



Utah Diné Bikéyah

- a non-profit supporting Native Tribes working together to **Protect Bears Ears** -

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A Massive Number of Public Comments Continue to Flood in Voicing Overwhelming Support for the Bears Ears National Monument.

For Immediate Release:

July 10, 2017 Contact – Braidan Weeks: 801-372-6438, Gavin Noyes: 801-521-7398.

During the initial Bears Ears National Monument Comment Period a mere 15 days were given for the public to offer their opinions. On May 25, 2017, at the close of the comment period, there were over 685,000 comments submitted in support of the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM).

On June 10th, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke submitted the National Monument Interim Report simultaneously calling for the “right sizing” of BENM, and officially re-opening the BENM Public Comment Period.

Utah Diné Bikéyah, along with our community partners, have now collected over _____ comments during this second phase of Public Comment collection. _____ of those comments came directly from members of the five coalition tribes and individuals in the surrounding San Juan County Area.

We are confident that the overwhelming public support for the Bears Ears National Monument, as well as its essential role in protecting the cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and natural resources of the region, provide sufficient reasoning for Secretary Zinke to maintain the current boundaries of the monument.