is heartening to see Mr. Obama making more use of the Antiquities Act in his final years in office (if only as a threat), much as Bill Clinton did near the end of his presidency. It is an excellent conservation tool. The Act, first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, allows a president on his own hook to protect endangered areas of great natural or historic significance when Congress is unlikely to act. Originally at the urging of John Podesta, who functioned for a while as his chief adviser on environmental matters, and lately at the urging of Sally Jewell, his Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Obama has now established 19 monuments, three short of Mr. Clinton's tally. His most recent designations cover 700,000 acres in east-central Nevada, 330,00 acres in Northern California and a small site of archeological significance in Texas. (In fact the White House is now claiming that Mr. Obama has protected more territory under the Act than any other president. This is technically true although most of the 260 million acres of public land and waters he has protected came from adding to a protected marine monument in the Pacific already established by his predecessor, George W. Bush.)

There are at least two more monuments we would recommend to Mr. Obama before he retires. One, known as the California Desert, would add more than a million acres to already-protected lands in southeastern California. This is likely to be relatively uncontroversial since it has the backing of both California senators.

The other one, which would cover 1.9 million acres of in the so-called Bears Ears region of southeastern Utah, could be hugely controversial and will take a good deal of preparation and Presidential courage to pull off. Off-roaders and the oil and gas industry covet the area, and many politicians and citizens in in Utah are still smarting over Bill Clinton's creation in 1996 of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument without first engaging local officials in meaningful talks. Among the most outspoken opponents of the Antiquities Act is Utah's Rob Bishop, a Republican who runs the House Natural Resources Committee and who engineered House approval of a bill that would strip Mr. Obama or any future president of the power to act unilaterally under the Act.

Still, Bears Ears contains some of America's most stunning redrock landscapes and many sites of incomparable archeological value. The area as a whole is venerated by several Native American tribes who support the monument idea. Establishing a Bears Ears monument would greatly enhance Mr. Obama's late-blooming reputation as a committed conservationist.

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Conversation Contents

Deseret News: Future of Utah's public lands rests with Bishop, Jewell and Obama

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Aug 14 2015 22:06:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Sally Jewell <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Kevin Washburn <kevin_washburn@bia.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Sarah Harris <sarah.harris@bia.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>
Subject: Deseret News: Future of Utah's public lands rests with Bishop, Jewell and Obama

Future of Utah's public lands rests with Bishop, Jewell and Obama

Deseret News

At right, United States Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell meets with the Deseret Media Companies Editorial Board in Salt Lake City, Wednesday.

On Friday, August 7, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Source: Scott Deseret News

KSL.com: Initiative prompts youth to protect public lands

By Katie McKellar | Posted Aug 7th, 2015 @ 7:17am

SALT LAKE CITY — U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell joined Mayor Ralph Becker on Thursday to announce Salt Lake City's part in a national initiative to connect children with nature and inspire the next generation of outdoor stewards to protect the nation's natural environment.

"This is about the future of public lands," Jewell said. "We have a very important role to play so that these young people have a chance to learn and appreciate just how much there is for them to not only enjoy, but also to protect for years to come."

Jewell's visit was set against a backdrop of political unrest, with Utah's top politicians worried that a new monument designation in Utah is a mere ink-stroke away under President Barack Obama's authority to shield Utah lands from development.

Thursday's announcement came a day after Jewell told the Deseret News and KSL editorial boards that she can't control the president's pen, but any plan to create a new national monument in Utah will be transparent and open to local input.

Jewell said she had also met with Gov. Gary Herbert on Wednesday to "reinforce" the idea that she welcomes ongoing conversations about Rep. Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative, which Utah's congressional delegation fears could be unraveled by Native American

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tribes pushing for a national conservation area to protect the Bears Ears region.

Monday, Herbert and Utah's congressional delegation sent letters to Jewell and Obama protesting the designation of a new monument in Utah and urging support of Bishop's initiative. Jewell said she's still waiting to see details of Bishop's plan, but she's looking forward to seeing it as soon as it's ready, "even if it's not fully baked," she said.

Herbert's spokesman, Jon Cox, said in a statement issued Thursday that during his meeting with Jewell, the governor "reiterated his opposition" to a unilateral national monument designation in Utah.

Cox said Herbert also expressed support for the Public Lands Initiative and "encouraged the Obama administration to engage as partners in the open, collaborative process with all stakeholders, including local, state, Native American, environmental, and business leaders."

Yansie Ozan, 10, pulls up puncturevine as part of the community service project at the Oxbow Restoration Site site in Salt Lake City on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015. The Interior Department's leadership of first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Outside initiative aims to encourage children to learn and work outdoors through opportunities on public lands. (Photo: Stacie Scott/Deseret News)

At the heart of Jewell's announcement Thursday was a goal to ensure the future of public land protections — even long after the current administration is gone, she said — and raising a generation of children who appreciate the outdoors is key to accomplishing that effort.

"We have an interesting dilemma going on in the country today," Jewell said. "The average child is spending 56 hours a week in front of a screen and is only getting, if they're lucky, 30 minutes a week in unstructured play outside.

"So how are they going to know that there are great jobs as park rangers, wildlife biologists and scientists?" she said. "How are they going to know that these places are worth protecting? ... How are they going to know that the environment also deserves a seat at the table if they've never been exposed?"

That's why 50 U.S. cities were chosen to participate in the nationwide movement, as part of first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Outside initiative. Salt Lake is the 25th city to join the program.

The effort, funded as part of a \$5 million contribution from the American Express Foundation, will provide two years of funding for the YMCA of Northern Utah to create a community coordinator position to facilitate collaboration and increase participation in outdoor programs on public lands in Salt Lake City.

Jewell also announced grants of more than \$258,000 to organizations throughout Utah, including the Utah Conservation Corps, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners, River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow, and the American Conservation Experience.

Other efforts to expand children's opportunities to connect with nature include the president's Every Kid in a Park initiative to provide all fourth-graders and their families with free admission to national parks and public lands for a full year.

"We want every child — no matter how urban they are, no matter where they live — to have that experience," Jewell said.

Related



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell addresses Utah monument fears

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said flatly she doesn't control President Barack Obama's pen when it comes to any new monument designation in Utah, but she insists there's no plan to sneak around Utah and create one under the "cloak of darkness."

Becker thanked the Interior Department and its partners for selecting Salt Lake City, which he said has easy access to "underappreciated" natural areas such as the Jordan River, Wasatch Mountains and Great Salt Lake.

The morning before the announcement, Jewell had joined Becker for two hikes up Big Cottonwood Canyon. She has said that Mount Timpanogos, Zion National Park's Narrows and Delicate Arch are among her favorite hikes in Utah.

"Kids too often do not have experience associated with this incredible natural world around us," Becker said. "This effort of connecting kids to nature means there will be less screen time spent for kids and more time spent exploring the great outdoors."

After the announcement, Jewell and Becker joined a group of volunteers and YMCA summer camp children help clean up park areas around Jordan River.

"This is about a continuum, and it starts with play," Jewell said. "Just let them play. Let them climb a tree. ... Let them have a good

time, and that's what the YMCA is going to facilitate here in Salt Lake City on these beautiful public lands."

On Fri, Aug 7, 2015 at 5:37 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <<a>jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>> wrote:

St. George Spectrum: Protecting Utah by modernizing the Antiquities Act

Sen. Mike Lee Guest Editorial 9:09 a.m. MDT August 7, 2015



(Photo: SUBMITTED)

1 2
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Mere months before he was re-elected in 1996, President Bill Clinton surprised the entire state of Utah by designating 1.9 million acres of federal land in Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Not only did Clinton fail to consult Utah stakeholders about this designation, he didn't even bother coming to the state to make the designation. Instead he signed the proclamation in Arizona in sight of the Grand Canyon.

Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act to designate the monument, and many others, was a huge hit with his wealthy environmentalist donors in California and New York. But here in Utah, the designation only created frustration and mistrust towards the federal government - feelings that continue to this day.

The Antiquities Act was never meant to be used in this way. Passed in 1906 after widespread looting of archeological sites in federal land in the Southwest, the four paragraph bill gave President Theodore Roosevelt the power to declare "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic interest on federal land."

Establishing its originally intended narrow scope, the act also directs the president to limit each designation to the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

Unfortunately, presidents from both sides of the aisle have ignored this limitation by designating 140 monuments covering more than 285 million acres of land.

And it appears President Obama not only wants to add to these totals, but he wants to add to them right here in Southern Utah.

Just last month Bureau of Land Management officials met with tribal leaders to reportedly discuss another monument listing. Noticeably absent from these meetings were any other local stakeholders including local officials, businesses and residents.

While Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has told many state leaders that Obama will not spring an Antiquities Act designation on Utah the way Clinton did, Utahns should not have to take Obama's word for it, and they should not be at the mercy of the whim of future presidents either.

This is why I have introduced the Antiquities Modernization Act in the Senate. This bill would both preserve the original Antiquities Act intent by continuing the president's power to designate monument sites that need protection, while also giving local communities a say in the process.

If the Antiquities Modernization Act were to become law, presidents could still move quickly to protect parcels of federal land, but any such designation would only be temporary. To make any Antiquities Act designation permanent, a president would then need to win approval for the new monument from both the state where the land resides and from Congress.

This legislation would both end top-down Washington land grabs and encourage a new ground-up, open, and public process that maximizes input from all the stakeholders involved.

On Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 7:51 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <<a>jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>> wrote:

UT-Fox Affiliate: Utah could still get a new national monument

POSTED 4 18 PM, AUGUST 6, 2015, BY [BEN WINSLOW](#)

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Utah is blessed with some of the most beautiful lands in the world. Thousands of tourists come from around the world every year to see such sites Goblin Valley State Park, Mirror Lake in Uinta National Forest, and Antelope Island State Park. Each of these precious places was protected by either an act of Congress or the Utah State Legislature. Utahns have a long history of working with the federal government to best protect our most treasured lands.

Public lands management always works better when local, state, and federal government agencies work together. Under current law, Antiquities Act designations only undermine such agreements.

By passing the Antiquities Modernization Act, we can ensure that future federal lands management is done in as inclusive a manner as possible.

To contact Utah Sen. Mike Lee, go to his official website at lee.senate.gov.

<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/2015/08/07/mike-lee-utah-antiquities-act/31256811/>

SALT LAKE CITY — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said she cannot rule out the possibility of the Obama administration creating a new national monument in Utah.

"Monuments are up to the president," Jewell said Thursday. "I will tell you that there has been interest in monument designations in Utah."

Jewell spoke to reporters at an event in Salt Lake City, where she announced a new private/public partnership to encourage kids to put down the video games and step away from screens and get outdoors. She was joined by Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker in launching the initiative, which includes free passes to national parks for every fourth grader in the nation.

Late Wednesday, Jewell met with Governor Gary Herbert. FOX 13 is told the governor reiterated his opposition to a unilateral monument designation by President Obama.

"Gov. Herbert is proud of our state's beautiful public lands and recognizes the many opportunities and challenges they present. In a meeting with Secretary Jewell last night, the governor reiterated his opposition to a unilateral national monument designation in Utah," Herbert spokesman Jon Cox wrote in an email. "He also expressed his support for the Public Lands Initiative and encouraged the Obama Administration to engage as partners in the open, collaborative process with all stakeholders, including local, state, Native American, environmental, and business leaders."

Many in Utah are still fuming over President Bill Clinton's creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996.

"I don't control the president's pen," Jewell told FOX 13. "But I can tell you that we have been committed to a process of listening to multiple voices in all the monuments we've been creating."



