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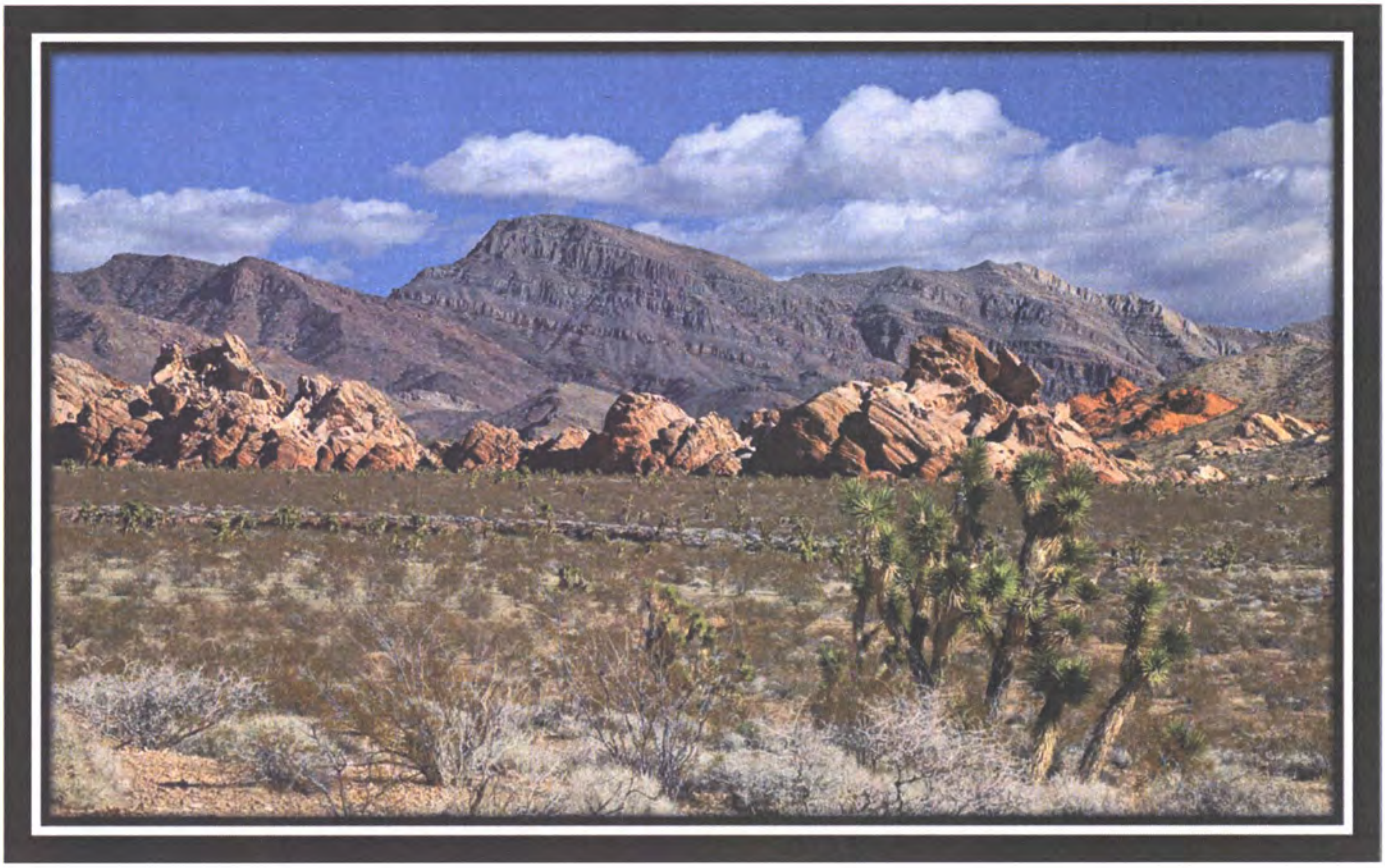
M-Gold Butte

Gold Butte

National Monument Proposal



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INTRODUCTION

Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, the proposed Gold Butte National Monument comprises 348,000 acres of public lands in southeastern Nevada. The area is treasure trove of 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 bighorn sheep, dramatic geologic features such as hobgoblins and rock spires, and fossil track sites dating back to 170 to 180 million years ago.

In addition, Gold Butte is an amazing place where people can experience the great outdoors. In addition to important traditional tribal use, outstanding hiking, hunting, birding, riding ATVs, camping, can be found in this area.

Sandwiched between two of America's fastest growing counties, Clark in Nevada and Washington in Utah, Gold Butte is experiencing an unprecedented number of visitors, who want to explore the area.

The proposed boundaries for the Gold Butte National Monument contain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (336,100 acres) and the Bureau of Reclamation (11,600 acres). Clark County also has a vested interest in the management of Gold Butte: conservation of habitat found here enables the County to satisfy legal obligations under the 1998 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The campaign to protect Gold Butte began more than 15 years ago. Permanently protecting Gold Butte currently has the endorsement of local and state government officials, Nevada's tourism leaders, over 60 local businesses and over two dozen local and national community organizations. In addition, Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiutes support permanently protecting Gold Butte.

Objects of National Significance

Gold Butte's landscape is rich in cultural, historical, biological, geological, and paleontological resources, including thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining and pioneer era artifacts; threatened wildlife such as the Mojave desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; rare plants such as the Las Vegas bearpoppy, breathtaking geologic features; and fossil track sites dating back to 170 to 180 million years ago.

Prehistoric Habitation of the Region

Gold Butte—at the crossroads of the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin, and the Colorado Plateau culture zones—has a 12,000-year record of human occupation with artifacts that can be traced to all three culture zones. Perhaps most significantly, it marks the western-most expansion of the ancestral Puebloans from their core territories in the Southwest at about AD 800 to 1250. The regional collapse of the Puebloans (approximately 1250 AD) led to the Patayan moving to Gold Butte and ultimately the southern Paiutes (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. 2008).

Kohta Circus Panel (Friends of Gold Butte)

From the pit houses dotting the mesa overlooking the Virgin River to the pinyon camps of the Virgin Mountains, Gold Butte contains an abundance of cultural artifacts dating back thousands of years. Hiding in the sandstone in proposed national monument are "billboard style" rock art panels of petroglyphs and pictographs (etchings and paintings) portraying generations of use. Deserted shelters with nearby kitchens of agave ovens accompanied by roasting sticks and grinding stones known as a metate and mano can be found lying about as if awaiting use.

One of the Gold Butte's largest most comprehensive studies was completed by Far Western Anthropology Research Group in 2008. All told, 31,196 sample areas were surveyed resulting in the documentation of 341prehistoric sites and 387 isolated finds. The results from this study tell the story

of prehistoric populations' movements and their lives in the region (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. 2008).

Some of the notable petroglyph and cultural sites in Gold Butte include Kohta Circus, Falling Man, Kirk's Grotto, and Little Finland. Kohta Circus is noted as the longest panel of petroglyphs in Clark County measuring roughly 80 feet in length and approximately 6 feet high. The panel is just a few feet off the ground within reach of anyone who visits the area (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. 2008).

Falling man is an iconic petroglyph gallery that is one of the most popular sites in Gold Butte. This petroglyph could represent an actual event, a wish that this event would occur, a shaman descending to or from the spirit world, or something entirely different. The walk to the panel is lined with rock art on the crags along the trail.

Falling Man petroglyph (N. Layman)

Kirk's Grotto is a slot canyon that is also home to many petroglyphs and pictographs. Little Finland is both a geographic and cultural treasure. Found among the spectacular rock formations, fins and arches are panels of ancient petroglyphs, both on the rock walls but also along the ground on the benches of Little Finland.

Historic Settlement of the Region

For most of this early history of Gold Butte and the surrounding region, nomadic ancestral Native Americans called the region home. These early Native Americans were the ancestors of current Southern Paiute Tribe, who eventually settled in the region. In the 1800's, the region saw an influx of Mormons settling in the region.

Southern Paiute

The Southern Paiute subsistence base emphasized hunting, foraging, and farming in the valley bottoms. They used many plants and animals ranging from insects and small mammals to deer and mountain sheep. Wild plant foods were prickly pear, yucca, piñon nuts, grass seeds, agave, acorns, wild grapes, and roots. These wild plant foods, primarily gathered by the women, were the dietary mainstay, with mesquite beans and pods of considerable importance. Maize, beans, squash, sunflower, and amaranth were farmed. Men were the hunters (Raish 2013).

Southern Paiute habitation structures known archaeologically and ethnographically consisted of wickiups (a conical frame of branches covered with layers of bark, grass, or brush) in winter and brush shelters in summer. Material culture comprised a wide range of basketry forms for storage, transport,

resource gathering, and cooking, as well as ceramics in some groups. Baskets were apparently favored over the heavier pottery owing to the nomadic Paiute lifestyle. Other items of material culture included the bow and arrow, nets, woven items, grinding implements, and flint knives, with trade items such as shells and cloth (Raish 2013).

Resources were generally obtained in a seasonally transhumance round (seasonal movement to gather resources), which varied from group to group and habitat to habitat. Farming was normally not intensive; older people often cared for the fields while the remainder of the group gathered resources in other areas. Most sources agree that the nuclear family was the primary unit of social organization for the Southern Paiute with aggregation and dispersal of larger and smaller groups throughout the year. As Euro-Americans increased in numbers in the region, the Native Americans were forced to congregate in bigger groups to survive (Raish 2013).

Southern Paiute woman (Wikipedia)

The first reported direct European contacts were with the Spanish in the late 1700s with the expeditions of Garcés and of Domínguez and Escalante, who were attempting to establish a route between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Monterey, California. Although the expedition did not succeed in reaching its goal because of the onset of winter, part of their route became a portion of the Old Spanish Trail that consisted of previously existing trails used for raiding and trading. After the explorers, trappers, and traders extended their operations into the area, an active slave trade began that lasted from the late 1700s to the mid-1850s.

Captives, often Southern Paiute, were transported along the Old Spanish Trail between California and New Mexico. Prior enemies of the Southern Paiute, such as the Ute and Navajo, conducted slave raids in the region as they went between Spanish, and later, Mexican settlements. These raids seriously impacted the people of the Moapa and Las Vegas Valleys forcing them away from favorable agricultural lands, depopulating some Southern Paiute bands, and increasing their hostility and fear of travelers and other outsiders. Slave raiding continued in the region until the mid-1850s when steps taken by the Mormons and the territorial legislature ended the trade (Raish 2013).

During the 1850s, the Old Spanish Trail became the Mormon Road, which brought settlers and other travelers to the area (the trail is just due north of the proposed national monument). Increased Euro-American settlement displaced the Southern Paiute from long-used agricultural, foraging, and hunting lands, which became depleted by livestock grazing and larger farming operations. Interactions with Mormon settlers increased so that by the 1870s the majority of Southern Paiute had direct contact with Euro-Americans, with some settling near Mormon communities.

Expansion of Euro-American settlement led to increasing hostilities. In 1873, an executive order was issued setting aside two million acres to form the Moapa River Reservation. The entire proposed monument was within this original boundary. The reservation was then sharply reduced to 1,000 acres in 1876 to accommodate complaints from Euro-American settlers within the reservation lands. (Note: the tribe was federally recognized in 1942 and it was not until 1980 that the Carter Administration provided an additional 70,000 acres to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians.)

Lands within the proposed national monument remain vitally important to local Native Americans because it is a Traditional Lifeway sacred to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. Native American Traditional Lifeways are important for their sociological values. The resources associated with these lifeway include, but are not limited to, the plants and animals essential to maintaining the cultural integrity of the lifeway.

Often depicted in the local rock art, the bighorn sheep, chuckwalla and tortoise, were important food sources in the Gold Butte area. Plants were also vital in their daily lives and a single plant can have a variety of uses. Desert prince's plume was an important source of dietary greens in the spring. These plants were intensely managed by the Native populations to ensure their successful return in following years. These greens are similar to spinach in nutritional importance and value (BLM 1998).

Desert prince's plume (enature.com)

The entire Purple Sage shrub was considered a superfood with a variety of purposes. The tea boiled from the leaves is useful for stomach troubles, colds, sore throats, and other ailments. The dried leaves were smoked for medicinal purposes. The tops of the plant were boiled and the solution was an external wash for swollen leg veins. Some groups of Southern Paiute preferred the branches of this plant as thatching material for brush houses (BLM 1998).

Mormon Settlements

While the settlement of northern Nevada was preeminently for economic reasons, the settlements in southern Nevada were originally, almost exclusively, made for religious reasons. The early Mormons, under the direction of Brigham Young, were encouraged to spread to the parts of the country most accessible from Salt Lake City for the joint purpose of converting the Indians and making homes. It was with these objectives in mind that settlements were made along the principal streams and water sources in what is now southern Nevada, the Virgin and Muddy River valleys, Meadow Valley, Rose Valley, Eagle Valley, Clover Valley, and Las Vegas (Scrugham 1935).

Of these centers little is known prior to the coming of the early Mormon settlers. Las Vegas and the Muddy and Virgin River valleys were in line with the Old Spanish trail through the Southwest connecting with the coastal settlements of the Spanish.

Trail Marker (Mormon.com)

In 1877, the recolonization of the region began with the settlement of Bunkerville (named after Edward Bunker) on the south side of the Virgin River and but a few miles from the Arizona line. This settlement was organized under the communitarian United Order and require residents to share the work and the fruits of their work and all land was held in common. The experiment in communal living, however, failed after a few years (Scrugham 1935).

In 1880, the Mesquite settlement was planted on the other side of the river and upstream a few miles from Bunkerville. This settlement was abandoned a few years later and no further work was done until 1895 when a new migration settled on that site (Scrugham 1935).

The Virgin River Valley has, on the whole, defied settlement. It is an alkaline and muddy stream, and, for the most part, flows over a broad bed between precipitous, alluvial bluffs, leaving little opportunity for agriculture.

Early in 1881, a new group of Mormons settled in the region. The sites of the old settlements were then occupied by large ranches, but arrangements were made and the present towns occupy the sites of the old settlements. St. Joseph was renamed Logan (Logandale) after the principal settlers of the new migration. It was some time, however, before the population of the valley reached its status held prior to the exodus of 1871, when disputes over taxes in the newly formed state of Nevada cause the Mormon Church leaders to call settlers back to Salt Lake (Scrugham 1935).

The modern day unincorporated areas of Bunkerville (1,300 residents) and Logandale are west of the proposed national monument and the incorporated City of Mesquite (16,000 residents) is located north of the proposed national monument.

Historic Land Uses and Features

Gold Butte has a rich history including mining as early as 1730, ranching, historic transportation routes such as the 1905 Grand Gulch Trail, vintage car races on the Arrowhead Highway in early 1900s, and vital infrastructure projects completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Mining

Mining in Gold Butte began with the Spanish in 1730. Evidence of their efforts can be seen near the townsite of Gold Butte in the form of an arrastra. An arrastra is a large flat rock hollowed out, over

which donkeys or bullocks would drag another rock to crush ore. There are four known arrastras in Gold Butte.

The first recorded instance of pioneer mining was by Daniel Bonelli, who discovered mica in 1873, and shipped mica from the region in the early 1890s.

Gold Butte Town site (BirdandHike.com)

Gold was discovered after the turn of the 20th century and by 1906, the Las Vegas Age newspaper was stirring the excitement about the prospects at Gold Butte. In 1907, the newspaper reported the mining was going well and the new town was on its way to becoming a permanent settlement. It had a post office and a saloon, but few permanent buildings. The Gold Butte town site, which at one time had a population approaching 2,000 residents, had only a brief period of glory as a permanent community.

This boom time was short lived because the ore concentrations found were limited in quantities, making a few miners well off, but not sufficient to support larger enterprises. By 1909, the post office was closed because so few people lived in the region (Bly 2008).

Mining continued in the area as the Grand Gulch copper mine produced much of the needed copper for World War I. The wagon trails that carried the copper to the St. Thomas railroad spur can still be followed to this day. The wagon masters' signatures in wagon wheel axel grease tell the story on the sandstone walls of Mud Wash.

Ranching

Similar to mining, ranching in the Mojave Desert was certainly an arduous task in the early 1900s. Yet, the hard work of pioneers carved out corrals, water improvements, and fencing. The historic corral at Horse Springs is a wonderful example of early pioneer ingenuity. Short on wood, the corral is set back against a rise and rocks were used to create its walls. The wood that was used in the coral still stands, a weathered character of its own. To direct the herd to the corral, a rock wall was built up the hillside. These incredible pioneer artifacts help tell the story of why Gold Butte is so special.

Prominent Pioneers

Equally interesting were the people who lived in Gold Butte country, including two men known as "The Odd Pair." Bill Garrett, was a tall Texan cowboy and an expert gunman, and the nephew of Pat Garrett, the lawman who shot Billy the Kid. His sidekick was Art Coleman, short and slight, intellectual, and of frail health.

The two men arrived in the Gold Butte area about 1916, and for years, their humble shack was a stopping place for travelers. They were known for their hospitality and for keeping their word. Those who knew the two men nicknamed them "the long and the short of it" because Garrett was 6-foot-1 and Coleman was 5-foot-1. Coleman died in 1958 and Garrett died a few years later. They were both buried at Gold Butte, although a ground radar scan showed their grave markers were interchanged (Bly 2008).

Pioneer grave site (NVRockArt.com)

In the 1960's, Howard Hughes, known mostly as an aviator, held many of the grazing permits in Southern Nevada. One of these permits was in the proposed Gold Butte National Monument. The North end of the allotment started at the cattle guard four miles south of Whitney Pockets. The east side was the Nevada-Arizona state line and the south and west borders was Lake Mead. Hughes was most likely the driving force behind the back country highway being paved from the interstate to Whitney Pockets.

The Grand Gulch Trail

The Grand Gulch Trail, travelling through the center of the proposed national monument, was the Southwest's busiest and most profitable freighting trail from 1905 to the end of World War I. The men who freighted the trail were some of the West's most rugged teamsters. The trail got its name from the Grand Gulch Mine, a copper mine north of the Colorado River in Arizona. The Grand Gulch Trail was built in 1905 to accommodate the arrival of the railroad to Moapa until the St. Thomas spur was laid in 1911. From 1909 until 1920, the Grand Gulch Trail was alive with six, eight, ten, and twelve-horse freight rigs. The Mine shipped over 1 million dollars' worth of ore and was an important supplier of copper in World War I (Jensen 1981).

The Arrowhead Highway

Motor West Magazine boasted "probably no other unit of the national highway system has received so much favorable publicity throughout the United States, especially in the East, during the first year of its existence as the Arrowhead Trail, connecting Los Angeles with Salt Lake City" (Motor Age 1917).

The Arrowhead Trail Association hosted its first race from Los Angeles to Salt Lake in the fall of 1916. Charles Bigelow, car racer, Arrowhead Trail Association field organizer, and trail advocate drove the entire route many times between 1915 and 1916 in his twin six Packard "Cactus Kate" for publicity. The most hazardous part of the 853 mile trail is the section crossing the Virgin River and around the Virgin Mountains, right in the heart of the proposed national monument. Portions of the original route through Gold Butte can still be driven today in a high clearance vehicle. (The Automobile 1916).

Civilian Conservation Corps Projects

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established in 1933 and combined work relief and restoration and preservation of the natural environment. In the 1930's, Nevada was the least populated state in the Union. However due to three powerful Nevada legislators Senators Patrick McCarran and Key Pittman and Congressman James Scrugham, Nevada had 59 main CCC camps operating throughout the state (Ford and Kolvet 2006).

CCC field camp at Whitney Pockets (Friends of Gold Butte)

The CCC left their mark on Gold Butte. Bunkerville would periodically be swept away by flash floods from the northern slopes of the Virgin Mountains. Men from the Bunkerville Camp spent three seasons fighting bank erosion, repairing flood damage, and slowing the loss of rich bottomland along the Virgin River. In 1934 alone, Bunkerville enrollees built twenty-two rock barriers along drainages and planted twelve thousand tree cuttings to stabilize the riverbank and slow channel movement. Working alongside residents, the CCC helped secure a clean source of water from the Virgin Mountains. With funding from the Mormon Church, the CCC and residents constructed several miles of pipeline to bring water from Cabin Springs to a storage tank on the alluvial slope above town (Ford and Kolvet 2006).

At Whitney Pockets, a CCC field camp was established to build a dam to catch rain water for ranching. Left behind in this camp are storage rooms built into the sandstone alcoves. Interestingly, this is all built within a Native American habitation site. Today this area is the focal point of the recreation in Gold Butte, with the heaviest camping and ATV riding in the area.

Biological Resources

Gold Butte is a unique, fascinating, and fragile combination of wildlands where three desert ecosystems—Great Basin, Mojave and Sonoran—collide at the boundary of the Colorado Plateau. The varied flora and fauna can be found in the proposed national monument and include the following ecological communities and features: Virgin Mountains, Pinyon-Juniper, Joshua Tree, Creosote, and Biological Crust. This diversity combined with the rugged and remote nature of the regions has created critical habit for threaten species such as the Mojave desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, and the relic leopard frog.

Virgin Mountains

Vegetation in the Virgin Mountains is unique in Nevada. The lower elevations are typical Mojave Desert Scrub, and the sunny south-facing slopes support Single Leaf Pinyon and Utah Juniper all the

way to the summit. From the summit, however, you can look down the shady north and east-facing slopes to see tall conifer trees, including White Fir, Douglas Fir, and Arizona Cypress. There used to be Ponderosa Pine on these slopes too, but all of it burned during a wildfire in the 1940s. The Douglas Fir and Arizona Cypress are Pleistocene relics here, species left over here from the ice age.

Virgin Peak (K. Kuznicki)

Above 5,000 feet in the Virgin Mountain Range is a band of dense mountain shrubs composed primarily of manzanita, Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, and buckbrush. This shrub community forms a wide band on the mountain tops and surrounds the fir and pine community. The primary components of the shrub community form a very dense over story about three feet in height. This habitat is particularly important for birds and bats to use for nesting and roosting (Clark County 2007).

Pinyon-Juniper

Pinyon-juniper habitat generally occurs at middle elevations adjoining a number of other wildlife habitats. At lower elevations, pinyon-juniper may interface with habitats such as Joshua tree and desert scrub. At higher elevations, habitats of conifer, sagebrush and mixed chaparral border on pinyon-juniper. Common shrubs in Pinyon-Juniper Woodland include blackbrush, bitterbrush, and rabbitbrush. Cactus include cholla, pricklypear and hedgehog cacti, and the tiny pincushion cactus.

Characteristic vertebrate species of this habitat include bobcat, woodrat, pinyon jay, leopard lizard and pale Townsend's big-eared bat. Both pinyon nuts and juniper berries are important food sources and many wildlife species serve as dispersal agents for these plants (Feller 2014b).

Joshua Tree

The Joshua tree, the largest of the yuccas, grows only in the Mojave Desert. Natural stands of this picturesque, spike-leafed evergreen grow nowhere else in the world. Its height varies from 15-40 feet with a diameter of 1-3 feet. They grow 2 to 3 inches a year, take 50 to 60 years to mature, and they can live 150 years.

Joshua trees, like many yuccas, rely on the female pronuba moth for pollination. No other animal visiting the blooms transfers the pollen from one flower to another. In fact, the female yucca moth has evolved special organs to collect and distribute the pollen onto the surface of the flower. She lays her eggs in the flowers' ovaries, and when the larvae hatch, they feed on the yucca seeds.

Without the moth's pollination, the Joshua tree could not reproduce, nor could the moth, whose larvae would have no seeds to eat. Although old Joshua trees can sprout new plants from their roots, only the seeds produced in pollinated flowers can scatter far enough to establish a new stand.

The Joshua tree community is diverse and transitions with elevation. The upper bajada and higher slopes are mixed with blackbrush, Mojave yucca, and various cacti. This community is home to the red-tailed hawk, ladder-backed wood pecker and the Scott's oriole. The blackbrush provides valuable browse to bighorn sheep and nesting for Brewer's sparrow and the rocky outcrops are habitat for ringtails and chuckwalla.

Joshua Tree (K. Kuznicki)

The lower elevations of the Joshua tree habitat include creosote, bursage, Mormon tea, indigo bush, cholla, and a variety of prickly pear cacti. This is home to a diverse group of animals including badger, fox (kit and gray) and the desert kangaroo rat. Nesting in the Joshua trees are northern shrike, cactus wren and ash-throated flycatcher (Feller 2014a).

Creosote

The strong-scented creosote bush dominates much of proposed national monument. Low-lying expanses are covered by these widely spaced shrubs. Creosote bushes are said to be some of the world's oldest living things; some colonies in the Mojave Desert are 11,500 years old. The white bur sage frequently found in stands of creosote is a "nursery" plant for creosote and other shrubs in this community.

This harsh landscape, at first glance, gives the impression of a somewhat inhospitable and uninviting habitat. However, a large compliment of wildlife species, including many bird, small mammal, and reptile species depend on these habitats. Here is found the desert tortoise, listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Desert tortoises often place their burrows directly under creosote bushes, taking advantage of the shade and stability created by the creosote roots. A host of additional heat-tolerant reptile species are also dependent on this habitat, including the desert iguana, Gila monster, and spotted leaf-nosed snake. Desert kangaroo rats and the desert pocket mouse depend on windblown sandy areas within the creosote bush—white bursage and creosote seeds make up a large part of the desert pocket mouse's diet. In turn, these small mammals and reptiles are an important prey source for snakes, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike (NDOW 2013).

Biological Soil Crusts

Biological soil crusts (also known as cryptobiotic soils) are formed by living organisms and their by-products, creating a crust of soil particles bound together by organic materials. Crusts play an important role in the environment, including soil stability and combating wind and water erosion. Soil crusts can contribute to atmospheric nitrogen and carbon fixation, provide other plant nutrients, aid in

soil-plant-water interactions, increase water retention, promote some seedling germination, and increase plant growth.

Crusts are well adapted to severe growing conditions, but poorly adapted to compression disturbances. Domestic livestock grazing and recreational activities (hiking, biking, and off-road driving) place a heavy toll on the integrity of the crusts. Disturbance and loss of these biological soils lead to decreased organism diversity, soil nutrients, stability, and organic matter (USGS 2014).

Threatened Species

Gold Butte is also home to threatened wildlife and plants. The Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (USFWS 1994) directs land management agencies to protect reserves for the desert tortoises. The Bureau of Land Management created Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect critical desert tortoise habitat at Gold Butte. Specifically, the 185,128-acre Gold Butte (Part A and Part B) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern were created to project the Mojave Desert tortoise (BLM 2014a).

Desert Tortoise (DesertTortise.org)

In addition, Gold Butte Part B Area of Critical Environmental Concern was created to protect habitat for the relicleopard frog and desert bighorn sheep as well as rare stands of Las Vegas buckwheat and Las Vegas bearpoppy. The Las Vegas bearpoppy is also a state protected species, only occurs in rare gypsum soils found in a few places such as Gold Butte. Gold Butte Part C Area of Critical Environmental Concern was create to protect desert bighorn sheep habit as well as relict forest stands (BLM 2014a).

Geologic Features

The proposed national monument ranges in elevation from 1,600 feet to more than 8,000 feet. The high point is found at the summit of Virgin Peak and lowest points are found near the shores of Lake Mead and on the valley floor near Devil's Throat.

The proposed national monument lies on the western margin of the tectonically stable Colorado Plateau physiographic province and at the eastern margin of the Basin and Range physiographic province. This convergence produces a stunning landscape. Because of the dry climate and the temperature extremes prevalent there, the physiography of the mountain ranges commonly exposes the composition of the bedrock. Limestone rocks form rugged, linear ridges, whereas sandstone, shale, and tuffaceous rocks form less regular and more subdued shapes seen at places like Whitney Pockets. The crystalline rocks in the Virgin Mountains are resistant to erosion, producing massive 8,000 foot Virgin Peak (Ludington, Haxel, Castor, McLaurin, and Flynn 2006).

The vivid sandstone of Whitney Pockets is a popular site with visitors. Exploring this area's stunning sandstone formations visitors can discover ancient rock art, ruins of centuries-old habitations and roasting pits where native people cooked food. Another unique geologic feature is the Devil's Throat, a 100-foot wide by 100-foot deep sinkhole. This is an active geologic feature that enlarges regularly from erosion. Its formation is poorly understood, but is believed to be caused by dissolution in the subsurface or erosion by groundwater flow (BLM 2014a).

Little Finland (Friends of Gold Butte)

Little Finland, also known to locals as locals Devils Fire, Hobgoblin, or Lone Palm, is a mastery of geology and wind/water erosion. This particular erosion pattern that sparks the imaginations of so many consists of a very specific geologic recipe. Jurassic Period sand dunes were buried by deposits and solidified. Millions of years later, faults began to lift the sandstone up, cracking it into blocks. Around 10 million years ago, these cracks (called joints) in the rock became a vessel for mineral-rich ground waters, which eventually crystallized due to the climate. As centuries go by, the sandstone has eroded but the mineral-rich joints resist. That coupled with the usual wind/water erosion and pervasive salt weathering leaves behind the intricate designs that make this area intriguing to visitors. This is an important site to the Paiute tribe and possesses a variety of rock art styles (Atlas Obscura 2014).

Paleontological Resources

The Gold Butte regionis well known for its panels of petroglyphs. Much less known is the abundance of fossil footprints. Numerous fossil tracks, widely dispersed throughout the Gold Butte area, occur within the Jurassic Aztec Sandstone—the same rock formation that occurs in Valley of Fire State Park and Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area. The fossil track ways were discovered by members of the Friends of Gold Butte who frequently hike in the area. None of the Gold Butte fossil track sites has yet been formally described in a scientific publication, although one spectacular site with hundreds of tracks was briefly described in a 2013 UNLV master's thesis by Heather Stoller; the same site was the subject of a recent presentation at a scientific conference (Rowland and Chesser 2014).

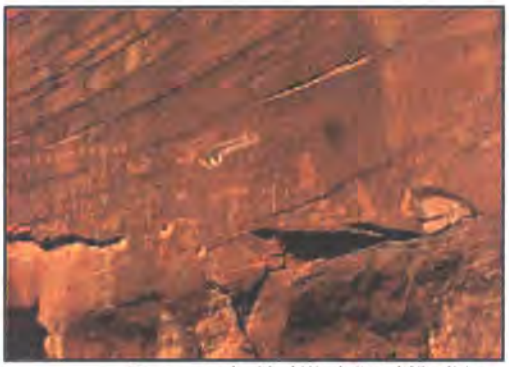
Most of the tracks discovered in Gold Butte were made by squirrel-size proto-mammals that lived in the dune field desert that occupied this region of ancestral North America approximately170 to 180 million years ago. These tracks are named Brasilichnium, which is the name of the tracks themselves, not the name of the animal that made them. They were first studied and named in Brazil. Tracks of dinosaurs and arthropods (including scorpions) have also tentatively been discovered in Gold Butte but have not yet been systematically studied. UNLV geology professor Steve Rowland and his graduate

student Gordon Haight are currently engaged in a systematic study of fossil track ways throughout Southern Nevada, including those of Gold Butte. Preliminary results suggest that fossil tracks are more abundant in the Gold Butte area than any other area of Southern Nevada (Stoller 2013).
Recently, members of Friends of Gold Butte located a track site in Esplanade Sandstone which is of Permian Era (approximately 290 million years ago). This particular location is a significant geologic and paleontological resource as it was situated at the tidal and beach dune interface. In addition to the tracks, evidence of creatures burrowing in the shallow sea, ripple marks and beach dunes preserved in stone provide evidence of the environment during early Permian Era.

Threats to the Nationally Significant Objects

Sandwiched between two of America's fastest growing counties in the past decade, Clark County, NV and Washington County, UT, Gold Butte is experiencing an unprecedented number of visitors. The impact of visitors dwarfs the BLM's current ability to manage the area to protect these world class cultural, historic, and natural resources.

Cultural Resource Impacts



Damage to the Mud Wash Panel (Coalition to Preserve Rock Art)

Pottery shards and pieces of rock tools have all disappeared from the area, which was once littered with these relics. Metates, manos, and arrowheads, all of scientific importance, are vanishing. Rock shelters and habitation sites are sifted through and dug out by those looking for artifacts. ATV tracks cross agave pits, churning the blackened earth. Once elusive sites are now easily accessed by vehicles, resulting in the destruction of plant life and the creation of new routes, changing this landscape forever. For example, Mud Wash Panel is a stunning panel located high on a bluff. In 2008 a large image was etched in rock, forever impacting the panel.

Historic Resource Impacts

Similarly to impacts on cultural treasures, historic features and artifacts have been impacted by desecration and theft. When the fire of 2005 burned the area, an arrastra, hidden for over 100 years in shrubs, was uncovered. In just a few weeks some of the more valuable artifacts surrounding the arrastra were gone, forever lost to the public.

A 1930s Civilian Conservation Corp storage room at Whitney Pockets has experienced substantial damage. One of the walls had been torn down for a fire ring and graffiti scrawled inside the alcove covers the wall. After the initial damage, signs were installed showing what the site looked like several years ago. This did reduce the damage from continuing; however, it could not repair the previous destruction inflicted on the historic site.

The historic corral from the 1930s associated with colorful characters such as Bill Garrett and Art Coleman has had the wooden boards of the loading shoot sawed off and used for firewood. This area's pioneer artifacts were further desecrated in the spring of 2014, when the Coleman's grave was dug up, leaving a deep hole surrounded by pieces of wood from the coffin.

Pioneer gravesite desecrated (Las Vegas Review Journal)

Natural Resource Impacts

The easily drivable Gold Butte Backcountry Byway and over 500 miles of routes allows vehicles and ATVs easy access to the vast public lands in Gold Butte, creating easy access for illegally dumping. Vegetation is impacted by the trash left behind as well as the permanent damage to the sensitive biological crusts and plants when vehicles and ATVs ignore closure signs and/or create new unauthorized routes.

Currently there are over 500 head of trespass cattle in the proposed national monument. These trespass cattle destroy fragile springs, trample fire-rehabilitated vegetation, and run amok through the most sensitive habitats and cultural sites of Gold Butte.

Domestic livestock grazing and recreational activities (hiking, biking, and off-road driving) place a heavy toll on the integrity of the region's unique biological crusts. Disturbance and loss of these biological crusts lead to decreased organism diversity, soil nutrients, stability, and organic matter (USGS 2014)

Agency Assessment of Impacts

The BLM's March 2014 report, titled Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone, had the following to say about the lands in the proposed national monument: "The resource values found in the Gold Butte ACEC are threatened by: unauthorized activities, including off-road vehicle use, illegal dumping, and trespass livestock grazing; wildfire; and weed infestation" (BLM 2014c).

Current Management

The proposed boundaries for the Gold Butte National Monument contain federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Clark County also has a vested interest in the management of Gold Butte. Conservation of habitat found here enables the County to satisfy legal obligations under the 1998 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Bureau of Land Management

Lands managed by the BLM are the vast majority (336,100 acres) of the public lands in the proposed national monument. The proposed Gold Butte National Monument also has areas designated as Special Management Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and has been recognized by the BLM in 2011 as a "Crown Jewel", highlighting the importance of permanent protection for the area.

Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas in Gold Butte include the Lime Canyon and Jumbo Spring Wilderness Areas (24,000 acres and 4,600 acres, respectively) as well as the Virgin Mountain Instant Study Area and the Million Hills Wilderness Study Area (6,600 acres and 22,600 acres, respectively).

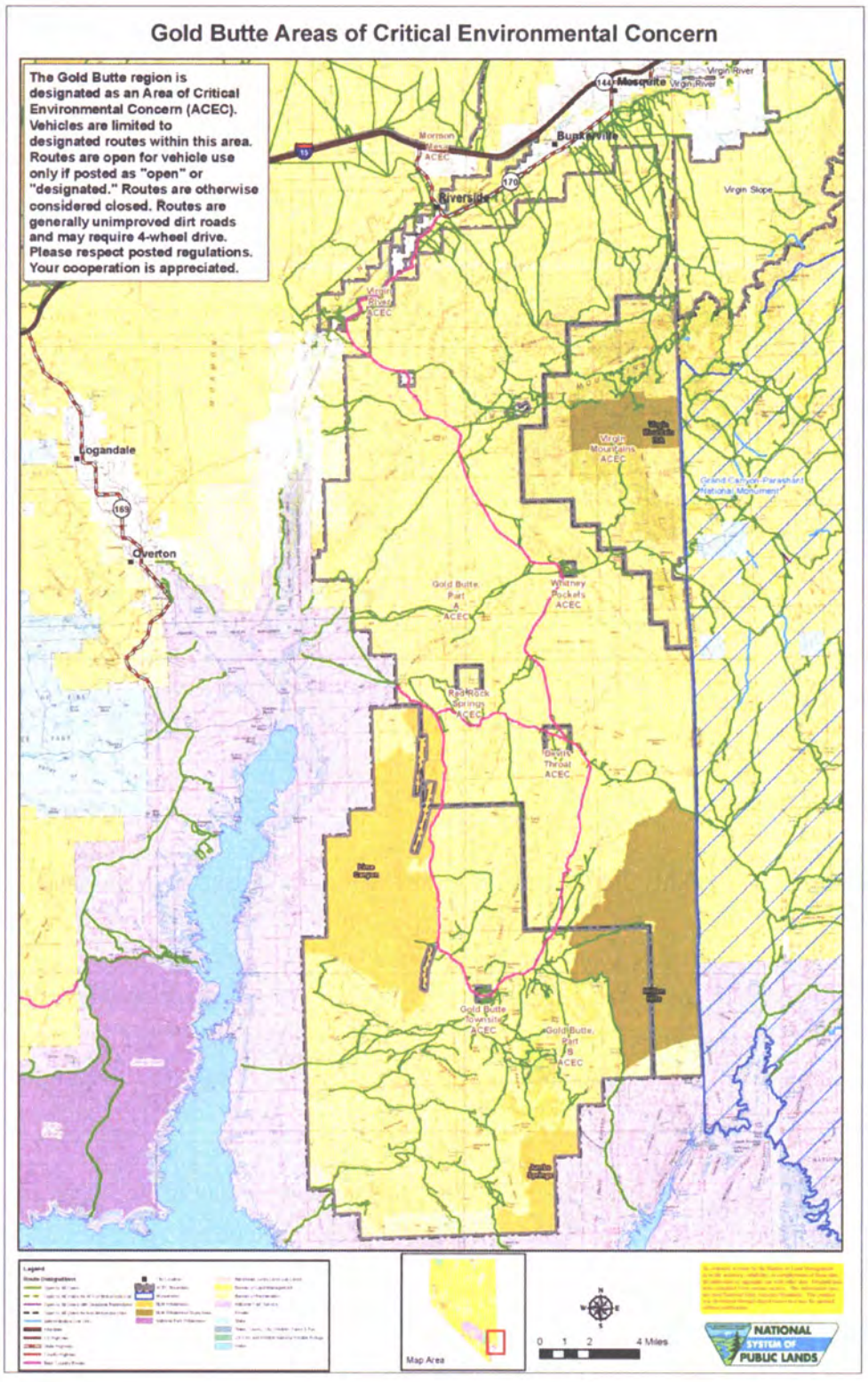
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are designated to protect important riparian corridors, threatened and endangered species habitats, cultural and archeological resources, and unique scenic landscapes on the BLM managed lands (BLM 2014a).

Gold Butte ACEC is managed as three separate ACECs. Gold Butte: Part A (185,130 acres) covers the portion that is designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise. Gold Butte: Part B (122,540 acres) lies to the south of Part A and is managed to protect a number of biological resources including habitat for sensitive plants, desert bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise. Gold Butte: Part C, formerly known as the Virgin Mountain ACEC (35,700 acres), is located near the peak of the Virgin Mountains, protecting unique high elevation habitats including relic forest stands and habitat for desert bighorn sheep. Part C is also classified as a Clark County Natural Area (BLM 2014a).

Whitney Pockets ACEC, located in Gold Butte: Part A, is a cluster of sandstone outcrops with cultural resource sites including prehistoric habitation and rock art. Red Rock Springs ACEC, located in Gold Butte: Part A, contains prehistoric habitation sites and rock art. Devils Throat ACEC, located in Gold Butte Part: A, is a 100-foot wide by 100-foot deep sinkhole. Gold Butte Townsite ACEC, located in Gold Butte Part: B, is the location of the historic mining town of Gold Butte (BLM 2014a).

In addition, the proposed national monument is home to the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway (Byway). The 62-mile scenic trip offers opportunities to see desert wildlife, red and white sandstone, sinkholes, petroglyphs, the Muddy Mountains, and Lake Mead. Primitive camping and hiking are available along the Byway.


Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
The Gold Butte region is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Vehicles are limited to designated routes within this area. Routes are open for vehicle use only if posted as "open" or "designated." Routes are otherwise considered closed. Routes are generally unimproved dirt roads and may require 4-wheel drive. Please respect posted regulations. Your cooperation is appreciated.
Mesquite
Virgin River
Bunkerville
Riverside
Virgin Slope
Logandale
Overton
Virgin Mountains ACEC
Gold Butte, Part A ACEC
Whitney Pockets ACEC
Red Rock Springs ACEC
Gold Butte Township ACEC
Gold Butte, Part B ACEC
Map Area
0 1 2 4 Miles
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

Agency Recognition

The BLM in its November 2011 "Preliminary Report on BLM Lands Deserving Protection as National Conservation Areas, Wilderness or Other Conservation Designations" highlighted Gold Butte as one of 18 areas across the nation that deserved permanent protection.

Bureau of Reclamation

There is a small portion (11,600 acres) of public lands in the proposed national monument managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR). These lands were leftover from the creation on the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 1936 and were not part of the transfer of lands to the National Park Service (Carr 2007).

Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Clark County has a legal obligation under the 1998 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) to ensure the natural resources of Gold Butte are managed to protect conservation values. Under the MSHCP, the county's future growth was charted to allow for reasonable development while avoiding what the plan calls "no unmitigated net loss" of habitat for hundreds of critical species (see Appendix A for a detailed list of species). The Gold Butte region, including the majority of the area proposed for a national monument, was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern for one of the keystone species of the MSHCP, the desert tortoise.

From 1998 to 2006 Clark County, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, purchased the property with attached grazing preference, water rights, and range improvements from willing sellers as mitigation for desert tortoise and other species covered under the plan. Following the purchase, Clark County agreed to relinquish the grazing permits and preferences associated with the allotments with the understanding that BLM, as a signatory to the implementing agreement for the MSHCP, would consider their closure and reallocation of forage for desert tortoise and protection of other MSHCP covered species.

Formal closure of these allotments is currently being analyzed as part of the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices draft amendment to the resource management plan and environmental impact statement for the region (BLM 2014b).

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The following issues and management practices are essential to protecting the values of the proposed Gold Butte National Monument:

1. The BLM should prepare a separate resource management plan for the Monument which includes a transportation plan and addresses the actions necessary to protect the objects identified in the Proclamation, including travel restrictions and road closures. The management plan shall be developed in consultation with state and local governments, tribal governmental entities, and the public.
2. The Monument should be managed on a landscape scale to protect conservation values and enhance recreation opportunities. To achieve this goal with the simplest administrative burden to the Department of Interior, 11,600 acres of isolated Bureau of Reclamation lands within the proposed monument boundary should be transfer to the Bureau of Land Management.
3. Historic and cultural resources should be protected. In addition, the Monument's species and ecosystems should be protected and restored.
4. The BLM, in consultation with Indian tribes, should ensure the protection of religious and cultural sites in the monument and provide access to the sites by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (92 Stat. 469, 42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites).
5. The Monument would not reserve federal water rights nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government existing on this date. The agencies would work with appropriate State authorities to ensure that water resources needed for monument purposes are available.
6. The BLM should consider acquisition private land within the Monument's boundaries through exchanges and purchase as lands become available from willing sellers. Lands acquired would automatically become part of the Monument.
7. The Monument should be established subject to valid existing rights.
8. The creation of new rights of way within the Monument boundaries should be prohibited. Upgrading of existing utility line rights-of-ways within the physical scope of each such right-of-way that exists on the date of this proclamation, should only be authorized if consistent with the care and management of the Monument objects.
9. The Monument should be withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws.
10. The Monument should be withdrawn from mineral and geothermal leasing laws.
11. Land within the Monument boundaries should not be disposed of through public land laws.
12. Renewable energy development should be prohibited within the Monument.
13. The undeveloped character of the area should be maintained wherever possible. Impacts from all surface-disturbing activities should be minimized.

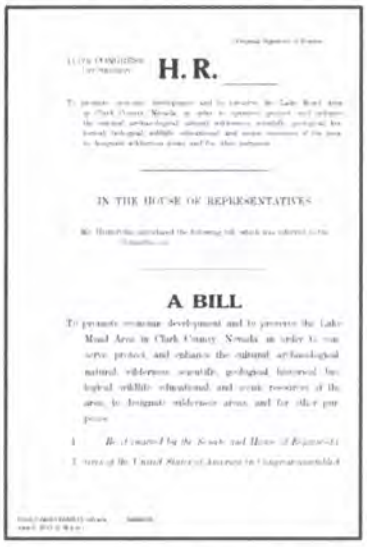
14. Minimal facilities necessary for visitor enjoyment should be provided while protecting Monument resources. A visitor center should be sited in Mesquite.
15. Monument resources should be studied for the effects of climate change and managed to boost resiliency and facilitate adaptation to human-caused climate change.
16. Invasive species should be inventoried. Native plant species should be used in Monument planning for projects.
17. Motorized use should be permitted only on designated roads; mechanized use should be permitted on designated roads and trails. Motorized use should be prohibited on primitive roads, trails, or any other routes, except in emergencies or for administratively designated purposes
18. Wildlife should continue to be managed by the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife.

History & Support for Permanent Protection

The campaign to protect Gold Butte began more than 15 years ago. Since inception, the campaign has focused on a compromise that would protect legal activities, such as hiking or riding OHVs on designated routes, on the ground while strengthening protection for the globally significant cultural, historic, and natural resources.

History of Permanent Protection

In 1998 the BLM designated several Areas of Critical Environment Concern in southern Nevada including an area referred to as Gold Butte near Mesquite. The Gold Butte complex has 7 ACEC's and account for the protection of resources such as cultural resources, scenic value, wildlife habitat and sensitive plant and animal species, among which is the desert tortoise. In 1999, volunteers inventoried wild lands in Gold Butte and identified 348,241 acres of wilderness-quality lands for their Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.



H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

In 2002 the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act protected 27,600 acres of wilderness in Gold Butte out of 348,241 acres proposed. Since that time advocates have been working to protect the natural, historic, and cultural treasures of Gold Butte. Gold Butte supporters began advocating again for a National Conservation Area (NCA) with Wilderness with the state's congressional delegation.

Supporters included the city, county, and community leaders in discussions on the future of Gold Butte. The NCA and Wilderness proposal included significant decreases in the amount of land proposed for Wilderness protection. Changes were based on conversations with local stakeholders and Gold Butte advocates in developing a balanced proposal.

During 2009 and 2010, resolutions of support were given by the Clark County Commission, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes and 25 conservation organizations. Letters of opposition were submitted by the Moapa Valley Town Advisory Board and Bunkerville Town Advisory Board. The Moapa Town Advisory Board voted against submitting a letter of opposition, affirming its neutral position on the proposal.

In 2011 and 2012 Congressman Joe Heck (NV-3) indicated he would consider introducing legislation. However, Congress has repeatedly failed to make land protection a priority including the protection of Gold Butte, despite broad public support. In 2010 the Mesquite City Council voted unanimously to support protection for the area, and in April 2012 a newly elected city council voted to uphold that resolution of support.

In 2013 Rep. Steven Horsford and Sen. Harry Reid introduced legislation to protect Gold Butte. Their legislation would protect over 440,000 acres of land in Gold Butte, designating a nearly 350,000-acre national conservation area (NCA), containing 129,500 acres of wilderness. An additional 92,000 acres of wilderness would also be preserved within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. These protections would preserve ancient petroglyphs, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat, while also keeping over 500 miles of roads open for ATV use. They would also raise the profile of the area, driving tourism and helping to support the local economy.

Early in 2015, Representative Titus and Senator Reid introduced legislation to protect Gold Butte (H.R. 856 and S. 199).

On February 18th of 2015, Representative Titus and Senator Reid held a conversation about conservation in Southern Nevada. Over 300 people crowded into a public meeting room in downtown Las Vegas to let congressional leaders know that Gold Butte's cultural, historic, and natural resources are nationally significant and deserve protection now.

Supportive meeting participants included Representative Horsford; Jenna Morton, Afterschool All-Stars Board Member; Chairman Darren Daboda from the Moapa Band of Paiutes; Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resort Association and Isaac Barron, North Las Vegas City Councilman; 30 students from Valley High School; and community groups, including a large contingent from Mesquite. Supportive statements were also read at the meeting from Sig Rogich and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority.

Advocates continue to build support for protecting Gold Butte thru direct outreach to groups and stakeholders; organizing interpretive hikes with community residents and schools groups such as the

Las Vegas All-Stars; hosting educational lectures about the area's geology, history, plants, and wildlife; and completing restoration projects with community members and staff from business supporters such as Lush, an international cosmetic company.

Permanent Protection Supporters

Permanently protecting Gold Butte has the endorsement of the Mesquite City Council and the Clark County Board of Commissioners as well as the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiutes. In addition, fifteen State of Nevada Assembly members and ten State of Nevada Senators support protecting Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a scenic and cultural treasure that deserves long term protection and greater visibility. Protecting Gold Butte will draw visitors to southern Nevada, provide additional recreational amenities for residents and boost the bottom line of hundreds of southern Nevada businesses. Tourism industry leaders like the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority and the Nevada Resort Association, who represent the largest employers in Nevada, as well as major regional employers such as Caesar's Entertainment and Howard Hughes Corporation all support permanently protecting Gold Butte.

Permanently protecting Gold Butte is supported by over 60 local businesses:

4 Charity Group
A PurrFurred Pet Care Service
Caesars Entertainment
City Shoppes
Cloud Nine Balloons
Colonial Life - C. Leda
Connaghan/Newberry Law Firm
Data-Mailing Systems
Dennis Stein & Associates
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC
Edge Media Group
Escape Adventures
Eureka Casino
Farmers – R. Sopi
Farmers Insurance
FDI Pharmacy Discount Care
FIGHTDENTISTS
Fitness Transitions
Fresh52 Farmers Market
Garden Farms
Howard Hughes Corporation
HRisFUN
Izigg
Jest Serendipity Improv
Keen
Las Vegas Cyclery
Linda's Original Jewels
Lush
Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority
Majestic Business Support Services
Majestic Pools
MaxX promotions
Mayan Storage
Meramak
Mesa View Hospital
Mesquite Loc Doc
Mesquite Realtors
Mesquite Veterinary
Morton Group
My Sales Tracker
Nevada Resort Association
Photographika
Pictographics
Purdue Marion & Associates
Quality 1 Real Estate
R&D Events
Red Hills Cinema
Ready Golf
Rogich Communications Group
RX Realty
Sage Designs
SH Architecture
Shevlin Financial Services
Skydance Studios
Southern Nevada Medical Industry Coalition
Strategic International Resources

TCRA LLC
Time Wise Concierge
True Life Solutions Inc.
Unity Center Valley
View on Mesquite
Wolfcreek

Protecting Gold Butte's nationally significant natural and cultural resources is also important to over two dozen local and national community organizations.

American Hiking Society
American Rock Art Research Association
Californians for Western Wilderness
Environment America
Environment Nevada
Conservation Lands Foundation
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Ironwood
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
Friends of Sloan Canyon
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
League of Women Voters of Nevada
League of Women Voters of Mesquite
League of Women Voters of the Las Vegas Valley
League of Women Voters of Pahrump
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Nevada Archaeological Association
Nevada Conservation League
Pew Charitable Trusts
Progress Now
Protectors of Tule Springs
Republicans for Environmental Protection
Sacred Sites International
Sierra Club
Southern Nevada Rock Art Association
The Wilderness Society
Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club

Opposition to Protection

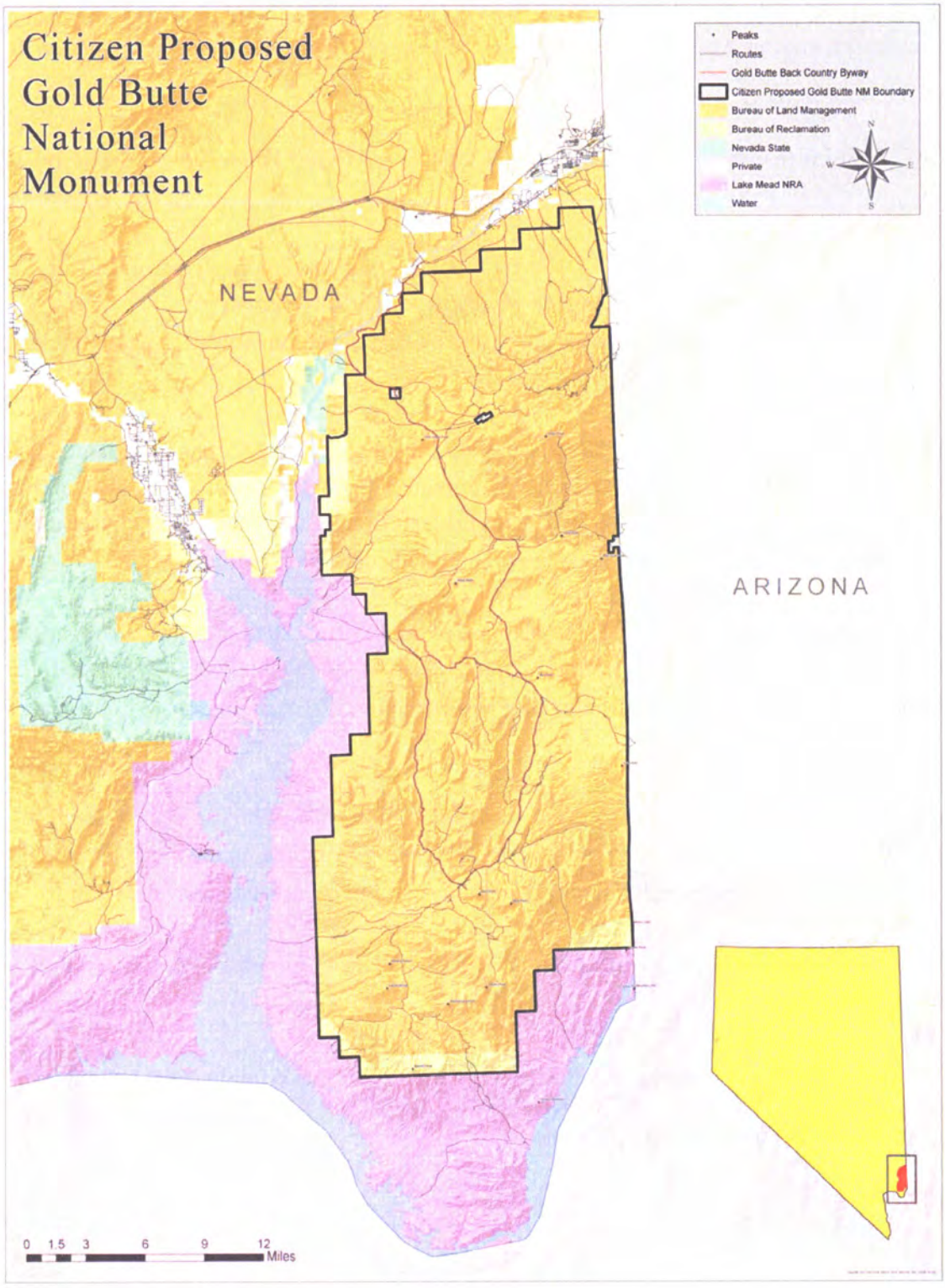
Local opposition to protecting Gold Butte as a National Monument has come from a small but vocal minority of individuals and organizations who have expressed general concerns about additional federal government regulations and the strong desire to transfer the land to the State of Nevada. The local working group has been engaging with individuals and organizations to provide the specifics about the proposal and proposed designation, and listen to concerns.

Historic conversations have found that there are no substantive resource conflict issues but rather ideological opposition associated with the federal government and its land management agencies. Some of this opposition has been further fueled by the standoff between Cliven Bundy and the BLM over 20 years of illegal grazing and millions of dollars in fines owed to the federal government. The April 2014 "standoff" was in the national spotlight and has embolden the anti-federal government sentiment with some locals.

While there has not been significant progress swaying these oppositional parties, advocates continue their outreach efforts, focusing on open dialogues and sharing information. It is important to note that

even these opposition voices, who oppose a federal designation, agree that Gold Butte is a special place and needs enhanced protection and management.

MAP: CITIZEN PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY



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APPENDIX A: CLARK CO. MSHCP WILDLIFE/PLANTS AT GOLD BUTTE

Banded gecko - *Coleonyx variegatus*
Banded Gila monster - *Heloderma suspectum cinctum*
California kingsnake - Lampropelitis *getulus californiae*
Desert iguana - *Dipsosaurus dorsalis*
Desert kangaroo rat - *Dipodomys deserti*
Desert night lizard - *Xantusia vigilis*
Desert pocket mouse - *Chaeotdipus penicillatus sobrinus*
Desert tortoise - *Gopherus agassizii*
Glossy snake - *Arizona elegans*
Great Basin collared lizard - *Crotaphytus insularis bicintores*
Kit fox - *Vulpes macrotus*
Large-spotted leopard lizard - *Gambelia wislizenii wislizenii*
Las Vegas bearpoppy - *Arctomecon californica*
Mojave green rattlesnake - *Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus*
Pale Townsends big eared bat - *Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*
Sidewinder - *Crotalus cerastes*
Sonoran lyre snake - *Trimorphodon biscutatus lambda*
Southern desert horned lizard - *Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum*
Speckled rattlesnake - *Crotalus mitchelli*
Sticky buckwheat - *Eriogonum viscidulum*
Western burrowing owl - *Athene cunicularia hypugea*
Western chuckwalla - *Sauromalus obesus obesus*
Western leaf-nosed snake - *Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*
Western long-nosed snake - *Rhinocheilus lecontei lecontei*
Western red-tailed skink - *Eumeces gilberti rubricaudatus*
White Bearpoppy - *Arctomecon merriamii*
Yellow two-tone beardtongue - *Penstemon bicolor ssp. Bicolor*

History of Compromise: Gold Butte Past and Present

Background

- In 1989, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the desert tortoise as an "endangered" species. A year later, its designation was changed to "threatened" species.

- Nearly all of the area commonly referred to as **Gold Butte** (over 340,000 acres) **is managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern**, which are special management areas designated by BLM to protect significant historic, cultural, or scenic values; and fish and wildlife resources (Create by the BLM's **1998 Las Vegas Field Office Resource Management Plan**).

  - **Gold Butte ACEC** is managed as three separate ACECs. *Gold Butte: Part A* (185,130 acres) covers the portion that is designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise. *Gold Butte: Part B* (122,540 acres) lies to the south of Part A and is managed to protect a number of biological resources including habitat for sensitive plants, desert bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise. *Gold Butte: Part C*, formerly known as the Virgin Mountain ACEC (35,700 acres), is located near the peak of the Virgin Mountains, protecting unique high elevation habitats including relic forest stands and habitat for desert bighorn sheep.

  - *Whitney Pockets ACEC*, located in Gold Butte: Part A, is a cluster of sandstone outcrops with cultural resource sites including prehistoric habitation and rock art. *Red Rock Springs ACEC*, located in *Gold Butte: Part A*, contains prehistoric habitation sites and rock art. *Devils Throat ACEC*, located in Gold Butte Part: A, is a 100-foot wide by 100-foot deep sinkhole. *Gold Butte Townsite ACEC*, located in *Gold Butte Part: B*, is the location of the historic mining town of Gold Butte.

- **Clark County also has a vested interest in the management of Gold Butte**. Conservation of habitat found here enables the County to satisfy legal obligations under the **Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)**.

  - Under the MSHCP, the county's future growth was charted to allow for reasonable development while avoiding what the plan calls "no unmitigated net loss" of habitat for hundreds of critical species. The Gold Butte region, including all of the area proposed National Conservation area was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern for one of the keystone species of the MSHCP, the desert tortoise.

  - From 1998 to 2006 Clark County, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, purchased the property with attached grazing preference, water rights, and range improvements from willing sellers as mitigation for desert tortoise and other species covered under the plan.

  - Following the purchase, Clark County agreed to relinquish the grazing permits and preferences associated with the allotments with the understanding that BLM, as a signatory to the implementing agreement for the MSHCP, would consider their closure and reallocation of forage for desert tortoise and protection of other MSHCP covered species.

2000-2004

- Volunteers inventoried wild lands in Gold Butte and identified 348,241 acres of wilderness-quality[1] lands for their Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.
- Visitors and volunteers began noticing the impacts from motorized use. Sportsmen, conservationists, archaeologists—and representatives from Partners in Conservation (PIC)—gathered in Las Vegas and formed Friends of Gold Butte (FoBG) to address these concerns.
- Advocates in Clark County built a diverse coalition of supporters -- homeowner associations, ranchers, tribal groups, developers, business owners, scientists, archeologists, and hiking groups. This was the largest pro-wilderness movement in Nevada in years.
- Clark County Conservation of Public Lands and Natural Resources Act of 2002 passed.

Legislation Summary:

- Wilderness included:
  - 27,600 acres designated as Wilderness in the bill out of 348,241 acres proposed.
  - Garrett Buttes was released from Wilderness Study Area (WSA) protection.

[1] http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=legisAct

2005-2008

- Gold Butte supporters began advocating again for a National Conservation Area (NCA) with Wilderness with the Congressional delegation, and began discussions with city, county and community leaders.
- The NCA and Wilderness proposal includes significant decreases in the amount of land proposed for Wilderness protection. Changes were based on conversations with local stakeholders and Gold Butte advocates in order to develop a balanced proposal.
- Gold Butte advocates organized hikes, service projects, and youth field trips, which continue today.
- Representative Shelley Berkley introduced the Gold Butte National Conservation Act with Wilderness (H.R. 7132) in 2008.

Legislation Summary:

- NCA & Wilderness included:
  - 362,766 acres proposed as NCA.
  - 229,785 acres proposed as Wilderness.
  - 500 miles of road to remain open per the BLM's Travel Management Plan with no road closures.
  - Proposal updated to ensure motorized road access to small-game guzzlers for sportsmen.

2009-2012

- During 2009 and 2010, resolutions of support were passed by the Clark County Commission, City of Mesquite, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes and 25 conservation organizations (Note: In April 2012, a newly elected Mesquite City Council voted to uphold that resolution of support un unanimously issued in 2010. Another resolution was passed in 2015 supporting the protection of Gold Butte).
- Gold Butte advocates worked closely with Clark County Commissioner Collins, Mesquite Mayor Holecheck, BLM Director Bob Abbey, Representative Heck and Senator Reid to move the proposal forward.
- Although, some dissenting voices have been unwilling to engage in dialogue, many who have communicated their issues and ideas have had their concerns addressed in the present proposal, again decreasing the amount of land proposed for protection.
- 2011 and 2012 Representative Heck indicated he would consider introducing legislation. However, Congress repeatedly failed to make land protection a priority including the protection of Gold Butte, despite public support, and no legislation was ever introduced.

Proposal Summary:

- NCA & Wilderness proposal included:
  - 348,515 acres proposed as NCA.
  - 221,545 acres proposed as Wilderness.
  - As requested by Bunkerville residents, proposal boundaries adhere to the original Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and do not extend to Hwy 170.
  - Wilderness boundaries streamlined to align with roads and no road closures exist in the proposal.
  - Wilderness boundary adjustments to ensure big game guzzlers are located outside of proposed Wilderness.

2013-2014

- In 2013, Then Representative Horsford toured Gold Butte, spoke with community leaders, and convened a community meeting to receive input about how to move forward in Gold Butte.
- In 2013 Representative Horsford and Senator Reid introduced legislation to protect Gold Butte (H.R. 2276 and S. 1054).

Legisaltion Summary:

- NCA & Wilderness included:
  - 348,515 acres proposed as NCA.
  - 221,545 acres proposed as Wilderness.
  - As requested by Bunkerville residents, proposal boundaries adhere to the original Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and do not extend to Hwy 170.
  - Wilderness boundaries streamlined to align with roads and no road closures exist in the proposal.
  - Wilderness boundary adjustments to ensure big game guzzlers are located outside of proposed Wilderness.
- Representative Horsford's bill protected the cultural, historic, and natural values at Gold Butte and provided a range of other elements such as: the creation of a boat access to Lake Mead; the extension of the purchase and withdrawal authority for Mesquite's airport, and the creation of Virgin Valley Tourism and Economic Advisory Council.

2015-Present

- Early in 2015, Representative Titus and Senator Reid introduced legislation to protect Gold Butte (H.R. 856 and S. 199).
- On February 18th of 2015, Representative Titus and Senator Reid held a conversation about conservation in Southern Nevada. Over 300 people crowded into a public meeting room in downtown Las Vegas to let congressional leaders know that Gold Butte's cultural, historic, and natural resources are nationally significant and deserve protection now.
  - Supportive meeting participants included Representative Horsford; Jenna Morton, Afterschool All-Stars Board Member; Chairman Darren Daboda from the Moapa Band of Paiutes; Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resort Association and Isaac Barron, North Las Vegas City Councilman; 30 students from Valley High School; and community groups, including a large contingent from Mesquite.
  - Supportive statements were also read at the meeting from Sig Rogich and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority.
- Following the February 2015 meeting, the campaign and its congressional champions have publically pivoted to supporting a national monument designation.
- Advocates continue to build support for protecting Gold Butte thru direct outreach to groups and stakeholders; organizing interpretive hikes with community residents and schools groups; hosting educational lectures about the area's geology, history, plants, and wildlife; and completing restoration projects with community members and business supporters (**Detailed list of supporters**).
- Since September 2015, 611 people have been on guided outings in Gold Butte and nearly 20,000 people have signed petitions supporting protecting Gold Butte as a national monument.

Legisaltion Summary:

- NCA & Wilderness included:
  - 348,515 acres proposed as NCA.
  - 221,545 acres proposed as Wilderness.
  - As requested by Bunkerville residents, proposal boundaries adhere to the original Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and do not extend to Hwy 170.
  - Wilderness boundaries streamlined to align with roads and no road closures exist in the proposal.
  - Wilderness boundary adjustments to ensure big game guzzlers are located outside of proposed Wilderness.

National Monuement Summary:

- 348,515 acres proposed as national monument
  - This citizen proposed boundaries adheres to the original Area of Critical Environmental Concern boundary (is the same as the legislative boundaries of the national conservation area) and do not extend to Hwy 170.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

M. Garden Valley

DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE
511 Duckwater Falls Road, P.O. Box 140068
Duckwater Nevada 89314
(775) 863-0227 Phone
(775) 863-0301 Fax

June 4, 2015

President Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Honorable President Obama:

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation writes today in support of the Garden Valley Withdrawal Act. The lands included in the withdrawal are within our ancestral boundaries, approximately 90 miles from the Duckwater Reservation. The Garden and Coal Valleys are an important cultural resource for our Tribe, and contain several plants and animals of traditional use to our people, as well as several historical and archaeological sites and ancient rock art.

As the Native peoples of this land from time immemorial, we have a unique relationship to the wildlife that makes its home in these basins. We seek protection for birds such as the Loggerhead shrike, Sage thrasher, and Brewers Sparrow, as well as the Pygmy Rabbits, Coyote, and Kangaroo Mouse. There are several important bat species in the area that are either listed by the BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service as sensitive or "species of concern." Of particular importance are the protection of plants such as the ancient bristlecone pines in the Worthington Mountain range and the White River Catseye.

Safeguarding the Garden and Coal Valleys preserves our Tribe's ability to access these special areas within the proposed withdrawal that may be otherwise cut off by development. In order to continue to preserve our rights to access the area and our cultural resources contained within, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe would like to have a say in the management of the withdrawal. Any management plan, advisory council, or other organization developed to regulate the area should have a seat reserved for a representative of the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe. Furthermore, should any wilderness or Roadless areas be designated, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe would like an exemption for our elders and disabled members of the community to have access to traditional sites of importance.

We deeply appreciate Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus for introducing this legislation. We would like to see the legislation passed, and are in support of any opportunity to protect this area, including a Presidential designation through the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Sanchez, Chairman
Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe is an equal opportunity provider.

.....

(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in Clark County, Nevada, in order to conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources of the area, to designate wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in Clark County, Nevada, in order to conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources of the area, to designate wilderness areas, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Sec. 101. Establishment of Gold Butte National Conservation Area.
Sec. 102. Management of Conservation Area.
Sec. 103. General provisions.
Sec. 104. Gold Butte National Conservation Area Advisory Council.

TITLE II—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Sec. 201. Findings.
Sec. 202. Additions to National Wilderness Preservation System.
Sec. 203. Administration.
Sec. 204. Adjacent management.
Sec. 205. Military, law enforcement, and emergency overflights.
Sec. 206. Release of wilderness study areas.
Sec. 207. Native American cultural and religious uses.
Sec. 208. Wildlife management.
Sec. 209. Wildfire, insect, and disease management.
Sec. 210. Climatological data collection.
Sec. 211. National Park System land.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Relationship to Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.
Sec. 302. Visitor center, research, and interpretation.
Sec. 303. Termination of withdrawal of Bureau of Land Management land.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the public land in southeastern Nevada generally known as "Gold Butte" is recognized for outstanding—

(A) scenic values;

(B) natural resources, including critical habitat, sensitive species, wildlife, desert tortoise habitat, and geology;

(C) historic resources, including historic mining, ranching and other western cultures, and pioneer activities; and

(D) cultural resources, including evidence of prehistoric habitation and rock art;

(2) Gold Butte has become a destination for diverse recreation opportunities, including camping, hiking, hunting, motorized recreation, and sightseeing;

(3) Gold Butte draws visitors from throughout the United States;

(4) Gold Butte provides important economic benefits to Mesquite and other nearby communities;

(5) inclusion of the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in the National Landscape Conservation System would provide increased opportunities for—

(A) interpretation of the diverse values of the area for the visiting public; and

(B) education and community outreach in the region; and

(6) designation of Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area will permanently protect the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources within the area.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "Advisory Council" means the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Advisory Council established under section 104(a).

(2) CONSERVATION AREA.—The term "Conservation Area" means the Gold Butte National Conservation Area established by section 101(a).

(3) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Clark County, Nevada.

(4) DESIGNATED ROUTE.—The term "designated route" means a road that is designated as open by the Route Designations for Selected Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Located in the Northeast Portion of the Las Vegas BLM District Environmental Assessment, NV–052–2006–0433.

(5) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "management plan" means the management plan for the Conservation Area developed under section 102(b).

(6) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Gold Butte National Conservation Area" and dated May 23, 2013.

(7) PUBLIC LAND.—The term "public land" has the meaning given the term "public lands" in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(9) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Nevada.

(10) WILDERNESS AREA.—The term "wilderness area" means a wilderness areas designated by section 202(a).

TITLE I—GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Gold Butte National Conservation Area in the State.

(b) AREA INCLUDED.—The Conservation Area shall consist of approximately 348,515 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the County, as generally depicted on the Map.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Conservation Area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct minor errors in the map or legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

SEC. 102. MANAGEMENT OF CONSERVATION AREA.

(a) PURPOSES.—In accordance with this title, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and other applicable laws, the Secretary shall manage the Conservation Area in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, rec-

reational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources of the Conservation Area.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a management plan for the long-term protection and management of the Conservation Area.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the management plan in consultation with the State, local and tribal government entities, the Advisory Council, and the public.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The management plan shall—

(A) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Conservation Area; and

(B) include a recommendation on interpretive and educational materials regarding the cultural and biological resources of the region within which the Conservation Area is located.

(4) INCORPORATION OF ROUTE DESIGNATIONS.—The management plan shall incorporate the decisions in the Route Designations for Selected Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Located in the Northeast Portion of the Las Vegas BLM Dis-

trict Environmental Assessment, NV–052–2006–0433.

(c) USES.—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the Conservation Area that the Secretary determines would further the purpose of the Conservation Area described in subsection (a).

(d) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.—Any land or interests in land located within the boundary of the Conservation Area that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall become part of the Conservation Area and be managed as provided in subsection (a).

(e) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles shall be permitted only on designated routes.

(2) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall annually—

(A) assess the effects of the use of motorized vehicles on designated routes; and

(B) in consultation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, assess the effects of designated routes on wildlife and wildlife habitat to

minimize environmental impacts and prevent damage to cultural and historical resources from the use of designated routes.

(3) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage designated routes in a manner that—

(i) is consistent with motorized and mechanized use of the designated routes that is authorized on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(ii) ensures the safety of the people that use the designated routes;

(iii) does not damage sensitive habitat or cultural or historical resources; and

(iv) provides for adaptive management of resources and restoration of damaged habitat or resources.

(B) REROUTING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A designated route may be temporarily closed or rerouted if the Secretary, in consultation with the State, the County, and the Advisory Council, subject to subparagraph (C), determines that—

(I) the designated route is having an adverse impact on—

(aa) sensitive habitat;

(bb) natural resources;

(cc) cultural resources; or

(dd) historical resources;

(II) the designated route threatens public safety;

(III) temporary closure of the designated route is necessary to repair—

(aa) the designated route; or

(bb) resource damage; or

(IV) modification of the designated route would not significantly affect access within the Conservation Area.

(ii) PRIORITY.—If the Secretary determines that the rerouting of a designated route is necessary under clause (i), the Secretary may give priority to existing roads designated as closed.

(iii) DURATION.—A designated route that is temporarily closed under clause (i) shall remain closed only until the date on

which the resource or public safety issue that led to the temporary closure has been resolved.

(C) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide information to the public regarding any designated routes that are open, have been rerouted, or are temporarily closed through—

(i) use of appropriate signage within the Conservation Area; and

(ii) the distribution of maps, safety education materials, law enforcement, and other information considered to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(4) NO EFFECT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND OR INTERESTS IN NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Nothing in this section affects ownership, management, or other rights relating to non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

(5) MAP ON FILE.—The Secretary shall keep a current map on file at the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(6) ROAD CONSTRUCTION.—Except as necessary for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the Secretary shall not construct any

permanent or temporary road within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The Conservation Area shall be administered as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(g) HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife, including hunting, fishing, and trapping in the Conservation Area.

SEC. 103. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The establishment of the Conservation Area shall not create an express or implied protective perimeter or buffer zone around the Conservation Area.

(2) PRIVATE LAND.—If the use of, or conduct of an activity on, private land that shares a boundary with the Conservation Area is consistent with applicable law, nothing in this title concerning the establishment of the Conservation Area prohibits or limits the use or conduct of the activity.

(b) WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, all public land within the Conservation Area, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United

States within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(c) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The establishment of the Conservation Area shall not affect the management status of any area within the boundary of the Conservation Area that is protected under the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

(2) CONFLICT OF LAWS.—If there is a conflict between the laws applicable to an area described in paragraph (1) and this title, the more restrictive provision shall control.

SEC. 104. GOLD BUTTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory council, to be known as the "Gold Butte National Conservation Area Advisory Council".

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Advisory Council shall be subject to—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(d) MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall include 13 members to be appointed by the Secretary, of whom, to the extent practicable—

(A) 4 members shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Mesquite, Nevada, City Council;

(B) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Bunkerville, Nevada, Town Advisory Board;

(C) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Moapa Valley, Nevada, Town Advisory Board;

(D) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Moapa, Nevada, Town Advisory Board;

(E) 1 member shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribal Council; and

(F) 5 at-large members from the County shall be appointed after considering the recommendations of the County Commission.

(2) SPECIAL APPOINTMENT CONSIDERATIONS.—The at-large members appointed under paragraph (1)(F) shall have backgrounds that reflect—

(A) the purposes for which the Conservation Area was established; and

(B) the interests of persons affected by the planning and management of the Conservation Area.

(3) REPRESENTATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Council is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the Advisory Council.

(4) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the initial members of the Advisory Council in accordance with paragraph (1).

(e) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Advisory Council shall advise the Secretary with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan, including budgetary matters relating to the Conservation Area.

(f) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Advisory Council shall receive no compensation for serving on the Advisory Council.

(g) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall elect a Chairperson from among the members of the Advisory Council.

(2) TERM.—The term of the Chairperson shall be 3 years.

(h) TERM OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of a member of the Advisory Council shall be 3 years.

(2) SUCCESSORS.—Notwithstanding the expiration of a 3-year term of a member of the Advisory Council, a member may continue to serve on the Advisory Council until a successor is appointed.

(i) VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(2) APPOINTMENT FOR REMAINDER OF TERM.—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Advisory Council shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

(j) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Council shall terminate not later than 3 years after the date on which the final version of the management plan is published.

TITLE II—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and National Park Service in the County contains unique and spectacular natural, cultural, and historical resources, including—

(A) priceless habitat for numerous species of plants and wildlife;

(B) thousands of acres of land that remain in a natural state; and

(C) numerous sites containing significant cultural and historical artifacts; and

(2) continued preservation of the public land would benefit the County and all of the United States by—

(A) ensuring the conservation of ecologically diverse habitat;

(B) protecting prehistoric cultural resources;

(C) conserving primitive recreational resources; and

(D) protecting air and water quality.

SEC. 202. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) ADDITIONS.—In furtherance of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following public land administered by the National Park Service or the Bureau of Land Management in the County is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) VIRGIN PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 18,296 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Virgin Peak Wilderness".

(2) BLACK RIDGE WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment, comprising approximately 18,192 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Black Ridge Wilderness".

(3) BITTER RIDGE NORTH WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprising approximately 15,114 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Bitter Ridge North Wilderness".

(4) BITTER RIDGE SOUTH WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 12,646 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Bitter Ridge Wilderness".

(5) BILLY GOAT PEAK WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 30,460 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Billy Goat Peak Wilderness".

(6) MILLION HILLS WILDERNESS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 24,818 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Million Hills Wilderness".

(7) OVERTON WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation

Area, comprising approximately 23,227 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Overton Wilderness".

(8) TWIN SPRINGS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 9,684 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Twin Springs Wilderness".

(9) SCANLON WASH WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 22,826 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Scanlon Wash Wilderness".

(10) HILLER MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 14,832 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Hiller Mountains Wilderness".

(11) HELL'S KITCHEN WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, comprising approximately 12,439 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Hell's Kitchen Wilderness".

(12) INDIAN HILLS WILDERNESS.—Certain Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recre-

ation Area, comprising approximately 8,955 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which shall be known as the "Indian Hills Wilderness".

(13) LIME CANYON WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Certain public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 10,069 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, which is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the "Lime Canyon Wilderness" designated by section 202(a)(9) of the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 107–282).

(b) NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The wilderness areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management shall be administered as components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(c) ROAD OFFSET.—The boundary of any portion of a wilderness area that is bordered by a road shall be at least 100 feet away from the centerline of the road so as not to interfere with public access.

(d) LAKE OFFSET.—The boundary of any portion of a wilderness area that is bordered by Lake Mead or the Colorado River shall be 300 feet inland from the high water line.

(e) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) EFFECT.—Each map and legal description under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(b) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.—Any land or interest in land within the boundaries of a wilderness area that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to, and administered as part of, the wilderness area within which the acquired land or interest is located.

