

From: Center for Western Priorities
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ICMYI: Editorial boards agree—hands off our national monuments

DENVER—In the days following President Trump's [executive order triggering a review of 21 years of national monument designations](#), newspaper editorial boards across the West and the nation weighed in with swift and severe condemnations.

A sampling of what they had to say:

The Salt Lake Tribune, [Utah's national monuments have already justified themselves](#):

The president's justification is built on factual sand. "Federal land grab"? Both monuments were already federal land before they were declared. "Preserving our land"? There is no argument to be made that monuments haven't preserved land. "Free it up?" What does that even mean? Free to overgraze and drive wherever we want? We've been there, and no one wants that.

Los Angeles Times, [Leave the National Monuments Alone](#):

Zinke and Trump both said the review would give the public a chance to weigh in. But it already has. The Bears Ears designation, for instance, came after more than [seven years](#) of broad public debate and after a rival land-use plan by Utah's congressional delegation failed to gain traction.

The Denver Post, [Donald Trump and Ryan Zinke should protect our national monuments](#):

These monuments, including the two most controversial in Utah, have in fact been carefully vetted and have support of many despite the vocal opposition of a few. We're confident Zinke will find little merit in negating the protections put in place.

The Washington Post, [Trump should not undo the protection of precious public land](#):

There is much good in the Antiquities Act track record, because presidents, in their broad view of the national interest, have generally used their powers judiciously. Moreover, Congress has not been absent from this process. Very often it has

ratified presidential actions, and at times it has checked the president's use of the act, an interaction that restrains presidential abuse. Mr. Trump should keep this broad national interest, and long view, in mind.

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- [More from *Albuquerque Journal*, *The Fresno Bee*, *The Durango Herald*, and others](#)

For more information, visit westernpriorities.org. To speak with an expert on public lands, contact Aaron Weiss at 720-279-0019 or aaron@westernpriorities.org.

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The Center for Western Priorities is a conservation policy and advocacy organization focused on land and energy issues across the American West.

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