

July 21, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me as a hiker and an outdoors person, I've been to Gold Butte many times and always find new places to explore. Gold Butte needs to be protected for our future generations so they can enjoy the area as much as I do.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by using the Antiquities Act before the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ronald LaPointe

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management



03/08/16

Honorable Barack Obama  
 President of the United States  
 The White House  
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
 Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For me, as a hiker I am a resident of Las Vegas and it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it's a beautiful place of beauty that I see getting destroyed without National Protection.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a National Monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,  
 Ashley Lee  
 Market Outreach Coordinator

cc: Senator Reid  
 Congresswoman Titus  
 Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
 Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
 Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

November 13, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me as a concerned citizen and outdoor enthusiast, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Charles Loomis

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

(b) (6)

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte—due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me as a member of Sun City Mesquite's Dessert Fossils hiking club, it is important to preserving Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live and recreate.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S. 199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Geary Maher

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

March 10, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For me, the Gold Butte area is an opportunity to view the countless treasures listed above in a still relatively pristine wilderness. There are many long standing BLM designated trails for Off Road Vehicles which route traffic throughout the entire area and because of this there are many areas left for hikers and protection from further destruction. Maintaining this cooperative use of a treasured area needs to be protected permanently. There is nothing as beautiful as seeing the red rocks against the blue sky or as awe inspiring as viewing the ancient petroglyphs and imagining how the land was used thousands of years ago. It is important to preserve Gold Butte for our children and their children. They need to develop a sense of history and respect for the land, and this can only be developed by walking the ancient trails in this amazing wilderness.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a National Monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Edward and Patricia Manion

May 3, 2016

Honorable Barrack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washing, DC 20500  
Date: 2016

Re: Protect Gold Butte

President Obama,

I'm a UNLV college student from Utah who has never heard of Gold Butte or at least have not acknowledged its existence until fairly recent. As I've familiarized myself with Gold Butte's current situation and of the vandalism that has occurred not only to the Rock Art, but to the surrounding environment as well, I must say I am dumbfounded and disappointed that this land isn't already considered a National Monument! As a Nevada citizen I am very concerned in the matter of protecting this unique part of our Grand Canyon. Throughout my life I have explored multiple famous parks and landmarks where I have personally witnessed rock art, however from the pictures I've seen of Gold Butte, along with several testimonies I've heard, I can clearly see that Gold Butte is one of a kind. Because of this realization, I have developed an appreciation for the efforts to protect this historical landmark.

As American students we are taught the history of our country and the importance of learning and evolving from our past experiences. However, I personally don't feel as though we've advanced as much as we should have in growing alongside our sovereign Indian Nations. In the very history I just spoke of we learned of how American settlers came in and took the majority of the land from Native Americans and when they weren't happy with what they were given, they decided to go into their reservations and take their children to be colonized as well. Unfortunately, I'm sure this was with the intention of dismantling their people so that they could have accesses to more land that wasn't theirs to begin with. If we don't protect Gold Butte for our own historical purposes, I think we at least owe it to the local Nuwuvi Native American tribe to whom this land is emotionally, culturally, and religiously important.

I may not have heard of Gold Butte until now and even though I have not yet experienced its beauty, I definitely plan on doing so in the near future and would like to be reassured that its existence will be protected. At this point there has already been damage to the petro glyphs including graffiti and bullet holes to name a few, as well as damage to the environment (Joshua trees being cut down, and littering) along with an endangerment of the wildlife habitat such as Desert Tortoises. At the rate things are being destroyed in Gold Butte the time for protection is running on a thin line; therefore I'm asking for an urgent response to this matter by exercising the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate this treasure a national monument. In doing so would give Gold Butte the recognition and defense it so desperately needs.

Sincerely,

Brittney Mucikyan

June 12, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada: Protect Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:


In Nevada, protected public lands like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. Nevadans understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I am writing to support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and outdoor recreational tourism is a part of that. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

The best part about living in Nevada, for many of us, is its vast open spaces. For me as a lifelong outdoorswoman, preserving Gold Butte means making Nevada a better place to live.

I urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a national monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

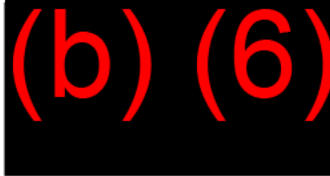


Anne Macquarie

(b) (6)

cc: Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Michelle A. Napoli



June 9, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

Here in Southern Nevada, residents have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique for decades. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and are an unmistakably important part of what drives our local economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Gold Butte encompasses almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada and a multitude of wonders. These include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

Unfortunately, more recent history has seen incontinent destruction of this beautiful landscape's critical habitat and cultural and historical treasures. Native American petroglyphs riddled with bullet holes. The senseless chopping down of an indefensible mature Joshua Tree. Vandalism to nearly 100-year-old horse corrals, relics of the area's pioneer ranching days. These are just a few examples of what is happening in Gold Butte, and the damage is difficult if not impossible to reverse.

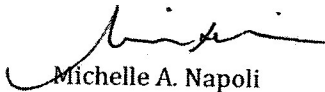
I moved to Southern Nevada in large part because of the outdoor recreation in beautiful landscapes that the area affords. As a resident who enjoys hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, canyoneering, mountain biking and simply camping and contemplating in the great outdoors, I feel it is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte, not just for me but



for the many who enjoy this fascinating place today and for the generations who come after us.

Time is running out for Gold Butte. I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a National Monument. If it is to retain its tremendous natural, historical, recreation and economic benefits, the time to protect Gold Butte is now.

Sincerely,



Michelle A. Napoli

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

July, 18, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

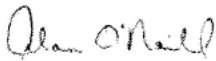
Dear President Obama,

I have been involved with conservation work professionally for 50 years which includes 34 years with the National Park Service, 10 years as Executive Director of the Outside Las Vegas Foundation, and 6 years as a private consultant focusing on eco-tourism, open space, and public lands. This work has allowed me to experience some this country's most significant natural and cultural heritage sites. I say this only to put into perspective the incredible resource we have here in Southern Nevada.

A 350,000-acre scenic wonderland, Gold Butte is truly one of this country most beautiful and culturally diverse landscapes. Visitors are treated to such sights as native desert wildlife, brilliantly colored and sculptured sandstone formations, slot canyons, Joshua Tree and Mojave Yucca forests, sinkholes, ancient petroglyphs and fantastic formations like the Virgin Mountains, Tramp Ridge and Lime Ridge. The area is a desert lover's paradise.

Gold Butte is rich in history. Three separate Native American cultures are known to have settled here. Native Americans have been connected to Gold Butte for more than 3,000 years. The area is scattered with artifacts and ancient writings telling the stories of their past. The unfragmented habitat of the region provides an important connection to the adjacent protected areas of Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

This area need protection commensurate to the significant values found here. Therefore, I am hopeful that you as our President will designate this as a National Monument under the provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906.



Alan O'Neill

**(b) (6)**

cc: U.S. Senator Harry Reid  
U.S. Representative Dina Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
May 1, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protection of Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. There are places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston that are a source of community pride. Places like these have improved our quality of life and helped to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. For this reason, is why I support protecting Gold Butte, which is considered as Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

The area is covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historical, and natural wonders. There wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. More importantly, Gold Butte is running out of time—due to recent events in the last 18 months, the landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For me, as a student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and as a concerned community member of Southern Nevada that it is important in preserving Gold Butte because of its significance and beauty that it contains and the habitat that it provides for the wildlife living in the area. When I went on a hike to Gold Butte, I have noticed that there were many Joshua trees and creosote bushes all over the land, and petroglyphs on rocks, even on the highest mountain peaks. There were visible damages to these petroglyphs, where people had carved out their name near the petroglyphs and disruptive bullet holes all around the area. If there is no protection for Gold Butte, then the cultural history of the Nuwuvi tribe (Southern Paiute population) will be lost and forgotten.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a national monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Alison Ordanza

(b) (6)

July 28, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

I most enjoy Gold Butte because of the incredible petroglyphs found there. Also, I once discovered an arrowhead under one of the petroglyphs there and this remains as a special memory for me. The wildlife in Gold Butte is a close second to the petroglyphs. I would love to see an elusive desert bighorn sheep, gila monster, golden eagle, tarantula, or one of the other myriad species that call Gold Butte home. When my parents visited, I took them to Gold Butte to share the awe inspiring experiences I've had there and we saw a coyote scamper up a hill nearby. Gold Butte is an awesome place to escape from the busyness of life and connect with a more straightforward and essential type of living.

As a first grade teacher in Las Vegas, it is important to me that Gold Butte is permanently protected so that my students can have the experiences with petroglyphs and wildlife that I've been able to have. Seeing the ancient and dense concentration of petroglyphs provides a sense of reaching back into human history. Being connected with those who've survived in the Mojave before and with the animals that still do creates an appreciation of and

wonder for life. Gold Butte is an astonishing land that remains largely untouched by the increasing presence of man.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a National Monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Casey Palermo

(b) (6)

cc: U.S. Senator Harry Reid  
U.S. Representative Dina Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

July 21, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I live in Mesquite, Nevada and I like to think of Gold Butte as our backyard. What a beautiful place to play & learn. Gold Butte deserves a national monument designation.

I am so upset to see the destruction of this treasured area - people are grave robbing, shooting and scaring the petroglyphs, tearing up the area and leaving garbage. These are people that believe Gold Butte is theirs and that they don't want government telling them what we can & can't do. I doubt they treat their property with the same lack of respect. This belongs to everyone.

There is so much history about the pioneer heritage and the Native American culture in Gold Butte. It needs to be protected for the future of all. Please take action now to permanently protect Gold Butte before there is nothing left to protect.

I am on the Virgin Valley Water Board and it's unbelievable that so many of my fellow board members think if this area becomes protected we won't have access to our water rights. I have seen the legislation that says we will. I personally believe when this takes place, our water rights will remain accessible and all the people will be able to enjoy this wonderful area.

I'd like to call Mesquite "the Gateway to Gold Butte". Please protect Gold Butte, make Gold Butte a National Monument before the end of your term.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sandra Ramaker

(b) (6)

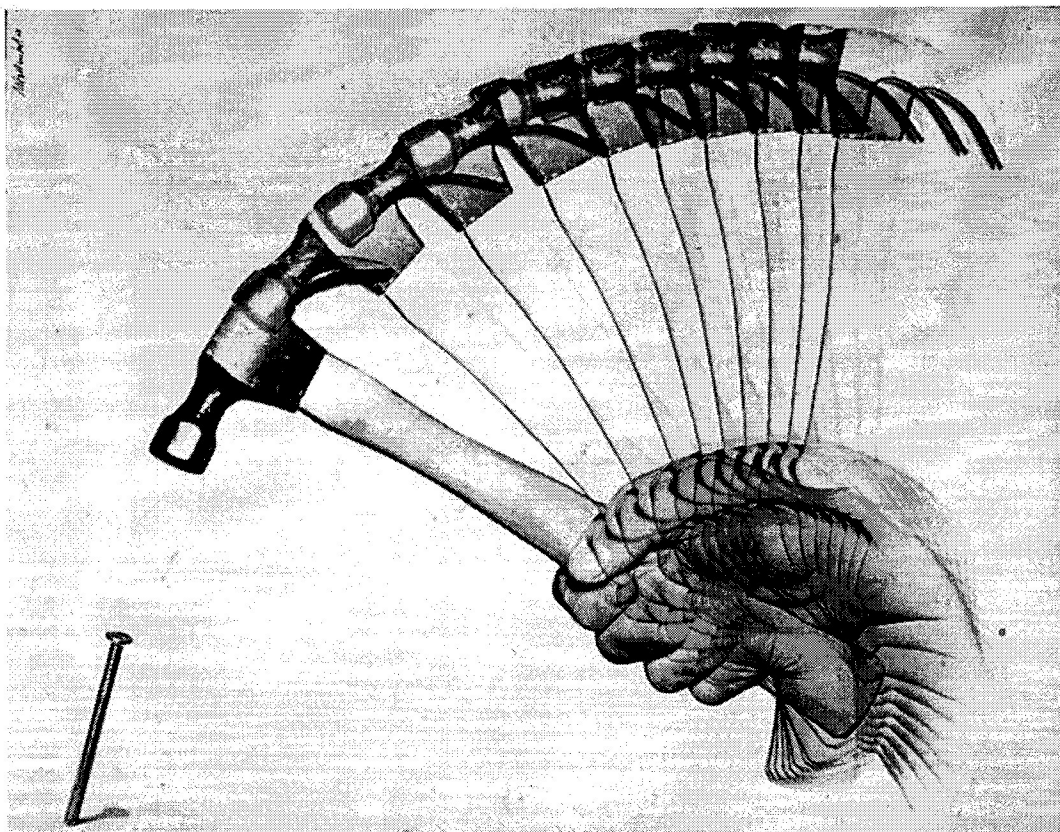
cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

June 8, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

There is an old saying that I have found applicable in many areas of life: ONCE YOU GET GOOD WITH A HAMMER, EVERYTHING STARTS TO LOOK LIKE A NAIL.



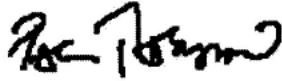




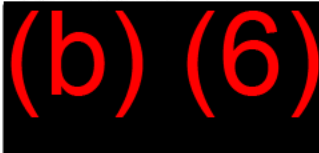
So beautiful, yet so fragile! Please help protect Gold Butte so that this location and others proximate to it will remain un-vandalized to inspire visitors for centuries to come. Help ensure that the only shots taken here are from cameras, not from target-shooters.

Thanks for your help. Your legacy from protecting Gold Butte will be a great one!

Prospiciently yours,



Par Rasmusson



June 24, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

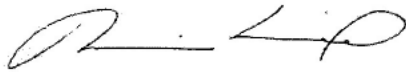
Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; and dramatic geologic features.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

As a geologist I think it is important to preserve Gold Butte because of the wonderful geology and archaeology (petroglyphs). Precambrian igneous and metamorphic rocks over 1.5 billion years old are exposed in Gold Butte. And also geological features such as sculpted red sandstone and rock spires, Jurassic dinosaur tracks, and Permian reptilian track-sites dating back over 250 million years ago. By creating a national monument the American people will be able to visit and experience the extraordinary geology and archaeology.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a national monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Marvin (Nick) Saines  
Interpretive Naturalist – Geologist

(b) (6)

cc: U.S. Senator Harry Reid  
U.S. Representative Dina Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

June 21, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I want to thank you for your wise use of the Antiquities Act in designating several wonderful national monuments in California and the Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada. The Antiquities Act has been so important in protecting and preserving the scenic, wildlife, and cultural values of our public lands.

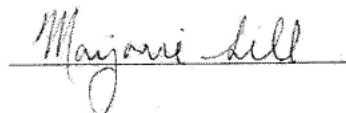
In Nevada, our most threatened area with these extraordinary values is Gold Butte in Clark County. This is an area rich in wildlife, scenery, and particularly ancient artifacts. Its special value has been recognized by the county and the cities of Las Vegas and Henderson, most of the citizens of Nevada, all of the environmental organizations of Nevada, and a majority of Nevada businesses.

Unfortunately, there are a few people who seek to destroy the values of Gold Butte by obliterating cultural resources and who attack threatened wildlife. These persons have no regard for our country's heritage which goes back thousands of years.

The most important defender of Gold Butte has been Senator Harry Reid. Since he is retiring this year after thirty years of service to our state, to the country, and to you in his support of your Presidency, establishment by you of a Gold Butte National Monument would be an excellent tribute to his wonderful work.

When your eight years of service to our country is over, I hope you and your family can come and visit many of the areas you have established as monuments under the Antiquities Act. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,



Marjorie Sill

(b) (6)

cc: U.S. Senator Harry Reid

U.S. Representative Dina Titus

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

(b) (6)

November 5, 2015

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Lloyd D. George Building  
333 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 8016  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Senator Reid,

Axle grease initials of pioneers on a vertical orange-red cliff side close to ancient Indian petroglyphs ... The Old Spanish Trail ... The old Arrowhead Highway ... Thousands of acres of Nevada desert ... Dirt roads and no services ... Little Finland or Hobgoblins ... CCC dam and rock "cabin" ... Whitney Pockets ... Falling Man ... All this and more awaits the curious traveler to GOLD BUTTE by Mesquite, Nevada.

Senator Reid, I want you to know that I love this unique place in our beloved State of Nevada. I take as many of my friends there (not in the summer!) so they can experience these awesome wonders. I encourage other people to visit this treasure.

As a 35-year resident of Nevada, I appreciate your introducing the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act to protect and preserve this unique area. Your hard work for your Nevada constituents has resulted in our having Great Basin National Park, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Tule Springs National Monument, and Basin and Range National Monument. Now that I am retired, I am able to more fully enjoy and marvel at the natural wonders of our state.

I know you are aware of Friends of Gold Butte which does an outstanding job of promoting Gold Butte. I have toured Gold Butte with them twice and valued each experience of discovering its wonders. Those outings inspired my contacting you.

I am in support of permanent protection of the Gold Butte area and again thank you for your commitment to the unique areas in Nevada for all of us to cherish. Your tenure in the United States Senate has served Nevada well.

Sincerely,

Anthony (Tony) Taylor

December 10, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Please Help Protect Nevada's Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we write in support of additional protections for Gold Butte.

We had the chance to visit Gold Butte this Nevada Day. Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, the area is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. The area is prime habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, and we saw tracks from desert bighorn sheep along a wash that descends towards Lake Mead. We walked among the most bizarre and beautiful naturally sculpted sandstone shapes we've ever seen. There are keyholes, tables, chairs, arches, honeycombs, and sandy alcoves in colors that shift from intense red to tawny brown to nearly white. In another area, we scrambled along boulder fields and at nearly every turn saw petroglyphs, including some of the largest and most intact panels we've ever seen. There are also historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts and a massive sinkhole called the Devil's Throat that's unlike anything we've ever seen. As the sun set, we could see the Grand Wash Cliffs glowing pink in the distance and understood why Gold Butte is Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Unfortunately, we also saw some disturbing things. ATV tracks run over sensitive desert soil. Interpretive signs are riddled with buckshot and bullet holes as we drove past Cliven Bundy's ranch on the way in. USGS benchmarks and sadly even petroglyphs and pioneer sites have also been vandalized. It's clear this special place needs special protection and enhancement for the enjoyment of all.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Howard Watts III & Leora Olivas

July 21, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte-- due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. I was amazed by Gold Butte's beauty when I visited recently. But now, it's being destroyed by vandals. They're damaging petroglyphs and disrespecting the native Paiute's place of heritage. It is important to preserve Gold Butte to stop the destructive things that are erasing the past and threatening Gold Butte's integrity. A national monument designation would help ensure Gold Butte remains for this generation and the next to enjoy and it would bring more visitors to southern Nevada.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by utilizing the Antiquities Act before the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Cherry Vercher

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid

Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

5 February 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make this region unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve the quality of life and help to drive the economy. As Montanans who live near Glacier National Park and part-time Nevadans who reside in Mesquite, NV, my wife Sharon and I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For Sharon and me, as hikers and avid outdoors people, the current situation for Gold Butte is untenable. NPR has called Gold Butte "lawless". Illegal grazing and deliberately destructive shooting at archeological sites are only two of outrages put upon this area.

Last Saturday, as Sharon and I stood again in awe of the Falling Man and 21 Goats petroglyphs, we wondered if our grandchildren would be able to share our experience. Surely the Gold Butte area, a wondrous natural place and a record of its ancient people is worthy of conserving for us and future generations alike.

I urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate Gold Butte as a National Monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.