(c) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the land designated as a wilderness area—

(i) is within the Mojave Desert;

(ii) is arid in nature; and

(iii) includes ephemeral streams;

(B) the hydrology of the land designated as a wilderness area is locally characterized by complex flow patterns and alluvial fans with impermanent channels;

(C) the subsurface hydrogeology of the region within which the land designated as a wilderness area is located is characterized by ground water subject to local and regional flow gradients and artesian aquifers;

(D) the land designated as a wilderness area is generally not suitable for use or development of new water resource facilities;

(E) there are no actual or proposed water resource facilities and no opportunities for diversion, storage, or other uses of water occurring outside the land designated as a wilderness area that would adversely affect the wilderness or other values of the land; and

(F) because of the unique nature and hydrology of the desert land designated as a wilderness area and the existence of the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, it is possible to provide for proper management and protection of the wilderness, perennial springs, and other values of the land in ways different than the methods used in other laws.

(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) NO RESERVATION.—Nothing in this title constitutes an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water or water rights with respect to the land designated as a wilderness area.

(B) STATE RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title affects any water rights in the State existing on the date of enactment of this Act, including any water rights held by the United States.

(C) NO PRECEDENT.—Nothing in this subsection establishes a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations.

(D) NO EFFECT ON COMPACTS.—Nothing in this title limits, alters, modifies, or amends any of the interstate compacts or equitable apportionment decrees that apportion water among and between the State and other States.

(E) CLARK COUNTY MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.—Nothing in this title limits, alters, modifies, or amends the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan with respect to the land designated as a wilderness area, including specific management actions for the conservation of perennial springs.

(3) NEVADA WATER LAW.—The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of State law in order to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of enactment of

this Act with respect to the land designated as a wilderness area.

(4) NEW PROJECTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term "water resource facility" means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, and transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures.

(ii) EXCLUSION.—In this paragraph, the term "water resource facility" does not include wildlife guzzlers.

(B) NO LICENSES OR PERMITS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, on and after the date of enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for the development of any new water resource facility within the land designated as a wilderness area.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, any Federal land within the wilderness areas, including

any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Conservation Area after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

SEC. 204. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.

(a) NO BUFFER ZONES.—Congress does not intend for the designation of land as wilderness areas to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the wilderness areas.

(b) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness area shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 205. MILITARY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND EMERGENCY OVERFLIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act restricts or precludes—

(1) low-level overflights of military, law enforcement, or emergency medical services aircraft over the area designated as wilderness by this Act, in-

cluding military, law enforcement, or emergency medical services overflights that can be seen or heard within the wilderness area;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military, law enforcement, or emergency medical services flight training routes, over the wilderness area.

SEC. 206. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the Bureau of Land Management land in any portion of the wilderness study areas located within the Conservation Area not designated as a wilderness area has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(b) RELEASE.—Any Bureau of Land Management land described in subsection (a) that is not designated as a wilderness area—

(1) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c));

(2) shall be managed in accordance with—

(A) the land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(B) cooperative conservation agreements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(3) shall be subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 207. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS USES.

Nothing in this title diminishes—

(1) the rights of any Indian tribe; or

(2) tribal rights regarding access to Federal land for tribal activities, including spiritual, cultural, and traditional food-gathering activities.

SEC. 208. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this title affects or diminishes the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in the wilderness areas.

(b) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16

U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), management activities to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and the habitats to support the populations may be carried out within the wilderness areas, if the activities—

(A) are consistent with relevant wilderness management plans; and

(B) are carried out in accordance with appropriate policies, such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101–405.

(2) USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—The management activities under paragraph (1) may include the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles, if the use, as determined by the Secretary, would—

(A) promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values; and

(B) accomplish the purposes described in subparagraph (A) with the minimum impact necessary to reasonably accomplish the task.

(c) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and in accordance with appropriate policies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101–405, the State

may continue to use aircraft (including helicopters) to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife populations, including bighorn sheep, and feral stock, horses, and burros.

(d) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—Subject to subsection (f), the Secretary shall authorize structures and facilities, including existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects, including guzzlers, in the wilderness areas if—

(1) the structures and facilities will, as determined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values by promoting healthy, viable and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(2) the visual impacts of the structures and facilities on the wilderness areas can reasonably be minimized.

(e) HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may designate, by regulation, areas in which, and establish periods during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted in the wilderness areas.

(2) CONSULTATION.—Except in emergencies, the Secretary shall consult with the appropriate

State agency before promulgating regulations under paragraph (1).

(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The State, including a designee of the State, may conduct wildlife management activities in the wilderness areas—

(1) in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the State entitled "Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife Supplement No. 9" and signed November and December 2003, including any amendments to the cooperative agreement agreed to by the Secretary and the State; and

(2) subject to all applicable laws (including regulations).

SEC. 209. WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may take such measures in each wilderness area as the Secretary determines to be necessary for the control of fire, insects, and diseases (including, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordination of the activities with a State or local agency).

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act precludes a Federal, State, or local agency from conducting wildfire management operations (including operations using aircraft or mechanized equipment) in accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)).

SEC. 210. CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.

Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require, nothing in this title precludes the installation and maintenance of hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices in the wilderness areas if the facilities and access to the facilities are essential to flood warning, flood control, and water reservoir operation activities.

SEC. 211. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LAND.

To the extent any of the provisions of this title are in conflict with laws (including regulations) or management policies applicable to Federal land within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area designated as a wilderness area, the laws (including regulations) or policies shall control.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. RELATIONSHIP TO CLARK COUNTY MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act limits, alters, modifies, or amends the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan with respect to the Conservation Area and the wilderness areas, including the specific management actions contained in the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the conservation of perennial springs.

(b) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREAS.—The Secretary shall credit the Conservation Area and the wilderness areas as Conservation Management Areas, as may be required by the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (including amendments to the plan).

(c) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—In developing the management plan, to the extent consistent with this section, the Secretary may incorporate any provision of the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

SEC. 302. VISITOR CENTER, RESEARCH, AND INTERPRETATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, may establish, in cooperation with any other public or private enti-

ties that the Secretary may determine to be appropriate, a visitor center and field office in Mesquite, Nevada—

(1) to serve visitors; and

(2) to assist in fulfilling the purposes of—

(A) the Lake Mead National Recreation Area;

(B) the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument; and

(C) the Conservation Area.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the visitor center authorized under subsection (a) is designed—

(1) to interpret the scenic, biological, natural, historical, scientific, paleontological, recreational, ecological, wilderness, and cultural resources of each of the areas described in that subsection; and

(2) to serve as an interagency field office for each of the areas described in that subsection.

(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may, in a manner consistent with this Act, enter into cooperative agreements with the State, the State of Arizona, and any other appropriate institutions and organizations to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 303. TERMINATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND.

(a) TERMINATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The withdrawal of the parcels of Bureau of Land Management land described in subsection (b) for use by the Bureau of Reclamation is terminated.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) consist of the Bureau of Land Management land identified on the Map as "Transfer from BOR to BLM".

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the land reverting to the Bureau of Land Management under subsection (a).

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(A) the Map; or

(B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The Map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation.

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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the withdrawal of certain Federal land in Garden Valley, Nevada.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Garden Valley Withdrawal Act".

SEC. 2. GARDEN VALLEY, NEVADA, WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid existing rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, the approximately 805,100 acres of Federal land generally depicted on the map enti-

tled "Garden Valley Withdrawal Area" and dated July 11, 2014, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) is charged with promoting leisure and business travel to Southern Nevada. Tourism is the lifeblood of the local economy and the LVCVA is committed to its mission of ensuring the area remains a leading travel destination for tens of millions of visitors each year.

The travel experience in Southern Nevada and throughout our state extends beyond the amenities in our cities. The outdoor experience and old west mystique are important elements of our tourism industry, particularly to the ever-important growth market of international travelers. It is important that we support, maintain, and promote these attractions.

Surrounding environmental attractions such as the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Valley of Fire, and Red Rock Conservation area attract approximately five million visitors each year, according to the LVCVA's annual Visitor Profile Study. Last year we expressed our support for granting Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area for its cultural, historical, and environmental significance. Today, we would like to extend our support for the Basin and Range area to also receive that same protection for the same reason.

In addition to the tourism benefits, granting this protection will also ensure that local residents will have the opportunity to experience the recreation, history, and cultural elements of these outdoor attractions.

Eco-tourism is a growing segment in the travel community – particularly among international travelers to Las Vegas. Overseas visitors are attracted to the Southwest landscape and the cowboy culture that is represented here. Maintaining these protected areas will help persuade international visitors to make Southern Nevada their main hub for their visit to the Southwestern United States, continuing to boost our economy.

With the economic benefits eco-tourism can bring to Southern Nevada and the state as a whole, the LVCVA supports the efforts the designate Gold Butte and Basin and Range as National Conservation Areas.

LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY

3150 PARADISE ROAD I LAS VEGAS, NV 89109 I 702.892.0711 LASVEGAS.COM I LVCVA.COM

morton
GROUP

February 20, 2015

Ms. Valerie Jarrett
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms Jarrett,

You and I had lunch together a year ago with a group of my colleagues at my restaurant La Cave at Wynn Resort. The purpose of the lunch was to discuss economic opportunity for Las Vegas and Nevada. I am writing you today on behalf of some of those who attended lunch, and also many Nevada conservationists and art lovers, including the Elaine P. Wynn Family Foundation.

Two days ago, Senator Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus arranged a meeting allowing for public comment on efforts to preserve two pristine natural areas in Nevada. One is Gold Butte with its stunning unusual rock formations carved by water and wind over millennia. The other is the Nevada's basin and range area including the Coal and Garden Valleys that frame contemporary artist Michael Heizer's *'City'* project.

The meeting was attended by: Senator Reid (remotely); Congresswoman Titus; former Congressman Steven Horsford; Michael Gowan, Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Virginia Valentine, representing the Las Vegas visitors and Convention Authority; and many other elected officials. Most importantly, the Department of Interior Undersecretary Mike Connor attended after having visited both sites in a whirlwind tour the day before.

I had the privilege of opening for the meeting. We had expected perhaps a few dozen people, which seems to be the norm for public comment sessions in Las Vegas. I was thrilled to speak to a room packed and overflowing. Nearly 300 people attended and 250 were able to comment in the time allowed, all in support of preservation. Mrs. Wynn and I thought you should hear from us about the enthusiasm in Nevada for preservation, particularly of the region that is home to *City*.

I know that President Obama has received many letters from various members of the arts community, including several museum directors, collectors and foundations, urging the recognition of the site and its locale. They have done so because Michael Heizer's *City* is one of the most awe-inspiring works of uniquely American art of our time. Its scale, at a mile-and-a-half long, is only matched by its remarkable mathematical precision. Crafted over a span of forty years, it is cradled by the profound solitude of the region, which is, itself, a distinct part of the work.

As the daughter of an archaeologist, I join in their entreaty because I have been raised to be all too aware of the challenge of reconstructing the story of our forbears from mere shards. I know what it is like to mourn the destruction of artifacts that, even in ruins, still inspire. We have an opportunity right now to pass on the story told by *City*—intact—for our children's children.

morton
GROUP

Even as Wednesday's meeting was attended by dignitaries from the worlds of politics and art, it was overwhelmingly populated by average Americans who believe in the legacy housed in our public lands both for posterity and also, in part, for the inherent potential economic opportunity preservation could provide. On their behalf, I write in the hope that, given the opportunity, you will share their feelings with the president. We believe that the best opportunity for the preservation of the Coal and Garden Valleys and *City* lies with President Obama.

I truly appreciate your time and all you do to support our country. Next time you come to Nevada perhaps we can arrange for a visit to *City,* a rare occurance.

Sincerely,

Jenna Morton

Morton Group
1129 Casino Center Boulevard
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
Jenna@morton-group.com

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United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Carol Corbett

Address: (b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Comment: I have lived in southern Nevada for 45 years but my favorite part of Nevada has always been central Nevada - Basin & Range country. I have been to many remote areas throughout central Nevada but I would have been to many more if there had been some formal designation for them. I think others would find the central part of the state more enjoyable with designations for protection, interpretation, and education. I think designations such as National Conservation Area are appropriate - they retain the "wildness" while providing protection & education. More people need to be able to find the solace that I have found in our distinctive basin & range country. Wild horses also!

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Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Lorelle Nelson

Address: (b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Comment: I first came to Nevada in 1965. I fell in love with the desert and the mountains, and have hiked and camped from Searchlight to Tuscarora to Mt Rose to Ash Meadows and many wonderful places in between. I fully support measures to protect our petroglyphs, hiking through stunning scenery, and making sure that the many Nevada treasures are in place for future generations to enjoy. Our historic, prehistoric, and scenic wonders are, to my mind, the best that Nevada has to offer. Lets be proactive in our laws to protect all our wonders, especially Gold Butte and Basin and Range proposals.

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February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Elizabeth LaRue

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone:

Email:

Comment: Thanks for having this public meeting. I have been to both Gold Butte and the Mt. Irish and White River Narrows areas for hiking, birdwatching, and looking at petroglyphs. I urge protection for these areas.

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

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February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Wendy Harkenrether

Address: (b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Comment: Time is of the essence. Preservation of Nevada's geological, biological, historical, archaeological and cultural treasures here in Nevada is of the essence. Sharing these resources with all Nevadans, Americans and the world in ways that ensure their protection in perpetuity is of the essence. Enabling today's children, their children, their children's children and all generations to come to explore, learn about and simply experience the wondrous aspects of Gold Butte and Gordon Valley is of the essence. Protection legislation for 'classic Nevada' is of the essence. Time is indeed of the essence! Act now!!!

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Barbara Gerhardt

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: I have been a resident of southern Nevada for over forty years. During that time I have witnessed astronomical growth in the Las Vegas Valley. It goes without saying that like it or not the growth will continue which makes it of utmost importance to provide permanent protection for the wild and scenic areas of our state NOW! The areas under consideration for protection: Basin, Range, and Gold Butte are valuable treasures of our state... cultural, historical geology rare plants and wildlife — all of these will be threatened

United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Rita L. Ransom

Address (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: Given the widespread degradation of the Earth, we must do all we can to create, maintain, and protect public lands for people today and for posterity. There is relentless pressure to develop or otherwise exploit special places but we must not give into short-term gain and love or destroy a legacy for the future. People have shown time & again how much they enjoy & appreciate public lands so let us protect more of them, not less.

United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Jann Shevin

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone:

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: I am here today to show support for the preservation of public lands in Nevada and all of the Southwest. We have enough development and way too many cows. Let's save our unique environment.

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United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

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Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Trudy Sharpe

Address: (b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Comment: I urge you to continue promote the protection + permanent preservation of Gold Butte so that people can continue to enjoy the wildlife, mountains + petroglyphs. Nevadans are fortunate to have this area and Basin + Range conservation areas. Before these areas are lost, I hope Congress will permanently designate these areas as national conservation areas.

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

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Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Michaela Tomchek

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: Let's show America how beautiful Nevada is by protecting Gold Butte and Basin and Range. Nevada gives us so much - we need to give back.

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United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Ashley Lee

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: Please keep and public outdoor places protected! The only way we can guarantee the future of these beautiful places if we take action now. These places should be honored in there natural Beauty.

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

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February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
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Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Leonel Murrieta-Serna

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: As a Nevadan, I care deeply about the outdoors and want to see our public lands protected for future generations. As a Latina who has been engaged in research around conservation, I know firsthand that Latinos care deeply about the protection of public lands and ensuring their longevity for use by future generations.

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

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February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Rebecca Haag

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: Having lived in Europe for many years before returning to my native Nevada, I have become even more aware of what a "luxury" our wide open and widely, freely accessible public lands are. Anyone who visits here from abroad is marvelled by the pristine beauty of our state. Keeping these lands public ~~and~~ is crucial to protecting them, and they represent not only a cultural, natural environmental and spiritual resource, but also an economic one thanks to opportunities for tourism and sustainable, managed, other development. I support

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United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

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February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Jim Stanger

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: (b) (6) [redacted]

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: There are some public lands in Nevada that have characteristics much like botanical gardens, wildlife sanctuaries, museums, + parks. Gold Butte and Basin and Range are two such places, they deserve to be protected for the benefit of future generations. These are not suitable areas for industrial scarring. Please take whatever measures necessary to protect Gold Butte + Basin and Range!

Jim

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United States Senator for Nevada
HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Cheryl Hobbs

Address: (b) (6)

Phone: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Comment: I'm a 27-year resident of Nevada and what keeps me here in our fine state is its public lands - our state's most precious resources. These natural and cultural wonders offer vast opportunities to enjoy beautiful, peaceful solitude. We should protect our lands at all costs from degradation and preserve them in their natural state. As a hiker, camper, rock climber, artist and photographer - I find Nevada's outdoorspaces priceless and would hope to see these areas preserved for all to experience [illegible]

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

A Conversation about Conservation in Southern Nevada

Comment Form

February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Name: Christian Gerlach
Address: (b) (6)
Phone: (b) (6)
Email: (b) (6)

Comment: Please permenantly protect Coal & Garden Valleys & Gold Butte. There are resources there that deserve permenant protection.

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HARRY REID

Dina Titus
United States Congress

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February 18, 2015

Lloyd George Federal Courthouse
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

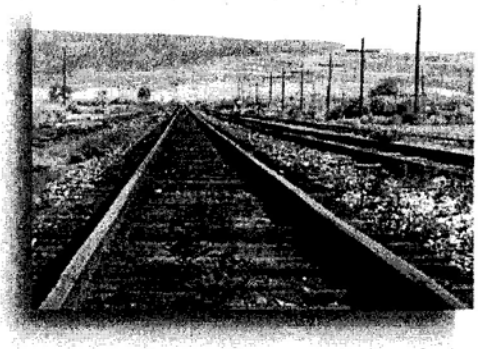
Name: MARTY WALSH

Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Phone: ✓

Email: (b) (6) [redacted]

Comment: I am here today to site art in its purest form and ~~want~~ to express & encourage each of you to recognize this most ~~rare~~ & basic & unprecedented opportunity to preserve, protect & Educate via this Natural classroom/Lab. Visitors to this site will look at Nevada in important diverse ways to see our state's resources of Art & Nature. It is important to us as a state, a country and as humans on this planet.



Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada – Nevada Rail Transportation Corridor DOE/EIS-0250F-S2D

and

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada DOE/EIS-0369D

Summary

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

October 2007

COVER SHEET

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

TITLE: *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada – Nevada Rail Transportation Corridor* (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2D; the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS), and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (DOE/EIS-0369D; the Rail Alignment EIS)

CONTACTS:

For more information about this document, write or call:

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1551 Hillshire Drive M/S 011
Las Vegas, NV 89134
ATTN: M. Lee Bishop
Telephone: (800) 967-3477
Fax: 1-800-967-0739

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, write or call:

Carol M. Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-20)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585
Telephone: (202) 586-4600
Or leave a message: (800) 472-2756

Information about this document is available on the Internet at the Yucca Mountain Project web site at *http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov* and on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) web site at *http://eh.doe.gov/nepa/*.

ABSTRACT: The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2D) analyzes the potential impacts of constructing and operating a railroad to connect the Yucca Mountain repository site to an existing rail line near Wabuska, Nevada (in the Mina rail corridor). The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS analyzes the Mina rail corridor at a level of detail commensurate with that of the rail corridors analyzed in the Final *Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (DOE/EIS-0250F). The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS also updates relevant information regarding other rail corridors previously analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS (Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified) to identify any significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns.

The Rail Alignment EIS (DOE/EIS-0369D) analyzes the potential impacts of railroad construction and operation along common segments and alternative segments within the Caliente (selected in a previous Record of Decision, 69 *Federal Register* 18557) and Mina rail corridors for the purpose of determining an alignment for the construction and operation of a railroad for shipments of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials from an existing rail line in Nevada to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. The Rail Alignment EIS also analyzes the potential impacts of constructing and operating support facilities.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: The U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the Surface Transportation Board, and the U.S. Air Force are cooperating agencies in the preparation of the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS and the Rail Alignment EIS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A 90-day comment period on this document begins with the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. DOE will consider comments received after the 90-day period to the extent practicable. The Department will hold public hearings to receive comments on the document at the times and locations announced in local media and the DOE Notice of Availability. Written comments may also be submitted by U.S. mail to the U.S. Department of Energy at the above address in Las Vegas, via the Internet at *http://www.ymp.gov*, or by facsimile at 1-800-967-0739. This public comment period and the public hearings coincide with those of the *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (DOE/EIS-0250F-S1D).

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FOREWORD

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or Department) has prepared two draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents associated with the proposed disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in a geologic repository at the Yucca Mountain Site in Nye County, Nevada:

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (DOE/EIS-0250F-S1; the Repository SEIS)

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada – Nevada Rail Transportation Corridor (Part 1) (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2D; the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS), and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (Part 2) (DOE/EIS-0369D; the Rail Alignment EIS).

The Repository SEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Yucca Mountain repository under the current repository design and operational plans, the purpose of which is to assist the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in adopting, to the extent practicable, any EIS prepared pursuant to Section 114(f)(4) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended (NWPA; 42 United States Code 10101 *et seq.*).

The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS and the Rail Alignment EIS evaluate the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a railroad for shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from an existing rail line in Nevada to the repository at Yucca Mountain, the purpose of which is to help the Department decide whether to construct and operate a railroad, and if so, within which corridor and along which alignment.

Background and Context

The NWPA directs the Secretary of Energy, if the Secretary decides to recommend approval of the Yucca Mountain site for development of a repository, to submit a final EIS with any recommendation to the President. To fulfill that requirement, the Department prepared the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (DOE/EIS-0250F, February 2002) (Yucca Mountain FEIS).

On February 14, 2002, the Secretary transmitted to the President his recommendation (including the Yucca Mountain FEIS) for approval of the Yucca Mountain site for development of a geologic repository. The President considered the site qualified for application to the NRC for construction authorization and recommended the site to the U.S. Congress. Subsequently, Congress passed a joint resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate designating the Yucca Mountain site for development as a geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. On July 23, 2002, the President signed the joint resolution into law (Public Law 107-200). The Department is now in the process of preparing an application for submittal to the NRC seeking authorization to construct the repository, as required by the NWPA (Section 114(b)).

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Since completion of the Yucca Mountain FEIS in 2002, DOE has continued to develop the repository design and associated construction and operational plans. As now proposed, the newly designed surface and subsurface facilities would allow DOE to operate the repository following a primarily canistered approach in which most commercial spent nuclear fuel would be packaged at the reactor sites in transport, aging, and disposal (TAD) canisters. Any commercial spent nuclear fuel arriving at the repository in packages other than TAD canisters would be repackaged by DOE at the repository into TAD canisters. DOE would construct the surface and subsurface facilities over a period of several years (referred to as phased construction) to accommodate an increase in spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste receipt rates as repository operational capability reaches its design capacity. To address the current repository design and operational plans, the Department announced its intent to prepare a Supplement to the Yucca Mountain FEIS (DOE/EIS-0250F-S1), consistent with NEPA and the NWPA. (*Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV*; 71 *Federal Register* [*FR*] 60490, October 13, 2006). The Repository SEIS supplements the Yucca Mountain FEIS by considering the potential environmental impacts of the construction, operation and closure of the repository under the current repository design and operational plans, and by updating the analysis and potential environmental impacts of transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository, consistent with transportation-related decisions the Department made following completion of the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

On April 8, 2004, the Department issued a Record of Decision announcing its selection, both nationally and in the State of Nevada, of the mostly rail scenario analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS as the primary means of transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository (*Record of Decision on Mode of Transportation and Nevada Rail Corridor for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV*; 69 *FR* 18557, April 8, 2004). Implementation of the mostly rail scenario ultimately would require the construction of a rail line to connect the repository site at Yucca Mountain to an existing rail line in the State of Nevada. To that end, in the same Record of Decision, the Department also selected the Caliente rail corridor from several corridors considered in the Yucca Mountain FEIS as the corridor in which to study possible alignments for a rail line. On the same day DOE selected the Caliente corridor, it issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS under NEPA to study alternative alignments within the Caliente corridor (the Rail Alignment EIS; DOE/EIS-0369) (*Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV*; 69 *FR* 18565, April 8, 2004).

During the subsequent public scoping process, DOE received comments suggesting that other rail corridors be considered, in particular, the Mina route. In the Yucca Mountain FEIS, DOE had considered but eliminated the Mina route from detailed study because a rail line within the Mina route could only connect to an existing rail line in Nevada by crossing the Walker River Paiute Reservation, and the Tribe had informed DOE that it would not allow nuclear waste to be transported across the Reservation.

Following review of the scoping comments, DOE held discussions with the Walker River Paiute Tribe and, in May 2006, the Tribal Council informed DOE that it would allow the Department to consider the potential impacts of constructing and operating a railroad to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste across its reservation. On October 13, 2006, after a preliminary evaluation of the feasibility of the Mina rail corridor, DOE announced its intent to expand the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS to include the Mina corridor (*Amended Notice of Intent to Expand the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV*; 71 *FR* 60484). Although the expanded NEPA analysis, referred to as the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS and the Rail Alignment EIS, evaluate the potential environmental

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impacts associated with the Mina rail corridor, DOE has identified the Mina alternative as nonpreferred because the Tribe has withdrawn its support for the EIS process.

Relationships Among the EISs

The Yucca Mountain FEIS, the Repository SEIS, and the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS and the Rail Alignment EIS are related in several respects. The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS supplements the rail corridor analysis of the Yucca Mountain FEIS by analyzing the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operating a railroad within the Mina corridor. The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS analyzes the Mina corridor at a level of detail commensurate with that of the rail corridor analysis in the Yucca Mountain FEIS, and concludes that the Mina corridor warrants further study in the Rail Alignment EIS to identify an alignment for the construction and operation of a railroad.

The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS also updates relevant information regarding three other rail corridors previously analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS (Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified). The update demonstrates that there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns associated with these three rail corridors, and that they do not warrant further consideration in the Rail Alignment EIS. The Caliente-Chalk Mountain rail corridor, which also was included in the Yucca Mountain FEIS, would intersect the Nevada Test and Training Range, and was eliminated from further consideration because of U.S. Air Force concerns that a rail line within the Caliente-Chalk Mountain corridor would interfere with military readiness testing and training activities.

The Rail Alignment EIS tiers from the broader corridor analysis in both the Yucca Mountain FEIS and the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (see 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.28). Under the Proposed Action considered in the Rail Alignment EIS, DOE analyzes specific potential impacts of constructing and operating a railroad along common segments and alternative segments within the Caliente and Mina corridors for the purpose of determining an alignment in which to construct and operate a railroad for shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from an existing rail line in Nevada to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

The Repository SEIS includes the potential environmental impacts of national transportation, and the potential impacts from the construction and operation of a rail line along specific alignments in either the Caliente or the Mina corridor, as described in the Rail Alignment EIS, to ensure that the Repository SEIS considers the full scope of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of the repository. Conversely, the Rail Alignment EIS includes the potential impacts of constructing and operating the repository as a reasonably foreseeable future action in its cumulative impacts analysis. To ensure consistency, the Repository SEIS, the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, and the Rail Alignment EIS use the same inventory of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and the same number of rail shipments for analysis. Thus, the associated occupational and public health and safety impacts within the Nevada rail corridors under consideration are the same in both documents. Furthermore, to promote conformity, where appropriate, consistent analytical approaches were used in both documents to evaluate the various resource areas.

The figure that follows summarizes the relationship among the EISs.

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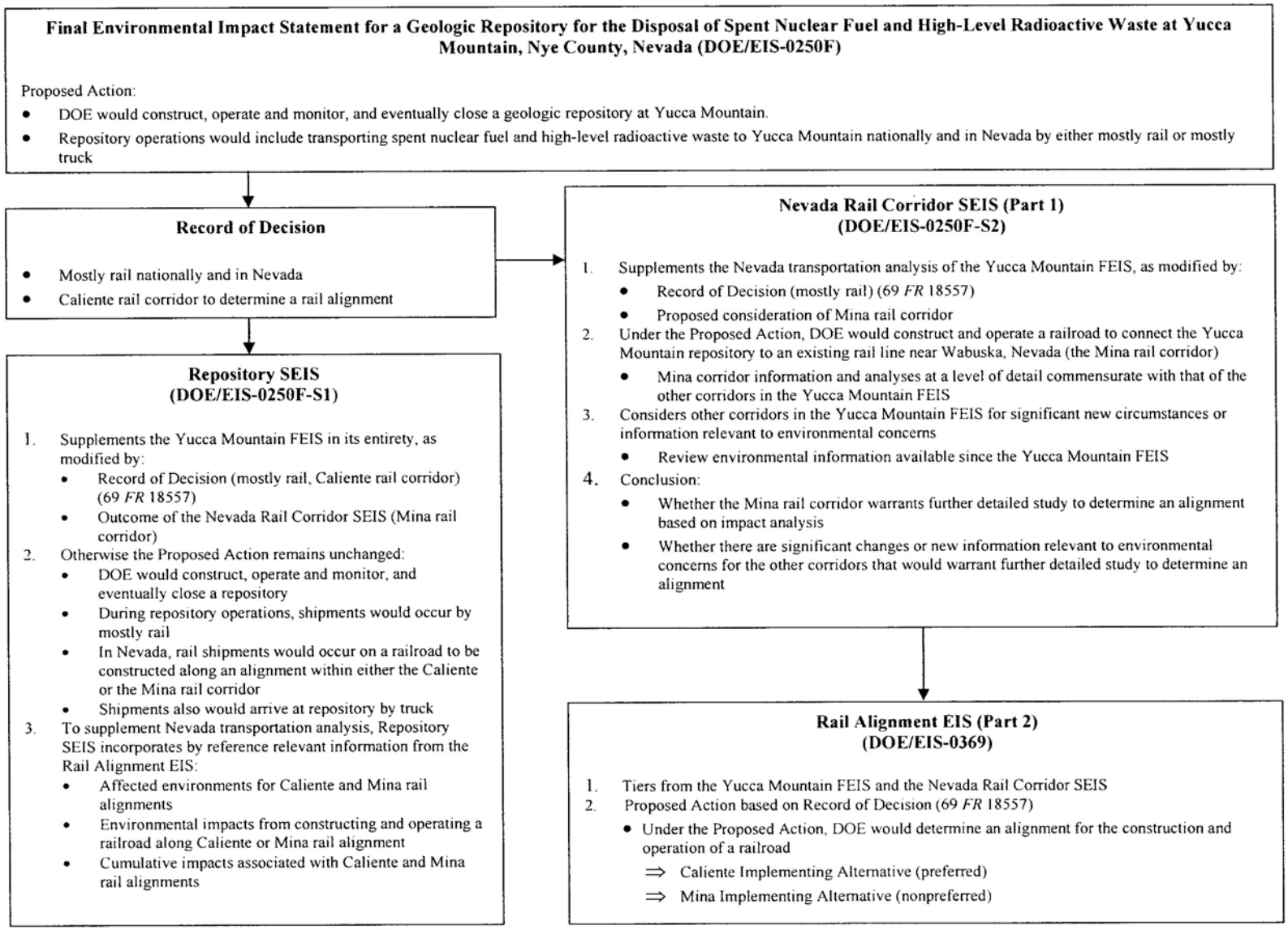

Relationship between the Repository SEIS, the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, and the Rail Alignment EIS.

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SUMMARY OF NEVADA RAIL CORRIDOR SEIS AND RAIL ALIGNMENT EIS

This document summarizes the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS and the Rail Alignment EIS. Volumes I, II, III, and IV provide detailed background information; descriptions of existing environments and environmental analyses; analytical methods and assumptions; a list of technical references; a glossary of terms; supporting appendixes, and an index.

S.1 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) has prepared the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada – Nevada Rail Transportation Corridor* (for brevity, referred to as the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS) and the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (for brevity, referred to as the Rail Alignment EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a railroad for shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from an existing rail line in Nevada to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. The purpose of the evaluation is to assist the Department in deciding whether to construct and operate a railroad in Nevada, and if so, in which corridor and along which specific alignment within the selected corridor.

Spent nuclear fuel is fuel that has been withdrawn from a reactor following irradiation.

- **Commercial spent nuclear fuel** comes from civilian nuclear power plants that generate electricity.
- **DOE spent nuclear fuel** comes from DOE production reactors (such as defense nuclear material production reactors), naval reactors, and university- and government-owned test and experimental reactors.

High-level radioactive waste is the highly radioactive material that results from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and other highly radioactive material, which the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines by rule requires permanent isolation.

The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS supplements the analysis in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (Yucca Mountain FEIS; DOE/EIS-0250F, February 2002) . The Rail Alignment EIS, analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operating a railroad along specific alignments within the Caliente and Mina rail corridors.

Section S.2 summarizes the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS. Section S.3 summarizes the Rail Alignment EIS.

Rail corridor: A strip of land 400 meters (0.25 mile) wide within which DOE would determine an alignment for the construction of a rail line.

Rail alignment: An engineered refinement of a rail corridor in which DOE would identify the location of a rail line. A rail alignment is comprised of common segments and alternative segments.

Railroad: A transportation system incorporating the rail line, rail line operations support facilities, rail cars, locomotives, and other related property and infrastructure.

Rail line: An engineered feature incorporating the track, ties, ballast, and subballast at a specific location.

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S.1.1 Background

The United States has focused a national effort on siting and developing a geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and on developing systems for transporting these materials from their present locations throughout the country to that repository.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-425) acknowledged the Federal Government's responsibility to provide for the disposal of the Nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and initiated a process to select sites for technical study as potential geologic repository locations. In 1987, Congress amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. This Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 10101 *et seq.*), which the Supplemental Nevada Rail Corridor EIS and Rail Alignment EIS refers to as the NWPA, identifies the Yucca Mountain Site in Nye County, Nevada, as the site to be studied as a potential location for a geologic repository.

After completion of site characterization studies at Yucca Mountain, the Secretary of Energy found the site to be scientifically and technically suitable for development of a repository. On February 14, 2002, the Secretary submitted his recommendation, along with a comprehensive statement of the basis for the recommendation, to the President of the United States, George W. Bush, for approval of the Yucca Mountain Site for the development of a nuclear waste repository. As required by the NWPA, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) had prepared an EIS, *Final Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (Yucca Mountain FEIS), to accompany the Secretary's recommendation to the President.

On February 15, 2002, the President, in accordance with the NWPA, approved the Secretary of Energy's recommendation of the Yucca Mountain Site for development as a geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. On July 23, 2002, the President signed into law a joint resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate designating the Yucca Mountain Site for development as a geologic repository (Yucca Mountain Development Act of 2002, Public Law 107-200).

As part of its obligations under the NWPA, DOE is responsible for developing a system to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository. In the Yucca Mountain FEIS, DOE analyzed a proposed action to construct, operate, monitor, and eventually close a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. As part of that action, DOE evaluated various modes of transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from 72 commercial sites and five DOE sites nationwide to the Yucca Mountain Site. (Note: DOE now plans to move all spent nuclear fuel from Fort St. Vrain to Idaho National Laboratory prior to packaging for shipment to Yucca Mountain. Therefore, the number of DOE sites is four.)

After the Yucca Mountain Site was designated, DOE initiated preparation of a license application to be submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission seeking authorization to construct the repository. In addition, to be in a position to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository if the Commission granted the Department a construction authorization (and subsequently authorization to receive these materials), DOE proceeded with certain decisions related to transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain.

The Yucca Mountain FEIS examined various national transportation scenarios and Nevada transportation alternatives to evaluate potential transportation impacts to human health and the environment. DOE evaluated two national transportation scenarios, referred to as the "mostly legal-weight truck scenario" and the "mostly rail scenario," and three Nevada transportation scenarios, referred to as the "Nevada

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mostly legal-weight truck scenario," the "Nevada mostly rail scenario," and the "Nevada mostly heavy-haul truck scenario." Following completion of the Yucca Mountain FEIS, DOE identified the mostly rail scenario as its preferred mode of transportation, both nationally and in Nevada, due in part to lower potential impacts on the health and safety of workers and the public (*Notice of Preferred Nevada Rail Corridor* [68 *Federal Register* {*FR*}74951, December 29, 2003]). In the same *Federal Register* notice, DOE announced its preference for the Caliente rail corridor.

In 2004, DOE announced the selection of the mostly rail scenario analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS for transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste nationally and within Nevada (*Record of Decision on Mode of Transportation and Nevada Rail Corridor for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV*, 69 *FR* 18557, April 8, 2004). As part of implementing that decision, DOE recognized that it would need to construct a rail line to connect the repository site to an existing rail line in Nevada. DOE also announced in that Record of Decision that it had selected the Caliente rail corridor for further evaluation for the construction and operation of a railroad in Nevada. (Note: The Record of Decision referred to construction and operation of a rail line. However, the Rail Alignment EIS refers to construction and operation of a railroad, which better describes the total transportation system, including the infrastructure required under the Proposed Action.) The Caliente rail alignment is an engineered refinement of the Caliente rail corridor analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

At present, there is no rail line to the Yucca Mountain Site. In the Yucca Mountain FEIS, DOE evaluated in detail five potential rail corridors within the State of Nevada in which the Department could construct a rail line to link an existing rail line to Yucca Mountain: Caliente, Carlin, Caliente–Chalk Mountain, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors. DOE did not include the Mina rail corridor it the detailed evaluation because a rail line in the Mina rail corridor would need to cross the Walker River Paiute Reservation. In 1995, the Department eliminated the Mina rail corridor from further study because the Walker River Paiute Tribe had stated that it would not allow DOE to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste across the Walker River Paiute Reservation.

However, the Mina rail corridor became feasible when, in a May 2006 letter, the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council informed DOE that it would allow the Department to consider the potential impacts of constructing and operating a railroad to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste across its Reservation. DOE prepared a preliminary feasibility study of the Mina rail corridor and announced its intent to expand the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS to incorporate analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operating a railroad along an alignment in the Mina rail corridor (*Amended Notice of Intent to Expand the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, NV*, 71 *FR* 60484, October 13, 2006).

Because the Mina rail corridor was not included in the detailed Yucca Mountain FEIS analysis, the Department decided it was appropriate to supplement the Yucca Mountain FEIS with a corridor-level analysis of the Mina rail corridor commensurate with that performed for the other rail corridors analyzed in the FEIS. In addition, the Department decided it was appropriate to update the analyses of the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors to identify any significant new information or circumstances that could change the range or magnitude of potential environmental impacts described in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. DOE eliminated the Caliente-Chalk Mountain rail corridor, which would cross part of the Nevada Test and Training Range, from further consideration because of U.S. Air Force concerns that a rail line would interfere with military mission activities.

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On April 17, 2007, the Tribal Council for the Walker River Paiute Tribe announced a resolution withdrawing support for the Tribe's participation in the EIS process. The Tribal Council based its decision on review of information gathered to that time and input from members of the tribe. The Council's resolution also renewed the Tribe's past objection to the transportation of nuclear waste through the Walker River Paiute Reservation. Accordingly, DOE has identified the Mina rail corridor and the Mina Implementing Alternative as nonpreferred in the Rail Alignment EIS.

S.1.2 Cooperating Agencies

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1501.6, emphasize agency cooperation early in the NEPA process and allow a lead agency (in this case, DOE) to request the assistance of other agencies that either have jurisdiction by law or have special expertise regarding issues considered in an EIS. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM or the Bureau), the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and the U.S. Air Force are cooperating agencies in the development of the Supplemental Nevada Rail Corridor EIS and Rail Alignment EIS, pursuant to CEQ regulations, and have participated in its preparation.

Cooperating agencies that could issue decisions concerning the Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action could adopt the Supplemental Nevada Rail Corridor EIS and Rail Alignment EIS in whole or in part and use it as a basis for their decisions. These agencies have management and regulatory authority over lands and resources that would be crossed by or close to the proposed railroad, or they have special expertise related to the Proposed Action.

S.2 SUMMARY OF NEVADA RAIL CORRIDOR SEIS

S.2.1 Purpose and Need for Agency Action

The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS has two purposes, as follows:

1. To analyze the Mina rail corridor, which was not previously analyzed in detail, at a level of detail commensurate with that of the rail corridors analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS to determine if it warrants further detailed evaluation at the alignment level
2. To update relevant information regarding the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors to identify any significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns associated with these three rail corridors that would warrant their further detailed evaluation at the alignment level

On April 8, 2004, the Department announced that it would ship most spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repository by rail (train) and announced its selection of the Caliente rail corridor as the preferred corridor (69 *FR* 18557). On October 13, 2006, the Department issued an *Amended Notice of Intent To Expand the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Alignment, Construction, and Operation of a Rail Line to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (71 *FR* 60484). In that notice, the Department announced its intent to incorporate analyses for the Mina rail corridor.

DOE did not analyze the Mina rail corridor in the Yucca Mountain FEIS; therefore, the Department has prepared a supplement (DOE/EIS-0250F-S2) to the Yucca Mountain FEIS, which considers the potential environmental impacts of a railroad in the Mina rail corridor at the same level of analysis as that for the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Figure S-1 shows the rail corridors analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS and the Mina rail corridor.

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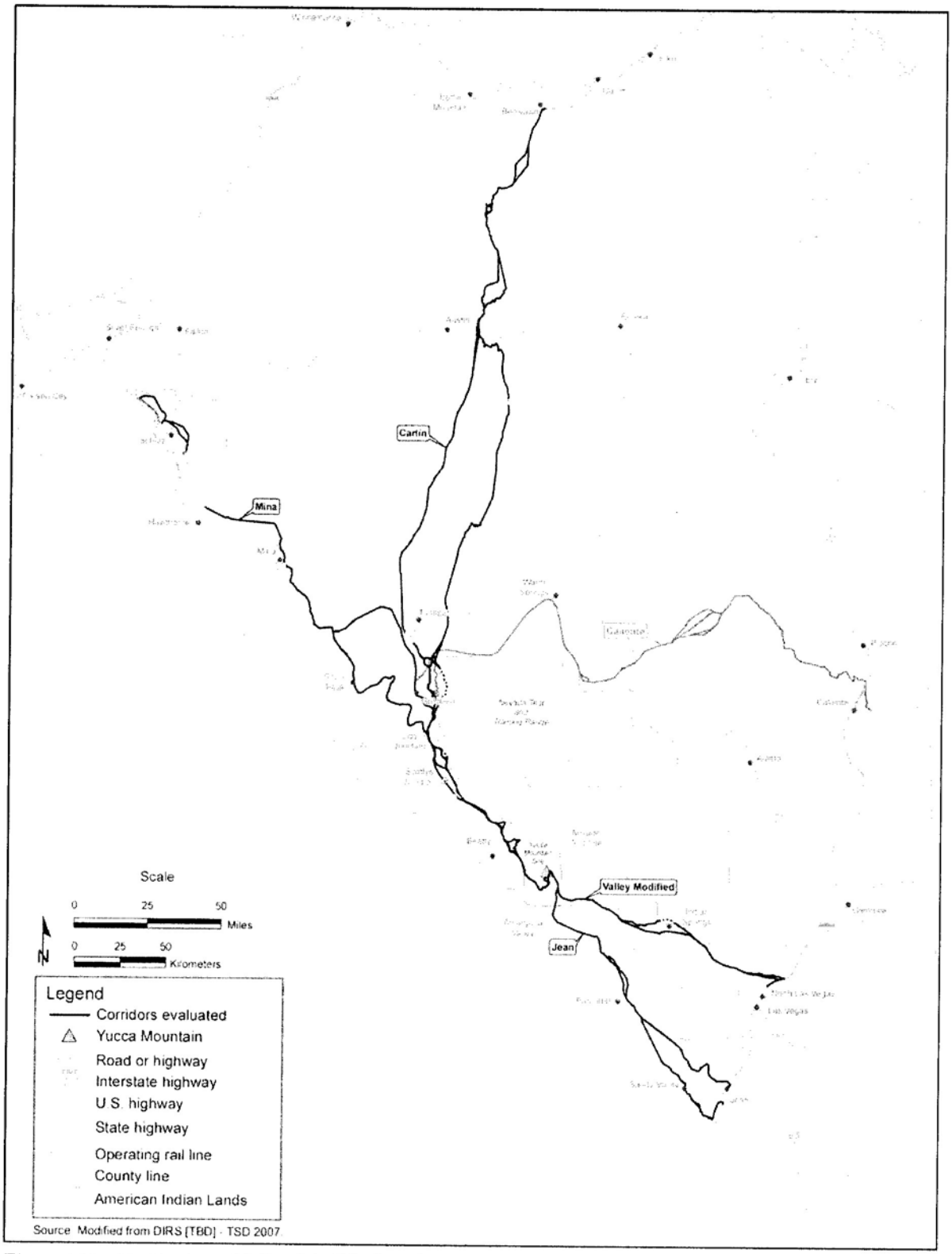

Figure S-1. Carlin, Jean, Valley Modified, Caliente, and Mina rail corridors (pre-scoping, October 2006).

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The purpose of the DOE action is to construct and operate a railroad for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste that connects an existing rail line in the State of Nevada to the Yucca Mountain Site. In this regard, the Department is evaluating the Mina rail corridor so it can determine if the attributes, characteristics, and potential impacts of railroad construction and operation in the Mina rail corridor would be such that DOE should proceed with analyses of specific alignments within the corridor in the Rail Alignment EIS. At the same time, the Department has updated relevant environmental information for the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors to determine whether there are significant new circumstances or information that would warrant consideration of these three rail corridors at the alignment level.

S.2.2 Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS evaluates a Proposed Action and a No-Action Alternative. It supplements the Yucca Mountain FEIS to the extent that it analyzes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action to construct and operate a railroad to connect the Yucca Mountain Site to an existing rail line near Wabuska, Nevada, in the Mina rail corridor. Under the Proposed Action, DOE has analyzed the Mina rail corridor at a level of detail commensurate with that of the rail corridors (Caliente, Caliente-Chalk Mountain, Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified) analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

CEQ and DOE regulations that implement the procedural requirements of NEPA require consideration of the alternative of no action. Under the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS No-Action Alternative, DOE would not select a rail alignment within the Mina rail corridor for the construction and operation of a railroad. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative provides a basis for comparison to the Proposed Action.

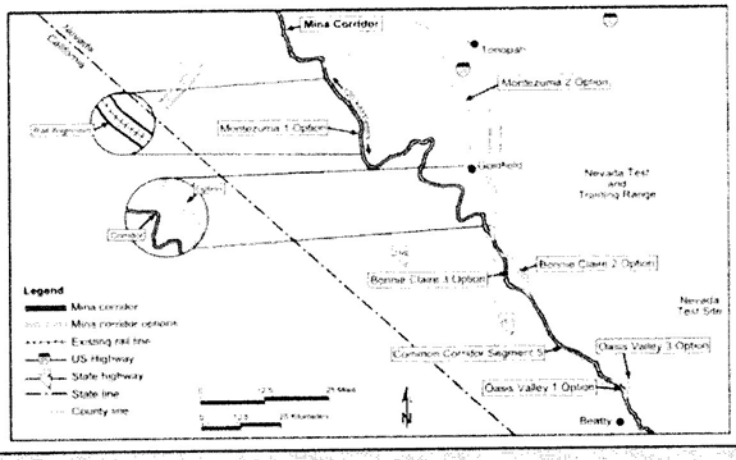
In response to the May 2006 letter from the Walker River Paiute Tribe, DOE initiated a study to consider the feasibility of the Mina rail corridor and to identify a specific corridor and associated preliminary options. The Department completed the feasibility study in October 2006. Based on the information in the feasibility study, DOE expanded the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS (DOE/EIS-0369) to incorporate analysis of the Mina rail corridor as a supplemental EIS.

The Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS also updates relevant information for the corridors already analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

The Department identified rail corridor options on the Walker River Paiute Reservation to bypass the town of Schurz (Schurz bypass options), around the Montezuma Range (Montezuma options), north of Scottys Junction (Bonnie Claire options), and in Oasis Valley (Oasis Valley options). Figure S-2 shows the Mina rail corridor and its options.

Option – In the Yucca Mountain FEIS the terms for describing separate routes within a corridor were alternates, variations and options. For the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, only option is used and is applied more generally; option refers to a strip of land from one point along a corridor to another point on the same corridor that provides a different route.

Common corridor segment – Geographic region for which a single route has been identified.



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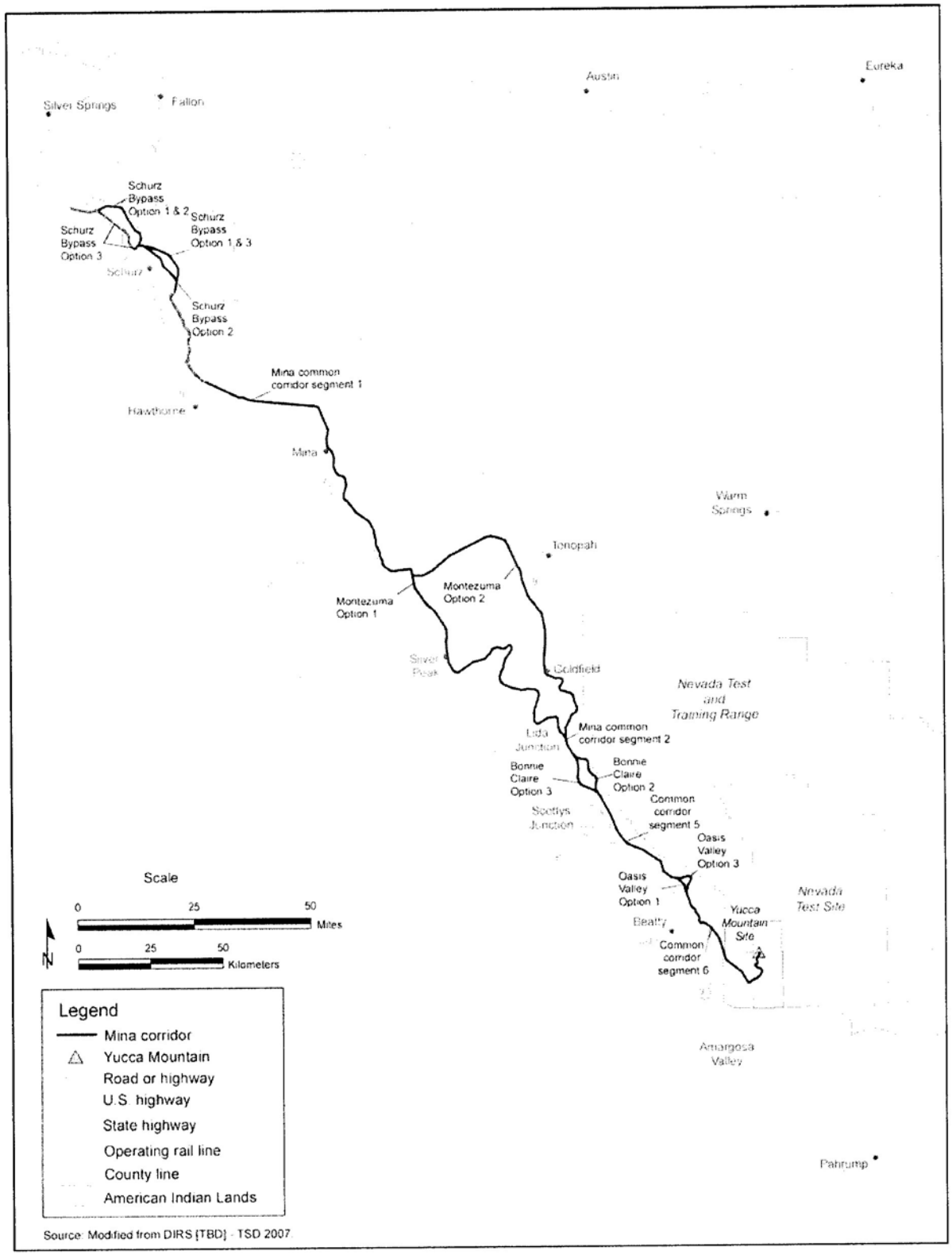

Figure S-2. Mina rail corridor and options (as defined prior to the October 2006 scoping meetings described Section S.2.3.1).

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Construction of a rail line in the Mina rail corridor would begin near Wabuska, Nevada, and proceed southeast across the Walker River Paiute Reservation, along one of three options that would bypass the town of Schurz. Mina common corridor segment 1 would begin north of Hawthorne and would trend southeast before turning east at U.S. Highway 95. It would trend east along U.S. Highway 95 through Soda Springs Valley for approximately 40 kilometers (25 miles). Continuing to parallel U.S. Highway 95, the rail line would cross State Route 361 and turn south for approximately 64 kilometers (40 miles). It would pass the towns of Luning and Mina, which are along U.S. Highway 95. The rail line would then turn east before crossing U.S. Highway 95 with a grade-separated crossing in the area of Blair Junction and continue for about 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) before joining one of the Montezuma options. Mina common segment 1 would be approximately 120 kilometers (72 miles) long.

Near Blair Junction, the rail line would follow one of two options that would go around the Montezuma Range, and then move on to Lida Junction. Mina common corridor segment 2 would begin at the end of the selected Montezuma option and run roughly southeast as a single route for about 3.4 kilometers (2.1 miles) before reaching the Bonnie Claire area. At that point the corridor would follow one of two options until forming a single route in the vicinity of Scottys Junction. The corridor would then trend southeast to Oasis Valley, and would follow one of two options through the Oasis Valley before turning north-northeast to Yucca Mountain as a single route. For purposes of analysis, the region of influence for the Mina rail corridor extends to Hazen, Nevada, where shipments to Yucca Mountain would leave the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline.

The Mina rail corridor would be from about 410 to 450 kilometers (255 to 280 miles) long, depending on the combination of options. However, construction of new rail line would range from between about 386 and 400 kilometers (240 and 264 miles) because the corridor would include the existing U.S. Department of Defense Branchline from Wabuska to the Hawthorne Army Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada.

S.2.3 Issues Raised by the Public

S.2.3.1 PUBLIC SCOPING

On April 8, 2004 (69 *FR* 18565), DOE issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS under NEPA for the alignment, construction, and operation of a railroad for shipments of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials related to the construction and operation of a repository from a site near Caliente, Nevada, to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada (the Rail Alignment EIS; DOE/EIS-0369). DOE received more than 4,100 comments during this first public scoping period for the Rail Alignment EIS, and some after the close of the scoping period. The Department considered the content of all substantive comments in determining the scope of the EIS. During this scoping period, DOE also received comments suggesting that other rail corridors be considered in the Rail Alignment EIS, in particular the Mina rail corridor. Public comments provided compelling arguments that the Mina rail corridor should be given a full evaluation.

On October 13, 2006, after a preliminary evaluation of the feasibility of the Mina rail corridor, DOE announced its intent to expand the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS to incorporate analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operating a railroad within the Mina rail corridor (71 *FR* 60484). DOE also announced that it would update, as appropriate, the information and analysis for other rail corridors analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. The scoping period for the expanded NEPA analysis began on October 13, 2006, and ended on December 12, 2006. The Department received approximately 790 comments during the public scoping period for the Supplemental Nevada Rail Corridor EIS and Rail Alignment EIS, and some comments after the close of the scoping period. The Department considered the content of all substantive comments in determining the scope of the expanded NEPA analysis.

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S.2.3.2 TRIBAL INTERACTIONS

In 1987, DOE initiated the Native American Interaction Program to solicit input from and interact with tribes and organizations on the characterization of the Yucca Mountain Site and the possible construction and operation of a repository. These tribes and organizations—Southern Paiute; Western Shoshone; and Owens Valley Paiute and Shoshone people from Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah—have cultural and historic ties to both the Yucca Mountain area and to the larger region that includes portions of the Mina rail corridor as well as the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors. Ethnographic efforts eventually led to the involvement of 17 tribes and organizations in the Yucca Mountain Project American Indian and cultural resource studies. Those tribes formed the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations, which consists of tribal representatives responsible for presenting issues concerning their respective tribal concerns and perspectives to DOE. DOE interactions with Tribes have produced several reports that record the regional history of American Indian people and the interpretation of American Indian cultural resources in the Yucca Mountain region. On June 2, 2004, DOE met with the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations to introduce the proposed railroad project and learn of its members concerns and issues.

The American Indian Writers Subgroup, a subgroup of the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations, prepared the *American Indian Perspectives on the Proposed Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement for the U.S. Department of Energy Yucca Mountain Project* providing insight into American Indian viewpoints and concerns regarding cultural resources along the Caliente rail alignment and long-term impacts of the DOE selection of a rail system to transport spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. That document is a supplement to the American Indian Writers Subgroup document *American Indian Perspectives on the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project and the Repository Environmental Impact Statement.* The Department has held an ongoing series of meetings over the years with the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations, and most recently on November 29, 2006, to present the proposed inclusion of the Mina rail corridor for analysis in this Supplemental Rail Corridor and Rail Alignment EIS and to provide an update on the ongoing analysis of the Caliente rail alignment. In addition DOE met with Walker River Paiute tribal representatives on several occasions in 2006 to discuss their interest in allowing DOE to evaluate a potential rail corridor, the Mina rail corridor, which would cross the Walker River Paiute Reservation. Tribal members toured the Yucca Mountain Site and attended scoping meetings.

S.2.4 Environmental Impacts

The first component of the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS is the corridor-level analysis of the Mina rail corridor.

S.2.4.1 POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE MINA RAIL CORRIDOR

Where practical, DOE has quantified potential impacts and other characteristics of a Proposed Action to construct and operate a railroad in the Mina rail corridor. In other instances, it is not practical to quantify impacts and DOE provides a qualitative assessment of potential impacts. In the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, the Department has used the following descriptors to qualitatively characterize impacts where quantification of impacts was not practical:

- **Small** – For the issue, environmental effects would not be detectable or would be so minor that they would neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.
- **Moderate** – For the issue, environmental effects would be sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource.

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- **Large** – For the issue, environmental effects would be clearly noticeable and would be sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

Unless otherwise noted, potential impacts would be adverse.

S.2.4.1.1 Land Use and Ownership

Construction of a railroad in the Mina rail corridor would disturb approximately 37 to 41 square kilometers (9,000 to 10,000 acres) of land, depending on the combination of options. The corridor would cross up to 15 separate grazing allotments. The approximate disturbance area associated with the Mina rail corridor would constitute less than 1 percent of the land within those 15 grazing allotments. Within this regional perspective of nearby existing and reasonably foreseeable land uses and land ownership, the commitment of land for the proposed Mina rail corridor would constitute a minor proportion of overall land commitment.

A railroad in the Mina rail corridor would impact approximately 1.6 to 2.7 square kilometers (400 to 670 acres) of private land in the corridor, depending on the combination of options. This private land is used primarily for agricultural and mineral development purposes, and none contains private residences. If in locating the final alignment DOE could not avoid private lands, the Department would need to acquire access to those lands. If the rail line would divide private property, access to the property could be disrupted.

The Mina rail corridor would not cross or affect any Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. A railroad in the Mina rail corridor would be consistent with the goals and policies of the resource management plans in the BLM-administered areas through which it would pass.

The Mina rail corridor would cross land on the Walker River Paiute Reservation. Railroad construction and operations activities on this land would require land agreements between DOE, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Walker River Paiute Tribe. Prior to construction, DOE would be required to obtain both the permission to survey for a right-of-way and a right-of-way grant in accordance with 25 CFR Part 169, "Rights-of-Way Over Indian Lands." These regulations state that "Rights-of-way for railroads shall not exceed 15 meters (50 feet) in width on each side of the centerline of the road, except where there are heavy cuts and fills, when they shall not exceed 30 meters (100 feet) in width on each side of the road."

A portion of the Mina rail corridor, approximately 13 kilometers (8 miles) long, would cross through the Hawthorne Army Depot. A right-of-way grant to construct and operate a railroad through this area would require an agreement with between the Department of Defense and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the use of the land and the existing rail line.

Approximately 27 kilometers (17 miles) of common corridor segment 6 would be within the boundaries of the Nevada Test Site, which is managed by DOE. Railroad construction in this area would require land-use authorization from the DOE Nevada Site Office and the BLM.

The BLM would require DOE to obtain a right-of-way grant to construct and operate a railroad on public land. The Department would adjust the project footprint (the area of disturbance) where practicable to avoid or minimize land-use conflicts and restrictions. Railroad construction and operation in the Mina rail corridor through existing road or utility rights-of-way would require an evaluation of impacts to the road or utility or use of the right-of-way with both the right-of-way holder and the BLM. DOE would protect existing utility rights-of-way from damage so that disruption to utility service or damage to lines would be at most small and temporary.

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The implementation of several mining engineering practices in these areas could allow access to mining claims without affecting the claimant or the rail line, depending on the exact locations of the claims and access needs.

Rail line construction would result in loss of forage. Because the corridor would intersect grazing allotments, a rail line could create a barrier to livestock movement. Livestock could have difficulty accessing water if there was a deep cut or a high fill associated with the rail line. Ranch operations and livestock rotations could be disrupted. Livestock could be lost due to collisions with vehicles along roads used during the construction and operations phases and from collisions with trains during the operations phase.

Construction and operation of a railroad in the Mina rail corridor would impact access to land used by the public for recreation, requiring individuals to alter their access routes.

S.2.4.1.2 Air Quality

The Mina rail corridor would pass through rural parts of Nevada in areas that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers to be in attainment or unclassifiable for criteria air pollutant National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Most rural areas of the United States are either in attainment or unclassifiable for all pollutants.

Impacts to air quality during railroad construction and operations in the Mina rail corridor would be small. During the relatively short construction phase, equipment emissions would result in a very small contribution of criteria air pollutants to the region. These pollutants would primarily come from the operation of construction equipment in rural areas or areas that are currently inhabited. Construction activities would also emit fugitive dust that would require DOE to implement dust suppression measures. Concentrations of criteria air pollutants and the generation of fugitive dust would decrease as the construction phase ended and the railroad became operational. During the operations phase, impacts to air quality would be smaller but would last longer.

S.2.4.1.3 Hydrology

Hydrologic hazards in the Mina rail corridor could include flash floods. Impacts to surface water associated with the alteration of drainage patterns or changes to erosion and sedimentation rates or locations would be small and localized. Any impacts on surface-water resources resulting from construction activities would generally be small and limited to the nominal width of the rail line construction right-of-way. DOE would use appropriate engineering standards and construction practices to avoid or minimize any potential impacts to surface water resources.

The groundwater analysis for the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS based its calculations of water demand during the construction phase on earthwork needs and water that would be needed for soil compaction. Based on these considerations, total water demand for the Mina rail corridor would be approximately 7.32 million cubic meters (5,950 acre-feet). Groundwater use during the construction phase could result in a short-term decrease in the amount of available water in some hydrologic basins. To avoid adverse impacts to groundwater resources in the region, DOE would request the Nevada State Engineer to approve any potential plans to pump groundwater from new or existing wells or plans to otherwise obtain groundwater from other regional resources.

Groundwater demands during the operations phase would be small and limited to water needed to support maintenance activities and the smaller operations workforce. Operations water needs would be small and would have little effect on regional resources.

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S.2.4.1.4 Biological Resources and Soils

The Mina rail corridor would primarily cross through remote areas that are characterized by a variety of vegetation communities, special status species (plants and animals including their habitats), game habitats, surface-water flows, and soil conditions along the route. The corridor would cross only one riparian area along the Walker River and one spring near Goldfield.

Some vegetation communities would be disturbed during construction activities in the Mina rail corridor. With the exception of the few riparian areas along the corridor, none of the vegetation communities are BLM-designated sensitive (unique or rare). The total land area disturbed within these vegetation communities in the corridor would be small compared to total land areas in Nevada that also support such vegetation communities.

The Mina rail corridor would cross through habitat that supports a low abundance of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agasizii*), a federally listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Disturbance of this habitat could disrupt normal tortoise movements or possibly result in mortality to some individual tortoises. DOE would work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to limit any impacts to the desert tortoise.

The Mina rail corridor would also cross riparian habitat for the Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*), a federally listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Construction of a bridge over the Walker River, downstream of Walker Dam, would have to occur when the water flow was low and the species was rare or absent. Construction activities could degrade downstream water quality, but these impacts would be temporary and small. Any impacts to springs near the Mina rail corridor would be small.

The Mina rail corridor would cross habitat for some game species including big horn sheep, pronghorn sheep, mule deer, and mountain lions, and herd management areas for wild horses and burros. During the construction phase, these game animals would likely move away from the area due to noise and land disturbance. Noise from passing trains during the operations phase could disturb some animals. Any impacts would be small and would likely diminish over time because animals would become accustomed to the noise.

Land disturbance within the rail line construction right-of-way could increase the potential for soil erosion. DOE would use erosion control and dust suppression methods to reduce the potential for erosion, and would control the use of hazardous materials to limit the potential for soil contamination. Impacts to soil in the Mina rail corridor would be temporary and small.

S.2.4.1.5 Cultural Resources

Based on recent DOE searches of existing records, there are several cultural resources, which include archaeological and historic sites and structures, in the Mina rail corridor that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Construction activities could degrade, cause the removal of, or alter the setting of cultural resources sites and cause the loss of cultural resources.

Before starting construction in the Mina rail corridor, DOE would perform additional field surveys and inventories to further locate and identify cultural resources. The Department would work closely with other federal agencies, tribal authorities, and state agencies to avoid and mitigate any potential adverse impacts to known cultural resources and those that might be discovered during construction activities.

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DOE would not expect railroad operations and maintenance activities to result in any additional impacts to cultural resources in the Mina rail corridor.

S.2.4.1.6 Occupational and Public Health and Safety

The impact analysis for occupational health and safety focused on transportation impacts, worker industrial safety impacts, incident-free radiological impacts and nonradiological impacts, and radiological impacts in relation to accidents.

Nonradiological transportation impacts during the construction phase would be primarily from traffic accidents involving workers commuting to and from the construction sites, workers transporting construction materials to the construction sites, and from vehicle emissions produced by commuting workers and materials deliveries. DOE estimates that during the construction phase there could be 4 fatalities from traffic accidents and 0.54 latent cancer fatality from vehicle emissions. During railroad operations along the Mina rail corridor, there could be 3.6 vehicular-related fatalities.

DOE estimated nonradiological occupational health and safety impacts in relation to exposure of workers to physical hazards and nonradioactive hazardous chemicals over the region of influence for the Mina rail corridor. The Department based these estimates on the estimated number of hours worked and occupational incident rates for total recordable cases, lost workday cases, and fatalities. Industrial safety impacts resulting from railroad construction and operation are estimated to be about 0.92 fatality for the combined involved worker and noninvolved worker population.

The largest potential for radiological exposure during the railroad operations phase would be to workers involved in the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. That impact would be less 0.4 latent cancer fatality.

DOE estimated radiological impacts for members of the public along the Mina rail corridor. During 50 years of railroad operations, there would be less than one latent cancer fatality.

DOE estimated the radiological impacts from potential accident scenarios. For 50 years of railroad operations, the estimated number of worker and public latent cancer fatalities would be less than one.

S.2.4.1.7 Socioeconomics

The socioeconomic impacts analysis used a set of socioeconomic variables to provide a socioeconomic profile of conditions in the Mina rail corridor region of influence. Those variables considered changes to employment, population, economic measures, housing, and public services. The expected employment levels are a significant contributor to the analysis of socioeconomic impacts.

DOE estimated that during the railroad construction phase, workforce employment levels would range from about 340 to 2,100, depending on the length of the rail line, earthwork requirements, and phase of the project. Based on the identified levels of worker employment and the temporary and linear nature of the construction project, potential socioeconomics impacts to the local communities would be both short term and small.

DOE estimated that during the operations phase, workforce levels for operating and maintaining the railroad would be much less the levels estimated for the construction phase. There would be an estimated 42 workers involved in railroad operations. Given the relatively low number of employees necessary for railroad operations, the potential for socioeconomics impacts along the Mina rail corridor would be small.

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These socioeconomic impacts for the construction and the operations phases are generally considered positive because of the jobs created, the increase disposable income, increases in gross regional product, and increases in services to local citizens as a result of increased tax revenue to local and state governments.

S.2.4.1.8 Noise and Vibration

Most of the Mina rail corridor would be in areas that are remote from human habitation. The distances from construction activities to the nearest receptors would be great; therefore, construction noise levels would be below the Federal Transit Administration noise guidelines.

DOE estimates that construction- and operations-train noise would be audible to receptors in Silver Peak and Goldfield. There would be no adverse noise impacts associated with these receptors because the noise levels would not exceed STB noise guidelines. Because transportation noise sources are audible throughout the United States, the audibility of train noise itself does not constitute an adverse noise impact.

Vibration levels during the railroad construction and operations phases would not exceed Federal Transit Administration damage or annoyance criteria.

S.2.4.1.9 Aesthetics

Railroad construction and operations in the Mina rail corridor would create small impacts to aesthetic resources, but would be consistent with BLM visual resource management objectives to retain the relative value of visual resources in the area.

S.2.4.1.10 Utilities, Energy, and Materials

Potential impacts to utilities, energy and materials would be small. Construction and operations needs would place limited demands on utilities such as public water and wastewater systems, telecommunications systems and providers of electric power. Regional service providers can be expected to adjust to any increasing needs. Needs for motor fuel during construction and operations activities would represent a very small fraction of Nevada's motor fuel consumption and not affect regional availability. Raw materials, such as concrete, steel, and rock, consumed during the construction phase would be available from regional or national sources.

S.2.4.1.11 Waste Management

DOE would store and use hazardous materials such as oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, and solvents during railroad construction and operations, primarily for the operation and maintenance of equipment and cleaning of equipment and facilities. The use of hazardous materials would generate hazardous wastes. There is ample disposal capacity for hazardous wastes in the western United States.

DOE would dispose of nonrecyclable or nonreusable waste in permitted landfills. During the construction phase, it is likely that while some of the larger landfills would not see an appreciable change in the amount of waste received if they were utilized, some of the smaller landfills, if utilized, might see a substantial, although manageable, change in daily receipt of solid and industrial and special wastes. The estimated average daily disposal mass would be about 1.5 metric tons (1.7 tons).

During the railroad operations phase, generation of wastes would be substantially less than during the construction phase.

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S.2.4.1.12 Environmental Justice

The largest concentration of low-income and minority populations in the Mina rail corridor is on the Walker River Paiute Reservation. However, most of the Mina rail corridor would cross BLM-administered public land or land owned by the Department of Defense, where there is sparse population. As a consequence, there are no concentrations of low-income or minority populations in Lyon, Mineral, Esmeralda, and Nye Counties that construction or operation of a railroad in the Mina rail corridor would be likely to affect.

Impacts from the rail line construction and operations in the Mina rail corridor would be small overall and would be unlikely to cause a disproportionately high and adverse effect on the low-income or minority populations along the corridor.

S.2.4.2 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS – NEVADA RAIL CORRIDOR SEIS

DOE evaluated public- and private-sector past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities that could, when combined with the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS Proposed Action, result in cumulative impacts. The DOE analysis of potential cumulative effects was primarily qualitative, but the Department quantified information to the extent feasible. The cumulative impacts regions of influence for analysis encompassed the Mina rail corridor, and areas with potential direct and indirect effects for each resource area. To assess potential cumulative impacts from other projects, DOE identified major projects within the regions of influence that could have interactions with the proposed railroad in space or time. Those major projects included a wide variety of projects including the proposed Yucca Mountain Repository, the Nevada Test and Training Range, the Nevada Test Site, and BLM land management (including rights-of-way).

DOE determined that the cumulative impacts within most of the resource areas described in the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS would be small in the Mina rail corridor region of influence unless noted otherwise.

Cumulative impacts, as defined by the CEQ, "result from the incremental impact of [an] action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions" (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but potentially significant actions that occur within a common context of time and space.

In the Mina rail corridor region of influence, land use and management is changing because of increased construction and development, increased urbanization, and increased conversion of undeveloped land to other purposes or to multiple purposes. Federal agencies, primarily the BLM, will continue to be the major land manager throughout the regions of influence. The BLM has a major role in determining land use in the region though administration of federal lands, including development of resource management plans for the region. The incremental change to land use from constructing and operating the proposed railroad along the Mina rail corridor is projected to be small to moderate.

Overall, there is, and will continue to be, a broad contrast of how visual resource impacts are managed in the regions of influence, ranging from very little management for military mission-related activities to a formal visual resource management system on BLM-administered lands. DOE determined that operation of the proposed railroad would be visible in specific locations but would not dominate the viewsheds within the regions of influence. Changes to aesthetic resources in the regions of influence have already been affected by activities such as the Nevada Test and Testing Range, the Nevada Test Site, BLM management activities, and population growth. These changes will continue in future years, but the regions will generally maintain many of the remote and rural characteristics and conditions. The

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incremental change to aesthetic resources from constructing and operating the proposed railroad in the Mina rail corridor is projected to be small.

Cumulative impacts concerns regarding surface-water resources in the Mina rail corridor region of influence include changes to drainage patterns, infiltration rates, flood control, and spill/contamination potential. Impacts would generally be localized. Insufficient inflow from the Walker River into Walker Lake would continue to jeopardize Walker Lake's future as a viable fishery, with or without the proposed railroad in the Mina region of influence.

The Department anticipates that cumulative impacts to groundwater resources in the Mina rail corridor region of influence would range from small to large. Overall, the groundwater needs of the Proposed Action would represent a small portion of current cumulative water usage in the Mina rail corridor region of influence. However, in some proposed groundwater well locations for railroad use, cumulative demand would exceed perennial yield values. Water availability will continue to be a major regional cumulative impact issue in the coming years.

A railroad in the Mina rail corridor is projected to result in small to moderate incremental impacts to cumulative biological resources in their regions of influence. A railroad and other reasonably foreseeable and continuing projects in the region of influence would require coordinated mitigation and impact avoidance among project proponents to avoid and reduce cumulative biological impacts in the region of influence. BLM land management activities also play a major role in regional impact avoidance and mitigation.

The Proposed Action would be only one of the many reasonably foreseeable sources of socioeconomic change to portions of the regions of influence, and would be relatively less important to socioeconomic change than external economic development and population growth. The road systems in the regions of influence could experience higher traffic levels, possibly associated congestion, and increased road maintenance, but incremental impacts due to the proposed railroad would be small.

DOE anticipates that impacts to air quality in the Mina rail corridor region of influence would be small. DOE found that impacts from railroad construction in the Mina rail corridor would generate emissions of some criteria pollutants that could be higher than applicable air quality standards. While these effects would be localized in specific areas, any potential violation of air quality standards would be of concern in relation of both project-specific and cumulative impacts.

The proposed railroad would result in nonradiological and radiological health and safety impacts for workers and residents along the corridor. For members of the public situated along the Mina rail corridor, the radiological impacts during the operations phase would be a minimal contribution to the overall radiological impacts of the Yucca Mountain Repository, and incremental impacts of the proposed railroad would be small.

The Yucca Mountain FEIS evaluated the cumulative impacts of two additional inventories of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other radioactive wastes (Modules 1 and 2). These additional wastes would be above and beyond the amounts of wastes that have been analyzed for shipment, and their possible shipment could represent a cumulative impact on the resources analyzed. Although emplacement of this additional waste at Yucca Mountain would require legislative action by Congress, such shipment is a reasonably foreseeable action for purposes of NEPA analysis. Because the planned annual shipment rate of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the Yucca Mountain Repository would be about the same as the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS Proposed Action, the only cumulative impacts to arise would be due to the annual increase in the number of casks. Impacts from these additional casks would be similar to the generally small impacts summarized above.

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S.2.4.3 SHARED USE

Construction and operation of a railroad in the Mina rail corridor could provide an option for shared use and operation of commercial rail service to serve the communities of Tonopah, Goldfield, and Beatty, and other Tribal, public, and commercial interests in the Mina rail corridor. The presence of a rail line could influence further development and land use in the corridor. Shared use would not require any changes in railroad design, and DOE anticipates that the small additional construction and operations activities would result in very little additional impacts over those described for the Proposed Action without shared use.

S.2.5 Comparison of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative

CEQ NEPA implementing regulations state that agencies should provide a comparison of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives to the Proposed Action to sharply define the issues and provide a clear basis for choice. To that end, in the context within the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS of a Proposed Action to evaluate the Mina rail corridor at a level of detail commensurate with that of the other rail corridors analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS, Table S-1 provides an overview of potential impacts along the Mina rail corridor. Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to existing conditions because DOE would not select a rail alignment within the Mina rail corridor for the construction and operation of a railroad.

Table S-1. Potentially affected resources - Mina rail corridor (page 1 of 3).

Resource	Impact/indicator
Land use	
Disturbed land[a]	9,000 to 10,000 acres (37 to 41 square kilometers), depending on rail corridor option
Land ownership/management authority	
Private land	400 to 670 acres (1.6 to 2.7 square kilometers) (1 to 2 percent of total ownership/authority)
Tribal trust lands and reservations	3,100 to 5,100 acres (12.5 to 20.5 square kilometers) (5 to 12 percent of total ownership/authority)
BLM-administered land	32,600 to 33,100 acres (132.1 to 133.9 square kilometers) (80 to 85 percent of total ownership/authority)
Department of Defense land (Hawthorne Army Depot)	1,200 acres (4.7 square kilometers) (3 percent of total ownership/authority)
DOE land (Nevada Test Site)	1,300 acres (5.3 square kilometers) (3 percent of total ownership/authority)
Air quality	
National Ambient Air Quality Standards attainment status	Areas in attainment or unclassifiable for air quality standards; small impacts from construction and operations
Hydrology	
Surface water	Small impacts associated with the alteration of drainage patterns or changes to erosion and sedimentation rates
Groundwater use	5,950 acre-feet (7.32 million cubic meters)
Biological resources and soils	Small impacts to habitat, wildlife, vegetation, and soils
Cultural resources (records search)	Five percent of area surveyed with 132 recorded sites; eligible affected sites would require mitigation during construction; indirect impacts would be small during operations phase.

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Table S-1. Potentially affected resources - Mina rail corridor (page 2 of 3).

Resource	Impact/indicator
Occupational and Public Health and Safety	
Construction and Operations	
Industrial hazards	
Total recordable incidents	379
Lost workday cases	215
Fatalities	0.92 (combined involved and noninvolved workers)
Transportation (construction phase only)	
Traffic fatalities	4.0
Cancer fatalities	0.54
Incident-free radiological impacts (latent cancer fatalities)	
Operations phase only	
Public	0.00082
Workers	0.33
Radiological transportation accident fatalities	
Radiological accident risk (latent cancer fatalities)	0.0000074
Cancer fatalities from vehicle emissions	0.40
Transportation accident fatalities	
Worker commuting and material delivery	3.3
Radiological waste transportation	0.31
Socioeconomics	Construction employment: 6,500 worker-years over a minimum 5-year construction phase, primarily from Clark County and the Carson City/Washoe County area. Construction economic measures: Less than a 2-percent increase in gross regional product, real disposable personal income, and spending by state and local governments Construction public services: Small increase in local populations Operations employment: 42 workers Operations economic measures: less than a 2-percent increase in gross regional product, real disposable personal income, and spending by state and local governments Operations public services: Small to moderate increase to local populations in Lyon, Mineral, Nye, and Esmeralda Counties
Noise and Vibration	Construction noise levels would be below the Federal Transit Administration noise guidelines. Construction- and operations-train noise would be audible to receptors in Silver Peak and Goldfield. No adverse impacts from vibration.
Aesthetics	Small; construction and operation of a railroad primarily in BLM visual resource management Class III and IV would be consistent with BLM management objectives for those areas.

