On December 4, 2017, President Trump traveled to Utah to proclaim that he would cut Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by nearly half – the largest reductions to federal public land protections in history. The President's proclamation followed months of uncertainty regarding what executive action would be taken on the recommendations from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's national monument review.

Many legal scholars believe that President Trump does not have the authority to reduce national monuments – that power rests exclusively with Congress. Now, even though the legality of these massive cuts to land protections has yet to be determined by the courts, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is moving forward with new monument management plans for the three smaller units left by President Trump's cuts in place of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and the two smaller units left in place of Bears Ears National Monument. Because the courts have yet to rule on whether President Trump has the authority to slash national monuments, the BLM would be better suited to postpone plan making until after the courts have decided.

Public lands are vital aspects of western culture. The tourism they draw for recreation and enjoyment stimulate the economies of mountain communities. By making resource management plans before a decision is finalized regarding the legality of the monument reductions, the BLM is once again ignoring public opinion regarding the importance of public lands in the West.

If you are interested in submitting comment that advocates for public lands protections and Western mountain communities with recreation-based economies, please click here.
The comment period for Bears Ears closes on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11 and on FRIDAY, APRIL 13 for Grand Staircase-Escalante.

For assistance on what to write you can click here. Please personalize your comments and do two separate comments for each monument.

You can also submit your comments via email or mail.

For Bears Ears:
- Send an email to: blm_ut_monticello_monuments@blm.gov
- Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, 365 North Main, PO Box 7, Monticello, UT 84355

For Grand Staircase-Escalante:
- Send an email to BLM_UT_CCD_monuments@blm.gov
- Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, 669 S. Hwy 89A, Kanab, UT 84741