

REPORT

AMERICA'S MONUMENTS: WORTH THE FIGHT



Acknowledgments

Contributors to this report include Rich Simon, Rachael Johnson, Mary Heglar, Tim Lau, Ed Chen, Anne Hawke, Bob Deans, Sarah Chasis, Brad Sewell, Alex Adams, Sharon Buccino, Bobby McEnaney, Kabir Green, Jacob Eisenberg, Jenny Powers, Virginia Lee, Linda Corman, and Jeff Turrentine.

About NRDC

The Natural Resources Defense Council is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 2.4 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Montana, and Beijing. Visit us at nrdc.org.

NRDC Acting Chief Communications Officer: Michelle Egan

NRDC Deputy Directors of Communications: Lisa Goffredi and Jenny Powers

NRDC Senior Editor, Policy Publications: Mary Annaise Heglar

NRDC Policy Publications Editor: Tim Lau

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For more than a century, presidents from both parties have followed the lead of Teddy Roosevelt in setting aside special American places as national monuments, to be preserved and protected for all time. It's a way for us, as a nation, to honor our past and enshrine the values that bind us together—while at the same time ensuring that future generations will get to experience the natural splendor of this country much as the first Americans knew it long ago.

From the towering spires of California's giant sequoias to the mist-shrouded beauty of the mountains of Maine to the abundant marine life of Hawaii's coral reefs to the spectacular underwater canyons off New England's Atlantic coast, these national monuments and many others attest to the awe-inspiring wonder of our natural world. They're a testament, too, to the expansive spirit of a great nation united by a common will to safeguard this uncommon legacy for all time. No other country's conservation efforts compare.

Yet, in spite of this proud legacy—and in a breathtaking betrayal of this same spirit—President Trump took the extraordinary step of placing dozens of American monuments on the chopping block, exposing them to an arbitrary and capricious test to see whether essential protections might be greatly curtailed, or even eliminated altogether, in 27 different locations.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 empowers every president to designate special places as monuments whose preservation is in the public interest. It does not, however, give any president the authority to remove protections that past presidents have conferred. For Donald Trump to strip away these protections is unconscionable. And illegal. That's why the Natural Resources Defense Council is holding President Trump to account—in both the court of public opinion and in our courts of law.

This report provides a snapshot of those national monuments that Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have placed in their crosshairs, from the Rio Grande to the Rose Atoll. It highlights the natural, cultural, and economic significance of each site. Furthermore, it tallies and details the many appreciable public interests that each one serves—from the perspectives of anglers, hikers, Native Americans, ranchers, farmers, business groups, and others.

The Antiquities Act was passed because Congress and the American people wanted the president to have the power to protect lands and waters that we recognize as sacred. The Grand Canyon. Muir Woods. The Statue of Liberty. And sometimes these places are literally sacred, such as the Bears Ears National Monument and other sites that are of profound religious significance to Native Americans. I believe all of them are sacred in the broader sense of the word that means most cherished and most venerated. And all of them deserve to be revered, not ravaged by special interests.

Yet that's exactly what will happen if we don't take action. To the mining, development, and fossil fuel industries, these sacred lands and waters represent nothing more than business opportunities: locations for the taking, to be dynamited, bulldozed, paved over, and drilled.

To which we can only say: Not on our watch.

NRDC is joining with millions of Americans to raise our voices and stand up for our national monuments. These special places aren't mere commodities to be sacrificed to industrial ruin. They're reminders of all that we share as a country, and of who we are as a people. They're reminders of what we, as Americans, actually value enough to protect and conserve.

These lands and waters don't belong to the president, despite whatever he may believe. They belong to the American people. They're the physical repositories of our history and our heritage. The American story, in all of its sprawling and rough-hewn majesty, is written on their landscapes. And we can't—we won't—let them slip away.



Rhea Suh
President

Natural Resources Defense Council

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WHY MONUMENTS MATTER

BEARS EARS IN UTAH. GIANT SEQUOIA IN CALIFORNIA. KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS IN MAINE. NORTHEAST CANYONS AND SEAMOUNTS OFF NEW ENGLAND'S ATLANTIC COAST. PAPAĪANAUMOKUĀKEA IN HAWAII AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THESE ARE AMONG OUR MOST CHERISHED NATIONAL TREASURES. EACH MONUMENT IS A TESTAMENT TO AMERICA'S SHARED HISTORY, COMMON VALUES, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

They also serve as important economic drivers, in red and blue states alike. The more than hundreds of millions of visits annually to monuments, parks and other Interior Department sites contribute to an \$887 billion-a-year outdoor recreation industry that supports 7.6 million jobs.

Yet these monuments are now in the crosshairs of the Trump administration, which intends to shrink or eliminate them altogether, and open some to oil and gas drilling, uranium and coal mining, and other commercial extraction.

President Trump does not have the legal authority to do this. Yet he and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke have launched a sham review of the monuments, intended to pave the way for their exploitation by extractive industries including fossil fuels.

The Interior Department closed its comment period July 10, 2017, with more than 2.7 million comments calling for protecting the monument designations. The Center for Western Priorities analyzed a portion of the comments and found that 98 percent of those comments expressed support for preserving or expanding the national monuments under threat.

This report highlights what is at stake, and why each of these precious monuments deserves the protection conferred since 1996 by previous presidents. As the administration reviews monuments across the nation, two at the very center of the bull's-eye are Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument in the North Atlantic. These—and all of our national monuments—are in urgent need of our protection.

GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS ONE MILLION-ACRE MONUMENT ON THE EDGE OF THE GRAND CANYON IN ARIZONA IS A

“geologic, historic, and scientific treasure as well as a sanctuary for pristine dark night skies,”

ACCORDING TO THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Parashant is located in one of the most remote regions in the continental United States. “Few signs of civilization mar the splendid isolation of this vast landscape,” according to the National Park Service.

The monument lets visitors experience the north rim of the Grand Canyon without any guard rails, crowds, or bus shuttles, according to the Interior Department: “Instead the visitor is surrounded with vistas, wildlife, and solitude.”

Parashant holds a record of 500 million years of geologic history and of more than 10,000 years of human occupation of the Colorado Plateau. Its ecological diversity ranges from the hot Mojave Desert to cool ponderosa pine forests.

The area is home to more than 200 plant species, 116 bird species, and 50 mammal species, according to wildlife experts.

Parashant earned the International Dark Sky Association’s gold-tier status, the highest award for the darkest skies.



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WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton designated the monument in 2000 after “careful analysis and close consultation with local citizens, State and local officials, Members of Congress.”

Bruce Babbitt, Clinton’s secretary of the interior, made three visits to Arizona to gauge public sentiment on whether to make the designation. The Clinton administration held two large public meetings, and more than 59 other meetings with concerned local governments, tribes, and other groups.

Nearly 80 percent of Arizona residents backed its designation, according to a poll in *The Arizona Republic*.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Nearby communities have seen economic growth since the monument’s designation in 2000. Real personal income (adjusted for inflation) grew by 59 percent and jobs grew by 42 percent from 2001 to 2015, according to Headwaters Economics, an independent, nonpartisan research center.

IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS 129,000-ACRE MONUMENT IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA SHOWCASES THE
beauty of the Sonoran Desert.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Situated northwest of Tucson, Ironwood Forest includes rich stands of ironwood trees (which can live for 800 years), an astounding diversity of animal and plant life, and rock art sites, among other archaeological objects.

Ironwood Forest supports at least 674 species, according to the Center for Biological Diversity. These include the desert tortoise and the Tucson area's last indigenous

population of bighorn sheep. The monument is also home to endangered species like the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl, the lesser long-nosed bat, and the Nichol's Turk's Head cactus.

Ironwood's archeological sites date back more than 5,000 years and include areas listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The monument's Ragged Top Mountain is known as a biological and geological crown jewel.



WTR/ANIM EDGE ©



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton established the monument in 2000, protecting the highest density of ironwood trees recorded in the Sonoran Desert.

Raúl M. Grijalva, then chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and now a congressman, has cited the “broad and spirited community support” for the monument’s designation.

In the *Tucson Citizen*, Grijalva wrote that the people of Southern Arizona had a “unity in our voice” in backing the monument, and a “vision about the importance of public space in defining our community and heritage.”

The Pima County Board of Supervisors also supported the designation.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Communities near the monument have experienced economic growth: from 2001 to 2015, jobs grew by 15 percent and real personal income rose 28 percent.

Travel and tourism are important to communities in Pima County, representing about 20 percent of private wage and salary employment in 2015.

SONORAN DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON CALLED THIS MONUMENT

*“a magnificent example
of untrammeled Sonoran
Desert landscape.”*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

This nearly 500,000-acre monument in Arizona, about 60 miles from Phoenix, contains an “extraordinary array of biological, scientific and historic resources,” according to the presidential proclamation.

Sonoran Desert encompasses significant archaeological and historic sites, spectacular saguaro cactus forests, and a wide range of wildlife, including endangered Sonoran pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, mule deer, and desert tortoise.

Visitors can learn about the history of early Native Americans, Spanish explorers, homesteaders, and miners who came through areas now within the monument. The monument also includes remnants of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Mormon Battalion trail, and the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach route.



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WHO SUPPORTS IT

The push to protect this area pre-dates its monument designation, with National Park and National Conservation Area proposals for nearly a decade beforehand, according to the Wilderness Society.

President Clinton established the monument in 2001 after Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, a former Arizona governor, made two trips to the area and heard from local community leaders, tribal representatives, hunters, and conservationists.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Tourism is an important industry in the Sonoran Desert region. Neighboring communities saw a 44 percent increase in real personal income and job growth of 29 percent from 2001 to 2015.

VERMILION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT

“Sherbet-colored dream world.”

“Geological treasure.”

“Breathtakingly beautiful.”

THIS IS HOW PEOPLE DESCRIBE VERMILION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT, WHICH SPANS APPROXIMATELY 294,000 ACRES, NORTHEAST OF THE GRAND CANYON IN ARIZONA.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

In addition to its towering cliffs, Vermilion Cliffs is home to deep canyons, sandstone formations, and spectacular vistas. It is notable for the multicolored Vermilion Cliffs, rising 3,000 feet; the Coyote Buttes area with Navajo Sandstone bands of yellow, orange, pink, and red; and the 2,500 foot-deep Paria River Canyon with arches and massive sandstone walls. Some of the earliest rock art in the Southwest can be found there, as well.

Remote and unspoiled, Vermilion Cliffs is “full of natural splendor and a sense of solitude,” according to its establishment proclamation.

The monument is, “arguably, one of our nation’s most underappreciated natural marvels” with “gorgeous displays of 85-million-year-old Navajo sandstone formations, 3,000 foot peaks and narrow crevices formed centuries ago by the Paria River,” according to Smithsonian.com.

Vermilion Cliffs has played a critical role in the recovery of the California condor, which can be seen soaring overhead. Condors hatched and raised in a captive breeding program are released into the landscape. As of June 2016, there were 73 condors in the wild in northern Arizona and southern Utah, according to The Peregrine Fund.



© BOB WICK/BLM

The monument's historic sites include the Honeymoon Trail, which Mormon couples followed as they made "the arduous trip to St. George to have their marriages solemnized in Mormon temple," according to the monument proclamation.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton established the monument in 2000, after significant outreach to stakeholders. His interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt, made three trips to the area and met with local elected officials, lodge owners, ranching interests, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and other groups. The Bureau of Land Management held three additional meetings with the local community.

The number of visitors to the monument more than quadrupled between 2000 and 2015, from 40,000 to 190,000.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Neighboring communities have experienced strong growth since the designation. Jobs grew by 25 percent and real personal income grew as much as 45 percent in surrounding communities from 2001 to 2015.

NORTHEAST CANYONS AND SEAMOUNTS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MARVELOUS UNDERSEA WILDERNESS

*—the first marine national monument
in the U.S. Atlantic Ocean—*

HAS BEEN CALLED THE “SERENGETI OF THE SEA” AND AN “AQUATIC TREASURE OF UNBELIEVABLE BOUNTY.”



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The 4,913 square-mile Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, located about 150 miles southeast of Cape Cod, protects a spectacular underwater seascape inhabited by an extraordinary diversity of life. The more than 1,000 species that call the canyons and seamounts home include centuries-old coral, dolphins, whales (including the endangered sperm whale), Atlantic puffins, and other seabirds and sea turtles.

The monument's underwater canyons rival the Grand Canyon in size and scale, and the seamounts rise higher than any mountain east of the Rockies.

The area, with its unique geological features, has been the site of active scientific exploration and of the discovery of species of coral found nowhere else on earth, as well as of other rare fish and invertebrates.

The area also serves as an important laboratory for the better understanding of the impact of climate change and ocean acidification – the result of oceans absorbing growing amounts of carbon pollution. A better understanding of carbon pollution's threat to the oceans is critical to ensuring sustainable fisheries, which are important to both our food supply and New England's economic well-being.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Obama signed a proclamation designating Northeast Canyons and Seamounts as our newest marine national monument in September 2016. More than 300,000 people nationwide had asked the president to protect the area.

The designation is critical to the future of New England's tourism, fishing, and recreational industries, which depend on a healthy ocean.



© FABRICE GUENNON/OPSET

Among those expressing support for the monument were the entire Connecticut federal congressional delegation, 145 scientists, more than 100 New England businesses, recreational fishermen, whale-watch operators, dive groups, conservation organizations, 10 aquariums, and dozens of religious leaders.

Three out of four residents surveyed in Massachusetts and Rhode Island supported permanently protecting deep-sea canyons, extinct volcanoes, and deep-water corals such as those found in the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts monument.

Support for the monument was not limited to New England groups. One letter sent to Obama in support of the designation was signed by 49 organizations, including the Aquarium of the Pacific, The Tennessee Aquarium, and the Texas State Aquarium.

“While the area is largely untouched and wild today, it is highly vulnerable to disturbance and should be protected

now from the push to fish, drill, and mine in ever deeper and more remote places,” the groups wrote. “As climate change and ocean acidification continue to affect ocean life, it also becomes more and more urgent to establish blue parks in important and relatively pristine ocean habitats such as this one.” The Trump administration has received more than 650,000 comments in support of marine national monuments since it began its monuments review.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Protecting the Canyons and Seamounts is important to ocean tourism and recreation, which support 170,000 jobs and \$7.4 billion in economic activity in coastal New England.

Scientists have found that protected ocean areas can serve as a spawning and nursery refuge and generate higher densities of fish, which spill over to adjacent areas, enhancing catches.

BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS 330,780-ACRE MONUMENT HAS BEEN CALLED A SCENIC OUTDOOR WONDER, A UNIQUE TREASURE, AND *one of northern California's best-kept secrets.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

This biological hotspot provides habitat for some of the rarest plants on earth. The higher-elevation Snow Mountain area contains some of the richest biological diversity in California.

Situated just north of Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area, Berryessa Snow Mountain is home to threatened and endangered species, such as the northern spotted owl, and a vast array of wildlife, such as bald eagles, black bears, river otters, coyotes, deer, Tule elk, and mountain lions.

The monument also hosts cultural sites ranging from Native American petroglyphs to a restored 1860s homestead cabin. Some of the archaeological sites date back at least 5,000 years.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Obama established the monument in 2015, after more than 80,000 public comments called for permanent protection of the area.

The California Legislature passed a resolution with bipartisan support urging Obama to create the monument. More than 200 businesses supported the designation.



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HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

An economic analysis conducted for the Winters Chamber of Commerce predicted the monument could attract more visitors to the area, increase tourism spending, and generate nearly \$26 million in new economic activity and nearly \$500,000 in additional tax revenue for local communities over five years.

“There is no downside to preserving these lands and future lands like Berryessa. You protect beautiful natural lands/historical landmarks and bring an untapped resource in tourists who would normally not travel to that area. Income that would have never reached that area otherwise is now accessible,” said Rose Langensiepen, owner of Above All Consulting in Elk Grove.

California Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry said she worked with hundreds of people from communities throughout northern California to designate Berryessa Snow Mountain as a national monument.

“What I saw was a massive outpouring of community support and pride,” she said. “People support these designations because they represent a true local effort to protect our valuable lands, cultural resources, sacred tribal sites, and create jobs and tourism for our local economies.”

CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT HAS BEEN CALLED *California's Serengeti.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The 204,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument in central California is home to the largest single native grassland remaining in the state.

Spring wildflowers carpet the valley floor under the right conditions; the breathtaking display from a 2017 “super bloom” drew a record number of visitors.

The monument also includes “the largest remaining contiguous habitats for many endangered, threatened, or rare species of animals, such as the San Joaquin kit fox, the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, the San Joaquin antelope squirrel, and the giant kangaroo rat,” according to the Bureau of Land Management.

“Carrizo Plain provides important habitat for California condors and is the first area in California to reintroduce pronghorn antelope and Tule elk, native species that were hunted nearly to extinction in the late 1800s.” Red-tailed hawks and golden eagles are among the raptors that can be seen in the area.

The monument includes compelling cultural sites such as Painted Rock, which is considered to be “among the finest examples of Native American pictograph painting in the world,” according to a Bureau of Land Management archeologist.

Carrizo Plain is also home to the Soda Lake Watershed, one of the largest undisturbed alkali wetlands in California. A notable phenomenon of Soda Lake is how it concentrates salts as water evaporates, leaving white deposits of sulfates and carbonates that look like baking soda.



© BOB WICK/BLM

The San Andreas Fault traverses Carrizo Plain and has, over time, carved valleys and created and moved mountains.

“Full of natural splendor and rich in human history, the majestic grasslands and stark ridges in the Carrizo Plain National Monument contain exceptional objects of scientific and historic interest,” according to the proclamation establishing the monument.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

“This one isn’t controversial. People in the area have been working to protect it,” a spokeswoman for then-Rep. Lois Capps (D-Santa Barbara) said when the monument was established.

President Clinton established the monument in 2001. His interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt, toured the plain in 1999 and said he “[could not] believe there is a place like this left in California.”



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

San Luis Obispo and Kern counties, which neighbor Carrizo Plain, experienced strong growth after its 2001 designation. Jobs grew by 28 percent and real personal income rose by 55 percent from 2001 to 2015.

“Public lands have long been a source of economic benefit to surrounding communities, and the Carrizo Plain National Monument is no exception,” according to The Wilderness Society. “Because development pressures on open lands like the Monument will increase, its value to nearby communities (as a place that provides a scenic backdrop and recreational opportunities) will also grow.”

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT PROTECTS CALIFORNIA'S *majestic giant sequoias.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The 328,000-acre Giant Sequoia National Monument was established in response to threats to California's giant sequoias. Among the oldest and largest trees on earth, giant sequoias grow only on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California and can tower more than 250 feet into the sky and exceed 30 feet in diameter. The oldest specimens have stood for more than 3,000 years.

The monument, encompassing 33 groves and the areas around them, protects about half the remaining giant sequoia groves in the United States. Its richly varied landscape also includes bold granite domes, spires, and plunging gorges and is home to bountiful wildlife.

Giant Sequoia is home to a diverse array of rare animal species, including California spotted owls and Pacific fishers. The monument also holds objects of scientific and historic interest, including "unique paleontological resources documenting tens of thousands of years of ecosystem change," according to the presidential proclamation establishing the monument.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton designated the monument in 2000 after receiving 600,000 postcards from people across America urging him to protect the famous trees.

"This is not about locking lands up; it is about freeing them up for all Americans for all time," Clinton proclaimed at the Trail of 100 Giants, a path in the monument along which many of the legendary trees can be seen.



Before Clinton's action, President George H.W. Bush signed a proclamation in 1992 to protect several dozen groves of giant sequoias.

"This nation's giant sequoia groves are legacies that deserve special attention and protection for future generations," Bush said in signing the proclamation.

Clinton's Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and a team of career federal employees conducted an in-depth review and gathered extensive comments from public meetings in Visalia and Fresno. Consultation included area residents, state, tribal and local officials, and members of Congress.

Polls showed overwhelming public support for creation of a monument.

After President Trump ordered a review of monuments, Sam Hodder, president and CEO of Save the Redwoods League, expressed concern in a blog:

"The process to designate the Giant Sequoia National Monument included many years of extensive vetting of local stakeholder interests and a careful review of the public natural values of the land managed by the Forest Service on our behalf, spanning across both Republican and Democratic presidencies.

"To call for a review of Giant Sequoia National Monument decades later threatens to undermine the conservation that many worked so hard to secure."



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Communities nearby have experienced strong growth since the monument designation. Real personal income rose by 50 percent and jobs grew by 20 percent between 2001 and 2015 in communities near the monument.

MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT FEATURES *iconic desert vistas, majestic mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, fossil beds, and spectacular sand dunes.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The 1.6 million-acre Mojave Trails National Monument is home to desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, fringe-toed lizards, a portion of California's largest cactus garden, and rare plants.

The monument also includes features of historic interest, such as "ancient Native American trading routes, World War II-era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66," according to the Bureau of Land Management.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

In 2016, President Obama signed the proclamation that created the Mojave Trails National Monument, which included more than 350,000 acres of wilderness previously established by Congress. Previously, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) campaigned for decades to protect special places in the California desert.

The designation enjoyed widespread and bipartisan support. Of those surveyed, 85 percent of Democrats and 62 percent of Republicans in California supported Obama's designation of the three California monuments, according to a poll.



© BOB WICK/BLM

“Residents place a high level of importance on ensuring that these public lands are protected as wildlife habitat, for family recreation, for children to explore nature, and as places where veterans from recent wars can come to ‘recover and heal in nature,’” according to a memo by Public Opinion Strategies.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Campaign for the California Desert, a coalition of conservation groups, community leaders, and businesses dedicated to protecting desert landscapes, predicts the designation will enhance the region’s important tourism economy.

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT IS *home to some of the greatest biodiversity in the country.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Set in Los Angeles' backyard, the 346,177-acre San Gabriel Mountains National Monument has an extraordinary variety of wildlife, ranging from bighorn sheep to mountain lions and from the California spotted owl to the California condor.

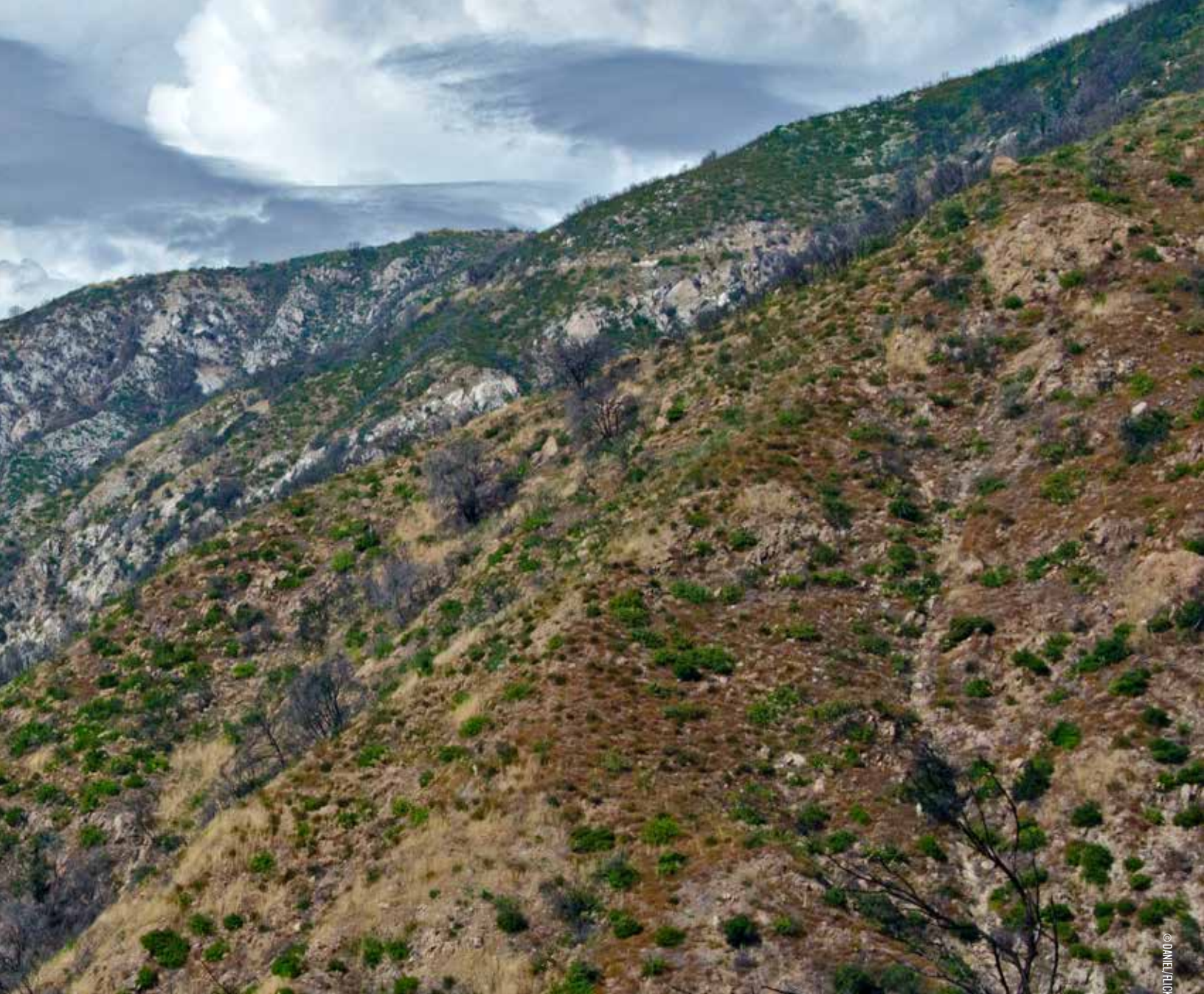
The area is rich in history, with evidence of more than 8,000 years of human activity and more than 600 archeological sites. Notable features of the monument include the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and Native American rock art, among other cultural sites. It is also home to the Mt. Wilson Observatory, which is where "Edwin Hubble discovered galaxies beyond the Milky Way and Albert Michelson provided the first modern measurement of the speed of light," according to *Indian Country Today*.

The monument includes thousands of miles of streams, trails, and other outdoor recreation opportunities. "For many urban residents, the monument provides the only available and measurable open space," according to the U.S. Forest Service.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Obama established San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in 2014. For "the 17 million people living in Greater Los Angeles—and the many who visit every year"—it offers an opportunity to "leave behind the crush of urban life and experience the natural wonder of the San Gabriels," wrote then-NRDC President Frances Beinecke. The designation is particularly significant because Los Angeles County is "one of the most park-poor urban areas in the nation."



© DANIEL FLORES

“Too many children in L.A. County, especially children of color, don’t have access to parks where they can run free and breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their own environment,” Obama said in announcing the designation. “This is an issue of social justice.”

The designation has “inspired a new generation to benefit from nature,” Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) wrote in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune. “I’ve seen firsthand how students struggling in school or facing difficulties at home have found new purpose thanks to educational and recreational opportunities in the San Gabriel Mountains.”

The designation culminated a preservation campaign that took more than a decade. It involved a 10-year study by the National Park Service, which included 66 stakeholder meetings and more than 16,800 public comments.

Eighty percent of Los Angeles County residents surveyed supported greater protections for the San Gabriels, according to a poll conducted prior to the designation. Public enthusiasm for the designation has been so strong that groups have raised more than \$5 million to support the monument.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

“Small business owners in the West strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy,” said David Chase, California Director for the small-business advocacy organization Small Business Majority.

SAND TO SNOW NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT IS *one of the most biodiverse areas of southern California.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Extending from the desert floor to the sometimes snowcapped Mount San Gorgonio, the 154,000-acre Sand to Snow National Monument is an “ecological and cultural treasure,” according to its presidential proclamation.

Big Morongo Canyon is “among the largest desert riparian habitats in California” and has been recognized as “among the most important avian habitats in the State,” according to the proclamation.

Sand to Snow supports more than 240 species of birds. The monument is home to 12 threatened and endangered wildlife species, such as the desert tortoise. Visitors to the area may also encounter black bears, mountain lions, bobcats, mule deer, or bighorn sheep.

Sand to Snow also contains archaeological and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

Established by President Obama in 2016, Sand to Snow National Monument enjoys widespread public support for its protection, including by 85 percent of Democrats and 62 percent of Republicans polled.

“The Sand to Snow designation was relatively noncontroversial, since most of the monument was already congressional delegated wilderness,” according to *The Desert Sun*.



The monument designation was championed by Senator Dianne Feinstein and by local business owners, representatives from the California travel and tourism industry, environmental groups, recreationists, sporting enthusiasts, academics, and representatives of local faith-based groups.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

The designation is “good for our regional economy, as these visitors stay in our hotels and shop in our businesses,” according to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

“When President Obama signed the Sand to Snow act, it really opened up opportunities for us to capture a portion of those two million visitors to Joshua Tree (National Park) every year, to stop here in Desert Hot Springs and use us as a gateway to Sand to Snow,” Desert Hot Springs Mayor Scott Matas told *The Desert Sun*. “It is an important piece of our tourism plan for the future.”

Protecting desert land has already brought economic benefits to the region. Visitors to Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve contributed \$165 million to the economy and supported 2,000 jobs in 2013, according to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT

IT HAS THE *highest known density of archaeological sites in the country.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument offers an “unparalleled opportunity” to study the cultures of the American Southwest, according to the monument proclamation.

Spanning roughly 176,000 acres in the Four Corners region of southwest Colorado, Canyons of the Ancients includes more than 6,000 recorded archeological sites. In fact, some areas of the monument contain more than 100 archeological sites per square mile. The area also offers spectacular scenery, such as sheer sandstone cliffs with Mesa tops rimmed by caprock and deeply incised canyons.

There is also a wide variety of wildlife, including Mesa Verde nightsnakes, long-nosed leopard lizards, golden eagles, and red-tailed hawks.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton established the monument in 2000 with wide local support.

There is strong bipartisan support for maintaining its monument designation.

“The designation of Canyons is an example of what the Antiquities Act was intended to do—protect cultural treasures,” Colorado Senator Cory Gardner and



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Representative Scott Tipton, both Republicans, wrote in a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in May 2017.

Governor John Hickenlooper and Senator Michael Bennet, both Democrats, wrote to Zinke, “Recent monument designations in Colorado are the product of robust public engagement and in many cases years of deliberation.”

HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

With 30,000 visits a year, Canyons of the Ancients has become critical to the state’s tourism industry, which supports one in nine jobs in Colorado.

Communities near Canyons of the Ancients have seen economic benefits from having a monument nearby.

“Research shows that conserving public lands like the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument helps to safeguard and highlight amenities that draw new residents, tourists, and businesses to surrounding communities,” according to Headwaters Economics.

The area has experienced strong growth after the monument’s designation. Real personal income rose by 34 percent and jobs grew by 9 percent from 2001 to 2015.

“This monument is pivotal to our visitor experience,” Kelly Kirkpatrick, the head of the Mesa Verde Country Visitor Bureau, told *The Denver Post*.

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MARINE MONUMENT, ESTABLISHED AS THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND LATER RENAMED PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA, PROTECTS A

“spectacular array of sea life,”

ACCORDING TO THE *NEW YORK TIMES*.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Spanning 582,578 square miles, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (pronounced PA-pa-HAH-now-MO-KOO-ah-KAY-ah) encompasses a series of small islands, atolls, seamounts, coral reefs, and surrounding waters. It is home to more than 7,000 marine species, a quarter of which are found nowhere else in the world.

Papahānaumokuākea contains the “largest, healthiest, and most untouched coral-reef system in the United States,” according to the monument proclamation. It is home to rare species such as the endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal and the threatened Hawaiian Islands Green Sea Turtle.

The monument’s “biological and geographic isolation, coupled with singular oceanographic and geological conditions, have produced some of the most unique and diverse ecological communities on the planet,” according to the United States Department of Commerce.

The area is culturally significant to Native Hawaiians and also includes the site of the 1942 Battle of Midway, a critical World War II naval battle. Within the monument area are shipwrecks, including the USS Yorktown and several Japanese vessels, and downed aircraft from the Battle of Midway, thus marking a final resting place for the more than 3,000 individuals killed in the battle.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President George W. Bush created a marine monument comprising 140,000 square miles of the current monument in 2006. A decade later, President Obama more than quadrupled its size to 582,578 square miles.

Before creating the monument, the Bush administration collected 52,000 public comments and held more than 100 meetings.

“The vast majority of these comments called for strong and lasting protection for the region,” said Jim Connaughton, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality in the Bush administration.



© NOAA

The Obama administration also conducted extensive outreach before expanding the monument, including consulting Native Hawaiians, who consider the area a sacred place; the fishing industry; and state and local officials.

“The views of Native Hawaiians, Hawai‘i residents, Kaua‘i’s fishermen, the commercial longline fleet and scientists were all carefully considered before expanding the boundaries,” said Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI).

President Obama noted that expanding the monument would help scientists study the impact of climate change on the ocean.

“As ocean acidification, warming, and other impacts of climate change threaten marine ecosystems, expanding the monument will improve ocean resilience, help the region’s distinct physical and biological resources adapt, and create a natural laboratory that will allow scientists to monitor and explore the impacts of climate change on these fragile ecosystems,” according to a White House fact sheet.

HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

NOAA has studied how expanding Papahānaumokuākea would affect the community and it cited “very high economic and social benefits.” The report also noted that social and economic benefits of marine protected areas have been shown to exceed their costs.

State representatives in Hawaii and monument supporters told Secretary Zinke in a letter that expanding the marine monument would benefit the commercial fishing industry. The monument’s expansion will not affect the fishing quotas for the Hawaiian longline fishery.

CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE

CRATERS OF THE MOON LOOKS LIKE A LUNAR LANDSCAPE.

THE IDAHO MONUMENT HAS A *“vast ocean of lava flows with islands of cinder cones and sagebrush,”* NOTES THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. IT HAS A *“weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself;”*

SAID THE 1924 PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE ESTABLISHING THE MONUMENT.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Craters of the Moon is geologically significant: it “preserves some of the world’s best, youngest, and most exposed examples of basaltic volcanism in a small geographic area,” according to the National Park Service.

The Wilderness Society calls the monument one of the state’s treasures, with “incredible and awe-inspiring geology and volcanic features that deserve to be protected forever.”

“It’s unlike anything else that you’re going to find in Idaho,” said Dani Mazzotta of the Idaho Conservation League.



© THOMAS HAWK/FLOREN



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

In 2015, the monument attracted 246,825 visitors, who spent \$8.4 million in nearby communities.

Craters of the Moon has even drawn astronauts. In 1969, Apollo 14 astronauts visited the monument to learn the basics of volcanic geology and explore the harsh environment in preparation for their trip into space.

In 2000, President Clinton expanded the monument from roughly 54,000 acres to approximately 753,000 acres.

After the expansion, the economies of neighboring communities grew. From 2001 to 2015, real personal income grew by 43 percent, and real per capita income rose by 36 percent.

KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

IT IS HOME TO ONE OF THE *Northeast's most pristine watersheds.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The 87,500-acre Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in north central Maine encompasses spectacular mountains, important historical resources, and areas of great cultural significance. The monument contains areas rich in biodiversity and more than 30 miles of pristine rivers and streams, along with spectacular views of Maine's highest peak, Mount Katahdin.

Teddy Roosevelt, Henry David Thoreau, John James Audubon, and a host of other artists, authors, scientists, and conservationists are among those who have drawn inspiration and knowledge from the area's wonders.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Obama established the monument in 2016, following five years of public discussion. Then-National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis had held two meetings in Maine, including one at which at least 1,200 of 1,400 attendees supported the monument designation, according to the Natural Resources Council of Maine.

Seventy-two percent of Maine residents surveyed, including majorities of both Democrats and Republicans, backed the designation, according to a poll. A majority of respondents also said they believed the monument would create jobs and increase tourism.

The nonprofit foundation Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI), which was founded by Burt's Bees co-founder Roxanne Quimby, donated this land to the federal government. EPI also contributed a \$20 million endowment and committed to raising an additional \$20 million to support monument operations.



© EDWARD FAULKNER/FLEXA

“Whether it’s the wild rivers, critical wildlife habitat, historical significance, awe-inspiring scenery, or night skies and northern lights—the area is a natural and cultural wonder that Americans should visit and embrace much like Acadia National Park on Maine’s coast,” said Quimby’s son, Lucas St. Clair, president of Elliotsville Plantation.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

The monument is already having an economic impact. “The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has existed for only eight months. Already, the number of people who have visited the monument has surpassed the total population of many of the small towns near its borders,” according to an April 2017 editorial in the *Bangor Daily News*. “This is real economic development in a region that sorely needs it.”

Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME) added, “Many people who were originally opposed to the designation have come around after seeing the economic benefits for their communities.”

“The towns around Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument are witnessing economic improvement,” St. Clair said in recent congressional testimony. “Real estate sales have picked up, multi-season visitation is increasing and business investments are happening. A foundation is making a \$5 million investment to build an outdoor education facility just south of the national monument.”

Richard Schmidt, chairman of the Board of Selectmen in Patten, Maine, added, “From a front-row seat in Patten, one of the gateway communities to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, at last, I am seeing new investments and new life in our communities.”

UPPER MISSOURI RIVER BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Imagine the American West as explorers Lewis and Clark first saw it.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The area encompassed by the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in central Montana has remained largely intact since Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled through it in 1805 during their historic expedition.

The Missouri Breaks includes various features of biological, geological, and historical interest. The 378,000-acre monument is home to one of the premier herds of bighorn sheep in the continental United States, along with species including elk, deer, antelope, and sage-grouse. Arrow Creek, an undammed tributary to the Missouri River, contains critical habitat for the endangered pallid sturgeon.

Notable archeological and historical sites in the area range from “teepee rings and historic trail remnants to abandoned homesteads and lookout sites used by Meriwether Lewis,” according to the presidential proclamation. The monument also includes the only major portion of the Missouri River to be preserved and protected in its free-flowing state.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

The group Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument describes the monument as “one of the few remaining examples of our nation’s landscape that has been untouched by human progress,” pointing out that local



© BOB WICK/BLM

communities, the agriculture industry, recreational users, conservation groups, and elected officials, among others, all worked to protect the “Montana treasure.”

Seventy-seven percent of Montana respondents expressed support for keeping monument designations in place in a Colorado College poll.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument contributes significantly to the regional economy. In counties around the monument, the per capita income rose by 23 percent from 2001 to 2015.

Missouri Breaks is an “invaluable asset” with an economic impact of about \$10 million a year, and holds a potential for even greater economic benefits, according to a 2015 report prepared for the Center for Western Priorities by BBC Research & Consulting.

The monument “attracts a substantial number of visitors each year from outside the region, many of whom spend multiple days in the area contributing to the local economy,” according to the report.

BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

PRESIDENT OBAMA ESTABLISHED THIS MONUMENT IN 2015, SITUATED ABOUT TWO HOURS FROM LAS VEGAS,

Basin and Range is a natural, historical, and archeological treasure.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

This 704,000-acre expanse hosts a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including species found only in Nevada. One of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state, it includes vast open spaces with stunning views.

The rugged landscape preserves the legacies of 13,000 years of culture and includes one of the largest concentrations of prehistoric rock art in eastern Nevada. The monument tells the story of the area's Native peoples, along with those of more recent settlers and mining communities.

The Basin and Range National Monument provides habitat for at least two dozen threatened or sensitive wildlife species, such as the greater sage-grouse and the pygmy rabbit. Other species found in the area include desert bighorn sheep and mule deer.

The monument is the site of artist Michael Heizer's mile-and-a-half-long art project *City*, which is the largest contemporary land art sculpture ever built.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

Basin and Range is “beloved by Nevadans and visitors alike who crave opportunities to hike, camp, hunt, bike, and rock-climb on its rugged contours—or simply get away for some peace and quiet,” describes the Wilderness Society.

Indeed, the vast majority of Nevadans support keeping existing national monuments in place, according to a 2017 Colorado College poll.

The designation was championed for years by now-retired Nevada Senator Harry Reid, who called the land “a time capsule of our western history.”



© JONATHAN HARRIS

“When I first spoke to President Obama about protecting this area, he said, ‘Describe it to me.’ I couldn’t. I still can’t. You just have to experience it,” said Reid.

The monument was supported by local officials, major businesses, archaeology and arts communities, and conservation, outdoor recreation, and sportsmen’s groups, among others.

HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Small Business Majority, a small-business advocacy organization, called the designation “great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies.”

“As City nears completion and more people learn about Basin and Range, tourism to the area will increase and diversify the economy in rural Eastern Nevada, which needs the boost,” said Checko Salgado of Friends of Basin and Range.

The Nevada Legislature recently passed a resolution expressing support for maintaining the monument designations, noting that outdoor recreation generates about \$15 billion a year in consumer spending and brings in about \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue.

For decades, the Basin and Range area has faced threats from various proposed development projects. The designation protects the land for future generations and preserves existing land use, such as traditional ranching practices and military training operations.

GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

GOLD BUTTE, A 300,000-ACRE MONUMENT NORTHEAST OF LAS VEGAS, IS A *treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Gold Butte National Monument is home to key Native American historical sites and remains culturally and spiritually important today to the Southern Paiute people, particularly the Moapa Band of Paiutes. Established by President Obama in 2016 after exhaustive local efforts to protect the area, the monument contains thousands of Native American petroglyphs and historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts.

Gold Butte also provides critical habitat for the desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, Gila monsters, and great horned owls, among other rare wildlife. The area contains rare fossils, including dinosaur tracks that date back hundreds of millions of years.

The monument's designation came after the Friends of Gold Butte issued a report detailing "an increasing level of damage near historic and cultural sites as well as disturbance to sensitive desert areas that are habitat for threatened and endangered species."

"The protection of the Gold Butte area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area, and its many objects of historic and of scientific interest, remain for the benefit of all Americans," the monument proclamation said.

Visitors to Gold Butte can hike to rock art sites or drive the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway to the area's namesake mining ghost town.



© BLM



WHO SUPPORTS IT

The Nevada Legislature recently expressed its support for maintaining the monument designations in the state, noting that outdoor recreation generates about \$15 billion a year in consumer spending and brings in about \$1 billion in local and state tax revenue. In addition, a majority of Nevadans support keeping existing national monuments in place, according to a 2017 Colorado College poll.

The monument designation, which followed a number of public meetings and was championed by then-Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), received support from the Las Vegas and Moapa Bands of Paiutes and a broad coalition of local and state officials, area businesses, hunters, anglers, recreationists, the travel and tourism industry, scientists, and veterans groups, among others.

“The Gold Butte National Monument had 15 years of public discourse prior to its designation,” said Jaina Moan, executive director of Friends of Gold Butte. “Thousands of Nevadans and Americans participated in those conversations and expressed their support for permanent protection of this land via petitions, phone calls to their elected representatives, public meetings and other methods.”



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Gold Butte’s designation as a national monument is expected to generate \$2.7 million a year in economic activity, according to a 2015 study conducted for the Outside Las Vegas Foundation by Applied Analysis.

ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

IN 2014, PRESIDENT OBAMA ESTABLISHED THIS MONUMENT, WHICH IS NEAR LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO, CITING THE AREA'S

“diverse array of natural and scientific resources.”

WILD AND RICH WITH HISTORY, THE MONUMENT INCLUDES BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPES RANGING FROM MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS TO CHIHUAHUA DESERT GRASSLANDS.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

“The area is considered the crown jewel of the southern Rockies,” according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Spanning nearly half a million acres, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is home to cultural and historic features, including Native American petroglyphs, Geronimo and Billy the Kid’s mountain hideouts, the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, and Apollo Space Mission Training Sites.

Described in the presidential proclamation as “archeologically rich,” the monument is a critical resource for paleontologists, archaeologists, geologists, biologists, and historians, and features hundreds of artifacts, rock art, dwellings, and other evidence of the area’s Native peoples.

The area is home to a diversity of animal life, including mule deer, mountain lions, and falcons, as well as to rare plants, some found nowhere else in the world, such as the Organ Mountains pincushion cactus.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

The monument designation drew strong support from area residents, business groups, Native American groups, Latino leaders, sportsmen’s organizations, and ranchers, among others.

Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) called Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande del Norte “the pride of the surrounding communities.” Indeed, residents of Doña Ana County, New Mexico have an overwhelmingly positive view of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, according to a 2016 poll.

“We continue to see the monument as a positive for our area,” the *Las Cruces Sun-News* recently wrote. “It gives local tourism and marketing officials one more lure to use in bringing visitors to the area.”

The Town of Mesilla Trustees recently passed a resolution opposing any reduction in the size of the monument.



© BOB WICKERMAN

“Mesilla is unified in our voice that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument represents some of the best parts of New Mexico, and is a huge tourism draw for ours and surrounding communities,” said Stephanie Johnson-Burick, a Mesilla trustee.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Visitation to the monument more than doubled from 84,197 in fiscal year 2015 to 170,451 in fiscal year 2016.

In neighboring communities, real personal income rose by 42 percent and jobs grew by 27 percent from 2001 to 2015.

Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima said the monument has garnered international attention and “really helped put our city on the map.”

“We have even created a new ‘Monuments to Main Street’ celebration to promote exciting new tours in the monument and boost tourism,” he said.

The designation was projected to generate \$7.4 million in new economic activity annually while doubling the number of outdoor recreation and tourism jobs, according to a study by BBC Research & Consulting for the New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce.

“The amount of revenue that will be generated as a result of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks gaining national monument protection will help businesses in Las Cruces and the surrounding areas grow in ways that wouldn’t be possible without monument designation,” said Carrie Hamblen, executive director of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce.

“Jobs are hard to come by these days, and any initiative that creates new jobs while protecting our shared heritage is an initiative that all New Mexicans can support,” added Laura E. Sanchez, CEO of New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce.

RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MONUMENT, WHICH SENATOR TOM UDALL (D-NM) HAS CALLED

“one of the most spectacular places on earth,” IS A HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND NATURAL TREASURE.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Spanning about 243,000 acres north of Taos, New Mexico, Rio Grande del Norte National Monument features stunning scenery, from the 800-foot deep, 150-foot wide Rio Grande Gorge to the towering Ute Mountain.

The 10,093-foot high Ute, a volcanic cone, is covered in piñon pine at the base, with pockets of ponderosa pine, aspen, white pine, and Douglas fir in the higher elevations.

The monument encompasses critical habitat for bears, cougars, pronghorn and bighorn sheep, and other critters. It is also an important stop along the Rio Grande Migratory Flyway for bird species like bald eagles and is home to golden eagles and prairie and peregrine falcons, among other species.

Rio Grande del Norte contains a “dense collection of petroglyphs and extraordinary archaeological and cultural resources,” according to the Department of the Interior.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Obama established the monument in 2013 with broad local support. “There was, and continues to be, strong support for our Río Grande del Norte National Monument,” said Mark Gallegos, Taos County commissioner and mayor of the village of Questa. “Our community depends on our national monument, and people choose to visit and live here because of it.”



© BOB WINKER/BLM



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Rio Grande del Norte’s designation came after a study found that as a national monument, it could generate \$32.2 million a year in economic activity for the area, an increase of about \$15 million over the economic activity generated under its non-monument status.

“When a national monument is designated, it achieves a higher status in guidebooks and travel blogs, luring people who might otherwise be just passing through to stay a while longer,” said Cisco Guevara, founder and owner of Los Rios Rivers Runners of Taos at the time of the designation. “Those longer stays mean revenue for our northern New Mexico economy.”

A group of businesses recently wrote Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke calling the national monument designations for Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks an “economic bright spot for our businesses.”

Visitation was up 45 percent at Rio Grande del Norte for 2015 and 2016, compared with the two years prior to its designation.

In neighboring communities, real personal income rose by 38 percent and jobs grew by 8 percent from 2001 to 2015.

“Thanks to the national monument, we have seen our tourism and outdoor recreation sectors flourish,” said Nick Streit, owner of the Taos Fly Shop.

One year after the monument was established, the town of Taos’ lodgers’ tax revenue was up 21 percent, according to the New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce. Gross-receipts revenue to Taos County businesses in the accommodations and food service sector rose 8.3 percent.

CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS ECOLOGICAL WONDER IS *one of the most biologically diverse places on earth.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Situated on the California-Oregon border, Cascade-Siskiyou is the “first and only national monument specifically established to protect biological diversity,” according to the organization Oregon Wild.

Cascade-Siskiyou is home to more than 3,500 species, including some that are threatened and endangered, such as the northern spotted owl. It also is home to more than 100 butterfly species. Bald eagles, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons soar above its meadows, mountains, and forests. Beavers and river otters inhabit the landscape’s streams and rivers.

The monument also has unusual geological formations, such as Pilot Rock, a volcanic plug that provides a glimpse at what is inside of a volcano.

WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton designated roughly 52,000 acres in southern Oregon as a monument in 2000. In 2017, President Obama expanded it by 48,000 acres, adding 5,000 acres in northern California.

An intensive public engagement process before the designation drew strong local support. Bruce Babbitt, President Clinton’s secretary of the interior, noted that Cascade-Siskiyou was under study for 10 years before the designation.



© BONNICK/BLM

Obama expanded the monument after scientists expressed alarm that the monument’s original boundary was too small to protect its biodiversity in the face of encroaching development, climate change, and other threats.

Before Obama’s action, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley’s office received 4,313 comments supporting the expanded monument compared to 1,175 comments in opposition.

HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Communities neighboring the monument experienced strong growth after the monument’s designation. Real personal income rose by 30 percent and jobs grew by 14 percent in nearby communities from 2001 to 2015.

After President Trump ordered an unprecedented review of national monuments, a diverse group that includes local and state officials and businesses has rallied behind Cascade-Siskiyou.

“By expanding the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, we not only help to mitigate the effects of climate change, but also benefit our recreation and tourism industry which serves as a substantial part of our economy,” said Mayor Darby Stricker of Talent, Oregon.

“Without the Antiquities Act and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument that was created seventeen years ago under the authority of this act, I would not have a thriving business. My kids would have less bright futures. My community would be less vibrant,” said Diarmuid MaGuire, owner of the Green Springs Inn in the Southern Cascades, not far from Ashland, Oregon.

BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

BEARS EARS IS *unlike any other place on earth.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Bears Ears National Monument is one of the most scenic places in the American West. It protects “some of the country’s most significant natural, cultural, and archaeological resources,” according to the Obama administration. And it is a sacred place to Native Americans.

Named for twin buttes, the 1.35 million-acre monument in southeastern Utah encompasses a glorious landscape of deep sandstone canyons, colorful desert mesas, red rock formations, and forested highlands.

Bears Ears includes a treasure trove of more than 100,000 archeological and cultural sites. The monument is home to rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, and other artifacts that are especially sacred to Native Americans. The monument also has among the richest and most significant paleontological resources in the United States.

The ruggedly beautiful land is habitat for an array of wildlife, including at least 18 species listed under the Endangered Species Act, among them the California condor, the Mexican spotted owl, and the greenback cutthroat trout.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Obama established Bears Ears National Monument in 2016. The designation had support from a diverse group, including more than 30 Native American tribes, and conservation, business, recreation, faith, and veterans groups. Efforts to protect the area began in 1936 when Harold Ickes was the secretary of the interior under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Obama acted after many sites of cultural and scientific value were imperiled by looting, vandalism, and grave robbing. The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the area one of the most “endangered” historical sites in the country. Drilling, mining, and other industrial development also posed a threat.

More than 225,000 Americans signed petitions supporting President Obama’s action. More than 700 archeologists called for creation of the monument, pointing out that the site contains exactly the kinds of objects the Antiquities Act is designed to protect.

More Utahns who were surveyed supported the monument designation than opposed it, by a 15-point margin, according to a Colorado College poll. The findings are consistent with a poll conducted by The Pew Charitable Trusts showing majority support for preservation.

Among those who championed the designation were the five tribes of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a partnership of the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni tribal governments.

The coalition celebrated the designation as “the first time in history that Native American tribes have called for and succeeded in protecting their sacred ancestral homelands through national monument designation.”

Since the Trump administration’s monuments review began, over a million public comments have been submitted to the Department of the Interior in support of keeping Bears Ears’ monument designation.



“Our ancestors are buried here, and we all practice pilgrimage to sacred locations throughout the monument. It means different things to each of our Tribes, but we all share in a desire to see it remain protected as a national monument,” the coalition wrote in an April 2017 letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, whose department is conducting the review of monuments.

Native American tribes have called the monument designation a step in healing the relationship between the federal government and tribes. “There are very few places left in the U.S. where so many well-preserved cultural sites are found in the solitude of a beautiful backcountry setting,” according to The Pew Charitable Trusts.

“Inadequate protection of the Bears Ears landscape will harm Utah’s standing as a world-renowned outdoor recreation destination, weaken the local economy, and put sacred lands and objects at risk,” wrote groups representing outdoor enthusiasts and businesses in a letter to Zinke.

A recent analysis by the Center for American Progress and Conservation Science Partners concluded that Bears Ears “holds its own as a national treasure” in categories such as ecological intactness, connectivity, and night sky darkness, when compared with some of the nation’s great parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite.

Scientists say Bears Ears holds important clues about how environments respond to the increasing temperatures and decreased rainfall associated with climate change.

“I first discovered the Bears Ears area shortly after I left the USAF,” said Barry Bonifas, a Utah Air Force veteran who was among the veterans who supported the monument designation. “I’ve been returning to it, when I feel the need for restoration, for almost half a century. It is such a special and unique place. I can’t remember anyone who hasn’t been astounded by the beautiful mesas and canyons filled with ruins and rock art.”

Among those weighing in on Bears Ears was Salt Lake City resident Sylvia Henry, who wrote in a letter to the editor of *The Salt Lake Tribune*, “The U.S. government has a shameful history of repeatedly going back on agreements with Native peoples, and we as Utahns have the opportunity to support the right thing this time.”

“There is no place quite like it,” according to an editorial in the *Washington Post* supporting the monument.

Designating Bears Ears as a monument was “the right thing to do,” according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

The monument stands to bring in millions of visitors and expand Utah’s tourism economy. In 2016, 14.4 million park visitors spent an estimated \$1.1 billion in local gateway regions while visiting lands in Utah, according to the National Park Service. That supported a total of 17.9 thousand jobs, \$546.7 million in labor income, \$886.1 million in value added, and \$1.6 billion in economic output in the Utah economy, according to the National Park Service.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS 1.9 MILLION-ACRE MONUMENT IN SOUTHERN UTAH IS ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE PLACES IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, WITH

some of America's most scientifically exciting and visually stunning landscapes.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

President Clinton designated Grand Staircase as a monument in 1996 to protect it from coal mining. Beyond its stunning sandstone cliffs and red rock canyons, the monument offers extraordinary opportunities for geologists, paleontologists, archeologists, historians, and biologists.

Mountain lions, bears, desert bighorn sheep, and other animals roam the monument, which is also home to more than 200 bird species, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

Grand Staircase-Escalante has been called the "Science Monument" and a "Dinosaur Shangri-La." Fossil excavations there have uncovered "more information about ecosystem change at the end of the dinosaur era than any other place in the world," according to the Bureau of Land Management.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

A majority of surveyed Utahns support Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, according to polling. The monument has been touted as one of the state's prime attractions.

Utahns, by a margin of two to one, consider Grand Staircase a good thing for the state, according to a poll conducted for The Pew Charitable Trusts by Benenson Strategy Group, a Democratic firm, and Public Opinion Strategies, a Republican firm. Seventy percent of respondents said the monument has benefitted Utah tourism, an important source of jobs.

In one of the thousands of public comments submitted for the monuments' current review, visitor Susan Lilly of Houston, Texas called Grand Staircase-Escalante "one of the most beautiful places I have ever had the opportunity to see... Our children and grandchildren deserve to see how great America truly is."



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HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Visits to the Escalante Visitor Center increased 51 percent from 2015 to 2016.

Between 2001 and 2015, jobs grew by 24 percent, real personal income rose by 32 percent, and per capita income grew by 17 percent in counties around the monument.

Tourism tax revenues increased 20.8 percent and 10.2 percent, respectively, between 2015 and 2016 in Kane and Garfield counties, home to Grand Staircase.

“As business people who make a living in the Escalante-Boulder region of Utah, we can tell you from firsthand experience that since the protection of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, our local tourism industry in Escalante has grown and is thriving,” wrote Suzanne Catlett, president of the Escalante & Boulder Chamber of Commerce, in a *Deseret News* op-ed. Finally, Grand Staircase contributes to the recreation economy as an ideal place for hiking, swimming, rock climbing, camping, horseback riding, fishing, and mountain biking.

HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS BIOLOGICAL TREASURE IS A HAVEN FOR OBJECTS OF HISTORIC AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AND AN *outdoor enthusiast's dream.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Encompassing 195,000 acres in Washington state, Hanford Reach National Monument includes the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and is a critical spawning ground for salmon.

The monument “supports a wealth of rare native plant and animal species, the size and diversity of which is unrivaled in the Columbia Basin,” according to a Wilderness Society report.

“At some point in almost any trip across the monument or down the river, visitors will encounter mule deer, coyotes, white pelicans, or great blue herons,” according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some 258 bird species, including bald eagles, have been documented in the area.

The spring wildflowers are so popular that it took just 21 seconds for the 2013 tours of the monument to fill up.

The monument also contains the largest remnant of the shrub-steppe ecosystem that once blanketed the Columbia River basin.



© ALAMY



WHO SUPPORTS IT

President Clinton established the monument in 2000. His proclamation noted the area offers a “unique and biologically diverse landscape” with an “irreplaceable natural and historic legacy.” The monument was created after years of discussion.

Then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt visited the site and heard from the public. In recommending the designation, Babbitt said, “These are priceless natural landscapes that have somehow remained almost untouched by exploitation, development and urban sprawl.” Then-Washington Governor Gary Locke was among those who pushed for the designation.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Communities near the monument have experienced strong growth since the designation. Real personal income rose by 59 percent and jobs grew by 33 percent in neighboring counties from 2001 to 2015.

“Research shows that conserving public lands like the Hanford Reach National Monument helps to safeguard and highlight amenities that draw new residents, tourists, and businesses to surrounding communities,” the Headwaters report said.

“The Hanford Reach National Monument may be the most unique monument in the country,” said Senator Patty Murray (D-WA).

MARIANAS TRENCH MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MARINE MONUMENT, WHICH SPANS ABOUT 96,000 SQUARE MILES OF SUBMERGED LANDS AND WATERS IN THE PACIFIC, IS A *scientific wonderland.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

President George W. Bush established Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in 2009, citing its scientific value.

The Marianas Trench is the Grand Canyon of the ocean. It is the deepest place on earth, plunging deeper into the sea than Mount Everest rises above sea level. It is also home to the largest mud volcanoes on the planet.

Its reefs and waters are among “the most biologically diverse in the Western Pacific and include the greatest diversity of seamount and hydrothermal vent life yet discovered,” according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Marianas Trench contains a sulfur pool, the only known location of molten sulfur aside from one on Jupiter’s moon Io. The monument also contains “one of the most diverse collections of stony corals in the Western Pacific, including more than 300 species,” more than any other U.S. reef area, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

It is “one of only a handful of places on earth” where photosynthetic and chemosynthetic communities (those that make food from light and inorganic chemicals) coexist, according to the monument proclamation.

“This vast and unique area is perhaps the most spectacular part of the Ring of Fire that encircles most of the Pacific Ocean,” according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric



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Administration (NOAA). “It has many secrets to yield and many potentially valuable lessons that can benefit the rest of the world.”

Scientific American called the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a “tropical marine haven.” UNESCO said the monument is “like no other place on Earth in its undersea remoteness.”

“This is a place where the oldest species on the planet thrive and strange, newly discovered species push life beyond all known extremes,” according to ocean experts at The Pew Charitable Trusts.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

More than 6,000 members of the local community, and hundreds of students, local leaders and businesses urged President Bush to protect the Marianas Trench as a marine national monument, according to the *Saipan Tribune*. It also received endorsements from the business community and prominent community leaders.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

A Pew study estimated that designating Marianas Trench as a national marine monument would generate more than \$10 million in spending, almost \$5 million in tax revenues, and account for almost 400 jobs.

ROSE ATOLL MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

FAR OFF IN THE PACIFIC IS THE ROSE ATOLL MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT, WHICH IS *home to a diverse collection of marine species,*

MANY OF WHICH ARE THREATENED OR ENDANGERED. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH DESIGNATED THE AREA AS A MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT IN 2009.



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

The monument consists of about 13,451 square miles of emergent and submerged lands and waters encompassing Rose Atoll in American Samoa. It includes Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses about 20 acres of land and 1,600 acres of lagoon. Rose Atoll, one of the world's smallest and most pristine atolls, is about 130 nautical miles east-southeast of Pago Pago Harbor.

“Because Rose Atoll is one of the most unique and least visited areas of the world, its marine and terrestrial communities provide a unique opportunity for research

and afford an invaluable scientific baseline for biological and geological studies of the low Pacific islands,” according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



WHO SUPPORTS IT

Some 535 scientists signed a letter circulated by the Marine Conservation Institute in support of marine protected areas.

The National Wildlife Refuge Association has said, “Rose Atoll and its surrounding waters should be preserved at all costs.”



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HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Marine monuments support our ocean economy—a sector that grew 15.6 percent from 2007 to 2014 and employs more than 3 million people, according to a 2017 NOAA report. Tourism and recreation are the largest sector, providing more than 2 million jobs, according to the report.

“Strongly-protected reserves can create jobs and bring in new economic revenue through ecotourism and enhancement of local fisheries through spillover beyond reserve boundaries,” more than 500 scientists wrote in a June 2017 letter to lawmakers, calling on the federal government to preserve existing protections for ocean areas.

“One of the most striking features of Rose Atoll is the pink hue of the fringing reef caused by the dominance of a crustose coralline algae,” notes the presidential proclamation establishing the monument. “Species that have faced depletion elsewhere are found in abundance on Rose Atoll, including giant clams, Maori wrasse, large parrotfishes, and blacktip, whitetip, and gray reef sharks.” The area also provides an important nesting ground for green and hawksbill turtles.

“With few relatively undisturbed islands left in the world, Rose Atoll is one of the last remaining refuges for the seabird and turtle species of the Central Pacific,” according to NOAA.

PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

THIS MARINE MONUMENT IS A *treasure trove of biodiversity.*



WHY IT NEEDS PROTECTION

Encompassing small islands and atolls and surrounding waters south and west of Hawaii, Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument is home to some of the most pristine coral reefs in the world.

The monument is “an important part of the most widespread collection of marine life on the planet under a single country’s jurisdiction,” according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“Thriving coral gardens and massive underwater mountain ranges nurture many threatened or endangered species, including sea turtles, giant clams, pearl oysters, coconut crabs, and dolphins. And some of its deep coral forests include corals up to 5,000 years old,” according to then-NRDC President Frances Beinecke.

The monument area and its surrounding waters are an “ecological treasure unlike anything else in the U.S. They are some of the richest areas on Earth for sea life,” according to the Marine Conservation Institute.



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WHO SUPPORTS IT

President George W. Bush established the monument in 2009 at roughly 87,000 square miles. Five years later, President Barack Obama expanded it to 490,000 square miles.

In considering whether to expand it, the Obama administration received input from fishermen, scientists, conservation experts, and elected officials, among others. More than 170,000 comments were submitted.

Nearly 500 scientists called on the president to expand the monument, calling it “an irreplaceable area of significant scientific interest.”

“The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument may be distant from our shores, but it will help us understand how healthy marine ecosystems work and how we can revive troubled seas closer to home,” then-NRDC President Frances Beinecke wrote in 2014.



HOW IT BENEFITS THE ECONOMY

Hawaii business groups have said of the monument, “A healthy, thriving Pacific marine environment is of primary importance both for our customers and ourselves.”



NEW YORK (HQ)
40 West 20th Street
11th Floor
New York, NY 10011
212.727.2700

WASHINGTON, DC
1152 15th Street NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
202.289.6868

MIDWEST
20 North Wacker Drive
Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60606
312.663.9900

NORTHERN ROCKIES
317 East Mendenhall
Street, Suites D & E
Bozeman, MT 59715
406.556.9300

SAN FRANCISCO
111 Sutter Street
20th Floor
San Francisco, CA
94104 415.875.6100

SANTA MONICA
1314 Second Street
Santa Monica, CA
90401 310.434.2300

BEIJING
Taikang Financial
Tower 17th Floor, Suite
1706 No. 38 Dong San
Huan Bei Road
Chaoyang District
Beijing, China 100026
86.10.5927.0688

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