

# Watching the Roundtable on Bears Ears National Monument



Students present at Roundtable

I have been near the Bears Ears monument, but I personally haven't been there. So, I really enjoyed listening to all of the speakers of the roundtable at Utah Valley University on November 10, 2021. They all seemed very knowledgeable, and had a lot of good information in their speeches. They spoke solid facts, and I was able to learn a lot through listening to them. This event was hosted by students and I thought it was interesting how many students were involved. I appreciated them bringing this issue to the attention on a global scale. The event was livestreamed on YouTube which is how I was able to attend..

I really enjoyed Sarah Hunt's presentation, because she was focusing a lot on clean energy which is something that I am involved in with work. Sarah mentioned how having

nuclear energy at Bears Ears could be a possibility, and would also be a great way to have clean energy.

I loved that Dustin Jansen was advocating more for the Native people. Dustin gave many instances of how people in America view Native people in a certain way, and how the Natives aren't really seen. He talked about how people have a hard time grasping that Native religion is a land based religion.

I learned quite a bit from this Roundtable. I learned that there is a lot of work and planning that goes into national monuments. And there are also certain factors that are required to be able to label it as a national monument. One thing that someone mentioned was that there are many reasons for protecting a national monument like conserving the land, or conserving the historic part of the monument. I also learned that in others opinions, the monument is upon the land of Native Americans, which puts the monument in conflict of whether it should be kept private for the Natives or not.

I think that this is definitely a tricky situation. I do think that this monument is on land that once belonged to others, and that makes it tricky because naming it a national monument brings people to it and I think that may be bothersome to the Natives that are there.

**-Cosette Salisbury, UVU Student**