



# UTAH

## **Bears Ears National Monument**

[Bears Ears National Monument](#) was created in 2016 by President Barack Obama after many years consulting with regional Tribes as well as conservationists, hunters, ranchers, and Utah lawmakers. On December 4, 2017, President Trump announced that he had cut Bears Ears National Monument by 85% and Grand Staircase-

Escalante National Monument by half--the largest reduction of public land protections in history. This move has been fought in the courts by Tribes, businesses, and conservation organizations. Utah residents [overwhelmingly](#) support the original Bears Ears designation, as do Tribes in the area and across the nation.

## **City of Moab**

### **Decarbonization Resolution**

Like many Utah cities, Moab has passed a [resolution](#) in support of decarbonization by shifting to 100% renewable energy by 2030. Yet ongoing oil and gas leasing undermines the city's efforts by keeping underpriced fossil fuels coming to market, as well as chipping away at currently natural public lands. Increased fossil fuel development increases the impacts of climate change such as drought, unpredictable snowfall and snowmelt, and increases in catastrophic wildfires.

### **Millcreek Parkway**

Millcreek Parkway is a protected riparian area that runs through the city, providing a non-motorized transportation, recreation, and wildlife corridor. In 2020 the city created a mountain bike skills park to primarily serve youth and families for whom the equipment and transportation to traditional public lands trails was difficult.

### **The Management of Sand Flats Recreation Area**

The Bureau of Land Management and Grand County cooperatively manage the 9,000 acre Sands Flats Recreation Area, which is located in the heart of the Colorado Plateau and provides camping, mountain biking, hiking, and motorized trails. Adjacent to the City of Moab, user fees support increased management and volunteer engagement.

### **Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve**

The [Scott and Norma Matheson Wetlands Preserve](#) is the largest intact wetlands system on the Colorado River in Utah, and hosts more than 200 species of birds, amphibians and mammals. This wetland has become drier during the last twenty years, as Colorado River flood levels decrease in height and frequency, and more importantly, the groundwater feeding the wetlands becomes fully utilized.

The Preserve recently modified some of the connectivity between wetland and river to create a breeding area for endangered fish. In the future, Moab's waste water treatment plant effluent could be used to restore much of the ecological functionality of this wetland, but would require additional treatment to be discharged there. Funding for both the treatment, and the planning work would help make this a reality.