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FYI



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# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

July 10, 2017

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

## **Re: Executive Order No. 13792, Review of National Monuments**

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of eight member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, and the Mazamas and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, and backcountry ski and snowshoe on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes. Across the West and around the country, our members have benefitted from and enjoyed the public lands protected through National Monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

We feel it is important that we clearly state that, while we are prepared to share our community's sentiments on the substantive merits of the Monuments under review, as well as the process that lead to their designation and their scope, the idea of revisiting Monument designations through anything other than the legislative process is a deeply troubling step that undermines the integrity of the Antiquities Act. The Act, a bedrock conservation law signed by Theodore Roosevelt, has lead to far-sighted protections for iconic landscapes across the country that celebrate American heritage, Native American culture, civil rights, and exceptional natural and scientific resources. These places also afford the public invaluable outdoor recreation opportunities that allow Americans to enjoy, appreciate, and experience the protected objects of historic and scientific interest. We strongly believe, as well, that any attempt by the Administration to roll back National Monument designations would be illegal, as well as contrary to the public interest.

Outdoor Alliance appreciates the importance of public input from a wide range of stakeholders—including locals, as well as the nationally dispersed citizen co-owners of our country's public lands—on all land management decisions. Throughout the years-long process leading up to the designation of many of the Monuments under review, Outdoor Alliance, alongside our member organizations, local affiliates, individual members, and partners, shared information with prior administrations, both in the field and in Washington, D.C. While it may be within the Administration's prerogative to



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formalize the public participation process for future designations or apply the Antiquities Act differently according to the discretion of this President, that in no way justifies efforts to undermine existing protections for important landscapes and resources.

## **Public Participation in National Monument Designation**

As a coalition working with our members, local affiliates, and partners across the country, we have shared information and participated in the development of numerous National Monuments. We have also worked to support locally-driven efforts to garner support for Monument designations that have not ultimately materialized. Through this process, we have come to understand even better the tremendous level of local, regional, and national support necessary for any administration to exercise its authority under the Antiquities Act. In places like West Virginia's Birthplace of Rivers, Oregon's Owyhee canyonlands, and Idaho's Boulder-White Clouds, we have participated in long, public processes with the hope of garnering additional protections for superlative landscapes. While some of those protections may yet come to pass and others may find other solutions or be left unprotected, the common thread is the years of conversation, stakeholder outreach, and hard fought compromise necessary to develop the broad public support that is required to establish new designations. The idea that National Monuments are ever enacted without broad support is in our experience, simply inaccurate.

As an example, Outdoor Alliance member organizations spent several years working with Native American Tribes, local businesses, commercial operations, local governments, members of Congress, and the previous administration to determine the best solution for the landscape now protected by Bears Ears National Monument. We attended public meetings and built relationships with other stakeholders. In fact, the by-product of those experiences is a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and stakeholder needs. Like other stakeholders, we were forced to make and accept compromises for solutions that balanced a diversity of interests.

Similarly, Outdoor Alliance member organizations engaged and participated in the development of both the San Gabriel Mountains and Berryessa Snow Mountain Monuments, to cite two more recent examples. Our members shared the importance of maintaining access to current trail networks, and we would likely not have supported these designations without the opportunity for the protection and enhancement of recreational assets. To engage in this process, we reviewed maps of proposed boundaries, shared local member information about on-the-ground conditions and public access, and weighed the pros and cons of designations. Mountain bikers worked closely with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and USDA to address critical language sensitivities that could have negatively affected recreation and mountain





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biking if not carefully considered by the Administration. We provided the DOI and Administration with comments and recommendations on how best to construct a potential Monument to balance protections with appropriate public access. We attended public hearings to voice support, and our members will participate in official advisory councils to shape future management. Ultimately, this involvement led to better proclamations and greater public support.

Given the years of diverse stakeholder input that ultimately leads to the designation of new National Monuments, we are disheartened by the idea that a brief comment period would in some way correct for a perceived lack of public input. Further, we are especially concerned by the extremely cursory treatment afforded to the overwhelming show of public support for Bears Ears in your interim report.

## **Landscape Scale Protection**

The Department's review currently underway focuses on designations of more than 100,000 acres, or areas where public participation is suggested to have been lacking in the protection's development. We see no basis in law or policy to support the idea that an area's size should somehow render its designation suspect. The more than 150 National Monuments designated under the Antiquities Act appropriately include areas large and small in geographic scope, as needed to protect the objects of interest. Sometimes the relevant area is discretely confined, for example to protect a historic landmark like the Stonewall National Monument, and at other times, such as at Bears Ears National Monument, the area is an extensive landscape that includes a wealth of objects in need of protection as well as their broader context. The authority to protect wide landscapes, when necessary, using the Antiquities Act is well established, in law and in practice. America's heritage includes landscapes and features both large and small.

Not only are the scopes of the Monuments under review justifiable, the original proposals that garnered broad public support overwhelmingly sought protections for even larger landscapes. As evidence that Monument proposals were subject to close scrutiny and broad stakeholder input, collectively of the 17 Monuments on the list designated by the previous administration were reduced by more than 1.5 million acres relative to their original proposals.

