U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

March 8, 2017

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Congratulations on becoming the 52nd Secretary of the Interior. We will miss your presence on the Natural Resources Committee dais, but look forward to working with you in your new capacity.

During your confirmation hearing, in response to a question from Senator Martin Heinrich of New Mexico regarding the Antiquities Act, you responded that "it will be interesting to see whether the President has the authority to nullify a monument." When Senator Heinrich followed up and asked what your counsel would be on the question of whether the President should attempt to rescind a national monument, you responded by saying: "Legally, it is untested."

Now that you have been sworn in as Secretary, your role in counseling President Trump regarding the future of the special places under the jurisdiction of your Department is no longer theoretical; advising the President on the future of Bears Ears and other National Monuments is now your solemn responsibility.

Do you believe that the President has the legal authority to overturn an existing national monument designation?

Thank you for taking the time to provide clarity on this important issue. I appreciate and look forward to your swift response to this straightforward question.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources

TOM O'HALLERAN
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515–0301

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As a strong proponent of public lands, I write today concerning the executive order signed last week by President Trump directing the Department of the Interior to review the establishment history and status of national monuments created since 1996 under the Antiquities Act.

Arizona's First Congressional District includes some of our nation's most treasured public lands, including the Grand Canyon. These public lands play an important role in our economy, help us preserve our history and ensure that future generations will also see these beautiful places.

The residents of Arizona have seen the economic benefits of national monument designations. These lands support thousands of jobs and bring in millions of dollars in revenue each year from visitors all over the world. Vermillion Cliffs National Monument is a strong contributor to the tourism economy of northern Arizona. In Coconino County, where Vermillion Cliffs is located, travel and tourism represent about 15,000 jobs, or 33% of private employment. Statewide, the outdoor industry contributes approximately $5 billion to Arizona's economy, each year.

The Antiquities Act protects important tribal cultural sites. As you know, these sites have critical importance to our American Indian and Alaska Native communities. In Arizona, monuments such as Casa Grande Ruins National Monument and Navajo National Monument, preserve the history of ancient cultures, so people today and in the future, can understand our history.

While your review is required to consider factors including scope and size of national monuments, I urge your review to engage local communities, through public comments and on-the-ground listening tours. I would also ask you to consider the importance of the economic impacts these lands have on our local and state economies. Any comprehensive, thoughtful review of these lands must include robust, local, input from tribal and rural communities that have the most to gain and lose from critical decisions made in Washington.

I welcome the opportunity to assist in engaging local and tribal stakeholders during your review.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Halleran

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

MARTIN HEINRICH
NEW MEXICO

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

005199

May 10, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I was disappointed to learn that you do not plan to hold a public meeting during your review of the Bears Ears National Monument and that you only met with tribal leaders for an hour during your trip to Utah. As you know, the previous administration held public meetings and conducted extensive public outreach before each decision to establish a national monument.

Moreover, I was disturbed by your statement regarding the accessibility of the regulations.gov website to members of the public who wish to participate in your review process. When asked why you were not holding a public meeting, you reportedly said that a public meeting is not necessary because everyone can comment at regulations.gov. When reminded that many Navajo families do not have internet access, you reportedly dismissed the comment and said, "Sure, there's tons of Navajo, and everybody, not just the Navajo, have access to regulations.gov."

In fact, internet access is far from universal in Indian Country. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 80 percent of New Mexicans—and 78 percent of Utahns—who live in Indian Country do not have access to fixed broadband internet. Across vast reaches of the Navajo Nation, even cell service is hard to come by. Moreover, cultural and historical practices bias a written comment process against those who come from an oral tradition. In many Native communities, traditional elders communicate solely in their native language and decisions on important issues are made only after extensive discussions. A respectful engagement process with tribal communities would include opportunities for public discussion and oral comment. Access to regulations.gov is unequal and heavily weighted toward urban, non-Native communities—those least affected by the decision of whether to shrink or repeal the Bears Ears National Monument.

Moreover, the announced comment period on the Bears Ears National Monument is only 15 days, providing extremely limited time for communities to weigh in on your review. The Pueblo of Zuni and the Navajo Nation, both located in New Mexico, are members of the Bears Ears

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Inter-Tribal Coalition along with the Hopi Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray. The monument designation is also supported by the Pueblos of Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Ysleta Del Sur, and Zia. Members of many of these tribes are my constituents. They must be provided with sufficient, culturally relevant opportunities to participate in the monument review process. I ask that you extend the public comment period to 60 days, matching the comment periods for the other monuments under review, and hold a public meeting in the Bears Ears region to allow local communities to comment publicly.

The Bears Ears region, a spectacular landscape with its big skies and red rocks east of the Colorado River and south of Canyonlands National Park, includes thousands of historic and cultural sites with deep meaning to numerous tribes. I know you come to this office with a history of respecting and understanding tribal traditions and I hope you will work to ensure full engagement with tribal communities on the question of the monument's future before completing your review.

Sincerely,

MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

005207

May 8, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

In light of President Trump's recent Executive Order calling for a review of national monument designations, we are writing to provide you with important information about the public input process that led to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion, and how the proposal was modified in response to public feedback.

We are strong supporters of the monument, which has protected some of the most biodiverse public land in the United States since it was initially established in 2000. While we recognize that there will always be concerns about conservation management of monuments, we believe reasonable voices will agree that there was an extensive public input process that led to meaningful changes in response to concerns raised. We believe this is reflected by the diverse range of supporters of the expansion, including neighboring property owners, chambers of commerce, tribes, sportsmen, and others.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is important, in part because it was the first monument primarily dedicated to protecting biodiversity. After its modest expansion, it more fully encompasses an important ecological crossroads in an area of unique geology, biology, climate, and iconic American landscapes –where the volcanoes of the Cascade Range, the sage and juniper of the Basin and Range Province, and the world-renowned biodiversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains converge.

The proclamation followed an open and inclusive process that considered feedback from local communities and stakeholders. In April 2015, 85 scientists signed onto a report outlining the need to significantly expand the current monument boundaries to better protect the biological objects of interest the original monument was established to safeguard.

After review of this proposed expansion and based on feedback from stakeholders and landowners potentially impacted, Oregon's Senators developed a significantly smaller map of the proposed 62,000-acre expansion. This proposal included areas proposed for conservation designations in legislative proposals for several years, as well as conservation designations that were already part of the BLM's Resource Management Plan for Western Oregon.

Senator Merkley and former Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor held a hearing in Ashland, Oregon -- the closest city to the monument -- to solicit public comment on the proposed expansion of the monument. Approximately 500 citizens attended this meeting in Ashland, with 83 testifying in support and 36 in opposition. In addition to the public meeting hosted by Senator Merkley, there were three additional public hearings in Klamath Falls (hosted by Klamath

County), in Medford (hosted by Jackson County), and in Yreka (hosted by Siskiyou County) that were attended by approximately 600 people. The testimony at these hearings was evenly divided between support for and opposition to the expansion.

Senators Merkley and Wyden also established a written comment period to continue receiving public comment on the expansion proposal, for both those who did not, or could not attend a public meeting to be able to submit more detailed written recommendations. Senator Merkley's office received a total of 5,488 comments, all of which were shared with the Department of Interior so that the Department and the White House could take the feedback into account. Of those comments, 4,313 commenters supported the monument and 1,175 were opposed.

In addition to the feedback and support from the general public, the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument expansion enjoyed robust support from state and local elected officials, tribes, citizens, chambers of commerce, conservationists, and many local landowners. A partial list of the on-record support for the monument is attached.

The public input process led to substantive changes to the map to address concerns that had been raised. Ranchers that hold grazing leases in the Buck Mountain and Deadwood areas within the proposed expansion requested that their grazing allotments be excluded from the expansion boundaries. Senator Merkley's office conveyed these requests to the Obama Administration. The Buck Mountain allotment was largely excluded from the final boundaries and the Deadwood allotment, which is located in a sensitive watershed, had more of its territory excluded than in earlier proposals.

As you know, only federal lands within an outer monument boundary are actually monument lands. Many private landowners within the existing monument and proposed monument expansion expressed their strong support for monument expansion and for being included within expanded monument boundaries. Nevertheless, some timber companies and other private landowners within the proposed expansion requested that 19 specific parcels be excluded. Ultimately, 14 of these parcels were excluded from the final boundary. In addition, approximately 7,000 acres of BLM land in Klamath County were excluded including parcels planned for timber management. To accommodate concerns over recreational access from some interested parties, the proclamation for the expansion provides for a new travel plan that could authorize reasonable off-road snowmobile and mountain bike use in the expansion.

Based on feedback from the public meeting and the comment period mentioned above, the final declaration included less than 48,000 acres, which is a reduction of over 14,000 acres from the discussion draft proposal put forward by Oregon's Senators.

We hope that you will consider the diverse public support and the public input process that led to expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as you review national monument designations. We also request that you consult with members of the Oregon Congressional delegation, the State of Oregon and federally recognized local tribes before making any decisions about the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

We hope that you will consider the diverse public support and the public input process that led to expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as you review national monument designations. We also request that you consult with members of the Oregon Congressional

delegation, the State of Oregon and local tribes before making any decisions about the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

EARL BLUMENAUER
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As a supporter of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and its recent expansion, I strongly urge you to preserve the acreage and protections as designated by President Bill Clinton in 2000 and expanded by President Barack Obama in 2017.

This National Monument is a no-brainer in terms of protecting important biodiversity and beautiful public lands. Commonly considered one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the country, any degradation of the ecosystem by removing these protections would run counter to the recommendations made by the scientific community.

The recent Cascade-Siskiyou expansion was the result of a robust public process. There were four public meetings held, including one with the Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, who also initiated a public input process that garnered thousands of comments, the vast majority of which were in favor of the expansion. As many others have noted, this was no "midnight monument."

Because of this broad stakeholder engagement, the monument designation and subsequent expansion was widely backed. Supporters included local residents and neighboring property owners, local mayors, city councils and chambers of commerce, state legislators, the Klamath Tribes, the Oregon Governor, and members of the Oregon congressional delegation. This broad coalition all saw a serious need to increase protections for this area. Any argument that the majority of stakeholders were opposed to the expansion is false.

As required under the Antiquities Act, the monument is also narrowly tailored to protect the important values for which it was designated. While the Monument is now larger and ecologically more robust than it was prior to expansion, it is important to note that, even with the recent expansion, the Monument is still smaller than scientists deemed necessary to fully protect the many biological treasures of this special place.

National Monument designations are shown to contribute positively to local economies, and Cascade-Siskiyou is no exception. This was not a federal land grab, and instead has helped and will continue to help spur the local economy in southern Oregon.

As you have said yourself, the monuments protected by former presidents under the Antiquities Act have "done a great service to the public and are some of our most treasured lands in this country." Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, as expanded, is one of those treasured lands. I hope that you recognize these unique benefits, and I encourage you to preserve this designation.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

006434

May 23, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Last week, the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee heard two days of testimony from tribal leaders during its American Indian and Alaska Native Witness Days. During the May 17th hearing, we were concerned to hear from Chairman Paul Torres of the All Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) that many tribal members of the Pueblos and other rural areas are facing barriers to sharing their public input on the review of the Bears Ears National Monument because of difficulty accessing the internet in their communities.

As you are aware, public outreach and public input is a vital part of the responsible management of our public lands. Therefore, we object to the process that the Department of the Interior has initiated for the current review, which does not include a single public meeting and relies primarily on the regulations.gov website. We were distressed to read about your dismissal of the common concern of poor or nonexistent internet access for many tribal members when asked specifically about the ability of the Navajo to offer their input. During your trip to Utah, you reportedly responded, "Sure, there's tons of Navajo, and everybody, not just the Navajo, have access to regulations.gov."

Unfortunately, not everyone has easy access to regulations.gov. This problem is especially severe within Indian Country, where forty-one percent of people living on Tribal lands lack access to fixed broadband internet, compared to just 10 percent across the United States on average. While we acknowledge that you have also offered a write-in option to offer comments, it has been very poorly publicized. In fact, Chairman Torres and other public witnesses were surprised to learn during the hearings that it was even an option.

Adding to the difficulty of a primarily online comment process is the unreasonably rushed public comment period specifically for the Bears Ears National Monument, which is just 15 days. This creates an additional level of hardship for remote communities to weigh in on the review. This is particularly puzzling when one stated purpose of your review is to ensure that monument decisions are made with "adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders". We believe that setting a review period of barely two weeks without a single public meeting is a failure to conduct adequate public outreach. Tribal nations have not felt meaningfully engaged as relevant stakeholders when the tribal leaders whose cultural heritage is at the heart of this monument received only a single hour of time with you during a four day listening tour of the Bears Ears area.

Therefore, in response to the concerns presented by tribal leaders and in the spirit of full public engagement, we ask that you extend the public comment period for the review of the Bears Ears National Monument to 60 days. Additionally, we request that you hold a public meeting in the Bears

Ears Region, preferably within Indian Country, to incorporate the oral testimony of tribal leaders into your review.

The designation of the Bears Ears National Monument was the culmination of years of public input, including unified support from a broad coalition of tribal nations. The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition—which includes the Uintah and Ouray Ute Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Zuni, the Hopi Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe—have led this effort, but a total of 30 tribes with ancestral, cultural, and current ties to the Bears Ears region support this designation. We know that you value respectful engagement with tribal nations and understand the importance of place-based tribal cultural traditions. Therefore, we ask that you work to ensure meaningful consultation with tribal leaders and full public input from Native communities is a part of the current review and any future monument decisions.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
c/o Mr. Micah Chambers
Acting Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

007048

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write you in response to your May 12, 2017 letter requesting congressional input regarding executive action(s) to be taken pursuant to President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017 Executive Order 13792 (the Order), which charges you with the task of a thorough review of national monuments created under the Antiquities Act—specifically, those designated since January 1, 1996 with footprints greater than 100,000 acres.

As a united delegation, we would like to begin by thanking you and the President for this long overdue Order, which begins a critical examination of previously designated national monuments and establishes a new precedent for future monument proclamations. Our support rests upon a shared view that this action represents a significant step in addressing decades of Antiquities Act abuses, which have occurred time and time again against the will of the people, at great expense to regional prosperity, and contrary to the original intent of Congress when it delegated this authority to the President.

We applaud your review because our home state of Utah has repeatedly fallen victim to overreaching use of the Antiquities Act—a law that has become a tool of political advocacy rather than public interest. As you well know, the original intent of the Antiquities Act was to identify and protect objects of "historic or scientific interest" that are "limited to the smallest area compatible" with protection thereof. Regrettably, as you mentioned in your remarks, this guidance has become, "the exception, rather than the rule," and many of Utah's most rural and remote communities have suffered as a result.

Under the guise of protecting our nation's antiquities, massive restrictions in access to our public lands discount Congressional intent. Congress—which holds sole authority under the Constitution to manage federal lands—granted the President only narrow authority to designate national monuments, specifically to protect objects of antiquities, such Native American burial grounds, relics, and artifacts. Designating massive monuments that are larger than some states is a gross abuse of executive power.

Unfortunately, these colossal abuses have soured the appetite for national monument designations, making the Antiquities Act synonymous with overreach rather than a tool to be celebrated for protecting our national heritage. Restoring the legitimacy of Antiquities Act authority in the eyes of the public requires a responsible and collaborative approach to monument designations—an approach that takes into account the needs of local communities and restores trust between states and the federal government.

We stand unified in our recommendation for a full rescission of Utah's most excessive monuments. Know that, as you conclude your review, you have our full support. We trust that your process will be fair, responsible, and thorough. To be clear, our top priority is the establishment of a new precedent for designating national monuments—one that corrects past abuses and remains consistent with the original intent of the Antiquities Act by limiting monument designations to the smallest area compatible with the protection of the antiquities within.

We welcome the review of the monuments in our state that failed to properly take into account the views of the most impacted local communities. We appreciate you taking the time to meet with a wide array of various stakeholders in Utah during your most recent visit, and we stand ready to support you as you finalize your review.

Sincerely,

Orrin G. Hatch
U.S. Senator

Mike Lee
U.S. Senator

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Mia Love
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Over a century ago, the Congress afforded the President unique authority under the Antiquities Act to protect certain public lands that have significant natural, cultural and scientific value. Since that time, sixteen presidents from both parties have used the Act to designate a total of 157 national monuments, protecting iconic American landscapes, such as the Grand Canyon, and historic landmarks, such as the Statue of Liberty and the birthplace of George Washington, for future generations. These treasured landscapes and cultural and historic landmarks are woven into the fabric of our country.

That is why we are deeply troubled by the President's April 26th executive order establishing a process that could lead to the diminishment or outright repeal of national monuments designated by his predecessors. It is unconscionable to think that this Administration would sell out America's outdoor heritage to benefit corporate interests in the oil, gas, and mining industries.

In establishing the Antiquities Act and through its repeated use, the Congress and past Presidents recognized that there are certain places too special to be spoiled by industrial development or commercial use. We recognized then, as we do now, that our society benefits from protecting these special places in perpetuity, to be enjoyed by current and future generations. National monuments are critical to the telling of our nation's story and are enjoyed by Americans of all ages to hike, hunt and fish.

Inherent in the establishment of the Antiquities Act in 1906 is one important truth: protecting America's outdoor heritage and making use of America's abundant natural resources on our public lands are not mutually exclusive goals. Millions of acres of public lands are and remain open for commercial activity while certain areas warrant protection from those activities. The Antiquities Act focuses on protecting those public lands that cannot nor should not be touched by extractive industries.

Many of the monuments under threat from the President's executive order tell important stories from countless Americans who have helped shape our rich cultural history. Some of those sites are considered sacred by Native Americans, including Bears Ears in Utah and Chimney Rock in Colorado. Other monuments mark the significant contributions African Americans have made to our great nation, including Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers in Ohio, Pullman in Illinois, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad in Maryland. Cesar Chavez in California and Stonewall in New York recognize important landmarks for America's Latino and LGBT communities, respectively.

As public servants, we have a moral obligation to protect America's natural places – our outdoor heritage – and important cultural and historic landmarks for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. For these reasons, we urge you to reject any attempt to diminish or eliminate national monuments in carrying out the President's executive order.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI
House Democratic Leader

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
Senate Democratic Leader

STENY H. HOYER
House Democratic Whip

RICHARD J. DURBIN
Senate Democratic Whip

BRIAN SCHATZ
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United States Senate

June 6, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
ATTN: Mr. Micah Chambers, Acting Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross:

I am writing to contribute my perspectives for your review of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) pursuant to Executive Order 13792. I am confident that after an impartial review of all the evidence, you will conclude that:

- robust engagement led to substantial changes to the original expansion proposal;
- the revised proposal had overwhelming support from Hawai'i leaders and constituents;
- scientific, cultural, and environmental benefits justify the expansion;
- the expansion has caused no economic harm to fishermen; and
- no further modifications to the PMNM are warranted.

OVERVIEW

A group of influential Native Hawaiians proposed expanding the PMNM in January 2016. Environmental groups and scientists embraced the proposal, but the fishing community and many political leaders expressed concerns. By listening carefully to all parties, I offered a modified proposal that caused no economic harm to fishermen and provided Native Hawaiians with a greater management role, while retaining the scientific, environmental, cultural, and historical benefits. Public meetings confirmed overwhelming support for my proposal, and on August 26, 2016, the President issued Proclamation 9478, which expanded the PMNM under the terms I proposed.

The expansion has created positive results:

- The entire PMNM is open to recreational fishing.
- Small boat, mixed-use recreational and subsistence fishing remains unchanged.
- Commercial fishermen are on track to their most profitable year ever.
- Hawai'i's tourism revenues have increased.
- Tuna and shark stocks are likely to recover faster.
- Corals, endangered seabirds and Hawaiian monk seals will have improved habitat.
- War graves from the Battle of Midway will be protected.
- Native Hawaiians will have a co-equal voice in the management of the PMNM.

Simply put, we did the right thing the right way, and Hawai'i is now seeing the benefits.

ENGAGEMENT

Introduction. The decision to expand the PMNM on August 26, 2016, occurred only after the Administration encouraged and considered substantial public feedback, and, in fact, Presidential Proclamation 9478 reflected a variety of disparate views. From the initial request by a group of influential Native Hawaiians to the proclamation itself, the Administration conducted robust engagement to ensure that all stakeholders had an opportunity to provide input. Officials from Washington, D.C., flew to Hawai'i to meet with stakeholders, and the Administration solicited public comments either in writing or in person at two public meetings held in Honolulu and on Kaua'i.

These engagement efforts led to significant changes from the initial request, and, eventually, won support from many community leaders who had initially questioned or opposed expansion including the following individuals:

- Hawai'i Governor David Ige
- U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
- U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
- State Senator and Senate President Ron Kouchi (Kaua'i)
- State Representative and Vice Speaker John Mizuno
- State Representative Angus McKelvey
- Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho

Background—Presidential Proclamation 8031. On June 15, 2006, President George W. Bush signed Presidential Proclamation 8031, which established what was initially called the Northwestern Hawaiian Island (NWHI) Marine National Monument. This proclamation placed the emergent lands and the oceans out to fifty nautical miles under a strict conservation regime to conserve coral reefs and to protect endangered seabirds, turtles, and Hawaiian monk seals. Commercial and recreational fishing were completely banned, but fishing as part of Native

Hawaiian cultural practices was allowed by permit. Because of the strong significance of this area for Native Hawaiians, the monument was subsequently renamed the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The name Papahānaumokuākea commemorates the union of two Hawaiian ancestors – Papahānaumoku and Wākea – who gave rise to the Hawaiian Archipelago, the taro plant, and the Hawaiian people.

The initial establishment of the PMNM was built on a century of presidential actions to protect the NWHI:

President Theodore Roosevelt—1903 and 1909
President Franklin D. Roosevelt—1940
President Lyndon B. Johnson—1967
President Ronald Reagan—1988
President William J. Clinton—1996
President George W. Bush—2002, 2004, and 2006
President Barack Obama—2016.

This record of presidential intervention reflects the growing understanding of the scientific, cultural, and conservation value of the NWHI by the United States. Internationally, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated PMNM as a World Heritage Site on July 30, 2010, because of its globally significant natural and cultural assets.

First Steps Towards Expansion—The Native Hawaiian Proposal. On January 29, 2016, a group of respected Native Hawaiian leaders wrote to the President and asked him to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to expand the PMNM. (See Exhibit A, the Native Hawaiian Proposal.) They described the cultural significance of the NWHI, and emphasized its scientific importance as an intact large-scale ocean ecosystem that supported wildlife of many kinds, including endangered Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and sea birds.

Culturally, Native Hawaiian beliefs identify this region as the place of creation; historically, the islands were used by Native Hawaiians; and today, they are one of the last places where it is possible to experience the ocean in much the same condition as their forebears did when they came to Hawaii. This group of Native Hawaiian leaders praised the initial establishment of the PMNM as a positive first step, but they advocated further action to preserve the region and proposed, generally, to expand the PMNM out to the full 200 nautical miles of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), except for the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI).

This proposal drew support from the environmental and scientific communities, and the Pew Environmental Group developed a map to depict a proposal that would expand PMNN's boundaries to the maximum extent possible consistent with the request of the Native Hawaiian

leaders. (See Exhibit B, Pew Proposed Map.) Fishermen and many community leaders, including myself, however, questioned the proposal and refused to immediately endorse it.

Reactions—Fisheries. Although the fishers all initially spoke in opposition to expanding PMNM, it is important to note that there are actually three distinct subsets of fishing interests that identified potential impacts from the Native Hawaiian Proposal: national recreational fishing groups, commercial longliners, and the small boat fishery from Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

Recreational Fishing. As noted previously, when President Bush initially established the PMNM, its waters were completely closed off to recreational fishing—which was a concern for groups such as the American Sportsfishing Association, the Center for Coastal Conservation, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association. They expressed concerns about the negative precedent of excluding recreational fishing from areas such as the PMNM because of their members' strong commitment to conservation and the minimal impact on protected resources. These groups hoped that consideration of the Native Hawaiian Proposal would allow for a re-examination of the recreational fishing ban.

Commercial Fishing. Hawai'i's commercial longline fishery is one of the most profitable in the United States, and its landings of sashimi-grade bigeye tuna consistently place Honolulu as one of the nation's top ten productive fishing seaports. This fishery is federally managed, but as a highly-migratory species, bigeye tuna moves throughout the Pacific, and quota is set under an international agreement by a body known as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Council (WCPFC), and then implemented by rules adopted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Since 2012, the longline fishery has routinely gone over its WCPFC quota, and could only continue fishing by purchasing additional unused quota from Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. (See Exhibit C, Longline Quota Usage Chart, prepared by NOAA.) Moreover, NOAA recently assessed bigeye tuna as "subject to overfishing"—an early signal of the need to reduce takes and allow the stock to replenish. The interests of the commercial longline fishery are represented by its professional association, the Hawai'i Longline Association (HLA), and by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC).

The HLA and the WPRFMC advanced several arguments. They pointed to the size of the proposed expansion, their historic take in the expansion area, and fishing restrictions in the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument as evidence that expanding PMNM would cripple their fishery. They also hired scientists to contest the scientific case for expansion, questioning the connection between the proposed expansion and protection for species in the NWHI.

Underlying these arguments, however, was a false assumption: the longline fishery easily reaches its quota every year, with only an average of 6.5% of its catch attributable to the expanded NWHI region. In other words, the longline fleet could easily make up any "loss" from the proposed expansion by simply fishing elsewhere. (See Exhibit C, Longline Fishery Quota Usage Chart, prepared by NOAA.) **In fact, based on recent conversations with the fishing industry, the longline fleet will use up all of its quota by September, and the slight delay in landing bigeye tuna has actually resulted in higher prices for the fishery and the likelihood that the industry will have its most profitable year ever.**

Small Boat Fishery. In direct contrast, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau's small boat fishery is comprised mostly of local Kaua'i and Ni'ihau residents who follow a longstanding practice of fishing for recreation and putting fresh food on their tables. As a hybrid recreational and subsistence fishery primarily in state waters, the fishery participants do not have the same kind of organized representation as the longliners. If anything, however, their commitment to fishing is stronger because it is a part of their lifestyle and community identity, and losing access would put a halt to traditions going back generations. It would also force a significant number of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau residents to purchase food to replace the fish they catch for themselves.

The immediate, tangible impacts of the Native Hawaiian Proposal on Kaua'i and Ni'ihau's hardworking men and women presented a compelling case to think carefully about expansion and the need to hold these communities harmless.

Reactions—Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) is a state public agency responsible for improving the well-being of Native Hawaiians. In 2006, when President Bush created the initial PMNM, the State of Hawai'i, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Interior were designated as Co-Trustees for managing the monument, while OHA only had a limited management role. After nearly ten years of experience managing the initial PMNM, however, OHA and the State of Hawai'i concluded that OHA should also serve as a Co-Trustee to ensure that Native Hawaiians would have a more effective voice in addressing issues relating to conservation, science, and history.

Consequently, on December 16, 2015, prior to the Native Hawaiian Proposal, the State of Hawai'i had formally requested that the Administration amend the co-management agreement for the PMNM to include OHA as a Co-Trustee with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Interior. (See Exhibit D, Ige Request for OHA Co-Trustee Status.) Upon learning of the Native Hawaiian Proposal, OHA began advocating that any expansion proposal should elevate it to Co-Trustee status as requested by Governor Ige.

Reactions—Community Leaders. Faced with divided support and opposition among stakeholders, community leaders questioned the Native Hawaiian Proposal. Some initially wrote letters to oppose the proposal including Senator Kouchi who sent a letter on April 28, 2016, and

Mayor Carvalho who sent his letter on May 5, 2016. Additionally, 30 members of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives wrote a letter opposing the Native Hawaiian Proposal on May 3, 2016. (See Exhibits E, F, and G, Initial Kouchi Letter, Initial Carvalho Letter, and House of Representatives Letter, respectively.)

Others, such as myself, were undecided because we could see the potential benefits of expansion—provided we could address stakeholder concerns. As a result, on March 23, 2016, I wrote to President Obama and requested that he send officials from his Administration to meet with key stakeholder groups in Hawai'i. (See Exhibit H, Initial Schatz Letter.) On April 14, 2016, President Obama notified me that his Administration would honor my request, and I made a public statement recognizing the promise of expansion, but reiterating the concerns my constituents had expressed to me:

> For Hawai'i to support the proposed expansion, the new boundaries of the PMNM will have to make sense. Residents of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau have a strong interest in maintaining their longstanding culture of fishing, and I am prepared to stand with them to ensure their continued, unchanged access to their fishing grounds. In addition, Hawai'i has a long tradition of recreational and subsistence uses of the ocean including fishing, diving, canoe paddling, and sailing. Finally, Hawai'i's longline fleet has a history of fishing in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The responsible and sustainable practices of our longline fleet have resulted in Honolulu becoming one of the nation's ten most productive fishing ports. Any expansion of the boundaries of the PMNM will have to satisfactorily take these activities into account.
>
> Equally important, the PMNM holds special significance for Native Hawaiians, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has made a request for an enhanced role in governance of the monument. I support OHA's request for an enhanced role in governance, and I believe that an expansion declaration presents an ideal opportunity to address this issue.
>
> Finally, expanding the PMNM will create vast opportunities to better understand the unique ecology of our Hawaiian Archipelago, but this can only occur if sufficient funding exists for research, conservation, and management in an expanded PMNM. Although the current fiscal climate limits the availability of federal funding, I believe that environmental groups, philanthropic organizations, corporations and individuals would consider significant financial commitments to support the expansion of the PMNM. I am prepared to work with President Obama and his administration to explore these options.

> Provided these issues can be addressed to the reasonable satisfaction of interested Hawai'i stakeholders, I am prepared to support the expansion.

(See Exhibit I, Initial Schatz Statement.)

Senator Kouchi, Mayor Carvalho, the State House Representatives and I all made our statements in the March to early May time frame as the need for engagement regarding the Native Hawaiian Proposal became more evident. There was no guarantee that input from Hawai'i stakeholders and residents would lead to an acceptable expansion proposal, but one thing was clear: without giving concerned parties an opportunity to engage, expansion should not occur.

A Balanced Proposal. As a result of my request, the President sent representatives from his Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), NOAA, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Navy to meet with a large number of stakeholders and government officials, including:

- State Senator Ron Kouchi, and other members of the State Legislature who represent Kaua'i
- Representative Chris Lee and other members of the State Legislature
- Open meeting with the Hawai'i Longliner Association
- Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Governor David Ige
- Tim Johns, WCPFC Commissioner
- Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell
- Nainoa Thompson, Polynesian Voyaging Society, and co-author of the Native Hawaiian Proposal
- Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Counsel
- Scientists, fishermen, and conservationists convened by the PMNM Cultural Working Group
- PACOM and PACFLT.

The Administration officials confirmed that my letter to the President had appropriately identified the three key areas of concern for stakeholders:

- The boundaries of the expansion and its potential impacts on fishing;
- The role of Native Hawaiians in the governance of the PMNM; and
- Resources to manage, enforce, and study the PMNM.

The boundaries were a particularly difficult issue because of the lack of data on exactly where the longline and small boat fisheries actually fished in the proposed expansion area, and how much they actually caught. By working closely with NOAA and the State of Hawai'i, however, my office received maps that answered those questions. (See Exhibits J and K, Longliner Use of

Proposed Expansion Area, prepared by NOAA; and Small Boat Fishery Use of Proposed Expansion Area, prepared by DLNR, respectively.)

To find the right balance, my office then engaged with everybody that CEQ had consulted with and more including fishermen from the small boat fishery, national recreational fishing groups, and community and business leaders throughout the state. By talking through these difficult issues with a variety of stakeholders, I formulated my own proposal, which I sent to President Obama on June 16, 2016. (See Exhibit L, Schatz Proposal.) It differed significantly from the Native Hawaiian Proposal because I wanted to protect the small boat fishery and to provide limited access for the commercial fishery.

To accomplish this, I proposed a sharp cut-off for expansion at 163° West Longitude. This cut-off would exclude the areas used by the small boat fishery from expansion and allow the longliners access to the same area as well. Under the Native Hawaiian Proposal, the longliners would have lost access to an area amounting to approximately 9.2% of their catch, while my boundary proposal reduced this loss to approximately 6.5% of their catch.

I also joined Governor Ige's request for OHA to become a co-trustee for the PMNM in my proposal to ensure Native Hawaiians would have a voice in managing this region. I recognized the challenge of finding resources to support managing such a huge area, and expressed my hope that the ambitious scale of the proposal would inspire commitments from federal and state government and philanthropic organizations as well. I then asked the President to conduct public meetings to solicit comments to improve my proposal.

Reactions. Because of the amount of time and care taken in preparing my proposal, numerous community leaders responded positively. Some, like Governor Ige, appreciated the merits of my proposal, but wanted to see the results of the public meetings I had requested. He provided this statement on June 16, 2016, the day I announced my proposal:

> Like the Polynesians who first settled these islands, we can balance the management of this unique natural habitat and its historic artifacts with the needs of the human population. Sen. Schatz has addressed many of the concerns I've heard about the expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and has proposed reasonable accommodations for local fishers who are helping to feed our families. I look forward to the public process as it moves forward.

(See Exhibit M, Schatz Press on Expansion Proposal.)

Shortly after I announced my proposal, Hawai'i's two publications of record gave their support. On July 1, 2016, the Honolulu Star Advertiser published its editorial, "*Larger Marine Preserve Makes Sense,*" and Civil Beat followed suit on July 8, 2016, with its own editorial, "*Expanding*

Marine Preserve Is the Pono Thing To Do." (See Exhibits N and O, *Star Advertiser* Support for Schatz Proposal, and *Civil Beat* Support for Schatz Proposal, respectively.)

On August 1, 2016, OHA also endorsed my proposal because it recognized the cultural significance of the PMNM to Native Hawaiians, established their role in managing the PMNM, and protected the small boat fishery. (See Exhibit P, OHA Statement on Papahānaumokuākea)

On August 1, 2016, U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono made her public statement on the proposed expansion, and she had a similar perspective to Governor Ige. Like all of us, Senator Hirono had heard strong opinions both for and against expansion, and she was anxious to learn what people had to say about my proposal. (See Exhibit Q, Initial Hirono Statement.)

By early August, the following elected officials had also announced their support for my proposal:

Mayors

- Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho
- Hawai'i County Mayor Billy Kenoi
- Maui County Mayor Alan Arakawa

State Senators

- Senator Ron Kouchi, President of the Senate, District 8
- Senator Laura Thielen, District 25
- Senator Russell Ruderman, District 2
- Senator Michael Gabbard, District 20
- Senator Josh Green, District 3
- Senator Gil Riviere, District 23
- Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, District 21
- Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, District 5
- Senator Roz Baker, District 6
- Senator Willie Espero, District 19

Hawai'i State Representatives

- Representative Chris Lee, District 51
- Representative Cynthia Thielen, District 50
- Representative John Mizuno, District 28
- Representative Kaniela Ing, District 11
- Representative Matthew LoPresti, District 41
- Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, District 48

- Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, District 10
- Representative Nicole Lowen, District 6.

Additionally, out of the 30 Hawai'i State House Representatives who had opposed the Native Hawaiian Proposal in their May 3, 2016, letter, only a handful submitted public comments opposing my proposal. Besides these few state house representatives, no member of the Hawai'i State Senate or any other elected federal, state, or county official from Hawai'i submitted public comments in opposition to my proposal.

Public Comments. As requested in my proposal, the Administration held two open meetings in Hawai'i to give the public a meaningful opportunity to provide input. These meetings were held on O'ahu and Kaua'i, and written comments were also accepted on O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island to accommodate individuals who were unable to attend in person. The input received was overwhelmingly positive: by NOAA's count, the Administration received a total of 6,673 written comments in support of the Schatz proposal and only 74 against. (See Exhibit R, NOAA Summary of Comments.)

Presidential Proclamation 9478. After receiving the public comments, the Administration took the time to consider the matter carefully, and on August 26, 2016, the President issued Proclamation 9478, expanding the PMNM under substantially the same terms that I proposed. The Proclamation also recognized that recreational fishers should have access to the expanded area.

A number of notable leaders and groups changed their previous positions and lent support to the Proclamation because it demonstrated that the Administration had respectfully listened to stakeholders and acted on their concerns:

- Governor David Ige
- Senator Mazie Hirono
- State Senator Ron Kouchi
- Kaua'i Mayor Bernard Carvalho
- State Representative Angus McKelvey
- State Representative and Vice Speaker John Mizuno
- American Sportsfishing Association

(See Exhibits S-Y, Governor Ige Letter; Second Hirono Statement; Second Kouchi Letter; Second Carvalho Letter; McKelvey Statement; Mizuno Letter; and American Sportsfishing News Release, respectively.)

The expansion was celebrated at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC), which was convened in Hawai'i in September, 2016, as a significant demonstration of leadership by the United States.

SCIENCE AND CULTURE

The scientific case for expanding the PMNM developed from lessons learned over the ten years of managing the PMNM with its original boundaries as established in 2006. Science showed that 50 nautical miles was a solid first step, but that protection out to the full 200 nautical miles of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone was warranted—both to protect the Hawaiian Archipelago, and to provide an area that could help maintain the health of the Pacific Ocean as a whole. Over 1500 scientists participating in the International Coral Reef Symposium endorsed this position in a letter dated June 24, 2016. (See Exhibit Z, Scientists' Letter.)

The expansion area also preserves the seascape originally experienced by Native Hawaiians, and protects the war graves from the Battle of Midway. For this reason, the Navy Historical Foundation expressed its support for the Schatz Proposal in a letter dated July 27, 2016. (See Exhibit AA, Navy Historical Foundation Letter.)

Tuna Conservation. Bigeye tuna—the mainstay of Hawai'i's profitable longline fishery—has been recognized as subject to overfishing by NOAA Fisheries, so it is imperative to take immediate action to recover the stock. Bigeye tuna forage, breed, and mature outside the 50 nautical mile boundary of the original PMNM, and increasing the area where they are protected will provide greater opportunities for them to mature and reproduce to replenish the stock.

Endangered Species. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are home to approximately 95% of the remaining 1,100 wild Hawaiian monk seals, 90% of Hawaiian green sea turtles, and 98% of Laysan albatross. The ranges and feeding habits of these animals may differ, but they are interlocked with the health of the ocean—and an expansion to 200 nautical miles provides the best support possible to maintain healthy populations of the prey species they depend on for survival.

Coral. Coral was a major focus of the original PMNM declaration, but advances in the science since that time indicate that the original 50 nautical mile boundary provides inadequate protection. For the corals themselves, NOAA recently found a black coral estimated to be more than 4000 years old in the expansion area. Other researchers are finding evidence that suggests that coral polyps spend a part of their life cycle in the waters within the expansion area.

