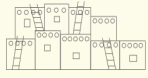


# Bears Ears History and Timeline

Clovis people, who are considered the ancestors of most of the indigenous cultures of the Americas, hunt in Cedar Mesa, most of which is now NOT included in the Bears Ears National Monument since it was reduced in size.



Along Comb Ridge (Tséyík'áán) –a one-mile wide and 80-mile long “dramatic geologic fold” with some of the best-preserved cliff dwellings—ancestral Puebloans live in the alcoves and grew corn.

Native American ancestral lands, now called Four Corners, is claimed by Spain as part of New Spain. New Spain covers most of present-day United States west of the Mississippi River plus Florida.



Following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Navajos are forced to leave their ancestral lands in what becomes known as the Long Walk of the Navajo.



One of the early catalysts for protecting Bears Ears as a monument is a raid called *Operation Cerberus Action* conducted by FBI and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) agents—“the nation’s largest investigation of cultural and archaeological artifact thefts”—in Blanding, a small town on the Bears Ears eastern boundary. Bears Ears has been regularly looted and vandalized for decades.



Representatives from the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribe form the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition to conserve the Bears Ears cultural landscape.



The National Trust for Historic Preservation places Bears Ears on its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America List.



President Barack Obama establishes Bears Ears National Monument through Presidential Proclamation 9558, protecting 1,351,849 acres of canyons, desert mesas, and meadow mountaintops in southern Utah.



President Donald Trump issues Executive Order 13792 “Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act” that directs the Secretary of Interior to review 27 designations of National Monuments made since 1996. National Monument reductions could open federally protected lands to mining, logging, and drilling.



Secretary Zinke proposes that President Trump make changes to 10 Monuments, including Bears Ears, according to a memo addressed to the White House. Mr. Zinke’s report also recommends that Mr. Trump allow unspecified “traditional use” of the land, which could include activities like drilling and mining.



President Trump creates Presidential Proclamation 9681 to modify the Bears Ears National Monument by creating two smaller Monument units: Shash Jáa (129,980 acres) and Indian Creek (71,896 acres). These total 201,876 acres, roughly 85% smaller than the original 1.35-million-acre area designated by President Obama.



11000 B.C.E.

500 B.C.E.

900-1350 A.D.

1250-1285

1521

1848

1864-1866

1906

2009

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Following the Clovis people—at least 2,500 years ago—Ancestral Puebloans begin to occupy the Bears Ears area.



Nearly 30,000 people disappear from the San Juan region and resettled in the Rio Grande area of New Mexico and Arizona. A “monster drought” destabilizes the region in the 1200s and Mesa Verde becomes overcrowded. When a second drought hits in the late 1200s, the mass exodus begins.



The United States and Mexico sign the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to end the Mexican-American War. The land that this treaty brings into the United States becomes, between 1845-1912, all or part of ten states in the West.



President Theodore Roosevelt signs the Antiquities Act of 1906 into law, which gives presidents the power “to create national monuments—a kind of second-tier national park—when federal land contains objects that are threatened by outside forces or which are especially deserving of emergency protection.”



The National Trust for Historic Preservation—in partnership with the All Pueblo Council of Governors, Friends of Cedar Mesa, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, the Conservation Lands Foundation, and others—adds Bears Ears to its National Treasures Program.



The BEITC submits a proposal to President Barack Obama, seeking the designation of 1.9 million acres as a National Monument which would include Cedar Mesa, Indian Creek, White Canyon, Abajo Mountains, Comb Ridge, Valley of the Gods, and the San Juan and Colorado Rivers confluence.



Utah Rep. Rob Bishop unveils a draft legislation entitled “Utah Public Lands Initiative Act,” a bill to “provide greater conservation, recreation, economic development and local management of Federal lands in Utah, and for other purposes.” This bill received much critique, as it promoted energy development and reduced federal control and protection of public lands and management.



Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issues an interim report as requested in Executive Order 13792 in which he proposes a significant reduction of Bears Ears National Monument to what he considers “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management” of those sites.



Arizona Rep. Ruben Gallego introduces a bill to protect the Bears Ears National Monument from the pending reduction in size by President Trump. Rep. Gallego’s bill would protect the original acreage identified by the tribes as housing culturally sensitive artifacts and sacred lands.



Now it’s up to us.

