



DATE: Thursday, October 7, 2021

CONTACT: Anna Peterson, [Anna@TheMountainPact.Org](mailto:Anna@TheMountainPact.Org)

## **Utah and Western Local Officials Applaud the Restoration of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments**

**Durango, Colorado** - With President Biden restoring Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, The Mountain Pact network of local elected officials released the following statements in support of the [Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition's response](#).

**Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact** said, "[Over 140 local elected officials](#) in the Mountain Pact network across the West, including Utah mayors, council members, and county commissioners, are overjoyed that President Biden has finally restored protections for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. It is past time to finally start real collaborative management with [Tribes at Bears Ears](#) and for restored protections for these irreplaceable cultural, historic, and natural treasures. If we are going to accomplish the administration's America the Beautiful goal, we must rapidly accelerate efforts to restore and conserve more public lands and waters."

**Town of Bluff, Utah, Mayor Ann K. Leppanen** said: "We are so thankful that President Biden has restored protections for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. We appreciate Secretary Haaland traveling to Utah to meet with diverse stakeholders to inform the administration's decision. It was an honor to meet her and share, as local elected officials who live near these remarkable monuments, that these national treasures have been at great risk."

**Summit County, Utah, Council Chair Glenn Wright** said: "Many Utahns, including local elected officials, were honored to meet with Secretary Deb Haaland when she was in Utah this spring. We are thankful that President Biden has listened to the long-standing calls for better protections for Utah's public lands by restoring protections for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. Now, management plans for these monuments should include input from local elected officials and concerned citizens."

**Chair Grand County Commission, Mary McGann, Grand County, Utah** said: "I met with Secretary Haaland when she came to Utah to hear the perspectives of Utahns on next steps for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. We applaud President Biden for restoring protections for these irreplaceable national treasures."

###

*Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 80 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.*