

**From:** <Catherine\_Callaway@ios.doi.gov>  
**To:** [Randal\\_Bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** DCN: EST-00003518 - Consideration to reduce the footprint of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks NM  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2017 3:37:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [3518 in.pdf](#)  
[SurnameLog\\_EST-00003518.pdf](#)

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FYI

*Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen*  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**

100 Juh Trail, Hillsboro New Mexico 88042-9500

June 28, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As representatives of the Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen, a coalition of the organized sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts groups in the Las Cruces area, we wish to convey our concerns about the ongoing consideration to reduce the footprint of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Many members of our organization have been actively involved in the discussions regarding the formation of the monument since the initial consideration of protection for these areas began back in the late 1980s. Some of our members have been hunting and recreating in these areas for better than fifty years and, as such, are intimately familiar with all of them, the opportunities they present for the public and the cultural, social, and economic values they hold for the region.

Granted, we as sportsmen were initially concerned for the future of these special locations in the direction of the debates and discussions among the various stakeholders. We feared that our values as wildlife enthusiasts and hunters would be dismissed or, worse yet, eliminated altogether in the process. What we found instead was a refreshing willingness to compromise and accept differing viewpoints and outlooks among almost all of the stakeholders involved.

The result of all of those interactions, debates and discussions was a final product that objectively took into consideration every reasonable request for consideration from all of the parties involved, while still maintaining the overall perspective of protecting these areas as a whole.

We are concerned that the political bickering at the national level has led us to a place where all of our efforts over the last few decades to, first, protect these landscapes because they are deserving of protection, while second, providing reasonable multiple uses to all stakeholders involved are being jeopardized. They are being threatened because of a small minority of special interests and individuals that somehow believe their perspective supersedes the overall interest of the public as a whole and, even more importantly, the protection the monument designation affords these special places.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, in its entirety, has overwhelming support from a large majority of the citizens of this area. On behalf of those citizens, we would hope that your ultimate recommendation would be to preserve our monument as it is.

Finally, we are aware that you are making an effort to visit the various monuments being reviewed. As representatives of the local sportsmen's community, we would like to meet with you, at your convenience, to discuss the monument "in person." In fact, if time allows, we would be delighted to show you around our monument from a sportsmen's perspective. Also, if you would like to hone your shotgun skills, we would like to challenge you to a little competition at Butterfield Shooting Range, our state-of-the-art trap and skeet range sited just on the edge of the monument. We could do

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The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
June 28, 2017  
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this early in the morning or at an evening shoot to stay out of the heat and any potential wind, and local sportsmen will provide wild game fare for either breakfast or dinner.

Please feel free to contact either of us by phone or email: John Cornell at 575-740-1759 or [jcls1010@gmail.com](mailto:jcls1010@gmail.com); Jim Bates at 575-644-7751 or [jim\\_bates2@hotmail.com](mailto:jim_bates2@hotmail.com).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John Cornell & Jim Bates, Co-chairmen  
Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen



July 7, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

You would know better than many Americans that serving in the U.S. military is about more than defending our nation's people and its values; it's also about fighting to ensure that the very lands on which we live and recreate are still here for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks is special place of unparalleled rugged beauty. It stands at the crossroads of American history including pre-historical places sacred to Native Americans, the Camino Real traversed by Spanish settlers for centuries, and the Butterfield Stage Route used by Americans traveling east-west across the country in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These kinds of sites tell us something about our past and how far we've come as a nation.

Thus, I would like to offer you the opportunity to hike and discover some of the special places the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks contains with a group of military veterans who worked very hard to make their support of the monument heard by the previous administration. I understand you will be in New Mexico at the end of July. Please let me know what day and time you would like to hike with our veterans through the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. We are happy to accommodate your schedule.

As a veteran who understands and appreciates the military contribution to our country, you might enjoy seeing some of the rich military history connected to the monument. During this hike, we can show you how the Organ Mountains Desert-Peaks also is home to some more recent pieces of history that are particularly important to veterans. Perhaps the best examples are the Deming aerial bombing targets, which were used to help train Army Air Corps pilots during World War II. These large bull's eye targets gave our Greatest Generation critical training to defeat the enemies of freedom during some of the darkest days the world has ever known.

Though I served my country in the armed forces, I believe fighting for this monument was another kind of service – a type of service that will allow my children and grandchildren to explore and enjoy these public lands as well as learn more rich chapters of the American story.

The proximity of military installations like Ft. Bliss and White Sands Missile Range means that these lands offer great opportunities for our service members, veterans and their families to enjoy and explore. Las Cruces and the surrounding region has a proud military tradition and a strong veteran community.

