

# BEARS EARS REGION

The most notable change in the introduced version of PLI is the section pertaining to the Bears Ears region.

## **The introduced version does the following:**

- Provides permanent, Congressional designation for 1.4 million acres of the Bears Ears Region.
- Protection is provided via two National Conservation Areas and a large-scale wilderness area.
- The two NCA model provides for more tailored management that reflects on-the-ground conditions.
  - The Indian Creek NCA is tailored for outdoor recreation and grazing while the Bears Ears NCA is focused on tribal access and cultural resource protection.
  - The two NCA model is supported by various conservation organizations.
- An entirely new Division was added in order to elevate management priorities of the Bears Ears NCA.
  - Division D outlines management of the Bears Ears NCA, including provisions to safeguard historical access, gathering, and cultural practices.
  - Division D creates a process for Tribes to enter into Cooperating Agency status with the Department of Interior, giving Tribes a meaningful seat at the management table.
  - Division D creates the Bears Ears Tribal Commission, which is tasked with working with the Secretary of the Interior on the management of the NCA.
  - Division D would require the Department of the Interior to appoint a Tribal Liaison to serve as the primary point of contact for Tribes and the Bears Ears.
  - Division D promotes the employment of Tribal members in the management of the NCA.
  - Division D would also create a separate Advisory Committee comprised of local officials, ranchers, motorized and non-motorized recreationists, sportsmen, and archeological representatives to assist in the planning and management of the NCA.
  - The majority of the co-management language included in Division D was crafted by Utah Dine Bikeyah.
- The introduced bill designates the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail as a National Historic Trail and provides for continued access and use by local foundations and the public