



Bears Ears Commission
2632 Mesilla St NE, Suite 3
Albuquerque, NM 87110
BearsEarsCoalition.org

Tribal Nations Stand with the Bears Ears Commission

November 12, 2024

Deb Haaland
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: The Collaborative Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears National Monument

Dear Madam Secretary Deb Haaland,

We write to you as Tribal leaders in support of the Bears Ears Commission and their role in the co-management of the Bears Ears National Monument. We stand with the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Commission—the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Zuni Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation—and their sovereign authority to self-determine their preferred plan for management of the Bears Ears National Monument.

A Tribally-informed, collaborative Resource Management Plan for Bears Ears establishes a new standard of collaborative and sustainable management of public lands that formally adopts Tribal governance and Traditional Indigenous Knowledge (TIK) as part of the permanent framework for land and resource management in consideration of future generations. Including the time-tested knowledge of those nations ensures that the oldest management approaches continue to benefit the Monument well into the future.

The years of tireless work and collaboration between the Bears Ears Commission, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which culminated in this plan, represent a pivotal shift in federal-Tribal co-stewardship that is long overdue. As the first national monument proposed by a coalition of Tribal Nations, Bears Ears is unprecedented—and the plan for managing its lands and resources must reflect that Tribal role to an equal degree.

We urge you to leverage your leadership and support the sovereign rights of the Bears Ears Commission Tribes and the key contributions they've made to the management of Bears Ears National Monument in this plan. A few of these contributions include a Tribally authored NEPA alternative based on TIK which reflects a more holistic approach to managing ancestral homelands, concrete management actions like monitoring and adaptive management to ensure that future decisions regarding the health of our regional landscapes and sacred places are informed by traditional and western scientific data, and increased understanding and models on how TIK can be incorporated into other models of management more broadly.

As you know, public lands intersect with and are adjacent to Tribal ancestral homelands across the West. Ensuring that Tribal perspectives are meaningfully involved in the protection and management of these lands is a way to respect Tribal Nations, prioritize sustainability for future generations, and move one step closer toward repairing historical injustices.

Sincerely,

Bears Ears Commission Tribes

Timothy Nuvangyaoma
Chairman, Hopi Tribe

Buu Nygren
President, Navajo Nation

Julius T. Murray, III
Business Committee Chairman,
Ute Indian Tribe

Manuel Heart
Chairman, Ute Mountain
Ute Tribe

Arden Kucate
Governor, Zuni Tribe

Supporting Tribes

Mary J. Norris
Chairwoman, Cahto Tribe of Laytonville
Rancheria

Anthony Ortiz
Governor, Pueblo of San Felipe

Deanne Cheshire
Vice Chair, Big Pine Paiute Tribe

Milton Herrera
Governor, Pueblo of Tesuque

Reggie Wassana
Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

E. Michael Silvas
Governor, Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur

Michael Dolson

Chairman, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Gary Burke

Board of Trustees Chair, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Jonathan W. Smith

Chairman, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Violet Sage Walker

Chairwoman, Northern Chumash Tribal Council

Ron Allen

Chairman, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Hope Silvas

Vice-Chair, The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Christopher A. Moquino

Governor, Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Bruce Bernstein

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Pueblo de San Ildefonso

Delbert Pino

Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Zia

Fawn C. Murphy

Chairperson, Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People

Debra Ramirez

Chairwoman, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians

Johnny Lehi Jr.

Vice President, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe

Shawn Davis

Chairman, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Gerald Lewis

Chairman, Yakama Nation

Joe James

Chairman, Yurok Tribe

Additional Letters of Support



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

August 6, 2024

Deb Haaland
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: The Collaborative Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears National Monument

Dear Madam Secretary Deb Haaland,

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation), we are expressing our support of the Bears Ears Commission and their role in the co-management of the Bears Ears National Monument. We stand with the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Commission—The Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Zuni Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Uncompahgre Reservation—and their sovereign authority to self-determine their preferred plan for management of the Bears Ears National Monument.