Thank you in advance and look forward to showing you this special part of my community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garrett Reppenhagen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Garett Reppenhagen  
US Army 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry, Kosovo and OIF II Veteran  
Regional Director  
Vet Voice Foundation  
719-235-7030  
[repp@vetvoicefoundation.org](mailto:repp@vetvoicefoundation.org)

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

June 28, 2017

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Last week you announced your intent to visit New Mexico, and you committed to visit with a wide range of stakeholders here including federal, state and local officials about the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. As the mayors of Las Cruces, Mesilla, Anthony and Sunland Park, we represent constituents who live in close proximity to the monument and whose livelihoods and families are connected to the monument. We also see the day-to-day effects of the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument's designation on our cities and towns, including the positive economic impacts the monument has brought to the region.

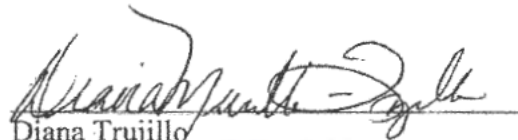
As the mayors, we invite you to participate in a public meeting we will host when you are in southern New Mexico so that you can hear from community members about the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. We know that your attendance will be viewed as an important opportunity for the public to be heard. As local leaders, we can facilitate a constructive discussion with those who have great stakes in the monument and provide the kind of input you are seeking during your review.

We understand you are still planning your trip. We look forward to working with you so you can attend a public meeting with our constituents as well as visit the monument itself to see the spectacular landscape in which we live. We ask that you please have your staff reply as quickly as possible so that we can make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your schedule. Please contact Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Mesilla town clerk-treasurer, 575-524-3262, ext. 105, or at [cynthias-h@mesillanm.gov](mailto:cynthias-h@mesillanm.gov), and she will share your office's information with the other mayors.

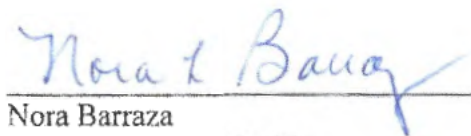
Sincerely,



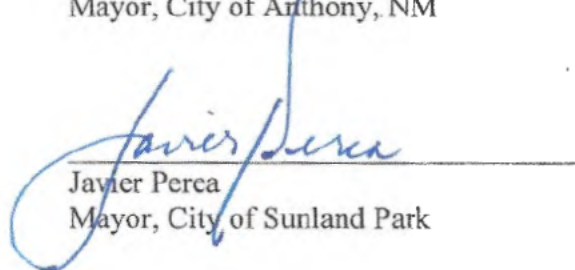
Ken Miyagishima  
Mayor, City of Las Cruces



Diana Trujillo  
Mayor, City of Anthony, NM



Nora Barraza  
Mayor, Town of Mesilla



Javier Perca  
Mayor, City of Sunland Park





July 11, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke  
Monument Review MS-1530  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

On behalf of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend an invitation to you and your office to visit Las Cruces, New Mexico to experience the culture, the food, and our Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

As the only organization in town that focuses specifically on the economic impact of our locally owned businesses, the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce has the honor of highlighting the hard work and dedication to our community that small business owners have and exhibit every day. We have also seen our local businesses take ownership of our National Monument and would like to share with you their stories.

We would be honored if you and your staff were able to visit Southern New Mexico to experience our incredible sunrises and sunsets, meet the amazing people here who are working hard every day to make our region the great place it is, and to see how our National Monument has impacted our city.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carrie Hamblen', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Carrie Hamblen  
CEO/President  
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce  
221 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004  
575-323-1575



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

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.

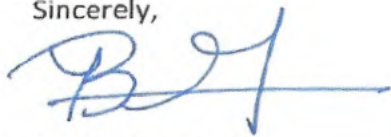
In the three years since designation of the National Monument in 2014, our community has even more fully embraced the Monument. The Las Cruces Convention & Visitor's Bureau's annual Monuments to Main Street celebration is a growing focal point of regional tourism and economic development for Southern 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](mailto:ben@organmtnfriends.org) or via phone at (575) 489-4709.

Sincerely,

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

Benjamin Gabriel

Executive Director  
Friends of Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks



Howarth, Robert &lt;robert\_howarth@ios.doi.gov&gt;

**Fwd: Invitations to Southern New Mexico for Secretary Zinke**

1 message

**Williams, Timothy** <timothy\_williams@ios.doi.gov>  
To: "Howarth, Robert" <Robert\_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jul 11, 2017 at 4:43 PM

**Department Of The Interior**

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Timothy Williams

[timothy\\_williams@ios.doi.gov](mailto:timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov)

Office: (202) 208-1923

**5 attachments****Invitation Secretary Zinke FOMDP.PDF**  
939K**LCGCC Invitation to Zinke 2017.pdf**  
299K**Joint\_Mayoral\_Invite\_to\_Interior\_Secy\_6.28.17.pdf**  
234K**VVF OMDP\_DOI\_Invite .pdf**  
210K**Zinke Letter-Invitation OMDP.DOC**  
73K