## **Recreation and National Monuments**

Although recreation is not an explicit purpose for protections under the Antiquities Act, it has been among the many secondary benefits of these protections. As detailed in the appendix that follows, the National Monuments under review by the Administration



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contain and protect some extraordinary recreation opportunities. Stated more directly, recreation is often the means through which the public experiences the objects of interest protected under the Act. Outdoor recreation is also a main factor behind the Outdoor Alliance's involvement in Monument proposals and designations. Our members seek out backcountry recreation in wild protected landscapes that can include places with rich cultural and scientific values. We firmly support Monument designations in part for their ability to protect a balance between landscape protection and sustainable public enjoyment.

From mountain biking near the sites of protected ruins at the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument to climbing opportunities at Indian Creek protected by Bears Ears, outdoor recreationists are able to experience a range of the superlative landscapes and cultural resources protected on our country's public lands. These protections have further demonstrated the compatibility of outdoor recreation—and its attendant economic activity and benefits—with protection of natural and cultural resources.

\* \* \*

We believe strongly that as you reach out to the public regarding these Monuments, you will come to further appreciate the depth of support that our country's protected public lands enjoy. Outdoor Alliance and the outdoor recreation community support our country's public lands, and oppose any efforts to roll back protections on our National Monuments.

Best regards,



Adam Cramer  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Alliance



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cc: Brady Robinson, Executive Director, Access Fund  
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association  
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater  
Dave Wiens, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Mark Menlove, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance  
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers  
Phil Powers, Executive Director, American Alpine Club  
Lee Davis, Executive Director, the Mazamas  
Louis Geltman, Policy Director, Outdoor Alliance



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## Appendix: Recreation Opportunities and Benefits of National Monuments Under Review

As stated above, while the Antiquities Act is aimed at the protection of “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest,” recreation is the means by which Americans are able to experience these important features and landscapes. Outdoor recreation also supports an \$887 billion industry, employing more than 7.6 million Americans.

The following describes in greater detail the participation of the outdoor recreation community in the development of some of the Monuments under review, the important recreation opportunities they contain, the appropriateness of their scope, and the necessity of maintaining the integrity of these protections.

### **Bears Ears (UT)**

Arguably one of the most spectacular and diverse landscapes in the American Southwest, Bears Ears National Monument is filled with irreplaceable archaeological treasures, sensitive plant species and abundant recreation assets of nearly every variety.

Bears Ears is highly valued by the rock climbing community. The area attracts tens of thousands of climbers from around the world each year due to the dry weather, high quality rock climbs and exceptional landscapes. There are approximately 400 discrete climbing sites (cliffs or towers) that contain thousands of sandstone and limestone climbing routes in the southeastern Utah region. Important climbing areas within the Bears Ears region include Indian Creek, Lockhart Basin, Arch/Texas Canyon, Comb Ridge, and Valley of the Gods. These are irreplaceable recreation resources that are sensitive to the pressures of encroaching resource development.

Segments of the San Juan River form portions of the southern boundary of Bears Ears National Monument. This spectacular reach is visited by the public for a popular multi-day river trip, with two segments that can be combined for up to 84 memorable river miles. River trips serve as a means of experiencing the unique geography and cultural history of the area, with many sites along the rivers where one can view Native American rock art and archeological sites that speak to the long history of the region pre-dating European settlement. This experience is so popular that permits are distributed each year through a lottery. Whitewater rafting is one of several world-class recreational activities specifically named in the Proclamation (82 Fed. Reg. at 1143) as providing opportunities for our members and the general public to experience the objects of historic and scientific interest that define the Monument.





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The cycling opportunities in southeastern Utah span the spectrum from challenging single track for experienced riders to incredible introductory terrain that can be enjoyed by anyone. Within the Bears Ears region, the single track is primarily in alpine terrain of the Abajo Mountains, and in the far northern section on the Amasa Back Trail system. The introductory riding takes place on all the unpaved roads in the area, including the Lockhart Basin Road which connects the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park and the gentle climb to the Bears Ears themselves. Traveling through the region by bike is one of the best ways to truly experience the land and its history. With the challenges involved in managing vehicle traffic in so many of our parks and Monuments, a great opportunity exists to encourage and support visitation to the Bears Ears region by bike. A transportation and recreation plan should designate the roads and trails where non-motorized, mechanized vehicle use will be permitted. Natural surface trails for mountain biking and hiking may be developed within this transportation and recreation plan that will provide for interpretive experiences for backcountry travelers who seek to experience the many cultural and historical artifacts in the region.

More than 500,000 acres (29%) was removed from original proposed boundaries, and the protected area should, if anything, be larger than what was protected by the Monument, not smaller.