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Table S-1. Potentially affected resources - Mina rail corridor (page 3 of 3).

Resource	Impact/indicator
Utilities, energy, and materials	
Diesel	33 million gallons (125 million liters)
Gasoline	660,000 gallons (2.5 million liters)
Steel	74,000 tons (67,000 metric tons)
Concrete	287,000 tons (260,000 metric tons)
Wastes	
Construction-related municipal waste; limited quantities of other waste types	1.7 tons (1.5 metric tons) per day
Environmental justice (disproportionately high and adverse impacts)	None identified

a. Land disturbance is based on an average construction right-of-way of 100 meters (325 feet).

S.2.6 New Information Regarding Other Corridors

S.2.6.1 CARLIN, JEAN, AND VALLEY MODIFIED RAIL CORRIDORS

After DOE completed the preliminary evaluation of the feasibility of the Mina rail corridor, the Department announced its intent to expand the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS to include the Mina corridor (71 *FR* 60484, October 13, 2006). DOE also announced that it would update the Yucca Mountain FEIS analysis of the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors to identify significant new information or circumstances relevant to environmental concerns in those rail corridors. The purpose of the update is to include new information that could change the range or magnitude of potential environmental impacts described in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. That update is the second component of the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS. Figure S-1 shows the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors and their options.

The Carlin rail corridor would originate at the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline near Beowawe, Nevada, in north-central Nevada. The corridor would travel south through Crescent, Grass, and Big Smoky Valleys, passing west of Tonopah and east of Goldfield. It would then travel south following and periodically crossing the western boundary of the Nevada Test and Training Range, passing through Oasis Valley and across Beatty Wash. It would travel across Crater Flats and along Fortymile Wash to Yucca Mountain.

Depending on the combination of options, the Carlin rail corridor would be approximately 530 kilometers (330 miles) long from its link with the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline to Yucca Mountain.

The Jean rail corridor would originate at the existing Union Pacific Railroad Mainline near Jean, Nevada. It would travel northwest near Pahrump, Town of Amargosa Valley, Jean, Goodsprings, Sand Spring, and Lathrop Wells before it reached Yucca Mountain. Depending on the combination of options, the Jean rail corridor would range from 180 to 200 kilometers (110 to 130 miles) long from its origin to Yucca Mountain.

The Valley Modified rail corridor would originate near the existing Apex rail siding off the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline. It would travel northwest and pass north of the City of North Las Vegas, the City of Las Vegas, and near Indian Springs and parallel to U.S. Highway 95 before it entered the southwest corner of the Nevada Test Site and reached Yucca Mountain. Depending on actual starting point and

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combination of options, the corridor would range from 157 to 163 kilometers (98 to 101 miles) long from its origin to Yucca Mountain.

S.2.6.2 UPDATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

DOE reviewed and updated the affected environment information reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS, as appropriate, using the same data sources to the extent practicable. Updated information for the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors is commensurate in content and detail with the presentation of corridor-level information in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. However, since DOE completed the Yucca Mountain FEIS, many data-management systems have advanced and now provide more data and specificity. The more advanced Caliente rail alignment design and plans provided a basis for updating estimates of potential environmental impacts for the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified corridors. To do this, DOE used primary impact indicators (parameters that describe alignment characteristics, such as length and earthwork quantities) from the Caliente rail alignment analyses, and calculated ratios to estimate the data at a corridor level.

Tables S-2, S-3, and S-4 summarize the results of the update to the primary impact indicators for the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors, respectively, and compare them with the corridor information reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. The information reflects the total for railroad construction and operations unless otherwise noted. Sections S.2.6.2.1 through S.2.6.2.12 briefly describe the updated information.

S.2.6.2.1 Land Use and Ownership

Land use and ownership conflicts have increased since DOE issued the Yucca Mountain FEIS. The greatest changes to land uses associated with the Carlin and Jean rail corridors would be the significant increase in unpatented mining claims and the proposed construction of the Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport, respectively. Much has changed in relation to land use and ownership in the Valley Modified rail corridor, most notably potential land-use conflicts with Creech Air Force Base and Apex Industrial Park, and the release of the Quail Springs and Nellis A, B, and C Wilderness Study Areas to the public for sale or transfer (BLM land disposal). Impacts to private land would continue to be large for the Carlin and Jean rail corridors, as reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

S.2.6.2.2 Air Quality

The Carlin rail corridor would be in areas that are in attainment or unclassifiable for criteria air pollutants. Construction activities along the Jean rail corridor could affect air quality in the Pahrump Valley near Pahrump, and nonattainment areas in the Las Vegas Valley for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers or less (PM_{10}) and carbon monoxide. The Pahrump area in Nye County is now subject to a Memorandum of Understanding with local regulatory agencies for air quality. Construction of a rail line in the Jean rail corridor would generate fugitive dust and could affect air quality. Construction activities in the Valley Modified rail corridor could affect air quality attainment and maintenance efforts for PM_{10} and carbon monoxide in the Las Vegas Valley. Railroad operations would be small contributors of criteria air pollutants in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors.

S.2.6.2.3 Hydrology

Impacts to surface-water resources from railroad construction and operations in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors would be the same as those reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Impacts

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Table S-2. Updated environmental information for the Carlin rail corridor (page 1 of 2).

Resource	Changes from Yucca Mountain FEIS to this analysis
Corridor length	No change
Land ownership	
BLM-administered land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 44,000 to 49,000 acres (180 to 200 square kilometers) (approximately 86 percent) Updated analysis: 44,000 to 52,000 acres (180 to 210 square kilometers) (88 to 94 percent)
Private land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 1,000 to 3,700 acres (7.3 to 15 square kilometers) (approximately 6.7 percent) Updated analysis: 1,600 to 2,300 acres (6.4 to 9.4 square kilometers) (3.27 to 4.02 percent)
Nevada Test and Training Range land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0 to 2,700 acres (0 to 10.9 square kilometers) (approximately 5.2 percent) Updated analysis: 0 to 11.4 square kilometers (0 to 2,800 acres) (0 to 4.9 percent)
Nevada Test Site land	No change
American Indian trust lands and reservations	No change
Air quality	
National Ambient Air Quality Standards attainment status	No change
Hydrology	
Surface water	No change
Groundwater use (construction phase)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 660 acre-feet (810,000 cubic meters) Updated analysis: 5,800 acre-feet (7.13 million cubic meters)
Biological resources and soils	Six additional sensitive species recorded
Cultural resources (records search)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 110 recorded sites Updated analysis: 120 recorded sites
Occupational and public health and safety	
Industrial hazards (construction and operations)	
Total recordable cases	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 210 Updated analysis: 391
Lost workday cases	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 105 Updated analysis: 224
Fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.41 Updated analysis: 1
Transportation hazards (construction only)	
Traffic fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 1.1 Updated analysis: 4
Cancer fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.14 Updated analysis: 0.6

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Table S-2. Updated environmental information for the Carlin rail corridor (page 2 of 2).

Resource	Changes from Yucca Mountain FEIS to this analysis
Occupational and public health and safety (continued)	
Incident-free radiological impacts (latent cancer fatalities) (operations only)	
Public	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.0012 Updated analysis: 0.000088
Workers	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.31 Updated analysis: 0.33
Radiological transportation accident fatalities	
Radiological accident risk (latent cancer fatalities)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.000000037 Updated analysis: 0.000001
Cancer fatalities from vehicle emissions	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.09 Updated analysis: 0.4
Nonradiological transportation accident fatalities	
Spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste transportation	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.54 Updated analysis: 0.31
Construction and operations workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.7 Updated analysis: 3.3
Socioeconomics	
Estimated construction workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 1,230 worker-years Updated analysis: 6,600 worker-years
Estimated operations workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 47 workers per year Updated analysis: 42 workers per year
Noise and Vibration	No change
Aesthetics	No change
Utilities, energy, and materials (amount used)	
Diesel	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 10.6 million gallons (40 million liters) Updated analysis: 29 million gallons (110 million liters)
Gasoline	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.22 million gallons (0.82 million liters) Updated analysis: 0.63 million gallons (2.4 million liters)
Steel	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 82,000 tons (76,000 metric tons) Updated analysis: 95,000 tons (86,000 metric tons)
Concrete	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 456,000 tons (414,000 metric tons) Updated analysis: 364,000 tons (330,000 metric tons)
Waste Management	
Sanitary Solid Waste	Updated analysis: 1.7 tons (1.6 metric tons) per day
Environmental justice (disproportionately high and adverse impacts)	No change, none identified

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Table S-3. Updated environmental information for the Jean rail corridor (page 1 of 2).

Resource	Changes from the Yucca Mountain FEIS to this analysis
Corridor length	No change
Land ownership	
BLM-administered land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 15,000 to 17,000 acres (60 to 69 square kilometers) (about 83 percent) Updated analysis: 15,000 to 18,000 acres (61 to 73 square kilometers) (85.5 to 87.2)
Private land	No change
Nevada Test Site land	No change
Air quality	
National Ambient Air Quality Standards attainment Status	The Pahrump area in Nye County is now subject to a Memorandum of Understanding with regulatory agencies to better control fugitive emissions of PM_{10} and thereby avoid being designated a nonattainment area.
Hydrology	
Surface water	No change
Groundwater use (construction)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 405 acre-feet (500,000 cubic meters) Updated analysis: 3,380 acre-feet (4.17 million cubic meters)
Biological resources and soils	Four additional sensitive species recorded
Cultural resources (records search)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 6 recorded sites Updated analysis: 45 recorded sites
Occupational and Public Health and Safety	
Industrial hazards (construction and operations)	
Total recordable cases	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 148 Updated analysis: 246
Lost workday cases	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 76 Updated analysis: 143
Fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.3 Updated analysis: 0.9
Transportation Hazards (construction only)	
Traffic Fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.7 Updated analysis: 2.5
Cancer Fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.09 Updated analysis: 0.3
Incident-free radiological impacts (latent cancer fatalities) (operations only)	
Public	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.00085 Updated analysis: 0.00019
Workers	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.22 Updated analysis: 0.21

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Table S-3. Updated environmental information for the Jean rail corridor (page 2 of 2).

Resource	Changes from the Yucca Mountain FEIS to this analysis
Radiological transportation accident fatalities	
Radiological accident risk (latent cancer fatalities)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.000000015 Updated analysis: 0.0000018
Cancer fatalities from vehicle emissions	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.07 Updated analysis: 0.3
Nonradiological transportation accident fatalities	
Spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste transportation	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.019 Updated analysis: 0.11
Construction and operations workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.5 Updated analysis: 2
Socioeconomics	
Estimated construction workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 855 worker-years Updated analysis: 4,100 worker-years
Estimated operations workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 36 workers per year Updated analysis: 32 workers per year
Noise and Vibration	No change
Aesthetics	No change
Utilities, energy, and materials (amount used)	
Diesel	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 6.9 million gallons (26 million liters) Updated analysis: 22.7 million gallons (86 million liters)
Gasoline	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 1.3 million gallons (0.5 million liters) Updated analysis: 4.2 million gallons (1.6 million liters)
Steel	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 28,000 tons (26,000 metric tons) Updated analysis: 33,000 tons (30,000 metric tons)
Concrete	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 165,000 tons (150,000 metric tons) Updated analysis: 132,000 tons (120,000 metric tons)
Waste Management	
Sanitary Solid Waste	Updated analysis: 1 ton (0.91 metric ton) per day
Environmental justice (disproportionately high and adverse impacts)	No change, none identified

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Table S-4. Updated environmental information for the Valley Modified rail corridor (page 1 of 2).

Resource	Changes from the Yucca Mountain FEIS to this analysis
Corridor length	No change
Land ownership	
BLM-administered land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 7,400 to 9,100 acres (29.9 to 36.7 square kilometers (approximately 53 percent) Updated analysis: 7,700 to 8,900 acres (31 to 36 square kilometers) (51 to 53.7 percent)
Private land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 49 acres (0.18 square kilometer) (about 3 percent) Updated analysis: 49 to 99 acres (0.2 to 0.4 square kilometer) (about 0.3 to 0.6 percent)
Nevada Test and Training Range land	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 900 to 1,900 acres (3.6 to 7.5 square kilometers) (about 11 percent) Updated analysis: 900 to 1,900 acres (4.3 to 9.4 square kilometers) (about 7.5 to 13.3 percent)
Nevada Test Site land	No change
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	No change
Air quality	
National Ambient Air Quality Standards attainment status	No change (potential for construction air quality impacts from PM_{10} and carbon monoxide)
Hydrology	
Surface water	No change
Groundwater use (construction)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 395 acre-feet (395,000 cubic meters) Updated analysis: 320 acre-feet (3.44 million cubic meters)
Biological resources and soils	Additional records of sensitive species
Cultural resources (records search)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 19 recorded sites Updated analysis: 45 recorded sites
Occupational and Public Health and Safety	
Industrial hazards (construction and operations)	
Total recordable cases	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 111 Updated analysis: 176
Lost workday cases	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 57 Updated analysis: 103
Fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.25 Updated analysis: 0.5
Transportation hazards (construction only)	
Traffic fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.4 Updated analysis: 1.5
Cancer fatalities	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.05 Updated analysis: 0.2

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Table S-4. Updated environmental information for the Valley Modified rail corridor (page 2 of 2).

Resource	Changes from the Yucca Mountain FEIS to this analysis
Incident-free radiological impacts (latent cancer fatalities) (operations only)	
Public	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.00065 Updated analysis: 0.00014
Workers	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.22 Updated analysis: 0.21
Radiological transportation accident fatalities	
Radiological accident risk (latent cancer fatalities)	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.0000000029 Updated analysis: 0.0000013
Cancer fatalities from vehicle emissions	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.07 Updated analysis: 0.2
Nonradiological transportation accident fatalities	
Spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste transportation	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.016 Updated analysis: 0.095
Construction and operations workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.5 Updated analysis: 1.3
Socioeconomics	
Estimated construction workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 405 worker-years Updated analysis: 2,500 worker-years
Estimated operations workforce	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 36 workers per year Updated analysis: 32 workers per year
Noise and Vibration	No change
Aesthetics	No change
Utilities, energy, and materials (amount used)	
Diesel	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 3.4 million gallons (13 million liters) Updated analysis: 13 million gallons (49 million liters)
Gasoline	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 0.07 million gallons (0.27 million liters) Updated analysis: 0.26 million gallons (1 million liters)
Steel	Yucca Mountain FEIS: 24,000 tons (22,000 metric tons) Updated analysis: 29,000 tons (26,000 metric tons)
Concrete	Yucca Mountain FES: 143,000 tons (130,000 metric tons) Updated analysis: 110,000 tons (100,000 metric tons)
Waste Management	
Sanitary solid waste	Updated analysis: 0.7 tons (0.6 metric tons) per day
Environmental justice (disproportionately high and adverse impacts)	No change, none identified

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associated with changes in drainage patterns or to erosion and sedimentation rates or locations would be small and localized.

Based on earthwork needs as opposed to terrain type, the estimated groundwater use for railroad construction in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors has increased substantially over that reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

S.2.6.2.4 Biological Resources and Soils

There would be no differences in potential impacts to biological resources and soils from those reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS for the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors. DOE has identified additional records of sensitive species in all three corridors. Because all three corridors would cross some desert tortoise habitat, there would continue to be potential impacts to desert tortoise habitat and individuals of the species, as reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

S.2.6.2.5 Cultural Resources

Since DOE completed the Yucca Mountain FEIS, there have been surveys that identified additional cultural resources in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors regions of influence. Grading and other construction activities could degrade, cause the removal of, or alter the setting of cultural resources sites and cause the loss of cultural resources.

S.2.6.2.6 Occupational and Public Health and Safety

The greatest potential impacts to health and safety would be from traffic accidents, mainly associated with commuting workers. In relation to industrial safety, the categories of worker impacts include total recordable incidents, lost workdays, and fatalities. Revised estimates of the number of workers needed to construct the railroad resulted in approximately a six-fold rise in the estimate of worker-years in comparison to the worker-years estimated in the Yucca Mountain FEIS (2,000 hours per worker-year). Since DOE completed the Yucca Mountain FEIS, there have been updates to the methods and data to estimate radiation doses for workers and members of the public. Because of the increase in the estimate of construction workers over that reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS, there would be miminal increases in estimated traffic fatalities, and fatalities from exposure to vehicle emissions. DOE has estimated that radiological impacts to members of the public and workers from incident-free transportation and accident risks in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors would increase slightly over the estimate reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

S.2.6.2.7 Socioeconomics

The Yucca Mountain FEIS discussion of socioeconomic impacts identified the number of employees that would be necessary to operate intermodal transfer stations. Based on the identified levels of employment, DOE concluded that the potential cumulative socioeconomic impacts to local communities would be small. Revised estimates of the number of workers needed to construct the rail line resulted in approximately a six-fold rise in the estimate of worker-years in comparison to the worker-years estimated in the Yucca Mountain FEIS (2,000 hours per worker-year).

In relation to employment levels for railroad construction in the Carlin, Jean, or Valley Modified rail corridor, the workforce requirements would vary based on the length of the corridor and earthwork requirements. Operations workforce levels for each corridor would change slightly from those reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Given the short-term nature of construction and the relatively limited number of employees necessary for the railroad operations, the potential for socioeconomic impacts along a corridor would be both short-term and small. Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, dominates the

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region of influence with a 2006 estimated population of 1.89 million, which is approximately 7 percent more than the population DOE reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Current population growth in Clark County would mask socioeconomic impacts due to the short-term growth in the workforce or the associated impact on population growth.

S.2.6.2.8 Noise and Vibration

Potential noise impacts would be small. The Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors mainly cross through unoccupied BLM-administered public lands. The number of trains per week on each line, approximately 17, would result in small impacts to potentially affected communities. DOE did not identify any significant new information or circumstances that would cause the affected environment or the estimated impacts from noise and vibration to change from that reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

S.2.6.2.9 Aesthetics

Based on an evaluation of current BLM Resource Management Plans, there have been no changes to the visual setting classifications in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors since DOE completed the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Therefore, impacts to aesthetic resources would be the same as those reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Most of the Carlin rail corridor would pass through BLM Visual Resource Management Class IV areas (the BLM designation that provides for management activities that require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape). Because the Jean rail corridor would cross Visual Resource Management Class II areas (the BLM designation that provides for the retention of the existing character of the landscape), impacts to the viewshed from railroad operations would cause a conflict with the visual resource classification. As reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS, railroad operations in the Valley Modified rail corridor would have small impacts to visual resources in the area because the entire corridor would fall within the BLM-designated Class III areas (the BLM designation that provides for the partial retention of the existing character of the landscape).

S.2.6.2.10 Utilities, Energy, and Materials

Construction activities would use motor fuel, concrete, and steel. Quantities would be small in comparison to regional use and capacity, which would not be affected. Railroad operations would consume relatively small quantities of motor fuel and would not affect regional consumption. Estimates of steel and concrete consumption increased over those reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. The estimated impacts to utilities, energy, and materials from the railroad operations in the Carlin, Jean, or Valley Modified rail corridor would be small and similar to that reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. The estimated use of motor fuel by locomotives would has increased over that reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS due to more weekly train trips, but overall motor fuel use impacts would remain small.

S.2.6.2.11 Waste Management

The Yucca Mountain FEIS evaluated waste management impacts that would be common to all rail corridors rather than for individual corridors. Information is now more readily available to differentiate between corridor–specific waste-management impacts. Therefore, DOE has included this information at a level of analysis similar to that of the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Construction activities would generate about 1.6 metric tons (1.7 tons) of municipal solid waste per day in the Carlin rail corridor, about one metric ton (1.1 tons) per day in the Jean rail corridor, and less than 1 metric ton (less than 1 ton) per day in the Valley Modified rail corridor. This volume could affect the capacity and closure dates of small rural landfills. Nevada has extensive waste disposal capacity and land for new capacity. DOE could transport waste to existing landfills with ample capacities, such as Apex. Volumes of other types of waste would be small, with no expected strain on disposal capacity.

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Railroad operations would generate minimal amounts of waste. The Yucca Mountain FEIS estimated that the peak annual generation would be 910 metric tons (1,000 tons) of sanitary solid waste for each rail corridor; the updated estimates of post recycling waste for each corridor now average about half that amount.

S.2.6.2.12 Environmental Justice

The Yucca Mountain FEIS did not identify potential impacts to minority or low-income populations in the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors. The environmental impacts updates for those rail corridors did not identify any new minority or low income populations or special pathways for impacts to such populations. Because no new impacts were identified, it is unlikely there would be any disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority or low-income populations from railroad construction and operations along the Carlin, Jean, or Valley Modified rail corridors.

S.2.7 Issues to be Resolved

Within the context of the first purpose of the Rail Corridor SEIS, to analyze the Mina rail corridor at a level of detail commensurate with that of the rail corridors analyzed the Yucca Mountain FEIS, there are no issues that remain to be resolved. However, under the overarching Proposed Action to construct and operate a railroad in Nevada in the Mina rail corridor to transport spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials to a repository at Yucca Mountain, it remains unresolved whether the BLM would choose to authorize DOE access to sufficient lands for railroad construction and operation under the right-of-way grant applied for by DOE. DOE would also need to apply to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to acquire a right-of-way in which to construct a rail line on the Walker River Paiute Reservation.

S.2.8 Areas of Controversy

The Yucca Mountain Project, including the transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste along any chosen rail corridor through Nevada, has remained a controversial issue since its inception some 20 years ago, and has been strongly opposed in the State of Nevada by a variety of state, local, tribal, and citizen groups. A particular focus of controversy has been a state's right to determine federal projects within its borders. Over the last decade the State of Nevada has filed multiple lawsuits against the federal government regarding the Yucca Mountain Project. In 2004, the State of Nevada petitioned the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the Yucca Mountain FEIS and the portion of the DOE Record of Decision governing the transportation of nuclear waste. The State of Nevada alleged that the FEIS was procedurally flawed, violated NEPA, and ignored STB railroad regulations. The State of Nevada also challenged the Record of Decision under the Administrative Procedure Act in determining a "mostly rail" plan to be the preferred means of shipping waste to the site, and argued that DOE exceeded its authority in selecting the Caliente corridor. On August 8, 2006, the Court denied Nevada's petition.

In April 2007 the Tribal Council of the Walker River Paiute Tribe announced a resolution withdrawing their participation in the Rail Corridor SEIS and the Rail Alignment EIS, and renewing the Tribe's past objection to the transportation of nuclear waste through its Reservation. Thus, in the Rail Alignment EIS, DOE has identified the Mina rail corridor as a nonpreferred alternative.

The Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations has consistently opposed the siting of a repository at Yucca Mountain and transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to such a repository. Construction and operation of the proposed repository the proposed railroad are viewed to constitute an intrusion on the holy lands of the Southern Paiute, Western Shoshone, and Owens Valley

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Paiute and Shoshone people; a disturbance to cultural, biological, botanical, geological, and hydrological resources; and intrusion on American Indian viewscapes, songscapes, storyscapes, and traditional cultural properties. DOE accepts these viewpoints as responsible opposing viewpoints. These issues could continue to be viewed as unresolved within the forum of American Indian cultures and beliefs.

S.2.9 Major Conclusions

DOE concludes that the Mina rail corridor warrants further study at the alignment level under NEPA, although as a nonpreferred alternative. In reaching this conclusion, DOE considered the environmental conditions and associated potential impacts of constructing and operating a railroad for each of 12 environmental resource areas, and found overall that impacts would be small. The Mina rail corridor coincides in part with an abandoned rail line and follows relatively flat terrain over much of its length, which would minimize the amount of cuts and fills and tend to reduce environmental impacts. However, cumulative impacts to groundwater resources for railroad construction and operations in the Mina rail corridor would be small to moderate.

On April 17, 2007, the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council passed a resolution withdrawing support for the Tribe's participation in the Supplemental Yucca Mountain Nevada Rail Corridor EIS and Rail Alignment EIS preparation process. The Tribal Council's resolution also renewed the Tribe's past objection to the transportation of nuclear waste through its Reservation. Accordingly, DOE has identified the Mina Implementing Alternative as nonpreferred in the Supplemental Yucca Mountain Nevada Rail Corridor EIS and Rail Alignment EIS.

DOE also concludes that, based on the analysis in the Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that would warrant further consideration of the Carlin, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors at the alignment level. In reaching this conclusion, the Department has updated the information for 12 environmental resource areas for those three rail corridors, which were evaluated in detail in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Overall, the environmental conditions and associated potential environmental impacts for each rail corridor remain unchanged from, or are substantially similar to, those reported in the Yucca Mountain FEIS. Notably, however, potential land use and ownership conflicts in the Jean and Valley Modified rail corridors have increased, and although the amount of private land within the Carlin rail corridor appears to have decreased (based on a more refined analysis using land ownership databases), the complex land-ownership pattern (mix of private and public lands that would be crossed) remains unchanged. Such land-use and ownership conflicts and complexity increase the potential to adversely affect construction of a railroad, and increase the potential for delays that could affect the availability of a railroad in these corridors. Moreover, air quality management goals within the Jean rail corridor have changed since DOE completed the Yucca Mountain FEIS, and construction of a railroad could increase the potential for conflicts with these goals.

S.3 SUMMARY OF THE RAIL ALIGNMENT EIS

S.3.1 Purpose and Need for Agency Action

Based on its obligations under the NWPA and its decision to select the mostly rail scenario for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, DOE needs to ship these materials by rail in Nevada to a repository at Yucca Mountain.

At present, there is no railroad to the Yucca Mountain Site. In the Yucca Mountain FEIS, DOE evaluated in detail five potential rail corridors within Nevada in which the Department could construct a railroad to

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link an existing rail line to Yucca Mountain: Caliente, Carlin, Caliente–Chalk Mountain, Jean, and Valley Modified rail corridors. Figure S-3 shows the five rail corridors analyzed in the Yucca Mountain FEIS.

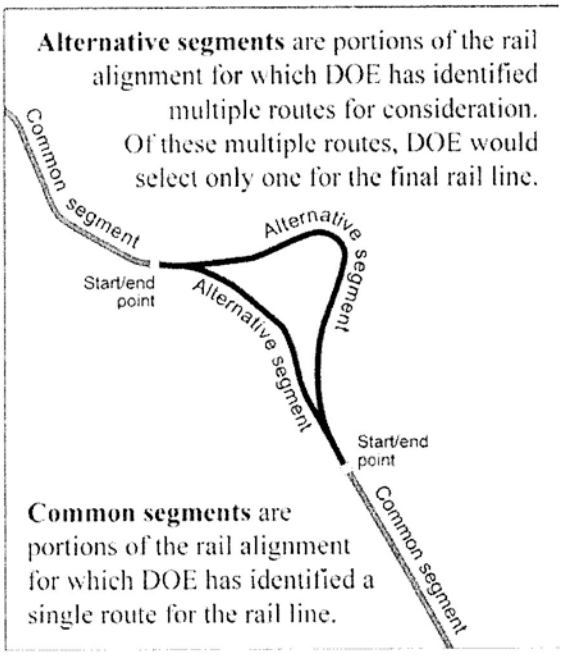
DOE prepared the Rail Alignment EIS to provide the background, data, information, and analyses to help decisionmakers and the public understand the potential environmental impacts that could result from constructing and operating a railroad for shipment of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials from an existing rail line in Nevada to a repository at Yucca Mountain. This railroad would consist of a rail line, railroad operations support facilities, and other related infrastructure. DOE will use the Rail Alignment EIS to decide whether to construct and operate the proposed railroad, and if so, to:

- Select a rail alignment (Caliente rail alignment or Mina rail alignment) in which to construct the railroad.
- Select the common segments and alternative segments within either a Caliente rail alignment or a Mina rail alignment. The Department would use the selected common segments and alternative segments to identify the public lands to be included in right-of-way applications.
- Decide where to construct proposed railroad operations support facilities.
- Decide whether to restrict use of the rail line to DOE trains, or whether to allow commercial shippers to operate over the rail line (Shared-Use Option).
- Determine what mitigation measures to implement.

S.3.2 Proposed Action and Alternatives

Under the Rail Alignment EIS Proposed Action, DOE would construct and operate a railroad in Nevada to transport spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials to a repository at Yucca Mountain. DOE would also use the railroad to transport materials needed for construction, operation, and maintenance of the repository and rail line.

Under the Proposed Action Caliente Implementing Alternative (the **preferred alternative**), DOE would construct and operate a railroad along the Caliente rail alignment to run from a site in or near the City of Caliente, Nevada, to Yucca Mountain. The rail line would extend north from Caliente, Nevada, turn in a westerly direction and head to near the northwest corner of the Nevada Test and Training Range, and then continue south-southeast to Yucca Mountain. The rail line could range in length from approximately 528 to 541 kilometers (328 to 336 miles) depending on the combination of alternative segments (see Figure S-3).



Under the Proposed Action Mina Implementing Alternative (the **nonpreferred alternative**), DOE would construct and operate a railroad along the Mina rail alignment to run from a site near Wabuska, Nevada, to Yucca Mountain. The rail line would extend from near Wabuska, Nevada, in a southeasterly direction to Yucca Mountain. The total length of the Mina rail alignment could range from approximately

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452 to 502 kilometers (281 to 312 miles), which includes portions of an existing rail line currently operated by the Department of Defense. Additionally, railroad operations along the Mina rail alignment would require DOE to operate trains on the Union Pacific Railroad Hazen Branchline, which extends from Hazen, Nevada, south to Wabuska (see Figure S-4).

Under the Shared-Use Option, the Department would allow commercial use of the rail line in under either implementing alternative.

The Rail Alignment EIS also considers the potential environmental impacts of a No-Action Alternative, under which DOE would not construct a railroad along the Caliente rail alignment or the Mina rail alignment.

Figure S-5 shows the two implementing alternatives and the rail line segments that would be the same under either implementing alternative.

For each rail alignment, DOE considered a series of common segments and a range of alternative segments (Figures S-3 and S-4, respectively). DOE applied various engineering, environmental, and design criteria to identify the common segments and alternative segments to be evaluated in the Rail Alignment EIS.

The Proposed Action includes acquiring a right-of-way grant from the BLM, which would authorize DOE access to sufficient lands for the rail alignment and railroad construction and operations support facilities. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, DOE would need to obtain right-of-way access from the Walker River Paiute Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to access lands on the Walker River Paiute Reservation. Implementation of the Proposed Action would also require that DOE obtain access to some private land.

During construction of the proposed railroad, a right-of-way would be established that would occupy an approximately 300-meter (1,000-foot)-wide strip of land centered on the rail alignment within the rail corridor. During the railroad operations phase, the right-of-way would be reduced to an approximately 120-meter (400-foot)-wide strip.

Under the Proposed Action DOE would construct and operate the proposed railroad in accordance with applicable federal and State of Nevada laws and regulations, and in compliance with all stipulations and conditions in associated permits. To help ensure compliance with applicable requirements, DOE would implement an array of best management practices as part of the Proposed Action. Best management practices would include practices such as dust suppression and the use of silt fencing to control soil erosion during construction activities. DOE has identified potential mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts where analyses indicate the potential for environmental impacts after DOE implemented engineering, site evaluation and planning practices, and best management practices. Under the Proposed Action without shared use, the rail line would be restricted to DOE shipments. DOE would use the rail line to ship approximately 9,500 casks containing spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from the Caliente or Wabuska area to the repository for up to 50 years of operations. DOE would also ship approximately 29,000 railcars of other materials, which would include repository construction materials, materials necessary for day-to-day operations of the railroad and the repository, and waste materials for disposal, such as scrap metal and solid waste. DOE anticipates that an average of approximately 17 one-way trains per week would travel along either rail line. (A one-way train means a single trip in either direction.)

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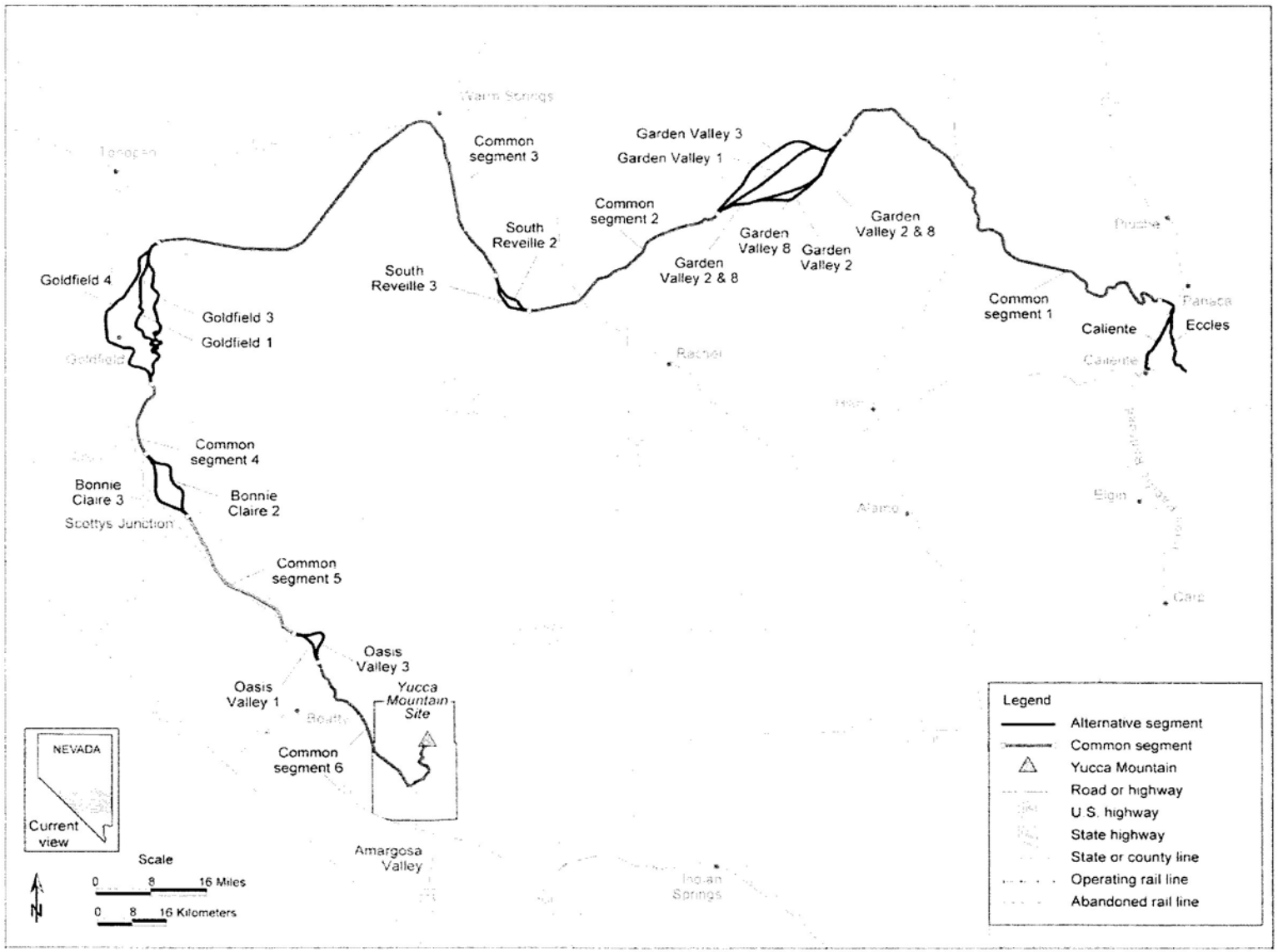

Figure S-3. Caliente rail alignment analyzed in the Rail Alignment EIS.

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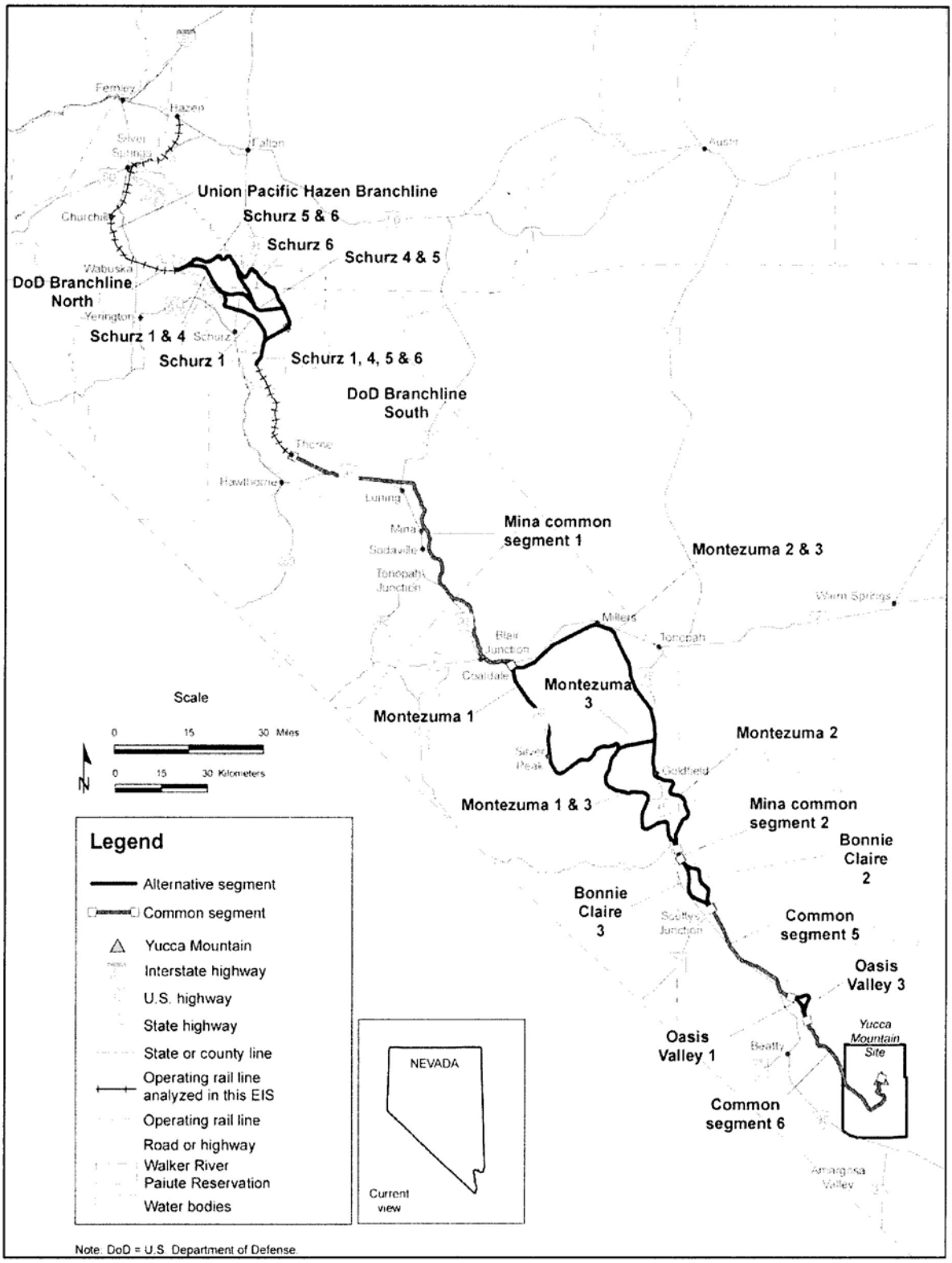

Figure S-4. Mina rail alignment analyzed in the Rail Alignment EIS.

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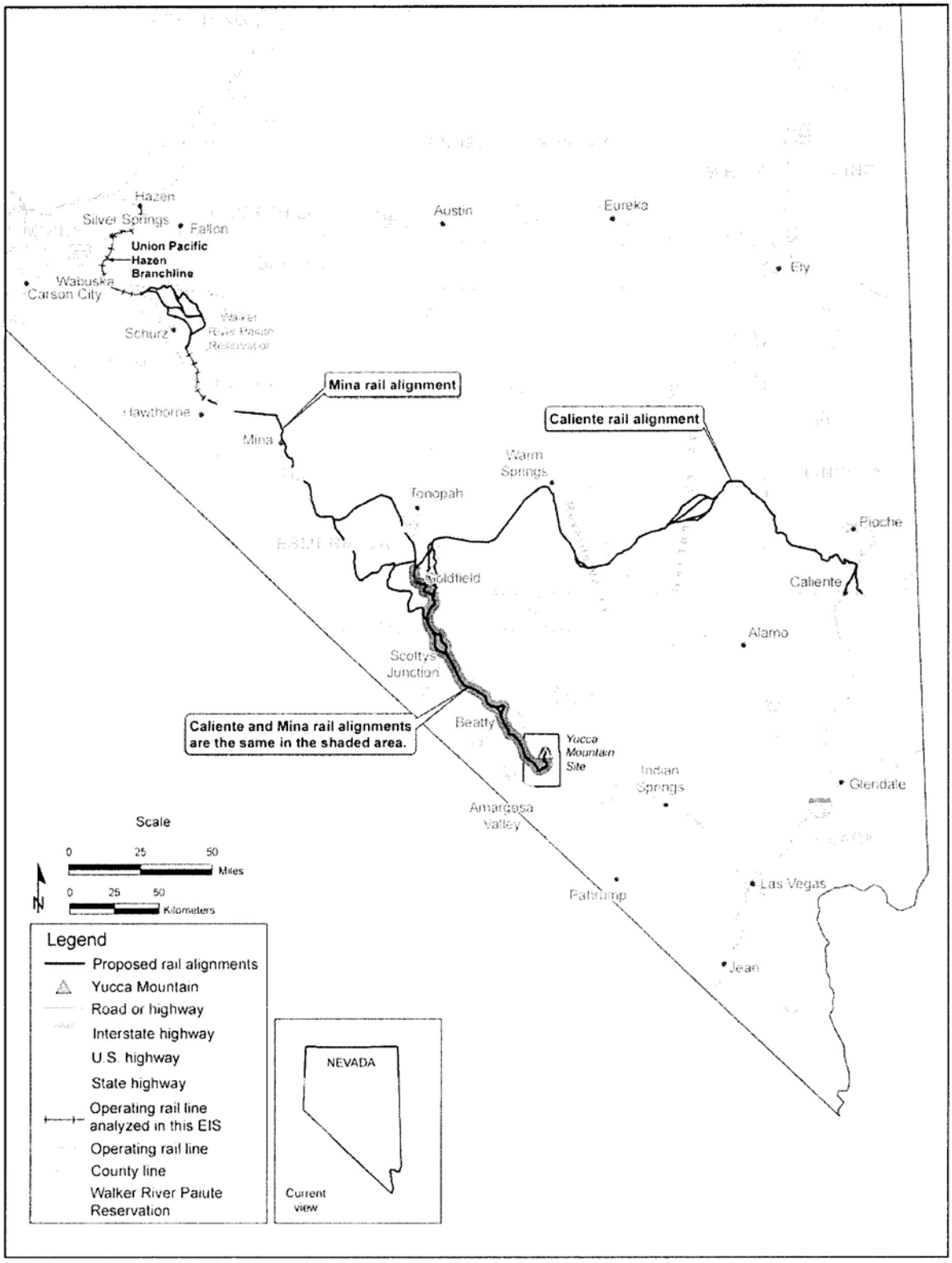

Figure S-5. The proposed Caliente and Mina rail alignments.

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Both the Caliente and Mina Implementing Alternatives would require railroad operations support facilities. Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, facilities would include:

- Interchange Yard
- Staging Yard
- Maintenance-of-Way Facilities
- Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard
- Cask Maintenance Facility
- Nevada Railroad Control Center and National Transportation Operations Center

Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, facilities would include:

- Staging Yard (which would encompass the Interchange Yard)
- Maintenance-of-Way Facility
- Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard
- Cask Maintenance Facility
- Nevada Railroad Control Center and National Transportation Operations Center.

The Department estimates the total cost to construct the railroad within the Caliente rail alignment would be approximately $2.2 billion (in year 2005 dollars with no escalation), whereas the total cost to construct the railroad within the Mina rail alignment would be approximately $1.7 billion (in year 2005 dollars with no escalation).

Ballast is the coarse rock that is placed under the railroad tracks to support the railroad ties and improve drainage along the rail line.

Subballast is a layer of crushed gravel that is used to separate the ballast and roadbed for the purpose of load distribution and drainage.

S.3.2.1 RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION

DOE anticipates that it would take 4 to 10 years to construct the proposed railroad along either rail alignment. Construction of the railroad would include construction of the rail line, the infrastructure necessary to support the construction and operation of the railroad (for example, construction camps, water wells, and ballast quarries), and operations support facilities. Construction activities would occur inside the 300-meter (1,000-foot)-wide construction right-of-way, except in some areas requiring deep cuts or high fills, which could extend beyond typical widths. The total construction footprint resulting from establishing this construction right-of-way under the Caliente Implementing Alternative would be approximately 170 square kilometers (41,000 acres) and under the Mina Implementing Alternative approximately 140 square kilometers (35,000 acres), but would vary depending on the final alternative segments selected. DOE would implement best management practices during this entire construction process.

Construction of the rail line would require obtaining water, ballast, subballast, steel for bridges, concrete ties, and rail. For purposes of analysis, DOE assumed that water would be obtained by pumping groundwater from new water-supply wells along the rail alignment. Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, a maximum of 107 well sites would be required to supply the 6,100 acre-feet of water necessary for construction. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, a maximum of 74 well sites would be required to supply the 5,950 acre-feet of water necessary for construction.

DOE would obtain ballast primarily by constructing new quarries along the rail alignment. New quarry sites would occupy a footprint of approximately 0.97 to 3.8 square kilometers (240 to 930 acres). Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, the Department would construct up to four quarries from six potential locations along the rail alignment. Additionally, DOE is considering obtaining ballast from an existing quarry operation in Utah and shipping it to the proposed rail line. Under the Mina Implementing

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Alternative, the Department would construct up to two quarries from five potential locations along the rail alignment.

Under either the Caliente or the Mina Implementing Alternative, DOE would obtain subballast from existing borrow sites along the rail alignment; waste rock generated at ballast quarry sites; from materials excavated during rail roadbed construction; or from the development of new subballast borrow sites established inside the construction right-of-way. Some of the borrow sites for the Mina Implementing Alternative would lie outside of the construction right-of-way. The Department would obtain steel, concrete ties, and rail from existing commercial sources.

DOE would construct the rail line in two major steps: (1) rail roadbed construction and (2) track construction. The rail roadbed would form the base upon which the subballast, ballast, concrete ties, and rail would be laid. Construction of the rail roadbed would require clearing, cuts and fills, and excavating earth. Track construction would involve the placement of subballast, ballast, concrete ties, and rail on top of the rail roadbed, building access roads, and establishing power and communication systems. Construction of the rail line would require DOE to establish construction camps along the rail alignment to provide housing for workers and a logistical base from which to conduct construction activities. Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, the Department would establish up to 12 construction camps. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, the Department would establish up to 10 construction camps. Each camp would occupy approximately 0.10 square kilometer (25 acres).

Under either the Mina or Caliente Implementing Alternative, DOE would construct bridges, ***culverts***, and at-grade and ***grade-separated*** road crossings. Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, the Department would construct up to 240 bridges ranging in length from 7.3 to 300 meters (24 to 1,000 feet); up to 138 large culverts; and up to five grade-separated crossings of highways along the rail alignment. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, the Department would construct up to 69 bridges ranging in length from 16 to 300 meters (50 to 1,000 feet); up to 60 large culverts; and up to four grade-separated crossings of highways along the rail alignment.

A **culvert** is a conduit for conveying surface water through an embankment. The typical culvert that would be utilized during construction is a box culvert, which is rectangular in cross section. Circular culverts, which are circular in cross section, would also be used when appropriate.

A **grade-separated crossing** occurs when a roadway and a rail line cross paths and one passes over or under the other via an overpass or underpass.

A **siding** is a track that runs parallel to the main line for a short distance and is used for passing and overtaking trains to prevent backups and keep traffic flowing.

Crossings at other paved public roadways would be at-grade and DOE would install active warning devices, such as flashing lights and gates. For crossings at unpaved roads and private crossings, DOE would install passive warning devices, such as crossbucks and stop signs.

Under either the Caliente or Mina Implementing Alternative, DOE would construct approximately 12 passing ***sidings*** approximately every 40 kilometers (25 miles) along the rail alignment. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, DOE would also install sidings along the existing Department of Defense Branchline. Under either implementing alternative, DOE would construct temporary construction sidings at camps, quarries, and material laydown areas.

Table S-5 lists the attributes associated with rail line construction for each implementing alternative.

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Table S-5. Project attributes associated with construction[a] of the proposed rail line.

Attribute	Caliente Implementing Alternative	Mina Implementing Alternative
Estimated number of bridges	Approximately 215 to 240, ranging in length from 3 to 7.3 meters (24 to 1,000 feet)	Approximately 58 to 69, ranging in length from 3 to16 meters (50 to 1,000 feet)
Estimated number of culverts	Approximately 96 to 138	Approximately 38 to 60
Communications towers	Approximately every 16 to 32 kilometers (10 to 20 miles) along the rail alignment, approximately 23 to 30 meters (75 to 100 feet) tall	
Estimated number of water wells needed to satisfy construction water demand	Minimum: 94 well sites containing 150 wells Maximum: 107 well sites containing 176 wells	Minimum: 58 well sites containing 77 wells Maximum: 74 well sites containing 110 wells
Sidings	12 sidings, ranging in length from 2,100 to 3,700 meters (7,000 to 12,000 feet)	12 sidings, ranging in length from 2,100 to 5,800 meters (7,000 to 19,000 feet)
Alignment access roads	The railroad alignment is planned to have an access road along most of its length. This road would be used primarily to support maintenance of the railroad infrastructure. In situations where rerouting existing roads to a common crossover point would be appropriate, DOE could use the access road to facilitate routing roads to a single crossing.	
Construction camps	Number: up to 12, with up to 6 operating at one time Function: To house the rail line construction workers and provide a logistical support area for construction. Location: One approximately every 50 kilometers (30 miles) along the rail alignment Employment: Up to 360 per camp (106 support staff and 254 contractors) Disturbed area: 0.10 square kilometer (25 acres) per camp	Number: up to 10, with up to 6 operating at one time
Ballast quarries	Number: If necessary, up to four would be developed from six potential sites. Locations: One near Caliente; two in South Reveille Valley; one west of Goldfield; and two northeast of Goldfield Employees: Up to 30 at each quarry Disturbed Area: 0.32 to 0.49 square kilometer (80 to 120 acres) per site	Number: If necessary, up to two would be developed from five potential sites. Locations: Two east of Hawthorne; one east of Silver Peak; and two west of Goldfield.
Construction train traffic	Ballast trains: Approximately 8 one-way trains[b] per day Concrete tie trains: Approximately 2 one-way trains per day Rail section trains: Approximately 4 one-way trains per day Other materials trains: Approximately 2 one-way trains per day Total: Approximately 16 one-way trains per day	
Total construction employment (required over the entire construction phase)	8,100 employees (the maximum number of employees in one year is 2,160)	7,600 employees (the maximum number of employees in one year is 2,160)

a. Construction would take place over a 4- to 10-year period.
b. A one-way train means a single trip in either direction.

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S.3.2.2 RAILROAD OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Under the Proposed Action, the railroad would be expected to operate for up to 50 years for the shipment of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials to the repository at Yucca Mountain. DOE would operate an average of 17 one-way trains per week to transport approximately 9,500 casks of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and approximately 29,000 railcars of construction materials, diesel fuel, and supplies for the repository and facilities.

Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, trains would arrive at the Interchange Yard on the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline near Caliente and proceed to the Staging Yard along either the Caliente or the Eccles alternative segment. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, trains would arrive on the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline near Hazen and proceed to the Staging Yard at Hawthorne via the Union Pacific Railroad Hazen Branchline, the Department of Defense Branchline North, the selected Schurz alternative segment, and the Department of Defense Branchline South. Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, two facilities (the Interchange Yard and the Staging Yard) would be required to fulfill the functional requirements of exchanging railcars between the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline and the proposed railroad. This is because there is not enough space where the Caliente rail alignment would intersect the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline to house all of the necessary functions of these facilities in one location. However, under the Mina Implementing Alternative, there is enough space to locate all the functions in a single facility (the Staging Yard) at Hawthorne. Once at a Staging Yard, Union Pacific Railroad locomotives would uncouple from cask cars and return to the mainline. The cask cars would go through all appropriate inspections in accordance with Federal Railroad Administration regulations (49 CFR Part 232 and 49 CFR Part 215). A DOE cask train would typically consist of two or three 4,000-horsepower diesel-electric locomotives followed by a buffer car; one to five cask cars followed by another buffer car; and one escort car carrying security personnel, as illustrated in Figure S-4. Naval spent nuclear fuel trains would typically include two or three locomotives, one to 12 cask cars, a buffer car in front of the first cask car and after the last cask car, and one to two escort cars.

Under either implementing alternative, following inspection and assembly of cask trains, trains would depart the Staging Yard and travel for less than 10 hours along the railroad to the Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard at the Yucca Mountain Site. Casks would then be transferred to control of the geologic repository operations area to be unloaded for repository storage. Empty casks would be transferred back to railroad control, and before they were returned to the Staging Yard for onward shipment, could be sent to a Cask Maintenance Facility for testing, inspection, maintenance, minor decontamination, and routine repair of the casks. The National Transportation Operations Center would oversee the shipment of casks from sites throughout the United States; train movements, rail operations, and emergency response operations along the proposed railroad would be coordinated from the Nevada Railroad Control Center. Both would be located either at the Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard or at the Staging Yard.

Under the Caliente Implementing Alternative, most rail line maintenance and inspection activities would be conducted in the Maintenance-of-Way Facilities, which consist of the Maintenance-of-Way Trackside Facility, Maintenance-of-Way Headquarters Facility, and two Satellite Maintenance-of-Way Facilities. Under the Mina Implementing Alternative, the Maintenance-of-Way Trackside Facility and the Maintenance-of-Way Headquarters Facility would be combined and housed in a single Maintenance-of-Way Facility. All maintenance and inspection activities would be performed out of this facility and two Satellite Maintenance-of-Way Facilities, one at the Staging Yard and one at the Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard. Maintenance activities along the Mina rail alignment would include maintaining the existing Department of Defense Branchline as needed.

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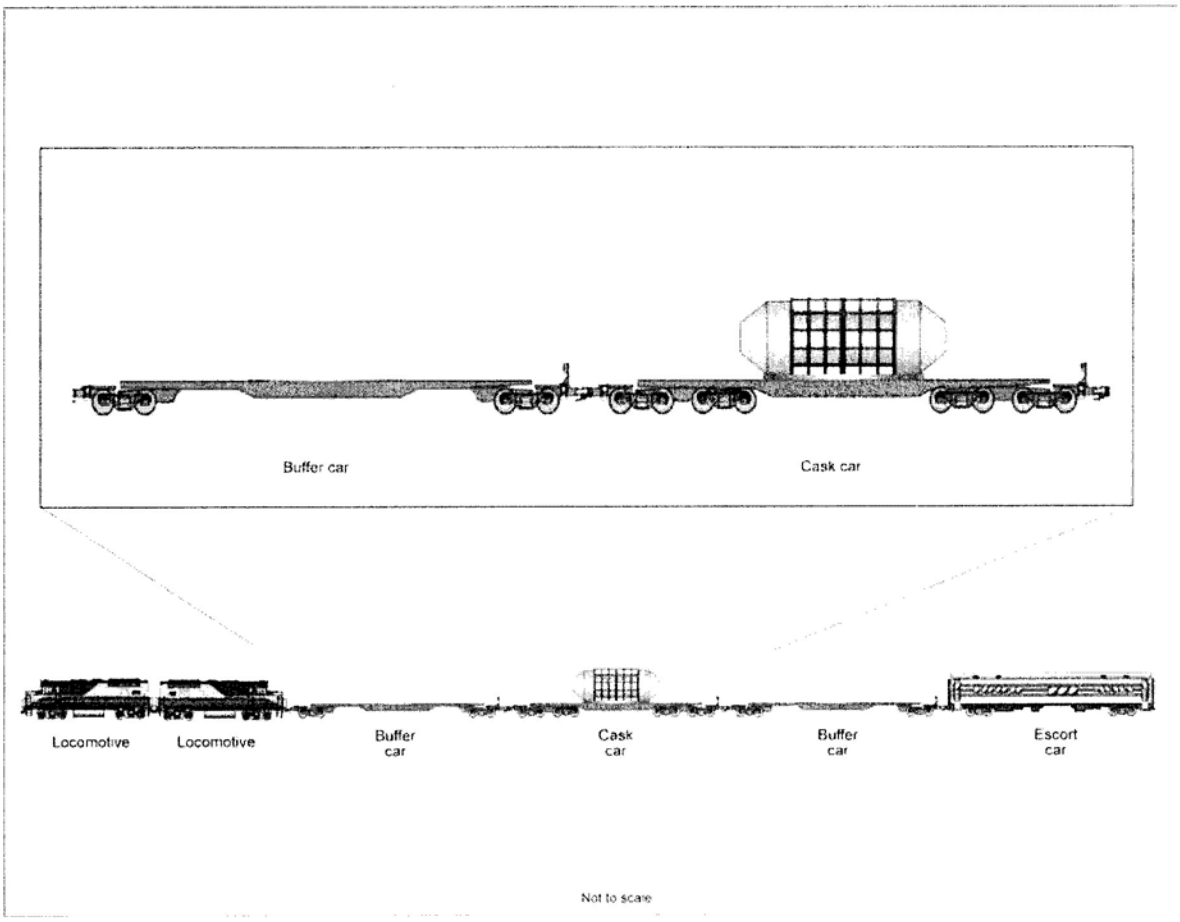

Figure S-4. Artist's conception of a repository train carrying one cask.

Table S-6 lists the rail facilities along the Caliente and Mina rail alignments and details their functions, their locations, and the number of personnel needed to operate each facility.

S.3.2.3 SHARED-USE OPTION

Under both implementing alternatives, DOE has analyzed a Shared-Use Option, under which (subject to STB approval) the Department would allow commercial shippers to use the rail line to ship general freight. The Shared-Use Option would require construction of commercial sidings to provide access for potential commercial shippers, and facilities for operation of commercial rail service. Funding for construction and commercial rail service could be provided by either the private sector or other government sources. The DOE design for the rail line (for example, grade and curvature) would accommodate shared use.

Commercial railcars would be hauled in trains that are separate from trains carrying spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, but could be hauled with trains carrying other repository-related materials (for example, construction materials, water, and fuel). During the operations phase, trains carrying spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste would have priority over trains carrying commercial shipments.

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Table S-6. Railroad operations support facilities – Caliente and Mina rail alignments (page 1 of 2).

Facility	Location	General function	Number of employees required for operations
Facilities along the Caliente rail alignment (excluding facilities common to the Caliente and Mina rail alignments)			
Facilities at the Interface with the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline			
Interchange Yard	Caliente or Eccles alternative segments Lincoln County	Handling point for the exchange of railcars containing construction and other materials between the Union Pacific Railroad Mainline and the proposed railroad	0 (employees would be based at the Staging Yard)
Staging Yard	Caliente alternative segment: Indian Cove or Upland option Eccles alternative segment: Eccles-North Lincoln County	Transfer point for casks and other materials delivered to the proposed railroad from around the country	50 (including employees for the potential Nevada Railroad Control Center and National Transportation Operations Center)
Maintenance-of-Way Facilities			
Maintenance-of-Way Headquarters Facility	South of Tonopah, near the intersection of U.S. Highway 95 and U.S. Highway 6 Esmeralda County	Coordination center for all maintenance activities along the proposed railroad	10
Maintenance-of-Way Trackside Facility	Common segment 3; 48 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Tonopah Nye County	Base of operations for most maintenance activities along the rail alignment	40
Satellite Maintenance-of-Way Facility	Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard and Staging Yard Nye County and Lincoln County	Dispatch point for maintenance activities along the first third and final third of the rail line	0 (employees housed at the Maintenance-of-Way Trackside and Headquarters Facilities)
Staging Yard	Mina common segment 1 near Hawthorne Mineral County	Transfer point for casks and other materials delivered to the proposed railroad from around the country Handling point for the exchange of railcars containing construction and other materials between the Union Pacific Railroad and the proposed railroad	40

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Table S-6. Rail line operations support facilities – Caliente and Mina rail alignments (page 2 of 2).

Facility	Location	General function	Number of employees required for operations
Facilities along the Mina rail alignment (excluding facilities common to the Caliente and Mina rail alignments)			
Maintenance-of-Way Facilities			
Maintenance-of-Way Facility	Montezuma alternative segment 1: Silver Peak option Montezuma alternative segments 2 and 3: Klondike option Esmeralda County	Coordination center and base of operations for all maintenance activities along the proposed railroad	40
Satellite Maintenance-of-Way Facility	Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard and Staging Yard Nye County and Lincoln County	Dispatch point for maintenance activities along the first third and final third of the rail line	0 (employees based at the Maintenance-of-Way Facility)
	Facilities common to both the Caliente and Mina rail alignments		
Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard	Less than 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) south of the southern boundary of the geologic repository operations area Nye County	Receiving point for casks and other freight from the proposed railroad to the Yucca Mountain Repository; would also store, service, and maintain the rail cars and locomotives operating on the proposed railroad	40 (including employees for the potential Nevada Railroad Control Center and the National Transportation Operations Center)
Cask Maintenance Facility	Collocated with the Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard	Processing location for all transportation casks, including inspection, certification, maintenance and decontamination	30
Nevada Railroad Control Center and National Transportation Operations Center	Collocated with the Rail Equipment Maintenance Yard or the Staging Yard Nye County or Lincoln County	The Nevada Railroad Control Center would control operations along the proposed railroad; the National Transportation Operations Center would coordinate the national shipment of casks and other materials to the proposed railroad	15

Based on a study of potential commercial users, DOE estimated that approximately 8 one-way commercial trains could run per week along the Caliente rail alignment. For the Mina rail alignment, which would have the greater commercial potential, DOE estimated that approximately 18 one-way commercial trains could run on the rail line per week, 8 of which would travel only on the northern portion of the alignment.

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S.3.2.4 RAILROAD ABANDONMENT

If DOE proposed to abandon the railroad after the operations phase, the Department could decide to remove ballast, track, ties, signaling, and other related materials. In addition, the Department could decide to decommission and dismantle facilities (for example, the Cask Maintenance Facility). The Department might not remove the rail roadbed, although the lands disturbed by the abandonment process would be reclaimed as required. If the Department decided to abandon the railroad, it would relinquish its regulatory right-of-way on BLM lands and the BLM would continue to manage the land. Abandonment of the railroad would be conducted in consultation with land-management entities, as appropriate, at the time of abandonment.

A decision about whether to abandon the railroad would be made near the completion of the shipping campaign, when more information would be available from the communities or the private business sector regarding the usefulness of maintaining portions of the rail line or individual facilities.

S.3.2.5 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1502.14) require that the alternatives analysis in an EIS include the alternative of no action. The No-Action Alternative provides a basis for comparison with a Proposed Action.

Under the Rail Alignment EIS No-Action Alternative, DOE would not select a rail alignment within the Caliente or the Mina rail corridor for the construction and operation of a railroad. DOE would relinquish public lands in the Caliente rail alignment that were withdrawn for study under Public Land Order 7653, and would also relinquish the public lands segregated from surface and mineral entry for 2 years in the Caliente and Mina rail alignments. The BLM would continue to manage public land for multiple uses. The location and extent of new mining claims and the associated development of mineral commodities, although not known with any certainty, would no longer be limited by the Public Land Orders.

Under the No-Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to land uses, natural, human health, social, economic, or cultural resources from construction and operation of a railroad in Nevada for shipments of spent nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and other materials from an existing rail line to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

In the event that DOE were not to select a rail alignment in the Caliente corridor or in the Mina rail corridor, the future course that it would pursue to meet its obligations under the NWPA is uncertain.

S.3.3 Issues Raised by the Public

S.3.3.1 PUBLIC SCOPING

DOE provided two public scoping periods for the Rail Alignment EIS (the first between April 8 and June 1, 2004; the second between October 13 and December 12, 2006). DOE solicited written comments and held five public scoping meetings in Nevada in May 2004 (69 *FR* 18565).

In May 2006, the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council informed DOE that it would allow DOE to evaluate the environmental impacts of transporting nuclear waste across the Walker River Paiute Reservation in the Mina rail corridor. Following a preliminary evaluation, DOE solicited written comments on an expanded scope of the Rail Alignment EIS, and held one public scoping meeting in Washington, D.C., in October 2006, and eight in Nevada during November 2006 (71 *FR* 65785). In addition to publications in the *Federal Register*, DOE extensively advertised all meetings in a broad range of other media such as newspapers, letters, and press releases.

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DOE received more than 4,100 comments from the first scoping period and nearly 800 from the second. Most of the comments DOE received during the second scoping period were similar to those from the first.

A number of commenters mentioned a variety of alternative segments that either should be considered or dismissed. DOE considered changes to alternative segments identified in the Notices of Intent, considered suggested new alternative segments, added some alternative segments, and adjusted or eliminated some alternative segments. Some commenters expressed concern about environmental resources to be considered that encompassed land-use issues, some specific land-use suggestions, air quality, socioeconomics, health and safety. DOE has conducted extensive analysis to encompass these issues. Other commenters expressed support for public or commercial use of the proposed rail line, and some commenters expressed the opposite viewpoint. DOE has therefore also analyzed a Shared-Use Option to allow a decision to be made on shared use. Various commenters noted best management practices and mitigation issues surrounding impacts associated with the construction and operation of the railroad (for example, to livestock, waterways and washes, and mining). In response DOE has developed a series of mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, and/or compensate for potential impacts, such as limiting fencing on public lands to those areas where grazing permittees might request it for livestock safety, positioning temporary pipelines so they would not obstruct natural drainage channels, and notifying all patented minerals lessees and claimants, and consulting with owners of active local mines and mining claims to ensure that impacts are minimized during construction. In addition, DOE and the BLM have solicited comments on potential mitigation measures from grazing permittees along the proposed rail line and considered these when developing mitigation measures.

Other commenters suggested that DOE identify and analyze the entire infrastructure necessary to construct and operate the proposed rail lines, including construction camps, ballast sources, borrow and fill areas, access roads, rail yards, maintenance facilities, and an operations center. DOE has done so. Commenters requested inclusion of detailed maps and plans, and to that end DOE has prepared a detailed map atlas as a reference to the Rail Alignment EIS. Comments specifically addressing the Mina rail alignment suggested that the scope of analysis should be from Hazen to Yucca Mountain. DOE has analyzed environmental impacts from Hazen to Yucca Mountain in the Rail Alignment EIS.

DOE considered the content all comments received during both public scoping periods in determining the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS.

S.3.3.2 TRIBAL UPDATE MEETINGS

DOE held a Tribal update meeting on June 2, 2004, to obtain comments from Tribal representatives from the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations composed of 17 tribes and organizations with traditional ties to the Yucca Mountain area that have appointed representatives to represent their respective tribal concerns and perspectives. During the second scoping comment period for the Rail Alignment EIS, DOE held another meeting for the Consolidated Group of Tribes and Organizations on November 29, 2006, in Pahrump, Nevada. The Department considered all comments submitted during the meetings in the development of the scope of the EIS. Commenters called for continued consultation with tribes that would be culturally affected by the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. DOE is committed to continuing the consultation process throughout the development of the Rail Alignment EIS and plans to continue consultation with American Indians to ensure that tribal concerns and perspectives are considered.

S.3.3.3 BLM PUBLIC MEETINGS

On December 29, 2003, the BLM announced the receipt of an application from DOE requesting that approximately 1,249 square kilometers (308,600 acres) of public land in Nevada be withdrawn from surface and mineral entry for a period of 20 years to evaluate the land for the potential construction,

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operation, and maintenance of a rail line for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste (*Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Nevada* (68 *FR* 74965, December 29, 2003). The *Federal Register* notice stated that the BLM had segregated the land from surface and mineral entry for up to 2 years while various studies and analyses are conducted to support a final decision on the withdrawal application. In a May 21, 2004, Notice of Public Meetings (69 *FR* 29323), the BLM invited the public to submit written comments on the proposed withdrawal and possible land-use plan amendments by June 30, 2004. The BLM held two public scoping meetings on the proposed withdrawal and possible land-use plan amendments. On January 10, 2007, the BLM issued a notice (72 *FR* 1235) of a DOE application for the withdrawal of 842 square kilometers (208,037 acres) of land (an additional 278 square kilometers [68,646 acres] of public lands for the Caliente rail corridor and 564 square kilometers [139,391 acres] of public lands for evaluation along the Mina rail corridor. Many of the public comments submitted to the BLM were similar to those at submitted DOE scoping meetings. DOE considered all the comments the BLM received in developing the scope for the Rail Alignment EIS; some of those comments led to the actions already described.

S.3.3.4 ADDITIONAL OUTREACH

In addition to the DOE and BLM scoping meetings, and comments from the Tribal Update Meetings, DOE used other information to define the scope of the Rail Alignment EIS. DOE worked with the Central Nevada Community Protection Working Group to gain the assistance of Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda Counties and the City of Caliente in obtaining information to support the EIS. Under a cooperative agreement with DOE, Lincoln County led an effort to interview landowners, business owners, county officials, elected officials, and other potentially interested parties. Comments received during these interviews closely mirrored the comments submitted to both DOE and the BLM. In addition, Nye County surveyed property owners along the Caliente rail corridor under a cooperative agreement with DOE. The surveys solicited comments on potential impacts of the proposed rail line and possible measures to mitigate those impacts. Also, the BLM interviewed grazing permittees along the Caliente rail corridor and asked for their comments on potential impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed rail line and for their input on potential mitigation measures. DOE used the information obtained through these interviews and surveys to help define the scope of this Rail Alignment EIS.

S.3.4 Environmental Impacts

In the Rail Alignment EIS, potential impacts are identified as either direct or indirect, and either short term or long term. Where practicable, DOE has quantified potential impacts. In cases where it is not practical to quantify impacts, DOE provides a qualitative assessment of potential impacts. In the Rail Alignment EIS, DOE has used the following descriptors to qualitatively characterize impacts where quantification of impacts was not practical:

- ***Small***. Environmental effects would not be detectable or would be so minor that they would neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.
- ***Moderate***. Environmental effects would be sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource.
- ***Large***. Environmental effects would be clearly noticeable and would be sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

DOE would meet all applicable regulatory requirements during construction and operation of the rail line, and would implement an array of best management practices to help ensure compliance with requirements. In addition, DOE could implement measures to mitigate impacts remaining after final design and compliance with regulatory requirements and implementation of best management practices. Sections S.7.1 through S.7.15 summarize environmental impacts for each resource area DOE analyzed.

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S.3.4.1 PHYSICAL SETTING

DOE examined the region of influence for physical setting to determine the potential for impacts on physiography, geology, and soils. The region of influence for physical setting includes the areas that would be directly and indirectly affected by construction and operation of the proposed railroad, and incorporates the nominal width of the rail line construction right-of-way (300 meters [1,000 feet] centered on the rail alignment). It also includes the footprints of construction camps, quarry sites, facility sites, access roads, and water wells that would be outside of the nominal width of the construction right-of-way.

DOE determined that land disturbance would be 55 to 61 square kilometers (14,000 to 15,000 acres) for the Caliente rail alignment and 40 to 48 square kilometers (9,900 to 12,000 acres) for the Mina rail alignment. Lands that are currently relatively undisturbed would be extensively graded, which would result in topsoil loss and increased potential for erosion. However, DOE would implement best management practices to minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction activities. DOE assessed that impacts from soil erosion would be small.

Perlite, a locally important mineral, occurs in the area of the Caliente rail alignment Caliente and Eccles alternative segments, and other minerals, such as limestone, metallic commercial minerals, and geothermal resources have been identified in some nearby mountains. Although no mineral resources would be removed, placement of the rail line could reduce the availability of perlite or limestone for mining. The Goldfield alternative segments would cross mining areas and could limit the boundaries for mining if mineral resources extend under the rail line.

Neither railroad construction nor operations would reduce the availability for mining of metallic minerals that have been identified in surrounding mountains. The Montezuma alternative segments would cross mining areas in the Goldfield Hills area, and limit the boundaries for mining if mineral resources extended under the rail line.

Along the Caliente rail alignment, construction in the Caliente or Eccles alternative segment and Caliente common segment 1 would result in a small loss of up to 1.4 kilometers (340 acres) of prime farmland soil. These prime farmland soils are found in isolated pockets and are unfarmed. In the Mina rail alignment, construction of Schurz alternative segment 1, 4, 5, or 6 would impact soils characterized as prime farmland directly adjacent to the banks of the Walker River. These areas are not farmed and DOE expects no change in their current agricultural land use. DOE expects that impacts to prime farmland soils would be small (up to 0.014 square kilometer [3.5 acres] would be lost). There would be a potential for leaks and spills that could contaminate soils during railroad operations; however, DOE would implement best management practices and consider mitigation measures to reduce any impacts.

The Shared-Use Option would require the construction of additional rail sidings within the rail line construction right-of-way in areas of relatively flat terrain. DOE determined that implementation of the Shared-Use Option would increase the surface disturbance area by less than 0.1 percent for either the Caliente or Mina rail alignment, and would add no impacts to physical setting beyond the permanent alterations already described.

S.3.4.2 LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

The region of influence for land use and ownership is the nominal width of the rail line construction right-of-way and includes all private land, American Indian land, and public land fully or partially within that area. It also includes lands outside the nominal width of the rail line construction right-of-way, where there would be facilities, quarries, and wells to support construction and long-term operation of the railroad.

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DOE would need to gain access to private land—up to 0.72 square kilometer (178 acres) for the Caliente rail alignment and up to 0.59 square kilometer (146 acres) for the Mina rail alignment. For the Caliente rail alignment, another possible 1.15 square kilometers (284 acres) of private land would be required to accommodate support facilities. Neither rail alignment would displace existing or planned land uses over a substantial area, nor would they substantially conflict with applicable land-use plans or goals. The areas with the highest density of private land either rail alignment would cross are the City of Caliente (Caliente rail alignment) and Goldfield (both rail alignments). For the Caliente alternative segment, some structures at the existing Union Pacific train yard and three structures along the former Pioche and Prince Branchline would need to be demolished or relocated. The Caliente alternative segment would also occupy portions of the access road and parking lot of the Caliente Hot Springs Motel. The motel could be adversely affected because of the rail line's proximity. Alternative segments near Goldfield would cross vacant private land, including patented mining claims and state and county land.

In response to concerns from the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, DOE avoided Timbisha Shoshone Trust Lands during the development of the Caliente and Mina rail alignments. The closest rail line segment along either rail alignment would be common segment 5, which would be approximately 3 kilometers (2 miles) east of Timbisha Shoshone Trust Lands near Scottys Junction. DOE initially studied the Mina rail alignment with the permission of the Walker River Paiute Tribe and the Department designed the Schurz alternative segments with the aim of removing the existing Department of Defense Branchline through the town of Schurz in accordance with the Tribe's request. The Schurz alternative segments would utilize up to 0.5 percent of the land area of the Reservation (up to 5.3 square kilometers [1,300 acres]).

The Caliente rail alignment would utilize up to 162 square kilometers (40,000 acres) of BLM-administered land out of a total construction footprint of approximately 170 square kilometers (41,000 acres), and the Mina rail alignment would utilize up to 113 square kilometers (28,000 acres) of BLM-administered land out of a total construction footprint of approximately 125 square kilometers (31,000 acres).

The Mina rail alignment would cross 4.6 square kilometers (1,150 acres) of land within the Hawthorne Army Depot near its northern border, where it would not pose a conflict with the Depot's mission or land uses. Railroad construction would result in surface disturbance across a number of grazing allotments on BLM-administered land. However, because the land would be restored after the construction phase and the operations right-of-way would be smaller than the construction right-of-way, long-term impacts would be small. Individual rail line segments would result in less than a 2-percent loss of animal unit months (a measure of the amount of forage needed to sustain one animal for 1 month) across all affected allotments for either rail alignment. The rail line could require livestock on some allotments to adjust to new routes to access water and forage. Generally, livestock could learn new routes and acclimate to and cross the rail line. The rail line could pose additional risk to ranching operations because livestock could be struck by passing trains. DOE or the railroad's commercial operator would reimburse ranchers for such losses, as appropriate.

Most of the local mining activity along both the Caliente and Mina rail alignments would be outside the rail line construction right-of-way. DOE would need to negotiate the surface rights to cross the few affected unpatented mining claims the rail line would intersect. Along the Caliente rail alignment, the rail line would intersect unpatented mining claims along South Reveille alternative segments 2 and 3; Caliente common segment 3; Goldfield alternative segments 1, 3, and 4; Oasis Valley alternative segments 1 and 3; and common segment 6. The Mina rail alignment would intersect unpatented mining claims along Montezuma alternative segments 1, 2 and 3; Oasis Valley alternative segments 1 and 3; and common segment 6. The rail line could be affected by or affect underground mining tunnels or shafts. During the final engineering design, DOE would perform a survey to verify the locations of mining tunnels and shafts and implement measures to avoid adverse impacts.

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Rail alignments have been developed to avoid Wilderness Areas and other scenic and recreational areas. Under either implementing alternative, DOE would construct crossings to prevent the rail line from obstructing access to private and public land. While there could be temporary road closures or detours during the construction phase, there would be no impact to land access during the operations phase. In addition, organized off-highway vehicle events permitted in the past by the BLM might need to alter their routes to avoid the rail line.

The rail alignments would cross a number of utility rights-of-way. DOE would negotiate crossing agreements with right-of-way holders and the BLM. DOE would protect existing utilities from damage so that disruption to utility service or damage to lines would be at most small and temporary. The project would require a BLM right-of-way outside existing BLM planning corridors for utilities; this right-of-way would be outside of right-of-way avoidance areas. Under the longest potential routes, approximately 25 percent of the Caliente rail alignment and 44 percent of the Mina rail alignment (new construction on BLM-managed land) would fall within existing planning corridors. In addition, to avoid the proliferation of new rights-of-way, the BLM could elect to grant future rights-of-way for new utilities adjacent to the proposed rail line.

S.3.4.3 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

DOE considered the region of influence for the aesthetic resources as the viewshed around all common segments, alternative segments, and facilities along the Caliente and Mina rail alignments. To ensure that seldom-seen views were included in this analysis, DOE used a conservative region of influence extending 40 kilometers (25 miles) on either side of the centerline of all common segments and alternative segments, and around facilities. Most of the lands that would be affected by the Proposed Action are BLM-administered public lands, including those on which the proposed railroad would be constructed. For this reason, DOE used BLM visual resource management classifications and contrast rating methodologies to evaluate aesthetic impacts to the surrounding viewshed. The BLM assigns visual resource management classes to lands under it jurisdiction, based on scenic quality and other factors, that range from Class I to Class IV, with Class I representing the highest visual values. Each class comes with specific visual resource management objectives that indicate the levels of project-related contrast that are acceptable. In this analysis, the primary basis for identifying potential adverse impacts to aesthetic resources was inconsistency with these BLM visual resource management objectives. The Department assessed the potential visual contrast between existing conditions and conditions expected during the project from key locations and compared these levels of contrast with the visual resource management objectives associated with the BLM classifications of the surrounding viewshed.

