



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OLJATO CHAPTER PRESIDENT JAMES ADAKAI APPOINTED TO THE BEARS EARS COMMISSION

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye appoints Oljato Chapter President James Adakai as the Navajo Nation's representative on the Bears Ears Commission. Additionally, Vice President Jonathan Nez will serve as the Nation's alternate Commissioner on the Bears Ears Commission.

"I am proud to have our Utah Navajos represented on the Bears Ears Commission," said President Begaye. "Mr. Adakai and Vice President Nez will both be strong defenders and advocates for our Navajo Nation interests."

Chapter President Adakai will be supported by employees from the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department and the Navajo Nation Department of Justice.

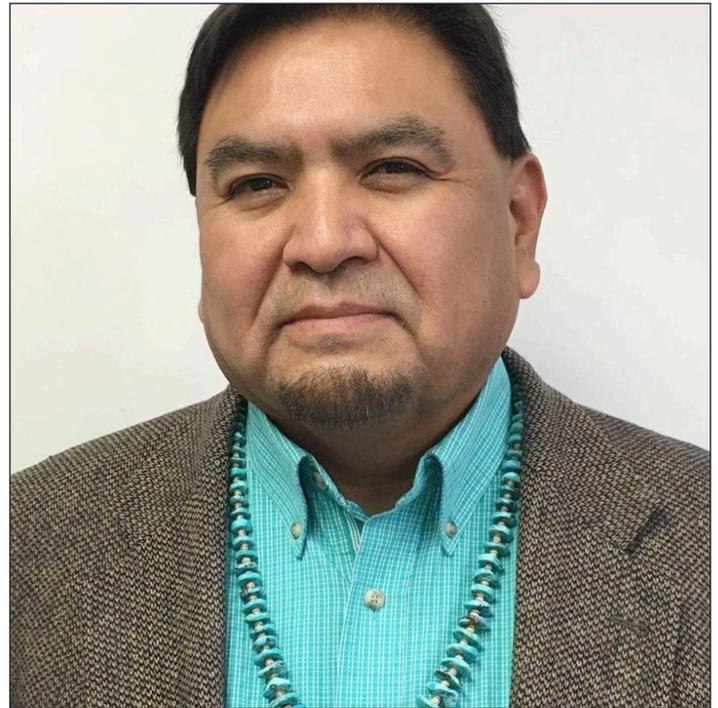
"The appointment of James Adakai to the Bears Ears Commission is a good move for the Navajo Nation, especially since he has been at the forefront of designating the area as a national monument. It is also reassuring that as chapter president of Oljato Chapter, Mr. Adakai has the pulse on issues facing Utah Navajos," said Vice President Jonathan Nez.

Vice President Nez noted that his selection as an alternate to the commission was appreciated and that his personal experience as council delegate for the Utah chapters of Oljato and Navajo Mountain have given him insight to the needs of Utah Navajos.

"We appreciate the decision by President Barack Obama to designate the Bears Ears National Monument before the end of his term. We have protected a sacred site for Navajos and other tribes of the region," said Vice President Nez.

"I am excited to serve our children, elders, veterans, and the people of San Juan County, Utah. The underlying objective is to preserve our history, protecting our environment, expanding clean economic opportunity, and take full advantage of prudent stewardship of the Bears Ears lands and resource," said Chapter President Adakai.

"I will work to preserve and protect the historic and cultural resources. Most importantly, the tribes to have continued access to tradi-



Oljato Chapter President James Adakai was appointed as Bears Ears Commissioner.

tional uses, such as wood harvesting, pinon picking, hunting, herb/medicine gathering, and visitation of sacred sites," said Chapter President Adakai.

The Office of the President and Vice President strongly urge the Trump Administration to keep Bears Ears as a National Monument. The commission is unique and ensures that all five tribes collaboratively manage the lands.

The Bears Ears National Monument, approximately 1.35 million acres, is located in southeastern Utah. The National monument was designated by President Obama on December 28, 2016.

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