



## How we in the Pacific Northwest (and elsewhere) can help protect Bears Ears

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*Photo credits: BLM*



# Bears Ears National Monument

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BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION  
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# The Antiquities Act

“The President of the United States is authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”

# BENM & the Antiquities Act

1904 - Advocates identified Bears Ears region one of 7 areas in need of immediate protection from destruction and looting.

Signed into law in 1906. First U.S. law providing legal protection of cultural & natural resources of historic or scientific interest on federal lands.

Not designated until the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni “united in a common vision to protect these sacred lands and requested permanent protection from President Obama...”

# Finally, Bears Ears National Monument!

President Obama's Proclamation 9558, December 28, 2016, "represented the culmination of more than a century of efforts to protect the ancestral homeland of Tribal Nations that all refer to the area by the same name — Hoon'Naqvut (Hopi), Shash Jaa' (Navajo), Kwiyaqatu Nukavachi (Ute), and Ansh An Lashokdiwe (Zuni): Bears Ears.



# Why are we here today?

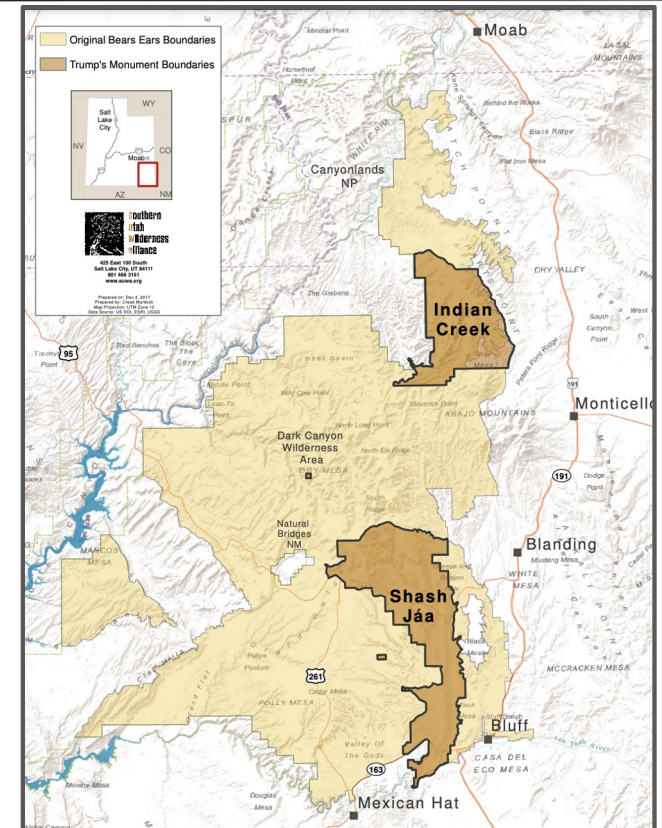


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Trump reduced the monument in 2017 by 83%.  
Hastily issued management plan, still in place today.

In 2021, due to continued advocacy from the Tribes,  
President Biden issued **Proclamation 10285**,  
restoring BENM to its original size. Requires  
development of new management plan.

This new management plan represents a collaborative  
effort between two federal agencies and the Five  
Tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.





## What is in the Proclamation?

- Identifies the objects and values to be protected. Many discretionary uses (i.e. livestock grazing, recreation) are not identified as objects or values.
- Some uses are allowed to occur as long as they do not have negative impacts to objects and values.
- Requires collaboration with the Five Tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and establishes the Bears Ears Commission.
- Requires the use of Tribal expertise to guide the management of the Monument.



## Who are the Bears Ears Commissioners?

- Vice Chairman Christopher Tabbee (Ute Indian Tribe) (Co-Chair)
- Vice Chairman Craig Andrews (Hopi Tribe) (Co-Chair)
- Councilman Malcolm Lehi (Ute Mtn. Ute Tribe)
- Head Councilman Anthony Sanchez (Zuni)
- Council Delegate Curtis Yanito (Navajo Nation)



# What is the Resource Management Plan?

- “The purpose of the RMP/EIS is to protect and provide proper care and management to the “object[s] of antiquity” and “objects of historic or scientific interest” of the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) that were identified in Presidential Proclamations...”
- A set of options on how to manage the Monument and protect objects and values
- Where and to what extent different uses can occur (livestock grazing, motorized use, recreation, vegetation treatments)
- How the agencies will collaborate with the Tribes to implement the plan
- Outlines how Traditional Indigenous Knowledge/Traditional Environmental Knowledge will be incorporated to guide Monument management



