

Random Samples of Comments, from June 28 set of Comments

370595 - I love animals!!*

370604 - we need all to do what is right and fair*

371111 - The lands and waters being reconsidered were designated as national monuments or marine sanctuaries by previous administrations and a public comment period is underway to gather input on whether to keep or remove these protected area designations.*

371786 - I am making these comments as a person that has had a on hands interest and participation in Local and the CEQA and NEPA process's for over 20 years and should be seen as a expert on these matters. Thank You Steven Proe 2905 Sliger Mine road Greenwood, CA.95635-0094 [Note – this is all there was here]*

372145 - "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not." -The Lorax*

372796 - Save our coasts and marine life.*

372937 - Please do not slaughter wild horses. They are iconic to our west.*

[* - should have been marked "uncodable"; included to give a sample of those]

372970 - Ryan Zinke..... We Montana's have been free thinkers and watch out for this states future.....Please for the love of this state do not be a rubber stamp for Trump....EVER!!!..... Thanks

363919 - Our national monuments and public lands and waters help define who we are as a nation by telling the story of our historical, cultural and natural heritage. I am extremely disappointed that President Trump has signed an executive order that attempts to undermine our national monuments. Attempts to roll back protections for national monuments would be both illegal and terribly misguided. I strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to eliminate or shrink our national monuments.

I am vocally opposed to and disappointed in Secretary Zinke's interim recommendation to reduce the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument. Not only does the President lack the legal authority to reduce a monument, it would the absolute wrong move for our public lands. The monuments boundaries were created based on years of leadership by the tribal governments of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and removing protections for any of the cultural resources, sacred sites or natural and scientific wonders of the Bears Ears would be the wrong move. As tribal leaders said, this is a living landscape and we cannot simply protect one individual area of archaeological or cultural resources and allow the rest to be opened to development.

I am concerned that this recommendation was made despite reports of hundreds of thousands of comments opposing such changes and reviews of comments showing that over 96% of them supported full protections of the existing Bears Ears National Monument. I urge Secretary Zinke and President Trump to rethink this disastrous recommendation and instead listen to the leadership of the sovereign tribal nations and the overwhelming majority of the American public

by issuing a final recommendation to leave the monument intact as it currently stands. If Congress seeks to change management of areas of the monument, that shouldn't justify revoking protections for huge sections of the monument while they delay - the President should not attempt to use authority he lacks to do the will of anti-conservation and anti-public lands Members of Congress.

An attempt to attack one monument by rolling back protections would be an attack on them all, from Grand Staircase-Escalante, Mojave Trails, Cascade Siskiyou, Grand Canyon-Parashant, and Katahdin Woods and Waters to all of the 27 monuments under review. Sending a signal that protections for our shared history and culture are not permanent would set a terrible precedent. This would discourage business investment and community growth around all national monuments while also sending the signal that our history and natural wonders are negotiable. National monuments have already been shown to be tremendous drivers of the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy and businesses in gateway communities rely on the permanency of these protections when making decisions about investing in these communities. Our national monuments should remain protected for future generations to enjoy. They are a gift that belongs to all Americans.

I am firmly opposed to any effort to revoke or diminish protections for National Monuments and I urge you to support our public lands and waters and recommend that our current national monuments remain protected.

Seriously what is the point of these reviews? It feels like a major waste of government funds. It is very sad that it might be more important to take these lands from everyone and then sell them. Frank D. Roosevelt would highly disapprove, this should be taken into account.

364265 - I am writing to express my support for the protection of the designated national monuments (those established since 1966) that are subject to review per President Trump's executive order. While I am a landscape architect who values our public lands, I am not qualified to speak to determinations i, ii, iii, v, and vi; however I would like to speak to determinations iv and vii.

