

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in Utah

People in Utah love the outdoors, and protected public lands are important to Utahns. 72 percent of Utahans participate in outdoor recreation each year. Moreover, outdoor recreation is the number one factor drawing tech sector employees to live and work in Utah. This contributes to a large outdoor recreation economy in the state. In fact, in Utah, outdoor recreation jobs support more than twice as many direct jobs in Utah than mining and energy jobs combined.

73% of people in Utah support presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments. Furthermore, 63% of those polled consider themselves to be conservationists, and 78% support the creation of new protections for public lands.

The beauty and uniqueness of Utah's landscape draws many tourists, making this unsurprising. This is shown by the fact that in 2023 more than three times the population of the entire state visited its state parks alone.

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UTAH - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments



Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

In 2021, Utah was ranked #10 for the percentage of its economy based on outdoor recreation. In 2022, this sector accounted for 3.2% of state GDP, \$3.6 billion in wages, 71,677 direct jobs, and added a value of \$8.1 billion to the state economy.

Furthermore, in 2023 9.29 million people visited the state parks alone, a number that is almost three times the size of the state's total population. This number is dwarfed by the staggering 15.8 million people who visited Utah's National Parks in 2021, spending about \$1.6 billion across the state. These visitation rates are part of a larger trend that saw Utah's

outdoor recreation economy grow by an incredible 27% in 2021. This growth is great, but it's not without challenges. In Utah, many people are rising to the occasion to meet these challenges and to make sure that their outdoor recreation economy meets the needs of communities. Smart growth plans are being implemented in booming rural recreation towns and researchers are coming up with new tools to help places navigate these changes.

UTAH - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

National Park Service Visits, Spending, and Economic Contributions to the Utah Economy

State	Total Recreation Visits	Total Visitor Spending (\$2022)	Jobs	Economic Output (\$2022)
Utah	13,554,654	\$1,656,100,000	23,312	\$2,597,700,000

Bureau of Land Management National Monuments Designated Through the Use of the Antiquities Act

Protected Area	Important Economic Indicators
<u>Bears Ears National Monument</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three years after the designation of Bears Ears National Monument, there was <u>positive economic expansion</u> in the retail trade, professional services, and food service sectors in the areas around the monument. • According to the <u>2021 Annual Managers Report</u>, in 2021 Bears Ears National Monument received an estimated 370,430 visitor days, over half of which were to the Newspaper Rock petroglyph site.
<u>Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Between 2001 and 2015</u>, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument supported 24% job growth, with 42% growth in the service sector, 13% population growth, and 17% growth in real per capita income in Garfield and Kane counties. • According to the <u>2021 Annual Manager's Report</u>, in FY2021 Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument saw 1.3 million visitors, which is a dramatic rise from the 950,000 it received in 2020.

UTAH - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

National Park Service National Monuments Designated Through the Use of the Antiquities Act

Park Unit	Total Recreation Visits	Total Visitor Spending \$2022	Jobs	Labor Income \$2022	Value Added \$2022	Economic Output \$2022
<u>Arches National Park*</u>	1,460,652	\$274,172,000	3,558	\$112,310,000	\$188,653,000	\$335,174,000
<u>Bryce Canyon National Park*</u>	2,354,660	\$218,608,000	3,019	\$69,296,000	\$118,191,000	\$234,954,000
<u>Capitol Reef National Park*</u>	1,227,608	\$105,561,000	1,462	\$32,199,000	\$62,120,000	\$121,297,000
<u>Cedar Breaks National Monument</u>	688,644	\$50,025,000	653	\$19,416,000	\$33,285,000	\$62,189,000
<u>Dinosaur National Monument</u>	351,019	\$23,829,000	270	\$9,194,000	\$15,517,000	\$27,064,000
<u>Hovenweep National Monument</u>	28,446	\$2,028,000	26	\$761,000	\$1,341,000	\$2,482,000
<u>Natural Bridges National Monument</u>	71,249	\$5,028,000	58	\$1,955,000	\$3,296,000	\$5,797,000
<u>Rainbow Bridge National Monument</u>	81	\$5,000	0	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
<u>Timpanogos Cave National Monument</u>	155,995	\$10,301,000	145	\$5,122,000	\$8,670,000	\$15,589,000
<u>Zion National Park*</u>	4,692,417	\$672,427,000	10,777	\$277,900,000	\$492,714,000	\$961,270,000

*Since its initial designation, this location's management and/or name has been updated. See our 2022 Mountain Pact [Utah](#) National Monuments Fact Sheet for more information.

UTAH - President Biden Restored National Monuments

The Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante landscapes are full of cultural, historic, fossil, geologic, and biological resources - all of historic and scientific interest that fall under the scope of the Antiquities Act. From the world-class dinosaur remains unearthed in the Grand Staircase-Escalante to the immense cultural importance of Bears Ears, these areas are national treasures. A supermajority of Westerners, including Utahns, love these national monuments and support their protections.

