

Montana's Ryan Zinke (former Congressman) carries on as U.S. Secretary of Interior

Wall Street Journal, May 10, 2017

wednesday, May 10, 2017

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

U.S. NEWS

Zinke Visits Bears Ears Monument

By JIM CARLTON

BLANDING, Utah—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke toured a newly designated national monument by air, foot and on horseback as the Trump administration weighs downsizing or rescinding the preserve's status.

The visit to the 1.35-million acre Bears Ears National Monument on Monday and Tuesday was part of Mr. Zinke's four-day Utah tour, and his first to a monument under review by the Trump administration for reduction or elimination. The visit is being closely watched as a template for how Mr. Zinke may handle the review process.

Bears Ears was designated a national monument in the waning days of Barack Obama's presidency. On Wednesday, Mr. Zinke plans to visit Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante, designated by President Bill Clinton in 1996, which is also under review.

Many critics of the monuments' designation have said they were set aside without adequate input from locals, who oppose such designations because they remove the ability to develop the land or mine it for resources. Mr. Zinke's options include moving to rescind the monument, altering its boundaries, or leaving it untouched as many tribal and environmental



U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke greets Willy Grayeyes of Utah Dine Bikeyah environmental group.

groups advocate. After meetings with various groups this week, the interior secretary said Tuesday he hadn't yet determined what he would recommend to the president.

"I'm just listening on this tour," Mr. Zinke said Tuesday morning as he prepared to tour on horseback the Dugout Ranch, a spread surrounded by the Bears Ears monument that

is owned by the Nature Conservancy, an environmental nonprofit. "But I think there is a solution out there."

Whatever happens here could serve as a template for the way future monuments are established, Mr. Zinke added.

On Sunday in Salt Lake City, Mr. Zinke met with members of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, who helped to lobby for the monument to better

protect an area of Native artifacts they hold sacred.

Davis Filfred, a Navajo member of the coalition, which includes four other tribes, said the interior secretary didn't seem sympathetic to them during their hourlong meeting at a Bureau of Land Management office.

"We got the impression he had already made up his mind," said Mr. Filfred, whose

meeting was held as hundreds of monument supporters waved placards and chanted on the street outside.

Mr. Zinke arrived at the small Blanding airport Monday morning with an entourage including Republican Gov. Gary Herbert and many of Utah's top lawmakers—all opponents of both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase monuments. Many of them said they were confident Mr. Zinke would recommend against the monument.

"This is the biggest event in the history of San Juan County," County Commissioner Bruce Adams—wearing a cowboy hat with the logo "Make San Juan County Great Again"—said as he and other local dignitaries waited at the airport.

On a short hike to view 700-year-old cliff dwellings at Butler Wash, the interior secretary was again accompanied by state and local officials as about 60 monument supporters—holding signs such as "Utah Stands With Bears Ears"—were kept on a parking lot by law-enforcement officers.

"Our strategy is to let people know there are people here who support the monument," said Wayne Hoskisson, 70 years old, a Sierra Club activist who traveled to the protest from his home in nearby Moab, Utah.

Nafta Revamp Slowed By Senate Maneuvers

By NATALIE ANDREWS AND JACOB M. SCHLESINGER

WASHINGTON—The U.S. won't be able to start renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement until late summer at the earliest, as congressional delays bog down one of President Donald Trump's top-priority agenda items.

The latest snag emerged this week when Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain—a staunch free-trade backer who has raised doubts about Mr. Trump's "America First" trade policy—said he wanted to slow down the Senate's approval of Mr. Trump's trade representative, a step required before the talks can begin.

Two weeks after Mr. Trump tried to create a sense of urgency around rewriting the 23-year-old pact by threatening to pull out of it, the timetable for launching the renegotiations remains months away. The slowdown has irritated Mexican and Canadian leaders, who say the uncertainty over the region's trade rules has chilled investment. It also means the talks risk spilling into election years in both the U.S. and Mexico, complicating

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