

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Attn: Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Monument Review - Ms-1530  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Dear Mr. Zinke:

I feel the need to first introduce myself before submitting my comments to you concerning, mostly Bears Ears National Monument, but also the Grand Staircase National Monument. Both created by former Presidents, returning favors to political supporters, and nothing more.

I am a lifetime resident of Carbon County, Utah. We used to be known as a top producing coal area. Industry was and still is something we are proud of. Now that world has been led to believe that coal is "dirty", which it always has been and always will be, and that coal miners are "low life's", I find myself angry ALL THE TIME! It's affecting my health with problems I never used to have. That's not the subject I want to address, but you need to know this letter comes from a coal miner's daughter, a wife of a coal-fired power plant employee, the mother of a son who has put in time in the coal mines, gas and oil fields, and is now back to mining in a trona mine. In other words, I'm a down-homer who has lived a wonderful life because of natural resources.

I have served on committee's and been a part of trail building from removing rocks from trails so it eliminates hazards for other people, to planting "carsonites" with trail numbers on them, to creating maps that help people find their way around the area they are in. I attended meetings, such as scoping meetings, many times.....all of my own free will and accord, with no financial assistance from anyone. I write letters to my elected officials, like I'm doing today.

I am currently working with Duchesne County, Uintah County, and Carbon County on creating what we are calling the Badlands Trails System, that will connect all three counties with OHV trails. It's what I like doing..... providing for the future, which includes my own children (who are grown and married with kids of their own), and my grandchildren. I am deathly afraid my posterity will never get to see the things I've seen, and go to places I hold dear. **It's already happened.**

I am 61 years old and have enjoyed motorized recreation since tote-gote's. Remember them? The good man that I have been married to for 42 years was a man who never thought of himself only. If he bought 1 three-wheeler, (again, remember those?), he bought 2. If he bought 1 snowmobile, he bought 2, so I could go with. I carried my babies in pouches strapped to me so they could go also. On and on through life we went. It have eventually evolved into us having really nice ATV's, and my kids and grandkids on motorcycles. We haven't yet bought a side-by-side OHV, although I venture to say as we get older, it could happen. (My theory right now for not having one, is my husband needs some peace in his life. I am a retired UPS driver and NOBODY drives as good as what UPS taught me about driving) I'm sure I would "coach" my husband on how to handle an OHV, right or wrong.

I am serving as a Stake Relief Society President in our LDS Church...I'm responsible for providing direction for those under me. I am also currently the Mayor of Wellington, Utah. Am I busy?...yep, I am. But public lands issues is always a priority on my list of life's problems. I said earlier that it's affecting my health because of the anger broiling inside of me. I'm not kidding. The Church and the City issues do not make me as angry at the world as does Monuments, Wilderness, and the likes. Why? Because it always seems to be an battle I can't win, not matter how much service I do for the public, sometimes it seems to be for naught. I am sure the folks in San Juan County have a lot of the same feelings.....is all the trail work they've been doing going to be eliminated? They were providing for a future, somebody's future. Perhaps for myself and my children.

I think, no.....I know, that the likes of the Sierra Club, SUWA, the Great Old Broads, and the others have made it BIG business to sue, and eventually cause to cower, our land managers. They file.....however many lawsuits they see fit.....and even when they don't win them all, they win enough to generate millions of dollars in revenue, sometimes as little as 3 lawsuits might generate as much as, what 3-9 million dollars? They have become the "all powerful" at the expense of people like me. We can't afford to battle money like that!

I have read many letters, and listened to many people who, like myself, battle the only way we can....by writing letters to our elected officials, and being involved in agendas like PLI's, like Congressman Rob Bishop's proposals. Even those good intentions are thrown by the wayside. Yes, I was invited to sit in on Carbon County's PLI proposal. Bottom line....we just keep trying! I have to keep wondering why our local elected officials desires for our state keep getting shut down by people who NEVER come here. Can you explain that to me?

Mr. Zinke.....the environmental wackos didn't get their hearts desire by the Red Rock Wilderness Bill....they didn't get the land by the "Greater Canyonlands Trust".....so what's left? Get a President to make it monument!!! Even if a monument is out in the middle of an ocean!!!! They stop at nothing, because money can buy anything....if you have enough of it. And that's all this is about.....those who have **the money**, seek to control the Red-Blooded American People who love the land more than they do. It's not about protecting the land....that's a farce that they hide behind. It's about control, extortion, bribery, and all kinds of falsehoods generated by people who have nothing better to do with their time except "stir the world to anger".