Sincerely,

*H Vonk*

Harry and Sharon Vonk

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental  
Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

# **GOLD BUTTE SUPPORT BOOK**

**Nevada's Piece of the Grand Canyon**



**Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2016**

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## Local Elected Official Support

### City of Mesquite

**WHEREAS**, Mesquite has previously passed resolutions 649 in October of 2009, and 669 in May of 2010, which resolutions are outdated, stale, incomplete, and fail to accurately represent to the Federal Government the City Council's present views; and

**WHEREAS**, working with local jurisdictions to develop an effective management plan will lead to the establishment of long-term protection, use and free enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources within the Gold Butte area;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Mesquite that Resolutions 649 and 669 of the Mesquite City Council are repealed and in their place, the City Council conditionally supports the designation of the Gold Butte Complex as a National Conservation Area subject to the following conditions:

1. The Gold Butte area shall not have any newly designated "wilderness areas;"
2. The roads throughout the Gold Butte complex shall not close at any time, day or night, even if the area is designated as a National Conservation Area, for any reason, excepting only acts of God, in which case the roads may be closed for bona fide emergency purposes for not longer than seven (7) calendar days;
3. No restriction shall be made relating to the access or use of any mechanical or motorized vehicles;
4. Access and use for the purposes of obtaining, studying, observing, carrying away, piping, transporting, welling, preserving, collecting water and/or any other such purpose related to those aforementioned and/or to water shall not be abridged;
5. Any National Conservation Area designation shall have a northern boundary located running east to west through the area commonly known as Whitney Pockets, found in the southern portion of what is more technically known as Township 16 South, Range 70 East;
6. Any advisory council established for the purpose of governing or assisting in the governance of Gold Butte shall allow for various seats to be appointed by the City Council of the City of Mesquite; and
7. If a visitor's center is built, it shall be built within the city limits of Mesquite.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the City Council of the City of Mesquite hereby adopts Resolution No. 867.

**PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED** by the City council of the City of Mesquite, Nevada on the 28 day of April, 2015.

**THE CITY OF MESQUITE:**

**ATTEST:**

By: Allan S. Litman  
Allan S. Litman, Mayor

By: Joy Eastwood  
Joy Eastwood, Interim City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

By: Robert D. Sweetin  
Robert D. Sweetin, City Attorney

**Karl Gustaveson, Former Councilman, City of Mesquite**

November 19, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and recreational tourism is a part of that driver. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

For me, a former Mesquite City Council member, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Mesquite a better place to live. I have seen Mesquite grow and decline as the state economy has had ebbs and flows. Our community can better withstand those ebbs and flows if we take advantage of what is in our backyard. Gold Butte is a unique treasure. Protecting this area will enhance both attract new visitors to help support our economy and provide a higher quality of life for those who live here.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Karl Gustaveson

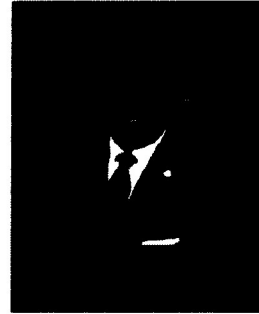
(b) (6)

**Ricki Barlow, Councilman, City of Las Vegas**



*City of Las Vegas*

**Ricki Y. Barlow**  
Councilman, Ward 5



November 24, 2015

Senator Harry Reid  
333 Las Vegas Blvd., Suite 8016  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Senator Reid,

For a number of years, Southern Nevadans have been protecting the dynamic, natural landscapes that make our region unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon, and Mt. Charleston, are a source of local community pride. They improve our quality of life, and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources.

Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders, covering almost 350,000 acres of public lands in South-Eastern Nevada. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; traces of the Spanish conquests of the Southwest; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

As a Las Vegas Councilman and native, it is important to preserve Gold Butte for our residents and visitors alike. I would like to urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte by utilizing your powers under the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. If you should have further questions as to my support for this request, you may contact me at 702.229.5443 or by email at [rbarlow@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:rbarlow@lasvegasnevada.gov).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricki Y. Barlow".

Ricki Y. Barlow  
Las Vegas Councilman, Ward 5



495 South Main Street • Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 • (702) 229-5443 • FAX (702) 464-2600  
[rbarlow@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:rbarlow@lasvegasnevada.gov) • [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/ward5](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/ward5)



**Issac Barron, Councilman, City of North Las Vegas**

Mayor  
**John J. Lee**

City Manager  
**Dr. Qiong X. Liu, P.E., PTOE**

Council Members  
**Anita G. Wood**  
**Pamela A. Goynes-Brown**  
**Isaac E. Barrón**  
**Richard J. Cherchio**



**Office of the Mayor and City Council**

2250 Las Vegas Boulevard, North · Suite 910 · North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030  
Telephone: (702) 633-1011 · Fax: (702) 649-0038 · TDD: (800) 326-6868  
[www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com](http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com)

11/23/15

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Esteemed Mr. President,

I hope this holiday season finds you and your beautiful family in the utmost of health and happiness. You may or not remember me, but we have met on a few occasions when you have visited Las Vegas. The last time was when I was part of a small group of three teachers (a former student of mine, and a colleague teacher) who met with you here in North Las Vegas, at Canyon Springs High for an intimate education forum during a 2012 campaign visit. It was the dialogue of a lifetime! Although I'm still a high school teacher, I was elected to the position of city councilman, the first Hispanic elected to the North Las Vegas City Council. As such, I relish the opportunity to advocate for economic, social, and environmental causes that impact my community such as universal background checks, support for our Tule Springs National Monument (thank you!), the Basin and Range National Monument (thanks again!), and comprehensive immigration reform/DREAM Act. I now write you to support our community's efforts to protect another unique and priceless public land: Gold Butte.

As an avid outdoors enthusiast, I've come to appreciate the solitary beauty of our western lands. Not only have I introduced my own children to these priceless natural wonders and familial outdoor recreational activities, but I've supported efforts to introduce my high school students to also engage and appreciate our natural environment. The value I've always instilled, both to my family and students, is the fragility and irreplaceability of these public treasures. Whether they are natural formations, wildlife, water resources, or ancient human paleontological sites, once damaged, or destroyed, they are irreversibly erased from the legacy that we have a duty to preserve for our children, and theirs in turn. I urge you to please continue your environmental leadership in protecting Gold Butte here in southern Nevada, an area I can attest to its beauty, fragility, economic importance, and vulnerability, by declaring it a national monument. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte, as well as the region's cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Isaac Barrón  
City of North Las Vegas Councilman, Ward 1  
(702) 633-1011  
(702) 375-7865 mobile  
[barroni@cityofnorthlasvegas.com](mailto:barroni@cityofnorthlasvegas.com)

Teacher/Advisor  
Rancho High School  
North Las Vegas  
[ibarron@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:ibarron@interact.ccsd.net)

**Elliot Anderson, Assemblyman, State of Nevada Assembly**

OT T. ANDERSON  
ASSEMBLYMAN  
District 1



DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1115 South Meadows Road  
Reno, NV 89502  
District Nevada District  
Phone: 775-333-3333  
Fax: 775-333-3333

COMMITTEES  
Member  
Natural Resources  
Public Lands  
Wildlife  
Wilderness  
Wildlands

**State of Nevada  
Assembly**

Seventy-Eighth Session  
December 17, 2015

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:  
1115 South Meadows Road  
Reno, NV 89502  
Phone: 775-333-3333  
Fax: 775-333-3333  
The Bill Number is printed  
on the top of the page.

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue North West  
Washington, D.C., 20500-0001

**Re: Petitioning for Permanent Protection of Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:

This past legislative session, I was proud to stand up to protect our public lands. When reckless lawmakers said that Nevadans should pick up the tab to manage these lands and said people like Cliven Bundy should control America's public lands, we said NO. That's not the Nevada way. We can do better than that.

I'm also a proud veteran. Veterans value national public lands for many reasons. Like so many Americans, veterans count on our national public lands for fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting. For some of my fellow veterans, our ties to our public lands are deeper than that. We turn to the outdoors to heal from the trauma of war and renew bonds with family members after long deployments.

Protecting our lands is one way that America can give back to its heroes who have paid such a high price for our freedom. After all, the members of our military were the first protectors of our public lands and our nation's stories are protected in these lands.

Gold Butte deserves to be counted among the legendary places that are etched forever in our American landscape—Gold Butte, literally, is Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, and it deserves the same protection that the Grand Canyon enjoys. The time is now to make sure this protection happens.

I strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Elliot Anderson

cc: Nevada Members of Congress  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

**Heidi Swank, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada Assembly**

**HEIDI SWANK**  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
District No. 16



**COMMITTEES:**  
*Member*  
Education  
Natural Resources,  
Agriculture, and Mining  
Ways and Means

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
546 Barbara Way  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104-2858

**LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:**  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747  
Office: (775) 684-8595  
Fax No.: (775) 684-8533  
Email: Heidi.Swank@asm.state.nv.us  
www.leg.state.nv.us

**State of Nevada**  
**Assembly**  
**Seventy-Eighth Session**

November 19, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and recreational tourism is a part of that driver. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada, that translates as almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

For me, as an Assemblywoman in the Nevada Legislature, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. I along with many of my constituents are avid outdoors people. We enjoy hiking, camping, and fishing. Gold Butte is one of the gems that we want to see protected. We want to ensure that future generations of Nevadans and Americans will be able to enjoy its beauty.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally

important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Heidi Swank, Ph.D.  
Assemblywoman, District 16  
Nevada Legislature

cc: Senator Reid

Congresswoman Titus

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

## Tribal Support

### Moapa Band of Paiutes Members

October 25, 2015

Dear Mr. Reid,

I'm out here at Gold Butte.  
This Sunday Oct. 25, 2015. I'm a  
member of the Moapa Band of Paiutes.  
Also a member of our cultural Comm.

Being here at Gold Butte makes  
it a privilege and honor as a  
Native Paiute. To walk on the land  
of my ancestors. And see the rock  
Stories. It's a cloudy day and to see  
and be in the area. Yes, the desert  
area needs to be preserved. And to  
witness the day whether sunny, cloudy,  
is so beautiful. Everything the rocks,  
plants and the color's change at  
different times of day. So every time I  
come out to Gold Butte I see it thru  
new eyes. And I'm thankful for Creator  
and his Keeper of our Sacred Area  
that ~~take~~ the veil from my eyes to see  
differently each time I come.

Keep on being with us on  
Gold Butte - issues.

Thank You  
E. V. Ohte

Date: 10-25-15

Dear Mr. Reid, I am a member of the Moapa Band Paiute tribe and I support the protection of the Gold Butte area. I have just taken a hike in these sacred areas. I would like to thank you for being a supporter to protect these places. The Southern Paiute people have many ties to these areas, they are in fact ancestral lands to our people. I felt at home hiking these beautiful and amazing sites. It would be disaster to let people tear up these sites. I do not approve of the grazing of cattle. I would like to once again thank you for protecting these sites. I hope all the officials that have a vote on the protection of the Gold Butte site would take the time to hike the trails of Gold Butte and realize the beauty of ~~our~~ our great state of Nevada.

Sincerely,  
Shauna Higgins

10/25/15

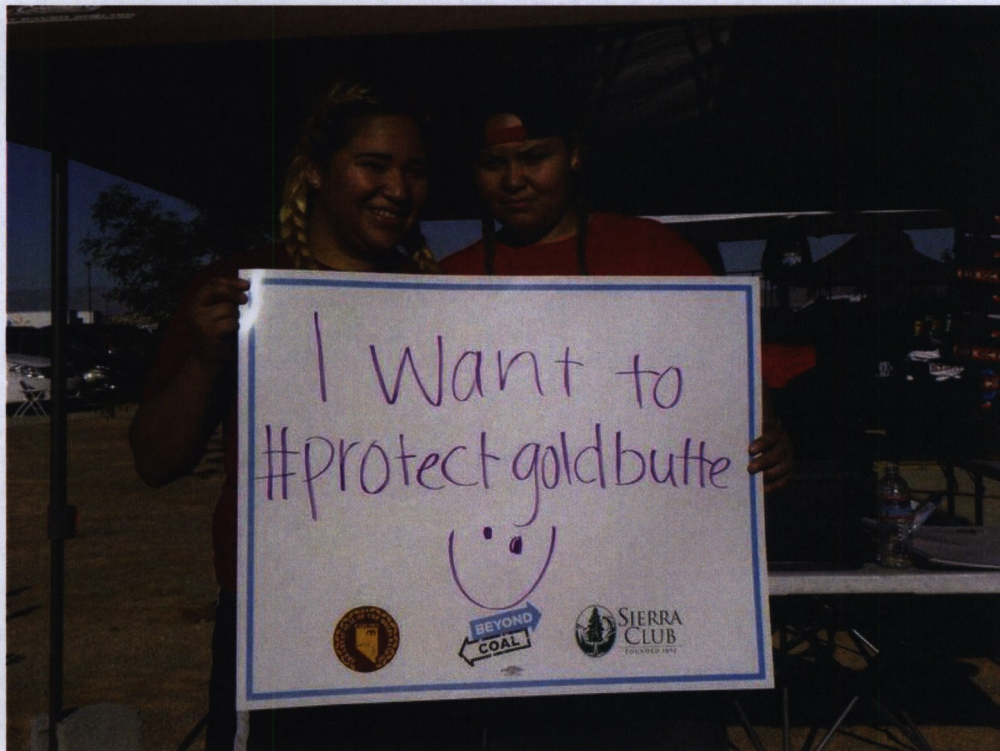
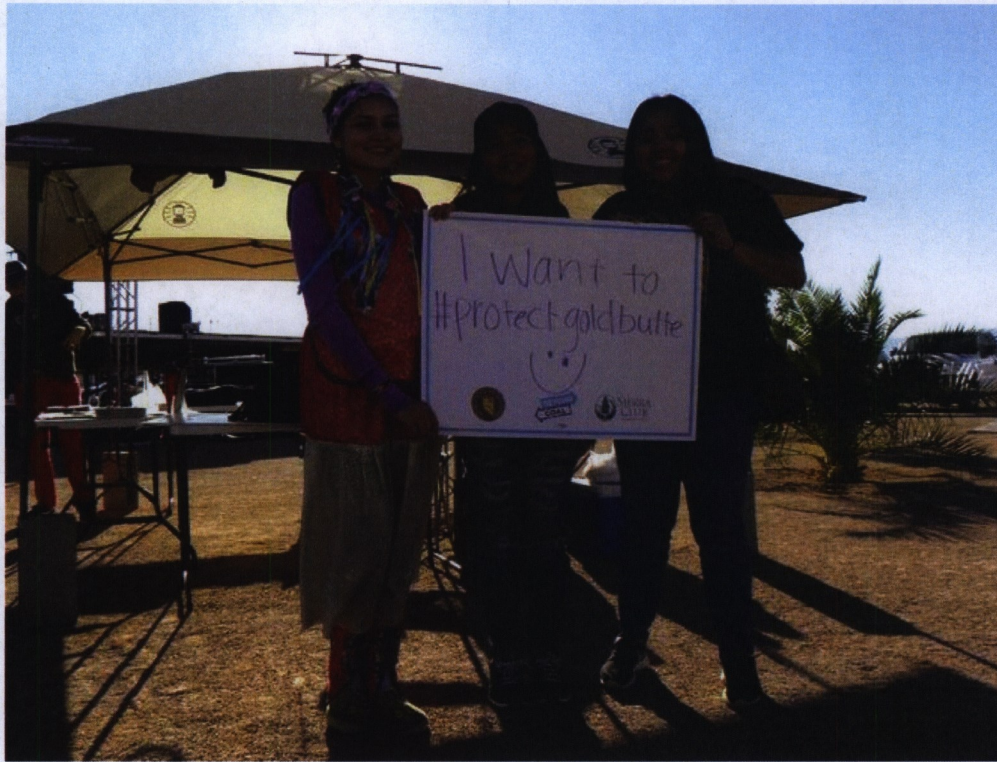
Dear Mr. Reid,

First off, I want to thank you for being a supporter / protector of the Gold Butte area. I am a member of the Moapa Band Paiute Tribe and I support everyone, especially you who supports the Gold Butte area. The Gold Butte area is a very, very sacred place to us.

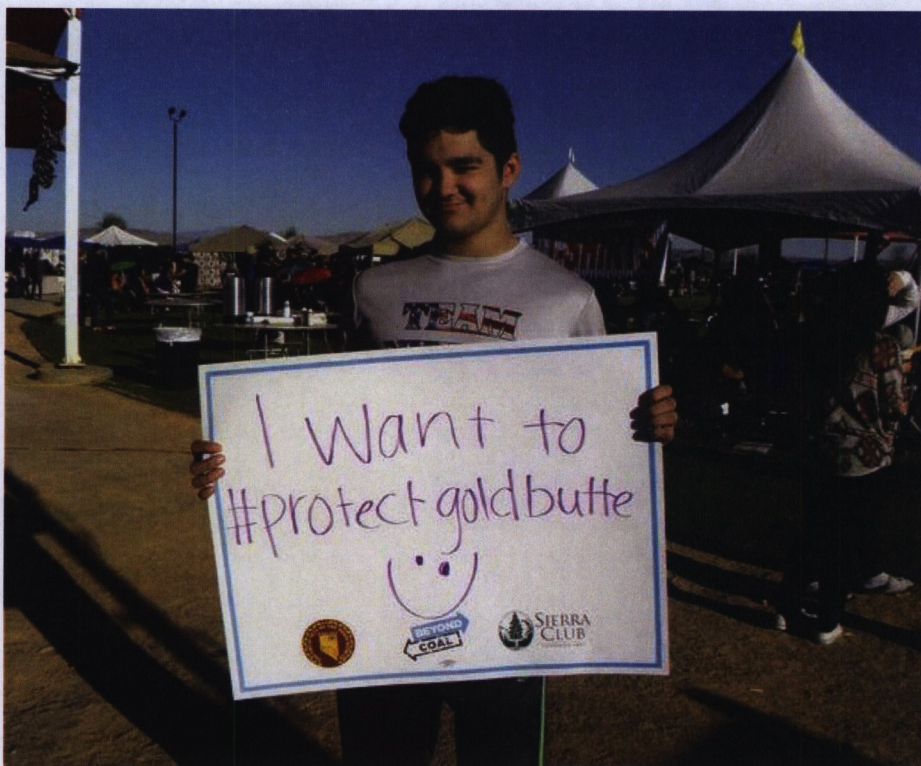
Thank you so much for being a protector of this area. This area is breathtaking! And it is very special to all of us members.

I am so thankful I was able to take pictures of this amazing sacred place. I would hope that everyone would / could come to this spectacular place. I'm thankful for this whole experience today. I am thankful for you, for protecting these areas. If I were to picture someone being destructive to these lands, I am ~~positive~~ positive I would fall apart. I support you infinitely forever for ~~being~~ being a protector.