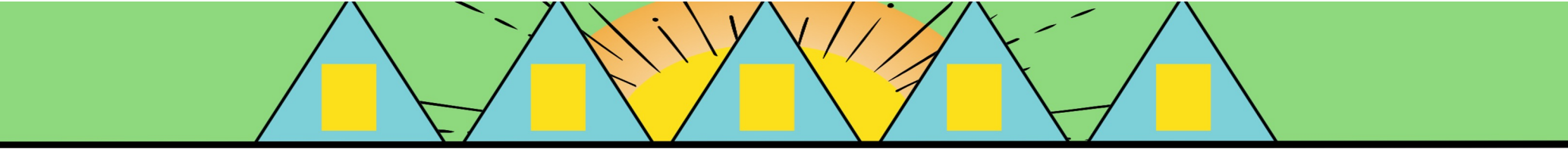
## Five Alternatives

- A - No Action
- B - “Most permissive” for discretionary actions - allows most use
- C - Similar to B, some limits on discretionary uses
- D - “Continuation of natural processes by limiting or discontinuing discretionary uses”
- E - Tribal and Agency Preferred Alternative



## Approaches Common to All Alternatives

- Shared stewardship commitment by Tribes and federal agencies.
- Federal commitment to ensure that Tribal knowledge is reflected in agency decision making processes during both planning and implementation.
- Agencies agree to incorporate holistic land management philosophy into stewardship of BENM.
  - All actions include protections for tangible and intangible landscape elements
- Prohibition on collection of BENM objects, including petrified wood, fossils, plants, bones, except where permitted under relevant federal law, including RFRA.



## Tribal Co-Stewardship

- Mandatory obligation of agencies to manage BENM in collaboration with BEC reflected expressly.
- Agencies commit to:
  - ensuring Tribal knowledge is reflected in agency decision-making processes.
  - engaging in ongoing basis on dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and learning programs for agency managers and staff, Tribal officials and other appropriate partners.
  - provide BEC with opportunity to review policy guidance prior to issuance and provide input.
- Provisions of Cooperative Agreement signed in June 2022 incorporated by reference.



## Alternative E

- Primary focus of Coalition and BEC during planning process.
- Preferred alternative of agencies and BEC.
- Integrates more from Tribal LMP than other alternatives
- Includes more recommendations and expertise from BEC than other alternatives:
  - Traditional Indigenous Knowledge incorporated throughout
  - Emphasis on increased monitoring especially of culturally important species
  - Use of seasonal and permanent closures for resource rest
  - Creation of permitting processes and committees to support Tribal access to the Monument
- Coalition and Commission will continue to advocate for Alternative E through public comment period.

## Commission-Identified Improvements to the RMP

1. The impacts of climate change are not fully acknowledged throughout all sections (i.e. soils)
2. Traditional Indigenous Knowledge is not fully incorporated throughout all sections
3. Tribal perspectives on recreation are not fully incorporated throughout the plan
4. Economic Impacts on surrounding communities are focused on negative impacts to grazing permittees and do not include positive economic impacts of increased employment opportunities for Tribal members (Tribal rangers, Traditional Knowledge Institute staff)
5. BEC currently has no formal role in the designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
6. Negative impacts of livestock grazing and historic overgrazing on cultural and ecological resources and contributions to fugitive dust are not acknowledged in the plan.

# Support Alt. E Closure of Arch Canyon to Motorized Use (3,344 acres)

## Protected objects and values identified in Proclamations:

Fossilized remains, cliff dwellings, the Arch Canyon Great House, hanging gardens, pictographs and petroglyphs, Arch Creek and its sensitive riparian area, sensitive fish, amphibian, and bird species and their habitats, native vegetation, including threatened Navajo sedge, and threatened Mexican Spotted Owl.

