



Utah Diné Bikéyah

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

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Utah Diné Bikéyah celebrates the restoration of Bears Ears National Monument

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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It is with great appreciation and gratitude, Utah Diné Bikéyah celebrates the restoration of Bears Ears National Monument to the original 1.36 million acres the Obama Administration granted back in 2016. We thank the Biden Administration and especially Interior Secretary Deb Haaland for this restoration and give much thanks to the efforts provided by many allies, partners and other nonprofit organizations.

Much cultural and spiritual significance is spread across this land as Indigenous peoples, numerous tribes and members come here for ceremonies and continue to acknowledge ancestral and sacred sites to this day. Throughout the region there are incredible landscapes that encompass vital ties to Native existence, such as stories of creation, migration, sustainability, protection and healing.

As referenced in Obama's Bears Ears Restoration Proclamation, "The traditional ecological knowledge amassed by the Native Americans whose ancestors inhabited this region, passed down from generation to generation, offers critical insight into the historic and scientific significance of the area. Such knowledge is, itself, a resource to be protected and used in understanding and managing this landscape sustainably for generations to come."

Utah Diné Bikéyah continues and always has advocated for the expansion of Bears Ears National Monument to the size suggested of 1.9 million acres. We also recognize the leadership given by the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and their persistent encouragement of this restoration. We also give a special thanks to all our funders who have supported our journey toward the restoration of Bears Ears National Monument. Your kindness and generosity have made this goal possible by lifting up the original vision, prayer, and work of the grassroots communities. We give acknowledgement to those elders, traditional people, and medicine practitioners whom we have lost during the pandemic not here to share this special day with us. We look forward now to protecting this land for generations to come.

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