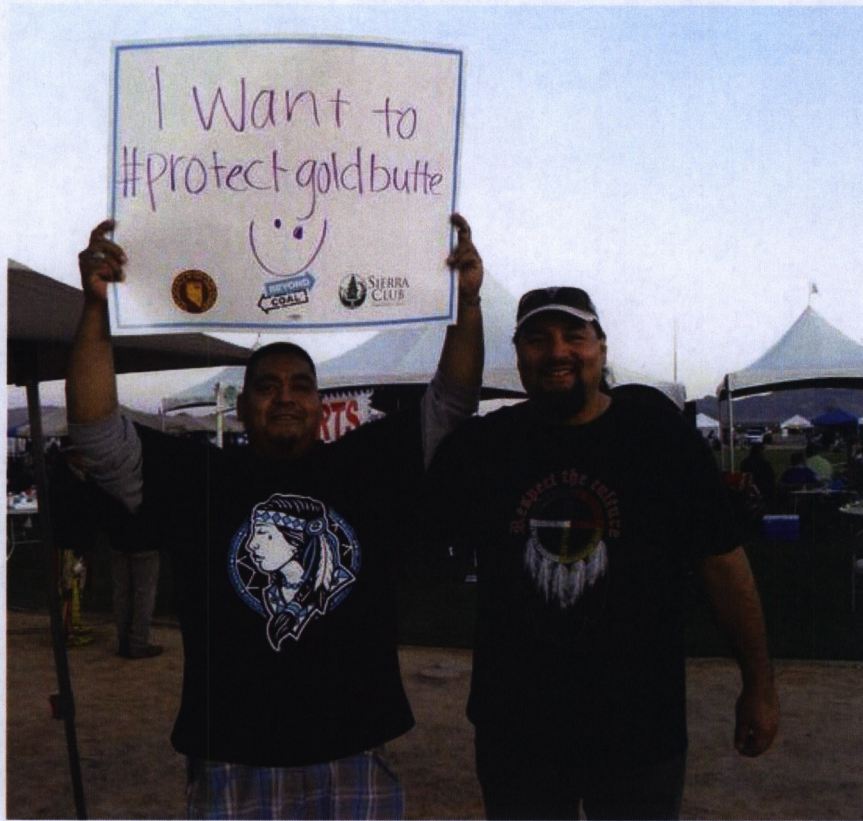
Sincerely,  
Sierra Higgins

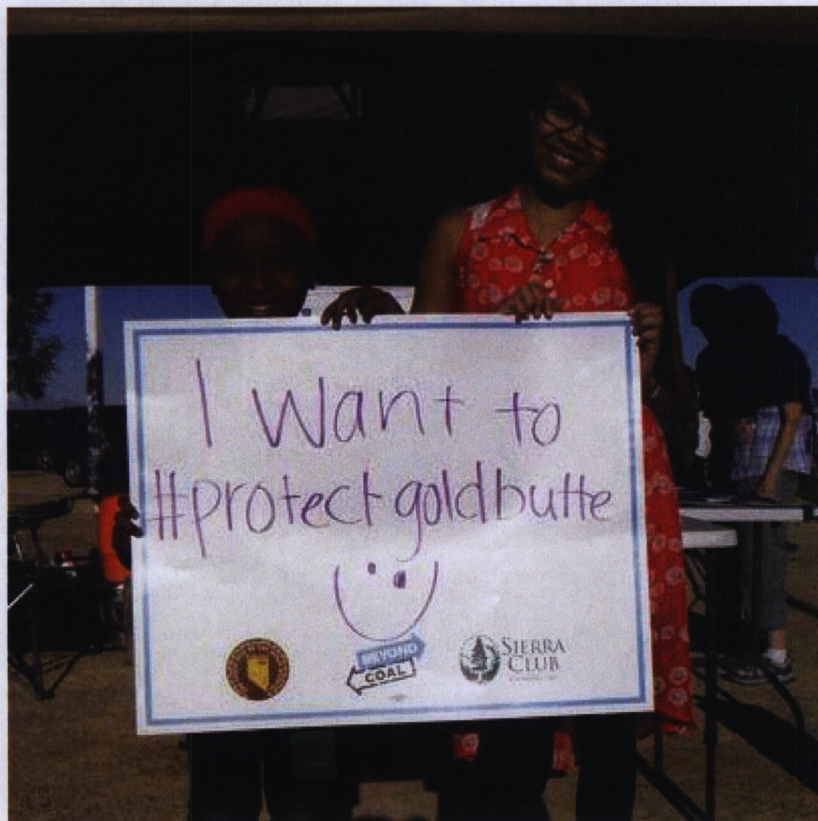


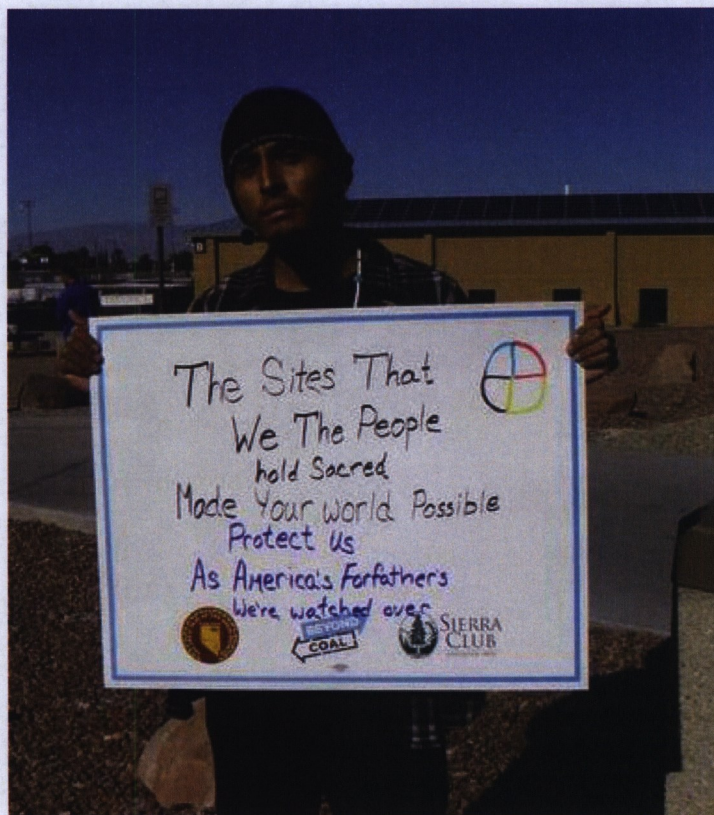












Las Vegas Paiute Tribe



*Las Vegas Paiute Tribe*

**November 23, 2015**

President Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protecting Gold Butte Protects the Heritage of Our Country and the Heritage of the Paiute People**

President Obama:

Gold Butte is a treasure of cultural, historic, and natural wonders, covering almost 350,000 acres of public lands that were once part of the original reservation of the Moapa Band of Paiutes. The history of Gold Butte is integral with the history of the Nuwuvi. Gold Butte houses thousands of rock stories detailing the knowledge of a people. Gold Butte is home to ancient campsites, agave roasting pits, and ancient trails that go back thousands of years. Gold Butte is also sacred land, as it is part of the Salt Song Trails, the sacred songs of the Nuwuvi people. The songs describe a physical and spiritual landscape spanning ocean and desert, mountains and rivers, life and death. The Salt songs are sung during the ceremonies of the Southern Paiute, Nuwuvi. These ceremonies are held when a member of the Tribe passes away. The songs describe the geographical features of a region, meant to remind the spirit of where they are from, so the spirit can find his or her home.

Protecting Gold Butte is to protect what is left of the physical, tangible reminders of the heritage and history of the Nuwuvi. These tangible representations of the tribe's history give the Nuwuvi a small hope for the continuation of the tribe's existence. Gold Butte also serves as home to rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. Dramatic geological features such as sculpted red sandstone, rock spires, and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago are also at risk.

Southern Nevadans have been protecting the dynamic natural landscapes that make our region unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Nuva Kaiv (a.k.a. Mt. Charleston) are a source of local community pride for all the residents of the Southern Nevada community. Furthermore, protected public lands improve our quality of life and help to promote our tourism-based economy. As Native Americans and members of the next generation that

Number One Paiute Drive • Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-3261 • (702) 386-3926 • Fax (702) 383-4019

carry on the traditions and knowledge of our cultures, we understand the need to protect cultural resources.

Adding to the benefits of preserving history and culture, the protection of Gold Butte can increase tourism, which is the lifeblood of Nevada. Outdoor recreational tourism is a significant part of that revenue. Each year, outdoor recreation raises over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs nationally. In Nevada, that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs that can help support local tribal communities. We can continue to improve these statistics by ensuring permanent protection for Gold Butte.

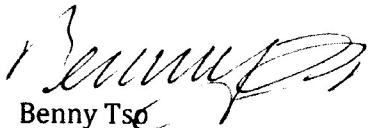
Time is running out for protecting Gold Butte. Recent events have incited significant physical damage to the area in the last 18 months. Gold Butte's treasured landscape has seen an increased destruction to ancient rock stories, cultural sites of the Moapa Paiutes, and all the Nuwuvi.

For our tribe, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it is a sacred area with high historical importance, both to the Native peoples and Southern Nevada.

We support current efforts in Congress and the full engagement of interested stakeholders to protect this scenic and unique area. Should a legislative solution prove unworkable, however, it may become necessary to utilize the Antiquities Act of 1906 to protect Gold Butte before irreparable harm is caused to the area. We urge you to keep this option viable during your Administration.

The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe is committed to advocating for the protection of sacred Native lands throughout Nevada, as well as the country. The desecration of these sites is not uncommon and must be averted to preserve and protect the cultures of Native peoples in addition to preserving these lands for future generations of all Americans to enjoy.

Sincerely,



Benny Tse  
Chairman, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe

**Las Vegas Paiute Tribe: January 2016 Youth Outing**

Gold Butte, and was facilitated by Sierra Club on 1/16/16, documents the history of this area and importance to the native american community.

Having this area protected, I greatly support. Allowing future generations the opportunity to experience petroglyphs and harmony of nature. ~~and~~ is one of unique importance.

I would like convey my support for the preservation and protection of region of Gold Butte

Thankyou,  
Chris Hill



January 16, 2016 Gold Butte hiking

- The gunshot damage on the interpretive signs at the first stop was appalling. The signs need to be replaced. I have visited national parks and monuments in many states (California, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, South Dakota, Virginia and Washington DC) and other countries, but I have never seen bullet hole damage. It seems dangerous and disrespectful to me. Likewise, the bullet hole damage on rock next to some petroglyphs was horrible.
- The free roaming cattle were another disturbing sight. I saw about 10 cows up close. The adult cows and calves were emaciated and scrawny. I saw ribs jutting out on several cows. Even free range cattle need supplemental feed (hay, alfalfa) to survive and be healthy. In addition, these cows are eating native vegetation, compacting soil and polluting the water.
- The geology of Gold Butte is unique. The colors and patterns of the rocks was beautiful and astounding. I haven't seen this at other national parks and monuments in the U.S.
- The petroglyphs were intriguing, plentiful and well preserved. I worry that people will desecrate and vandalize them. I understand that BLM is dealing with a hostile local landowner, but he should not dictate how public land is managed. Please protect Gold Butte with additional federal designation like national monument status.
- This site is part of America's cultural and natural heritage. This area is important to Native Americans today.

The natural surrounding of the rocks and terrain were beautiful, especially the petroglyphs.

Going through the prayer ceremony with Parute people was inspirational and provided a real sense of connection to the people and the land.

Tony Fountain

Cows  
They're starving, malnourished, about 10 cows more or less. The calf looked lonely even though he stood with his family. It's like they knew they were dying.

Beautiful trails, the maintenance was well preserved. Happy to see the place wasn't trashed.

The bullet holes were horrible. There should be more of an effort to preserve all of the petroglyphs.

What kind of person do you think does something like that?  
- someone with no morals, no intelligence.

Fawn Douglas interviewing Felix Lopez

It was a  
Wonderful  
experience

Cows roaming on land &  
clearly starving

A sight many  
people don't get  
to experience

Definitely needs  
to be protected  
for future generations  
to come

Lots of history  
behind the rocks  
and in between  
the trails.

His sacred ground  
which needs to  
be shown to the youth.

Various repairs need  
to be addressed &  
in regards to signs  
and roads

Vandalism throughout  
area, rock damage,  
sign damage from gun shots

Christina Garcia / Jan Salazar (11616)

This area is history, history that has stood the test of time and that is really incredible to me. I really do not understand how anyone could come to this area and disrespect it. The thing that baffles me the most is the fact these grounds are not being protected. There are bullet holes on the sides of mountains and it really is just shaking. I want this area, this land, and this history to be protected for future generations to come enjoy and learn more about. Please, Please, Please,

PROTECT  
GOLD  
BUTTE!

This land is so beautiful and the contrast of the vandalism is so obvious. If this really is our public land then people should not be using it for their own private interest and gain.

-Paloma Marcos  
VP of the Native American  
Student Assoc. of  
UNLV

1.16.16

The hike was nice, lots of beautiful rock writing. Sad to see the skinny cows, gun shots to the bulliton area and to some of the rock writing area.

Hope this area can be preserved for the future. This can only happen thru our brothers keeper.

Thanks

Carlos Salazar

1.16.16

Starving & skinny cows along the side of the road wasn't a nice sight.

The rock formations and the rock writing and pictures were beautiful.

I learned to protect and preserve our history so those later on in the future can enjoy them as well.

Thank you,  
Reyna Salazar

1.16.16

Gold Butte

Our trip started with seeing the bullion shot up and cows that didn't look too good - too skinny.

The area was beautiful with picture/rock writing, and the hike was great. I did see areas where the picture/rock writing was damaged with gun shots.

Hoping for preservation for the future, this area is too beautiful to lose.

Thanks  
~~Paul Dickey~~

Noticed Burned rocks and bullets that were shot on some of the rocks that caused discoloration and ~~at~~ most of them were done ~~on~~ the sacred native American petroglyphs. It was inspired by the beauty of the red rocks and especially the Grand Cactus trees and beautiful view. Good place for picture perfect photos. The sun was reflecting and no track needed to be picked up.

Cherry Vulture Jan 14, 2016

This ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> my first trip to Gold Butte. It ~~was~~ breathtaking. I am fortunate enough to have been able to take my son with me and share in this wonderful experience. However there is a part of me that is saddened over the lack of respect of people visiting to this historical & beautiful place. I am Native American and Gold Butte is a Cultural historical site. It is filled with petroglyphs As a Native and as an American I believe this area needs to be protected It is apart of my peoples history which is American history. Our culture has lost so much at the hands of the government by the ~~complete~~ neglect of Gold Butte ~~and~~ ~~that~~ cultural genocide continues Please protect this area so that we can continue to preserve our history & I can continue sharing it with my children Gold Butte ~~and~~ is sacred to my people to hurts to see it riddled with litter, bullet holes, graffiti, & emaciated cattle.

Shelly White

This Place needs to be protected!!! This place was cool to see, ~~we~~ WE NEED TO PROTECT THIS AREA!!!!!! We also need to protect and save the animals. And to fix the signs & seal bullet holes in the signs and I thought to myself who would do this?  
 Gold Butte needs love!  
 It needs support!

(b) (6)



Don't Destroy!

IT'S so beautiful.  
It doesn't hurt you so  
why hurt it!

It's also really sad seeing the  
cows. There starving. ~~It~~  
Image being the cow. How would  
you feel? There all skinny. They  
looked so sad. They look in their  
eyes.



(b) (6)



## Business Support

### September 2015 Business Support Sign-on Letter

September 23, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada’s Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve Nevada’s quality of life and help to drive the economy. As part of the business community, we understand the need to protect the region’s recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada’s piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can’t be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a national treasure and protecting it means enhancing the “outdoor” economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. Ensuring a high quality of life gives businesses a competitive advantage to attract top talent. Protected public lands contribute to that quality of life.

We strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Advanced Marketing  
Collateral  
Advantage Landscape  
Anchor Chiropractic  
AVI Wear  
Axiom Consulting  
Solutions  
CMWireless  
Coosha Travel  
CP Group  
Craig Tann Group  
Desert Wildlife  
Consultants LLC

Design SLS  
deSpain deSigns  
Einstein Bros Catering  
Emenai de Quince Photo  
Expo Ease  
Expressions Catering  
FortuneDNA  
G.A.T.E. – International  
American Consulting  
Group  
Gaia Flowers  
GlutenZero Bakery  
Greenway Pest Services

Hunter Marketing Group  
KEEN Footwear  
Large Vision Business  
Network Mixer  
Latin Chamber of  
Commerce  
Liberty Mutual Insurance –  
Individual Sales Agent  
Man G  
Morton Group  
Nationwide Insurance –  
Individual Sales Agent  
Nevada Outside

Nuila Events  
Onsite Lasermedic  
Palm Mortuary  
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R&D Events  
RE Editorial Services LLC

Realty Executives  
Reliable Banner  
Sage Design Studios, Inc.  
SH Architecture  
Soft Water Specialist  
Soul Appeal  
Strategic Note Network  
TerraFerma Real Estate

The Atrium at Henderson  
Topsy Totes  
Urban Cairn Productions  
Vadeal Print  
Valley Paralegal Services  
VegasGiant  
Vik Chohan Photography  
WonderLand

cc: Nevada Members of Congress

Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

**Advance Marketing Collateral**

Advanced Marketing Collateral



November 19, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

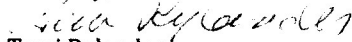
For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

We know that tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and recreational tourism is a part of that driver. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

As a business owner, I interact with clients from across the country. As part of my relationship building, I talk highly of Mesquite because of its proximity to Gold Butte, and move on to highlight with them why Gold Butte is such an amazing place. I have actually hosted many travelers and taken them to Gold Butte as they stop through town. I feel it is important to preserve Gold Butte so that these treasures can be enjoyed by not only my clients, but everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

  
Terri Rylander  
Advanced Marketing Collateral  
Mesquite, NV

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

1285 Vista Del Monte Dr  
Mesquite, NV 89027

[www.chooseamc.com](http://www.chooseamc.com)

425-444-2899

**Big Horn Olive Oil Company**



Big Horn Olive Oil Company, 8173 Sedona Sunset Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89128

November 17, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

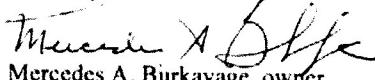
For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As part of the business community, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada, that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a national treasure and protecting it means enhancing our "outdoor" economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. Ensuring a high quality of life gives us a competitive advantage to attract top talent. Protected public lands contribute to that quality of life.

As a small business owner with 3 locations in Nevada that supports a healthy lifestyle, we strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits as well as the outdoor activities for future generations.

Sincerely,

  
Mercedes A. Burkavage, owner  
Big Horn Olive Oil Company  
Reno and Las Vegas Nevada  
MBURKAVAGE@AOL.COM  
775-846-0057

**Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC**



**Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC**

3112 Ivory Coast Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89117-2346  
702.286.6477  
email: jlboone@aol.com  
url: DesertWildlifeConsultantsLLC.com

*Biological Surveys, Nature Photography, and Outdoor Guiding*

November 11, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Basin and Range are sources of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to balance development with protecting the our recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

We know that tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and recreational tourism is a part of that driver. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

For me as a business owner and author of birdandhike.com, preserving Gold Butte means having a unique place to guide local and out-of-town visitors while teaching them to love the Mojave Desert. Having Gold Butte advertised worldwide as a National Conservation Area would make Nevada an economically better place to live and a more fun place to work.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S. 199 and H.R. 856) or by using the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Boone', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Boone, Member

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

**Eetza Research Associates**



November 25, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

**RE: Protecting Public Lands Benefits Nevada's Heritage and Promotes Economy**

Scientists and the public in general for many decades have protected not only Nevada's unique landscapes but also the cultural resources that our wonderful state has. Some places like the Tule Springs Fossil Beds, Red Rock Canyon, and Mt. Charleston, not only are the source of the community's pride through their unique landscapes but comprise important archaeological properties.

Approximately 350,000 acres, comprised in southeastern Nevada deserve the protection that not only as scientists, Native Americans and Nevadan's would like to see. We, all recognize the importance of protecting these wonderful and irreplaceable landscapes, not only for enjoyment by future generations, but also to serve as an important outdoor laboratory where archaeologists, like ourselves attempt to interpret and to protect our nations culture and heritage. It is critical that the Gold Butte area, Nevada's extension of the Grand Canyon, be designated as a national monument to ensure its landscapes remain pristine now and well in to the future. That is why presidential action is essential and your presidential decision is imperative.

Protecting the Gold Butte area will mean permanent protection for all archaeological (rock art sites, caves and shelters), geological (fossil beds dating from as many as 180 million years ago) and historical (early mining and ranching) sites, which are irreplaceable resources. This protection will also ensure that the open spaces where all species depend upon for survival remain pristine and untouched, adding to the richness of resources in this area.

As scientists, we urge you, Mr. President, to take immediate action to ensure the protection of Gold Butte before this area suffers from being vandalized and looted, in addition to the decline of wildlife populations due to the destruction of their critical habitat. It is not our intent to restrict land users but to see that the land is used responsibly and preserve it for future generations.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeBunch". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Patricia A. DeBunch  
Executive Director and Owner  
Eetza Research Associates

James H. Bunch  
Principal Investigator

**Gaia Flowers Plant Art**



flowers • plants • gifts 6 East Charleston Las Vegas NV 89104

November 23, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

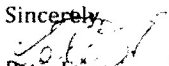
For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

We know that tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and recreational tourism is a part of that driver. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

For me, it is more than the connection of the past to Nevada's future. Gold Butte is an untapped asset that will mean millions of dollars of economic activity as the state's economy is rapidly changing. Looking down the road it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Peter Frigeri

Gaia Flowers Plant Art

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

**Hispanic Museum of Nevada**

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama and Members of Congress:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. From the vibrant sandstone of Red Rock Canyon to the ancient Bristlecone pines at Mt. Charleston, these places are a source of community pride, improve our quality of life, and help to drive our economy. As business owners, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources and that is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct jobs here at home. Those numbers are sure to go up with the new Basin and Range National Monument and we can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a national treasure and protecting it means enhancing our "outdoor" economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. The region's high quality of life offers us a competitive advantage in attracting top talent, and protected public lands contribute to that quality of life.

