
David M. Blevins

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The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior

Secretary Zinke,

Now that you have been to Blanding and seen the expanse of the Bears Ears monument designation, I hope you can see it for what it really is, an egregious abuse of the Antiquities Act suborned by environmental extremists.

Sir, I will celebrate, God willing, my 70th birthday on Oct 1st of this year. I spent 30 of those years in the service of my country, most of it overseas. I live on my Air Force retirement and Social Security. I am also very fortunate to live in, arguably, the most beautiful state in the union. I am determined to see as much of America as I can in the time I have left. I have an artificial hip, a heart that continues to beat thanks to the miracles of modern pharmaceuticals and a great cardiologist, arthritis and most of the other complaints of someone my age. I can't strap on a backpack on and go hiking to take in the natural beauty of the land. So I ride. I ride with an ATV club because I believe there is safety in numbers. We get to some pretty remote places. We don't blaze new trails, we ride on existing trails and just dirt roads. I hope your visit to the Blanding area enabled you to see some of the natural wonder there that we might lose access to without your help.

I am also concerned, Sir, that your visit may have been orchestrated. It would not be unusual for someone in your position to be shown what some people with agendas would like you to see. So please do us both a favor and spend 12 minutes listening to Travis. I spent the week before your visit in Blanding myself with a group of OHV leaders. On our last night while attending a BBQ, a friend of the caterer was overheard talking to some people in the group about "the monument". Our group leader asked him if he would please re-address his comments to the entire group. He did not come there, as you will hear him say, to speak to the group. He came to talk to the caterer because they do some things to make a living together, a theme you will also hear in his comments. So what you will hear is Travis, a Blanding native and 40+ year resident making some completely extemporaneous comments about "the monument" and how Blanding people, both native Indian (Navaho and Ute) and 'anglo' really feel about "the monument". We captured most of the week, including his comments, on video. Here's the You Tube share link where you can find the video:

<https://youtu.be/nEcAVEOtPMw>

If you can watch and listen to that and do not feel compelled to do everything possible to correct the action of an arrogant former President, all hope is lost.

Thank you Sir,



David M. Blevins

David M. Blevins, CMSgt, USAF Retired