## **Berryessa Snow Mountain (CA)**

Berryessa Snow Mountain is unique in its size and proximity to major urban centers of northern California. Situated only 100 miles from the Bay Area and Sacramento, Berryessa Snow Mountain spans 100 miles north to south. Berryessa Snow Mountain protects 331,000 acres of ecologically and geologically diverse land in California's Inner Coast Range. Unique recreation opportunities abound within Berryessa Snow Mountain, including 81 miles of hiking trail, 33 miles of mountain bike trail, 50 miles of equestrian trail and more than 20 miles of navigable river.

Our members were thoroughly included and played a critical role in the designation of this landscape. Our members attended meetings, were invited to testify in local public hearings and helped review maps of the proposed boundaries. Mountain bikers worked closely with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and USDA to address critical language sensitivities that could have negatively affected recreation and mountain biking if not carefully considered by the Administration.

As a result, with the language of Proclamation 9298 specifically mentioning mountain biking:



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*"Today, the area is important for ranching and also provides outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding to a burgeoning population center."*

The area offers significant current and future opportunities for exceedingly rare long-distance mountain biking trails, trails that are increasingly relied upon by the region's high-school mountain biking league for training purposes.

Paddlers and river enthusiasts enjoy floating 20 miles of Cache Creek through portions of the Cache Creek Wilderness and continuing through a section along Highway 16 that provides a more popular frontcountry experience. Cache Creek is often called one of the most popular whitewater runs in all of California due to reliable water flows and close proximity to large urban centers. Whitewater paddling on Cache Creek offers a unique means of experiencing the botanical, ecological, and geologic diversity that define the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. This region is also home to the headwaters of the Eel River, and several other major creeks including Stony and Putah Creeks, which provide clean and safe drinking water to millions of nearby residents.

Public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and scoping for the management plan begins in 2017, and our members continue to be thoroughly involved. Over the course of the designation's development, nearly 20,000 acres were removed from the original proposal to limit the final Monument designation to the most refined boundaries possible.

## **Cascade-Siskiyou (OR)**

With towering fir forests, sunlit oak groves, wildflower-strewn meadows, and steep canyons, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is an ecological wonder, with biological diversity unmatched in the Cascade Range. This rich enclave of natural resources is a biological crossroads: the interface of the Cascade, Klamath, and Siskiyou ecoregions, in an area of unique geology, biology, climate, and topography.

Pilot Rock is one of southwest Oregon's more iconic geologic formations, a robust upheaval of ancient volcanic activity that serves as a beacon to nearby Ashland climbers and is a popular high point for hikers from around the region and even some who travel the 2,659 mile Pacific Crest Trail, which winds its way through Soda Mountain Wilderness area.

As the proclamation for the recent expansion of this National Monument notes, the expanded area within the Jenny Creek watershed contains hydrologic features that capture the interest of visitors that include waterfalls such as Jenny Creek Falls, which



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provides aquatic habitat along with scenic beauty. Kayakers are among those who have the opportunities to experience these features through their recreational pursuits paddling Jenny Creek. The expanded area also includes Grizzly Peak, a popular hiking destination where one can experience the geologic history of basaltic lava flows and rare botanical diversity that defines the National Monument.

In addition, the managers within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages both the Monument and the adjacent non-Monument BLM lands, have invited IMBA and the mountain biking community to submit a proposal for trails in this landscape, as the terrain is ideal for sustainable bike trail development. This proposal would be considered in the management plan and would encompass the most recently added (expanded) acres of the Monument. We are eager to have trails in such a pristine area and having this Monument intact as it is today would help to ensure a high-quality system.

## **Grand Canyon-Parashant (UT)**

The Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is a vast, biologically diverse, impressive landscape encompassing an array of scientific and historic objects at the interface of the Mojave Desert and Colorado Plateau. 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. 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, representing an important scientific resource in understanding the history of our planet.

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is full of surprises. Located on the northern edge of the Grand Canyon, the Monument is remote, open and undeveloped—perfect for the hearty and adventurous. The diversity of this land attracts many visitors to explore its vast landscapes, from the Mojave Desert sagebrush to ponderosa pine forests.

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. Protecting these tributaries and the lands to the north of Grand Canyon National Park is important to the water quality and integrity of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon National Park, which is one of the premiere whitewater boating destinations in the world. Many visitors come from around the world to experience the spectacular geology of this region, and the scientific objects represented by the geology of the Shivwits Plateau are a critical component of this story.





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## **Grand Staircase-Escalante (UT)**

Grand-Staircase Escalante is one of the most rugged and remote regions to explore in the West and was the last place in the continental U.S. to be mapped. This Monument is a geologic treasure of clearly exposed stratigraphy and structures, offering a clear view to understanding the processes of the earth's formation. Originally conceptualized by pioneering geologist Clarence Dutton in the 1870s, the Grand Staircase refers to the sequence of sedimentary rock layers that extends from Bryce Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, through Zion National Park, and into Grand Canyon National Park. Like giant steps, the geologic strata that define this Monument have provided a crucial understanding of the earth's geologic history that can be directly experienced by those who recreate in this landscape through its variety of formations and brilliant colors.

For recreational users, few areas still possess such a raw sense of adventure and exploration as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Along with an abundance of Native American cultural resources, like rock art and campsites, the geologic setting offers incredible hiking, unclimbed towers, sheer cliffs, canyons, and the potential for first ascents and new exploration. Along with unexplored wilds, many enjoy popular hiking in Coyote Gulch and Lower Calf Creek Canyon, canyoneering in Peek-a-Boo and Spooky Gulch, mountain biking and backpacking across the wild Kaiparowits Plateau, and packrafting on the Escalante River. All of these activities offer unique opportunities to experience the geologic setting protected by this National Monument.

## **Hanford Reach (WA)**

The Hanford Reach of the Columbia River extends from the upper end of McNary Dam Reservoir to Priest Rapids Dam and represents the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River. The segment of river within the National Monument and the surrounding shrub-steppe ecosystem have been a cultural crossroads for centuries as the fishing and hunting grounds for the tribes that today make up the Yakama Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, and Wanapum tribe. In addition to the cultural history of the Monument, scientific objects of interest include the incredibly diversity of plant and animal species that take advantage of the intact riparian habitat, geology of the White Bluffs, diversity of birds, the last remaining spawning habitat for fall Chinook salmon on the main stem Columbia, and the Hanford Dune Field.

That these historical and scientific objects are in such pristine condition is due in part to the historical legacy of developing atomic weapons on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and the acquisition of the lands surrounding the Nuclear Reservation decades ago by





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the federal government as a security buffer.

Today the 46.5 mile segment of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River within the Monument is the main focus of visitor use and provides the primary opportunity for the general public to experience the objects of cultural and scientific interest. The Hanford Reach is a local and regional destination for waterfowl hunters and salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and bass anglers. It has grown in popularity as a destination for kayaking and canoeing. In the two decades since the Monument was established, use has grown from less than 20,000 visitors at the time of designation to 43,000 annual visitors today.

The effort to protect the Hanford Reach included extensive public engagement that our members participated in. In 1988, Congress passed legislation to initiate the Hanford Reach Comprehensive River Conservation Study, resulting in a full review of the Reach by the National Park Service. The public process launched by the National Park Service included robust opportunities for public involvement over a six-year period resulting in a final recommendation for designation as a National Wildlife Refuge and a Wild and Scenic River. President Clinton acted in a manner consistent with the recommendations of this study in establishing the Monument. Following the designation of the Monument, the Comprehensive Conservation Plan was developed through extensive public engagement in which our members participated, and the final plan was published in 2008. This plan provides the management framework for protection of the cultural and scientific objects that define the Monument, and includes guidance on enhancing opportunities for the public to experience and enjoy this wild and undeveloped reach of the Columbia River.

## **Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (NM)**

The Organ Mountains are truly wild. Known for their adventurous and remote climbing, they are home to peaks like the Citadel, the Dona Ana mountains, bouldering in Pena Blanca, and the Rough and Ready Hills. The jagged spires and crags of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument are celebrated beyond the incredible climbing. Home to various Native American cultures for the last 10,000 years, the Monument contains significant rock art and relics, as well as plentiful mountain biking and hiking in the area. Fossilized birds and sloths, as well as geologic formations, provide incredible opportunities for future discoveries.

## **Rio Grande del Norte (NM)**

In far northern New Mexico, the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, one of the Nation's original Wild and Scenic rivers, flows through a deep gorge at the edge of the stark and sweeping expanse of the Taos Plateau. Volcanic cones, including the Cerro de la Olla,



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Cerro San Antonio, and Cerro del Yuta, jut up from this surrounding plateau and are among the geologic attributes of this national Monument. Canyons, volcanic cones, wild rivers, and native grasslands harbor vital wildlife habitat, unique geologic resources, and imprints of human passage through the landscape over the past 10,000 years. This extraordinary landscape of extreme beauty and daunting harshness is known as the Rio Grande del Norte, and its extraordinary array of scientific and historic resources offer opportunities to develop our understanding of the forces that shaped northern New Mexico, including the diverse ecological systems and human cultures that remain present today.

The protection of the Rio Grande del Norte will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans. Recreational visitors to Rio Grande del Norte experience this Monument in many ways.

The 800' feet deep Rio Grande Gorge flows through a rift valley at the junction of the North American and Pacific Plates, and is known for spectacular whitewater kayaking opportunities visited by boaters from across the country and used by several commercial outfitters. It provides opportunities to experience the objects of scientific interest and the unique geology by thousands of river enthusiasts each year.

