



Bears Ears National Monument A Living Cultural Landscape

The Bears Ears National Monument was designated to protect lands considered sacred to Native American tribes. Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record. Respecting ties Native Americans maintain with the land and learning from this rich cultural heritage, connects us in a unique way to the public lands we share.

More than 20 different Native American groups claim cultural affiliation with the planning area. The Bears Ears area has been important to the ancestors of these modern peoples for thousands of years. The area continues to provide resources important to the lifeways of Native American tribal communities such as firewood, game animals, herbal medicines, and places and items of spiritual importance.

Recognizing the importance of tribal participation in monument management, Presidential Proclamations established and affirmed the role of a Tribal Commission to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of a monument management plan, and to partner with Federal agencies on other management decisions.

The Shash Ja'a Commission, consists of one elected officer each from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe, designated by the officers' respective tribes, and the elected officer of the San Juan County Commission representing District 3 acting in that officer's official capacity.

