

Bears Ears Document Set

Document 1: Bureau of Land Management Website on Bears Ears

Source: website created by the Bureau of Land Management, with information about the creation and management of the Bears Ears National Monument and links to maps, recreation information, and important documents related to its creation. Found at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/utah/bears-ears-national-monument>



Excerpt from web page:

Bears Ears National Monument holds special meaning to a wide variety of users. This area's rich cultural heritage is held sacred by many Native American Tribes, who continue to rely on these lands for traditional and ceremonial uses. The natural resources here are regularly used by local communities for firewood gathering and livestock grazing. Beyond cultural and natural resources, this area is meaningful to recreationists who visit the Bears Ears region to backpack, rock climb, river raft, and more. ...

Bears Ears National Monument truly embodies the Bureau of Land Management's multiple use mission. While the Proclamation provides a framework for prioritizing the protection of the monument's objects and values, other uses continue. The Monticello Field Office strives to accommodate these different user groups....

Document 2: Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance Webpage

Source: website created by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, with talking points that argue against President Trump's efforts to reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument. Found at <https://suwa.org/points-make-comments-bears-ears-national-monument/>



Excerpt from website:

Comments on the land use plans are due April 11th, 2018. When writing your comments, please consider the following points:

- The proclamation reducing Bears Ears National Monument is unlawful and will be overturned by a court of law. The Antiquities Act only grants a president the authority to designate national monuments, not to revoke or diminish them.
- The BLM should abstain from management planning until a court has ruled on the legality of President Trump's action. Rapidly moving forward with this planning effort is a waste of valuable agency resources that would be better spent addressing much-needed on-the-ground cultural and natural resource protection issues.
- Any interim actions planned within the original and legitimate Bears Ears National Monument boundary should only be done for the purpose of protecting Monument resources as set out in President Obama's proclamation. Proclamation 9558 (December 28, 2016).
- In developing a management plan for the Shash Jáa and Indian Creek management units—and in order to ensure protection of cultural and natural resources—BLM must consider alternatives that permanently close Arch Canyon, Lavender Canyon, and Davis Canyon to motorized vehicle use.
- In order to ensure adequate public review and comment, the public comment period should be extended to 90 days after the last BLM or Forest Service public hearing.
- In addition to Bears Ears National Monument gateway communities, public hearings should also be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, Flagstaff, Arizona, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Denver, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

Document 3: Website with an Indigenous Proposal for Bears Ears

Source: website created in 2015 by the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition, a group of Indigenous nations who were instrumental in the creation of the original Bears Ears National Monument. Found at <https://www.bearscoalition.org/proposal-overview/>



Excerpt from the web page:

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition proposes a U.S. Presidential National Monument designation under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to protect historic and scientific objects in southern Utah. The area encompasses 1.9 million acres of ancestral land on the Colorado Plateau. We propose that the most appropriate and effective management strategy is collaborative management by the tribes and federal agencies.

The member tribes 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. This land is a place where tribal traditional leaders and medicine people go to conduct ceremonies, collect herbs for medicinal purposes, and practice healing rituals stemming from time immemorial, as demonstrated through tribal creation stories.

Document 4: Daily Universe Article Opposing Bears Ears

Source: video and newspaper article citing individuals of San Juan County expressing opposition to the monument, created by Theresa Davis for the Daily Universe, a Brigham Young University newspaper on November 17, 2016. Found at <https://universe.byu.edu/2016/11/17/san-juan-county-residents-fight-to-stop-bears-ears-national-monument/>



Excerpt from the web page:

The proposal to make Bears Ears a national monument has created divisions throughout the state of Utah. But in San Juan County, residents of all backgrounds are taking a stand to oppose the monument designation. While support for a monument has received national media coverage, residents in small towns including Blanding, Bluff and Monticello have started their own grassroots movement to oppose the monument. They have educated themselves on the issues. The group's website and Facebook page tell their stories and assert their rights as citizens who would be directly affected by any economic, physical or political changes a monument would create. Several dozen residents said they are "100 percent opposed to the Bears Ears Monument."

Document 5: National Park Diaries YouTube Video

Source: A YouTube video explaining the Bears Ears National Monument controversy created by Cameron Sabin as part of his National Park Diaries series. Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjYYAx1PYdY>



Excerpt from the video:

Today we are talking about Bears Ears National Monument. Bears Ears is quite possibly the most controversial piece of public land in America. It's pretty much front and center for all of the highly contentious, hotly debated public lands issues taking place in the West today. But because of that it can be kind of hard to figure out what is actually going on at Bears Ears. What is it? Why are people upset about it? Why do some people want it to be a monument while others don't? That's what I want to answer for you here today. I want to give you the story of Bears Ears and hopefully give you all the information you need to make an informed decision about one of the most important pieces of public land in America.