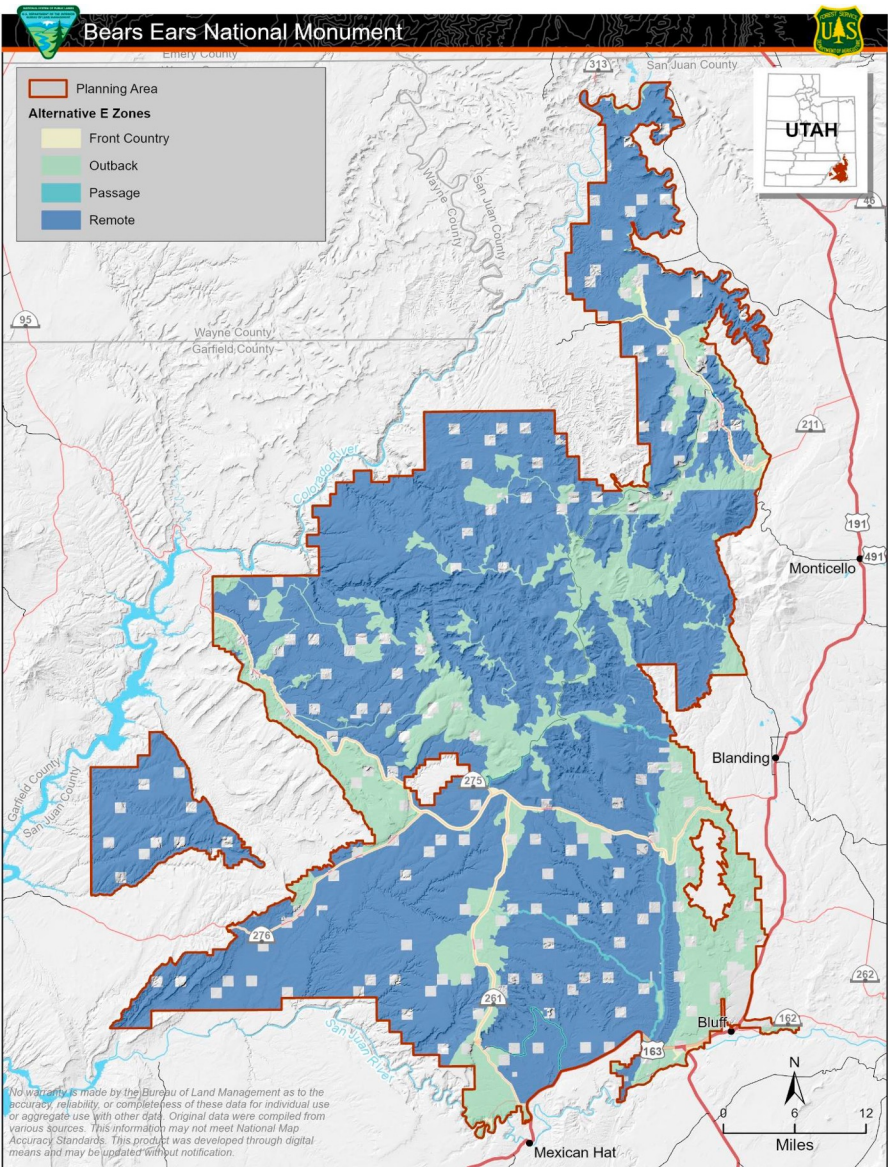
## Recreation - Alternative E

Alt. E incorporates SUWA's recreation management proposal from scoping comments for a landscape-level, zoned management approach.

**Based on science** - Dr. Chris Monz's recommendations in SUWA's Recreation Report:

- Unused locations are the most precious and fragile, and thus should be intensively protected and managed to avoid the proliferation of impact
- Actions that expand recreation use from concentrated, high-use areas to new, less visited and undisturbed locations are perhaps the most serious consideration





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# Alt. E - Zoned Recreation Management

**FRONTCOUNTRY ZONE (18,995 acres)**

**PASSAGE ZONE (7,498 acres)**

**OUTBACK ZONE (265,299 acres)**

**REMOTE ZONE (1,072,587 acres)**

## Alt. E - Zoned Recreation Management

Protects cultural & natural resources and values like archeological sites, plants, and animals, while catering to **all** visitors seeking to experience the Bears Ears landscape, from those using vehicles and travel trailers, to others wanting a more self-guided “backcountry” experience.

Ensures landscape-level protections for wildlife habitat and wilderness values by connecting low-elevation to high elevation areas, and connections to remote and undeveloped areas on surrounding lands managed by other agencies such as the National Park Services.

# Alt. E - Zoned Recreation Management

Provides for important economic opportunities in nearby communities such as Monticello, Blanding, Bluff, and Mexican Hat by focusing recreation developments and resources on public lands closest to those communities.

# Alt. E - Prohibits Recreational Shooting

- Conflicts between user groups, health and safety issues as visitation to the Monument increases
- Protect BENM objects from bullet impacts
- Prevent noise disturbance to cultural sites and wildlife, and retain the natural character of BENM for visitors seeking a more remote experience
- Prevent lead fragments from bullets leaching into soils and waterways, protecting wildlife from lead poisoning

# NGO-Identified Improvements to Alt. E

## Grazing Management -

- Agree that negative impacts of current and historic grazing not sufficiently acknowledged
- Default 30% utilization until compliance monitoring and resource assessments done
- Prohibit new water developments
- Exclude livestock from perennial surface water, riparian areas, and springs
- Prefer Alt. D's additional areas unavailable/not suitable for grazing

# NGO-Identified Improvements to Alt. E

## **Close more areas to motorized use -**

- Expand existing closure areas to protect cultural sites and other Monument resources that are at risk from motorized vehicle damage such as soils, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, and native vegetation
- Prevent trespass into adjacent areas such as Canyonlands National Park
- While ensuring access for woodcutting, plant gathering, and ceremonial purposes

# NGO-Identified Improvements to Alt. E

## Vegetation Management -

- Generally support Alternative E, especially emphasis on Traditional Indigenous Knowledge and techniques and/or natural processes for vegetation management
- Improve by prohibiting mechanical treatments and commercial timber harvest
- Require the use of native seeds for revegetation and reclamation





# Public Involvement 101

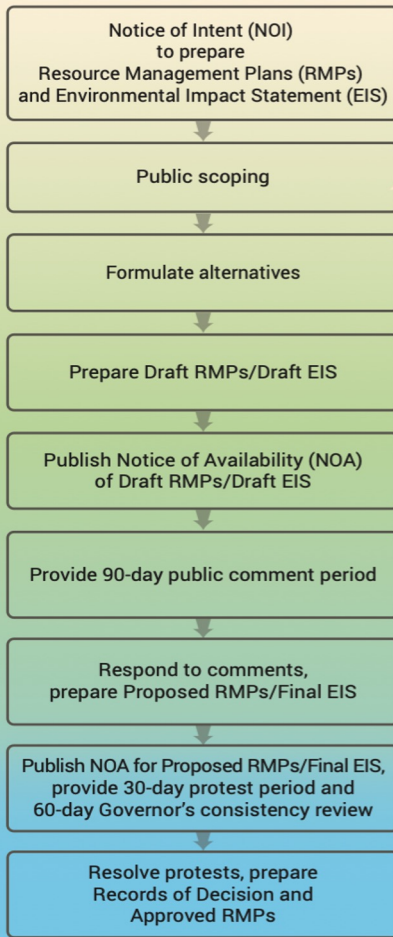


# Where we are in the process?

We are here

## Planning Process and Public Involvement

### BLM Planning Process



### Public Involvement



Scoping:  
Identify Issues

**We are here**



Public comment period:

Review and comment on Draft RMPs/Draft EIS

Protest period



# Submit your Public Comments by June 11

## Public comments vs. institutional/technical comments

- Public comments - From the public, provide temperature check on the direction the public would like to see the plan to go
- Technical comments - opportunity to bring aspects they have overlooked, more specifics, usually done by institutions

## **Make them personal!** The BLM gets thousands of comments

- Personal experiences
- Why Bears Ears is important to you
- Have technical expertise? Use it!

## Make Your Comment Count!

The BLM reviews all comments and identifies the substantive topics for consideration in the final document.

- Avoid vague statements or concerns. Instead, give BLM something on which to act.
- Comments are not votes. BLM relies on supporting information, not the # of comments received. Multiple identical comments are considered one comment
- Avoid using form letters. Your unique writing helps BLM understand your point of view.
- Or, add your spin to the content we provide.

Close all the roads!



I support closing Arch Canyon to motorized use because I like to go birding there...



**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**



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## For more information...



- Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition
  - [www.bearscoalition.org](http://www.bearscoalition.org)
- SUWA Bears Ears page
  - [suwa.org/issues/bears-ears-americas-first-truly-native-american-national-monument](http://suwa.org/issues/bears-ears-americas-first-truly-native-american-national-monument)
- Oregonians for Wild Utah (OFWU)
  - [info@oregoniansforwildutah.org](mailto:info@oregoniansforwildutah.org)
  - [www.oregoniansforwildutah.org](http://www.oregoniansforwildutah.org)
- Washington Friends of Wild Utah (WFWU)
  - [info@waforwildutah.org](mailto:info@waforwildutah.org)
  - [www.waforwildutah.org](http://www.waforwildutah.org)
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