Determination iv: These areas that have been designated provide considerable pleasure to the thousands who visit to recreate, study, research or just admire some of America's vast beauty. Their use and enjoyment are difficult to measure, yet there are countless studies that have shown the multiple benefits of access to nature on both physical and mental health. (e.g., The Journal of Psychological Science; or www.epa.gov/research/healthscience/browser/introduction.html). The majesty of long views, deep valleys, high mountains or unique rock formations make these experiences unique and special. The opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural setting is unparalleled and the reward when one sees such wildlife is priceless. We need these areas for their vastness just as wildlife does. From the earliest writers and painters of America's great new territories we learned how amazing these places are and how worthy they are of our protection. Early Americans were amazed at the paintings, then first photos, of these vast landscapes and all that they represented. This led to our willingness as a nation to begin protecting such vast landscapes, recognizing their inherent values.

Determination vii: While it will be up to the Secretary to decide what other factors may be deemed appropriate, I would offer a few. As a nation we need areas like these designated national monuments so that we may better understand our cultural roots, our natural roots and how special our country is for protecting these special places. Few countries can measure up to the United States in recognizing and protecting heritage sites. We are not alone in having such natural and cultural treasures, but few can match our efforts to preserve and protect. That is a tradition we can all be proud to support.

As the United States expanded, we were not the first to step onto these lands, nor the first to be awed by their abundance and beauty. We have a responsibility as a nation of laws, and one that is built on the shoulders of those who came before, to respect the traditions, cultural expressions and social/spiritual values they represent. We can learn from these lands, but only if we protect them and respect their collective values.

Finally, there are arguments that these lands should be returned to the states so that they may benefit from their economic potential. That potential rests largely on mineral extraction which will likely reduce the natural beauty, negatively impact wildlife, and threaten cultural values. It is not sustainable and in time will leave only trailings and diminished resources. I believe that in keeping these designated national monuments there is already economic benefit available that actually protects beauty, wildlife and cultural values. It is not extractive; it requires providing limited public access but with the benefit to surrounding or gateway communities of economic return through hospitality industries and outdoor provisions and equipment suppliers. The short term return may be less than a mine but the long term benefit is that the resource is not damaged and there is the potential for a sustainable return.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this issue. I personally value our nation's wonderful national forests, parks, monuments and public lands. We are truly blessed as a nation to have them and I sincerely hope that we will continue to protect the ones we have while being open to opportunities for adding ones in the future.

363229 - WE ARE DEFINED BY OUR CHOICES !!!!!!!!!!!!!

AMERICAN SAMOA

Rose Atoll

ARIZONA

Grand Canyon - Parashant

Ironwood Forest

Vermillion Cliffs

Sonoran Desert

CALIFORNIA

Giant Sequoia

Carrizo Plain

Cascade-Siskiyou

San Gabriel Mountains
Berryessa Snow Mountain
Mojave Trails
Sand to Snow

COLORADO
Canyons of the Ancients

HAWAII
Papahnaumokuakea

IDAHO
Craters of the Moon

MAINE
Katahdin Woods & Waters

MONTANA
Upper Missouri River Breaks

NEW ENGLAND
Northeast Canyons and Seamounts

NEW MEXICO
Rio Grande del Norte
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks

NEVADA
Basin and Range
Gold Butte

OREGON
Cascade-Siskiyou

PACIFIC OCEAN
Marianas Trench
Pacific Remote Islands

UTAH
Grand Staircase-Escalante
Bears Ears

WASHINGTON
Hanford Reach

360012 - It took many people and years to establish our national parks. These parks are not only enjoyable vacation spots, but are animal habitats, scientific and historical sites that benefit all. Of my many vacations as a child, I remember the national parks the most. Today, I would rather visit a USA national park than any other place around the world. We were the first country to establish national parks (Yellowstone). We should work towards keeping our promise to reserve these special places for future generations. We should also work together towards preserving other beautiful areas, such as parts of Tahoe, not towards eliminating ones we have already made sanctuaries. It is sad that we have to vigilantly guard the rights of all, because of a few that would like to own or make money off these lands. I just visited Emerald Bay area in Tahoe with my daughter, son-in-law, and 2 year old grandson. Although it is in the CA State Park system, I believe it should be a national park and never be considered for sale, as it was awhile back. My next trip will be up the coast from Southern CA to Northern CA, ending with Redwood National Park. I will be taking my middle grandson who will be studying CA history in 4th grade. My trips center around beauty and history. National parks encompass both of these and more. Millions of people around the world travel to these parks for those reasons! This year I used Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone to teach science, history, language arts, and math (and more) to second graders. Students researched these places on their chomebooks in groups, pairs, and on their own during class and for homework. First, students enjoyed studying animals and plants (life cycle). They were amazed that we had the tallest, and some of the oldest trees in the world right here in CA. They learned about Yosemite Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world. They also researched Yosemite Valley, El Capitan and Half Dome (land forms/ height). They understood new terms (granite, glacial theory, geologist, naturalist...). They discovered new people (Ahwahnechee Native American people, Sierra Miwok tribes, John Muir, President Theodore Roosevelt,...). Students studied the important information working towards saving this unique area that was being destroyed by loggers cutting the mighty sequoia trees, and the sheep herds that were eating all the grasslands in the valley. They used their research to purpose their own idea's on what might have happened to this area if it was not saved, and concluded their piece with an evaluation. Each child stated they were glad this area became a national park (mostly) because of the largest trees, waterfalls, and granite rocks in the world. Next, students explored the Grand Canyon. They discovered that the Grand Canyon is a very large hole in the ground (277 miles long, up to 18 miles wide and over one mile deep) formed by constant "erosion" of the Colorado River. They learned how John Wesley Powell mapped out the river. They studied the Pueblo basketmakers culture, natural resources, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 that ceded the region to the US. They learned about its location in Arizona, including the South Rim, Grand Canyon West, Grand Canyon East, and North Rim. We used terms such as compass rose, basin, climate.... We used a compass to locate our direction. Finally, students discovered the natural wonders of Yellowstone, and how it became our first national park. They learned about Old Faithful, and other geysers, tectonic activity, and volcanic eruptions that have shaped the park. They found Yellowstone Lake, wild life, and earthquakes interesting, but focused more of their research on Yellowstone's supervolcano. They were happy to learn that the odds of it erupting are 1 in 730,000 (math). There is so much more they learned, but mostly this research fostered a love for national parks. If 2nd graders, and vacationers from around the world value our parks, won't you?

360015 - Please support national monuments and the Hanford Reach National Monument in Eastern Washington, specifically.

Within Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing section of the 1,243-mile Columbia River.

Hanford has a long and rich history of Native American habitation and use and is culturally significant to tribes throughout the region.

More than 150 registered archaeological sites are found within the monument's boundaries.

Please uphold the protection of Hanford Reach National Monument, and all 27 national monuments under review.

360059 - I live and work in the area of the Bears Ears Monument. I believe the Bears Ears Monument should most definitely be reduced in size and that a multi-use strategy for the area should be formed.

I am friends with and work with many native Americans who live in the chapter areas closest to the monument who are very opposed to the monument and feel betrayed by out of state tribal leaders who support the monument. Especially by those who have received payouts from extreme environmental organizations. They are bitter that out of state leaders never asked their opinion and often ignore them completely.

The majority of the locals (native and otherwise) feel it is a misrepresentation and misuse of the land to lock it up in a monument that offers little to no additional protection. It would take a army of rangers to patrol an area as large as it is now and we all know the funding is not there for that. The locals feel that the most concentrated areas should be designated and protected not a huge tract of land that could never be patrolled. As it is the current monument designation is going to end up causing more vandalism, more looting, more damage due to drawing in crowds of tourists to an area that can't support crowds and from a size that is unmanageable. I've already seen and heard of tourists coming in an picking up and taking "Souvenir" pottery shards.

I would actually prefer to have some additional wilderness designations, some specific monument locations in the most concentrated and sensitive areas and conservation and multi-use designations in the rest.

I love this land and have spent much time hiking, canyoneering, exploring the area but I also heat my home from wood I cut in what is now the monument. Prior to the monument designation I used to be able to drive across Elk Ridge and seldom see more than a a half a dozen vehicles. Since the designation that number has already gone up. It's sad to see additional traffic in this beautiful and solitary land. Those supporting the monument don't realize the damage they are inflicting on the land.

