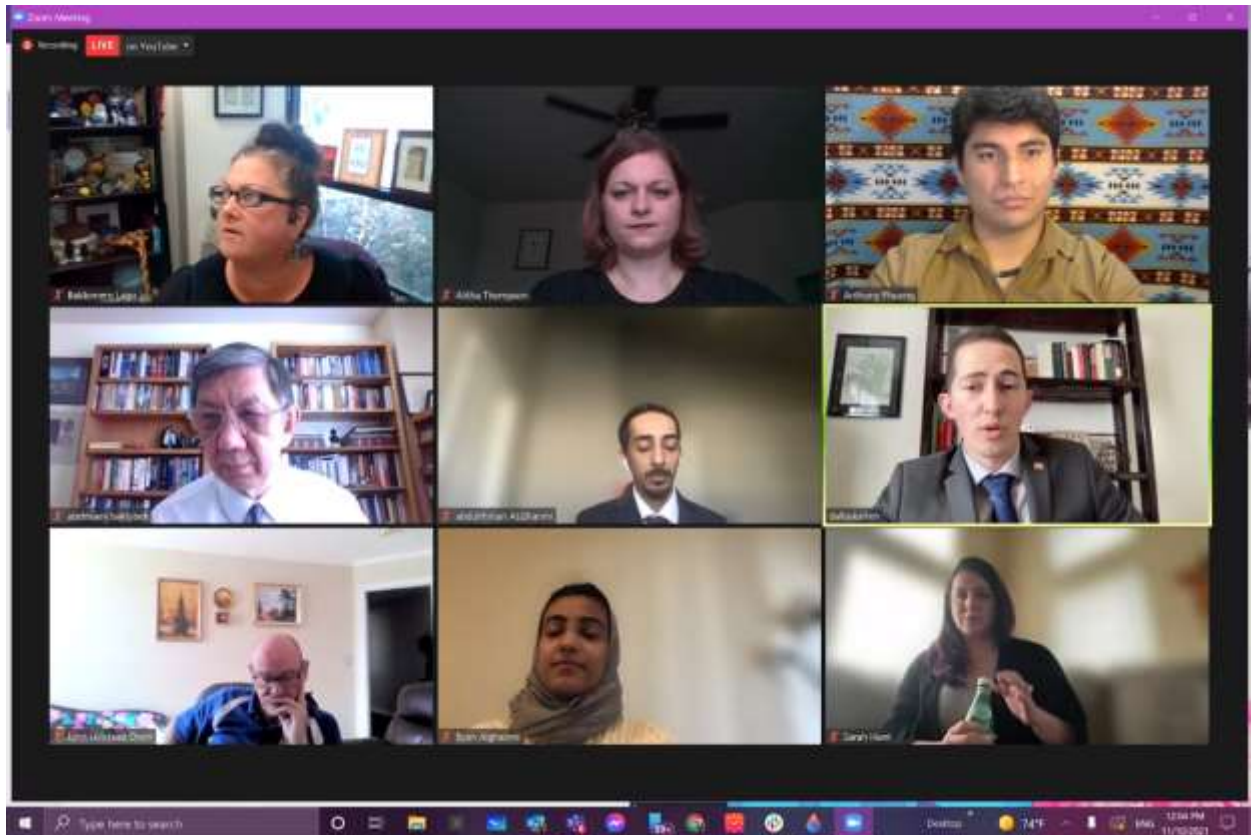


## **Bears Ears National Monument**

This was a very interesting forum to watch through a livestreamed video. It took place at Utah Valley University on November 10, 2021. I had no idea what the controversy was about, as I usually stay clear of political issues, because I am a very passionate and get far too emotionally involved in such topics. That being said, this was very informative and helpful to understand the issues discussed.



*Participants of the roundtable on Bear Ears National Monument at Utah Valley University on November 10, 2021*

First, I was confused as to why certain people were present in the discussion. For instance, why was the man from the Orem Rotary Club there? He only spoke about Rotary Club, never once even mentioning Bears Ears. He seemed to be pitching for more people to join and to justify the existence of the Rotary Club. I was very confused by his presentation and why he was invited to be part of this forum.

I found Sarah Hunt very helpful in educating me on the legality of the creation of the Bears Ears Monument and the legislative side of it's creation. I did not know that a National Park was required to be a certain size, and a National Monument did not have a minimum size. Also the conversation regarding the legality of the President's Executive Orders was very interesting and insightful. She was very knowledgeable on the topic and the controversy surrounding it. She was a good person to have been included in this forum.

Dustin Jenson was also a fantastic presenter. This topic directly effected him and his people. I loved how he described his people as a nation. I feel the Native American Nation was not treated properly from the beginning and to hear him speak, my heart ached for the atrocities that were inflicted upon them. One thing, though, that wasn't clear to me was what Mr. Jenson would want to have happen now. Does he appreciate the protections that a National Monument gives? Does he want the government to completely remove it's self and allow the First Nation to protect it themselves? He mentioned how poorly it was treated before it became a National Monument, so what would he like to see happen to it now? Just some thoughts I had

**Belle Jones, Utah Valley University students**