Sharks. Current statistics on shark bycatch show that the longline fleet catch one shark for every two tuna—roughly 10,000 per year. Due to the low reproductive rate and slow life cycle of this apex predator, this level of capture is a major threat to shark populations.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The expansion of the PMNM had potential impacts for Hawai'i's tourism and fishing industries, but due to careful consultation and engagement, few if any negative impacts are expected, and, in fact, Hawai'i's economy will likely benefit in the short and long term as a result of expansion.

Tourism. Hawaii will directly benefit from tourism, conferences, and research opportunities related to the expansion of PMNM. For example, in the summer of 2016, Honolulu hosted the International Coral Reef Symposium in July, which resulted in approximately $9.4 million in visitor-related spending. In September, 2016, Honolulu hosted the World Conservation Congress, which resulted in approximately $37.7 million in visitor-related spending and $3.6 million in tax revenues.

Longline Fishery. NOAA consistently reports Honolulu as one of the nation's top ten productive seaports for fish landings. Hawai'i's most lucrative fishery by far is its longline fishery for bigeye tuna, which produces sashimi-grade tuna that is prized all over the world.

As noted previously, bigeye quota is set by the WCPFC, and the historic catch data demonstrate that Hawai'i's longline fishery routinely reaches its quota before the end of the season, which coincides with the calendar year. This timing is particularly impactful for Hawai'i residents because bigeye tuna features prominently on holiday tables.

In order to ensure supply from Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve, the Hawai'i delegation and NOAA worked together to allow the fishery to purchase additional unused quota from the U.S. Pacific territories: Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. The following chart, prepared with data from NOAA, summarizes quota usage from 2012 – 2016:

Year	Bigeye Quota	Date of Closure	Additional Tonnage Used by Longliners
2016	3,761 MT	7/22/16	894 MT—CNMI 939 MT—Guam
2015	3,462 MT	8/5/15	999 MT—CNMI 856 MT—Guam
2014	3,823 MT	11/15/14	1000 MT—CNMI
2013	3,654 MT	No closure	492—CNMI
2012	3,660 MT	No closure	771—American Samoa

The historical data show that the fishery has reached its WCPFC quota earlier and earlier in the year. Historical data also show limited use of the expansion area by the longline fishery. (See Exhibit J, Longline Use of Proposed Expansion Area, prepared by NOAA.) Accordingly, the economic impact arguments advanced by the longliners are specious on their face.

In fact, based on my conversations with the fishing industry this year, the expansion seems to have helped them as expected. By slowing the pace of their catch slightly—they are expected to reach quota in September—bigeye prices have risen, and they are expecting 2017 to be their most profitable year ever.

Small Boat Fishery. A significant amount of fish consumed by Hawai'i families comes from our small boat fishing fleet. After extensively consulting with DLNR, I determined that the small boat fleet does not fish west of 163° West Longitude, and I proposed that boundary to the President. The President adopted my suggestion, and therefore, expansion has had no impact on Hawaii's small boat fishing fleet.

CONCLUSION

The decision to expand the PMNM was not made lightly. In fact, many community leaders—myself include—had reservations. By engaging with concerned stakeholders, however, we found a path forward to align economic, scientific, cultural, and historical interests and to advance an expansion proposal that made sense.

Now with the expansion in place, I can report further progress. OHA announced that it became a full Co-Trustee of the PMNM upon the execution of a formal agreement on January 12, 2017. (See Exhibit BB, OHA Co-Trustee Press Release.) I also understand that the expansion has inspired a pledge of $500,000 from an interested philanthropist, and that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is working to finalize the details for use of these funds.

I am proud of Hawai'i's leadership in ocean and coastal conservation, and I believe the expansion of the PMNM can serve as a model for how to do the right thing the right way.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator

AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
AMERICAN SAMOA

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–5200

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INDIAN, INSULAR, AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

June 1, 2017

Mr. Micah Chambers
Acting Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington , DC 20240

Dear Mr. Chambers,

I am writing to express my support for President Trump's Executive Order – 13792, which orders a thorough review all national monuments created under the Antiquities Act in the past twenty years. Since its inception, the Antiquities Act has preserved some of America's pristine wilderness; however, the ever increasing encroachment by the federal government over the past twenty years has seized millions of acres of both land and sea without the consideration of the public at-large, or the local governments and representatives of the regions under review.

I want to ensure that my position is clear, and reiterate that we are simply looking to remove the fishing restrictions on the American Samoa fleet for the migratory fish who travel through the monuments. The monuments serve a good purpose, and I support that effort, but not without local input, or at the expense of access to our people who have utilized these areas for centuries, long before any relationship with the United States. Our fishermen are the most responsible and regulated in the world, as it stands currently, these fish swim through the monuments and are then caught by nations with little to no environmental regulations…that is not helping the sustainability for the future stock.

Using the Antiquities Act to close U.S. waters to domestic fisheries is yet another example of duplicitous Federal oversight, which favors South-East Asian nations that lack the same high-standards of the United States, and at the same time to the detriment of the most economically challenged and geographically isolated territory or state in the nation.

Far too long American Samoa has been subject to the whims of environmental imperialism, and have suffered for it. I am thankful that the President and the administration understand the

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importance of reviewing these national monuments, and look forward to swift and corrective action, so that the people of American Samoa may return to utilizing these regions of the Pacific which we have been the stewards of for centuries.

I want to thank you again for allowing me to submit my comments for public record, and respectfully urge you to consider them and the people of American Samoa when reviewing the marine monuments in the Pacific.

Sincerely,

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress

TOM O'HALLERAN
1st District, Arizona

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0301

June 7, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Thank you for soliciting my input regarding President Trump's executive order calling for a review of national monuments created since 1996. I appreciate you seeking my opinion, as Arizona's First District includes three national monuments designated for review. I believe that each of the national monuments in Arizona serve a special purpose, are correctly designated, and should be held in stewardship for future generations.

Grand Canyon-Parashant, Ironwood Forest, and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments, all in Arizona's First District, are three of the twenty-seven monuments designated for review. Each play an important role in our economy, help preserve vital water and wildlife habitats, preserve cultural sites, and help us ensure that future generations will also see these beautiful places. The residents of Arizona have seen the economic benefits of these national monument designations. These lands support thousands of jobs and bring in millions of dollars in revenue each year. In Coconino County, where Vermillion Cliffs and part of Grand Canyon-Parashant are located, travel and tourism represent about 15,000 jobs, or 33 percent of private employment. The Ironwood Forest contributes to travel and tourism in Pima County, where tourism represents about 19 percent of private employment, or over 60,000 jobs. Statewide, the outdoor industry contributes approximately $5 billion to Arizona's economy each year.

The Antiquities Act protects culturally significant tribal sites across the nation. As you know, these sites have critical importance to our American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Each of the three monuments in my district that are subject to this review have historical significance to our native tribes. In the Grand Canyon-Parashant, there is evidence of cultures residing there as far back as 7,000 BCE. The Vermillion Cliffs were, at a time, occupied by Puebloan peoples, explored by the Spanish and written about by John Wesley Powell. Ironwood Forest is home to Hohokam ruins. The legacy of the people who lived in these spectacular places must be preserved, as they have been with other great cultural sites in Arizona, such as Casa Grande Ruins and Navajo National Monuments.

I firmly believe that these monuments play an important role in our state, and our history. Preserving unique lands is one of the things that make our society great.

Since the President announced the review, I have been hearing from my constituents who feel passionately about our protected national monuments. I have attached comments received from individuals and groups across Arizona's First District so you can better understand the sentiments of my constituents and how meaningful these places are to the people of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Halleran

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Our response to the executive order to review national monuments

By: Friends of Ironwood Forest

Questions have arisen on the impact of the executive order to review previous monument designations. Following, is a review of the benefits of the **Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM)** and the position of the Friends on protecting its future.

Scientific studies recommending the need to protect diminishing stands of Ironwoods, along with the preservation of other plants and animals, in the vicinity of the Ironwood Forest NM, **date back to at least 1994.** Reference materials dating back even farther. **These investigations provided support for the protection of the IFNM.**

The designation of the IFNM was recommended and supported by various local groups, including the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the unanimous endorsement of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection.

The IFNM was designated by president Bill Clinton in June 2000. At that time Bruce Babbitt (former Governor of Arizona) was the Secretary of Interior. **The IFNM covered 129,000 acres, slightly over the executive order's 100,000 acre threshold. The IFNM includes seven mountain ranges**: Sawtooth, Ragged Top, Silverbell, Waterman, Roskruge, Samaniego Hills and the Pan Quemado. The management of the IFNM was assigned to the BLM as part of the National Conservation Lands effort.

The IFNM was created to protect a concentrated but diverse array of natural and cultural resources occurring in a richly endowed section of the Sonoran Desert. A special combination of rugged mountains and depositional plains resulted in this area of geological and biological diversity.

The IFNM includes the highest density of Ironwood trees in the Sonoran Desert. Ironwoods can live in excess of 800 years. The IFNM has the tallest Ironwood recorded in the state of Arizona. **The Ironwood is a habitat keystone species**, supporting a wide range of other plants, rich soils, forage for bighorn sheep, and roosting sites for numerous breeding and migratory bird species.

The IFNM has almost 600 plant species, including the federally endangered Nichol's Turk's Head cactus. The IFNM is the only place in the US with Mexican Devils Claw. It is also the northern most location of the elephant tree.

The IFNM is home to the federally endangered Lesser Long-nosed Bat and contains historic habitat for the threatened Pigmy Owl. **The IFNM's Desert Bighorn Sheep herd is the last indigenous population in the Tucson basin.** The Bighorn Sheep herd, in response to the BLM's resource management efforts, has been growing, with recent sightings in the nearby Tucson Mountains and Saguaro National Park-West.

Archaeologists have determined that **several successive human cultures have occupied the IFNM dating back at least 5,000 years,** with continuing research indicating much older human habitation. **More than 200 sites from the prehistoric Hohokam period have been recorded.** The existence of such cultural history provides a significant portion of the legal basis for designating any national monument. **The IFNM has three separate entries in the National Register of Historic Places:** Los Robles, Cocoraque Butte and the Mission Santa Ana.

The Friends of Ironwood Forest (FIF) was formed in 2007 to support BLM in protecting the IFNM. The current version of the FIF Mission Statement along with other FIF background information can be found on the **FIF website, ironwoodforest.org**.

FIF assists BLM in a number of ways. FIF has added comments to BLM's Resource Management Plan (2013) and to the Transportation Management Plan (2014) developed by BLM as part of their normal land management process.

The Friends group consists of approximately 1,000 conservation-oriented individuals and performs a role in educating the public about the IFNM. FIF conducts an annual Meet the Monument event that includes naturalist speakers and informative nature hikes. FIF also leads several hikes each year into the IFNM interior. And, FIF regularly schedules volunteer workdays for people interested in helping with a wide range of duties to preserve and restore the Monument. These volunteer days have included such things as trash pickup, water diversion, plant restoration, boundary signage, invasive plant eradication, and geocoding sites of interest.

The Friends reaction to the executive order is deep disappointment. For the federal government to review, and consider shrinking, public lands already set aside is a sad **reversal in the direction of conservation efforts that have been in place for over a century**. The national parks and monuments are set aside after many years of study by experts in natural history. The designation of lands to be protected for their unique natural state and their cultural history is a serious step taken in the interests of the people and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Reversing the trend to protect natural areas in the interests of possible short-term commercial gain is not our idea of governing for the people. Exploiting natural treasures, for the profits of a few, is an unfortunate return to the robber barons' attitude of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. **FIF is interested in enhanced preservation of these natural gifts, not a return to their exploitation.** FIF's opinion is that the Antiquities Act does not allow for the shrinking of parks or monuments.

FIF will use its resources to advocate against any reduction to the IFNM, including working with its membership base, local government units, like-minded partners, and public media. FIF will remind everyone of the original reasons why the IFNM was designated and why it should remain protected. **FIF will also encourage federal legislators to keep the Antiquities Act unchanged.**

Michael J. Hoogendyk
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Phoenix, AZ 85022
(Cell) 602-689-9805
(Email) hoogendykm@aol.com

June 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
US House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Review of National Monuments

Dear Congressman O'Halleran,

Thank you for providing yet another avenue to comment about the misguided review of selected national monuments throughout our nation.

I'm a member of the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument. Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM), as you may know, is located about 40 some miles north of Phoenix on the east side of I-17 between Black Canyon City and Cordes Junction, Arizona. For the past dozen or more years I've been hiking and exploring on the AFNM almost weekly. My main interest is archaeology. AFNM was created to protect hundreds of unique prehistoric Native American settlements and farming areas which exist in the Perry Mesa area. We currently have several dozen very active volunteers who assist BLM in working on the monument to monitor those prehistoric cultural locations, and the flora and fauna which also make the monument their home. The monument designation has been very successful in protecting the cultural and biological resources within its boundaries. It has also provided an economic boost for the surrounding area by attracting visitors who frequent the motels, restaurants and gas stations in the local area. Frequent activities such as hikes, cultural fairs, volunteer work projects and more educate the public about the monument and create a positive attitude in the gateway communities leading to the monument.

I've also had the opportunity to visit over thirty-five other national monuments throughout the southwest in Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico – including our own Sonoran Desert National Monument and Ironwood Forest National Monument. In all cases I've found them to be providing the same positive benefits to the public and the local communities.

As you are discussing the Executive Order which directs the review of twenty-seven monuments, understand that the vast majority of the public and local communities support these monuments and want them left as is. Don't down-size them. Don't eliminate them. <u>If anything, add to them</u>. Many of them were created with a process of compromise that left out areas which should have been included. AFNM is an example. The monument boundaries cut in half a prehistoric culture called the Perry Mesa Settlement System (PMSS), with a large portion of it left on National Forest land to the east and some of it left on BLM land to the west, but in both of those cases, not protected by the monument. The monument boundaries could have easily been drawn much larger to include the rest of the PMSS. It is an absolute shame that it wasn't, and it would be an even greater shame if the monuments currently under review were eliminated or reduced in size.

We know for a fact that the Bears Ears National Monument designation left out many areas of prehistoric cultural remnants and also very significant paleontological deposits so that those areas could be mined or drilled for oil and minerals. Again, here is a monument which should have been bigger. Who are the people who are benefiting monetarily from its smaller size? Who will benefit in the future? The people who won't benefit are those living in the area whose ancestors' graves will be dug up and displaced, those whose cultural patrimony will be destroyed, and those future generations who will be unable to visit, admire and be enthralled by the unspoiled scenic wonders which will be forever ruined.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit a few thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Hoogendyk

ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION
Working Together to Protect Arizona's Wild Lands and Waters
Main Office PO Box 40340, Tucson, AZ 85717 (520) 326-4300 www.azwild.org
Prescott Office PO Box 2741, Prescott, AZ 86302 (928) 350-2204

June 4, 2017

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran, United States House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515based
c/o Ryan Mulcahy, Outreach Director
sent via email to: Ryan.Mulcahy@mail.house.gov

Dear Representative O'Halleran:

Our organization has a long history in preserving public lands for future generations, beginning in 1979 as an all-volunteer organization, incorporating in 2004 and hiring staff, and now with statewide programs led from offices in Prescott and Tucson. The focus of Arizona Wilderness Coalition is to preserve and restore wilderness and backcountry areas on our public lands – the very areas now most threatened by growing populations, burgeoning recreational use, resource extraction and the many impacts of expanding development.

Among Arizona's most precious treasures are the public lands found in our eighteen National Monuments. National Monuments hold a special place in American history, based in the Antiquities Act passed by Congress over one hundred years ago, a true testimony to the enduring value of this legislation. In Arizona, conservation lands – including National Monuments, Wilderness areas, National Parks, National Conservation Areas, National Wildlife Refuges and similar public lands with permanent designations – are a foundation upon which our state's long-term future is established. Conserved public lands are good for the economy, good for tourism, good for quality of life, essential for preserving natural ecosystem function, and, for many Arizonans, an unparalleled wellspring of inspiration and rejuvenation.

Arizona's identity is founded on designated public lands, as "the Grand Canyon State" would be far less grand were it not for National Park status that preserves portions of the Grand Canyon. Now one of our nation's largest tourist attractions, Grand Canyon National Park began as a National Monument through proclamation by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Other special Arizona natural features were preserved early in the history of the Antiquities Act, including another top tourism attraction, Petrified Forest National Monument, designated in 1906. The durability of these designations has allowed Arizona to benefit over the decades from increasing awareness of each area's unique features, drawing greater visitorship and expanding tourism income.

The recent Executive Order requiring review of four Arizona National Monuments puts at risk Arizona's grand heritage of awe-inspiring landscapes and outstanding cultural resources.

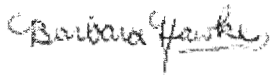
Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments preserve iconic multi-hued canyons and sweeping ridgelines in northern Arizona, collectively encompassing five Wilderness areas, striking opportunities for backcountry exploration, and important habitat for game and sensitive wildlife. A stunning example of the areas' significance to threatened wildlife is the continuing presence of the endangered California condor, with Vermilion Cliffs a release site for condor reintroduction.

The Sonoran Desert represents Arizona's equally iconic landscape, the southwest desert with saguaro-studded hills and vast expanses of ancient mountain ranges. Preserving these unique scenic and ecological values are the Sonoran Desert and Ironwood Forest National Monuments. These monuments hold an increasingly important place in preserving open lands in central Arizona, as recent U.S. Census reports demonstrate that Phoenix and northern Tucson continue to grow in population, extending the impacts of residential and commercial development far into what once were our great open spaces. Without National Monuments and other protected public lands, residents of Arizona's metropolitan areas face vanishing opportunities to connect with the wild Western heritage of vast open lands, a heritage fundamental to our independent national character.

It is important to recognize that the values of conserved public lands such as National Monuments translate into real economic benefits for local communities. This is certainly true for a state like Arizona, where tourism and outdoor recreation play major roles in our economy. Even more compelling is the research that shows economic benefit when entrepreneurs and retirees gravitate toward preserved western landscapes, bringing their businesses, households, and investment and retirement income to those areas where quality of life dominates. The enclosed "West is Best" report from Headwaters Economics shows how protected public lands contribute to increased job growth and higher incomes in Arizona. The mechanisms for this economic and job growth are elaborated in the enclosed "Golden Rush" report from the Center for American Progress.

We would be happy to provide additional information on any of these topics. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Barbara Hawke

Executive Director

970-596-6697

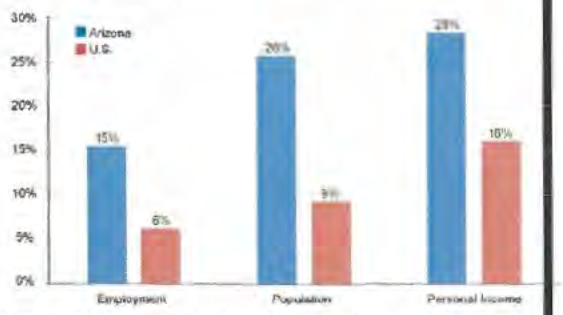
West Is Best: Protected Lands Promote Arizona Jobs and Higher Incomes

November 2012

Arizona's economy is growing and outperforming the rest of the country.

This fact sheet summarizes Arizona's recent economic growth and the role of protected public lands in supporting faster job creation and higher per-capita income. It is part of a larger report — West is Best — that analyzes how and why the West is outperforming the nation, and the competitive advantage offered by its protected lands, which attract talent, investment, and businesses.

ARIZONA VS NON-WESTERN U.S.,
PERCENT CHANGE, 2000-2011



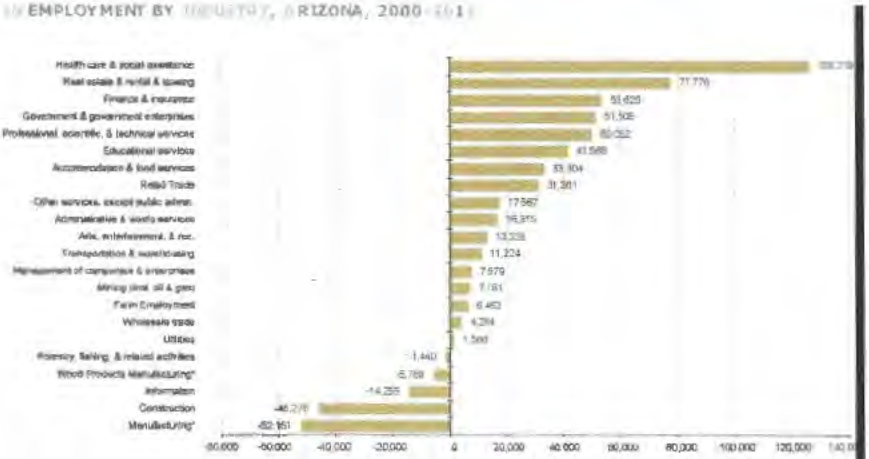
From 2000 to 2011, Arizona's rate of population, employment, and real personal income growth each outpaced the nation.

"Phoenix attracts an educated, healthy workforc of 18-34 year olds because our immediate proximity t diverse outdoor recreatior such as mountain biking, hiking, skiing and more. Th can live, work and play her Consequently, companies moving locating to Phoeni enjoy an economic advanta in workforce productivity.

–Barry Broome, President & CEO, Greate Phoenix Economic Counc

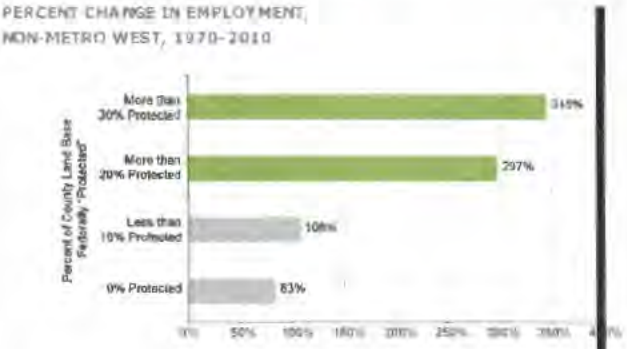
Higher-wage services industries lead Arizona's growth.

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, ARIZONA, 2000-2011



From 2000 to 2011, Arizona's economy created 431,730 net new jobs, with the great majority of this growth coming from services industries, many of them high paying. The fastest growing sectors included health care, real estate, and finance and insurance.

Protected federal lands help create more jobs...

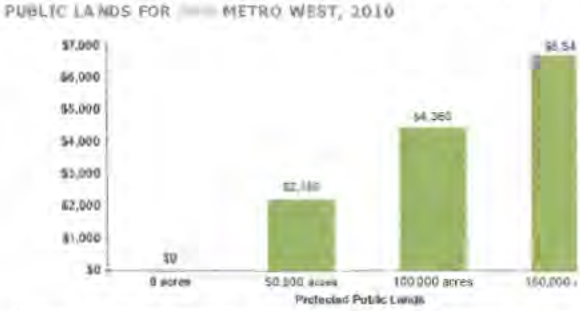


From 1970 to 2010, western non-metro counties with more than 30% of the county's land base in federal protected status increased jobs by 345%. As the share of federal lands in protected status goes down, the rate of job growth declines as well. Non-metro counties with no protected federal land increased jobs by 83%.

A 2012 Arizona poll o small businesses found 7: percent support designatin more of Arizona's existing public lands as national monuments to help ensure natural areas and water ir these regions enjoy protections similar to those Montezuma Castle, the Gra Canyon and the Petrified Forest in Arizona.

...and contribute to higher incomes..

Non-metro counties in the West with protected federal lands have higher per-capita incomes than counties without any protected lands. For example, a non-metro western county with 100,000 acres of protected public lands has on average a per capita income that is $4,360 higher than a county with no protected public lands.



On average, western non-metro counties have a per capita income that is $436 higher for every 10,000 acres of protected federal lands within their boundaries.

References

The West is defined as the 11 public lands continental western states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. "Protected" federal lands include areas such as National Parks, Wilderness, National Monument National Conservation Areas, National Recreation Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Wildlife Refuges. For more details, see: the full report.

Non-Metropolitan counties are counties without an urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, or a high degree of social and economic integration with a Metropolitan Statistical Area as measured by commuting ties

Data in this publication are from: U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2012. Census Bureau, Population Division, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerc 2012. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Department of Commerce. 2011. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, Washington, D.C.; AZ Land Resources Information System, 2009; MT Natural Heritage Program, 2008; Conservation Biology Institute, 2008 (for CA); Conservation Biology Institute, 2006 (for remaining states).

Details on the per-capita income study are in our Technical Report.

Some industry categories have been modified from the original source to better illustrate employment in sub-sectors that are important to t western economy. *Wood Products Manufacturing* is a sub-set of total Manufacturing and consists of the wood product (NAICS 511) and paper (NAICS 537) manufacturing sectors. The Bureau of Economic Analysis does not report employment at this NAICS level (i.e., the 3-digit level) but does provide personal income at this level. To estimate employment for these sectors at the 3-digit level, we calculated a ratio consisting personal income earned in these sectors divided by personal income earned in all manufacturing. We multiplied this ratio by total manufacturing employment to estimate the number of jobs in wood products and paper manufacturing. *Manufacturing* consists of total manufacturing minus Woods Products Manufacturing. *Forestry* is part of Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities, and Other and consists of the

non-manufacturing components of the timber industry, such as growing and harvesting.
Polling results are from Small Business Majority Polling.

For more information, contact:
Ray Rasker, Ph.D. at 406.570.7044 or [email]

SIERRA CLUB

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Arizona's National Monuments

Please see Sandy Bahr's recent op-ed in the Arizona Daily Star: http://tucson.com/news/opinion/columnists/guest/sandy-bahr-trump-should-visit-arizona-s-national-monuments/article_c6faff92-9e85-54a6-9400-82bb2f68c20c.html It includes some key reasons why we think these four national monuments should be kept intact.

Arizonans love their national monuments, as demonstrated repeatedly by polling. Most recently, a January 2017 Colorado College poll found that 86% of Arizonans want to keep existing national monument protections in place and a 2016 nationwide survey by American Viewpoint and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates found 83% of American voters support the idea of national monuments in general.

Each of the four national monuments being reviewed is critical to protecting portions of Arizona's unique ecosystems.

Grand Canyon-Parashant

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument was set aside as a place "Full of natural splendor and a sense of solitude... remote and unspoiled, qualities that are essential to the protection of the scientific and historic resources it contains." (Proclamation document available at https://www.nps.gov/para/learn/management/upload/Proclamation.pdf) The monument was established to protect archaeological and historic resources representing 11,000 years of human history that include fossils and volcanic rocks ranging from 9 million to only 1000 years old; a fascinating geologic story; scenic canyons; the Shivwits Plateau, "an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon"; and "outstanding biological resources preserved by remoteness and limited travel corridors. The Sonoran, Mojave, and Great Basin floristic provinces all intersect in this monument that crosses between the Mojave Desert and Colorado Plateau and is bisected by rare riparian habitats. Some of the best examples of old growth ponderosa pine forests, maintained by intact fire regimes that require space to function properly, are found in the Mt. Trumbull area. The intersection of all of these habitat types, unobstructed by travel corridors and industrialization, enables wildlife movement, healthy populations of several rare plants and animals, and unique habitat types. Grand Canyon-Parashant is important because of its size and its lack of development, and Americans will lose irreplaceable plant and wildlife populations and opportunities for solitude if its edges are chipped away.

Vermilion Cliffs

Vermilion Cliffs truly is a "geological treasure". Colorful Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, and Coyote Buttes are among the most well-known recreation sites on the Colorado Plateau. Paria Canyon is one of the most important suppliers of beach-building sediments to the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. Its

open spaces and towering cliffs provide release sites for majestic California condors, as well as providing habitat for at least twenty raptor species, reptiles, amphibians, native fish, and large ranging mammals.

Sonoran Desert

Sonoran Desert National Monument protects an intact and "untrammeled" example of the "most biologically diverse of the North American deserts." Giant saguaro cactus forests, green-barked palo verde trees, and endangered acuna pineapple cactus, along with an incredibly diverse display of cactus and wildflowers, are a stunning example of an ecosystem that attracts visitors from throughout the world. Tinajas, or waterholes, enable the area to be traversed by a variety of rare species, including Sonoran pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, a variety of bats, Sonoran green toads, and more than 200 bird species. The area is especially important because a portion of it was withdrawn from livestock grazing for military purposes in 1941, offering the public a chance to see the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert as they were for thousands of years prior to the introduction of western agriculture. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail traverses the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Ironwood Forest

Ironwood trees are a dominant tree that can live for more than 800 years, contributing to a habitat type that supports more than 674 species. The trees provide roosting and nesting sites, forage for large mammals including bighorn sheep, pollen for our state's native bees, and shade that allows a variety of animal and plant species to thrive in the hot Sonoran desert. More than 200 archaeological sites document the area's extensive human history, and include two locations listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Los Robles Archeological District and the Cocoraque Butte Archeological District.

Each of these national monuments in Arizona was set aside to protect resources that depend on areas of a proper size to allow ecological functions and to protect cultural and historic resources intact. Wildlife need to travel between habitat types and water sources; in ponderosa pine ecosystems fire needs space to spread and maintain forest health. Evidence of human history and cultural richness will be lost if these special places become industrialized. Watering holes and streams allow clean water to recharge the essential groundwater supplies upon which we all depend. Geologic records, including fossils, volcanoes, and sandstone strata are available for scientific research and for awakening the curiosity of American families. We must continue to provide people with these wild landscapes to explore, recharge, and learn about our heritage.

http://tucson.com/news/opinion/columnists/guest/sandy-bahr-trump-should-visit-arizona-s-national-monuments/article_c6faff92-9e85-54a6-9400-82bb2f68c20c.html

Sandy Bahr: Trump should visit Arizona's national monuments

By Sandy Bahr Special to the Arizona Daily Star May 23, 2017

Sandy Bahr

For more than 100 years, presidents have sought to protect some of our most spectacular public lands by proclaiming them as national monuments. Nine presidents have used the Antiquities Act to protect a diversity of Arizona landscapes. President Theodore Roosevelt was the first, designating Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon long before Congress made them national parks.

Now, the Trump administration wants to "review" (i.e., reverse designation of) some of our recent monuments — Grand Canyon–Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Sonoran Desert and Ironwood Forest. I have been to each of these monuments and can verify that they are all spectacular and necessary. The president's review is certainly not because these areas are not worthy of protection.

It isn't because they harm our economy, either. In fact, research demonstrates positive growth in local communities surrounding national monuments — from personal income to rates of employment. Areas near Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon–Parashant national monuments experienced job growth of 24 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively, after designation.

Clearly, the president has spent little time out West. I am quite certain he has not been to our monuments, so I would like to tell him a bit about these four monuments and about the people who have advocated for and worked to protect them.

Ironwood Forest National Monument near Tucson has a dense population of ironwood trees, but is also home to a small endangered cactus, the Nichol's turk's head cactus, found in only one other location in Arizona. More than a decade ago, an observant visitor noted invasive grasses in the area the cacti inhabited, grasses that pose a fire risk and could result in wiping out the cactus population. Volunteers kicked into action and have spent time removing invasive plants, revegetating and grading to help restore and care for this monument.

Sonoran Desert National Monument southwest of Phoenix features a diversity of Sonoran Desert habitats and human cultural history. The monument includes mountain ranges, lowland desert and important habitat and movement corridors for desert tortoise, bighorn sheep and other animals. Volunteers have invested considerable time in protecting this monument, too. They rehabilitate areas damaged by irresponsible off-road vehicle activity and unfettered, irresponsible target shooting. Recently, volunteers marked a wilderness boundary, so visitors can easily understand how to abide by wilderness protections.

Our northern monuments — Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon–Parashant — provide amazing vistas and dark skies and are home to sensitive wildlife. Vermilion Cliffs is the site of many California condor releases. These large scavengers need big spaces, which Vermilion Cliffs and surrounding lands provide. Next door is Grand Canyon –Parashant, encompassing a large chunk of the Shivwits Plateau and providing habitat for at least 20 species of bats. Without its monument status, this area would be open to uranium mining.

These monument designations help keep these lands from being privatized and developed, which in turn keeps them available for recreational activities. In my visits to Arizona's monuments, I have yet to hear anyone say they thought an area should have less protection or was too big.

President Trump should visit our monuments. Maybe he does not appreciate these places because he has never seen them. As an Arizonan, I can assure him that we have and we do.

Establishment of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (#7265)

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is a vast, biologically diverse, impressive landscape encompassing an array of scientific and historic objects. This remote area of open, undeveloped spaces and engaging scenery is located on the edge of one of the most beautiful places on earth, the Grand Canyon. Despite the hardships created by rugged isolation and the lack of natural waters, the monument has a long and rich human history spanning more than 11,000 years, and an equally rich geologic history spanning almost 2 billion years. Full of natural splendor and a sense of solitude, this area remains remote and unspoiled, qualities that are essential to the protection of the scientific and historic resources it contains. The monument is a geological treasure. Its Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, offering a clear view to understanding the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau. Deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes testify to the power of geological forces and provide colorful vistas. A variety of formations have been exposed by millennia of erosion by the Colorado River. The Cambrian, Devonian, and Mississippian formations (Muav Limestone, Temple Butte Formation, and the Redwall Limestone) are exposed at the southern end of the lower Grand Wash Cliffs. The Pennsylvanian and Permian formations (Calville Limestone, Esplanade Sandstone, Hermit Shale, Toroweap Formation, and the Kaibab Formation) are well exposed within the Parashant, Andrus, and Whitmore Canyons, and on the Grand Gulch Bench. The Triassic Chinle and Moenkopi Formations are exposed on the Shivwits Plateau, and the purple, pink, and white shale, mudstone, and sandstone of the Triassic Chinle Formation are exposed in Hells Hole.

The monument encompasses the lower portion of the Shivwits Plateau, which forms an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. The Plateau is bounded on the west by the Grand Wash Cliffs and on the east by the Hurricane Cliffs. These cliffs, formed by large faults that sever the Colorado Plateau slicing north to south through the region, were and are major topographic barriers to travel across the area. The Grand Wash Cliffs juxtapose the colorful, lava-capped Precambrian and Paleozoic strata of the Grand Canyon against the highly faulted terrain, recent lake beds, and desert volcanic peaks of the down-dropped Grand Wash trough. These cliffs, which consist of lower and upper cliffs separated by the Grand Gulch Bench, form a spectacular boundary between the basin and range and the Colorado Plateau geologic provinces. At the south end of the Shivwits Plateau are several important tributaries to the Colorado River, including the rugged and beautiful Parashant, Andrus, and Whitmore canyons. The Plateau here is capped by volcanic rocks with an array of cinder cones and basalt flows, ranging in age from 9 million to only about 1000 years old. Lava from the Whitmore and Toroweap areas flowed into the Grand Canyon and dammed the river many times over the past several million years. The monument is pocketed with sinkholes and breccia pipes, structures associated with volcanism and the collapse of underlying rock layers through ground water dissolution.

Fossils are abundant in the monument. Among these are large numbers of invertebrate fossils, including bryozoans and brachiopods located in the Calville limestone of the Grand Wash Cliffs, and brachiopods, pelecypods, fenestrate bryozoa, and crinoid ossicles in the Toroweap and Kaibab formations of Whitmore Canyon. There are also sponges in nodules and pectenoid pelecypods throughout the Kaibab formation of Parashant Canyon. The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument contains portions of geologic faults, including the Dellenbaugh fault, which cuts basalt flows dated 6 to 7 million years old, the Toroweap fault, which has been active within the last 30,000 years, the Hurricane fault, which forms the Hurricane Cliffs and extends over 150 miles across northern Arizona and into Utah, and the Grand Wash fault, which bounds the west side of the Shivwits Plateau and has approximately 15,000 feet of displacement across the monument.

Archaeological evidence shows much human use of the area over the past centuries. Because of their remoteness and the lack of easy road access, the sites in this area have experienced relatively little vandalism. Their good condition distinguishes them from many prehistoric resources in other areas. Prehistoric use is documented by irreplaceable rock art images, quarries, villages, watchtowers, agricultural features, burial sites, caves, rockshelters, trails, and camps. Current evidence indicates that the monument was utilized by small numbers of hunter-gatherers during the Archaic Period (7000 B.C. to 300 B.C.). Population and utilization of the monument increased during the Ancestral Puebloan Period from the Basketmaker II Phase through the Pueblo II Phase (300 B.C. to 1150 A.D.), as evidenced by the presence of pit houses, habitation rooms, agricultural features, and pueblo structures. Population size decreased during the Pueblo III Phase (1150 A.D. to 1225 A.D.). Southern Paiute groups replaced the Pueblo groups and were occupying the monument at the time of Euro-American contact. Archeological sites in the monument include large concentrations of ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi or Hitsatsinom) villages, a large, intact Pueblo II village, numerous archaic period archeological sites, Ancestral Puebloan sites, and Southern Paiute sites. The monument also contains areas of importance to existing Indian tribes. In 1776, the Escalante-Dominguez expedition of Spanish explorers passed near Mount Trumbull. In the first half of the 19th century, Jedediah Smith, Antonio Armijo, and John C. Fremont explored portions of this remote area. Jacob Hamblin, a noted Mormon pioneer, explored portions of the Shivwits Plateau in 1858 and, with John Wesley Powell, in the 1870s. Clarence Dutton completed some of the first geological explorations of this area and provided some of the most stirring written descriptions. Having traversed this area by wagon at the request of the territorial legislature, Sharlot Hall recommended it for inclusion within the State of Arizona when it gained Statehood in 1912. Early historic sawmills provided timber that was hauled 70 miles along the Temple Trail wagon road from Mt. Trumbull down the Hurricane Cliffs to St. George, Utah. Ranch structures and corrals, fences, water tanks, and the ruins of sawmills are scattered across the monument and tell the stories of the remote family ranches and the lifestyles of early homesteaders. There are several old mining sites dating from the 1870s, showing the history of mining during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The remote and undeveloped nature of the monument protects these historical sites in nearly their original context.

The monument also contains outstanding biological resources preserved by remoteness and limited travel corridors. The monument is the junction of two physiographic ecoregions: the Mojave Desert and the Colorado Plateau. Individually, these regions contain ecosystems extreme to each other, ranging from stark, arid desert to complex, dramatic higher elevation plateaus, tributaries, and rims of the Grand Canyon. The western margin of the Shivwits Plateau marks the boundary between the Sonoran/Mojave/Great Basin floristic provinces to the west and south, and the Colorado Plateau province to the northeast. This intersection of these biomes is a distinctive and remarkable feature. Riparian corridors link the plateau to the Colorado River corridor below, allowing wildlife movement and plant dispersal. The Shivwits Plateau is in an arid environment with between 14 to 18 inches of precipitation a year. Giant Mojave Yucca cacti proliferate in undisturbed conditions throughout the monument. Diverse wildlife inhabit the monument, including a trophy-quality mule deer herd, Kaibab squirrels, and wild turkey. There are numerous threatened or endangered species as well, including the Mexican spotted owl, the California condor, the desert tortoise, and the southwestern willow flycatcher. There are also candidate or sensitive species, including the spotted bat, the western mastiff bat, the Townsend's big eared bat, and the goshawk, as well as two federally recognized sensitive rare plant species: *Penstemon distans* and *Rosa stellata*. The ponderosa pine ecosystem in the Mt. Trumbull area is a biological resource of scientific interest, which has been studied to gain important insights regarding dendroclimatic reconstruction, fire history, forest structure change, and the long-term persistence and stability of presettlement pine groups.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431) authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and

other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, for the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described on the map entitled ``Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument'' attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal land and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 1,014,000 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. For the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes. Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to fish and wildlife management.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument. Sale of vegetative material is permitted only if part of an authorized science-based ecological restoration project. Lands and interests in lands within the proposed monument not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

This proclamation does not reserve water as a matter of Federal law nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government existing on this date. The Federal land managing agencies shall work with appropriate State authorities to ensure that water resources needed for monument purposes are available.

The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation. The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management shall manage the monument cooperatively and shall prepare an agreement to share, consistent with applicable laws, whatever resources are necessary to properly manage the monument; however, the National Park Service shall continue to have primary management authority over the portion of the monument within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the Bureau of Land Management shall have primary management authority over the remaining portion of the monument.

The Bureau of Land Management shall continue to issue and administer grazing leases within the portion of the monument within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, consistent with the Lake Mead National Recreation Area authorizing legislation. Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management in issuing and administering grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply to the remaining portion of the monument.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or

appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation. Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentyfourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

COLLEEN HANABUSA
1st District, Hawaii

422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Telephone: 202-225-2726
Fax: 202-225-0688

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1910
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: 808-541-2570

http://Hanabusa.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–1101

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SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
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STEERING AND POLICY
COMMITTEE

June 8, 2017

The Honorable Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 12, 2017 regarding President Trump's Executive Order (EO) 13792 and your Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996: Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment, published in the Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 90, on May 11, 2017.

I appreciate your request for my position on Papahanaumokuakea, the relevant monument in the State of Hawaii for the purposes of EO 13792, and I am providing a copy of my response to Mr. Micah Chambers per your request.

By way of history, President George W. Bush created the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, later named Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, in 2006 via Proclamation 8031. In 2016, President Barrack Obama expanded the boundaries of Papahanaumokuakea via Proclamation 9478.

In addition to advising my Hawaii constituents of your review and process for public comments, I wanted to advise you of my continuing position, as expressed in a letter from the Congress of the United States dated May 25, 2017, a copy of which is attached hereto, that the Constitution of the United States reserves to Congress the authority to "revoke or shrink a national monument." Specifically, the Antiquities Act of 1906 contains no language empowering the President to abolish or reduce the size of a monument, nor has any Act of Congress conferred upon the President an implied power of this nature. As such, while the President has the power to establish national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906, only Congress is empowered to revoke or reduce a monument's designation.

To: Micah Chambers
Acting Deputy Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

From: Rep. Colleen Hanabusa
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Staff contact: Elizabeth Songvilay (Elizabeth.Songvilay@mail.house.gov)

Re: Response to May 12, 2017 Secretary Zinke letter re Monuments

In closing, while I understand you have been ordered to conduct a review of national monuments created under the Antiquities Act of 1906, I do not believe the President has the actual or implied power to revoke or reduce any such monument.

Sincerely,

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Attachment

cc: Mr. Micah Chambers, Acting Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior

* Govt-wide data?

Kathleen Wheeler
07/15/2002 09:24 AM

To: Mike Trujillo/PMB/OS/DOI@DOI, Carolyn Bohlen/PPM/OS/DOI@DOI, Lisa Anderson/PPM/OS/DOI@DOI
cc:
Subject: URGENT! NEED HELP!

Need help with one of Lynn's comments.

"On September 30, 2001, supervisors and managers represented 12 percent of the workforce." Lynn's question - "how does this compare with other agencies and with private sector?"

Thanks!

Kathleen

Phone: 202-208-6444
Fax: 202-208-7574

May 25, 2017 *

Part of another letter

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

While stewardship of America's national monuments is your solemn responsibility, the continued existence of those national monuments is ours.

Article IV of the United States Constitution reads in relevant part: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

Congress has delegated significant federal land management responsibilities to the Executive, including broad authorization to the President through the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments on federal land. Over more than a century, however, Congress has not delegated authority to significantly diminish or abolish an existing national monument. This includes consideration and enactment of amendments to the Antiquities Act, and the decision by the 94th Congress to enact the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (P.L. 94-579), which left the Antiquities Act intact.

The Constitutional authority to revoke or shrink a national monument lies with the Congress.

Wildfire, drought, sprawl, invasive species, unmet maintenance needs, and more threaten the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources you manage on behalf of the American people. Families living on Indian Reservations face among the highest rates of poverty and illness in the world. A changing climate is melting the glaciers for which the National Park near your hometown is named.

Given these significant and growing challenges, developing a report to the President regarding the use of authority he does not possess is a misuse of your time and the public's money.

SALUD O. CARBAJAL
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
WEBSITE: CARBAJAL.HOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

212 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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(805) 546-8348

June 8, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: Executive Order 13792 and the Carrizo Plain National Monument

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I am deeply troubled by the President's Executive Order 13792 that directs you to review Presidential designations or expansions of national monuments under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996. As you review these designations, I strongly urge you to continue to preserve the Carrizo Plain's status as a national monument and keep its current boundaries intact. The establishment of the Carrizo Plain National Monument (CPNM), in my district, has been beneficial to the Central Coast in California and has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress. Any change in the boundaries or current management of the Carrizo Plain National Monument will be vigorously opposed.

As Secretary of the Interior, it is your solemn responsibility to promote stewardship and safeguard our public lands and waters. Our public lands are not only representative of our nation's heritage; they are also an essential asset to our local outdoor and tourism economy. In San Luis Obispo County alone, 1 out of every 8 jobs depend on travel and tourism. It is vital that we continue to guard our legacy of outdoor conservation for future generations of Americans to cherish and to continue to grow our economy.

In 1906, Congress vested the President of the United States with the unique authority to proclaim national monuments on federal lands in order to protect lands that have a significant natural, scientific, or cultural value. Since then, 16 Presidents—both Democratic and Republican—have declared a total of 157 national monuments, including the CPNM on January 17, 2001.

However, legislation to establish the Carrizo Plain as a national monument was first introduced by former Congresswoman Lois Capps in 1999. This proposal was supported by Republican Congressmen Bill Thomas of Bakersfield and Jerry Lewis of San Bernardino. Since then, the CPNM has enjoyed wide support in my district.

The CPNM regularly attracts thousands of people to the monument in bloom. It is the largest remaining vestige of Central Valley grassland—a once common ecosystem that has been

described as "California's Serengeti." Per estimates by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the CPNM draws around 1,500 visitors on a typical April, making it an essential asset for our local tourism economy. Though, this April, the CPNM made international headlines because of its spectacular "super bloom" of wildflowers and the BLM logged a record of 14,000 visitors for that month.

Recently, Visit San Luis Obispo County California reported that tourism accounted for $1.59 billion of economic activity in 2016. Visitors spent about $1.53 billion in 2016 in the county, which generated $61.7 million in local tax revenues.

The CPNM has a long history of bipartisan support and it is an asset not only to my district, but to America as a whole. I once again urge you and the Department of the Interior to leave both the boundaries and the current management of the Carrizo Plain unchanged. Instead, let us work together to provide more resources and protection for the area.

Thank you for your consideration. Please keep me abreast of developments involved in the implementation of Executive Order 13792.

Sincerely,

SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

TOM UDALL
NEW MEXICO

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 7, 2017

Mr. Micah Chambers
Acting Deputy Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW Stop 6242
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Chambers,

I have received the enclosed letter from Mr. Peter Gorman regarding notification of all meetings and reviews for National Monuments.

I would appreciate your assistance in responding to my constituent's concerns. Please look into this matter and report directly to my constituent with your findings. Please send a copy of your response to Lisa Van Theemsche in my Washington, DC office.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall
United States Senator

STATE OFFICES:

ALBUQUERQUE:
400 GOLD AVENUE SW
SUITE 300
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
505-346-6791

CARLSBAD:
102 W HAGERMAN
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CARLSBAD, NM 88220
575-234-0366

LAS CRUCES:
201 N. CHURCH STREET
SUITE 201B
LAS CRUCES, NM 88001
575-526-5475

PORTALES:
100 SOUTH AVENUE A
SUITE 113
PORTALES, NM 88130
575-356-6811

SANTA FE:
120 SOUTH FEDERAL PLACE
SUITE 302
SANTA FE, NM 87501
505-988-6511

Peter Gorman
4109 Half Moon Circle
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

2017 MAY 11 PM 4:48

Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary of the Interior Zinke,

National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act by past Presidents are crucial to saving the heritage and history of the United States. I worked at one such monument as a National Park Ranger in Sitka, Alaska for 13 years. This monument is now Sitka National Historical Park and is Alaska's oldest National Park. This park was dedicated as National Monument by President Taft in 1910. Without this foresight the area would have been developed and all traces of historical events lost.

Areas designated under the Antiquities have gone through a public review process and are not arbitrary decisions by the Presidents. These designated areas become economic engines for the surrounding communities. The enclosed article from the Santa Fe New Mexican illustrates this point "Heinrich: Losing national monument designations would hurt local economies."

Trumps continues to misinform the American public on the nature of these designations. These areas belongs to the peoples of the United Station and not the state they are located in or a nearby community. It is our heritage.

Please send me notices of meetings and review decisions made on all the National Monument areas listed below:

- Grandstaircase-Escalante National Monument

- Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument
- Giant Sequoia National Monument
- Canyon of the Ancients National Monument
- Hanford Reach National Monument
- Ironwood Forest National Monument
- Vermillion Cliffs National Monument
- Carizo Plain National Monument
- Sonoran Desert National Monument
- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
- Papahanaumokuakea National Monument
- Pacific Remote Islands National Monument
- Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument
- Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
- San Gabriel Mountains National Monument
- Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument
- Basin and Range National Monument
- Mojave Trails National Monument
- Sand and Snow National Monument
- Bears Ears National Monument
- Gold Butte National Monument

There should be no changes made to these National Monuments.

Thank you,

Peter Gorman

Senator Tom Udall

Senator Martin Heinrich

Representative Steve Pearce

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

007772

2017

EXEC

June 6, 2017

Mr. Micah Chambers
Acting Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Chambers,

We write today in support of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. In a letter from Secretary Zinke dated May 12, 2017, he indicated that the Craters of the Moon National Monument is under review as the Department of Interior responds to President Trump's Executive Order 13792, and asked us to provide our written thoughts on it. It is important to note that there is currently an active debate within the State of Idaho about a locally-generated proposal to rename Craters of the Moon National Monument as a National Park. This letter addresses only President Trump's executive order with regard to national monuments and should not be construed as taking a position on the national park proposal.

We have consistently opposed arbitrary monument designations in the past, as they often negatively impact the ability of local stakeholders to have meaningful input in land management decisions. For precisely this reason, then-Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne and the entire Idaho delegation opposed President Clinton's expansion of the Craters of the Moon Preserve in 2000. A newspaper account from the Idaho Mountain Express quoted an Idaho delegation letter to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt as follows, "We are very disturbed by your effort to accomplish this land lockup without providing proper public process, and once again bypassing Congress. We urge you to provide a more open dialogue with the people of Idaho and the Congressional Delegation on this or any proposal affecting Idaho."

Only after Idaho Representative Mike Simpson introduced corrective legislation did the expansion of the Craters of the Moon Monument become acceptable to a much wider range of Idahoans, and consensus was achieved. This legislation became law in 2002. The enactment of this corrective legislation (PL 107-213) did result in a Craters of the Moon management plan that has broad public support. Therefore, with regard to President Trump's Executive Order 13792, we urge you to recommend to the President

that there are no needed administrative changes for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

Should you have any further questions, please contact our offices.

Sincerely,

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

James E. Risch
United States Senator

COL. PAUL COOK (RET.)
8TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1222 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5861

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0508

June 8, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, The Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Review of National Monuments

Dear Secretary Zinke:
Ryan

This letter is in response to your request for my thoughts regarding the ongoing review of National Monuments related to President Donald Trump's Executive Order 13792. I appreciate your willingness to not only listen to my perspective on the matter, but also the views of my constituents.

As you might be aware, my district contains four National Monuments that were recently established through the Antiquities Act. These designations were controversial and left many of my constituents feeling excluded from the process. In this letter, I've addressed the major points of contention for each monument, and, again, I appreciate your interest in addressing these concerns, as they are of great importance to my constituents and California as a whole.

Castle Mountains National Monument

The Castle Mountains National Monument was designated by former President Obama on February 12, 2016. It covers 20,920 acres of BLM land in San Bernardino County. This land was transferred to National Park Service management when the monument was designated. Although this is the smallest of the four monuments in my district, it is also the most problematic. This monument was created without any local outreach or input. It was designated for one purpose: to prevent the reopening of the Castle Mountain Mine operated by NewCastle Gold. If reopened, this mine will employ hundreds of workers and could generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and tens of millions of dollars in revenue for local governments. For these reasons, in 1994, when the nearby Mojave National Preserve was established, the Castle Mountains area was excluded from the designation in order to allow continued mining operations. While there have been proposals to add to the Mojave National Preserve some

components of the Castle Mountains area that are not needed for mining, there has never been a legislative proposal to establish a separate Castle Mountains National Monument. The first time such a monument was proposed was in the fall of 2015, mere months before former President Obama unilaterally designated the monument. The sole public meeting on the proposal was held on October 13, 2015, and it was located in a different county, over 200 miles from the site of the proposed monument. Additionally, despite repeated promises by administration officials that the new desert monuments would preserve existing uses of public land, the Castle Mountains National Monument immediately banned hunting – despite the fact that hunting is allowed in the nearby Mojave National Preserve and had been allowed in the Castle Mountain area prior to the monument designation.

I have enclosed letters from both the County of San Bernardino and NewCastle Gold detailing the issues that the two primary local stakeholders have with the monument designation. While Castle Mountains National Monument is less than 100,000 acres, the aforementioned letters and the evidence I've provided here make clear that there was no real public outreach or coordination and thus is worthy of the utmost scrutiny by your department. I request that the President revise the boundaries of the monument as depicted on the enclosed map entitled "Proposed Castle Mountain National Monument Boundary Revisions" (dated May 18, 2017). Furthermore, I would like to endorse the proposed changes to the proclamation establishing the monument detailed in NewCastle Gold's letter. Finally, I request that the administration restore management of all land in the Castle Mountains to the Bureau of Land Management and allow hunting within the remaining Castle Mountains National Monument.

Mojave Trails National Monument

The Mojave Trails National Monument was designated via proclamation by former President Obama on February 12, 2016. It covers 1.6 million acres of Bureau of Land Management managed land in San Bernardino County and is one of the largest National Monuments in our country. Mojave Trails National Monument was first proposed in legislation by Senator Feinstein nearly a decade ago and has been widely debated in San Bernardino County ever since. Without a doubt, many of the areas within the monument possess strong conservation value, however there are also a number of active mining claims that were adversely affected by the designation. In my opinion, the monument boundary was drawn specifically to disrupt these operations – adding little by way of conservation value, but furthering the goal of the Obama administration and many others in shutting down all mineral extraction in the desert. In particular, the Bagdad Chase Mine and Baxter Iron Mine include mineral claims that are located partially or entirely within the monument. While the proclamation included language protecting valid existing rights, the monument designation could prevent the future expansion of the mines during periods of high commodity prices. I request that the President modify the boundaries of the monument as depicted on the enclosed map titled "Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument Revisions" (dated June 6, 2017) to remove both mines and the surrounding lands from the boundaries of the monument.

Furthermore, after numerous legislative proposals in Congress to establish a Mojave Trails National Monument failed, most notably Senator Feinstein's California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (S. 414) during the 114th Congress, President Obama disregarded agreed-upon monument boundaries in favor of a significantly larger one that had never been considered by Congress. Rather than use the 970,000 acre footprint established in numerous pieces of legislation, President Obama nearly doubled the monument's size to over 1.6 million acres. Some of this expansion made sense from a land management perspective: the Trilobite, Clipper Mountain, Piute Mountains, and Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness areas are all located entirely within the Monument and are a critical component of any management plan. On the other hand, former President Obama also included hundreds of thousands of acres of non-designated BLM land to the south – well beyond the boundaries proposed in legislation – which complicates the land management process by creating multiple enclaves of private land within the monument. The expanded version of the monument was never debated in a public setting, and no public outreach was conducted with any of the local desert communities affected by the decision. While some of the public lands included in this expansion contain historic and conservation value, monument designation should only be given after extensive public debate and input. I request that the President modify the boundaries of the monument to eliminate this expanded southern area as depicted on the enclosed map entitled "Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument Revisions" (dated June 6, 2017).

Finally, I would like to highlight a major omission in the Mojave Trails National Monument. Five congressionally-designated Wilderness areas that are located partially within the Monument or immediately adjacent to it were not included in the designation. The Kelso Dunes, Bristol Mountains, Stepladder Mountains, Turtle Mountains, and Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness areas were all designated as Wilderness after an extensive legislative process and are a critical part of the desert ecosystem. Their inclusion in the Mojave Trails National Monument would improve the monument by including some of the most stunning natural features that the Mojave Desert has to offer. Additionally, it would allow the monument's management plan to act as a comprehensive land management plan for most of the BLM land in the southern Mojave Desert. I request that the President revise the monument boundary to include these five wilderness areas as depicted on the enclosed map entitled "Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument Revisions" (dated June 6, 2017).

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument was designated via proclamation by former President Obama on October 10, 2014. It spans a total of 346,177 acres across Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties in California. While significant public outreach was conducted throughout Los Angeles County during the planning process for the monument, there was virtually no outreach with regard to communities in San Bernardino County. The San Bernardino County portion of the monument includes 4,873 acres of non-wilderness Forest Service land, in

addition to the Sheep Mountain Wilderness area. The Sheep Mountain Wilderness was designated through the legislative process, and I have no objections to its presence in the Monument. However, the inclusion of 4,873 acres of non-wilderness Forest Service land was widely opposed by local residents due to its encroachment on local communities and economic activity – including a ski resort – and for its potential impact on forest management activities. I request that the President revise the boundary of the monument to remove these 4,873 acres as depicted on the enclosed map entitled "Proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Boundary Revisions" (dated May 10, 2017).

Sand to Snow National Monument

The Sand to Snow National Monument was designated via proclamation by former President Obama on February 12, 2016. It covers 154,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service managed land across San Bernardino and Riverside counties in California. With regard to federal land-use policies, I find it preferable that monument designations be carried out through the legislative process, as opposed to unilateral designation through the Antiquities Act. However, in cases where the Antiquities Act is utilized, the Sand to Snow National Monument should be the standard-bearer for future monument designations. The boundaries of the monument largely match previous legislative proposals that were vetted by local communities and stakeholder groups for the better part of a decade. Numerous public meetings occurred to discuss the designation, which resulted in widespread public support among local elected leaders and the public. In fact, I, along with Senator Feinstein, introduced legislation in the 114th Congress to designate a Sand to Snow National Monument largely along the same boundaries created by President Obama. With extensive public input and demonstrated local support, I recommend that the President leave the boundaries of the Sand to Snow National Monument intact. My only request is that the management plan for the monument include a provision allowing for the installation of a telecommunications facility in the "Morongo Gorge" region of the monument, as depicted on the enclosed map entitled "Proposed Sand to Snow National Monument" (dated August 4, 2015). This has long been one of the most dangerous segments of State Route 62, and the lack of cellular phone service in the gorge puts public safety at risk by preventing the timely reporting of accidents and dangerous situations. A telecommunications tower in the gorge would eliminate this dangerous cellular phone dead zone.

I hope you find this information helpful to your efforts. It's important to note that my aforementioned comments should not be construed as having a bias against conservation. I've been lucky to represent California's most ecologically rich congressional district, with a landscape including both the highest (Mount Whitney) and lowest (Death Valley) points in the lower 48 states and three of the largest and most beautiful National Parks in America. I visit Joshua Tree National Park regularly and consider it one of the crown jewels of our park system. However, in addition to being a conservationist, I'm also a strong proponent of the philosophy that public lands should be managed with multiple uses in mind. It is becoming increasingly

apparent that federal policies implemented over the last decade have favored a myopic environmentalism at the expense of economic and recreational activities. Anything that you can do to restore this balance would be of tremendous benefit to my district.

If you need additional information regarding the issues raised in this letter, don't hesitate to contact me or my staff at (202) 225-5861. I appreciate the hard work you do on behalf of the American public.

Sincerely,

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)
Congressman, 8th District of California

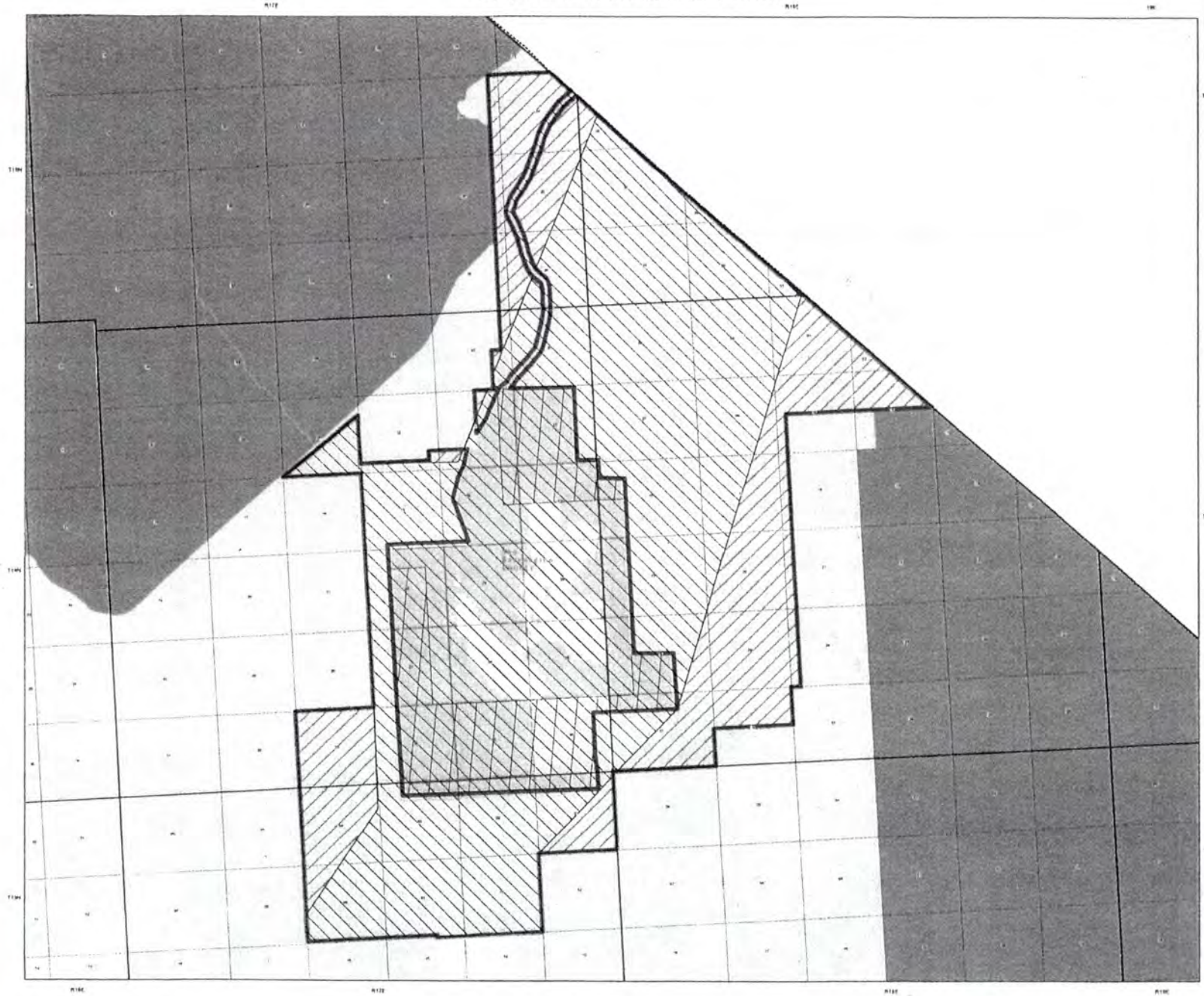
Enclosures (6):

1. "Proposed Castle Mountains National Monument Boundary Revisions" Map
2. "Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument Revisions" Map
3. "Proposed San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Boundary Revisions" Map
4. "Proposed Sand to Snow National Monument" Map
5. San Bernardino County Letter to Secretary Zinke
6. NewCastle Gold Letter to Secretary Zinke

Proposed Castle Mountain National Monument Boundary Revisions

May 18, 2017

This map prepared at the request of Representative Paul Cook



Castle Mountain Mining Area

Revised Castle Mountain National Monument Boundaries

Castle Mountain National Monument

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Federal Wilderness Surface Management

National Park Service

Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

State

Private/Unclassified

N

Kilometers

0 ½ 1 1½ 2

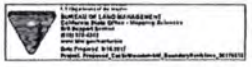
0 ½ 1 1½ 2

Miles

1:27,000

Map intended to be plotted at a sheet size of 34" x 44"

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.



Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument Revisions

June 6, 2017

This map prepared at the request of Representative Paul Cook

Revised Mojave Trails National Monument

National Monument

California Desert National Conservation Lands

Federal Wilderness Surface Management

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

BLM Wilderness Study Areas

Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

National Park Service

Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Department of Defense

State

Local Government

Private/Unclassified

N

Kilometers

0 5 10 15 20

0 5 10 15 20

Miles

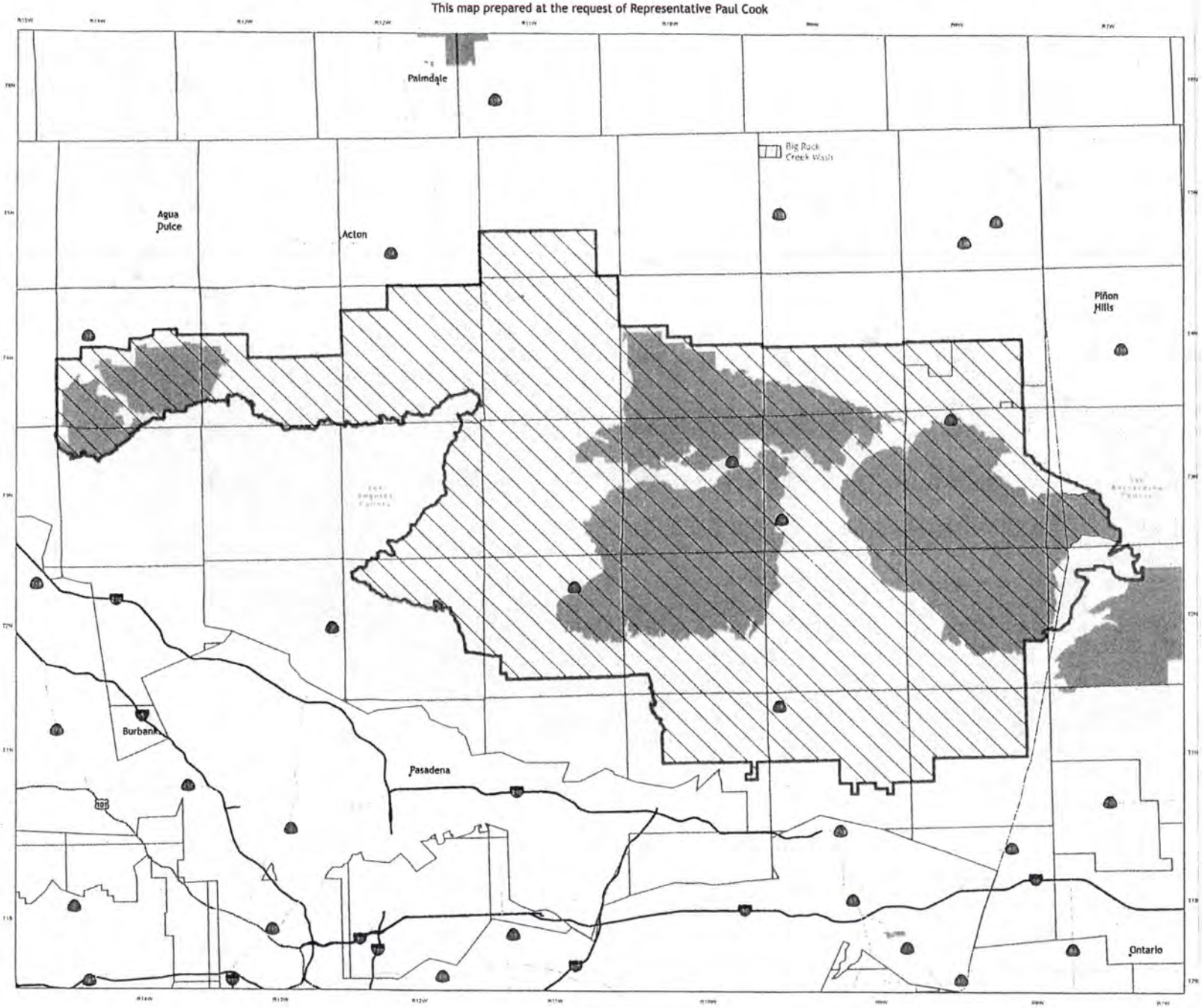
1:220,000

Map intended to be plotted at a sheet size of 34" x 44"

Proposed San Gabriel National Monument Boundary Revisions

May 10, 2017

This map prepared at the request of Representative Paul Cook



Revised San Gabriel National Monument

San Gabriel National Monument

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Federal Wilderness Surface Management

Forest Service

Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

Forest Service

National Park Service

Department of Defense

State

Private/Unclassified

N

Kilometers

0 1 2 4 6 8

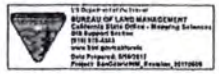
0 1 2 4 6 8

Miles

1:90,000

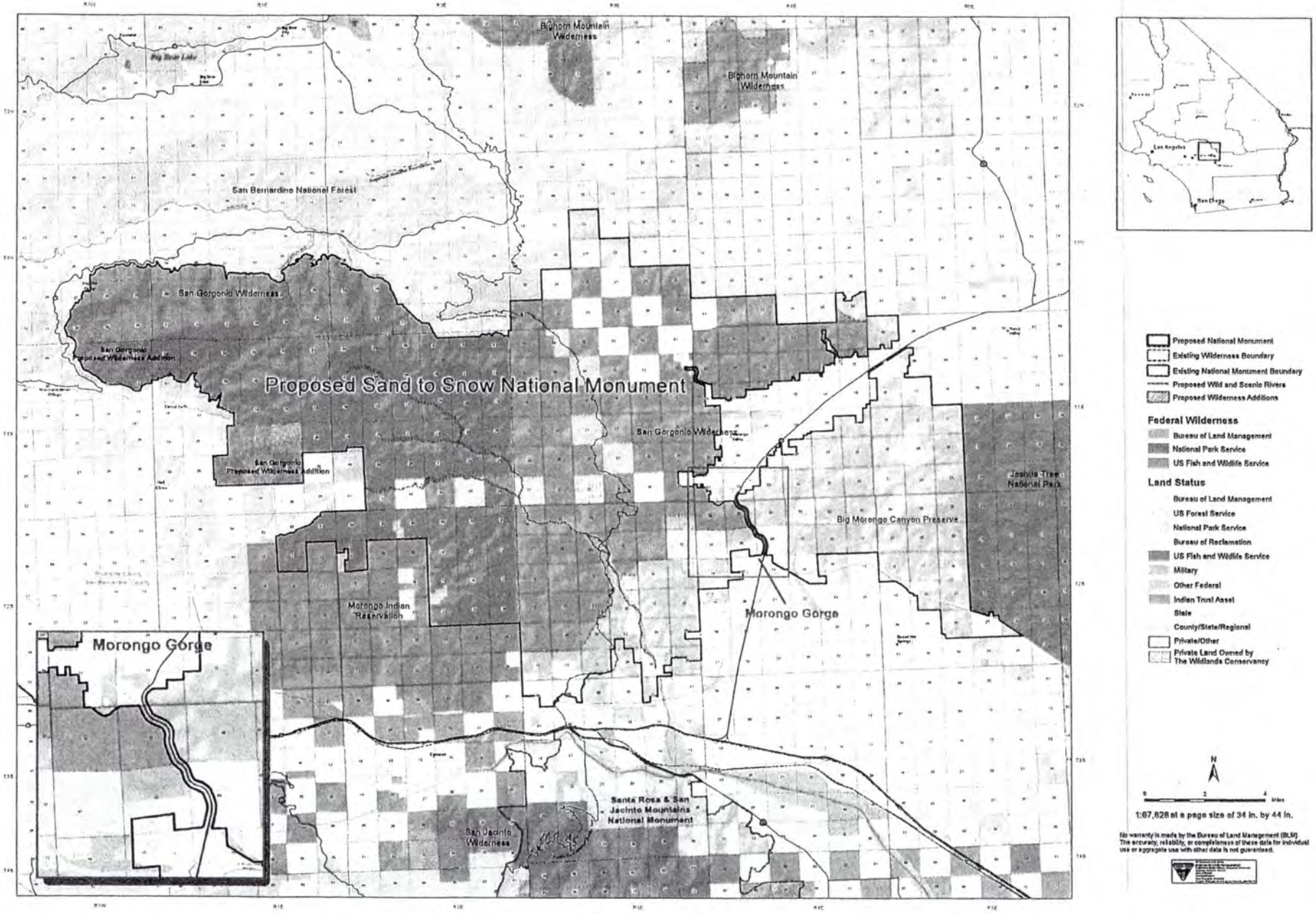
Map intended to be plotted at a sheet size of 34" x 44"

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.



Proposed Sand to Snow National Monument
August 4, 2015

This map prepared at the request of Representative Paul Cook



Proposed National Monument
Existing Wilderness Boundary
Existing National Monument Boundary
Proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers
Proposed Wilderness Additions

Federal Wilderness
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Land Status
Bureau of Land Management
US Forest Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Reclamation
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Military
Other Federal
Indian Trust Asset
State
County/State/Regional
Private/Other
Private Land Owned by The Wildlands Conservancy

N

0 2 4 Miles

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385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 5th Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0120 | Phone: 909.387.4821 Fax: 909.387.5430
www.SBCounty.gov

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Executive Order issued April 26, 2017 by President Donald J. Trump: Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.

As you may be aware, there were four national monuments recently designated under The Antiquities Act that affect San Bernardino County: The San Gabriel Mountains National Monument designated on October 10, 2014, of which a portion is in our County, the Mojave Trails National Monument, and the Castle Mountains National Monument, both of which are wholly in San Bernardino County, and the Sand to Snow National Monument, in both San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The latter three were established February 12, 2016.

In the years leading up to the designations, the County's position has been that any national monument designations should go through the legislative process, rather than by Presidential Proclamation under The Antiquities Act. The legislative process provides for substantial vetting and public input by stakeholder groups in the establishment of boundaries and permissible activities. (Please see our letter to President Obama dated August 21, 2015, attached.)

The County has long been committed to striking a balance between conservation and economic development. Indeed our adopted Countywide Vision states in part, "We envision a sustainable system...in which development complements our natural resources and environment".

Our public lands are one of San Bernardino County's greatest assets, providing recreation, solace, and stunning vistas within a few hours of millions of Southern Californians, and millions more from throughout the country and around the world. It also provides additional benefit from direct economic activities, including tourism, filming of commercials and movies, grazing, and mining. Our County is one of the most geologically diverse in the world, with deposits of minerals from simple aggregates to silver, gold and rare earth elements. We regulate approximately 100 mines in our County alone, which provide high-paying jobs, revenue that supports County services and materials essential for building the state's infrastructure. National monument designations withdraw federal lands from mineral entry, "...subject to valid existing rights", which can provide an additional legal burden for small mine operators.

As your review of the monuments moves forward, we would like to make you aware of issues that concern San Bernardino County, which was expressed to the previous administration and other stakeholders.

Mojave Trails National Monument

At 1.6 million acres, the Mojave Trails National Monument is nearly 700,000 acres larger than the monument proposed by legislation in previous Congresses (most recently S. 414 in the 114th Congress), which was developed after years of outreach to stakeholder groups, including mining operators, tribes, environmental groups and the off-highway vehicle recreation community. However, when the monument boundaries were set by Presidential Proclamation, the boundaries covered the footprint of existing mining operations that were otherwise excluded from the proposed legislation boundaries. This makes access and future expansion problematic and increases the risk of abandonment liabilities for the County. We respectfully request that any modifications to the boundaries or management prescriptions exclude and accommodate the existing mining operations, and provide for their continued access and potential for expansion when their reserves are diminished.

Sand to Snow

At 154,000 acres, the Sand to Snow National Monument is subject to review by the Executive Order. The designation covered federal lands already protected and managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, and the designation was generally supported by the local communities.

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

At 346,000 acres, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument also qualifies for review. Before designation, there was a proposal to have the boundaries extend deep into the San Bernardino National Forest. A potential monument had long been discussed in Los Angeles County, but there were no discussions in San Bernardino County. Our County objected on grounds that our residents, business owners and other stakeholders had no opportunity to discuss or debate the potential benefits or impacts of such a designation. The boundaries established by Presidential Proclamation covered existing federal lands within the Angeles National Forest, and largely excluded San Bernardino County, except for 4,000 acres of an already designated wilderness area.

Castle Mountains National Monument

At 21,000 acres, the Castle Mountains National Monument falls under the 100,000-acre threshold for review, however, the Executive Order also states: "...where the designation after expansion covers more than 100,000 acres, or where the Secretary determines that the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy set forth in section 1 of this order." The Castle Mountains area was previously excluded from being included in the Mojave National Preserve, established by the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, because it was the site of a sizable active mining operation. The mine idled for a time, but is now going through the rigorous regulatory process of reopening. The mine itself remains under the jurisdiction of the County and the Bureau of Land Management, but the Monument area surrounding it was transferred to the National Park Service.

If you choose to review the Castle Mountains National Monument under the April 16 Executive Order, we respectfully request that issues of access through the monument to the mine and access to water needed to service the mine be needed to accommodate future expansion, be addressed. The County believes that raised concerns were being addressed with the proposed legislation until the Presidential Proclamation ceased the dialogue.