While I am not opposed to tribal co-management I do want to note that many areas of the Navajo and Ute reservations that I drive through on a regular basis are very poorly managed. The area around Window Rock for instance is highly scenic with red rock cliffs and ponderosa pine forests but it is also littered with trash and bottles and neglected or deserted buildings. If this is the kind of "management" that the tribal leaders do in their own home area then what will

they do in a remote area they seldom if ever visit? Let's see them put their own house in order before they attempt to manage someone else home.

I also have friends and employees on the local search and rescue team who say the number of rescues has already gone up from ignorant tourists trying to explore a remote and difficult terrain. That creates a burden on the local teams.

Finally I am a firm believer that it is wrong for one man to be able to use the antiquities act to lock up huge tracts of land with a stroke of the pen without any local or congressional direction and approval. The founding fathers would reject that act outright. This misuse of the original intent of that act has allowed recent presidents to offer "Land Grants" for political reasons to their supporting constituents. What part of "smallest manageable size" was considered with the Bears Ears monument. There is no way that 1.35 million areas is manageable. It was clearly a Land Grant in the same nature as the kings of old used to win favor for political reasons.

This act should be eliminated or at a minimum redone to specifically limit the size a sitting president can designate (with a limit of hundreds of thousands of acres at most - not unlimited) and/or require congressional approval and local input.

Again, I strongly opposed the designation of the current monument and want to see it reduced .

Please protect this area but making it a manageable size and by considering local impacts and inputs.

334635 - I am writing to voice my support for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and to express my concern over the recent Executive Order to review recently designated Monuments.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument preserves cultural, historical and natural values important to New Mexico and the United States. The area is celebrated for its incredible wildlands and history. It is loved for its natural wonders, such as the peaks of the Organ Needles and the southwestern Chihuahuan Desert. It also features hundreds of unique Native American cultural artifacts and preserves key areas of American and New Mexican history, including Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, a portion of the Butterfield Stagecoach route, and even training sites for the Apollo Space Program and World War II bomber pilots and crews.

The establishment of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument was a true nonpartisan community effort that brought people together across the political and cultural spectrum. The process involved extensive participation from the local community, including Hispanic leaders, veterans, Native Americans, sportsmen and women, outdoor enthusiasts, small business owners, local elected officials, faith leaders, conservationists, and countless others.

Our monument protects historic and traditional uses, like hunting and grazing, and the abundance of natural beauty attracts countless visitors each year. The pristine and rugged qualities of many areas provide endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, including, horseback riding, hiking, birding, camping, mountain biking and rock climbing.

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has proven to be an economic boon to Dona Ana County, creating priceless advertising and a sustainable economic future for the region. Since the designation, new business and tourism opportunities connected to the National Monument have been created, including the City of Las Cruces's new "Monuments to Main Street" promotion. Tourists have visited the monument from all over the world since its establishment, contributing to the 102% increase in visitation in the last year alone. Las Cruces was also recently included in Lonely Planet's "Top 10 Places to Visit," due in large part to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Additionally, Bears Ears National Monument, just over the border in Utah, which is first on the list for this review, is a textbook example of the priceless historic, cultural and natural wonders that are protected as National Monuments. Protecting 100,000 archaeological and cultural sites, the monument honors the voices of five tribes who joined together to seek protection of their shared ancestral lands and traditions, Bears Ears National Monument should remain protected permanently.

I urge you to leave Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Bears Ears National Monuments intact, without changes

334644 - As a geologist, paleontologist, outdoor enthusiast and climber, I ask that you protect the integrity of the Antiquities Act, which has been used by Presidents of both parties for over 100 years. Our public lands are one of the most valuable in the world. Not only do they act as a place for recreation, but also for scientific research. I am a paleontologist and geologist and my first internship was with the BLM in Price, UT. Since then, most of my research has been on public lands. Many of my colleagues specifically work in Bear's Ears and Escalante National Monuments as do I. These places not only hold great scientific value (research about the past, past climates, and understanding of past climates and how they can help us understand current climate change) but they also hold great wonder to kids, whose first introduction to science is through dinosaurs! Also, as an avid climber both places hold valuable climbing localities that are huge boosts to the economic well-being of the towns around them. I've worked and am currently researching on BLM land in your state of Montana. Please, don't destroy the valuable public lands that are the pride and joy to visitors and colleagues I take there from around the world.

