

**From:** Chambers, Micah  
**To:** [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Bowman, Randal](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Organ Mtns National Monument  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2017 4:53:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Organ Mountains Packet.pdf](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** MacGregor, Robert <[Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov](mailto:Robert.MacGregor@mail.house.gov)>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 7:59 PM  
**Subject:** Organ Mtns National Monument  
**To:** Micah Chambers <[micah\\_chambers@ios.doi.gov](mailto:micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov)>, "Kaster, Amanda" <[amanda\\_kaster@ios.doi.gov](mailto:amanda_kaster@ios.doi.gov)>

Hey guys, sorry to bother you guys again, but my boss wanted to make sure I sent this over to you all. We really want to make sure that the Organ Mountains monument gets reviewed and would be happy to help during any point of the review process by providing info. We have a number of letters of support and a number of folks on the ground who would be happy to explain the issues to anyone over there. I believe my boss may bring this up to the Secretary when he is on the Hill Thursday and I wanted to make sure I told you both first.

Please let me know how I can help.

Thanks,

Rob MacGregor

Legislative Director

Congressman Steve Pearce (NM-02)

2432 Rayburn House Office Building

202-225-2365



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Micah Chambers

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Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

Office of the Secretary of the Interior

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Justification for Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument Reduction in Size

One of Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke's first orders that he signed on March 3, 2017, was to expand access to public lands. His vision of increasing public access is in contrast to current federal land management policy by reducing access to public lands each time a new land management designation document is signed. For example, presidential proclamations creating new national monuments withdraw federal land from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing, wilderness creation with no wheeled vehicles or permanent roads, areas of critical concern, national conservation areas and many others limit access, all of which do not increase public access. If the Secretary wants to increase public access, then he must begin the process of re-evaluation of the many presidential proclamations signed in the last few years.

Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument (OMDPNM) Presidential Proclamation 9131 was signed May 2014 over the protests from the community and input of local citizens. It is an excellent candidate for reducing the size of a new monument that lacks a management plan. There is historical precedence of presidents reducing the size of national monuments. This large monument is scattered over 496,300 acres of federal land and contains over 65,360 acres of state trust land and 14,980 acres of private ownership. It is further split into four parcels without a single significant historical site or location to visit like other well-defined national monuments.

The Monument has additional complications for border security by being located near the international boundary with Mexico. Arizona has many problems with illegal drug and people traffic in national monuments and parks along the border and it is not something that New Mexico would welcome if it can be avoided by removing the designation of a national monument near the border. The monument has all the established characteristics of becoming a major illegal drug and people corridor along the New Mexico border.

Dona Ana County should not have to bear the burden of the loss of positive economic development potential by having this large national monument forced upon them by proclamation which prohibits access to land for a railroad from the inland port at Santa Teresa that will have to cross productive farm land instead of crossing open federal land. The national monument designation does not allow access to geothermal water, solar power, fresh water, ghost city development and other potential projects that would be beneficial to the much needed tax base of the county.

It is the duty of the President and would be in the best interest of the public to reduce the size of OMDPNM to the footprint of the Organ Mountains proper. The Organ Mountains contain many historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest and would be contained in a more compact and economically manageable destination for visitors to the national monument to visit and enjoy.

# **JUSTIFICATION FOR ORGAN MOUNTAINS DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT REDUCTION IN SIZE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument (OMDPNM) was established on May 21, 2014 by Presidential Proclamation 9131 by President Barack Obama, ostensibly pursuant to authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (Map 3-10-2014).

This action was publicly viewed by conservationists as the culmination of over a decade of efforts to protect wide swatches of federally owned lands in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Several attempts to protect the lands for Wilderness designation failed to draw local support and were unsuccessful.

Following the election of Barack Obama in 2008, the Wilderness Alliance turned to support of a national monument proclamation to protect nearly 500,000 acres of federal lands. This designation would be placed on approximately one half of the federal lands in the county that had not been withdrawn from the federal domain for military and other national purposes.

Support for the proposal was sharply divided, drawing strong opposition from law enforcement, chambers of commerce and local business, land developers, agricultural interests, soil and water conservation districts, the Elephant Butte Irrigation District, the county flood commissioner and individual citizens.

The majority of the opposition was directed toward the inclusion of the federal lands lying west of the Rio Grande River. There was limited opposition to a national monument designation within the Organ Mountains.

The purpose of this report is to identify provisions in the OMDPNM proclamation that appear to exceed the authority granted to the President and to determine how the proclamation might be modified to be more

consistent with local preference while maintaining fidelity to the interest and purposes of the Antiquities Act (Map February 6, 2013).

## **LIMITATIONS TO THE ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906**

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants to the President of the United States the authority to declare by proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments (Yoo and Graziano, 2017).

The act grants the president the additional authority to reserve, as a part of the monument parcels of land, **“the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”**

Clearly, the act authorizes a national monument to be created by proclamation only to protect the landmarks, structures and objects of historical and scientific interest. The lands on which the objects to be protected are situated **“may”** be reserved for the express purpose of protecting those objects and for no other purpose.

Presidential Proclamation 9131 does not accurately quote Sec. 2 authorization under the Antiquities Act of 1906 by leaving out the word **“may”** and substituting the word **“to”**. This leads to an improper interpretation of the authority to reserve lands in the monument.

Until every object to be protected is identified and specifically located, there is no way to determine the smallest area “compatible with the care and management of the objects.”

## SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT

The following is an excerpt from House Report 2224 which accompanied H.R. 11016 (same bill as S 4698) and entered into the record of the Committee of the Whole House, March 12, 1906.

*The bill "...will in the opinion of your committee accomplish the purpose desired. There are scattered throughout the Southwest quite a large number of very interesting ruins. Many of these ruins are upon the public lands, and the most of them are upon lands of but little present value. The bill **proposes to create small reservations reserving only so much land as may be absolutely necessary for the preservation of those interesting relics of prehistoric times.**"*

**Discussion on the bill's third reading: Congressional Record-House, June 5, 1906.**

"The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

Mr. STEPHENS of Texas. How much land will be taken off the market in the western states by the passage of the bill?

Mr. LACEY. Not very much. **The bill provides that it shall be the smallest area necessary for the care and maintenance of the objects to be preserved.**

Mr. STEPHENS of Texas. Would it be anything like the forest-reserve bill by which seventy or eighty millions acres of land in the United States have been tied up?

Mr. LACEY. Certainly not. The object is entirely different. **It is to preserve those old objects of special interest and the Indian remains in the pueblos of the Southwest,** whilst the other reserves the forest and the water courses."

The final Senate Bill 4698 was signed June 8, 1906 with these provisions ***... "may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected"***.

## HISTORICAL USE OF THE ANTIQUITIES ACT TO CHANGE THE SIZE OF A MONUMENT

The Antiquities Act of 1906 has been used by the majority of presidents during their administrations to establish national monuments, enlarge the size and to reduce the size of established national monuments. Since 1906, national monuments have been diminished in size 19 times by seven presidents and once by Congress. National monuments have been increased in size approximately 72 times by presidents thru the Antiquities Act. The earliest was 1911 and last time 1996. The smallest reduction was five acres and the largest was 313,280 acres (National Park Service Archeology Program Antiquities Act Centennial. 1906-2006, maps, facts, & figures).

Presidents have used the Antiquities Act 160 times to create national monuments (Johnston, Wm. Robert 2017).

The following citation is an example used by President Eisenhower (**Proc. No. 3307, Aug. 7, 1959, 73 Stat. c69**) to reduce the size of the Colorado National Monument.

Reductions by Presidents and Congress by year:

Congress, (1996)

Eisenhower, (1960, 1956, 1960, 1955, 1955, 1956, 1959)

Coolidge, (1929)

F. Roosevelt, (1938, 1941, 1941, 1940)

J. Kennedy, (1963, 1962)

Taft, (1912, 1912, 1911)

Truman, (1945)

Wilson, (1915)



## **JUSTIFICATION FOR REDUCTION IN SIZE OF OMDPNM**

### **GENERAL**

The OMDPNM proclamation lacks specificity regarding objects to be protected. The proclamation begins with a narrative description of the areas to be designated as national monument that includes geology, scenic values, myths, plant and wildlife populations, and historical objects that are not located within the monument boundaries. It then declares "the objects identified above" to be in the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument. After the general statements, the proclamation audaciously determines that 496,300 acres to be the minimum land needed to protect the nebulous existence of objects to be protected.

The Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument is not a typical national monument with a focus on a single historical site or few prehistoric objects. It is not a destination site to see a single representation of the monument such as White Sands National Monument, El Morro National Monument, Capulin Peak National Monument. The monument is in four separate parcels, separated by two Interstate Highways, two cross country railroads, the Rio Grande River, a major gas pipeline, a major fiber optics line, encompasses a major southern tier FAA radar site, overlays in part, four major energy transmission lines and the four parcels are many miles apart with poor to non-existent roads.

The International Boundary between Mexico and the United States is very close to the Potrillo Mountain Complex for at least 22 miles. The Southwest Border has been called a "gaping wound" by Secretary of Homeland Security, John F. Kelly. Mr. Kelly indicated there would be a marked jump in morale in his department, adding "tens of thousands of immigration agents had been despondent after having their hands tied by the Obama administration. Brandon Judd, President of the National Border Patrol Council said that "morale at his agency is sky high."



The former Sector Chief of both the El Paso and Tucson sectors of the Border Patrol, Victor M. Manjarrez Jr. is quoted saying, "Where large expanses of lands occur with conditional or restricted access, cross border illicit entry will pose a real and constant danger. The status of the Potrillo and Las Uvas portions of the monument must be reconsidered. Those areas were of concern during my tenure as El Paso Sector Chief and they have only become more dangerous with the designation and the resulting tactical advantages the cartels seek."

Retired sheriff of Dona Ana County, Todd Garrison, said "Reducing the size of the national monument would be beneficial for public safety and greatly assist in the border security we desperately need."

## **ORGAN MOUNTAINS**

The Organ Mountains footprint, 54,800 acres, contains examples of nearly all of the basic scientific and historic objects listed in Proclamation 9131 of May 21, 2014, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument, including the listed Endangered Species (Map, February 6, 2013).

It also contains all of the iconic and scenic backdrop vistas to the municipalities of Las Cruces, Mesilla and Mesilla Park that are so valued by local citizens and visitors to the area. When the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument is mentioned, many people have either a visual or mental picture the Organ Mountains vista. Both local citizens and visitors do not recognize the Potrillo Mountains, Uvas Mountains, Robledos or Dona Ana Mountains as being in the National Monument.

The Organ Mountains contain numerous prehistoric petroglyphs, ancient dwellings such as Shelter Cave and La Cueva, along with pottery fragments, obsidian points, basket fragments and food remains within the boundary footprint.

The Organ Mountains contain three Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) that are presently preserved and protected from development and exploration. They are the Organ Mountains, Organ Needles, and Pena Blanca WSAs.

### **DESERT PEAKS COMPLEX**

The Sierra de las Uvas Mountains and the Robledo Mountains should be excluded from the National Monument. These two specific areas, and the Broad Canyon general area within this complex, were not recommended for designation as wilderness (New Mexico Wilderness Study Report, Sept. 1991) and, therefore, are not exceptional for scenic values, naturalness, solitude and historical or cultural objects to be included in a national monument for preservation and protection. Prehistoric trackways found in the area are already preserved and protected by the Paleozoic Trackways National Monument, Omnibus Public Land Management Act, March 30, 2014.

Petroglyphs are numerous throughout the complex, but are also numerous throughout southern New Mexico in almost every drainage and surrounding hills. Representative petroglyphs are currently protected in New Mexico at the Petroglyphs National Monument (24,000 images) and Three Rivers Petroglyphs Site (21,000 images) and in other New Mexico monuments and parks. Petroglyphs are listed in general and not listed specifically.

Specific sites listed are Valles Canyon and Providence Cone. However, Providence Cone is on State Trust Land and, therefore, cannot be listed as an object for protection.

Massacre Peak was noted as an object to be protected, but access could be difficult because fully one half of the peak is on private land.

### **DONA ANA MOUNTAINS**

The Dona Ana Mountains are already protected by being listed on the National Historic Register and managed under multiple use protocol by

BLM. This mountain range did not qualify for Wilderness Study Area designation and does not exhibit extraordinary qualities that would qualify them for special designation.

Summerford Mountain is listed to be protected, but is outside the monument boundary.

## **POTRILLO MOUNTAINS COMPLEX**

The Potrillo Mountains complex is a volcanic field of cinder cones, thick layers of basalt, craters and lava flows which make access very difficult and is not in any danger of being lost to vandalism. In its current undeveloped state, it is not in need of additional protective designations.

The Potrillo Mountains contain WSA designations (New Mexico Wilderness Study Report, Sept. 1991) and do not need further protective measures to preserve and protect the land area, as they are managed so as to prevent impairment of the area's suitability for preservation a wilderness (Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review. H-8550. 1995, Management of Wilderness Study Areas Manual. 6330. 2012).

Aden Crater within the complex, which is currently protected under a WSA and as a Research Natural Area.

Kilbourne Hole has been a National Natural Landmark since 1974 and approximately one fourth of it is in private land ownership.

Hunts Hole contains 80 acres of private land and approximately one half of the remaining land is state trust land.

Providence Cone is located on state trust land and is not regulated by national monument decrees.

Adjacent to the Potrillo Mountains complex is the International Border with Mexico to the south and on the northern side is an interstate railroad of which both contribute to reduced national security.

## **HISTORICAL OBJECTS**

There are numerous WW II Bomb Targets throughout the Potrillo Mountain and Desert Peaks Complexes. These targets were generally mechanically constructed concentric circles ploughed in the ground. They are in a vaguely unrecognized condition and with an over grown vegetative canopy with bomb fragments scattered in the vicinity. They have been undeveloped or disturbed since their use during WW II. They are not easily found without the aid of a Global Positioning System and, therefore, will be expected to stay in their current condition without further protection.

The individual targets are not located for object protection.

## **LISTED HISTORICAL OBJECTS NOT IN THE MONUMENT**

Some of the historical objects listed are outside the national monument boundary. One such object is the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, which is a historic trail, and is outside the national monument boundary. It is managed according to the *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan* prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service in 2004.

The historical ranch buildings listed are on private land and not subject to national monument protection.

The stage stops on the Butterfield Trail are on private land and surrounded by state trust land. The entire Butterfield Trail is currently protected as a historical trail by BLM and is subject to protection from development and or destruction.

## **GEOLOGIC OBJECTS**

The proclamation describes general geologic descriptions of the area that are not unlike most of southern New Mexico and do not require special designation. The proclamation states: "The dramatic and disparate mountain ranges of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks area tower above the surrounding grasslands and deserts of the Rio Grande watershed, while the Rio Grande winds through the valley between the ranges." The flowery elaborate description is meaningless in terms of identifying the objects subject to protection under the Antiquities Act.

## **BIOLOGICAL OBJECTS**

The proclamation is descriptive of the biology of the general area as opposed to identifying objects of scientific importance. The plant species and associated vegetative communities are common throughout the region and lack the specificity required to designate them as objects of national monument stature.

The wildlife species are also common occurrence and the proclamation does not explain why these common wildlife species are objects of scientific interest.

The known endemic plant species along with endangered species listed in the proclamation are all found within the proposed revised boundary of the national monument and subject to protection under national monument criteria and Endangered Species Act.

The Chihuahuah Desert is listed for protection; however the plants and animals are already protected in the 1980's by the Chihuahuah Desert Biosphere Reserve in Big Bend, Texas, and by the field research being conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service Station at the Jornada Experimental Range in the United States. Also, the Chihuahuah Desert is being protected in Mexico since 1977 under the Mexico Institute of Ecology in the states of Chihuahuah, Durango and



Coahuila. Therefore, there is not an emergency or need to list the Chihuahua Desert plants and animals as objects for protection.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

The proclamation designates 496,330 acres of federal land within the boundary of the OMDPNM. There are 100 sections of New Mexico State Trust lands or an additional 64,360 acres. Within the boundary, 14,980 acres of private land are encumbered in the national monument. The management implications of the OMDPNM include many more acres of land because the ranches' boundaries included in the monument do not coincide with the monument boundaries. This contiguous land management area along with the state and private lands may approach 700,000 acres.

With approximately 13 percent of lands in private ownership within Dona Ana County, reducing the management options for this land (14,980 acres) by being within the national monument is a potential loss to the tax base and well-being of the county. The other 87 percent of the land in Dona Ana County is in some form of federal or state ownership. This forces all most all of current and future development into the productive farmland along the river. The loss of productive economic agriculture base is not beneficial to maintaining or increasing a diverse economic engine for the Dona Ana County tax base.

The 64,360 acres of state trust land will also lose the ability to generate maximum revenue for the state revenue designated for educational purposes.

### **OBJECTS ON FEDERAL LANDS ARE NOT UNPROTECTED**

The Antiquities Act became law in 1906. Since then, the following laws have been enacted: Historic Sites Act of 1935, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of



1974, Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and the Native American Graves Repatriation Act of 1990, just to list a few.

The Secretary of Interior has an abundance of authority to survey, identify study and preserve any site or object of archeological significance. A massive all-encompassing national monument designation is not necessary to protect these areas. All that is necessary is for the BLM to implement existing laws to protect areas that qualify or need protection.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES OF NATIONAL MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

In 2014, there were only two BLM Law Enforcement Rangers for the Las Cruces BLM district of 4.5 million acres. There were 14 Federal Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) for all other national monuments in New Mexico. In order to have the same type of law enforcement coverage as the other national monuments, the current size OMDPNM will require 27 new LEOs. Recognizing the current budget issues at the federal level, this will not happen.

Therefore, protection of the scattered prehistoric sites across 496,300 acres will not be improved by the establishment of this widespread monument and may become subject of increased vandalism because of being identified and catalogued.

### **TAXPAYER SAVINGS**

Reducing the size of the area for development of the monument management plan would be a saving expended in both time and money. The Tri-County RMP is almost completed and will cover the long term management of the area that is being excluded in the revised boundary adjustment for the monument. The savings could be in the multi millions of dollars.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BORDER SECURITY**

The National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers (NAFBPO) have in the past been opposed to designation of national monuments along the near the international border; "Designation of such lands on or near our international borders would diminish access by law enforcement (including Border Patrol Agents) and is not in the best security interests of the United States."

The current Sheriff of Sierra County has related "During many of the public meetings held in the region during the proposed creation of this National Monument, many of the area Law Enforcement and Public Safety providers voiced their concerns over the unintended creation of a "Law Enforcement Free Zone" in these areas".

The Dona Ana Sheriff under previous administrations opposed a national monument along the border "To be effective in providing for the public safety my officers must have unfettered access to these lands. Such access is not possible in a national monument."

The Potrillo Mountain Complex has all of the characteristics of a potential human and drug smuggling corridor similar to those in Arizona.

1. The corridors have wilderness/de facto wilderness havens,
2. They have east/west highway access north and south of the corridors,
3. They have rugged and complex north/south mountains and drainage orientation which provides channels of movement,
4. They are almost entirely or heavily dominated by federal land agency management,
5. The concentration of resident American habitation is limited,
6. All corridors have high, strategically located points of observation (David B. Ham and S. L. Wilmeth, 2010).

## **FLOOD CONTROL**

Access restriction on roads, motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment impairs the ability of state and local government in maintaining existing flood control dams within the national monument, which presents a threat to public safety in the event of a 100 year flood. The restrictions on new roads and right-of-way may cause environmental degradation because of lacking of the ability to provide maintenance to the watershed inside the boundary of the monument.

## **POTENTIAL LOSS OF RANCHING INDUSTRY**

An unintended loss of ranching within the monument, due to unreasonable regulations and policy dealing with livestock grazing and maintenance of improvements is feasible. Loss of the economic contribution to the economy of Dona Ana County will be significant. An additional loss will occur to wildlife with the loss of privately held water rights not being available to wildlife when the ranch is lost.

## **Lost economic opportunity by having the large national monument**

### **Burlington Northern-Santa Fe railroad**

A proposed new international rail crossing is being considered west of the Santa Teresa New Mexico Port of Entry. A proposed new rail line coming from the west coast of Mexico to cross into the US would be developed as an inland port. A major rail line going north from the new port would be anticipated. Burlington Northern- Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad in order to take advantage of the potential increased rail traffic would need to build a new rail line to intersect with their rail line running up the Rio Grande Valley. Current plans are to drop off the west mesa into Berino-Anthony area because of the restriction on any new right of way in the monument. The

new rail line would be limited to following the current rail line traversing the productive farmland and through municipalities and cities.

This proposed rail line may or may not happen because currently, it will have to cross productive valley farm land and could very easily cross on the west mesa if it were not for the OMDPNM. The monument will not allow any new roads or rights-of-way within its boundary.

### Geothermal Water

It has been reported that one of the four most significant geothermal areas in the nation lies within the northwest boundary of the OMDPNM. Access to this potential economic fund generator is lost because of access into the monument is prohibited.

### Dome of water in Potrillo Mountains

There is a major underground water source in the Potrillo Mountains that is currently untapped due to the OMDPNM designation. This source of water has the potential to play an important role in future development for the Las Cruces-El Paso area that is currently unusable.

### Solar Power Development

The west mesa is high quality area for solar power development. It is currently off limits to any new development of solar power grids because of the national monument.

### Ghost City Development

A "Ghost City" capable of having just under 40,000 residents was planned to be developed on state and private lands west of Las Cruces. The developers of the \$1 Billion project which has been in the works since 2011 was scuttled because of the national monument being proposed. It has

consequently been moved to the adjoining Luna County. This was a major loss of economic development to Dona Ana County.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is the duty of the President and appears to be in the public interest to reduce the size of the monument for the reasons listed above and below.

Objects were listed in general, and not specifically which led to an area larger than needed to protect legitimate listed objects. This resulted in land reservations being larger than the smallest area needed for proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

The boundary needs to be revised to reflect the smallest area needed and objects must be identified and located.

It will be impossible for the state trust land managers and private land owners to develop plans for optimum profitability and economic values because of being surrounded by a restrictive national monument.

National border security is in jeopardy because of the adjacent international border and being a prime location for a major illegal drug and people trafficking area.

Major economic losses will occur because of the national monument limitations for access and development.

It can be anticipated that increased flood activity due to loss of maintenance of the watershed within the boundary of the monument will occur.

It appears that the emphasis to declare the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument to include 496,300 acres was driven more by groups wanting to lock up land in a national monument to be "appropriated and

withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing or other disposition under the public land laws” instead of protecting listed objects by limiting the area to be reserved “to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected”.

The monument should be reduced in size to the footprint of the Organs Mountains (Map, February 2, 2013) to protect only the significant objects listed to the smallest area and release the rest of the land back to multiple use management.



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**Proclamation to Revise the Boundary of the Organ Mountains  
Desert Peaks National Monument**

Proclamation XXXX—Revising the Boundaries of the Organ Mountains  
Desert Peaks National Monument  
XXXX xx, 2017

By the President of the United States of America  
**A Proclamation**

*Whereas*, the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument, New Mexico, was established for the preservation and protection of the objects of scientific and historic interest on the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks land by Presidential Proclamation 9131 of May 21, 2014 by the authority vested in section 2 of the Antiquities Act (34 Stat 225, 16 U.S.C. 431);

*Whereas*, it appears that it would be in the public interest to exclude from the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico, certain lands that are not necessary for the proper care, management and protection of the objects of scientific and historic interest situated on lands within the monument;

*Whereas*, the lands to be excluded are within the boundaries of the map supplied by BLM to the Office of Congressman Steve Pearce dated XXX 2017 and titled Desert Peaks Complex, Potrillo Mountains Complex and Dona Ana Mountains;

*Whereas*, it appears that it would also be in the public interest to establish the boundary for the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument as depicted in Organ Mountains National Monument, February 6, 2013 Map prepared by BLM for the Office of Congressman Steve Pearce;

*Now, Therefore, I, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vest in me by Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431) , do proclaim as follows:*  
The following-described parcels of land, and all interests therein, are hereby excluded from the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument and restored to the public domain:

**NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE POTRILLO MOUNTAINS COMPLEX, DESERT PEAKS COMPLEX, DONA ANA MOUNTAINS.**

Subject to any valid interests or rights, the following described parcel of land is reserved as a part of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument and the boundaries are as follows:

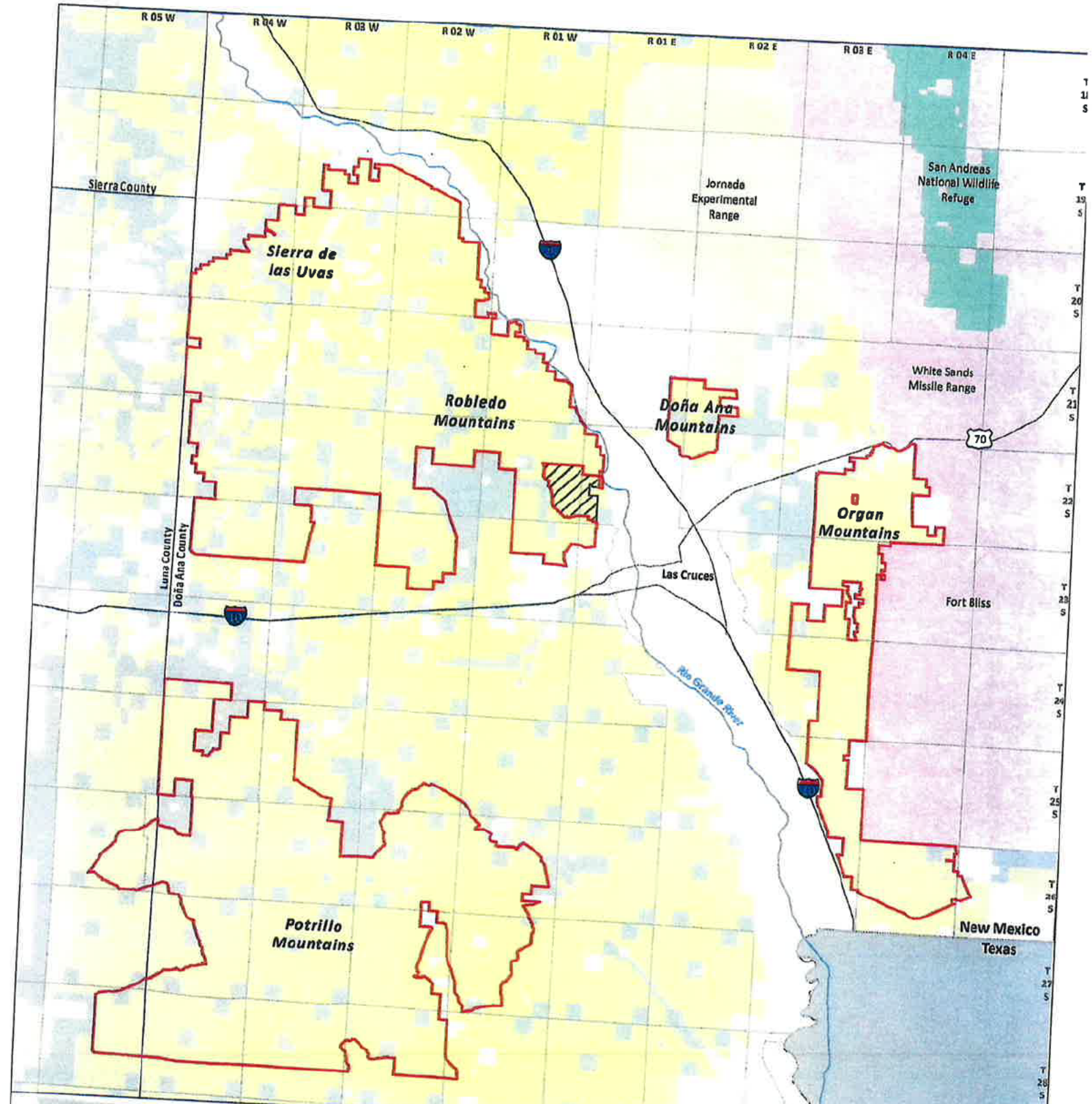
**NEW MEXICO PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ORGAN MOUNTAINS AS DEPICTED IN MAP OF FEBRUARY 6, 2013.**

Nothing in this proclamation shall change the mandates described in Presidential Proclamation 9131 of May 21, 2014 for the proper care, management and protections of the objects of scientific and historic interest situated on lands within the monument

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereto set my hand this XXXX day of XXXX, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty.

*Signed* President




**Legend**


- Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument
- Prehistoric Trackways National Monument

**Land Status**

- BLM
- BOR
- FWS
- DOD
- USDA
- State



1:120,000



0 6 12 Miles

**Organ Mountains -  
Desert Peaks  
National Monument**

**3/10/2014**

DOI-2018-11 00136



