



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Review of National Monument Boundaries and Conditions Established in 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued an executive order (E.O.) directing the Secretary of the Interior (Interior), along with our federal partners, to review the 2017 proclamations that modified the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.¹ Specifically, President Biden directed us to determine whether restoration of the monument boundaries prior to the 2017 proclamations would be appropriate. See E.O. 13990, [Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis](#).

I respectfully invite you to join one or both of the following consultation sessions co-hosted by our federal partners identified in the E.O.

Date	Time (Eastern Time)	Call-In Number	Passcode
Friday, February 26, 2021	12 p.m. – 2 p.m.	(888) 982-4689	8247646
Monday, March 1, 2021	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	(888) 455-9640	4844588

We understand this is short notice, but we are seeking an expedited consultation because the E.O. requires Interior to submit a report to President Biden by March 21, 2021. We want to ensure that we fully discuss this issue with you prior to our preparation of any report to President Biden.

Likewise, if you would like to submit written input, please submit your comments by email to consultation@bia.gov at your earliest convenience but no later than midnight, Friday, March 12, 2021. If you have any questions regarding this effort in the meantime, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Appel, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action at elizabeth.appel@bia.gov or (202) 738-6065.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes
Tribal Governance Officer
Acting Deputy Solicitor, Indian Affairs

¹ See Proclamation 9681 of December 4, 2017 (Modifying the Bears Ears National Monument), Proclamation 9682 of December 4, 2017 (Modifying the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument), and Proclamation 10049 of June 5, 2020 (Modifying the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument).

cc:

United States Department of Justice

United States Department of Agriculture

United States Department of Commerce

Council on Environmental Quality