

# The Answer Was Blowin' in the Wind

After Trump reduced the size of Bears Ears National Monument, I went there with a friend to explore the area. We spent several days with a Navajo guide. As we encountered many of the ancient ruins and heard stories of his upbringing, a welling up of America's history with the people who preceded us overwhelmed me at times - The "long walk," broken treaties, massacres, "The Trail of Tears," Indian schools, desimation of the buffalo, bounties for Indian scalps and body parts, disrespect, discrimination. and now this reduction. In reducing the size of Bears Ears by 85%, no consideration was given to the relationship of the Native people's use of the land or the cultural artifacts standing unprotected. Mineral and oil rights were the only consideration. History repeating itself. Now in 2021, is there a sliver of hope with the new Secretary of the Interior?

As we were heading home, we stopped at one of the many roadside stands selling jewelry. I saw these flags furling and unfurling in the wind. They said it all.

Susan D'inga



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