It is why we believe permanently protecting Gold Butte will not only secure a variety of cultural, historic, and environmental benefits, but it will also ensure that future generations continue to have opportunities to recreate, explore washes and canyons, and visit the geologic wonders that attract people and keep them coming back. What's more, time is running out to ensure Gold Butte has the protection it deserves. Improved management for Gold Butte is desperately needed as damage is increasing to sensitive and sacred sites.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte. We are a part of a wide ranging coalition of business owners, sportsmen, outdoor enthusiasts, local and national elected leaders, and conservation organizations supporting preservation of Gold Butte. The local community has worked for well over a decade to preserve this iconic landscape. We know that by supporting this effort we will be protecting Nevada's own piece of the Grand Canyon for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Name: Lynnette Sawyer  
Business Name: Hispanic Museum of Nevada  
Email: hispanicmuseumnv@hotmail.com Phone Number: (702) 773-2203  
Signature: Lynnette Sawyer



KEEN Footwear



November 19, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of KEEN's 300 employees in the United States, we write to urge you to preserve Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon. On July 28, 2015 we - a humble, family owned, outdoor industry business - launched *Live Monumental*, a rallying cry to protect some of our nation's most deserving places. Places that define America's Legacy. We set out in a bright yellow, 1976 GMC RV to inspire Americans to advocate for five special places whose boundless antiquities - historical, cultural, and ecological - are so magnificent they deserve permanent protection. Places like the Oregon's Owyhee Canyonlands, California's Mojave Trails, West Virginia's Birthplace of Rivers, our country's newest Wilderness, Boulder White-Clouds of Idaho, and of course, Nevada's Gold Butte.

Spanning 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders including thousands of petroglyphs, historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts, dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires, and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years. However, despite being one of Nevada's most valuable outdoor recreation resources, Gold Butte is also one of the most endangered. In the past 18 months, this landscape has suffered from vandalism, illegal development and livestock grazing, damage to cultural sites, and grave robbing.

For decades Nevadans have been building coalitions and working together to preserve the landscapes that make their region so unique - places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston. Not only are these landscapes a source of local and community pride, they drive economy and improve quality of life. A protected Gold Butte offers a wealth of recreation opportunities resulting in significant economic growth avenues.

KEEN is proud to join business and tourism leaders, local residents, elected officials, and outdoor enthusiasts in the effort to permanently protect this heritage landscape of the American West. We strongly urge you to take action to protect Gold Butte by encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856), or by utilizing one of conservation's best tools - the Antiquities Act - to designate this worthy area a national monument. Gold Butte defines America's Legacy and future generations deserve the opportunity to experience it in its entirety.

Sincerely,

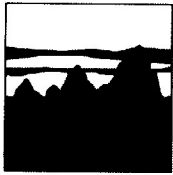
Three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Kirk Richardson', the second is 'Linda Balfour', and the third is 'Kirsten Blackburn'. The signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirk Richardson, Linda Balfour, and Kirsten Blackburn

CC: The Honorable Harry Reid, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Dina Titus, U.S. House  
The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
The Honorable Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

KEEN, INC. • 515 NW 13TH AVENUE, PORTLAND OR 97209 • 800.509.KEEN (5336) • LIVEMONUMENTAL.COM • #LIVEMONUMENTAL

**Patagonia**



8550 White Fir Street  
Reno, NV 89523

(775) 747-1887  
Fax (775) 746-6816

**patagonia**  
SERVICE CENTER

October 16, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the over 500 employees of Patagonia Service Center, located in Reno, NV, I write to express our strong support for protecting Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon - Gold Butte. The Gold Butte region contains the essence of our some of our nation's most precious antiquities and it deserves immediate protection; either through the swift passage of the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act (S.199 and H.R. 856) sponsored by Senator Harry Reid and Representative Dina Titus or through the use of your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate a national monument. Since we opened our facility in Reno in 1996, Patagonia, Inc. has partnered with local conservation groups and law makers to preserve Nevada's deserts, basins, and ranges; from the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, to Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness, and just recently, our newest national monument - Basin and Range. We moved our global distribution center to Nevada for many reasons, a primary one being access to the incredible landscape and recreational opportunities that Nevada has to offer.

Time is running out for Gold Butte. For the past 18 months this treasured landscape has seen an increase in degradation of the landscape—from grave robbing, to trespassing, to illegal development, to destruction of critical habitat, and petroglyph destruction.

We believe the time is now to act to safeguard Gold Butte. Thank you for the leadership you have shown over the years on behalf of some of our nation's most precious public lands, and we urge you to support the protection of Gold Butte by calling for Congress to act on the pending legislation or by designating the area the nation's newest national monument. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your Administration to protect Gold Butte now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Ronald J Hunter  
Patagonia Activism Manager  
Reno, NV

CC: The Honorable Harry Reid, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Dina Titus, U.S. House  
The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
The Honorable Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality

**R&D Events**

November 13, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As part of the business community, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a national treasure and protecting it means enhancing our "outdoor" economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. Ensuring a high quality of life gives us a competitive advantage to attract top talent. Protected public lands contribute to that quality of life.

We strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Geoff Rhodes  
R&D Events  
[geoff@rndeevents.com](mailto:geoff@rndeevents.com)  
(702) 595-7364  
[@rndeevents](#)  
[facebook.com/RNDEvents](https://www.facebook.com/RNDEvents)

cc: Nevada Members of Congress  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

**RE Editorial Services, LLC**

November 25, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

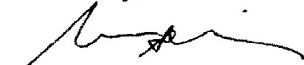
For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

We know that tourism is the lifeblood of Nevada and recreational tourism is an important and sustainable part of that. Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

My decision to move myself and my business to Southern Nevada was largely based on the area's outdoor recreation opportunities and natural beauty, which contribute significantly to my own quality of life here and draw visitors from all around the world. Preserving Gold Butte means we continue to make Nevada an even better place to live and to visit.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Michelle A. Napoli  
RE Editorial Services, LLC

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Sage Design Studios, Inc.



Sage Design Studios, Inc.

1998 Shady Elm St. Las Vegas, NV 89135  
ph: 702-303-4714 | fx: 702-256-4078  
sagedesignstudios@cox.net | sagedesignstudiosinc.com

November 13, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. We cannot simply rely on the hospitality and gaming industries as anyone who is paying attention to the paradigm shift the Millennials are causing. The direction for a fuller experience of life and a place to recharge happens in the places not made by the hands of man. As part of the business community, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a national treasure and protecting it means enhancing our "outdoor" economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. Ensuring a high quality of life gives us a competitive advantage to attract top talent. Protected public lands contribute to that quality of life.

We strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Name: **Jonathan Spears, ASLA**

Business Name: **Sage Design Studios, Inc.**  
Email: **Sagedesignstudios@cox.net** Phone: **702.303.4714**

cc: Nevada Members of Congress  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Note: By signing this public statement of support you are allowing the Friends of Gold Butte to use your company name on materials, its website, and social media supporting the efforts to permanently protect Gold Butte.

SH Architecture

S  
ARCHITECTURE  
7250 Peak Drive Suite 216 Las Vegas Nevada 89128  
p.702.363.2222 f.702.363.6060 www.sh-architecture.com

August 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama and Members of Congress:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. From the vibrant sandstone of Red Rock Canyon to the ancient Bristlecone pines at Mt. Charleston, these places are a source of community pride, improve our quality of life, and help to drive our economy. As business owners, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources and that is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct jobs here at home. Those numbers are sure to go up with the new Basin and Range National Monument and we can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a national treasure and protecting it means enhancing our "outdoor" economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. The region's high quality of life offers us a competitive advantage in attracting top talent, and protected public lands contribute to that quality of life.

It is why we believe permanently protecting Gold Butte will not only secure a variety of cultural, historic, and environmental benefits, but it will also ensure that future generations continue to have opportunities to recreate, explore washes and canyons, and visit the geologic wonders that attract people and keep them coming back. What's more, time is running out to ensure Gold Butte has the protection it deserves. Improved management for Gold Butte is desperately needed as damage is increasing to sensitive and sacred sites.

Therefore, **we strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte.** We are a part of a wide ranging coalition of business owners, sportsmen, outdoor enthusiasts, local and national elected leaders, and conservation organizations supporting preservation of Gold Butte. The local community has worked for well over a decade to preserve this iconic landscape. We know that by supporting this effort we will be protecting Nevada's own piece of the Grand Canyon for generations to come.

Sincerely,  


Eric M Roberts, AIA  
Vice President

John Anderson, RD, LEED AP    Curt Carlson, AIA, LEED AP    Mark McGinty, RD    John Sawdon, AIA

**Urban Cairn Productions**



November 24, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As part of the business community, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs that can't be sent offshore. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

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We strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Name: Eric Larsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Larsen".

Business Name: Urban Cairn Productions

Email: [eric@urbancairn.com](mailto:eric@urbancairn.com)

Phone: 702.326.870s

cc: Nevada Members of Congress  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

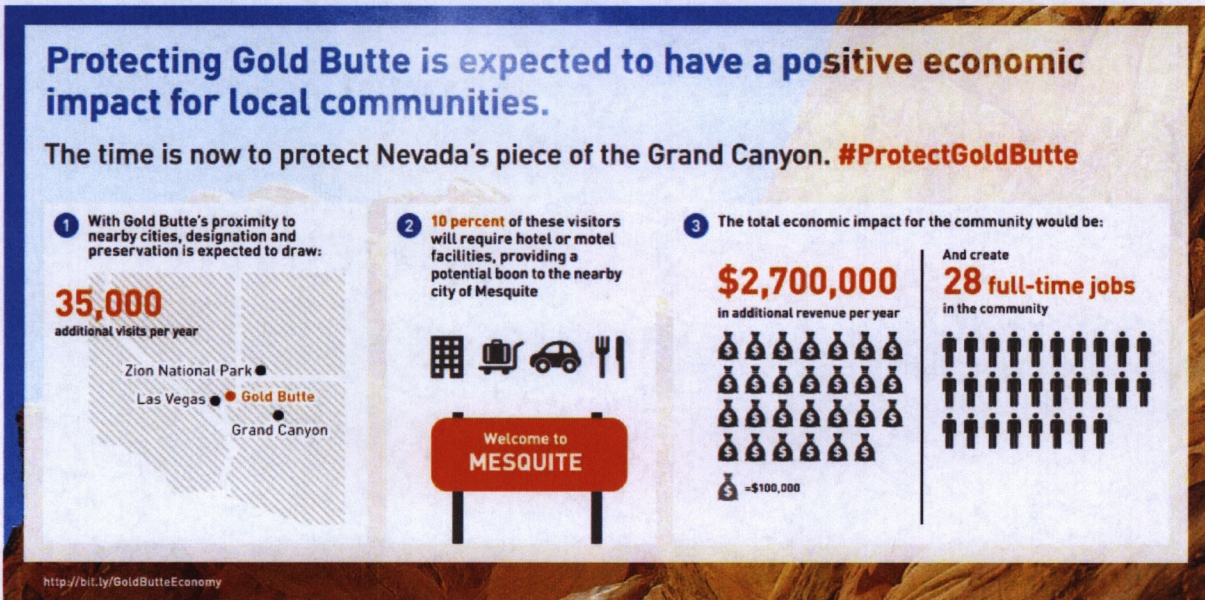
Urban Cairn Productions  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[eric@urbancairn.com](mailto:eric@urbancairn.com)

### Economic Impact Support

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Jeremy Aguero, Principal and Founder of Applied Analysis, presented a study concluding Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, is an economic boon to Nevada. The research was conducted for Outside Las Vegas Foundation, whose mission is to connect people to Southern Nevada's special outdoor places. The release of this study coincides with Governor Brian Sandoval's Global Tourism Summit on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Recreational tourism is an expanding market in Southern Nevada and by permanently protecting Gold Butte we will be growing our economic opportunities.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Representative Titus and Outside Las Vegas Foundation hosted a tele-town hall sharing the Gold Butte Economic Study results with over 1,600 community members. Participants heard from the both hosts as well as KEEN Footwear, a national outdoor retailer, about the potential economic benefits of protecting the public lands at Gold Butte.

### Gold Butte Economic Study - Infographic





## Gold Butte Economic Study - Summary

6385 S. RAINBOW BLVD., SUITE 105 | T: 702.967.8333  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89118 | F: 702.314.1439  
APPLIEDANALYSIS.COM



### Memorandum

**To:** Mauricia Baca  
**From:** Jeremy Aguero, Applied Analysis  
**Date:** November 16, 2015  
**Subject:** Gold Butte Economic Study | Public Release  
**CC:** Brian Gordon, Applied Analysis; Chris Drury, Applied Analysis

Applied Analysis was retained by the Outside Las Vegas Foundation to review and analyze the economic impacts associated with visitors to a designated Gold Butte National Conservation Area (NCA). Applied Analysis employed a two-step analytical approach, first estimating a stabilized visitor count for Gold Butte and then quantifying the economic impact of these visitors. Below is a brief summary of the key findings from our report as originally issued in February 2014.

### Summary of Findings

- Visitation to the Gold Butte area is likely to increase as a result of the designation.**  
The analysis found that Gold Butte's proximity to nearby cities, including both Mesquite and Las Vegas, as well as various other nearby national parks, monuments, and recreation areas provide a reasonable expectation that designation and preservation of the area would draw an additional 35,000 visitor trips per year.
- Gold Butte visitors are likely to visit other southern Nevada locales as well.**  
The study found that while most visitors to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites are day-visitors, a small, 10 percent subset of these visitors will require hotel or motel facilities, providing a potential boon to the nearby city of Mesquite.
- Additional economic impact is expected from visitors to Mesquite.**  
In addition to the normal economic impact expected from the average BLM visitor to Gold Butte, Mesquite businesses have the opportunity to capture new overnight visitors, who will need lodging, entertainment, and food and beverages. If just 10 percent of these new visitors to Gold Butte decided to spend the night in Mesquite, the total economic impact for the community would be \$2.7 million per year, creating 28 full-time jobs throughout the community.
- Other further potential economic impacts are possible as a result of the designation.**  
Though the visitation would provide most of the substantial impacts of designation, additional benefits could result as well. Construction of infrastructure as well as additional resources provided at the site by the BLM could provide additional benefit.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Jeremy Aguero at (702) 967-3333

## Live Monumental Support

KEEN has partnered with Friends of Nevada Wilderness - and the coalition working to protect Gold Butte - to increase national awareness about the area and need for protection thru its Live Monumental campaign. KEEN's Live Monumental Campaign is a movement to create lasting change.

It is a rallying cry to protect three million acres of public lands for their recreational value. It's about working from the ground up and building consensus among people who play outside. KEEN chose Gold Butte as one of just five areas – out of countless deserving wild lands nationwide – to advocate for its protection as a national monument. Gold Butte was chosen because it is a valuable, iconic, and endangered landscape that needs immediate preservation.

KEEN's Live Monumental campaign support for Gold Butte to date includes:

- A nationwide RV tour and in-state public events to bring national attention to Gold Butte (including an event at Zappos' Las Vegas Headquarters in July 2015 attended by several hundred supporters);
- A national petition gathering garnering additional support for protecting Gold Butte (nearly 500 new supporters from across the country);



WATCH THE VIDEO

See how we did it on the ground in 2015 at the Gold Butte

United States



- A focus on Gold Butte and the other Live Monumental campaigns at the National Outdoor Retailer show in August 2015;
- A full page ad in Outside Magazine spotlighting Gold Butte and the other Live Monumental campaigns;
- Lobbying Congressional members and the White House officials during a Live Monumental DC lobby week;
- Participating in a tele-town hall hosted by Representatives Titus and sharing its support for Gold Butte; and
- Using its social media channels to raise awareness and submitting an op-ed co-authored with Outside Las Vegas Foundation to the Las Vegas Sun.

## Community Support

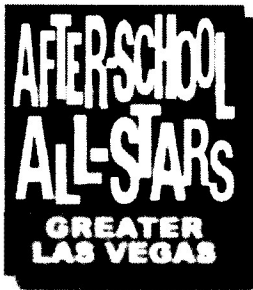
Since the beginning of the year, Gold Butte advocates have engaged over 3,700 supporters who have written personal letters and e-mails, signed petitions and postcard, and made phone calls imploring the local and federal elected to permanently protect Gold Butte. This is in addition to the work of many advocates over the last decade to protect Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Supporters are aggressively mobilizing during this last phase of Senator Reid's and President Obama's respective terms in elected office, starting with this past February with a call to participate in a "conversation about conservation" hosted Senator Reid and Representative Titus in Las Vegas. The standing room only crowd of over 300 people packed the jury assembly at the Lloyd George U.S. Courthouse to celebrate the new Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument at the northern edge of the Las Vegas Valley and to call for the protection of Gold Butte and Basin and Range. Just one person stood up to oppose protecting Gold Butte and any other federal land. It was a testament to the organizing power that the grassroots conservation voters and business and community leaders have when they combine to fight for common causes that help all Nevadans.

This public event was followed up on by several other events including Keen Footwear's Live Monumental Gold Butte event at Zappos in Las Vegas where several hundred people attended and business and elected leaders spoke in support for permanent protection of Gold Butte.

We are now entering a phase of capitalizing on current support and utilizing new tools to recruit even more support including; the release of a comprehensive damage report that highlights the need for protection, and the release of an economic study showing that protecting Gold Butte can be a boon to the local of economy of Mesquite.

### Afterschool Allstars - Greater Las Vegas



November 20, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon. Option

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me, as a non-profit leader in Nevada, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live and expose these beautiful and protected outdoor areas to our youth.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S. 199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

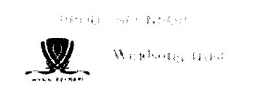
Respectfully,

Ranna Daud  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Reid  
Senator Heller  
Congresswoman Titus  
Congressman Hardy  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

- Kobi Bryant
- Chris Bosh
- Edwards
- Elaine Wynn
- John Pucci
- Jenna Morton
- Kathleen Harney
- Tom McDonald
- Jim Jamerson
- Rich Abajian
- Nehem Abouzaid
- Frederic Ausier
- Shawn Cardinal
- John Fox
- Geoffrey Gillespie
- Chris Guinchiglian
- Emily Gordinian
- Jerry Koloski
- Susan Lee
- Phil Lloyd
- Jack Perez
- Tom Roche
- Lindsay Spicer
- Lawrence Weekly
- B. Young
- Ranna Daud

To provide free, comprehensive out-of-school programs that keep children safe and help them achieve in school and in life.

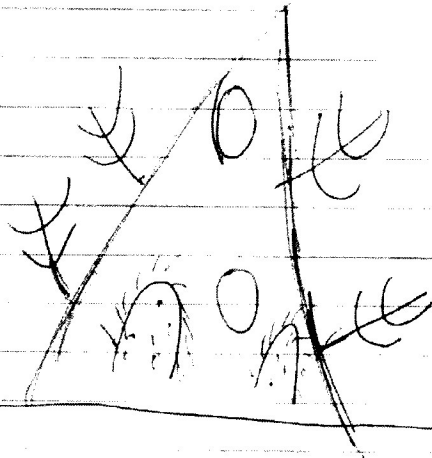


Afterschool Allstars - January 2016 Outing



Shandler

You should save this place  
because there is so much to  
see. We can make new  
bever. It is cool. It is  
the great hike. There are  
amising, fun. It was fun.  
It is like a movie. It is  
a vencher. The new bever  
are cool. The vow is prite.



**(b) (6)**

53-16

I think that Gold Butte is a cool place to go to because we can see what did the Native Americans lived and why they picked Gold Butte to be their home and did they live in the mountains without of snow and did they hunt animals for their fur to keep warm in the winter. It likes like a good and awesome place to go hiking and camping because you can be with nature all day & night and I think that I'm going to be inspired to see where did the Native Americans lived and how did they survived in the wild without taking showers everyday. How I can save the Desert Tortoise off the danger list because I care for the animals & plants in nature. People need to protect nature and it animals and it plants that the eat to survive in the desert. "The people is destroy their habitat then the Desert tortoise will go extinct in the wild and people do not care about it and that sad to people that care about it.

(b) (6)

1-23-16

Why do I want to save the environment of Gold Butte is that people don't have stores and restaurants in Gold Butte and the one thing I had learned today is that we can not make a lot of noise because snakes and spiders is hibernating and a tree bark like a wolf howling at the moon and we can see animals & shapes in the tree branches. I know that the mountains have a lot of holes to hide stuff inside or for animals to live inside of the animals.

There are a lot of reasons we should reserve Gold Butte. There are a lot of amazing things about this national park. This is a special part of the world. Several animals live here and if we knock it out, lots of animals will die. The more you go out doors, the more you see. There is this one rock called a conglomerate. It's when a bunch of rocks are stuck together. Some of the rocks are as red as a juicy apple. Some of the mountain look like Big One's. If I would be anything in the Desert, I would be a red rock mountain. I would be that because I would not want to be bothered with

(b) (6) 1-23-16

I think that Gold butte is a cool because you get to see nature and you see the history of it. you see mountains some with snow and some without snow, you see craters and plants. Native Americans lived and why did they choose Gold butte for there home is because Gold butte had food, water and a place to live. Gold butte has a cool ~~aswert~~ alsome view and a good place to go hiking and go camping. Gold butte is a good place to ge more cohetted to nature and it's animals, people need to frotect it. So the Desert ~~to~~ tortis can go off the endanger list. Desert Tortis live in Gold butte, it's their ~~hadi~~ habitat, and if we destroy their habitat then the Deser tortis will go extiat, and that will distruped the food chine and that won't be good.

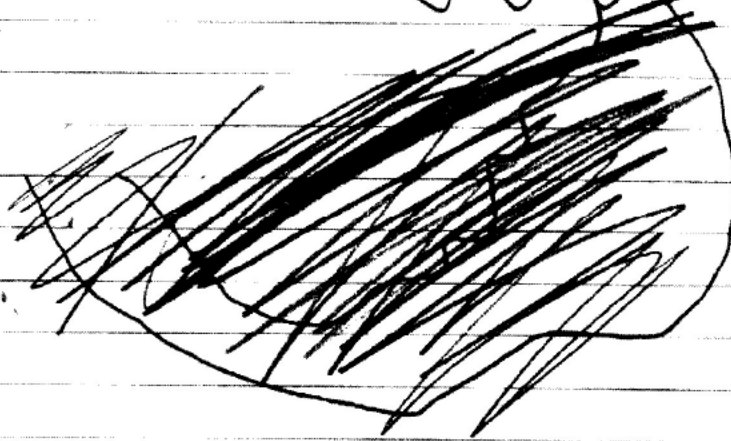


Saturday

1-23-18

(b) (6)

the drive here was long  
 the wait was very well worth  
 for not only did the scenery pay for  
 the wait but as well as the experience  
 that the adventure had given to us today. So as  
 we walked thru the desert we could see  
 the mountains with heights that could help  
 you to feel the touch of the sun and the  
 cool blow of the air. But some people would  
 walk around and not see much it's because  
 when you're here you can't look at the rocks  
 or plants by themselves you have to  
 look at a red rock looking hill alone but  
 the plants and animals will have to be together  
 so you could feel the full feeling it gives you.



**(b) (6)**

Gold Butte

This field trip to Gold Butte is the best I've probably ever been to. We've gone hiking through some rocky trails. I even had some pictures taken. As I'm writing this, I'm on top of a mountain on top of a rock. Yes, we went hiking up a mountain. The entire class here are all on red rocks. Wind has made some red sand down the mountain and off the trails. It's such an amazing view from here. I think this is a very special place. To me it is at least. I hope that stores or buildings are never put here. It would be very sad if there was. This place is meant for exploring. Not shopping and living here. It's a brand new special place for me. There are so many fascinating things. Like the red sand from

the red rocks. It's so  
light and makes your hands  
smooth when it's in your  
hands. The rocks are cool,  
The tiny rocks on the  
trails are awesome.

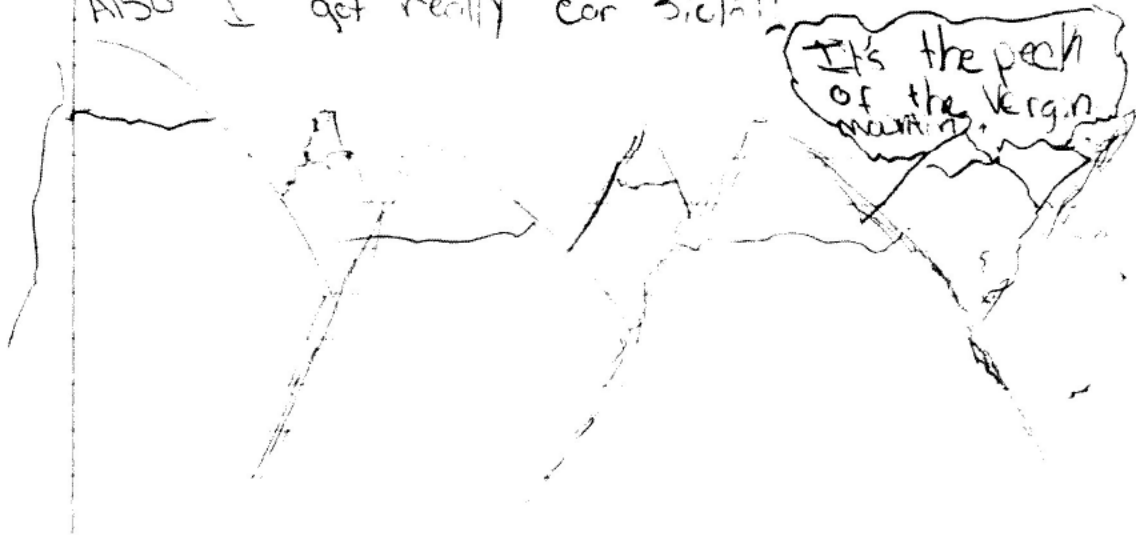
You know that when you go to  
Disneyland well this is exactly like  
it especially when you go with your  
friends. This feels like if you  
were in another world. Not boring  
cities like Las Vegas. You get to see  
a sand wonderland. Rocks are big and  
small, red and gray. Now here's a  
picture to describe it.

on our way to Whitney pockets  
I saw a ~~lot~~ plant that smelled like  
when it rains in Las Vegas.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

We need to preserve this area because there are so many pretty and cool the world views here. That really why I like the outside there are rocks & many animals. I love the bumpy textures and the smooth sand. So those are reasons we don't want to build things here we need to historic sechers. We need to start having clean up projects to make it better. Then I found a fossil where the fossil is located it's very shiny & soft it has a sand on the back. Then in the process of the rock there smooth. It's as smooth as carpet & as soft as a cloud. Then there a rock very shiny yellow & black rock. We can save this place by have lots of comunity projects. I can't wait to see the next beautiful trip we go on it was a life changing experience! Also I get really car sick!!



(b) (6)

1/83/116

That i never seen Lacer because i  
 Never been to goa butte. I like to be  
 here because i never seen none of this  
 because i don't want out door if like  
 my first time. This is my favorite one  
 because it fun and i want do this ever  
 again in my life. And the rocks because  
 some of the rock is big. And i never  
 seen black soil and cracks holes this  
 is my first time.

I never seen this and  
 i haven't been on a mountains. And  
 seen some trees and some dead trees  
 because to have fun. And i can go  
 on the bus and it is bump on the  
 streets. And to have fun because to go  
 and have fun.

You know that when you go to  
Disneyland well this is exactly like  
it especially when you go with your  
friends. This feels like if you  
were in another world. Not boring  
cities like Las Vegas. You get to see  
a sand wonderland. Rocks are big and  
small, red and gray. Now here's a  
picture to describe it.

on our way to Whitney's  
I saw a ~~lot~~ part that looked like  
when it rains in Las Vegas.

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Some mountains are tall with snow because they are high up in the sky and when it rains the water gets hard because its really cold up there to.

Rocks have creeks because when it rains the rains falls inbetween the rocks.

January 1/23/16

We should help the Gold beut stay more clean because its part of nature and nature is part of life.

My favorite part about this hike is how we discovered alot about the cryptobiotic that's earth and if you wet it will soke up the water and you cant step on the cryptobiotic cause it will die if you dont wet a plant.



## Golden Butte Conversation

The Golden Butte was Great. There were Joshua trees, Red colored Rocks, And Much ~~more~~. I am about to explain why we want Butte Clean. We should be clean because Native Americans lived here a long time ago and they left some trash. But they at least picked it up once they were done. And we should keep it clean. We need to keep it clean too. I like being outside because there is nature and fresh air to breathe. It is important to keep the outdoors clean because people can explore the outside every day. And find nature. amazing.

The Reason Nature and outdoors are cool because people can explore the types of plants, rock and much more amazing. And keep it clean.

once I got off the bus I saw lots of amazing stuff I can take pictures of. once you explore the nature you will find lots of cool and interesting things. you will always remember Gold Butte when you are done exploring.

The END!

I think this is cool. This hiking  
trip was ~~amazing~~. We got to learn  
so many facts out here.

What I think about helping this  
site is by getting more pieces closer  
for these animals and plants, because  
this is a very nice place to be if  
I was a animal, or a plant to live.

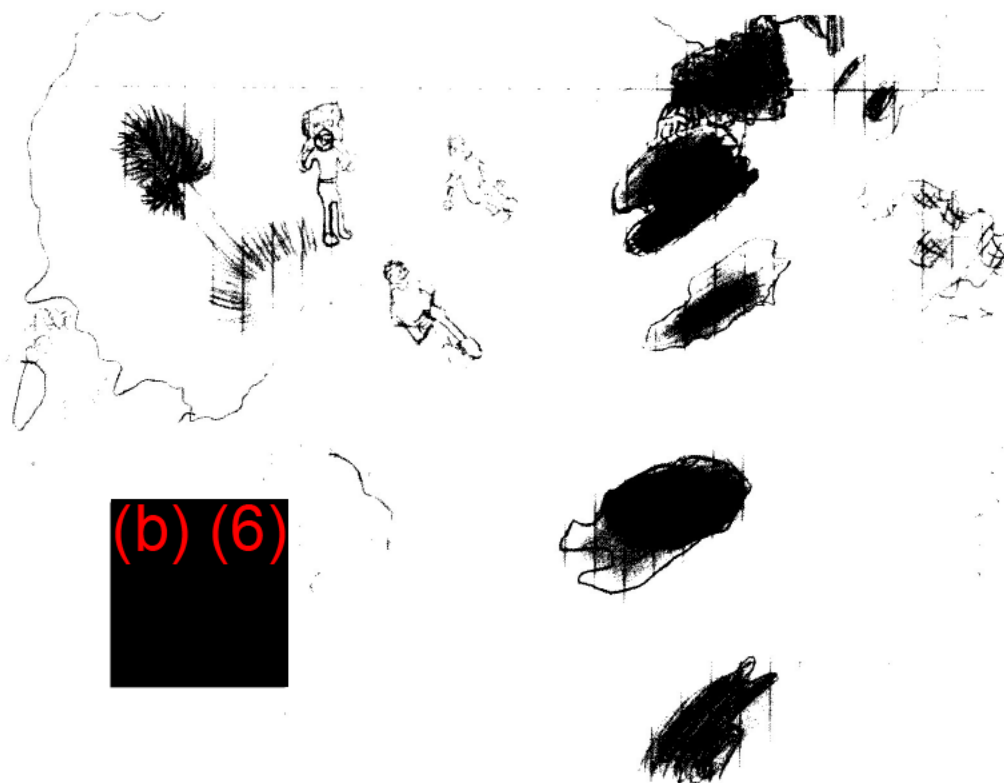
This place is really warmer than where I  
live. Why I say that is, because it isn't really  
cold right now up in the winter. On the other  
side it is cold you will need all the  
things that you need to keep yourself  
warm. But the weird thing that I think is  
that were closer to the mountains and  
the mountains is cold because it snows.  
So how is it warmer here, but colder  
were I live? I will figure that  
out one day.

So if, was awesome coming  
out here with my friends. I wish I  
bring my family, so they can see how  
close I am to the mountains.

(b) (6)

1/23/2000

Why I think we should preserve Gold Butte because, it's a breath taking place. From the trees to the mountains. It's amazing to see how it was in the past. When I have children of my own. I would love to bring them here. I mean its amazing to learn about CBS and so many things. So many different color rocks and types of rocks. That is why we should preserve Gold butte for future people.



(b) (6)

**Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – Nevada Chapter**



November 18, 2015  
Honorable Barrack Obama  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Our Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) has a strong interest in protecting important remaining unfragmented wildlife habitat in Southern Nevada, a swiftly dwindling public resource. Within the Gold Butte region are some of the most important and threatened of those wildlife habitats. We believe this area is deserving of the additional protection a special status could provide. We urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to designate this unique special area as a national monument or to urge Congress to do so by speedily passing currently pending legislation: S. 199 (Sponsored by Senator Harry Reid) and H.R. 856 (sponsored by representative Dina Titus).

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) has a vested interest in the health of our wildlife habitat. It is our mission to conserve and restore large intact chunks of wildlife habitat and the connectivity between them. By doing so, we will continue to provide the best habitat for wildlife, and thus for traditional backcountry hunters and anglers, into the foreseeable future. Currently in the Gold Butte area, the remaining intact habitat, important to bighorn sheep, the endangered desert tortoise and many other wildlife species, suffers increasing fragmentation created by off-route vehicle traffic.

Local Nevada "stakeholders": conservationists, including BHA and other sportsmen groups, archeology groups, businesses and elected officials have worked together for years in an effort to bring adequate protection to Gold Butte and its wealth of fragile public resources. Not only is it home to critical habitat for wildlife and plants, including rare and threatened species, but holds a treasure of ancient fossils, petroglyphs and old West historic artifacts.

We applaud your actions throughout your administration on behalf of our valued public lands and all the natural resources they contain. We urge you to continue that legacy by actively supporting protection for Gold Butte, either by designating it as a national monument or encouraging Congress to act on current legislation to do so.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We hope to continue to work together to protect our treasured heritage of public lands. We envision the natural resources, and wildlife that depends upon them, that we currently so enjoy, will continue to be there for all future generations.

Sincerely,  
Karen Boeger, Board member  
Nevada Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

**Battel Born Progress**

**BATTLE BORN  
PROGRESS**

November 23, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. Just this past weekend, my staff and I were lucky enough to take a camping trip at Gold Butte. As a native Nevadan, it was so amazing to see what I had right in my own back yard. We saw that we have a real opportunity to protect a natural treasure unique to Nevada for future generations to come. Gold Butte was simply spectacular. The colors and diverse landscapes are breathtaking. I could not think of a better place to protect.

Time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. Nevadans support protecting our public lands and know it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live.

BBP and our membership of over 14,000 Nevadans strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term.

It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations. The time is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Annette Magnus", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Annette Magnus  
Executive Director  
Battle Born Progress

cc: Senator Reid

Congresswoman Titus

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

College of Southern Nevada Hispanic Student Union



Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500  
**Re: Permanently Protecting Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:

For generations Latinos, and more specifically Hispanics of North America have been connected to the land, working the land with the desire to protect it for the benefit of the next generation. And in Southern Nevada, our Hispanic community has had a history of discovering and protecting the dynamic natural landscapes that make our region unique. Even our own community in the Las Vegas Valley was first discovered and explored by a Mexican scout Rafael Rivera. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston would not have been known to the western world had it not been for the Hispanics of North America that first interacted with the native Paiute communities of the valley. These wonderful natural places are a source of local community pride and our families' recreational opportunities. Our public lands improve our quality of life and help to promote our local tourism economy. As a community in Nevada, we Hispanics understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, the ancestral home of the Paiutes, and the resting place of artifacts and historic sites important to our Hispanic Heritage.

From an economic standpoint promoting our outdoor tourism economy adds to the vitality of Nevada. Outdoor recreational tourism is a significant part of our community's tourism based economy. Each year, outdoor recreation in Nevada drives almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte. E more than providing for more economic prosperity in the local tourism industry that employs a large Hispanic population, protecting Gold Butte affords the Hispanic families of our community the added opportunity to recreate outside and commune together.

Time is running out for protecting Gold Butte. Recent events have incited untold physical damage to the area in the last 18 months. Gold Butte's treasured landscape has seen increased destruction to critical wildlife habitat, ancient petroglyphs, cultural sites of the Nuwuvi (Southern Paiutes), and Hispanic Heritage sites. For me as a Hispanic, the president of the Hispanic Student Union of the College of Southern Nevada, and a lifelong Nevadan born and raised in Beatty, protecting Gold Butte is about protecting the Public Lands that have grown near and dear to my heart. I grew up getting to enjoy Nevada's deserts over the years recreating with my family. It is imperative that one day my future children will be afforded that same opportunity and not met with no trespassing signs as we try to access the places I grew up with.

Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders, covering almost 350,000. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; traces of the Spanish conquests of the southwest, historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

I and the rest of the Hispanic Student union of the College of Southern Nevada strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by utilizing your powers under the Antiquities Act by the end of your term, or by any means necessary. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte now for the benefit of future generations.



Sincerely,

Aaron Nathaniel Guerra

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aaron Nathaniel Guerra' with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc: Senator Harry Reid  
Senator Dean Heller  
Congresswoman Dina Titus  
Congressman Cresent Hardy  
Sally Jewell, Madam Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality



**Conservation Lands Foundation**



**Conservation  
Lands  
Foundation**

*Protecting America's Heritage*

November 4, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make the region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Basin and Range are a source of community pride. They improve the quality of life and help to drive the local economy. There is an urgent need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. Some of our staff, including myself, have deep roots in Nevada, and for us as National Conservation Lands advocates it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we

835 E 2nd Ave. Suite 314 · Durango, CO 81301 · 970.247.0807 · [www.ConservationLands.org](http://www.ConservationLands.org)

continue to make Nevada a better place to live and play. Gold Butte will also make a great addition to the National Conservation Lands in the state and throughout the country.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Brian O'Donnell  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Reid  
Senator Heller  
Congresswoman Titus  
Congressman Hardy  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

**Desert Fossil Hiking Club**

November 21, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

I am the president of the Desert Fossils hiking club in Mesquite, Nevada. Gold Butte is in our back yard. Our club has over one hundred members and we lead small groups in Gold Butte two or more times each month. It is important to preserve Gold Butte for the responsible enjoyment of today's citizens and more importantly for our children and grandchildren.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Tim Castille  
President  
Desert Fossils Hiking Club  
1050 Cracker Barrel Cir.  
Mesquite, NV 89034

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

**Environment America**



218 D St SE, 2nd Flr  
Washington, DC 20003  
[www.EnvironmentAmerica.org](http://www.EnvironmentAmerica.org)

December 10, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Today I write on behalf of Environment America, our state affiliates and our 1.25 million members, activists, and supporters to express strong support for the permanent protection of Gold Butte.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is one of our nation's true natural, archeological, geologic and recreation treasures and it is not currently permanently protected. This is an area rich in cultural and historic significance including thousands of petroglyphs, historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts, and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years. In addition, Gold Butte is home to rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep and boasts dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires.

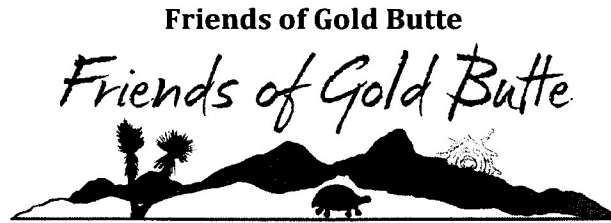
We believe it is imperative that Gold Butte remains a spectacular place for future generations to experience. Unfortunately of late it is experiencing increased destruction of critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

A site this significant requires protection and to truly protect Gold Butte, it requires you to act swiftly. Mr. President, we are calling on you to permanently protect Gold Butte either by encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by using your own authority under the Antiquities Act.

The American legacy of permanently protecting the nation's most special places would benefit greatly from swift action to permanently protect Gold Butte.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Margie Alt, Executive Director**



November 24, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected public lands benefit Nevada's economy**

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the Friends of Gold Butte, a non-profit organization with over 500 members, I am writing to you to express deep concern and hope for Gold Butte in southern Nevada. We are concerned because Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon is threatened. We are hopeful that you will take action to permanently protect this amazing place so that future generations can experience its abundant treasures.

Gold Butte is a unique gem in southern Nevada. Encompassing 350,000 acres, it is one of the last areas of undeveloped Mojave Desert in the southwestern United States. Countless natural and cultural treasures are found here including ancient petroglyph panels, historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts, unique sandstone sculptures, and fossil tracks that date back over 170 million years. Additionally, Gold Butte provides prime habitat for rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and bighorn sheep.

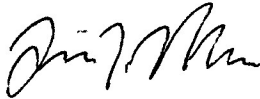
For over twelve years, The Friends of Gold Butte has been working to achieve a protected designation for Gold Butte. In 2003, concerned southern Nevadans came together to address the increasing amount of damage caused to the land from misuse and blatant disregard for its resources. Now, time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For the Friends of Gold Butte, protecting this place also means that we will continue to make southern Nevada a better place to live. As Nevadans and as Americans, we take pride in our protected landscapes. Preserving special places demonstrates that we respect the collective experience of past and future travelers. With this perspective, we believe that protecting Gold Butte will attract more visitors to our area and provide a stable, sustainable source of revenue for the gateway community of Mesquite.

Friends of Gold Butte | 817 S. Main St. Las Vegas, NV 89101 | 702-208-8377 | [info@friendsofgoldbutte.org](mailto:info@friendsofgoldbutte.org)

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid's and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Jaina Moan  
Executive Director  
Friends of Gold Butte

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Friends of Gold Butte | 817 S. Main St. Las Vegas, NV 89101 | 702-208-8377 | [info@friendsofgoldbutte.org](mailto:info@friendsofgoldbutte.org)

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

December 1, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and Mt. Charleston Wilderness are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte. Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; acres of unfragmented wild lands; historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly, time is running out for Gold Butte - due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, petroglyphs and heritage sites. As a non-profit organization that has been working in the state of Nevada for over thirty years, it is important that Gold Butte gains permanent protection.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Shaaron Netherton  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

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Friends of Nevada Wilderness, PO Box 9754, Reno, Nevada 89507  
Phone (775) 324-7667; Fax (775) 324-2677  
Visit our Website at [www.nevadawilderness.org](http://www.nevadawilderness.org)

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

P.O. Box 97  
Blue Diamond, NV 89004  
www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org  
(702) 515-5360  
(702) 515-5788 (fax)

November 17, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

For the past 35 years Friends of Red Rock Canyon have supported Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area by providing financial support and dedicated volunteers. We realize how important it is to have places like Red Rock Canyon in southern Nevada. The conservation area is a source of pride to the citizens of Las Vegas. The recreation facilities improve our quality of life and help to drive our local economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation in Nevada accounts for almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 direct, local jobs. We can continue to improve these statistics by supporting permanent protection for Gold Butte.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Charles Z. Williams*

Charles Williams President



**Friends of Sloan Canyon**



November 20, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefits Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon, Mt. Charleston, and Sloan Canyon are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

Congress protected Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area in 2002 as a means of preserving similarly sensitive cultural resources. We at Friends of Sloan Canyon

Friends of Sloan Canyon, 3870 E Flamingo Rd Ste A2, Las Vegas, NV 89121  
702.907.6099 • [friendsofsloan.org](http://friendsofsloan.org)

**League of Conservation Voters**



**LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS**

November 19, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

Nevada has a long history of conserving its most treasured open spaces and Nevadans have worked to protect landscapes that make their state so unique for generations. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. These special places not only deserve protection, they also improve quality of life, protect sensitive wildlife, and help drive Nevada's booming outdoor recreation economy. Yet some of Nevada's treasures remain unprotected; places like Gold Butte in southeastern Nevada. Gold Butte is an area filled with recreational, cultural, and natural resources that deserve to be permanently protected for future generations to enjoy.

Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic and natural wonders and covers nearly 350,000 acres in what is considered Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs, pioneer-era relics, and other treasures that highlight Nevada's unique past. Gold Butte is also home to rare and threatened wildlife like the desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone; and fossil sites dating back nearly 200 million years. Without permanent protection, all these features are at risk. Even worse, due to events that have taken place over the last 18 months, this precious landscape has been increasingly destroyed. Critical habitats, ancient petroglyphs and historic pioneer sites are being laid to ruin and continue to be at risk without further protections.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to work to permanently protect Gold Butte by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by using the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Karpinski".

Gene Karpinski  
President

**League of women Voters of Las Vegas Valley**



League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley

January 28, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

Going back to the presidency of Teddy Roosevelt Americans have embraced the idea that every person deserves access to our beautiful natural spaces. We have spent the century since making this country stronger by fighting for that access. This includes standing by our Native American friends to protect and preserve their cultural heritage sites.

In southern Nevada, we have supported national treasures such as Mt. Charleston and Red Rock Canyon. Because of this, today locals and tourists alike can experience gorgeous vistas, cooling escapes, and healthy trails. We can live in a large city and then steal away for rejuvenation as we embrace nature.

These are the reasons why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

Unfortunately, proof is growing of efforts to erase the native spirit from Gold Butte. Petroglyphs full of bullet holes, signs used as target practice, and off-road tire tracks crisscrossing the delicate desert crust are more than just isolated indiscretions. We must come together to address this vandalism.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Sondra Cosgrove*

Sondra Cosgrove PhD  
History Professor College of Southern Nevada  
President League of Women Voters Of Las Vegas Valley

**National Trust for Historic Preservation**



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

December 21, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request that you take action to permanently protect Gold Butte in Nevada either by encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus' legislation, S.199 and H.R. 856, or by exercising your authority under the Antiquities Act to establish a Gold Butte National Monument by the end of your term. Gold Butte deserves protection equal to its significance as one of our nation's cultural and natural treasures.

The rare and wonderful landscape of Gold Butte lies in the red rock outcroppings of the southern Nevada desert where the Great Basin, Mojave Desert and Colorado Plateau ecosystems converge. Like its rich mixture of natural systems, the region's complex story of human history is still preserved in the open spaces and canyon walls of Gold Butte.

The evidence of the human story of Gold Butte begins as early as 10,000 B.C. with the stone spear points of Paleoindian big-game hunters. Cave walls and ceilings still show the stains of black smoke from many of the early people's fires, and roasting pits for agave—long a staple food here—dot the landscape. Perhaps most compelling, however, is the rock art, created by people of diverse time periods. One of the largest panels, at 90 feet long, is tucked away in one of Gold Butte's many sandstone canyons.

Later, Spaniards and Pioneers forged the Old Spanish Trail and the Mormon Road through the area between 1844 and 1900. Historic grazing and mining sites are common throughout Gold Butte, with the earliest mine in the area dating back to 1861.

While the beautiful red rock areas of Gold Butte have the highest concentration of many of these cultural resources they also have the most visitors. The lack of permanent protection leaves these irreplaceable resources vulnerable to inadvertent and, unfortunately at times, even purposeful damage. National monument designation would increase protection, management and interpretation of Gold Butte's long and rich history for visitors now and in the future.

**Stephanie K. Meeks** | PRESIDENT

The Watergate Office Building, 2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20037  
e [smeeks@savingplaces.org](mailto:smeeks@savingplaces.org) P 202.588.6105 F 202.588.6082 [www.PreservationNation.org](http://www.PreservationNation.org)

historic and cultural sites, and capturing all parts of the American story through the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,



**Theresa Pierno, President and CEO  
National Parks Conservation Association**

cc. **Senator Harry Reid**  
**Senator Dean Heller**  
**Congresswoman Dina Titus**  
**Ms. Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director,**  
**White House Council on Environmental Quality**  
**Mr. Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management**  
**Mr. Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service**

777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20001-3723 | P 202 223 6722 | F 202 872 0960 | [npca.org](http://npca.org)

**Nevada Conservation League**



November 24, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C Buntjer".

Robert Buntjer  
Chairman, Nevada Conservation League

817 South Main Street . Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

**Nevadans for Cultural Preservation**

Rayette Martin  
Nevadans For Cultural Preservation  
P.O. Box 19028  
Las Vegas, NV 89132



November 24, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon, Mt. Charleston, and the Tule Springs Fossil Beds are a source of community pride. These protected areas improve our quality of life and help to diversify our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why Nevadans for Cultural Preservation supports protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is enjoyed by many people ranging from researchers such as archaeologists, biologists, and geologists to outdoor enthusiasts. Many people visit the area to drive the jeep roads and hike the trails that lead them through a treasure trove of cultural and natural wonders. These wonders exemplify what makes Southern Nevada great. One can find thousands of petroglyphs and other evidence of prehistoric human occupation (agave roasting pits, rock shelters, stone tool manufacturing areas); historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts are found throughout the area including Civilian Conservation Corps dams; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise roam freely; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires provide amazing landscapes; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago add to the richness of resources in the area.

We are sending you this letter now because since March 2014, with a change in Federal management policies, Gold Butte has seen an increase in the destruction of both its cultural and natural resources. We strongly urge you to take immediate action to ensure the protection of Gold Butte. If these impacts continue to intensify, visitation will decline thus impacting the local economy, both pioneer and Native American history will suffer though important sites being looted and vandalized, and wildlife populations will decline due to critical habitat being destroyed.

As an educational organization, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation's goal is to instill a local sense of pride in and desire to protect prehistoric and historic resources. We do not want to restrict land users from experiencing history but rather to experience it responsibly. We support the preservation of Gold Butte because it means protecting thousands of these important resources for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Rayette Martin  
Executive Director  
Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

## National Parks Conservation Association



18 November 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

**RE: PROTECTED PUBLIC LANDS BENEFIT NEVADA'S ECONOMY**

Dear President Obama,

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our Nevada Field Office and more than one million members and supporters nationwide, I write to urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte as a national monument. This unique and scenic area of geologic wonder, which adjoins Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument, is more than worthy of such protections.

Permanent protection of this area, with proposed management by the Bureau of Land Management, recognizes the important natural and cultural resources of the area. Moreover, safeguarding this area will assist the National Park Service in managing resources within Lake Mead and Grand Canyon Parashant boundaries by protecting the larger connected landscape. Threats within that landscape are imminent and ongoing, and include willful destruction of wildlife habitats, native petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites, thereby calling for improved protection of the region.

Designation of Gold Butte through presidential privilege would mirror the longstanding legislation from Senator Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus (S.199 and H.R. 856) to protect this area. Certainly, our relevant experience in working with community leaders to create Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument has provided a helpful perspective for the value of both local support for designations of special places, as well as the significance of protections to local communities. A national monument will no doubt enhance Nevada's tourism-based economy and assure economic, community and conservation benefits now and in future generations.

Thank you for your consideration. NPCA stands ready to support your efforts to permanently protect Gold Butte, enhancing your legacy of protecting public lands,

777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20001-3723 | P 202 223 6722 | F 202 872 0960 | [npca.org](http://npca.org)



**Natural Resource Defense Council**



November 25, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protecting Nevada's Treasured Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of our 2 million members and online activists, the Natural Resources Defense Council would like to express our appreciation for your leadership in taking action to protect the nation's public lands and cultural sites. Your use of the Antiquities Act has been pivotal in safeguarding some of the most vulnerable and deserving lands and waters found in our nation, places that are treasured by millions of Americans. That is why we are writing you to encourage you to use your authority to secure additional protections for the spectacular landscape of Gold Butte, Nevada.

The Gold Butte region of southeastern Nevada is defined by its outstanding natural and cultural sites. For over 3,000 years, this area has been a critical area for Native Americans. Archaeologists have identified over 2,000 known cultural sites, including some rock art displays that are up to 90 feet long. This area is also known for its complex geological features, including Nevada's portion of the Grand Canyon. And the ecological richness of Gold Butte continues to this day given that it is home to rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep.

But without action, all of these treasures could be lost in short order. Unfortunately, due to events in the last 18 months, there has been an acceleration in the destruction of Gold Butte's cultural and ecological features. This damage continues despite the best attempts by the Department of Interior, who manage the nearly 350,000 acres of federal land associated with Gold Butte, to secure additional protections. Absent significant action by the administration or Congress to protect Gold Butte, there is no reason to believe that this destruction will diminish in the foreseeable future.

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

1152 15TH STREET NW | WASHINGTON, DC | 20005 | T 202.289.8888 | F 202.289.1060 | NRDC.ORG

The Natural Resources Defense Council strongly urges that you take action to permanently protect Gold Butte, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act. Like the other national monuments that you have designated, Gold Butte represents some of the best qualities this nation has to offer. We thank you for your visionary actions on behalf of the nation's public lands and encourage you to designate Gold Butte as a national monument.

Sincerely,



David Goldston  
Director, Government Affairs, Natural Resources Defense Council

cc: Senator Harry Reid  
Congresswoman Dina Titus  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

1152 15TH STREET NW | WASHINGTON, DC | 20005 | T 202.289.8888 | F 202.289.1080 | NRDC.ORG

Outside Las Vegas Foundation



[www.outsidelasvegas.org](http://www.outsidelasvegas.org)

702/997.3350 (office)  
702/879.7922 (fax)  
info@outsidelasvegas.org

919 E. Bonneville Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Outside Las Vegas Foundation

Enjoy, Value, Protect



December 17, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have protected the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places such as Red Rock Canyon, Mt. Charleston and Lake Mead are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. It is critical that we protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Each year, outdoor recreation drives over \$646 billion in consumer spending and creates over 6.1 million jobs in the United States. In Nevada that translates to almost \$15 billion dollars in consumer spending and 147,600 local jobs. Permanent protection for Gold Butte will grow these numbers – and every job counts.

Gold Butte is a national treasure. Protecting it means enhancing our "outdoor" economy and expanding conservation tourism. Preserving Gold Butte and our public lands contributes to making Nevada a better place to live, work and play. This helps Nevada to retain and attract top talent and to retain and attract the large and small companies dependent on this talent.

We strongly urge you to permanently protect Gold Butte now, safeguarding the economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Maucicia Baca  
Executive Director, Outside Las Vegas Foundation

cc: Nevada Members of Congress  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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The Outside Las Vegas Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. FEIN: 26-2537647.  
[www.outsidelasvegas.org](http://www.outsidelasvegas.org) · <https://www.facebook.com/outsidelasvegas> · 702/997.3350 · info@outsidelasvegas.org  
919 E. Bonneville Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101

**Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada**



December 15, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

For years, Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

Unfortunately, time is running out for Gold Butte. Due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction of critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. As someone who has hiked or camped in every county in the state over the past 50 years and now witnessing how Nevada's population growth is placing unprecedented demands on our wild and open places, it is crucial to preserve Gold Butte.

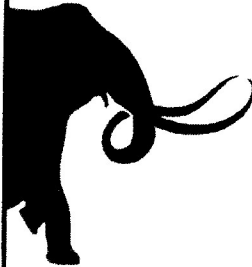
We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Hulke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Protectors of Tule Springs

# Protectors of Tule Springs



November 11, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protecting Nevada's public lands benefits Nevada's economy

Dear President Obama:

Many of Nevada's historic and beautiful landscapes have been protected in the last 20 years. Yet, there is one jewel, Gold Butte, that has yet to be given the protection it so richly deserves. Red Rock Canyon, Sloan Canyon, and, most recently Tule Springs Fossil Beds have been supported and embraced by our diverse community. But, we need Gold Butte, an extension of the Grand Canyon to be among the jewels of Southern Nevada's tourism opportunities.

Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders, covering almost 350,000 acres of public lands in southeastern Nevada. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; traces of the Spanish conquests of the southwest, historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

Increased habitat and archeological damage is occurring in Gold Butte. We fear this amazing part of our unique Nevada heritage will be gone forever if steps aren't taken quickly.

We urge you to use your authority under the antiquities act to protect this piece of history for generations to come.

Jill K. DeStefano  
President  
Protectors of Tule Springs  
jkdestefano@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill K. DeStefano".

Protectorsoftulesprings@gmail.com  
www.tulespringslv.com  
7911 Lyrebird  
North Las Vegas, NV. 89084

Red Rock Audubon Society



P.O. Box 96691  
Las Vegas, NV 89193  
702-390-9890

November 23, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For me, as the leader of the southern Nevada Audubon Chapter with over 1200 members, we believe protection of the wildlife habitats in Gold Butte is critical to sustaining the natural ecosystems of southern Nevada.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas T. Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Douglas T. Chang - President Red Rock Audubon Society.

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

**Sierra Club**



November 21, 2015

President Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our 2.4 million members and supporters across the country, I am writing to state our strong support for the permanent protection of Gold Butte in Nevada. You have used your executive authority under the Antiquities Act to protect millions of acres of lands and waters, including lands in Nevada. These protections have been supported by a broad spectrum of local communities and constituencies. We are writing to urge you to use that authority to protect the special landscape of Gold Butte for current and future generations.

Situated between the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Gold Butte is 350,000 acres of stunning mountains, slot canyons, and forests of Mojave yucca and Joshua trees. The area has been used by Native Americans, and continues to be used, for subsistence uses, spiritual uses, and gatherings of medicine. It is a place sacred to the Moapa Paiute and all the Southern Paiutes. It is home to ancient campsites, agave roasting pits, and ancient trails that go back hundreds of years. It is a place filled with bighorn sheep, kit fox, and golden eagles. And it is prized by recreationalists of all stripes from hunters to hikers to birdwatchers.

Gold Butte remains unprotected. The last 18 months have seen significantly increased damage to the resources there. Parts of the landscape's wildlife habitat has been severely degraded. Ancient petroglyphs and cultural sites have also been seriously damaged. Because of these actions, we strongly urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to permanently safeguard Gold Butte and its cultural and environmental benefits for current and future generations.

Thank you again for all that you've done to protect our country's cultural and natural legacy. We stand prepared to support you continuing that vital work during the remainder of your term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Brune". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Brune  
Executive Director



**The Pew Charitable Trusts**



2005 Market Street, Suite 1700      215 575 9050 Phone  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7077      215 575 4939 Fax

901 E Street NW, 10th Floor      202 552 2000 Phone  
Washington, DC 20004      202 552 2299 Fax

November 11, 2015

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts, I write to express our strong support and interest in protecting spectacular wild landscapes in southern Nevada. The Gold Butte region, often referred to as Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, is a unique area of natural and historic wonders, which we believe warrants permanent protection—either through the expeditious passage of pending legislation (S. 199, sponsored by Senator Harry Reid, and H.R. 856, sponsored by Representative Dina Titus), or through a national monument established under the Antiquities Act.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' U.S. Public Lands program works to protect our nation's natural heritage through Congressional legislation, through administrative planning in the West, and through Presidential proclamations of national monuments. Our work is focused in locations where there is strong local support. Each process—legislative, administrative, and Presidential proclamation—plays an important role in balancing competing interests for the nation's public lands.

We have worked closely with Nevada residents—conservationists, businesses, elected officials—for many years in the hope of protecting Gold Butte. We believe the time is now to safeguard this spectacular area containing ancient petroglyphs and fossils, historic remnants of the old West, rare and threatened species, fantastic geological features, and critical habitat for various plants and animals.

We deeply appreciate and value your leadership in permanently protecting some of our nation's most precious public lands, and we respectfully encourage you to proclaim Gold Butte a national monument if Congress does not act quickly to preserve this region.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your Administration to ensure America's wild places are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

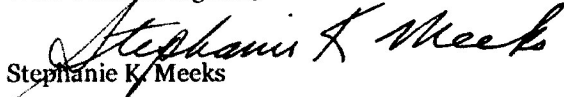


Mike Matz, Director  
U.S. Public Lands  
The Pew Charitable Trusts

CC: The Honorable Harry Reid, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Dina Titus, U.S. House  
The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
The Honorable Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, Council on Environmental Quality

The National Trust is deeply committed to ensuring the protection of historic sites that tell the stories of all Americans. We have been proud to support your use of the Antiquities Act to protect nationally significant and culturally diverse sites at such places as Fort Monroe National Monument, Pullman, Chimney Rock, Harriet Tubman, Chavez and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your Administration to expand and enhance the protection of our national treasures.

With warmest regards,

  
Stephanie K. Meeks

**The Wilderness Society**



November 20, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

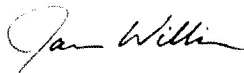
I am writing you today to express the strong support of The Wilderness Society and our 700,000 members for the permanent protection of Gold Butte, one of our nation's true natural, archeological, geologic and recreation treasures that currently has no lasting protection.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is rich in cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert big horn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

Quick action is needed to ensure Gold Butte stays just as it is for future generations to experience. Due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction of critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



**James C. Williams**

---

1615 M Street NW, Washington DC 20036 | ph 202 833-2300 | [wilderness.org](http://wilderness.org)

100% post-consumer fiber

UNLV Wilderness Club



30 November 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

Las Vegas is a magical place, not only because of the numerous towering hotels and casinos that line the strip, but because of the magnificent wilderness that is just outside of the hustle and bustle of the city. Everyone knows about Red Rock and Valley of Fire, but what about the unique, and hidden places? One such location is called Gold Butte, and let me tell you, it is like being on another planet. The red sandstone rock structures have been carved out by the wind to create interesting shapes. Not only that, but the rocky walls have preserved thousands of years old petroglyphs from the Anasazi, Moapa, and Paiute Native Americans. And, in the depths of Gold Butte, you can even stumble upon millions of years old dinosaur trace fossils. Everywhere you turn, there is something to marvel at, something that truly takes your breath away. But, what is scary is that Gold Butte is not protected, meaning that people can freely harm or damage this special place that people cherish.

Without protection, Gold Butte has been susceptible to destruction, and careless people have disrupted the natural ecosystems. As a UNLV student, and a member of UNLV Wilderness, I take it to heart knowing that a place as wonderful as Gold Butte could one day not be what it is today for my children or grandchildren. College students are the future, and I feel that if we spread the word about how beautiful Nevada's lands are, especially Gold Butte.

Designating Gold Butte as a National Monument would not only keep it protected, but it would also allow people from all across America to visit this wondrous place. Accessing Gold Butte would be easier, and it could even begin generating revenue for Nevada.

Please keep Gold Butte in mind. It sits right in between Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and it deserves protection. My heart aches knowing that careless people are able to trample onto the lands and destroy the lands I love. We need your help, Mr. President, to keep our lands beautiful, and to spread the word about how special Nevada is. Thank you for your time, and I hope you have a lovely day.

Respectfully,  
Michaela Tomchek  
UNLV Wilderness  
7217 Robins Roost St.  
Las Vegas, NV, 89131

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michaela Tomchek'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**UNLV Wilderness Club Members**

11-14-2015

Dear President Obama,

I am a student at University of Nevada Las Vegas, studying Environmental Studies. I am also a veteran, having been deployed with the United States Army to Iraq. I am writing to you to tell you about my experience today in a beautiful landscape, and implore you to protect it as much as you are able.

I visited Gold Butte today. This area of southern Nevada, which has been cutoff from the rest of southern Nevada by the formation of Lake Mead, has been recently a setting of national attention because of the Ted Bundy dispute. Along with fellow students and environmentally concerned citizens, we were taken on a day hike by a representative of Friends of Gold Butte. I saw views and rock formations I have never seen or been to before in the region.

Please use your just authority to invoke the Antiquities Act and protect this amazing area for future generations to enjoy.

Respectfully,

Brian Kennedy

(b) (6)

November 14, 2015

Dear President Obama,

I visited Gold Butte today. This is a beautiful area full of so many wonders. The rock formations and petroglyphs were especially amazing. This area needs to be protected for so many reasons,

As a person who was born and raised in Nevada, this place is important to me. It adds to the beauty of the state and is a great place to spend a day.

Please protect Gold Butte today for Nevada's future.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Marcu

(b) (6)

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to you from Gold Butte, NV, this states  
piece of the Grand Canyon. In the walk I took for a few  
hours here I saw an extraordinary variety of petroglyphs and  
unique geological structures. The view here is incredible, but  
the mark that many people have left on the area is also deeply  
saddening. When I saw petroglyphs with bullet holes in them I  
know the land needs protection. As a student and a young  
citizen of Nevada, I strongly urge you to support S.199  
and H.R. 856 or utilize the Antiquities Act by the end of  
your term in order to protect Gold Butte.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Sandqvist

(b) (6)



11/14/15

Dear President Obama,

As a Nevadan and an American, our wild landscapes are a very important resource to me. Places like the Spring Mountains, Red Rock Canyon, and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge are very special places. They are special to me, as I grew up exploring and learning about and in them, and they are special to Nevada as they bring in tourism, scientists, and adventurers. Today a very important part of Nevada's heritage is unprotected. This place is Gold Butte, and it is where I am writing you from.

Gold Butte is a vast region of great ecological importance. Situated between Lake Mead and Grand Canyon - Parashant NM, Gold Butte covers over 350,000 acres of wild, beautiful country. It is full of wildlife, unique geology, and countless archeological sites spanning thousands of years of human history in the Mojave and Great Basin. Bighorn sheep, desert tortoises, and many other species depend on this amazing place.

Unfortunately, certain parties would prefer to keep this majestic place a secret - or worse - abuse it for private gain. Lands like Gold Butte belong

to all Americans. Please consider the intrinsic value of Nature and the profound historical and geological treasures we have here in Gold Butte.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte. Encourage ~~Senate~~ Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or utilize the Antiquities Act to protect Gold Butte before your term ends. It is vitally important that we protect Gold Butte's cultural, natural, and economic assets for this and future generations. It would be a great addition to your legacy as President.

Thank you for your time and attention in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Peter Sbraccia

Peter Sbraccia

(b) (6)

P.S. I voted for you twice 😊

14 November 2015

Dear President Obama,

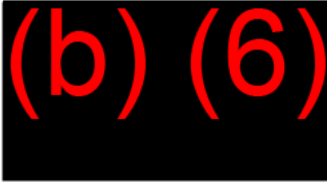
Red sandstone structures carved by the wind, filled with petroglyphs, and unique geologic structures - all surround me out here at Gold Butte. Somewhere there are also hundreds of millions of years old dinosaur tracks and the famous desert tortoise. So much beauty, so many amazing pieces of nature - all for us to appreciate and cherish. Yet, Gold Butte is unprotected, which means people can come out here and destroy or harm the natural wonders and preserved history. Today during my visit to Gold Butte, I marvel at the beauty that towered over head, and gazed down at the unique rocks that sprinkled over the land. Tears fill my eyes when I look up, because this is a special piece of Nevada. A piece that EVERYONE should protect and appreciate in the right way. We need your help to permanently protect Gold Butte from people who do not appreciate these lands. We need you to know how special Nevada is, and that we care about our precious lands. Please take Nevada under your wing, visit, and cherish our lands. Nevada is a piece of my heart, and it deserves protection and recognition. Come out and see the wondrous Gold Butte, it will change your life, forever. Thank you for your time, and <sup>always</sup> remember how special Nevada is.

Respectfully (from Gold Butte),  
 Michaela Tomchek - UNLV wilderness

(b) (6)

**Individual Community Members**

Michele Burkett



November 16, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy

Dear President Obama:

I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon. Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, I cannot think of any corner of Gold Butte that isn't a natural wonder. Including thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back hundreds and hundreds of millions of years ago.

It is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live. Gold Butte has been ignored. While I admire the personnel of the BLM this remote area has been ignored and impart this has lead to in the recent problems. It is time to give this region protection, and I mean all of it, don't cut out any of the proposed area, the bajada east of the towns of Mesquite and Bunkerville are precious dark skies and open space commonly viewed from our front porch.

It is being said you have protected more land than any president in recent memory, therefore I am asking for this precious area to be added to your contribution. Don't wait until the 11th hour of your term, do it now, right away. Please either encourage Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilize the Antiquities Act. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Burkett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michele Burkett

cc: Senator Reid

Congresswoman Titus

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

November 23, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me as a high school student it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live and gives other students access to this beautiful landmark as well. Gold Butte would make an amazing field trip location for all students in Nevada because of its rich history both geologically and culturally. Students would greatly benefit from the educational aspects of Gold Butte as well as from being outside and hiking in such a location. I know that one of the platforms that your wife, Michelle Obama, is very passionate about is promoting healthy lifestyles for children. Gold Butte is an awesome place that helps promote that.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Josephine Hendry

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

November 23, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

Several years ago some friends and I spent a weekend in Gold Butte. It was the second time I had been there and I've been back twice since then. It's an amazing place, well worthy of protection by any means necessary. What follows is a short essay on my experience that second trip:

Before we even stop, Tink, my Jack Russell Terrier, flashes from the truck like a white shot, bright against the dark ground and sky. She's been cooped up as have we three bipeds, riding wind gusts and a bumpy, half washed-out road until we simply can't go any farther. Her enthusiasm mirrors ours—we've been driving long enough, time to hike.

It's not a perfect day for bagging Gold Butte's highest point, late December on one of the shortest days of the year. The wind comes strong, 20 mph gusts at least, pushing clouds of deepening darkness above us. A chance for snow, perhaps, though no moisture hits us yet. We've come prepared, slip on gloves and hats, extra layers in backpacks, water, snacks. We load up, lock the truck, and follow the white spark upcanyon, impatient to be on our way.

The first two miles we're on a former road, washed out a decade or so ago. The canyon widens and narrows, wind whipping above us. Nick, our guide, knows the route, and shifts us left for our long approach to the summit. Here the terrain steepens and the rocks and brush sharpen, our always wary desert tricky with ways to protect itself.

We're here partly for that reason: to see this spot and advocate for its protection from development. It's a reminder of what we could lose—stunning as Gold Butte itself, Virgin Peak and its environs should be included, too.

It's one thing to look at a photo and know a place as beautiful and worth preserving—completely another to walk through it, breathe its air, see its plants and animals for yourself. That personal connection makes all the difference. As we climb the ridge, we pass a fecund mix of blackbrush, cliffrose, ever-present sagebrush, agave, and mixed cacti. No animals are out—they're far wiser than us. We make our way up grades that don't seem too challenging with no trail to guide us but the ridge above, a destination that seems fixed. One of the enjoyable things about this hike, however, is that it has a false summit or two that we take with a groan and a smile.

What's most special about our wild places hits me again as we rest: we just have the wind as company, no other humans in our area, no motor sounds. We've moved into that realm it's so hard to get to anymore—the simple noises of the world. Not silent, never, but soothing nonetheless.

We resume climbing. The rock gets sharper as we rise and I worry about Tink's feet. She seems fine, lunging ahead. The ridge is an ancient coral formation, filled with fossils

like brachiopods and small snails. Evidence is easily visible on a good clear day, but small snowflakes tap our faces now and again, and the wind whips itself into a frenzy at times, hard gusts that push like hands. Makes you appreciate the resilience of the life here, the mountain mahogany, singleleaf pinyon, and Utah juniper that make these windy reaches home.

After a final false summit we reach our destination. The wind blows fiercest here, pulling at clothing. Tink shivers and I wrap her in the dog sweater I brought. We take a few photos and slam some water and food, but it's truly too cold to enjoy the view for long. The spine of the Virgins stretch beside us like wings, giving us full view of Mesquite to the north, a scattering of lights signifying sunset, and Gold Butte dappled in shifting patches of speckled sun and cloud to the south, lightless and wild, as it should be.

We descend quickly, shadows growing around us, snowflakes striking our faces. We run the last stretch down the ridge, ready now for something warm in the belly. I notice Tink lagging and wait, and sure enough my concern was justified—the pads on two of her feet are cracked and bleeding lightly. I carry her down the road to the truck, and she rests on my lap as we bounce our way to the campsite. All seem to welcome the warm interior, the break from the strong gusts.

After a good hot meal we fall asleep to the sound of that wind, scratching the walls of my tent like fingernails, even with a good windbreak. Tink sleeps curled against my feet, warm, perhaps dreaming of freedom and wild places—the same thoughts I entertain as I drift away, knowing that there are no bad days out here.

Knowing, too, that Gold Butte will always draw us back. And I can't wait to get back out there.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. Protect Gold Butte!

Sincerely,

William Huggins

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

November 17, 2015  
Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For me as a snowbird who has made Mesquite, Nevada my second home for almost half the year for the last five years, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live and because I enjoy hiking in Gold Butte.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

*Dana K. Higgins*  
DANA K. HIGGINS  
cc: Senator Reid

(b) (6)

Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management



Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As a Nevadan, I understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why I support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

For us, as residents of Mesquite NV, which is a rural gem with mostly tourists supporting our fragile economy and as a naturalist, this just makes so much sense. Our little community will benefit as will the whole world by your designation. This is why we stumped for you and have supported you President Obama! I'm very proud of the changes you have helped implement and now, yes we're asking for one more before you depart from your heavy responsibilities. This will be a great legacy. Thanks in advance and for all you've done. Love to you and your family.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S. 199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Warmest regards,

Bon and Chuck Kruder

(b) (6)

November 13, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte--due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me as a concerned citizen and outdoor enthusiast, it is important to preserve Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Charles Loomis

(b) (6)

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

(b) (6)

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Protected Public Lands Benefit Nevada's Economy**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we support protecting Gold Butte, Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. These wonders include thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago.

But more importantly time is running out for Gold Butte—due to recent events in the last 18 months, this treasured landscape has seen a large increase in destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites. For me as a member of Sun City Mesquite's Dessert Fossils hiking club, it is important to preserving Gold Butte because it also means we continue to make Nevada a better place to live and recreate.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by either encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or by utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, as well as the cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,



Geary Maher

cc: Senator Reid  
Congresswoman Titus  
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

(b) (6)

November 5, 2015

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Lloyd D. George Building  
333 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 8016  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Senator Reid,

Axle grease initials of pioneers on a vertical orange-red cliff side close to ancient Indian petroglyphs ... The Old Spanish Trail ... The old Arrowhead Highway ... Thousands of acres of Nevada desert ... Dirt roads and no services ... Little Finland or Hobgoblins ... CCC dam and rock "cabin" ... Whitney Pockets ... Falling Man ... All this and more awaits the curious traveler to GOLD BUTTE by Mesquite, Nevada.

Senator Reid, I want you to know that I love this unique place in our beloved State of Nevada. I take as many of my friends there (not in the summer!) so they can experience these awesome wonders. I encourage other people to visit this treasure.

As a 35-year resident of Nevada, I appreciate your introducing the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act to protect and preserve this unique area. Your hard work for your Nevada constituents has resulted in our having Great Basin National Park, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Tule Springs National Monument, and Basin and Range National Monument. Now that I am retired, I am able to more fully enjoy and marvel at the natural wonders of our state.

I know you are aware of Friends of Gold Butte which does an outstanding job of promoting Gold Butte. I have toured Gold Butte with them twice and valued each experience of discovering its wonders. Those outings inspired my contacting you.

I am in support of permanent protection of the Gold Butte area and again thank you for your commitment to the unique areas in Nevada for all of us to cherish. Your tenure in the United States Senate has served Nevada well.

Sincerely,

Anthony (Tony) Taylor

December 10, 2015

Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Please Help Protect Nevada's Gold Butte**

Dear President Obama:

For years Southern Nevadans have been protecting the landscapes that make our region so unique. Places like Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are a source of community pride. They improve our quality of life and help to drive our economy. As Nevadans, we understand the need to protect the region's recreational, cultural, and natural resources. That is why we write in support of additional protections for Gold Butte.

We had the chance to visit Gold Butte this Nevada Day. Covering almost 350,000 acres in southeastern Nevada, the area is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders. The area is prime habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, and we saw tracks from desert bighorn sheep along a wash that descends towards Lake Mead. We walked among the most bizarre and beautiful naturally sculpted sandstone shapes we've ever seen. There are keyholes, tables, chairs, arches, honeycombs, and sandy alcoves in colors that shift from intense red to tawny brown to nearly white. In another area, we scrambled along boulder fields and at nearly every turn saw petroglyphs, including some of the largest and most intact panels we've ever seen. There are also historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts and a massive sinkhole called the Devil's Throat that's unlike anything we've ever seen. As the sun set, we could see the Grand Wash Cliffs glowing pink in the distance and understood why Gold Butte is Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon.

Unfortunately, we also saw some disturbing things. ATV tracks run over sensitive desert soil. Interpretive signs are riddled with buckshot and bullet holes as we drove past Cliven Bundy's ranch on the way in. USGS benchmarks and sadly even petroglyphs and pioneer sites have also been vandalized. It's clear this special place needs special protection and enhancement for the enjoyment of all.

We strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte now, by encouraging Congress to pass Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus's current legislation (S.199 and H.R. 856) or utilizing the Antiquities Act by the end of your term. It is vitally important that we safeguard Gold Butte's economic, cultural, and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

Howard Watts III & Leora Olivas

## **Gold Butte Damage Report (Nov. 2014 - Jul. 2015)**

On August 19, 2015 the Friends of Gold Butte released a report entitled “Damage in Gold Butte, Nevada” documenting destruction observed in the Gold Butte region between November 2014 and July 2015. The report provides photographs and descriptions of trespass near cultural and historic sites as well as harm to sensitive desert areas that are habitat for threatened and endangered species.

# Damage in Gold Butte, Nevada November 2014 – July 2015



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Located in southeastern Nevada between the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Gold Butte is 350,000 acres of BLM managed land. Most of the land area in the Gold Butte region is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect habitat for the Mojave Desert tortoise and big horn sheep; to protect significant cultural resources, such as petroglyphs and historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts; and to protect sensitive plant species, such as the endemic Las Vegas bearpaw poppy (*Arctomecon californica*). In addition, Gold Butte supports multiple uses including hiking, hunting, birding, camping, all-terrain vehicle riding on designated trails, and traditional tribal uses. Southern Nevadans have been asking elected officials for 15 years to protect the nationally significant cultural, historic, and natural treasures in Gold Butte.

Due to adverse circumstances, the BLM and all federal land management agencies have halted official activities in the Gold Butte area since April 2014. In the absence of a land management presence, Friends of Gold Butte (FoGB) has witnessed an increasing level of intrusion near historic and cultural sites as well as impacts to sensitive desert areas that are habitat for threatened and endangered species. Between November 2014 and July 2015, FoGB documented significant damage in Gold Butte.

FoGB conducted observations through road surveys and by hiking in impacted areas. Impacted sites were documented by photography and by recording GPS waypoints. All waypoints reported in the following pages were recorded using North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83) standard of the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate system. In the report, the Gold Butte Road is also known as Gold Butte Backcountry Byway (Byway).

This report compiles the significant impacts observed in Gold Butte. The report has been redacted to protect archaeological artifact and cultural site locations so as not to drive additional visitation to sensitive yet unprotected areas.

**Part 1** provides evidence of unauthorized water infrastructure that is being constructed across several miles of desert that is designated as ACEC.

**Part 2** documents multiple, illegal vehicle intrusions that have impacted archaeological and cultural sites; sensitive desert ecosystems including riparian areas, crypto-biotic soil, stretches of desert pavement, and unique red sand dunes; and sensitive bearpaw poppy restoration areas.

**Part 3** documents vandalism, noting the looting of historic gravesites and damage to signs in Gold Butte.

*Friends of Gold Butte is a 501(c)3 organization with over 500 members and a mission to achieve permanent protection for Gold Butte's natural and cultural resources through education, community outreach and advocacy. For more information about FoGB and our activities contact Jaina Moan at [info@friendsofgoldbutte.org](mailto:info@friendsofgoldbutte.org).*



## Part 1: Infrastructure intrusion with significant impacts to ACEC in Gold Butte

On May 10, 2015, a large water tank was noticed. The tank is located about one mile south of Fisherman Cove turn off and east of Gold Butte Road. This is a popular camping spot located near a large mud pile.

The large round tank (previously used for gas storage according what is written on the end) has been brought in by truck and placed onto a high spot (Image 1) near location UTM 11S 0749561 4053233. A truck drove across the previously pristine desert to deliver the tank to its present location as evidenced by vehicle intrusions near the tank (Image 2 and Image 3).



Image 1: Large tank observed near UTM 11S 0749561 4053233. Note date 4/29/2015 painted on tank. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 2: Vehicle damage to desert near tank, likely caused in delivering the tank, looking east. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 3: Vehicle damage to desert near tank, likely caused in delivering the tank, looking east. Photographed May 10, 2015.

In a low spot just west of the tank an old, very large tire, 33 25 R29 XR has been converted to a watering trough (Image 4 and Image 5). This tire had previously been located about one-half mile north of its present location (Image 6). The tire was observed at its first location in April 2013 and verbally reported to BLM field personnel on May 1, 2013. The BLM determined that removing the tire would cause more damage to the desert than to leave it in place. There is not a

legal road to the location where the tire was previously located. It was not determined how the tire was moved, but it had to involve taking a vehicle across the desert.

As illustrated in Image 5, a pipe and brass hose bib is installed in the bottom of the 'water trough' and the bottom is cemented. The pipe line can be followed some distance by the presence of disturbed soil and plants, it runs north and a little east (Image 7 and Image 8).



Image 4: Tire in new location converted to water trough. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 5: Cemented base of the "tire water trough." Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 6: First location of tire, one-half mile north of present location. Photographed May 1, 2013.



Image 7: Trace of the newly placed pipe line headed northeast from the water trough. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 8: Trace of the newly placed pipe line from the water trough, looking south at new trench and water trough. Photographed May 10, 2015.

As illustrated in Image 4 and Image 9, there are several rolls of plastic pipe and lots of trash including baling string in the area around the trough, indicating this is a place where baled hay has been used to feed the cattle. Location is near UTM 11S 0749561 4053233.



Image 9: Rolls of pipe likely intended to be used in the ongoing trenching process. Photographed May 10, 2015.

A tractor was visible from Gold Butte Road just south of Fisherman Cove turn off at at 11 S 749909 4053620. The pipe and trench continued northeast from the tractor (Image 10). The

trench had been recently dug as far as could be seen. A water source for the trench was not found. This location is approximately one mile from the new water trough.



Image 10: Tractor and trench near tractor, looking northeast. Photographed May 10, 2015.

The pipe tees at the tractor with pipes and trenches leading northeast toward the water source, southeast toward new water trough, southwest across Gold Butte Road toward Fisherman cove area, continuing on the bajada toward Fisherman Cove area (Images 11-15). The pipe toward Fisherman cove was followed for a half-mile. Its termination point was not determined.



Image 11: Pipe tee at the tractor. The upper pipe (#1) heads northeast toward water source. The pipe to the right (#2) headed toward new water trough and pipe pointed straight down

(#3) goes southwest, crosses Gold Butte Road and continues southwest on the bajada toward Fisherman Cove area. Photo above looking northeast. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 12: Trench #2 and pipe headed toward Gold Butte Road from the tractor and on southwest. Photo looking west. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 13: Pipe #3 and valves just west of Gold Butte road. Must have used an existing pipe to cross under the road. This pipe and valve have water but the new water trough is still dry. Photo looking east. UTM 11 S 749561 4053233. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 14: Trench and pipe #3 continue southwest toward Fisherman Cove area. Photo looking southwest. Photographed May 10, 2015.



Image 15: Must have been an existing pipe along here and was removed at some point. Followed the trench intrusion to this location 11 S 0749288 4052896. Photo looking southwest. Photographed May 10, 2015.

On July 11, 2015 further trenching and pipe installations were observed at the area. The trough has been filled with water since May 10, 2015 when last visited. It must have held water long



enough for algae to form and water marks to appear inside the tire. It appears that the cement poured to seal the bottom failed and then wouldn't hold water. Meanwhile some wildlife got in the trough and died. On July 11, 2015, a trench and water pipe leading to the large storage tank were observed. The tank has been leveled and a fill pipe inserted in the top. It is holding water about 3 feet deep as determined by the temperature of the tank, cooler where the water is, hot where empty. The photos depict the water trough taken July 11 and 13, 2015 near UTM 11S 0749561 4053233 (Image 16). These photos document wildlife that have been caught in the trough (Image 16 and Image 17). These photos also record new trenching between the trough and storage tank (Image 18 and Image 19).



Image 16: Tire water “trough” with water marks and float valve. Cement failed to hold water. Note dead roadrunner and dead animal caught on float valve. Photo taken on July 13, 2015. Compare to Image 5. Photographed July 13, 2015.



Image 17: Dead animal caught on float valve in water trough. Photographed July 11, 2015.



Image 18: Trenching to water tank. Photographed July 11, 2015.

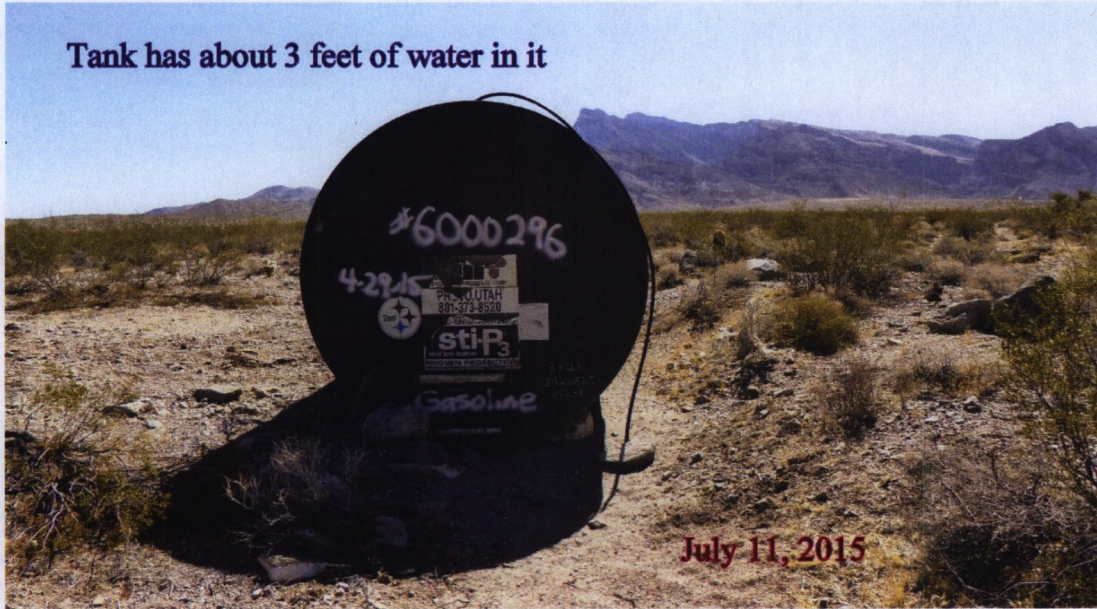


Image 19: Water storage tank. Note water line from top of tank. Photographed July 11, 2015.

## Part 2: Vehicle Intrusions in Gold Butte recorded November 8, 2014 to February 27, 2015

### Intrusions at or near [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is one of the largest petroglyph panels in Nevada. The site is accessible only by foot. There had been no intrusions at this location as of October 23, 2014. The first intrusion was observed on November 8, 2014. The all terrain vehicle tracks (ATV) appeared very fresh. This intrusion started at [REDACTED]. A single ATV went to the end of the closed road at approximately [REDACTED], proceeded southeast into the previously undisturbed desert, made a large circle, and returned to the closed road. The ATV tracks then turned southeast up a small drainage, as far as they could go, damaging the desert along the way. The tracks then turned northwest until they intersected the closed road. They continued on the closed road, north to northwest. The tracks then diverted from the closed road and traveled west across the pristine desert until they reached another drainage at about [REDACTED]. The tracks continued south (upstream) in the drainage. The tracks left the drainage due to rock blockage and traveled out in the desert, running over the flora, knocking down at least one barrel cactus and leaving deep ruts coming out of and back into the drainage (Image 20 and Image 21). The tracks continued south to an area of previously undisturbed desert pavement at [REDACTED]. This is possibly the largest, best example of desert pavement in Gold Butte. Now it has scars of ATV tracks on it (Image 22 and Image 23).



Image 20: Photo above shows tracks across pristine desert going toward desert pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.



Image 21: Photo of barrel cactus knocked over by the ATV driving across the desert on way to desert pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.



Image 22: Damage to the desert pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.



Image 23: Close up damage to the desert pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.

Between November 8, 2014 and January 18, 2015 there have been at least three more intrusions from the [REDACTED]. Later intrusions did not travel to the end of the closed road or divert from the road other than to make donuts in the desert or turn around. An additional intrusion near the [REDACTED] area was recorded at [REDACTED] (Image 24) on January 6, 2015.



Image 24: Intrusion near [REDACTED]. Photographed January 6, 2015. Looking south.

Between January 18 and February 23, 2015, additional ATV intrusions were observed from [REDACTED]. Most of the tracks went only part way to an area of petroglyphs and turned around. However, on February 15, 2015, a fresh intrusion was observed (Image 25). A single ATV went to the end of the closed road at approximately [REDACTED] then proceeded southeast as far as possible due to impassable canyon walls on all sides. Trash and beer cans were found further back on the trail. This was at [REDACTED]. The tracks then turned north across the drainage and then proceeded southeast as far as possible, again stopped by steep canyon walls. The furthest southeast intrusion went considerably further than any other recent intrusion.



Image 25: Intrusion near [REDACTED] area at [REDACTED].  
Photographed February 15, 2015. Looking east.

On January 22, 2015, another intrusion into the Desert Pavement (DP) area was observed. This was west of [REDACTED]. It was unclear if the intrusion went to [REDACTED] area or not. The ATV track followed the previous one and with continued use it will be an illegal road (Image 26 and Image 27).



Image 26: Above photo taken east of Bitter Ridge, west of [REDACTED] view is looking SE. Photographed January 22, 2015.



Image 27: East of Bitter Ridge, west of [REDACTED] in upper right. Photographed January 22, 2015.

**Intrusions near [REDACTED]**

The previously successfully closed illegal roads in Gold Butte are now being reopened. There have been numerous intrusions at the [REDACTED] area located at [REDACTED]. These intrusions have reopened the illegal roads to Lone Palm/Little Finland and has become quite well traveled now. Some of the intrusions from the corral have traveled north/northeast up the drainages as far as possible. These appear to mostly be over older partially recovered intrusions. (Images 28 and Image 29).



Image 28: Intrusions west of the [REDACTED]. Photographed December 20, 2014.





Image 29: Intrusions east of the [REDACTED]. Photographed December 20, 2014.

Between January 18 and February 23, 2015, new intrusions all around [REDACTED] [REDACTED] occurred most every week especially on weekends. The intrusions went around the corral, as well as north toward the cliffs and northwest toward Little Finland area.

**Intrusions at Popular Camp Site**

A popular camping area is located at the end of cherry stem road at 11 S 750999 403704. On January 5, 2015, we noticed multiple vehicle intrusions near the camp. The vehicles drove into the desert in two directions. One set of tracks appeared to have been made by a full size vehicle, such as a truck. As you can see in the photos one intrusion went south following more than one route (Image 30) and another went east along the fence (Image 31). All tracks caused significant desert flora and soil damage. Tracks leading past the fence at the camping area indicated that the fence had been cut, giving the vehicles illegal access to the sensitive north cliff and red dunes area of Little Finland (Image 32 and Image 33). Intrusions continued across the dunes for over one mile. The fence was later repaired.



Image 30: Intrusion at popular camping area, next to 'No Vehicles' sign. Looking south. Photographed January 5, 2015.



Image 31: The intrusion continued south and east across desert floor. Photographed January 5, 2015.



Image 32: Vehicle intrusions east from popular camping area, along fence line. Photographed January 5, 2015.



Image 33: Fence at popular camping area was cut and later repaired, giving the vehicles illegal access to the north cliff/dunes area of Little Finland. Photographed January 5, 2015.



Image 34: Photo above taken north of Little Finland where sand dunes meet the cliffs. View looking about east and showing where a vehicle drove across the sand dunes for over a mile.

Between January 18 and February 23, 2015, at least one additional intrusion was observed going south into the desert from the popular camping area at 11 S 750999 4037043.

**Intrusions near the [REDACTED] area.**

[REDACTED] is an archaeological site in Gold Butte containing the highest concentration of petroglyphs in the Gold Butte area. A parking area was established in 2009 to protect the cultural resources and fragile desert ecosystem near the [REDACTED]. Intrusions past the parking area for this site were recorded in November and January.

An ATV intrusion was documented east of the post and cable parking for [REDACTED] on November 8, 2014 (Image 35). The intrusion paralleled the trail south for approximately one hundred yards and then turned back making another path across the desert to the road.



Image 35: ATV intrusion east of the [REDACTED] area. Photographed November 8, 2014.

On January 6, 2015, an intrusion west of [REDACTED] was recorded at location [REDACTED] (Image 36). This area has been intruded before but the BLM had successfully restored the intrusion. Now the restoration is badly damaged. The intrusion went south onto the fragile crypto and gypsum soil leaving deep ruts across the desert floor.



Image 36: Intrusion west of [REDACTED] area. Photographed January 6, 2015.

**Intrusion from Gold Butte Road south of Whitney Pockets in Bear Poppy restoration area**  
The Las Vegas bearpaw poppy (*Arctomecon californica*) is a rare, endemic Mojave Desert plant. The BLM installed post, cable, and signs in Gold Butte to protect bearpaw poppy restoration areas. An intrusion along the Gold Butte road just south of pavement end at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was first observed in December 2014 (Image 37). This trail has become heavily used by ATVs. This was an old trail that has been closed for many years, but now the road closed sign has disappeared. This trail went west across the desert mainly in washes, past the sensitive [REDACTED] [REDACTED] archaeological site, and connected to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (also informally known as [REDACTED] Road). The ATVs exit at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] on a trail previously closed by BLM to protect the Las Vegas bearpaw poppy (Image 38). Posts and cable were installed to protect the bearpaw poppy but the ATVs are driving through the restoration area and around the north end of the post and cable. The west end of the intrusion was documented on January 6, 2015 (Image 38 and 39). Many intrusions have occurred and continue to occur at this location.



Image 37: Photo above at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is the east end of the closed trail illegally reopened. This is just south of end of pavement and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and is on west side of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Photographed December 16, 2014.



Image 38: West end of the reopened trail at [REDACTED], looking southeast into bearpaw poppy restoration area. Photographed January 6, 2015.



Image 39: The intrusion through the bearpaw poppy restoration area reopened a closed road leading to the [REDACTED] site. Photographed January 6, 2015.

**Intrusions from Gold Butte Road between Whitney Pockets and Gold Butte Townsite**

The following intrusions were noticed along Gold Butte Road road between Whitney Pockets and Gold Butte Townsite on February 12, 2015 (Images 40-44).



Image 40: Above photo at 11 S 755193 4038572, east side of Gold Butte Road road, this intrusion headed northeast into previously undisturbed desert. Photographed February 12, 2015.



Image 41: Above photo at 11 S 756161 4025098 on west side of Gold Butte Road road. Fence was cut and turned back, ATV proceeded down a wash, photo below shows the tracks where they went over the recently graded road. It was unclear how far they traveled into the desert, but it appeared they came back the same way. Photographed February 12, 2015.



Further south on west side of Gold Butte Road road at 11 S 754595 4020963, the fence has been cut and turned back. A vehicle traveled onto the desert floor beyond the cut fence (Images 42-44).



Image 42: Fence cut and turned back at 11 S 754595 4020963. Photographed February 12, 2015.



Image 43: Tracks leading beyond the cut and turned back fence at 11 S 754595 4020963. Photographed February 12, 2015.



Image 44: Tracks across desert beyond cut fence at 11 S 754595 4020963. Photographed February 12, 2015.

On the east side of Gold Butte Road, just north of Gold Butte Townsite, the fence has been cut and turned back at 11 S 752598 4019868. It is likely that ATVs are using this as a short cut to the Townsite (Image 45).



Image 45: Cut fence and intrusion north of Gold Butte Townsite at 11 S 752598 4019868 on east side of Gold Butte Road. Photographed February 12, 2015.

**Intrusions on road to [REDACTED]**

On February 27, 2015, a new intrusion was observed along the unnamed road from [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] to about [REDACTED] (Image 46 and Image 47). The tracks went north to edge of the cliff above [REDACTED] then turned around and back to the legal road. The intrusion likely occurred between November 2014 and February 27, 2015.



Image 46: Tracks from intrusion along road to [REDACTED]. Photographed February 27, 2015.



Image 47: Tracks from intrusion along road to [REDACTED]. Photographed February 27, 2015.

**Intrusion from west limb of Gold Butte Back Country Byway**

Along the west limb of the Back Country Byway, there is a closed trail near a rock shelter to the east. ATVs have bypassed the sign which is broken off and lying on the ground and made a new path at [REDACTED] (Image 48 and Image 49). The old track runs southeast and the ATVs have repeatedly driven to the end and created an open road appearance. The archeological artifacts that used to be scattered near the rock shelter are gone—not a single lithic flake or ceramic shard was to be seen.



Image 48: Vehicle intrusion along west limb of the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway at [REDACTED]. Photographed February 27, 2015.



Image 49: Vehicle intrusion along west limb of the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway at [REDACTED]. Photographed February 27, 2015.

**Intrusions at [REDACTED] riparian area**

The west limb of Gold Butte Back Country Byway continues north into [REDACTED] just above the [REDACTED] riparian area. The old path down [REDACTED] past the riparian area has been closed for years but has always had a lot of intrusions. When present, BLM crews repair the fence and the post and cable at the lower end of the closed area but the fence gets cut and turned back and the post and cable somehow made to allow ATVs passage. This area is receiving heavy ATV traffic and now looks like a legal road. -The “no vehicle” signs at each end are gone, the fence is cut, and the cables are loosened and useless (Image 50 and Image 51). The riparian area is heavily impacted from ATVs, cattle, and wild burros.



Image 50: Cut fence leading to [REDACTED] riparian area at [REDACTED].  
Photographed February 27, 2015.



Image 51: Cut fence leading to [REDACTED] riparian area at [REDACTED].  
Photographed February 27, 2015.

### Part 3: Vandalism in Gold Butte

There have been several documented cases of vandalism in Gold Butte that have occurred since April 2014. Notably, the *Las Vegas Review Journal* reported that a pioneer gravesites had been disturbed in Gold Butte (“[Chaos on the range may have left opening for grave robbers,](#)” April 23, 2014) (Image 52). This incident was not originally documented by Friends of Gold Butte, but is it a noteworthy inclusion for this report.



Image 52: Disturbed grave in Gold Butte. Photo originally published in *Las Vegas Review Journal*, April 23, 2014. “Chaos on the range may have left opening for grave robbers.”

There are only three information kiosks in the Gold Butte area. Bullet holes have appeared on both panels of the Riverside kiosk located at 11 S 748359 4068681 (Image 53 and Image 54).

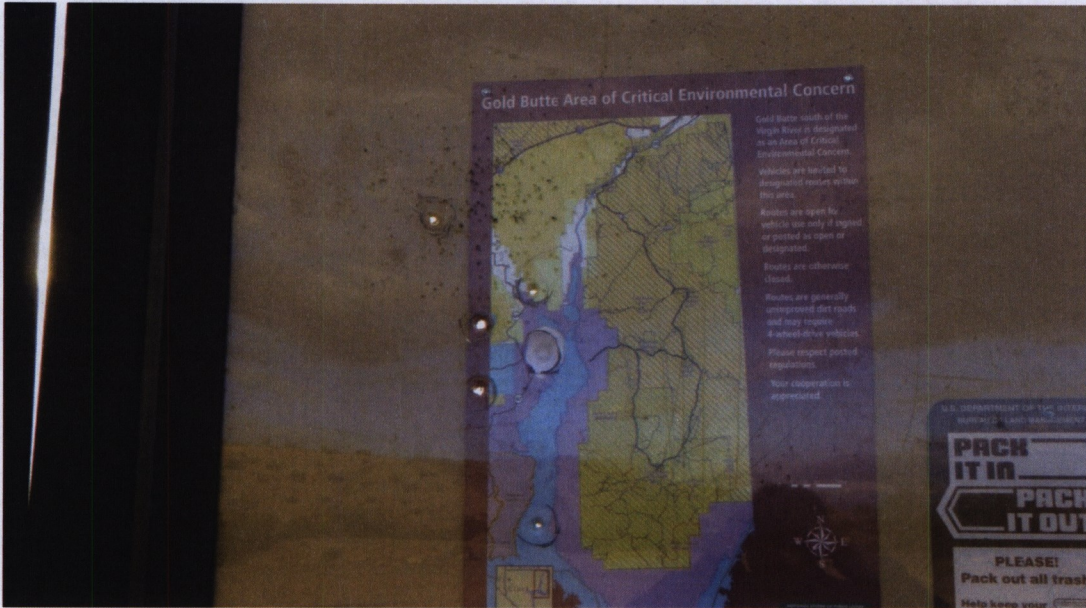


Image 53: Bullet holes in the Riverside information kiosk. Photographed December 13, 2014.



Image 54: Bullet holes in the Riverside information kiosk. Photographed December 13, 2014.