## **San Gabriel Mountains (CA)**

Featuring dramatic relief, free-flowing rivers, and a wide range of vegetation types and wildlife habitats, the San Gabriel Mountains are an iconic natural resource worthy of protection as a National Monument due to the values this landscape provides as a nature-based escape for millions of socially and economically diverse park-poor city residents of the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

For nearly a year leading up to the designation, a number of Outdoor Alliance member groups, their chapters, and the broader public made up of diverse stakeholders were thoroughly included and played a critical role in the designation of this landscape. Our members attended meetings, were invited to testify in local public hearings, and helped review maps of the proposed boundaries. Mountain bikers worked closely with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and USDA to address critical language sensitivities that could have negatively affected recreation and mountain biking if not carefully considered by the Administration. Through this open and thorough process, the proclamation helped reiterate and formally recognize the importance of both the cultural and historical values of the area, but also the San Gabriel's role within the community as a valuable recreational escape and a place of renewal and solace. Through the public





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process of vetting and weighing all the stakeholder interests, the Monument size was reduced by nearly 254,000 acres—a 42 percent size reduction from what was proposed by some advocates. After the designation, a member of the mountain bike community was selected to the Monument management plan advisory council to represent recreation interests during the development of the management plan.

Currently, The Forest Service is proposing to amend the 2006 Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) with a management plan to provide for the protection of the objects of interest identified in the Presidential Proclamation. An EA is in development that incorporates more public involvement.

This track record of public involvement, clearly demonstrates the level of public outreach and the required support that the previous administration prioritized and expected before moving forward with actions under the Antiquities Act.

The San Gabriel Mountains offer a diverse range of exceptional mountain biking trails, with arid, sandy, and smooth sagebrush trails transforming into rocky technical trails in the lush drainages to the south. The area includes rolling and ascending double track trails as well as steep challenging areas, many of which lead to inspiring overlooks. This variety provides opportunities for riders of all ability levels to escape nearby urban areas and seek rejuvenation in the forests above.

The rivers and streams of the San Gabriel Mountains become a whitewater paddling treasure when rainfall causes water levels to rise. Narrow granite canyons treat advanced paddlers to waterfalls and rapids, deep pools, and spectacular scenery. Other sections offer more open canyons with lush vegetation bordering the rivers and moderate rapids that appeal to intermediate paddlers. These recreational opportunities are a backyard gem for local paddlers, allowing them to connect with the San Gabriel Mountains in a powerful and healthy way.

The San Gabriel Mountains afford world class opportunities for rock climbing. While there are several great areas throughout the San Gabriel Mountains to rock climb, the finest climbing resource is Williamson Rock, a premier sport climbing destination for Southern California. Climbers from California and around the world have been enjoying Williamson's mild summer temperatures, proximity to Southern California's urban centers, and excellent rock quality since the 1960s.

For skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, and others seeking winter adventure, the San Gabriel Mountains offer a high-altitude escape from the urban population centers just a little over an hour away. With several peaks rising above 9,000' and the range's tallest peak, Mt. San Antonio, rising to 10,068', winter conditions and world-class opportunities



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for snow-based recreation exist here most years, and often persist into early summer. Important backcountry skiing areas include Mount Baden-Powell, Throop Peak, the Mount San Antonio-Mount Baldy area, Mount Waterman, and Mt. Islip.

The San Gabriel Mountains are considered to be a birthplace of hang gliding in the United States and offer outstanding opportunities for hang gliding and paragliding. Kagel Mountain and Marshall Peak offer exceptional flying opportunities and were integral to the development of the sport in the United States. As a result of the proximity to these outstanding resources, the Southern California Hang Gliding organization grew and evolved into the United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, and the San Gabriel Mountains can be considered as a birthplace of both the sport and its national organization in the United States.

The range of outstanding recreation opportunities in a natural and scenic setting close to major population centers makes the San Gabriel Mountains a truly unique and invaluable recreational resource for the communities of Southern California and visitors alike.

## **Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME)**

Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was designated following the donation of more than 87,000 acres and a \$20 million endowment from a private foundation to the people of the United States. The Monument was designated in honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and enlarges the protected portion of Maine's North Woods adjacent to Baxter State Park, including the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The Monument contains spectacular geology and significant biodiversity and helps to support climate resilience by enlarging the protected landscape within Maine's North Woods.

This Monument embodies the value and importance of the use of the Antiquities Act, as without this designation process and outcome, this landscape would have likely remained in private ownership and would not have been available for public appreciation and visitation.

People have inhabited this area for approximately 11,000 years, from early Native inhabitants to fur trappers and loggers. The area within the Monument influenced the path of visitors who went on to shape America's cultural identity, including Henry David Thoreau and Theodore Roosevelt. Today people visit the region to canoe, kayak, cross-country ski, snowshoe, bicycle, snowmobile, hike, and camp. The East Branch of the Penobscot has served as an important travelway for humans traveling into and through Maine's North Woods throughout this entire history. Paddling, snowshoeing, skiing, and





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hiking were once considered critical skills for traveling through the North Woods. In the coming years, following this tradition of exploration and adventure, there is a proposal for a long distance multi-use trail (for hiking, biking, and equestrian use) that would traverse the Katahdin Woods Monument. Without this Monument designation, private ownership could have precluded development of this segment of the trail and prevented full enjoyment of this area. For these reasons it is considered critical by the mountain biking community to see this area remain as the treasured National Monument it is today.

Katahdin Woods and Waters contains incredible geology, which helps modern Americans better understand the forces that shaped the topography and landscape we see today. It contains rocks dating back 500 million years, bedrock and fossils spanning the entire Paleozoic era, and evidence that the region has formed by marine, volcanic, and glacial events.