OK, so maybe I've set the stage and you know what's coming. You've been "listening" and trying to get a grasp on what is the right thing to do.

I've decided to send a packet of "information". You'll probably not have the time to read it all, I know how that feels....but "birds of a feather flock together", and I feel like, even though you'll probably get hundreds of thousands of letters from the "Far Left" on how monument designations are the "wave of the future" I wanted you to see how the folks who live here, work here, and play here feel about monuments.

I've read good books like "Storm Over Rangelands" by Wayne Hague, "Liberty and Tyranny" by Mark Levine, "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels" by Alex Epstein, "The New Reagan Revolution" by Michael Reagan, and others. It's nice to know that these good men have seen through the façade of political power by dollars and no sense, just the "want of control". He who controls the lands and the water, controls the people. And there are some very intelligent human beings who are hell bent to take this country to communism, which is what the "Far Left" intends to do. I thank God that Donald Trump is our President, and he had picked someone like yourself to try and undo the wrongs that are being dealt to the people in the West.

So, "Exhibit A" is a copy of the Bears Ears Monument as it stands today. You can see how much of San Juan County it entails. Do you honestly believe that this is a good thing? Some President, ( Like MR. Obama.....I never called him President) can just be fed a pack of lies, and without checking out those lies can decide that Monument is "for the good of all". No local input.

"Exhibit B" has a story behind it. I recently was a chairperson for what is called "Ride On Utah - Big Ride". This map shows the trails I chose to take the attendees on. I was first invited to join a "Big Ride" event last year....which I ended up being the only woman to go with about 17-18 men. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity to spend a week with others who think as I do. This event is sponsored by our Utah State Parks OHV Recreation Division. I have enjoyed a many-year relationship with State Parks and Recreation. Perhaps that is why I got invited last year.

Well....here's the kicker....I was asked to chair this years event. I thought about it for a few hours and then said "Yes, I will chair next year's event....but we are going to San Juan County". You see....I've been spending a week's worth of vacation time every year for the past 17 years enjoying the beauty, the majesty, the history, and THE PEOPLE. I LOVE SAN JUAN COUNTY, UTAH!

So I planned the meals, the lodging, the trails we would ride, and the speakers. I had Commissioner Phil Lyman lined up as one of our speakers, but guess what? All three San Juan County Commissioners were in Washington DC that week! I'm grateful they were there. We pledge our support to them and for them.

Who were the people that were there? Take a look at "Exhibit C". You'll see they were folks from all over the State of Utah and one person came from the State Parks Department of Oregon. People just like me. I had worried about what these folks would think of "my favorite part of Utah". I worried for no reason. It was awesome to hear their comments, such as... "I have never been to this part of Utah"..... "I never knew this was here." "This is incredible". A lot of those feelings were exactly the words my husband and I used when we first started going there 17 years ago. It is like a magnet. You return to certain trails year after year because of what you get to see. I swore.....one year....we were in our Mother-in-Heaven's flower garden because the flowers that were so fantastic.

"Exhibit D" ....just a few words about this, which I will include here is.....I asked the attendee's for this year's Big Ride event if they would share with me the amount of money that they spent while in San Juan County for a week. There were about 22 actual attendee's. Some had spouses that came to San Juan County but did not attend the agenda that was planned for the attendee's. Some spent more because they stayed longer, some had flat tires, or other mechanical issues that had to be dealt with. So the amount varied between \$690 to \$1,400 dollars. Almost all stayed in the Super 8 Motel, with some staying in the local Blue Mountain RV Park. I roughed it out to be around \$800 per person. **That's close to \$17,600 that was brought into the local economy for 1 week!!!** I wished at least one of the commissioners could have attended this event and witnessed the results.