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell speaks at a news conference in Salt Lake City on Thursday.

Jewell pointed to Rep. Rob Bishop's public lands initiatives involving multiple stakeholders, but she said the Interior Department had yet to see a formal plan put forward by the Utah congressman.

One area considered for a national monument designation is "Bears Ears" in southeastern Utah. The idea of a conservation area or national monument has been backed by some Native American groups.

"We will continue to work the legislative, congressional process," said Willie Grayeyes, the chairman of the Utah Diné Bikéyah, which supports Bears Ears. "On the other hand, if nothing comes through at the very end, we might go with the president."



A map of the proposed Bears Ears Conservation Area/National Monument.

In the ongoing battle over control of federal lands in Utah, the Interior secretary called the idea pushed by some state lawmakers of suing for control of federal lands "a waste of time."

"I think that much of the talk of taking over federal lands is very naive, in terms of recognizing the cost the American taxpayer pays generally into these states and what it might look like if they didn't have that," Jewell said. "We are not willing to sell public lands to the highest bidder and we're not willing to stand back and give them away."

Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, who has urged his colleagues in the Utah State Legislature to sue for control of federal lands said in a statement Thursday that federal policies have failed.

"One size fits all management of our diverse and unique lands by bureaucrats thousands of miles away has failed miserably. Under bureaucratic federal control, millions of our forested acres go up in smoke every year, killing wildlife by the millions, polluting our air, destroying our water quality and ruining blue ribbon fisheries and habitat for generations," he wrote in a statement to FOX 13. "Protecting the health and welfare of our lands and communities may seem like 'a waste of time' to some Washington DC bureaucrats, but to those of us who live here it's our lives and our livelihoods at stake."

The Utah Attorney General's Office has said whether or not to pursue a lawsuit is under consideration.

On Thursday, August 6, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov

wrote:

AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

Michelle L. Price, Associated Press Updated 2:42 pm, Thursday, August 6, 2015

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SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Thursday that she can't guarantee President Barack Obama won't designate a new national monument in Utah, but any move to do so will be open and involve local input.

Jewell, who was in Salt Lake City to announce a community service project connecting children with the outdoors, told reporters that Utah has public lands in need of additional protections but that the Obama administration wants to see what steps Congress takes to protect those wild spaces.

Gov. Gary Herbert, members of Utah's all-Republican congressional delegation and local officials have feared for years that Obama will use broad authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect swaths of Utah land from any development,

"The president controls his own pen. I don't control the president's pen," Jewell told reporters on Thursday. "But I can tell you that we have been committed to a process of listening to multiple voices on all the monuments that we've been creating, and I haven't had any indication that that would not continue to be the case."

Two decades ago, President Bill Clinton used the presidential fiat to set aside nearly 2 million acres in southern Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, something that still draws the ire of local residents and politicians who complain they weren't consulted and that the designation closes off too much land to development.

Their fears of another monument in Utah were revived recently after a July meeting that U.S. Interior Department officials held in southeastern Utah with tribal officials who are pushing for a national conservation area or monument to protect the Bears Ears region, which includes sacred and archaeological sites for a number of tribes.

Environmental groups and others have also pushed for Obama to protect 1.8 million acres in southeastern Utah's Greater Canyonlands region near Moab as a national monument.

On Monday, Herbert and Utah's congressional delegation sent letters to Obama and Jewell opposing any plans to designate a monument in Utah and to instead urged their support of a comprehensive public lands plan that U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, is working on. Through meetings with county officials, environmentalists, energy developers and others, Bishop is mapping out a land plan for Utah that he says will balance protection, energy development, recreation and other uses.

He has been working on the initiative since 2012 and plans to unveil it as legislation in September, his spokesman Lee Lonsberry said Thursday.

Jewell, whose department is in charge of about 46 percent of Utah's land, said Thursday that she's still waiting to see what Bishop's plan entails.

Some Utah lawmakers and local officials aren't waiting around for Bishop's effort and are instead looking for a legal fight for control of the state's public land.

Utah passed a 2012 law demanding the U.S. hand over control of about 30 million federal acres by 2015.

That deadline quietly passed with the federal government ignoring the ultimatum, as many officials and locals predicted. Utah legislators then hired lawyers and a public policy firm who are working to craft a court case and public relations campaign for the fight by the end of this year.

Jewell on Thursday said that's "a waste of time" and "very naive" talk that doesn't recognize the role the federal government plays and what it would look like if the state took over.

"We are not willing to sell federal public lands to the highest bidder," Jewell said, "And we certainly are not willing to stand back and give them away."

On Monday, August 3, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica <<a>jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov wrote:

Deseret News: Herbert pleads with Obama to stop any new monument designations in Utah

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News

Published: Monday, Aug. 3 2015 12:15 p.m. MDT

Updated: 1 hour ago

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President Bill Clinton signs an order in Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona to designate a vast canyonland in Utah, including Grand Escalante Staircase, a national monument Sept. 18, 1996, while Vice President Al Gore watches. The area holds one of the largest known US coal reserves which is now off limits for mining.

LUKE FRAZZA, AFP



[View 6 photos »](#)

Summary

In a letter penned to President Obama on Monday, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert urged that no new monument designations be made in the state. The letter references the angst still felt in Utah over the last designation in 1996.

More Coverage

[Does secret southern Utah meeting mean feds are plotting new national monument?](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Gov. Gary Herbert wrote a letter to President Obama on Monday, urging the president to refrain from any new monument designations in the state.

"There is a right way and a wrong way to determine land management decisions," he said. "Unilateral monuments are the wrong way. Ground up, open, public processes are the right way."

Herbert noted the 1996 designation by then-President Bill Clinton creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, an action that still stings.

"Nearly two decades later, this designation continues to be a source of mistrust, frustration and acrimony toward the federal government among local residents," he said. "I am certain that another presidential monument in Utah will likewise result in decades of resentment and conflict."

Cody Stewart, Herbert's policy adviser, said the letter is in response to the continuing swirl of rumors and conjecture that a monument designation

looms for Utah.

"There's always rumors out there, which is what is so troubling and frightening about this form of approach," Stewart said. "All you hear is the rumors until it happens. ... We want to make sure again that the flag is planted and that the president has no question about

Gov. Herbert's position on this issue."

In his letter, Herbert urged the administration to back off any unilateral decision, saying such a move would make it more difficult to implement public land policies in the long run.

Instead, the governor asked the president to let the Public Lands Initiative process play out that is being shepherded by Utah Republican representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

That effort has drawn together more than 100 parties of diverse interests trying to forge land-use solutions for a large chunk of eastern Utah, Herbert said.

"The relationships among these groups are historically strong, positioning us to work together on a range of public-land issues in the coming years," he said.

Obama has designated 19 new national monuments since he took office seven years ago, the most recent being a trio of designations in July in states that included Utah's neighbor, Nevada.

The move brought howls of protest from Republicans, most notably Bishop, who is chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee.

The letter also comes in advance of a visit this week by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who is slated to participate in a discussion as part of the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City.

Jewell oversees multiple land management agencies that include the National Park Service, which has more than 400 units that host 275 million visitors each year.

Utah's National Park System includes five national parks, six national monuments and one national recreation area and historic site.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865633739/Herbert-pleads-with-Obama-to-stop-any-new-monument-designations-in-Utah.html?pg=all>

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Conversation Contents

TWS Too Wild To Drill Report being released tomorrow

Nada Culver <nada_culver@tw.s.org>

From: Nada Culver <nada_culver@tw.s.org>
Sent: Tue Aug 11 2015 15:18:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: TWS Too Wild To Drill Report being released tomorrow

Hi Neil – I wanted to let you know that The Wilderness Society will be releasing a new version of our Too Wild To Drill report on Wednesday.

We've identified 6 places that are particularly threatened, where we hope BLM (among others) will take action to protect important wildlands from potential development: Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado's Thompson Divide and Grand Junction Field Office, Montana's Badger-Two Medicine, and Utah's Bears Ears and Desolation Canyon.

I also wanted to emphasize that we discuss places like the Roan Plateau as success stories; and efforts such as the South Park and Dinosaur Trail MLPs are highlighted in the section on how BLM can commit to conservation as part of planning for energy development. We hope to bring attention to the many efforts underway to meet the challenge of multiple use management on BLM lands.

The links below will be live tomorrow morning in conjunction with our release at 10:00 a.m. mountain time:

PDF of Report: <https://wilderness.org/sites/default/files/TooWildtoDrill.pdf>

Web piece: <https://wilderness.org/toowildtodrill>

We hope you find the report helpful.

Nada Culver
Senior Counsel and Director, BLM Action Center
The Wilderness Society
1660 Wynkoop, #850
Denver, CO 80202
Main: 303-650-5818
Direct: 303-225-4635
Nada_Culver@tw.s.org

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

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Sent: Tue Aug 11 2015 15:19:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Nada Culver <nada_culver@tw.s.org>
Subject: Re: TWS Too Wild To Drill Report being released tomorrow

Thank you for the heads up. I hope you're well.

Neil

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Nada_Culver@tw.s.org

"Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>

From: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 11 2015 15:20:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: BLM_WO_100 <bwo_100@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: TWS Too Wild To Drill Report being released tomorrow

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AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Aug 06 2015 15:36:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Sally Jewell <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Kevin Washburn <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Sarah Harris <sarah.harris@bia.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>
Subject: AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open
Michelle L. Price, Associated Press Updated 2:42 pm, Thursday, August 6, 2015

0

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Thursday that she can't guarantee President Barack Obama won't designate a new national monument in Utah, but any move to do so will be open and involve local input.

Jewell, who was in Salt Lake City to announce a community service project connecting children with the outdoors, told reporters that Utah has public lands in need of additional protections but that the Obama administration wants to see what steps Congress takes to protect those wild spaces.

Gov. Gary Herbert, members of Utah's all-Republican congressional delegation and local officials have feared for years that Obama will use broad authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect swaths of Utah land from any development.

"The president controls his own pen. I don't control the president's pen," Jewell told reporters on Thursday. "But I can tell you that we have been committed to a process of listening to multiple voices on all the monuments that we've been creating, and I haven't had any indication that that would not continue to be the case."

Two decades ago, President Bill Clinton used the presidential fiat to set aside nearly 2 million acres in southern Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, something that still draws the ire of local residents and politicians who complain they weren't consulted and that the designation closes off too much land to development.

Their fears of another monument in Utah were revived recently after a July meeting that U.S. Interior Department officials held in southeastern Utah with tribal officials who are pushing for a national conservation area or monument to protect the Bears Ears region, which includes sacred and archaeological sites for a number of tribes.

Environmental groups and others have also pushed for Obama to protect 1.8 million acres in southeastern Utah's Greater Canyonlands region near Moab as a national monument.

On Monday, Herbert and Utah's congressional delegation sent letters to Obama and Jewell opposing any plans to designate a monument in Utah and to instead urged their support of a comprehensive public lands plan that U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, is working on. Through meetings with county officials, environmentalists, energy developers and others, Bishop is mapping out a land plan for Utah that he says will balance protection, energy development, recreation and other uses.

He has been working on the initiative since 2012 and plans to unveil it as legislation in September, his spokesman Lee Lonsberry said Thursday.

Jewell, whose department is in charge of about 46 percent of Utah's land, said Thursday that she's still waiting to see what Bishop's plan entails.

Some Utah lawmakers and local officials aren't waiting around for Bishop's effort and are instead looking for a legal fight for control of the state's public land.

