

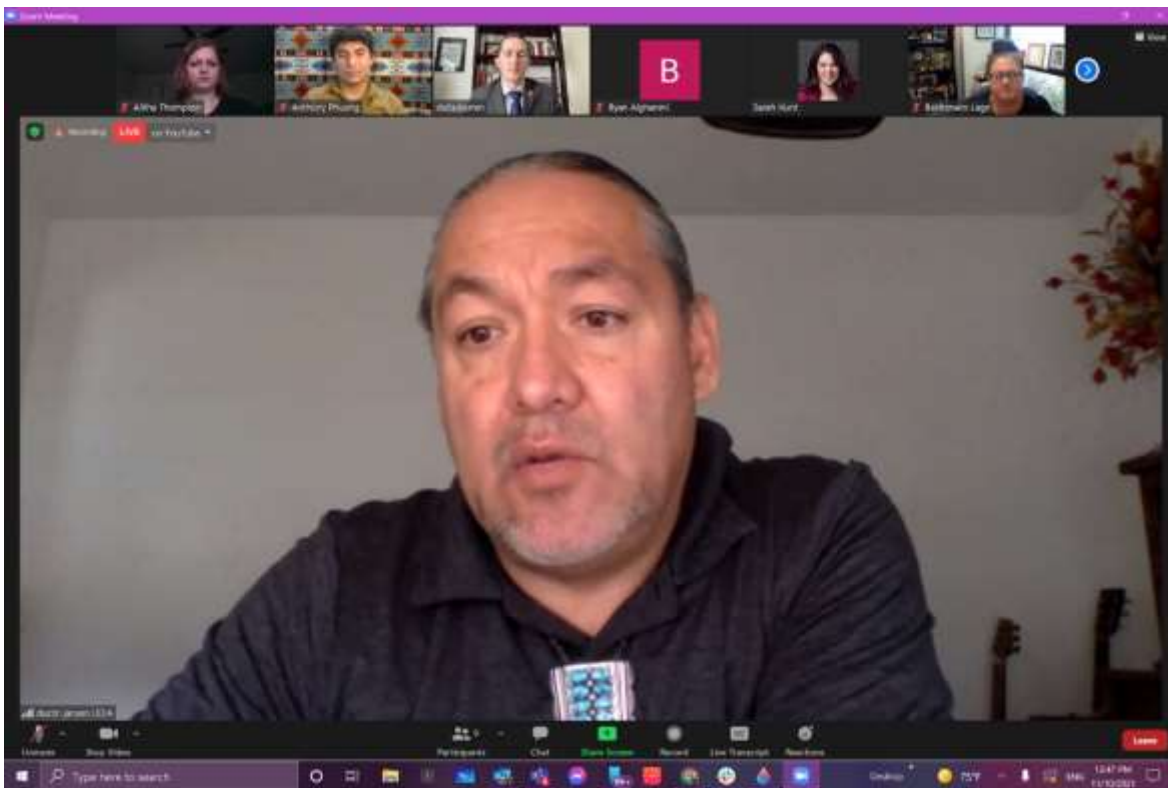
Bears Ears National Monument Roundtable



Presenters and participants of the event

I found discussion about Bears Ears National Monument on November 10, 2021, to be particularly interesting not because I have a vested interest in National Parks but because I feel it represents a unique and difficult balance between the federal government and the state government. The Bears Ears National Monument was established by Barack Obama but was then repealed and reduced by President Trump who said it was government overreach, only to be reinstated and expanded by President Biden. While I recognize and respect their ability to do so I do find it interesting that the choice wasn't given to those in Utah where the monument actually resides. I can understand the federal government wanting to preserve certain areas of the country as national parks but at the same time it feels fundamentally

wrong that the federal government is able to make decisions for land, they do not reside on instead of the state government.



Dusty Jensen, UVU faculty speaks during the event about Native Americans affiliation to the Bears Ears National Monument

I feel this situation is the perfect example of why the federal government intervening on behalf of state-owned land could become an issue. As we hold presidential elections every four years, that means that the boundaries of these parks could be expanded or reduced based on the feelings of the current president. This makes it extremely difficult for states to make long term plans surrounding the land because they don't know the future boundaries of the parks.

I personally feel that most decisions within a state should be made by those states elected government because they are the ones closest to the issue at hand as well as being the ones that will be held accountable by their constituents

Barrett Thompson, UVU student