



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Lori Weigel & Karoline McGrail / New Bridge Strategy

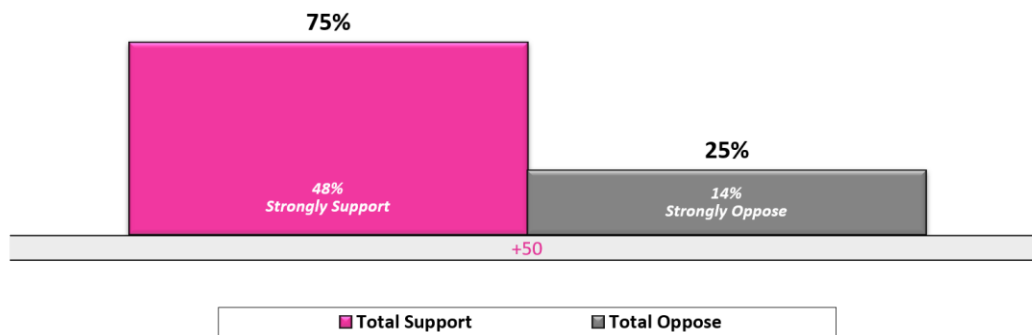
DATE: January 9, 2025

RE: New Research Shows Utah Voters Strongly Support National Monuments

A recent statewide survey of Utah voters¹ conducted by New Bridge Strategy demonstrates overwhelming support for national monuments generally and Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments specifically.

The survey found that:

- **Three-in-four voters support presidents' ability to protect public lands as national monuments.**



Support is evident across all major segments of the electorate, including:

- 71% of men and 79% of women;
- 85% of voters aged 18-34, 73% of 35-44 year olds, 67% of 45-54 year olds, 69% of 55-64 year olds, and 74% of voters aged 65+;
- 83% of those in the Salt Lake region of the state, 86% of voters in other areas of the Wasatch Front, 72% in Utah County, and 75% of voters across the rest of the state; and
- 98% of Democrats, 82% of independents, and 65% of Republicans.

¹ New Bridge Strategy conducted a survey among N=500 registered voters throughout Utah from December 12-18, 2024. Interviews were conducted via live telephone interviews (both cell phones and landlines) and online. Quotas were set for key demographic sub-groups, such as gender and age. The margin of error is $\pm 4.38\%$ for the overall sample. The margin of error will vary for sub-groups.

- **Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of voters support keeping the number and current size of existing national monuments.** Majorities of voters across all parties are supportive (96 percent of Democrats, 72 percent of independents, and 54 percent of Republicans). Moreover, 67 percent of voters say the 2021 decision to restore national monument protections to Grand-Staircase Escalante and Bears Ears was more of a good thing than a bad thing.
- **Strong majorities of Utah voters support keeping Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante as National Monuments (71 percent and 74 percent, respectively).**

We provided survey respondents with the following information:

As you may know, five Native American tribes united around a proposal that resulted in the federal government increasing protections for 1.36 million acres of existing public lands in southeastern Utah, which contain ancient petroglyphs and places sacred to these tribes in what is known as the Bears Ears area. This resulted in a national monument in Utah with protections for natural areas and water like those in national parks but with fewer restrictions. Again, the public can go there to camp, fish, hike, hunt, view wildlife, or ride ATVs. New mining or oil and gas development is not allowed on these public lands, but claims and leases held before the designation were not affected.

For each monument, voters were asked if they “support or oppose continuing to keep it as a national monument to ensure stronger protections for these existing national public lands.” Support for keeping Bears Ears as a national monument is strong across party lines with 94 percent of Democrats, 80 percent of independents, and 61 percent of Republicans expressing support. Voters are similarly supportive of continuing to keep Grand Staircase-Escalante as a national monument as well, with 74 percent of the overall electorate expressing support, including 96 percent of Democrats, 80 percent of independents, and 65 percent of Republicans.

- **Nearly nine-in-ten Utah voters (89 percent) say it is very important for Native American tribes to have a strong role in managing their ancestral lands.** Furthermore, four-in-five voters say the next Administration should keep the agreement with tribes regarding how Bears Ears is managed in place.

This sentiment is strong across party lines, with 99 percent of Democrats, 84 percent of independents, and 74 percent of Republicans saying the next Administration should keep the tribal cooperative agreement in place.

