

June 15, 2015

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Bureau of Land Management
1848 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chief Tom Tidwell
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

Director Jon Jarvis
National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20510

Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn
Department of Interior - Indian Affairs
1849 C St. NW,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Esteemed Agency Partners,

We the undersigned Tribes, request your attendance and engagement in the 2nd Bears Ears Inter-tribal Gathering in San Juan County, UT July 16-18, 2015. The purpose of this gathering is to discuss how to strengthen our involvement in the protection and management of our ancestral lands within the Bears Ears Conservation Proposal.

As Native Americans, we have enduring relations with this landscape through our history and cultural identity as Native People. On September 30, 2014, in a letter to President Obama and Utah's Congressional Delegation, the Hopi Tribe communicated its endorsement for permanent protection of the Bears Ears. Similarly, the Navajo, Hualapai, and all 20 Pueblos of the All Pueblo Council of Governors have endorsed conservation of Bears Ears as either a National Conservation Area or a National Monument. During our July meeting, we would like to discuss how we can achieve our shared conservation goals and elevate our role as Tribal Nations as partners in managing these lands.

Building on our prior interests and endorsements, we participated in an inter-tribal gathering for Bears Ears on April 10-12th of this year. We are working cooperatively, as Tribal Nations, to define the varying interests we have as sovereign governments in this special region. We are also working with Utah Diné Bikéyah and other non-profit supporting organizations, calling themselves the Bears Ears Coalition (www.protectbears.org). They are allies and participated in the last convening, and will be participating in the upcoming gathering.

As we finalize our agenda for July 16-18th, we hope to identify one day to set aside for meeting with federal officials to introduce you to a few examples of important cultural areas within this landscape. We are happy to accommodate your schedules if any one of these days work, or welcome you to stay for the entire gathering. We are also inviting tribal members and their families to attend to share food, stories, and traditions while camping together over the weekend. We plan to spend one day discussing how Tribal Governments can further work together to advance the protection of the Bears Ears.

We appreciate your attention to this matter, and look forward to your response. Please coordinate

your availability with Hopi Vice Chairman Alfred Lomohquahu, 929-734-3112,
alomahquahu@hopi.nsn.us

Respectfully,

Honorable LoRenzo C. Bates, Speaker
23rd Navajo Tribal Council
[REDACTED]

Rafael Gomez Jr., Council Member
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribal Council
[REDACTED]

Alfred Lomahquahu, Vice Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council
[REDACTED]

Phillip Vicente, Head Councilman
Pueblo of Zuni Tribal Council
[REDACTED]

Dr. Joseph Suina, Council Member
Pueblo de Cochiti Tribal Council
[REDACTED]