334669 - Canyon of the Ancients is a National Monument of world cultural heritage importance. It is home to petroglyphs, structures and relics from the Anasazi, the ancestral Puebloans. These cultural relics can not be disregarded. Additionally our National Monuments are part of the economy of the 4 Corners region, driven largely by tourist dollars attracted by our Public Lands. Ranchers in this area depend on our Public lands, including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument for grazing lands, and have rights designated to them. By taking away the public lands, you take away another vital part of our economy. Please preserve our Public Lands and National Monuments!

Helen A Reynolds Lewis Colorado

320759 - Not long ago, I was very pleased to learn that federal land that I regularly use for recreation was to be protected as a national monument.

Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument provides a place for millions of Californians to

enjoy and learn about the wilderness that has shaped our great nation's history and culture. It protects the watershed of Putah Creek and Cache Creek, which provide vital irrigation water to the agriculture that is critical to our local economy here in the lower Sacramento Valley. It not only protects endangered local species, but provides protected areas that enable our fish and game to flourish, so that hunters and fishermen can continue to enjoy both sport and put food on their families' tables.

National monument status ensures that private interests can't damage the public interest by allowing mining operations to pollute the waters on which we depend, or by allowing developers to build private developments in ways that will endanger Lake Berryessa's sanitation and water storage capacity. It ensures that the mountainous, ecologically diverse area will remain healthy, which will be good for the local economy of communities from Napa to Davis and Fairfield to Ukiah. Taking away that status will benefit few people, if any, and will harm the interests of several million Northern Californians.

I strongly urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that Berryessa-Snow Mountain remains a national monument.

292688 - I work in tourism, my livelihood depends on promoting and supporting our national parks and monuments to domestic and international visitors.

I am writing to request your support for tourism and our public lands. Please do not give up any portion of these lands.

Tourism is the #1 industry in the state of Arizona and our parks and monuments receive unprecedented visitation.

Experiencing the American West is actually a top travel motivator for our international visitors. We receive 42 million visitors each year in Arizona which equates to \$21 billion in spending for our economy and supports 179,000 jobs in my state.

Have you ever sat on the edge of the Grand Canyon at sunset or walked through Antelope Slot Canyon to admire the swirled sandstone? I will tell you it takes your breath away. Our landscapes are unique and beautiful. Please keep them protected for our children and grandchildren.

Please don't let the corporate greed and the desire for mining or development tear apart our beautiful land that should be shared by all. They belong to everyone. As John Muir said - "they are our greatest treasure."

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Becky Blaine Scottsdale, Arizona

292893 - I respectfully submit these comments as a member of the Society for American Archaeology in support of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.

The Antiquities Act itself is the result of advocacy by the public and archaeologists concerned about the preservation of the cultural heritage contained in our federal lands. It is for the continued protection of cultural resources--specifically those located within the Canyons of the Ancients Monument--that I am writing.

The Canyons of the Ancients Monument, which is subject to the review procedure outlined in the Executive Order (E.O.) signed by President Trump on April 26th, contains more than 6,000 known archaeological sites. There are likely even more as-yet unknown sites as portions of the land have never been surveyed to locate archaeological resources. In addition to playing active roles in the cultural lives of many people today, the historic and scientific value of these places and the objects they contain cannot be overstated. They are physical ties to the past, and hold irreplaceable information about the peoples who came before us, how they lived, and how they adapted--or not--to the ever-changing natural and social environments surrounding them. If these sites are looted or destroyed, those connections, and that data, are lost forever.

