

I am not sure where to even begin with my comments. I do appreciate the opportunity given to express my views and opinions. I hope they count for something.

First, I would like to say that it is very easy to be supportive of a new national monument when it is not in your own back yard. It gives one the feeling of saving the world! The person supporting this does not have to live with the day to day ramifications of that decision. Most of those that support the creation of the Bears Ears National Monument will never actually go and visit it or spend time hiking or riding in the area.

It is much more personal for those that live close by and have utilized this land for much of their lives. These are the people that need to be listened to and considered when making these decisions.

I was fortunate enough to spend the week of May 1, 2017 in San Juan County. I was there on an ATV trip. I found it interesting that 95% of all OHV trails in San Juan County are within the boundaries of the Bears Ears Monument. I doubt this is a coincidence at all. I also do not doubt that over time the majority of these trails will be shut down if the monument remains. This is what has happened with the Escalante/Grand Staircase monument, even though we were promised this would not happen when it was made. We are also being promised that this won't happen with the Bears Ears but I have no faith this promise will be kept.

This area is truly magnificent and worthy of protections. The issue I see is that the current protections seem to be working just fine. I was informed that the BLM has had only 5 reported incidents of vandalism in the last 5 years. So, it appears that the statement "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" applies here!

I had the opportunity to speak with many locals while visiting San Juan County this month. I did not find one resident that was for the monument! My "poll" was not scientific by any means. I simply asked folks that I encountered what their thoughts were on the new monument. I did not lead them in any direction. I asked folks as I shopped, dined and recreated. I did not find one single person that was in favor of this monument. I talked with both Native and non native Americans to get a feel for everyone's attitude.

I could go on for many more paragraphs but hopefully I have said enough to cause you to rethink the designation and determine that it is not needed. Please rescind the monument, or at least drastically reduce the size of it to allow the same lifestyle remain for the residents of San Juan County.

Thank you,
Ty Tyler