The Monument stretches across three ecoregions and encompasses significant biodiversity from northern boreal to southern broadleaf deciduous forests, and wetlands. By connecting these ecoregions within a single protected landscape, the Monument helps to ensure that flora and fauna can migrate and adapt to a changing climate. Although many areas of the Monument were previously logged, undisturbed patches of woodland and wetland harbor rare species, and forest regeneration is restoring connectivity across the Monument.

## **Giant Sequoia (CA)**

Giant Sequoia National Monument protects some of the last remaining giant sequoia groves left in the world, including the largest tree on Forest Service lands and one of the largest trees in the world. Most of earth's giant sequoia trees were lost to timber harvest, and this legacy, along with that of fire suppression, can be seen throughout the Monument. However, by protecting the remaining groves of giant sequoias, along with disturbed landscapes, Giant Sequoia National Monument provides an opportunity to study forest restoration and better understand the consequences of different approaches.

Giant Sequoia National Monument covers an impressive elevation profile, ranging from 2,500 to 9,700 feet in just a few miles. This gradient captures a large diversity of ecosystems, including many rare or endemic flora and fauna. Limestone outcrops and caves in the northern portion of the Monument contain ancient packrat middens, which provide important paleontological clues to the region's history. Likewise, the climate and disturbance regime documented in the tree rings of the giant sequoias within the Monument are globally unique. Because giant sequoias are among the oldest trees on



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earth, the history told through their rings provide an understanding of past climate dating back millennia. This helps us to understand the past, in hopes of better predicting the future. Giant Sequoia National Monument also protects important aspects of human history, from ancient people to modern settlers.

Giant Sequoia National Monument is an important recreation destination, as well. The Monument is home to the Needles, an internationally-renowned climbing area. The Middle Fork Tule river flows through the heart of the Monument, and is known for spectacular whitewater boating that attracts paddlers from across the country. The magnificent Kern River Canyon, explicitly identified in the Monument proclamation, forms the eastern boundary of the Monument's southern unit and is the only major north-south river drainage in the Sierra Nevada. The Kings River and its major tributary the South Fork form the northern boundary of the Monument's northern unit. Both of these rivers are known for world-class whitewater boating. Visitors also come to enjoy hundreds of miles of hiking trails, cross-country skiing, and mountain biking. All of these activities provide valued opportunities for the public to experience the giant sequoia groves and their surrounding ecosystems that represent the defining features of this Monument.

Federal courts have already ruled that Giant Sequoia National Monument was legally established and is properly sized. In 2000, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and members of the logging industry filed suit against the Clinton administration, alleging the President overstepped the Antiquities Act when he created the Monument and that it was not "the smallest area compatible with proper care and management" (Tulare County v. Bush, 306 F.3d 1138, 1142 (D.C. Cir. 2002)). The court ruled against these claims.

## **Sand to Snow (CA)**

Due to its location at the intersection of three distinct ecosystem types, Sand to Snow National Monument is the most botanically diverse Monument in the United States, home to more than 240 bird species and 12 threatened or endangered wildlife species. Sand to Snow National Monument protects critical wildlife migration corridors and habitat, along with archaeological and cultural sites and recreation opportunities.

As its name suggests, Sand to Snow covers a dramatic elevation gradient: a span of 10,000 feet from the Sonoran Desert to the summit of San Geronimo Mountain. Stretching from sandy desert to snowy peaks, the Monument supports a broad range of recreational activities from hiking, to bird watching, to snowshoeing and backcountry and Nordic skiing. Twenty-five miles of the world-famous Pacific Crest Trail cross through the Monument.





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Sand to Snow protects two critical wildlife corridors, connecting Joshua Tree National Park to Mount San Geronio. Without the Monument, these corridors would fall under several different management jurisdictions and would not be treated as whole. Protecting these critical corridors as part of the National Monument provides management consistency and will help ensure that the flora and fauna within them are able to adapt to climate change.

The Monument also protects a vast array of historical sites, from archeological sites in the Black Lava Buttes, to more recent remnants of mining and ranching communities. Together these historical, and pre-historical, sites tell a story of how humans have adapted to and lived in the arid Sonoran Desert over the course of our history. The lands within this Monument also tell the geologic story of this area. The Monument is an important study site for geologists seeking to learn more about plate tectonics and geologic rifting.

## **Craters of the Moon (ID)**

Craters of the Moon National Monument was first established in 1924 by president Calvin Coolidge and was further expanded via the Antiquities Act five separate times. The Monument encompasses a volcanic landscape more likely to be found in Hawaii than in central Idaho, where visitors can explore lava tubes, hike, and trail run in the summer and cross-country ski in the winter. This is a truly unique landscape within the continental United States, with a vast diversity of volcanic features within a relatively small area. The rough nature of many of these volcanic features have also protected local vegetation, resulting in some of the most pristine and undisturbed areas of native vegetation remaining on the Snake River Plain. These patches of vegetation provide a benchmark for comparing changes in vegetation elsewhere on the Plain.

