

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inter-Tribal Coalition Members Call for Stop to Proposal to Use Congressional Review Act (CRA) to Harm Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

ESCALANTE, UT — Members of the [Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition](#) strongly oppose any attempt to use the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to overturn the current Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Resource Management Plan. Members of the Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition call on members of Congress to protect Grand Staircase. Members of Utah's U.S. congressional delegation are expected to introduce a "resolution of disapproval" in the U.S. House of Representatives which aims to throw out Grand Staircase's [resource management plan](#), an important document that Tribal Nations helped create. Today, we call on members of Congress to vote "no" on any resolution to eliminate Grand Staircase-Escalante's 2025 resource management plan.

"I strongly denounce any attempt to use the Congressional Review Act to overturn the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Resource Management Plan. This plan reflects years of public input, scientific research, and meaningful Tribal consultation, and dismantling it through procedural shortcuts undermines good governance, responsible land stewardship, and the protection of irreplaceable cultural landscapes," said **Autumn Gillard, Southern Paiute, Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition member**. "At this time, I urge lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to uphold the approved resource management plan from January 2025."

Grand Staircase's resource management plan was made final in [January 2025](#) after two years of public input, which included input from Tribes. It contains important resource management directives that protect cultural resources and sacred places, petroglyphs and other footprints of our ancestors, springs, plants, and animals that are still important to our people today. It is important for our cultural and theological connection to the land, our ceremonies, and our domestic life. These cultural resources are of great significance to the Tribes of the Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition. Without a clear roadmap for protection and conservation that the resource management plan provides, our ancestral lands and many important cultural sites within the monument would be at greater risk of looting, vandalism, graffiti, and degradation.

"The land and all its living beings — its animals, plants, insects, and waters — are not merely commodities or resources to be exploited but are sacred entities with inherent rights," said

Cassidy K. Morgan, Programs & Projects Specialist with the Navajo Nation Heritage & Historic Preservation Department. “Whether it is through the careful stewardship of sacred sites, educating others about our respective cultures, or the deliberations that guide the balance between access and protection, our active participation in these processes reflects our sovereignty and our commitment to a shared future. Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument reflects a truth we hold sacred: the land is inseparable from who we are. No matter the complexity of today’s debates, our guiding principle is clear: these places must be protected and honored as part of our shared heritage and as part of the life-giving system of Mother Earth.”

This latest attack on our ancestral landscape in Grand Staircase appears to be part of a strategy to undermine the national monument’s resource management plan. On January 15, 2026, the U.S. Government Accountability Office [determined](#) that Grand Staircase’s resource management plan qualifies as a “rule” under a little-known law called the [Congressional Review Act](#). Rep. Celeste Maloy, (R-UT), had requested an opinion from the GAO to determine if the U.S. Congress could throw out Grand Staircase’s resource management plan. The Utah delegation is now expected to introduce a “resolution of disapproval” under this law asking Congress to toss Grand Staircase’s resource management plan. If both Chambers of Congress pass the resolution, any future resource management plan would have to be substantially different. While this would not change the monument’s boundaries, it would hurt the monument and place our ancestral lands and cultural places at risk. It also risks the loss of input and comments from American citizens that were included in the resource management plan.

“The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians has fully supported the creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument,” said **Angelita S. Bulletts, Interim Tribal Administrator with the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians.** “The lands included in the original designation are traditional lands of the Kaibab people and today prehistoric and historic family members’ remains have been inadvertently discovered within the monument. During Euro-American encroachment and settlement in areas near waters within the monument, the Kaibab Paiute were pushed out and united in the area of the present-day Kaibab Indian Reservation in Arizona. Since time immemorial, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians lived within and around the entirety of the boundaries of the monument. This means that any physical impacts through development would irreparably impair the heritage and traditions of the Southern Paiute Nation.”

BACKGROUND

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was designated in 1996 under the Antiquities Act and it now protects almost 1.9 million acres in southern Utah, including slot canyons and stone arches, dinosaur fossils, and cultural and archaeological places of profound importance to Native American Tribes, including sacred petroglyph panels and culturally significant plants that Native peoples continue to use today. As Native peoples, we have interacted with the Grand Staircase-Escalante landscape traditionally and ceremonially, as well as domestically, since time immemorial. We are still here, connected to and defending these lands today. We call on members of Congress to join us.

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The Grand Staircase-Escalante Inter-Tribal Coalition advocates for Grand-Staircase-Escalante National Monument, for Tribal voices and perspectives to be heard and included in the management of the monument, and for protecting the monument for all Americans to appreciate and enjoy.