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Sierra Club Statement on Secretary Haaland's visit to Grand Canyon to hear from Tribes on the proposed Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument

GRAND CANYON – On Saturday, Secretary of the Department of Interior, Deb Haaland, met with Tribal and community leaders at Grand Canyon National Park to learn more about a proposed national monument to protect more than one million acres of lands surrounding the park.

Last month, the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, consisting of leaders from the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Las Vegas Band of Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Navajo Nation, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes, called on President Biden to establish the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument. The designation would protect the region from toxic uranium mining, making permanent a ban on mining that was enacted administratively in 2012.

Secretary Haaland came to Grand Canyon today at the invitation of the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition and Representative Raúl M. Grijalva to hear more from them about the proposal to protect these lands.

In response, Sandy Bahr, director for Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, released the following statement:

"We are excited and encouraged by Secretary Haaland's visit to Grand Canyon to hear first-hand from the leaders in the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition on their historic effort to protect 1.1 million acres of lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park, to safeguard the lands and waters vital to the region, including the Red Butte Traditional Cultural Property. Establishment of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument will permanently protect this region and its waters from future toxic uranium mining and other harmful development."

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About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.8 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, [visit www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).