

## **Resolution Opposing Significant Downsizing of National Monuments**

WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act created in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt authorized presidents to set aside land with historic and scientific significance as national monuments. Since 1906 every president except for one, has exercised this authority; *and*

WHEREAS, this Act enables presidents to set land aside for historic and scientific preservation and it does not give them the ability to eliminate or substantially downsize national monuments ; *and*

WHEREAS, national monuments serve as preservation sites for historical, scenic, and scientific interests for future generations; *and*

WHEREAS, there are currently 152 national monuments within the United States and U.S. territories; *and*

WHEREAS, national monuments provide invaluable historical insights to American cultures, one such monument, Bears Ears, is home to over 100,000 archaeological and cultural sites that are considered sacred by many Native American tribes; *and*

WHEREAS, national monuments impact the economy tremendously by generating a total revenue of over \$18.4 billion dollars in 2016 and creating employment for over 202,000 people; *and*

WHEREAS, counties throughout the United States with protected public lands have seen a rise in the population and employment, as an example, since the establishment of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, per capita incomes have risen 28 percent and employment has risen 40 percent; *and*

WHEREAS, national monuments protect undeveloped land to be used for recreation including hunting and fishing, contributing to the \$887 billion dollar outdoor recreation industry; *and*

WHEREAS, national monuments such as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante are home to many endangered species including the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Kit Foxes, Burrowing Owls, and rare native plants; *and*

WHEREAS, the President and Secretary of the Interior have taken action to substantially reduce the size of over 20 national monuments including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante for the purpose of extracting uranium, oil, and gas, thereby endangering the country's diverse wildlife and cultural history; *and*

WHEREAS, significant downsizing of national monuments will be detrimental to the great majority of U.S. citizens such as sportsmen and women , outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists and local businesses; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its 2018 Annual Meeting held April 20th and 21st in Wisconsin Rapids, strongly opposes significant downsizing of national monuments like Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments: *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation work with the National Wildlife Federation, other conservation organizations, businesses, and governments to oppose such downsizing of national monuments.

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