



**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION
OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

NUCMAR-003-26

**SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THE BEARS
EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT AND GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE
NATIONAL MONUMENT, AND OPPOSING CONGRESSIONAL OR
PRESIDENTIAL ACTION REVERSING OR MODIFYING THESE
PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Whereas:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission (NUC) is a governmental subdivision of the Navajo Nation and is subject to oversight of the Navajo Nation Council – Naabik’iyati” Committee pursuant to resolution no. NABIAP-21-15; and
2. The Navajo Utah Commission was created by the Navajo Nation Council in 1992 pursuant to resolution IGRJN-134-92, and serves seven chapters, including Teec Nos Pos, Aneth, Red Mesa, and Mexican Water in the Northern Navajo Agency and Oljato, Dennehotso, and Naatsis’Aan in the Western Navajo Agency; and
3. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America. Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12 1868, 15 Stat. 667; and
4. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the responsibility and authority to promulgate policies of the Navajo Nation. 2 N. N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A); and
5. Statements of policy, enactment of positive law, intergovernmental agreements, budget resolutions, and reallocations, must be reviewed and approved by resolution the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council except as otherwise provided herein. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A); and
6. The Navajo Nation established the Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naa’bik’iyati’ Committee to coordinate all federal programs, to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation, and to hear and act on all resolutions

that require final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A) (9), 700 (A), 701(A)(4), 701(A)(6) 2015; see also CO-45-12; and

7. The Antiquities Act authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments. 54 U.S.C. § 320301 (2014); and

Bears Ears National Monument

8. On December 28, 2016, President Barack Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the Bears Ears National Monument, recognizing that "the land is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Hopi Tribe, and Zuni Tribe." Proclamation 9558; and
9. The Bears Ears National Monument designation was the culmination of a years-long collaboration of these five tribes who formed the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to put forth our collective desire to realize protection and recognition of ancestral lands, cultural resources, religious access, ecological values, and practical purposes; and
10. Proclamation 9558 further established the Bears Ears Commission to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of a management plan and on the ongoing management of the monument utilizing the traditional and historical knowledge of Indigenous people; and
11. On December 4, 2017, and without consultation with the Navajo Nation or the other tribes with important cultural and historical ties to this sacred landscape, President Donald Trump issued Proclamation 9681 -Modifying the Bears Ears National Monument. This Proclamation significantly reduced the size of and protections for the monument and changed the role and structure of the Bears Ears Commission. The Navajo Nation opposed these modifications; and
12. At the urging of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and other Native Tribes with close ties to the region, on October 8, 2021, President Joseph Biden issued Proclamation 10285-Bears Ears National Monument, re-establishing the monument and recognizing that "the greater Bears Ears landscape, characterized by deep sandstone canyons, broad desert mesas, towering monoliths, forested mountaintops dotted with lush meadows, and the striking Bears Ears Buttes, has supported indigenous people of the Southwest from time immemorial and continues to be sacred land to the Hopi Tribe, Navajo

Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Pueblo of Zuni. Approximately two dozen other Tribal Nations and Pueblos have cultural ties to the area as well.”; and

13. Proclamation 10285 recognizes that Bears Ears National Monument represents “the culmination of more than a century of efforts to protect the ancestral homeland of Tribal Nations that all refer to the area by the same name-Hoon'Naqvut (Hopi), Shash Jaa' (Navajo), Kwiyaqatu Nukavachi (Ute), and Ansh An Lashokdiwe (Zuni): Bears Ears. Preserving the sacred landscape and unique cultural resources in the Bears Ears region was an impetus for passage of the Antiquities Act in 1906.”; and
14. To “ensure that management decision affecting the monument reflect expertise and traditional and historical knowledge of Tribal Nations,” Proclamation 10285 re-established the Bears Ears Commission “ in accordance with the terms, conditions, and obligations set forth in Proclamation 9558 to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on management of the entire monument.”; and
15. From re-establishment of the monument until December 2024, the Bears Ears Commission and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition worked tirelessly and collaboratively with the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to develop a management plan for the monument. This management plan was finalized in January 2025, and incorporates traditional and historical knowledge of the Tribal Nations into the care and management of the monument; and
16. The protection of the Bears Ears National Monument as established by Proclamation 10285 will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural, cultural, scientific and other environmental resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans; and
17. The Navajo Utah Commission firmly believes that conserving the lands and resources within Bears Ears National Monument will help protect and preserve the cultural, prehistoric and historic records and legacy of the Dine and other Native Peoples, and the cultural traditions and practices of Native Peoples that continue today, and will help protect the plants and animals that are part of Navajo heritage and cultural traditions and practices that continue through today; and

