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**From:** Krauss, Jeff  
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[TALKING POINTS FOR MONUMENT REVIEW.pdf](#)  
[FACT VS FICTION -- Antiquities Act and Monument Review 2017.pdf](#)  
[Zinke UT remarks.pdf](#)

See below

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Krauss, Jeff** <jkrauss@blm.gov>  
Date: Mon, Dec 11, 2017 at 12:52 PM  
Subject: Monument Review Talking points, Fact vs. Fiction, and Zinke Remarks  
To: Michael Richardson <mjrichardson@blm.gov>  
Cc: Daniel DuBray <ddubray@blm.gov>, Cally Younger <cyounger@blm.gov>, Beverly Winston <bwinston@blm.gov>

Mike,

Please see below DOI's communications materials for the monument review. These include talking points, fact vs fiction and the Secretary's talking points. Please remember the majority of media inquiries still need to be sent to [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

Jeff

## TALKING POINTS FOR ANTIQUITIES ACT/MONUMENT REVIEW

**\*Correcting Past Overreach\***

**\*Increasing Public Access\***

**\*Giving Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses\***

**\*Continuing Protection Where Warranted\***

### **Topline Message:**

- These monument modifications will continue to protect objects and ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access, infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights.

### **Five Key Points:**

- *Corrects Past Overreach*
  - The President is righting past overreach. The Act requires that only objects of historic or scientific interest are designated, within the smallest area compatible with the protection of those objects, and we are going to follow the law.
- *Restores Trust and Gives Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses*
  - The Trump Administration is making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on these lands.
  - This will increase economic competitiveness, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
  - Monument designations should be used to protect objects, not unnecessarily restrain access.
- *Increases Public Access*
  - The Trump Administration is ensuring public lands are for public use and enjoyment, not to be closed off and set aside for special interests.
  - These modifications will increase public access that has been restricted by monument designations.
- *Prioritizes Infrastructure Upgrades*
  - The Trump Administration will remove restrictions that impede needed infrastructure improvements, such as upgrading restrooms, visitor centers, and trails, all of which serve to protect the objects in question.
- *Continues Protection Where Warranted*
  - The Trump Administration is continuing to protect public land, including keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of interest within the smallest areas compatible.
    - The Trump Administration is *not* going to drill in public parks

- The Trump Administration is *not* going to sell public lands wholesale
- The Trump Administration *will* protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

### **Additional Messaging:**

#### ***Righting Past Overreach***

- The Antiquities Act requires that objects be of historic or scientific interest, the area reserved to protect the objects is the smallest area compatible, and that monuments be designated on federal land only.
- “Objects of historic or scientific interest” is a term that has been stretched to include landscape areas, biodiversity, “viewsheds,” World War II desert bombing craters, and “remoteness.”
  - Objects have been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to make protective land designations.
- Smallest area compatible:
  - The first monument designated under the act was Devils Tower at almost 1,200 acres. Several monuments designated since 1996 have been millions of acres.
  - President Obama established or expanded monuments on more than 550 million acres of land and water, more than any other President.
- On federal land:
  - Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in the case of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, the expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.

#### ***Prioritizing Infrastructure Improvements***

- It is common for monument designations to prevent construction of future roads and other facilities, making the land inaccessible for use.
- Infrastructure enhancements enrich the people’s experience on our public lands far more than a designation written and signed in Washington, D.C.

#### ***Increasing public access that has been restricted by monument designations***

- Advocates often aim for a monument’s eventual designation as a National Park by Congress, and National Parks do not allow hunting and can restrict motorized access.
  - Many National Parks were first designated as national monuments. Examples are Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Glacier Bay, Grand Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Joshua Tree, Petrified Forest, Saguaro, and Zion.
- Roads closures
  - Restrictions on vegetative management and maintenance activities have led to poorly maintained roads and even closures, as in Cascade Siskiyou and Rio Grande Del Norte, for example. Roads have also been intentionally closed as part of management plans to protect objects.

***Restoring the local voice by allowing the traditional uses conducted on the land prior to designation to occur.***

- Monument designations have put land “off limits” for multiple-uses like grazing, timber harvest, fishing, resource development, infrastructure upgrades, and motorized recreation.
- Designating too much land for a national monument is harmful to the local tax base via the elimination of grazing, timber and mineral leases, as well as the elimination of hunting and fishing access.
- Monuments should be designated to protect, not prevent.
  - For example, subpoenaed emails and a Congressional investigation showed that Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was designated to stop a coal project.

***Continuing to protect public land***

- These lands are already federal and therefore carry protection or have protective land designations.
- GSENM has over 800,000 of Wilderness Study Areas and Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) has almost 450,000 of Wilderness Study Areas or Wilderness.
- The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act are just two of the many environmental laws passed after the 1906 Antiquities Act that offer increased land protections.

**Background on the Antiquities Act:**

- The Antiquities Act calls for the President to designate objects such as “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” as national monuments.
- The Act mandates that the limits of the parcels of land reserved as national monuments “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected,” and be designated on federal land.
- Despite this clear directive, the definition of “objects” has been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, and view sheds. “Smallest area” has become the exception and not the rule.
- Objects have often been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to designate areas under protective designations.
- Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in one case a monument expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.
- The most controversial monuments were designated or expanded in the waning days of a presidency after partisan efforts to designate the land stalled in Congress. This is a clear violation of the will of the people and overuse of executive power.
- Presidents have reduced the size of monuments 18 times in the past. The most significant reduction was in 1915 under President Woodrow Wilson, when he halved Mount Olympus National Monument (it has since become Olympic National Park)

- On April 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13792, entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.”
- President Trump’s executive order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996 and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that the Secretary deemed to have been created without adequate public input.
- Only 27 monuments were under review, out of the more than 150 monuments that the Act has been used to designate or expand.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument within 45 days, which was delivered to the White House on June 10, 2017.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit a report on all other monuments under review within 120 days, August 24, 2017.

#### **Background on the Monument Review Process:**

- The Secretary opened a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time EVER that a formal comment period was opened on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.
- Secretary Zinke has visited eight national monument sites in six states (Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters, Cascade Siskyou, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range). He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary met with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue.
- Interior also established a formal public comment period for the monument review. This is the first time ever a formal comment period occurred for Antiquities Act-designated National Monuments.

## **FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review**

**Myth:** *No president has shrunk a monument.*

**False:** Monuments have been shrunk at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include Pres. John F. Kennedy removing 2882 acres from Bandelier, Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

**Myth:** *The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.*

**False:** This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. Under the Antiquities Act, the monuments are designated on already federal land. Therefore, if any monument is rescinded or shrunk, the land would remain federally owned and be managed by one of the land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Park Service.

**Myth:** *Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.*

**False:** This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

**Myth:** *The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.*

**False:** No national parks are under review. Of the 27 national monuments that are under review, only 2 are managed by the National Park Service and neither of them were recommended for rescission or boundary adjustments. The Secretary has continually committed he is against the sale/transfer/privatization of public lands, especially national parks. While two of the monuments are managed by the NPS - much like historic sites, national recreation areas, and national seashores - none of them are National Parks.

**Myth:** *The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.*

**False:** The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally had more than 60 meetings with hundreds of local stakeholders. Individuals & organizations represented all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy to county commissioners & residents and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

**Myth:** *Tribal Nations were not consulted.*

**False:** This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for nearly two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the

Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

Thank you Commissioner Benally. It's great to be back in Utah!

President Trump was right to direct a review of the National Monuments under the Antiquities Act.

The Antiquities Act was meant to protect, not prevent.

And public land should be protected not for the special interests, but “for the benefit and enjoyment of the people,” as the words above the Roosevelt Arch in Yellowstone National Park so proudly proclaim.

That is the conservation ethic Teddy Roosevelt believed in.

President Trump's actions today restore that ethic.

Over the course of this review, I spent a lot of time listening to the local voices before making my recommendations to the President.

I heard the ranchers when they told me how their families have raised cattle on public land for generations, and how grazing is their livelihood.

I heard the tribal voices when I toured the monument with Commissioner Benally. She told me how the land is sacred to the Navajo and how the monument designation negatively impacted her community.



I heard from state, local, and tribal stakeholders on all sides of the issue.

Over the course of the review, I spoke with everyone from local officials to conservation groups to paleontologists.

I found that we can all agree on wanting to protect the objects while allowing for public access to public land. Every square inch of this land remains federal – not one acre is being sold or transferred.

This is about the people – many whose voices were ignored in the past.

Mr. President, you have given rural America a voice, once again, in the use of their public land.

Thank you for delivering on your campaign promise that the forgotten men and women of this country would be forgotten no more.

I also thank you, Mr. President, for giving Indian Country a voice in managing their sacred lands.

Your leadership on this issue is so important to so many in this state and in this country.

Today, we return power to the people and stop the federal overreach.

I'd now like to introduce someone who has been at the forefront of this issue in Congress – Senator Orrin Hatch.

Senator, thank you for your dedication to conservation and public lands. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Senator Hatch.