The best way to explore Craters of the Moon and learn about the volcanic history it preserves is through human-powered recreation – hiking and cross-country skiing. On foot, visitors get an up-close view of the Monument's many unique features. Exploring lava tubes and caves, hiking through the remote and undeveloped corners of the Monument, and cross-country skiing on groomed trails in winter are among the variety of activities available to visitors.

Craters of the Moon is embraced by local residents as well as far-flung visitors. Indeed, local county officials have even lobbied to turn the Monument into a National Park. The Park Service recently worked with local and national stakeholders to draft a management plan for Craters of the Moon. This collaborative process allowed everybody with an interest in the Monument to weigh in and influence how it is



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managed. Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson has asked the Administration not to review Craters of the Moon, stating that the Monument “adequately suits the diverse interests of Idahoans” and praising the collaborative management planning process. Mining, agriculture, over-grazing, and habitat removal are common outside of the Monument boundaries and the expansion in 2000 was done to protect against these threats. Loss of Monument status would impede efforts to protect native plant communities from invasive species and disregard the years of effort that the public put into crafting a management plan for the Monument.

## **Upper Missouri River Breaks (MT)**

The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument encompasses 378,000 acres of public land adjacent to the 149-mile-long Wild and Scenic reach of the Upper Missouri River. These lands are essentially the same as they were when the Lewis and Clark expedition traveled up the river in 1805, giving visitors a chance to step back in history. Today “the Breaks” are a beloved destination for multiday canoe trips suitable even for young children and beginners. The badlands, broken cliffs, and rugged landscapes of the Upper Missouri River Breaks provide endless opportunity for adventure and exploration.

What makes this section of the Missouri unique is that it is virtually unchanged since when Lewis and Clark first paddled through it. It is a slice of living history through which visitors can place themselves in the expedition’s shoes and canoe this remaining free-flowing stretch of the Missouri River. The value of what the Monument protects goes beyond the river corridor—the Lewis and Clark expedition ranged far and wide in search of game and to explore the country through which they passed. Today, visitors can do the same, capturing Lewis’s first view of the Rocky Mountains from a rocky bluff, spying bighorn sheep amongst the cliffs and elk in the distance.

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument stitches together a patchwork of special designations and historic sites into a cohesive whole. It includes a Wild and Scenic river corridor, six wilderness study areas, the Cow Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, portions of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail, the Fort Benton National Historic Landmark, and the Missouri Breaks Back Country Byway. The Monument also includes abundant wildlife habitat, supporting healthy populations of elk, bighorn sheep, sage grouse, and many other species. The Missouri River, where it flows through the Monument, provides habitat for the endangered pallid sturgeon and one of six valid populations of paddlefish in the United States. Eagles and other raptors nest in the cliffs above the river.





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Even with a Monument designation, the Breaks face ongoing threats. Massive cottonwoods line the riverbank, their groves providing much-appreciated shade for floaters as well as important habitat for birds, bats, and other species. However, cottonwood trees are not a long-lived species and they require regular flooding for seedlings to establish. Because of upstream dams, the Breaks don't flood as often as they historically did, and, even when seedlings are able to establish, grazing cattle pose a significant threat to them. If new seedlings are unable to establish or grow it is very likely that the Breaks of tomorrow will lack the characteristic cottonwood groves of today. Invasive weeds are another issue facing the Monument. Loss of Monument status would hamper the BLM's ability to address these issues and protect the unique ecological and historical nature of the area.

## **Basin and Range (NV)**

Basin and Range National Monument provides a lifetime of adventure for those who explore this remote swath of public land. Climbing, mountain biking, hiking, backpacking, and caving await those who make the trek into the Nevada desert. The Monument protects a massive landscape encompassing important geological features, historic and cultural resources, 4,000-year-old petroglyphs, a diversity of threatened and endangered wildlife and their habitat, and a stunning piece of abstract landscape art.

## **Ironwood Forest (AZ)**

Ironwood Forest National Monument protects a biologically and culturally rich slice of the Sonoran Desert, including eight desert mountain ranges, multiple threatened or endangered species, and 5,000 years of human history and culture. The tree for which the Monument was named, Ironwood, is a keystone species in the Sonoran Desert, but it is threatened by cutting, agricultural conversion, and invasive species. The Monument not only protects rare ironwood forests and the species that depend upon them, but Monument status also gives the BLM the tools necessary to study and protect archeological sites within the designation.

Rugged and undeveloped, this Monument provides opportunities for backpacking, hiking, dispersed camping, and wildlife viewing. In the future, Outdoor Alliance members and local residents remain hopeful that the Monument management plan will be updated and revised to also allow some appropriate mountain biking trail designations and development.



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## **Sonoran Desert (AZ)**

Home to vast forests of saguaro cactus, three desert mountain ranges, three designated Wilderness areas, 26 miles of trail, and more than 460 miles of dirt roads, Sonoran Desert National Monument offers opportunities for desert adventure on or off-trail. Many visitors enjoy driving or biking along one of the many historic trails within the Monument: the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Mormon Battalion, and the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach trail.

