October 20, 2021

Dear President Biden, Secretary Haaland, Secretary Raimondo, Secretary Vilsack, Chair Mallory, Ms. Gina McCarthy and Administrator Spinrad,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the millions of members and supporters we collectively represent, we enthusiastically thank you for your actions restoring full protections to Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine national monuments.

By acting to protect Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, you honor the sacred landscape home to Indigenous Peoples, including the Paiute, Hopi, Zuni, Diné/Navajo, Ute, Acoma and Jemez Pueblos, and Ute Mountain Ute.

Because of your actions, we can rest assured that these irreplaceable national monuments will exist for generations to come. Thank you.

All three of these monuments protect biodiversity and critical habitat and we hope that last week’s proclamations will be precursors to future actions in pursuit of the administration’s goal of protecting ‘America the Beautiful.’ In his address, the President mentioned the Tongass National Forest, Bristol Bay and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Our old growth forests and many other special, sacred and important places must be permanently protected from development if we are to achieve our shared goal of protecting 30 percent of our lands and waters to combat the climate crisis, preserve biodiversity and address inequitable access to nature.

We also look forward to Bears Ears National Monument serving as a new model of collaborative management between Tribes, state and federal land agencies. The traditional knowledge and place-based conservation strategies of Tribal communities should play a significant role in shaping efforts to conserve and plan for a resilient future for this landscape that we all hold dear.

We are thankful to have leaders like you working to protect our lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Alaska Wilderness League
Archaeology Southwest
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Azul
Brown Girl Surf
California Environmental Voters
California Institute for Biodiversity
Californians for Western Wilderness
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks
Connecticut Clean Water Action
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
Connecticut Ornithological Association
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Council For Hawaii
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conservation Law Foundation
Ohio Environmental Council
Only One
Open Space Institute
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
Oregonians For Wild Utah
Patagonia
PennEnvironment
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Presbyterians for Earth Care
Rachel Carson Council
REI Co-op
Resource Renewal Institute
Restore America's Estuaries
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Roger Williams Park Zoo
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Save Massachusetts Forests
Save Our Shores
Save the Sound
Seacoast Science Center
Seattle Aquarium
Seeding Sovereignty
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
South San Juan Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Standing Trees Vermont
Surfrider Foundation
TAO
The Chaparral Lands Conservancy
The Mountain Pact
The Ocean Project
The Student PIRGs
The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Society
Tuleyome
TwoRivers ActionCoalition
Vet Voice Foundation
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Waitt Foundation
Waitt Institute
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Friends of Wild Utah
Western Colorado Alliance
Western Slope Conservation Center
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Wild Montana
Wisconsin Conservation Voters
Wisconsin Environment
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
Zoo New England: Franklin Park Zoo & Stone Zoo