Along both the Caliente and the Mina rail alignments, DOE found that the contrast that would be caused by the rail line and support facilities would remain consistent with BLM visual resource management objectives during the operations phase, but could be inconsistent in certain locations during the construction phase. Along the Caliente rail alignment, a conveyor crossing of U.S. Highway 93 near the Caliente-Indian Cove location of the Staging Yard and along some portions of Garden Valley alternative segments 1, 2, 3, and 8, construction would temporarily not meet BLM visual resource management objectives for Class II areas.

Along the Mina rail alignment, DOE determined that construction of Schurz alternative segment 6 crossing of U.S. Highway 95 on the Walker River Paiute Reservation would temporarily not meet BLM objectives for Class III areas.

Overall, DOE anticipates that short-term visual impacts during the construction phase would range from small to large, and long-term impacts during the operations phase would range from small to moderate and would be consistent with applicable BLM visual resource management objectives.

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Impacts to aesthetic resources during the construction phase under the Shared-Use Option would generally be the same as those under the Proposed Action without shared use. Construction of additional sidings would create small impacts to the visual setting because of the short duration of construction. Impacts to aesthetic resources during the construction phase under the Shared-Use Option for both the Caliente and Mina rail alignments would be generally the same as those under the Proposed Action without shared use. Construction of additional sidings would create small impacts to the visual setting because of the short duration of construction.

S.3.4.4 AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

The air quality and climate region of influence for the Caliente rail alignment encompasses Lincoln, Nye, and Esmeralda Counties. The air quality and climate region of influence for the Mina rail alignment encompasses Lyon, Mineral, Esmeralda, and Nye Counties, a small portion of Churchill County near Hazen, and the Walker River Paiute Reservation, the bulk of which lies within Mineral County with smaller portions within Lyon and Churchill Counties. The Caliente and Mina rail alignments would cross desert and semi-desert areas that generally have abundant hours of cloud-free days, low annual precipitation, and large daily ranges in temperature. All portions of the Caliente and Mina rail alignments would be within areas classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as in attainment for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

DOE examined emissions inventories to determine county-level increases in air pollutant emissions, and performed air quality simulations to determine potential changes in air pollutant concentrations at specific (population-center) receptors. An adverse impact to air quality would occur if it were shown that a proposed action would conflict with or obstruct implementation of a state or regional air quality management plan, or would exceed an NAAQS primary standard or contribute to existing or projected exceedances. DOE determined air pollutant concentrations that could result from railroad construction and operation along the Caliente and Mina rail alignments using the Environmental Protection Agency-recommended model for regulatory applications (AERMOD dispersion modeling system version 07026). To assess potential air quality impacts from railroad construction and operations along the Caliente rail alignment, DOE modeled emissions and resultant concentrations of criteria air pollutants where there are two population centers that would be near the rail line: Caliente in Lincoln County and Goldfield in Esmeralda County, and then compared the modeling results to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. DOE likewise modeled air quality for the Mina rail alignment near the population centers that would be relatively close to the rail line: Schurz, Hawthorne, and Mina in Mineral County; and Silver Peak and Goldfield in Esmeralda County. DOE also performed modeling for the Caliente rail alignment for construction-related activities at a potential quarry site northwest of Caliente and a potential quarry site in South Reveille Valley; and for the Mina rail alignment at the potential Garfield Hills and Malpais Mesa quarry sites.

The analysis showed that criteria air pollutant concentrations along the Caliente or Mina rail alignments would not exceed the NAAQS during the construction or operation phases, with the following possible exceptions. During the construction phase for the Caliente rail alignment, the 24-hour NAAQS for PM_{10} (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 10 micrometers) could be exceeded during quarry operations in South Reveille Valley. During the construction phase for the Mina rail alignment, the 24-hour NAAQS for both PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ (particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers) could be exceeded near the construction right-of-way at Mina and Schurz during the relatively short (less than 6 months) construction period, at the Staging Yard at Hawthorne, and at the potential Garfield Hills quarry. However, DOE would be required to obtain a Surface Area Disturbance Permit Dust Control Plan issued by the State of Nevada Department of Environmental Protection prior to quarry and Staging Yard development. It is likely that requirements in the plan would reduce fugitive dust emissions, thus reducing the possibility of an NAAQS exceedance.

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For the Caliente rail alignment, DOE determined that the highest increase in air pollutant emissions would occur during the construction phase. During the operations phase for the Caliente rail alignment, the highest increase would occur in the vicinity of the railroad operations support facilities. The highest increase in criteria air pollutant emissions would be for nitrogen oxides in Nye County, where construction emissions could be as much as 8,100 metric tons (8,900 tons) per year over the county's 2002 annual nitrogen oxides emissions. However, these emissions would be distributed over the entire length of the rail alignment in the county and no air quality standard would be exceeded.

For the Mina rail alignment, DOE determined that the highest increase in air pollutant emissions would occur during the construction phase. During the operations phase for the Mina rail alignment, the highest increase in air emissions from railroad operations would occur in the vicinity of the operations support facilities. The highest increase in criteria air pollutant emissions would be for nitrogen oxides in Esmeralda County, where construction emissions could be 3,570 metric tons (3,940 tons) per year higher than the 2002 county-wide nitrogen oxides emissions. However, these emissions would be distributed over the entire length of the rail alignment in the county and no air quality standard would be exceeded.

DOE determined that railroad construction and operations along either the Caliente or Mina rail alignment would not cause conflicts with state or regional air quality management plans.

Under the Shared-Use Options for both the Caliente and Mina rail alignments, total emissions would be increased marginally. DOE anticipates that impacts to air quality along the Caliente or Mina rail alignment under the Shared-Use Option would be similar to those under the Proposed Action without shared use.

S.3.4.5 SURFACE-WATER RESOURCES

The region of influence for surface-water resources would be limited in most cases to the nominal width of the construction right-of-way within the Caliente rail alignment or the Mina rail alignment. Railroad construction and operations along either rail alignment would potentially result in both direct and indirect impacts to surface-water resources. Many of these impacts are common impacts that would occur along the entire length of the rail alignments. Direct impacts would result from temporary or permanent grading, dredging, re-routing, or filling of surface-water resources. Indirect impacts would include potential increases in surface flow and non-point source pollution resulting from runoff from areas where surface grades and characteristics would be changed.

DOE anticipates that during the construction phase along the Caliente rail alignment, the Staging Yard and the Interchange Yard along either the Caliente or the Eccles alternative segment would require channelization of natural drainage surface waters to keep water out of railroad operations support facility sites. Changes in drainage patterns could result in changes in erosion and sedimentation rates or locations. However, in all instances where the rail alignment would come close to or cross a surface-water feature, impacts would be substantially minimized by the implementation of engineering design standards and best management practices.

The Caliente alternative segment is adjacent to wetlands and some wetland fill would be unavoidable. DOE proposes to construct the Caliente alternative segment over the abandoned Union Pacific Railroad roadbed, in part to minimize filling wetlands. Of the 0.28 square kilometer (68 acres) of wetlands delineated along the rail alignment, 0.05 square kilometer (12 acres) would be filled to construct the rail line. DOE could modify the final design of the rail line to avoid additional wetlands, such as those adjacent to the old rail roadbed along Meadow Valley Wash, by using a slightly narrower construction footprint; however, this would only slightly reduce the area of wetlands that would be filled.

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M- Gold Butte

Damage in Gold Butte, Nevada

Gold Butte is 350,000 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) located at the southeastern tip of Nevada. 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 and to protect sensitive plant species. Due to adverse circumstances, the BLM and all federal land management agencies have halted all official activities in the Gold Butte area. In the absence of a land management presence, Friends of Gold Butte has witnessed an increasing level of impacts 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 May 2015, Friends of Gold Butte documented significant damage in Gold Butte.

Friends of Gold Butte conducted observations by windshield surveys and 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 (NAD83) 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) and Mud Wash Corral is located on the northwest limb of the Byway.

This report compiles the significant impacts to Gold Butte.

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

Part 2 documents multiple, illegal vehicle intrusions that have impacted archaeological sites such as Kohta Circus, Falling Man and Kirk's Grotto; historic sites such as the Mud Wash corral and Gold Butte Townsite; and sensitive desert ecosystems including riparian areas, crypto-biotic soil, stretches of desert pavement, and unique red sand dunes; and sensitive bearpoppy restoration areas.

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

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 first 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.

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

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.

Image 14: Trench and pipe #3 continue southwest toward Fisherman Cove area. Photo looking southwest.

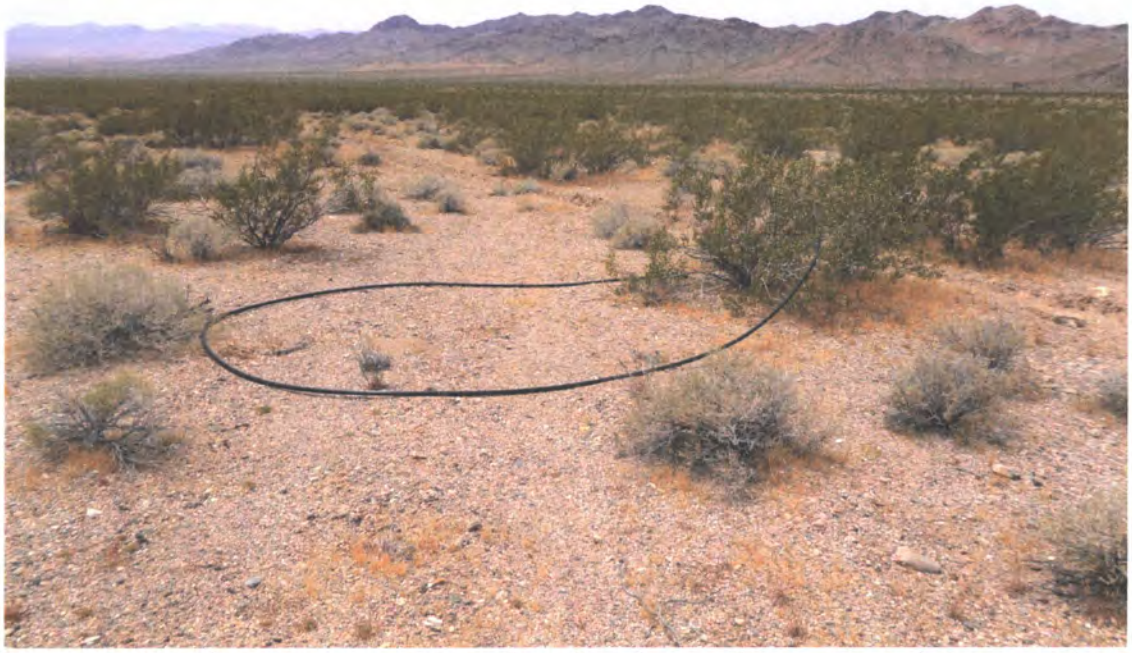

Image 15: Must have been an existing pipe along here and was removed at some point. Followed the trench intrusion to this location 11 S 0749288 4052896. Photo looking southwest.

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

Intrusions at or near Kohta Circus parking corral

Khota Circus 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 Kohta Circus parking at 11 S 750565 4042467. A single ATV went to the end of the closed road at approximately 11 S 751289 4041340, 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 11 S 750817 4042090. 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 16 and Image 17). The tracks continued south to an area of previously undisturbed desert pavement at 11 S 750423 4041278. This is possibly the largest, best example of desert pavement in Gold Butte. Now it has scars of ATV tracks on it (Image 18 and Image 19).

Image 16: Photo below shows tracks across pristine desert going toward desert pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.

Image 17: Photo of barrel cactus knocked over by the ATV driving across the desert on way to Desert Pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.

Image 18: Damage to the desert pavement area. Photographed November 8, 2014.

Image 19: 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 Kohta Circus parking. 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 Kohta Circus parking area was recorded at 11 S 750584 4042486 (Image 20) on January 6, 2015.

Image 20: Intrusion near Kohta Circus parking area at 11 S 750584 4042486. Photographed January 6, 2015. Looking south.

Between January 18 and February 23, 2015, additional ATV intrusions were observed from Kohta Circus parking at 11 S 750565 4042467. 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 21). A single ATV went to the end of the closed road at approximately 11 S 751290 4041334 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 11 S 751255 4040913. 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 21: Intrusion near Kohta Circus parking area at 11 S 751290 4041334. Photographed February 15, 2015. Looking east.

On January 22, 2015, another intrusion into the Desert Pavement (DP) area was observed. This was west of DP at 11 S 750313 4041616. It was unclear if the intrusion went to Kohta Circus area or not. The ATV track followed the previous one and with continued use it will be an illegal road (Image 22 and Image 23).

Image 22: Above photo taken east of Bitter Ridge, west of Desert Pavement view is looking SE. Photographed January 22, 2015.

Image 23: East of Bitter Ridge, west of Desert Pavement view SW, Bitter Ridge in upper right. Photographed January 22, 2015.

Intrusions near Mud Wash corral

The previously successfully closed illegal roads in Gold Butte are now being reopened. There have been numerous intrusions at the Mud Wash corral area located at 11 S 749896 4036601. These intrusions have reopened the closed road 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. (Image 24 and Image 25).

Image 24: Intrusions west of the Mud Wash corral. Photographed December 20, 2014.

Image 25: Intrusions east of the Mud Wash corral. Photographed December 20, 2014.

Between January 18 and February 23, 2015, new intrusions all around Mud Wash Corral at at 11 S 749896 4036601 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 Nancy's Camp

Nancy's Camp is located at the end of cherry stem road at 11 S 750999 403704. It is a popular camping area. On January 5, 2015, we noticed multiple vehicle intrusions at Nancy's 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 26 and Image 27) and another went east along the fence (Image 28). All tracks caused significant desert flora and soil damage. Tracks leading past the fence at Nancy's Camp 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 29 and Image 30). Intrusions continued across the dunes for over one mile. The fence was later repaired.

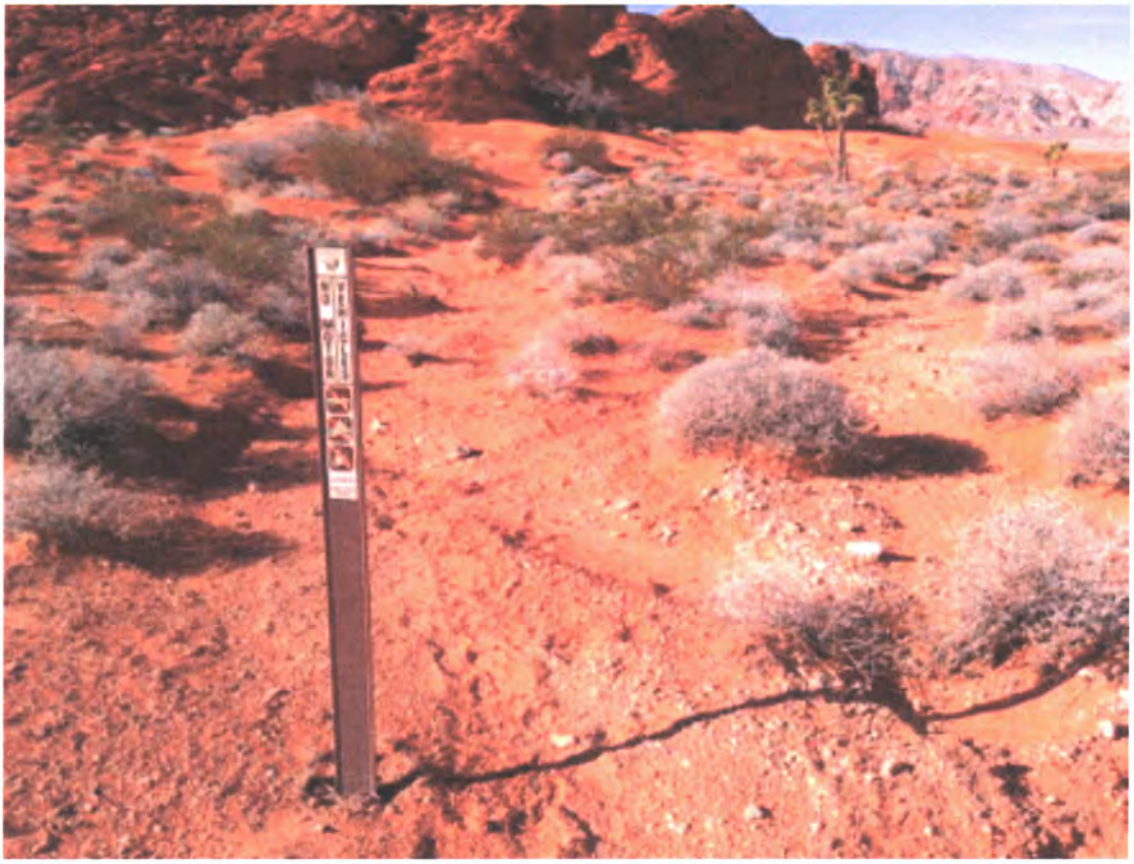

Image 26: Intrusion at Nancy's Camp, next to 'No Vehicles' sign. Looking south. Photographed January 5, 2015.

Image 27: The intrusion continued south and east across desert floor. Photographed January 5, 2015.

Image 28: Vehicle intrusions east from Nancy's Camp, along fence line. Photographed January 5, 2015.

Image 29: Fence at Nancy's Camp was cut and later repaired, giving the vehicles illegal access to the north cliff/dunes area of Little Finland. Photographed January 5, 2015.

Image 30: 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 intrusion was observed going south into the desert from Nancy's Camp at 11 S 750999 4037043.

Intrusions near the Falling Man parking area.

Falling Man 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 Falling Man site. 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 Falling Man on November 8, 2014 (Image 31). 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 31: ATV intrusion east of the Falling Man parking area. Photographed November 8, 2014.

On January 6, 2015, an intrusion west of Falling Man parking was recorded at location 11 S 751576 4044203 (Image 32). 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 32: Intrusion west of Falling Man parking area. Photographed January 6, 2015

Intrusion from Gold Butte Road south of Whitney Pockets in Bear Poppy restoration area
The Las Vegas bear poppy (*Arctomecon californica*) is a rare, endemic Mojave Desert plant. The BLM installed post, cable, and signs in Gold Butte to protect bearpoppy restoration areas. An intrusion along the Gold Butte road just south of pavement end at 11 S 756083 4044974 was first observed in December 2014 (Image 33). 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 disappered. This trail went west across the desert mainly in washes, past the sensitive Sheep Panel archaeological site, and connected to the Black Butte Road north of Black Butte (also informally known as Falling Man Road). The ATVs exit at 11 S 751056 4043779 on a trail previously closed by BLM to protect the Las Vegas bearpoppy (Image 34). Posts and cable were installed to protect the bearpoppy 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 34 and 35). Many intrusions have occurred and continue to occur at this location.

Image 33: Photo above at 11 S 756083 4044974 is the east end of the closed trail illegally reopened. This is just south of end of pavement and Whitney Pockets and is on west side of Gold Butte Road. Photographed December 16, 2014.

Image 34: West end of the reopened trail at 11 S 751056 4043779, looking southeast into bearpoppy restoration area. Photographed January 6, 2015.

Image 35: The intrusion through the bearpoppy restoration area reopened a closed road leading to the Sheep panel petroglyph 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 36-41).

Image 36: Above photo at 11 S 755193 4038572, east side of Gold Butte Road road, this intrusion headed northeast into previously undistrubed desert. Photographed February 12, 2015.

Image 37: 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 38-40).

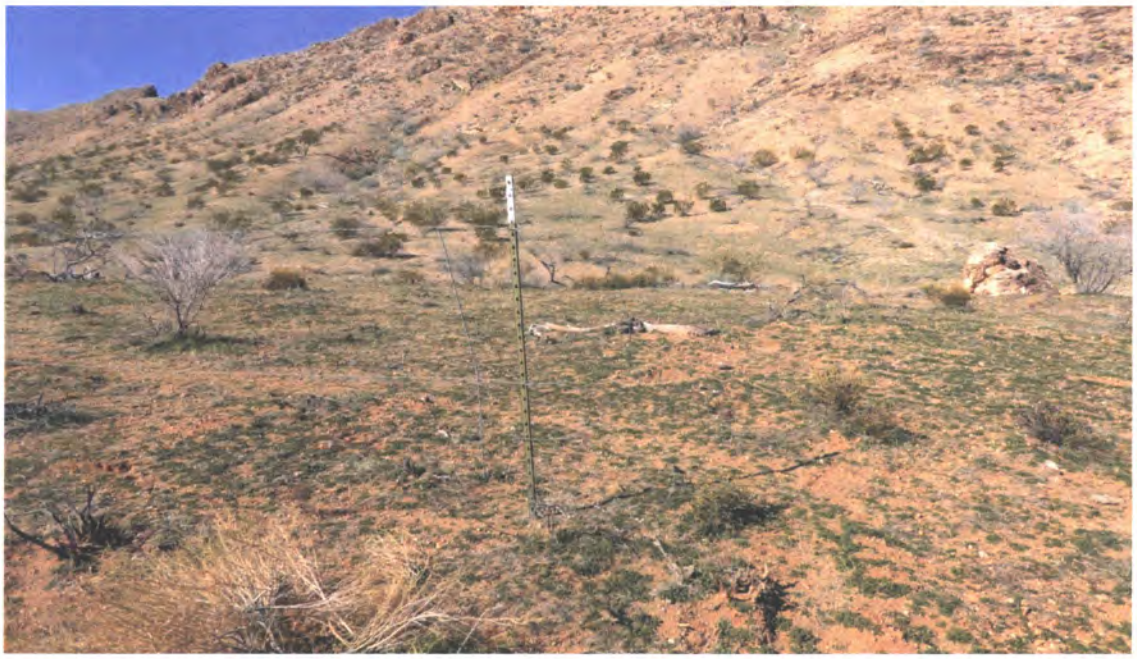

Image 38: Fence cut and turned back at 11 S 754595 4020963. Photographed February 12, 2015.

Image 39: Tracks leading beyond the cut and turned back fence at 11 S 754595 4020963. Photographed February 12, 2015.

Image 40: 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 41).

Image 41: 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 Kirk's Grotto

On February 27, 2015, a new intrusion was observed along the unnamed road from Mud Wash to Kirk's Grotto at 11 S 749677 4036444 to about 11 S 749696 4036467 (Image 42 and Image 43). The tracks went north to edge of the cliff above Mud Wash then turned around and back to the legal road. The intrusion likely occurred between November 2014 and February 27, 2015.

Image 42: Tracks from intrusion along road to Kirk's Grotto. Photographed February 27, 2015.

Image 43: Tracks from intrusion along road to Kirk's Grotto. 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 11 S 748564 4034900 (Image 44 and Image 45). 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 44: Vehicle intrusion along west limb of the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway at 11 S 748564 4034900. Photographed February 27, 2015.

Image 45: Vehicle intrusion along west limb of the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway at 11 S 748564 4034900. Photographed February 27, 2015.

Intrusions at Red Bluff Springs riparian area

The west limb of Gold Butte Back Country Byway continues north into Mud Wash just above the Red Bluff Springs riparian area. The old path down Mud Wash 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 46 and Image 47). The riparian area is heavily impacted from ATVs, cattle, and wild burros.

Image 46: Cut fence leading to Red Bluff Springs Riparian area at 11 S 746170 4038784. Photographed February 27, 2015.

Image 47: Cut fence leading to Red Bluff Springs riparian area at 11 S 746225 4038792. 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 48).

Image 48: Disturbed grave in Gold Butte, April 2014.

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 49 and Image 50)

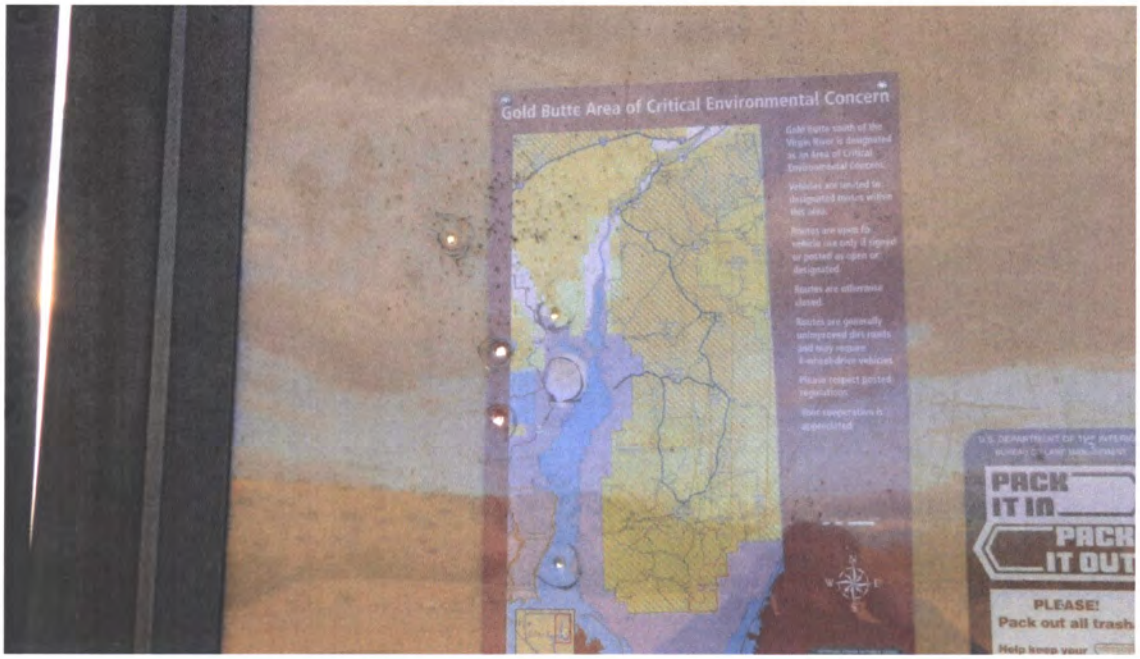

Image 49: Bullet holes in the Riverside information kiosk. Photographed December 13, 2014.

Image 50: Bullet holes in the Riverside information kiosk. Photographed December 13, 2014.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

M - gold butte

Damage in Gold Butte, Nevada
September 2015 - April 2016

Photo Credit: Kurt Kuznicki

Prepared by: Friends of Gold Butte

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Summary

Introduction

Located in southeastern Nevada between the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Gold Butte is approximately 350,000 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Most of the Gold Butte region is designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect habitat for desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*); to protect significant cultural resources such as petroglyphs, historic mining sites, and pioneer-era artifacts; and to protect sensitive plant species such as the Las Vegas bearpoppy (*Arctomecon californica*).

In addition, Gold Butte supports multiple uses including hiking, hunting, birding, camping, all-terrain vehicle riding on designated roads, and traditional tribal uses. Southern Nevadans have been asking elected officials for over 15 years to protect the nationally significant cultural, historic, and natural treasures in Gold Butte.

Background

Due to adverse circumstances, the BLM and all federal land management agencies halted on-the-ground activities in the Gold Butte area from April 2014 to June 2016. In the absence of a land management presence, Friends of Gold Butte (FoGB) has witnessed an increasing level of damage near historic and cultural sites as well as disturbance to sensitive desert areas that are habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Between November 2014 and July 2015, FoGB documented significant damage in Gold Butte and released a report to the public and community leaders in August of 2015. FoGB continues to document damage to cultural, historic, and natural resource in the area and has produced a new report focusing on the September 2015 through April 2016 time period.

Similar to the 2014-2015 report, data were gathered through field observations completed from road surveys and by hiking into affected areas. Damage was documented by photography. GPS waypoints were recorded at damage sites using the North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83) and the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinate system; all coordinates are in UTM Zone 11S. Where appropriate, GPS data were used to create maps on Google Earth to illustrate the extent of damage on the landscape. For this report, the Gold Butte Road is also referred to as Gold Butte Backcountry Byway.

This version of the report has been redacted, removing GPS waypoints, location names, and maps of culturally sensitive locations to protect archaeological artifacts and cultural sites so as not to drive additional visitation to sensitive yet unprotected areas.

Overview of Findings

This report compiles significant damage observed at Gold Butte over time with numerous observations made during the period of September 2015-July 2016. Previously reported damage is cited to illustrate long-lasting affects to cultural and natural resources.

Damage to Historic Resources, Natural Resources, Signs, and Fencing

FoGB has documented vandalism to cultural sites and deliberate destruction to sensitive plant species and their habitat. Additionally, signs and fencing erected to deter illegal trespassing have been damaged or removed. Signs and fencing are important for directing appropriate and respectful use of the land; however, fences that protect vital spring riparian habitats have cut or removed, causing additional vehicle and range animal intrusion to these sensitive areas.

Vehicle Incursions

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use is a great way to see Gold Butte while on the 500 miles of roads and trails designated by the BLM for that use. Damage occurs when riders pioneer their own routes, which can damage the fragile desert landscape. Illegal OHV routes can kill native plants, collapse desert tortoise burrows, crush desert tortoises, trample desert biological soil crusts, spread invasive weed species, create abnormal erosion patterns, and simply mar the beautiful, untouched landscape. This report summarizes numerous illegal vehicle incursions in the Gold Butte area.

Illegal Range-Land Development

Finally, this report documents an extensive system of non-permitted water developments in northern Gold Butte. Heavy equipment was used to create a network of trenches across 22 miles of pristine desert. The land is now littered with rusty water tanks and industrial waste. Illegal water developments at Dudd and Seep springs, the Great Eastern Mine, and Key West Mine are described in this report.

About the Friends of Gold Butte

Friends of Gold Butte is a 501(c)3 organization with over 500 members and a mission to achieve permanent protection for the natural and cultural resources in Gold Butte through education, community outreach, and advocacy. For more information about Friends of Gold Butte and their activities, contact Jaina Moan at info@friendsofgoldbutte.org.

Damage: Historic and Cultural Resources

Civilian Conservation Corps Storage Cave

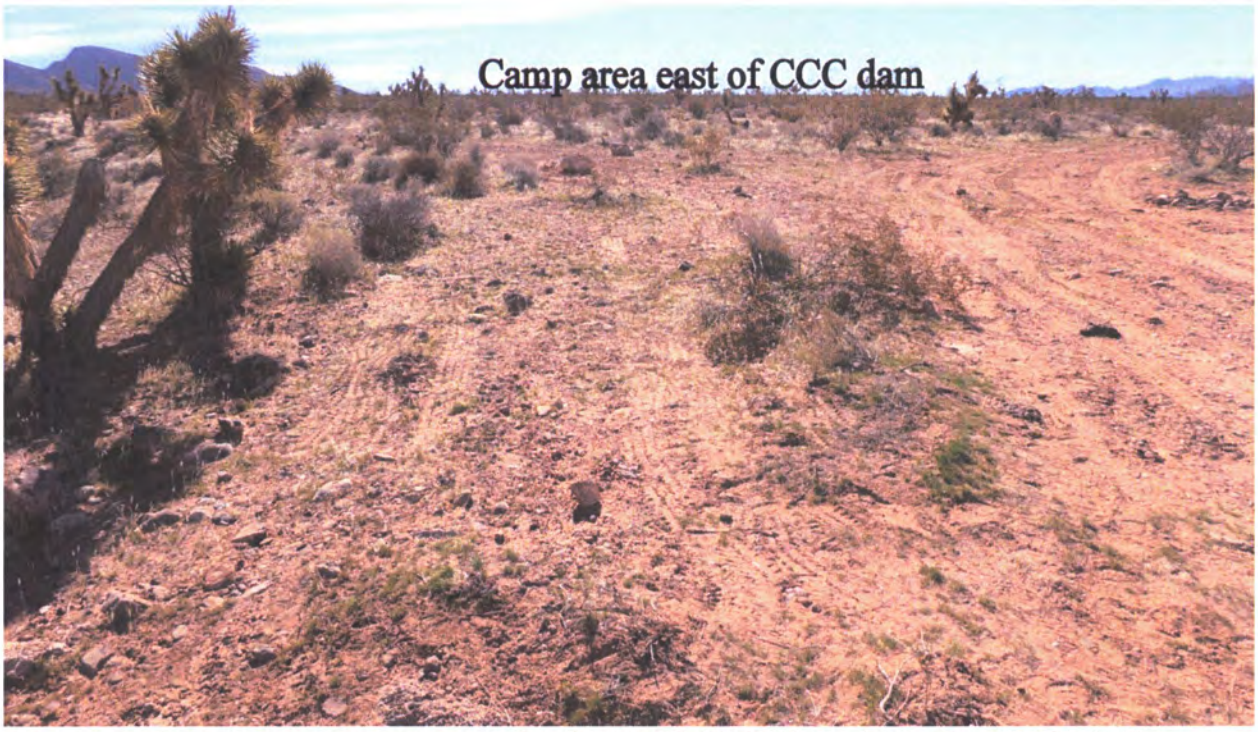
The wall of the historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) storage cave, built by employees of the post-depression era work relief program during the 1930s, is being destroyed by campers knocking out the rocks and using some of them to build fire rings. In addition, the inside of the cave has been vandalized with graffiti.

CCC Storage Cave with damaged wall (756495E 4045718N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

CCC Storage Cave with graffiti (756487E 4045723N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

The area near the CCC storage cave is a popular campsite, and the area surrounding the camp was damaged over the long President's Day weekend. There is a new illegal vehicle incursion going south from the camping area, and vegetation was damaged where vehicles were parked near the campsite.

Vehicle incursion south of CCC Storage Cave (756495E 4045718N, photo taken 2/17/2016).



Damage to desert vegetation near campsite (756495E 4045718N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

Cabin Canyon Corral

Cabin Canyon Corral was a large stock corral built by ranchers using closely spaced upright posts. Campers have removed most of the upright posts and used them for firewood, leaving little of the original corral.

Remains of Cabin Canyon Corral (762191E 4063035N, photo taken 10/30/2015).

Garden Spring Windmill and Corral

The Garden Springs Corral and Windmill complex is the largest historic corral in Gold Butte and is located in the pinyon-juniper habitat. The corral is composed of four paddocks, each made of railroad tie fence posts with 2 x12" wooden planks forming the fencing. The intermittent Garden Spring is located in one of the paddocks. A windmill and circular watering trough stand nearby.

Recently Garden Springs Corral was virtually destroyed by cutting the 2 x12" planks at each post. A likely cause for this destruction was looting to obtain the weathered wood that is favored for construction and furniture making. Prior to this destruction, Garden Springs Corral was well preserved and had stood up to the elements relatively intact.

Although the windmill still stands, parts are missing, and what remains has been damaged by bullet holes. Extensive vehicle incursions can be seen throughout the corral area.

Garden Springs Corral planks are missing (756225E 4021184N, photo taken 7/15/2016). See original condition of the Garden Spring Corral in 2011 by Clicking here.

Planks missing; damaged windmill (756216E 4021170N, photo taken 7/15/2016).

Vehicle incursion near Garden Springs Corral (756323E 4021169N, photo taken 11/6/2015).

Gold Butte Town Site

At the historic Gold Butte town site, home to some 2,000 people during its heyday at the turn of the 20th century, visitors painted names on granite rock walls.

Paint on rocks at Gold Butte Townsite (752136E 4019009N, photo taken 3/30/2016).

Paint on rocks at Gold Butte Townsite (752136 4019009, photo taken 3/30/2016).

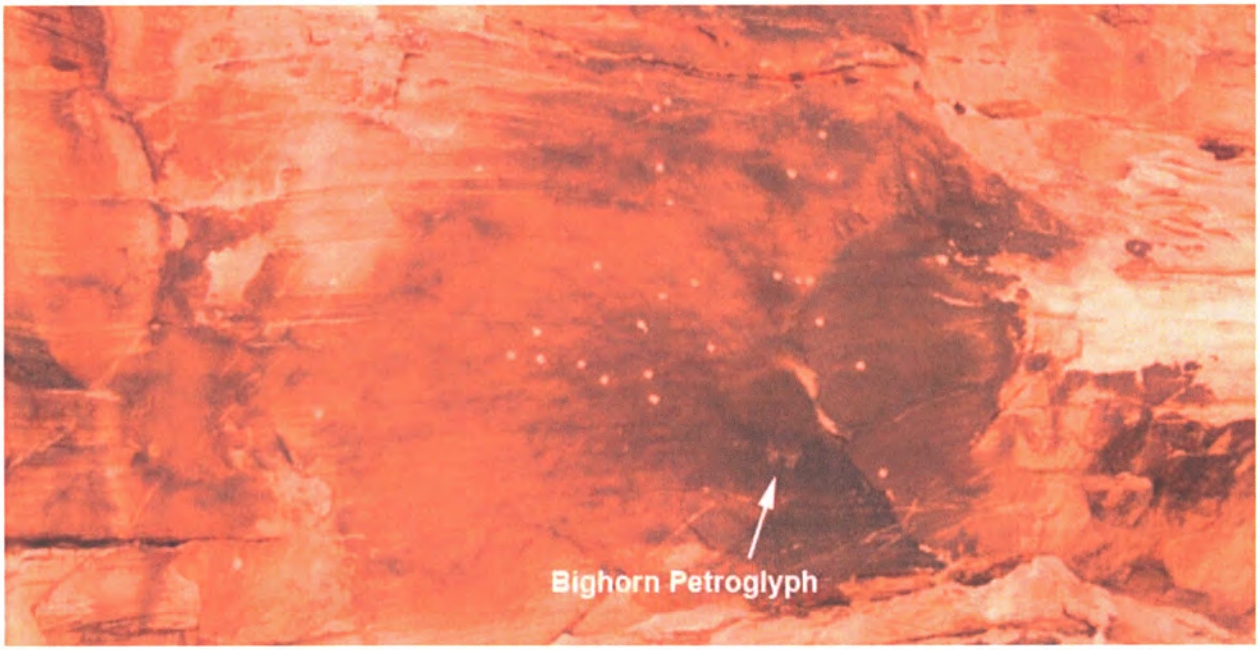
Vandalism in Petroglyph Areas

Vandalism to ancient petroglyph panels in an ongoing problem at Gold Butte. The most well known act of vandalism was desecration of the [redacted] petroglyph panel, which was damaged by bullet holes (reported in 2003). In 2009, a vulgar image was scratched over the ancient writing and a piece of the rock art panel was broken off. Although the BLM attempted to erase the vandalism in 2010, the offensive image is still visible. Bullets have been shot at, and graffiti has been etched onto, other petroglyph panels in the Gold Butte area.

Vulgar image (circled in red) at [redacted] remains visible, as do two bullet holes ([redacted] photo taken 4/19/2016).

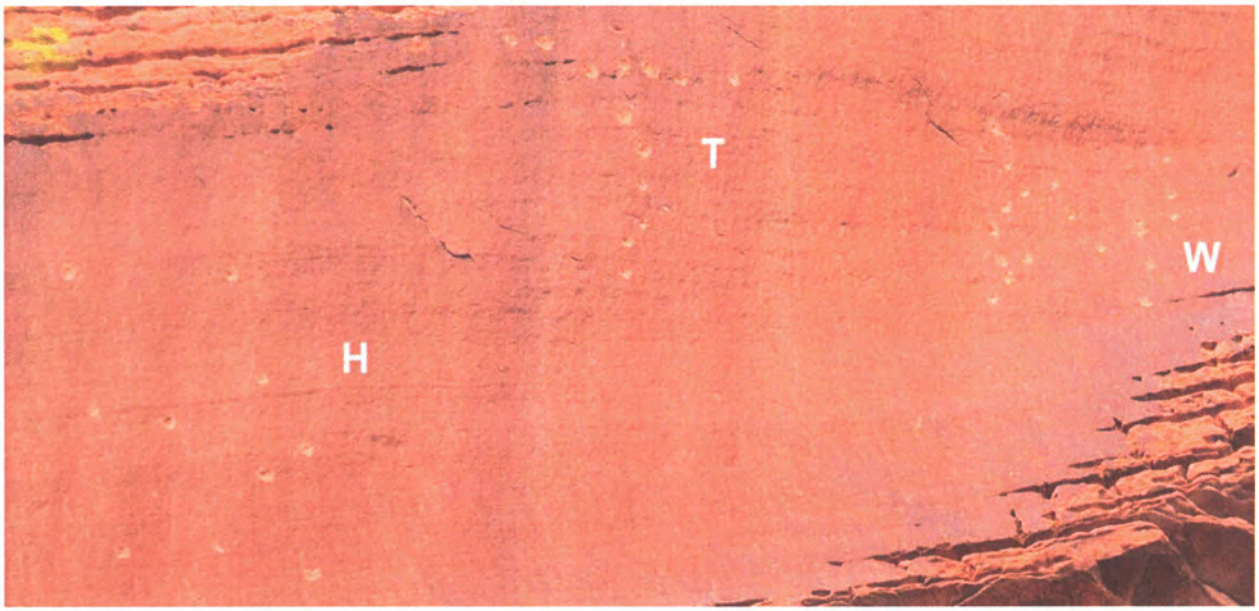
Graffiti etched on [redacted] panel ([redacted], photo taken 8/3/2016).

In the [redacted] area, bullets were shot at a rock wall many years ago, barely missing a small bighorn petroglyph. Once marred by bullets, rock walls and petroglyph panels require thousands of years of erosion to erase the damage.



Bullet holes near the [redacted] petroglyph [redacted] photo taken 4/9/2011).

Bullet holes on rock faces have also been documented at several sites in the [redacted] but fortunately none directly affect petroglyphs. There has been considerable shooting at the [redacted] site. In one case, initials (perhaps "HTW") were carved onto the rock face using bullets, and the rock wall has been blasted with shotguns.



Initials HTW shot into rock wall near petroglyphs ([redacted] photo taken 8/3/2016).

Many bullet holes (looks like shotgun blasts) and three shotgun blasts at [redacted] site [redacted] photo taken 6/20/2016).

In the [redacted] area, bullet holes in have been observed on rock walls in two areas. At one site, high on a rocky crag, people first carved graffiti and petroglyph-like graffiti onto the rock face, then later shot at the rock face using the petroglyph-like graffiti for targets. Closer to ground level, another rock wall was shot several times near a campsite.

Petroglyph-like graffiti and bullet holes high on a crag at [redacted] ([redacted] photo taken 8/2/2016).

Bullet holes in rock wall near a [redacted] ([redacted] photo taken 4/8/2016).

Damage: Natural Resources

Joshua Tree

Joshua trees are a majestic symbol of the Mojave Desert and are found nowhere else in the world. They are related to the Yuccas, grow incredibly slowly (about 2-3 inches per year), and usually live 150-200 years (but have been known to live up to 1000 years).[1]

A large Joshua tree was chopped down by a camper at the First Rock camp area, an action photographed by FoGB members. The tree was not used for firewood, it was simply cut down where it remains to this day.

Camper in act of chopping down a Joshua tree (754332E 4046342N, photo taken 2/14/2016).

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucca_brevifolia

Joshua tree freshly chopped down (754332E 4046342N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

Joshua tree stump with ax marks (754332E 4046342N, photo taken 6/6/2016).

Human Waste

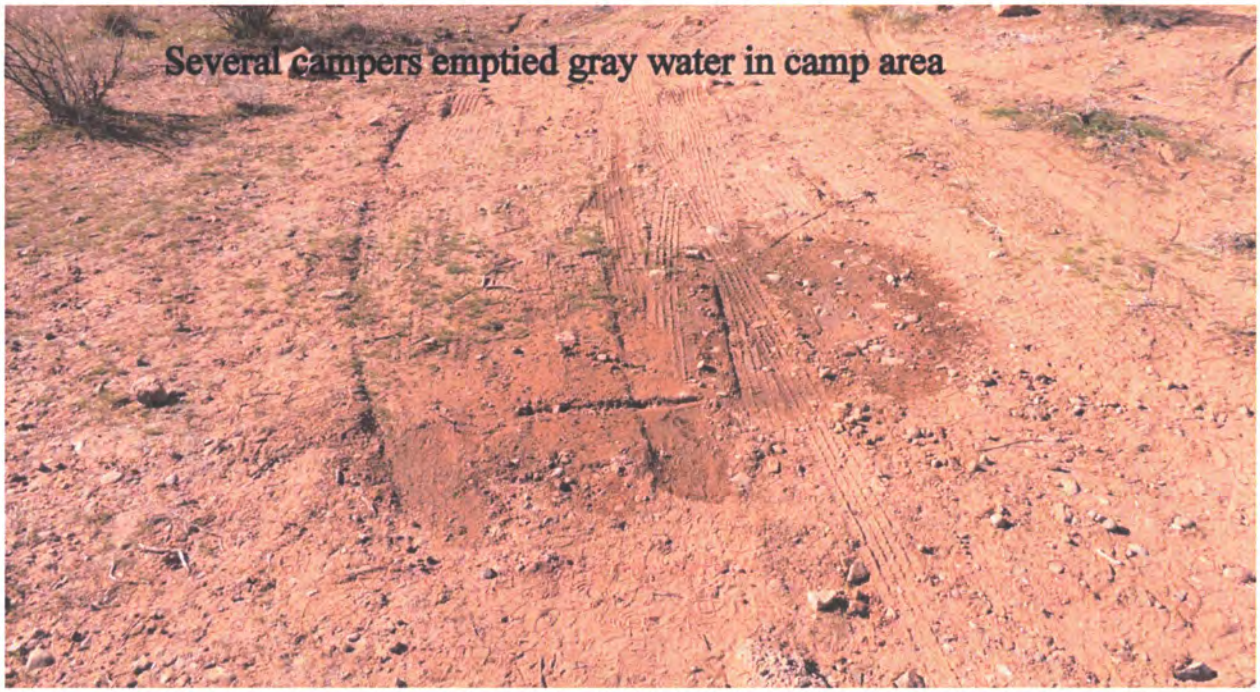
After most busy weekends, much of the Whitney Pocket camping area is littered with toilet paper and human waste.

Toilet paper at Whitney Pocket campsite (755972E 4045921N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

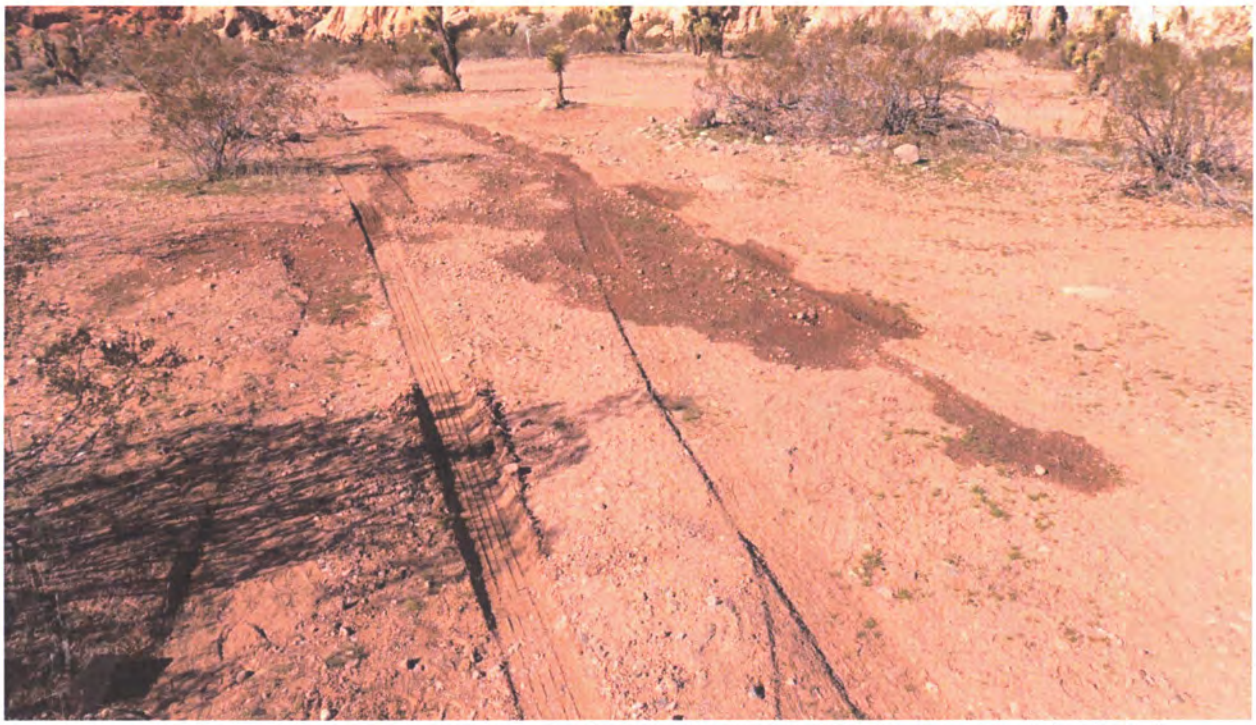
Toilet paper in bushes at Whitney Pocket (photo taken 2/16/2016).

Recreational Vehicle Discharge

At Whitney Pocket, FoGB members witnessed at least 6 campers dumping gray water from their recreational vehicle (RV) holding tanks during a busy weekend. Gray water discharge permanently affects cryptobiotic soils and vegetation. One camper dumped black water with toilet paper from their RV holding tanks before leaving camp; they also dumped what appears to be motor oil at their campsite.

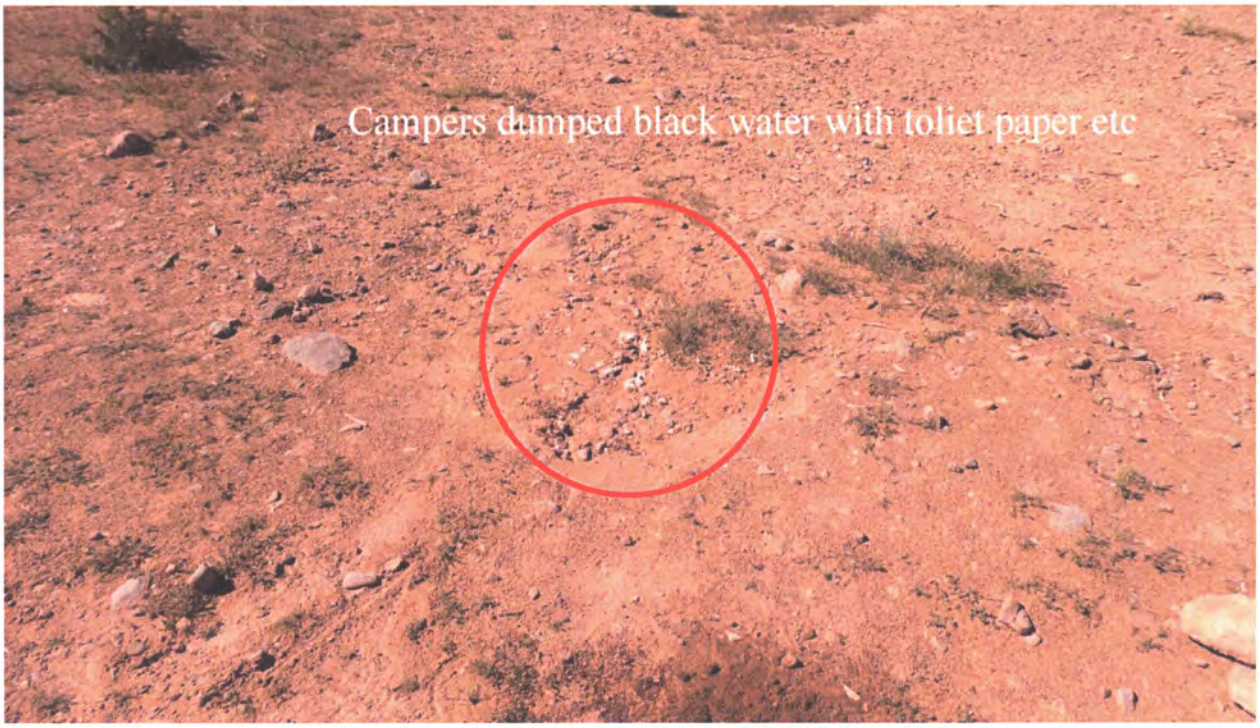


Gray water discharge from RV holding tanks (756747E 4045846N, photo taken 2/16/2016).



Gray water discharge from RV holding tanks (756747E 4045846N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

Motor oil dumped at campsite (755840E 4045750N, photo taken 2/16/2016).



Campers dumped black water from RV holding tanks (755840E 4045750N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

Damage: Signage & Fencing

Red Bluff Spring Fence Damage

Mud Wash Road had been diverted around Red Bluff Spring to protect the sensitive riparian ecosystem and the plants and wildlife that depends on it. Fences on both ends of the spring area have been cut and taken down, and vehicles are being driven through the spring area. Invasive tamarisk, once under control in this area, are also reestablishing.

Unbolted cable fence at west end of Red Bluff Spring area (745646E 4038610N, photo taken 6/21/2016).

Cut fence at east end of Red Bluff Spring area (746238E 4038787N, photo taken 6/21/2016).

Red Rock Springs Fence Damage

Red Rock Spring is a sensitive riparian area. The road was closed to keep vehicles from driving into the spring and also to keep cattle and wild burros from trampling the area. Red Rocks Spring cable and post fence was damaged likely by a vehicle backing into one of the posts and pushing it over. The tracks don't show well in the photo, but it appears that an OHV was driven over the fence into the spring area.

Damaged fence at Red Rock Spring (749134E 4038427N, photo taken 9/6/2015).

Hartman Tank Fence Damage

Hartman Tank is a natural channel spring that was fenced to protect the spring from being trampled by feral burros and cows. Storm floods have damaged the fence at the north (upstream) end of the fenced area allowing livestock to enter the protected area. The previously protected riparian area has been heavily damaged by illegal grazing, cattle feces, and cattle trails.

In addition, BLM crews had been fairly successful in controlling invasive tamarisk in the wash north and south of Hartman Tank, but throughout the drainage system, tamarisk now is strongly becoming re-established.

Flood damaged fence at Hartman Tank (749134E 4038427N, photo taken 9/6/2015).

Tamarisk is becoming re-established (749134E 4038427N, photo taken 9/6/2015).

Horse Spring Fence Damage

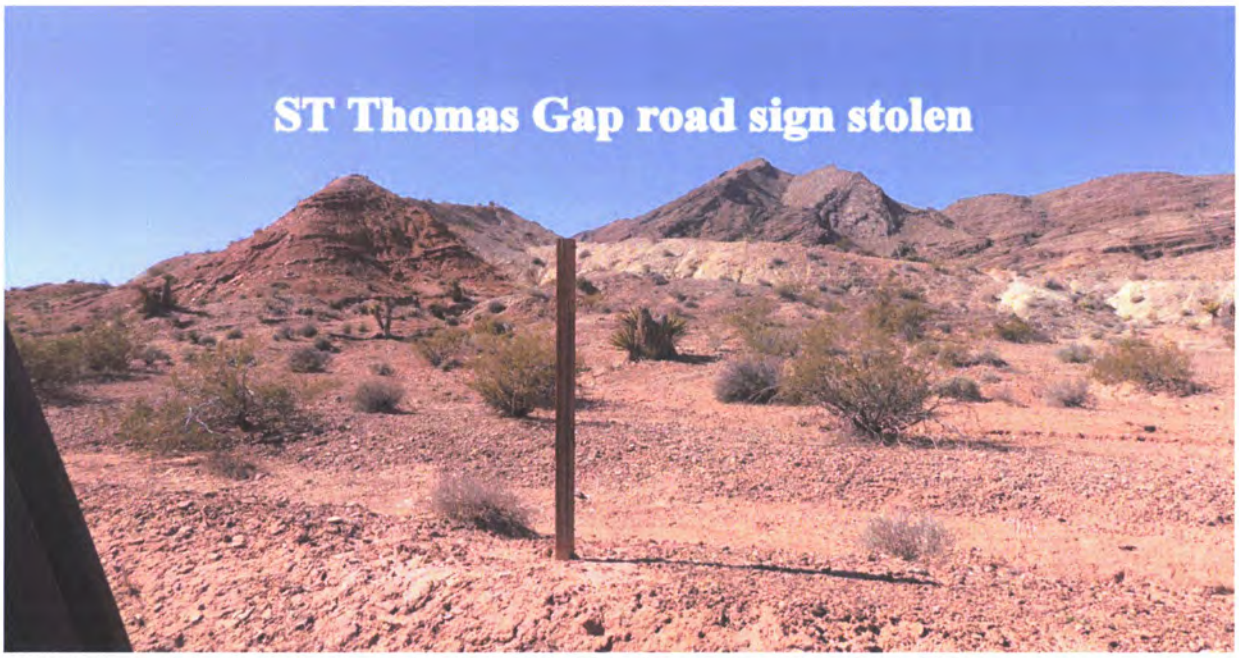
Horse Spring is a natural spring where water flows on the ground and considerable riparian vegetation persists in this arid environment. The wet area had been fenced to prevent damage to the habitat by feral burros and cows, but the fence has been cut near the stream and elsewhere, a salt block has been placed to encourage cattle, and at least eight cows and five feral burros reside in the area (as of 7/21/2016).

Trampled vegetation at Horse Spring (757558E 4026493N, photo taken 7/21/2016).

Salt block and cut fence at Horse Spring (757558E 4026493N, photo taken 7/21/2016).

St. Thomas Gap Sign Removal

On Gold Butte Road southbound, the St. Thomas Gap road sign has been removed, which could cause confusion for visitors intending to drive into the lower Grand Wash area. Only the sign post remains.



St. Thomas Gap road sign post (757915E 4033670N, photo taken 3/18/2016).

Lime Canyon Wilderness Sign Removal

The Lime Canyon Wilderness Area was designated in 2002, and a Lime Canyon Wilderness Area sign was erected at the intersection of Gold Butte Byway (Red Bluff Spring Road) and Lime Canyon Road. The sign was burned and removed after October 2015.

Burned Lime Canyon Wilderness sign posts (748156E 4022082N, photo taken 5/7/2016).

Lime Canyon Wilderness Area sign in 2015 (748156E 4022082N, taken on 2/22/2015).

BLM Route Signs Removal

Throughout the Gold Butte area, carsonite signs are used to direct OHV users to designated routes and to indicate closure of roads into sensitive areas. Carsonite signs have been moved, removed, and broken. Intentional removal of the signs not only indicates illegal trespass, it also prompts route confusion for the responsible user and results in unintentional illegal travel.

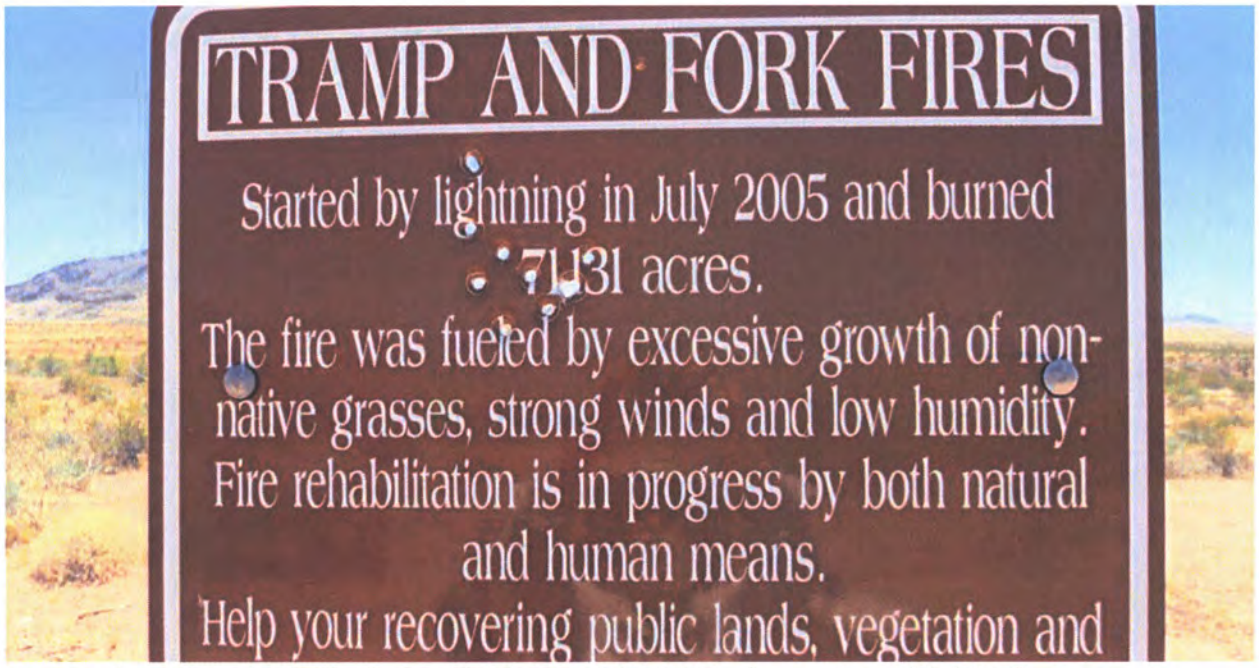
Carsonite signs pulled up and thrown by the roadside.

Carsonite signs have been removed resulting in trespass into closed and sensitive areas.

Vandalism to Signs

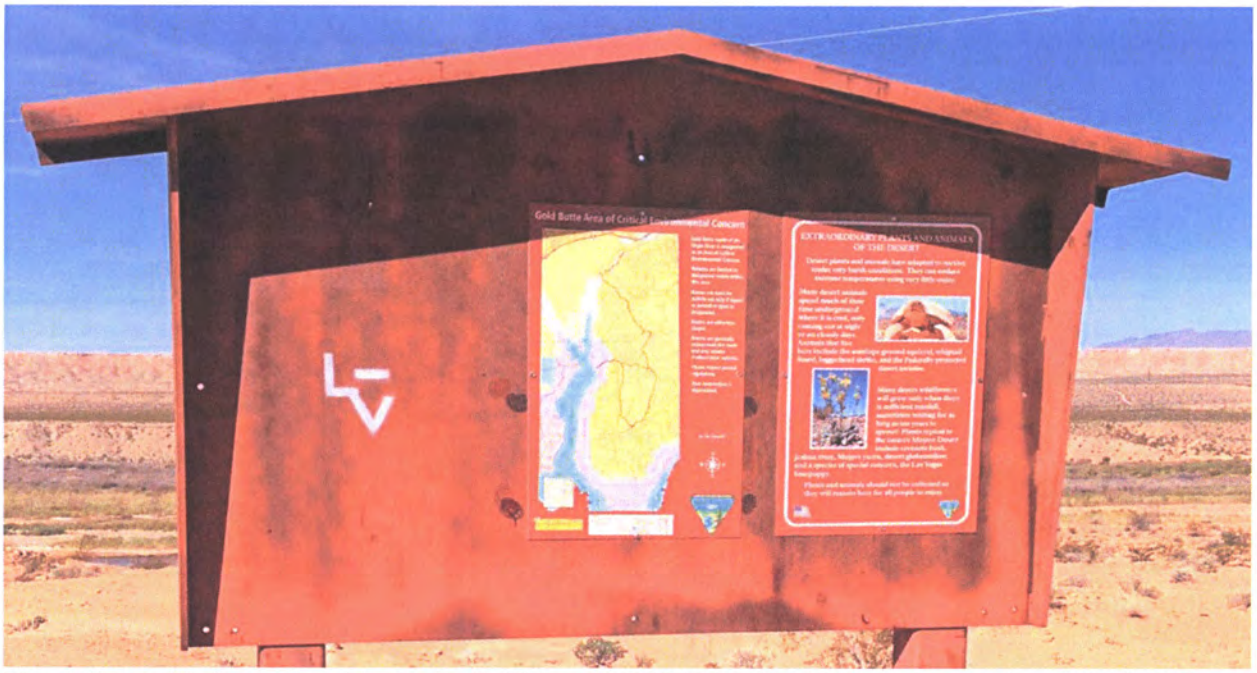
Throughout the Gold Butte area, signs are routinely vandalized by shooting holes in them. For example, at the intersection of Gold Butte Road and Mud Wash Road, vandals have shot holes in one of the directional signs and in an interpretive sign.

Fourteen bullet holes in a directional sign (756020E 4035752N, photo taken 7/23/2016).



Interpretive sign with bullet holes (756055E 4035707N, photo taken 7/23/2016).

Five information and direction signs were tagged before 2/17/2016 with the L-Bar-V cattle brand used by the Finicum Ranch. The graffiti was covered over, but it was again observed on 4/3/2016 and 5/6/2016 -- and again covered over. L-Bar-V and VO (the brand used by the Bundy Ranch) were also painted on the asphalt of the Gold Butte Road near Juanita Springs and covered over.



Vandalism of information kiosks in Gold Butte (745036E 4064495N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

Vandalism of directional signs in Gold Butte (749459E 4053716N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

Vehicle Incursions

Vehicle incursions are a common and persistent threat to the environment in the Gold Butte area where for generations visitors have ridden motorcycles and driven OHVs where they please. While most vehicle operators now stay on roadways, some drivers choose to test their machines on hill climbs, pioneer new routes across the desert, or retain memories of long-closed roads into sensitive areas. In and around the Whitney Pocket camp areas where OHV users congregate, vehicle intrusions are particularly difficult to control when unsupervised children wander into the desert with their machines.

Whitney Pocket Campsite Incursion

Near one of the Whitney Pocket campsites, a recently disturbed area now looks like a legal roadway.

Illegal "roadway" (755965E 4045948N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

Gold Butte Byway Diversion

Road maintenance along the Gold Butte Byway is needed to prevent driving in the bushes to get around road obstacles. On the Red Bluff Spring Road portion of the Gold Butte Byway (about two miles northwest of the Gold Butte Town Site), the road washed out at a cattle guard during a storm. Drivers have forged a route around the washout until the road can be repaired.

Washout at cattle guard requiring a detour (750325E 4019194N, photo taken 2/26/2016).

Kohta Circus Incursion

Kohta Circus area has had several major vehicle incursions since November 2015, opening two paths into the closed area. [redacted] The incursions happened over a period of time and involved vehicles intruding at different dates or times. Some of the vehicles travelled a long distance across the desert and through drainages where there had been no road or path previously. [redacted]

Map of Kotha Circus vehicle incursion

Vehicle Incursion into wash [redacted] photo taken 11/2015).

Vehicle incursion around parking corral ([redacted] photo taken 11/2015).

Vehicle incursion deep within the closed area ([redacted] photo taken 11/2015).

Vehicle incursion deep within the closed area [redacted] photo taken 11/2015).

Trespassed Route

When the BLM finalized a travel management plan for the Gold Butte ACECs[2] in 2008, a route south of Whitney Pocket along the Gold Butte Road was closed to vehicles to prevent damage and encroachment into areas with have high concentrations of archaeological resources. This 2008 plan was developed with input from local stakeholders and users.

Recently, OHV users have opened this closed road [redacted] and have used it and open washes to drive to the [redacted] Panel at [redacted] At that point, some drivers turn around and return to Gold Butte Road. Other drivers, however, continue west and have created a path west around a parking corral [redacted] to get back onto a road. Still others have chosen to follow the old closed road, which goes through a Las Vegas Bearpoppy restoration area, to [redacted]

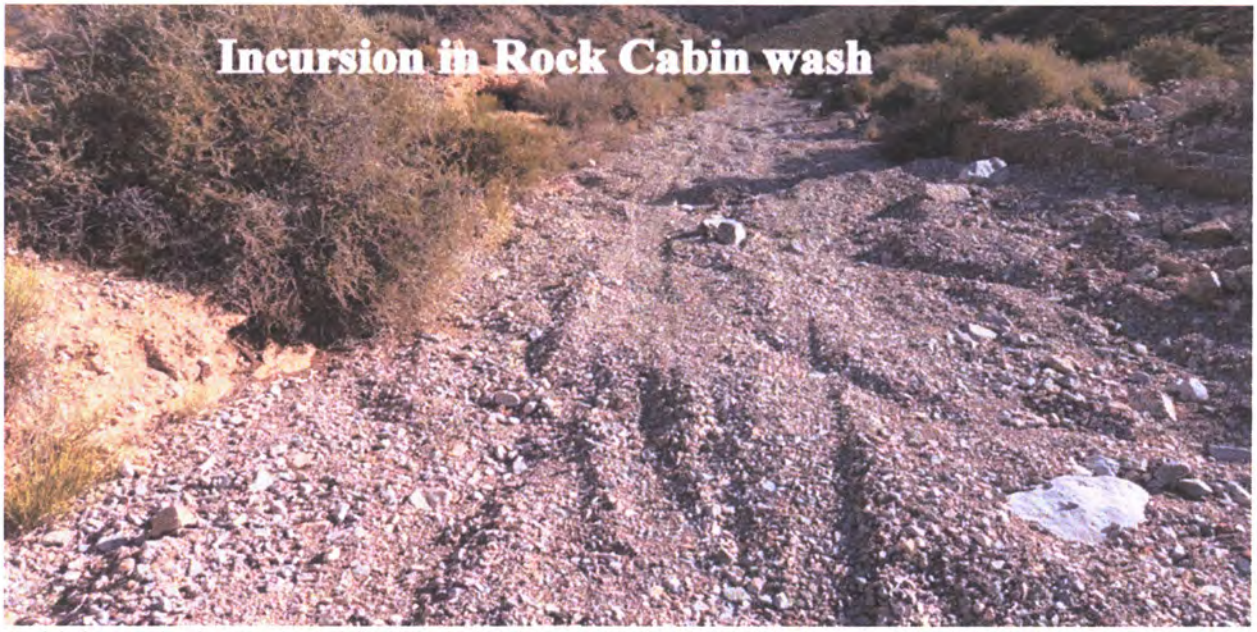
[2] "Decision Record for Route Designations for Selected ACECs Located in the Northeast Portion of the Las Vegas District." Bureau of Land Management. July 15, 2008.

Vehicle incursion near [redacted] Panel [redacted] photo taken 11/12/2016).

West end of the reopened road looking into the bearpoppy restoration area [redacted] photo taken 11/12/2015).

Rock Cabin Wash Incursion

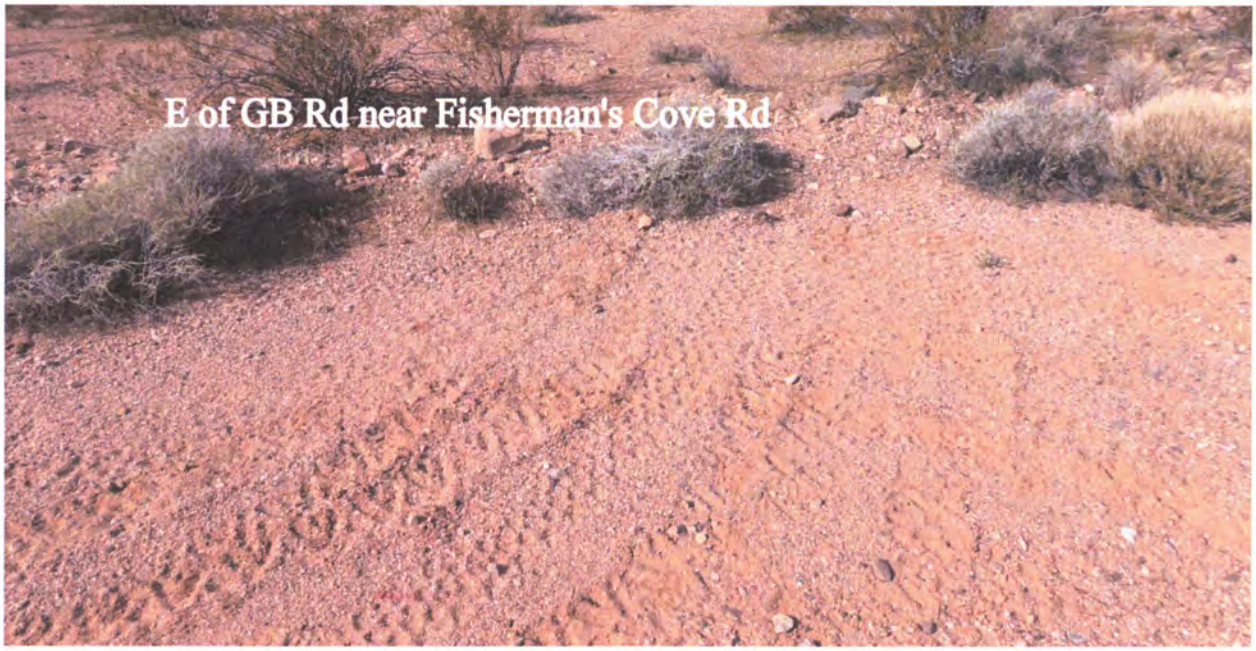
Rock Cabin Wash is now looks like a legal road and is heavily traveled by OHVs coming up out of Mesquite.



Vehicle tracks in Rock Cabin Wash (761030E 4047412N, photo taken 10/1/2015).

Gold Butte Road

Gold Butte Road is the main, 40-mile road that provides access to the Gold Butte region. Vehicle incursions off this main road are not uncommon where drivers simply head off into the desert.



Incursion east of Gold Butte Road and south of Fisherman's Cove Road (749517E 4053483N, photo taken 2/17/2016).

First Rock Camp Area Incursion

The First Rock camp area (1 mile before Whitney Pocket) is a popular campsite for groups with RVs and trailers, and incursions in this area are not uncommon, although the post-and-cable fencing seem to have helped. This area was heavily damaged over the long weekend for President's Day.

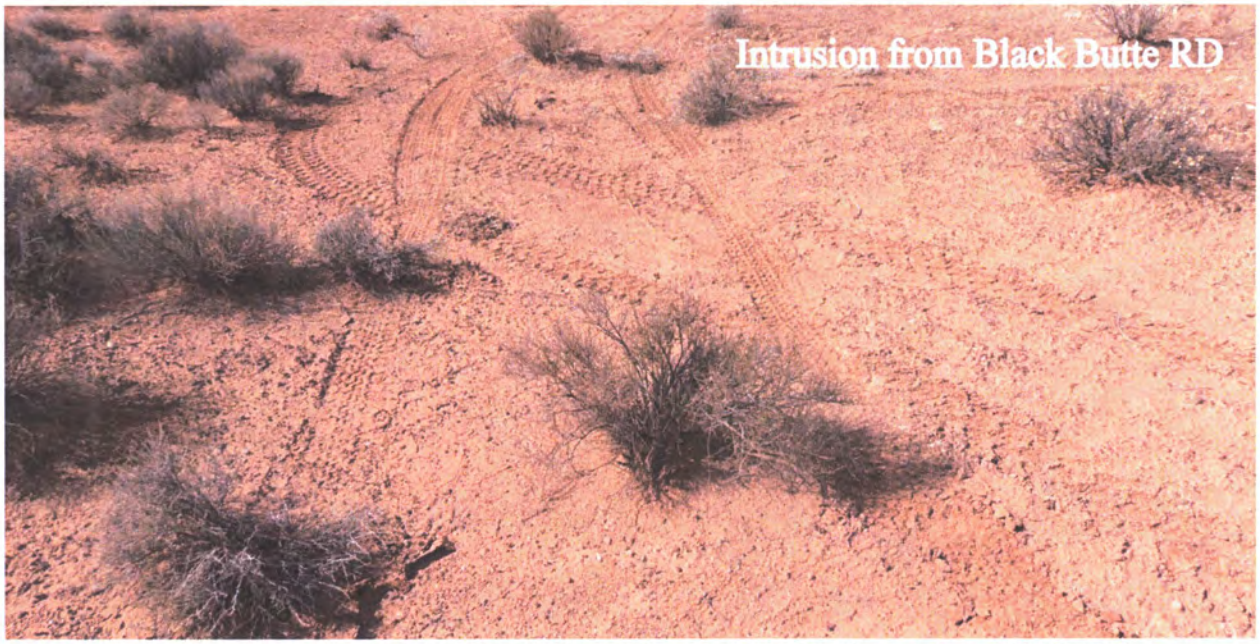
Incursions at First Rock camp area (view east; 754347E 4046318N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

Incursions at First Rock camp area (view west; 754347E 4046318N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

Incursions at First Rock camp area (754347E 4046318N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

Black Butte Road Incursions

An intrusion of two or more vehicles was noted on the Black Butte Road past Falling Man parking area. The vehicles left the road (750997E 4043692N) and drove west. The tracks were followed for some 120 yards (750945E 4043694N), but they continued on from there running over plants in the previously undisturbed desert.



Vehicle incursion from Black Butte Road (750997E 4043692N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

Vehicle incursion from Black Butte Road (750945E 4043694N, photo taken 2/16/2016).

On April 12 2016, a new intrusion onto the hills just west of the Falling Man parking area was noticed (751517E 4044270N). These are gypsum hills with an unusual cryptobiotic-gypsum soil environment now damaged from a network of illegal OHV trails. This area had been restored by BLM crews several years ago (note large rocks at the bottom of the hill that had been used to close the illegal route). This is the first intrusion since restoration.

Incursion into gypsum hills (751517E 4044270N, photo taken 6/21/2016).

Tracks cutting through the cryptobiotic-gypsum soil environment near Falling Man (751517E 4044270N, photo taken 4/12/2016).

Other Incursions

Aside from incursions listed above, there are so many illegal, OHV incursions that it would be impossible to photograph, catalogue, and maintain data for them all. The following areas are experiencing considerable damage.

First, south of the Whitney Pocket information kiosk, the desert floor and southern ridge are covered with recent tracks recording incursions (approximately 756187E 4045486N).

Second, the Mud Wash Corral area has seen numerous incursions. Drivers have reopened the road that runs towards Little Finland, but most of the incursions follow multiple paths into the desert and end at impassable cliffs (approximately 749896E 4036601N).

Third, there have been multiple incursions at the junction of Gold Butte Road and Mud Wash Road (the turnoff to Devil's Throat). Vehicles have been driven into a signed Las Vegas bearpoppy restoration area, intentionally and wantonly damaging the habitat. The sign for the restoration area has been removed and the cryptobiotic soil at this junction has been heavily impacted. The sign might have been removed to reduce attraction to this restoration area (approximately 756042E 4035726N).