On October 8, 2021, President Biden restored protections for Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine national monuments. His proclamation protected sacred lands in Utah and vibrant ocean ecosystems in the Atlantic.

President Biden's actions fulfill a promise to restore conservation protections illegally ripped away from national monuments while also working towards his administration's commitments to address climate change, build a more equitable society, and invest in jobs and the economy.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument



*Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument*

President Biden restored protections to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, safeguarding a spectacular Utah landscape home to untold numbers of unique and undiscovered fossils and a treasure trove of natural wonder. This land has deep ties to Native peoples, a bounty of dinosaur bones, and world-class recreation.

UTAH - President Biden Restored National Monuments

Bears Ears National Monument

The designation of Bears Ears was historic as the first national monument proposed by an unprecedented coalition of Tribal Nations. President Biden's actions honor that original promise, safeguard cultural sites, and restore protections to one of the most significant cultural landscapes in the nation. It signals that protecting public lands and honoring Tribal sovereignty can and should go hand in hand.

"National monument designation, funding, and management are all key to successfully balancing conservation, access, and enjoyment of public lands. Arches National Park was first designated as a national monument, and is now a top destination for visitors and locals alike. National monuments improve the quality of life and economic vitality of the region, and because of that, the City of Moab formally supported the designation and restoration of Bears Ears National Monument. By President Biden restoring the boundaries designated by President Obama, he has greatly advanced the protection of these lands, supported Tribally-led conservation, and prioritized restoration and preservation of this culturally and ecologically rich landscape."



Former City of Moab, Utah Council Member Kalen Jones

UTAH - President Biden Restored National Monuments

Bears Ears National Monument

"Our small Town of Bluff, Utah, nestled in the southeastern corner of the state, sits among the grandeur of the American Southwest. For miles in any direction, we are surrounded by sweeping landscapes, the kind many only see on postcards. I'm proud to live here and proud to serve my neighbors as the town's first mayor.

Bluff sits adjacent to 1.36 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument. Bears Ears is unique because it is the first national monument that came about because of the efforts of five sovereign Tribal Nations - the Navajo Nation (Diné), the Hopi Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute, the Ute Indian Tribe, and the Zuni Tribe.

Bears Ears has more than 100,000 estimated archaeological sites, as well as extensive and irreplaceable fossil sites and treasured natural resources throughout. I am grateful that the Biden administration is participating in robust Tribal collaborative management and incorporating Indigenous Traditional Knowledge into the management of this matchless cultural landscape."

Town of Bluff, Utah Mayor Ann Leppanen



"Southern Utah's many national monuments like Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, and even Arches National Park which started as a national monument, help make our communities what they are. We are thankful that irreplaceable national treasures have been protected through the Antiquities Act. I thank President Biden for restoring protections to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments and these priceless cultural, historic, and natural treasures."

Grand County, Utah Commissioner Mary McGann



Photo Credit: Mason Cummings

UTAH - President Biden Restored National Monuments

"Bears Ears National Monument represents the first truly Native American national monument in U.S. history. As Native Americans, we are accustomed to being put aside, on the back-burner, being a check mark on someone's list. No real change is ever achieved, and yet it was and is being achieved with the work and partnership of five tribes - Ute Mountain Ute, Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, Diné Nation, and Ute Indian Tribe – coming together in a sense of healing.

In this fight, I was really surrounded by a lot of the knowledge and experience of my elders and ancestors. You can't separate a Native American from the land. We're so strongly tied to our land. It's our history. It's our teacher. It's our culture and identity. The artifacts left by the ancestors of today's Tribes — cliff dwellings, kivas, petroglyphs — need to be preserved. Our legacy is on the walls of the canyon. I can't afford for anybody to destroy what is there for my grandchildren. It's very important that we protect every aspect of our natural resources, our air and our water.

Our Earth is crying for healing. The Earth is our mother, and she does everything for us. She protects us. She's always with us. She's always with me. So when you walk out on this sacred ground that we have the honor to put our feet on every day, we have to give thanks and gratitude.

I share gratitude for the courage of President Obama embracing the moment to change history rather than repeat history by designating Bears Ears National Monument with Tribal entities recognized as sovereign voices. I'm also so thankful to President Biden for restoring Bears Ears – the ancestral home to my Ute Mountain Ute people, as well as to the Hopi, Zuni, Pueblo, Diné, Ute Indian Tribe, and other Native communities.

We must continue to take care of one another and be good neighbors, be good stewards of the land, because that's what our ancestors have told us through the stories that have been left on the walls of the canyons."

Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, former Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council member and former co-chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition



Photo Credit: Tim Peterson LightHawk