18. The Navajo Utah Commission opposes any congressional, Presidential, or other administrative action to reverse or modify Proclamation 10285 and the monument management plan issued in January 2025; and

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

19. On September 18, 1996, President William Clinton used his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Proclamation 9620 recognized the rich human and cultural history of the monument, from the Anasazi and Fremont cultures to the Southern Paiute and Navajo; and
20. On December 4, 2017, and without consultation with the Navajo Nation or the other tribes with important cultural and historical ties to these sacred landscapes, President Donald Trump issued Proclamation 9682-Modifying the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. This Proclamation significantly reduced the size of and protections for the monument. The Navajo Nation opposed these modifications; and
21. On October 8, 2021, President Joseph Biden issued Proclamation 10286-Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, re-establishing the Monument and recognizing that, “[r]ich in human history, the Grand Staircase-Escalante landscape abounds in evidence of habitation by the Ancestral Pueblo and Fremont cultures. Tribal Nations, including the Hopi Tribe, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, the Navajo Nation, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona, the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Pueblo of Tesuque, and the Pueblo of Zuni, have ancestral, cultural, or historical ties to this area and continue to use the area to this day.”; and
22. Proclamation 10286 recognizes the Grand Staircase-Escalante's outstanding biological resources “in the heart of perhaps the richest floristic region in the Intermountain West, spanning five life zones and supporting diverse, rare, and endemic populations of plants and a diversity of animals, as well as unusual and diverse soils that support communities of mosses, lichens, and cyanobacteria.” This rich biological diversity supports over 600 species of bees and more than 200 bird species; and
23. In January 2025, the Bureau of Land Management finalized the new management plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which will help protect its irreplaceable paleontological, cultural, mineral, scenic, and ecological resources. The Navajo Nation and several other Tribal

Nations worked closely with the Bureau on the plan, which commits to significant Tribal involvement in future planning, management, and co-stewardship of the Monument; and

24. On March 25, 2025, the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Zuni Tribe formed the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Inter-Tribal Coalition to advocate for and share their knowledge of their ancestral lands in the Monument; and
25. The protection of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as established by Proclamation 10286 will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural, cultural, and scientific resources, ensuring that they will remain for the benefit of all Americans; and
26. The Navajo Utah Commission of the Navajo Nation Council firmly believes that conserving the lands and resources within Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument will help protect and preserve the cultural, prehistoric and historic records and legacy of the Dine` and other Native Peoples, and the cultural traditions and practices of Native Peoples that continue today, and will help protect the plants and animals that are part of Navajo heritage and cultural traditions and practices that continue through today; and
27. The Navajo Utah Commission opposes any congressional, Presidential, or other administrative action to reverse or modify Proclamation 10286 and the monument management plan issued in January 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Utah Commission of the Navajo Nation Council supports the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established by the President of the United States Joseph Biden, and opposes any Presidential, congressional, or other administrative action to reverse or modify the presidential proclamations; and
2. The Navajo Utah Commission supports the Bears Ears National Monument Management Plan and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan, as adopted January 2025, as the Navajo Utah Commission and the Inter-Tribal Coalitions worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management to heighten the level of Tribal management coordination in order to better protect the Monuments' irreplaceable paleontological, cultural, mineral, scenic, and

ecological and natural resources – to ensure the entire holistic environment of the Monument is managed to preserve these irreplaceable resources; and

3. The Navajo Utah Commission opposes the Joint Resolutions introduced in each chamber of Congress on March 4, 2026 by Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Celeste Maloy to undo the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan (Senate Joint Resolution 109 and House Joint Resolution 151), which were introduced without any effort to first consult with the Inter-Tribal Coalition. These resolutions are aimed at weakening the protections of the Monument's irreplaceable paleontological, cultural, mineral, scenic, ecological and environmental resources for which members of the Inter-Tribal Coalition worked in good faith with the Bureau of Land Management to secure necessary and heightened management priorities and protections as set forth in the Management Plan.

CERTIFICATION

We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by Navajo Utah Commission at a duly called meeting in Montezuma Creek, Utah at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, this 10th day of March, 2026.



Billy Todachennie, Chairperson
NAVAJO UTAH COMMISSION

MOTION: Herman Daniels, Jr.
SECOND: Kenny Victor
Chair Todachennie not voting