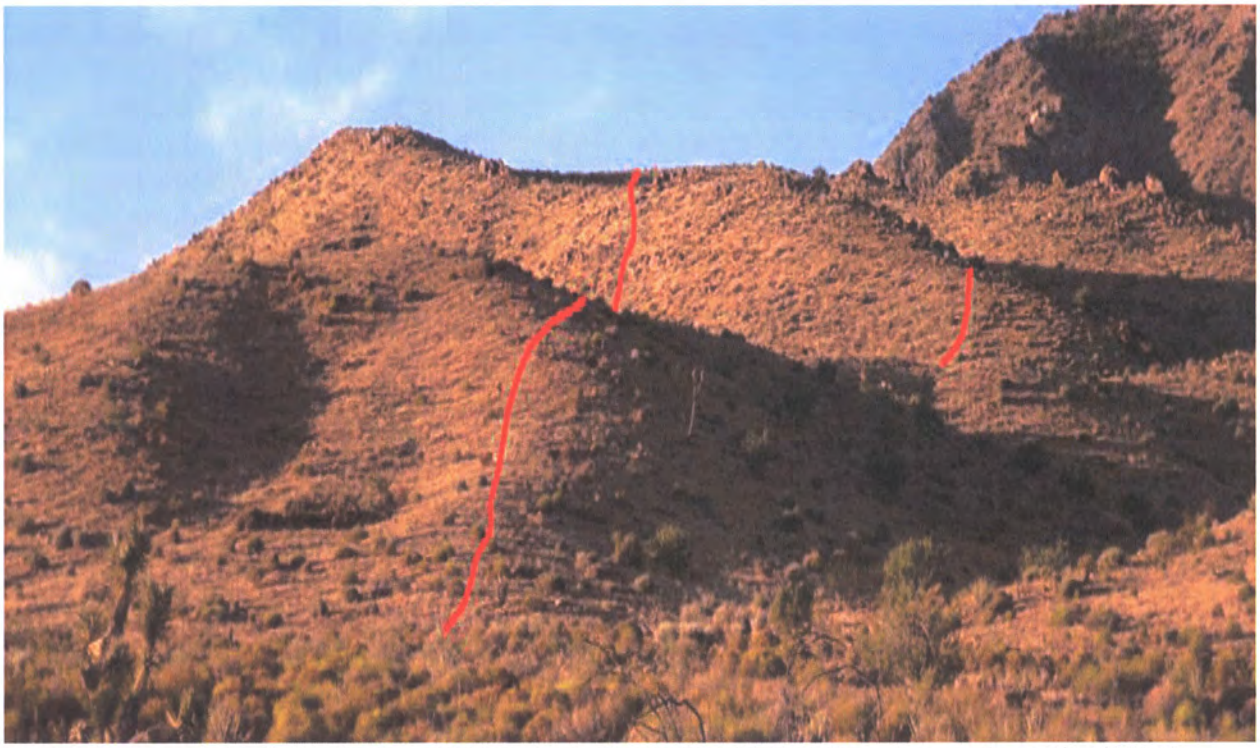
Fourth, vast areas of open desert on the bajada between the Virgin Mountains and Highway 170 (near Mesquite and Bunkerville) have been driven on illegally by off-trail trucks and OHVs. For example, just south of Mesquite, it is not uncommon to see truck tracks in virgin desert where drivers have crushed shrubs, cactus, and animal burrows. Similarly, in the Great Eastern Mine area, truck tracks can be found traversing the rolling hills. These areas are prime habitat for the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise and located within the boundaries of Clark County's Gold Butte Desert Wildlife Management Area.[3]

Fifth, vehicles have been driven into virgin desert in southern parts of Gold Butte. In the hills south of Bills Spring, a motorcycle scar can be seen climbing into the mountains towards Mica Peak and OHV tracks can be found near the edge of the Jumbo Springs Wilderness Area (near 753650E 4005500N).

[3] *Conservation Management Strategy: Gold Butte Desert Wildlife Management Area*. Clark County, Nevada., February 2007. Map B. Appendix C.

Vehicle tracks on desert bajada north of the Virgin Mountains (763132E 4072569N; photo taken 02/11/2016).

Tracks traversing rolling hills near Great Eastern Mine (754054E 4056786N; photo taken 02/17/2016).



Motorcycle scar (red) on flanks of Mica Peak (754730E 4020170N, photo taken 7/16/2016).

Illegal Rangeland Development

The 2014-2015 "Gold Butte Damage Report" documented the installation of water tanks, watering troughs, and PVC pipe southwest of the junction of Gold Butte Road and Fisherman's Cove Road. More water tanks and troughs have been discovered. Three water systems have been mapped along the northern and western edge of the Virgin Mountains. To connect the water tanks and troughs throughout these systems required a total of 22.5 miles of illegal trenching into virgin desert terrain that is currently managed as an ACEC to protect habitat for the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise.

These illegal water systems represent a violation of management intent for this land. The use of heavy equipment to trench into virgin desert landscape destroys tortoise burrows and habitat in an area that is designated for conservation. Furthermore, this type of illegal development requires a right-of-way permit and the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The illegal development is a violation of federal law. The installation of the water tanks and pipe required heavy equipment and road grading. In addition, rusted fuel tanks and large tires serve as water tanks and troughs and have created a trail of toxic, industrial trash across the desert.

Three water systems are summarized below:

1. The Dud and Seep Springs water system starts on the north slopes of the Virgin Mountains at Dud and Seep Spring and extend northwest toward Bunkerville.
2. The Great Eastern water system starts on the northwest edge of the Virgin Mountains and extends west toward the Key West Mine.
3. The South Key West (SKW) water system starts at the South Key West mine and extends along the west slope of Virgin peak across the Fisherman Cove bajada.

Dud and Seep Springs Water System

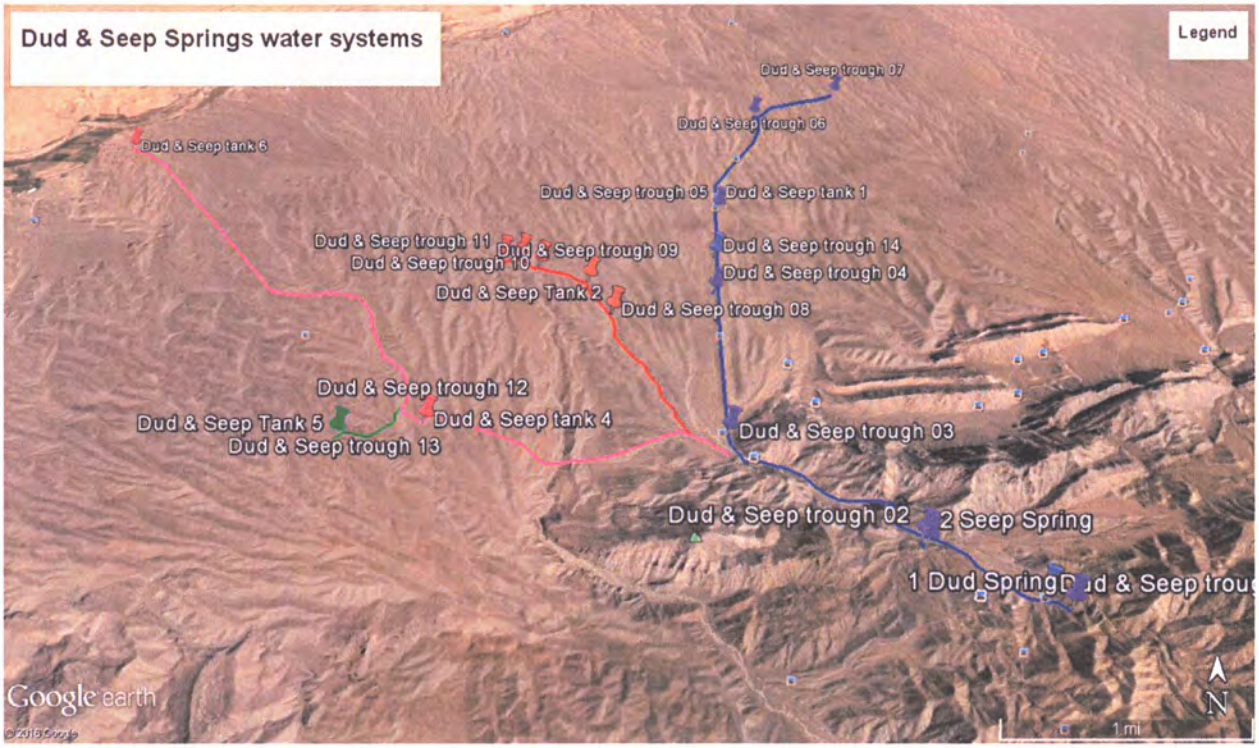
The Dud and Seep Springs (D&S) water system starts on the north slopes of the Virgin Mountains at Dud and Seep Spring and extend northwest toward Bunkerville. The D&S system appears to be joined into one water system used to water cattle and apparently for domestic use.

There are an estimated 16 miles of trenching and pipes on this system. Pipes from the two springs join above a narrow gap locally called 'the seeps.' A single 1 1/2 inch pipe runs through the gap exiting above Bunkerville Flats and divides into 3 separate pipe system. Further southwest, pipe 3 splits again, so there are 4 pipes all with storage tanks and or water troughs. There are at least 5 large tanks on this system and another has been placed near pipe 2 but has not been connected.

The tanks and some troughs of the D&S water system are visible on Google Earth as is some of the recent trenching. Recent trenching was done to replace failed pipes or to extend the existing water system to new areas. The map below shows the extent of the water system.

- Pipe 1 (blue) runs approximately 6.9 miles, has 7 troughs (some dry) and one tank.
- Pipe 2 (red) runs approximately 2.6 miles, has 5 troughs and two tanks (one not yet connected).

- Pipe 3 (violet) runs approximately 6.55 miles, has 1 trough and one tank and in addition appears to provide water to the white water tank above the Bundy ranch.
- Pipe 4 (green) runs approximately 0.5 miles, has 1 trough and one tank.

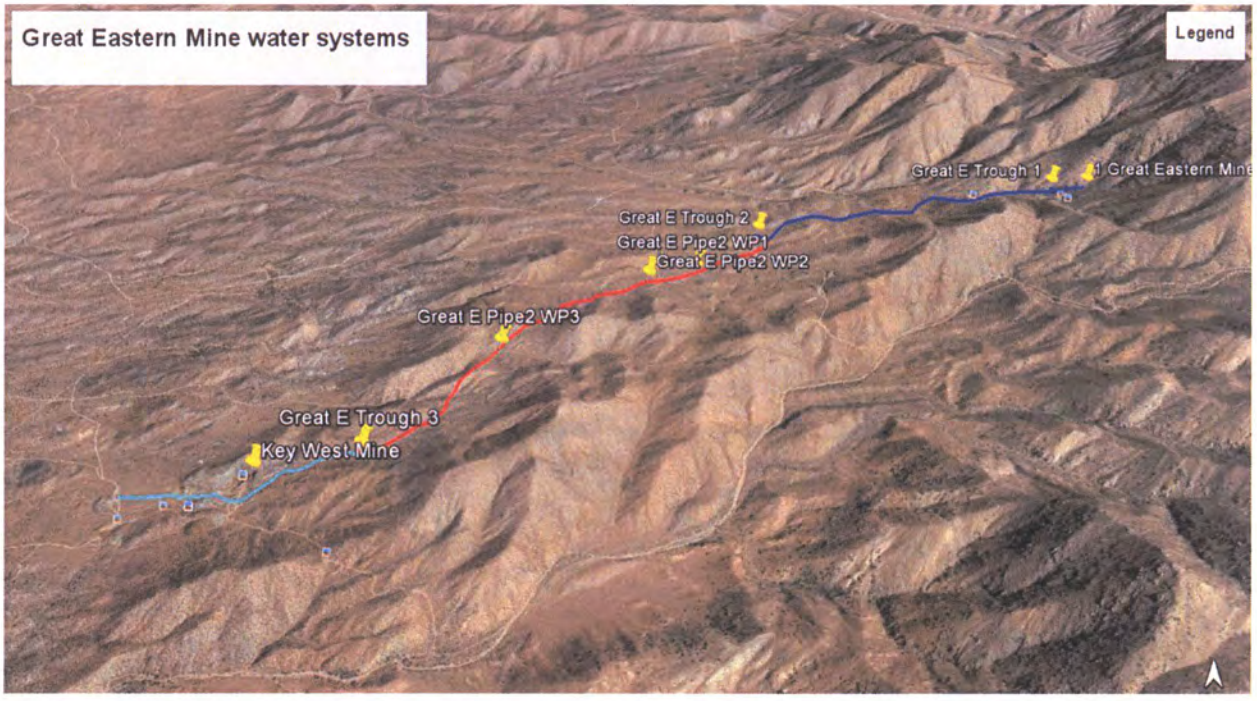


This water tank was first observed on 1/16/2016. Many plants were damage including the Joshua tree in the foreground (752455E 4064299N, photo taken 1/16/2016).

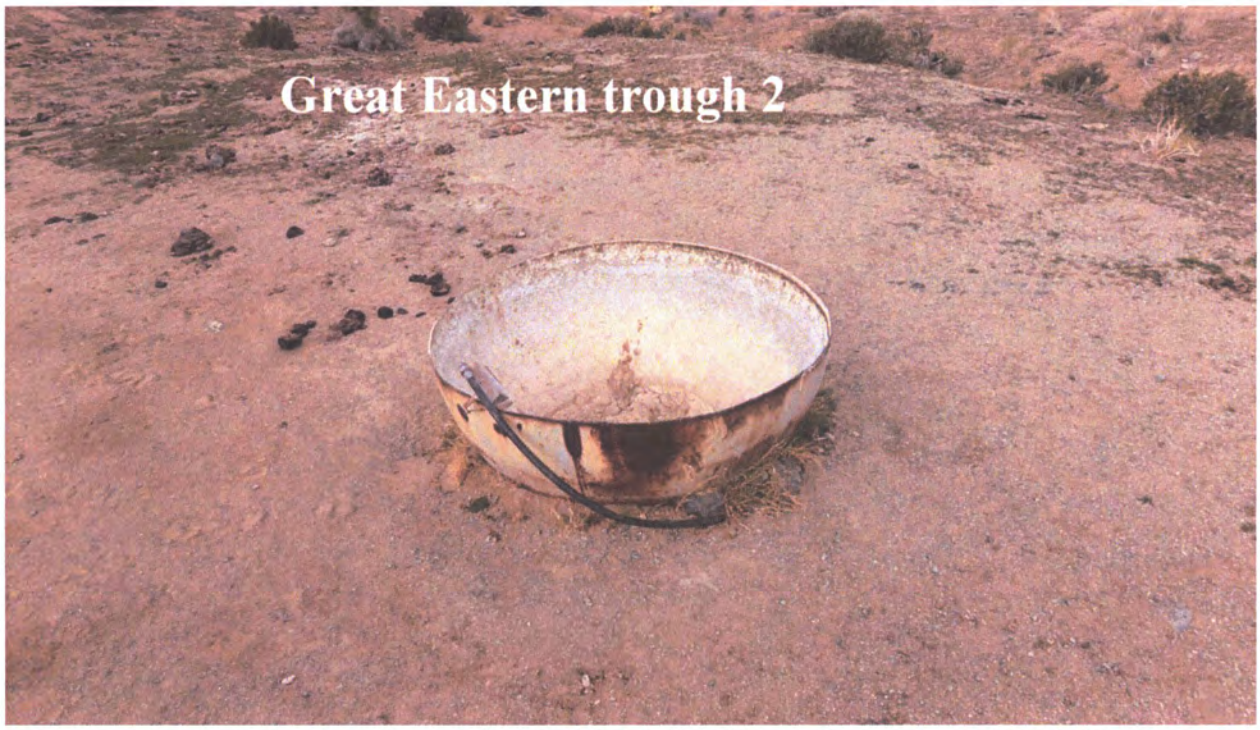
D&S Water System, tank 5, water trough 13 (751835E 4061731N, photo taken 1/16/2016).

Great Eastern Water System

The Great Eastern (GE) water system starts on the northwest edge of the Virgin Mountains and extends west toward the Key West Mine. This water system has 1.25 miles of piping to 3 watering troughs. When first observed in 2015, much of the trenching looked new as if the piping had been replaced or newly installed. The water source is the collapsed mine tunnel. GE water trough 2 is located approximately 1/2 mile southwest of the mine.



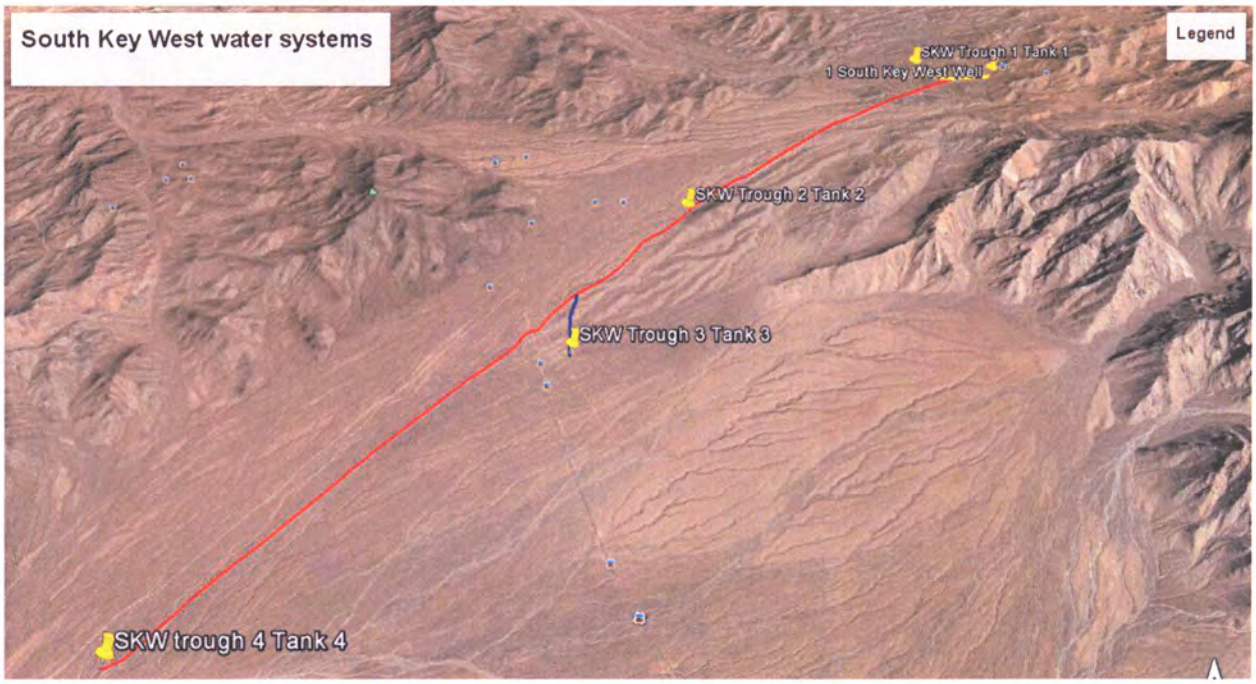
GE water trough 2 when trough was full and running over (754457E 4057032N, photo taken 9/22/2015).



GE water trough 2 when trough was dry (754457E 4057032N, photo taken 12/9/2015).

South Key West (SKW) Mine Water System

The South Key West (SKW) water system starts at the South Key West mine and extends along the west slope of Virgin peak across the Fisherman Cove bajada. The system consists of 5.25 miles of trenching and water pipe to connect 4 storage tanks and water troughs. It is estimated that 4.5 miles of the water pipe system were trenched since spring 2015. The photos below provide an example of the tanks and troughs connected to this water system.



SKW tank and trough 1 (752584E 4056316N, photo taken 5/13/2015).

SKW tank 4 (747520E 4050757N, photo taken 9/18/2015).

SKW trough 4 (747520E 4050757N, photo taken 9/18/2015).

Conclusion: Protecting and Restoring Gold Butte

Gold Butte is a special place for many people. It deserves respect and appreciation. In America, we recognize our special places by ensuring that everyone, including current and future generations, can access and appreciate them.

Gold Butte needs protection. As this report shows, there is an increasing amount of damage in Gold Butte. There is a persistent and urgent threat as our natural and cultural history is being erased from this land. And, once it is gone, we won't get it back.

Gold Butte is a treasure trove of cultural, historic, and natural wonders, including thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining- and pioneer-era artifacts; rare and threatened wildlife such as the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep; dramatic geologic features like sculpted red sandstone and rock spires; and fossil track-sites dating back 170 to 180 million years ago. If we lose this land to irresponsible use, so too will we lose part of our heritage. We will lose a special place that allows us to connect to the serenity of the Mojave Desert. We will lose a connection with people who have traveled across this land throughout time.

Restoration is an individual and community responsibility. It is our duty to be stewards of our public lands and special places, but in order to do that effectively and sustainably, we need to also ensure they are protected in perpetuity. Protecting Gold Butte as a National Monument is a vital next step to restoring Gold Butte.

We ask us that you join us in our efforts to protect Gold Butte as a National Monument. Visit www.protectgoldbutte.org to learn more about how you can help us achieve a National Monument designation for this amazing place.

PUBLIC LANDS:

Where Bundy cows roam, desert damaged by pipes, ATVs -- report

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Greenwire: Wednesday, August 19, 2015

A large water tank, a trough and pipelines have been illegally installed on public lands in southern Nevada near the site of the Bureau of Land Management's ill-fated roundup of Cliven Bundy's cows, according to a new report by the conservation group Friends of Gold Butte.

The **report**, shared exclusively with *Greenwire*, also documents what are believed to be several new all-terrain vehicle tracks that have damaged sensitive desert soils, unique red sand dunes and rare plants. Users have cut fences and torn down "road closed" signs, inviting future illegal ATV use, according to the report.

All of the incidents are believed to have occurred over the past year at the Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, a 350,000-acre chunk of remote, scenic desertlands about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Conservationists and KEEN Inc., an outdoor footwear company, are campaigning for President Obama to protect the area as a national monument. But doing so would likely spark a backlash from Republicans and could mobilize anti-federal government activists who rallied to Bundy's defense in April 2014 when BLM tried to impound his cattle.

Friends of Gold Butte Executive Director Jaina Moan said the report highlights grave threats to the area's historic sites, Native American petroglyphs and delicate desert habitats, and underscores an urgent need for protections.

In the absence of BLM patrols, the area is becoming a lawless zone, conservationists have warned.

"It needs immediate active management and stewardship to make sure these marvels are preserved for current and future generations," she said.

The report by a half-dozen Friends of Gold Butte volunteers documents damage observed from November 2014 through last month.

A water tank has been installed near a popular camping site. Near it lies a large tire placed on its side and filled with concrete to serve as an improvised watering trough, the report says. Trash and baling string are strewn about, evidence that hay was used to feed cattle, the report says.

Troughs with buried piping extend miles from the site to a water source.

The report also documents several illegal ATV tracks accessing one of the largest petroglyph panels in Nevada. A vehicle knocked over at least one barrel cactus and damaged previously undisturbed "desert pavement," a surface characterized by densely packed interlocking pebbles.

At another site, a vehicle tread zooms south from a popular camping site past a "No Vehicles" sign. ATV riders have also reopened a trail previously closed by BLM to protect the Las Vegas bearpoppy, a rare plant endemic to the Mojave Desert, the report says.

While the report does not name Bundy, it's fairly evident that the watering infrastructure involves the rancher's cattle, which continue to roam the area, said Tony Barron, a board member for Friends of Gold Butte.

Barron said he has not seen a BLM vehicle in Gold Butte since the dust-up with Bundy, a sign that there is currently no law enforcement to deter lawbreakers.

In June, a survey crew under contract with BLM to study springs, seeps and cattle troughs on public lands near Bundy's ranch heard two series of gunshots at night near their campsite (***Greenwire***, June 12). Local news outlets reported that BLM issued a directive telling "all personnel and contractors" to stay out of the Gold Butte area until further notice.

Friends of Gold Butte is backing new land protections in hopes that they will bring more federal resources to the area.

The friends group supports **H.R. 856**, by Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.), to designate the 350,000-acre Gold Butte National Conservation Area, designate a portion of those lands as wilderness, and establish a visitor center and field office in Mesquite, Nev.

But if Congress fails to act, the group wants Obama to declare the area a monument, Barron said.

Rep. Cresent Hardy (R-Nev.), whose district includes Gold Butte, has not backed Titus' bill and strongly opposed Obama's use of the Antiquities Act last month to designate the 700,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument in southeastern Nevada.

His office did not reply to an email this morning.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) is sponsoring a companion bill in the Senate. While he was instrumental in pushing Obama to declare Basin and Range, he said in a recent interview with the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* that he has no immediate plans to push for a monument at Gold Butte.

"I think I've asked the president for enough for a little while, so I'm just going to let that work its way through the system," Reid told the paper about a week ago.

Barron said the group has shared its report with BLM, which said it would take the group's findings under advisement.

BLM did not comment on the report for this story.

The 350,000-acre Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern was designated by BLM in 1998 and is named for a ghost town where about 1,000 miners prospected for gold, mica, magnesite, copper and zinc in the early 1900s.

Today, the area's multihued rocks, petroglyphs and slot canyons make it a destination for hikers, campers, off-highway vehicle riders and mountain bikers who come to escape the bustle of nearby Las Vegas.

The area has been battered by wildfires and invasive plants and is targeted for restoration as part of a BLM solar energy mitigation plan.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Mayor
John J. Lee

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

CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS

Your Community of Choice

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

Office of the Mayor and City Council
2250 Las Vegas Boulevard, North · Suite 910 · North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030
Telephone: (702) 633-1007 · Fax: (702) 649-1339
www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com

September 12, 2016

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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 sheet; 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 the destruction to critical habitat, ancient petroglyphs and pioneer heritage sites.

Over the years my family and I have enjoy hiking, biking, camping and simply taking in the fresh air and beauty of the outdoors. I firmly believe it is important to preserve Gold Butte as a National Monument to serve both as a beautiful place to visit as well as an educational and exciting treasure for our generation and future generations.

I strongly urge you to take action to permanently protect Gold Butte. Current legislation led by Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus (S. 199/H.R. 856) has little chance of passing this Congress, so I ask you to utilize 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 its cultural and environmental benefits for future generations.

Sincerely,

John J. Lee
Mayor

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

STEVE SISOLAK
Commissioner

Board of County Commissioners

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
500 S GRAND CENTRAL PKY
BOX 551601
LAS VEGAS NV 89155-1601
(702) 455-3500 FAX: (702) 383-6041

September 13, 2016

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.

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Sincerely,

Steve Sisolak
Chair

SUPPORT FOR PERMANENTLY PROTECTING GOLD BUTTE

Local Elected Official Support
Mesquite City Council Resolution
Richard Green, Councilman, City of Mesquite
Karl Gustaveson, Former Councilman, City of Mesquite
Susan Holecheck, Former Mayor, City of Mesquite
Gerri Schroder, Councilwoman, City of Henderson
Ricki Barlow, Councilman, City of Las Vegas
Bob Coffin, Councilman, City of Las Vegas
John Lee, Mayor, City of North Las Vegas
Isaac Barron, Councilman, City of North Las Vegas
Steve Sisolak, Chairman, Clark County Commission
Clark County Commission Resolution
Clark County Latino Democratic Caucus

State Elected Official Support
Kelvin Atkinson, Senator, State of Nevada
Moises Denis, Senator, State of Nevada
Ruben Kihuen, Senator, State of Nevada
Tick Segerblom, Senator, State of Nevada
Elliot Anderson, Assemblyman, State of Nevada
Nelson Araujo, Assemblyman, and NHLC Vice Chair, State of Nevada
Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada
Irene Bustamante-Adams, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada
Richard Carrillo, Assemblyman, State of Nevada
Olivia Diaz, Assemblywoman, and NHLC Chair, State of Nevada
Edgar Flores Assemblyman, and NHLC Secretary/Treasurer, State of Nevada
Dina Neal, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada
Heidi Swank, Assemblywoman, State of Nevada
Barbara Buckley, Former Assemblywoman, State of Nevada
Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus
2016 Nevada State Democratic Party Platform

Federal Elected Official Support
Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Dina Titus, Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives
Shelley Berkley, Former Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives
Steven Horsford, Former Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives

Tribal Support
Moapa Band of Paiutes Members
Las Vegas Paiute Tribe
Native American Student Association

Business & Tourism Organizations
Culinary Workers Union, Local 226
Hispanic Museum of Nevada
Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
Latin Chamber of Commerce
Nevada Resort Association

Businesses
Advanced Marketing Collateral
Advantage Landscape
Anchor Chiropractic
AVI Wear
Axiom Consulting Solutions
Big Horn Olive Oil Company
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
Eetza Research Associates
Faiss Foley Warren
FortuneDNA
G.A.T.E. – International American Consulting Group
Gaia Flowers Plant Act
GlutenZero Bakery
Greenway Pest Services
Hunter Marketing Group
KEEN Footwear
McKinney-James & Associates
Man G
Morton Group

Nevada Outside
Nuila Events
Onsite Lasermedic
Olsen Strategic Group, LLC
Palm Mortuary
Patagonia
PI Media
Quick Claim USA
R&D Events
RE Editorial Services, LLC
Ready Golf & Gear
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
The Dignitas Agency
The Perkins Company
Tipsy Totes
Urban Cairn Productions
Vadeal Print
Valley Paralegal Services
VegasGiant
Vik Chohan Photography
WonderLand
Zappos.Com

Community Groups
After-School All-Stars Las Vegas
Battle Born Progress
College of Southern Nevada Hispanic Student Union
Elaine Wynn, Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation
Hispanics Enjoying Camping Hunting and the Outdoors
Hispanics in Politics
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley
Nevada Conservation League
Nevada Arts Council Board Members
Outside Las Vegas Foundation
Paradise Democratic Club
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Southwest Las Vegas Democratic Club
UNLV Young Democrats
Vet Voice Foundation
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

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Professor Rosales-Lasgarde, Environmental Science, Nevada State College
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Nick Sanies, Interpretive Naturalist and Geologist
Southern Nevada Rock Art Association

Conservation & Recreation Organizations
Armargosa Conservancy
Back Country Horsemen of Nevada
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – Nevada Chapter
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conserve Southwest Utah
Desert Fossil Hiking Club
Environment America
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
Friends of Sloan Canyon
National Parks Conservation Association
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Natural Resource Defense Council
Protectors of Tule Springs
Red Rock Audubon Society
Sierra Club
Sierra Club: Southern Nevada Group
Sierra Club: Toiyabe Chapter
Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition
The Nature Conservancy
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Wilderness Society
UNLV Wilderness Club

Updated: 9/23/2016

M-Gold Butte

SUPPORT FOR PERMANENTLY PROTECTING GOLD BUTTE

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Craig Tann Group
Desert Wildlife Consultants LLC
Design SLS
deSpain deSigns
Einstein Bros Catering
Emenai de Quince Photo
Expo Ease
Expressions Catering
Eetza Research Associates
Faiss Foley Warren
FortuneDNA
G.A.T.E. – International American Consulting Group
Gaia Flowers Plant Act
GlutenZero Bakery
Greenway Pest Services
Hunter Marketing Group
KEEN Footwear
McKinney-James & Associates
Man G
Morton Group

Nevada Outside
Nuila Events
Onsite Lasermedic
Olsen Strategic Group, LLC
Palm Mortuary
Patagonia
PI Media
Quick Claim USA
R&D Events
RE Editorial Services, LLC
Ready Golf & Gear
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
The Dignitas Agency
The Perkins Company
Tipsy Totes
Urban Cairn Productions
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Sierra Club: Southern Nevada Group
Sierra Club: Toiyabe Chapter
Southern Nevada Climbers Coalition
The Nature Conservancy
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Wilderness Society
UNLV Wilderness Club

Updated: 9/23/2016

RESOLUTION NO. 867

RESOLUTION NO. 867, A RESOLUTION REPEALING PRIOR RESOLUTIONS 649 AND 669 OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF GOLD BUTTE

WHEREAS, the Gold Butte Complex Area of Critical Environmental Concern is recognized for critical tortoise habitat, sensitive species, scenic and cultural resources, including historic mining, pioneer activities, prehistoric habitation and rock art; and

WHEREAS, having a federal designation of a National Conservation Area will better ensure the protection, conservation and utilization of Gold Butte; and

WHEREAS, a wilderness designation would be overly burdensome and impractical for the visitors of Gold Butte because of the area's extremely large size and desert climate, and would be contrary to many of the most enjoyable activities in Gold Butte; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and Council of City of Mesquite do not want restrictions that would prevent accessing any part of the Gold Butte Complex by way of motorized vehicles, a necessary consequence of a wilderness designation; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Butte Complex is a destination for numerous recreation opportunities including camping, hiking, hunting, motor sports, and sightseeing; and

WHEREAS, Gold Butte is now generally accessible to visitors and nearby residents to recreate, enjoy and explore freely and without cost at any time day or night; and

WHEREAS, the roads running through Gold Butte, including the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway, serve to provide access to the beauty and adventure of Gold Butte; and

WHEREAS, Gold Butte draws visitors from across the country, and provides important economic benefits to nearby communities, such as Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, any National Conservation Area designation north of the area commonly known as Whitney Pockets, more technically known as the southern portion of Township 16 South, Range 70 East would be overbearing and unnecessary, as such areas are not comparable in either presentation, historical or cultural value or recreational value, to areas such as Whitney Pockets or Gold Butte; and

WHEREAS, water resources exist that are only accessible through the Gold Butte Complex that may become necessary for the people of Mesquite and/or the Virgin Valley and would require access to and through the Gold Butte complex without interference from the federal government; and

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. 847.

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:

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

ATTEST:

By: Joy Eastwood
Joy Eastwood, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By:
Robert D. Sweetin, City Attorney

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

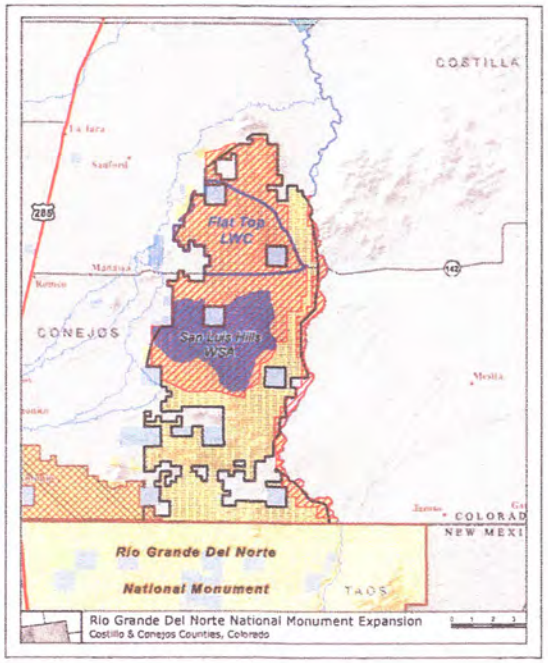
M-General

CULTURE | HISTORY

For centuries Native Americans have used this area for hunting, fishing and for mining. Turquoise is still being mined today. Known for its high quality and richness of color, San Luis Valley Turquoise is much sought after worldwide.

One of the first ferries was located at the crossing in the picture above. Historically, Spanish settlers used this crossing to exchange goods between communities in what was once Spanish territory. Later, after the Mexican American War, pioneers used this same crossing until the construction of the Lobatos Bridge, one of the oldest suspension bridges in Colorado.

Zebulon Pike's first camp during his explorations is located within the expansion area. Hunting, fishing and grazing livestock are all part of what we value; protecting these rights is exactly what this designation will accomplish.



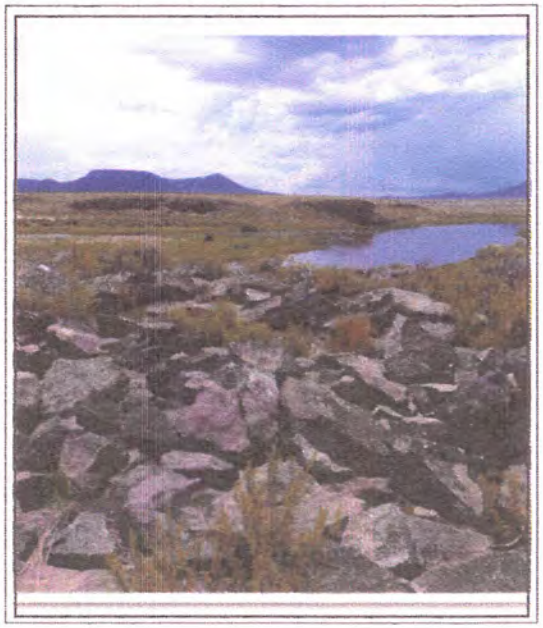
AREA CONSIDERED

The map above shows the community-supported proposed boundaries for the RGDNNM expansion, highlighting some of the County's significant cultural resources located on BLM lands, and connecting them to resources found within the existing RGDNNM. Private property remains private and is not affected by expansion designation. Approximately 62,000 acres of BLM land east of Antonito, Manassa, and La Jara would comprise the National Monument. The river, a natural geography marker, would serve as the eastern border. Please contact us for more information.

CONEJOS CLEAN WATER
ANTONITO, CO 81120
719.580.9280 | WWW.CCCWATER.ORG

RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE

NATIONAL MONUMENT



NATIVE ROOTS

Picking native herbs, gathering piñon and moss rock for building are long-standing traditions. This natural right should and will endure with this designation. Let us not forget our past and honor tradition.

Anthropological Significance

Petroglyphs abound in this area. Additionally, the original Spanish Settlers used this open landscape for grazing sheep and cattle. Grazing rights and agrarian values still exist and are important to us today. It is part of our past, part of our present, and through designation will remain part of our future.

Conserving Tradition

Direct Benefits

One of the main direct benefits of this project will be the preservation of grazing rights for cattlemen and ranchers. Being a multi-use organization, BLM must consider alternative proposals to industry. Protecting this landscape as a National Monument will limit those proposals, thus strengthening grazers' rights in perpetuity.

Long-term preservation benefits of the County's cultural and natural resources stops not at economics. People who live here, and tribal people who maintain strong connections to the County despite geographical distance, have many untold stories. Permanent and proper protection of the County's resources would help to tell their stories and make future generations proud of there shared regional heritage.

Indirect Benefits

Many studies have been done about the economic impacts of federal protection on local communities. Such effects can be vital for the sustainability and survival of small towns in rural areas like Conejos County. As a National Monument, this landscape will be presented on a national platform within the BLM National Conservation Lands. Studies have shown increased economic activities benefiting local business as a result of increased tourism when lands are designated at the national level.

Sustainable development, through preservation and conservation, is a way we, residents of Conejos County, can help to protect our landscape while at the same time increasing economic activity in our beautiful county.

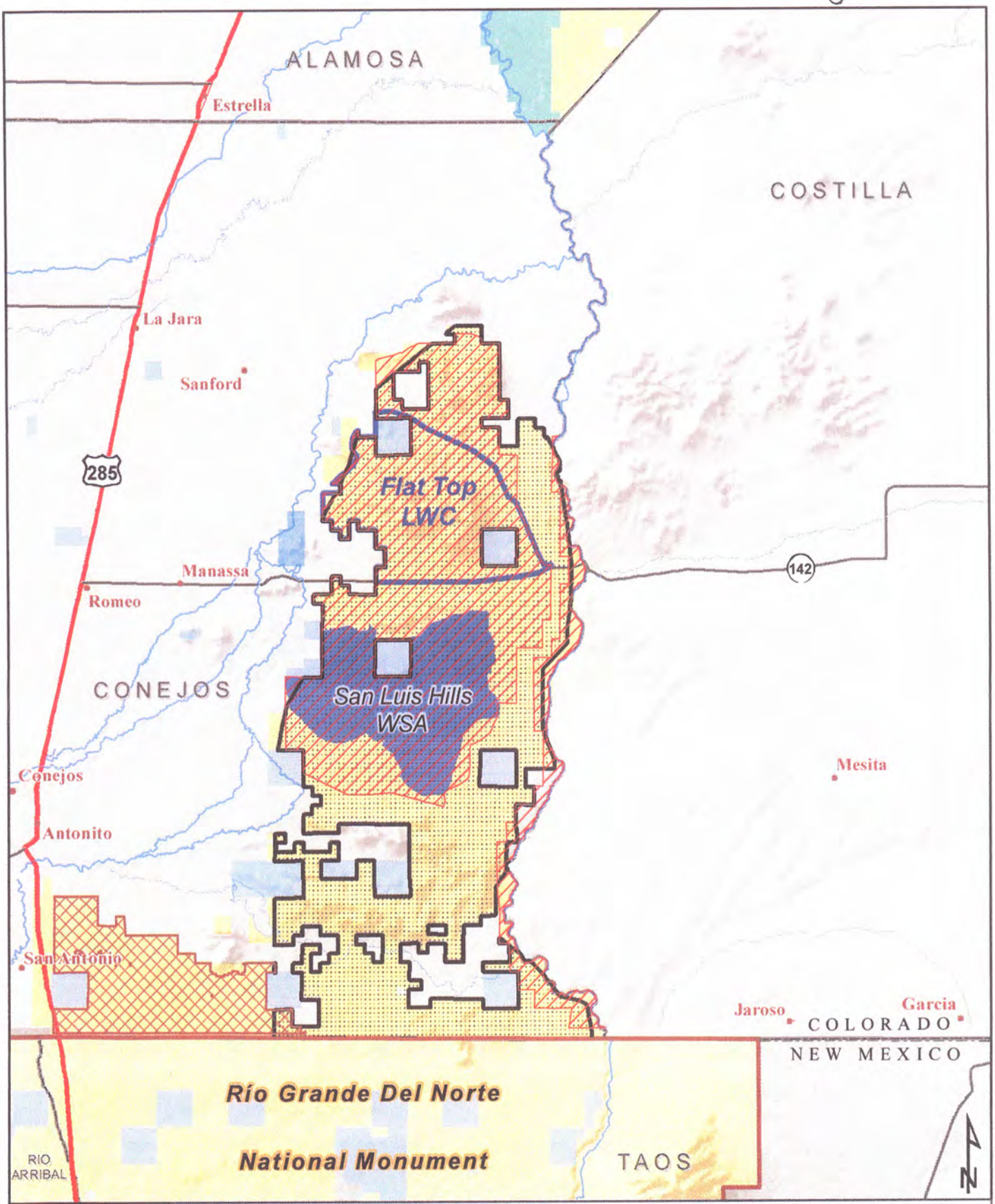
Points to Remember

- PILT money will not be affected.
- Water rights will not be affected.
- Economic activity will increase.
- Grazing and ranching will be preserved.
- BLM will have to manage the ferel horses.
- You can be part of the discussion.

Benefits of a National Monument		
Grazing	Access	Preserve
Hiking	Tradition	History
Hunting	Tourism	Culture
Fishing	Economic	Viewshed

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

M-General



Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument Expansion

Costillo & Conejos Counties, Colorado

0 1 2 3 4 Miles

Expansion Proposal (63,877 acres)

ACEC's
BLM WSA's
CO BLM Solar Energy Zone

Land Use
BLM
State
Local Gov't
USFW

Conservation Lands

GeoHydros - Sept 2015

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

IVI - Ojeda

gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov

Ryan Bidwell et al re: Southern Colorado (b) (5)

Created by: markee_connors@ios.doi.gov

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Time
10am - 10:30am (Eastern Time)

Guests
- matt_keller@tws.org
- nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov
- Ryan Bidwell
- Angel Pena

(b) (5)

Date
Wed Jan 20, 2016

(b) (5)

Where
Room 6623, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Description
Also at the meeting:
~~Brian O'Donnell~~
Angel Pena

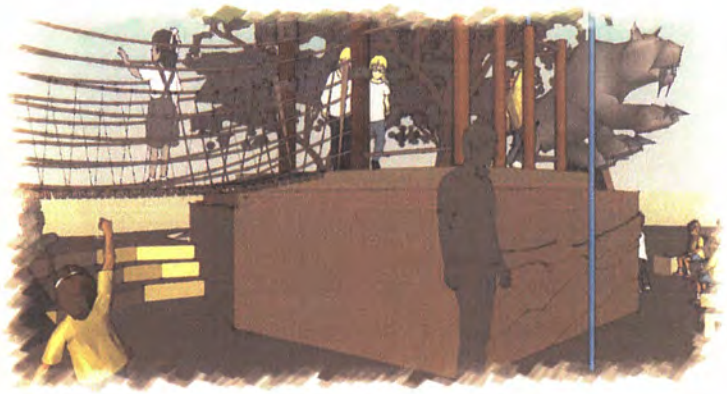
(b) (5)

My Notes

(b) (5)

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Waco Mammoth Site Children's Discovery Area

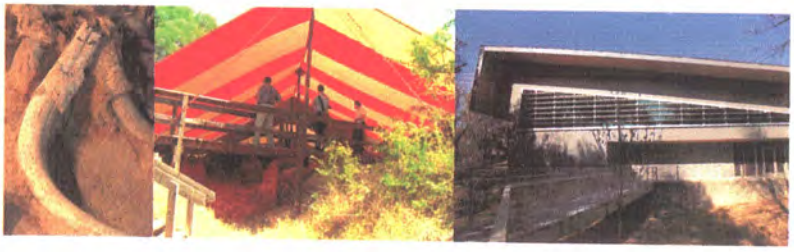


HISTORY

SITE DEVELOPMENT

MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY AREA



History

Construction of a protective structure and related site development at the Waco Mammoth Site has been a collaborative effort involving the National Park Service, City of Waco, Baylor University's Mayborn Museum, and local citizens. The property that holds the Columbian mammoth remains was donated to the City of Waco in 1996 by Sam Jack McGlasson and the Mayborn Museum is responsible for the recovery and preservation of the mammoth bones.

First discovered in 1978, the Waco Mammoth Site is the largest known nursery herd dying from the same natural event. Twenty-four Columbian mammoths, one camel, and one large cat have been discovered to date. Boreholes in the site area indicate that additional mammoths have yet to be unearthed.

While most of the mammoth bones exposed by excavation have been removed from the site for preservation purposes, some exposed bones remain and were subject to decay due to deficient protection prior to construction of the dig shelter.

The size of the mammoth herd, the range of ages represented (roughly three to fifty-five years of age), and the placement of the animals when buried offer unique insight on the physical state of the animals, their behavioral patterns, and the environment in which they lived. For example, the site indicates that the animals formed a circular defensive position before death, with the adult mammoths attempting to rescue younger members of the herd. Research to date suggests that the younger animals may have been undernourished, reflective of harsh environmental conditions in Central Texas nearly 70,000 years ago. Paleontological research on the mammoth remains is currently underway and may afford important information on lactating periods, pollen analysis, vegetation patterns, mammoth genealogy, and migratory patterns.

Site Development

Development of the site has been divided into phases. In the initial review of the site for inclusion in the National Park System, the National Park Service confirmed that one of the most important steps was to ensure that the biological and environmental record of the site could be preserved by construction of a protective structure. The first phase has provided protection for the existing dig site and access for visitation by the public. An overall master plan was designed to guide future development as funds become available.

Protection of the site was critical. For many years the only shelter was a tent that was spread across the dig site. Phase I included the dig shelter building for site protection, walkways for access, a welcome center, parking areas, and an entry road. The City of Waco received a $200,000 Save America's Treasures grant that was applied to the construction of the dig shelter, fencing and access to the site. Support for developing the site has been a community-wide effort. An additional $3,900,000 was raised from private donations, local and private foundation grants and allocations from the City of Waco, Baylor University, and McLennan County. The largest single donation was a $1.7 million matching grant by the Paul and Jane Meyer Family Foundation. The site opened to the public in December 2009. Additions to the Phase I project include murals and renovations to the heating and AC system which were funded by the Meadows Foundation and private donations.

Planning for Phase II has been started with grants from the Cooper Foundation and the Waco Foundation for design of the Children's Discovery Area that will be an educational play experience. Children will have an opportunity to interact with play and discovery elements designed to reflect a Columbian Mammoth theme.

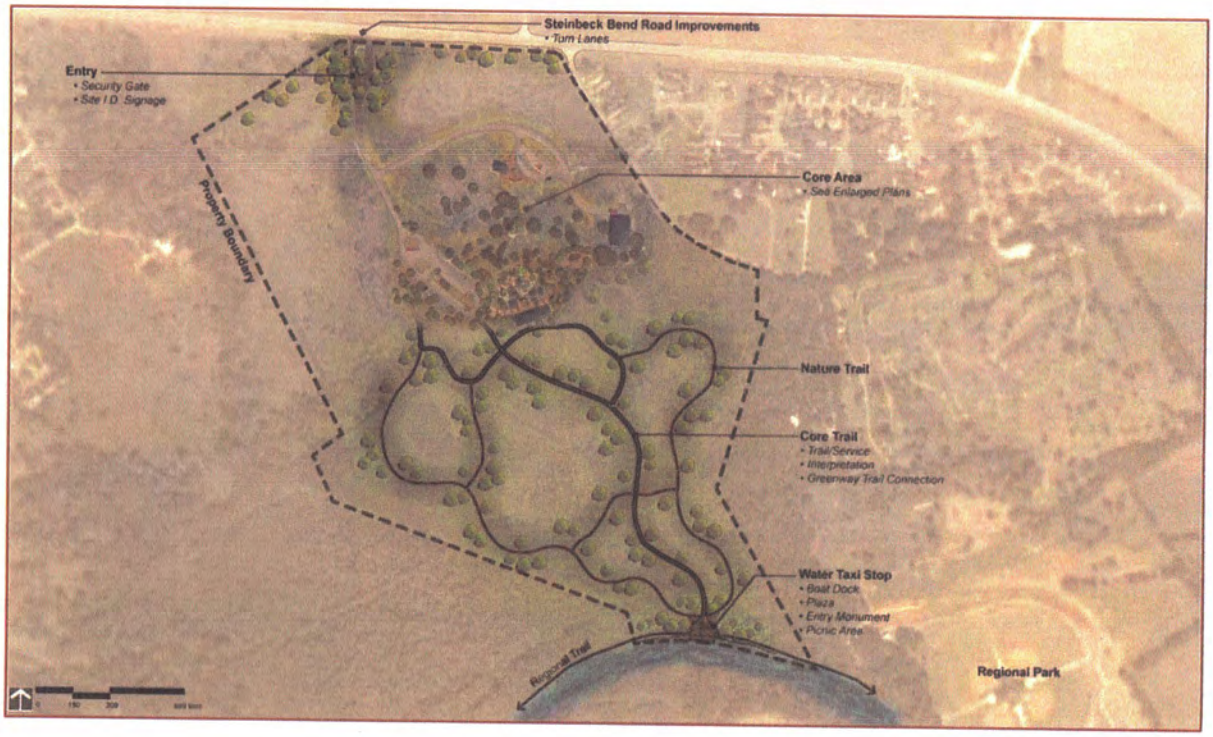
The Waco Mammoth Site is an important site in many respects. It is a significant paleontological site with Columbian Mammoth bones dating back nearly 70,000 years. The site is an incredible educational experience for children and adults of all ages. The Waco Mammoth Site is a western anchor for tourist sites along the Brazos River Corridor and will have a direct impact on economic development in Corridor. Bills have been introduced in both the United States House of Representatives and Senate for the site to be designated as a National Monument within the National Park System.

Waco Mammoth Site Purpose Statement

- **Preserve and protect** the outstanding paleontological site, collect specimens and associated date known as the Waco Mammoth Site for present and future generations.
- Provide for the facilitation of orderly, regulated, and continuing **research**.
- Promote **understanding and stewardship** of resources by providing **interpretive and educational** opportunities.
- Provide opportunities to **experience, understand and enjoy** the resource and surrounding area in a manner that is compatible with the preservation of resources

SITE DEVELOPMENT | MASTER PLAN CONCEPT | CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY AREA

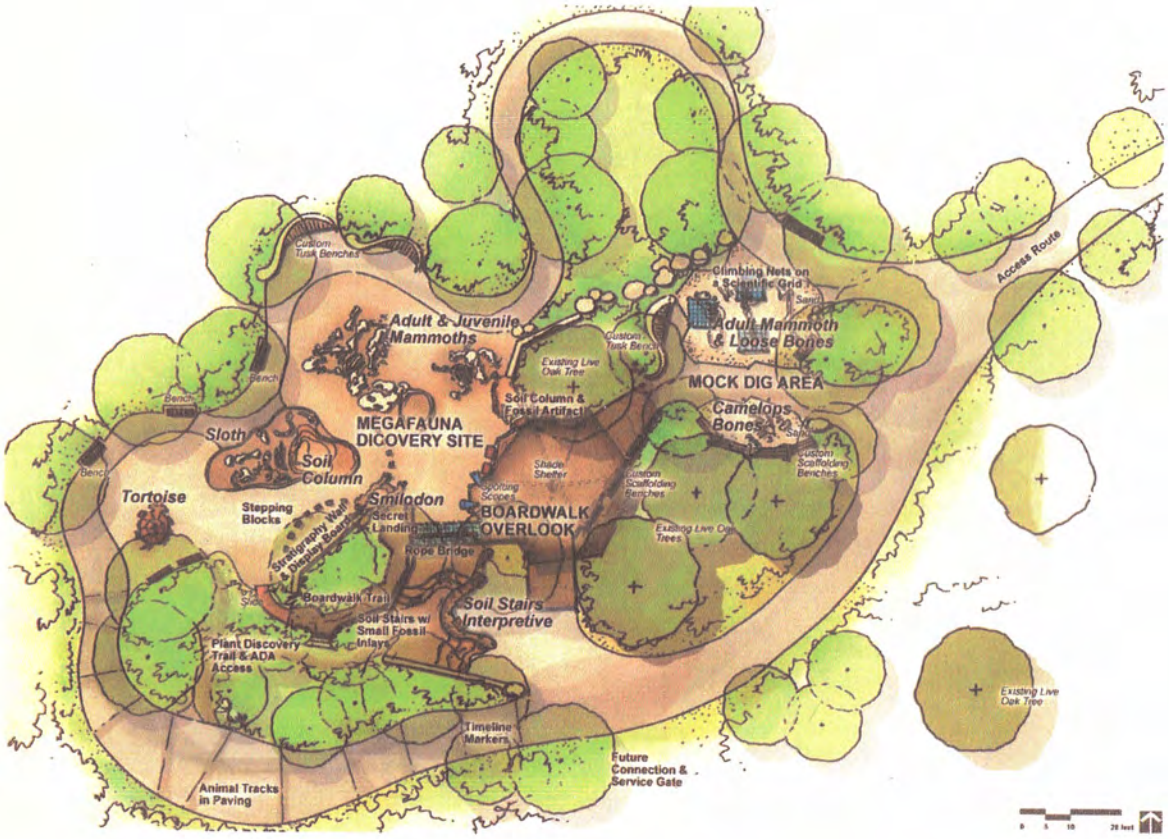
Master Plan Concept



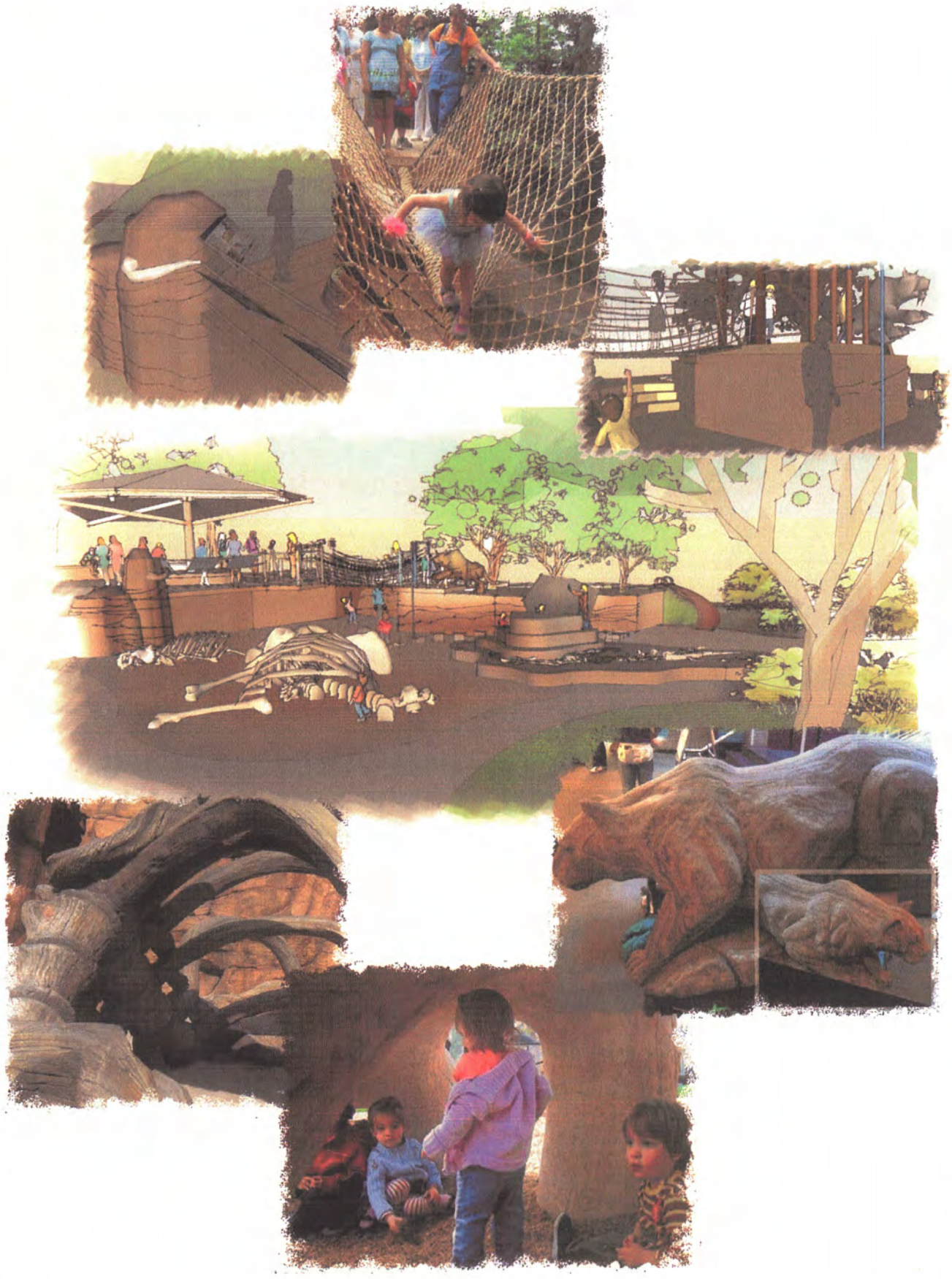
MASTER PLAN CONCEPT

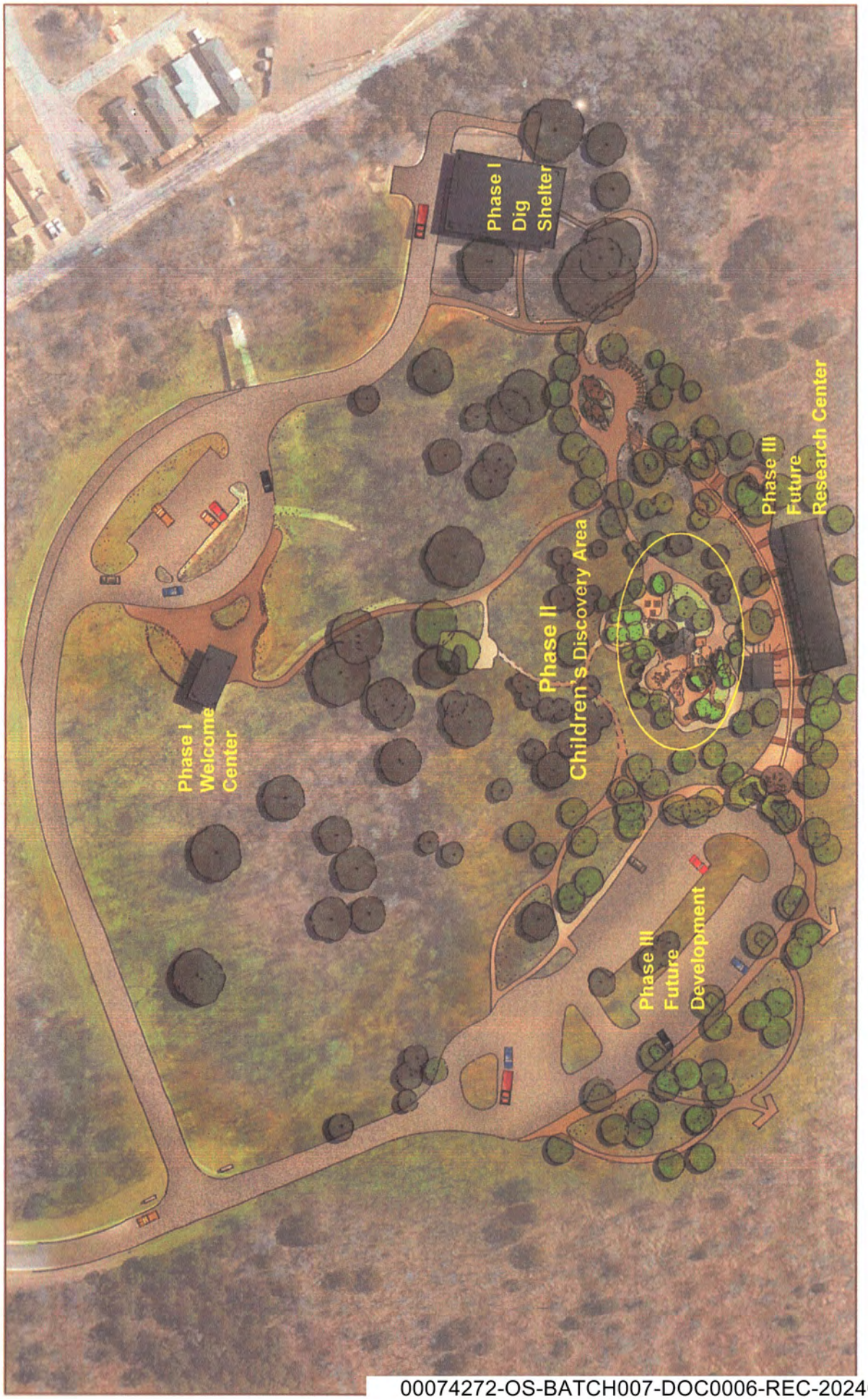
CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY AREA

Children's Discovery Area

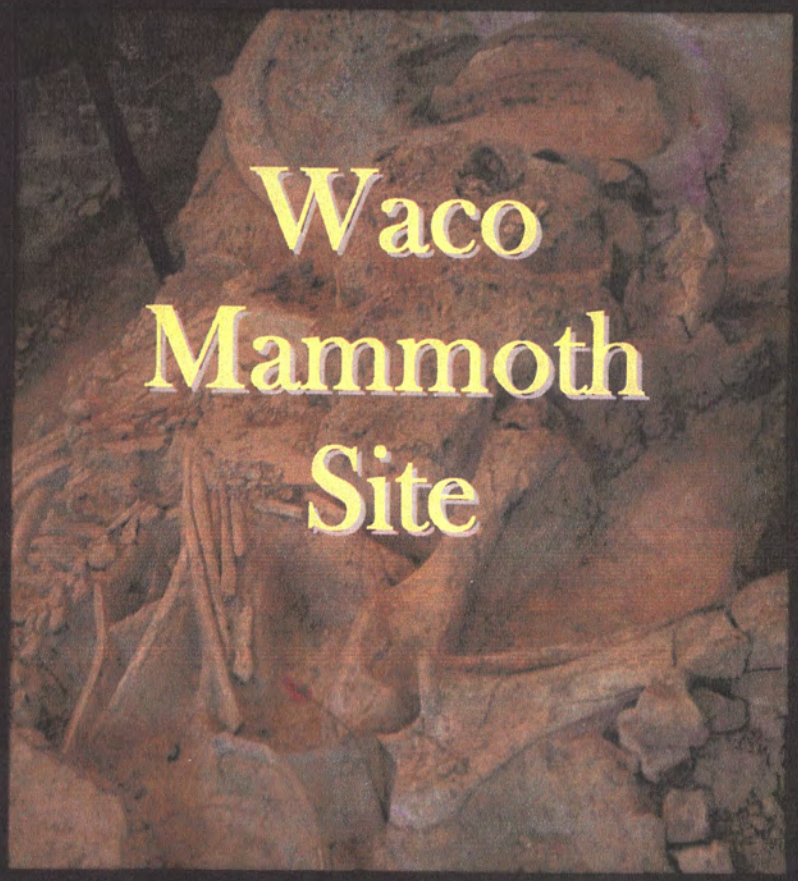


CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY AREA



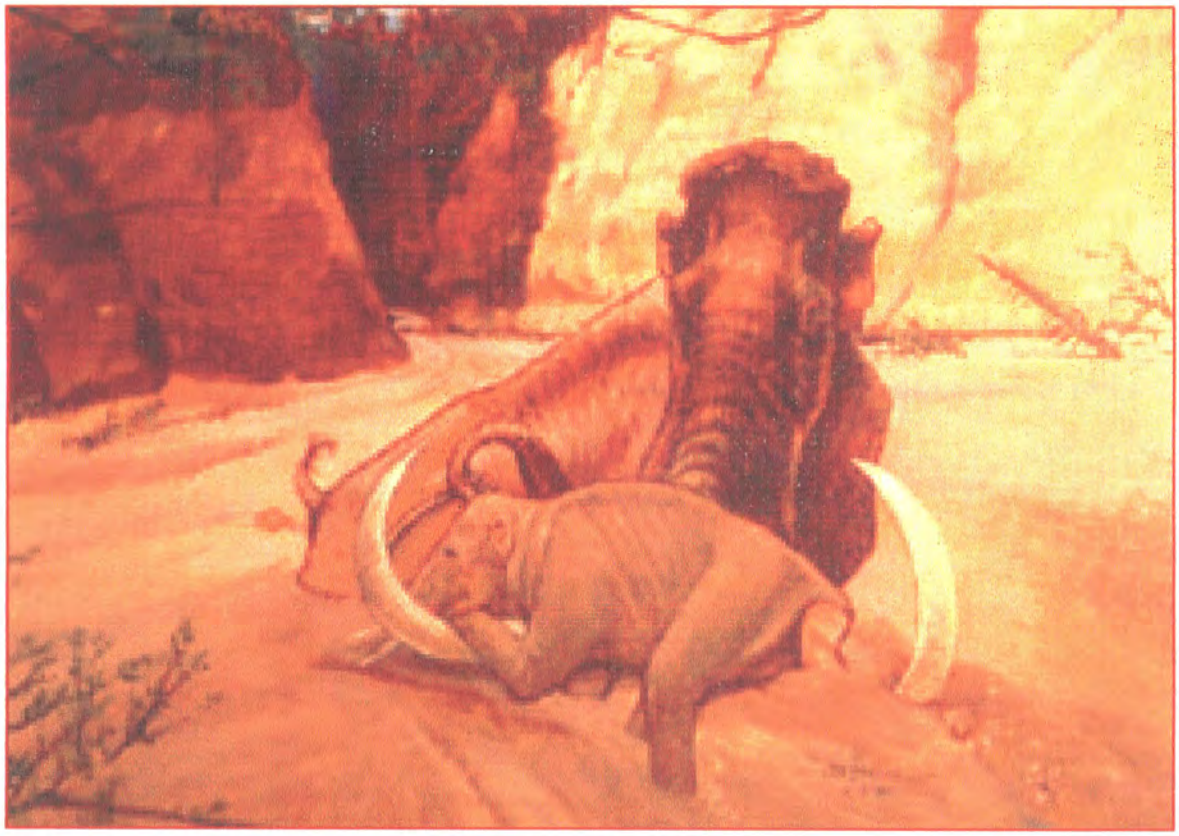

Phase I
Dig
Shelter
Phase I
Welcome
Center
Phase II
Children's Discovery Area
Phase III
Future
Research Center
Phase III
Future
Development

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY



Waco Mammoth Site

The world's largest known concentration of prehistoric mammoths perishing in the same event



"...one can almost feel their panic as the mammoths formed a protective semi-circle around their young. The mind can hear their trumpeting cries of fright, smell the mud, and see the bank crashing down upon them,"

Karen Gebhardt

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

City of Waco Parks & Recreation / Waco Mammoth Foundation

FALL 2010

the MAMMOTH messenger

WACO MAMMOTH SITE

Paintings Enhance Experience

Artist Lee Jamison has spent the last several months adding two "life-size" murals to the walls of the Waco Mammoth Site. The murals were funded through the Meadows Foundation Grant.

Mammoth Site Comes to Life During First Year of Operation

A look back at the Waco Mammoth Site's successful start

The Waco Mammoth Site has nearly completed its first year of operation, and as we reflect on our success, it is safe to say we have grown!

On December 5, six new employees, along with the City of Waco Parks and Recreation Department, hit the ground running. We had a fantastic opening day complete with guest speakers, an opening ceremony and a ribbon cutting. We ushered more than 254 guests in a matter of a few hours, and in the following weeks, staff spent their time giving impromptu tours and fielding many phone calls from excited school groups and community members.

Throughout the spring and summer, the site matured by leaps and bounds. Admittedly, there is still a lot of room for growth. However, the site now has a firm hold on operations and programming, receiving great responses from visitors.

In March, the staff launched educational programs for schools and daycares. Once the programs began, the calendar stayed full. The educational programs were tailored for elementary groups, junior high, high school and college levels. A majority of the participating groups were from elementary schools (58 percent) that were located in the Greater Waco area (68 percent). The remaining 32 percent traveled from outlying areas such as Temple, Gatesville, McGregor, Marlin and Fort Hood. Approximately 2,000 of our visitors (10 percent) participated in an educational program this year.

Currently, the staff is researching and revamping the educational programs. The goal is to launch the enhanced programs in the early spring. The new programs will focus more heavily on geology, fossilization, paleontology, and the discovery and science

(Article continues on next page)

For more information, visit www.wacomammoth.org

behind the Waco Mammoths! Each time visitors return to the Waco Mammoth Site, we want them to learn something new. To enhance the staff's Pleistocene knowledge, we have hosted several team-building efforts such as fossil hunting at the Waco Research Area. We have also networked with local Paleontology societies and established contacts with some of Texas's leading individuals in the fields of paleontology and earth science education.

26,000 visitors have entered the Dig Shelter.

The development of the educational programs will complement the creation of new public tours, which also are planned to launch in the spring. The site's mission is to educate everyone in a fun and entertaining way. We want our visitors to enjoy the experience so much that they can't wait to return, and we hope to accomplish this by continually tweaking our tours and furthering employee and docent training.

To say the least, it has been an exciting year for the staff, docents and visitors at the site. Through our interaction with the public, we have gained valuable experience while learning and growing. A variety of unique merchandise can now be found in the gift shop, while customized counters and a donation box were also added to the site. The staff has battled snakes on the pathway, hogs in the bushes, a few unique visitors and a couple of horrific Texas thunderstorms. And yes, they are ready for more.

Staff has also excitedly studied the unique insects that turn up in unexpected places, witnessed the development of Lee Jamison's murals and participated in the growth of the site's operations. But the most enjoyable experience is seeing the smiles on the visitors' faces as they discover the natural history of Waco.

Examining the 2010 Visitors

From December 5 to October 5, an astonishing 26,000 visitors came to the Waco Mammoth Site! Staff asked visitors to provide their zip code in order to track how many tourists came from outside of Waco. Generally, an estimated 30 – 35 percent of visitors were from the Greater Waco area. Approximately 55 – 60 percent came from other areas within Texas (Austin and Dallas being the heavyweights). The remaining 5 - 10 percent of the visitors came from states outside of Texas and from other countries. We have documented visitors from as far away as New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan! A large majority of the visitors participated in one of the daily tours. Each day, staff offers between eight and fourteen guided tours, but the public can also walk around the site and park at their own leisure. The staff tours have been perfected to include facts about the discovery of Waco's Colombian mammoths, along with many fun and interesting facts about the Texas Ice Age and its mystifying Megafauna (REALLY big animals). No doubt, children of all ages enjoy the tour!

IN MEMORY & HONOR

Braswell Land & Cattle donation in honor of Alyssa Sheedy

Gayle and Walter Lacy III donation in memory of Sarah Levine

Gloria and F.M. Young in honor of Heyward Taylor

Golda Lacy Brown in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lacy III

Gloria and F.M. Young in memory of Marjorie Lacy

Board of Directors

Gayle Lacy, President
Ellie Caston, Vice President
F.M. Young, Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Bush, City of Waco Mayor
Karla Leeper
Tommye Lou Davis
Don Moes

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Virginia DuPuy
Betty Haas
Lisa Jaynes
Walter Lacy III
Wilton Lanning
Kay Olson
Bill Pakis
Cynthia Perry
Brooke Taylor
Susan Duecy
Nell Hawkins

Emergency Assistance Needed for National Park Service Designation

As many of you are aware, there has been a comprehensive effort involving our elected officials, Waco Mammoth Board and Advisory Committee, Baylor University, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, City of Waco and many volunteers to obtain National Park Service designation for the Waco Mammoth Site. This process began with a Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment initiated in 2002 and published in 2008. The results of this study culminated in the recommendation by the Department of Interior to designate the Waco Mammoth Site as a unit of the National Park Service.

Congressman Chet Edwards has been a strong supporter in this process for the Waco Mammoth Site to receive the NPS designation. Edwards has led the way by navigating proposed legislation through the various committees and ultimately passed by the House of Representatives. Progress was proceeding quite nicely, passed Senate Committees until the legislation was brought to the Senate Floor for a vote and a hold was placed on the proposed legislation.

Although various efforts to gain a positive vote in the Senate have been pursued, the hold still remains and politics have jeopardized the likelihood of the bill being passed in the Senate during this term. If the bill is not passed the efforts to gain NPS designation will have to begin on the ground floor once again.

Your assistance is desperately needed in a timely manner. Please contact both Senator John Cornyn and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson by e-mail and telephone and urgently request that Senate Bill 625 related to the Waco Mammoth Park be considered and approved to be a unit of the National Park System. The primary goal is to obtain the NPS designation and continue operations funded through local efforts.

Please contact these Senators now to make this dream a reality:
John Cornyn - Chase Tower, 221 West Sixth Street, Suite 1530, Austin, TX 78701
Phone: 512-469-6034
Kay Bailey Hutchinson - 961 Federal Building, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-916-5834

WACO MAMMOTH FOUNDATION, INC.

(This is a 501(c)(3) Foundation)

You can count on me to help fund the Children's Play & Learning Area at the Waco Mammoth Site. By Pledging TODAY, I will make it possible for future generations to learn about the fascinating life of the Waco Mammoths.

I will join the Phase Two Club:

Platinum - $250,000
Gold - $100,000
Silver - $50,000
Bronze - $25,000

Copper - $10,000
Pewter - $ 5,000
Granite - $ 1,000
Supporter - $ _____

My check is enclosed in the amount of $ _____

My pledge of $ _____ will be funded by _____ (Date)
Please remind me of my pledge on (Date) _____ Yes____ No____
(***Payment schedules are available upon requests***)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone - Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____
E-Mail _____

Donations and correspondence can b

Current Projects and Future Plans

The Meadows Foundation grant of $110,000 is the primary funding source for the new murals and the renovations to the heating and air conditioning system in the Dig Shelter. The murals are almost completed and the HVAC renovations should be finished in early 2011.

The next major project planned for the Mammoth Site is a Children's Discovery Area. This project is planned to provide a space for outdoor activities about the Mammoths and other pleistocene mammals for young children and their families to enjoy. Active play with a Mammoth theme will help the youngest visitors enjoy the Mammoth Site, too. The design team that did such a wonderful job on the first phase of development will assist with the plans. Their team will include additional staff on this project who have a great deal of experience designing children's areas for places such as the New York Botanical garden and other arboretums along with designs for custom playgrounds. Once funds are secured for the $65,000 fee for the schematic design, this project will get started.

Site Attracts National Media and Marketing

The grand opening of the Waco Mammoth Site received national coverage from news sources such as USA Today, Associated Press and CNN. The Associated Press article was featured in hundreds of newspapers throughout the United States. The site was also highlighted by regional print and TV outlets, and the site was featured in July's Texas Highways. An ad for the site ran in June's Texas Monthly and the magazine will publish a feature article in the coming months. Additional marketing activities included tour information sheets, brochures, billboards, video promotions and more. The site created a strong presence on the Internet with its website and Facebook page, while visitors often wrote glowing reviews on personal blogs.

Update on the Docents and Events

The docents at the Waco Mammoth Site have done a great job assisting staff with public tours and educational programs. The Parks and Recreation Department began recruiting docents in November 2009 and continue to find avenues in which to recruit more volunteers. We have gained the interest of about 30 volunteers, 20 of which have gone through our docent training program. Staff has reached out to various local organizations, a retired teachers association, advertised on various media outlets and let our visitors know of the volunteer opportunities.

Our docents not only assist with tours and programs, but have opportunities to participate and help with special events. In June, the Waco Mammoth Site participated in the first annual National Megafauna Awareness Day. The staff and docents put together educational posters and hands-on activities ranging from face-painting and mask-making to life-sized comparisons of modern mammals and their prehistoric ancestors. In October, the Waco Mammoth Site, alongside the National Park System, participated in the first annual National Fossil Awareness Day by having a mock archaeological dig pit and featuring extra educational opportunities on fossils and the site's stratigraphy.

Texas wildflowers covered the landscape during spring and summer.

US Rep. Chet Edwards showed his support at the grand opening ceremony.

H-E-B's regional managers received a business tour of the site.

Purpose Statements

- **Preserve and protect** the outstanding paleontological site, collected specimens, and associated data known as the Waco Mammoth Site for present and future generations.
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Mammoth Site History

Construction of a protective structure and related site development at the Waco Mammoth Site has been a collaborative effort involving the National Park Service, City of Waco, Baylor University's Mayborn Museum, and local citizens. The property that holds the Columbian mammoth remains was donated to the City of Waco in 1996 by Sam Jack McGlasson and the Mayborn Museum is responsible for the recovery and preservation of the mammoth bones.

First discovered in 1978, the Waco Mammoth Site is the largest known concentration of prehistoric mammoth elephants dying from the same event. Twenty-four Columbian mammoths, one camel, and one large cat have been discovered to date. Boreholes in the site area indicate that additional mammoths have yet to be unearthed.

While most of the mammoth bones exposed by excavation have been removed from the site for preservation purposes, some exposed bones remain and were subject to decay due to deficient protection prior to construction of the dig shelter.

The size of the mammoth herd, the range of ages represented (roughly three to fifty-five years of age), and the placement of the animals when buried offer unique insight on the physical state of the animals, their behavioral patterns, and the environment in which they lived. For example, the site indicates that the animals formed a circular defensive position before death, with the adult mammoths attempting to rescue younger members of the herd. Research to date suggests that the younger animals may have been undernourished, reflective of harsh environmental conditions in Central Texas nearly 70,000 years ago. Paleontological research on the mammoth remains is currently underway and may afford important information on lactating periods, pollen analysis, vegetation patterns, mammoth genealogy, and migratory patterns.

Site Development

Development of the site has been divided into phases. In the initial review of the site for inclusion in the National Park System, the National Park Service confirmed that one of the most important steps was to ensure that the biological and environmental record of the site could be preserved by construction of a protective structure. The first phase has provided protection for the existing dig site and access for visitation by the public. An overall master plan was designed to guide future development as funds become available.

Protection of the site was critical. For many years the only shelter was a tent that was spread across the dig site. Phase I included the dig shelter building for site protection, walkways for access, a welcome center, parking areas, and an entry road. The City of Waco received a $200,000 Save America's Treasures grant that was applied to the construction of the dig shelter, fencing and access to the site. Support for developing the site has been a community-wide effort. An additional $3,200,000 was raised primarily from private donations. Funding also included local and private foundation grants and allocations from the City of Waco, Baylor University, and McLennan County. The site opened to the public in December 2009. Additions to the Phase I project include murals and renovations to the heating and AC system which were funded by the Meadows Foundation and private donations.

