

From: <Catherine_Callaway@ios.doi.gov>
To: Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DCN: EST-00003076 - Antiquities Act
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 4:52:05 PM
Attachments: [3076 in.pdf](#)

Tasked to OEIA.



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June 9, 2017

KATE BROWN
GovernorOFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Thank you for your letter requesting my input on Oregon's iconic Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and for the opportunity to express the importance of the Monument to the people of Oregon. I strongly support the designation and subsequent expansion of the Monument to preserve the fascinating biological diversity found in this unique landscape.

The Antiquities Act has enabled Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama to tailor specific land management approaches that protect national treasures. The diversity of those treasures and the communities they commemorate is astounding, from Civil War battlefields, to natural wonders of the world, to civil rights landmarks. Some are as remote as the Pacific Islands, yet several are within the boroughs of New York City. Oregon's monuments reflect this diversity as well, and include the John Day Fossil Beds, Oregon Caves, and Newberry Crater.

With the designation of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000 and its expansion in 2017, Oregon gained the first monument to be designated specifically to protect species diversity in the face of increasing challenges from a changing climate. The monument sits at the junction of multiple mountain ranges – the Cascades, the Klamath Range, and the Siskiyou – and the complex geologic diversity of the area has led to complex ecological diversity. Several species of plants and animals that make their home in the monument are threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The ecological benefits of the Monument go beyond biological diversity to protect the headwaters of Jenny Creek providing critical cold, clean water to fish, and preserves traditional, religious, and cultural uses for the Klamath Tribes. Oregon communities also experience important economic benefits from tourism and outdoor recreation provided by the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

In supporting the expansion of the monument, I looked closely at the public process that preceded the decision. Four public hearings in the region drew hundreds of attendees and an additional one-month public comment period sponsored by U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden solicited more than 5400 respondents who were 3-to-1 in favor of the expansion. Many of the concerns raised by the opponents were addressed through modifications to the expansion proposal.



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In addition to strong support from the public, the Monument expansion was and is supported by state and local elected officials, city councils, chambers of commerce, business leaders, many local landowners, scientists, and conservation groups. I urge you, on behalf of my fellow Oregonians, to acknowledge the integrity of the process and preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in perpetuity.

The Monument protects some of Oregon's most iconic and treasured natural wonders and I encourage the administration and our congressional delegation to advocate for adequate resources to manage the Monument. I strongly support preserving our nation's public lands and am excited for the opportunity to advocate for protecting the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Kate Brown

cc: Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader
Representative Greg Walden