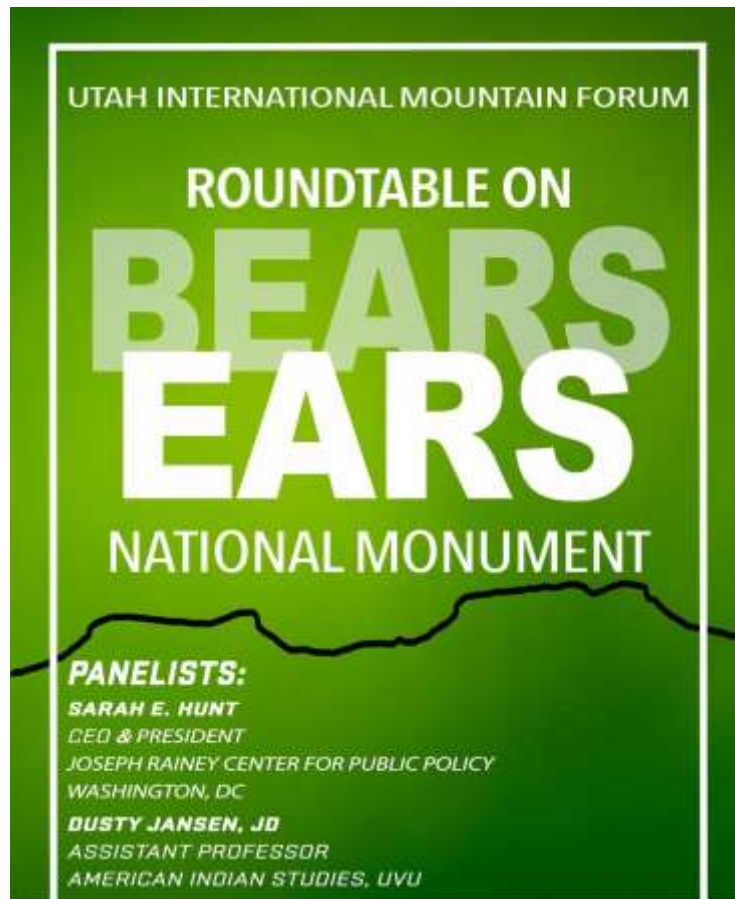


Bears Ears National Monument Roundtable Reflection



I found this roundtable from November 10, 2021 really interesting and informational. I have heard lots about Bears Ears National Monument, but I never really knew what the controversy was about and what was going on in that area. I really enjoyed all the speakers and what they had to contribute to the meeting. I found it very fascinating that Mr. Hillstead spoke about what a rotary club was and what it entails. Once he finished talking about what he does and how much he does for Orem and Lindon city, it made me think of my husband, so I immediately told him about it. I think it is great that there are clubs that better our cities.

I also really enjoyed listening to Sara Hunt. I know the difference between a state park vs a national park and what each entails. I think that she had a lot of great insights that made me think a little bit. I thought it was cool that she acknowledges that there are many different

sides to this controversy and all sides have good and fair points. She also said that it was okay to have different opinions and sides to situations, but it is most important that we listen to and respect the other side of the situation. It's okay to think differently, but not okay to be rude about someone's opinion.

Another thing I learned is that there have been Indigenous tribes there for a very long time. Dusty Jansen talked about how they still do ceremonial practices and it is still a very sacred land to those people. If the federal government took over they wouldn't be able to do these practices. In my own opinion, I don't think it is right to take away the land from those people who have so much heritage behind it. I didn't realize that President Trump started to gut the area and clear it out. What he did was wrong and should not have been allowed. He took too much power over it and ended up destroying ancient artifacts and sites. I did some research and it looks like he started to drill which has been very damaging to the area. I believe that there are still some drill stations set up, but I don't know how many and if it is really bringing in much. Overall, I am very glad I took this opportunity to watch this meeting. It opened up my eyes to what is going on in that area of Utah.

-Jayda Thayn, Student at UVU