



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

Statement
For Immediate Release
December 28, 2016

Statement by State Auditor John Dougall
Concerning Bears Ears National Monument Designation

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

State Auditor John Dougall today issued the following statement concerning the unilateral designation of the Bears Ears National Monument, 1.35 million acres of land in Utah:

“I am concerned with today’s designation of the Bears Ears National Monument. The poor, ad hoc process undertaken by the Secretary of the Interior concerning this monument has been insufficient and reflects poorly on the current administration. This designation does not appear to be designed to protect or to unify but rather to pander to out of state interests. Utah has already experienced devastating economic impacts from a previous “stroke of the pen” national monument designation, and this represents the second such blow. I am also concerned about the impact this designation will have on Utah’s school trust lands, which were set aside at statehood for the benefit of Utah’s schoolchildren. I view this as an abuse of the Antiquities Act by an outgoing President.”

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah’s government agencies.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state’s citizens every four years. The role of the State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

Contact:

Nicole Toomey Davis, Public Information Officer
Office of the State Auditor
801-678-4835, ndavis@utah.gov