Utah passed a 2012 law demanding the U.S. hand over control of about 30 million federal acres by 2015.

That deadline quietly passed with the federal government ignoring the ultimatum, as many officials and locals predicted. Utah legislators then hired lawyers and a public policy firm who are working to craft a court case and public relations campaign for the fight by the end of this year.

Jewell on Thursday said that's "a waste of time" and "very naive" talk that doesn't recognize the role the federal government plays and what it would look like if the state took over.

"We are not willing to sell federal public lands to the highest bidder," Jewell said, "And we certainly are not willing to stand back and give them away."

On Monday, August 3, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Deseret News: Herbert pleads with Obama to stop any new monument designations in Utah

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News
Published: Monday, Aug. 3 2015 12:15 p.m. MDT
Updated: 1 hour ago

Print Font [+][-] 24 Comments

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President Bill Clinton signs an order in Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona to designate a vast canyonland in Utah, including Grand Escalante Staircase, a national monument Sept. 18, 1996, while Vice President Al Gore watches. The area holds one of the largest known US coal reserves which is now off limits for mining.

LUKE FRAZZA, AFP



View 6 photos »

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Gov. Gary Herbert wrote a letter to President Obama on Monday, urging the president to refrain from any new monument designations in the state.

"There is a right way and a wrong way to determine land management decisions," he said. "Unilateral monuments are the wrong way. Ground up, open, public processes are the right way."

Herbert noted the 1996 designation by then-President Bill Clinton creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, an action that still stings.

"Nearly two decades later, this designation continues to be a source of mistrust, frustration and acrimony toward the federal government among local residents," he said. "I am certain that another presidential monument in Utah will likewise result in decades of resentment and conflict."

Cody Stewart, Herbert's policy adviser, said the letter is in response to the continuing swirl of rumors and conjecture that a monument designation

looms for Utah.

"There's always rumors out there, which is what is so troubling and frightening about this form of approach," Stewart said. "All you hear is the rumors until it happens. ... We want to make sure again that the flag is planted and that the president has no question about Gov. Herbert's position on this issue."

In his letter, Herbert urged the administration to back off any unilateral decision, saying such a move would make it more difficult to implement public land policies in the long run.

Instead, the governor asked the president to let the Public Lands Initiative process play out that is being shepherded by Utah Republican representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

That effort has drawn together more than 100 parties of diverse interests trying to forge land-use solutions for a

Summary

In a letter penned to President Obama on Monday, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert urged that no new monument designations be made in the state. The letter references the angst still felt in Utah over the last designation in 1996.

More Coverage

Does secret southern Utah meeting mean feds are plotting new national monument?

large chunk of eastern Utah, Herbert said.

"The relationships among these groups are historically strong, positioning us to work together on a range of public-land issues in the coming years," he said.

Obama has designated 19 new national monuments since he took office seven years ago, the most recent being a trio of designations in July in states that included Utah's neighbor, Nevada.

The move brought howls of protest from Republicans, most notably Bishop, who is chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee.

The letter also comes in advance of a visit this week by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who is slated to participate in a discussion as part of the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City.

Jewell oversees multiple land management agencies that include the National Park Service, which has more than 400 units that host 275 million visitors each year.

Utah's National Park System includes five national parks, six national monuments and one national recreation area and historic site.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865633739/Herbert-pleads-with-Obama-to-stop-any-new-monument-designations-in-Utah.html?pg=all>

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Sent: Thu Aug 06 2015 17:51:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Sally Jewell <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>, "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Kevin Washburn <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Sarah Harris <sarah.harris@bia.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>
To:
Subject: Re: AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

UT-Fox Affiliate: Utah could still get a new national monument

POSTED 4:18 PM, AUGUST 6, 2015, BY [BEN WINSLOW](#)

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

SALT LAKE CITY — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said she cannot rule out the possibility of the Obama administration creating a new national monument in Utah.

"Monuments are up to the president," Jewell said Thursday. "I will tell you that there has been interest in monument designations in Utah."

Jewell spoke to reporters at an event in Salt Lake City, where she announced a new private/public partnership to encourage kids to put down the video games and step away from screens and get outdoors. She was joined by Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker in launching the initiative, which includes free passes to national parks for every fourth grader in the nation.

Late Wednesday, Jewell met with Governor Gary Herbert. FOX 13 is told the governor reiterated his opposition to a unilateral monument designation by President Obama.

"Gov. Herbert is proud of our state's beautiful public lands and recognizes the many opportunities and challenges they present. In a meeting with Secretary Jewell last night, the governor reiterated his opposition to a unilateral national monument designation in Utah," Herbert spokesman Jon Cox wrote in an email. "He also expressed his support for the Public Lands Initiative and encouraged the Obama Administration to engage as partners in the open, collaborative process with all stakeholders, including local, state, Native American, environmental, and business leaders."

Many in Utah are still fuming over President Bill Clinton's creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996.

"I don't control the president's pen," Jewell told FOX 13. "But I can tell you that we have been committed to a process of listening to multiple voices in all the monuments we've been creating."



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell speaks at a news conference in Salt Lake City on Thursday.

Jewell pointed to Rep. Rob Bishop's public lands initiatives involving multiple stakeholders, but she said the Interior Department had yet to see a formal plan put forward by the Utah congressman.

One area considered for a national monument designation is "Bears Ears" in southeastern Utah. The idea of a conservation area or national monument has been backed by some Native American groups.

"We will continue to work the legislative, congressional process," said Willie Grayeyes, the chairman of the Utah Diné Bikéyah, which supports Bears Ears. "On the other hand, if nothing comes through at the very end, we might go with the president."



A map of the proposed Bears Ears Conservation Area/National Monument.

In the ongoing battle over control of federal lands in Utah, the Interior secretary called the idea pushed by some state lawmakers of suing for control of federal lands "a waste of time."

"I think that much of the talk of taking over federal lands is very naive, in terms of recognizing the cost the American taxpayer pays generally into these states and what it might look like if they didn't have that," Jewell said. "We are not willing to sell public lands to the highest bidder and we're not willing to stand back and give them away."

Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, who has urged his colleagues in the Utah State Legislature to sue for control of federal lands said in a statement Thursday that federal policies have failed.

"One size fits all management of our diverse and unique lands by bureaucrats thousands of miles away has failed miserably. Under bureaucratic federal control, millions of our forested acres go up in smoke every year, killing wildlife by the millions, polluting our air, destroying our water quality and ruining blue ribbon fisheries and habitat for generations," he wrote in a statement to FOX 13. "Protecting the health and welfare of our lands and communities may seem like 'a waste of time' to some Washington DC bureaucrats, but to those of us who live here it's our lives and our livelihoods at stake."

The Utah Attorney General's Office has said whether or not to pursue a lawsuit is under consideration.

On Thursday, August 6, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

Michelle L. Price, Associated Press Updated 2:42 pm, Thursday, August 6, 2015

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By Amy Joí O'Donoghue, Deseret News

Print Font [+][-] 34 Comments

Published: Monday, Aug. 3 2015 12:15 p.m. MDT

Updated: 1 hour ago

Share 4 4 0 0

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LUKE FRAZZA, AFP



[View 6 photos »](#)

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To:
Subject: Re: AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

St. George Spectrum: Protecting Utah by modernizing the Antiquities Act

Sen. Mike Lee Guest Editorial 9:09 a.m. MDT August 7, 2015

1 2
CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN COMMENT EMAIL MORE

Mere months before he was re-elected in 1996, President Bill Clinton surprised the entire state of Utah by designating 1.9 million acres of federal land in Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

On Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 7:51 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

UT-Fox Affiliate: Utah could still get a new national monument

Mike Lee



(Photo: SUBMITTED)

Not only did Clinton fail to consult Utah stakeholders about this designation, he didn't even bother coming to the state to make the designation. Instead he signed the proclamation in Arizona in sight of the Grand Canyon.

POSTED 4:18 PM, AUGUST 6, 2015, BY [BEN WINSLOW](#)

Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act to designate the monument, and many others, was a huge hit with his wealthy environmentalist donors in California and New York. But here in Utah, the designation only created frustration and mistrust towards the federal government - feelings that continue to this day.

The Antiquities Act was never meant to be used in this way. Passed in 1906 after widespread looting of archeological sites in federal land in the Southwest, the four paragraph bill gave President Theodore Roosevelt the power to declare "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic interest on federal land."

Establishing its originally intended narrow scope, the act also directs the president to limit each designation to the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

Unfortunately, presidents from both sides of the aisle have ignored this limitation by designating 140 monuments covering more than 285 million acres of land.

And it appears President Obama not only wants to add to these totals, but he wants to add to them right here in Southern Utah.

Just last month Bureau of Land Management officials met with tribal leaders to reportedly discuss another monument listing. Noticeably absent from these meetings were any other local stakeholders including local officials, businesses and residents.

While Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has told many state leaders that Obama will not spring an Antiquities Act designation on Utah the way Clinton did, Utahns should not have to take Obama's word for it, and they should not be at the mercy of the whim of future presidents either.

This is why I have introduced the Antiquities Modernization Act in the Senate. This bill would both preserve the original Antiquities Act intent by continuing the president's power to designate monument sites that need protection, while also giving local communities a say in the process.

If the Antiquities Modernization Act were to become law, presidents could still move quickly to protect parcels of federal land, but any such designation would only be temporary. To make any Antiquities Act designation permanent, a president would then need to win approval for the new monument from both the state where the land resides and from Congress.

This legislation would both end top-down Washington land grabs and encourage a new ground-up, open, and public process that maximizes input from all the stakeholders involved.

Utah is blessed with some of the most beautiful lands in the world. Thousands of tourists come from around the world every year to see such sites Goblin Valley State Park, Mirror Lake in Uinta National Forest, and Antelope Island State Park. Each of these precious places was protected by either an act of Congress or the Utah State Legislature. Utahns have a long history of working with the federal government to best protect our most treasured lands.

Public lands management always works better when local, state, and federal government agencies work together. Under current law, Antiquities Act designations only undermine such agreements.

By passing the Antiquities Modernization Act, we can ensure that future federal lands management is done in as inclusive a manner as possible.

To contact Utah Sen. Mike Lee, go to his official website at lee.senate.gov.

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<http://www.thespectrum.com/story/opinion/2015/08/07/mike-lee-utah-antiquities-act/31256811/>

SALT LAKE CITY — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said she cannot rule out the possibility of the Obama administration creating a new national monument in Utah.

"Monuments are up to the president," Jewell said Thursday. "I will tell you that there has been interest in monument designations in Utah."

Jewell spoke to reporters at an event in Salt Lake City, where she announced a new private/public partnership to encourage kids to put down the video games and step away from screens and get outdoors. She was joined by Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker in launching the initiative, which includes free passes to national parks for every fourth grader in the nation.

Late Wednesday, Jewell met with Governor Gary Herbert. FOX 13 is told the governor reiterated his opposition to a unilateral monument designation by President Obama.

"Gov. Herbert is proud of our state's beautiful public lands and recognizes the many opportunities and challenges they present. In a meeting with Secretary Jewell last night, the governor reiterated his opposition to a unilateral national monument designation in Utah," Herbert spokesman Jon Cox wrote in an email. "He also expressed his support for the Public Lands Initiative and encouraged the Obama Administration to engage as partners in the open, collaborative process with all stakeholders, including local, state, Native American, environmental, and business leaders."

Many in Utah are still fuming over President Bill Clinton's creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996.

