

From: Timothy Williams
To: [Robert Howarth](#); [Randal Bowman](#); [Downey Magallanes](#)
Subject: Fwd: Invitation to visit Organ Mountains Desert Peaks
Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 1:20:33 PM
Attachments: [attachedFile.html](#)
[Invitation Secretary Zinke FOMDP.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.html](#)
[attachedFile.html](#)

Timothy Williams
External and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of the Interior
Cell: (202) 706-4982

Begin forwarded message:

From: Benjamin Gabriel <ben@organmntfriends.org>
To: "heather_swift@ios.doi.gov" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, "downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov" <downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, "timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov" <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, "micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov" <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>, "amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov" <amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov>, Amy Lueders <alueders@blm.gov>
Subject: Invitation to visit Organ Mountains Desert Peaks

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Friends of Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks is pleased to learn that you plan to visit Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument as part of the Monument Review process undertaken by the Department of Interior. We cordially invite you to join us on the ground to see firsthand the natural, cultural and historic resources protected by Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument and the diverse base of community support that the Monument enjoys.

Friends of Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks is a non-profit community-based organization based in Las Cruces, New Mexico. We represent diverse voices and stakeholders including sportsmen and women, local businesses, recreation users, faith leaders and local citizens. The Friends work closely with the Bureau of Land Management on shared goals and projects that connect our community with our public lands including community education and outreach programs, trail maintenance, trash cleanups and an Artist in Residence Program. We also provide significant volunteer resources to BLM to achieve their multipurpose mission.

Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument was designated in 2014 at our community's request, following an extensive outreach and engagement process that included local sportsmen and sportswomen's groups, businesses,

recreational users, scientists and citizens who all weighed in to create a Monument that protected our most important cultural, historical and natural resources.

New Mexico's U.S. Senate offices, the Department of the Interior and the State Land Office worked closely with stakeholders to ensure that ranching, Border Patrol and national security activities could continue unimpeded by the new designation. By the time then-Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel visited to inspect the proposed Monument, the proposal enjoyed overwhelming support in polling, from stakeholder groups throughout Doña Ana County, and at a massive event held for the community at large.

In the three years since designation of the National Monument in 2014, our community has even more fully embraced the Monument. The Las Cruces Convention & Visitor's Bureau's annual Monuments to Main Street celebration is a growing focal point of regional tourism and economic development for Southern New Mexico. Local businesses have incorporated the Monument into their marketing and developed new products connect visitors and locals to Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks. User groups have organized to volunteer and help maintain trails and build community identity around the Monument. National and international publications recognize Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks as a top destination for travelers.

As you might understand, our community was surprised to hear of a Monument Review process, given the positive impacts and continued community support we have witnessed since designation. In response to the review, thousands of comments have been generated by Doña Ana County residents in support of the Monument, and local boards and commissions have passed formal resolutions of support, citing overwhelming community support, economic impact, and the importance of the protected cultural, historical and natural resources to our region. These include the Doña Ana County Board of County Commissioners, Las Cruces City Council, Anthony City Council, Town Council of Mesilla and Sunland Park City Council.

Please reach out to me to arrange to visit the Monument and meet with community leaders and citizens. I look forward to meeting with you and showing you our Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument.

I can be reached at ben@organmtnfriends.org or via phone at (575) 489-4709.

Ben Gabriel | Executive Director
Friends of Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks
PO Box 2676 | Las Cruces | NM | 88004
Office (575) 323-1423 | [website](http://www.organmtnfriends.org) | [email](mailto:ben@organmtnfriends.org)



Friends of Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks

PO Box 2676

Las Cruces, NM 88001

Secretary Ryan Zinke

Department of the Interior

1849 C St. NW

Washington, D.C. 20240

July 7, 2017

RE: Invitation to learn about Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument on the ground

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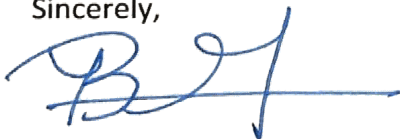
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Benjamin Gabriel', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Benjamin Gabriel

Executive Director
Friends of Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks