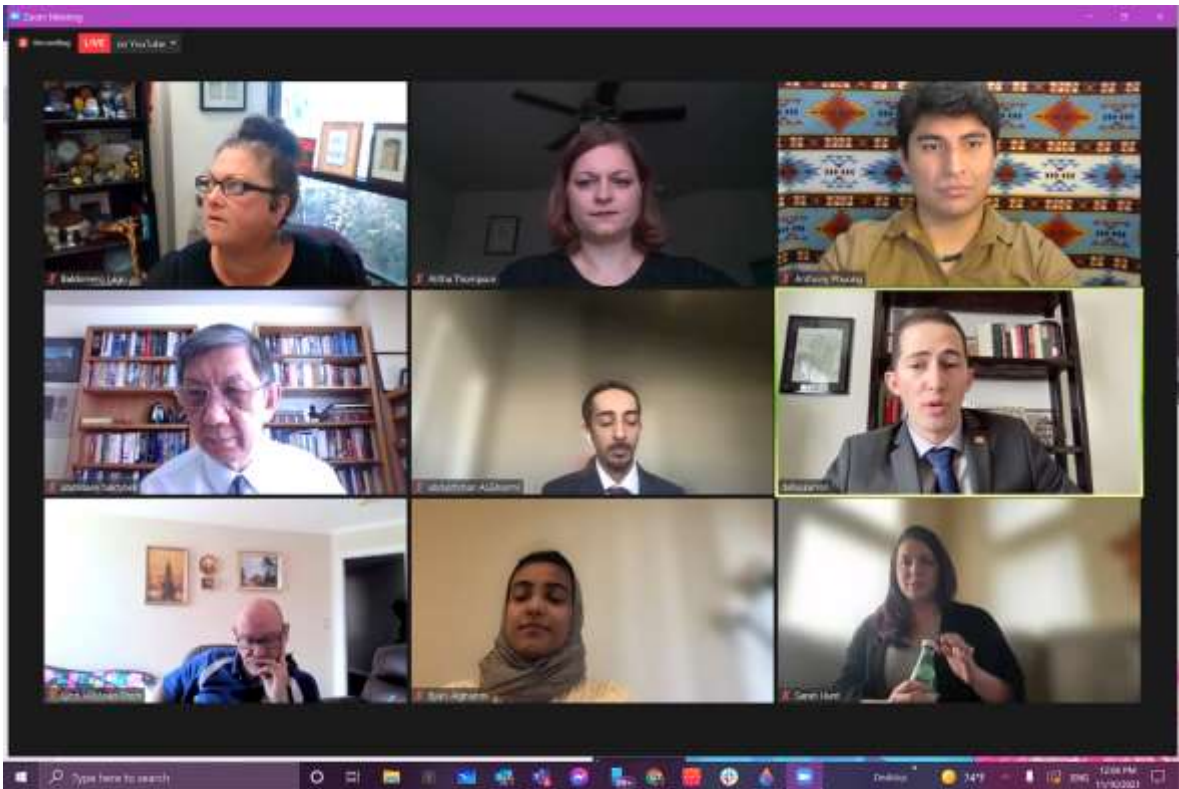


## **Bear Ears National Monument Roundtable**

Having a feeling of concern about what might happen to the Bear Ears national monument is a valid feeling since as explained that the national monument is 1.3 million acres that the land is rich in fossils and has reserves of natural gas, but especially Native Americans use the region for traditional and ceremonial uses, including the collection of medicinal plants is something to worry about or just consider what is best for the national monument.



*Participants of the roundtable on Bear Ears National Monument at Utah Valley University on November 10, 2021*

The monument can be established by executive order, so congress is not needed, and expanding it to make it a national monument brings controversy around resources. We know that every branch of the constitution has designated powers and one of them is the control and regulation of federal lands. And when the nation was being

formed there were federal lands about to become state and private lands in a few words, trusts, and that at the time was something extremely complicated.

I really feel that it is not considered that a place is a sacred place and religion for Native Americans, and it is sad to realize that despite the years the native community is not considered with their opinions or their desires, that even their lands are being reduced so much to the point that they can no longer follow their patterns as a community. It takes too much information about them and not just stick with what the government says about them, they are not savage Indians, they are people with different beliefs and their religion based on the land and they need to be respected.

That the nations are not politicized increasingly, all these processes and decisions have been politicized and so have the state and federal powers. The natural beauty of the nation is its resources belong to everyone and the land is not to be owned or exploited but to be respected, protected and cared for.

**-Ashely Dionicio, Student at UVU**