"I don't control the president's pen," Jewell told FOX 13. "But I can tell you that we have been committed to a process of listening to multiple voices in all the monuments we've been creating."



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell speaks at a news conference in Salt Lake City on Thursday.

Jewell pointed to Rep. Rob Bishop's public lands initiatives involving multiple stakeholders, but she said the Interior Department had yet to see a formal plan put forward by the Utah congressman.

One area considered for a national monument designation is "Bears Ears" in southeastern Utah. The idea of a conservation area or national monument has been backed by some Native American groups.

"We will continue to work the legislative, congressional process," said Willie Grayeyes, the chairman of the Utah Diné Bikéyah, which supports Bears Ears. "On the other hand, if nothing comes through at the very end, we might go with the president."



A map of the proposed Bears Ears Conservation Area/National Monument.

In the ongoing battle over control of federal lands in Utah, the Interior secretary called the idea pushed by some state lawmakers of suing for control of federal lands "a waste of time."

"I think that much of the talk of taking over federal lands is very naive, in terms of recognizing the cost the American taxpayer pays generally into these states and what it might look like if they didn't have that," Jewell said. "We are not willing to sell public lands to the highest bidder and we're not willing to stand back and give them away."

Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan, who has urged his colleagues in the Utah State Legislature to sue for control of federal lands said in a statement Thursday that federal policies have failed.

"One size fits all management of our diverse and unique lands by bureaucrats thousands of miles away has failed miserably. Under bureaucratic federal control,

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millions of our forested acres go up in smoke every year, killing wildlife by the millions, polluting our air, destroying our water quality and ruining blue ribbon fisheries and habitat for generations," he wrote in a statement to FOX 13. "Protecting the health and welfare of our lands and communities may seem like 'a waste of time' to some Washington DC bureaucrats, but to those of us who live here it's our lives and our livelihoods at stake."

The Utah Attorney General's Office has said whether or not to pursue a lawsuit is under consideration.

On Thursday, August 6, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

AP-UT: Obama official: Any plans for Utah monuments will be open

Michelle L. Price, Associated Press Updated 2:42 pm, Thursday, August 6, 2015

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SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Thursday that she can't guarantee President Barack Obama won't designate a new national monument in Utah, but any move to do so will be open and involve local input.

Jewell, who was in Salt Lake City to announce a community service project connecting children with the outdoors, told reporters that Utah has public lands in need of additional protections but that the Obama administration wants to see what steps Congress takes to protect those wild spaces.

Gov. Gary Herbert, members of Utah's all-Republican congressional delegation and local officials have feared for years that Obama will use broad authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect swaths of Utah land from any development.

"The president controls his own pen. I don't control the president's pen," Jewell told reporters on Thursday. "But I can tell you that we have been committed to a process of listening to multiple voices on all the monuments that we've been creating, and I haven't had any indication that that would not continue to be the case."

Two decades ago, President Bill Clinton used the presidential fiat to set aside nearly 2 million acres in southern Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, something that still draws the ire of local residents and politicians who complain they weren't consulted and that the designation closes off too much land to development.

Their fears of another monument in Utah were revived recently after a July meeting that U.S. Interior Department officials held in southeastern Utah with tribal officials who are pushing for a national conservation area or monument to protect the Bears Ears region, which includes sacred and archaeological sites for a number of tribes.

Environmental groups and others have also pushed for Obama to protect 1.8 million acres in southeastern Utah's Greater Canyonlands region near Moab as a national monument.

On Monday, Herbert and Utah's congressional delegation sent letters to Obama and Jewell opposing any plans to designate a monument in Utah and to instead urged their support of a comprehensive public lands plan that U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, is working on. Through meetings with county officials, environmentalists, energy developers and others, Bishop is mapping out a land plan for Utah that he says will balance protection, energy development, recreation and other uses.

He has been working on the initiative since 2012 and plans to unveil it as legislation in September, his spokesman Lee Lonsberry said Thursday.

Jewell, whose department is in charge of about 46 percent of Utah's land, said Thursday that she's still waiting to see what Bishop's plan entails.

Some Utah lawmakers and local officials aren't waiting around for Bishop's effort and are instead looking for a legal fight for control of the state's public land.

Utah passed a 2012 law demanding the U.S. hand over control of about 30 million federal acres by 2015.

That deadline quietly passed with the federal government ignoring the ultimatum, as many officials and locals predicted. Utah legislators then hired lawyers and a public policy firm who are working to craft a court case and public relations campaign for the fight by the end of this year.

Jewell on Thursday said that's "a waste of time" and "very naive" talk that doesn't recognize the role the federal government plays and what it would look like if the state took over.

"We are not willing to sell federal public lands to the highest bidder," Jewell said, "And we certainly are not willing to stand back and give them away."

On Monday, August 3, 2015, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Deseret News: Herbert pleads with Obama to stop any new monument designations in Utah

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News

Print Font [+][-] Comments

Published: Monday, Aug 3 2015 12:15 p.m. MDT

Updated: 1 hour ago

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President Bill Clinton signs an order in Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona to designate a vast canyonland in Utah, including Grand Escalante Staircase, a national monument Sept. 18, 1996, while Vice President Al Gore watches. The area holds one of the largest known US coal reserves which is now off limits for mining.

LUKE FRAZZA, AFP



[View 6 photos »](#)

SALT LAKE CITY – Utah Gov. Gary Herbert wrote a letter to President Obama on Monday, urging the president to refrain from any new monument designations in the state.

"There is a right way and a wrong way to determine land management decisions," he said. "Unilateral monuments are the wrong way. Ground up, open, public processes are the right way."

Herbert noted the 1996 designation by then-President Bill Clinton creating the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, an action that still stings.

"Nearly two decades later, this designation continues to be a source of mistrust, frustration and acrimony toward the federal government among local residents," he said. "I am certain that another presidential monument in Utah will likewise result in decades of resentment and conflict."

Cody Stewart, Herbert's policy adviser, said the letter is in response to the continuing swirl of rumors and conjecture that a monument designation

looms for Utah.

"There's always rumors out there, which is what is so troubling and frightening about this form of approach," Stewart said. "All you hear is the rumors until it happens. ... We want to make sure again that the flag is planted and that the president has no question about Gov. Herbert's position on this issue."

In his letter, Herbert urged the administration to back off any unilateral decision, saying such a move would make it more difficult to

implement public land policies in the long run.

Instead, the governor asked the president to let the Public Lands Initiative process play out that is being shepherded by Utah Republican representatives Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

That effort has drawn together more than 100 parties of diverse interests trying to forge land-use solutions for a large chunk of eastern Utah, Herbert said.

"The relationships among these groups are historically strong, positioning us to work together on a range of public-land issues in the coming years," he said.

Obama has designated 19 new national monuments since he took office seven years ago, the most recent being a trio of designations in July in states that included Utah's neighbor, Nevada.

The move brought howls of protest from Republicans, most notably Bishop, who is chairman of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee.

The letter also comes in advance of a visit this week by

Summary

In a letter penned to President Obama on Monday, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert urged that no new monument designations be made in the state. The letter references the angst still felt in Utah over the last designation in 1996.

More Coverage

[Does secret southern Utah meeting mean feds are plotting new national monument?](#)

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Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who is slated to participate in a discussion as part of the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City.

Jewell oversees multiple land management agencies that include the National Park Service, which has more than 400 units that host 275 million visitors each year.

Utah's National Park System includes five national parks, six national monuments and one national recreation area and historic site.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865633739/Herbert-pleads-with-Obama-to-stop-any-new-monument-designations-in-Utah.html?pg=all>

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We write to update the Department of the Interior (Department) on yesterday's historic public land management vote in San Juan County, Utah. Yesterday, the San Juan County Commission unanimously voted to endorse a land management plan that would result in the designation of more than 1,000,000 acres of land for conservation purposes. Included in this plan are designations for the world-renowned areas of Cedar Mesa, the Bears Ears Buttes, and Indian Creek (among many others).

The San Juan County Commission has been an active participant in the Utah Congressional delegation's Public Lands Initiative (PLI). To help guide and inform local officials and residents during the PLI process, a San Juan Citizen's Lands Council was formed. The Citizen's Council was composed of 10 – 12 San Juan County residents with varying interests from various areas of San Juan County. The Council, comprised of Navajo residents and other Native American representatives, conservationists, and multiple-use advocates, met 22 times from January 2014 – June 2015, held six public meetings, and considered dozens of alternatives as part of their deliberations.

Yesterday's 3-0 vote by the San Juan County Commission formally endorsed the Citizen's Council final alternative, known as Alternative 4. The Citizen's Council adopted Alternative 4 on June 15, 2015. Alternative 4 has been endorsed by San Juan County's only Native American Commissioner, Rebecca Benally, and nearly 200 different tribal members that represent all seven Utah Navajo Chapters.

Regretfully, yesterday's progress could be undermined if a National Monument were to be designated in Utah. Earlier this week, Utah Governor Gary Herbert sent a letter to President Obama expressing opposition to his use of the Antiquities Act in Utah. During the same work session, the San Juan County Commission passed a separate resolution opposing the creation of a National Monument within their county. We echo the sentiments expressed by Governor Herbert and San Juan County and oppose the use of the Antiquities Act in Utah. Local support does not exist and doing so would be detrimental to the larger PLI process.

It was been widely reported that a meeting was recently held in San Juan County, Utah involving high-ranking Department officials to discuss the future of public lands in the county. The perception that these officials attended the meetings in order to plan for an impending National Monument designation harms PLI and sends the wrong signal to stakeholders and the public. Furthermore, continued discussions involving the potential use of the Antiquities Act undermines public processes such as the

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PLI as they breed an atmosphere of distrust and discourages participants from working amicably to resolve conflict.

PLI will result in a legislative proposal that will help conserve the spectacular places in our state while protecting the interests of the people whose livelihoods depend upon multiple-use of public lands. We also hope that the Department will continue to make good on commitments to allow this locally driven process to move forward.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Mia Love
Member of Congress



Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senator



Mike Lee
U.S. Senator

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Bears Ears Letter

Attachments:

/285. Fwd: Bears Ears Letter/1.1 7.27.2015.Bears Ears.pdf

"Ellis, Steven" <sellis@blm.gov>

From: "Ellis, Steven" <sellis@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 04 2015 17:07:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Bears Ears Letter
Attachments: 7.27.2015.Bears Ears.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ojeda-dodds, Gisella** <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 4, 2015 at 1:32 PM
Subject: Bears Ears Letter
To: Fay Iudicello <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Kevin Washburn <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>

Good Afternoon,

Attached, please find a letter dated July 27, 2015 from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

Sincerely,

--

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds
Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 7229-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105
Facsimile: (202) 208-4561
E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov



"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

- Tribe Unknown

BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION

*A Coalition of the Hopi, Navajo, Northern Ute, Cochiti
Pueblo, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni Tribes*

July 27, 2015

Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240

Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Butch Blazer
Deputy Under Secretary
for Natural Resources & Environment
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Steve Ellis
Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell, Assistant Secretary Washburn, Deputy Under Secretary Blazer, Director Jarvis, and Deputy Director Ellis;

Thank you again for coming out to Bears Ears last week. The Secretary had the vision to arrange that historic meeting and the four high officials made presentations, and engaged in many conversation before and afterward, that were strong, open, and greatly respectful of the tribes and their concerns. We can assure you that the Indian people at the gathering, and those who were unable to attend but learned of the occasion, were deeply moved by the way you presented yourselves. For us, and we hope for you, this is the tone that should be struck in federal-tribal relations.

