

January X, 2017

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for your bold and timely leadership in designating Bears Ears and Gold Butte National Monuments. These are critical additions to our National Conservation Lands and help cement your legacy as America's greatest conservation President. These protected lands have immense cultural, natural, scientific and historic values that warrant the enduring protection you have afforded them.

In particular, we note with gratitude the special attention you have given to hearing local voices in both the Bears Ears and Gold Butte regions. In each instance, your administration's effort to get out on the ground and meet with citizens, see the areas under consideration and provide ample opportunity for local feedback has demonstrated exemplary executive leadership. Hearing from Tribes, recreationists, archeologists, ranchers, historians, local community members and others who care deeply about these lands makes these designations historically inclusive. This honors two of your administration's important goals: to elevate and empower sovereign Tribal voices, and to ensure that our parks and public lands reflect the full diversity of our nation's history and our peoples' stories.

We also encourage you to continue to designate appropriate areas for permanent protection before the end of your term, and know that we support you and your administration in these final efforts.

The more than 60 groups in the Friends Grassroots Network and our community of partners nationwide are proud to work with you to continue protecting our cherished public lands, and we stand ready to celebrate, promote and defend your historic accomplishments protecting America's rich public lands heritage.

Sincerely,

Josh Ewing
Executive Director
Friends of Cedar Mesa
Jaina Moan
Executive Director
Friends of Gold Butte
Art Haines
Vice President
Conserve Southwest Utah

Marilynne Keyser
President
Friends and Neighbors of Deschutes Canyon
Area

Laura Beardsley
Executive Director
Friends of the Inyo

Robert Weissler
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Friends of the San Pedro River
Nicole Croft
Executive Director,
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Jim Stanger
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Friends of Sloan Canyon
Danielle Segura
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Stephnie Wald
Secretary to the Board
Carrizo Plain Conservancy
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Ben Gabriel
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Dave Willis
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Cassie Pinnell
Executive Director
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Terry Dickey
Chairman
Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National
Monument
Michael Myers
Executive Director
Friends of Black Rock-High Rock

Steve Peerman
Project Director
Fort Stanton Cave Study Project

Ben Morehead
Executive Director
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Tom Lisby
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