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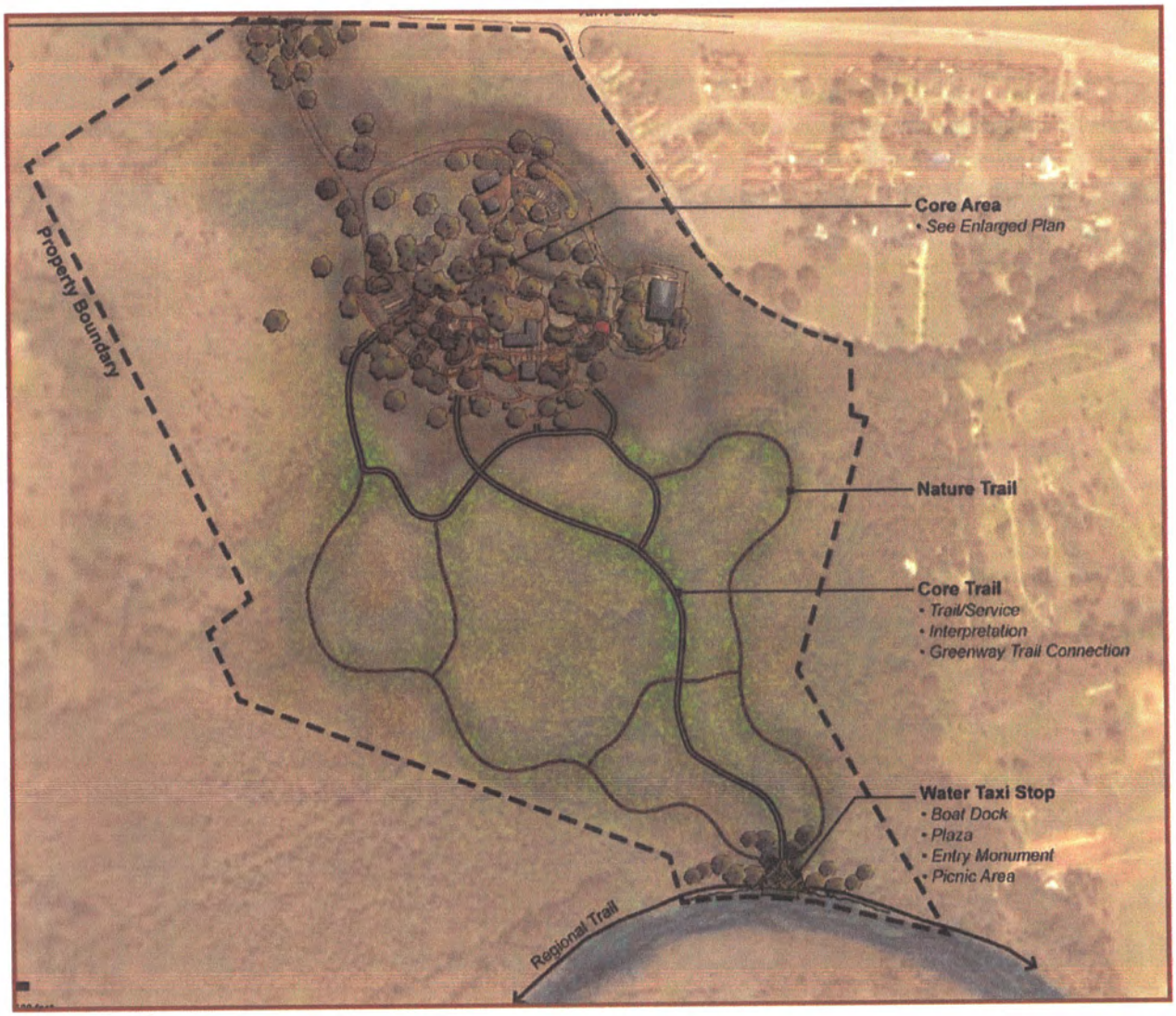
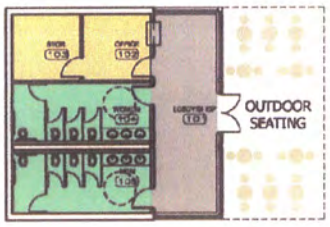
Overall Site Concept



Future Full Build-out

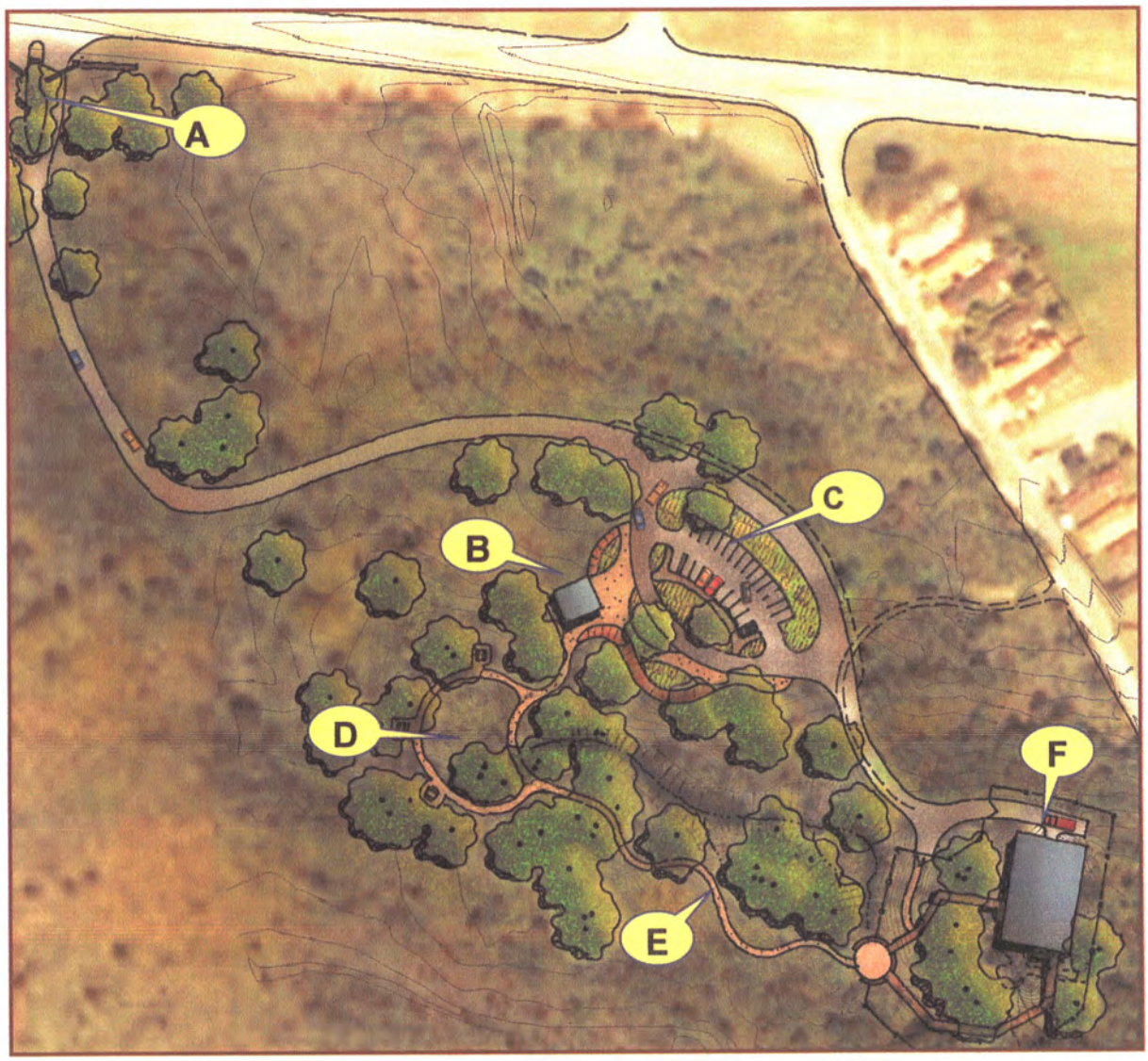
Phase I Elements

Visitor Center

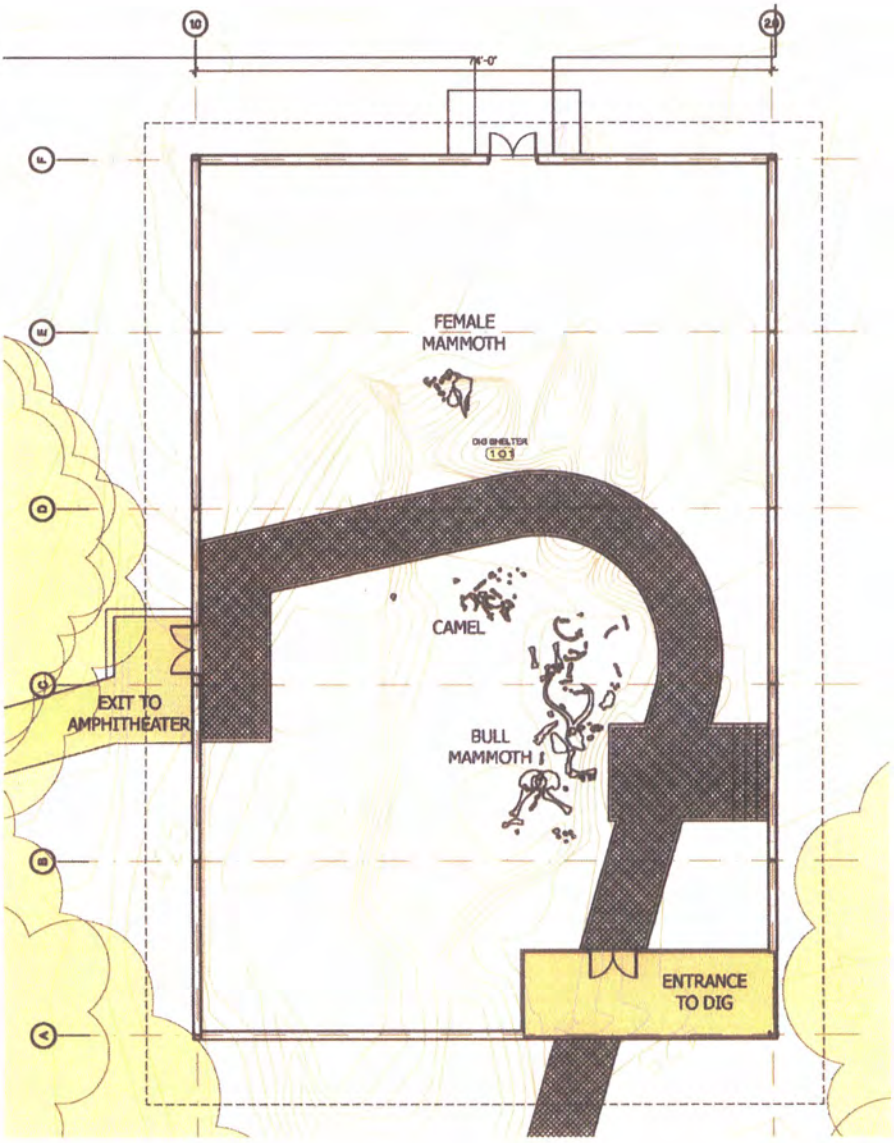


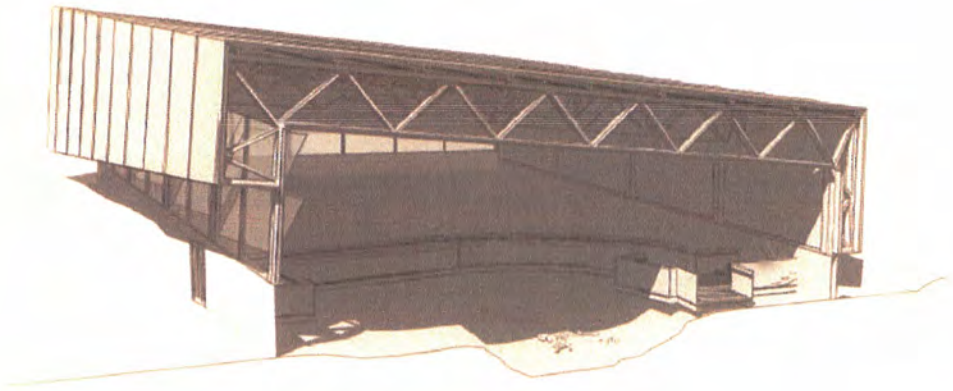
LOBBY AND GIFT SHOP
RESTOOMS
SUPPORT

A. Entry
B. Visitor Center
C. Parking
D. Picnic Area
E. Trail
F. Dig Site Building

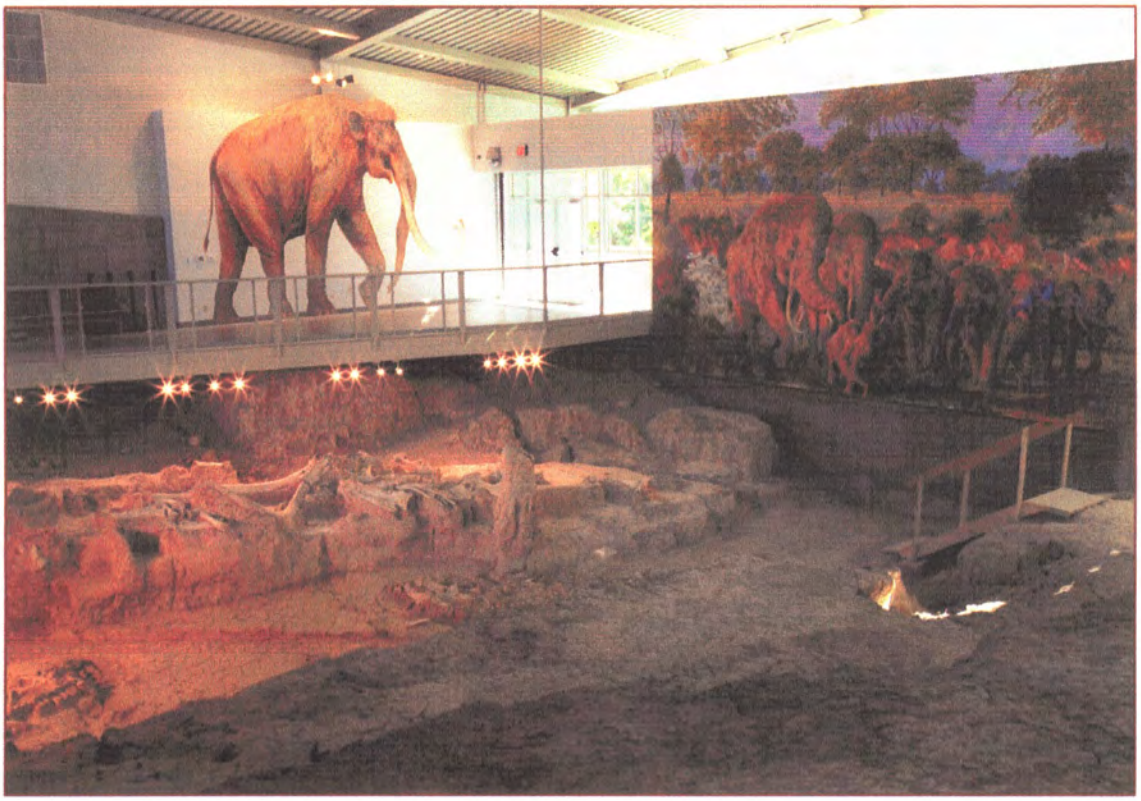


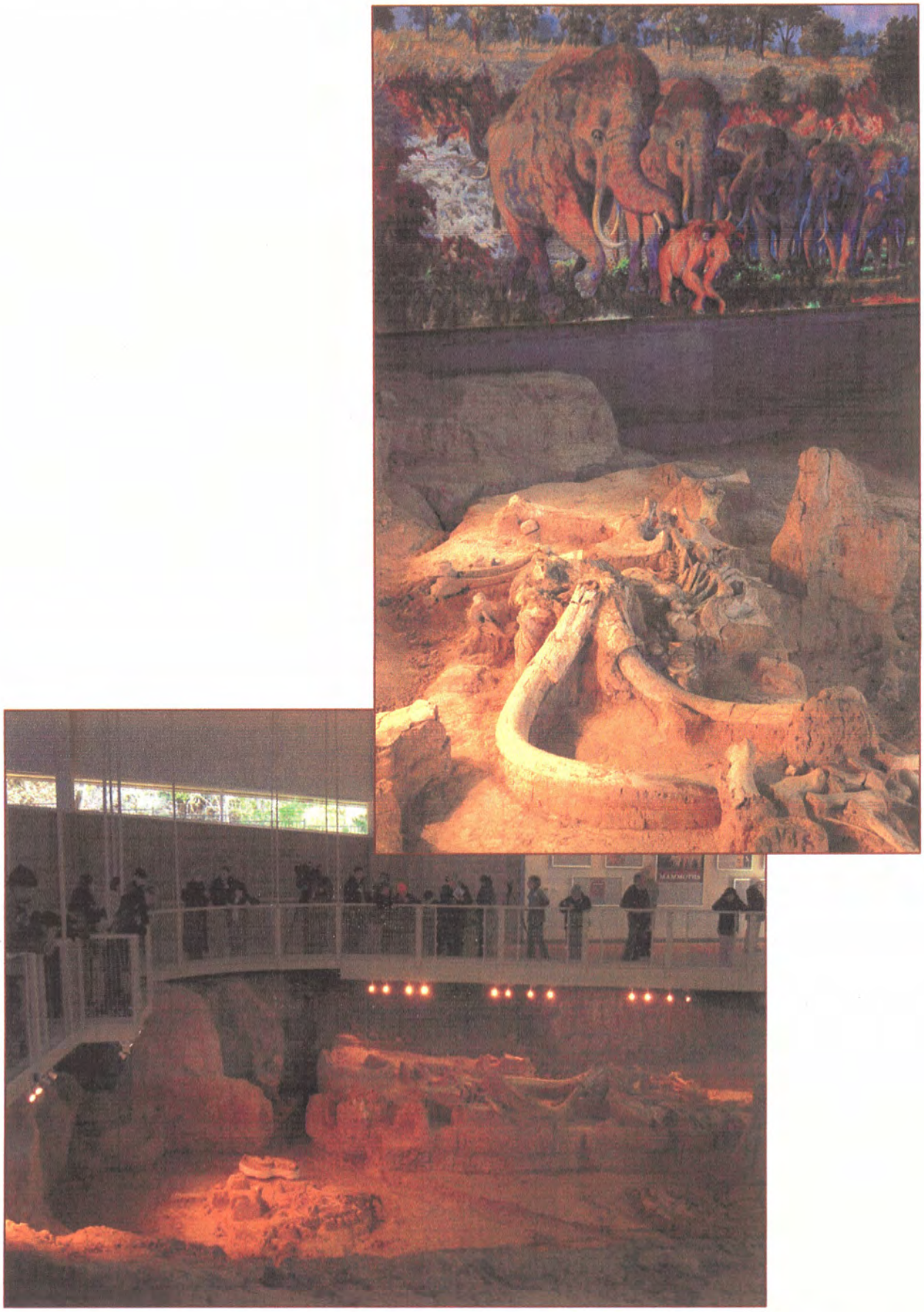
Dig Site Structure



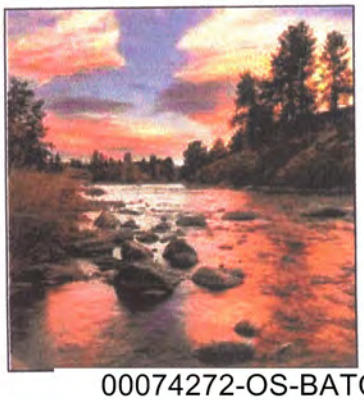


SECTION VIEW OF DIG SHELTER





Browns Canyon National Monument



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Browns Canyon National Monument

Browns Canyon is a national treasure that deserves to be protected as a national monument for all Americans to enjoy. This area provides outstanding whitewater rafting, premiere trout fishing, sweeping views of the Arkansas Valley and several of Colorado's fourteeners as well as critical wildlife habitat.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, and attract new visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for all people and for future generations.

Access to the Outdoors
Permanently protecting Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River will ensure that the natural legacy of this unique area remains intact for future generations of fishermen, hikers, hunters, whitewater enthusiasts and explorers. A Browns Canyon National Monument will:

- Ensure that people can continue to enjoy opportunities for solitude and outdoor recreation including rafting, kayaking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, climbing and hiking.
- Protect the area from future mining claims and new road construction that may damage the area's watershed or wildlife habitat.
- Allow existing access roads and trails to continue to provide recreational access while preserving the core of Browns Canyon in its current state.

Good for the Economy
Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater destination in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly $55 million to the economy.

A Browns Canyon National Monument fits into Chaffee County's plans for its economic future by helping to sustain property values and attract new investment, presenting no problems with water, mining or grazing rights.

Haven for Wildlife
The sheer ruggedness and, proximity to water and lower elevation, Browns Canyon provides high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including peregrine falcons, eagles, big horn sheep and elk herds.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that includes Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

Why Protect Browns Canyon Now?
It has been 23 years since the first legislation was introduced in Congress to permanently protect Colorado's Browns Canyon. Despite broad locally-driven support, and 13 separate bills to protect that area, Congress has failed to take action leaving Browns Canyon at risk.

This is why groups around the state are now calling on President Obama to use his authority to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument.

Public Support

Recent polling shows that **nearly 8 in 10 Coloradans (77%) support a Browns Canyon National Monument.**

A broad cross-section of elected officials, business owners, veterans, youth, faith leaders and Hispanic groups support the designation of a Browns Canyon National Monument, including:

- Buena Vista Town Council members
- Arkansas River Outfitters Association
- Colorado Rivers Outfitters Association
- Conservation Colorado
- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- Colorado Wildlife Federation
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- International Mountain Bicycling Association
- Outdoor Alliance Colorado
- Salida Business Alliance
- Vet Voice Foundation
- Trout Unlimited

Legislative Background

Decades of Bipartisan Effort to Protect Browns Canyon

It has been more than 23 years since the first legislation to permanently protect the Browns Canyon landscape was introduced in Congress. There have been 13 separate bills to conserve the landscape. Despite broad public support, the Congress has been unable to pass any them.

- The first bill was introduced by Representatives Wayne Allard (R-CO) and Dan Schaefer (R-CO) in 1991.
- Representative DeGette (D-CO) championed legislation to protect the landscape beginning in 1999.
- In 2001, Representative Mark Udall joined Rep. DeGette to advance Browns Canyon legislation.
- In 2005, Representatives Joel Hefley (R- CO), Bob Beauprez (R- CO), Diana DeGette (R- CO), Marilyn Musgrave (R- CO), John Salazar (D- CO), Tom Tancredo (R- CO), and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) picked up the effort to protect the Browns Canyon landscape with a bicameral bill.
- Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO) pushed legislation in 2008.

In the current Congress, Senators Mark Udall (D-CO) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) have advanced the "Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013" to conserve the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument. The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior testified in support of the legislation, but it has failed to garner sufficient attention from Congress to reach the President's desk.

BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT

Local Elected Officials:

Joel Benson, Mayor, Town of Buena Vista
Keith Baker, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista
Eric Gibb, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista
Duff Lacy, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Buena Vista
Phil Puckett, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista
David Volpe, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista

Keith Baker, Council Member, City of Salida
Jim Dickson, Mayor, City of Salida
Eileen Rogers, Council Member, City of Salida
Tom Yerkey, Council Member, City of Salida

Dennis Giese, Chairman of the Board, Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

Dave Potts, Commissioner, Chaffee County Board of Commissioners

Gail Schwartz, Chairman, Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee, Colorado State Senate
Kerry Donovan, Senator Elect, Colorado State Senate

Other State Officials:

KC Becker, Representative, Colorado State Representative
Randy Fischer, Chairman, House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee, Colorado State Representative
Alec Garnett, Representative Elect, Colorado State Representative
Sanford "Pete" Lee, Representative, Colorado State Representative
Susan Lontine, Representative Elect, Colorado State Representative
Beth McCann, Representative, Colorado State Representative
Su Ryden, Representative, Colorado State Representative

Lucia Guzman, Senator, Colorado State Senate
Rollie Heath, Senator, Colorado State Senate
Matt Jones, Senator, Colorado State Senate
John Kefalas, Senator, Colorado State Senate
Jessie Ulibarri, Senator, Colorado State Senate

Chaffee County Businesses:

146 West First Street, LLC
4 Alarm Liquor
Abby Heller Massage Therapy
Absolute Bikes
All West of Colorado LLC
Alpine Lodge
Altamont Landscaping
Alternative Choices Wellness Center
Amicas Restaurant and Brewery
Andy Lowther M.D.
Angel of Shavano Recycling
Antero Hot Springs Cabins
Anything Outdoors
Architectural Glass
Architectural Services
Arkansas Valley Clean Windows
Arkansas Valley Libation Society
Ark Plumbing & Heating
Ark Welding
Arrowhead Trails Inc.
Badfish SUP
Beads Louise
Benson's Tavern
Blue River Projects
Boathouse Distillery
Brad's Automotive
Brick & Mortar Productions
Broken Strings Guitar
Brooks Gallery
BV Cruisers
C3 Collective, The
Cafe Dawn
Cruisers 66 Garage
Canon Personal Warehouses
Carpentry by Hand
Cellar's Wine and Spirits
Chaffee County Citizens For Sustainability

Chivvis & Lovell Gallery
Chris Lau Construction
Colorado Central Magazine
Colorado Grown
Colorado Mountain Realty
Court Yard Gallery
Coyote Catina
Culture Clash
Daja View, Inc.
Dangerous Collective
Deerhammer Distilling Company
Deluxe Rocketships
Earth Song Creations
Eddyline Restaurant and Brewery PubElements Furniture and Jewelry
Evergreen Café
First Street Flooring
Fish Builders of Colorado
Four Winds Gallery
Free The Monkey
Fringe
The Fritz
Gallery Art Post
Garden Song Café
GeoSphere Environmental
Gibas Investments, LLC
Gun Smoke Travel Plaza
Go Green Events
Gone to the Dogs
Great Western Auto Sales
Growing Connections, LLC
Gypsy Green Design
Hake, Hart, Lintzenich LLC Attorneys
Headwaters Outdoor Lifestyles
Heart of the Rockies Internet Solutions
High Valley Center
Hugh Young Mediation Services
Hattie's Pub
Incite Consulting LLC
Innerlight Healthworks
Integrate Pilates Studio & Spa
J2 Software
JalaBlu Yoga
Jailhouse Arts
Jumpin' Good Goat Dairy
Kalamatapit Katering
Kaleidoscope Toys
Kekuni Minton, Dr.
Land & Water Concepts
Las Manos B&B
Lifestream Water Systems
Little Daisy Liquor
Lovin Spoonful
MacDonald Law Office
Mailboxes
McQuillan Associates Interior Design
Mindful Design
Moonlight Pizza and Brewery
Mountain Bohemian
Mountain Phoenix Coffee Roasters
Mothers Daughters Bistro & Bar
Mountain Kids Childcare
Natural Habitats
Natural Mystic Wellness Center
Nature's Pantry
On Top Builders, Inc
Pancho's
Pizza Works
Pinon Vacation Rentals
Pinto Barn, Inc.
Ploughboy, Inc.
Poncha Mini Storage
Rebound Physical Therapy
Recreational Engineering and Planning
Rise and Shine Cafe
Riverboats Works
Riverside Frame
Roadrunner Grill
Rock Run Gallery
Roxy's Bottle Shop
Ruby Blues Consignment
Sacred Grounds Coffee
Salida Bread Company
Salida Super 8
Salida Tech, Inc.
Salida Citizen.Com
Salida Classic
Salida Dance Studio
Salida Mountain Sports
Salida School of String Instruments
Sarah Hudelson, D.P.T
Sawatch Rescue
Schmidt Renovations
Seagrove Partners, LLC
Settings Event Rental
Shallots Restaurant
Shavano Imports
She-La-Vie Hair and Skin
Simple Lodge and Hostel
South Main
Spirit Mountain Designs
Storyville Cinema
Streamside B&B
Subaru and Moore
Subculture Bicycles
Su Casa! Furniture, Accents and Gifts
Sundance and Friends
Sunlight Glassblowing Studio
Susan Mayfield Art
Susan Tweit, (Author)
Sweet Spot Ice Cream
The Adventure Company
The Asian Palate
The Buena Vista Roastry
The Crystal Shop
The Hodgepodge Art Gallery and Gift Shop
The Kitchen Pantry
The Maverick Potter
The Palace Hotel
The Pilates Studio
The Smokeshop
Thomas House B & B
Tightrope Tattoo
Tim Brown Photography
Town and County, Salida Inc.
Tribal Rugs
Tuff River Stuff
Tapestries by Robert
Tenderfoot Health Collective
Terrell Minton Artist
Think BV

The Trailhead/Trailhead Cycle and Ski
Vince Stack, M.D.
Vino Salida
Virtuosity Gallery
Whitewater Photography
Whitewater Rentals
Whitewater Wraps
Wagon Wheel Guest Ranch
Weathervane Farm
Wilderness ski & snowboard shop
Yoder, Inc. Builders
Yolo Clothing

Raft Companies

Adventure Unlimited
American Adventure Expeditions
Arkansas River Tours
Arkansas River Outfitters Coalition
Aspen Kayak Academy
Black Wolf Lodging
Blazing Adventures
Buffalo Joe's Whitewater Rafting
Canyon Marine
Clear Creek Rafting Co.
Dvorak Kayaking and Rafting Expeditions
Echo Canyon
Geo Tours Whitewater Raft Trips
Independent Whitewater
KODI Rafting
Kokopelli Rafting
Lakota Guides
Noah's Ark
Nova Guides
Performance Tours
Raft Masters
River Runners
Rocky Gardens Rafting
Rocky Mountain Adventures
Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center
Royal Gorge Rafting
Sage Outdoor Adventures
Whitewater Adventure Outfitters
Wilderness Aware Rafting
Wildwasser Sport USA Inc

Additional Colorado Businesses

Adobe Inn
Agate Hill Inn
Alpine Angling
Altitude Paddle Boards
American Outdoor Products
Anglers All
Anglers Covey
Angling Trade
Anthology Fine Art
Avid4Adventure
Barrels and Bottles Brewery
Bent Gate
Blue Quill Angler
Boulder Beer Company
Boulder Cycle Sport
Boulder Mountain Repair
Boulder Sports Recycler
Blue Quill Angler
By Chance Shoppe
CBV Photographics
Centennial Canoe Outfitters
Charlie's Fly Box
Clean Energy Collective
Clear Creek Outdoors
Clutter Consignment
Colorado Kayak Supply
Colorado Skies Outfitters
Confluence Kayaks
Costa Del Mar
Cutthroat Anglers
Cycles of Life
Denver Angler
Down River Equipment Company
Drake Magazine
Eco-Products
Echo Canyon Campground
Eleven-Mile General Store
Evergreen Gallery
Faith Davis Massage and Yoga
Farfel's Farm and Rescue
Fenix Outdoors
Fishpond
Fire on the Mountain
Flies 'n Lies
Fly Fishing Film Tour
Front Range Anglers
FoodShed Productions
Found Above Ground
Gifted Hands Gallery
Golden River Sports
GoLite
Grateful Threads LLC.
Green Guru
Heather O' Malley
Hog Island Boat Works
Ice Fishing Colorado
Inflatable Technologies
Jax Mercantile
Jinji Cycles
John Fielder Photography
Justins LLC.
La Sportiva
Leisure Trends Group
ListenUp!
Little Horse Books and Vintage
Mary Lynn Gillaspie Photography
Minuteman Press
Mitch Wright LLC.
Mountain Chalet
Mountainsmith
Mountain Sun Brewery and Pub
Mortimer Family Chiropractic
Nina's Flowers
Nomad Bead Merchants
Old Town Guest House B&B
Outdoor Divas
Paragon Outdoors
Peak Fly Shop
Pearson and Paris PC
Pikes Peak RV and Campground
Plum Creek Veterinary Services
PolarBottle
Powder7.com
Radiance Corporation
Rip Stop Repairs
Rivers Clothing
Redington
RepYourWater
Rio Products RockyMounts
Roaring Fork Anglers
Ross Reels
Royal George Anglers
Sage Fly Fishing
Sanitas Brewing Company
Scarpa North America
Scott Fly Rod Company
Sea to Summit
Silver Maple Properties
Slope Style
So Flo Glass LLC.
South Platte Fly Shop
Spork Ladle

Summer Properties
Telluride Outside
Ten Mile Creek Kayaks
Tim Allport LLC.
TJ Sullivan LLC.
The Book Cellar
The Canon City Queen Anne
The Denver Fly Shop
The Fuzzy Antler
The Mountain Goat Clothing Company
The San Juan Angler
The Singing Cook
The Smithmoor Group
The Walnut Gallery
Tim Romano Photography
Trouts Fly Fishing
Todd Hildebrandt LLC.
Trident Booksellers and Cafe
Two Hands Paperie
Umpqua Feather Merchants
Ville de Luxe Boutique
Vision Ridge Partners LLC
Widness and Wiggins PR
Zagahlou African Art

Sportsmen Groups:

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horseman
Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited
Bull Moose Sportsmen
Colorado Trout Unlimited
Colorado Wildlife Federation
Fort Lewis Fly Fishing Club
National Wildlife Federation
Sportsmen Outdoors
Sportsmen Ride Right
Telluride Hunting Guides
The Greenbacks
Trout Unlimited

Other Organizations & Clubs:

American Rivers
Arkansas River Coalition
Arkansas Rivers Outfitters Association
Arkansas River Trust
Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition
Chaffee County Running Club
Chaffee County Visitors Bureau
City Wild
Conservation Lands Foundation
Colorado Ocean Coalition
Colorado River Outfitters Association
ConservAmerica
Conservation Colorado
Great Old Broads For Wilderness
Hispanic Access Foundation
High Country Citizens Alliance
Friends of Browns Canyon
International Mountain Bicycling Association
National Wildlife Federation
Outdoor Alliance Colorado
Outward Bound Colorado
Pikes Peak Whitewater Club
Por la Creación
Quiet Use Coalition
Rock The Earth
San Louis Valley Ecosystem Council
Salida Business Alliance
Salida Mountain Trails
Salida Parks Open Space and Trails
Sierra Club
The Fiberglas Manifesto
The Wilderness Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Urban Land Conservancy
Vet Voices
Western Rivers Institute
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
Wild Connections

Polling Data

The Colorado College Conservation in the West Poll

Colorado

A survey of Colorado voters regarding conservation demonstrates a strong conservation ethic and support for continuing to fund conservation and maintain protections.

Like their fellow Westerners, Colorado voters overwhelmingly identify as conservationists (67%) – a label that bridges partisan and ethnic lines as well as many other factors in the state.

Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
Latino	64%
White/Anglo	68%
City	68%
Suburban	67%
Rural	67%
Tea Party Supporter	67%
Occupy Wall St.	81%
GOP	62%
Independent	65%
Democrat	73%
Hunter	66%
Angler	75%
Not Sportsmen	67%

Colorado voters prioritize conservation goals throughout the survey, in regard to energy, regulation, and public lands. Among the select findings from the survey:

On Jobs:

- 78% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.
- 93% agree that "Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of Colorado's economy."
- When asked whether environmental regulations have a positive or negative impact on jobs in their state, Colorado voters are more likely to say they have a positive impact (44%) rather than a negative impact (29%).

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

THE COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES PROJECT

Conservation in the West Poll

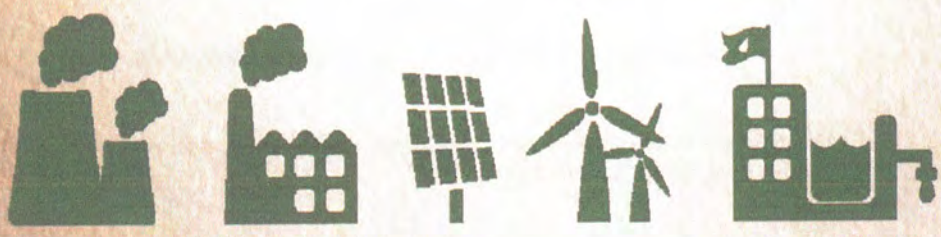
On Energy:

- 64% say increasing the use of renewable energy will create jobs in Colorado.
- State voters are more apt to say they would encourage the use of solar power (55%) and wind power (46%) than other sources of energy (responses are top two mentions combined).
- A plurality of 45% say that increasing the use of renewable energy would not have an impact on the reliability of the electricity system in the state.

On Regulation:

- 63% of Centennial state voters are more likely to view environmental laws more as "important safeguards to protect private property owners, public health and taxpayers from toxic pollution and costly clean-ups" than to view them as "burdensome regulations that tie up industry in red tape, hurt them too much financially, and cost jobs" (29%).
- 75% say that Colorado should maintain protections for land, air and water in the state rather than reduce them in an effort to create jobs as quickly as possible.
- Only 34% agree that "One of the best ways to create jobs is to cut back environmental regulations that are weighing down Colorado's businesses."
- 71% support the EPA "continuing to implement the Clean Air Act by updating the standards for air quality, including for smog, dust, and emissions from power plants, factories and cars," with a majority (54%) strongly in support.

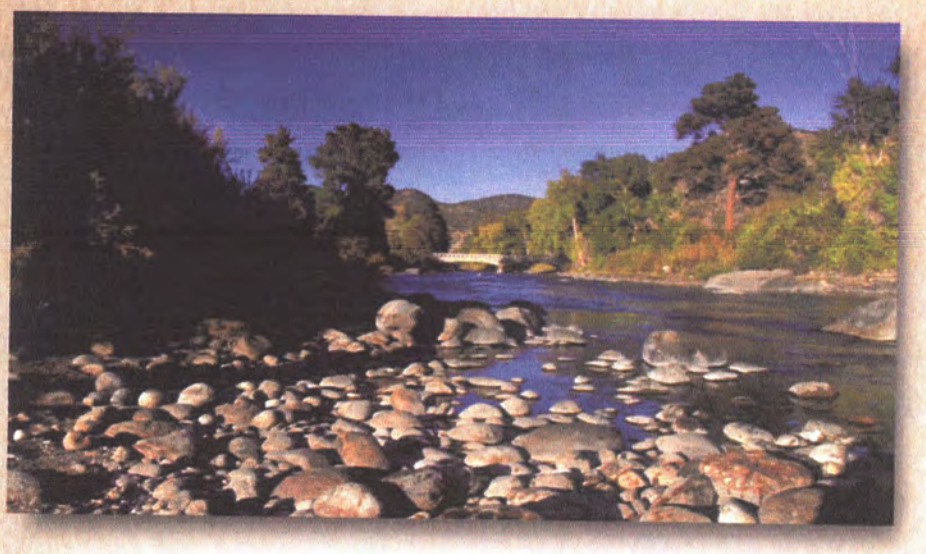
State voters are more apt to say they would encourage the use of solar power (55%) and wind power (46%) than other sources of energy



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

THE COLORADO COLLEGE STATE OF THE ROCKIES PROJECT

Conservation in the West Poll



On Prioritizing Conservation:

- 86% say that "Even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain Colorado's land, water and wildlife;" 82% say the same about state parks.
- Two-thirds (66%) of Colorado voters support designating some of the public lands in the Arkansas River Canyon in Colorado as a National Monument (respondents were told that National Monuments have "protections for natural areas and water similar to those in national parks. The public can recreate or view unique natural, cultural, and historic sites, and the lands are protected from development and resource extraction.")
- 76% would prefer to continue to have Lottery funds distributed to protect natural areas and to school construction, rather than redirecting all that funding to the state education budget and eliminating this source of funding for conservation (15%).

76% would prefer to continue to have Lottery funds distributed to protect natural areas

For the complete 2012 Conservation in the West Poll findings and more information visit: www.stateoftherockies.com.

To contact the Survey Firms: Lori Weigel/Public Opinion Strategies:: lori@pos.org
Dave Metz/Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Assoc.: dave@fm3research.com

For information about The State of the Rockies Project and Colorado College contact: Leslie.Weddell@ColoradoCollege.edu

Small Business Majority Public Lands Research Results

SMALL BUSINESS MAJORITY

OUR RESEARCH: PUBLIC LANDS

Colorado Small Business Owners Believe Protecting Public Lands is Good for Business and Support 'All-of-the-Above' Energy Policy

http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/public-lands/051512_colorado_public_lands_poll.php

Publisher: Small Business Majority
Published: May 15, 2012

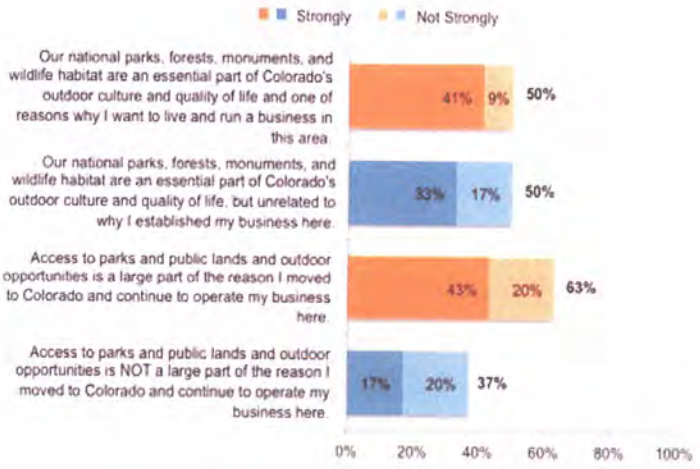
Small businesses are the lifeblood of our nation's workforce. We depend on them to keep local communities and economies thriving, which in turn boosts our national economy. But in the current fiscal climate, many of them are having a hard time turning a profit. Now is a better time than ever to help them get back on their feet, and scientific opinion polling reveals that small business owners in Colorado believe protecting their region's natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. Furthermore, a sizable majority of them find the president's 'all-of-the-above' energy development strategy appealing but would be even more supportive if it ensures protection of those public lands.

Main Findings

- **A majority of Colorado small business owners choose to do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands:**
  63% agree access to parks, public lands and other outdoor opportunities is a large part of the reason they live and do business in Colorado, and 43% strongly agree. Moreover, 50% agree (4 in 10 strongly agree) that Colorado's national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife habitats aren't just essential parts of the state's outdoor culture and quality of life, but also reasons to run a business there.

  Figure 1: A majority of Colorado small business owners choose to do business there because of opportunities tied to public lands

  Please indicate which of these statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither one is exactly right.



- **Colorado entrepreneurs support the president's 'all-of-the-above' approach for developing energy sources, especially if public lands are guaranteed protection:**
  Nearly three quarters, or 72%, support the Obama Administration's proposal for an 'all-of-the-above' energy policy that promotes development of various energy sources including solar, wind, biofuels, natural gas, oil and coal. If this strategy took an extra step to protect public lands, 55% would be more likely to support it. That's more than twice as many (26%) who would be less likely.

  Figure 2: Small businesses strongly support an 'all of the above' energy policy if it also protects public lands in Colorado

If this "all of the above" energy policy took an extra step to also include protecting public land so that some places in Colorado would remain open and accessible to visitors and free of development would you be more likely to support the "all of the above" energy policy from Congress and the Obama Administration, less likely to support this policy or would it make no difference either way?

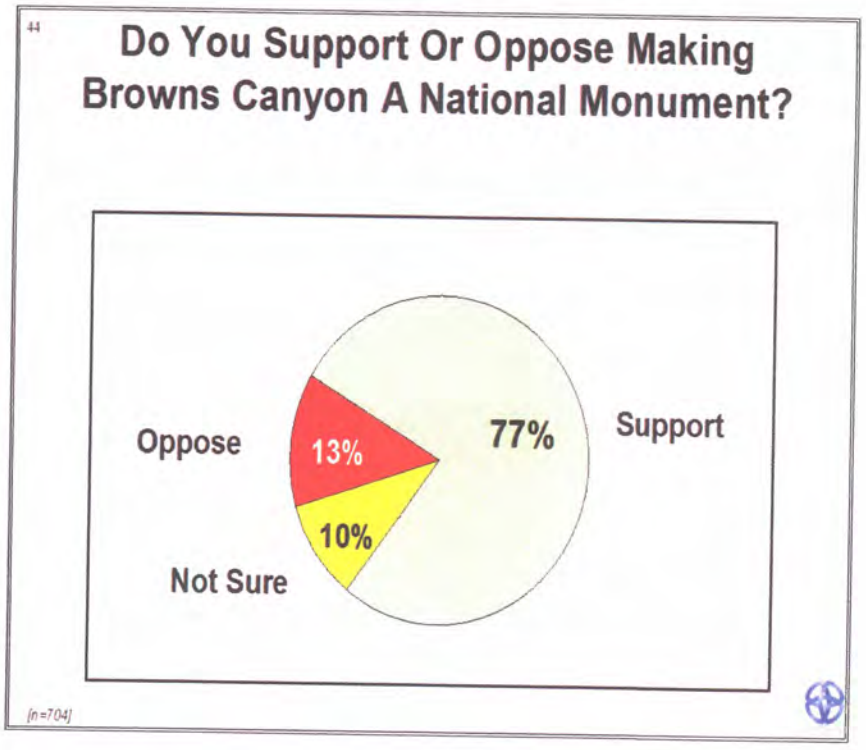
ing, while prohibiting new oil and gas drilling and other development.

There is a proposal to designate public lands in Browns Canyon and the Arkansas River Valley, near Buena Vista, Colorado, as a national monument…This designation as a national monument would allow continued vehicle access and public uses in Browns Canyon and the Arkansas River Valley such as hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and rafting. It would prohibit new oil and gas drilling, mining, and other forms of development. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to designate a new national monument at Browns Canyon and the Arkansas River Valley?

II. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS ON ISSUES RELATED TO BROWNS CANYON

Key Finding #1: Support for Designating Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

More than three-quarters (77%) of Colorado likely voters solidly support designating Browns Canyon as a National Monument, and 61% of voters say that stopping future mining claims in the Canyon would make them more likely to support it, compared to 24% less likely.



Key Finding #2: Strong Support for Browns Canyon runs across all Demographics, regions and Congressional Districts

Support for Browns Canyon runs strong in each region, and support in each Congressional District ranges from 74% to 83%. Even 62% of Republicans, 69% of those with hunting or fishing licenses, and 72% of male voters support it. Strongest support comes from female voters, Democrats and those living in the City and County of Denver.

[45] Demographic Results For Making Browns Canyon A Nat'l Monument : Compared to Overall 77% "Support" for Monument Status

-Except for Region & Congressional District, only statistically significant differences are shown-

Support for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument	Q10 Support
Region	
Metro Denver	78%
Not Denver Metro	75%
C&C Denver	85%
Springs/Pueblo	76%
Eastern Plains	65%
North Corridor*	76%
West Slope	74%
Republican	62%
Democrat	89%
Unaffiliated	79%
Males	72%
Females	81%

Support for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument	Q10 Support
Hunt/Fish License-Yes	69%
Hunt/Fish License-No	82%
Congressional District	
Males	72%
Females	81%
1	83%
2	80%
3	74%
4	74%
5	76%
6	74%
7	75%

[n=704] *North Corridor includes Boulder (also in Metro Denver), Jackson, Larimer & Weld Counties.

Local Elected Officials

Town of Buena Vista, Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 49
(Series 2012)

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO, SUPPORTING WILDERNESS PROTECTION FOR BROWNS CANYON

WHEREAS, Browns Canyon consists of spectacular public lands spanning approximately 23,000 acres of extraordinary scenic, environmental, economic, cultural and recreational value in Chaffee County; and

WHEREAS, the Browns Canyon supports year round habitat for diverse wildlife such as elk, bighorn sheep, fish, and birds, and encompasses an important wildlife migration corridor; and

WHEREAS, securing permanent protection for the Browns area will secure the quality of life and recreational opportunities directly related to our public lands; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that National Monuments and Wilderness areas create jobs and support positive economic development for communities near them; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument and Wilderness area would have a significant economic benefit to the town of Buena Vista through tourism, outdoor recreation opportunities, and people choosing to live in our community; and

WHEREAS, significant tourism revenues flow from this area in a state where tourism is the economic spine and there is significant potential for increasing these revenues through permanent protection of the Browns Canyon; and

WHEREAS, this swath of wild land offers a paradise for whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing, while supporting traditional land uses, including grazing, and is an outstanding place for observing nature in its entire splendor, offering a much-needed refuge for human solitude and spiritual rejuvenation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO:

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buena Vista state that the Town is in full and enthusiastic support of the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument and Wilderness area.

RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of July, 2012.

TOWN OF BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

BY: _____
Mayor, Joel Benson

ATTEST:

_____
Town Clerk, Mary Jo Bennetts

BUENA VISTA COLORADO
UNITED WE STAND
* SEAL *
DIVIDED WE FALL
INCORPORATED OCT. 28, 1879

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Joel Benson, Mayor, Town of Buena Vista

November 21, 2014

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

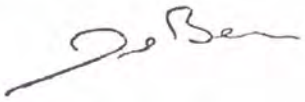
I serve as the elected Mayor of Buena Vista, am the owner of a small business, have a child in the local middle school and am an avid kayaker and whitewater rafter. I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,



Joel Benson
Mayor, Buena Vista
Owner, The Buena Vista Roastery

Keith Baker, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

My name is Keith Baker. I am a resident of Buena Vista where I serve as a Town Trustee. In the interest of full disclosure, I am also the Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. I am also a retired United States Navy commander and former owner of The Trailhead and Trailhead Cycle & Ski outdoor shop. We have met many times.

In all those roles and identities, I support designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For many years now, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with broad support, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations.

Please ask the President to designate of Browns Canyon National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Keith Baker

Eric Gibb, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape of Brown's Canyon. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas. The Town of Buena Vista Board of Trustees approved a resolution supporting the designation of Brown's Canyon as a National Monument.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Eric Gibb MD.
Physician, Town of Buena Vista Trustee, Parent, Business Owner

P.O. Box 937 · Buena Vista, CO 81211 · (719) 207-1951 · doc@docgibb.com
Clinic Location: 907 South Main Street, Buena Vista, Colorado 81211 · website: docgibb.com

Duff Lacy, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Buena Vista

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official, Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Buena Vista, business owner and citizen of Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support, as did the Board of Trustees of the Town Buena Vista by approving a resolution, for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

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A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Duff Lacy

Phil Puckett, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Beyond my role as a Trustee for the Town of Buena Vista, I'm also an outdoor enthusiast and parent of 3 children. I strongly support protecting this area for current and future generations. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Phillip Puckett

Trustee Phillip Puckett
Town of Buena Vista

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

David Volpe, Trustee, Town of Buena Vista

(b) (6)

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado' s outdoor legacy for present and future generations

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A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado' s outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

David Volpe

City of Salida Resolution

CITY OF SALIDA, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 30
(Series of 2013)

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR BROWNS CANYON OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER

WHEREAS, Browns Canyon consists of spectacular public lands spanning approximately 23,000 acres of scenic, environmental, economic, cultural and recreational value in Chaffee County; and

WHEREAS, the Browns Canyon supports-year round habitat for diverse wildlife such as elk, bighorn sheep, fish, and birds, and encompasses an important wildlife migration corridor; and

WHEREAS, securing permanent protection for the Browns area will secure the quality of life and recreational opportunities directly related to our public lands; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that National Monuments and Wilderness areas create jobs and support positive economic development for communities near them; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument and Wilderness area would have a significant economic benefit to the City of Salida through tourism, outdoor recreation opportunities, and people choosing to live in our community; and

WHEREAS, significant tourism revenues flow from this area in a state where tourism is the economic spine and there is significant potential for increasing these revenues through permanent protection of the Browns Canyon; and

WHEREAS, this swath of wild land offers a paradise for whitewater boating, hiking, fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing, while supporting traditional land uses including grazing, and is an outstanding place for observing nature, offering a much-needed refuge for human solitude and spiritual rejuvenation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALIDA, COLORADO:

1. The City is in full support of the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument and Wilderness area.

RESOLVED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 7th day of May, 2013.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

CITY OF SALIDA

[SEAL]

Mayor

ATTEST:

Betty Schwindgess
City Clerk

Jim Dickson, Mayor, City of Salida

City Of SALIDA — HEART OF THE ROCKIES

November 21, 2014

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

James Dickson
Mayor of Salida

448 E. FIRST STREET • SUITE 112 • SALIDA, COLORADO 81201
PH. 719.539.4555 • FX. 719.539.5271

Ellen Rogers, Council Member, City of Salida

City Of SALIDA

HEART OF THE ROCKIES

November 21, 2014

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

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A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Eileen J Rogers
Salida City Council Member
1010 F Street
Salida, Colorado 81201

448 E. FIRST STREET • SUITE 112 • SALIDA, COLORADO 81201
PH: 719.539.4555 • FX: 719.539.5271

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Keith Baker, Council Member, City of Salida

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely, Salida City Councilman

Keith Baker

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Tom Yerkey, Council Member, City of Salida

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senator Michael Bennet
458 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in Chaffee County, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

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A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Yerkey
Salida City Council

David Potts, Chaffee County Commissioner

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 699
104 Crestone Ave.
SALIDA, CO 81201

PHONE (719) 539-2218
FAX (719) 539-7442
WEBSITE www.chaffeecounty.org

January 7, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As a sitting County Commissioner of Chaffee County, Colorado I extend my support for the creation of the Browns Canyon National Monument. For all to understand that tourism is the current economic foundation of Chaffee County, that the rafting industry has not yet recovered from the drought of 2002 and we need to recognize the international marketing advantage that the industry will benefit from by floating through the Browns Canyon National Monument.

By supporting the creation of the Browns Canyon Monument, I understand from the presentation of the proposal that no existing uses will be affected in any manor detrimental to those uses. The proposal also states that the Turret Trail (FS 184) will remain intact for its current total of nearly seven miles.

In the development of "The Management Plan" there needs to be an element of understanding for impact on Chaffee County's infrastructure, specifically County Roads 194, 301 & 300. These county roads will be the main and easiest accessible routes to the proposed monument other than the Arkansas River. The county should be a member in standing of the "Management Team" with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Parks & Wild Life and receive due consideration for any further development, maintenance and general upkeep of these county roads because of the anticipated increase of use.

This letter of support speaks only for me and not for the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners as a whole.

Chaffee County Commissioner

D avid N Potts

David N Potts

State Elected Officials

December 3, 2014

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

As an elected official in the State of Colorado, I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Senator John Kefalas
Colorado Senate District 14

Senator Jessie Ulibarri
Colorado Senate District 21

Senator Matt Jones
Colorado Senate District 17

Senator Lucia Guzman
Colorado Senate District 34

Senator Irene Aguilar
Colorado Senate District 32

Representative Elizabeth McCann
Colorado House District 8

Representative Pete Lee
Colorado House District 18

Representative Su Ryden
Colorado House District 36

Representative KC Becker
Colorado House District 13

Representative Dominick Moreno
Colorado House District 32

Representative Paul Rosenthal
Colorado House District 9

Representative-elect Alec Garnett
Colorado House District 2

Representative-elect Susan Lontine
Colorado House District 1

Representative-elect Jeni Arndt
Colorado House District 53

Cc: Senator Michael Bennet
Governor John Hickenlooper

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Randy Fischer, Chairman, House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee, Colorado State Representative

State Representative
RANDY FISCHER
3007 Moore Lane
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80526-2103
Cell 970-215-7898
Home 970-226-5383
E-mail randyfischer@frii.com

Chairman
Agriculture, Livestock, & Natural Resources Committee
Member
Capital Development Committee
Transportation & Energy Committee

COLORADO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Capitol
Denver
80203

November 22, 2014

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

As an elected official in the State of Colorado, I am delighted to lend my support toward designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. As an avid outdoorsman myself, I can attest that this magnificent canyon deserves permanent protection to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. This Colorado canyon is our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination. Canyon recreationalists contribute more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy. The canyon is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. For these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Randy Fischer

Randy Fischer, Colorado State Representative
Chairman, House Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources Committee

Businesses and Community Members/Groups

Café Dawn

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth St.,
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

As a local business owner, I support permanent protection of the Browns Canyon area.

This area is important habitat for all 5 large wildlife species. Most of the 21,000 acres has been identified as a Potential Conservation Area because of it's unique ecosystem. Hikers, campers, boaters, fishermen, photographers and others enjoy its wild, rugged and unspoiled character.

This area remains relatively untrammeled by human influences. We need to preserve this small segment of land as it is, as it has been, and as it should remain. Wilderness areas like this are an important educational tool so that current and future generations can experience and enjoy the wild untamed natural heritage that is an important component of our nation's history.

The protection of the Browns Canyon area will be good for the environment, good for our local economy, and good for the people that live in and visit Chaffee County.

Sincerely,

cc. Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

cafe dawn

Organic Espresso
Teas & Baked Goods

203 West 1st Street
Salida, Colorado 81201
719-539-5105

Colorado Grown

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth St.,
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

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The protection of the Browns Canyon area will be good for the environment, good for our local economy, and good for the people that live in and visit Chaffee County.

Sincerely,

David Lynch

David Lynch

cc. Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

August 14, 2012

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Senator Udall,

The Colorado Chapter of ConservAmerica, formerly Republicans for Environmental Protection, strongly and wholeheartedly endorses the protection of the Browns Canyon area of Chaffee County as the Arkansas River Canyon National Monument as well as Option One of the three options suggested by Senator Udall as offering the most protection for an incredible landscape.

Protecting the area as a National Monument would be in the finest traditions of the Republican Party dating back to such legendary conservationists as Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot and moving forward to Barry Goldwater, Richard Nixon and even Ronald Reagan. As the proposed Monument is already public land, not one square inch of private property would be taken for the Monument and it would add an extra layer of protection and efficient management to the area.

Moreover, the proposed Monument would be good for the economy of Buena Vista, Salida and all of Chaffee County. A drive through La Junta along the Arkansas River on Colorado's Eastern Plains reveals a number of hotels and restaurants and other visitor-oriented businesses built since the National Park Service reconstructed Bent's Old Fort on the original site along the River and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. On the Western Slope, in Grand Junction and Fruita, there are many signs directing people to the Colorado National Monument and encouraging people to get off Interstate 70 and experience that magnificent landscape. State Parks and National Forests are great, but National Monuments are even better and even more distinctive and even bigger boosts for tourism.

Designating the Browns Canyon area as Colorado's newest national monument and giving it the best possible protection will be great for that incredible piece of landscape, great for the local economies and the economy of the entire state of Colorado and in keeping with Colorado's conservationist heritage. The Colorado Chapter of ConservAmerica strongly endorses it.

Sincerely,

Tom Pelikan, Littleton, Chapter President

Steve Bonowski, Lakewood, Chapter Vice President

Jo Johnson, Boulder, Chapter Treasurer

Dick Scar, Buena Vista, Chapter Secretary

Paul Steinhauer, Denver, Chapter President Emeritus

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Colorado River Outfitters Association

CROA

COLORADO RIVER OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

February 26, 2012

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Doug Lamborn
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Udall and Congressman Lamborn:

On behalf of the Colorado River Outfitters Association, I am writing to express our support of any efforts to permanently protect Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River.

Considered Colorado's most appreciated but unprotected landscape, Browns Canyon comprises roughly 23,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land. The area is renowned for offering a range of year-round opportunities for exploring Colorado's outdoors. Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the nation. The regional whitewater rafting, kayaking and all other whitewater sports industry accounts for over $23 million in direct expenditures for a total economic impact of over $60 million in the Arkansas Valley annually.

People from across the state and country regularly visit to go whitewater rafting, kayaking, hunting and fishing in Browns Canyon. For example, roughly 150,000 visitors participate annually in commercial rafting trips with our outfitters on this stretch of the Arkansas River alone, due in no small part to the area's outstanding wild scenery. Places like Browns Canyon are an important part of many Coloradoans' personal identity, and attract and retain talented individuals to the region to enjoy a high quality of life. By preserving this incredible landscape that surrounds the river, we can ensure that visitors continue to benefit from inspiring recreational experiences, and continue to sustain and grow our local and regional economy.

In Colorado, outdoor recreation activities generate over $10 billion annually in revenues to our state economy and supports 107,000 jobs. Our businesses depend on these visitors and the activities they come to enjoy. Colorado and the Arkansas River Valley is also an integral part of the national outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation economy, which contributes $1.06 trillion annually to the U.S. economy, and supports 9.4 million American jobs.

For over a decade, there have been bipartisan efforts to protect this unique area. Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves to be permanently protected to both ensure that the area will remain open to whitewater boating, fishing, hiking and other recreational pursuits to preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations. As a business association whose members and partners are dependent on this area for economic security, we strongly

P.O. Box 1662 • Buena Vista, CO 81211 • www.croa.org • (303) 280-2554

CROA

COLORADO RIVER OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION

support designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument or Wilderness area without further delay.

Sincerely,

Tom Kleinschnitz
Chairman

cc. Honorable Senator Bennet

P.O. Box 1662 • Buena Vista, CO 81211 • www.croa.org • (303) 280-2224

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Epic Whitewater

November 18, 2014

Senator Mark Udall
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Doug Lamborn
437 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Udall and Congressman Lamborn:

On behalf of American Adventure Expeditions and all of our employees, I'm writing to express our support of any efforts to permanently protect Browns Canyon here on the Arkansas River.

Considered Colorado's most appreciated but unprotected landscape, Browns Canyon is renowned for offering a range of year round opportunities for exploring Colorado's outdoors. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through this Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the entire country. The local whitewater rafting, kayaking, and whitewater related sports industry accounts for over $23 million dollars in direct expenditures and has an overall economic impact of over $60 million dollars in the communities along this amazing river valley.

People from across the state and the country regularly visit this area to go whitewater rafting, kayaking, fishing, or hunting specifically in Browns Canyon. Roughly 200,000 visitors participate annually in commercial rafting trips on the Arkansas River alone, due in no small part to the area's outstanding wild scenery. Places like Browns Canyon are an important part of many Coloradoans' personal identity, and attract and retain talented individuals to the region who are looking to enjoy a high quality of life. By preserving this landscape that surrounds the river, we can ensure that visitors will continue to benefit from inspiring recreational experiences, and that local and regional economies will continue to prosper.

For over a decade there have been bi-partisan efforts to protect this area. Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves to be permanently protected to both ensure that the area will remain open to the numerous recreational activities, but to also preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations. As a business owner whose family and employees are dependent upon this area for economic security, and as a Coloradoan who wants to protect this unique landscape, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument without further delay.

Regards,

Mike Kissack
Owner/Operator

Epic Whitewater. Inspired Hospitality.

12844 East Highway 24/285 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
719.395.2409 [illegible] • 719.395.2848 [illegible]
www.AmericanAdventure.com

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Incite Consulting, LLC

INCITE
CONSULTING, LLC
Project Management, Facilitation and Communication

February 22, 2012

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth St.,
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

Dear Senator Udall,

As a longtime Chaffee County resident, past Director of the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, Colorado State Park Ranger and now local business owner…

I support permanent protection of the Browns Canyon area.

This area is important habitat for all 5 large wildlife species. Most of the 21,000 acres has been identified as a Potential Conservation Area because of its unique ecosystem. Hikers, campers, boaters, fishermen, photographers and others enjoy its wild, rugged and unspoiled character.

This area remains relatively untrammeled by human influences. We need to preserve this small segment of land as it is, as it has been, and as it should remain. Wilderness areas like this are an important educational tool so that current and future generations can experience and enjoy the wild untamed natural heritage that is an important component of our nation's history.

The protection of the Browns Canyon area will be good for the environment, good for our local economy, and good for the people that live in and visit Chaffee County.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Wadsworth

Kathryn Wadsworth
Principal

cc. Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

Incite Consulting, LLC ~ PO Box 1504 Salida, CO 81201 ~ 719-207-1194 ~ kw@incite-consulting.com

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Dr. Jack Ferrell, Concerned Citizen

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, American Whitewater, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Presidential declaration without further delay.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Ferrell

(b) (6)

Lydia Hill, Concerned Citizen

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, American Whitewater, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Lydia Hill

(b) (6)

Jamie Keating Brick and Mortar Productions

January 20, 2012

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth St.,
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

Dear Senator Udall,

As a local business owner I writing to express support of any efforts to permanently protect Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River.

Considered Colorado's most appreciated but unprotected landscape, Browns Canyon comprises roughly 23,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land. The area is renowned for offering a range of year-round opportunities for exploring Colorado's outdoors. Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the nation. The regional whitewater rafting, kayaking and all other whitewater sports industry accounts for over $23 million in direct expenditures for a total economic impact of over $60 million in the Arkansas Valley annually.

Roughly 150,000 visitors participate annually in commercial rafting trips with our outfitters on this stretch of the Arkansas River alone. In Colorado, outdoor recreation activities generate over $10 billion annually in revenues to our state economy and supports 107,000 jobs. Our businesses depend on these visitors and the activities they come to enjoy.

For over a decade, there have been bipartisan efforts to protect this unique area. Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves to be permanently protected to both ensure that the area will remain open to whitewater boating, fishing, hiking and other recreational pursuits to preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations. As a business association our members and partners are dependent on this area for our economic security, we strongly support designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument or Wilderness area without further delay.

Sincerely,

Jamie Keating
JAIME KEATING
Brick+Mortar

cc. Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Kodi Rafting

KODI Rafting
PO Box 4275
Frisco, CO 80443

November 26, 2014

The Honorable Mark Udall

RE: Protection of Browns Canyon

Dear Senator Udall,

I would first like to thank you for your efforts to protect Browns Canyon for future generations. As a native of Buena Vista, I have been one of the fortunate people that have been able to enjoy Browns Canyon for a majority of my life. Now, my wife and I have owned and operated KODI Rafting for the last 14 years, and have been honored and proud to offer trips on one of the best rivers in the world – the Arkansas River and more specifically, through Browns Canyon.

I have had the opportunity to guide commercial rafts on 3 of the most popular rivers in the nation throughout my commercial boating career, The Gauley River in West Virginia, the American River in Northern California, and of course the Arkansas River. The Gauley and American Rivers are both great, but neither hold a flame to the beauty, and majestic whitewater that we find in Browns Canyon.
I am writing to let you know that KODI Rafting is in full support of protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument. We believe it will be nothing but great for the rafting industry and the communities surrounding Browns Canyon.

Talk of protecting Browns Canyon has come and gone for nearly 15 years, and thanks to your efforts and work, we have never been as close as we are now to actually making this happen. It would truly be a shame to lose the ground, momentum, energy and support that we have right now.

Thank you again for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Christian "Campy" Campton
Co-owner KODI Rafting

Land and Water Concepts

land&water concepts

Andy Riemenschneider
andy@lwconcepts.com

civil and architectural DESIGN

mobile: 505-690-5873
phone: 719-539-3135
fax: 719-539-3135

PO Box 705 Salida, Colorado 81201

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth St.,
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

As a local business owner, I support permanent protection of the Browns Canyon area.

This area is important habitat for all 5 large wildlife species. Most of the 21,000 acres has been identified as a Potential Conservation Area because of it's unique ecosystem. Hikers, campers, boaters, fishermen, photographers and others enjoy its wild, rugged and unspoiled character.

This area remains relatively untrammeled by human influences. We need to preserve this small segment of land as it is, as it has been, and as it should remain. Wilderness areas like this are an important educational tool so that current and future generations can experience and enjoy the wild untamed natural heritage that is an important component of our nation's history.

The protection of the Browns Canyon area will be good for the environment, good for our local economy, and good for the people that live in and visit Chaffee County.

Sincerely,

cc Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

Local Arkansas River Valley Businesses

March 1, 2012

Hon. Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Hon. Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretaries Vilsack and Salazar,

On behalf of the undersigned businesses, we would like to invite you to Salida, Colorado to learn about and discuss opportunities to permanently protect Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River as a National Monument.

Considered Colorado's most appreciated but unprotected landscape, Browns Canyon comprises roughly 20,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land. The area is renowned for offering a range of year-round opportunities for exploring Colorado's outdoors. People from across the state and country regularly visit to go rafting, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, climbing and hiking. For example, roughly 150,000 visitors participate annually in commercial rafting trips on this stretch of the Arkansas River alone, due in no small part to the area's outstanding wild scenery.

Our businesses depend on these visitors and the activities they come to our area to appreciate. In particular, our clients value the opportunity to experience the solitude and beauty that Browns Canyon provides. Protecting these attributes is essential to the future of our community's economic vitality.

Browns Canyon's economic contributions to the region are significant. Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater-rafting destination in the nation, and the regional rafting industry accounts for over $23 million in direct expenditures for a total economic impact of over $60 million in the Arkansas Valley annually. Activities like hiking and backcountry hunting in Browns Canyon contribute additional millions of dollars to the local economy each year.

For over a decade, there have been bipartisan efforts to protect this unique area as Wilderness or a National Monument. We strongly support these efforts and would be honored to meet with you in Colorado to further discuss how to protect this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Bill Dvorak
Dvorak Expeditions

Joe Greiner
Wilderness Aware Rafting

Keith Baker
The Trailhead

Ron Ferris
Riverboat Works

Tom Porkoney
Natural Habitats

Tim Kclo
Peak Solar Designs

Michael Kunkel
Lifestream Water Systems

Lee Hunnicut
Sea Grove Partners

Don Dill
Poncha Mini Storage

Ann Graf
Blue River Projects

cc: Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Mark Billerbeck, River Recreation Engineer

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to express my support for designating Browns Canyon as a national monument. Browns Canyon is a national treasure with outstanding fish and wildlife habitat and four-season outdoor recreation opportunities enjoyed by visitors throughout the state and across the country. It deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the preservation of Colorado's outdoor legacy for present and future generations.

For over a decade, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammeled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, American Whitewater, Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, Collegiate Peaks Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Colorado Wildlife Federation, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas.

Protecting Browns Canyon is important to both the local and state economy. It's our nation's most popular whitewater rafting destination—bringing in more than $23 million a year to the Arkansas Valley economy, is part of the longest stretch of gold medal fishing waters in the state, and provides abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation such as climbing, hunting, hiking, fishing, kayaking, birding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. Designating Browns Canyon will protect these important economic and cultural assets, along with critical winter range for the area's deer, elk, and big horn sheep.

A Browns Canyon National Monument will protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument by Congress or the President without further delay.

Sincerely,

Mark Billerbeck
City of Steamboat Springs, River Recreation Engineer
(b) (6)

Mountain Kids Childcare, INC

Mountain Kids' Childcare, LLC.
Helping Kids Reach New Heights
719.207.4792
230 East First street, salida

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth St.,
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

As a local business owner, I support permanent protection of the Browns Canyon area.

This area is important habitat for all 5 large wildlife species. Most of the 21,000 acres has been identified as a Potential Conservation Area because of it's unique ecosystem. Hikers, campers, boaters, fishermen, photographers and others enjoy its wild, rugged and unspoiled character.

This area remains relatively untrammeled by human influences. We need to preserve this small segment of land as it is, as it has been, and as it should remain. Wilderness areas like this are an important educational tool so that current and future generations can experience and enjoy the wild untamed natural heritage that is an important component of our nation's history.

The protection of the Browns Canyon area will be good for the environment, good for our local economy, and good for the people that live in and visit Chaffee County.

Sincerely,

Director

cc. Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

Now This Is Colorado.Com

Senator Mark Udall
999 Eighteenth Street
North Tower, Suite 1525
Denver, CO 80202-2499

Re: Browns Canyon

Dear Senator Udall,

The Chaffee County Visitors Bureau would like to extend its support for the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument. We will support any proposals which do not deny access to any user groups.

More than 150,000 visitors will annually float this stretch of the Arkansas River with a commercial rafting organization. In Colorado outdoor recreation generates more than $10 billion in annual revenues to our state economy and supports close to 107,000 jobs. Many businesses in Chaffee County depend on tourists and the tourism activities they come to enjoy.

Permanent protection such as a National Monument creates visibility for local communities which help safeguard and highlight the amenities that attract visitors and businesses that support and thrive from increased tourism.

A 2011 study of 17 recently established National Monuments found that without exception, local communities experienced economic growth following a monument's designation. Both jobs and tourism increased in those areas where national monuments had been established.

Respectfully,

April Prout-Ralph
Marketing Director
Chaffee County Visitors Bureau
www.NowThisIsColorado.com
april@NowThisIsColorado.com

cc. Rep. Doug Lamborn
Honorable Ken Salazar

River Runner

Travis Hochard

River Runner

24070 County Road 301

Buena Vista, CO 81201

November 17, 2014

The Honorable Mark Udall

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall,

My name is Travis Hochard and I am the general manager of River Runners, a whitewater rafting company located at 24070 County Road 301 in Buena Vista, Colorado at the river put-in for Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River.

I am writing to let you know River Runners supports the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument, if historic use of the Arkansas River is maintained for commercial river outfitters and private boaters.

Whitewater recreation is the lifeblood of this valley and this protection will help ensure it remains viable for future generations.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Travis Hochard

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Salida Mountain Trails

Salida Mountain Trails
A Chapter of Salida-area Parks Open-space &Trails
PO Box 748
Salida, CO 81201

Dear Senator Udall,

Salida Mountain Trails extends our support for designating Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

Destination mountain biking, trail running, hiking and other human-powered activities are vital to the Chaffee County economy. Colorado outdoor recreation generates more than $10 billion in annual revenues to our state economy and supports close to 107,000 jobs. Bicycling is one of the fastest growing trends in the outdoor industry with 50% of Colorado tourist engaged in some sort of cycling. Many businesses in Chaffee County depend on tourists and the tourism activities they come to enjoy. A Browns Canyon National Monument would draw these and other user groups to our area.

Permanent protection such as a National Monument creates visibility for our local communities. This in turn helps gain visibility for other attractions and amenities that draw visitors to Chaffee County and the businesses that benefit from tourism.

A 2011 study of 17 recently established national monuments found that without exception, local communities experienced economic growth following a monument's designation. Both jobs and tourism increased in those areas where national monuments had been established.

Salida Mountain Trails endorses efforts to permanently protect Browns Canyon through National Monument designation.

Sincerely,

Mike Sugaski

Salida Mountain Trails

The Pilates Studio

The Pilates Studio
Balance in body, mind & spirit.

300 W Hwy 291
Salida, CO 81201
719.539.4210

salidapilatesstudio.com
salidapilatesstudio@gmail.com

Steve O'Neill

February 20, 2012

Dear Senator Udall and Congressman Lamborn,

I am writing to express my support of any efforts to permanently protect the Browns Canyon area of the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, Colorado.

The Browns Canyon area comprises roughly 23,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land. The area is renowned for offering a range of year-round opportunities for experiencing Colorado's outdoors. Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in nation.

People from across the state and country regularly visit this area to hike, hunt, fish, or enjoy the spectacular scenery. Places like Browns Canyon are an important part of many Coloradoans' personal identity, and attract and retain talented individuals to the region to enjoy a high quality of life. By preserving this incredible landscape that surrounds the river, we can ensure that visitors continue to benefit from inspiring recreational experiences, and continue to sustain and grow our local and regional economy.

For over a decade, there have been bipartisan efforts to protect this unique area. Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves to be permanently protected to both ensure that the area will remain open to whitewater boating, fishing, hiking and other recreational pursuits to preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations.

My local Chaffee County business benefits greatly from tourists that come to this area to visit unique places like Browns Canyon. I strongly support more permanently protecting the Browns Canyon area.

Sincerely,

STEVE O'NEILL

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Town and Country Salida, INC

TOWN & COUNTRY
Salida, Inc. CHEVROLET PONTIAC BUICK

February 20, 2012

Dear Senator Udall and Congressman Lamborn,

I am writing to express my support of any efforts to permanently protect the Browns Canyon area of the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, Colorado.

The Browns Canyon area comprises roughly 23,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land. The area is renowned for offering a range of year-round opportunities for experiencing Colorado's outdoors. Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in nation.

People from across the state and country regularly visit this area to hike, hunt, fish, or enjoy the spectacular scenery. Places like Browns Canyon are an important part of many Coloradoans' personal identity, and attract and retain talented individuals to the region to enjoy a high quality of life. By preserving this incredible landscape that surrounds the river, we can ensure that visitors continue to benefit from inspiring recreational experiences, and continue to sustain and grow our local and regional economy.

For over a decade, there have been bipartisan efforts to protect this unique area. Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves to be permanently protected to both ensure that the area will remain open to whitewater boating, fishing, hiking and other recreational pursuits to preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations.

My local Chaffee County business benefits greatly from tourists that come to this area to visit unique places like Browns Canyon. I strongly support more permanently protecting the Browns Canyon area.

Sincerely,

Matt Brown

1520 Highway 50 • P. O. Box 128 • Salida, CO 81201
(719) 539-6641 • Fax (719) 539-6870
www.salidachevy.com

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Trout Unlimited

November 19, 2014

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU) we write to you in strong support of the designation of Colorado's Browns Canyon as a National Monument. TU is a national organization with more than 150,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. A national monument in Browns Canyon will advance our mission by protecting the outstanding Gold Medal trout fishery on the Arkansas River.

The canyon, which straddles the Arkansas River between the towns of Buena Vista and Salida, has long been a favorite destination for hunters and anglers. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide critical habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. The canyon section is an outstanding trout fishery that was recently awarded Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado—part of the longest stretch of Gold Medal water in the state. Each year it draws thousands of rafters and anglers.

Designation of the 22,000-acre National Monument will protect the area's current land uses such as hunting, fishing and grazing, and would ensure it retains its natural, undeveloped character. Besides preserving vital fish and wildlife habitat, the monument designation will also be an economic boon for the Arkansas River valley and the state, which depends on tourism and recreation dollars. Browns Canyon helps to support Colorado's $1.2 billion fishing economy and $500 million hunting economy. Its popularity with rafters makes Browns Canyon the single largest contributor to Colorado's $140 million whitewater rafting industry.

Bipartisan efforts have been underway for decades to protect the unique resources of Browns Canyon. Legislation to protect the area was first introduced in 1991, and since then there have been 13 separate Browns Canyon bills. Despite broad public support, none of these bills have passed Congress.
TU is proud to join hundreds of local citizens, outdoor businesses and sportsmen/-women in support of the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument. We respectfully encourage you to continue adding to your conservation legacy by protecting this vital area.

Sincerely,

Chris Wood
President and CEO
Trout Unlimited

David Nickum
Executive Director
Colorado Trout Unlimited

Keith Krebs
President
Collegiate Peaks Anglers Chapter,
Trout Unlimited (Salida, CO)

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of the Interior
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization
1777 N. Kent St. Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209
Direct: (703) 284-9403 • Fax: (703) 284-9400 • Email: cwood@tu.org • www.tu.org

Various Sportsmen Groups

February 29, 2012

Hon. Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Hon. Ken Salazar
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretaries Vilsack and Salazar,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we invite you to Salida, Colorado, at your convenience, to engage in a public dialogue and discuss opportunities to permanently protect Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River.

Browns Canyon comprises roughly 20,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM lands. The area is renowned for offering a range of year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation. People from across the state and country access it in large numbers for hunting, fishing, horseback riding, rafting, hiking and wildlife viewing. By protecting this habitat for deer, elk and other game species, as Colorado's habitat becomes more developed, we will ensure that Browns Canyon continues to be a destination area for hunting and fishing.