We believe that this effort can be the ultimate model, the shining example, of what the government-to-government relationship can be—of how tribes and federal officials can work together collegially and open-mindedly to resolve great public issues. For our part, we acknowledge obligations to you. There will be many details here, and we must act expeditiously in response to your requests and concerns. In that regard, we are glad that the creation of the Coalition will be efficient for you by having just one body to work with. We acknowledge the many demands on your time and must give you as much advance notice as possible. We have dreams for how this can be an extraordinary, uniquely compelling national monument, but we owe it to you to present reasonable proposals, ones that can work and work well in the real world.

As a result, the proposal we will present to you on October 15th will be ambitious but realistic and legally sufficient. In some areas, we will be making proposals that are new, for which there may be no direct precedent. How could it be otherwise? In more than a century since the Antiquities Act was passed, this is the very first proposed monument where the impetus comes from Indian country. So, while we will doubtless have exchanges before then, once our proposal is submitted we will want to have full and frank discussions with you about how modern sovereign Indian tribes can work collaboratively with you, not only to further tribal objectives but also to create a monument that will be a showcase for displaying all that this nation can achieve on its public lands.

Thank you once again for all you have done. We very much look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alfred Lomahquahu
Hopi Vice Chairman
Office of the Vice Chairman
The Hopi Tribe
PO Box 123
Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039



Eric Descheenie
Executive Staff Assistant
Office of the President and Vice President
The Navajo Nation
PO Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515

Co-Chairs, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition

cc: Nikki Buffa, Natasha K. Hale

Conversation Contents

SLT: Interior, tribal meeting sparks fear of new Utah monument designation

"Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>

From: "Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 28 2015 05:16:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: BLM_WO_100 <bwo_100@blm.gov>
Subject: SLT: Interior, tribal meeting sparks fear of new Utah monument designation

Well reported, splashy headline notwithstanding...

Interior, tribal meeting sparks fear of new Utah monument designation

www.sltrib.com

Washington • The Interior Department said Monday that a recent meeting between federal officials and tribal leaders in southwestern Utah was part of a listening tour and downplayed questions of whether it could lead to a new national monument.

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, National Parks Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, a deputy Bureau of Land Management official and an Agriculture Department undersecretary met earlier this month with tribal leaders who were pitching a plan to preserve about 1.9 million acres in the southeastern corner of Utah. The federal officials came at the request of the tribes, Interior press secretary Jessica Kershaw said Monday.

"The Obama administration is committed to engaging in meaningful government-to-government dialogue on a wide range of issues of importance to Indian country," Kershaw said, adding that administration officials regularly meet with tribes at their request and do not dictate the agenda.

Asked if such a meeting might hint at a new national monument designation, Kershaw said it was simply a meeting the federal officials were asked to attend.

"It demonstrates a commitment to working with the tribes on what they would like to see happen in that area," she said.

But the meeting, held in the shadow of the towering Bears Ears mesas, raised concerns about a possible new national monument designation by President Barack Obama, who has said repeatedly he will take advantage of the 1906 Antiquities Act to preserve treasured landscapes if Congress fails to act.

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Such fears about a president's unilateral designations are rooted in President Bill Clinton's use of the Antiquities Act to set aside 1.8 million acres of southern Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument — a move he made without consulting local or state officials and which was announced from Arizona.

"It sounds hauntingly familiar to what a congressional committee called a behind-closed-doors breach of trust in the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument in 1996," said state Rep. Ken Ivory, R-West Jordan.

Ivory, who also runs the American Lands Council and fights for state control of Western public lands, noted the Bears Ears meeting came on the heels of several monument designations by Obama in nearby states.

"It is a sad state," Ivory said, "when land use and land planning bypasses locally elected officials who are responsible for the conditions and health, safety and welfare of the land."

Leaders of the Navajo, Ute, Pueblo, Zuni and Hopi tribes gathered for the meeting in early July and were met by Washburn, Jarvis, BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis and Butch Blazer, the Agriculture Department's undersecretary for natural resources and environment.

Washburn wrote in a blog post that the Obama administration is "listening carefully to the tribes."

"We look forward to working with tribal leaders who described to us their responsibility to honor the spirits of their ancestors who continue to animate this landscape and the equally important obligation to raise children — and future leaders — who share an unbroken connection, through this landscape, with their ancestors," Washburn wrote. "We share the desire of tribal leaders to protect sacred places and leave the Earth better than we found it."

The proposed Bears Ears National Conservation Area, backed by Utah's Navajos, stretches from the southern edge of Canyonlands National Park to the San Juan River and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the south, and from approximately U.S. Highway 191 on the east to the Colorado River on the west. The area west of Monticello, Blanding and Bluff includes Cedar Mesa, a region rich with archaeological treasures, including native burial sites and dwellings.

The tribe's proposal is larger than three other plans to expand federal land protections in the region — including the Greater Canyonlands notion from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, four conservation areas pitched by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and another from Friends of Cedar Mesa.

Gavin Noyes, executive director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, a nonprofit aimed at preserving the Bears Ears area, said there was no discussion of the Antiquities Act during the July meeting and it was more an informative dialogue about the need to protect the land. Noyes said preservation, ideally, would be done through legislation.

"The intention of it, I think, it was for sovereign tribal nations to meet nation to nation with the [U.S.] government," Noyes said. "It wasn't to ask for a national monument but to say, 'We're really interested in protecting this area.' "

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Noyes added that the meeting wasn't a secret — several Navajo newspapers covered the lead-up to the gathering — and that it was appropriate that the tribes brief government leaders on the sacred nature of — and threats to — lands under federal control.

Kershaw, the Interior spokeswoman, said that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell remains committed to working with the Utah congressional delegation and others to look for options on preserving lands that need protection.

tburr@sltrib.com

Conversation Contents

Deseret News - Does secret southern Utah meeting mean feds are plotting new national monument?

"Leff, Craig" <cleff@blm.gov>

From: "Leff, Craig" <cleff@blm.gov>
Sent: Sat Jul 25 2015 05:47:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: BLM_WO_100 <bwo_100@blm.gov>
Subject: Deseret News - Does secret southern Utah meeting mean feds are plotting new national monument?

Does secret southern Utah meeting mean feds are plotting new national monument?

THE BEARS EARS, San Juan County — Several top federal officials from Washington quietly attended a "Gathering of the Tribes" put on last weekend by Native Americans in southeastern Utah, their presence made known only to a chosen few who were "sworn to secrecy."

It's the clearest signal yet that the Obama administration may be considering the creation of a huge national monument surrounding a place called the Bears Ears.

Administration officials joined Native American tribes who were meeting at the Bears Ears to show solidarity and support for protection of a 1.9 million acre region. It's studded with tens of thousands of archaeological jewels spread across a landscape of stunning red-rock scenery.

"It's for preserving this land as useful for the Native Americans, not for private use, or mining or oil and gas," said Navajo Nation member Phil Atene. "Leave it the way it is."

"It's the most sacred land," said Amos Holliday of the Navajo Nation.

The proposal is charged with controversy and any move by the Obama administration to unilaterally protect the region would likely set off an explosive political reaction. There are still bitter memories in southern Utah of a similar political uproar when President Bill Clinton designated the Grand Staircase-

Escalante National Monument in 1996.

"They're stealing our lands from us. I think we've been really good stewards of it," said Brent Johansen who represents a group of ATV enthusiasts called SPEAR, San Juan Public Entry & Access Rights, which stands in opposition to the protection plan.

"It's a fight," Johansen said. "It really is."

Among the Obama administration officials who attended the unusual inter-tribal gathering was Jonathan Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. Also in attendance were Steven A. Ellis, deputy director of the Bureau of Land Management, and Arthur "Butch" Blazer, deputy undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Most of the hundreds of Native Americans who attended the colorful gathering at Bears Ears were unaware of the Washington delegation's presence.

"I was told it would be likely that some D.C. officials would show up," said Josh Ewing, executive director of the Friends of Cedar Mesa, one of a coalition of environmental groups and tribes supporting the protection plan. "I didn't know exactly who they would be, and we were all sworn to secrecy for the 'safety of the visitors.'"

The concern about safety may reflect the strong feelings stirred up by the prospect of Obama taking a hand in the battle.

"People would be upset. They would be unhappy," said San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams.

The 1.9 million acre Bears Ears proposal was rejected by the San Juan County Public Lands Council which is comprised of a variety of interest groups. The council did endorse a significantly smaller proposal.

"I think it protects absolutely the most important areas," Adams said.

The Bears Ears visit by the Obama administration officials was revealed days after the event in a news release from the Navajo Nation and in a blog posting by U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn.

"We were struck by the personal stories of spiritual connection to this rugged land," Washburn wrote. "We share the desire of tribal leaders to protect sacred places and leave the earth better than we found it."

The inter-tribal gathering began at Bears Ears with a ceremonial ride by Navajo horsemen. More than a dozen riders ascended a dirt road that climbs to a notch between two prominent bluffs that dominate the landscape. The bluffs are known as the Bears Ears because they can be seen looming over a vast region, as

if a bear's ears were poking above the horizon.

The ceremonial ride reminded several of the Navajo riders of a revered war chief who led the Navajos during their tumultuous and ultimately tragic showdown with the federal government when Army troops drove them from their land in the legendary 1864 "Long Walk of the Navajo."

"Chief Manuelito, this was his camp area," said Atene as he dismounted at the Bear Ears gathering. "This was where they gathered herbs, firewood. We (still) get it from here."

"He was a great chief," said Holliday. "And what his clan is, I'm part of that clan. Most of these riders are the same clan as he was."

Much of the debate over protection, though, relates to a much more ancient culture — the Native American cliff-dwellers who occupied the region nearly 1,000 years ago.

"This is likely an ancestral pueblo handprint from 800, 900 years ago," Ewing said as he inspected several handprints in a natural red-rock alcove. He said experts have estimated that as many as 100,000 archaeological sites lie within the proposed protection zone, including cliff dwellings, granaries, pit houses and fire pits. He argued that the ancient treasures of Grand Gulch and Cedar Mesa are threatened by ATV riders and by potential oil and gas development.

"The goal here is to see this area permanently protected for future generations," Ewing said. "It's a very real possibility that this sacred place to Native Americans could become an industrial zone."

Some opponents claim that the protection plan was cooked up by environmentalists using Native Americans as "puppets."

"It just seems like a constant battle with them," Johansen said, "wanting to close more and more trails. It's just a fight, really. A lot of our group, this is the only way they can get out and enjoy the great outdoors. A lot of our older riders have oxygen tanks strapped to their machines and it's the only way they can get out and enjoy it."

Ewing disputes the notion that the tribes were recruited for the fight by environmental groups.

"They aren't puppets, it's an authentic voice," Ewing said. "Spending any time with Native American people on this landscape will convince you that there's a deep love, passion and respect for this place that is far beyond what I think any white person like me could ever have."

Ewing said the goal is not to ban ATVs entirely. "That should continue in this

area. But it needs to be better managed. It needs to be done more respectfully than it is right now."

As a commissioner Adams opposes any broad, new restrictions on oil, gas and mining.

"We're a mineral county. We've survived on the mineral extraction industry in this county," Adams said. He vowed to fight the plan "so that we who live here 365 days a year can survive, not like those who just come to visit and then leave and enjoy the place that they live in."

Adams fears that the county is at a disadvantage in the fight because Native American tribes and nations have a legal-institutional relationship with the federal government through the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. "They have more influence on the federal government than the San Juan County Commission does," Adams said.

