



Grand Canyon Chapter • 514 W. Roosevelt St. • Phoenix, AZ 85003

Phone: (602) 253-8633 • Email: [grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:grand.canyon.chapter@sierraclub.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Contact: Sandy Bahr, 602.999.5790, [sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org](mailto:sandy.bahr@sierraclub.org)

## **Sierra Club Statement on Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument Listening Session**

**FLAGSTAFF** – Today, the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service hosted a listening session in Flagstaff to hear from hundreds of Tribal and community leaders who overwhelmingly supported the proposed **Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument** to protect 1.1 million acres of public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

In April, 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 safeguard traditional use, regional groundwater, wildlife habitat and corridors, and important cultural areas, including the Red Butte Traditional Cultural Property, from harmful development and toxic uranium mining, making permanent a ban on mining that was enacted administratively in 2012.

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

"Establishing the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument is key to protecting the region's biological diversity and cultural values, along with its lands, waters, and wildlife. Species such as the majestic California condor and top predators such as mountain lions can be found in the footprint of the monument. As was demonstrated by today's comments from Tribes, businesses, local community leaders, environmental protection advocates, and many more, there is strong support for the proposed monument. President Biden has an opportunity to build on historic efforts to safeguard the greater Grand Canyon region and to ensure that the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition has a leadership role in the management of these lands going forward as they continue their stewardship roles, which have been in place since time immemorial."

###

### **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, thousands of whom live in the greater Grand Canyon region. 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/arizona](http://www.sierraclub.org/arizona).*