Much of Browns Canyon is important big game winter range, especially during stressful winter months when higher elevation habitat is blanketed in snow. The gulches and canyons in the area have small seeps to provide surface water year round for wildlife. This allows for outstanding opportunities for backcountry hunting. Bear, mountain lion, elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn inhabit the area. This stretch of the Arkansas River provides outstanding trout fishing throughout the scenic backdrop.

In Colorado, as you know, outdoor recreation generates more than $10 billion annually in revenues to our state economy and supports 107,000 jobs. Each year, more than 2.2 million people enjoy hunting, fishing and wildlife watching across Colorado, spending $3 billion on

wildlife-related recreation. Local businesses depend on these visitors and the activities they experience. This is also an integral part of the national outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation economy, which contributes $1.06 trillion annually to the U.S. economy, and supports 6.5 million jobs. This area also is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations, contributing more than $23 million annually to the Arkansas Valley economy.

For more than a decade, there have been bipartisan efforts to protect this remote yet accessible area as wilderness or as a national monument. Browns Canyon deserves to be permanently protected to ensure the area will remain open to hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation and that Colorado's outdoor heritage will thrive for future generations. We support these efforts and would be honored to meet with you in Salida, Colorado to further discuss how to protect Browns Canyon.

Sincerely,

Suzanne O'Neill
Executive Director
Colorado Wildlife Federation

David Nickum
Executive Director
Colorado Trout Unlimited

John Gale
Regional Representative
National Wildlife Federation

David Lien
Co-Chair
Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Media Clips

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Editorial: Make Browns Canyon a national monument

The Denver Post
November 29, 2014
http://www.denverpost.com/editorials/ci_27029551/make-browns-canyon-national-monument

Browns Canyon along the Arkansas River has been managed by the BLM as a Wilderness Study Area for more than a decade. Renowned for its whitewater rafting and kayaking, the 13-mile river run between Buena Vista and Salida attracts relatively few fishermen. Late-day launches offer plenty of solitude and good fishing even during this summer's drought. (John Fielder, Special to The Post)

Since the effort to protect Browns Canyon began nearly a decade ago, there have been countless meetings to air concerns and build consensus for additional safeguards for this beautiful place.

It has been a thorough process that has resulted in strong local support for giving this federal land a special designation.

The time has come.

Last week, Colorado's U.S. Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet asked the president to use his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns a national monument.

President Obama should do so in short order.

We had hoped Congress would recognize the strength of Colorado support, measured by itslongevity, bipartisan nature and enthusiasm of proponents, and approve a Browns protection bill.

With each passing day, that seems a more unlikely proposition, particularly considering the changing of the guard that will come with the end of the the 113th Congress.

The presidential designation would offer additional protections to 22,000 acres along the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista. The area encompasses Gold Medal trout waters and important wildlife habitat, and supports a recreation-based economy.

Bennet and Udall invited administration officials to visit Chaffee County to hear what community members think about the idea.

The administration should waste no time in taking action. The designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument should be an easy call.

The Pueblo Chieftain

Different route sought for Browns Canyon

The Pueblo Chieftain
By Chris Woodka
November 27, 2014
http://www.chieftain.com/news/3100691-120/monument-national-udall-bennet#sthash.GHOBgNzm.dpuf

Call it a portage around the legislative process.

Colorado's U.S. senators have asked President Barack Obama to use executive authority to declare Browns Canyon a national monument.

U.S. Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, both Democrats, have sponsored legislation, S.1794, to make it a national monument, but this week said they are interested in looking at other possible avenues to achieve that status.

The 22,000-acre site is located between Buena Vista and Salida along the Arkansas River.

Udall is leaving the Senate in January after he was defeated in the Nov. 4 election by U.S. Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo.

Control of the Senate will shift to Republicans when members are seated in the next session.

Bennet and Udall are asking the president to declare Browns Canyon a national monument under the 1906 Antiquities Act. "While we remain committed to the legislative process, the gridlock in Congress has stymied this proposal and many others," Udall and Bennet wrote in the letter. "We feel the future economic benefits of a national monument designation are significant for the region, and we should not allow congressional gridlock to deprive Colorado of those benefits."

They invited members of the Obama administration to tour the area in Chaffee County, which they said is an important scenic and recreational asset to the regional economy.

"While we remain committed to the legislative process, the gridlock in Congress has stymied this proposal and many others."
U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and Mark Udall

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Udall, Bennet ask Obama to consider Browns designation using Antiquities Act

The Mountain Mail
November 26, 2014
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_97487750-758e-11e4-9f7e-771a590aba71.html

In a letter to President Barack Obama, U.S. Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet asked the president to consider exercising executive authority to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument under the Antiquities Act, according to a press release.

In the letter, the senators said there is broad support in Chaffee County for legislation they cosponsored that would designate 22,000 acres of federally owned land a national monument. "Over 200 local businesses, many land- and water-based recreation and sportsmen organizations, the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Colorado River Outfitters Association, the Arkansas River Outfitters Association, the Vet Voice Foundation, the Hispanic Access Foundation and many others support protecting Browns Canyon," the letter states.

"The town of Buena Vista and the city of Salida passed resolutions of support, and a majority of Chaffee County commissioners support the legislation with its carefully crafted conditions."

Despite the local support, gridlock in Washington is preventing the bill from moving forward, which is why the senators are asking the president to consider using executive authority permitted under the Antiquities Act, according to the release.

The Antiquities Act, which was passed in 1906, authorizes the president to "declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the government of the United States to be national monuments."

Udall introduced legislation in December for his proposed Browns Canyon National Monument, but the bill failed to make it to a vote. The bill, like others, will be wiped from the record if it is not passed before the new Congress takes office in January.

"While we remain committed to the legislative process, the gridlock in Congress has stymied this proposal and many others," the Udall-Bennet letter stated.

The senators said the economic benefits are significant enough to warrant consideration from the president, and they invited members of the administration to visit Chaffee County and talk with residents about the importance of Browns Canyon.

Greenwire

Colo. senators urge Obama to act on Browns Canyon designation

By Phil Taylor, E&E reporter
November 26, 2014

Colorado's two Democratic senators yesterday asked President Obama to consider using his executive powers to protect Browns Canyon along a stretch of the Arkansas River popular among anglers and whitewater rafters.

The **letter** to Obama from Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet marks a turning point in a decadelong legislative push to protect the rugged granite canyon and surrounding wildlife, including black bears, bighorn sheep, elk and mule deer.

The senators said efforts to pass Udall's **S. 1794**, to designate 22,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands along the Arkansas River as the Browns Canyon National Monument, have been stymied by congressional gridlock and that it's time for Obama to act.

"We feel the future economic benefits of a national monument designation are significant for the region, and we should not allow congressional gridlock to deprive Colorado of those benefits," the senators wrote. "We believe it is necessary to begin discussing the possibility of a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act. As part of this process, we hope that administration officials can visit Chaffee County to hear directly from Coloradans about the future of Browns Canyon and its value to their community."

The letter was opposed by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.),, whose 5th District encompasses the canyon and who has not sponsored a companion bill in the House.

"The use of the Antiquities Act to circumvent Congress is an abuse of executive privilege that robs the American people of a fair and open process and stifles the input of the affected community," he said in a statement. "I am disappointed in Sens. Bennet and Udall for trying to shut out some of my constituent's opposition instead of working to address their concerns."

A Conservation Colorado poll from last summer found that 3 in 4 Coloradans support protecting Browns Canyon as a national monument, according to *The Chaffee County Times*. The proposal is also backed by the mayors of Buena Vista and Salida, which bookend the proposed monument to the north and south, and two of Chaffee County's three commissioners, according to the senators.

The Obama administration at a July hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee backed Udall's bill, which also calls for more than 10,000 acres of wilderness within the monument, a higher form of protection that only Congress can grant.

The senators' call for White House action was praised by sportsmen's groups, including Trout Unlimited, which touts Browns Canyon as part of the state's longest gold-medal trout fishery. It also drew support from recreational outfitters, who take thousands of rafters down the river each year.

"A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list," said Joe Greiner, owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting in Buena Vista. The Obama administration took a cautious approach to national monument designations during its first term but in the past year has

shown a willingness to designate larger and more contentious areas.

Obama in May designated the 500,000-acre Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico, in spite of opposition from the local congressman, Republican Steve Pearce.

He last month designated the 350,000-acre San Gabriel Mountains National Monument outside of Los Angeles, a couple of months after five House Democrats from California urged him to do so.

A similar move could score political points in Colorado, which is expected to be a key battleground state in the 2016 presidential election. It would be a going-away present for Udall, who lost his re-election race this month to Rep. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.).

Obama has said he plans to continue using his monument powers under the Antiquities Act, but Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in late May told *Greenwire* that Browns Canyon was not yet on her radar for monument protections.

Republicans have opposed monument designations, calling them a run around Congress. Critics say the 1906 law was intended to protect small areas at imminent threat of development or plunder but that it is being used today for political gain.

The Denver Post in a December 2013 **editorial** said designating Browns Canyon as a monument is "long overdue," in part because it would prevent new mining claims, though the *Post* at the time also noted that congressional designation is preferable.

How a presidential monument is managed -- including what roads stay open and which uses may continue -- is determined in large part by what values the president orders protected in the monument proclamation.

Udall has said his bill would maintain existing uses, including river running, hunting, angling, grazing and motorized access on all designated roads in the area. The bill also contains language saying local ranchers can continue to run livestock in the area, as well as a boundary adjustment to clearly exclude cattle watering tanks from the national monument.

Colorado: Senators Udall and Bennet ask President Obama to use Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument

Summit County Voice
by Bob Berwyn
November 25, 2014

Citing gridlock in Congress, Colorado's U.S. Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet have asked President Obama to consider designating Browns Canyon, in Chaffee County, as a national monument under the Antiquities Act.

The request comes as Congress has all but ignored a huge backlog of public lands bills primarily based on ideological opposition to land protection measures by House Republican committee chairs.

According to Udall and Bennet's Nov. 25 letter to President Obama, community leaders in the Browns Canyon area suggested the Antiquities Act path, recognizing the significant economic benefits of the designation for regional tourism-based businesses.

A pending Senate bill back by Udall and Bennet would designate about 22,000 acres on either side of the Arkansas River as a national monument. Rafting and fishing on the Upper Arkansas already generate about $52 million for the local economy.

The designation was shaped by a three-year process starting at a local grassroots level. Congress failed to pass any of the previous bipartisan measures for a monument designation, including a 2006 effort led by Republican Joel Hefley. The designation is supported by local governments and business associations.

"We feel the future economic benefits of a National Monument designation are significant for the region, and we should not allow Congressional gridlock to deprive Colorado of those benefits," Udall and Bennet wrote, inviting Obama administration officials to visit Chaffee County on a fact-finding trip.

THE HILL

Browns Canyon in Colorado should be next National Monument designation

The Hill
By Garett Reppenhagen
November 25, 2014
http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/225245-browns-canyon-in-colorado-should-be-next-national

When I returned home from Iraq, where I served as a U.S. Army sniper, I grabbed my sleeping bag, a water purifier, and a fishing pole and hiked into the Pike National Forest near where I live in Colorado. I stayed until I was tired of eating fish. I credit my time in our national public lands as a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of war. It not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect. I'm proud to join the ranks of U.S. veterans, like my Vietnam veteran father and grandfathers who served in World War II, who understand the tradition of military service and the importance of our public lands as a part of our identity as Americans. This relationship between veterans and America's landscapes is deeper than most people realize.

With the creation of the first National Parks, veterans and active duty members of the Army were the first stewards of places like Yellowstone and Yosemite, before park rangers even existed. Rangers protecting our public lands today have their roots in this service that veterans provided our country around the turn of the 20th century.

The story of American veterans protecting our natural heritage must begin with Harry Yount. Yount was an American Civil War Soldier who served in the Union Army as a Company Quartermaster Sergeant, who became America's first National Park Ranger. In 1880, Yount was hired as the first gamekeeper for Yellowstone National Park, which had been signed into law as the country's first National Park in 1872.

In the first eight years of the Park's existence, illegal logging and poaching of the ecosystem's bison, deer, elk, and antelope occurred without abandon. Yount was hired to protect the iconic species in Yellowstone – can you imagine Yellowstone National Park today without the bison? -- and in his 14-month stint in the park, he protected wildlife and advocated for a full-time ranger force. Yount's legacy lives on -- this Civil War veteran now has an award named after him, which the National Park Service awards annually to an exemplary National Park Ranger.

Yosemite's protection has its roots in the military, too. As a U.S. Army Cavalry scout, its one I'm particularly proud of. When Congress created Yosemite National Park in 1890, the iconic valley and granite peaks were placed under the watchful protection of Troop 1 of the 4th Cavalry. The U.S. Army reigned in overgrazing and dispatched patrols to scout and assess the landscape, vastly improving existing maps. Troop 1 was soon joined by the Buffalo Soldiers, the first peacetime all-Black regiments in the US Army, many of whom previously served during the Civil and American Indian Wars. They were assigned to patrol and protect Yosemite, as well as Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Another note about the cavalry and our public lands: did you know the iconic park ranger hats you see today evolved from the cavalry hats the Buffalo Soldiers wore on duty in Yosemite?

This relationship between the U.S. military and our national public lands is one that must have the opportunity to flourish in the future.

Protecting Browns Canyon here in Colorado is a great way for our country's leaders to show that they are serious about ensuring there are protected places for Veterans, and all Americans. Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent.

Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a National Monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. It's the type of place where I can imagine taking a rafting trip down the Arkansas River with members of my regiment after a long deployment. It's also a place I hope to someday take a daytrip with my wife and newborn son Ocean. Perhaps it is where I could begin to pass on to him my love of fishing in a place known for its premier trout waters.

With the fewest number of veterans now in Congress since World War II, I fear too few of our elected officials understand the relationship Veterans have with national public lands, for they have not acted to protect Browns Canyon despite overwhelming local and national support. Fortunately, Barack Obama has the authority to protect it for the benefit of all Americans. The President should designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument to ensure that present and future generations of veterans and their families can remain connected to, and be stewards of, our public lands and waters.

Reppenhagen is Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Letter: Support Browns Canyon protection

The Mountain Mail
November 10, 2014

Dear Editor:

As a Colorado native, I must admit that I've never been through Browns Canyon. However, after attending the recent Browns Canyon Live event by Sportsmen for Browns Canyon and talking with folks, it's now on my bucket list.

I think it's great that the campaign is informing the people who live and work in Denver about the importance of protecting such a unique place. Many of us work hard and enjoy our state's prized wildlife and environment in our downtime. I'm surprised that people would even think of mining in this area. Haven't we been through all of this already?

While planning my trip to float Browns next spring, I hope in the meantime we can work together to protect this valuable asset.

It's not often that you find these truly wild places, so I urge everyone to look into the facts and provide their support to ensure that future generations can enjoy our lands.

Bryan Stevens,
Denver

DENVER Westword

Video: Save Browns Canyon Campaign Launches With Civic Center Light Show

Denver Westword
By Alan Prendergast
November 7 2014

Between Buena Vista and Salida, the Arkansas River sweeps through Browns Canyon, an area of granite cliffs and rugged backcountry that's popular with elk, bighorn sheep, mountain lions and black bears -- not to mention hunters, anglers, rafters, hikers and campers. But this quintessential slice of Colorado wilderness is also attracting increasing interest from mining companies, and that's prompted a sportsmen's group to embark on an unusual campaign, featuring billboards and a recent flashy light show downtown, to get Browns Canyon designated as a national monument.

The downtown event, "Browns Canyon Live," involved an eye-popping display of images on the facade of the McNichols Building in Civic Center, in an effort to introduce urbanites to some of the wild wonders of the canyon. Ghost Pixel Visuals put together a multimedia show that used digital mapping to make a suitable canvas out of the building's neoclassical features. A recap video of the October 17 performance can be found below.

Note the cameo in the video by Mark Udall -- who, before his costly defeat in the sludge match with Cory Gardner over his Senate seat, backed legislation that would grant national monument status to 22,000 acres of Browns, preserving fish and wildlife habitat in the canyon and aiding local tourism.

Billboards promote the "monumental" campaign.

The pretty lights are only the first round of the preservation push by Sportsmen for Browns Canyon, which describes itself as "a grassroots coalition of hunters and anglers." The group has also leased two billboards along I-70 through Denver pushing Udall's proposal.

"We just want to keep Browns Canyon the way it is -- pristine and wild," said Kyle Perkins, the Sportsmen for Browns coordinator, in a prepared statement. (Perkins also serves as a campaign coordinator for Trout Unlimited.) "Our goal with the video event was to visually bring this amazing place to the heart of downtown Denver."

Wilderness enthusiasts may not find the glitz of the light show to have much in common with the lure of the backcountry, but judge for yourself.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Grassroots group pushes Browns Canyon designation

The Mountain Mail
by Ryan Hoffman
November 4, 2014
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_e50a5da4-643c-11e4-a044-0017a43b2370.html

A statewide grassroots coalition of hunters and anglers fighting to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument recently stepped up efforts to create more awareness on the Front Range. Sportsmen for Browns Canyon hosted an event in downtown Denver Oct. 17 promoting Browns Canyon and attempts to make it a national monument. The event drew a large and diverse crowd, said Kyle Perkins, Trout Unlimited's coordinator of the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon campaign.

"We gained supporters and heard a lot of questions," Perkins said. "It was really interesting to see the demographics – younger people, older people, people middle-aged, urban people."

In addition to the live event, Trout Unlimited – a national conservation advocacy group that is backing Sportsmen for Browns Canyon – is paying for several billboards on Interstate 70 in Denver. The first billboard, which went up in early September, reads, "Monumental: Protect Browns Canyon."

Another billboard will go up and stay up until mid-November. Perkins said he did not know how much money Trout Unlimited paid for the billboards.

The billboards will reach an estimated 180,000 people per day, and many of those people are hunters and anglers who have visited Browns Canyon, Perkins said. Still, many of those same people are unaware of the efforts to preserve the canyon as a national monument.

"What's interesting is you ask who's fished in Browns Canyon and most people raise their hands, and then you ask who knows they've been trying to protect this for 20 years and half those hands drop," Perkins said.

The most recent attempt to protect the canyon is being made by Sen. Mark Udall. He proposed a bill in December that would preserve approximately 22,000 acres, consisting of "nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, natural, wilderness, historic, scenic, riparian, geological, educational and scientific values," according to the first draft of the bill. While supporters argue there is little opposition to preserving Browns Canyon, the bill has yet to make it out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. When the Senate reconvenes after the November election, it will only have a couple of months to pass any remaining bills – including Udall's – before the new legislature is sworn in and old bills are wiped from the record.

Still, the senator is optimistic he can get the bill through, said Mike Saccone, Udall communications director.

"That is our goal, and we're optimistic we can get it through," Saccone said. "If for whatever reason it doesn't happen, we will continue to push the legislation."

That could be a challenge. Udall is facing Rep. Cory Gardner in a race that most polls say is too close to call.

Gardner's communication director, Alex Siciliano, did not respond to an email and several phone calls asking if Gardner would support or propose legislation similar to Udall's bill.

Efforts to preserve Browns Canyon have been going on for the last 20 years, and so far none of those efforts have been successful, said Bill Dvorak, Friends of Browns Canyon president. The desire to protect the canyon became more urgent in 2011 after a mining ban expired and multiple claims were filed. Currently, five claims have been filed, but no actual mining has been done in the canyon, Dvorak said.

He and others have worked with Udall to get his bill in the Senate. While Dvorak said Gardner's election to the Senate would make it harder to get the issue through, he and others will continue to work regardless of what happens on Election Day.

"We're going to continue working on it until we get it done," he said.

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

50-year-old gift keeps on giving

Chaffee County Times
October 3, 2014
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_313bc184-4a54-11e4-93be-001a4bcf6878.html

Fifty years ago last month, the Wilderness Act became law and we took a huge step toward conserving some of what makes this country so special. All Americans are beneficiaries of the law that has set aside more than 100 million acres to maintain stunning landscapes, waterways, wildlife – and ensure our ability to reconnect to nature.

While these lands belong to all Americans, those of us in Colorado and the West are especially fortunate. Many wilderness areas, national monuments and parks, and Bureau of Land Management recreation areas are nearby and give us easy access to hunt, fish and recreate on these protected lands.

People across the country are marking the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. That law and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, also 50 years old this year, were proposed and approved with strong bipartisan support.

Since then, public support has only grown for conserving our pristine watersheds, flowing rivers, fish and wildlife. There are now 757 federal wilderness areas nationwide. Driven by widespread community support, new national monuments in New Mexico and California were recently designated.

Closer to home, hunters, anglers, hikers, local elected officials, business owners and area residents have been working for several years to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. A bill by Sen. Mark Udall and co-sponsored by Sen. Michael Bennet would ensure that the wild places, great fishing and abundant wildlife will be around for generations. I want my 8 month old granddaughter to have the same opportunities I've had to be out among the rugged granite walls where you can hear raptors overhead and spot bighorn sheep. As a fishing and rafting outfitter, I've spent more hours than I can count fishing the river and riding the rapids on the Arkansas, which now boasts Colorado's longest stretch of Gold Medal trout waters – 102 miles.

We know that conserving our back country, fish and wildlife habitat and wild places is good for business. Outdoor recreation in Colorado generates $13.2 billion in consumer spending and supports 124,600 direct jobs, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. The Arkansas River is one of the most popular whitewater rivers in the county. In 2013, recreation on the river generated nearly $56 million in economic benefits.

We also know that Coloradans support conserving public lands and protecting our waters and wildlife.

This year's bipartisan Conservation in the West Poll by Colorado College found that 94 percent of the voters surveyed said they had visited

public lands in the last year. And 72 percent said they're more likely to vote for a candidate who supports enhancing protections for some public lands, such as national forests and BLM lands.

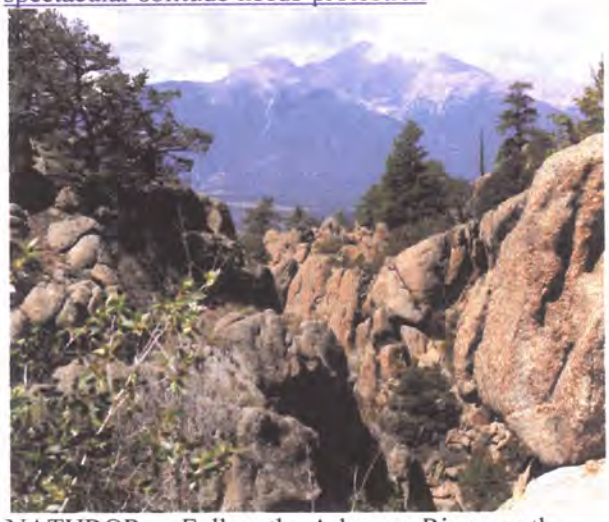
A half-century later, public support is still strong for protecting the great landscapes that remain. We can thank the architects and supporters of the Wilderness Act and other key public lands laws and programs for conserving this great legacy. It's up to us now to make sure that places like Browns Canyon still offer places to enjoy nature generations from now.

Bill Dvorak has run Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions since 1969 and has been a Nathrop resident since 1984. He was Colorado's first licensed river outfitter, teaches swift water rescue and technical rope rescue courses as well as kayaking, rafting and fishing instruction. Dvorak is also the current president of Friends of Browns Canyon.

REPORTER-HERALD

"Other" Browns Canyon provides spectacular solitude, needs protection

By Scott Willoughby with *The Denver Post*
August 17, 2014
http://www.reporterherald.com/opinion/rh-line-calls/ci_26351159/other-browns-canyon-provides-spectacular-solitude-needs-protection



NATHROP — Follow the Arkansas River south from Buena Vista, across the Fisherman's Bridge to the Ruby Mountain campground and boat launch, and park near the end of the road. Now walk away. With your back to the river, head east, past the sign banning bikes and motors, and follow the trail until you begin to wonder if there really is a trail.

Walk on.

It will take some time, minutes measured by the hundreds of heartbeats required to generate the necessary sweat, but eventually the sound of ravens and raptors, even the gentle purr of hummingbirds, will overtake the noise of the highway and heavy breathing that brought you there. Ensconced in rolling hillsides and oblong granite gorges, you will soon begin to distinguish the difference between a national monument and a Wilderness Area.

There are no marked trails in the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area, nor are they much needed. The overwhelming majority of visitors to this treasured Chaffee County landscape never set foot on a trail anyway. They merely hop in a rubber raft or kayak and paddle the Arkansas River as it flows south past the Collegiate Peaks toward Salida.

This 7,303-acre Wilderness Study Area (WSA) spanning seven miles along the eastern edge of the Arkansas qualifies as the "other" Browns Canyon. Recognized for its rugged backcountry values, it's the part seen only by those who seek out the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation that may someday earn it formal designation as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

It's a far cry from the Browns Canyon most visitors know. The river caravan of more than 110,000 boaters and float fishermen annually passing through Browns Canyon proper qualifies it among the most popular whitewater destinations in America. And that familiar fleet is a vital component of the current push to designate the entire area as Colorado's newest national monument.

The discussion is not entirely new, although the combination of preservation through promotion offers an interesting twist.

Protection of up to 100,000 acres in the Browns Canyon area has been a topic of conversation from Chaffee County to the halls of Congress for decades, and a variety of bipartisan efforts to safeguard its future have made their way to Washington through the years. In 2005, legislation to protect Browns Canyon was introduced by Congressman Joel Hefley and Sen. Wayne Allard. It was ultimately derailed by opposition from the National Rifle Association over a lack of ATV access.

The latest legislative proposal (S. 1794) is carried by U.S. Sen. Mark Udall and co-sponsored by Sen. Michael Bennet. Their proposed 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument includes both pieces of the puzzle — a federal Wilderness designation expanded to 10,500 acres alongside existing multi-use recreational sites ranging from whitewater

paddling to mountain biking and motorsports, hunting and fishing throughout.

The land is currently managed as a patchwork of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, with parcels of Colorado State Parks and some private property in the form of a defunct rail like thrown into the mix. While national monument designation is unlikely to change much of that, it raises the question of compatibility between contrasting sides of the same coin.

The most vocal supporters of the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act made a presentation to the Senate National Parks Subcommittee last month citing the economic benefits associated with monument status, the star on the map designed to attract more tourist dollars to the river's $55 million annual economic impact. But an influx of tourists would seem antithetical to the Wilderness mission, defined as "an area where the earth and community of life are untrammeled by man."

Is it possible to achieve both at once?

"I've been asked why we need to make Browns Canyon a national monument - why can't we just leave it as it is?" said Bill Dvorak, a local rafting outfitter, hunter and longtime advocate of both Wilderness and monument designation. "My response has always been that if we do nothing, there's no way to ensure Browns Canyon and its wilderness will in fact be left as it is. Without the protections of the national monument bill, the federal lands could be sold off, mined or mismanaged under future federal administrations."

One of Dvorak's greatest fears became reality last year when a cluster of mining claims covering 100 acres in Browns Canyon were filed during a temporary lapse in protections for the area due to a legal technicality. Permanent monument and Wilderness designation would prevent such threats while maintaining recreational flexibility in the future, Dvorak said.

On the other hand, the options for land managers trying to contain human impacts in designated Wilderness are somewhat limited. Forbidden by statute to build structures for bathrooms or campgrounds in the Wilderness portion of the monument, the most effective means of mitigating an influx of human traffic on the environment is through trailhead permits, a quota system limiting the number of users.

At the moment, such a system is far from necessary. Aside from the river itself, it's the ATV trails that share parking with the WSA boundary that attract the most traffic. Other than hunters, most hikers never venture far from existing facilities.

Then again, that star on the map doesn't exist, yet.

"People have compromised through the years to come up with a plan that will work," Dvorak said. "It's time to take action to make sure that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come."

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Brockmeier: Browns Canyon something Democrats and Republicans can agree on

Summit Daily News
July 31, 2014
http://www.summitdaily.com/news/12413859-113/browns-canyon-letters-national

Browns Canyon something Democrats and Republicans can agree on

I am so relieved that Browns Canyon is one step closer to being designated as a national monument. In this season of constant bombardment by political commercials with each party attacking the other, it is easy to develop a political apathy. However, today's development of Browns Canyon passing the national parks subcommittee hearing gives me some hope. There has to be some issue that both Democrats and Republicans can agree on, and I think that protecting Browns Canyon can be one of those.

It's really a common-sense initiative that would not only protect an iconic Colorado landscape but also help to boost the local economy. A bill so widely supported seems like it would be something both parties can get behind.

A recent poll showed that 77 percent of Coloradans support the designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument. My hope is that our congressmen and -women will refrain from any partisan bickering and support what their constituents already know, that designating Browns Canyon as a national monument is good for Colorado.

Connor Brockmeier, Breckenridge

The Gazette

Movement to make stretch of Arkansas River a national monument passes first hurdle

The Colorado Springs Gazette
By Lance Benzel
July 24, 2014
http://gazette.com/movement-to-make-stretch-of-arkansas-river-a-national-monument-passes-first-hurdle/article/1534245#ezKtFjPQV7yUpR2P.99

A bill to designate Browns Canyon in Chaffee County as a national monument passed its first legislative hurdle Wednesday.

The measure, which would protect a 22,000-acre stretch of the Arkansas River between Buena Vista and Salida, was approved by the Senate National Parks Subcommittee. It will next be heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. No timetable has been set.

The canyon is a popular destination for rafting and fishing, and drives tourism and spending in the area west of Colorado Springs.

The bill was introduced in December by Sen. Mark Udall. It would allow all current uses, including rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, livestock grazing, mountain biking and motorized vehicle use.

Many previous attempts at protecting Browns Canyon have failed, falling victim to conflicts over motorized use and whether permanent federal restrictions should be imposed.

COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO

Bill to turn Browns Canyon into National Monument gets first hearing

Colorado Public Radio
By Mark Bevis
July 23, 2014
http://www.cpr.org/news/story/bill-turn-browns-canyon-national-monument-gets-first-hearing#sthash.kufH3Bap.dpuf

A bill to turn Browns Canyon in Colorado into a National Monument got its first hearing in a U.S. Senate subcommittee Wednesday.

The bill would protect 22,000 acres along the Arkansas River, between Salida and Buena Vista, Colorado, and include another 10,500 acres as new wilderness area.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udal, D-Colo., sponsored the bill and says local communities also support it.

"Both the towns of Buena Vista and Salida passed resolutions in support, and two of the three Chaffee County commissioners, both Republicans, support the legislation with its carefully crafted conditions," Udall told the Senate National Parks Subcommittee.

Those conditions include allowing all legal uses currently in the area including hunting, livestock, rafting and motorized vehicles. It would also ban any mining in the area along the river banks and river bed.

The bill now moves to the full Energy and Natural Resources committee.

If Congress approves the bill, Browns Canyon would join the Natural Bridges, the Statue of Liberty and the Giant Sequoias as a National Monument.

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THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Hispanic clergy: Protect Browns Canyon in Colorado

The Denver Post
By Joseito Velasquez and Rigo Magaña
July 23, 2014
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_26201982/hispanic-clergy-protect-browns-canyon-colorado

This week, the U.S. Senate is expected to hold a hearing on providing permanent protection for Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River. As pastors, we want to see our public lands protected -- we have a moral obligation to do so. We also see the need for Congress and the White House have an opportunity to work with the faith community and others throughout Colorado.

Last month, President Obama protected the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument near Las Cruces, N.M. These lands are significant to Hispanics because of our history with these lands, and because our families today can access and enjoy them.

Fortunately for Colorado, President Obama said, "I'm not finished."

Protecting Browns Canyon would ensure these public lands near Salida are protected from mining and other energy development, while providing a boost in economic benefit from recreation and tourism for nearby communities. We've been to Browns Canyon and can vouch for the beauty of the place. In fact, we'll be taking dozens of our youth to Browns Canyon for camping and whitewater rafting later this month as part of Latino Conservation Action Week.

Late last year, Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., unveiled a proposal to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument. "Over the last 18 months I developed this bill working side-by-side with Chaffee County leaders, residents, businesses and other stakeholders," he said. "We developed this community-driven bill to ensure future generations of Coloradans can enjoy Browns Canyon's unique mix of whitewater and wilderness."

Now that Browns Canyon will finally have its day in the Senate, it's important for policymakers to take into account the Latino perspective on issues such as this. In Colorado, for instance, the Latino population accounts for more than 21 percent of Colorado's total population. And the polling reinforces the amount our community supports protections of public lands.

In 2012, Colorado College released its annual State of the Rockies Conservation in the West poll, which found that 94 percent of Latinos agreed that public lands such as forests, national parks, monuments and wildlife areas are essential parts of the Western states' economies. Additionally, the 2014 Colorado College survey found that Latino voters were more likely than non-Hispanic whites to agree that conservation issues such as clean water supplies, park funding and air quality are a serious problem.

As leaders within the Latino community, we recognize that we have an important voice in the protection of our public lands and we should not be afraid to use it. All Latinos have a critical role to play in encouraging stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage. Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife.

We applaud Sen. Udall's efforts thus far to permanently protect Browns Canyon. We urge the Colorado congressional delegation and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to listen to communities of faith like ours. But, ultimately, we need President Obama to recognize the importance of Browns Canyon to Colorado's natural environment and our local economies.

We have a moral responsibility. We belong to the land, it doesn't belong to us — to serve as its stewards and protect our outdoor heritage. Let's hope the Senate fulfills this responsibility to protect Browns Canyon.

Joseito Velasquez is a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center in Denver. Rigo Magaña is a paster with New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

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Regional: Browns Canyon closer to national monument status

Post Independent
By Sebastian Foltz
July 23, 2014
http://www.postindependent.com/news/grandjunction/12319589-113/browns-canyon-bill-monument

Browns Canyon — already one of Colorado's most popular whitewater rafting and fishing destinations — is expected take a step closer to achieving national monument status this week. Sen. Mark Udall will present the bill in a U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee hearing set for 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23. If approved the bill will move on to the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee before being submitted for approval in front of the full Senate and House of Representatives.

"We're making good progress on the bill," Udall spokesman Mike Saccone told the Daily Tuesday. "Sen. Udall's goal is to get it through Congress this session."

Close to two years in the making, the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act was introduced in Congress in December 2013. The bill would preserve 22,000 acres surrounding the Browns Canyon stretch of the Arkansas River — between Buena Vista and Salida — and include 10,500 acres designated as a new wilderness area.

The proposal has been well received by a number of conservation groups as well as Chaffee County area fishing and whitewater outfitters.

"We're excited about it," Arkansas River Outfitters Association president Mike Kissak said. "Browns Canyon is a very special place and we're excited to protect it."

In addition to preserving the land, area residents like Kissak — who owns American Adventure Expeditions rafting company — said the bill should also help the local economy, which relies primarily on tourism.

"It's a very positive thing for my business, for rafting and the community as a whole," Kissak said. "Protecting a place like that is important to everyone in the valley."

Udall spent time in 2013 meeting with various community groups and holding public comment sessions to receive input on his initial draft of the bill. He and others have said that the proposition would "put a gold star on the map," potentially leading to an increase in out-of-state and international tourism.

According to the Bureau of Land Management, Browns Canyon annually receives about 94,000 to 155,000 visitors from commercial rafting trips alone. Those figures do not include private boaters, fisherman or other guests.

Kissak said there is room for growth under current permit allotments, which are expected to stay in place if the bill is approved.

In addition to being a popular whitewater destination, Browns Canyon also was recently awarded gold medal status for trout fishing by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

A poll released Tuesday by Conservation Colorado revealed that 77 percent of the state's residents surveyed approved of the monument designation proposition.

Wednesday's subcommittee hearing will be streamed online at www.energy.senate.gov and will include several other public lands bills. If the act is approved by Congress, Browns Canyon will join popular travel destinations like Muir Woods, Fort Sumter, the Statue of Liberty, Devils Tower, Mount St. Helens and a number of other sites as a national monument.

Coloradans Want Browns Canyon to be the Next National Monument

Wildlife Promise, National Wildlife Federation blog
By Judith Kohler
July 22, 2014

For Bill Dvorak, permanent protection for southern Colorado's Browns Canyon has been a long time coming.

Dvorak is the National Wildlife Federation's public lands organizer in Colorado He's also one of the best-known outfitters in the state and has been leading fishing and rafting trips down the Arkansas River since the early 1980s.

Some of the best rafting runs through Browns Canyon, prized for its rugged, undeveloped terrain that is at the same time easily accessible to Colorado's populous Front Range. It's among the country's top whitewater destinations. Activities on the river generated an estimated $55.7 million in economic benefits last year, according to the Colorado River Outfitters' Association.

The area about 150 miles southwest of Denver is also renowned for abundant wildlife, a Gold Medal fishery and backcountry hiking and camping. For at least two decades, area business owners, residents, hunters, anglers, wildlife watchers and other conservationists have campaigned to protect Browns by making it a national monument and designating some of the area as federally protected wilderness.

Proponents of maintaining the wildlife and recreation mecca are rallying around a proposal by Colorado Sen. Mark Udall that would establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument. The bill, S. 1794, co-sponsored by Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, will get a hearing Wednesday by the Parks Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"We've been working for more than 20 years to protect Browns Canyon. We've had public meetings that drew hundreds of people, nearly all of them supporters of making sure Browns stays the way it is now," Dvorak said. "This has been a grassroots effort. The bill that would make it a national monument is the response to what the public has been seeking for a long time."

The recently designated Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande del Norte national monuments, both in New Mexico, had widespread public support. President Barack Obama used the Antiquities Act to establish the monuments after legislative attempts failed.

Bill Dvorak, in the green shirt to the left, took Sen. Mark Udall, front right, on a river trip through Browns Canyon over the Fourth of July holiday. Photo by Luke Dvorak

Udall's legislation would classify 10,500 acres within the proposed Browns Canyon monument as wilderness. About 8,000 of that has been managed by the Bureau of Land Management as wilderness as it considered recommending the designation. Existing access and land uses, including hunting, commercial outfitting, motorized travel and livestock grazing, would continue.

Browns, with its granite rock formations and sweeping views of the Arkansas Valley and the Collegiate Peaks, several of which tower more than 14,000 feet, is home to bighorn sheep, elk, deer, black bears, mountain lions, eagles and falcons.

The canyon is an important part of the economy, drawing tourists and people who have moved to surrounding communities for the quality of life, Dvorak said. He believes making it a national monument likely would boost the economic benefits while conserving it for future generations.

"A monument designation would put a star on the map next to Browns Canyon," Dvorak said.

Browns Canyon: monumental

July 11,2014 by Randy Scholfield
http://www.tu.org/blog-posts/browns-canyon-monumental

It's not a household name. It's not on every angler's bucket list. But make no mistake: Browns Canyon is something special.

Browns is part of a 100-mile stretch of the Arkansas River recently designated as Gold Medal Trout Water by the state of Colorado--think wild, big browns. And the backcountry is a favorite destination for elk, deer and bighorn sheep hunters.

Now Colorado sportsmen are making a renewed push to protect this rugged backcountry and river canyon.Colorado Sen. Mark Udall has introduced legislation that would forever protect the 22,000-acre sportsmen's paradise as a national monument, and local support for the designation is bipartisan and overwhelming.

Trout Unlimited this week helped launch a new website--Sportsmen for Browns Canyon--that makes it easy to join the effort and let our leaders know you want this special place protected. In a release, TU's Browns Canyon coordinator, Kyle Perkins, said, "We just want to keep it the way it is--wild and pristine." Also check out this recent oped in the Denver Post from former Colorado governor Bill Ritter, who notes that a Browns Canyon designation would be a tremendous boost to Colorado's important recreation and tourism economy.

Browns is a "last best place" worth protecting. Join the effort and help us get this done.
Randy Scholfield is TU communications director for the Southwest region.

The Chaffee County Times
BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

A scarce and valuable resource

The Chaffee County Times
July 11, 2014 by Dick Scar
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_8b25f04c-07ca-11e4-87c9-001a4bcf6878.html

People who have lived in congested other parts of our country can appreciate the wide-open spaces we live in here. Most people in our country live where there is so much nightlight that they never see the stars. It's difficult to get away from the din of traffic noise in the big cities.

We are really fortunate to have designated wilderness and other roadless areas within easy driving distance here in our state and county. Land without roads is a rare and rapidly diminishing resource in the United States, one that cannot be remade or restored. It is a valuable resource that will increase in value as time goes by.

Even though our county contains portions of the Buffalo Peaks and Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Areas, there are few, if any, points in Chaffee County farther than 5 miles from a road. I think we have enough roads.

Our family operated an outdoor specialty shop, The Trailhead, in Buena Vista for 32 years. During that time we saw visitors from across the country and around the world who were attracted to the nearby wilderness areas. Many passed through on their way to more distant wilderness areas. They had nothing like these places near where they lived.

Jan and I led commercial hiking trips into wild areas of five western states for the first 15 years of our business. A primary reason was to introduce our guests to such places so they could experience them first-hand and often for the first time. They came away with a sense of ownership and profound appreciation that led to their becoming strong advocates for preserving such areas.

Wilderness has many resource values. Besides the economic value of visitors coming to our area to experience places without roads, it serves as important habitat for wildlife, another key attraction. Roads disrupt and fragment this habitat. Undisturbed vegetation provides valuable protection for watersheds.

Wilderness also protects the air quality throughout a region. It offers a place for quiet and solitude. Only one noisy motor can shatter the peace of an entire headwater basin. One of the best wilderness experiences is to visit as an observer and spend unhurried time watching a functioning natural ecosystem. Lying under the stars at night puts a person in proper perspective.

Our country was once all wilderness. Now only 2.7 percent of the contiguous United States is protected as wilderness.

This wild land molded our country. It was an important heritage for us living today. Future generations deserve to know what our land was like before development.

I know what it's like to live in a congested, highly developed urban setting. It's important to

be able to leave that setting once in a while and get to some natural peace and quiet. That's why I testified before U.S. House and Senate subcommittees in support of the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Bill which included the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area.

The proposed Wilderness Area within a Browns Canyon National Monument is a small parcel by wilderness standards. The 10,500 acres proposed for wilderness in Sen. Udall's bill is only about 10 percent of what once was the Aspen Ridge Roadless Area covering more than 100,000 acres. But the wildlife habitat and watershed contained in this remnant should be protected. Renegade ATV and motorcycle users have illegally entered the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area for years from the 100,000-acre Fourmile Area to the north. It only takes a few irresponsible users to cause much resource damage. A lacework of user-created trails can easily be seen from the air. The soil erosion that results during a rain sends silt down into the Arkansas River.

The designation of a Browns Canyon Wilderness Area would preserve land at a lower elevation than that contained in current designated areas and would be a fine addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Dick Scar is a co-founder of The Trailhead in Buena Vista, operated guide service Rocky Mountain Expeditions and helped introduce paddle-sports to the Upper Arkansas Valley.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Sportsmen group steps up Browns Canyon awareness

The Mountain Mail
July 11, 2014 by James Redmond
http://www.themountainmail.com/sports_outdoors/article_a4e4515e-0914-11e4-ad15-0017a43b2370.html

Sportsmen for Browns Canyon announced a new push Tuesday to raise awareness and to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument.

A coalition of outdoor sports enthusiasts, Sportsmen for Browns Canyon is expanding its efforts to let everyone in the state know about Browns Canyon and the legislation introduced by Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) to designate the area as a national monument, Kyle Perkins, Trout Unlimited's organizer of the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon campaign, said Thursday.

The group has begun spreading information through sportsmen in the state while stepping up its press releases and other media.

Sportsmen for Browns Canyon launched a new website the week of July 6, which will help rally hunters and anglers to support monument protections for the canyon, a release from the group stated.

"Several prominent hunting and fishing businesses and sportsmen conservation groups have already signed on to the campaign, including Colorado Trout Unlimited, Ross Reels, Fishpond, Umpqua, RepYourWater, Scott Rods, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Bull Moose Sportsmen and Anglers Covey," according to the release.

"Browns Canyon is a special place for sportsmen," Perkins said. "We just want to keep it the way it is – wild and pristine."

For decades, the Bureau of Land Management managed Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area, a designation that prevents mining and development, the release stated.

In 2011, the mining ban expired, and several gold mining interests filed claims along the river that, if developed, could damage or destroy wildlife habitat in Browns Canyon – and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go with it, according to the release.

"That sent off alarm bells," said Perkins. "As hunters and anglers, we have to protect this place or risk losing it."

Udall's legislation would "designate Browns Canyon a national monument and protect – for all time – the 22,000-acre backcountry area and its current mixed uses, which include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, wood-gathering, grazing and horseback riding," the release stated.

Besides preserving vital fish and wildlife habitat, the monument designation would be an economic boon for the Arkansas River Valley and the state, which depend on tourism and recreation dollars.

"The outdoor recreation industry is big business, and nationally, it is double the size of the auto industry," David Leinweber, owner of Angler's Covey, a fly-fishing shop in Colorado Springs, said. "A monument would help protect this resource and grow our local recreation economy."

"The immediate need is for sportsmen and women to speak up and tell our leaders that Browns Canyon must be protected," Perkins said.

THE OUTDOOR WIRE
The Outdoor Industry's Daily Transactions Newsletter

Sportsmen's coalition seeks monument status for Browns Canyon

The Outdoor Wire

July 11, 2014

http://www.theoutdoorwire.com/story/1405019346hz2wc59bgg0

Launches campaign for enhanced protections for a Colorado 'last best place'

(Denver)-A coalition of sportsmen's groups this week announced a new push to protect Browns Canyon, a unique natural and economic resource, as a national monument.

Browns Canyon, on the Arkansas River between Buena Vista and Salida, has long been a favorite destination for hunters and anglers, said the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon group. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry forests provide critical habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. And each year, thousands of rafters and anglers float the upper Arkansas River through Browns. The canyon section is an outstanding wild trout fishery that was recently designated Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado-part of the longest stretch of Gold Medal waters in the state.

"Browns Canyon is a special place for sportsmen," said Kyle Perkins, Trout Unlimited's organizer of the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon campaign. "We just want to keep it the way it is-wild and pristine."

Colorado Sen. Mark Udall has introduced legislation that would designate Browns Canyon a national monument and protect-for all time-the 22,000-acre backcountry area and its current mixed uses, which include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, wood-gathering, grazing, and horseback riding. Besides preserving vital fish and wildlife habitat, the monument designation would also be an economic boon for the Arkansas River valley and the state, which depend on tourism and recreation dollars.

For decades, the BLM has managed Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area, a designation that prevents mining and development. But in 2011, the mining ban expired, and several gold mining interests have filed claims along the river that, if developed, could damage or destroy wildlife habitat in Browns Canyon-and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go with it.

"That sent off alarm bells," said Perkins. "As hunters and anglers, we have to protect this place or risk losing it."

Sportsmen for Browns Canyon this week launched a new website, which will help rally hunters and anglers to support monument protections for the canyon. Several prominent hunting and fishing businesses and sportsmen conservation groups have already signed on to the campaign, including Colorado Trout Unlimited, Ross Reels, Fishpond, Umpqua, RepYourWater, Scott Rods, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, , Bull Moose Sportsmen, and Anglers Covey.

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Springs. "A monument would help protect this resource and grow our local recreation economy."

"The immediate need is for sportsmen and women to speak up and tell our leaders that Browns Canyon must be protected," said Perkins. For more information, and to sign up to join the coalition, please visit www.sportsmenforbrowns.com or contact Kyle Perkins at kperkins@tu.org.

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Ritter: Browns Canyon should be protected as a national monument now

The Denver Post
By Bill Ritter Jr., Former Colorado Governor
July 10, 2014
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_26124731/browns-canyon-should-be-protected-national-monument-now

Last month, 100 eager faces gathered amid the sound and spray of the swollen Arkansas River for a crash course in history, ecology and customer relations. Colorado's newest crop of river guides had gathered in Salida to learn about Browns Canyon, which will be their home for the next several months as they lead visitors through the whitewater of one of Colorado's most iconic and popular landscapes.

Browns Canyon is both an economic driver and a pillar of life in the upper Arkansas Valley. The values that attracted these guides - and that will draw tens of thousands of visitors this summer - are what make Browns Canyon a jewel worthy of preservation as a national monument.

The river valley and surrounding mountains provide ideal habitat for a variety of species: peregrine falcons, golden eagles, elk, bighorn sheep, bobcats, to name a few. Hikers, hunters and anglers treasure this quiet and rugged landscape and the unique experiences it offers. The 100-mile section of the Arkansas River that includes Browns Canyon was recently designated as Colorado's longest stretch of Gold Medal Trout Water, sustaining some of the state's most

productive fishing and attracting more than 100,000 anglers a year.

And it's no secret that Browns Canyon is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the U.S. Beginning in June, and for the next few months, more than 200,000 visitors will paddle down the Arkansas River, generating more than $55 million in revenue.

Over the years, there have been a variety of community-driven efforts to safeguard the future of this pristine place. In 2005, legislation to protect Browns Canyon was introduced by Congressman Joel Hefley and Sen. Wayne Allard, both Republicans. The companion bills, which ultimately were derailed by special interests, had the support of more than 100 local

businesses, not to mention Colorado's entire congressional delegation.

The latest legislative proposal, carried by U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, reflects this same broad, bipartisan and community-driven approach. In fact, his bill to set aside the canyon and 22,000 acres of adjacent public land as a national monument is the result of 18 months of meetings, public-comment sessions and written input from Chaffee County leaders, residents, businesses and other stakeholders. This is how public lands designations should be done — and I strongly urge Congressman Doug Lamborn, whose district includes Browns Canyon, and the entire delegation to get behind this grassroots bill.

If other recent national monument designations are any guide, Browns Canyon is a no brainer. For example, consider the recent designations of Point Arena-Stornetta seashore along the rocky northern California coast and 500,000 acres of rugged land in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks of New Mexico. These are valuable additions to our national heritage, protecting for future generations access to land for hunting and outdoor recreation, critical wildlife habitat, and places of cultural and historical significance.

And the public supports a similar designation in Colorado.

In polling conducted last year, two-thirds of voters in nine western states said that protecting public lands for future generations was very important to them. And in Colorado College's annual "Conservation in the West" poll earlier this year, a stunning 98% of Coloradans said that public lands are an "essential part" of the state's economy, providing recreation opportunities and enhancing our quality of life.

It's hard to argue against such sentiment, considering that outdoor recreation supports 125,000 jobs and is responsible for more than $13 billion in spending each year in Colorado. That translates to almost a billion dollars in annual revenue for local and state governments.

Places like Salida and Buena Vista know this already. They recognize the threat that things such as potential mining in Browns Canyon pose to their quality of life. The only guarantee for ensuring that the canyon remains the lifeblood of the upper Arkansas Valley for generations to come is to protect it in perpetuity.

Recognizing Browns Canyon as a national monument is the best way to ensure that its many unique values are safeguarded and remain available to us and our kids far into the future. We should not wait any longer. The time to act is now.

Bill Ritter served as governor of Colorado from 2007-2011. He is currently the director of the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University.

the buzz on the flyfishing biz
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Sportsmen's coalition seeks monument status for Browns Canyon

Angling Trade
7/10/2014
http://www.anglingtrade.com/2014/07/10/sportsmens-coalition-seeks-monument-status-for-browns-canyon/

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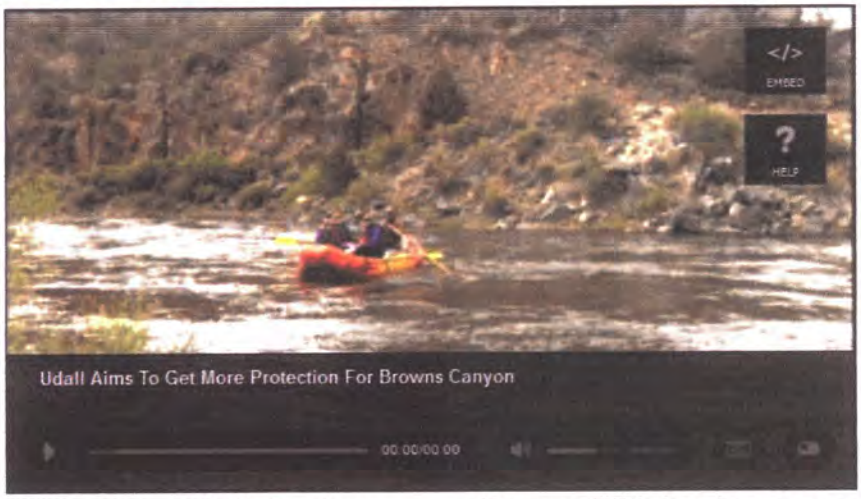
CBS

Udall Aims To Get More Protection For Browns Canyon

CBS – Denver
July 4, 2014
http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/07/04/udall-aims-to-get-more-protection-for-browns-canyon/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter



CHAFFEE COUNTY, Colo. (CBS4)- For three decades one of the most popular rivers in Colorado has flowed through an uncertain future but one senator wants to turn it into a national monument.

The Arkansas River flows through Browns Canyon, where a majority of the 250,000 people who raft in Colorado each year make their destination.

Browns Canyon (credit: CBS)

"Somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 to 100,000 people are going through Browns Canyon each summer," said The Adventure Company owner Mark Hammer.

With the holiday weekend, boat after boat makes the trip through the canyon.

"I've been through this canyon hundreds of times, a lot of memorable moments," said Hammer. "This is quite a mecca right here for wildlife."

Browns Canyon, with its magnificent rock formations is deemed a wilderness study area.

"More protection is what the public wants," said Hammer.

"It's temporarily protected. We want to protect it for the long term," said Sen. Mark Udall, a Democrat representing Colorado.

Udall has written a bill that would make 20,000 acres around the Arkansas River south of Buena Vista a National Monument.

"It'll put a gold star on the map for Chaffee County. We'll draw more people here to this river corridor to experience it and it'll create a year-round economy here," said Udall.

There is strong local support for the added protection, especially from rafting companies.

"So almost every river we offer has a road alongside it, where as this does not," said Hammer. "Seeing that places like this are so hard to find anymore in my opinion it would be great to have it protected forever."

"In the end people here want to know this will be managed for the natural values and for the recreational values and the wildlife so no further development can take place," said Hammer.

Udall said the best case scenario is that the legislation could be passed by the end of the year for business owners like Hammer.

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THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Udall visits Salida

The Mountain Mail
July 3, 2014 by Merle Baranczyk, Mail Editor and Publisher
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/election/article_feef6b64-02c2-11e4-8bd9-0017a43b2370.html

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) talks with Salida community members following an informal meet and greet Wednesday outside Moonlight Pizza & Brewpub. Udall, who is running for re-election, visited the area to talk with locals and hear their views on his politics, according to a news release from his office.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall said every dollar spent on the front end working to prevent forest fires saves $10 on the back end.

Speaking outdoors at a campaign rally Wednesday evening at Moonlight Pizza in Salida before 40 supporters, Udall said, "It's the smart thing we can do," noting steps Congress has taken to add firefighting assets such as air tankers.

As raindrops fell on the gathering, Udall said he won Chaffee County in 2008 by some 400 votes while President Barack Obama carried the county by just 4 votes.

"With your help, we're going to do it again," he said.

The Democratic Party, he said, is going to focus on getting the vote out, with a goal of getting 40,000 more voters to the polls for the election, tracking registrations and then following up by encouraging voters to get their ballots filled out and returned.

"That's how we're going to win," he said.

Udall cited the need to continue to build support for creating a Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area. As a national monument, Browns would make the valley's economy stronger as well as protect a resource.

"We need to make the list (of Browns' supporters) as big as possible," he said.

Noting this week's U.S. Supreme Court decision on birth control, Udall said five men are making decisions for millions of American women.

He said he was proud to have voted for both Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

Noting differences between himself and his opponent, Cory Gardner, Udall said his GOP challenger does not believe in climate change in spite of the fires and floods the state has had to deal with in recent years.

Congressman Gardner, Udall said, voted to shut down the government over budget issues which resulted in millions of dollars lost in communities like Estes Park, a gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, a vote that he called reckless.

"A senator doesn't act that way," Udall said.

He said the country is waiting for the Republican Party to ends its civil war so the nation can deal with issues such as immigration reform.

"I'm waiting for the Republican Party of old to come back."

Udall said he voted against going into Iraq and was "deeply disappointed" with how President George W. Bush conducted that war.

Of the current crisis in Iraq, he said any U.S. involvement "must be paid for up front."

He said he "wants to see democracy flourish, but we need to be smart about what we support." He said leaders in Iraq need to bring the different political factions together.

Udall said he will continue to stand up to the CIA and other entities who are invading the privacy of Americans.
Udall said he enjoys climbing Colorado's mountains though he's not as quick getting to the top as he once was, and he's "seen the bottom" of the Arkansas River while kayaking on more than one occasion.

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

States working together to protect public lands

The Denver Post
By Dave Chadwick, Garrett VeneKlasen and Suzanne O'Neill
July 3, 2014
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_26085663/states-working-together-protect-public-lands?source=rss

Public land management in the West has never been easy. With so many interests at stake, it can be tough to find the right balance between land protection and multiple use.

Over the last few months, however, the debate over public land management has gone from difficult to toxic. A handful of extremists have captured public attention with angry protests and threats of armed conflict. Land management, their story goes, is fundamentally broken and can only be fixed by ignoring the law or dismantling government agencies altogether.

This narrative is dramatic but wrong. What is broken is the ability by some to have respectful dialogue that leads to commonsense solutions. Federal lands are held in the public trust for all Americans. Proximity should not bestow special privilege, but rather a heightened sense of stewardship.

So no, federal land management isn't broken. In fact, people all over the West have been working together and getting past old disagreements:

• In Montana, conservationists, landowners, outdoor businesses and communities have been working to protect the Rocky Mountain Front, the North Fork of the Flathead River, and wilderness lands around the state. They've built consensus and found ways to protect natural areas, preserve ranching and other traditional land uses, and maintain access for hunting, fishing and other recreation.

• In Colorado, bipartisan community-driven efforts to protect Browns Canyon and Hermosa Creek Watershed with little opposition have been under way for a long time, followed with bills introduced by our senators. Similar broad support had paved the way for Chimney Rock to become a national monument.

• In both northern and southern New Mexico, tribal leaders, Hispanic land grant heirs, state and county officials, sportsmen, ranchers and business leaders came together and helped convince President Obama to designate two new national monuments, Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. A similar effort is under way to create the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness near Taos.

This kind of collaboration is happening all over the West. People from all walks of life have looked at the issues, found common ground and crafted ways to manage natural resources for everyone's benefit.

These grassroots efforts don't grab headlines like gun-waving trespassers and angry mobs. Respectful dialogue doesn't get airtime on the 24-hour news channels, but it does represent the reality of Western public land management.

These solutions are possible because they make economic sense. Protected public lands support local economies, and not just through tourism. Although recent estimates show that more than $50 billion was spent on visits to public lands in 2012 alone, protected public lands also attract businesses and high paying jobs.

Our organizations have participated in many of these efforts, representing the views of outdoor recreationists including hunters, anglers, viewers,

wildlife photographers and others. Last month, we visited Washington to encourage our elected officials to enact legislation to implement the plans we've helped develop around the West.

While a few bold leaders have stepped forward to advocate for local land management solutions, Congress seems paralyzed. Committees appear to have given up on moving any bills to protect federal lands, no matter how broad the local consensus. Congressional leaders of both parties are crippled by the fear of letting "the other side" take credit for the smallest victory.

This gridlock over federal land management is a slap in the face to the people that have put so much effort into building local consensus.

Congressional leaders from both parties need to honor the hard work that people all over the West have put into improving public land management. They need to pass legislation to protect the Rocky Mountain Front, Columbine Hondo, Hermosa Creek, Browns Canyon and other priorities around the West. Then maybe our elected officials can rediscover how much can be accomplished when we work together.

Dave Chadwick is executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation. Garrett VeneKlasen is executive director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. Suzanne O'Neill is executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation.

The Chaffee County Times
BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

Wilderness is worth championing: Guest View with U.S. Sen. Mark Udall

The Chaffee County Times
July 3, 2014
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_a192d072-02be-11e4-9be0-001a4bcf6878.html

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colorado) leads a hike through the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area on April 3, 2012, to get input on his proposals to designate the Arkansas River Canyon as a national monument and the adjacent Browns Canyon as wilderness.

Coloradans understand that we don't inherit the earth from our parents — we borrow it from our children.

That covenant is woven into the fabric of the West, and it's why protecting our public lands links us not only to our parents and grandparents, but also the earliest days of Colorado and the rugged men and women who settled the West.

The story of our nation and the American West is an epic chronicle of exploration, ambition and grandeur. As Americans embraced Manifest Destiny — the famous travels of Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, John Wesley Powell and all the lesser known treks — they discovered stunning beauty and a landscape that would inspire the song "America the Beautiful" and countless other odes to our nation's landscape. Those whose paths crossed Colorado discovered everything from the vastness of the eastern plains to the tallest, snow-capped peaks to the red rock canyons of the Western Slope.

Even today, these wild places inspire us and offer a place of refuge to seek the renewal that only nature can provide. We in Colorado understand that nature changes us and gives us perspective on life and what's truly important.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act — which has been used to protect many of these breathtaking public lands —we should reflect not only on how wilderness is an essential part of Colorado's special way of life, but also upon the work we still have to do.

One of the best examples of my ongoing effort to protect Colorado's natural gems is my grassroots Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act, which would designate 22,000 acres surrounding the Arkansas River as the Browns Canyon National Monument, including 10,500 acres as Wilderness.

My bill would keep faith with the intent of the Wilderness Act and preserve visitor access and existing legal uses as they are now, including fishing, hunting and livestock grazing.

Browns Canyon also is a great example of how public lands are one of our state's great economic engines. In fact, more than 100,000 people each year visit Browns Canyon for its unique mix of exciting whitewater and wilderness backcountry.

Browns Canyon, and special places like it, attract visitors from far and wide, fuel local economies and support Main Street businesses in places like Salida, Buena Vista, Durango and dozens of other communities across Colorado.

Wilderness's importance to Colorado's special way of life is why I am working to protect more than 61,000 acres of critical public lands in San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan counties through

my San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act. It's why I will continue to listen to community leaders to craft my Central Mountains Outdoor Heritage Act to preserve nearly a quarter-million acres of wildlands important for recreation, hunting, fishing, and water supplies in Summit, Eagle and Pitkin counties.

It's why I led the effort in Congress more than a decade ago to create the James Peak Wilderness, which encompasses more than 17,000 acres along the Continental Divide within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

Wilderness is worth it and it's an idea I will, with Coloradans by my side, continue to champion in Congress.

Mark Udall, Colorado's senior U.S. senator, serves on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

There's gold in that river

The Mountain Mail
July 2, 2014 by Kim Marquis, Times Correspondent
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_55110c30-0202-11e4-bafb-0017a43b2370.html

Figure 1 Buena Vista resident Johnny Schnaderbeck demonstrates May 10 how to pan for gold along the Arkansas River south of Salida. A panning instructor with Gold Prospectors of Colorado, Schnaderbeck said he hunts for gold as a way to relax and enjoy the river.

Buena Vista – Swirling a glassful of water in a green plastic dish on the side of the river, Buena Vista resident Johnny Schnaderbeck tells me to look for school bus yellow in the mud settling at the bottom of his pan.

I see shiny speckles he said are mica and iron pyrite — fool's gold — as he keeps the pan moving in a circular motion to coax the blackest sand to settle at the bottom. Ten minutes later, he teases out a dust-sized, bright yellow speck. Eureka! We've found gold on the Arkansas River.

Gold prospecting has become more popular in the Arkansas River Valley over the past decade, according to the Bureau of Land Management, which keeps track of notices and claims in the area.

After the economy tanked in 2007, gold prices skyrocketed, reaching nearly $2,000 an ounce by 2011. Then came reality television shows like "Gold Rush" and "Alaska Gold Diggers," creating an excitement that lured people with picks, pans, shovels and much larger machinery, out to strike it rich on public lands.

But on the Arkansas River few prospectors hit pay dirt, finding gold flecks and dust instead of large nuggets or deep veins of gold.

"If you're gonna try to live on it, forget it, you'll starve," said Schnaderbeck, an instructor with Gold Prospectors of Colorado, a panning club that owns several mining claims in the Arkansas River Valley.

A retired AT&T engineer, Schnaderbeck, like many other recreational prospectors, hunts for gold as a way to relax, get outside and enjoy the river.

"There's nothing like sitting next to a stream on a nice hot day with your bare feet in the water, with no one bothering you. What do you hear?" he asks. "The water rushing by; it's very relaxing."

For $30 a year, a family can join Colorado Springs-based Gold Prospectors of Colorado and get access to mining claims along the river.

For another few bucks, they can buy a pan and a thumb-sized glass vial to carry their gold home. Members can take minerals but aren't supposed to sell the gold they find, although it's easy enough to do on the Internet.

According to Cindy Peratt, owner of The Rock Doc in Nathrop, that's the type of gold hunting most of her customers are interested in doing.

"The gold we have here is not nuggets or big flakes, it's dust," Peratt said. "It's all over in the river, so there's a lot of it out there. If you put your mind to it and go looking in the right places, you'll definitely find gold."

How much gold? Maybe a couple dollars' worth in a whole day.

"If you're asking how much you're going to make, it's not the right hobby for you," Peratt said. "It's about the experience, it's not about the gold."

But with gold prices still at historical highs, Peratt also sees "gold fever" at her rock and mineral shop.

These people get a glint in their eye, quickly moving from plastic pans to the selection of sluices and powered dredging machines that let prospectors dig much more dirt in their hunt for the yellow dust.

"We occasionally have to talk somebody down, and there have been a few people I won't sell equipment to," she said. "People say, you must be making money with all these reality shows. But if they're out there and they misbehave, they ruin it for the rest of us ... Reality shows are definitely not reality."

Membership in Gold Prospectors of Colorado – one of several clubs with mining claims in the Arkansas River Valley – doubled to 1,000 during the recession, then dropped to about 700 this year after gold prices slid downward, settling out recently near $1,200 an ounce.

The BLM requires different levels of paperwork, fees and reclamation of prospectors, depending on the size of an operation. Club memberships let recreational prospectors skip this time-consuming and costly permitting process, and despite the attention toward simple panning, members in Colorado are allowed to use powered machinery.

A weekend warrior can purchase an $800 suction dredger, don a wetsuit and vacuum the bottom of the river, sucking dirt and rocks into a sluice box that helps separate riverbed material and parse out the gold. Prospectors can also "high bank," or dig into the dry riverbank looking for larger gold deposits.

This type of planned activity in Browns Canyon by two claims owners from Nathrop caused U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) to call for legal action.

Udall supports national protection for the scenic canyon and said in a press release in December that prospecting "could destroy the pristine water quality and scenery that has made Browns Canyon one of the top rafting and fishing destinations in the country."

The matter of claims in Browns Canyon is still waiting for a public hearing.

Outside the canyon, prospecting is legal and popular in the Arkansas River Valley.

Despite potential impacts, the BLM's directive is to manage for multiple land uses, said Stephanie Carter, a geologist with the BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office.

"There is some fabric as far as laws and framework," Carter said. "Everyone needs to play in the sandbox together."

A club officer who has been prospecting on the Arkansas River since 2007, Colorado Springs resident Wayne Wittkopp said he hunts for gold just for fun, and even with a suction dredger, has not extracted enough to pay for a tank of gas. He dismisses concerns over mining's impacts.

"I love having the rafters and the fishermen out there on the river. It's shared use, it's for everybody," Wittkopp said. "They enjoy riding on a raft. I enjoy digging in the dirt."

Club officers and instructors like Schnaderbeck and Wittkopp hold classes to teach members basic Leave No Trace ethics, as well as how to reclaim mined areas.

"In the club we push reclamation," Wittkopp said. "If you dig a hole, you're going to fill it back in."

Wittkopp and other suction dredgers say they create good habitat for fish by making spawning areas to lay eggs. But Colorado Parks and Wildlife aquatic biologist Greg Policky disagrees.

Policky, who has worked in the Arkansas River Valley for 20 years to improve the fish habitat, said that when sediment from dredging settles back into the river bottom, it can suffocate fish eggs and kill insects, the food source for fish. Policky said he is not overly concerned about impacts to the fishery from prospecting, since rules prevent overuse and disturbances to habitat are short-lived.

"If we were seeing as many suction dredgers out there as we do fishermen, holy cow," he said. "But we are talking about very localized, short-term impacts."

Peratt said The Rock Doc also does its part to keep its customers prospecting within the law. "We work pretty closely with the BLM on what is and isn't allowed," Peratt said, "and we try to disseminate that information. If somebody walks into my shop and said they want to buy that thingy with the gas-powered motor on it, I usually ask where they are working.

"It goes back to longevity of my business," she adds. "It doesn't do my business any good or the hobby any good. My point is not where they are working, but that they have the facts in hand and know they need permission."

USA TODAY
A GANNETT COMPANY

Gold claims impede Colo. wilderness protection effort

USA Today
By Trevor Hughes
Jun. 25, 2014
http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/06/25/colorado-browns-canyon/11318259/

SALIDA, Colo. - A proposal to permanently designate as wilderness tens of thousands of acres of canyons and mountains flanking the Arkansas River in central Colorado is being complicated by gold mining claims.

The federal Bureau of Land Management since 1980 has managed the Browns Canyon area between Salida and Buena Vista as a wilderness study area. As part of that "study," the BLM prevented anyone from mining in the area. But in December 2011, the ban on mining expired and two groups quickly filed five mining claims along the river, which is heavily used for white-water rafting and fly fishing.

The BLM is now trying to get a judge to throw out the claims so it can prevent mining in the area. If mining begins, it would further complicate efforts to protect the area from new roads, more mining and potential development. A dozen rafting companies take tens of thousands of tourists through Browns Canyon each summer as melting snows create a surge of white water, funneling millions of dollars into the local economy.

"All we're trying to do is preserve it as it is," said raft guide Bill Dvorak, who has been leading trips through the canyon for 30 years. "The biggest concern that we have right now is these mining claims. And they're in places where they could dredge the whole river."

Members of Colorado's congressional delegation from both parties have pushed to have Congress designate the area as an approximately 20,000-acre national monument under a compromise plan that would keep open more than 180 miles of off-road trails for ATVs and snowmobiles. Sponsors say there's little evidence Congress plans to act on the proposal anytime soon, so they're now considering whether to ask President Obama to use his authority to declare the area a national monument.

While only Congress can create a national park, both Congress and U.S. presidents can create national monuments. The first national monument, Devils Tower in Wyoming, was created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 because he felt Congress was moving too slowly in protecting it.

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The Chaffee County Times
BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

American values, the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
June 20, 2014 by Keith Baker
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_819ceb5e-f747-11e3-bfc5-001a4bcf6878.html

I'm a bit of an idealist: I came of age when Americans, collectively, believed we could do great things as a people, and that government – of, by and for the people – had a legitimate function in harnessing and coordinating the power of the citizenry.

Protecting our unique landscapes and ecological treasures is as integral to our American heritage as the space program, the federal highway system, eradicating polio, building a strong middle class, and offering the hope of a comfortable retirement.

Love of our land was a prime motivator behind my military career, and love of our land continues to motivate me today.

I love being outdoors, especially in Colorado, and I am thankful there are conservation laws like the Wilderness Act for expanding opportunities for those uplifting experiences.

Fifty years ago, the United States Congress empowered the American people with a tool to protect places like Browns Canyon.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 was the first of its kind in the world, setting a new American standard that ensures that our nation can continue to experience those places that shape our citizens' values of freedom, self-reliance and determination.

These are the very American traits you lean on to push further on a trail, climb higher to a peak, or enter more challenging rapids in a raft or kayak.

Retiring from the Navy after a 23-year career afforded me great latitude in choosing where to live.

I wanted to live in the West from a very young age, and Colorado's Upper Arkansas Valley fulfills all my dreams: high mountains, white water streams, broad grasslands and high-country ranches, woodland trails, and plenty of rock to climb.

We have a wonderful triple heritage here of mining, the railroad and ranching — and now we've added a fourth component of world-class outdoor recreation.

The people are wonderful, the air and the water are still clean and fresh, growth is centered on the municipalities, and there are fewer than a half-dozen traffic signals in the entire area.

Browns Canyon is a unique landscape even by Colorado standards, with characteristics of alpine forests and grasslands, high desert rock formations and the upper Arkansas River running through it.

Americans have long valued a high level of protection for the best of our public lands, owned by us all in equal share.

This is a value I deeply cherish, and I see protecting Browns Canyon as in keeping with that long-held national value.

We should also recognize the economic benefits that wild places bring to our communities. Statewide, commercial rafting - the kind of premier water experience found in Browns Canyon - brings about $55 million in direct spending and a total economic boost of $140 million to Colorado, according to 2013 data collected by the Colorado River Outfitters Association.

More broadly, outdoor recreation in Colorado pumps $994 million into state and local tax coffers, generates $13.2 billion in consumer spending here, and creates 125,000 jobs for Coloradans.

Nationally, Americans spend more on outdoor activities - $646 billion - than they do on pharmaceuticals or gasoline.

Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet deserve our hearty gratitude for introducing legislation in Congress that would preserve 22,000 acres around Browns Canyon as a national monument, including 10,500 acres that would be protected as wilderness.

The proposal will maintain current uses and accesses, including current grazing allotments, and provide for a rigorous public input process in establishing the management plan for these special lands.

Browns Canyon National Monument will thus embody the best of long-held values that are uniquely American - here in Colorado and all across our beautiful country.

Keith Baker, Commander, United States Navy Retired, is a resident of Buena Vista and is a former owner of The Trailhead and Trailhead Cycle & Ski. He is also the executive director of Friends of Browns Canyon.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Veterans Expeditions hosts veterans on Arkansas River trip

The Mountain Mail
June 18, 2014 by J.D. Thomas
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_bb7510a4-f706-11e3-8edc-0017a43b2370.html

Veterans Expeditions will host its second trip taking 15 military veterans through Browns Canyon Saturday through Monday.

"Our first such mission in June 2013 was an unqualified success, and we want to build on that," said Lee Hunnicutt, volunteer-coordinator. "Veterans Expeditions co-founder and friend Nick Watson and I share a belief based upon our own individual experiences recovering from the effects of combat and the difficulties faced while trying to reintegrate into civilian society."

Hunnicutt received two Purple Hearts serving in the U.S. Army, 11th Armored Calvary, as a scout in a reconnaissance platoon during the Vietnam War.

"Each of us, and countless others, found the solace we sought in the outdoors," Hunnicutt said. "Even with the recent problems with the VA (Veterans Affairs) and soldiers returning home with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), veterans have consistently been reaching out to help other veterans."

"The time spent out with all these veterans and all these services and all these service stories is nothing short of awesome," Watson said. "Veterans let their guard down with one another, and out came stories of war and civilian life struggles and success."

Watson is a former U.S. Army Ranger. Veterans Expeditions is a nonprofit organization and the trip is fully funded by donations. The expedition will be conducted in partnership with Friends of Browns Canyon.

For more information about volunteering and contributing to Veterans Expeditions, email Hunnicutt at lee@hunnicutt.com or Watson atnick@vetexpeditions.com. The group's website is vetexpeditions.com

THE Durango HERALD

Action Needed On Browns Canyon

The Durango Herald
By Tony Miely & Andy Corra, 4Corners Riversports
June 7, 2014
http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140607/OPINION03/140609631/-1/opinion03

Because our scenic Durango landscape draws visitors from across the U.S. and around the world, we genuinely appreciate the natural beauty around us. It's why many of us call Durango home. For that reason, it's good policy to protect this beauty. It's good for recreation, and it's good for our economy.

Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River is another rafting mecca. Like Durango, nearby Colorado communities benefit from visitors who are attracted to the dramatic Rocky Mountains and world-class rafting opportunities. Colorado's whitewater industry brings an economic boost of $140 million, according to 2013 data collected by the Colorado River Outfitters Association. By far, the single largest contributor to this economic benefit to the state is rafting in Browns Canyon.

Sen. Mark Udall deserves our gratitude for introducing legislation to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument. This would protect current uses of the land – such as hunting, fishing and grazing – and would ensure it retains its natural, undeveloped character.

For the past decade, attempts have been made to pass legislation for this purpose, and we must ensure Browns Canyon gets the permanent protection it deserves as a national monument. We only need to look to our southern neighbor, New Mexico, to see how that can work.

President Obama recently responded to the local community in Las Cruces, whose leaders have worked for a decade to protect the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks area legislatively. He used his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the area as a national monument. For this, the American people should be grateful, as are we. Over the years, 16 presidents (eight Republicans and eight Democrats) have used the Antiquities Act to protect publicly owned lands or water for their historic, cultural or natural resources.

Sen. Udall deserves enormous credit for his hard work to protect Browns through his forward-thinking legislation, and we encourage him to use all tools at his disposal to make sure that permanent protection happens.

Tony Miely & Andy Corra, 4Corners Riversports,
Durango

The Pueblo Chieftain

Opinion: Time to save Colorado's special places

Pueblo Chieftain
By Bill Dvorak
April 8, 2014

What do the Florissant Fossil Beds, Great Sand Dunes and Black Canyon have in common? All became monuments and national parks through the Antiquities Act, the law that gives U.S. presidents the ability to set aside iconic historical, natural and cultural places already owned by the American people for future generations to honor and enjoy.

Enacted by Congress in 1906 to allow the president to protect lands without procedural hurdles when the House and Senate are unable to act quickly, the Antiquities Act was threatened recently when the House of Representatives voted to impose unnecessary and cumbersome bureaucracy to declaring monument status to some of our most special places. The bill is a direct assault on our national parks, national monuments and public lands heritage and will prevent new parks from being established.

The Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — and properly balances legislative and executive powers.

With more than 30 years of experience leading expeditions and trips on the Arkansas River, I believe Browns Canyon should be designated a national monument through the Antiquities Act if it can not be done legislatively in this session of Congress.

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THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Browns Canyon cited in report critical of congressional conservation record

The Mountain Mail
By Maisie Ramsay
March 28, 2014
http://www.themountainmail.com/free_content/article_2913f602-b689-11e3-982d-001a4bcf6878.html

Buena Vista – The many failed attempts to permanently protect Browns Canyon have drawn the attention of the Center for Western Priorities.

The Denver conservation advocacy group singled out Browns Canyon in a recent report criticizing delays on land conservation bills in the U.S. Congress.

"Since 1991, when legislation was first introduced, there have been 13 separate bills to conserve the landscape. Despite broad public support, none have passed Congress," the report stated.

Colorado Republican Reps. Wayne Allard and Dan Schaefer were the first to introduce legislation to permanently protect Browns Canyon. Their measure failed, as have subsequent bills introduced by both Republican and Democratic lawmakers. The fate of the latest Browns Canyon legislation from Sen. Mark Udall is unclear.

The report also catalogues nine other public lands bills that have stagnated on Capitol Hill, including Hermosa Creek in Colorado, two areas in California and areas in Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Tennessee and Washington.

"In addition to the 10 pieces of legislation that we highlight, there are dozens of other public land protection bills sitting before Congress that have broad public support," the report stated. "In today's political climate, however, even the most nonpartisan issues are overwhelmed by Congressional dysfunction and partisanship – land conservation included."