We look forward to working with your department as this review process moves forward and we thank you for taking the concerns of San Bernardino County into consideration. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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June 1, 2017

VIA WEB AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Ryan Zinke, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Monument Review, MS–1530
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=DOI-2017-0002-0001

Re: Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Comments of NewCastle Gold on Castle Mountains National Monument

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of NewCastle Gold, and its wholly-owned subsidiary Castle Mountain Venture, I write to comment on the designation of the Castle Mountains National Monument ("CMNM") as part of the Department of the Interior's ("Department") ongoing "Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment." 82 Fed. Reg. 22,016 (May 11, 2017). The 21,000-acre CMNM, designated in February 2016 by President Obama, is not directly on the list of National Monuments undergoing "initial review" (*see* 82 Fed. Reg. at 22,017), but is among those monuments that "should be reviewed because they were designated or expanded after January 1, 1996 'without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders.'" *Id.* (quoting Executive Order 13792 (Apr. 26, 2017), 82 Fed. Reg. 20,429 (May 1, 2017)).

As discussed below, unlike other recent national monuments, the CMNM was never identified in any legislative initiative, and received only minimal input by stakeholders, including NewCastle Gold. Indeed, the CMNM appears to have been a "last-minute" designation for the sole purpose of severely constraining if not outright eliminating NewCastle Gold's Castle Mountain Gold Project ("Project" or "Mine"), a longstanding mine with an exemplary history of responsible operation on public lands. The CMNM is jeopardizing the Project's potential to contribute quality jobs and millions of dollars in public revenue to local communities, and state and local governments; it also fails to meet the other criteria set forth in Executive Order 13792.

For these reasons, the CMNM should be reduced in size and its proclamation amended to allow the Project to proceed. These modest revisions will provide for the responsible, multiple use of public lands, thereby creating a balanced approach for meeting stakeholder interests and concerns, without sacrificing the CMNM's purposes and values.

I. Reasons why the CMNM boundaries should be adjusted and its proclamation revised.

A. Background: The Castle Mountains area was, for decades, a buffer area supporting the Castle Mountain Gold Mine.

The area of California's Mojave Desert where the CMNM is located has a long history of management by the Department for multiple uses, in coordination with affected stakeholders. In 1994, Congress enacted the California Desert Protection Act, which established the 1.6 million-acre Mojave National Preserve ("Preserve") to be managed by the National Park Service ("NPS") primarily for conservation purposes. Importantly, the Preserve surrounds on three sides, but, as discussed below, specifically does not include, the Project and adjoining areas. In 1991, three years before the Preserve was created, the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), after consulting with its sister agencies, the County of San Bernardino ("County"), and other stakeholders, approved a plan of operations for the Project, then known as the Viceroy Gold Mine. In 1998, BLM approved an expanded plan of operations, again after extensive coordination with interested stakeholders, that remains valid to this day. NewCastle Gold or its predecessor also signed an agreement with conservation groups to advance environmental values in the region. Thus, from the beginning, relevant stakeholders—NewCastle Gold, permitting agencies, NGOs, and so on—have known of and supported the Project as a valid and important use of public land.

The area that the Project occupied and would need to occupy has also been recognized from the inception of the Preserve in 1994, when approximately 29,000 acres (or about 1.8% of the Preserve area) were excluded from or carved-out of the Preserve. That area, known as the Castle Mountain Mine Area ("Mine Area"), consisted of (1) about 7,458 acres of the Mine company's holdings, including patented and unpatented mining claims (the Project boundary), and (2) about 21,812 acres of adjoining BLM-managed public land (the Buffer Area, most of which is now within the CMNM boundary).

The Department, through the NPS and BLM, had always treated the Buffer Area surrounding the Project boundary as a zone between the Preserve and the Project, to be managed by BLM under its multiple-use mandate, including for Project-related purposes. In short, there was, and has always been, a commonly held understanding that the Preserve and the Project (including the Buffer Area) could and would co-exist, particularly given the small size of the Project relative to the Preserve and the Project's close oversight by BLM and the County.

B. The CMNM was established on the basis of inadequate and incorrect information.

As discussed above, in 1994, the California Desert Protection Act excluded the Mine Area (Project Boundary and Buffer Area) from the Preserve because the Project was active at the time the legislation was passed. On August 3, 2015, a request was made by Senator Feinstein to

President Obama that he designate almost the entire Castle Mountains Mine Area, with little or no buffer area, as a national monument. One of the rationales offered was that "the mine ceased operations in 2001." This statement was plainly incorrect.

In 2002, the Project, like many other operations at that time, suspended operations due to the low price of gold ($271 per ounce). The Project had not exhausted its reserves at that time and was merely responding to prevailing economic conditions (which have now again become favorable). For this reason, NewCastle Gold maintained its entitlements and completed a progressive reclamation program to ensure that any environmental liabilities associated with the site were minimized. Since that time, NewCastle Gold has continued progressive reclamation activities, while also undertaking new exploration activities that have successfully expanded the gold resources associated with the Project. NewCastle Gold has retained its key operational permits and is poised to start operations once gold ore reserve estimates, environmental studies, and mine planning are completed.

Thus, the initial purpose in 1994 for carving-out the Project boundary and surrounding Buffer Area from the Preserve—to allow the Project to operate and expand—applies equally strongly today in 2017. The premise in 2015 that a national monument was appropriate because there was no active or viable mining operation was erroneous.

C. The CMNM was established without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, in an unreasonable five-month period with no environmental review.

Given the history of the Mine and the 1994 legislation, it was surprising and disappointing when, in February 2016, President Obama exercised his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the 21,000-acre CMNM without any consultation with NewCastle Gold, and, as far as we are aware, little or no consultation with most other stakeholders or with Congress.[1] Before the designation, a single public meeting was held for combined input on three separate potential monuments, along with several other ACECs and wilderness areas.

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[1] Compare, for example, the designation of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in southern California, which, according to the prior administration, was "buil[t] on more than a decade of public support from business, tourism, environmental justice, conservation, academic and cultural preservation communities and on the leadership from members of Congress." Office of the Press Secretary, The White House, "President Obama Designates San Gabriel Mountains National Monument" (Oct. 10, 2014) (*available at* https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/10/10/president-obama-designates-san-gabriel-mountains-national-monument). Other recent monuments, including Mojave Trails National Monument and Sand to Snow National Monument, were comprised largely of lands that Congress had already approved as wilderness. *See* The White House, "In Photos: President Obama Designates 3 National Monuments in California" (Feb. 17, 2016) (25% congressionally designated wilderness for Mojave Trails, 65% for Sand to Snow) (*available at* https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2016/02/12/photos-president-obama-designates-3-national-monuments-california).

NewCastle Gold wrote a letter expressing concerns that went unanswered. No meeting with CEQ occurred. The County also submitted a letter, dated August 21, 2015, stating that "[o]ne of our chief concerns is that designation of a national monument withdraws lands from mineral entry." The County explained that mining provided critical minerals and thousands of high-paying jobs. Indeed, the Castle Mountains Gold Project alone was expected to generate annually more than $7 million in direct revenue for the County and State and create 271 jobs at its peak operation.

This minimal public outreach was made worse by the "fast-track" timing of the CMNM's designation. As discussed above, the request to designate the CMNM was made in August 2015. The CMNM was designated just six months later, on February 12, 2016. Not only did this compressed schedule preclude opportunities for meaningful public involvement, it meant that there were no reviews of the designation's potential environmental or economic effects.

As the County explained in its letter, adequate public outreach includes public meetings, opportunities for public comment, environmental and economic reviews, and opportunities for public comment on those reviews. "Stakeholder input is imperative," the County admonished, "to ensure any proposed designation creates a net positive benefit for the variety of interests that use the desert and that critical multiple use activities are preserved." These and other reasonable requests for an open and transparent process went unheeded.

D. The CMNM was established without any congressional debate or mandate.

The most effective forum for considering withdrawals of public lands is Congress, where the need for a particular withdrawal and its purposes and boundaries can be debated and determined in an open and transparent way.

As far as we are aware, and in contrast to other recently-established national monuments, there was never a proposal introduced into the Congress to establish the CMNM. For example, Senate Bill 414 (Feinstein, 2015), would have created both the Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow National Monuments. See S.414, Titles XII-XIV. That same bill proposed that part of the Castle Mountains Mine Area be added to the Preserve, not designated a national monument. *See id.*, Title XVII. Without even a proposal to establish the CMNM, Congress never had the opportunity to weigh in on whether a monument was appropriate.

E. The CMNM was established for narrow purposes, to the Project's detriment.

Not only is the CMNM's designation procedurally inadequate, it also is substantively problematic. The CMNM is especially disappointing due to its: (1) sole focus on preserving habitat, wildlife linkages, and sacred sites and other cultural resources; (2) withdrawal of the lands surrounding the Project boundary, including much of the Buffer Area, that had been reserved for the Project and other multiple uses, for that narrow preservation purpose; and (3) provision that the Project area will be transferred to NPS jurisdiction within ten years unless

certain conditions are met. The designation also reserves "the availability of water resources, including groundwater resources, needed for monument purposes." *See generally* Presidential Proclamation – Establishment of the Castle Mountains National Monument (Feb. 12, 2016) (*available at* https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/12/presidential-proclamation-establishment-castle-mountains-national).

Under NPS regulations and the federal reserved water rights doctrine (as well as BLM's restrictive September 2016 Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan), these provisions have the potential to severely limit any activity the Project might propose to undertake outside its already-approved Mine boundary. It will be difficult to explore for and develop new mineral and water resources, develop ancillary facilities, or expand the existing operational area. Indeed, the NPS is already requesting mineral validity examinations for water exploration activities on NewCastle Gold's pre-existing mill site claims (which were already validated when the Mine's previous owner applied for a patent) within the CMNM/Mojave National Preserve boundaries.

F. Executive Order 13792 factors

In addition to the above, the CMNM should be reduced and its proclamation amended for several other reasons, based upon the factors set forth in Executive Order 13792, 82 Fed. Reg. 20,429-20,430), including: (1): the 21,000 acre area is larger than needed; (2) the CMNM protects resources not contemplated under the Act; (3) the CMNM is inconsistent with multiple use principles; (4) the CMNM jeopardizes resources and benefits for the localities including County; and (5) the CMNM lacks adequate funding. *(Note: a more detailed discussion of these Executive Order factors is provide in **Exhibit 1**, attached hereto to this letter.)*

II. Requested action

NewCastle requests that the Department of the Interior recommend to the President that he exercise his authority under the Antiquities Act to:

- Reduce the size of the CMNM by roughly 50%, as shown on the attached map (**Exhibit 2**; revised monument boundary shown by blue line); *and*

- Revise the CMNM's proclamation as shown on the attached redline, to allow the Project the flexibility it needs to explore for and develop new mining claims, water resources, and ancillary facilities (**Exhibit 3**).

III. Conclusion

We expect from our government decisions that are considered, balanced, and transparent. For decades the federal public lands that make up the Castle Mountains area were managed according to these principles, with interested stakeholders and agencies working together to achieve the highest and best uses of those public lands. The Castle Mountains Gold Project,

conservation, recreation and other uses existed in equilibrium, with changes supported by extensive review and coordination.

The CMNM disregards this history and these principles of good governance. The decision to designate the CMNM was made without public process and with little or no consultation with affected stakeholders or Congress. The designation effectively forecloses managing the public lands within the CMNM's boundaries for any use other than conservation. Indeed, the CMNM's restrictions are so significant that they make the Project difficult or impossible to operate, even on lands outside of the Monument. That outcome ignores the Project's long history of responsible operation and the substantial economic benefits it provides to local communities, San Bernardino County, and the State of California. And the designation is unnecessary given the effective protection of ecological, cultural, and recreational resources provided by the surrounding 1.6 million-acre Mojave National Preserve.

Modest changes to the CMNM's boundaries and proclamation to allow for the Project's long-contemplated operation and expansion will restore sensibility, credibility, and balance to the federal government's public land management. We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

KERRY SHAPIRO of
Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

Attachments (Exhibits 1-3)

cc: Congressman Paul Cook (with attachments)
Gerald Panneton, CEO, NewCastle Gold (with attachments)

EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.	Description
1	Factors Set Forth in Executive Order 13792 (April 26, 2017), 82 Fed. Reg. 20,429-20-430 (May 1, 2017)
2	Map of proposed revised boundaries of the Castle Mountains National Monument
3	Proposed revised proclamation for the Castle Mountains National Monument

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

Factors Set Forth in Executive Order 13792 (April 26, 2017), 82 Fed. Reg. 20,429-20-430 (May 1, 2017)

The CMNM should be reduced and its proclamation amended for reasons based upon the factors set forth in Executive Order 13792, 82 Fed. Reg. 20,429-20,430, as set forth below:

(i) *The CMNM fails to meet "the requirements and original objectives of the [Antiquities] Act, including the Act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed 'the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected'" (quoting 54 U.S.C. § 320301(b)).*

The CMNM is nearly 21,000 acres, far larger than needed to protect wildlife, wildlife habitat and linkages, cultural resources, and springs. The Mojave National Preserve, designated in 1994, already exists to protect over 1.6 million acres of cultural and ecological resources. There was no need to withdraw another 66% of the remaining 30,000 acres of land that had been set aside for the Project to operate and expand. The CMNM could be cut in half and still protect those resources most deserving of long-term conservation.

(ii) *The lands designated as part of the CMNM are not "appropriately classified under the [Antiquities] Act as 'historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest'" (quoting 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a)).*

According to its plain language, the Antiquities Act is aimed at preserving historic and prehistoric resources, as well as objects of "scientific interest." Yet apart from scattered references to historic mining artifacts and unusual geologic formations, the CMNM's proclamation is clearly aimed at protecting "habitat linkages, wildlife corridors, and intact ecosystems" and recreational opportunities. Even if these resources somehow qualify for protection under the Antiquities Act, they are not unusual and are of relatively low quality compared to similar resources in the existing Mojave National Preserve. And again the relative scale of the CMNM next to the Preserve is relevant: the lands that now make up the CMNM are just a tiny fraction of the Mojave National Preserve, and are not (at least not all of them) needed to ensure that the Preserve's conservation goals are met.

(iii) *The CMNM's designation has profound and adverse effects on "the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries."*

As discussed above, the Castle Mountains area has a long history of being managed

for multiple uses—since long before the Mojave National Preserve was created and nearly 25 years since. The Castle Mountains Gold Project has been approved and operating since 1991, to the economic benefit of local communities, San Bernardino County, and the State of California. Throughout this entire period the Project has been a lawful and accepted use of federal public lands.

However, if it is left in place, the CMNM will constrain or end the Project. BLM and other permitting agencies have long understood the Project's need to explore for and develop additional mineral and water resources, and expand operations, outside the approved Mine Boundary. The CMNM renders those activities legally and practically difficult, if not impossible. Indeed, by constraining what the Project does *outside* its approved Mine Boundary, the CMNM curtails what the Project does *inside* its Boundary, since water development and other ancillary activities are necessary to support existing operations. Such profound and adverse effects on responsible, economically valuable uses of public lands are yet another reason why the CMNM must be modified.

(iv) *The CMNM's designation has profound and adverse effects on "the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries."*

Much of the Project area, within the approved Mine Boundary, consists of patented mining claims owned in fee by NewCastle Gold. Like NewCastle Gold's operations on unpatented claims, the operations on its patented claims will be severely and adversely affected by the CMNM if it is left unmodified. *See* (iii) above.

(v) *The CMNM fails to take account of "concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities."*

The Project has long been an important source of revenue for nearby communities, San Bernardino County, and the State of California. The County explained in its August 21, 2015, letter objecting to the then-proposed CMNM that the Project was likely to generate more than $7 million in revenue for the County and State, and create 271 jobs at its peak operation. NewCastle explained in its own letter (dated September 12, 2015), that combined federal, state, and local revenues would be $300 million over the life of the Project and benefit local communities through direct expenditures. Constraining or eliminating the Project by virtue of the CMNM would eliminate theses revenues and benefits. This loss is unlikely to be offset by, for example, additional recreational visitors to the CMNM, given how remote and intemperate the CMNM is.

(vi) *There is no evidence of sufficient "availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas" in the CMNM.*

Prior to the CMNM's designation, the Project provided funds for the administrative costs of its management. In withdrawing yet another 21,000 acres of public lands

from multiple-use management, the CMNM provided no source of funding for managing those lands for conservation-only purposes. BLM must now fund any environmental studies and related documents itself. BLM already has far too few resources to manage the public lands; eliminating yet another revenue stream while adding to the agency's burdens is not good governance.

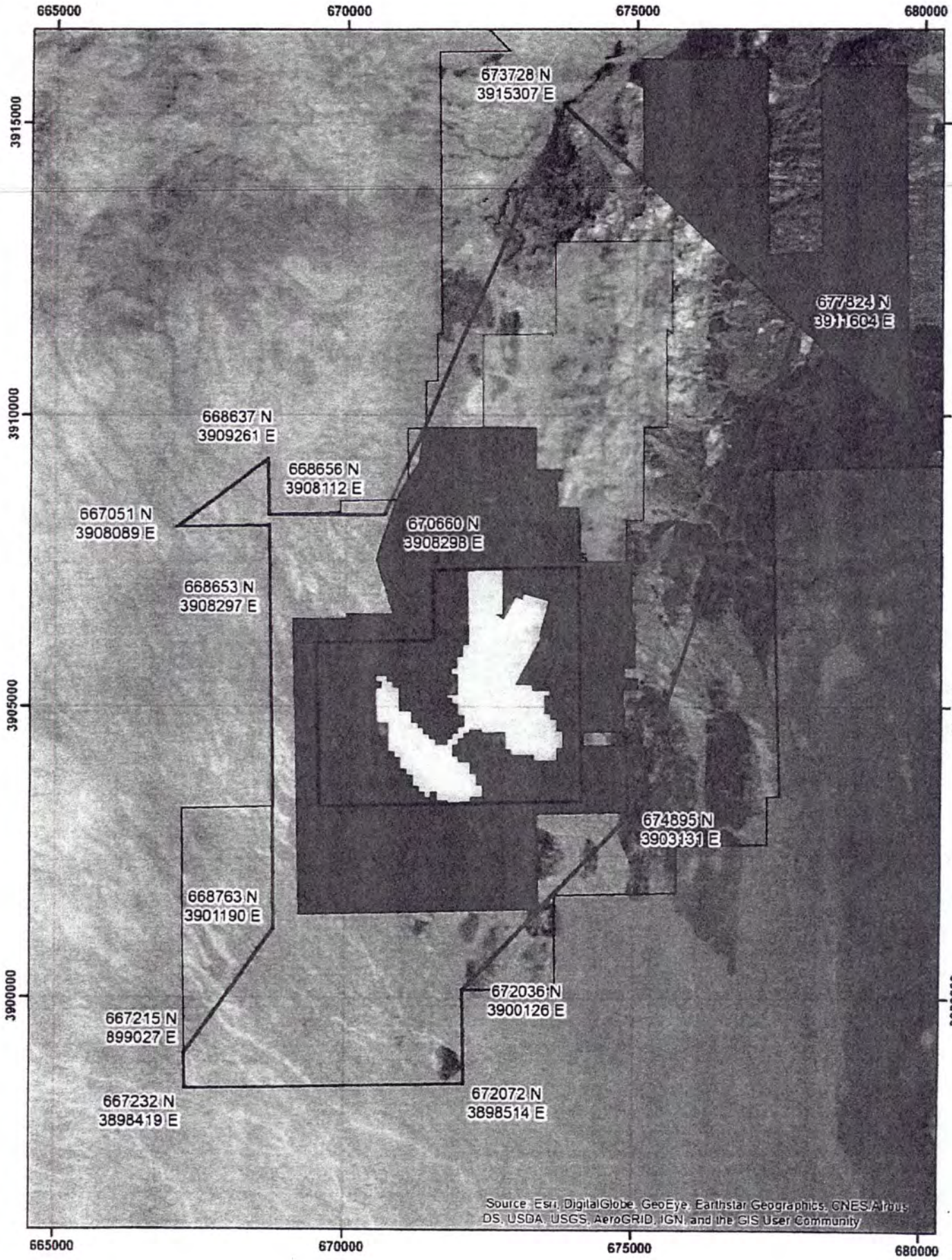
(vii) *Other factors support modification.*

As discussed above, the CMNM was an end-run around Congress and was rushed through with no environmental review. A decision with such profound, long-term consequences deserves greater deliberation.

NewCastle Gold is aware of the ongoing debate among legal scholars as to the authority of the President to revoke or modify the national monument designations of prior administrations. For the well-reasoned arguments set forth in John Yoo & Todd Gaziano, American Enterprise Institute, "Presidential Authority to Revoke or Reduce National Monument Designations" (Mar. 2017) (*available at* https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Presidential-Authority-to-Revoke-or-Reduce-National-Monument-Designations.pdf), as well as in other authorities, we think such authority is inherent and unmistakable.

We wish to emphasize that we are not proposing that the Department of the Interior recommend to the President that he *revoke* Castle Mountains National Monument. Consistent with what has always been our position—that the Castle Mountains Gold Project and conservation of resources surrounding the Mine can co-exist—we simply ask that the Department recommend *modifying* the CMNM to achieve a more sensible balance between those multiple uses. We discuss our specific requests in the next section.

EXHIBIT 2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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

EXHIBIT 3

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

DATE ~~February 12, 2016~~

Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Castle Mountains National Monument

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

- - - - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

The Castle Mountains area, bounded on three sides by Mojave National Preserve (Preserve), possesses ~~outstanding~~ natural, cultural, and historical values ~~representing some of the finest~~ characteristics of the eastern Mojave Desert. ~~It connects~~ The area contains water flows and wildlife corridors ~~of~~ found in the Preserve, and completes the boundary of the Preserve along the California-Nevada border. Beneath ~~the shadow of~~ Hart Peak lie ~~rich~~ certain cultural and historic resources, including Native American archeological sites and ~~the~~ remnants of the ~~historic gold mining ghost town of~~ Hart gold mining area. Exposed geologic features contribute to the area's ~~outstanding~~ scenery.

Shaped by millions of years of geologic forces, the rugged Castle Mountains are emblematic of the Mojave landscape. The Castle Mountains rise from the broad sweep of the Lanfair Valley to a height of over 5,000 feet, presenting a ~~picturesque~~ skyline visible from many locations within the Preserve, while also affording ~~spectacular~~ views of the Preserve and beyond. Hart Peak is the prominent feature in the Castle Mountains skyline at 5,543 feet. ~~Views from Hart Peak encompass vast wilderness and distinctive peaks, including Spirit Mountain in Nevada, a sacred site to many Native American tribes. The remoteness of the Castle Mountains area offers visitors the~~

~~chance to experience the solitude of the desert and its increasingly rare natural soundscapes and dark night skies.~~

Much of the Castle Mountains area is already part of, and protected by, the 1.6-million-acre Preserve established in 1994, making the addition of a large National Monument unnecessary. Nonetheless, the area does contain outstanding resources and values that merit modest protection under the Antiquities Act. For example, t~~T~~he Castle Mountains area provides a ~~critical~~ linkage for plants, animals, and water between two mountain ranges within the Preserve, the New York Mountains to the northwest and the Piute Mountains to the southeast. The area's high quality desert habitat includes some of the finest Joshua tree forest in the Mojave Desert, as well as pinyon pine and juniper forest at the upper elevations. The area's native desert grassland is a hotspot of botanical diversity. The unique plant assemblage includes 28 species of native grasses, about half of which are rare, including burrograss and false buffalograss.

Protection of this relatively intact and undisturbed habitat is important not just to the long-term survival of many plant species but also to significant wildlife populations. A herd of desert bighorn sheep lives on the steep, rocky slopes of the Castle Mountains. They and other wildlife traverse the area between the Piute Mountains and the New York Mountains. Numerous bat species live in rock crevices and mine remnants in the area. Wildlife species of special concern include the Townsend's big-eared bat, California leaf-nosed bat, Swainson's hawk, golden eagle, desert tortoise, Bendire's thrasher, and gray vireo. While many of these species are found in high elevations, they are more common in lower elevations.

With its habitat linkages, wildlife corridors, and intact ecosystems, the area offers exceptional opportunities to study plant and animal movement and connections between diverse natural systems, especially in the context of climate change. Ongoing studies of desert bighorn sheep and other plant and animal species have shown the priority of this area for scientific research. A recent study using network models of bighorn sheep genetic and demographic connectivity as tools for landscape-scale conservation found the Castle Mountains habitat to be one of the most important in the Mojave Desert. Botanists are finding new and rare plant populations, and significant new information regarding the range of species such as Mexican panicgrass, in the Castle Mountains area.

~~The Castle Mountains area is the only remaining portion of the 226-square mile Lanfair Valley watershed that is not part of the Preserve. Underlying much of the Lanfair Valley, including the Castle Mountains area, is a large groundwater aquifer of critical importance to the desert ecosystem. With its primary recharge zone in the New York Mountains, this aquifer feeds Piute Spring, located in the Preserve just south of the Castle Mountains area. Piute Spring is the only perennial stream and riparian corridor in the Preserve, and attracts numerous flora and fauna.~~

~~As a rare desert water source, Piute Spring attracted Native American habitation for thousands of years, followed by Euro-American exploration and settlement. Drawn to this reliable source of potable water, in 1867 the U.S. Army established Fort Piute (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) adjacent to the spring to provide protection to travelers on the Old Spanish Trail (known locally as the Mojave Road) that crossed the Mojave Desert from the Colorado River to San Bernardino, California. Maintenance of the groundwater resources and flow to Piute Spring is essential to the historical and scientific value of both the area and the Preserve.~~

The Castle Mountains area also contains ~~other~~ cultural resources that reflect a long history of prehistoric and historic human use. Prehistoric rock art and archeological sites are found throughout the area. The rock art indicates sites of ~~significant~~ cultural import to both the Fort Mojave and Chemehuevi Tribes, marking routes through the Castle Mountains likely traveled by both tribes. The Castle Mountains area links places to the south, like Piute Spring, to areas north, such as an obsidian collection site. Western expansion brought ranching, mining, and the railroad to the area. ~~Some of the best-preserved s~~Segments of a wagon road that linked the Arizona Territory (Hardyville, now Bullhead City, Arizona) to settlements in southern California can be found in the Castle Mountains area. Ranchers grazed cattle in the area for a very long time. By 1894, the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company had consolidated its holdings in the eastern Mojave Desert. Much of their historic ranch lies within the Preserve, and features of this and other grazing enterprises of the era can still be seen in the Castle Mountains area. In 1907, brothers Bert and Clark Hitt found rich gold ore, staking claims that became the Oro Belle and Big Chief Mines. With James Hart, they founded the town of Hart at the base of Hart Peak. Between 1908 and 1910, the town of Hart underwent a rapid boom and bust, and by 1920, Hart had become a ghost town. Throughout this period of western expansion, railroads served the ranchers, miners, Hart residents, and others in the eastern Mojave Desert. Part of the former

23-mile Barnwell and Searchlight Railway, later incorporated into the California Eastern Railway, ran through the Castle Mountains area.

Finally, the Castle Mountains area contains a longstanding gold mining operation, the Viceroy/Castle Mountain Mine (established in 1989), and associated road access. The gold mine has not adversely affected the area's species, historic artifacts, viewsheds, recreational, or other resources or values. In fact, the mine has been proof of the compatibility between conservation on the one hand and productive use of public lands on the other. An appropriately sized and tailored National Monument can provide ample, lasting protection to the Castle Mountains area's outstanding resources and values while still allowing other valuable uses of public lands to take place. If the Federal Government acquires any lands or interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, such lands and interests in lands shall be reserved as a part of the monument.

WHEREAS, section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to preserve and protect the historic and scientific objects in the Castle Mountains area;

WHEREAS, the protection of the Castle Mountains area's outstanding objects of historic and scientific interest would also contribute to the protection of the resources and values of the Preserve;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP~~BARACK OBAMA~~, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, hereby proclaim the objects identified above that are situated upon lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be the Castle Mountains National Monument (monument) and, for the purpose of protecting those objects, reserve as a part thereof all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on

the accompanying map, which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation. The reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately ~~20,920~~ 10,000 acres. The boundaries described on the accompanying map are confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries described on the accompanying map are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights. If the Federal Government acquires any lands or interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, such lands and interests in lands shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to interfere with the development or operation of valid existing mining claims, whether patented or unpatented placer, lode, or mill site claims, or with the development, operation or exercise of valid existing water rights or existing water, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities located within the boundaries of the National Monument upon the date of this proclamation. Nor shall anything in this proclamation be construed to interfere with the location, development, and exercise of additional water rights or water, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities within the boundaries of the National Monument, as may be required for all purposes reasonably incident to the development and operation of valid existing mining claims, including those associated with the Castle Mountains Mine. The development, operation, and/or exercise of valid existing mining claims, valid existing water rights, and/or additional water rights or water, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities shall be subject to, and consistent with, the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation as well as governing laws and regulations, including those of the Department of the Interior and the State of California, as applicable, but approvals by

the Department of the Interior to develop or exercise the rights associated with those claims, rights, and facilities shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the rights of any Indian tribe. The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law and in consultation with Indian tribes, ensure the protection of Indian sacred sites and cultural sites in the monument and provide access to the sites by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites).

The Secretary shall manage these lands through the National Park Service, in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management on mining claims and mining-related facilities, pursuant to applicable authorities, and consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary shall prepare a management plan to implement the purposes of this proclamation, with full public involvement, within 3 years of the date of this proclamation. For the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes. The Secretary shall continue to manage the Federal lands and interests in lands within the adjacent area labelled "Castle Mountain Mine Area" on the accompanying map through the Bureau of Land Management, pursuant to applicable authorities. ~~Upon the determination of the Secretary that either (1) all mining and mining-related activities have terminated and reclamation has been completed, or (2) a period of 10 years from the date of this proclamation has elapsed during which no commercial mining activities have occurred pursuant to a Bureau of Land Management approved plan of operations, the Secretary shall, consistent with applicable legal authorities, transfer jurisdiction of the lands within the Castle Mountain Mine Area to the National Park Service and ensure that the lands are managed in a manner compatible with the proper care and management of the objects identified above.~~

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and wildlife management.

~~The Federal land managing agencies shall, in cooperation with appropriate State officials and subject to applicable State and Federal law, ensure the availability of water resources, including groundwater resources, needed for monument purposes.~~

This proclamation does not reserve water rights in or to the United States under the federal reserved water rights doctrine. Nor shall any part of this proclamation be read to conflict with, or adversely affect, the water rights or requirements of the Castle Mountain Mine Area and associated mining operations.

Nothing in this proclamation shall restrict or preclude low level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by this proclamation, consistent with the care and management of the objects to be protected.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument, including wildland fire response.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this DATE ~~twelfth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen~~, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ~~two hundred and fortieth~~YEAR.

DONALD J. TRUMP~~BARACK OBAMA~~

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
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June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
Mail Stop 6242
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On April 26, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13792, which requires a thorough review of national monuments created under the Antiquities Act, a bedrock law signed by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to safeguard and preserve federal lands and cultural and historical sites for all Americans to enjoy. Included in this review are two monuments in Nevada, Gold Butte and Basin and Range, which meet the specified criteria and, thus, are subject to this ongoing review process.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you a statement on both of these monuments that not only share widespread public support, but also help to create a resilient economy for the great state of Nevada. You know, especially as a former member of Congress, that consequential decisions that would forever impact the integrity of protected natural areas must be made with the full consent of the state, congressional delegation, tribal nations, and key stakeholders.

Nevada has the most public lands than any other state and due to our abundance of natural resources, we have led the way in creating consensus at the local and state level and among our delegation to both benefit our communities and protect our natural areas. In fact, our monuments and public lands help define who we are as a state. With the designation of our monuments uncertain, we believe our state's historical, cultural and natural heritage hangs in the balance.

Both Gold Butte and Basin and Range monuments are a result of public meetings with input from local communities and were based upon broad local support. Nevadans who enjoy these lands actively participated in the public process leading to their designation. Outdoor recreationists, local organizations, scientists, and tribes with ancestral ties to these lands all worked with prior administrations to ensure these lands were protected at scale necessary to preserve their special and economic values.

In the case of Gold Butte, citizens had expressed concern about the increasing threat of unmanaged visitation to the natural and cultural treasures in Gold Butte. This led the Mesquite City Council to pass two resolutions supporting the preservation of Gold Butte. The Clark County Commission, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and Moapa Band of Paiutes also approved resolutions of support in 2010. Local community organizations wrote letters to the Nevada delegation urging them to protect Gold Butte. Public meetings were held and many local citizens attended. Legislation to establish a National Conservation Area was introduced in Congress five times between 2008 and 2015. Each time, the proposed bills reflected community negotiations and compromise. Throughout the years, Southern Nevadans demonstrated consistent and overwhelming support for protecting Gold Butte. Polls conducted in 2012, 2016, and 2017, reported that 63 percent, 71 percent and 63 percent of Nevadans, respectively across party lines, supported a National Conservation Area or National Monument designation.

Gold Butte is also a sacred site in the traditional homeland of the Southern Paiutes and is integral to their history. Tribes, like the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, have been advocating for

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conservation and monument designation for almost a decade. This sacred land is home to thousands of priceless rock shelters, petroglyphs, and cultural resources that tell the story of the Southern Paiute people. On these lands, there are ancient campsites and trails that go back thousands of years.

The Basin and Range National Monument was designated on July 10, 2015. This incredible monument preserves the cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy of the Great Basin area, which includes unique topography, geology, species diversity, archaeological resources, and a recent work of land art. Basin and Range National Monument is full of recreational opportunities, from hiking, camping and mountain biking to horseback riding, hunting, and sightseeing. Tribal people continue to view this landscape as their homeland and have strong connections with its mountains, valleys, and cultural and natural resources. Basin and Range also enjoys a broad coalition of support from business leaders, archeologists, and arts supporters. Permanent protection for the Basin and Range National Monument has not only safeguarded recreational opportunities for Nevadans, but has secured a historical treasure for future generations of scientists and academics.

National Monuments provide rural and Western communities the economic benefits of tourism, outdoor recreation, and quality of life associated with healthy public lands. Monuments can serve as powerful engines for economic growth by providing a competitive advantage to rural communities. Regions surrounding national monuments have seen continued growth or improvement in employment and personal income. Counties with neighboring national monuments have been more successful at sustaining property values, attracting high-wage employers, and securing investment. Additional tourism revenue also increases local, state and federal tax revenue.

In fact, according to an economic report issued this year by Headwater Economics, rural counties in the West with more federal lands had healthier economies, on average, than their peers with less protected lands. In a 2016 report by the Small Business Majority, it was found that natural and cultural national monuments, including Basin and Range, generate a total annual economic impact of about $156.4 million for local economies. In Nevada alone, the outdoor recreation economy generates 148,000 jobs and $14.9 billion according to a report by the Outdoor Industry Association. And, at least 57% of Nevada residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. The Pew Charitable Trust in a 2015 study found that a national monument designation for Gold Butte could contribute nearly $2.7 million per year in economic activity and increase the number of jobs by 60 percent.

Nevada's national monuments are based on consensus, economic facts, and the legitimate need to preserve our cultural and natural resources for our communities and tribes. Most Nevadans want our monuments protected so I urge you to consider our input in determining how you review these important and special areas. We hope that as you consider all of the benefits that Nevada receives from these designations that you leave both monuments intact, as they are an integral part to our way of life. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

MIKE THOMPSON
5TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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June 9, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW,
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

In his Antiquities Act Executive Order, the President directed your agency to review certain monuments designated under the Antiquities Act, including the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument in my Congressional District. As you develop recommendations on whether monuments created under previous Administrations should be rescinded or resized, I urge you to consider the process through which the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument was designated.

Over the course of nearly a decade, I worked with federal agencies, state and local governments, businesses, landowners, and advocates to realize the community's goal of providing permanent protection to the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. Along with my fellow Northern California Representatives and my colleagues in the U.S. Senate, I introduced three versions of legislation to protect the region in the 112th, 113th and 114th Congresses, each time making changes to reflect feedback from stakeholders and technical concerns from land managers. Both the House and the Senate held hearings on the legislation where local landowners and the U.S. Department of the Interior expressed their support for the bills, testifying that the "region deserves to be permanently protected for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations."[1]

An economic study commissioned by the local Town of Winters Chamber of Commerce to map the anticipated impacts of Monument designation found that permanent protection would generate an additional $50 million in economic activity in the region over the following five years.[2] Decades of research supported the imperative to protect this 'biodiversity hotspot' and "secure unparalleled access to geologic features associated with an ancient tectonic system."[3] Today the Monument serves as a 'living classroom' for students at the University of California at Davis.

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1 ENCL – Ahmann Testimony - 07-23-13
2 ENCL – BSM Economic Impact Final Report
3 ENCL - The geologic features of Berryessa Snow Mountain

Our efforts to designate the Monument were supported by five counties, seven cities, over 200 businesses and business groups, scores of locally elected officials, the State of California and both Houses of the California State Legislature, four newspapers, dozens of conservation and recreation organizations, and over 80,000 individuals. In 2014, I hosted a public meeting in my District attended by then-Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, and other Administration officials so they could hear directly from stakeholders. I also joined federal officials, including Secretary Jewell, in touring the region on more than one occasion.

When he designated the Monument under the Antiquities Act in 2015, then-President Barack Obama adopted the boundaries and legislative language that I developed in collaboration with agencies and stakeholders. This designation process has been touted as "an example of a designation that worked," and serves as a perfect illustration of trust between local communities and Washington.[4]

Nearly two years later, the Berryessa Snow Mountain Monument still enjoys strong, broad support from my constituents, Californians, and visitors from across the country. I invite you to visit the region at your earliest convenience. A tour of the Monument will give you a chance to speak with local stakeholders, and see firsthand the worthiness of this incredible landscape.

As a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman, I share your deep appreciation for our country's great open spaces. When Congress passed the Antiquities Act over a century ago, it granted the President the authority to preserve these iconic American landmarks for future generations. In your recommendations to Congress on all relevant Monuments, I urge you to uphold this historic legacy of stewardship and conservation of our nation's most precious public lands.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns about this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress

4 ENCL - New Interior Secretary Zinke sets sights on balance

STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

ON

H.R. 1025, THE BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ACT

BY

MRS. JUDY AHMANN

JULY 22, 2013

Thank you Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Grijalva, and Members of the Subcommittee for giving me this opportunity to speak to you today regarding H.R. 1025, the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act. I would also like to thank Congressman Thompson for introducing this important legislation as well as Ranking Member Grilajva, and Representatives Huffman and Garamendi, and the other bill co-sponsors.

