



May 24, 2017

Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of Interior
Monument Review, MS-1530
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: DOI-2017-0002

Dear Secretary Zinke:

At a recent meeting, the Public Lands Conservancy's Board and members expressed their opposition to any alteration to the size and scope of Bears Ears National Monument.

We are extremely disappointed that President Trump has signed an executive order that attempts to undermine our national monuments. Like iconic national parks, our national monuments and public lands are important to Americans. They embody nationally significant cultural and natural values, outstanding recreation and educational opportunities, scientific interest, and sustainable tourism that provides major economic benefits.

As authorized in the Antiquities Act, we believe it is in the public interest to preserve the objects of scientific and historic interest on the Bears Ears lands within the new national monument. We strongly agree with the summary statement in the December 28, 2016 Presidential Proclamation that established the national monument:

Protection of the Bears Ears area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans. The Bears Ears area has been proposed for protection by members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, State and tribal leaders, and local conservationists for at least 80 years. The area contains numerous objects of historic and of scientific interest, and it provides world class outdoor recreation opportunities, including rock climbing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, canyoneering, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Because visitors travel from near and far, these lands support a growing travel and tourism sector that is a source of economic opportunity for the region.

Public Lands Conservancy is a 501(c)3 non-profit
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In turn, we believe the monument balances tribal, state, private, and federal interests. Of the 1.35 million acres designated as part of the monument, the vast majority of the land (over 90%) was already federal land which allows for a smooth transition to monument status. The monument status recognizes the rights of states, tribes, and private landowners. These state-owned and privately owned lands within the monument's boundaries are not part of the national monument, and "nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Utah." Finally, the Proclamation protects tribal rights by clearly stating "nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the rights or jurisdiction of any Indian land."

Again, we are strongly opposed to any attempt to rescind or alter the size of Bears Ears or any one of our country's national monuments.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Thomas Baty
President, Board of Directors

Cc:

Honorable Jared Huffman, United States House of Representatives
Honorable Kamela Harris, United States Senate
Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate
Honorable Rob Bishop, United States House of Representatives
Honorable Tom McClintock, United States House of Representatives