

**From:** <Catherine\_Callaway@ios.doi.gov>  
**To:** [Randal\\_Bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov)  
**Subject:** DCN: EST-00003519 - Antiquities Act  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2017 3:38:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [3519 in.pdf](#)

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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

June 28, 2017

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

*Mayor*  
Dick White

*Mayor Pro Tem*  
Sweetie Marbury

*Councillors*  
Melissa Youssef  
Dean Brookie  
Chris Bettin

*City Manager*  
Ron LeBlanc

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The City of Durango supports the continued designation of Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The City understands that the Department of the Interior is reviewing Canyons pursuant to Executive Order 13792, and is certain that any review should conclude that no changes to the designation are warranted or necessary.

The BLM's multi-use management plan continues to allow for grazing and oil and gas development on parts of the monument, as it did prior to the designation in 2000. The monument comprises 178,000 acres of the highest-known density of archaeological sites in the United States. With just over 6,000 sites already recorded, there are estimates that there may be between 20,000 and 30,000 sites within the boundaries of this monument.

Moreover, protected federal lands represent a direct, significant driver in the regional economy of Southwest Colorado. Local archaeological resources in our area are a cornerstone of our local tourism and marketing efforts, protecting these resources helps to ensure our continued financial viability as a region. According to the National Park Service, Mesa Verde National Park hosted over 547,000 visitors in 2015 who spent \$55.4 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 814 jobs in the area and had a cumulative benefit to the regional economy of more than \$66.8 million. There is no doubt that the 30,000 annual visitors to Canyons is also a significant economic driver to the area.

We hope that you agree that Canyons of the Ancients became a National Monument because it is a special place and merits the protections that Monument Status provides. The City urges you to keep Canyons intact without any changes to the designation.

Sincerely,

Dick White, Mayor

June 28, 2017

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cc:

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner

U.S. Representative Scott Tipton

Colorado State Senator Don Coram

Colorado House District 59 Representative Barbara McLachlan