Yakama Nation is also working with the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Interior (DOI), Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce, the Wanapum tribe and supporting agencies to put the Rattlesnake Mountain, also known as “Laliik” under a new tribal co-stewardship agreement. Laliik is within the Hanford Reach National Monument, as established by President Bill Clinton in 2000. It is a sacred site to our people and our way of life. The collaborative approach for co-stewardship by the Bears Ears Commission is a model we hope to realize as we develop our agreements.

Bears Ears is a tribally informed, collaborative Resource Management Plan that establishes a new standard of collaborative and sustainable management of public lands that formally adopts Tribal governance and Traditional Indigenous Knowledge (TIK) as part of the permanent framework for land and resource management in consideration of future generations. Including the time-tested knowledge of those nations ensures that the oldest management approaches continue to benefit the Monument well into the future.

The years of tireless work and collaboration between the Bears Ears Commission, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), which culminated in this plan, represent a pivotal shift in federal-Tribal co-stewardship

that is long overdue. As the first national monument proposed by a coalition of Tribal Nations, Bears Ears is unprecedented — and the plan for managing its lands and resources must reflect that Tribal role to an equal degree.

We urge you to leverage your leadership and support the sovereign rights of the Bears Ears Commission Tribes and the key contributions they've made to the management of Bears Ears National Monument in this plan. A few of these contributions include a Tribally authored NEPA alternative based on Traditional Indigenous Knowledge which reflects a more holistic approach to managing ancestral homelands. Concrete management actions like monitoring and adaptive management to ensure that future decisions regarding the health of our regional landscapes and sacred places are informed by traditional and western scientific data, and increased understanding and models on how TIK can be incorporated into other models of management more broadly.

As you know, public lands intersect with and are adjacent to Tribal ancestral homelands across the West. Ensuring that Tribal perspectives are meaningfully involved in the protection and management of these lands is a way to respect Tribal Nations, prioritize sustainability for future generations, and move one step closer toward repairing historical injustices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gerald Lewis, Chairman
Yakama Nation Tribal Council



October 29, 2024

Deb Haaland
U.S. Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Re: Pueblo of San Felipe Support for the Collaborative Resource Management Plan for the Bears Ears National Monument

Dear Madam Secretary Deb Haaland,

The Pueblo of San Felipe has ongoing ties to Bears Ears and the National Monument, as well as surrounding landscapes including Grand Staircase Escalante, the Grand Canyon, the Lands In Between, Canyon de Chelly, Mesa Verde, Chaco, Bandelier, the former Ball Ranch ACEC and many other areas beyond. The Pueblo of San Felipe has been active in consultations on Bears Ears Monument and protections of the cultural resources within, and the Pueblo of San Felipe must continue to be consulted with and invited to the table on decision making and planning for the Monument and our cultural landscapes into the future.

With acknowledgement of the Pueblo of San Felipe's ongoing ties to the Bears Ears National Monument, we write to you to recognize and support the Bears Ears Commission and their role in the co-management of the Bears Ears National Monument. We stand with the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Commission—The Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Zuni Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation—and their sovereign authority to self-determine their preferred plan for management of the Bears Ears National Monument.

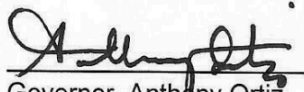
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We urge you to leverage your leadership and support the sovereign rights of the Bears Ears Commission Tribes and the key contributions they've made to the management of Bears Ears National Monument in this plan. A few of these contributions include a Tribally authored NEPA alternative based on Traditional Indigenous Knowledge which reflects a more holistic approach to managing ancestral homelands, concrete management actions like monitoring and adaptive management to ensure that future decisions regarding the health of our regional landscapes and sacred places are informed by traditional and western scientific data, and increased understanding and models on how TIK can be incorporated into other models of management more broadly.

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Sincerely,


Governor, Anthony Ortiz



SCOTTS VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS

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Washington DC 20240

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "D".

Shawn Davis,
Chairman, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians