

From: Megan Bloomgren
To: [Heather Swift](#); [laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov](#)
Subject: Fwd: Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:08:48 AM

FYI - previously approved stmt on Bears Ears for potential use with this ICT inquiry. Heather, I think you have this from that fire drill in early March but just reflagging since I have a moment while en route.

"Secretary Zinke is committed to responsible management of federal lands for multiple uses like recreation, energy development, and conservation, and he is opposed to selling federal lands. He has signaled his support for the creation of monuments when there is consent and input from local elected officials, the local community, and tribes prior to monument designations. While monuments often provide valuable local benefits, careful consideration is required before designating significant acreage out of reach of valuable tax revenue to fund community facilities and improvements. The Secretary remains committed to traveling to Utah and other states as he referenced in his confirmation hearing and making recommendations to the President."

Begin forwarded message:

From: "'Kim Baca' via Interior Press" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Date: April 18, 2017 at 7:32:20 AM PDT
To: "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument
Reply-To: Kim Baca <[\(b\) \(6\)](#)>

Dear DOI Press Office:

I had sent this yesterday. I'm hoping to get a response today. Or is there someone specific I can speak with on the phone?

Thank you,

Kim Baca

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Kim Baca <[\(b\) \(6\)](#)>
To: "Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov" <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:00 PM
Subject: Fw: Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument

Dear DOI Press Officer:

I'm a writer for *Indian Country Today* and I have a couple of questions regarding this news release below.

1. What is Secretary Zinke's response to the discussion below?
2. In several past news reports from papers in the Four Corners region, the organizations have stated that Utah's congressional delegation has spoken with Secretary Zinke about Bears Ears. What is Secretary Zinke's position on Bears Ears?
3. When Secretary Zinke was appointed, there was mention that the Secretary would visit Utah, specifically the Bears Ears region. Did that visit happen? If not, when will the visit be scheduled and where will it be specifically? Would the Secretary also include a visit with neighboring tribes in the area, those tribes would were involved in the monument designation request?
4. As I understand, the first public open house for Bears Ears was to be held in February and the process for the advisory committee was getting underway. What are the next steps for Bears Ears?

Thank you,

Kim Baca

P.O. Box 20643
Albuquerque, NM 87154
o I 505-990-0304
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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Theresa Braine <TBraine@ictmn.com>
To: Kim Baca [REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:12 PM
Subject: FW: Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument

Hi Kim,

I hope this finds you well.

Thanks and best,

Theresa

From: Ken Polisse <kpolisse@ictmn.com>

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 11:28 AM

To: Theresa Braine <TBraine@ictmn.com>

Subject: FW: Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument

From: "Padilla, Diane" <Diane.Padilla@mail.house.gov>

Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 10:48 AM

Subject: Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument



April 13, 2017

Media Contact: Adam Sarvana
(202) 225-6065 or (202) 578-6626 mobile

Internal Documents Refute GOP Narrative on Interior Department Consultation on Bears Ears National Monument

Washington, D.C. – A [new memo](#) detailing [internal documents](#) produced by the Department of the Interior in response to a request by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shows a years-long record of extensive contact between agency officials and a wide array of federal, state, and local stakeholders leading up to the designation of Bears Ears National Monument—directly contradicting the Republican narrative that Bears Ears and other federal monuments designated pursuant to the Antiquities Act were established without adequate consultation or local support.

These new documents shed light on the Obama administration’s extraordinary efforts to collaborate with stakeholders in the years before the Bears Ears designation, and they offer Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke—who appears to have postponed a planned visit to Utah to discuss Bears Ears—a window into the careful, multi-party consultation that preceded the designation.

For example, a Timeline of Events provided by the Department demonstrates interactions between former Secretary Sally Jewell and Utah’s congressional delegation as early as 2013. The documents also include a proposed map for conservation areas and land management options shared between local activists, lawmakers, and agency officials.

In addition, the documents include email correspondence showing that Interior Department officials were in regular contact with the office of Governor Gary Herbert and other state officials, and that the Governor’s staff offered unsolicited praise for the accessibility and professionalism of Department officials. Documents also show that the offices of Senator Mike Lee, Senator Orrin Hatch, Rep. Rob Bishop and Rep. Jason Chaffetz—all Republicans of Utah—communicated with Department officials often during negotiations on the future of Bears Ears.

Bears Ears has become a flash point in the growing GOP effort to weaken the Antiquities Act and roll back public lands protections across the country.

Bishop and Chaffetz sought for years to establish management guidelines for Bears Ears through a legislative initiative known as the Public Lands Initiative (PLI), and the Department provided technical assistance for this effort. However, the PLI lost support in 2015 when tribal leaders concluded that Republican lawmakers stopped taking their concerns seriously. The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition—which includes the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni and Ute Indian Tribe—began working with Department officials to establish Bears Ears National Monument only after a lengthy but unsuccessful attempt to collaborate with Bishop and Chaffetz through the PLI.

“If anyone wants to paint Bears Ears National Monument as a surprise or the product of rushed or incomplete planning, they’ll have to explain hundreds of emails and dozens of pages of shared work product,” said Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources. “These documents are an exemplary record of public servants going above and beyond to find a workable solution to a complicated issue, and they show Democrats and

Republicans working together more often than not. If a governor said half the nice things about me that Governor Herbert's office said about the Interior Department during this process, I could retire a happy man. The future of Bears Ears should be based on this record of collaboration, not on some after-the-fact political narrative that serves a few narrow interests at everyone else's expense."

"Contrary to some claims, these documents indicate that the Department of the Interior consulted closely with the Utah delegation, its residents, tribes, and local stakeholders about the Bears Ears Monument," said Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. "Taken together, these documents demonstrate a lengthy and productive working relationship between the Department and multiple stakeholders, they include frequent acknowledgment of the Department's eagerness to accommodate third party needs, and they show that many local officials strongly supported a monument designation."

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