

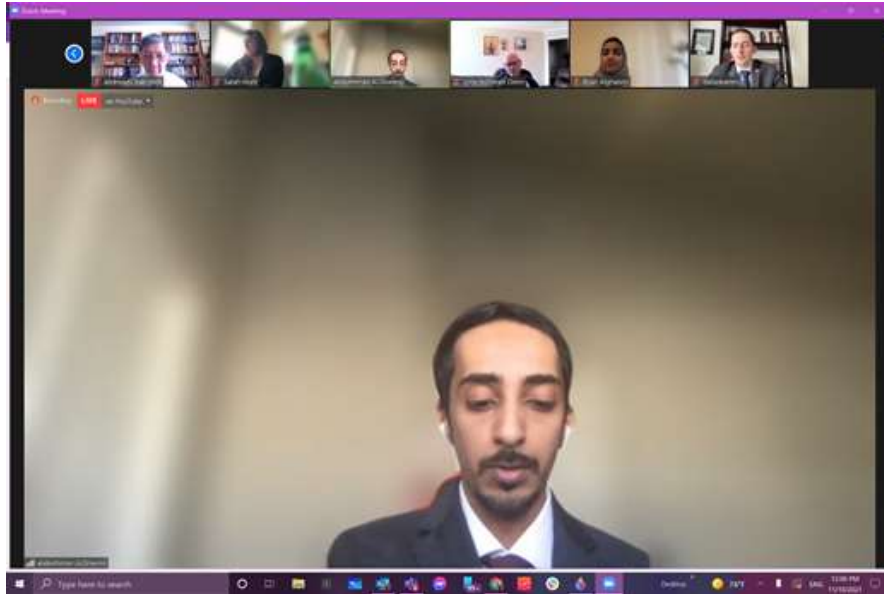
My Participation in the Bears Ears Roundtable Discussion



On November 10th, 2021 as a member of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU), and Vice-President of the UVU Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) club, I was able to participate in a roundtable discussion on the current situation with Bears Ears National Monument.

The Bears Ears national monument is an issue important to Utahns and local peoples, as well as nationally. There is concern that the local populations are not being included enough in the governance of the area, and that establishing Bear Ears as a national monument rather than a local or state run park is economically harmful to the localities and improper.

Public policy and native Perspectives and concerns on the issue were provided by our respective dignitaries during the event.



Myself speaking during the event

Special guests for the event included Sarah E. Hunt, CEO and President of the Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy, and Dusty Jansen, acting Director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs and Associate Professor of Native American Studies at UVU. Also speaking at the event was the Orem-Lindon Rotary President, Lynn Hillstead, whom I introduced by reading a short bio. Lynn spoke on the event as it related to Rotary International's six goals and represented the members of the Orem-Lindon Rotary club, a subdivision of Rotary International (RI), and the UVU chapter of Rotaract. He further spoke about the relationship between the Orem-Lindon Rotary, the UIMF, and UVU Rotaract and shared with the audience information about RI, and their initiatives.

Through the Student-Engaged Learning (SEL) model implemented at UVU, I was able to contribute to the preparations of the event as well as participate directly in it. This allowed me to address real world problems and learn from my involvement in it.

Abdulrahman Alghanmi, SMD Vice-President