My name is Judy Ahmann and I am a private landowner and rancher from Northern California. I have been actively involved in the California Cattlewomen's Association and have served as the President at the local and state levels. I have also served on the Executive Board of American National CattleWomen. I am a member of the Napa County Farm Bureau and donate time and raise money for scholarship funds for the local 4H and Future Farmers of America groups.

My husband, John, and I operate a 3,000 acre cattle ranch, Running Deer Ranch, located on the northeastern shoreline of Lake Berryessa in the Blue Ridge, which we have recently gifted to our three daughters. Our ranch is directly adjacent to Bureau of Land Management lands that are proposed to be included in this national conservation area. We are strongly supportive of the

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act because we believe this legislation will help forever preserve this wonderful place and our way of life.

I live and work in an incredible place. Deer and black bear freely roam the steep hillsides while bald and golden eagles, osprey and falcons soar on rising thermals. We love the blue oak woodlands and marvel at the rare plants found on the serpentine soils. A national conservation area designation will keep the region the way it is, creating a lasting legacy of public enjoyment of the outdoors for activities like hunting, grazing, hiking, and rafting.

There are many benefits to a national conservation area, but one that is of particular importance to me is that this designation will require the three federal land managers – the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation – to develop a cohesive and comprehensive management plan for all the federal lands in the conservation area. A comprehensive management approach will allow the federal agencies and the local community to better coordinate on important regional land use issues such as fire management, noxious weed control, and eradication of illegal marijuana production.

As a rancher, I am supportive of the grazing language included in the legislation. The legislation does not impact existing grazing operations. The legislation also permits new grazing within the conservation area, so long as it is consistent with existing law and the purposes of the area. Grazing may also be used as a management tool for activities such as noxious weed control or fire suppression.

As a private land owner, I am supportive of the private property language within the legislation. The legislation applies only to Federal lands and does not impact any non-federal land, including private property. Nothing in the legislation requires a landowner to allow public access to private property. And, the land management agencies must continue to provide adequate access to private inholdings within the conservation area.

Representative Thompson and his staff worked closely with local stakeholders to personally hear their thoughts and input, and to incorporate many of their ideas and suggestions. Because of this, H.R. 1025 has strong public support. Cities, counties, chambers of commerce and businesses throughout the region recognize the economic potential of this land designation. Landowners, farmers, and ranchers throughout the region support the bill because they see the value in preserving this area and their way of life. Recreation users from horse riders, to off road vehicle users and mountain bikers, to anglers, birders, hikers, and sportsmen treasure the region and are supportive of the proposed conservation area to maintain their recreational access. I have a list of supporters for this bill that I would like to submit with my testimony for the record.

By being a grandmother, protecting our public lands for future generations is important to me. I want to make sure that this scenic treasure is permanently protected so that it can be enjoyed by my grandchildren and their grandchildren. I am proud to say that my husband and I have been able to do just that. We have placed a conservation easement on Running Deer Ranch to ensure permanent protection of our ranch and the valuable habitat it provides, it is important to us to know that our ranch will remain a ranch as it is into the future.

In addition to permanently protecting the open space of our ranch, we also put a trail easement on our property to open public access to 9,100 acres of Bureau of Land Management federal public lands that had been landlocked. Today, the public can hike a path up to the Berryessa Peak public lands, legally, for the first time in 150 years. Breathtaking vistas, camping opportunities, rugged cliffs and seasonal creeks all can be enjoyed by the public now and for many years to come. I look forward to my grandsons hiking this trail with their Boy Scout troops.

In conclusion, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region deserves to be permanently protected for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations. I strongly support H.R. 1025 to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and urge favorable and swift action on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Final Report

Economic Impact Analysis Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Designation

The Economics of Land Use

Prepared for:

Winters Chamber of Commerce

Prepared by:

Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.

November 10, 2014

EPS #141102

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analysis considers the current and potential future regional economic impact of nature-based recreation within the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain (BSM) National Monument. The goal of the study is to assess the magnitude of economic effects that are likely to stem from the elevation of these public lands to national monument status, a designation that would be made by the President of the United States under the Antiquities Act. The research effort entailed an assessment of existing conditions, estimation of baseline (i.e., current) economic activity, investigation into other similar national monument designations, and a prospective analysis of economic effects that may result from BSM designation.

The analysis finds that BSM National Monument has the potential to generate a gain of nearly $50 million in economic activity and over $800,000 in tax revenue for local communities during the five year period after designation. Gateway communities around the proposed National Monument stand to benefit greatly, particularly if local leaders and businesses mobilize to maximize the potential for new visitors to spend in their communities. The Research Summary below provides a digest of the study and its key findings.

Research Summary

1. ***The primary economic impact associated with national monument designation likely will be from increased visitation.***

   Academic and professional studies have consistently shown that elevating the status of public lands (e.g., National Park designation, Wilderness designation, National Monument designation) leads to higher levels of visitation and economic activity in the regional economy. This study did not identify any offsetting negative economic effects associated with BSM designation. Grazing on public lands within BSM would continue and while resource extraction (e.g., mining) likely would not be allowed, the area has seen minimal historical activity or interest. Further, the designation would not affect non-federal land within or adjacent to the national monument.

2. ***The roughly 350,000 acres of federal land within the proposed BSM National Monument currently supports a variety of recreational pursuits and generates significant visitation to local counties.***

   Federal lands within the proposed national monument include the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation units that support a variety of recreational activities, including camping, hunting, boating, fishing, off-highway vehicle usage, wildlife viewing, bicycling, and horseback riding, among others. Visitor statistics and input from federal land managers indicate that current visitation to proposed BSM National Monument lands is on the order of 1.1 million visits per year.

3. ***Current recreational activity within the boundaries of the proposed national monument generates an annual impact of roughly $55 million in economic output and $900,000 in sales and lodging tax revenue within local counties.***

   Based on current visitation and survey-derived trip-related spending estimates, this analysis estimates that BSM generates nearly $160 million in spending per year. Non-local visitors

account for about 75 percent of this spending. Assuming that about half of non-local visitor spending occurs in local BSM counties, the analysis estimates that BSM is responsible for generating about $60 million per year in spending, including $900,000 in sales tax, that would not occur "but for" BSM recreation opportunities. This spending in the local economy by visitors from outside the local region supports $26.3 million in direct economic output (i.e., local production value), which stimulates "multiplier effects" that occur as spending recirculates in the local economy. In total, this study estimates that including multiplier effects BSM recreation currently supports a total of 600 jobs and $55.3 million in economic output in local counties.

BSM Gateway Communities

4. ***National monument designation on other western public lands is correlated with a range of outcomes, but the effect on visitation is overwhelmingly positive.***

   This study analyzes data concerning seven western national monument designations for which pre- and post-designation visitation data are available. The analysis finds evidence of both positive and negative visitation growth after designation, though five out of seven national monuments studied exhibited higher visitation five years after designation. The data show visitation increases of up to nearly 400 percent. In terms of absolute visitation counts, the most significant increase in annual visitation observed was about 130,000 more visits annually five years after designation. Though generally informative, none of the case studies is perfectly comparable to BSM, particularly because the national monuments studied are not similarly proximate to major metropolitan centers.

5. ***There will be a variety of opportunities to "leverage" the effect of national monument designation to better attract visitors and spending, including management, marketing, facilities upgrades, and service improvements.***

   National monument designation at BSM is likely to entail more than just a change in name. The BSM National Monument proposal calls for a management plan to be prepared jointly among the federal resource managers. With highly-coordinated management, resource programs and visitor services could be enhanced. In addition, managers and non-governmental entities could pursue a marketing and information campaign to boost the designation effect, as has been seen elsewhere (e.g., Organ-Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument). With additional funding from public and other sources, visitor facilities could be improved or developed to better attract and support additional visitation. Also, with

designation, increased law enforcement and ranger services could address safety issues and provide other visitor services that increase the appeal of the area.

6. ***The economies of the local counties around BSM are likely to enjoy a cumulative increase in economic output on the order of $30 million to $50 million (in constant 2014 dollars) over the five year period following designation, assuming that public- and private-sector efforts complement the designation.***

   This study evaluates a range of potential economic effects from visitor growth to BSM, with increases in visitation spanning from 20 percent (215,000 additional visits annually) to 30 percent (322,500 additional visits annually) five years after designation. The estimates, which assume management improvements and capital investments occur, generate significant recurring economic activity in the local economy. By year five, the analysis estimates that higher levels of visitation would support between 120 and 180 new jobs. Local tax revenues accruing to local jurisdictions would increase by between roughly $540,000 and $810,000 during the first five years. While these economic effects reflect impacts within the seven-county local economy around BSM, gateway communities near BSM access points, including Winters, Clear Lake, and Williams, are likely to enjoy the most significant increases in direct visitor expenditures.

   Figure 1 presents estimates of the economic impact of BSM designation. In the Low Estimate, designation increases awareness of the BSM for recreation and is accompanied by meaningful management, marketing, and basic facilities improvements to accommodate growth. In the High Estimate, the same management, marketing, and facilities improvements occur, but in addition private investment occurs (e.g., new retail offerings or lodging options open) in the gateway communities.[1]

Figure 1 Summary of Findings

	Job Increase (Year 5)	Output Effect (5-Year Cumulative)	Local Tax Revenue (5-Year Cumulative)
Low Estimate	120	$33.2 Million	$538,000
High Estimate	180	$49.8 Million	$807,000

[1] Note that the analysis reflects operational (i.e., recurring) economic effects and does not estimate one-time effects that may result from capital investment.

2. INTRODUCTION

A diverse consortium of citizens and lawmakers seek to establish the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in northern California. The public lands of the proposed BSM region include nearly 350,000 acres of federal holdings in the heart of California's inner Coast Range, north of San Francisco and west of Sacramento. These lands currently support a range of recreational activities, provide habitat and migration corridors for wildlife, and contain unique and rich plant diversity. The area is one of California's most ecologically important regions, and national monument designation will ensure appropriate management of these lands for future generations.[2]

National monument designation will increase the "visibility" (i.e., public awareness) of the BSM region and likely will increase the number of visitors. Increases in visitation generate additional spending in gateway communities and the regional economy more broadly. It is not anticipated that national monument designation would have any negative economic effects. Grazing would continue within the monument, there are no likely future mining or other resource extraction activities there, and non-federal land adjacent to the BSM designation area would not be affected.

This analysis considers the current regional economic impact of the BSM region and analyzes potential future economic effects that are likely to stem from national monument designation. The study commences with an overview of existing conditions, including current management, visitation, and recreation. The analysis then quantifies the economic impact of existing recreational activities within the regional economy. This initial analysis is followed by a case study assessment that looks at how visitation has changed at other locations where national monument designation has occurred in the past. The findings of the case study assessment are then applied to the case of BSM to determine the range of potential economic impacts that might occur from national monument designation there.

[2] For more information see "Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument – Northern California's Hidden Treasure" Draft Proposal, July 28, 2014.

Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area is cooperatively managed by BLM and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Act (2006) designated Cedar Roughs a Wilderness Area and today the area offers exclusively non-motorized recreational activities.

The Knoxville Recreation Area comprises nearly 18,000 acres of steep and rolling hills with varying vegetation that includes woodlands and chaparral land covers. There are rare plant communities, particularly within the area's serpentine barrens. Popular activities within the Knoxville Area include off-highway vehicle (OHV) usage, hunting, mountain biking, camping, and nature viewing.

The Indian Valley Recreation Area offers chaparral hillsides ideal for hunting, camping, bicycling, hiking, equestrian use, and nature viewing. The nearby Indian Valley Reservoir supports fishing, boating, and swimming. However, in dry years, water-based recreation on and around the reservoir is limited.

Lake Berryessa

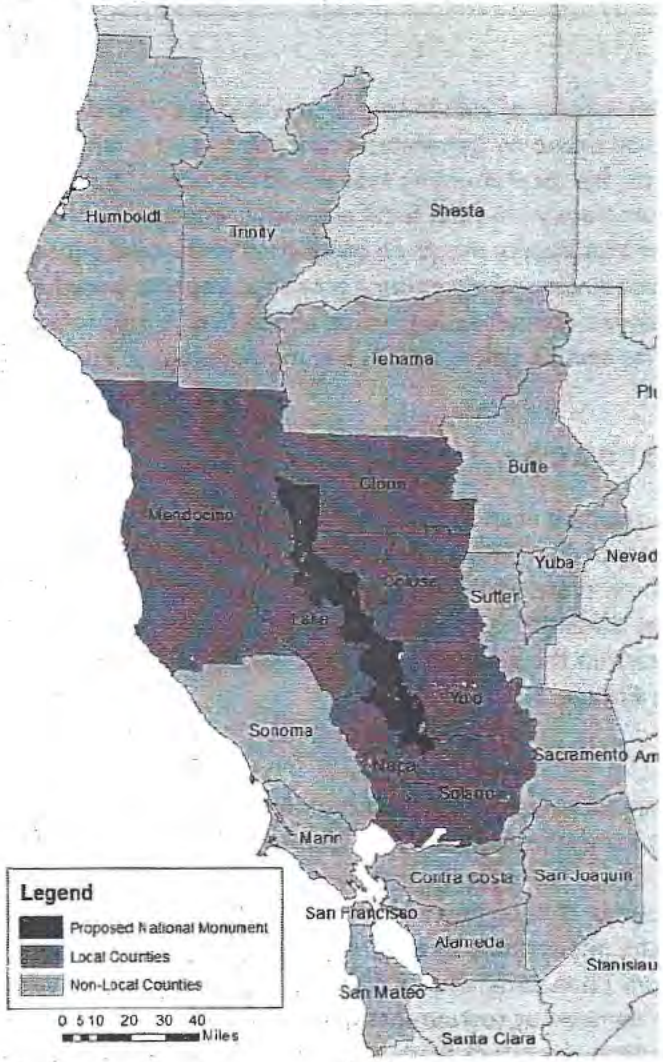
Lake Berryessa is part of a federal flood control and water supply project managed by the BOR. The lake is 23 miles long, three miles wide, with 165 miles of shoreline. BOR and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife jointly manage a 2,000-acre wildlife area along the east side of the lake. The water temperature can reach 75 degrees during summer months, making it an attractive resource for water-based recreation. Boating, fishing, and swimming are popular recreational pursuits at Berryessa. The area currently offers guest accommodations at two resorts, Pleasure Cove Marina and Markley Cove Marina (privately-operated concessions). BOR manages three other visitor use facilities that offer camping and limited services. BOR also manages a boat launch and day use areas for picnicking, swimming, and non-motorized boating.

Visitor Market

Based on survey research conducted at Lake Berryessa and information provided by USFS and BLM staff, this study identifies a "Primary Market Area" from which the majority of visitor trips to BSM are likely to originate. This 21-county area includes most of the Bay Area, Sacramento County, and more rural counties to the north. In total, nearly 8.5 million people live within this market area.

Figure 3 presents a map of the Primary Market Area and associated population data. The map depicts local counties (i.e., those counties that include BSM areas) and non-local counties from which visitors commonly travel. Undoubtedly visitors from other parts of California and the United States, as well as international visitors, do recreate within the BSM region, though these visitors account for a small portion of total visitation.

Figure 3 BSM Primary Market Area



County	Population 2010
Alameda	1,510,271
Butte	220,000
Colusa	21,419
Contra Costa	1,049,025
Glenn	28,122
Humboldt	134,623
Lake	64,665
Marin	252,409
Mendocino	87,841
Napa	136,484
Sacramento	1,418,788
San Francisco	805,235
San Joaquin	685,306
San Mateo	718,451
Solano	413,344
Sonoma	483,878
Sutter	94,737
Tehama	63,463
Trinity	13,786
Yolo	200,849
Yuba	72,155
Total	**8,474,851**

Source: US Census Bureau and EPS

4. ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM VISITATION

This chapter evaluates the economic impact of visitor spending within the BSM local counties. Non-local visitor spending in the local economy generates economic impacts, with non-local visitors bringing "new spending" into the local counties that would not occur "but for" BSM. BSM visitors purchase goods and services from within the local economy, which in turn creates a multiplier effect as local businesses that supply inputs to production undertake successive rounds of spending. This analysis evaluates direct and secondary economic impacts based on common metrics such as employment, employee compensation, value added (i.e., gross regional product), and economic output. The section below details the methodological approach employed by this study.

Framework and Approach

To measure economic effects, this regional economic analysis relies on IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning) software, an Input/Output (I/O) model that draws upon data collected by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group from several state and federal sources, including the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Census Bureau. The analysis is specific to the BSM National Monument's impact on the seven-county local area that includes and surrounds proposed national monument (see **Figure 3**).

Input-Output Analysis

Industries in a geographic region are interdependent, and therefore an initial direct economic change (e.g., an increase in sales) stimulates economic effects in various other sectors and generates a larger total economic effect. That is, the initial economic activity creates a multiplier effect that generates successive rounds of spending in other economic sectors within the economy. For example, consider the implications of a BSM visitor purchase at a local restaurant. The restaurant purchases foods from producers, who in turn purchase raw materials from their suppliers. Thus an increase in the demand at restaurants will stimulate an increase in output and employment in the interdependent secondary foodservice industries.

Regional economic impact analysis and I/O models in particular provide a means to quantify the economic effects stemming from a particular industry or economic activity. Specifically, I/O models produce quantitative estimates of the magnitude of regional economic activity resulting from some initial activity (e.g., hospital operations). I/O models rely on economic multipliers that mathematically represent the relationship between the initial change in one sector of the economy and the effect of that change on employment, income, economic output, and value added in other regional industries. These economic data provide a quantitative estimate of the magnitude of shifts in jobs and revenues within a regional economy.

Economic impact analysis begins with estimates of the direct effect of an economic activity (e.g., an initial change in spending). An I/O model then may be used to quantify the multiplier effects that result from the initial change. The multiplier effects are categorized as indirect or induced effects. Indirect effects represent economic impacts on supplier businesses while induced effects

represent economic impacts resulting from household income and spending. In this report, direct, indirect, and induced effects are defined as follows:

- The **Direct Effect** is a measure of the economic value of the initial injection of spending into the economy. In this study, visitor spending is the direct effect.
- The **Indirect Effect** is a measure of the economic value of "upstream" industry-to-industry transactions that supply inputs to the production of goods and services consumed by BSM visitors.
- The **Induced Effect** is a measure of the economic value of labor income that recirculates in the economy as a result of the initial expenditures made by BSM visitors.
- The **Total Impact** is the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects. The total impact measures the overall impact of BSM visitor spending on the economy.

This report measures economic significance using common economic metrics, including employment, employee compensation, output, and value added, as defined below.

- **Employment** is equivalent to jobs, a headcount that includes part-time and full-time workers.
- **Employee Compensation** represents payments to labor in the form of both income and fringe benefits paid by the employer (e.g., health, retirement).
- **Value Added** represents the contribution to gross regional product and equals the market value of the final goods and services produced within a particular region. Value added is equal to economic output, as defined below, less the value of intermediate goods and services.
- **Economic Output** represents a measure of economic activity, calculated as production value including intermediate inputs (i.e., the goods and services used in the production of final products). Output includes spending on employee compensation as well as the production value of intermediate inputs.

Economic Impacts from Current Recreation

This section discusses the I/O analysis of current visitation to BSM, including direct and indirect impacts. The following discussion details data inputs and analytical findings. The analysis is based on data collected by EPS from various sources, including federal land managers, and the IMPLAN I/O model.

Visitation Estimates

EPS conducted phone interviews with USFS, BLM, and BOR resource managers familiar with recreation trends and visitation levels on federal land within the proposed BSM National Monument. Managers highlighted popular recreation activities and provided guidance concerning available data and other resources. The interviews and subsequent research into existing conditions on federal lands within the proposed national monument indicate that current visitation is on the order of 1.1 million visits per year.

In general, the resource managers indicate that recreation within BSM has been declining, in particular at Lake Berryessa, which currently offers fewer lakeside resorts and visitor amenities than in the past.[4] While visitation to Berryessa peaked at about 1.8 million visits annually during the late 1980s, current visitation is estimated at roughly 500,000 visits per year. In the Mendocino National Forest, visitation has been flat to declining. Though detailed time-series data are unavailable, USFS staff indicates that recreation dropped during the 2008 recession and has been slow to recover. In addition to the recent recession, USFS budgetary constraints have led to deferred maintenance of campgrounds and other park infrastructure, which may be affecting visitation levels. **Figure 4** presents current visitation estimates for the proposed national monument area.

Figure 4 Current Visitation to the Proposed National Monument

Recreation Area (NM sub-areas only)	Annual Visitation Estimate
Mendocino National Forest (USFS)	400,000
Cache Creek Natural Area (BLM)	20,000
Indian Valley Recreation Area (BLM)	140,000
Knoxville Recreation Area (BLM)	15,000
Lake Berryessa (BOR)	500,000
Total NM Area	**1,075,000**

Sources: Assessment of Market Conditions for Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Services at Lake Berryessa (2014); USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring Program; Personal communications with BOR, BLM, and USFS staff.

The economic impact of recreation in the BSM region is determined by the non-local visitors. As is typical in economic analysis of recreation and leisure activities, this analysis assumes that local visitors would continue to spend on recreation-related goods and services in the local economy, even in the absence of BSM. It is the non-local visitors to the BSM region who bring new money to the economy that create an economic impact attributable to BSM. This analysis relies on existing visitor studies and interviews to determine appropriate assumptions regarding local and non-local visitation levels, shown in **Figure 5**.

[4] BOR is currently involved in a commercial services planning process that will culminate in identifying the preferred development and management of necessary and appropriate long-term recreation facilities and services at Lake Berryessa. For more information see http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ccao/berryessa/updates/index.html

Figure 5 Non-Local Visitation Estimate

Recreation Area (NM sub-areas only)	Non-Local Visitation (% of Total)	Annual Non-Local Visitation Estimate
Mendocino NF	70%	280,000
BLM Areas	70%	123,000
Lake Berryessa	80%	400,000
Total NM Area	**75%**	**803,000**

Sources: A Study of Boater Recreation on Lake Berryessa (1998); Personal communications with BOR, BLM, and USFS staff.

Visitor Spending

Available visitor survey data supply the assumptions regarding visitor spending for this analysis. Specifically, the analysis relies on a survey of visitors to Lake Berryessa, conducted in the late 1990s, and 2011 data from the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (California state report). All spending estimates are inflated to 2014 dollars based on the US consumer price index. Spending attributable to visits to the Mendocino National Forest reflect a typical two-day hunting trip in California while spending attributable to visits to BLM lands within BSM reflect a typical two-day trip for wildlife viewing.

The survey data concerning visitor spending reflect total trip-related spending, including spending near home, along the way to BSM, and at gateway communities within the local BSM counties. None of the surveys considered as part of this study reveal the proportion of spending that occurs locally. However, interviews with the resource managers reveal that many BSM visitors do shop for their trip before leaving on their trip (i.e., at their point of origin). Food and supplies commonly are brought into the local economy by BSM visitors. This analysis assumes that 50 percent of total trip-related purchases are made within the BSM local economies. **Figure 6** presents visitor spending estimates.

Figure 6 Trip-Related Visitor Spending Estimates

Recreation Area	Per-Visit Total Spending	Per-Visit Gateway Spending
Mendocino NF	$156	$78
BLM Areas	$129	$64
Lake Berryessa	$149	$74

Sources: A Study of Boater Recreation On Lake Berryessa (1998); 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation; Personal communications with BOR, BLM, and USFS staff.

This analysis estimates that current visitation to BSM supports about $119 million in spending on trip-related expenditures annually. This analysis assumes that half of that spending, approximately $59 million, occurs within the local counties. Lake Berryessa visitation accounts for half of this spending, about $30 million. Mendocino National Forest and BLM lands within the proposed national monument also support about $30 million in local spending ($22 million and $8 million, respectively).

Because fuel and most retail goods are not produced within the local economy, the economic output (production) associated with visitor purchases is somewhat lower than the gross sales value. This analysis measures the local output associated with fuel and retail purchases based on estimates of the retail margin (i.e., markup value achieved by the local sales entity). Accounting for local production (i.e., excluding pass-through value attributable to goods made elsewhere), the analysis estimates that direct economic output from non-local BSM visitor spending in the local counties is about $26 million, as shown in **Figure 7**.

Figure 7 Annual Non-Local Visitor Spending and Output in the Local Counties

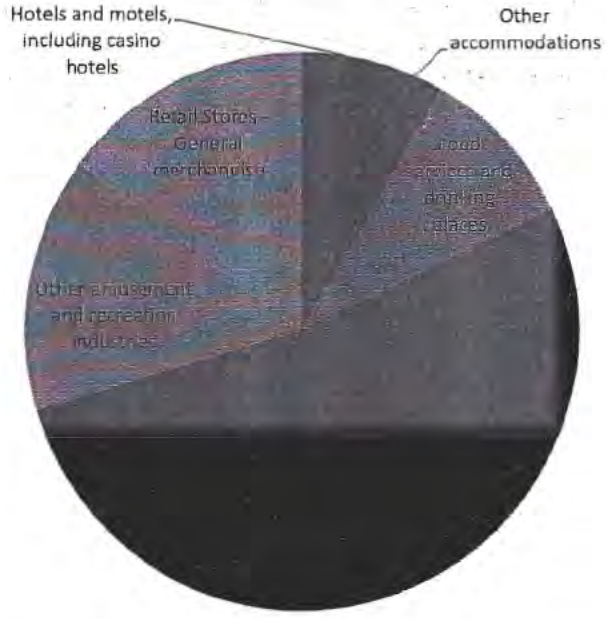
Recreation Area (NM sub-areas only)	Total Spending	Gateway Spending	Direct Output
Mendocino NF	$43.6 M	$21.8 M	$9.2 M
BLM Areas	$15.8 M	$7.9 M	$4.5 M
Lake Berryessa	$59.5 M	$29.8 M	$12.6 M
Total	**$118.9 M**	**$59.4 M**	**$26.3 M**

Source: IMPLAN and EPS

Economic Gateways to BSM

Visitors to BSM are likely to seek fuel, recreation goods and services, general merchandise, restaurants, food stores, and overnight accommodations in the communities that surround BSM. Based on the available survey data, visitor spending is coded to IMPLAN industry categories for the I/O analysis. **Figure 8** presents the distribution of visitor spending by industry category.

Figure 8 Visitor Spending by Industry



Sources: Visitor surveys, interviews, IMPLAN, and EPS

Figure 11 Annual Tax Benefit of Current Visitation Spending

Spending Type	Gateway Spending	Local Tax Rate	Local Tax Revenue
Hotels, Motels and Other Accommodations	$5.0 M	10%	$497,000
Taxable Retail Purchases	$40.0 M	1%	$400,000
Total	**$45.0 M**		**$897,000**

5. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DESIGNATION

The Designation Effect

Professional and academic research efforts point to positive regional economic effects attributable to national monument designation. BSM National Monument would be established under the Antiquities Act, which allows the president to protect America's wildlands and historical sites as national monuments. Thus, the designation provides an indication of the natural or historic significance of an area. With the President's designation of a national monument, visitation to the designated area often increases. This effect is largely due to the increased "visibility" of the site in news media, and public awareness of the site's national importance. In some cases, visitation increases are magnified ("leveraged") by well-coordinated resource management. Recreation can increase more dramatically when the designation is complemented by marketing efforts performed by both public and private sector actors (e.g., resource managers and local Chambers of Commerce).

In addition to technical research and analysis, local reporting on recent national monument designations clearly indicates a positive economic effect associated with designation. For example, one year after designation of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, local sources reported on evidence of an early economic bump. In particular, the local Chamber of Commerce reports indicate that the Town of Taos lodging tax revenue increased by 21 percent and gross-receipts revenue to businesses in Taos County in the Accommodations and Food Service sector was 8.3 percent higher (in the second half of 2013 compared to the same period of 2012) after designation.[5]

Case Study Analysis

To assess the potential for national monument designation to increase visitation at BSM, this research identifies seven national monuments for study. The selected monuments are large western public land units designated during the early 2000s. The early 2000s designation offers sufficient post-designation data for evaluation of visitation effects. The analysis considers post-designation visitation trends at the following national monuments:

- Canyons of the Ancients, CO
- Carrizo Plain, CA
- Grand Canyon-Parashant, AZ
- Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks, NM
- Sonoran Desert, AZ
- Upper Missouri River Breaks, MT
- Vermillion Cliffs, AZ

[5] Press Release: Business, civic leaders celebrate Rio Grande del Norte National Monument's One-Year Anniversary, New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce, March 20, 2014.

It is important to note that while these are the most comparable recently-created national monuments for which data are available, not one is a perfect comparable. Most importantly, none of the case study monuments is as close to multiple major population centers as BSM. Further, visitation at the case study monuments (before and after designation) is dramatically lower than at BSM. However, the case studies are informative about the range of outcomes that may occur after designation of a national monument. **Figure 12** presents a comparison of the case study national monuments to the proposed BSM National Monument. **Figure 13** and **Figure 14** present the visitation trends and post-designation growth outcomes at the case study monument.

The case study analysis finds that the range of outcomes includes positive and negative visitation growth post designation. The data show the greatest percentage increase in annual visitation post designation at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks (387 percent) and the most significant absolute increase in annual visitation at Upper Missouri River Breaks (132,000 additional visits), five years after designation.

Interviews with representatives at the national monuments generally supported the notion that the national monument designation played an important role in the observed visitation trend, but also reveal other key determinants of visitation. For example, representatives at Upper Missouri River Breaks indicate that the bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition had a notable positive impact on visitation during the period after designation. At Carrizo Plain National Monument, representatives indicate that visitation is highest during good wildflower years and the quality of the wildflower seasons during the early 2000s may have been a more significant factor affecting visitation than the designation.

Figure 12 Comparison of Case Study National Monuments

National Monument	State	Established	Acres	Nearby Metro Area
Berryessa Snow Mountain	*CA*	*Proposed*	*350,000*	*2.25 hrs. from San Francisco 1.5 hrs. from Sacramento*
Canyons of the Ancients	CO	2000	164,000	4.5 hrs. from Albuquerque
Carrizo Plain	CA	2001	204,107	3.25 hrs. from Los Angeles
Grand Canyon-Parashant	AZ	2000	1,054,264	5 hrs. from Las Vegas
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks	NM	2001	4,148	1 hr. from Albuquerque
Sonoran Desert	AZ	2001	486,149	1.75 hrs. from Phoenix
Upper Missouri River Breaks	MT	2001	377,346	2 hrs. from Billings
Vermilion Cliffs	AZ	2000	293,000	5.75 hrs. from Las Vegas

Figure 13 Comparison of Case Study Visitation Trends

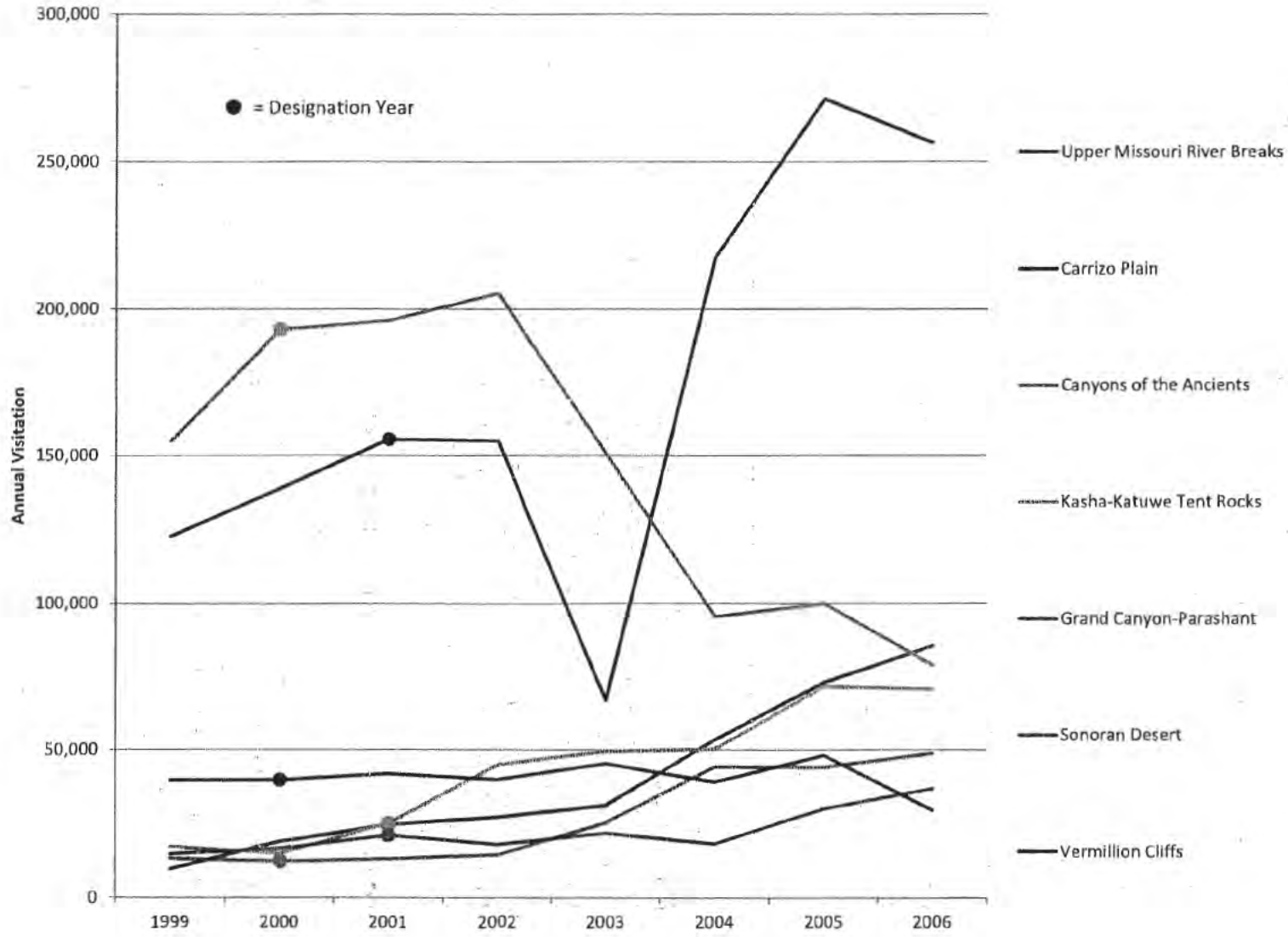


Figure 14 Case Study Visitation Change Post Designation

National Monument	Year 5 Visitation Change	Year 5 Visitation Change (%)
Canyons of the Ancients	-59,275	-38%
Carrizo Plain	54,314	291%
Grand Canyon-Parashant	31,150	238%
Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks	56,823	**387%**
Sonoran Desert	13,724	84%
Upper Missouri River Breaks	**132,314**	95%
Vermillion Cliffs	-611	-2%

Source: BLM Visitation Data and EPS

While numerous case study monuments enjoyed visitation increases of more than 200 percent, each of these areas had initial (pre-designation) visitation of less than 20,000 visits. The maximum observed absolute increase in visitation of roughly 132,000 at Upper Missouri Breaks may be more informative regarding the potential visitation increase that might occur at BSM, due to scale comparability. However, Upper Missouri River Breaks is very remote (roughly 2 hours from Billings, a city of about 100,000). It is likely that BSM visitation will increase by more than at Upper Missouri River Breaks, but is unlikely to grow by multiples of the current visitation level. The following section discusses a range of factors that likely affect the potential for BSM to attract additional visits after designation.

Potential Economic Impacts

Based on the case study research and factors specific to BSM, this study offers a range of estimates of future visitation, economic impacts, and fiscal benefits attributable to a national monument designation. The section below commences with a discussion of BSM-specific factors that influence visitation growth potential and concludes with presentation of the national monument economic impact estimates.

businesses. One possibility to market and grow recreation at BSM is to promote "off-season" (fall-spring) activities.

- **Improved visitor services and facilities –** As discussed above, BOR is seeking to develop additional visitor facilities at Lake Berryessa in the future. Similarly, a recent Mendocino National Forest Recreation Facility Analysis indicates that many of the Mendocino's developed recreation sites were built 30 to 50 years ago and that visitor preferences and demographics have changed. To respond to these conditions, the Forest seeks to prioritize actions to more effectively manage recreation sites. A national monument designation, when combined with facility improvements, could achieve more dramatic increases in visitation.

- **Increased law enforcement -** Law enforcement is a fundamental part of the overall management of visitor-serving public lands. Ideally, increases in law enforcement would be sufficient to stamp out illegal, threatening activities. A national monument designation, in combination with increased visitor safety measures, could achieve more dramatic increases in visitation.

While national monument designation does not come with the promise of increased funding, it is anticipated that the national monument would enjoy a modest increase in staffing and law enforcement after monument status in granted. In some cases, such as the recently-designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, philanthropic funding has been granted in support of restoration projects.

Economic Impact Estimates

To quantify the local economic impact and tax revenue benefits that could be achieved with the designation of BSM National Monument, this study considers a range of potential economic outcomes. The range of estimates is based on the case study analysis and qualitative assessment of local BSM constraints and opportunities. The estimates consider a potential 20 to 30 percent increase in visitation to BSM, with these increases ramping up over a five-year period. Both low and high estimates assume funding support for improved management and facilities improvements to accommodate and grow visitation.[6]

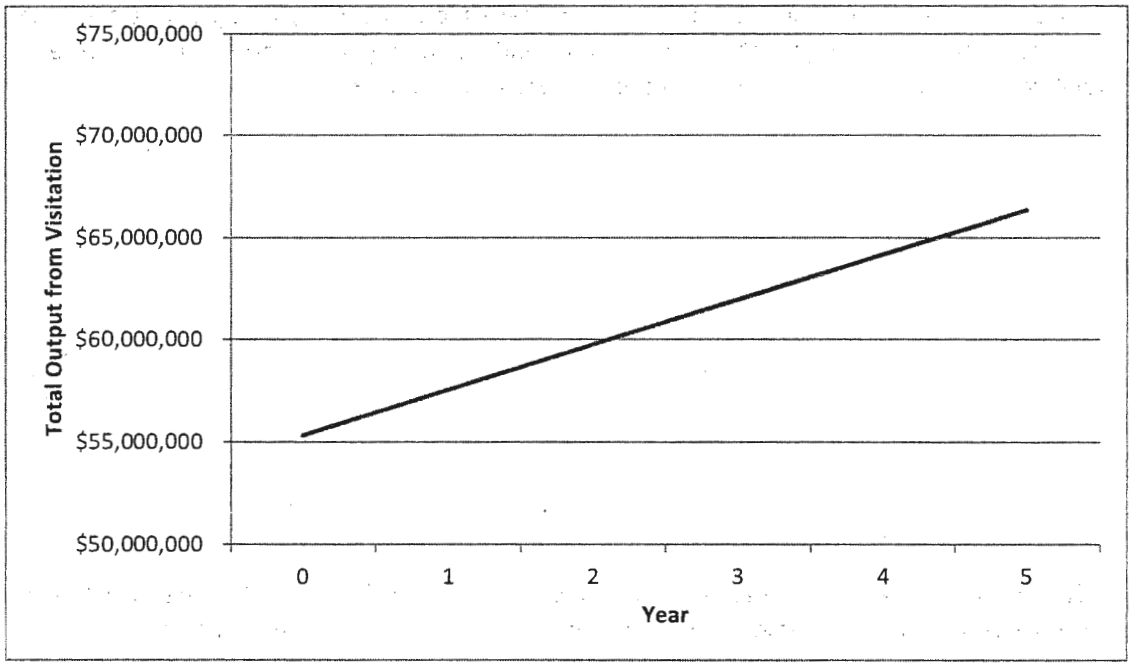
[6] National monument designation without management improvements or facilities investments is likely to produce a positive but lesser economic effects than the estimates presented here.