Some are questioning the size of recent monument designations, given that the Antiquities Act states that monument boundaries should be limited to the smallest area compatible with effective management of the assets to be protected. As far as cultural resource protection is concerned, it is important to note that the science of archaeology has evolved greatly since the time the Act was signed. We've come to recognize that archaeological sites are best interpreted as part of the landscapes that surround them. It is only from this perspective that we can gain the clearest understanding of the lives of our forebears.

I understand that preserving every acre of federal land from development is clearly neither possible nor even desirable. Setting aside lands containing the most sensitive cultural values, however, is vital to the continued growth of our knowledge of the past, without which the nation's future will be greatly diminished. It is possible to achieve both outcomes. Designation of land as a monument does not have to completely preclude economic development within its boundaries. Some activities compatible with resource preservation could take place, while still giving archaeological sites a higher level of protection than is afforded on lands outside monuments.

I urge you to keep these realities in mind as the Department's review of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument continues.

287854 - Secretary Zinke:

"The federal government needs to do a much better job of managing our resources, but the sale or transfer of our land is an extreme proposal, and I won't tolerate it." These are your words. Teddy Roosevelt would have been proud - and the people have put their trust in you.

We all know the gains Teddy Roosevelt made for public lands, and we understand that the situation he faced was similar to the one you now face. He saved large tracts of public land during the Gilded Age - against considerable opposition from the oligarchy of the day.

As someone who has put himself forward as an admirer of this president, the public hopes to see such determination and strength of character from you. We hope that you, too, will be

remembered for defending the people's lands when they were under attack by those who would profit from them. We hope it will not be simply be for riding your horse to work, while public lands slipped from our grasp.

To our dismay, you have paid lip service to public input, while suspending the work of volunteer Resource Advisory Councils - which once involved local stakeholders in decision-making. You have, despite overwhelming public support for maintaining the full Bears Ears National Monument, recommended sharp cuts in its area. Our hope is that you will realize the work you do now is more important than your career, or this administration. You must save our National Monuments.

The Sand to Snow National Monument was formed through citizen activism, with community input. In common with other National Monuments, it protects prior rights, such as water rights, grazing, fishing and hunting; vehicles are allowed on roads.

While allowing prior use, its administration protects an extraordinary landscape, rich in biological diversity (including twelve threatened and endangered animal species), and many archeological sites. It protects San Gorgonio Mountain, which is a sacred area to the Serrano, Luiseno and Cahuilla people.

The area protects ecosystems ranging from the Mojave and Colorado deserts, riparian forests, creosote bush scrub and woodlands, fresh water marshes, Mediterranean chaparral and alpine conifer forests. It contains important biological and ecological research sites.

The area also provides a variety of recreation opportunities for 24 million people living within a two-hour drive of the area. These urban people have access to hiking, climbing, backpacking, horse packing, bird watching, hunting, fishing, mountain biking - and simply being there. The San Gorgonio Wilderness attracts over 50,000 visits annually.

In short, this is a valuable and well-used National Monument - at risk for inappropriate development. It preserves a unique and impressive landscape, habitat, and historical sites. If you bow to this administration's clear intent to take land away from the people who own it, you will not go down in our history as a scion of Teddy Roosevelt, but as his nemesis. Do not give in to political pressure in your evaluation of this, or other, National Monuments.

188434 - Our national monuments and public lands and waters help define who we are as a nation by telling the story of our shared historical, cultural, and natural heritage. I am concerned that the recent Executive Order attempts to undermine our national monuments and to roll back protections of these public lands. Protected public lands are an important part of what makes America great. ✖ I strongly urge you to oppose any efforts to eliminate or shrink our national monuments.

Since President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law in 1906, 16 Presidents - 8 Republicans and 8 Democrats - have used the authority granted by the act to safeguard public lands, oceans, and historic sites in order to share America's story with future generations. These

national monument designations are broadly supported from coast to coast and provide a myriad of benefits to local communities, including economic boosts from tourism, places to enjoy the outdoors, clean air and water, protection for ecologically sensitive areas, and windows into our country's history.

