



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

REDGE B. JOHNSON
Director

January 10, 2024

Submitted electronically: mlundell@blm.gov, michael.engelhart@usda.gov,

Jared Lundell
Monument Manager
Bureau of Land Management
365 North Main
P.O. Box 7
Monticello, UT 84535

Michael Englehart
Monument Manager
Bureau of Land Management
62 East 100 North
PO Box 386
Moab, UT 84532

RE: Bears Ears National Monument Cooperating Agency Meeting Request

Dear Jared, and Michael:

The State of Utah (State) respectfully requests a Cooperating Agency coordination meeting before the public release of the Draft Bears Ears National Monument Management Plan and EIS. The State understands that the draft plan, which was originally scheduled for release during the fall of 2023, is currently being revised and that the revisions may be substantive. Therefore, the State requests the opportunity to meaningfully consult and cooperate with BLM and USFS during the editing and drafting phase before the release of the draft plan to the public.

The State has repeatedly voiced concerns about the lack of meaningful opportunities to cooperate and coordinate during the planning process. The State is hopeful that the agencies will take this opportunity to remedy some of those shortcomings by holding a meeting with cooperators to conduct a meaningful dialogue about the plan and proposed edits before its release to the public. The State once again requests meaningful coordination and a

Bears Ears National Monument Cooperating Agency Meeting Request

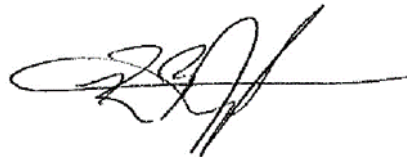
January 10, 2024

Page 2

cooperating agency meeting to shape the direction of the draft plan. Up to now, the coordination and cooperating agency meetings have largely consisted of updates and briefings, not meaningful opportunities to develop the plan. A balanced and enduring plan is only possible by working together as required by law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, we look forward to scheduling a meeting soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Redge Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Redge Johnson
Director

cc:

Director Greg Sheehan

gsheehan@blm.gov

Ryan Nehl

ryannehl@usda.gov

Jake Palma

jepalma@blm.gov

Matt Preston

mpreston@blm.gov