Low Estimate

In the low estimate, national monument designation increases awareness of BSM for recreation and is accompanied by meaningful management, marketing, and facilities improvements to accommodate growth. This scenario assumes a 20 percent increase in annual visitation (215,000 additional visits). By year five, the analysis estimates the cumulative effect of the designation on economic output at over $33 million.

Figure 16 Low-Range Economic Impact Estimates

Year	NM Effect on Visitation (%)	Economic Output (from Visitation)	Annual Monument Effect	Cumulative Monument Effect
0	0	$55,305,007	$0	$0
1	4%	$57,517,207	$2,212,200	$2,212,200
2	8%	$59,729,408	$4,424,401	$6,636,601
3	12%	$61,941,608	$6,636,601	$13,273,202
4	16%	$64,153,808	$8,848,801	$22,122,003
5	**20%**	**$66,366,008**	**$11,061,001**	**$33,183,004**

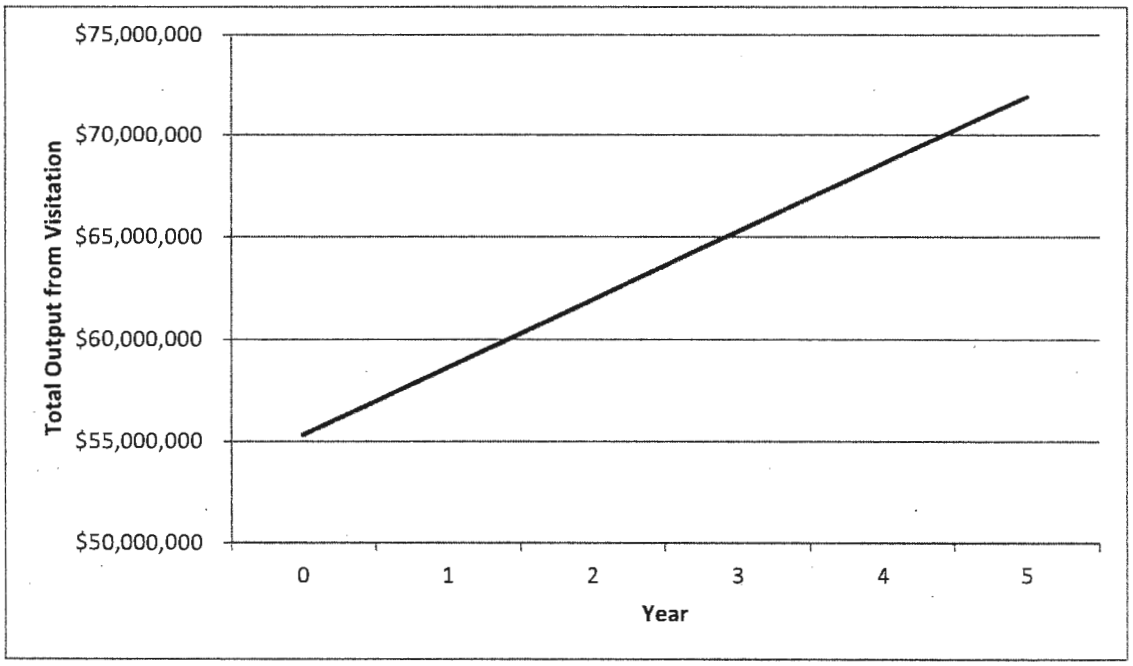


High Estimate

In the high estimate, national monument designation increases awareness of BSM for recreation; management, marketing, and facilities improvements occur; and private investment takes place in gateway communities (e.g., lodging establishments, visitor amenities). This scenario assumes a 30 percent increase in annual visitation (323,000 visits). By year five, the analysis estimates a cumulative effect on economic output of nearly $50 million.

Figure 17 High-Range Economic Impact Estimates for Scenario II

Year	NM Effect on Visitation (%)	Economic Output (from Visitation)	Annual Monument Effect	Cumulative Monument Effect
0	0	$55,305,007	$0	$0
1	6%	$58,623,307	$3,318,300	$3,318,300
2	12%	$61,941,608	$6,636,601	$9,954,901
3	18%	$65,259,908	$9,954,901	$19,909,803
4	24%	$68,578,209	$13,273,202	$33,183,004
5	**30%**	**$71,896,509**	**$16,591,502**	**$49,774,506**



Overall, this study finds that the cumulative economic output impact that might occur during the five years following designation could total roughly $30 million to $50 million in the local economy. The designation, coupled with management improvements and capital investments, offers economic benefits to businesses in the local economy as visitation to the region increases over time. By year five, the analysis estimates that higher levels of visitation would support between 120 and 180 jobs. Local tax revenues accruing to local jurisdictions would increase by between $500,000 and $800,000 over the first five years.

Figure 18 Summary of Findings

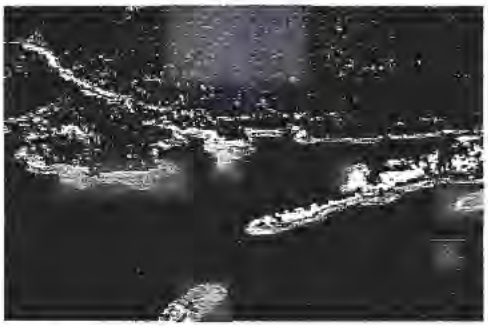
	Job Increase (Year 5)	Output Effect (5-Year Cumulative)	Local Tax Revenue (5-Year Cumulative)
Low Estimate	120	$33.2 Million	$538,000
High Estimate	180	$49.8 Million	$807,000

Daily Democrat (http://www.dailydemocrat.com)

The geologic features of Berryessa-Snow Mountain

By Eldridge M. and Judith E. Moores

Friday, July 3, 2015



The proposed Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument region provides unparalleled access to geologic features associated with an ancient tectonic system where one plate descended beneath another.

The Coast Range Fault, noted on the map, represents the ancient boundary between the upper North American plate and the descending lower plate. Rocks of the upper plate include Great Valley sedimentary and volcanic rocks overlying serpentine, that is, remnants of ancient oceanic crust). The upper plate represents part of the western edge of North America that formed 140-20 million years ago. Lower plate rocks include the Franciscan complex - deformed and metamorphosed (recrystallized) sedimentary and volcanic rocks - that were scraped off the down-going plate and buried up to 12-20 miles beneath the North American edge as the plate went down and then uplifted to the surface by erosion1. The active San Andreas fault family was superimposed more recently on this earlier convergent plate situation.

The Great Valley sedimentary rocks themselves were deposited originally on top of oceanic crust, which had previously been incorporated into North American continental rocks. Great Valley sediments were laid down in some 3000 feet of marine waters at the edge of the North American continent. Subsequent earth movements tilted these rocks from their original horizontal position to steeply inclined vertical layers. These rocks are well exposed along the western side of the Great Valley, including in the southeast part of the BSM region.

The serpentine and related rocks of the down-going plate represent remnants of oceanic crust formed at an oceanic spreading center and subsequently added to the North American continent. Serpentine, scientifically called "serpentinite," is a rock formed by combining water with rock that originally was part of the Earth's mantle, the layer beneath the Earth's crust. Soils formed from serpentinite rocks lack certain elements required by most plants. Thus it is not surprising that the BSM hosts unique plant species in a variety of landscapes and microclimates that have adapted to serpentine-derived soils.

Some rocks of both the Franciscan and Great Valley units constitute blocky landscapes formed by a chaotic mixture of diverse rock types. Some of these rocks, often called "melange" after a French word meaning mixture, apparently formed as deposits of "mud volcanoes". Mud volcanoes are widespread in the Marianas trench area, where fluids derived from the down-going plate incorporate blocks of rock as they rise to the surface and spill over to form submarine earth flows some 20,000 feet or so on the ocean floor.2 Some complex chaotic rocks found in the Great Valley and Franciscan units may have a similar origin.

Other on-land exposures of similar mud volcano deposits may be present in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and SW Pakistan, but none of these areas is as well-documented or as accessible as the BSM area.

Similar tectonic processes are active today in various locations, e.g., off the Pacific Northwest and in the Marianas Trench National Monument3. Such modern geologic rock-forming processes lie below thousands of feet of water and are not directly observable. To study such rocks, geologists employ deep-sea drilling and

geophysical techniques of remote sensing, small deep-diving two to three-person submarines, or remotely operated submersible vehicles. In contrast, one can walk across the preserved fossil boundary between the two former plates in the BSM and see the rocks and geologic structures that formed during ancient plate interactions.

Snow Mountain itself represents a special feature. It contains submarine volcanic rocks, not more than 140 million-years old, that look as if they were laid down only a few years ago. However, minerals identified in the rocks indicate that they formed as an oceanic submarine volcano (seamount) far west of California, then migrated with the down-going plate to the continental edge, were buried 12-20 miles deep, and rose again to the Earth's surface4.

Also, the BSM area exhibits clusters of invertebrate fossils that apparently grew in deep water around chemical seeps5. Such clusters are widespread on some modern plate boundaries. The fauna live in the dark thousands of feet deep around cold to warm submarine springs that typically contain methane or hydrogen sulfide. The animals thrive, however, using the chemicals as nutrients. About six such ancient sites lie in the BSM area, enabling one to see such features closely and on land.

In summary, the geology of the BSM region provides valuable instructive exposures of features and processes of a convergent tectonic plate margin. Nowhere else in the world are such features as well developed, preserved, or accessible.

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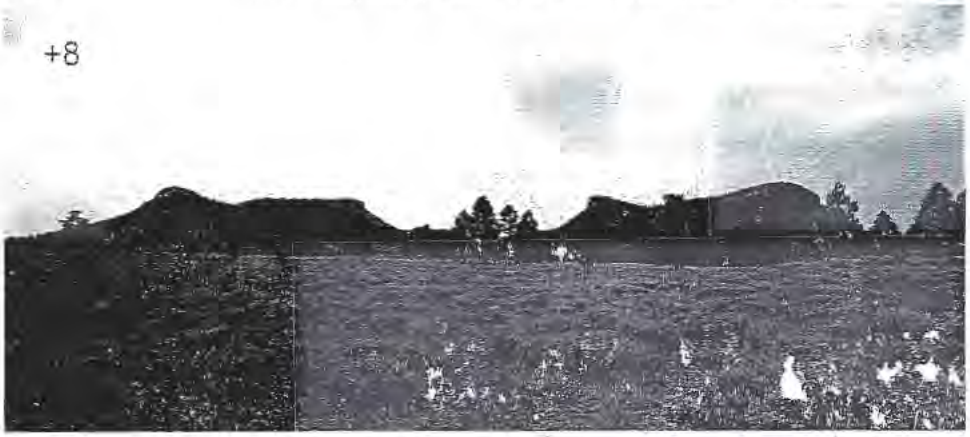


The "Bears Ears" buttes are shown near Blanding, Utah, in June. Former President Barack Obama gave the area national monument status late in his term. Utah's congressional delegation wants President Donald J. Trump to rescind that decision.

Associated Press

Former President Barack Obama declared the 1.35 million-acre monument before leaving office last year. Utah Republicans, like Rep. Jason Chaffetz have said the they hope President Trump and Zinke eliminate the monument status.

Republicans' stand on Bears Ears cost Utah the nation's largest outdoors show, which brought 50,000 visitors to the state and $45 million year. Organizers said they couldn't support a state that didn't support Bears Ears.

Zinke didn't say the monument would be undone, but it might be changed.

"I think we should follow the law in that there is no doubt there are areas that should have special protection and a monument is appropriate," Zinke said. "But we should work with local communities, we should work with the states. We should follow the law that monuments should be appropriate to the specific areas that deserve that protection. Some of the monuments created in the last administration were popular. They had grassroots support. They had broad support at the state level. And other monuments, especially those that were created late and the actions that were taken late in administration, they do they smell of political agenda rather than gaining consensus. And they've become viewed in many parts, especially in Utah, as, once again, breaching this bond of trust. And so my task as a secretary is to review all actions that were taken to make sure that we are and advocate for the local voice and advocate for the state and be seen as partners rather than adversaries."

John Muir was a pioneer of American public land preservation whose vision was crucial in the creation of national parks. His counterpart was Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Pinchot established the management of natural resources for revenue. His maxim was, "The greatest good for the greatest number" and that good included industry.

"Multiple use is making sure that the public can use our lands for the enjoyment and the benefit of the people," Zinke said. "That benefit side may include timber harvest, it may include oil energy production. It may include mining. Our charter is to make sure that those activities that are more invasive have a reclamation plan where at the end of the project that land is returned either in the same or better condition than what we started with. And that's where the right regulation — but not excessive regulation — is needed."

It's where jobs are tied to federal land where relations are most heated between the federal government, states and local communities. Zinke sees a need to restore trust with those communities. In Congress, he tried to give local governments, states and Indian tribes more say in the management decision on federal lands. He was harshly criticized for it by House Democrats who said he was giving too much power to non-federal stakeholders in mining and drilling.

But the federal government should be able to create wealth and jobs from its resources, while also protecting public access to federal property for recreation.

National monuments

Several battles concerning public lands await the new Interior secretary. In Utah tempers are flaring over the Bears Ears National Monument. The "ears" are twin buttes that poke from Southern Utah's Elk Ridge. The features are surrounded by canyons, mesas and cliffs that include archaeological sites.

Management grazing land, punctuated by farm communities founded in the land rush of the early 1900s.

A skier makes her way down from the summit of Big Mountain at Whitefish Mountain Resort. The town of Whitefish and Whitefish Lake are seen in the background.

JAMES WOODCOCK, Gazette Staff

In Montana, the federal government is everyone's neighbor. It's the fourth largest state in the nation. The federal government owns a third of the property. The Department of Interior manages all but the U.S. Forest Service property.

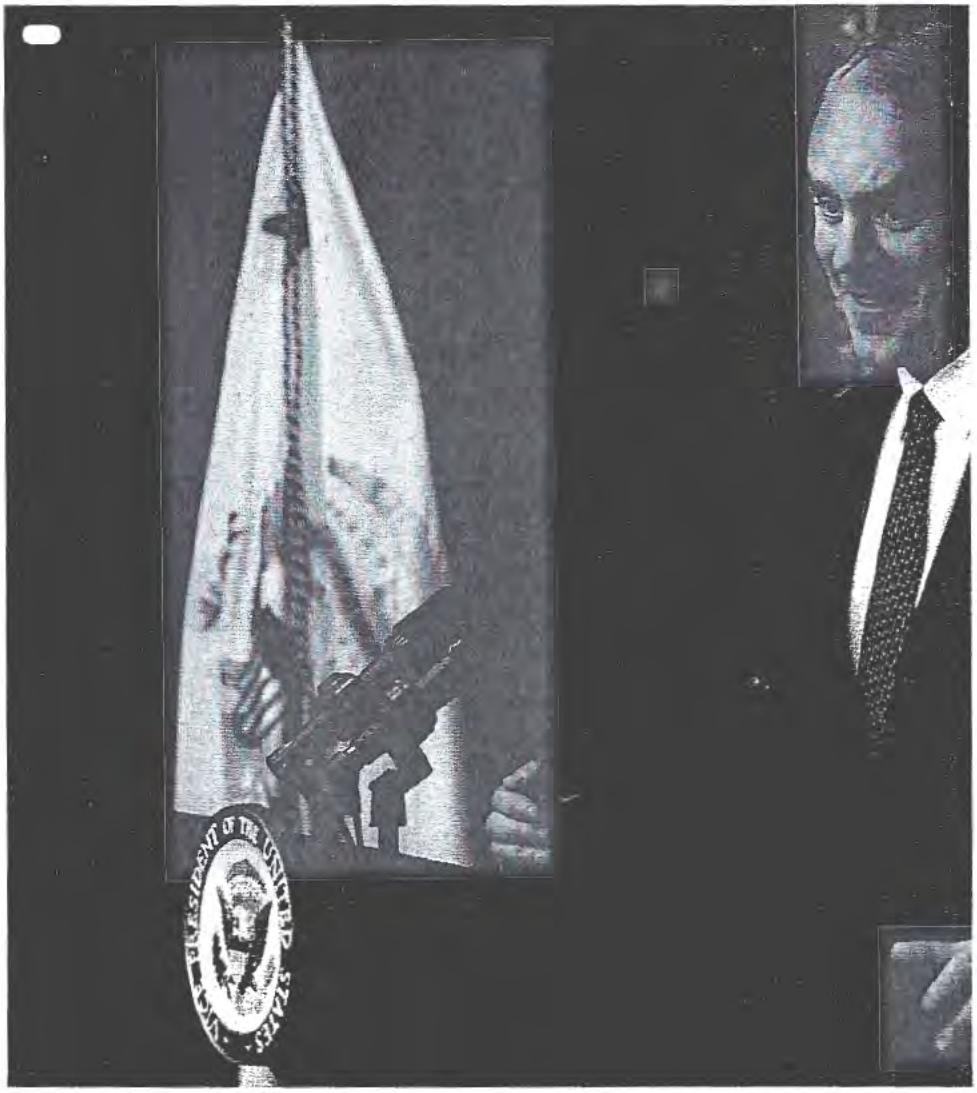
The department represents federal government's obligation to American Indian tribes. It supervises oil, gas drilling and coal mining on federal lands and waters. It manages national parks and battlefields, national monuments and also protects endangered species. The Fourth of July bash on the National Mall? Yep, that too, and several other purposes, as well. It employs 70,000 people and has a $20.7 billion annual budget.

Like all neighbor relations, sometimes there's tension between communities and their largest neighbor. It is the Department of the Interior's job to balance the public's interests in both conservation and revenue from federal land, Zinke told Lee Montana on Friday.

"I think we have to recognize that there are some public lands that fit better under the Muir model, where man is more of an observer, the lightest footprint," Zinke said. "And there are special places in our public land holdings that deserve that special recognition, and we have it to a degree with wilderness and national parks. But the preponderance of lands, I think, are under the Pinchot model of multiple use."

New Interior Secretary Zinke sets sights on balance

By TOM LUTEY tlutey@billingsgazette.com Mar 4, 2017



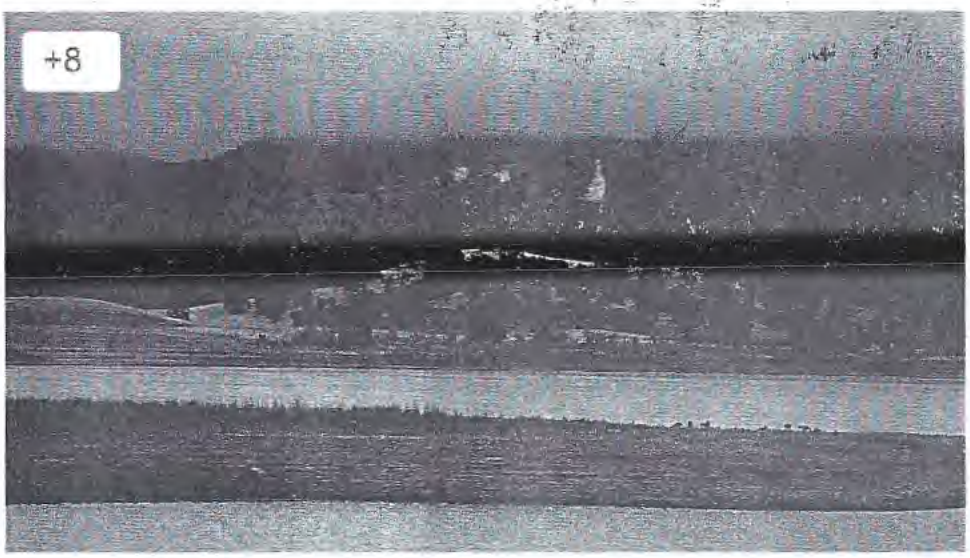
Associated Press

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke speaks Wednesday in the Eisenhower Executive Office B being sworn in.

It might not be long before the inscription atop Yellowstone National Park's iconic Roosevelt Arch is posted in Ryan Zinke's new digs.

It's what the new Interior secretary says is his mission for the Department of Interior's management of federal lands: "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People."

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is an example of a declaration that worked. The 330,780-acre monument in Northern California was widely supported by the community. That's the support for a monument Zinke prefers.



Lake Berryessa is seen with parts of California's newest national monument in the background, Friday, July 10, 2015, near Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, Calif. California's newest national monument covers hundreds of thousands of acres from marshes to the mountain peaks 6,000 feet above them. Federal protection will let an entire coastal range better weather the warming of climate change, supporters say.

Associated Press

A president has never undone a previous president's national monument. Zinke said there's nothing in the law that prohibits nullification, but there's nothing that clearly allows it, either. But national monuments can be changed.

"There's no doubt that a president can modify a monument that has been done before. There's precedent in that," Zinke said. "I think what the goal is on monument designation is to make sure you have local, and state, broad support of the people who live there, the people who are most affected by the monument. And of course that speaks to what my motto has been and will be: for the enjoyment of the people, which is on the Roosevelt Arch."

In this image provided by Morton County Sheriff's Department, law enforcement and protesters clash near the site of the Dakota Access pipeline on Sunday in Cannon Ball, N.D. At least one person was arrested as protesters sought to push past a bridge on a state highway that had been blockaded since late October.

Associated Press

Standing Rock and Malheur

If the federal government had better local relations, it would hopefully have fewer protests like the one at Standing Rock, North Dakota, where the Dakota Access Pipeline is to cross beneath the Missouri River. The Malheur National Wildlife Refuge standoff in Oregon is another example where Zinke said things might have been different if public perception of federal land management were different. Federal property was damaged, and in the

Malheur standoff someone died. Both incidents cost the federal government millions of dollars that could have been spent on restoration and management, he said.

"Going forward, when the public sees a Fish and Wildlife truck, or a BLM truck, I want the public to think about management," Zinke said, "Wildlife and land management rather than law enforcement. And I think that's an important distinction. Going forward, again, my biggest task is to restore trust at the local level, and that's being an advocate and making sure people believe they have a voice."

Coal

Zinke is a coal-state Republican. Montana has the largest holdings of federal coal in the United States. In Congress, he fought against a DOI suspension of coal leases triggered by concerns that coal royalties were set too low and needed to be studied. President Trump and Congress have since worked to lift the coal lease ban.

Zinke said coal, oil and gas from federal land is important because low-priced energy powers U.S. manufacturing. Those mining jobs are also directly linked to manufacturing in other states, like Illinois, where Caterpillar employees are hopeful an increase in mining under the Trump administration will boost demand for heavy machinery.

A coal truck is dwarfed as it rumbles along the high wall of a coal pit in February 2015 at the Black Thunder Mine.

For The Gazette

Coal's decline is tied to a glut in global supply which has made exports unprofitable while at the same time cheap natural gas replaces coal as the nation's primary source at power plants. Zinke and other Republicans argue that federal policy shouldn't exacerbate coal's problems. They would like to see more coal power, an idea President Trump campaigned on.

But other economies tied to federal land also need to be promoted where possible, Zinke said.

"We should not view it in terms of just extraction," Zinke said. "Public land also has a driver when it comes to recreation. In some areas, particularly in the Seattle area, Mount Rainier, Olympic National Park, the forest around Seattle, there is a strong desire to elevate recreation. In Alaska, there is a strong desire for energy development, many of our Native tribes particularly. Some of the biggest resource concerns are owned by Eskimos and Native indigenous peoples, and they are very pro-energy development. They use the pipeline. In many ways, it is their lifeblood, so I think it's best to view things locally and start understanding the challenges of energy development. The president was right to look at punitive excessive regulations to undo those and let the market drive things. I think the goal is to make sure we have clean air, clean water, but also the economic engine of the U.S."

U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, left, laughs with Darrin Old Coyote, then-chairman of Montana's Crow Tribe, during a March 2015 announcement in Billings of a proposal to make permanent a tax break for coal mined from reserves owned by American Indian tribes.

Matthew Brown, Associated Press

Tribal relations

Not all American Indian tribes support fossil fuel development, Zinke acknowledged. Where there is opposition, the United States needs to honor that, he said.

"I think with the tribes, and I've talked with the tribes extensively before, although as a congressman I had the best relationship with the tribes in Montana," Zinke said. "As a secretary now of Interior I have to have the same relationship with all tribes.

"I think it stems from three things. One is sovereignty, and sovereignty has to be more than a word. Sovereignty has to mean something. Two is respect. And three is self-determination. And that's making sure the tribes have the tools to shape their own destiny and the authority to do that. As you know, even in the West, tribes are not monolithic, meaning that some tribes are pro-resource, pro-energy, pro-fossil fuels. And other tribes stand staunchly against that. I think it goes back to respect and sovereignty that each tribe in my judgement has to have the authority, the tools to carve their own path. And also from the Department of the Interior is to understand culturally many of these tribes are different, and their path may be unique to them, and I have to respect that."

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Zinke:

I am writing to you today in support of your review of monument designations made under the Antiquities Act and to ask you to consider the legislation's original intent when reviewing the national monuments in my state, namely the Gold Butte and Basin and Range National Monuments.

As the senior Senator from a state where approximately 85% of our lands are largely administered by the federal government, I have serious concerns with the use of the Antiquities Act to lock up lands in the West with little to no transparency or public input. This is why I have introduced legislation, the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act (S.22), which would prohibit the use of the Antiquities Act in Nevada without the express authorization of Congress. I commend your department for undertaking this review to gather public comments and listen to the people that these designations affect the most.

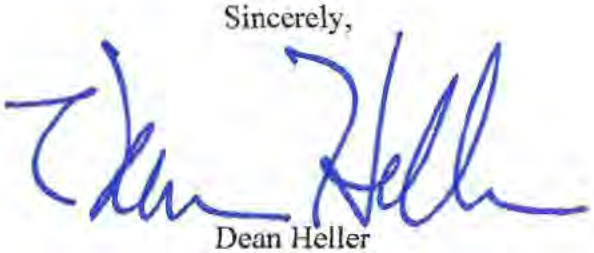
In Nevada, our Congressional Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan matter to resolve issues pertaining to the management of our public lands and of advancing legislation that conserves our environmentally sensitive areas while facilitating sustainable economic development in our communities. The designation of two national monuments under the Antiquities Act does not fit into this consensus model, and I have been outspoken to both this and the previous Administration with my opposition to the designation of Basin and Range and Gold Butte National Monuments.

While there is no doubt the Gold Butte National Monument in Clark County and the Basin and Range National Monument in Lincoln and Nye Counties may hold historical and archaeological value, the designation of over 1,000,000 acres of lands with the stroke of a pen and with little to no public input flies in the face of the Nevada tradition of working through these issues in an open and transparent Congressional process. When reviewing these designations, I urge you to consider the original intent of the Antiquities Act which states that protection "in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and managements to be protected." Any efforts to go beyond this is just blatant federal overreach.

Further, when reviewing these monuments, I ask that you take into serious consideration the views of the local communities impacted by these designations. As you know, Nevada is a largely rural state, and many of my constituents rely on the land for their livelihood. Locking up large swaths of land under the Antiquities Act from grazing, vehicle access, and development with no input from local communities and tribal communities most affected is harmful to my state's economic viability.

In summary, I respectfully request that when you review the monuments in my state, you will take into consideration the original intent of the Antiquities Act while also considering the views of the local communities impacted by these designations. Again, I commend your department's review of these designations, and I look forward to working with you on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,



Dean Heller
U.S. Senator

Cc: Mr. Micah Chambers
Acting Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior

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United States Senate

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June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
Mail Stop 6242
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On April 26, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13792, which requires a thorough review of national monuments created under the Antiquities Act, a bedrock law signed by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to safeguard and preserve federal lands and cultural and historical sites for all Americans to enjoy. Included in this review are two monuments in Nevada, Gold Butte and Basin and Range, which meet the specified criteria and, thus, are subject to this ongoing review process.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide you a statement on both of these monuments that not only share widespread public support, but also help to create a resilient economy for the great state of Nevada. You know, especially as a former member of Congress, that consequential decisions that would forever impact the integrity of protected natural areas must be made with the full consent of the state, congressional delegation, tribal nations, and key stakeholders.

Nevada has the most public lands than any other state and due to our abundance of natural resources, we have led the way in creating consensus at the local and state level and among our delegation to both benefit our communities and protect our natural areas. In fact, our monuments and public lands help define who we are as a state. With the designation of our monuments uncertain, we believe our state's historical, cultural and natural heritage hangs in the balance.

Both Gold Butte and Basin and Range monuments are a result of public meetings with input from local communities and were based upon broad local support. Nevadans who enjoy these lands actively participated in the public process leading to their designation. Outdoor recreationists, local organizations, scientists, and tribes with ancestral ties to these lands all worked with prior administrations to ensure these lands were protected at scale necessary to preserve their special and economic values.

In the case of Gold Butte, citizens had expressed concern about the increasing threat of unmanaged visitation to the natural and cultural treasures in Gold Butte. This led the Mesquite City Council to pass two resolutions supporting the preservation of Gold Butte. The Clark County Commission, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and Moapa Band of Paiutes also approved resolutions of support in 2010. Local community organizations wrote letters to the Nevada delegation urging them to protect Gold Butte. Public meetings were held and many local citizens attended. Legislation to establish a National Conservation Area was introduced in Congress five times between 2008 and 2015. Each time, the proposed bills reflected community negotiations and compromise. Throughout the years, Southern Nevadans demonstrated consistent and overwhelming support for protecting Gold Butte. Polls conducted in 2012, 2016, and 2017, reported that 63 percent, 71 percent and 63 percent of Nevadans, respectively across party lines, supported a National Conservation Area or National Monument designation.

Gold Butte is also a sacred site in the traditional homeland of the Southern Paiutes and is integral to their history. Tribes, like the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, have been advocating for

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conservation and monument designation for almost a decade. This sacred land is home to thousands of priceless rock shelters, petroglyphs, and cultural resources that tell the story of the Southern Paiute people. On these lands, there are ancient campsites and trails that go back thousands of years.

The Basin and Range National Monument was designated on July 10, 2015. This incredible monument preserves the cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy of the Great Basin area, which includes unique topography, geology, species diversity, archaeological resources, and a recent work of land art. Basin and Range National Monument is full of recreational opportunities, from hiking, camping and mountain biking to horseback riding, hunting, and sightseeing. Tribal people continue to view this landscape as their homeland and have strong connections with its mountains, valleys, and cultural and natural resources. Basin and Range also enjoys a broad coalition of support from business leaders, archeologists, and arts supporters. Permanent protection for the Basin and Range National Monument has not only safeguarded recreational opportunities for Nevadans, but has secured a historical treasure for future generations of scientists and academics.

National Monuments provide rural and Western communities the economic benefits of tourism, outdoor recreation, and quality of life associated with healthy public lands. Monuments can serve as powerful engines for economic growth by providing a competitive advantage to rural communities. Regions surrounding national monuments have seen continued growth or improvement in employment and personal income. Counties with neighboring national monuments have been more successful at sustaining property values, attracting high-wage employers, and securing investment. Additional tourism revenue also increases local, state and federal tax revenue.

In fact, according to an economic report issued this year by Headwater Economics, rural counties in the West with more federal lands had healthier economies, on average, than their peers with less protected lands. In a 2016 report by the Small Business Majority, it was found that natural and cultural national monuments, including Basin and Range, generate a total annual economic impact of about $156.4 million for local economies. In Nevada alone, the outdoor recreation economy generates 148,000 jobs and $14.9 billion according to a report by the Outdoor Industry Association. And, at least 57% of Nevada residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. The Pew Charitable Trust in a 2015 study found that a national monument designation for Gold Butte could contribute nearly $2.7 million per year in economic activity and increase the number of jobs by 60 percent.

Nevada's national monuments are based on consensus, economic facts, and the legitimate need to preserve our cultural and natural resources for our communities and tribes. Most Nevadans want our monuments protected so I urge you to consider our input in determining how you review these important and special areas. We hope that as you consider all of the benefits that Nevada receives from these designations that you leave both monuments intact, as they are an integral part to our way of life. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

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June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2017, inviting me, as a Member of Congress with a Marine National Monument within my district, to provide comments to assist you in your consultations with the Department of Commerce in its review of Executive Order 13795, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy." You have requested comments specifically related to the application of factors (i) through (vii) set forth in Executive Order 13792.

President George W. Bush, established the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument by Presidential Proclamation 8335 on January 6, 2009, citing the authority of section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (the "Antiquities Act").

President Bush made the determination that the areas incorporated in the Monument met the standards of the Antiquities Act, principally because of their scientific interest and consistent with the requirement that the Monument boundaries be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of these resources. He particularly noted:

- the presence of the largest active mud volcanoes on Earth along the Mariana Volcanic Arc,
- the Champagne vent, located at the Eifuku submarine volcano, which produces almost pure liquid carbon dioxide, a phenomenon observed at only one other site in the world,
- the Sulfur Cauldron, a pool of liquid sulfur found at the Daikoku submarine volcano and known elsewhere only on Io, one of the moons of Jupiter.
- the northernmost Mariana reefs, which unlike other Pacific reefs, support marine biological communities requiring basalt, and
- Maug Crater, one of only a handful of places on Earth where photosynthetic and chemosynthetic communities of life are known to come together.

In addition, President Bush recognized the biological diversity of the northern islands of the Marianas archipelago. This includes the greatest diversity of seamount and

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hydrothermal vent life yet discovered, high concentrations of sharks and other apex predators, and one of the most diverse collections of stony corals in the Western Pacific. All of these attributes, too, make the area of scientific interest, consistent with the requirements of the Antiquities Act.

These determinations were not made in isolation. The Bush administration consulted with the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the time a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument was under consideration. And a groundswell of local support for the designation of a Monument is well recorded in the public press of the time.

Much of this local support, however, was predicated on promises made to the community by Bush administration officials that the Monument would be a benefit to economic development and environmental tourism. Eight years later these promises remain unfulfilled. Furthermore, Proclamation 8335 gave specific management responsibilities to federal agencies to accomplish within set time periods. To date federal agencies have yet to fulfill these responsibilities. Therefore, while it is reasonable to assume that the Bush administration had sufficient technical expertise to set aside the smallest area compatible with proper care (factor (i)) and that the designated seafloor and other areas protected within the Monument are of scientific interest (factor (ii)), the remaining factors listed in your request for comment cannot be assessed.

Proclamation 8335 gave management responsibilities for the Monument to the Secretary of the Interior, except for the fishery-related activities regulated pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, for which the Secretary of Commerce is primarily responsible. The Secretaries were directed to prepare management plans and promulgate implementing regulations within two years—by January 6, 2011—to provide for scientific exploration and research, public education and outreach, and sustainable fisheries, especially sustenance, recreational, and traditional indigenous fishing.

Eight years later there is no management plan. And, of course, without this core guidance document no further development can take place. There is no Visitors Center and no plans for one. The only public education and outreach programs have been the product of my own earmark of $220,000 in FY11. Otherwise, none of the anticipated scientific exploration and research, tourism and recreational activities have materialized.

To speed the process further in 2011 I introduced H.R. 3511, authorizing the Secretary of Interior to establish a Monument Visitors Center "in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the interpretation and public education and enjoyment of the marine environment within the boundaries" of the Monument. But the Department, indicating this would be premature in the absence of a plan outlining the goals, objectives, and management strategies for the Monument, testified that "in the near

future, the Service and NOAA will jointly publish a Notice of Intent to prepare a Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment in the Federal Register."[1] That statement came more than a year after the Proclamation had been issued and just eleven months prior to the date the management plan was due.

Fifteen months later—now, four months after the management plan deadline—the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA issued Marianas Trench National Monument Planning Update Number 1. The document states that the "Service (FWS) and NOAA are beginning development of the Monument Management Plan (MMP) working cooperatively under the Service's lead in the process." The Update said that over the coming year, the agencies would be seeking input from the public, interested agencies, and organizations regarding concerns, interests, and viewpoints about monument management issues.

It was not until the next year, however, that Public Scoping Meetings were held in on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Following that public input, in the May 2012 Marianas Trench National Monument Planning Update Number 2, the managing agencies announced a Tentative Planning Schedule with a Final Monument Plan, Rules and Regulations scheduled for Winter 2013-Spring 2014—fully three years past the due date set by Proclamation 8335.

Even the agencies' self-imposed deadline was missed. A year after the Final Monument Plan was expected, a September 2014 Marianas Trench National Monument Planning Update Number 4 stated a "draft" Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was now the goal and would be available for public comment in Winter 2014-2015.[2] Today, almost three years later, the people of the Northern Marianas are still waiting.

This continued failure of the federal government to establish a Management Plan and otherwise fulfill the promises to the people of the Marianas in relation to the Monument, prompted Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and myself to write then-President Obama on September 28, 2016, requesting that he initiate the designation of the Marianas Trench National Monument as a National Marine Sanctuary. In our letter Governor Torres and I stated that "Overlaying a Sanctuary Designation … would advance the goals of both the National Marine Sanctuary Act and the original objectives of the Monument proclamation" and would support the conservation values, practices and aspirations of the people of the Marianas and our nation.

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[1] Department of Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Eileen Sobeck. February 25, 2010 Natural Resources Committee hearing on H.R. 3511.

[2] A Marianas Trench National Monument Planning Update Number 3 was issued in March 2013 thanking the public for its participation.

In March 2017, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Office of Sanctuaries did list the Marianas Trench National Monument on its Inventory of Sites to be considered for designation as a National Sanctuary. Governor Torres called NOAA's decision "an important step toward realizing the benefits promised to the people of the CNMI during the formation of the Marianas Trench National Monument" and I concur.

This action by NOAA Sanctuaries does not absolve the departments of Interior and Commerce of their responsibilities in the Monument, however. The departments need to fulfill the mandate set forth in Proclamation 8335 and provide appropriate resources to develop the untapped potential of the Monument. Until they do, the promise of a Visitors Center, of public education and outreach, scientific exploration and the economic benefits brought about by increased tourism and interest cannot come to fruition. Until such time as Interior and Commerce fulfill their responsibilities it is premature, if not impossible, to comment on factors (iii) through (vii), all of which have to do the interaction of the Monument designation and activities therein with the lands, waters, and people proximate to this resource.

Thank you very much for your willingness to work with Members of Congress, who have Antiquities Act-designated Monuments in the districts they represent. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments for your consideration. I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

008141 June 20, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We write in support of the recent letter submitted by Oregon Governor Kate Brown regarding Oregon's iconic Cascade-Siskyou National Monument. We join the Governor in strongly supporting the designation and expansion of this National Monument, which protects some of Oregon's most treasured natural wonders and has benefitted tourism and the outdoor economy in the state.

As the Governor noted in her letter, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was the first to be designated to protect biodiversity in the face of climate change. The recent expansion was the result of a robust public process and broad stakeholder engagement, and was widely supported by local communities, local governments, Tribes, business leaders, science and conservation interests, and more. This important Oregon resource has also seen outspoken support from members of our state's Congressional delegation, and from members of the Oregon legislature who represent the area.

The state of Oregon and the Western United States stand to reap multiple benefits from protecting the expanded National Monument, including enhanced habitat and biodiversity; preserved traditional, religious, and cultural uses for the Klamath Tribes; and increased tourism and outdoor recreation for local communities. We stand behind the Governor's call for you to acknowledge the integrity of the public process that led to the Monument's expansion, and we encourage you to preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 15, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We write to you to express our support for New Mexico's national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act, and we encourage you to honor and preserve all of the national monuments you are charged with protecting. As Secretary of the Interior, you have a solemn responsibility to steward America's public lands for the benefit of all Americans and to ensure these lands are maintained for our children and grandchildren. The lands protected as national monuments are irreplaceable and provide a place where all Americans can connect with their history, hunt, fish, hike, and camp, and experience solitude and unparalleled natural wonders.

The Rio Grande del Norte and the Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monuments, which were designated in 2013 and 2014 respectively, provide outstanding opportunities for recreation, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and seeing centuries-old petroglyphs. Each of these activities creates a deeper connection with our state's rich cultural heritage. We urge you to heed the overwhelming support of New Mexicans to preserve their irreplaceable national monuments as designated under the Antiquities Act.

The Rio Grande del Norte National Monument is at the heart of one of the oldest continually inhabited landscapes in North America. For over 10,000 years this extraordinary landscape of deep gorges, wild rivers, hot springs, and volcanic cones shaped the diverse ecological systems and human cultures that remain present today. The Rio Grande del Norte is part of the Central Migratory Flyway, a vital migration corridor used by tens of millions of birds. It is also an important corridor for large elk and antelope herds and provides key wintering grounds. The Rio Grande and its tributaries support a world-class trout fishery by providing essential riparian habitat, which draws anglers from across the country.

The Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument is also archeologically rich, featuring thousands of artifacts from the Folsom and Clovis cultures, the first people who lived in New Mexico, as well as other cultures that inhabited the area. Some of the areas within the monument are considered sacred by local tribes. The monument protects historic places such as the Gadsden Purchase boundary, Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, old West ranch houses, Billy the

Kid Rock, and World War II bombing targets. The congressionally-designated Prehistoric Trackways National Monument is adjacent to, and shares its paleontologically rich formations with Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, suggesting that this landscape could yield many more significant fossil discoveries. Fossil deposits in the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument have drawn the attention of the Smithsonian and other high-caliber scientific institutions. Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks stretches from Chihuahuan grassland to high elevation stands of Ponderosa pine and include some of the last intact Chihuahuan desert grassland remaining in the U.S. Hunters played a key role in the creation of the monument due to the importance of the landscape to quail, deer, antelope, and other wildlife populations.

Above is just a small sampling of the resources the monuments in New Mexico were designated to protect. Our national monuments encompass the smallest area compatible to protect and manage the high diversity of nationally-significant historic and scientific objects found within them. In fact, a number of areas were excluded from protection that could easily have qualified. Any changes to the boundaries or designations of Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monuments threaten the lands, values, and objects thousands of New Mexicans fought to protect.

The Rio Grande del Norte and the Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monuments have decades-long histories of public support with numerous and diverse constituencies vocally advocating for their protection. The claim that the American people have not been heard on the designation of National Monuments does not accurately reflect the open and transparent process that established each monument. The foundation for legislation to protect the Rio Grande Del Norte began with public interest in the early 1990s and led to the introduction of the El Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act in 2009. The legislation was reintroduced several times by the New Mexico delegation but languished in Congress. In 2012, Secretary Ken Salazar participated in a public meeting with local residents; the near unanimous approval for a national monument designation expressed by the citizens at that meeting initiated the designation process. Over 1,200 written comments were collected, in addition to the public meeting held in Taos, detailing how the monument should be managed.

Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks also originated as a legislative proposal to conserve this special place, stemming from over a decade of community support and hundreds of meetings with stakeholders. In 2009, business and community leaders organized a conference to discuss the economic benefits of public lands. Then in the spring of 2010, over 600 enthusiastic supporters attended a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee field hearing in Las Cruces on the legislation. Two panels of local residents were asked to testify, giving all parts of the community a voice. The Committee also accepted comments from the public for a period of time after the hearing. After 15 years of campaigning by local residents and stalled legislative efforts in Congress, the community turned to the Administration for help. In 2014, Secretary Sally Jewell came to tour the southern portion of the monument with U.S. Border Patrol and participate in a town hall in Las Cruces to hear public input. Over 750 people attended the town hall to provide

their comments. The town hall confirmed the results of polling of Doña Ana County residents who overwhelmingly support the creation of the national monument. More than 15,000 petition signatures were collected in support of the Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument in the lead up to the proclamation. Since the monument was established in 2014, its popularity and the support have only grown.

Protecting our national monuments has been an important economic driver for New Mexico's regional and statewide economy. Outdoor recreation in New Mexico, as in most of the West, is a growing and sustainable industry that is revitalizing our local communities both around the monuments and statewide. Outdoor recreation generates $6.1 billion in consumer spending and provides the state of New Mexico with more than $450 million in state and local tax revenue and employs 68,000 people each year. Taos and Doña Ana Counties have benefitted from increasing numbers of visitors spending their hard earned dollars in our hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, restaurants, retail stores, and other services.

In the first year after the Rio Grande del Norte Monument was established, the Bureau of Land Management reported a 40% increase in visitors to the area. The same year, the Town of Taos enjoyed a 21% boost in tax revenue from stays in hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfasts, and an 8.3% jump in gross receipts revenue in the accommodations and food service sector. In the three years since the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was designated between $8 and $34 million in additional economic activity has been generated. There has been an estimated 152% increase in visitation to the monument over that same period. Lodging taxes for the City of Las Cruces have grown from $1.87 million in 2013 to $2.04 million in 2016. In January, Secretary Jewell attended a roundtable with local businesses to better understand the effects of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks on their bottom lines. She found increased sales, new products and services marketed around the monument, and, indeed, new businesses formed to take advantage of the monument's attraction of tourists. We are deeply concerned that efforts to shrink, revoke, or alter the protections for national monuments threaten the positive economic growth our communities have experienced.

In addition, we strongly disapprove of the review process initiated by the President's Executive Order and are gravely concerned that rescinding or shrinking to New Mexico's national monuments will cause irrevocable harm to our treasured places, would jeopardize the objects and special values that are protected through the Antiquities Act, and impact positive economic growth in local communities. A credible review of the national monuments should include conducting public meetings to collect information from all stakeholders. A formal review, as done under a standard APA process should be conducted. We also note that the local Resource Advisory Groups in New Mexico can provide another conduit for input on these decisions, and find it alarming that you've halted their convening at exactly the time you need their input the most.

We are disappointed with your handling of the review of Bears Ears National Monument and strongly disagree with your interim recommendation to reduce the size of the monument. We

appreciate your extension of the public comment period for Bears Ears aligning it with the comment period for all monuments under review. As you make your final recommendation, we hope you will consider the overwhelming support for national monuments, including that more than 90% of the public comments you received during the initial 15-day period favored maintaining Bears Ears' designated boundaries. In your final report, you have an opportunity to change course and restore cooperation, respect, and trust with the sovereign tribes of the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition and all of Indian Country by preserving the existing boundaries of all these important national monuments.

We urge you to engage with our local communities, businesses, and their elected officials at all levels, and we urge you to fulfil your obligations to respectfully consult with Indian Tribes as you conduct your review. The arbitrary 120-day review period for all national monuments, including the final review for Bears Ears, is grossly insufficient to collect the necessary information. The comment period, which relies heavily on internet access, puts Tribes and rural communities at a disadvantage because up to 80% of New Mexicans who live in Indian Country and rural areas do not have consistent access to broadband internet. Therefore, we request you extend the 120-day review period for all national monuments to accommodate the input from local communities and tribes in New Mexico who are concerned about the future of their beloved monuments that may be affected by this review.

We encourage you to fulfil your promise to faithfully uphold Teddy Roosevelt's vision that our treasured public lands should be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of all Americans now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Michelle Lujan Grisham
United States Representative

Ben Ray Lujan
United States Representative

JEFF FLAKE
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June 12, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 6313
Washington DC, 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Thank you for your letter on May 12 requesting input on national monuments in Arizona. I appreciate the Department's ongoing review of monuments created recently under the Antiquities Act, including the Grand Canyon-Parashant, Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert, and Vermillion Cliffs National Monuments. I am opposed to the unilateral use of the Antiquities Act to lockup federal lands without the federal government first engaging in full and meaningful consultation with all affected stakeholders, and was pleased that the proposal to create a large new national monument in northern Arizona was not acted upon. I support efforts to modify the Antiquities Act to ensure all interested parties can provide input. To that end, I have cosponsored the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, S.33, which establishes a consultation process for the President to carry out before declaring a national monument.

I have heard from many Arizona stakeholders whose livelihoods depend on multiple-use federal lands for recreation, tourism, grazing, and natural resources development. These individuals have raised concerns about monument designations and their impact on the ability to use and manage public lands. I have included these concerns in the enclosed letter.

I have also received specific examples of impacts on natural resource from the management of the four National Monuments in Arizona subject to your review. These include:

- The removal of 77,708 acres from the Conley grazing allotment in the Sonoran Desert National Monument, despite an explicit provision in the Proclamation which provided for continued grazing north of Interstate 8.
- The complete ban on recreational shooting in the Ironwood Forest National Monument and temporary and permanent restrictions on recreational shooting in the Sonoran Desert National Monuments, both of which are contrary to the spirit of Executive Order 13443.
- "Temporary" closures of 88 miles of road in the Sonoran Desert National Monument that have persisted for nine years.
- A four-year delay in a cooperative proposal to allow the Arizona Department of Game and Fish to upgrade wildlife watering facilities on the Sonoran Desert National Monument, accompanied by a decrease in the bighorn sheep population from 100 animals in 1999 when the Monument was created to approximately 35 animals in recent years.
- A five-year delay in a similar cooperative water proposal in the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument.

RECEIVED

I ask you take into account these management challenges imposed by the monuments under review, as well as the comments by state agencies, local governments, elected officials, conservation districts, sportsmen's groups, cattlemen, and tour operators attesting to the lack of full and meaningful consultation in National Monument decisions. As always, I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all applicable agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator

Enclosures:

1. October 3, 2016 Letter to the President of the United States

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20500-0004

Dear Mr. President,

We write to ask that you refrain from designating any additional national monuments in Arizona without first engaging in full and meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders, including local governments and state agencies. Your administration has repeatedly assured Congress that it will engage with affected stakeholders prior to any such designations, including written commitments from Secretary Jewell, and others (see enclosure). However, despite these assurances, we remain concerned that the proposed designation of nearly two million acres as a national monument in northern Arizona may move forward without any meaningful engagement, to the detriment of affected stakeholders in Arizona.

Only 18 percent of Arizona is privately owned, which means that federal public lands play a disproportionately large role in Arizona's economy. Multiple-use lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service provide opportunities for recreation, tourism, grazing, and natural resource development. Designation of a new monument would severely limit these activities. We have heard from a variety of local stakeholders all of whom have serious concerns about the designation of a new monument in Arizona:

- The lands within the proposed national monument are used for motorized and non-motorized recreation and hunting, and the proposed monument has created concerns by several sportsmen's and recreation groups (see attached letters);

- Wildlife resources in Arizona, and water supplies to sustain that wildlife, are managed by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which has raised concerns about its ability to manage wildlife within a new monument (see attached letter);

- The boundaries of the proposed national monument encompass roughly 64,000 acres of state trust land. The Arizona State Land Department serves as the trustee and is concerned that the proposed designation would impact its constitutional obligations to manage the land for a number of beneficiaries, including public schools (see attached letter); and

- The Grand Canyon National Park draws more than five million visitors each year, and businesses providing services to these visitors have expressed concerns that the proposal would negatively affect the operation of the Grand Canyon Airport and the tourism industry in the Town of Tusayan (see attached letters).

Potentially even more significant is the effect a new national monument could have on efforts to prevent catastrophic wildfires. A collaboration between federal agencies, local governments, the

forest products industry, sportsmen's groups, academic researchers, and environmental groups has resulted in the largest forest restoration project in the country, known as the Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI). The positive steps that have resulted from this delicately balanced collaboration, including the largest Environmental Impact Statement of its type, are jeopardized by the inclusion of 4FRI project lands in the proposed national monument. Transferring management of the monument lands to the Department of the Interior and developing a new management plan will upend the collaborative and deal a setback that Arizona forests cannot afford.

As Arizonans, we respect the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon and the importance that it holds for the people of Arizona. Managing the Grand Canyon National Park to protect this national treasure can be done in a way that still respects the wide range of federal land users in Arizona. Acting unilaterally to designate a new national monument without meaningful engagement would omit consideration of issues that are important to Arizona. We respectfully request that your administration engage in a robust consultation with the affected stakeholders before making any new monument designations. As always we ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all applicable agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,

JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator

JOHN McCAIN
United States Senator

Enclosures:

1. Administration statements on consultation before national monument designation
2. Governor Ducey statement
3. Arizona Game and Fish Department statement
4. Arizona State Lands Department statement
5. State Senator Griffin letter
6. State Senator Pierce letter
7. Mohave County Supervisor Johnson letter
8. Eastern Arizona Counties Organization letter
9. Arizona-Utah Local Economic Coalition letter
10. Town of Tusayan letter
11. Arizona Association of Conservation Districts letter
12. Arizona sportsmen's group letter
13. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership letter
14. Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry statement

15. Air tour operators' letter
16. Arizona Cattle Grower's Association

cc: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior
The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Department of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Council on Environmental Quality

Administration statements to Senator Flake on consultation before a national monument designation

Secretary Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
February 24, 2015

- **Question (Flake)** *(written)* - There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. This would lock up not only Federal land, but over 60,000 acres of State Trust land and nearly 30,000 acres of private land. Such a designation would have a devastating effect on the economic productivity of State trust land which is managed primarily to benefit Arizona public schools. It would have a similarly chilling effect on the economic productivity on private land and existing mining operations. The creation of this monument has been strongly opposed by the State of Arizona. Would any of the Department's proposed funding be used to pursue the designation of a National Monument in Arizona?
- **Response (Jewell)** *(written)* - The Department has no current plans to propose a designation of monuments in Arizona under this authority. Moreover, the Department engages in robust consultation with national, state, local, and tribal stakeholders prior to the designation of any monument, in keeping with the President's commitment.

Mr. Tim Murphy, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
May 21, 2015

- **Question (Flake)** *(written)* - Please describe the consultation process between BLM, OMB, and state governments that takes place prior to a Presidential designation of a National Monument.
- **Answer (Murphy)** *(written)* - This Administration has demonstrated a commitment to working with Governors, Congress, county commissioners, tribal governments, and the public in making Federal land use decisions. The Administration recognizes and respects the importance of public and congressional input in considering protections for natural, historic, and cultural treasures. The Administration constantly strives to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders both to protect America's public lands and provide for economic development in a manner that is consistent with applicable laws and sound public policy.
- **Question (Flake)** *(written)* - Please provide a list of any National Monuments that are presently under consideration for designation by the President under the Antiquities Act.
- **Answer (Murphy)** *(written)* - I am not aware of any list of proposed National Monuments under consideration by the President.

The Honorable Jonathon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
December 8, 2015

- **Question (Flake)** *(written)* - As you know I have expressed opposition to any unilateral executive action to designate more national monuments in Arizona. Is the Department working with the President to prepare a monument designation for the Grand Canyon watershed?
- **Answer (Jarvis)** *(written)* - The Department has no current plans to propose a designation of monuments in Arizona under the authority of the Antiquities Act. Moreover, the Department engages in robust consultation with national, state, local, and tribal stakeholders prior to the designation of any monument, in keeping with the President's commitment.

Secretary Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
February 23, 2016

- **Question (Flake)** - Secretary Jewell, I'm told that Senator Lee talked about National Monuments and designation and the importance of consultation with local and state governments and in this regard I just want to add my voice to his that when these measures are taken that these consultations are made prior

to. It's extremely important for states like Arizona, Utah, and others where the impacts on the economic viability of these local communities is really impacted.

- **Answer (Jewell)** - As I said to Senator Lee, in all the monument designations that the President has done there has been outreach within local communities and meetings held on the ground in local communities and we're committed to continuing to do that.

Secretary Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
February 23, 2016

- **Question (Flake)** *(written)* - There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. A designation could significantly limit many of the uses of public, private, and state trust land in Northern Arizona. Within Arizona the potential new monument designations have been opposed by elected officials at all levels, numerous local municipalities, sportsmen's groups, and conservation organizations. In our neighboring states we have seen troubling Presidential designations over the past year. A 700,000 acre monument was designated in Nevada last summer and three monuments totaling nearly 1.8 million acres in California were created this month. Many in Arizona are increasingly worried that we are next. Because nearly half of the land proposed for the monument is managed by the BLM I would expect the Department of the Interior to play a role in any upcoming designation.
    - **a)** What actions, if any, has the Department taken in regard to a possible designation of a new National Monument in Arizona?
    - **b)** Are you aware of any plans by the President to designate a new National Monument in Arizona?
- **Answer (Jewell)** *(written)* - Designation of monuments under the Antiquities Act is a Presidential, not Departmental, action. When examining whether to recommend particular monuments for Presidential action, the Department engages in consultation with national, state, local, and tribal stakeholders, in keeping with the President's commitment.

The Honorable Thomas Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing
March 8, 2016

- **Question (Flake)** *(written)* - There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. A designation could significantly limit many of the uses of public, private, and state trust land in Northern Arizona. Within Arizona the potential new monument designations have been opposed by elected officials at all levels, numerous local municipalities, sportsmen's groups, and conservation organizations. In neighboring states there have been troubling Presidential designations over the past year. A 700,000 acre monument was designated in Nevada last summer and three monuments totaling nearly 1.8 million acres in California were created last month. Many in Arizona are increasingly worried that Arizona is next. Because over half of the land proposed for the monument is managed by the Forest Service I would expect the Forest Service to play a role in any upcoming designation.
    - **a)** What actions, if any, has the Service taken in regard to a possible designation of a new National Monument in Arizona?
    - **b)** Are you aware of any plans by the President to designate a new National Monument in Arizona?
- **Answer (Tidwell)** *(written)* - The Forest Service has not taken any action nor are we aware of a proposal to designate a national monument.

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Statement for the Record

State of Arizona

Governor Douglas A. Ducey

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources,

Full Committee Hearing to Consider Pending Legislation

September 22, 2016

On behalf of the State of Arizona, I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comment for the Congressional Record regarding pending legislation related to the designation of national monuments through unilateral authorities prescribed under the Antiquities Act of 1906. These designations ultimately result in restrictive use of natural resources and water rights belonging to private and state land owners and prohibitions for the public's full enjoyment and use of their public federal land.

Arizona proudly boasts some of the country's most unique and majestic landscapes that entice visitors and businesses to this epicenter of western progress. My administration is focused on building upon opportunity: laying foundations for improving government efficiencies that truly reduce the bottom line, and modernize what are outdated rules and regulations that thwart sound principles of governance.

Proposals that encourage protection, preservation or limitations on use of certain lands in the west have been advanced through various legal and administrative processes. Congressional actions and administrative withdrawals of certain lands including areas around the Grand Canyon have signified historic successes of multiple stakeholders to advance objectives that have been publicly vetted.

The 1.7 million proposed GCWNM designation is different. By Presidential Proclamation authorized by Antiquities Act of 1906 (Act), the land becomes set aside in perpetuity without input from the State or its citizens and without any feasibility or economic impact analyses. The Act's passage in 1906 was to provide the President with the ability to protect certain artifacts that otherwise had no lawful protections at that time.

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It may have made sense at the time, too. Between 1906 and 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt issued executive proclamation creating 18 scientific areas or natural monuments under the authority granted to him by the Act - all of them in far western states, thousands of miles from Washington, D.C., in remote areas where thieves, bandits, and the dregs of society were destroying Native American sites. That is NOT how the Antiquities Act is being applied today. Today, the Antiquities Act is being used to lock- up private and public landscapes from common, legal, and necessary economic activities that are vital and necessary to the economic prosperity of our great nation.

This administration represents progressive 21st century management that provides opportunities for ALL, and seeks to reduce and eliminate unreasonable and outdated regulations that are exclusionary and harmful to developing industries of all kinds. In 21st Century land management practices, the Act represents as antiquated a system as the antiquities it was created to protect. Its process is flawed and has evolved into a practice that resembles feudalism, serving only very small and limited interests. The Act does not require substantive input or analysis, and has never been challenged judicially.

Aside from the immense failure of governing and process that the Antiquities Act represents and that GCWNM proponents promote, the creation of federal land use designations also has far-reaching detrimental effects. By their very nature, federal land use designations such as this impede economic opportunity and the private property rights of landowners throughout the region. Let's be clear - these designations are purely about preservation, not multiple-use management that, as the first Chief of the Forest Service Gifford Pinchot would say, achieves "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." Multiple-use land management is an essential component of Arizona's economy: recreation, mining, agriculture, and grazing. Put another way, four of the "Five C's" represented in the great Seal of Arizona (copper, cattle, cotton, and citrus) would not exist if we did not allow for multiple uses of public lands, and of course the ability to recreate in Arizona 365 days per year relies on the fifth C (climate). Imposition of a preservation management objective overlay on 1.7 million acres of land in Arizona thwarts Arizona's land management objectives and values, and it does so by bypassing a public process that would most certainly result in a much more thoughtful result.

The GCWNM is not narrow, targeted, warranted, or being considered through an open, cooperative public process. The State opposes outdated laws and rules that violate a good faith contract between state and federal entities to work cooperatively to identify natural resources that require active or immediate action; and to undertake such efforts in a manner that is consistent with a balanced public process applicable to all other land management decisions. The State supports conservation and considerate management of its culture, history, and landscapes. There may be areas in the United States where creation of narrow, targeted preservation areas is warranted; however, the process should include considerable efforts to identify, balance, and mitigate impacts to economies, other potential resources, and to personal property rights.

We, the State of Arizona, encourage a fair alternative to the proposed use of the Antiquities Act to create the GCWNM, which will unfairly limit access and prohibit the ability of private entities to conduct business on 1.7 million acres of lands in Arizona. Resource and land management decisions best serve all constituents when state and federal interests are intermingled; which results in true partnerships and democratically balanced outcomes. We ask that the United States Congress review and amend the Antiquities Act of 1906 as it is unrepresentative of the principles on which this great nation was founded: a robust system of checks and balances to ensure that government is honest, and making decisions that best serve all citizens.

by the National Park System, where access roads deteriorate and are subsequently closed as a consequence of the System's $11.9 billion backlog of deferred maintenance, $329 million of which is attributed to the existing 1.2 million acres of the Grand Canyon National Park alone.

However, the Antiquities Act does not include a process for public input, so there is no place for the Commission, or any other citizens, to formally bring such concerns or past experiences.

The Antiquities Act has bestowed unilateral power upon the President of the United States to designate federal lands as a National Monument without the consent of Congress, local governments or affected citizens. The federal reserved water rights doctrine, established in 1908 and expanded through decades of court battles ensures that when the federal government reserves public land for uses such as a monument, it also implicitly reserves sufficient water to satisfy the purposes for which the land-use designation was created.

In 1952 Arizona began an 11 year Supreme Court battle to settle questions of allotments before it could begin to build the Central Arizona Project. The use of Colorado River water requires successful navigation of a century of laws, treaties, court decisions, decrees, contracts and guidelines that form the "Law of the River" and determine appropriate use of water in the Colorado River Basin. It also requires a contract with the Secretary of the Interior.

In Arizona, an application to appropriate public water that is under the jurisdiction of the state costs a minimum of $1,000. The administrative review of this application takes 20 days and, if found to be complete, the substantive review of the request can range from 100 to 420 days depending on use. This lengthy review is conducted to verify that the use of water does not conflict with vested rights, is not a menace to public safety, and does not run counter to the interests and welfare of the public.

In Washington D.C. the right to use water anywhere in the country can be reserved in exactly as much time as it takes for the President to sign his name.

Designations made either by presidential executive fiat or those made by an act of Congress have implied reserved rights, but only one of those requires a public process. Only Congress is required to publically consider the interest and welfare of the people of Arizona. The lack of oversight inherent to the Antiquities Act could be devastating to Arizona's water future both statewide and in nearby local communities.

The Game and Fish Commission supports the limitation of reserve water rights in a national monument. By requiring that water rights for a monument created by Presidential decree be secured through the laws of the state, S.1416 ensures that Arizona's water future remains in the hands of its own citizens.

- Edward "Pat" Madden
Chairman, Game and Fish Commission

S. 437 represents a first reasonable step toward mending a process where the federal government giveth and then taketh away. The Antiquities Act has been used by several U.S. Presidents within Arizona's borders that has resulted in encumbering several hundred thousand acres of surface and subsurface estate of State Trust land.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Ironwood Forest National Monument, Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, Redfield Canyon, and Eagletail Mountains are examples of the continued erosion of the State's ability to rightfully plan and generate revenue from its original congressional land conveyance of Trust lands.

The process of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Act) (54 U.S.C. §§ 320301-320303) is as antiquated as the objects and places it was created to protect. The State of Arizona has expressed increasing concerns of proposed designations under the Act, such as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, which will result in increased management challenges and lost revenues to the State and Trust.

Arizona is an epicenter of innovation and growth in the West. Infrastructure needs, trade routes, transportation corridors, urban development, military missions and outdoor recreation pose planning and resource allocation challenges for the State. Increased land restrictions through monument designations impose even greater challenges and financial burdens on public and private sectors, particularly when done without consultation or compensation.

The Act was intended to serve as an emergency authority to allow Presidential protections of special artifacts and areas treasured by the American public. The emergency provision authorizes only a most minimal footprint necessary for their continued existence. Unfortunately, the Act has been applied much more broadly and, we believe, inappropriately used as a means to prevent consumptive land uses and as a de facto conservation tool.

While S. 437 does not prevent future administrative land withdrawals and designations and does not prohibit the trapping of Arizona's Trust land from future congressionally adopted measures. However, it does promote a better process for public inclusion in future designations through mandating affected state(s)' approval and regulatory compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.).

We support the provisions of this bill that admirably create a more robust consultation process with states, as well as the effort to hold federal actions and decisions, including Presidential Proclamations, to public review processes under NEPA. This would be consistent with other land designations established by Congress.

ASLD is concerned that continued land designations, and increasing specialized land use demands, will force further restrictions on its ability to effectively manage and plan for use of the land and other natural resources it holds in Trust, and for which the Trust has not been compensated through the course of these tenured practices. Moving forward, we urge this Committee, and Congress to identify ways to compensate the Trust for actions that have resulted in lost and restricted value, as well as the inaccessibility to Trust lands

trapped by preexisting conveyance, special use designations and other land tenure issues.

SENATOR STEVE PIERCE
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DISTRICT 1

Arizona State Senate

SENATE PRESIDENT 2012

COMMITTEES:

NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION

JUDICIARY

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Flake
United States Senator
368 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake:

This letter expresses my opposition to the proposed creation of the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument (GCWNM) within Arizona and joins others including: the Arizona Legislature, U.S. Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and its commission and multiple local public officials. Without the necessary support from Arizona stakeholders this proposal for unilateral executive action should not advance.

The GCWNM would designate 1.7 million acres, making it the second largest national monument in the country and almost doubling the amount of national monument acreage in the state. Designating such a vast area – larger than the state of Delaware – requires a narrow management regime that could negatively affect the area's resources and the state as a whole.

The multiple-use policy currently managing this area was developed with public input and based on resource management plans that allows for reasonable use of the area for purposes such as recreation, grazing, mining, energy development and hunting and fishing access. Such uses provide an economic and intrinsic benefit to Arizona and a national monument designation would eliminate this benefit for a nonexistent threat.

Potentially more damaging are the consequences to the states' forests and water resources at a time when the Southwest is experiencing a 15-year drought. A national monument designation would lock away this area from crucial wildfire management and hinder water resource management practices without providing any tangible advantage.

Although it is unquestionable the Grand Canyon is a national treasure that is worth protecting, a national monument designation serves no purpose other than to harm the state of Arizona and its resources. In light of these facts, I respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed GCWNM.

Sincerely,

Steve Pierce

Senator Steve Pierce
Arizona State Senate
Legislative District 1

Protecting our lands can be enhanced with current mining operations and off roaders who want to preserve our lands for future generations to experience. Working together will protect the land far better than no trespassing signs. Allowing economic development on this land would be a great benefit to both the state and Mohave County. It is estimated that allowing uranium mining in this area would create more than a thousand jobs directly related to mining operations, and many more jobs would be created as a result of the economic activity associated with the mining. Designating this land as a national monument will take away this economic opportunity for the taxpayers of Mohave County and an estimated $40 million annually in payroll.

I again ask for your support of S. 437 and S. 1416. If we all work together, we can find was to preserve the natural beauty of this country while at the same time keeping it open for future generations to enjoy.

Buster D. Johnson
Mohave County Supervisor
District III

Recently, some members of the House requested the unilateral designation of a "watershed" national monument along the Colorado River. Such designation, if made without the timely enactment of S. 1416 could have significant consequences for the delicate balance of water rights in Northern Arizona.

The Eastern Arizona Counties Organization is therefore pleased to write in strong support of S. 1416 to amend the Antiquities Act to prohibit the president from unilaterally creating a federal reserved water right when designating a national monument, introduced by Senators Jeff Flake and John McCain, and wants to express its appreciation to the Senators for their continued involvement and leadership in addressing the issues of water and water rights in Arizona.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Pascal Berlioux, Ph.D. MBA
Executive Director
Eastern Arizona Counties Organization
pberlioux@easternarizonacounties.us

AZ/Utah Local Economic Coalition

2001 College Drive, #90, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Phone: 928-453-0724

Members

Garfield County, UT
Kane County, UT
Mohave County, AZ
San Juan County, UT
Washington County,UT
Town of Fredonia, AZ

September 23, 2016

Dear Senators,

We are writing as elected officials whose counties represent areas directly impacted by uranium mining and the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. We are writing in support of S. 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act, and S. 1416, a bill designed to limit the authority to reserve water rights in designating a national monument. Both pieces of legislation are important to the areas represented by this Coalition. Arizona and Utah have a history of diverse economic opportunities ranging from livestock grazing to tourism and significantly, mining. We respect and take a responsibility for protecting the Grand Canyon, but designating this land as a national monument will take away current mining operations and off roaders who want to preserve our lands for future generations to experience.

We are in support of S. 437. It is a crucial piece of legislation. With the President proposing to take executive action to designate nearly 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument, this legislation is greatly needed. S.437 would require input from Congress, state and local governments before a presidentially created monument can be approved. Should the President go ahead with the executive action, it would be devastating for the future growth of Arizona and Utah and have a long lasting effect on our economies.

Our states cannot afford to lose any more land to the federal government. Nearly 50% of both Arizona and Utah is now owned by the federal government. Mohave County alone has only 10% private land. Designating another 1.7 million acres to the feds will reduce private ownership even more. Why as a matter of public policy is locking down known natural resources wise? In January of 2000, President Bill Clinton signed a proclamation taking away 1 million acres of land in the Arizona Strip area for the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. That monument is now one of 18 monuments in the state which is more than any other state has. Designating land for a new monument will take away even more land in the Arizona Strip area putting it in the hands of the federal government and away from the taxpaying citizens of this state.

We are also asking the Committee to approve S.1416. Water is becoming a scarce resource in Western states. As it stands right now, if the President were to move forward with this proposed monument, it could have the potential to 'federalize' the area's watershed and uproot critical water rights. This legislation would protect those water rights by prohibiting the president from conducting "water grabs" by creating a new federally reserved right with a national monument.

Removing public access to this land does nothing to protect our watershed. Our watershed has been threatened over the past 15 years due to extreme drought conditions and without the necessary tools provided by certain industries, the watershed will continue to be depleted with no remedies to protect the well-being of our citizenry. Water has always been a critical issue in the southwest and we continue to find ways to reduce consumption and recycle wherever possible. This designation will make it more difficult for state and local governments to find the means necessary to ensure our citizens have a continued water supply.

We again ask for your support of S. 437 and S. 1416. If we all work together, we can find was to preserve the natural beauty of this country while at the same time keeping it open for future generations to enjoy.

Buster Johnson
Mohave County Supervisor

Alan Gardner
Washington County, UT Commissioner

TOWN OF TUSAYAN

at the entrance to Grand Canyon National Park

Statement to Senator Flake concerning the Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed Monument September 20, 2016

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines Unilateral as, "done or undertaken by one person or party ... or affecting one side of a subject ... or an engagement which (obligates) only one party". The Monument appears to be a unilateral decision. In comparison, I will identify the impact of another unilateral decision affecting Tusayan, an Arizona incorporated municipality, within the proposed Monument zone.

In 2014, the Forest Service accepted, in writing, a Tusayan road easement application offering housing opportunities for residents of Tusayan, where resident owned housing is non-existent. In March 2016, after two years of the NEPA process, the application was returned with an explanation that it did not meet the "initial screening criteria". After expending $400,000 on the application process and USFS consultants, they returned the application stating that a return was neither a denial nor a rejection and the return could not be appealed. As a result, demeaning, real life situations continue to befall Tusayan residents who dedicated their lives to the Grand Canyon.

One example is recently retired former Mayor Greg Bryan. Mayor Bryan lived and worked in Tusayan more than 17 years, retiring in December 2015. Upon retirement, he was forced to move from the town he helped create, since no private owned housing exists. No private housing exists because the Forest Service refused to allow the Town to improve an existing road to Town property where affordable homes can still be built.

The Forest Service broke their own rules in this unilateral decision. This told residents of Tusayan, your best chance of owning a home doesn't matter; your right to improve less than a mile of dirt road to your own property, doesn't matter; your chance to build a community, rather than keep an employer only housing paradigm doesn't matter.

Arizona has more monuments than any other State in the Union, but this doesn't matter in unilateral decisions. 70% of Arizona is already federal land doesn't matter in unilateral decisions. Tusayan would become the only municipality entirely swallowed up in this monument doesn't matter in unilateral decisions. Private and municipal property would be unwillingly placed under an advisory committee to determine land management doesn't matter in unilateral decisions.

The truth is, we do matter!

The Town of Tusayan has proven itself a good and cooperative neighbor to the Park and Forest Service. In 2013, when the federal government shutdown, the Grand Canyon National Park closed, as did Forest Roads, and highways. While the shutdown lingered, Tusayan coordinated with the State of Arizona and local businesses to reopen the Park. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were forwarded to the federal government and the Park reopened. Upon settlement of the federal shutdown, Arizona was reimbursed their contributions to the federal government and made whole. Local businesses were reimbursed their contributions and made whole. The National Park Service was restored to their original funding level and

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because they are tied to it through their intimate lifelong and sometimes generational knowledge.

The proposed designation, if enacted, prevents local stewardship of wildlife; creates an area of no management of numbers of wildlife or maintenance of water catchments.

By creating the proposed National Monument, local management is eliminated and replaced by a form of non-management directed from Washington D.C.

These reasons also apply to past and future monument designations.

Our local conservation districts are now leading a massive multi-partner effort to eradicate invasive brush from large landscapes across Arizona to return it to its pre-fire suppression grassland state, including much of the lands within the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument designation. This effort will be eliminated from those lands under the Monument proposal. Is that what Arizona and the nation really want? This project coordinated locally will literally create new groundwater for our cities and towns by increasing penetration of the precious rain that falls on Arizona's rangelands and forests. How will that be achieved? A closed canopy caused by heavy brush infestation prevents 80% of the moisture that falls from reaching the ground; under a closed canopy there is no ground cover under that brush to prevent water erosion when large amounts of moisture do reach the ground. As we remove this brush, perennial grasses will return to the landscape catching and slowing the runoff of that water so it will soak in and more will reach our groundwater. It will also replenish our streams and rivers.

Under Monument designations the ability to identify and address watershed health issues will not be an option. Under Monument designations, active management will be eliminated and replaced by a form of non-management which can only be characterized as benign neglect directed from Washington D.C.

Under Monument designations there is no recognition of the lessons learned from Arizona's Schultz Pass Fire, Rodeo – Chediski Fire, or the Slide Fire to name a few.

Under the monument designations, the ability to treat the results of a wildfire are removed; again because of non-management. We know this from experience. Despite assurances otherwise, past Monument designations have reduced or eliminated grazing, strong armed private inholders in order to get them to sell out and either removed water improvements or just let them deteriorate until they no longer function.

Because we value locally led conservation above conservation directed from Washington D.C. the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts request that all efforts be made to stop the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument designation and this body pass Senate bills 437 and 1416.

Bill Dunn
President, Arizona Association of Conservation Districts

Archery Trade Association *Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * Boone and Crockett Club * Camp Fire Club of America * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports * Dallas Safari Club * Delta Waterfowl Foundation * Houston Safari Club * Masters of Foxhounds Association * Mule Deer Foundation * National Association of Forest Service Retirees* National Rifle Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * National Wild Turkey Federation * North American Bear Foundation * Orion: The Hunter's Institute * Quality Deer Management Association * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * Ruffed Grouse Society * Safari Club International * Tread Lightly! * Wildlife Management Institute * Wild Sheep Foundation*Whitetails Unlimited * U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

May 11, 2015

Dear Representative Grijalva, Kirkpatrick & Gallego:

Our organizations, which represent millions of American hunter-conservationists are writing to express our concerns about your January 29th letter to President Obama encouraging use of the Antiquities Act to designate 1.7 million acres of lands around the Grand Canyon National Park as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.

