

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 2015

I am pleased to join in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the National Conservation Lands, which are proudly managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

Our country's landscapes are diverse, and each is treasured. From mountain peaks to coastal shorelines, arid deserts to redwood groves, the lands we love embody the American spirit and provide windows into our past. These places offer boundless opportunities for education, scientific study, and recreation—and while we know these gifts are only briefly borrowed from those who will follow us, our Nation's efforts to preserve their wonder help make good on our commitment to leave a lasting natural legacy for generations to come.

America has a long and proud tradition of environmental stewardship, and for the last 15 years, the National Conservation Lands have played an important part in carrying that tradition forward. Of the 16 National Monuments established or expanded under my Administration, 6 have been set aside as part of this system, conserving hundreds of thousands of acres. As we find additional opportunities to protect our wild and scenic places, the National Conservation Lands will continue to play a critical role in safeguarding the cultural, ecological, and scientific value of our environment.

On the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the National Conservation Lands, let us recommit to conserving, protecting, and restoring our landscapes so our next generation can experience and advance America's rich natural heritage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered on the page.