Mr. Zinke.....if the Native American Tribes needs a special place for spiritual gatherings, give them a tract of land up on the mountain between the Bear's Ears. Provide the fencing to fence it off. I would venture to say that most Americans would acknowledge that that section is sacred. But then.....I've seen SUWA here in my back yard, proclaiming that the Hondo Arch area of the San Rafael is sacred to them....ummmm...while they are high on pot, and running around naked. I have been to the Medicine Wheel in the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming. I can understand how some places are sacred to some people. But they (the Native American Tribes) don't need, and I truly believe THEY (the Native American Tribes) **don't want** the biggest half of San Juan County! They (the Native Americans) have everyday needs to be supplied by the land around them. We can see through the farce of the environmentalists who have "recruited" the Tribes, and lied to them about what rights they would have on the land. If public land is public land, as such is their (the environmental wackos) cry, then it is my land also. Only trouble is, I am willing to share my land with all, they (the environmental wackos) are not. Again the environmental movement stops at nothing to get their way. You should see the advertisements that appears on our local TV channels from SUWA..... "Bears Ears Monument is good for Utah". We certainly don't have money to produce advertisements such as that, so who has more ability to get their message out? We (those of us in the motorized community pay through the nose to enjoy our form of recreation, but it is the most attacked form of recreation in the world. I think there should be extra taxes on climbing ropes, hiking boots, golf clubs, saddles and tack, etc....Think how many millions of dollars that would generate, but no, the motorized community pumps more into taxes than is dreamed of, and we are learning that that money is used for non-motorized accomplishments. What's up with that?

"Exhibit E" portrays the number of motorized trails in the new Bears Ears National Monument. Is this not "management"? I certainly applaud the SPEAR organization for their efforts in creating a system for ALL to enjoy. What will happen to these systems? We, as motorized users, know. They will slowly fade away depending on who's whim we have to listen to. Each and every trail is part of the "people management" tool. And most all of the trails has something to offer humans in the way of grandeur, experience, and

memories. There is truly no other state like Utah. We love it! We care about it! We protect it! But we find our feelings are put on the back burner, "because public lands belong to all"....well, make us a complete state and give the Federal Lands to Utah....we'll show the world how we manage our lands.

Now...a word or two about the Grand Staircase National Monument. I rode my ATV in Paria Canyon many years ago, before the designation. I marveled at the beauty of that canyon. I viewed the Indian Petroglyphs there and noticed that some were done in color, which is unique. I noticed the plant life and enjoyed crossing the Paria River over a hundred times before we got to the top and reached the Skutumpah Road. When we go riding, we always look for loop opportunities, although I've grown to understand that the landscape looks different on a return trip.

I've heard various remarks about the condition of the city of Escalante. Some say it's gone broke, others say that tourism is helping out. I'm not sure. I don't go there anymore because my form of recreation is frowned on.

"Exhibit F" is just comments and information about the monument.

I urge you to dissolve WSA's. The land has been tied up long enough, and nothing has been accomplished by it. Give it back to the people. I just submitted comments to the Forest Service about their search for "Wilderness". We need to be done with Wilderness. We keep wasting taxpayer money for needless wants. And not actual needs. I know this all part of a bigger picture, the picture of controlling the American People.

Mr. Zinke...I convey my gratitude to you for having an open mind about comments from the locals. Thank you and thanks to President Trump for taking a stand and seeing the unfairness of Executive Orders and how unreasonable that some are. Thank you for coming to Utah. I would have loved to have been in San Juan County and tagged along with your

excursion. I'm sure I would have learned a lot. I hope local, not "brought in for the occasion", people were there and included, and that you listened to them. I made the trip down from Wellington, Utah to Blanding, Utah when Senator Mike Lee held his public hearing with the people. I was there! I did not hear one, not one, person who wanted the monument! While a month earlier, a public meeting was held in Bluff, Utah, with people bussed in from who knows where, each given t-shirts, and their lunch provided for them by some rich money people supporting the monument. How is it that Senators and Congress members can draft laws in states beyond their own?

At our last meeting of the Big Ride event, we had a young man show up to help with the catering. He is a local hunting guide and gave the most wonderful impromptu talk. He has real-true feelings about the catastrophic effects the monument will have on his business. I know he is not alone in his feelings.

One last comment then I'll be done with my venting. Why is it we call "National Recreation Areas", National Recreation Areas, but only certain forms of recreation are allowed, while motorized is not? Would you kindly see that that policy is changed? There is multi-millions to be made with motorized recreation. Enlist the help of locals in setting up trails that ALL can enjoy. You'll be rewarded by knowing you weren't selective.... but....inclusive.

Thank you for your time.....

Joan Powell....Mayor, President, and just a normal everyday Concerned Citizen.

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