



OFFICE OF NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Human Rights Commission displeased with the reduction of Bear Ears' National Monument

St. Michaels, Navajo Nation (ARIZ) – The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) is displeased with the reduction of the Bear Ears National Monument by President Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke. A year after President Obama designed Bears Ears as a National Monument, the current administration decided to reduce the National Monument by 80% going against the voice of indigenous nations to keep Bears Ears whole.

Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission Executive Director Leonard Gorman states, “The United States supported the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in which indigenous peoples have the right to preserve and protect their cultures, traditions and values and their territories. Navajos and other indigenous peoples have publicly stated that Bears Ears and the surround areas are culturally important places for the indigenous peoples. It is essential and important to have the federal government respect and protect these places. In addition, there is commitment to the international indigenous human rights principal of free prior and informed consent that the federal government must consult with indigenous peoples to secure their consent on matters that directly affect them.”

Currently the Navajo Nation, along with Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray filed a law suit against the administration. The lawsuit argued the Antiquities Act only allows presidents to designate National Monuments, not to modify or revoke monuments.

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