The land that would comprise the proposed monument includes some of the most important wildlife habitat, big game species and hunting opportunities in the U.S. including world class mule deer and elk. Not only is hunting an economic driver in the region, it also serves as a significant source of conservation revenue. In addition to license sales and excise taxes, this area generates revenue from the sale of special tags that have allowed the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD) to partner with the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to invest millions of dollars in habitat conservation and wildlife management in the region. We are deeply concerned that these outstanding economic and natural resource benefits will be significantly impaired by an Antiquities Act designation.

Proponents of the monument have cited a number of environmental challenges they inaccurately claim the designation could address. For example,

- Proponents have identified timber sales on the Kaibab National Forest as a threat to the areas' ecological integrity. In reality, wildfire, due to excessive fuel build up, is the greatest threat to Southwestern forests. Reducing fire risk mandates active management to eliminate the risk of catastrophic fires. The drought in the west is worsening, leaving our untreated forests extremely vulnerable in a potential catastrophic fire season. Wildfires have scorched more than 4 million acres in Arizona since 2000. Another catastrophic fire would put the state forests and the wildlife that reside in them at risk.

- Proponents have asserted that off-highway vehicles (OHV) are destroying the lands. In reality, cross-county OHV travel is already prohibited. OHV use is restricted to designated roads/routes and managed by BLM and USFS under their respective Travel Management Plans which provide an adaptive framework that can address future concerns and management needs.

- Proponents have asserted that an Antiquities Act designation will protect wildlife habitat connectivity. In reality, areas within the proposed monument are largely undeveloped; obstructions to wildlife movements are highly localized and typically associated with fences and roads. AGFD, the Arizona Department of Transportation, land management agencies, private landowners, and others are working to identify and remedy these barriers. There is no indication that a monument designation would expand or improve on those efforts.

- Proponents have asserted that overgrazing is harming these lands. In reality, livestock grazing within the proposed monument is responsibly and sustainably managed by the BLM and USFS. Stocking rates, seasons, and levels of use are specified by the management agency and adjusted to address resource needs and changing conditions. We feel that an Antiquities designation could be an unhelpful "solution in search of a problem" that would likely affect a system that is working well.

We have consulted with the AGFD and learned that their concerns about monuments designated using the Antiquities Act are rooted in past experience. For example, designation of the Sonoran Desert National Monument in 2001 has impaired recovery efforts for the Sonoran pronghorn while also restricting water development projects critical to the Sonoran desert bighorn sheep population. These adverse impacts on resident wildlife populations, coupled with knowledge of similar problems in Arizona and elsewhere, has resulted in the AGFD Commission voting to oppose the Grand Canyon Watershed Monument in 2012 and again in 2015.

In June, of 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Grand Canyon Game Preserve which he believed should be: "set aside for the protection of game animals and be recognized as a breeding place therefore." It would be ironic indeed if the conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt were to succumb to a legacy of non-management and hamstringing of critical conservation measures due to a misguided monument designation proclaimed without the benefit of local stakeholder input.

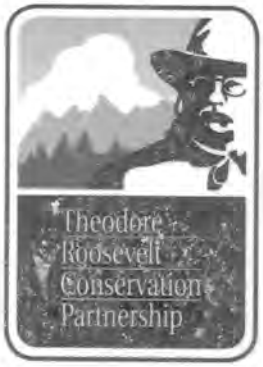
We would encourage you to honor both the wise legacy of President Roosevelt and the legacy of wildlife conservation by reconsidering your position supporting Administrative designation of the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument without a thorough environmental evaluation and a thoughtful, transparent process including formal public involvement.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Boone and Crockett Club
Camp Fire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Houston Safari Club
Masters of Foxhounds Association
Mule Deer Foundation

National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Bear Foundation
Orion: The Hunter's Institute
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Safari Club International
Tread Lightly!
Wildlife Management Institute
Wild Sheep Foundation
Whitetails Unlimited
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance



His Vision

~

Our Mission

May 14, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madam Secretary and Mr. Secretary:

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization working to guarantee all Americans quality places to hunt and fish. The TRCP is dedicated to the conservation legacy of its namesake and works on sportsmen's conservation issues in Arizona and across the United States. In Arizona, we draw on the support and action of over 2,400 individual advocates and we work cooperatively with 25 sportsmen and conservation organizations.

We are writing to express concern about the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument (GCWNM). In order for an area to merit consideration for monument designation under the Antiquities Act, we believe that the following criteria must be met:

- A thorough public process must be carried out that includes multiple stakeholder groups, including sportsmen.
- Significant sportsmen support must exist for any monument proposal overlaying areas open to hunting and fishing.
- Clear provisions must be offered and put in place to protect state agency fish and wildlife management actions, reasonable access, and the traditions of hunting and fishing.

The proposed GCWNM meets none of these criteria. The proposed GCWNM was developed by a narrow group of interests and then thrust upon the public to react to. This lack of process has created far-reaching animosity and has forced interest groups to draw lines in the sand and take hard positions. Unlike popular and recently adopted monuments in New Mexico and Colorado, we are not aware of any hunting and fishing groups that support the proposed GCWNM, and we are aware of a long list of groups that are opposed.

1660 L ST NW
SUITE 208
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
202-639-8727
WWW.TRCP.ORG

Sincerely,

Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation partnership

CC:
Arizona Congressional Delegation

Second, the monument designation has implications for private property and water rights in Arizona. Because a monument designation "federalizes" the land, it could impact the surface and groundwater rights in the monument area. Unless the monument designation is written to specifically respect existing water rights—and there is no indication it will—the monument designation will automatically carry an implied water right to serve the purposes of the designation. This opens the door to more conflicts in Arizona's general stream adjudications, including claims involving the complex interactions between surface and groundwater and putting state and private rights to the watershed in and around the monument area at risk.

Monument designation also has negative implications for the future of education funding in the state by locking up 64,000 acres of State Trust land. Protecting State Trust land is more important now than ever in light of Proposition 123, a ballot initiative passed by Arizona voters in May 2016 that increases the financial distributions from the trust to beneficiaries, the most prominent of which is the state's K-12 system.

Arizona's State Enabling Act makes clear that State Trust land may only be used in a way that serves the best interest of the trust. By locking up 64,000 acres of State Trust land without any discussion of compensation, the amount of money available to fund education in Arizona will be reduced.

Finally, we know from past experience that a monument designation doesn't necessarily protect the plants and animals that live there. For example, in 1999, there were more than 100 big horn sheep in the area that was later designated the Sonoran Desert National Monument. But monument designation made it more difficult for the Arizona Department of Game and Fish to access the area and provide new water sources. Since the monument designation the sheep population has plummeted to fewer than 35.

Proponents of monument designation like to say that designation is necessary to protect the Grand Canyon. That simply is not true. The Grand Canyon is already protected as a national park. This monument designation has nothing to do with the Grand Canyon—it's about imposing more federal control and further restricting Arizona's land without any input or oversight from local stakeholders.

A new national monument designation will restrict access to wilderness areas, impede active forest, wildlife and resource management, and risk jeopardizing Arizona's natural resources by placing them under the custody of an agency already experiencing a multi-billion dollar shortfall. The best way to protect Arizona's land and natural resources is to enact good public policies that entrust the care of those resources to the people who know the land best—those here in Arizona.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns over the abuse of the Antiquities Act. The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry stands ready to offer its insight on this and other land and resource management issues as the Committee considers them in the future.

May 28, 2015

Honorable John McCain
US Senate
241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jeff Flake
US Senate
413 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McCain and Flake:

We write to thank you for your leadership related to the proposed designation by the Obama Administration of a "Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument." We read with great interest your March 10, 2015 letter to President Barack Obama and agree with the concerns you raise. We applaud your legislative efforts to curb the use of the Antiquities Act from affecting water rights without congressional approval.

Specifically, we agree about the need for robust collaboration before any designation takes form. We all want to preserve the Grand Canyon for future generations and a sweeping designation of 1.7 million acres of land could result in unintended consequences if stakeholders do not have the opportunity for adequate input. Elected leaders from the State of Arizona – federal, state, and local – should have ample opportunity to understand specifically what the Obama Administration is contemplating, and then engage with a wide variety of stakeholders to provide thoughtful input.

Among those who need to provide considerable input is the travel and tourism industry – of which we play a significant role. Based on the details currently available, this designation has the potential to harm a variety of recreation and tourism industries, including our own, depending on how boundaries are defined and how management is conducted. We have none of those answers and would strongly oppose this designation prior to receiving those details and having the opportunity to provide input and receive assurances the travel and tourism industry would be held harmless.

To punctuate the issue of boundaries mentioned above, the Town of Tusayan and the State of Arizona should have the opportunity to ensure the businesses and resources of the Town and the state-owned Grand Canyon Airport will not be adversely affected. Both Tusayan and Grand Canyon Airport rely on recreation and tourism and this proposed designation could significantly harm both.

A designation of this size and scope should have a thoughtful and thorough process built around it and we look forward to being part of that dialogue.

Too much in politics comes down to an all-or-nothing mentality which rarely results in a positive outcome. To that end, thank you for doing what you can to ensure this proposed designation receives the scrutiny it deserves. Please let us know how we can be a positive addition to your efforts.

Sincerely,

Brenda Halvorson
Papillon Airways
President, CEO

Alan Stephen
Grand Canyon Airlines
Vice President of Corporate Affairs

Brian Brusa
Maverick Aviation Group
Vice President of Government Relations

ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION
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PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85008 • (602) 267-1129
www.azcattlemensassoc.org

ACGA
September 30, 2016

Honorable Senator John McCain
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument

Dear Senator McCain:

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association wishes to inform you of the concerns we have with the potential creation of the Grand Canyon National Monument. On January 28, 2015 Congresswoman Kirkpatrick, Congressman Grijalva and Congressman Gallego sent a letter to the President urging him to create the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. This monument would encompass the Kaibab National Forest, Bureau of Land Management areas in the Arizona strip, and would further expand two other national monuments. The proposal includes 1.7 million acres of land and will impact ranching, recreation, hunting and even local communities. Arizona is home to the most national monuments in the United States with a total of 18. Over 2.5 million acres of Arizona land is a national monument. Congressman Grijalva is also trying to codify the monument through legislation, HR3882 Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act, which will be devastating to those rural communities that depend on these public lands.

National monuments in Arizona have put increased pressure on management of the land. In many cases, the only productivity left on these lands is cattle grazing and these designations slowly bring grazing to an end. These lands take extra time to manage, have higher standards of management and lead to additional litigation for land management agencies because of a "special designation". The land managing agencies are faced with a greater challenge as these monuments go through the 10 year planning process. It is at these points that competing interest for public lands do not align and environmental groups put added pressure to remove any and all multiple use activities. The most recent example has been the Sonoran National Monument, designated by President Clinton. This monument eliminated grazing south of Interstate 8 and the planning process completed in 2013 closed one grazing permit and cut numbers on others. In addition, recreation on these lands has been severely hindered.

Our public lands system has a great deal of process and protection to authorize all multiple use activities. Often times, these processes take multiple years before any decision is made and is usually litigated. National Monuments only further exacerbate the issue while those that live and work on the land suffer from inability to manage. We hope that you others in the Arizona delegation understand our concerns for the future of these lands.

Sincerely,

Jim O'Haco

Jim O'Haco
President

RUBEN J. KIHUEN
4TH DISTRICT, NEVADA

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND INSURANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND ILLICIT FINANCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 9, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As you begin the process of reviewing monumental designations pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order 13792, I urge you to not make any changes to Basin and Range and Gold Butte national monuments.

In Nevada, we are blessed with spectacular public lands and a long history of promoting the conservation of these historically, culturally, and biologically important sites. These lands are part of what makes Nevada such a unique state, and have helped diversify the state's economy by attracting outdoor enthusiasts from across the globe. The designation of Basin and Range and Gold Butte has brought much needed protection and resources to both of these remarkable sites. Any efforts to reverse such designations put these sites at risk of degradation that would have a detrimental effect on the state's economy and shared cultural heritage.

Basin and Range National Monument represents one of the most undeveloped landscapes in the Great Basin region, exemplifying the unique topographies of the State. The Monument is also home to works of art old and new, from ancient petroglyphs in the Mt. Irish and White River Narrows archaeological districts to Michael Heizer's *City*, an art installation as large as the National Mall. The monument preserves traces of life spanning from the Clovis culture 13,000 years ago to our more recent pioneer history. What's more, Basin and Range is an important biological site, home to desert bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain elk, mountain lions, and many others. The original size area of the proposed for protection in legislation was over 800,000 acres. This acreage was based on the Garden and Coal valleys' natural, cultural, and historic values including their connection to the Mojave and Great Basin vegetation communities, and the rarity in their undeveloped nature. Since 2007 efforts have been made to protect this region

Gold Butte National Monument represents an important place for humans spanning thousands of years. Pre-historic humans sought shelter from the harsh environment in the unique rock formations. The Southern Paiute people have a strong spiritual connection with the site, holding

many sacred ceremonies there. The area is also home to important historic sites telling the story of the first ranchers in the area, who exemplified the western expansion of the country. Gold Butte is also home to rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise a number of important paleontological sites, which must be protected and further studied. The original area known as "Gold Butte" included almost 350,000 acres. This acreage was based on boundaries of various Areas of Critical Environmental Concern identified for sensitive species, wildlife habitat including critical desert tortoise habitat, cultural resources, scenic and botanical values.

Any assertions that the federal government designated these monuments without any consultation of local stakeholders in Nevada are completely without merit. The designation of both Basin and Range and Gold Butte national monuments came only after years of efforts by local activists fighting to protect these special places. That included extensive hearings, public outreach, and cooperation on the federal, state, and local levels. There is tremendous support for these monuments across the state, with polls showing that both monuments are supported by a large majority of Nevadans.

You have been quoted as saying that "[t]here is no pre-determined outcome on any monument," however, President Trump's hostility towards conservation leaves me with significant concerns. I urge you to engage with all Nevadans as a part of this process to hear directly their opposition to any changes to these national monuments.

Making changes to Basin and Range and Gold Butte national monuments would be a grievous mistake, which would harm Nevada culturally, ecologically, and economically. I urge you again to not make any changes to these truly special places.

Sincerely,

RUBEN J. KIHUEN
Member of Congress

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
GUAM

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND PROJECTION FORCES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

Congress of the United States
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June 29, 2017

The Honorable Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross,

I write in response to your request for my comment on the Interior and Commerce Departments' review of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, subject to executive orders 13795 and 13792.

The Marianas Trench is an important natural resource with deep cultural meaning for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands that drives economic development. In January 2009, then-President George W. Bush designated our marine national monument to permanently protect approximately 95,216 square miles of submerged land and territorial waters. Each year, visitors from around the world come to Guam to explore our pristine beaches, world-class diving among coral reefs and colorful tropical fish, and other unique attractions.

Tourism is big business for Guam. According to the Guam Visitors Bureau, the tourism industry accounts for over 50% of our economy, directly responsible for 1 in 3 jobs. 2016 was a record-breaking year for tourism to Guam, with an estimated 1.53 million visitors. In particular, ecotourism to Guam and neighboring islands continues to grow, providing visitors an opportunity to travel to pristine natural areas in an environmentally responsible way. This helps to sustain our communities and exposes visitors to the best of local culture. I expect that your Departments will consider the very significant economic impact that tourism—driven by our natural wonders like the Marianas Trench and world-famous hospitality—has for Guam and the region. An economically vibrant Guam also guarantees high quality of life for the veterans, 12,000 U.S. military service members, and their dependents who call our island home.

President Trump's executive order 13795 requires you to consider "opportunity costs associated with potential energy and mineral exploration and production." I expect this to include the obvious downsides of opening up marine national monuments like the Marianas Trench to offshore drilling, possible spills, and other negative impacts. Identifying underwater resources in deep-water ocean like the Marianas Trench oftentimes requires highly intrusive seismic surveys. While seismic surveys are sometimes necessary for ocean-floor mapping, military readiness, and scientific purposes, they can devastate sensitive species like marine

mammals. As such, I am concerned that the President's executive order and your Departments' review may lead to unnecessary seismic surveys that attempt to inventory offshore oil, gas, and mineral resources likely neither technically feasible to reach nor economically profitable to exploit.

Lastly, your Departments—the Interior Department in particular—have unique working partnerships with insular areas like Guam. President Bush's 2009 proclamation reflects this fact, recognizing the need to support "sustenance, recreational, and traditional indigenous fishing" in the Marianas Trench National Monument. I therefore hope that your Departments will consider suggestions to improve the Marianas Trench's existing management planning process, including any submitted during this public comment period. I also hope that your Departments will recommit to finalizing the management plan without further delay.

Our local communities deserve flexibility to exercise their traditional fishing rights, and I hope that your Departments will seek to address concerns within the current management planning process. President Bush's 2009 proclamation established the Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council to ensure substantial local input and that the marine national monument is managed to the high degree of stewardship that the people of Guam and the Northern Marianas expect.

Thank you for considering my views. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these issues further, or have your staffs contact mine at: 202-225-1188.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress

MZB:ih

PRAMILA JAYAPAL
7TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM,
COMMERCIAL, AND ANTITRUST LAW

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May 24, 2017

Ryan Zinke, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The president's decision to sign the Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act, which directs you to review and make recommendations about national monuments designated since 1996, is a continuation of this administration's wholesale assault on who we are as Americans and what we cherish in our country.

As you know, the executive branch has no authority to revoke national monument designations. As the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act made clear, it also lacks the ability to shrink those monuments. Even so, your recommendations will inform and powerfully shape discussions about the disposition of our monuments and public lands more generally. We strongly urge you, in crafting those recommendations, to remember the irreplaceable role that these monuments play in our national life and culture. Any reduction in their size would be unacceptable, and their elimination would be unprecedented.

Our national monuments are designated to protect our environment and honor the diverse people and places that have made significant impacts on our communities and country. Under the Antiquities Act, important places ranging from Devil's Tower in California to Hanford Reach in Washington to Fort Monroe in Virginia have been designated as national monuments.

Bears Ears in Utah has been a topic of discussion since former President Barack Obama made it his final national monument before leaving office. It has a rich history, and its designation as a national monument under the Antiquities Act protects more than 100,000 archaeological sites, ancient artworks, burial sites, and locations of cultural significance to Native Americans. Every one of those sites deserves protection and any effort to weaken their current protections would be unconscionable.

The White House has clearly targeted large monuments, but the review requirement also contemplates monuments "where the Secretary determines that the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders." We urge you to resist any temptation to use such vague and subjective criteria to review smaller, culturally essential monuments that clearly deserve their current protections.

For example, Stonewall Inn was designated a national monument in 2016. It has a deep connection to the history of the LGBTQ rights movement in the United States, serving as the site of the Stonewall uprising and a pillar of resistance in the struggle for equality for LGBTQ people. Revoking its status would be a grave demonstration of this administration's lack of respect for the LGBTQ community and the extensive public process that took place in New York.

To remove protections for even just pieces of these national monuments would be culturally insensitive and disrespectful. It would set us back in the progress we have made in recognizing the impact and importance of certain cultural traditions and natural sites around our country.

In addition to these cultural consequences, reducing or eliminating monuments would be bad for the environment. What we have seen to date is that this administration has shown little commitment to land conservation and the critically important fight against climate change. Any effort to undo the progress achieved in protecting important ecological sites is unacceptable.

By removing protections of these lands, efforts to exploit them for fossil fuels and minerals would undoubtedly pick up dramatically. The cultural history of these places is worth much more than the energy resources underneath their soil, and these lands are irreplaceable.

We are also troubled by the Trump administration's close ties to oil and gas companies and big business, and worry that this order may become part of a broader pattern of profiting off of public lands. It is clear that the president has no qualms about using his position to benefit the Trump Organization and its properties; his failure to disclose financial information makes it impossible to know whether he stands to personally profit from projects like the Dakota Access Pipeline. Public lands are for the people, not for exploitation by their leaders.

Secretary Zinke, you have a reputation for being an outdoors enthusiast in your home state. Montana's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument will be under your review, and we urge you to support continued protections for every acre of that monument, as well as all others.

Sincerely,

PRAMILA JAYAPAL
Member of Congress

A. DONALD McEACHIN
Member of Congress

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN
Member of Congress

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

JOHN YARMUTH
Member of Congress

DONALD M. PAYNE, Jr.
Member of Congress

SALUD O. CARBAJAL
Member of Congress

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress

BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress

GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Member of Congress

NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress

JARED POLIS
Member of Congress

KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress

LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress

DIANA DeGETTE
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress

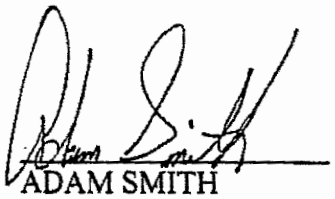
SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress

BOBBY L. RUSH
Member of Congress

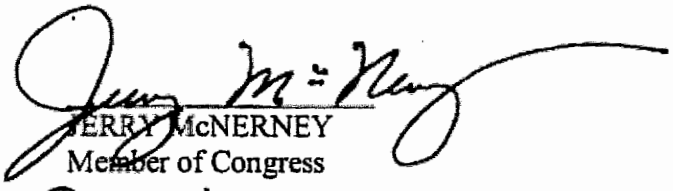
GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress

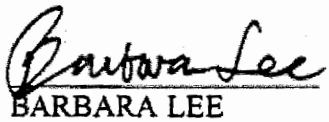
KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



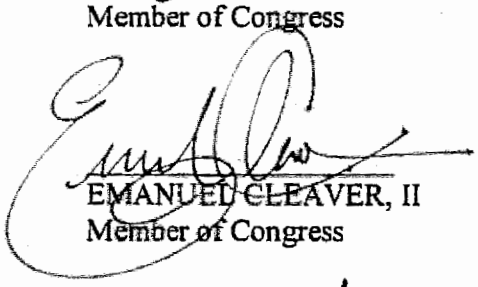
JERRY McNERNEY
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

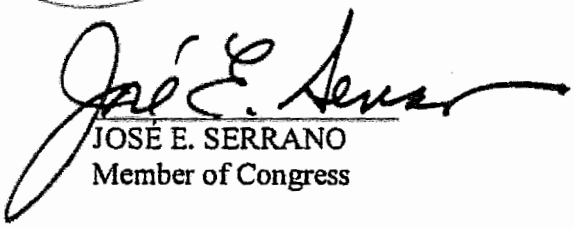
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

TIM WALZ
Member of Congress

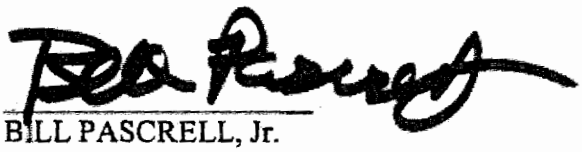


EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
Member of Congress

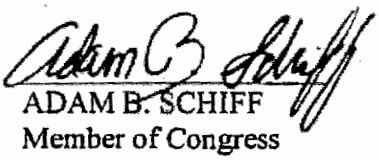
ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress



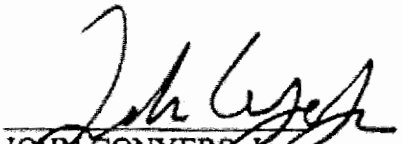
JOSÉ E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



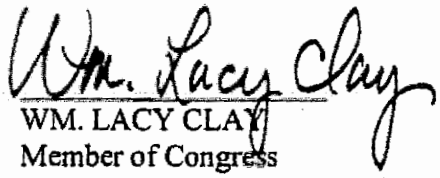
BILL PASCRELL, Jr.
Member of Congress



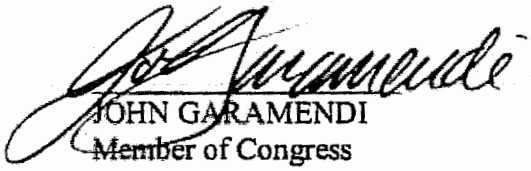
ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



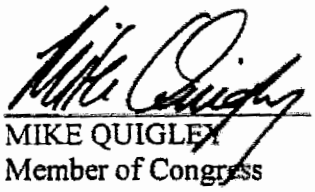
JOHN CONYERS, Jr.
Member of Congress



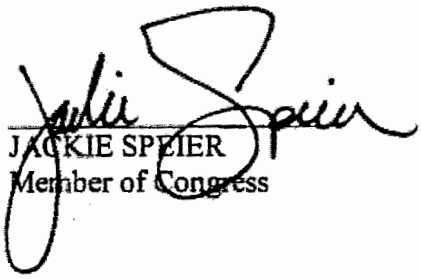
WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress



JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress



MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

ALMA S. ADAMS
Member of Congress

TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress

RUBEN J. KIHUEN
Member of Congress

JACKY ROSEN
Member of Congress

COLLEEN HANABUSA
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

JAMES P. McGOVERN
Member of Congress

RO KHANNA
Member of Congress

DWIGHT EVANS
Member of Congress

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

DONALD S. BEYER Jr.
Member of Congress

SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress

BRENDAN F. BOYLE
Member of Congress

MATT CARTWRIGHT
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ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress

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ED PERLMUTTER
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Member of Congress

MARK POCAN
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BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
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ANTHONY G. BROWN
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CAROL SHEA-PORTER
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Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress

THEODORE E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress

JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

DINA TITUS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
1ST DISTRICT NEVADA

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing in regards to Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act, signed by the President on April 26, 2017. Nevada is the proud home to two of the designations which are subject for review, Basin & Range National Monument and Gold Butte National Monument. I long-advocated for the permanent protection of these places through legislation as well as through designation by the President of the United States under the authority granted by Congress in the Antiquities Act.

One issue raised in the signing of this executive order was a lack of public input. I can assure you that in the development of these designations there have been years of advocacy, engagement, and education. In fact, prior to the designations, I hosted a public forum for over three hours with representatives from the Department of the Interior where more than three hundred area residents testified in support of permanent protections for Basin & Range as well as Gold Butte. They outlined a number of important reasons to protect these special places including habitat protection for Nevada's unique flora and fauna, access to outdoor recreation for underserved communities, and preservation of culturally-important lands and relics of the Southern Paiute tribal communities dating back hundreds and thousands of years.

Additionally, public lands in Southern Nevada are a major draw for the some 43 million annual visitors and 2 million area residents. That is why the designations of Basin & Range and Gold Butte drew support not just from conservation groups, but from the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Nevada Resort Association, and a host of community leaders and business organizations. They recognize the enormous economic impact that these monuments have in terms of outdoor recreation. Last year alone more than eight million visitors went to Nevada's Bureau of Land Management areas; and in 2015, before the addition of these new monuments, Southern Nevada's public lands, national parks, and conservation areas generated over $400 million dollars in economic activity for the region.

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Basin & Range and Gold Butte National Monuments should be applauded, not subjected to political games. Should you or any of your colleagues in the Administration want to come to Nevada to learn more about these two designations, I ask that you meet with those thousands of Nevadans who spoke out and advocated for the permanent protection of these special places. I am happy to arrange these meetings for you or your staff. Thank you for your attention and again please reach out with any questions you may have regarding Nevada's national monuments.

Sincerely,

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

Hon. Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

While stewardship of America's national monuments is your solemn responsibility, the continued existence of those national monuments is ours.

Article IV of the United States Constitution reads in relevant part: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

Congress has delegated significant federal land management responsibilities to the Executive, including broad authorization to the President through the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments on federal land. Over more than a century, however, Congress has not delegated authority to significantly diminish or abolish an existing national monument. This includes consideration and enactment of amendments to the Antiquities Act, and the decision by the 94th Congress to enact the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (P.L. 94-579), which left the Antiquities Act intact.

The Constitutional authority to revoke or shrink a national monument lies with the Congress.

Wildfire, drought, sprawl, invasive species, unmet maintenance needs, and more threaten the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources you manage on behalf of the American people. Families living on Indian Reservations face among the highest rates of poverty and illness in the world. A changing climate is melting the glaciers for which the National Park near your hometown is named.

Given these significant and growing challenges, developing a report to the President regarding the use of authority he does not possess is a misuse of your time and the public's money.

Sincerely,

Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Anthony Brown
Member of Congress

William Lacy Clay Jr.
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Matthew Cartwright
Member of Congress

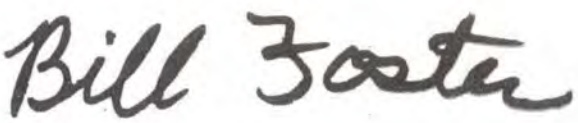
Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

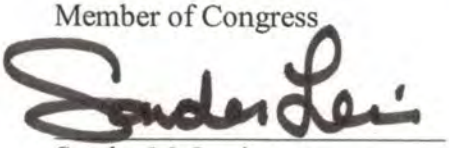
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

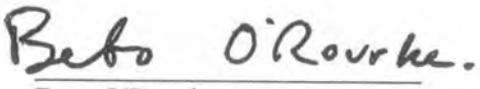
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



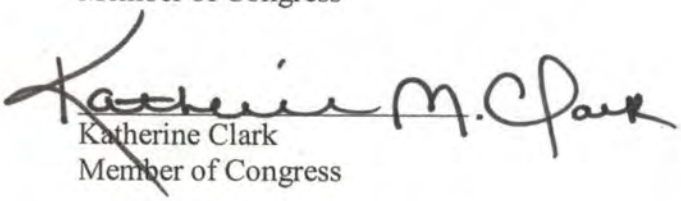
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



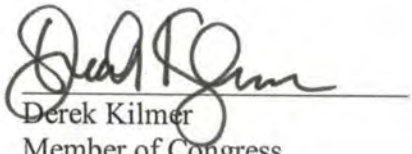
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

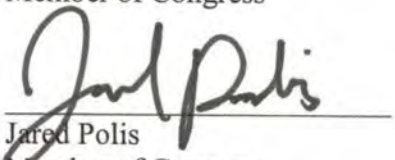
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



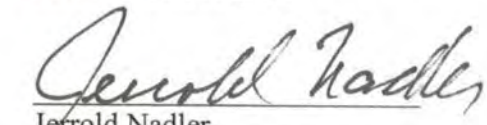
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



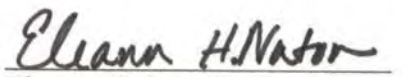
Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



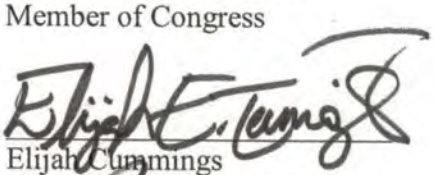
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

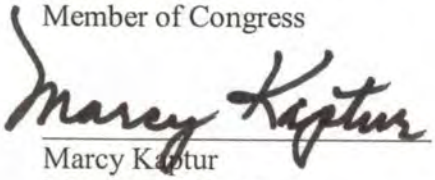


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

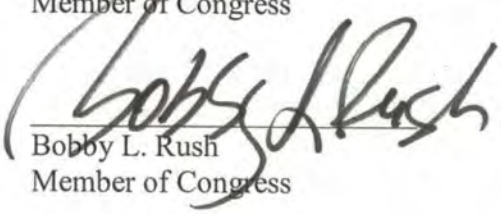
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



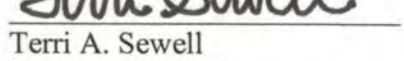
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



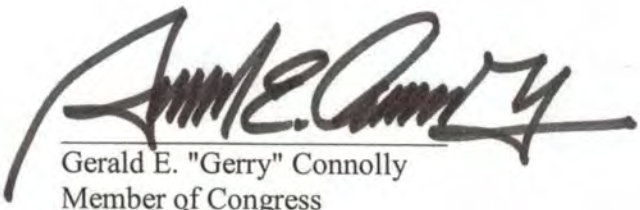
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



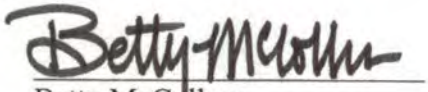
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



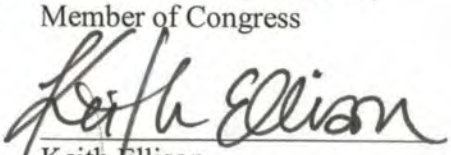
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



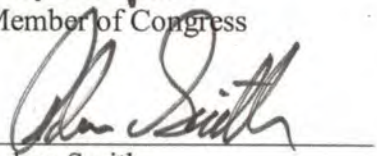
Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly
Member of Congress



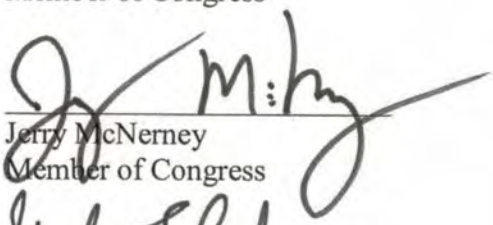
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

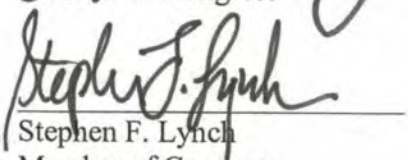


Adam Smith
Member of Congress

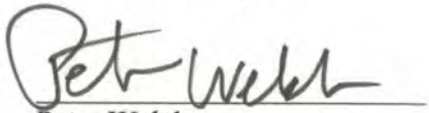


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

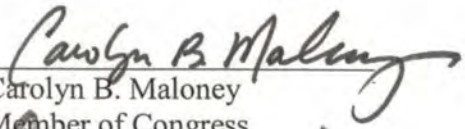


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

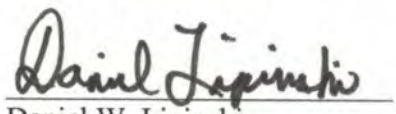


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

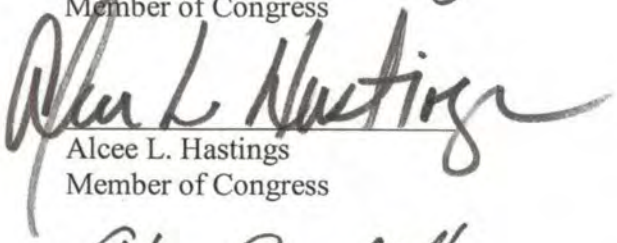
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



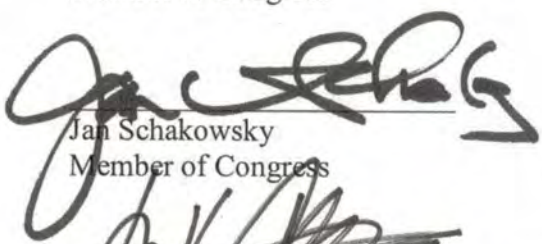
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress



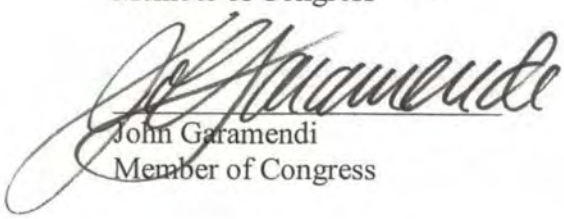
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



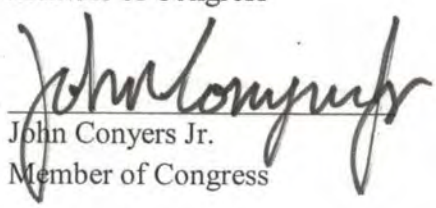
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Adam Schiff
Member of Congress

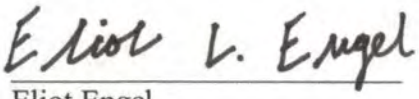
Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



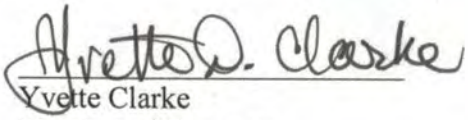
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



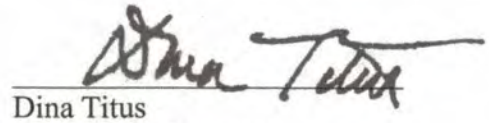
John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress



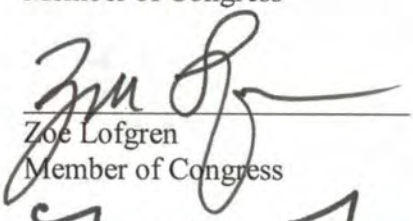
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

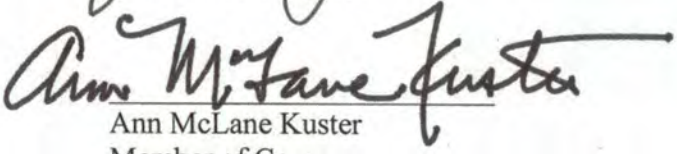


Dina Titus
Member of Congress

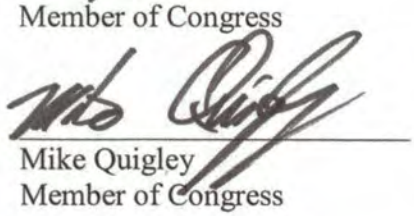


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

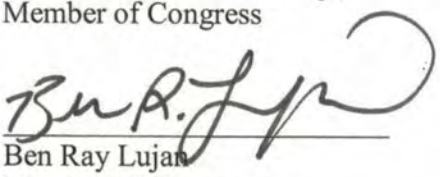
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



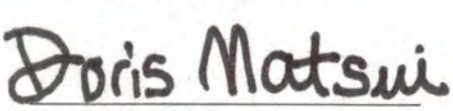
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



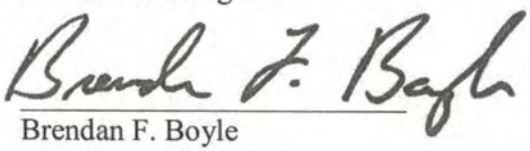
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



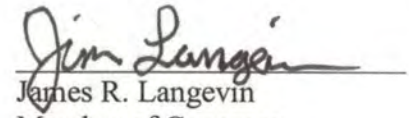
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

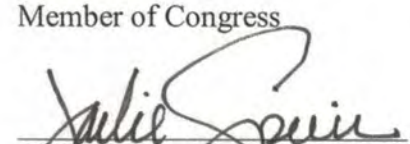


Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

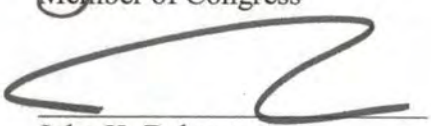


James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress