

From: Rigas, Laura
To: [Heather Swift](#); [Megan Bloomgren](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#)
Subject: Final Antiquities Act EO Remarks
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Attachments: [Remarks_EOAntiquitiesAct_final.docx](#)

Are attached.

Laura Keehner Rigas
Communications Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 897-7022 cell
@Interior

REMARKS: EXECUTIVE ORDER ANTIQUITIES ACT

On behalf of Western States and communities, I am honored and humbled to welcome the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, esteemed members of Congress and Governors to the Interior Department today.

I can tell you as a kid who grew up in the West, today's executive order to review the Antiquities Act is long overdue.

The Department of the Interior is the steward of America's greatest treasures. Part of being a good steward is being a good neighbor and listening to the American people who we represent.

Mr. President, thank you for once again fulfilling your campaign promise to give a voice to local communities and states.

Let's be clear: the Antiquities Act grants the President the authority to declare "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" on Federal Lands. To be sure, the Antiquities Act has been an effective tool in preserving some of our greatest treasures for generations to come.

The Act also specifies for the President to designate the **"smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."**

Despite this clear directive, "smallest area" has often become the exception rather than the rule.

As an example, Teddy Roosevelt's first monument, the Devil's Tower in Wyoming, was about 1,200 acres.

Yet, in recent years we've seen single monuments span **tens of millions** of acres.

In some cases, monument designations have also placed land off limits to public access for grazing, fishing, mining, and even some outdoor recreation. As inscribed in the Roosevelt Arch at Yellowstone - America's first National Park, "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." That's the mission.

But somewhere along the way, the Act became a tool of political advocacy rather than public interest, and it is easy to see why some designations are viewed negatively by those most impacted.

This executive order **does not** remove any monument designations and this order **does not** weaken environmental protections on any land.

Under President Trump's leadership I'm looking forward to working with local, state and tribal representatives to review the designations and providing recommendations for action where appropriate.

Thank you again Mr. President and Mr. Vice President for being here today and for hearing the concern of American citizens.

Now, I'd like to turn it over to my friend, **Vice President Mike Pence**, a man of faith, conviction, courage, and a man who loves his country.