Members of at least six tribes attended the gathering at Bears Ears, including members of the Navajo, Ute, Pueblo, Zuni and Hopi tribes. In all, 25 tribes have endorsed the plan to protect the Bears Ears area and the homes and graves of many of their ancestors.

"It's really significant that there are so many cultures here," said Alfred Lomahquahu, vice chairman of the Hopi tribe. "You know the old cliché: divided we fall, united we stand. So that's what we're looking at now."

As he looked across the landscape surrounding Bears Ears, Eric Descheenie, executive adviser to the president of the Navajo Nation said, "Essentially, it's alive, and the rocks have beating hearts, and they breathe, just like you and I do. And a lot of that sounds like folklore, but the way indigenous people interpret our reality is that we do have a personal relationship with these items."

The ancient people who left behind most of the rich archaeological treasures are believed to be direct ancestors of the Pueblo tribe. But the gathering showed that many other tribes also feel a link to the land of the ancients.

"We all migrated through here at one time or another, each tribe," Lomahquahu said. "And we left a footprint here, and we still believe that our ancestors occupy those areas where we left our footprints."

Email: hollenhorst@deseretnews.com

--
Craig Leff
BLM Communications
202-208-6913 (office)

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

202-549-9218 (cell)

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Photos from Bears Ears Summer Gathering

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Jul 22 2015 15:26:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Jamey Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Sarah Harris <sarah.harris@bia.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>,
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Jon Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Kevin Washburn <Kevin.Washburn@bia.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Photos from Bears Ears Summer Gathering

These are great photos.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tim Peterson <tpeterson@grandcanyontrust.org>
Date: July 22, 2015 at 5:04:01 PM EDT
To: <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, <arthur.blazer@osec.usda.gov>, <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>, <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Ryan Bidwell <ryan@conservationlands.org>, Brian O'Donnell <Brian@conservationlands.org>, Gavin Noyes <utahdinebikeyah@gmail.com>, Natasha Hale <njohnson@grandcanyontrust.org>, Bill Hedden <bhedden@grandcanyontrust.org>, Charles F Wilkinson <Charles.Wilkinson@colorado.edu>, Mathew Gross <mathew@suwa.org>
Subject: Photos from Bears Ears Summer Gathering

Hi All,

As promised, here some are of my photos from this weekend's gathering, plus a few scenic shots from inside the Bears Ears Cultural Landscape proposal (mostly mine, but others are by Tom Till, James Kay, Matt Miller, Jonathan Bailey and Ray Bloxham).

<https://goo.gl/photos/sGZeF6b9wERdb58t5>

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Here is a more comprehensive photo tour as well, all but #1 and #52 located within San Juan County are in the Bears Ears polygon:

<http://gctrust.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=ba1cb624dcfa46fca9341709bde690e7>

Still more can be found here: <http://www.bearscoalition.org/>

I did not get cards from Steve or Jamie and don't have their emails - would one of you mind forwarding this to them?

Thanks so much to all of you for coming, I enjoyed meeting and talking with you all!

Thanks again,

Tim

--

Tim D. Peterson

Utah Wildlands Program Director

801 550 9861 - mobile

tpeterson@grandcanyontrust.org



*Protecting the wild heart
of the West since 1985*

Conversation Contents

Thank you for designating three new national monuments

"gwuerthner@gmail.com" <gwuerthner@gmail.com>

From: "gwuerthner@gmail.com" <gwuerthner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wed Jul 22 2015 10:34:06 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Thank you for designating three new national monuments

Dear President Barack Obama, As someone who regularly visits our national parks and monuments, I cannot thank you enough for the new designations you created. I encourage you to use your authority and create additional national monuments before you leave office, including expansion of Canyonlands NP and Bears Ears proposed monument in Utah, Owyhee Canyonlands and Hart-Sheldon NWR expansions in OR. I am writing to thank you and your administration for recently designating three national monuments, and especially for protecting the incredible public lands of Nevada's Basin and Range and California's Berryessa Snow Mountain regions. The Basin and Range National Monument will preserve a region that is rich in historic, cultural, and natural resources—a treasure for Nevadans and all Americans. This designation will help safeguard irreplaceable Native American rock art and sacred tribal lands, shield habitat for at least two dozen threatened and endangered wildlife species, protect rare and sensitive plants, and preserve the area surrounding the expansive land artwork by Michael Heizer known as City. It is a place where old and new art come together for the appreciation and inspiration of future generations. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is the crown jewel of Northern California's wild Inner Coast Range but until now lacked the protection it deserves. It is one of the most biologically diverse yet least known regions of the state. Safeguarding Berryessa Snow Mountain as a national monument will provide well-managed recreational opportunities and visitor education and will conserve the region's natural beauty, sensitive areas, wildlife, and rare plants for the enjoyment of future generations. Additionally, the Waco Mammoth National Monument will preserve prehistoric paleontological sites, allowing future generations to learn from the past. Thank you for listening to local residents, business owners, community and tourism leaders, elected officials, and citizens throughout the country who have asked you to protect more of our shared natural and cultural heritage. I applaud your action today and hope that we as a nation can work toward conserving even more of our most cherished wild landscapes during the remainder of your term. Sincerely, George Wuerthner PO BOX (b) (6) (b) (6) cc: Secretary Sally Jewell cc: Director Neil Kornze cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack

Conversation Contents

Foundation Inquiry

Attachments:

/291. Foundation Inquiry/1.1 image1.JPG

CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)

From: CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)
Sent: Tue Jul 21 2015 16:46:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Foundation Inquiry
Attachments: image1.JPG

Hello from the Pacific Northwest. Below is a shot of our current site on San Juan Island which will be home for a couple of more weeks before we head to Glacier NP. It looks as though you have been quite busy adding to my old portfolio which thrills me to no end. Now, if we can just get the entirety of the Bears Ears proposed NM and Gold Buttes, I'd even be more thrilled! Just wanted you to know that I was contacted by Phil Hansford who wanted me to speak with another of his colleagues, Joe Small, about a BLM Foundation. I shared with him our efforts to date – the budget request seeking congressional approval for a foundation and some of the findings our research had turned up. I also suggested he contact your office -- Josh -- and Trevor Needham about their efforts. I wasn't sure what more you have done in further developing the concept, so I didn't share too much with him. I don't know why The Wilderness Society is conducting this inquiry, but getting them on board might help win some support from this quarter. Hope you are well and have many more monumental designations in your future as BLM Director. Carlos Sent from my iPhone



Conversation Contents

Media - Navajo-Hopi Observer

"Leff, Craig" <cleff@blm.gov>

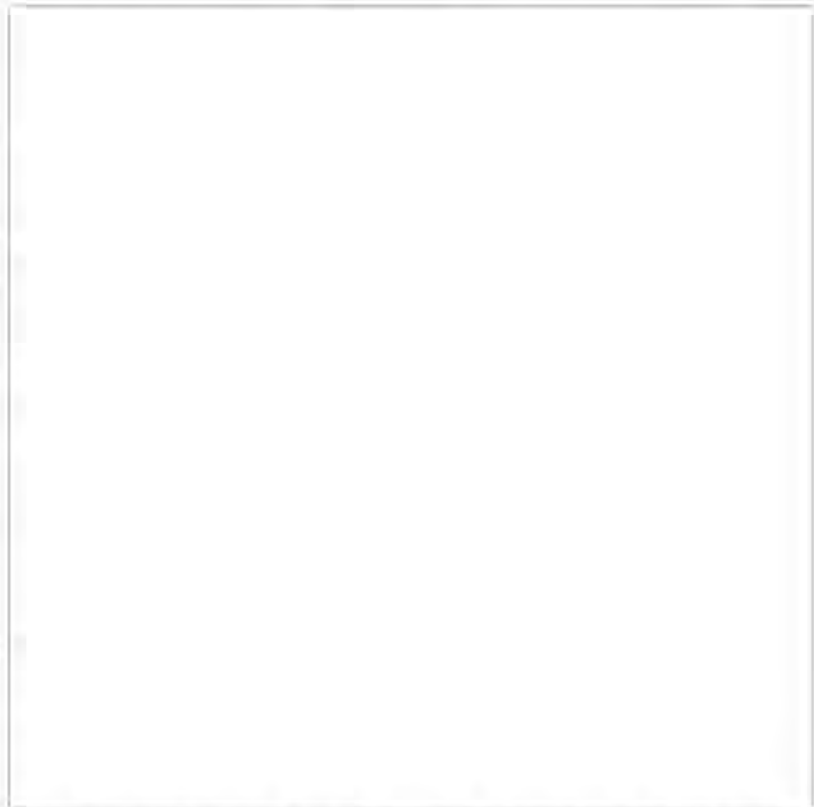
From: "Leff, Craig" <cleff@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jul 21 2015 14:22:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: BLM_WO_100 <bwo_100@blm.gov>
Subject: Media - Navajo-Hopi Observer

Speaker Bates urges Obama administration to support the Bears Ears National Conservation Area/National Monument proposal

Navajo-Hopi Observer

BEARS EARS, Utah - Navajo Nation Council Speaker LoRenzo Bates took part in a historic meeting with federal officials urging the Obama administration to support the designation of 1.9 million acres of land in San Juan County in Utah as a national conservation area or monument.

Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) met with officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, and tribes from the Bears Ears Coalition on July 17, urging the designation of the area as a National Conservation Area or National Monument.



Speaker LoRenzo Bates with federal officials and tribes from the Bears Ears Coalition at Bears Ears July 17. Submitted photo

The meeting took place outdoors at the Bears Ears area to allow federal officials to gain a firsthand perspective of the land base and to meet hundreds of local tribal members who gathered for the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Gathering, an event hosted by the Bears Ears Coalition that focused on reconnecting the tribes with their ancestral land and traditional culture.

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On March 12, the Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'iyáti' Committee unanimously passed a resolution in support of the federal designation of Bears Ears - ancestral home of many Southwestern Native American tribes.

According to the resolution, the area is the birthplace of Navajo Headman Manuelito. Navajo, Ute, Zuni, Hopi, and other Native American people depend on the land within the region to sustain their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices, such as hunting, gathering and ceremonial purposes. The Bears Ears National Conservation Area/National Monument proposal would also protect archaeological resources.

"Think back hundreds of years and imagine these lands occupied and being used to collect herbs, wood, and other resources that remain important to tribes today," Bates said. "The tribes here today are united and we ask the Obama administration to move this initiative forward."

Federal officials in attendance included U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Butch Blazer, Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis, and U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Chief of Staff Nikki Buffa.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), who sponsored the legislation, previously stated that the initiative to protect the Bears Ears area was initiated by local Utah Navajos, but that the combined collective interest of tribes in the region, including Ute, Hopi, Hualapai, Zuni, and others only makes the proposal more viable.

The resolution also supports the establishment of collaborative management agreements between the tribes and the federal government to improve management and to strengthen the tribes' influence in the long-term management of the region.

The process to protect the region was initiated over five years ago by Utah Diné Bikéyah, a legally recognized non-profit organization in Utah created by a group of elders and traditional practitioners who came together over concerns for the aboriginal lands, particularly limitations placed on uses of the land for traditional and ceremonial uses.

Representatives from the Cochiti Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Zuni Pueblo, and Ute Mountain Ute Nations were among the tribes who participated in the meeting with federal officials, each expressing their strong support of the initiative.

During the meeting, Bates also urged the tribal coalition to remain united throughout the process in order to achieve the ultimate goal of conserving the area.

"We are united in moving this forward, but I also recognize that there will be opposition," Bates said. "In order to get where we want to be, we need to remain unified and understand that it's not going to be easy."

Through the Antiquities Act of 1906, U.S. presidents are empowered to protect natural, historical, and cultural areas by designating them as national monuments - an option that tribes urge the Obama administration to act on before leaving office.

--

Craig Leff
BLM Communications
202-208-6913 (office)
202-549-9218 (cell)

Conversation Contents

FW: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery

Attachments:

/294. FW: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery/1.1 Bears Ears July 2015 Tribal Gathering Administration Invitation 061515 final.pdf

/294. FW: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery/2.1 Bears Ears July 2015 Tribal Gathering Administration Invitation 061515 final.pdf

Felicita Koinva <FKoinva@hopi.nsn.us>

From: Felicita Koinva <FKoinva@hopi.nsn.us>
Sent: Tue Jun 16 2015 15:09:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Neil Kornze" <nkornze@blm.gov>, "Tom Tidwell" <ttidwell@fs.fed.us>, "Kevin Washburn"
Subject: FW: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery
Attachments: Bears Ears July 2015 Tribal Gathering Administration Invitation 061515 final.pdf

Good afternoon Esteemed Agency Partners,

The attached letter serves as an official invite to the 2nd Bears Ears Inter-tribal meeting in San Juan County, UT from July 16-18th. We appreciate you taking the time to travel and participate in this critical meeting. We look forward to hosting you at this place that is deeply connected to the history of our people, and to sharing the vision we have to protect it. We look forward to a strategic and productive dialogue, and future meetings to continue the rich discussion I am certain we will have.

Currently, we are still circulating a strategic agenda among the various leaders for feedback. When it is finalized, my secretary will email you a copy.

Thank you,
Alfred Lomahquahu
Hopi Vice-Chairman

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

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From: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jun 16 2015 16:26:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Claudia B Walker <cbwalker@blm.gov>, Maritiza T Harris <mtharris@blm.gov>
Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Steven A Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Jamey Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>
CC:
Subject: Fwd: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery
Attachments: Bears Ears July 2015 Tribal Gathering Administration Invitation 061515 final.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: Felicita Koinva <FKoinva@hopi.nsn.us>
Date: June 16, 2015 at 5:09:07 PM EDT
To: • Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, • Tom Tidwell <ttidwell@fs.fed.us>, • Kevin Washburn <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>, • Jon Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, • Leslie Jones <Leslie.Jones@osec.usda.gov>, • Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, • Michael Degnan <**(b) (6)**>
Cc: Dwayne Secakuku <DSecakuku@hopi.nsn.us>
Subject: FW: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery

Good afternoon Esteemed Agency Partners,

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Thank you,
Alfred Lomahquahu
Hopi Vice-Chairman

"Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>

From: "Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>
Sent: Tue Jun 16 2015 17:04:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Claudia B Walker <cbwalker@blm.gov>, Maritiza T Harris <mtharris@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>,
CC: Steven A Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery

Hi all -

(b) (5)

Thanks,
Jamey

On Tue, Jun 16, 2015 at 6:26 PM, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Felicita Koinva <FKoinva@hopi.nsn.us>
Date: June 16, 2015 at 5:09:07 PM EDT
To: • Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, • Tom Tidwell <ttidwell@fs.fed.us>,
• Kevin Washburn <kevin.washburn@bia.gov>, • Jon Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, • Leslie Jones <Leslie.Jones@osec.usda.gov>, •
Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, • Michael Degnan
(b) (6)
Cc: Dwayne Secakuku <DSecakuku@hopi.nsn.us>
Subject: FW: URGENT: Final Bears Ears admin invite letter for delivery

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Thank you,
Alfred Lomahquahu
Hopi Vice-Chairman

--

James Anderson
Advisor to the Director
Bureau of Land Management
202-208-5996 (o)
202-748-1726 (c)

June 15, 2015

Director Neil Kornze
Bureau of Land Management
1848 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chief Tom Tidwell
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

Director Jon Jarvis
National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20510

Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn
Department of Interior - Indian Affairs
1849 C St. NW,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Esteemed Agency Partners,

We the undersigned Tribes, request your attendance and engagement in the 2nd Bears Ears Inter-tribal Gathering in San Juan County, UT July 16-18, 2015. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss how to strengthen our involvement in the protection and management of our ancestral lands within the Bears Ears Conservation Proposal.

As Native Americans, we have enduring relations with this landscape through our history and cultural identity as Native People. On September 30, 2014, in a letter to President Obama and Utah's Congressional Delegation, the Hopi Tribe communicated its endorsement for permanent protection of the Bears Ears. Similarly, the Navajo, Hualapai, and all 20 Pueblos of the All Pueblo Council of Governors have endorsed conservation of Bears Ears as either a National Conservation Area or a National Monument. During our July meeting, we would like to discuss how we can achieve our shared conservation goals and elevate our role as Tribal Nations as partners in managing these lands.

Building on our prior interests and endorsements, we participated in an inter-tribal gathering for Bears Ears on April 10-12th of this year. We are working cooperatively, as Tribal Nations, to define the varying interests we have as sovereign governments in this special region. We are also working with Utah Diné Bikéyah and other non-profit supporting organizations, calling themselves the Bears Ears Coalition (www.protectbears.org). They are allies and participated in the last convening, and will be participating in the upcoming gathering.

As we finalize our agenda for July 16-18th, we hope to identify one day to set aside for meeting with federal officials to introduce you to a few examples of important cultural areas within this landscape. We are happy to accommodate your schedules if any one of these days work, or welcome you to stay for the entire gathering. We are also inviting tribal members and their families to attend to share food, stories, and traditions while camping together over the weekend. We plan to spend one day discussing how Tribal Governments can further work together to advance the protection of the Bears Ears.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to your response. Please coordinate

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your availability with Hopi Vice Chairman Alfred Lomohquahu, 929-734-3112,
alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us

Respectfully,

Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Tribal Council
928-871-7160

Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
929-734-3112

Dr. Joseph Suina, Council Member
Pueblo de Cochiti Tribal Council
505-321-5455

Rafael Gomez Jr., Council Member
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal Council
915-491-6259

Phillip Vicente, Head Councilman
Pueblo of Zuni Tribal Council
505-782-7022

June 15, 2015

Director Neil Kornze
Bureau of Land Management
1848 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chief Tom Tidwell
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue
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1849 C St. NW
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FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

your availability with Hopi Vice Chairman Alfred Lomohquahu, 929-734-3112,
alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us

Respectfully,

Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Tribal Council
928-871-7160

Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
929-734-3112

Dr. Joseph Suina, Council Member
Pueblo de Cochiti Tribal Council
505-321-5455

Rafael Gomez Jr., Council Member
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal Council
915-491-6259

Phillip Vicente, Head Councilman
Pueblo of Zuni Tribal Council
505-782-7022

Conversation Contents

Cedar Mesa

CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)

From: CARL D ROUNTREE (b) (6)
Sent: Wed May 06 2015 22:37:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Cedar Mesa

The last several weeks have been amazing. Wish you were still on Facebook so you could follow our posts on our travels through Southern Utah and the incredible images we have captured and people we have met! I must profess, I have never seen a more incredible landscape, nor more significant natural and cultural resources than we have experienced in the Cedar Mesa/Comb Ridge area with people like Josh Ewing, the Executive Director of the Friends of Cedar Mesa (a guy you just have to meet), Don Simonis (archaeologist in the Monticello FO) and Teri Paul, Museum Director of the Edge of the Cedars in Blanding, UT. Such passion about this area and a keen desire to protect the area's remaining cultural record from further looting (Red Kiva, the most recent) and unanticipated increases in visitor use. I've been to just about every National Monument and National Conservation Area, and I'll have to say, in all my travels, I've seen nothing that compares to this area. Admittedly, we saw only a fraction of the slick rock canyons and their sculpted reliefs and the stone ruins and evidence of people inhabiting this land for thousands of years, but the quantity and quality of both were simply mind boggling -- I was awestruck. We saw granaries with their doors still cemented intact; kivas with painted mud walls; petroglyphs of incredible beauty and imagination; and everywhere, pottery remnants of every color, and design. I don't hold much hope for the current legislative fixes to provide the necessary protection for the area under consideration in the Bears Ears proposal and if there is one, locals feel it will be much smaller than the proposal which, oddly enough, scares them more than no proposal at all (more about that if you are interested). I found the folks in the Monticello FO to be supportive of greater protection of the area and those outside BLM, feel the current plan offers a fair degree of protective measures. However, like other offices, BLM lacks the funds to adequately implement the plan. Red Kiva, the most recent significant looting incident (occurring after the Recapture Canyon ride), was located along a road that had been designated for closure, like many other roads, but had not been adequately closed. Looters drove within a short distance of the kiva, unloaded the tools they needed, and walked away with an unknown quantity of artifacts. Cameras have since been put into place to monitor any return attempts. In fact, the Friends of Cedar Mesa have come up with funds to buy more remote cameras for BLM install at other at risk sites to combat looting. Since BLM lacks an adequate number of rangers and law enforcement personnel, volunteers and site stewards of the Friends are providing an invaluable service, putting many feet on the ground to monitor sites and just offer the presence of people in area. I'm not sure what, if

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any degree of training BLM provided and I didn't ask Don Simonis, nor Josh, but it would be interesting to find out as the Friends could be an invaluable deterrent. One member of the Friends Group made the comment that BLM manages the area using the GOOGLE-approach. People rely on what they can find on GOOGLE to plan their visits. I haven't been on BLM's website for the area to see how we "direct" people, but think it would be interesting to find out if the office has a Visitor Use Plan and to what degree and mode they use to disseminate it. As I wrote you previously, one longer range solution will be an aggressive HOL program. There seems a lot of local interest to develop a viable program if BLM management will get behind it and provide funding. This area must be better protected. Our folks want to do the right thing and the Friends are as dedicated as any I have seen. I only hope we can take the actions necessary if we are to save what is truly one of the most remarkable areas in the Southwest. Respectfully, Carl Sent from my iPhone

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Mar 26 news clips

Attachments:

/298. Fwd: Mar 26 news clips/1.1 Mar 26 news clips.docx

"Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>

From: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
Sent: Sat Mar 28 2015 15:02:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Mar 26 news clips
Attachments: Mar 26 news clips.docx

In case you missed this WSJ article...

'Grand Bargain' on Land Use in Utah Offers Something for Everyone

Legislation in the works would set aside some areas for wilderness, others for energy use; congressional officials hope deal could be replicated across the West

By

JIM CARLTON

March 26, 2015 8:03 a.m. ET

MONTICELLO, Utah—San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman made a defiant point about land use when he led an unauthorized ride of all-terrain-vehicle users into a nearby scenic canyon last May after it had been closed by the Bureau of Land Management to protect archaeological artifacts.

Yet only 10 months later, at a recent meeting with land protection proponents, Lyman chatted amiably about the need to make compromises in resource management.

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The new attitude came thanks to a proposed federal law some call the “Grand Bargain.” Under the legislation being finalized, San Juan and some other counties in Utah would agree to wilderness and other restrictions on public lands in return for getting other areas designated for energy and other uses.

“No one is walking away from this until we get an agreement,” Mr. Lyman said at the March 19 meeting.

The gathering among oft-warring groups was facilitated by an aide to Utah’s congressional delegation, which has been working for three years to broker a rare accord on how the West’s vast public lands are used. Called the Utah Public Lands Initiative, the bill to be released in draft form over the next few weeks could set aside at least 1.5 million acres of backcountry for wilderness and hundreds of thousands more for economic activities such as oil and gas exploration—appeasing interest groups on all sides.