The Monument protects a prime example of undisturbed Sonoran Desert landscape, including a diverse array of flora and fauna. Monument status ensures that this stunning landscape will remain undisturbed.

## **Vermilion Cliffs (AZ)**

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument contains landscapes that rival any of the National Parks in the desert southwest, but without the development or crowds one finds in the Parks. From hiking Buckskin Gulch (the longest slot canyon in the southwest) to kayaking the Paria River, the Monument holds opportunities for recreationists to get off the beaten path.

Buckskin Gulch and the other canyons and slickrock within Vermilion Cliffs are internationally renowned hiking destinations. Stretching more than 13 miles, yet rarely more than 20 feet wide, Buckskin Gulch is among the best slot canyon hikes in the world and tops many “must-do” lists. The Monument is also home to several other internationally renowned geologic features: The Wave, White Pockets, and Paria Canyon.

Although the geology found within Vermilion Cliffs is extraordinary, it is not the only feature worth protecting under the Antiquities Act. Some of the earliest known rock art in the Southwest is found within the Monument, which humans have been visiting for more than 12,000 years. The Monument contains many Ancestral Puebloan sites, including remnants of villages with intact standing walls, fieldhouses, trails, granaries, burial sites, and camps. Vermilion Cliffs also preserves more recent human history. Spanish explorers, Mormon homesteaders, and John Wesley Powell all traveled through the Monument, and tracing their routes or visiting sites they documented help modern Americans to connect to our history.

Vermilion Cliffs also provides important wildlife habitat. It is one of the few places where California Condors were reintroduced to re-establish wild populations of the species, and is home to at least 20 other raptor species. Other desert wildlife, like desert bighorn,



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pronghorn, and mountain lion, live in the Monument, and native fish such as the flannelmouth sucker and the speckled dace live in the Paria River, which flows through the Monument.

Potshard hunting, off-road vehicle use, and development of springs and other water resources for agricultural purposes are eroding the integrity of landscapes in the desert southwest. National Monument status helps to ensure that this area remains intact and provides more resources for the BLM to find and prosecute those who steal archeological treasures.

## **Carrizo Plain (CA)**

Just a few hours from Los Angeles, Carrizo Plain National Monument is a hidden gem. Perhaps best known for its spring wildflowers, Carrizo Plain is home to a diversity of wildlife and a popular destination for photographers and hikers who want to explore the last of California's historic grasslands.

While much of the rest of the San Joaquin valley has been converted to agriculture and sprawling urban development, Carrizo Plain provides a glimpse of California's wild past. Monument status ensures it will stay undeveloped in perpetuity. Existing dirt roads provide excellent opportunities for mountain bike touring.

## **Mojave Trails (CA)**

Mojave Trails National Monument protects historic Native American trading routes, World War II-era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66, as well as 1.6 million acres of desert mountains, ancient lava fields, and sand dunes. Visitors come to view fossils and other geologic features, connect with history, climb the sand dunes, and take in the stark beauty of the desert.

In addition to protecting a vast swath of the Mojave Desert in and of itself, this Monument connects other protected landscapes, from Joshua Tree National Park to existing Wilderness areas and Mojave National Preserve. Together, these protected areas ensure wildlife can move and adapt to a changing climate, that vistas will remain as they were when our predecessors traveled through the desert, and that the region's unique geologic history will remain undisturbed.





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## **Canyons of the Ancients (CO)**

Canyons of the Ancients is the most archaeologically dense area in the United States. Visitors to this Monument learn about the human cultures that have inhabited this region for at least 10,000 years.

For decades, mountain bikers and hikers have enjoyed the Sand Canyon Trail and East Fork Rim Trail, both before and after Canyons of the Ancients became a National Monument. The 8-mile Sand Canyon Trail loop takes visitors up close to Anasazi ruins and helps connect today's residents of southwest Colorado to their ancestors who came before them. Our members use the entire road and trail network to fully explore and experience the cultural and historic values that make this Monument special. They are engaged at the local level with management decisions and seek to ensure that access and experiences on the landscape continue to improve rather than be jeopardized by incompatible uses.

The Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision for the area was issued on June 25, 2010. The plan provided direction for managing and protecting objects of scientific and historic interest identified in the Proclamation (including archaeological artifacts and geological and biological specimens), as well as the values and historic uses for which the Monument was created. The plan sets forth management objectives, identifies areas where different types of recreation opportunities and experiences are available, and establishes management standards and guidelines for specific program areas.

## **Gold Butte (NV)**

"Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon", Gold Butte National Monument is a landscape of deep red sandstone, twisting canyons, and soaring peaks. The Monument is popular with outdoor recreationists who hike to view ancient petroglyphs, climb the peaks, and descend the canyons.

In 1998 Clark County bought out the grazing leases within what is now Gold Butte National Monument and now, with Monument status, no new leases will be issued. The National Monument also protects this landscape from industrial development.

