

Comment NOW to protect National Monuments

27 National Monuments are under threat!

Department of the Interior Secretary Zinke is fast-tracking what he's calling the "first-ever formal public comment period for Antiquities Act Monuments". In reality, agencies and administrations have routinely initiated formal public comment periods prior to designations – but your comments now are extremely important to defending our hard-won National Monuments.

Comments due before July 10th

<u>Comment Online</u>	<u>Comment by Mail</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Go to: https://www.regulations.gov/➤ Enter DOI-2017-0002 in the Search Bar and click 'Search'.➤ Click the 'Comment Now!' button to proceed to the comment form. <p><i>Note: If your comments exceed 5,000 words, you can write comments of any length in Word or another word processor and attach them to the comment form.</i></p>	<p>Commenting online is secure and reliable, but you can also mail in your comments, just have them postmarked before July 10th.</p> <p>Send mail-in comments to:</p> <p>Monument Review, MS-1530 U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street NW. Washington, DC 20240.</p>

Comment Writing Tips

Make your comments **well-organized**, **specific**, and **personal** – your thoughts, experience, and expertise make a bigger impact than a form letter ever could. That said, the Department of Interior has specific criteria for what they are considering during this review. Address these issues for each monument you are familiar with, wherever you can. We've outlined the criteria with some ideas to get you started:

- i. How does the monument meet the objectives of the Antiquities Act?**
Justify the size of the monument. The act calls for "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected". Most monuments end up smaller than their original proposals.
- ii. Is the monument protecting the right things according to the Antiquities Act?**
Discuss the "Historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest" which best qualify the monument for protection.
- iii. Is the 'multiple use' policy of public lands violated in and near the monument?**
Multiple use very roughly means lands will serve economic purposes alongside other interests. Monuments are rather permissive, especially of 'existing rights' – see fact sheet for more info.
- iv. Is the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands in or near the monument harmed?**
Monuments generally protect existing rights, which includes access to non-federal inholdings.
- v. Are state, tribal, or local governments hurt by the monument?**
Studies show that there is no evidence that monuments have ill effect on local economies, and often help. Outline local benefits of the monument; economic, public health, and quality of life.
- vi. Are there Federal resources to properly manage designated areas?**
Partisan budgets should not be the criteria by which we protect American treasures. Rather, creating monuments based on positive public support should send the message to Congress that Americans want better funding for the protection and care of our public lands.



Questions? Want help writing your comments?
Call 970-385-9577 or email lionel@greatoldbroads.org

List of Monuments under Review

Taken directly from the Monument Review docket on Regulations.gov:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOI-2017-0002-0001>

National Monuments Being Initially Reviewed Pursuant to Criteria in Executive Order 13792

Monument	Location	Est.	Acreage
Basin and Range	Nevada	2015	703,585
Bears Ears	Utah	2016	1,353,000
Berryessa Snow Mountain	California	2015	330,780
Canyons of the Ancients	Colorado	2000	175,160
Carrizo Plain	California	2001	204,107
Cascade Siskiyou	Oregon	2000/2017	100,000
Craters of the Moon	Idaho	1924/2000	737,525
Giant Sequoia	California	2000	327,760
Gold Butte	Nevada	2016	296,937
Grand Canyon-Parashant	Arizona	2000	1,014,000
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Utah	1996	1,700,000
Hanford Reach	Washington	2000	194,450.93
Ironwood Forest	Arizona	2000	128,917
Mojave Trails	California	2016	1,600,000
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	New Mexico	2014	496,330
Rio Grande del Norte	New Mexico	2013	242,555
Sand to Snow	California	2016	154,000
San Gabriel Mountains	California	2014	346,177
Sonoran Desert	Arizona	2001	486,149
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Montana	2001	377,346
Vermilion Cliffs	Arizona	2000	279,568

National Monuments Being Reviewed To Determine Whether the Designation or Expansion Was Made Without Adequate Public Outreach and Coordination With Relevant Stakeholders

Monument	Location	Est.	Acreage
Katahdin Woods and Waters	Maine	2016	87,563

Marine National Monuments Being Reviewed Pursuant to Executive Orders 13795 and 13792

Monument	Location	Est.	Acreage
Marianas Trench	CNMI/Pacific Ocean	2009	60,938,240
Northeast Canyons and Seamounts	Atlantic Ocean	2016	3,114,320
Pacific Remote Islands	Pacific Ocean	2009	55,608,320
Papahānaumokuākea	Hawaii	2006/2016	89,600,000
Rose Atoll	American Samoa	2009	8,609,045



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Monument Facts

The Antiquities Act PROTECTS AMERICAN TREASURES for generations.

The Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906 by Republic president, Theodore Roosevelt. Ever since, it has been an important tool to protect American treasures for presidents regardless of political party. The Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Acadia, and Olympic National parks and many more all began as presidentially-proclaimed national monuments.

The bi-partisan law has been strongly upheld several times by the Supreme Court, and is a way to set aside politics to protect deserving lands quickly and efficiently from overdevelopment and destruction of their character and values for current and future generations of Americans.

National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/hisnps/npshistory/righter.htm>

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antiquities_Act

National Monuments WERE ALWAYS FEDERAL LANDS and are not “Land Grabs”.

A national monument can only be declared for lands which are already under federal ownership. Non-federal lands within the boundaries of a monument may be desirable for good management of the monument. The government can offer to trade or purchase these lands at fair market value, but has no ability whatsoever to force sale or take over lands to include in a national monument.

US Code at Cornell: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/54/320301>

National Monuments PROTECT EXISTING RIGHTS, and do not ‘Lock Up’ land.

National monuments protect valid existing rights, meaning, whatever you legally did there before it was protected as a national monument, you can generally still do after it is designated.

This includes previously-existing oil and gas leases, access to private property, valid mining claims, roads and utility infrastructure, protected traditional uses (wood & herb gathering), and livestock grazing.

Also allowed activities include but are not limited to hunting, fishing, horseback riding, backpacking, camping, lawful off-road vehicle use, law enforcement, firefighting and fuels reduction.

Conservation Lands Foundation: <http://www.conservationlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/National-Monument-FAQ.pdf>



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Monument Facts (cont...)

National Monuments get PUBLIC AND LOCAL INPUT before they are created.

Past administrations have sought significant public input before declaring new monuments and public input is a part of any management planning, which triggers the National Environmental Policy Act. It is disingenuous to claim that the public was absent during these monument declarations, particularly since overwhelming public support is often the basis for a monument proposal to be considered by any given administration.

Federal public lands belong to all Americans. Local input should always be gathered and carefully considered, but one locality can and should not alone determine management of public lands.

The Wilderness Society: <http://wilderness.org/article/how-we-designate-monuments>

National Monuments can BOLSTER LOCAL ECONOMIES and do not harm them.

In 2014, independent non-partisan research from Headwaters Economics showed that the economies of communities adjacent to 17 national monuments in the West all expanded following the monument's creation.

Over two-thirds (13 of 17) of the communities grew at the same or faster pace compared to similar counties in their state. Population, employment, personal income, and per-capita income tended to increase after monument designation. The findings show that **there is no evidence that the new national monuments prevented continued economic growth.**

Headwaters Economics: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/public-lands/protected-lands/national-monuments/>

National Monuments HAVE GREAT PUBLIC SUPPORT, oil and gas does not.

Colorado College's 2017 Conservation in the West poll takes opinions of residents of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. In the research, **80% of respondents showed strong support for keeping existing national monuments in place.**

The same poll showed that in these western states, 68% of people wanted to prioritize clean water, air quality, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation on public lands over domestic oil and gas production – as opposed to only 22% who felt the opposite.

Colorado College: <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/>



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