Sending a signal that protections for our shared history, culture, and natural treasures are temporary would set a terrible precedent. National monuments have been shown to be tremendous drivers of the \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy and businesses rely on the permanency of these protections when making decisions about investing in these communities.

From Maine's magnificent Katahdin Woods to the colorful canyons of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante to the western history held in New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, these landmarks, landscapes, and seascapes have value which far exceeds their physical features; they manifest the core democratic ideals of freedom, justice, and equality. They are our legacy to our children and our children's children, and a gift that belongs to all Americans.

I am firmly opposed to any effort to revoke or diminish protections for our national monuments. I urge you to support the following list of National Monuments and recommend that our current national monuments remain as they are today.

AMERICAN SAMOA

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ARIZONA

Grand Canyon - Parashant

Ironwood Forest

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These lands do NOT belong to Congress or the current President ONLY! They belong to EVERYONE and current representation does not include EVERYONE. Not everything needs to be making a monetary profit! The only future you are currently thinking about has nothing to do with ALL AMERICANS .

184794 - Thirty years ago I realized that my childhood concept of a healthy marine environment was badly misinformed. This occurred when I had the opportunity in graduate school to work in one of the most remote coral reef atolls in the world, Johnston Atoll, 860 miles southwest of Hawaii. For four years I studied what was a near-pristine marine ecosystem in the waters surrounding Johnston Atoll. I have published multiple scientific papers based on my observations of spawning aggregations of coral reef fishes at Johnston Atoll, a phenomena that is rare and hard to observe in most U.S. reef habitats that are exposed to commercial and recreational fishing practices. I was elated when the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Marine Monument (PRINMM) was expanded in 2014 to include Johnson Atoll and its surrounding waters. The atolls and waters that make up this marine sanctuary in the Central Pacific Ocean are far removed from human inhabitants but not removed from human impacts. They are home to countless species of marine mammals, fishes, sea turtles, corals, invertebrates, microbes, and algae. Nineteen different species of seabirds, numbering in the millions, depend on the uninhabited islands for nesting and the protected waters for feeding. The oceanic waters around the islands are of global importance for large predatory fishes like silky and oceanic whitetip sharks, and bigeye and yellowfin tuna; whose populations have greatly declined across the worlds oceans in the last decades. Expanding the marine monument prevents overfishing of these vulnerable resources and can aid in replenishing depleted stocks elsewhere. The expanded monument also protects endangered sea turtles and seabirds from being inadvertently killed by longlines and purse seine nets used to target tuna in the Central Pacific Ocean. Despite the proven importance of the oceans to our global environment and to global economics, less than three percent of oceans are fully protected from damaging extractive practices. The expansion of PRINMM came in response to overwhelming support from Native Hawaiian leaders, scientists, businesses, and conservation groups as well as more than 170,000 citizen comments. Major modifications were made to the size and scale of PRINM in order to appease the interests of American commercial fishermen. The expanded protection strikes a balance between present and future economic and environmental needs. Any further reductions, or access of deep-sea mining operations to the monument areas, would be detrimental to one of the goals of this Marine Monument: preserve in perpetuity these remote marine habitats. Environmental conservation has a long bipartisan history in this country and presidents of both parties have routinely used this power. The Grand Canyon was originally protected as a monument by President Theodore Roosevelt. President George W. Bush created four marine national monuments, including the initial protection of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Marine Monument. I do not understand the recent obsession with reducing or eliminating the protection of U.S. National Marine Monuments. Since 2009, when President Bush first designated PRINMM, scientists working in the monument waters have shown that protecting marine biodiversity can buffer human impacts. Healthy, abundant, pristine living

marine resources make ocean ecosystems more resilient to commercial fishing, ocean warming and invasive species. I ask the present administration not to reduce the area of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Marine Monument (PRINMM). [Note – Johnston Atoll is heavily modified by dredge and fill, was site of at least 2 nuclear weapons tests, was used to dispose of nerve gas and agent orange, and is still contaminated to the point that in negotiations with DOD in late 2008 they wanted a “no permanent occupancy, no dig” requirement for transfer to FWS. RB]