

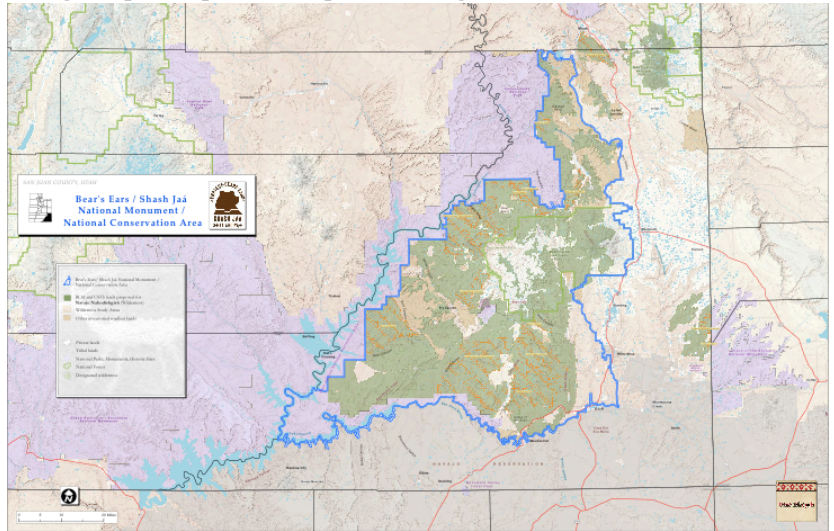
# Rep. Bishop's Eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative and the Bears Ears Proposal

April 8, 2015

## INTRODUCTION

Congressman Rob Bishop is leading negotiations with more than 120 organizations and governments to pass a bill that will change management on federal lands across seven counties in eastern Utah. The stated goals of the land-use legislation are to “bring land-use certainty, economic development, land conservation and enhanced land management models to eastern Utah counties.”\* The Utah delegation set an April 27 timeline for releasing draft legislation. County Commissioners in Utah have been assured veto power over involvement in this legislation on a county-by-county basis, and Native American Tribes have also been assured a seat at the table\*\*.

Several Tribal Nations and Navajo Chapter Houses have adopted resolutions of support for the Bear's Ears National Conservation Area. The Hopi Nation, All Pueblo Council of Governors, Hualapai Nation, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe, and Navajo Nation have asked for protection of Bears Ears. In November, Utah Navajo communities came together at eight Town Hall meetings to discuss the proposal and hand-wrote over 400 public comments that were delivered to San Juan County and Secretary Jewell. 64% of the total responses during the public process requested designation for Bears Ears as a National Conservation Area or National Monument. Utah Diné Bikéyah has been actively advancing protection for this region for five years and continues to educate and involve local people and all US citizens that hold interests in these lands. Protection is sought either through Congressional legislation or through the Executive Branch to ensure protection for this cultural landscape for Native American Tribes and all Americans.



## Bears Ears Coalition Proposal

### Bear's Ears National Conservation Area/ National Monument

#### Proposal Highlights

- 1.9 million acre Bears Ears National Conservation Area/ National Monument
- Collaborative management- Inter-Tribal Committee Structure
  - Native Advisory Committee Role
  - Traditional Knowledge integration
  - Funding allocation
- Wilderness/ Nahodishgish- Roadless Area protection

### Bear's Ears Cultural Preservation Goals

- Protection for native wildlife, plants, and fish
- Access for hunting, ceremonies, fuel wood and herb collection
- Archaeological site protection

## Next Steps

- Ensure Utah Congressional delegation includes Native American positions in 4/27 legislation
- Inform Dept. of Interior, Dept. of Agriculture and White House of progress/ challenges

\*UT delegation letter dated 2/4/15. County governments currently participating in this legislation include: San Juan, Grand, Emery, Carbon, Daggett, Summit, and Uintah

\*\* Assurances were given to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation on March 12, 2015