As of now, eight of Utah’s 29 counties would be included in the pact. Besides San Juan, they include Daggett, Uintah, Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand and Summit counties, all in the eastern part of the state.

Congressional officials said such a deal could be replicated across the West in areas where local communities have frequently clashed with federal officials from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and other agencies over access and use. The federal government owns about half the land in the West; in Utah, 57% of the state is federally owned.

“We’re doing something of great significance and hopefully it will bring people’s blood pressure down,” said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who is co-sponsoring the legislation with fellow Utah Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

After the draft legislation goes through more public vetting, a final bill is expected to be introduced in Congress by late spring. Backers hope for bipartisan support as environmental groups supporting it are often allied with Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

“Just the fact we are talking to each other about what we want and what we can live with—these are conversations we have not had before,” said Paul Spitler, an official with the Wilderness Society, a national donor-supported nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to wilderness conservation. “Everybody knows we have been battling for 30 years and we can certainly battle for

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the next 30 years. It's pretty refreshing to see a new approach."

The decision on which lands to protect and develop has largely been left to local counties, often working with—rather than against—traditional adversaries, including environmental groups. Republican-led Utah, with its spectacular canyons, has been a hotbed of conflict. Counties have sued over issues such as closures of four-wheel-drive roads in federally controlled backcountry, while the Utah Legislature in 2012 passed a bill with largely symbolic value requiring the U.S. to turn over most federal land to the state.

Smaller land bills have been attempted in Congress, but failed to reduce tensions substantially because they lacked enough geographic reach, said Cody Stewart, policy director for Republican Gov. Gary Herbert, who supports the bill. Mr. Stewart said the previous approach limited where land trades could take place to resolve conflicts, such as moving an energy lease from the middle of a proposed wilderness area to an energy zone.

In 2012, Mr. Bishop began working on a new model: get a group of counties to agree to a land accord. Around that time, environmental groups began ramping up calls for President [Barack Obama](#) to designate millions of acres in Utah land as national monuments. He hasn't acted on those requests. Fearing such a move could shut out traditional uses such as grazing, officials in many of the counties said they felt compelled to negotiate.

"This was a situation where you either participate, or run the risk of a...monument being created from Washington, D.C.," said Lynn Jackson, member of the Grand County Council.

Since then, the congressman and his staff, later joined by other members of the Utah delegation, have attended about 1,000 meetings, including in the counties involved. At first, many of the groups' goals were far apart. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, for example, initially called for as much as 5.5 million acres of new wilderness, but has since scaled back that amount substantially. "We entered this knowing no one would get everything they wanted, including us," said Scott Groene, executive director of the alliance.

Counties, too, have had to bargain. Energy-rich Uintah County, for example, is willing to drop its long-standing opposition to a wilderness designation for parts of Desolation Canyon if environmentalists agree to allow limited drilling near sensitive areas such as the Book Cliffs, which have been studied by geologists and are home to wildlife including Rocky Mountain elk and golden eagles. "Nobody in the county is excited about wilderness coming in, but if it gives us what

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we want there needs to be some compromise,” said Jon Stearmer, chief deputy county attorney.

Yet even as a final accord seems within reach, tensions remain. Here in the southeastern corner of the state, one of the main points of contention is between a Navajo tribal group and county commissioners over the size of a proposed protected area. The Utah Diné Bikéyah tribal group has proposed to cordon off 1.9 million acres to protect areas including Cedar Mesa and Bears Ears, which they consider sacred. On a recent tour of the area, spiritual leader Jonah Yellowman pointed at an old test drilling site in a red-rock desert called Valley of the Gods, where he said Navajos believe the spirits of some ancestors come in with the fog.

“This is what we’re trying to stop,” said Mr. Yellowman, 63 years old, touching a rusted pipe.

A committee appointed by San Juan County commissioners, though, supports smaller protected areas of about 600,000 acres. In return, Mr. Lyman, the county commissioner, said he hopes other land can be set aside in an energy zone. Both sides agree the Cedar Mesa area, full of archaeological artifacts, should be protected, and that they should look for other common ground.

“For it to work, everyone needs to give a little,” Fred Ferguson, Rep. Chaffetz’s chief of staff, said at the meeting in the San Juan County courthouse.

Write to Jim Carlton at jim.carlton@wsj.com

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/grand-bargain-on-land-use-in-utah-offers-something-for-everyone-1427371382>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Foot, Sheryl (Sherry)** <sfoot@blm.gov>

Date: Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 3:10 PM

Subject: Mar 26 news clips

To: BLM_UT_All <blm_ut_all@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>

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Sherry Foot
Special Programs Coordinator
(801) 539-4195

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Jenna Whitlock, Acting State Director
Utah BLM
(801) 539-4010 office
(801) 503-6254 cell

Join the Conversation!



"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 07:55:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Whitlock, Jenna" <jwhitloc@blm.gov>
CC: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Mar 26 news clips

Thank you!

On Sat, Mar 28, 2015 at 5:02 PM, Whitlock, Jenna <jwhitloc@blm.gov> wrote:
In case you missed this WSJ article...

**'Grand Bargain' on Land Use in Utah Offers
Something for Everyone**

Legislation in the works would set aside some areas for wilderness, others for energy use; congressional officials hope deal could be replicated across the West

By

JIM CARLTON

March 26, 2015 8:03 a.m. ET

MONTICELLO, Utah—San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman made a defiant point about land use when he led an unauthorized ride of all-terrain-vehicle users into a nearby scenic canyon last May after it had been closed by the Bureau of Land Management to protect archaeological artifacts.

Yet only 10 months later, at a recent meeting with land protection proponents, Lyman chatted

amiably about the need to make compromises in resource management.

The new attitude came thanks to a proposed federal law some call the “Grand Bargain.” Under the legislation being finalized, San Juan and some other counties in Utah would agree to wilderness and other restrictions on public lands in return for getting other areas designated for energy and other uses.

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The gathering among oft-warring groups was facilitated by an aide to Utah’s congressional delegation, which has been working for three years to broker a rare accord on how the West’s vast public lands are used. Called the Utah Public Lands Initiative, the bill to be released in draft form over the next few weeks could set aside at least 1.5 million acres of backcountry for wilderness and hundreds of thousands more for economic activities such as oil and gas exploration—appeasing interest groups on all sides.

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Sherry Foot
Special Programs Coordinator

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Join the Conversation!



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SL TRIB

Recreation: Little Sahara set for Easter weekend influx

By [TOM WHARTON](#) | The Salt Lake Tribune

First Published Mar 25 2015 12:03PM • Last Updated Mar 25 2015 06:49 pm

Scott Sommerdorf | Salt Lake Tribune LITTLE SAHARA A rider blurs past others waiting their turn to power up "Sand Mountain" at Little Sahara National Recreation Area, Saturday 4/3/10. Four- and two-wheel enthusiasts, dune buggies and more kick off the spring season with motorized recreation and camping at Little Sahara sand dunes., Saturday 4/3/10.

Over 20,000 expected to kick-start season by trekking to sand dune.

Little Sahara Recreation Area • On a Tuesday morning just under two weeks from Easter weekend, two motor homes and a few off-highway vehicles were parked in the massive parking area at the base of 700-foot-high Sand Mountain.

The huge, light-tan-colored mountain — a key component of the 62,000-acre Little Sahara Recreation Area located about 115 miles southwest of Salt Lake City — looked untouched and wild.

The silence was almost eerie.

That will soon change.

Bureau of Land Management recreation planner Jay Cram expects over 20,000 people to make the annual Easter weekend trek to the dunes.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sports/2323979-155/recreation-dune-families-heading-to-little>

Judge hears arguments in Utah lawsuit over wild-horse removal

By KELLY CATALFAMO The Associated Press

First Published Mar 25 2015 11:30PM • Last Updated Mar 25 2015 11:30 pm

A group of ranchers demanding that the federal government remove wild horses in Utah will have to wait to find out whether or not their case will be tried.

Wild-horse advocacy groups argued in federal court on Wednesday that U.S. District Judge Dee Benson should dismiss the ranchers' case. Benson did not set a deadline for ruling on the issue.

Ranchers say the mustangs are overrunning the range, causing ecological damage and reducing livestock grazing areas. They argue that the Bureau of Land Management should immediately remove horses in excess of their designated "appropriate management level" from public and private land.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/2333977-155/judge-hears-arguments-in-utah-lawsuit>

GOOGLE ALERTS

Feds take on fracking: What will it cost drillers?

The United States released [new regulations for fracking](#) on federal and Indian lands that it said would put minimal costs on the booming American oil and gas sector, but some estimates place the actual impact of the rules as much as 84 times larger—and that cost isn't even the industry's biggest worry.

R.J. Sangosti | The Denver Post | Getty Images

A crewman watches over water tanks used for hydraulic fracturing at an Anadarko Petroleum site near Brighton, Colo.

The [Bureau of Land Management](#) estimates that the compliance cost for its new policies will run about \$11,400 per well, or roughly \$32 million per year to the industry in total, the agency wrote in [its nearly 400-page final rule](#), released Friday. On the other hand, [an analysis of a draft rule](#) from research and consulting firm Advanced Resources International estimated total annual costs associated with the regulation could range anywhere from \$30 million to \$2.7 billion in total. And at least one industry group leader puts the cost higher than that.

[Read More](#) [The state that drills the most on Uncle Sam's turf](#)

Erik Milito, director of upstream and industry operations for the [American Petroleum Institute](#), told CNBC that his energy trade association is still assessing costs of the new regulation, but that some elements of the final rule could prove more expensive than what's come out in a draft.

"You look at any state ruling and there's a lot of ambiguity and question marks and it hasn't slowed the industry down...I don't think it's going to be a deal killer by any stretch." -Michael Scialla, oil and gas

analyst, Stifel

The biggest concern for the industry, he said, is that ambiguities of the new regulations (which came together over four years) could stifle future investment.

"It's all about an industry that just simply wants to have certainty and predictability in the regulatory regime so that you can have the confidence to invest," Milito said. "And we're seeing that torn down in many respects."

The industry has decried the regulatory changes as redundant and based on unsubstantiated concerns. Two groups, the Independent Petroleum Association of America and the Western Energy Alliance, filed a lawsuit against the rule in the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming.

[Read More](#) [Expect Russian spoiler in Iran nuke talks: critic](#)

But the government insists the new rules are necessary and easily managed by companies.

"Most Americans would call them common sense," U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said of the regulations on a media conference call on Friday. Neil Kornze, director of the Bureau of Land Management, said the costs to comply with the rule would only amount to less than one quarter of 1 percent of the price to drill a well.

Aside from costs, a big question about the new rule is whether government regulators can move as quickly to verify compliance as the BLM estimates assume, oil industry sources told CNBC.

Wally Drangmeister, vice president and director of communications at the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, said that "standby" charges can add up for crews and equipment, so any delays on inspections or approvals can mean major costs for firms.

Although much remains unknown about the rule's implementation, an independent analyst told CNBC that the government's estimates are probably nearer to reality than the industry-provided figures.

"I think it would be much closer to the BLM's number," said Michael Scialla, oil and gas analyst at Stifel, adding that he didn't see any uncertainties from the regulations affecting investment.

"You look at any state ruling and there's a lot of ambiguity and question marks and it hasn't slowed the industry down," he said. "I don't think it's going to be a deal killer by any stretch."