

**RESOLUTION OF Utah Diné Bikéyah**

**RESOLUTION NO: UDB-2019-04-01**

**OPPOSING STATE OF UTAH PETITION TO THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE  
REGARDING RELAXING 2001 ROADLESS RULE RESTRICTIONS IN UTAH**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Utah Diné Bikéyah is a 501(c)3 non-profit located in the state of Utah with an eleven person, all Native American Board of Directors, ten staff, with thousands of followers who reside within the state of Utah; and
2. Utah Diné Bikéyah's mission is; "To preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources of ancestral Native American lands to benefit and bring healing to people and the Earth. UDB carries out its mission by supporting grassroots community members, the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, and we work to elevate Native American voices in relation to land and natural resource issues; and
3. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the State of Utah petitioned the United States Forest Service to create a special version of the Roadless Area Rule that would remove many restrictions on USFS managed lands within the State of Utah; and
4. In 2017, the State of Utah argued to President Trump that Inventoried Roadless Areas inside of the original Bears Ears National Monument boundary were already protected by 2001 Roadless Area Rule restrictions and therefore did not warrant protection under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Yet, now the state is proposing roadbuilding, logging, and removing all protections on some of these lands (i.e. Aquarius Plateau); and
5. This petition for a special Roadless Area Rule has not involved adequate consultation with Tribes by the State of Utah, even though these lands include countless cultural sites and resources to which we desire be protected in their natural state.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

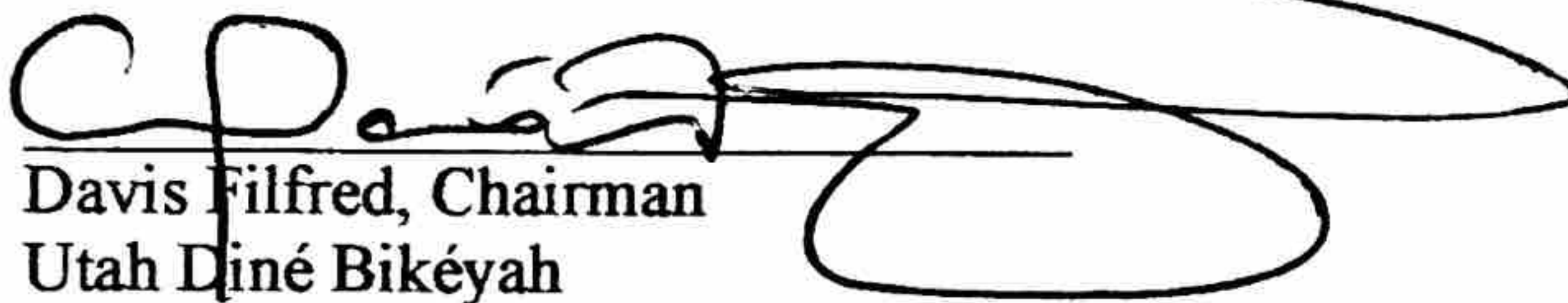
1. Utah Diné Bikéyah requests that the existing Roadless Rule be maintained for all of the Inventoried Roadless Areas in San Juan County, and throughout Utah; and
2. Utah Diné Bikéyah asks the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reject the roadless rule petition to allow roadbuilding, logging, or other activities which may disturb wildlife habitat or introduce invasive plant species to a region; and
3. Utah Diné Bikéyah requests that the San Juan County Commission amend the County Resource Management Plan to recommend retention of the 2001 Roadless Rule restrictions within San Juan County, Utah; and


4. Utah Diné Bikéyah requests that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture reach out to Tribes whose ancestral lands are affected by the Roadless Rule to determine whether Tribes would like to be considered as petitioners to make recommendations on these lands; and
5. Utah Diné Bikéyah opposes all efforts by the State of Utah to further erode protections on lands either proposed by the Navajo Nation or protected by President Obama as Bears Ears National Monument; and
6. Utah Diné Bikéyah respectfully urges the Governor, Utah legislators, and State of Utah's Natural Resource officials to recognize and respect tribal sovereignty, and to involve the Navajo Utah Commission office, the Navajo Nation government, and our communities in the petitions like this which may impact cultural sites and the lives of Native American citizens who hold ancestry in Utah.

#### CERTIFICATION

On this 13th day of April, 2019, we hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at the Utah Diné Bikéyah Board Meeting at Bluff, Utah, at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and \_\_\_\_\_ abstained.

Motion: By Mary Benally      Second: By Malcolm Lehi

  
Davis Filfred, Chairman  
Utah Diné Bikéyah

  
Hank Stevens, Vice-Chairman  
Utah Diné Bikéyah