1. Grand Staircase Region
Tell Zinke that the Grand Staircase Region contains Permian through Jurassic rocks representing alternating wet and arid periods. Wet periods contain bone and wood fossils, with some marine beds that contain fossil seashells. Dry periods preserved mostly spectacular trackways like the one shown above right, which are prints of an early proto-mammal. These fossils tell the story of the rise of dinosaurs in the supercontinent Pangea. Extensive collections, many not yet published, have been recovered in the Chinle, Moenave, Kayenta, and Navajo formations. Fish fossils are abundant in the Moenave Fm.; petrified wood is abundant in both the Chinle and Moenave Fms.

2. Kaiparowits Region
Tell Zinke that the Kaiparowits Plateau is the most scientifically important area of the entire Monument. Its Late Cretaceous rocks record wet, tropical conditions that teemed with life. This is the most complete succession of terrestrial vertebrate fossils known in North America, possibly the world. The Kaiparowits Plateau is of unparalleled scientific significance with hundreds of fossil species documented by thousands of specimens from thousands of localities. Twelve new species named since the Monument was established. Only about 20% of the region has been inventoried, with emphasis so far having been along roads and other easily accessible areas.

3. Escalante Desert Region
Let Zinke know that the Escalante Desert Regions includes important trackways and that its Late Jurassic Morrison Formation contains important deposits of petrified wood and dinosaur bone.

4. Circle Cliffs Region
Tell Zinke that the eastern end of the Monument preserves Permian and Triassic fossils, including many important specimens collected from the Chinle Formation. The largest Triassic age petrified forest outside of Petrified Forest National Monument is found here.

Trump's executive order 13792 mandates a review of the boundaries of 21 US national monuments, including two whose express purpose includes protecting vertebrate fossils. Complete the comment form by May 26 to tell Secretary Zinke to maintain the boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument and expand the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument.


Machairodus cronusi skull, one of the many spectacular finds from the Kaiparowits Region (from Lund et al., 2015).

Lythronax and Teratophoneus, two tyrannosaurids from the Kaiparowits Region (from Lowen et al., 2013).