

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLAGSTAFF CITY COUNCIL, IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO LOBBY THE NEW BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TO REINSTATE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT TO ITS ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS**

**RECITALS:**

WHEREAS, On December 28, 2016, President Barack Obama issued Proclamation No. 9558 designating 1.35 million acres in southeastern Utah as Bears Ears National Monument; and

WHEREAS, prior to designation of the monument, sites of sacred and cultural importance had been desecrated by recreationists, looters, and vandals; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Proclamation No. 9681 that reduced the area of the monument by 85% to just 201,876 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears cultural landscape is known to contain more than 100,000 cultural and archaeological sites, making it the most significant unprotected archaeological area in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these lands face serious threats associated with political pressures to develop the region's abundant oil, gas, and mineral resources; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of the monument size opens the door to exploitation of such resources and reduces the intended protections of natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition is an unprecedented alliance that formed in order to protect the unique cultural heritage of the Bears Ears region, including the Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Zuni Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Bears Ears Inter-tribal Coalition proposes a U.S. Presidential National Monument designation under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to protect historical and scientific objects in Southern Utah; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to reinstate the monument to its original dimensions in order to honor and protect the needs and interests of the traditional peoples who occupied the region that is now Bears Ears National Monument.

**ENACTMENTS:**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FLAGSTAFF AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1: The Flagstaff City Council calls upon President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to make it a priority of his new administration to swiftly withdraw Proclamation No. 9681 and to fully restore the Bears Ears National Monument as originally designated in Proclamation No. 9558.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Flagstaff this 19th day of January, 2021.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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CITY ATTORNEY