



BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT: TRUMP ORDERS 85 PERCENT SHUT DOWN

Photo of Bears Ears National Monument courtesy BLM available for media use at <https://goo.gl/vn213A>

“The wonder of Bears Ears’ surreal landforms and rich biodiversity is exceeded only by its 13,000 years of human history. Attempts to revoke this monument’s protection would be a slap in the face to the five American Indian tribes that fought for it.” — *Taylor McKinnon, Center for Biological Diversity*

[Bears Ears National Monument](#), named after twin promontories visible for miles, is sacred to five [American Indian tribes](#) – the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni and Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray. From 11,000 ft. mountain tops to deep canyons, the monument harbors cultural, geologic and biological diversity like few places on Earth.

WILDLIFE: Diverse vegetation and topography supports broad biodiversity, including fragile populations of bighorn sheep, bears, pumas and rare shrews. Hundreds of species of birds, including Mexican spotted owl and peregrine falcons are found here, along with 15 species of bats. Riparian areas support tiger salamanders, red-spotted toads and northern leopard frogs.

CULTURE AND HISTORY: The area contains at least 13,000 years of indigenous human history, shown in habitation and ceremonial sites, cliff dwellings, rock art and other artifacts. Petroglyphs and pictographs date back at least 5,000 years, providing an unmatched archaeological and cultural record. Tribal members continue to visit sacred sites and conduct ceremonies today.

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY: Paleontological resources are among the most significant in the U.S., with research revealing new information about the transition of vertebrate life from sea to land. Sedimentary strata in the monument expose 300 million years of environmental history. The Chinle, Wingate, Kayenta and Navajo formations provide one of the best continuous rock records of the Triassic-Jurassic transition in the world.

WHAT’S AT STAKE: Sacred sites, 13,000 years of human history and pre-historic artifacts, geologic and paleontology research, broadly diverse wildlife habitat.

Original acres: 1.35 million

Proposed reduction: 85 percent (or 1.15 million acres)

Designation date: Dec. 28, 2016

Contact: Taylor McKinnon (801) 300-2414, tmckinnon@biologicaldiversity.org