Keith Baker of Buena Vista, executive director of Friends of Browns Canyon, said the issue of public lands is about more than conservation.

"Shared public lands that belong to 'We the People' are a long-held American value," Baker said. "One of the things we rebelled against was the way land was held in Europe – the best land and the best forests were retained by the crown. We don't have that in America."

Baker said the current political climate for public lands bills "can be discouraging."

"To me, it goes much deeper than a piece of land here and a piece of land there. The overall value, which I think is a noble value and a long-held value – I see that as being in jeopardy," Baker said.

Udall, a Colorado Democrat, introduced legislation to create the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area in December. It has yet to move beyond the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By a vote of 222-201 Wednesday, the U.S. House passed a bill that would limit the president's ability to create national monuments under the Antiquities Act. H.R. 1459, the Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act, was introduced by Utah Republican Rob Bishop last April.

The full Center for Western Priorities report can be read online at westernpriorities.org.

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Willoughby: Misguided efforts to harm Antiquities Act must stop

The Denver Post
By Scott Willoughby
March 26, 2014
http://www.denverpost.com/willoughby/ci_25420318/willoughby-misguided-efforts-harm-antiquities-act-must-stop

The ironic comedy of the cheerily named "Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act" — yes, that would be the "EPIC" National Monuments Act — taken up in the U.S. House of Representatives this week is almost cause enough to laugh it off. But the latest effort by congressional Republicans to undermine conservation by stripping the president's authority to swiftly designate national monuments through the Antiquities Act of 1906 is sadly another serious symptom of the dysfunctional revolution that plagues the nation.

Sponsored by Utah Republican Rob Bishop and seven of his conservative Western cronies, House Resolution 1459 has little chance of making it through the U.S. Senate before a guaranteed presidential veto. That obvious outcome alone is enough to frustrate American voters wondering why Congress continues to waste so much time and effort on senseless squabbles at the cost of any meaningful achievement. But it's the essence of the EPIC Act and its introduction amidst of the longest drought of conservation legislation since World War II that is most infuriating. The bill establishes arbitrary hurdles designed to deliberately slow down conservation already grinding at a glacial pace.

Since President Teddy Roosevelt pushed for the passage of the Antiquities Act, it has been used on a bipartisan basis by 16 presidents to protect iconic natural, cultural and historic sites ranging from the Grand Canyon to the Statue of Liberty. Half of our national parks were originally protected using the Antiquities Act — and there is prevailing sentiment that current efforts to preserve Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River will require such designation from the president. Totaling some 22,000 acres, the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area proposed by U.S. Sen. Mark Udall of Colorado is among the community-driven attempts to preserve natural resources that would fall victim to House Resolution 1459 by requiring a lengthy new review process should the president apply the Antiquities Act. And once the president designates a monument, the bill would prevent him from designating any others in the state.

By many accounts, House Resolution 1459 is seen as a response to President Obama's recent decision to add 1,665 acres of federal land to the California Coastal National Monument after Congress failed to do so. Bear in mind that dozens of conservation bills, including Browns Canyon and an equally popular Wilderness protection bill for Hermosa Creek near Durango, remain stalled in Congress and that the legislative branch retains the authority to remove national monument designation. Meanwhile, the legislature has protected only one new wilderness area in the past five years.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 has worked for more than 100 years. It's not the segment of our government that demands fixing.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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Reader addresses Potts criticism

The Mountain Mail
March 11, 2014
http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_95bf5c44-a935-11e3-ba10-0017a43b2370.html

Dear Editor:
This is to address those who have criticized Dave Potts for his support of the proposed designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument.

I feel this is negative politics, as Dave very carefully considered this issue before he made his decision. As a representative of all the people in Chaffee County, he took the following information into account beforehand:

1. A substantial majority of the people who reside in Chaffee County (and Colorado) support the protection of Browns Canyon. People from all over visit and move to this area due to the abundant outdoor recreational activities. Instead of "politics as usual," Dave is representing the wishes of most of his constituents.

2. I have heard it said that we should "just leave Browns Canyon as it exists now." The proposed bill will accomplish exactly that. Nothing will change in the boundaries, grazing permits, management or existing uses. Without permanent protection, Browns Canyon is in serious danger of not staying "as it is," and a good example of this is the recent attempt by several parties to file mining claims on the Arkansas River in Browns Canyon.

3. Water is the most important thing we have in this area, and to protect the water, we have to protect the land. The rafting on the Arkansas River is an enormous benefit to the local economy. Last year more than 179,000 people came to the area to raft the Arkansas.

The boost to the economy of Colorado was to the tune of $145 million, of which $55 million was spent in our area, as stated in a recent Mountain Mail article. Protecting public lands is a traditional American value, and the rafting numbers show how much Americans love and want to enjoy their public lands.

I urge all who support protection of this special place to be vocal in your praise of any of our elected representatives who have supported the proposed monument because the minority who oppose the designation certainly are very vocal.

Linda Gibas,
Salida

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Reppenhagen: A veteran fights for public lands

Summit Daily News
January 22, 2014

When I got back home after serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, I found I needed time to reintegrate into civilian life again, time to settle into someone who didn't flinch at loud noises or tense up for action. The places that helped me most were our public lands, and most especially, a wild place called Browns Canyon. That is why I'm grateful to Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., who introduced a bill last year to make 22,000-acre Browns Canyon a national monument that also includes a wilderness area.

Like so many other Americans, returning veterans count on being able to enjoy going to remote places to fish, camp, hike and hunt, sometimes alone, but often with friends and family. I believe that these publicly owned places are crucial to helping vets heal from the prolonged stress of combat. The peaceful quiet and the scenic majesty of the backcountry aid a soldier's recovery and assimilation back into stateside life.

When I was growing up in Manitou Springs, Colo., I recall learning about the Earth's history at the Florissant Fossil Bed National Monument. And I gained an appreciation of our nation's outdoors by exploring the nearby Pike National Forest. I would not have survived my own transition from being a sniper in Iraq to life in American society if I'd been unable to camp and fish in those places. The serenity of nature helped me find peace of mind, and spending time outdoors allowed me to reconnect with people without distractions.

Just as the men and women in the armed services defend our way of life every day, I believe that we all need to be vigilant in defending our national treasures. That is why, when legislation was proposed in Congress last year to sell off our public lands, I joined other veterans and traveled to Washington, D.C. We wanted to remind the White House and members of Congress of their shared responsibility as stewards of our public lands.

Our national parks, monuments and public lands are fundamental to the America that we take for granted. From the towering sequoias in California to the Chimney Rock National Monument near Durango, Colo., we can boast of hundreds of places that reflect our unique natural and cultural heritage.

Browns Canyon and the Arkansas River that flows through it deserve enhanced protection as a national monument. This beautiful granite river canyon near Salida, Colo., offers one-of-a-kind fishing, rafting and hiking, with views of the Collegiate Range. As Udall put it, when you enter Browns Canyon, you feel as though "you're 100 years into the past." The place has also become a magnet for tourists who help stoke economic development in this part of the state.

All sorts of people, including veterans, outdoor outfitters and outdoor enthusiasts, have united in supporting the designation of this area as a national monument. Now we hope that the political dysfunction evident in Congress won't derail the passage of this wildly popular proposal — S. 1794, the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013.

We're counting on Republican and Democratic members of Congress alike to recognize the exceptional value of creating a Browns Canyon National Monument. It would be a plus not only for veterans, but also for our cultural heritage in

this part of the state. Ranching, for example, would continue in the monument, as Udall's bill allows for the continuation of grazing allotments now and into the future. Commercial-scale mining, however, would be banned both in the riverbed and on its banks.

Of course, there is another path for the area to become a monument. Championed and signed into law by Teddy Roosevelt, the Antiquities Act allows a U.S. president to designate valuable natural areas as national monuments to preserve park and conservation lands. Devils Tower and the Grand Canyon were both originally established this way.

Regardless of which path is used to protect this Colorado landmark, I hope you agree that Browns Canyon deserves to become a new national monument and that you consider joining the growing community that is working hard to see it happen.

Garett Reppenhagen is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News (hcn.org). He is a third-generation Army veteran who served as a sniper in Iraq and as a member of the peacekeeping force in Kosovo. He is now the Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vets Voice Foundation, speaking out on national issues that affect veterans.

Sporting and conservation groups say they strongly support a proposal by Colorado Sen. Mark Udall (D) to designate a new national monument in pristine Browns Canyon.

Udall last week unveiled a draft bill that proposes to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument in Chaffee County, Colo., along a particularly scenic section of the Arkansas River (E&ENews PM, March 28).

Udall is waiting to file the bill until after his office holds at least two public meetings over the next two months to gather feedback and garner local community support for the "Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013," which would also designate 10,500 acres within the boundaries of the proposed national monument as new wilderness.

Udall's goal is to formally file a bill by June, said Mike Saccone, a spokesman for the senator in Washington, D.C.

So far, reaction has been positive, with a coalition of sporting and conservation groups weighing in with strong support for the proposal. They view the section of the Arkansas River in central Colorado that is targeted for protection as a critical brown trout fishery.

"This proposal is all about keeping the area just as it is," said Reed Dils of Trout Unlimited. "We don't need to complicate things. Places like Browns Canyon not only belong to our current generation but to subsequent generations. This maintains all the current uses -- hunting, angling, motorized routes, recreation -- not to mention the economy supported by those values."

Suzanne O'Neill, executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation, said the section of Browns Canyon in question "epitomizes Colorado's unique quality of life to many Coloradoans who fish, hunt, hike or view wildlife."

Indeed, the area is noted for its whitewater rafting, as well as high-quality angling for wild trout. Udall's draft bill calls for maintaining existing uses, including river running, hunting and angling, grazing, and motorized access on all designated roads in the area.

The area boasts a wide diversity in landscape, according to the groups, from Ponderosa forests to higher-elevation aspen stands, and is home to an array of species such as bobcats, mountain lions, elk, bighorn sheep and black bears.

All these are reasons why Udall's proposal "is something that has to happen, one way or another," said Bill Sustrich, a Backcountry Hunters and Anglers member and Salida, Colo., resident who has advocated for protecting the region for more than three decades.

The draft bill continues work Udall began in March 2012, when he proposed two draft bills that would have designated more than 200,000 acres as wilderness and a

new national monument covering a much broader area (Land Letter, March 1, 2012).

The Browns Canyon monument draft Udall unveiled last week is a distilled version of that proposal that has been tweaked based on public comments collected over the last year from sporting and recreation groups, local officials, businesses, and federal and state agencies.

"I've watched the proposed area for protection go from 100,000 acres to just over 20,000," Sustrich said. "There has been plenty of compromise over the years, and now is the time to ensure that the incredible fish and game resources on this wild landscape are secured."

Colorado Springs Independent
the smart alternative

In Our Sites: Browns Canyon

Colorado Springs Independent
By Garett Reppenhagen
December 25, 2013
http://www.csindy.com/coloradosprings/in-our-sights-browns-canyon/Content?oid=2804794

As a U.S. Army veteran, I find public lands precious because they offer the solitude and experiences that helped me recover from what I endured in Iraq and reintegrate into civilian life. So I'm grateful that U.S. Sen. Mark Udall recently introduced a bill to make Browns Canyon a national monument, and am looking to U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn to support it in the House.

Like many other Americans, veterans count on our public lands for fishing, hiking, camping and hunting with our families — but these activities are especially crucial in vets' physical and emotional healing from the stress of combat. For us, national parks, monuments and public lands aid our recovery and assimilation back into Stateside life.

Growing up in Manitou Springs, I learned about the Earth's history at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and gained an appreciation of our nation's outdoors while exploring Pike National Forest. I would have not survived my own transition from being a sniper in Iraq to returning to society if I was unable to access public lands to camp and fish. The serenity of nature helped me find peace of mind, and spending quality time with family and friends in the outdoors allowed me to reconnect without modern distractions.

Just as the men and women in the armed services defend our American way of life every day, we all need to be vigilant in defending our national treasures. Legislation proposed in Congress would sell off public lands and roll back protections. In fact, other veterans and I traveled to Washington, D.C., earlier this year to remind the White House and Congress of our shared responsibility as stewards of our public lands.

Our national parks, monuments and other public lands are fundamental to the America we all love so much. From the towering sequoias in California to the Chimney Rock National Monument near Durango, these are the places that reflect our unique natural and cultural heritage.

Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is equally deserving of national monument protection. A beautiful river canyon near Salida, it offers one-of-a-kind fishing, rafting and hiking opportunities, and attracts tourists who help stoke economic development in this part of the state. The local community has been working on protecting Browns Canyon for a decade, and veterans — including those in the Vet Voice Foundation — outdoor outfitters and outdoor enthusiasts in Congressman Lamborn's district are united in designating this area as a national monument.

But many of us are concerned that the political dysfunction in Congress could derail the wildly popular S. 1794, the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013.

So we are counting on Congressman Lamborn to recognize the exceptional value in creating a Browns Canyon National Monument, not only for veterans, but also for our shared natural heritage. We encourage everyone who understands the need to protect our unique places to urge Lamborn to avoid political dysfunction and partisan pitfalls and vote yes on the Browns Canyon bill. Call him at 202/225-4422; email him by going to lamborn.house.gov;

or write him at 2402 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515.

If Lamborn and others in Congress fail on S. 1794, we are prepared to advocate for national monument status through the Antiquities Act. Championed and signed into law by Teddy Roosevelt, the Antiquities Act allows the president to designate valuable natural areas in the West as national monuments to preserve park and conservation lands. Devils Tower and the Grand Canyon were both originally established this way.

Veterans are grateful for Sen. Udall's leadership on protecting public lands through legislation and supporting the Antiquities Act when necessary, but also via funding for the Land Water Conservation Fund. I urge Congressman Lamborn to also step up and defend our American heritage, including places like Browns Canyon, for our children and grandchildren. Browns Canyon National Monument can be a potent symbol of our patriotism, ensuring the best of our nation is conserved for the future.

Garett Reppenhagen is a third-generation Army veteran who served as a sniper in Iraq and with a peacekeeping force in Kosovo. He grew up in Manitou Springs and now is the Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation.

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Editorial: Mining claims are reasons to protect Browns Canyon

The Denver Post
December 21, 2013
http://www.denverpost.com/editorials/ci_24766391/mining-claims-are-reasons-protect-browns-canyon

The designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is long overdue.

That was underscored in our minds with the recent news that two pending mining claims in the area could sully the beauty of the area.

Without delay, the federal Bureau of Land Management should challenge the claims in court. If these claims, which lie in the Arkansas River, were to be mined, there could be significant environmental impact.

"Mining on the river could destroy the pristine water quality and scenery that has made Browns Canyon one of the top rafting and fishing destinations in the country," Colorado's Sen. Mark Udall, a Democrat, said in a prepared statement.

"It also could be disastrous for Chaffee County, its economy and the businesses that count on the river," Udall said.

Udall is the latest member of Colorado's congressional delegation to push for protections for Browns Canyon. Recently, he introduced a bill to have the area designated a national monument.

Before Udall, then-Sens. Wayne Allard, a Republican, and Ken Salazar, a Democrat, teamed up toseek a wilderness designation for Browns. Republican Rep. Joel Hefley pushed the idea, which was ultimately unsuccessful, in the House.

For the past 18 months, Udall has been carefully building consensus among local interests for national monument designation.

Notably absent from the list of supporters at this point is Rep. Doug Lamborn, a Colorado Springs Republican who took Hefley's seat and represents the area. We would hope he could find a way to support this idea.

The preferred route to the designation, which would encompass 22,000 acres between Salida and Buena Vista, would be congressional action.

If federal lawmakers can't get their act together, then President Obama could use his power under the Antiquities Act to make the area a national monument.

Though the president would be well within his legal authority to take the action, there has been a history of tension between the executive and legislative branches over such designations.

That's why congressional designation is preferable. If it has a stamp of approval from federal lawmakers, then there's less chance a subsequent Congress would try to undo the designation.

Browns is a beautiful part of Colorado. It deserves the permanent protection that a national monument designation would confer upon this special place.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Udall calls river mining by Browns Canyon 'disastrous,' gold hobbyists differ

The Mountain Mail
By Maisie Ramsay
December 20, 2013
http://www.themountainmail.com/free_content/article_bb74ac64-6984-11e3-878f-0019bb30f31a.html

A trio of gold panning enthusiasts has found themselves caught up in Sen. Mark Udall's push to create Browns Canyon National Monument.

Udall called on the Bureau of Land Management this week to "challenge" mining claims in the Arkansas River and his proposed Browns Canyon National Monument.

"Mining on the river could destroy the pristine water quality and scenery that has made Browns Canyon one of the top rafting and fishing destinations in the country," Udall said in a press release that characterized the claims as potentially "disastrous" for Chaffee County.

The three men who hold the claims, however, have a different take.

Cañon City resident Dan Scavarda and his cousin Tom Tella bought four mining claims covering 80 acres near their property at Chateau Chaparral, a recreational vehicle campground in Nathrop.

The pair described themselves as amateur gold panners who had never owned a mining claim before. They planned to follow the lead of other prospectors using dredges to glean the precious metal from the riverbed.

"We're not gold miners. We're not looking for profit, we're just recreational guys," Scavarda said, describing the dredge they planned to use as a "lawnmower on a vacuum cleaner."

The idea, Scavarda said, was to "get off the porch, mosey on down to the river, piddle around and then go have lunch."

"We wanted to have a little motor to make it easier on us because we're old," Scavarda said. "That's all we're looking for."

Tella echoed Scavarda's remarks.

"The way we filed our plan was just to do a little dredging … more of a hobby than any mining activity, so to speak," Tella said.

Wallie Robinson said he intends to use his 20-acre claim south of Nathrop in a similar fashion. Robinson makes his living in part by selling mining claims and advertises Arkansas River claims for sale on his website. However, he said his goal with the Arkansas River No. 5 placer claim is to provide a gold-panning venue for his Pic-N-Pan Prospecting Club.

"We're not looking to bring big equipment in. We're looking for a place to pan for gold," Robinson said.
The size of the equipment is not the issue, said Udall spokesman Mike Saccone.

"They could sell or transfer the claim to someone who wants to do larger-scale mining that could be disruptive," Saccone said.

Saccone also pointed to the fact that the claims were issued through a loophole in the BLM's permitting process created by a September 2012 decision by the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

That assertion was confirmed by BLM spokesman Steve Hall.

"The IBLA decision opened up areas to claims that the BLM had previously determined to be unsuitable for mining claims, like Browns Canyon," Hall said. "This temporarily opened the Browns Canyon area to mining claims. BLM has since initiated the process to close Browns Canyon to future claims."

This vulnerability is exactly why Browns Canyon needs the permanent protections afforded by Udall's national monument legislation, said Keith Baker, Friends of Browns Canyon executive director.

"The issue is not what these gents would do, but what someone might do who buys that mining claim," Baker said. "This helps illustrate our concern that the resource is protected in a more permanent way – there is vulnerability there."

Udall has called on the BLM to "swiftly challenge" the claims.

Tella expressed surprise at Udall's opposition, given the location of his claims. "Well, there's a 300-campsite trailer park right there," he said, referring to Chateau Chaparral. "It's not like it's in the middle of Browns Canyon in a real pristine area."

Tella and Scavarda said they are still working with the BLM to reach a compromise on the use of a dredge.

"They said we would be allowed to use the claims without any motorized equipment, but you can do that on public land anyhow," Tella said. "We have claims, so it should give us more rights. That's the issue we're struggling with."

The BLM has not decided whether to heed Udall's call to contest the claims, Hall said.

"The BLM has not determined a course of action of the recent claims in Browns Canyon," he said. Udall introduced his official legislation creating Browns Canyon National Monument Dec. 10. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Reader supports Browns bill

The Mountain Mail
Dec. 12, 2013
http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_bdd654fc-6345-11e3-b072-0019bb30f31a.html

Sen. Mark Udall has introduced his long-awaited bill to designate Browns Canyon and certain adjacent public lands, already under federal and state management, a national monument.

The bill is the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013, S. 1794. The following explains why I support this designation and why I accepted the position as executive director of Friends of Browns Canyon.

Browns Canyon is a special place, a unique landscape and wildlife habitat that merits a high level of permanent protection. The Udall proposal will keep Browns Canyon as it is.

Paradoxically, some people who oppose the designation say they do so because they want the area to remain unchanged. This bill will do that, protect the riverbed itself from commercial mining and continue all existing uses – including long-standing motorized access and grazing permits.

Current management arrangements between the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area will remain in place. I encourage those who want Browns Canyon to remain as it is to support this proposal.

People should consider Browns Canyon National Monument in terms of total landscape – specifically the Fourmile Travel Management Area and the Bassam Park-Aspen Ridge areas. These areas have roads (some seasonal) and trails open to mechanized traffic.

Browns Canyon affords wildlife – and humans for that matter – a refuge in which to find even less human activity. The fact that the proposed national monument is contiguous with Fourmile makes it even more valuable as a refuge. This need to manage the "total landscape" supports passing this proposal.

Protecting Browns Canyon in the condition it is today will support our local economy – one study suggests as much as $21 million in direct benefit from rafting alone, before jobs, that money's circulation in the county and other ripple effects are considered.

For example, some of our most productive and entrepreneurial citizens moved here to open or purchase and run businesses because ours is an incredible area in which to live – and their initial exposure to the area was via Browns Canyon.

Turning back to the various river outfitters and other businesses, some outfitting companies have yet to recover client days lost to drought and fires over a decade ago. In the early 2000s Browns Canyon accommodated roughly 60,000 more rafters each year than in our best recent years. National monument designation will be another way to help recover lost rafting revenues and do so in a way that will protect the Browns Canyon ecosystem.

AHRA has and will continue to carefully manage commercial rafting allocations to protect the Browns Canyon riverine environment. Thus, concerns that increased visibility and tourism would harm the area are unwarranted, and our county needs the economic benefits national monument designation will bring.

Friends of Browns Canyon is committed to achieving more permanent protection for this unique and beautiful ecosystem and endorses Sen. Udall's bill. Please contact us via brownscanyon.org to help in this effort.

Keith Baker, executive director,
Friends of Browns Canyon,
Buena Vista

The Gazette

Meanwhile, we're bumbling ahead; preserving our wild places

Colorado Springs Gazette
Dec. 7, 2013
http://gazette.com/meanwhile-were-bumbling-ahead-preserving-our-wild-places/article/1510617#M1t7ZzV5cWPkDG3B.99

As a hunter, angler, father of four, small-business owner and 25-year veteran of the Air Force, I appreciate the wild places that I am so blessed to be able to enjoy in this great nation, especially in Colorado's wild public lands and waters.

Whether I'm packing out an elk with my rescued "wild" burros, chasing trout on the Arkansas River, or just out for a day hike with my family, it is places such as Brown's Canyon that sportsmen like me seek out to experience the solitude, challenge and overwhelming reward that I yearn for. That's why I was excited about the work that was being done to protect the beautiful Browns Canyon section of the Arkansas River.

Sen. Mark Udall will introduce legislation to preserve the natural beauty of Browns Canyon for future generations. I want to thank Sen. Udall for his efforts to maintain this magnificent area of sweeping views, abundant fisheries and diverse wildlife habitats.

I would also like to thank the countless folks who have steadily fought to make the dream of designating Browns Canyon as a national monument a reality.

From an economic standpoint, this legislation will be a boon to local businesses and whitewater rafting outfitters. Udall's legislation will ensure this section of river will remain wild and offer thrill seekers an unforgettable experience in the backcountry while aiding the local community.

It is comforting to know there are organizations like Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and elected officials such as Sen. Udall who make it a priority to champion the cause of preserving our wild places.

Thanks to them my children will be able to experience the Colorado backcountry as I have and as so many before me.

Eric Lynn, Colorado Springs

The Pueblo Chieftain

Editorial: Browns Canyon bill

Pueblo Chieftain
December 6, 2013
http://www.chieftain.com/opinion/2078699-120/browns-canyon-designation-udall

DESIGNATING BROWNS Canyon as a national monument is an idea whose time has come.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., announced Tuesday that he plans to introduce a bill to provide that designation during the next session of Congress.

The Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act, as Sen. Udall calls it, is a big step toward protecting an important and beautiful stretch of the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista. The designation, if approved, would apply to 22,000 acres of land along a popular whitewater rafting route, as well as 10,500 acres of wilderness area.

Sen. Udall believes the designation would make the Browns Canyon area a bigger tourism draw, and local communities and businesses would benefit as a result. We think it's a great idea, especially considering the economic hit the businesses in the Upper Arkansas Valley have endured following recent wildfires.

Early in the process of developing Sen. Udall's bill, the designation was opposed by local ranchers who were concerned that such congressional action would negatively impact grazing rights and water supplies for cattle.

But over the past 18 months, the senator has worked with local leaders, ranchers and residents to make sure the bill meets the long-term needs of the community. Existing uses of the land — such as grazing, hunting, hiking, rafting and mountain biking — will still be allowed even if the designation is approved.

We urge the entire Colorado congressional delegation to support Udall's efforts and protect Browns Canyon so future generations can enjoy that property.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Seeking consensus

The Mountain Mail
December 6, 2013
http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/article_7878055e-5e90-11e3-be72-001a4bcf6878.html

Sen. Mark Udall this week announced he will be introducing proposed legislation to create the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area, covering 22,000 acres between Salida and Buena Vista.

For the most part, provisions in the long-awaited bill feature elements Sen. Udall established earlier. These include that the monument's western boundary would be the Arkansas River or the railroad tracks; that motor vehicle access would be from Ruby Mountain on the north end and Turret and FSR/CR 184 on the south end.

Within the monument, motor and mechanized vehicles would be limited to travel on 184, which terminates at roughly the monument's midway point north to south and east to west. The monument would be managed by existing agencies, namely the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. All existing uses currently allowed in the wilderness study area would be permitted in the monument.

New additions to the bill are notes that local ranchers can continue to run livestock in the area; that ranchers can transfer grazing rights to future generations; boundary changes to exclude cattle watering tanks; and bans on commercial-scale mining for the bed and banks of the river.

What the bill does is set in place what Sen. Udall and Browns Canyon supporters would like to see in the national monument and wilderness area.

The senator said he expects to introduce the bill next week when the Senate reconvenes. However, action in the Senate, of course, is only half the equation. The legislation also has to clear the House of Representatives, where 5th District Rep. Doug Lamborn of Colorado Springs serves on the House Natural Resources Committee.

Rep. Lamborn said earlier before he can support the proposed monument and wilderness area, he needed to see greater consensus on the proposal, a position that apparently has not changed. Therefore, while the legislation could well move through the Senate, the prospects of it getting approval in the House are not nearly as clear or as likely.

This leaves Browns Canyon where it's been since it was initially proposed as a wilderness area nearly three decades ago. That is, in a stalemate.

At this time it appears Browns' fate as a national monument coming about through congressional action hinges on somehow building support from opponents. The question is how to build that consensus and support for a national monument and wilderness area

High Country News
For people who care about the West

Could the fight for Colorado's Browns Canyon finally be over?

High Country News
By Krista Langlois
December 5, 2013
http://www.hcn.org/blogs/goat/could-the-fight-for-browns-canyon-finally-be-over

The struggle to protect Browns Canyon, a rugged stretch of the Arkansas River in central Colorado, has been waxing and waning since the area was first studied for wilderness designation in the 1970s. Several attempts to create a new federal wilderness have been floated since then, and though they've come tantalizingly close, none have yet passed.

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., wants to change that. A former Outward Bound director, wilderness proponent and mountaineer (he's climbed Denali, Aconcagua and 26,000 feet of Everest), Udall announced on Tuesday the culmination of a project he's been working on for 18 months: a bill to create a brand new, 22,000-acre National Monument in Browns Canyon, including 10,500 acres of wilderness. After soliciting thousands of comments and holding several public meetings, Udall seems to have found a recipe for success – the support of local businesses, national monument designation (which offers more flexible management than pure wilderness), and unchanged access for hunters, ranchers, off-roaders and human-powered recreation such as rafting.

"There's tremendous support on the ground," says Matt Keller, the national monument campaign director for advocacy group The Wilderness Society. "Senator Udall and his staff have done a tremendous job listening to people's concerns and addressing them."

But noticeably absent from the discussion has been Rep. Doug Lamborn, the Republican who represents Chaffee County, where the Canyon is. Though he has yet to make an official statement, Lamborn's spokesman told *High Country News* Wednesday that the Congressman does not support Udall's bill, and still has "concerns over the lack of consensus … from certain residents."

Lamborn's disapproval presents a fairly significant hurdle, because while most national monuments are created by presidential decree under the Antiquities Act, Udall wants to take a different route: Congressional approval, for which he'll likely need Lamborn's support. Without it, the bill – which proponents have heralded as a groundbreaking step in the 40-year battle to protect Browns Canyon from drilling and development – may suffer the same fate as past attempts, like a 2006 push for wilderness designation that once seemed destined for success.

That bill, written by Republican Senator Wayne Allard and Rep. Joel Hefley, was co-sponsored by every member of the Colorado delegation. Passage seemed imminent until, in the 11th hour, the National Rifle Association got involved. Amid concerns that limitations on road building would prevent some hunters

from hauling out big game, progress ground to a halt. Or as longtime contributor Ed Quillen wrote in his final *High Country News* column before his death last year: "Even though big-game hunting would still be permitted, wilderness would infringe on the Second Amendment rights of geriatric ATV-driver hunters who were too cheap to rent pack horses and mules."

Udall hopes that compromises in his legislation – such as protecting existing uses and adjusting the boundary to exclude cattle watering tanks – are enough to garner a wide net of supporters, including skeptics like Lamborn. Proponents of the designation cite the financial boon of national monuments (though as the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the U.S., Browns hardly needs additional promotion), the relatively inexpensive cost of adding new protections to existing federal land, and the need to protect what former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar called a place that's "quintessential Colorado." The area would also be one of the few low-elevation regions protected in the state, offering prime winter wildlife habitat.

If Udall succeeds, Browns Canyon could become the first piece of wilderness protected by either this or the previous Congress – the first Congresses since the 1960s to not protect a single acre of wilderness. Udall spokesman Mike Saccone says the senator is now focusing on building Congressional support and is working directly with Lamborn's office: "We're hopeful when he sees the community support he'll come around."

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

Udall debuts revised Browns Canyon bill

Chaffee County Times
By Maisie Ramsay
December 4, 2013
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_d92e2910-5d2c-11e3-aef4-0019bb30f31a.html

Browns Canyon is one step closer to becoming a national monument.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall announced Tuesday he will introduce legislation next week to make the Arkansas River whitewater destination a national monument.

"It's an emotional day for me, it's an important day for all of us," Udall said during a press conference held at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting in Buena Vista.

Supporters of the bill say the proposed national monument will draw tourists to Chaffee County, benefitting the economy while securing permanent protections for Browns Canyon.

Browns Canyon National Monument, if passed by the House and Senate, spans 22,000 acres east of Nathrop and would designate 10,500 acres as wilderness.

The bill to be introduced before the Senate contains updates from a previous draft introduced by Udall in April.

Udall pointed to two items as the most significant changes.

Language has been added to ensure local ranchers can continue to graze livestock in the area, and transfer their grazing rights to future generations.

Udall also said the bill will ban commercial mining in the bed and banks of the Arkansas River.

Udall's office has stated the revised bill contains a boundary line adjustment to "clearly exclude" cattle watering tanks from the national monument.

Aside from those items, the Udall's latest legislation is "very similar" from the draft version released eight months ago, Udall communications director Mike Saccone said. It maintains, but does not expand, current motorized access on Turret Trail to the south, Forest Service Road 1434 to the north and Aspen Ridge Road to the east of the national monument's boundaries.

The legislation also maintains existing uses such as livestock grazing and hunting. The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area will continue to manage the area. The BLM will manage 7,900 acres of wilderness and another 2,500 acres of wilderness will be located in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests.

Udall, a Democrat, has faced resistance to his Browns Canyon proposal from Republican representative Doug Lamborn, who represents the 5th Congressional District that includes Chaffee County. Lamborn's support is seen as critical to the bill's success, as he serves on the House Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over public lands.

Lamborn said in June more "consensus" was needed before he would support Udall's proposal, a stance that remains unchanged.

"The congressman's position hasn't changed on Browns Canyon," Lamborn communications director Jarred Rego said.

Udall, when asked for comment on the bill's chances of success, cited efforts to include feedback gathered from the local community over the past 18 months.

"I think we have a very good opportunity because of local support, the bottom-up process," Udall said. "If there's not wholehearted support, there's support for the process."

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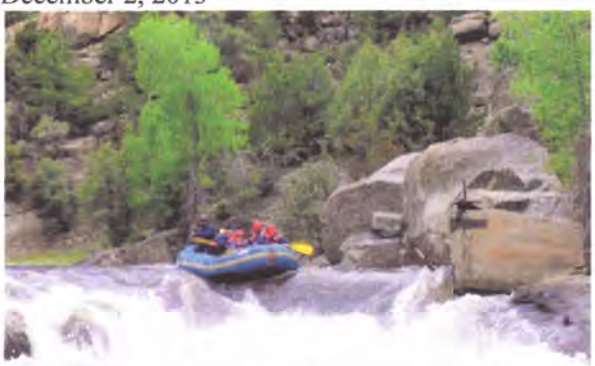
ELEVATION outdoors MAGAZINE

Monumental Conflict: Browns Canyon A National Monument?

Elevation Outdoors Magazine
By Chris Kasser
December 2, 2013



As Colorado as Coors; Rafters on a guided trip shoot Browns' Silver Bullet rapid. Photo: Chris Kassar

RIPPED MAG

Deep in Browns Canyon, Zoom Flume, a class III+ rapid announces its presence and its power well in advance. Lee Hunnicutt's blue skiff floats downstream and a few minutes later he skillfully roars through the rapid, getting rewarded with a slap of cold water to the face. He hoots with pure joy and quickly spins around to watch his friends negotiate the raging waters. Hollers and high-fives abound. The clan of content rafters—who are all Salida locals—catch their collective breath for a moment, eventually disappearing below the horizon as they continue their journey through the magical canyon.

"Browns Canyon is truly a wild place," says Hunnicutt, a Vietnam veteran, experienced rafter and Salida citizen who has been at the forefront of an effort to turn this section of the Arkansas River into a National Monument. "This remarkable canyon has become my favorite refuge, a place of peace, beauty and connection to nature, not to mention a source of more than a few thrills and spills in the rapids."

Hunnicutt is not alone in his connection with this special nook of the Arkansas. Thousands of supporters, including, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colorado, are on board the effort to give the place long-lasting protection. "Browns Canyon is a stunning gem that attracts tourists from across the country and the state with its unique mix of exciting whitewater and wilderness close to Colorado's Front Range," says Udall, who has rafted the Arkansas and hiked chunks of Browns rugged terrain. "From my time there, I know Browns Canyon is a remarkable landscape that deserves protection."

The question is how to get everyone on board to make the monument happen?

A Worthy Designation

Beyond the whitewater, Browns Canyon is a Colorado novelty that supports an exceptional level of biodiversity. This unique habitat not only acts as a refuge for people, but also harbors countless critters including black bear, mountain lion, elk and bighorn sheep. "Browns Canyon is uniquely Colorado," says Keith Baker the Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon, a local coalition working to secure lasting protection. Tens of thousands of people flock to Chaffee County each year to explore "this natural treasure," says Baker. The Arkansas is one of the most popular rivers in the nation, second only to Tennessee's Ocoee River, and the region generates more than $20 million yearly from whitewater recreation. Countless

others come to the area to hike, climb and experience unmatched scenery and solitude.

In 1980, the Bureau of Land Management recognized Browns as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and a National Roadless Area, thereby acknowledging the canyon's wilderness qualities and implementing prohibitions on vehicle use. However, this does not afford long-lasting protection because such a designation can be overturned by Congress.

For this reason, Udall is working on a proposal to create a 22,000-acre national monument that would permanently safeguard this special area. National monuments are created by the President or Congress by the power of the Antiquities Act of 1906, to preserve "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest." If passed, just under half of the land (10,500 acres) would be designated as wilderness, meaning no new trails could be built. Public access, however, would not be limited: riverside campsites, rafting regulations and current uses, including outfitting, grazing, hunting and angling would remain unchanged. Existing mountain bike trails and the historic Turret Trail Route—a source of contention in past preservation efforts—would remain open.

"Browns Canyon is one of the largest economic drivers in Chaffee County and is unique in how accessible it is from the Front Range. The national monument and wilderness designations my legislation would create will ensure that the Arkansas River, the recreation it supports as well as the other uses outside the proposed public lands, including ranching and off-road recreation, can continue as they do now," he says.

Proponents expect rafting and tourism numbers to rise with monument designation. "This would be a boost to economic development and tourism. If a river flows through or adjacent to a national monument, that's a key marketing attribute and it will draw more people here," says Baker. Studies support this idea, including one from Headwaters Economics, that analyzed local communities adjacent to 17 new national monuments. All 17 local economies grew after new national monuments were created.

"A national monument designation will ensure that this incredible public space will remain for future generations and continue to be an economic engine for the area, creating good-paying jobs throughout Chaffee County," explains Udall.

A treasured spot: Browns Canyon reels in $20 million for the local economy. Photo: Chris Kassar

Why Not?

Despite widespread backing from the community, respected elected officials and a broad coalition that includes hunters, anglers, rafters and horsemen, not everyone supports the idea of making Browns Canyon a National Monument. "Proponents say they want to preserve the area for 'future generations' while doing just the opposite—depriving future (and even current) generations of most uses of the area," says Carl Bauer, a 15-year Buena Vista resident, B&B owner and founder of the High Rocky Riders OHV Club, who opposes the proposal because it does not reopen roads that were closed in the 1970s. Due to the canyon's rugged nature, land managers have deemed these roads unsuitable for travel and do not have plans to reopen them regardless of monument designation.

"This is Chaffee County's only real chance at a national monument and I would hate to see the opportunity squandered by those wishing to have it set aside for their near-exclusive use," explains Bauer, a polio survivor with limited mobility. "Families with young children,

handicapped, and older Americans will have little interest in a national monument that they can only access by hiring a white-water guide and going down the river."

Monument proponents don't see that as an issue, however. Those who oppose the proposal because it does not expand off-road access, fail to note the fact that all roads and trails that presently accommodate vehicles will remain open thereby "accommodating access for the mobility-impaired in exactly the same manner that they do now," states Udall.

Though this is the first time a monument has been proposed here, controversy over Browns Canyon is nothing new. This area has been a point of contention since the 1970s when the Forest Service first identified 102,000 acres as suitable for wilderness designation. No changes were made until the 1980s, however, when the BLM created the current WSA. Over the years, various attempts to protect the area have failed; in 2006, a wilderness proposal received support from the entire Congressional delegation, but was thwarted in the 11th hour by NRA claims that even though big game hunting was permitted, wilderness would be detrimental to hunters because of off-road vehicle (ORV) restrictions.

Compromises made to accommodate motorized recreation, dispersed camping and river outfitters have already whittled down the proposal from 34,762 acres to 20,025 acres. Part of the original proposal was actually surrendered to the Four Mile Travel Management area, a 100,000- acre parcel of land just north of the proposal that contains 180 miles of off-road routes. Yet, ORV users continue to be some of the most outspoken opponents.

Many of those who oppose the monument seem to be fighting a straw man, however. At meetings held by Udall and Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colorado Springs) in Chaffee County this spring, some voiced their desire to see the federal footprint shrink or remain the same, but this is already public land so a monument designation will not alter the footprint. Others voiced concern that further protection will infringe on their grazing permits. Udall's office has been clear that grazing rights along with a host of others will be memorialized with monument designation. Others worry that this will limit the potential for resource extraction; government agencies have concluded that Browns has very little to no commercial value for mining, logging, gas or oil.

Next Steps

After the meetings, Lamborn, whose district includes Browns Canyon, remained uncertain about the proposal. At press time he was unavailable for comment, but last April, he wrote a letter to his constituents stating, "I would like to see greater consensus from the community before supporting such a dramatic change. Such a designation could lead to increased federal regulations on the land and further restrict its use."

Comments like these lead protection advocates to question how much further consensus is possible when so much has already been compromised. "The process has been frustrating because the area has been trimmed down repeatedly in order to gain support" says Baker. "And yet Lamborn still wants more consensus."

Udall continues working to incorporate community concerns and plans to introduce the bill before the end of the year. However, without support from Lamborn, any bill is likely to fail. "I am committed to continuing to work together with residents to ensure that current legal uses of Browns Canyon and surrounding lands are able to continue. I also am committed to working with Congressman Lamborn to address his concerns and find a bipartisan way forward on this common-sense proposal."

But why must the monument happen now? "The sense of urgency with Browns Canyon has multiple causes," says Baker. "There are the obvious environmental and conservation motives but I believe one of the major underlying reasons for the current sense of urgency is concern over the divestment movement that would have us sell off all our public lands (for a pittance, I'm sure) to various development interests. Unless something is done

now to reverse the tide, public lands in general—not just Browns Canyon—could suffer."

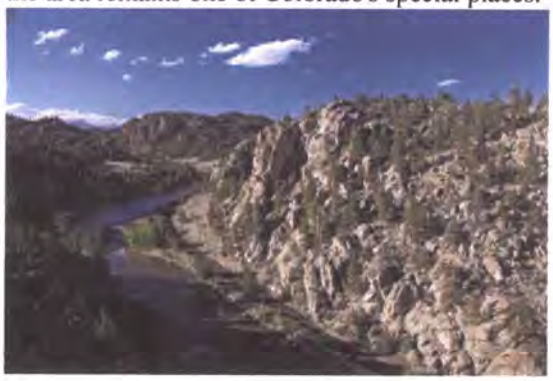
That battle over the meaning of public lands seems to be the true challenge facing Browns." Among the many unique qualities of America is our legacy of protected public lands," says Hunnicutt, who spends as much time rafting or hiking in the canyon as possible and is active in the campaign to protect the area. "I proudly served my country in Vietnam and believe that I fought for every citizen, city, state and acre of land in this country, as well as the ideals that make America great. Now, to simply preserve these few remaining acres from destruction, I feel like I am fighting for my country once again."

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Editorial: Browns Canyon needs protection

Denver Post
April 1, 2013
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_22917845/editorial-browns-canyon-needs-protection

National monument designation would help ensure the area remains one of Colorado's special places.



U.S. Sen. Mark Udall wants to see Browns Canyon, a picturesque part of the Arkansas Valley, designated as a national monument.

His proposal would protect wild areas and preserve recreational uses — including rafting, fishing, hunting and the myriad other activities in the area — while not imposing additional restrictions.

We have advocated for permanent protection for this unique part of Colorado and support this proposal.

Udall's draft legislation does not come out of the blue. For a year, he has been holding meetings — more than 40 of them — and collecting comments from people in the area and throughout the state.

That's an important part of the equation and we're glad that Udall has taken pains to ensure everyone who wants to weigh in can do so.

But one thing the senator must have before attempting to get the measure through the House is buy-in from Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn, whose district encompasses the proposed 22,000-acre national monument.

Lamborn is continuing to seek input from constituents and hasn't yet taken a position on the bill.

The monument would be managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. The maintenance of current uses, including grazing rights and mountain biking where it is already allowed will go on.

If the status quo is to be so strictly maintained, you might wonder why national monument status is even needed.

The designation would firm up the current protections and make it more difficult for future administrations or elected officials to change course and manage the area differently.

The other important effect of a national monument designation is tourism.

It literally would put the area on the map for those looking for a Colorado outdoor adventure. The designation would help not only the outfitters who run rafting trips down the Arkansas River or currently work within the designated area, but it would bring customers to those who have restaurants and other tourism-related businesses adjacent to the protected area.

Browns Canyon is one of Colorado's special places, full of beauty and wildlife. A national monument designation would add additional assurances it remains so.

THE OUTDOOR WIRE
The Outdoor Industry's Daily Transactions Newsletter

Sportsmen's Organizations Support Keeping Browns Canyon As It Is

The Outdoors Wire
by Garrett VeneKlasen and John Gale
April 1, 2013
http://www.theoutdoorwire.com/story/1364801240n49ny90b1k8

Washington D.C.--Sportsmen are rallying around an effort that would protect thousands of acres of fishing, hunting and recreation in the Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River in central Colorado.

On Thursday, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall introduced legislation that would protect 22,000 acres of Browns Canyon between Salida and Buena Vista in Chaffee County. Of that 22,000, 10,500 acres would be new wilderness, which would secure the highly popular rafting area in the canyon, as well as ensure the canyon remains just like it is now for coming generations of anglers, hunters and boaters.

"Protecting Browns Canyon will ensure excellent fishing opportunities for our children and grandchildren on a spectacular portion of the Arkansas River while helping to protect the river's excellent water quality. This proposal is all about keeping the area just as it is," said Reed Dils, Trout Unlimited member, angler and retired river and fishing outfitter. "We don't need to complicate things. Places like Browns Canyon not only belong to our current generation but to subsequent generations. This maintains all the current uses--hunting, angling, motorized routes, recreation--not to mention the economy supported by those values."

The Arkansas River is a prized brown trout fishery, and Browns Canyon is one of few true wilderness fishing destinations left on the river today. This stretch of river runs well away from U.S. Highway 285, and is noted for its great whitewater rafting, as well as quality angling for wild trout. The area at large boasts a wide diversity in landscape, from Ponderosa forests to higher elevation aspen stands, and is home to an array of species such as bobcat, mountain lions, fox, elk, turkey, bighorn sheep, waterfowl, mule deer, and black bear.

"Browns Canyon epitomizes Colorado's unique quality of life to many Coloradoans who fish, hunt, hike, or view wildlife," said Suzanne O'Neill of the Colorado Wildlife Federation. "We appreciate that Senator Udall gathered extensive public input before drafting this important legislation to protect Browns for future generations."

Beyond that, the economic impacts of places like Browns Canyon are no secret. In 2011, 1.85 million people, or 47 percent of the state's population participated in wildlife-associated recreation in Colorado and out of state. In Colorado alone, hunters and anglers support almost 19,000 jobs.

"This is something that has to happen, one way or another. I've been advocating for protection of this beautiful backcountry habitat since the early 70's," said Salida resident, Bill Sustrich, life member of both Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and the NRA. "I've watched the proposed area for protection go from 100,000 acres to just over 20,000. There has been plenty of compromise over the years and now is the time to ensure that the incredible fish and game resources on this wild landscape are secured."

The national monument designation came from the ground up by local stakeholders from all across the political spectrum, and it's been in the works for over a decade.

"Our members wear many hats, and not just as anglers. Sure, they fish, but they also hunt, bike,

and camp," said Sinjin Eberle, president of Colorado Trout Unlimited. "They run whitewater and wear out their fair share of hiking boots on our state's trails. Browns Canyon is a gem because it provides all of these opportunities to so many people. Why wouldn't we want to protect something this special forever? As sportsmen, we feel this is a good compromise for all users."

Most of all, says John Gale, regional representative of the National Wildlife Federation, this place is simply something to behold - something to be valued - no matter what your affiliation.
"Brown's Canyon is a unique and remarkable feature of the Arkansas River valley. The jagged canyon walls that define its powerful topography give way to the gin clear trout waters at the bottom where devoted anglers can be rewarded with the catch of a lifetime," he said. "The big game country that undulates across the canyon's east flank provides critical winter range for elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. These are the iconic landscapes that characterize our Western heritage and sporting traditions. We are compelled, as responsible stewards, to pass down this public lands inheritance to future generations who demand its values remain unspoiled."

Colo. senator getting positive feedback on proposed national monument

E&E Publishing
by Scott Streater
April 1, 2013
http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/print/2013/04/01/7

Sporting and conservation groups say they strongly support a proposal by Colorado Sen. Mark Udall (D) to designate a new national monument in pristine Browns Canyon.

Udall last week unveiled a draft bill that proposes to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument in Chaffee County, Colo., along a particularly scenic section of the Arkansas River (E&ENews PM, March 28).

Udall is waiting to file the bill until after his office holds at least two public meetings over the next two months to gather feedback and garner local community support for the "Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act of 2013," which would also designate 10,500 acres within the boundaries of the proposed national monument as new wilderness.

Udall's goal is to formally file a bill by June, said Mike Saccone, a spokesman for the senator in Washington, D.C.

So far, reaction has been positive, with a coalition of sporting and conservation groups weighing in with strong support for the proposal. They view the section of the Arkansas River in central Colorado that is targeted for protection as a critical brown trout fishery.

"This proposal is all about keeping the area just as it is," said Reed Dils of Trout Unlimited. "We don't need to complicate things. Places like Browns Canyon not only belong to our current generation but to subsequent generations. This maintains all the current uses -- hunting, angling, motorized routes, recreation -- not to mention the economy supported by those values."

Suzanne O'Neill, executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation, said the section of Browns Canyon in question "epitomizes Colorado's unique quality of life to many Coloradoans who fish, hunt, hike or view wildlife."

Indeed, the area is noted for its whitewater rafting, as well as high-quality angling for wild trout. Udall's draft bill calls for maintaining existing uses, including river running, hunting and angling, grazing, and motorized access on all designated roads in the area.

The area boasts a wide diversity in landscape, according to the groups, from Ponderosa forests to higher-elevation aspen stands, and is home to an array of species such as bobcats, mountain lions, elk, bighorn sheep and black bears.

All these are reasons why Udall's proposal "is something that has to happen, one way or another," said Bill Sustrich, a Backcountry Hunters and Anglers member and Salida, Colo., resident who has advocated for protecting the region for more than three decades.

The draft bill continues work Udall began in March 2012, when he proposed two draft bills that would have designated more than 200,000 acres as wilderness and a new national monument covering a much broader area (Land Letter, March 1, 2012).

The Browns Canyon monument draft Udall unveiled last week is a distilled version of that proposal that has been tweaked based on public comments collected over the last year from sporting and recreation groups, local officials, businesses, and federal and state agencies.

"I've watched the proposed area for protection go from 100,000 acres to just over 20,000," Sustrich said. "There has been plenty of compromise over the years, and now is the time to ensure that the incredible fish and game resources on this wild landscape are secured."

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Browns Canyon National Monument gets thumbs up from community

Summit Daily News
by Daily News staff
March 31, 2013
http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20130331/NEWS/130339993/1078&ParentProfile=1055

Colorado Sen. Mark Udall has released a detailed legislative proposal to establish Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area. The latest step in a yearlong public-engagement process, Udall's proposal reflects feedback from dozens of stakeholders, including business owners, sportsmen, elected officials and recreational groups.

"My business livelihood and quality of life both depend on the protection of Browns Canyon," said Christian Campton, owner of KODI Rafting in Frisco. "I personally appreciate Sen. Udall's efforts to ensure the national monument will continue to allow rafting, fishing, hunting and other economic drivers while helping us attract new visitors to experience what makes this area so unique."

Protection of places like Browns Canyon as a national monument positively affects the economic health of river outfitters, local businesses and the surrounding communities, said Ryan Bidwell of The Wilderness Society in a statement praising Udall's actions.

"Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves permanent protection to ensure the outdoor legacy, recreational opportunities and the local economic growth for the future," Bidwell said. "We applaud Sen. Udall for responding to public comments and crafting a balanced proposal that will allow economically important recreation to continue, while ensuring the area is protected for future generations."

Udall's proposal would protect approximately 22,000 acres along the iconic Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista. Browns Canyon is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the nation. The regional whitewater sports industry, which includes rafting, kayaking and other activities, accounted for more than $20 million in direct expenditures for a total economic impact of more than $52 million in the Arkansas Valley in 2012.

SUMMIT COUNTY CITIZENS VOICE

Colorado: Sen. Udall floats Browns Canyon National Monument bill

Summit County Citizens Voice
by Bob Berwyn
March 29, 2013
http://summitcountyvoice.com/2013/03/29/colorado-udall-floats-browns-canyon-national-monument-bill/

SUMMIT COUNTY — After a year-long grassroots process, Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) says the proposed 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument is ready for prime time.

Udall, who chairs the U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee, this week introduced a draft bill that would also create 10,500 acres of wilderness within the monument and protect the most-used rafting destination in the country.

"I am proposing a new national monument for Browns Canyon so that future generations of Coloradans can enjoy the unique mix of exciting whitewater and wilderness so close to Colorado's Front Range," Udall said in a statement.

"Thanks to community input, this proposal will preserve Browns Canyon, create jobs, support our economy and protect our incredible quality of life," Udall said. "I have spent more than a year listening to stakeholders, and this balanced proposal will preserve this remarkable landscape while also drawing visitors who will boost the economy of this treasured part of Colorado," Udall added.

Browns Canyon National Monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife. Udall's proposal maintains existing uses, including river running, hunting and angling, grazing, and motorized access on all designated roads in the area. The proposal also requires that the agencies develop a coordinated management plan for managing visitor use and resources.

Udall is asking stakeholders to review the proposal and give him additional input by the end of May 2013. He will hold two public meetings on the proposal:

- Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Company, 23910 U.S. Highway 285 in Nathrop; and,
- Saturday, May 18, on the Front Range, time and location TBA.

Stakeholders can download a copy of the draft bill and map and submit comments HERE. They

also can contact Udall's office at 303-650-7820 to set up a meeting with staff.

Since last spring, Udall and his staff have conducted more than 40 meetings with stakeholders including recreation groups, local officials, businesses, state and federal agencies, sportsmen groups and water providers. The proposal has elicited more than 2,000 written comments.

Conservation advocates and outdoor recreation enthusiasts said the designation would protect a regional economic engine.

"My business livelihood and quality of life both depend on the protection of Browns Canyon," said Christian Campton, owner of KODI Rafting. "I personally appreciate Senator Udall's efforts to ensure the national monument will continue to allow rafting, fishing, hunting and other economic drivers while helping us attract new visitors to experience what makes this area so unique."

Protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument is crucial to the economic health of river outfitters, local businesses and the surrounding communities.

"Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves permanent protection to ensure the outdoor legacy, recreational opportunities and the local economic growth continue for the future," said Ryan Bidwell of The Wilderness Society. "We applaud Senator Udall for responding to public comments and crafting a balanced proposal that will allow economically important recreation to continue, while ensuring the area is protected for future generations."

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Udall Unveils Proposal to Create Browns Canyon National Monument, Wilderness Area

The Mountain Mail
by Staff
March 28, 2013
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_9193f300-97e8-11e2-ab21-001a4bcf6878.html

Mark Udall, who chairs the U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee, unveiled draft legislation today to create the Browns Canyon National Monument, covering 22,000 acres between Salida and Buena Vista in Chaffee County.

The proposal includes 10,500 acres of new wilderness and seeks to protect the most popular rafting destination in the country. The proposal is based on a year of public input that Udall and his staff have collected since the spring of 2012.

"I am proposing a new national monument for Browns Canyon so that future generations of Coloradans can enjoy the unique mix of exciting whitewater and wilderness so close to Colorado's Front Range.

Thanks to community input, this proposal will preserve Browns Canyon, create jobs, support our economy and protect our incredible quality of life," Udall said. "I have spent more than a year listening to stakeholders, and this balanced proposal will preserve this remarkable landscape while also drawing visitors who will boost the economy of this treasured part of Colorado."

Under Udall's proposal, the Browns Canyon National Monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

Udall's proposal maintains existing uses, including river running, hunting and angling, grazing, and motorized access on all designated roads in the area. The proposal also requires that the agencies develop a coordinated management plan for managing visitor use and resources.

Udall is asking stakeholders to review the proposal and give him additional input by the end of May. He will hold two public meetings on the proposal:

- 10 a.m. to noon April 13 at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Co., 23910 U.S. 285, Nathrop.
- May 18 at a time and Front Range location to be announced.

Stakeholders can download a copy of the draft bill and map and submit comments http://www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=51">HERE. They also can contact Udall's office at 303-650-7820 to set up a meeting with staff.

Udall began a bottom-up, community-based process about whether and how to protect the Browns Canyon area in spring 2012.

Since that time, he and his staff have conducted more than 40 meetings with stakeholders including recreation groups, local officials, businesses, state and federal agencies, sportsmen groups and water providers. He has also received more than 2,000 written comments

Udall Proposes New Browns Canyon National Monument

KUNC
by Nathan Heffel
March 28, 2013
http://kunc.org/post/udall-proposes-new-browns-canyon-national-monument

Colorado Democratic Senator Mark Udall announced his proposal for a new National Monument and Wilderness area near Salida Thursday.

The new proposal designates 22,000 acres as Browns Canyon National Monument along with 10,500 acres inside the monument as new National Wilderness.

Senator Udall says the proposal, still in draft form, will preserve Browns Canyon, create jobs and protect the quality of life in Colorado. "We've crafted a balanced proposal that will preserve a remarkable landscape," said Udall. "And it will draw visitors that will boost the economy for what is a treasured part of Colorado."

The new Browns Canyon National Monument will be situated between Salida and Buena Vista in the heart of Chaffee County. Udall says the land would be jointly managed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife through the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

The Senator says there will be little change to access, with most visitors rafting or boating through the new monument along the Arkansas River. They will also be allowed to enter at two existing sites with parking, campgrounds and boat ramps.

Existing use of the area including river running, hunting and angling, grazing and motorized access on all designated roads will not be affected by the proposed designation. "I have spent more than a year listening to stakeholders, and this balanced proposal will preserve this remarkable landscape while also drawing visitors who will boost the economy of this treasured part of Colorado," Udall says.

As part of the larger Browns Canyon National Monument, areas currently part of a wilderness study area would be designated Wilderness. That adds protections for wildlife, clean air and clean water within the area's boundaries.

The senator says his proposal is emblematic of how public land bills should be done, "from the

bottom up" with collaboration with local residents and stakeholders.
Public meetings will be held on the proposal on April 13th from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Company in Nathrop. Another meeting will take place on May 18th at a location yet to be determined along the Front Range.

Stakeholders can download a copy of the draft bill and map and submit comments. They also can contact Udall's office at 303-650-7820 to set up a meeting with staff.

Udall plans to introduce his proposal for the National Monument and Wilderness area to the U.S. Senate sometime in June.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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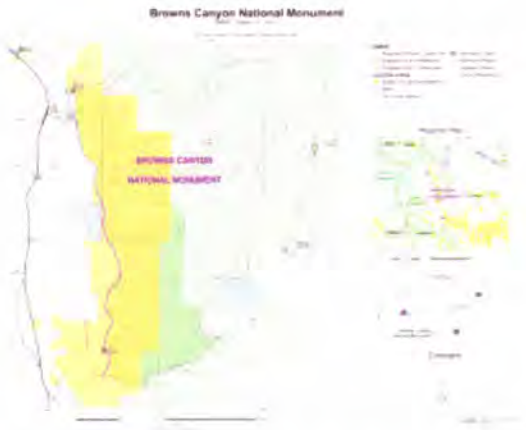
Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
by Casey Kelly
March 29, 2013
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_29d6c9c2-987e-11e2-b2a2-0019bb30f31a.html



Udall announces proposal for national monument and wilderness area

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) announced Thursday his proposal to create Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area, stating there would be "no disruption to existing uses" in the area considered in the proposal.

The proposal would create a 22,000-acre national monument and designate a total of 10,500 acres of new wilderness. The 10,500 acres of wilderness will be divided into 7,900 acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management and 2,400 acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

"The monument will stay under the same management it has now: the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service and the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area," Udall said in a phone conference with The Mountain Mail and The Chaffee County Times Thursday.

"We're going to put a big star on the map for people from all over the world to come to the Arkansas River Valley," he said.
Grazing rights, water rights, hunting, fishing and outfitting uses will be unaffected by the proposal, according to Udall.

Under the proposal, access to the area will continue as it is now. The 5.85 miles of Turret Trail that exists now will stay open to allow access to the proposed Forest Service wilderness from its eastern boundary. Motorized access on Forest Service Road 1434 and Aspen Ridge Road, which border the proposed monument's north and east side, will remain unchanged.

"What the bill does is maintain motorized use in exactly the same configuration as it is now. Most of the proposed monument is bordered by roads, and the Turret Trail … will remain open in its current condition," Udall said.

Udall will host a public meeting at 10 a.m. April 13 at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting Company in Nathrop to gather written comments about the proposal from local residents.

"Based on what I hear from the community, I expect to introduce a bill into the U.S. Senate in June of this year," Udall said. "You all know that Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country … and it drives a lot of tourism in the Arkansas River Valley. My proposal is aimed at making sure it remains a job-creating force in the region and across Colorado."

Friends of Browns Canyon, a local nonprofit group dedicated to protecting the canyon, praised Udall's proposal Thursday.
"We want to thank Sen. Udall for working with our community on this important issue, and we look forward to working with our fellow citizens during the public comment period," said Keith Baker, executive director of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "We encourage people to let the senator know how strongly they support permanent protection for Browns Canyon."

Udall and members of his staff began soliciting local feedback about three possible options for the proposal in 2012. During the meetings, some local residents raised concerns about how access to the area would be impacted by the proposal.

"This proposal was crafted with heavy input from stakeholders across the political spectrum, and it takes into account what the community needs: not only to protect the area but also ensure there is no disruption to existing uses," Udall said.

Joe Greiner of Wilderness Aware Rafting and member of the Arkansas River Outfitters Association said March 28 he thought the proposal was even-handed in its concerns for the various users of the area.

"This is a sound proposal that addresses the concerns of all the user groups," said Greiner. "Browns Canyon National Monument will bring unique attention to this reach of the Arkansas River. Many people have national monuments on their life lists, and go out of their way to find national monuments."

Udall said costs associated with the proposal, such as who would install and pay for new identification signage for the national monument, would be determined later in the process.

"I believe the costs, if there are any, will be manageable. But that is one of the questions we'll have to answer," Udall said.

"By creating the monument and the wilderness area, we're going to drive additional economic activity that will really help the Arkansas Valley. That's really at the center of what I'm proposing, as well as preserving these lands for generations to come. This is a win-win in both of those respects," he said.

Udall said he has spoken with 5th Congressional District Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colorado Springs) about the idea "generally," and that he hopes to gain his support.

"At this point he's not committed to sponsoring a bill, and I wouldn't have expected him to," Udall said. "But I'm hopeful that he will take a look at the work we've done, and he would consider signing on when he sees the overwhelming public support for the concept."

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Browns Canyon Q&A

The Mountain Mail

by Staff

By February 27, 2013

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/article_67a640ea-80f8-11e2-b5bc-001a4bcf6878.html

Q Are you in favor of designating Browns Canyon as a national monument and wilderness area? Why or why not?

Baker: Browns Canyon is a national treasure that deserves to be permanently protected to both ensure that the area will remain open to hunting, fishing and rafting and to preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations. This incredible area provides outstanding fish and wildlife habitat as well as unparalleled rafting, hunting and other recreational opportunities.

For more than 10 years, local citizens and bipartisan lawmakers have been working to protect Browns Canyon, which currently remains Colorado's most appreciated unprotected landscape. Protecting the public lands in Browns Canyon is important to the economic health of local businesses, river outfitters and the surrounding communities. This is why the Friends of Browns Canyon supports the permanent protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument.

Bauer: We could be persuaded to support a national monument designation if it is done right. Wilderness is a different story. We see no need for more wilderness designation, especially one that is so counter to the intent of the wilderness law.

Proponents say they want to save and protect this area, but their efforts may well make it more susceptible to beetles and fire.

Q In your opinion, what constitutes a wilderness area?

Bauer: The original intent was to take the areas where man had not made his mark and preserve them from such. Browns Canyon is the opposite. Man has already left his mark with roads (including a mail route, mostly closed now), cabin remnants, test holes, corrals, fence remnants, grazing cattle and most of the virgin timber long ago harvested. Plus it's within rock-throwing distance of a trailer park and railroad tracks.

Baker: Wilderness is a type of protection given to our most treasured natural areas – areas within national parks, forests, recreation areas and other wildlands where there are limited roads or development. Contrary to what some believe, there are designated wilderness areas that have old cabins, roads, railways, mines and other forms of previous development, and the limited amount of past development that happened in Browns certainly does not disqualify the area from this standard of protection.

Here in Chaffee County, numerous local citizens, businesses and elected officials have supported preserving the wild character of Browns Canyon. In 2005, Republican Rep. Joel Hefley and Sen. Wayne Allard introduced legislation to protect Browns Canyon with a wilderness. This bill had the support of every member of the Colorado delegation at the time. Unfortunately Congress failed to act on that legislation.

Sen. Mark Udall is currently working with the community on a proposal that will protect Browns Canyon as a national monument with a portion of the area receiving protection similar to a designated wilderness area.

A national monument will offer immediate protections and could be issued to preserve the current uses (rafting, hunting, fishing, hiking, etc.), while making sure the ecological state of the area is not degraded.

Q What impact would creating Browns Canyon National Monument have on Chaffee County?

Baker: Permanently protecting Browns Canyon will have a positive impact on Chaffee County. Browns Canyon is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the nation. The regional rafting industry accounts for more than $23 million in direct expenditures for a total economic impact of over $60 million in the Arkansas Valley annually.

In addition, hiking in the area contributes millions of dollars to the local economy each year, with the average hiker spending $77-$200 for each hiking outing.

To ensure we continue to see these benefits, we need to make sure the area is permanently protected. Several economic studies have shown that protected public lands attract tourist dollars; they also boost average per-capita incomes by attracting entrepreneurial residents who add higher-paying jobs to the local economy. We've seen this here already.

Having a national monument fits into Chaffee County's plans for its economic future and will help stimulate future economic diversity.

Bauer: Again, if done right, it could be positive. If it turns into an area that excludes all but the most mobile users, the only economic gain will be to rafting outfitters.

It's worth noting that tourism involving both off-highway-vehicles and even the family SUV is an 8-9-month deal, not 8-9 weeks like others and is not dependent on snowpack.

I've visited more than a dozen national monuments in the West, and in each you could drive through or close to the main attractions. Just to hike to the middle of this proposed wilderness area/monument and back is a 15-mile round trip.

Though some want all the old roads reopened, we have proposed a compromise route through the area north to south and one feeder route to within a 10- or 15-minute hike of the river. The roads/trails are mostly there now from long ago

with about half currently open and could be completed and maintained with OHV trail money.

Our offers have been ignored, so we are left with little option but to oppose the whole thing. We're really not asking much, but there are some out there who want it all for themselves and don't care that those with limited mobility are excluded. Reasonable vehicle access will allow a much greater user base and an actual economic benefit.

Q Which is more important: opening the area to motorized access or preserving its wilderness characteristics?

Bauer: While preservation is often cited as a reason to restrict access, we have a serious beetle problem in the state and of course a huge fire problem. The Forest Service's own study showed that wilderness and roadless areas are a major contributor to our beetle problem because those forests cannot be adequately managed.

Limitations on pre-fire management and restrictions on how a fire can be fought in wilderness areas make a dangerous situation much worse and likely to spread to nonwilderness. Reasonable motorized access is compatible with preservation and can aid in fire/beetle mitigation.

OHV enthusiasts have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars of their money on education, mitigation, patrolling and sound management to aid in becoming a potential asset instead of a detriment. The 380-member High Rocky Riders has volunteered many hours to this end.

Baker: It's important that our community have the ability to enjoy the outdoors in a variety of ways. Here in Chaffee County, we are fortunate we have more than 500 miles of routes and trails to accommodate off-road vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles in the Fourmile Travel Management Area.

Browns Canyon is currently recognized as a Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area and National Forest Roadless Area. The proposed national monument complements the OHV use in that area and will ensure that existing access roads and trails on all sides of the proposal continue to provide access for recreationists, while preserving the core of the Browns Canyon area in its current state.

Q How much is enough OHV access in Chaffee County, and how much is too much? Conversely, how much is enough wilderness area here, and how much is too much?

Baker: Chaffee County has many important and unique assets that should be preserved and noted. We are fortunate that we have a diverse county that contains both OHV routes and wilderness areas. The popular Fourmile Travel Management Area, which includes many miles of routes open to motorized recreation, adjoins the Browns Canyon area. Protecting Browns Canyon will provide balanced recreational opportunities in Chaffee County.

Bauer: With aging baby boomers, chronically and recently handicapped, including wounded warriors, there is a need for more motorized opportunities, not less. Some like to complain about how many miles of roads we have versus how little they have. But the truth is, all motorized routes are open to anyone who can fit on them, including hikers, horsemen, bicyclers, hunters, etc.

We gladly share our trails and most other users respect that. Those who don't want to get along with other users are actually in the minority, but well organized and very outspoken. There are a half million acres of designated wilderness in our area where they can recreate without us.

Q Do you see the different opinions on Browns Canyon as a conflict of interest between the OHV and rafting communities? Is there any common ground for compromise?

Bauer: This is something we don't quite understand. We have no problem whatsoever with rafting outfitters, but some seem to have a big problem with us. There are some raft companies that are very outspoken against OHVs, and for what they think are good reasons.

However, others have shown support for us and welcome the visitors who come to ride or drive through the mountains today and take a raft trip tomorrow. Our common ground is that with so many recreational opportunities in this county, we should be supporting each other instead of fighting over who gets kicked out.

Of course they all love us, at least for a brief moment, when we show up at a river accident scene with all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles to help evacuate the injured.

All that said, I see some benefit to the river corridor being designated as a national monument.

Baker: There is widespread support among all types of recreationists that Browns Canyon deserves permanent protection. Given that many rafters also ride OHVs, plenty of people understand that we need to take a broad view of how we manage our public lands in the county to ensure we maintain the ability for people to explore the outdoors while protecting the critical wildlife habitat.

Q Sen. Udall's office has said his pending legislation will preserve existing usage rights, but further details have been scarce. What's your interpretation of what constitutes existing usage rights?

Baker: Supporters of Browns Canyon National Monument share the desire to protect and respect those traditional uses that honor our unique mountain heritage. These uses include hiking and camping, hunting and angling, horseback riding, permitted grazing, activities under existing special use permits, and nature and wildlife viewing.

Sen. Udall has engaged in a transparent public process, which last year involved soliciting input at public meetings and appearances. He has also provided ongoing information through his website and monthly newsletter. We expect a draft bill to be public in a few weeks, after which additional public comment will be sought.

Bauer: The only current usage right I'm aware of is some grazing that should be preserved no matter what the designation.

Q Is the Browns Canyon environment unique? If so, what makes it different from the rest of the Mosquito Range?

Bauer: Let's face it, from Granite down to Royal Gorge and beyond, the terrain is amazingly beautiful. Browns Canyon, while not that unique, has a high concentration of this beauty that deserves to be shared by all, not just the highly mobile.

At 20,000-plus acres there is room for all users to enjoy without trampling on each other or ruining anyone's experience. The river corridor deviates from the highway and residences in a way that separates it from a lot of the Arkansas River and other river corridors. It's remote, but busy enough that you don't have to worry about the banjo pickers.

Baker: Elevations at Browns Canyon range from 10,000 to 7,300 feet, making this a unique mid-elevation area of public land. There are no permanently protected areas that combine similar terrain and wildlife habitat with a whitewater river in Colorado.

A national monument will protect the Browns Canyon bighorn sheep population as well as critical winter range for deer, elk and other big game species. It will preserve high alpine forests, shimmering aspen groves and wild vistas. Without wilderness protection, it is uncertain how long these landscapes will remain undeveloped, or how long the mountain lions, black bears and pine martens will be able to roam and reproduce in their natural territory.

Protecting the public lands in Browns Canyon will ensure that the natural legacy of this unique area remains intact for future generations of boaters, hikers, outfitters, ranchers, hunters and explorers.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

The tangled legislative history of Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail

by Maisie Ramsay

February 15, 2013

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_9bdea536-778a-11e2-8dba-0019bb30f31a.html

1976

After the Bureau of Land Management was left out of the 1964 Wilderness Act, Congress moves to protect wilderness-quality lands managed by the bureau with the passing of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The bill requires the agency to inventory its lands and identify areas with certain characteristics as wilderness study areas – sections of land which Congress is supposed to either designate as wilderness or open for use as nonwilderness areas.

Congress has left many wilderness study areas in bureaucratic limbo.

1979

The BLM identifies 117 areas in Colorado with wilderness potential. Browns Canyon is one of seven named by the Royal Gorge Field Office, according to records obtained by BLM public affairs officer Denise Adamic.

The BLM's preliminary inventory eventually leads to Browns Canyon becoming a wilderness study area, though the exact date of the designation is unclear.

1991

A wide-ranging House bill introduced by Colorado Republican Reps. Wayne Allard and Dan Schaefer seeks to name hundreds of thousands of acres in Colorado as wilderness, including Browns Canyon.

The Colorado Wilderness Act of 1991 never makes it out of committee.

1999

Colorado Democratic Rep. Diana DeGette begins a decade-long attempt to pass the Colorado Wilderness Act. The first iteration of her legislation has 25 co-sponsors but fails to make it to the floor for a vote.

Future versions of the bill have far fewer co-sponsors and also fail to make it out of committee.

DeGette is still working to pass the legislation. The most recent version of the act included a 19,825-acre wilderness area for Browns Canyon.

2003

Friends of Browns Canyon forms to obtain bipartisan support for getting formal wilderness protection for the area, according to Keith Baker, the group's current executive director.

2005

Republican Rep. Joel Hefley and six other Colorado lawmakers in Congress introduce the Browns Canyon Wilderness Act. Sen. Wayne Allard unveils companion legislation in the Senate.

The bills fail after the National Rifle Association comes out against the wilderness designation, claiming it will limit hunting in Browns Canyon by closing Turret Road, according to media reports at the time.

2006

The Browns Canyon effort is dealt a setback when Hefley decides not to run for re-election. The candidate Hefley backs as his successor, Jeff Crank, faces off against fellow Republican Doug Lamborn in a bitter primary fight that results in bad blood among the three lawmakers.

Lamborn wins the election. He does not support Hefley's pet project to procure wilderness designation for Browns Canyon.

2008

Then-U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar makes an attempt at the Browns Canyon Wilderness Act, but it never makes it past committee.

The Colorado Democrat goes on to become secretary of the interior during President Barack Obama's first term in office. Salazar recently announced he will step down from the post by the end of March.

2012

Sen. Mark Udall outlines a plan to name portions of the Arkansas River canyon a national monument and designate the surrounding 20,000-acre Browns Canyon area as wilderness. Lamborn's support is seen as critical for the Browns Canyon movement because his district includes Chaffee County and he heads the influential House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

2013

In late January, Udall announces plans for a 60-day comment period after the draft to make Browns Canyon a national monument is made public. His office has not said when the plan will be released.

Three map options are available for public inspection at markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=51.

The Gazette
gazette.com

LETTERS: Protect Brown's Canyon; physical-only free for all society

Colorado Springs Gazette
by David A. Lien
December 1, 2012
http://www.gazette.com/articles/canyon-147975-brown-saying.html#ixzz2PWJFy3kR

Consensus close to universal

Unfortunately, Rep. Doug Lamborn has been blocking wilderness designation for Browns Canyon, and recently his office released a statement saying he "wants to see greater consensus on this issue before backing any bill or proposal designating Browns Canyon a national wilderness area or monument."

That's interesting, because the consensus on protecting Browns Canyon is as close to universal as anything can be these days. Everyone from NRA members to Sierra Clubbers, mountains bikers to equestrians, county commissioners to forest service employees, and Democrats to Republicans, along with hunters and anglers, have been clamoring (for years) for Colorado's congressional delegation to pass legislation protecting Browns Canyon as wilderness.

The proposed Browns Canyon Wilderness area is a 20,000-acre parcel of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, in a state-defined source water assessment area (municipal water supply). Outfitter and guide activities for hunting, hiking, and horseback riding are permitted. Livestock grazing occurs. However, it is limited due to a scarcity of water. There are no range improvements.

Many local residents, including county commissioners, the Salida Business Alliance, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, Trout Unlimited, and others too numerous to mention in this short letter, have pushed for permanent protections for the area.

Given the nearly universal consensus that exists for protecting Browns Canyon (the bill was also originally introduced by Republican Rep. Joel Hefley and co-sponsored by Republican Rep. Bob Beauprez, and in 2005 the entire Colorado congressional delegation supported Hefly's bill), it's not clear why Lamborn is delaying Browns Canyon legislation.

David A. Lien, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Colorado Springs

The Gazette
gazette.com

NOREEN: Preserve the Browns Canyon gem

Colorado Springs Gazette
by Barry Noreen
November 16, 2012
http://www.gazette.com/news/browns-147410-canyon-gem.html

Seven years after a bipartisan agreement was reached to create a 20,000-acre Browns Canyon Wilderness 75 miles west of Colorado Springs, the scenic and rugged area's future still is being held captive.

The area is bordered on the west by the famed whitewater run that's the center of a $28 million annual river-running industry in the upper Arkansas River valley. Many residents there, including outfitters, the Salida Business Alliance, Trout Unlimited and others, have pushed for permanent protections for the area because they've recognized that the valley's economy depends on ranching and outdoor recreation, not mining or energy development.

"It's about attractive, not extractive," said activist and renowned nature photographer John Fielder, who spoke to the Pikes Peak chapter of the Sierra Club on Wednesday.

Fielder briefly recounted Colorado's mining history, noting that with each boomlet, the state had some temporary jobs, then had to deal with mining's legacy — polluted holes in the ground. That's certainly the case upstream and downstream of Browns Canyon, where polluted Superfund sites left over from the mining days reside in Salida and Leadville.

"If we don't learn from what we did before, what are we going to have?" Fielder asked rhetorically.

Unlike some other Colorado wilderness study areas, Browns Canyon is not coveted by energy companies. Because of the rugged terrain, which reaches the 10,000-foot altitude in some places, no roads were built; whatever timber is there is worth less than it would cost to build the roads necessary for logging.

In 2005, former 5th Congressional District Congressman Joel Hefley sponsored a bill to designate Browns Canyon a wilderness area. At the time Hefley said "Browns Canyon is ideal for this type of designation" and cited the widespread support (see http:

/brownscanyon.org/) for it from Chaffee County. Another Colorado Republican, Rep. Bob Beauprez, was a co-sponsor. Through no fault of theirs, the bill didn't get priority and did not advance.

Hefley retired, succeeded by Rep. Doug Lamborn, who has blocked wilderness designation for Browns Canyon. On Thursday, Lamborn's office released a statement saying he "wants to see greater consensus on this issue before backing any bill or proposal designating Brown's Canyon a national wilderness area or monument."

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., is taking public comment about Browns Canyon, but without Lamborn's support any bill is likely to fail. That's too bad, because it would create one more wilderness area within easy driving distance of Colorado Springs, adding one more asset to market a city that is trying to be seen as an outdoor recreation hub.

The wilderness designation, of course, would cost us nothing.
In highly partisan political times, compromising on anything can be portrayed as weakness. It seems a shame when the two parties had signed off on the idea seven years ago.

Always the optimist, and the person who has done more to preserve Colorado's legacy than anyone else, Fielder said "we've got a better chance to get wilderness now."

Columnists who tend to be more jaded think our officials are lost in a wilderness — with little hope of finding a way out.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Act swiftly to protect Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
by Christian "Campy" Campton
November 2, 2012
http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_61a9026e-2503-11e2-8572-001a4bcf6878.html

Dear Editor:

The recent designation of Chimney Rock National Monument in Archuletta County and the news of an upcoming national monument in California to celebrate the life and work of Caesar Chavez are certainly both great things to celebrate.

The president has provided a great reminder that our public lands offer Americans the unique opportunity to explore and experience the landscapes that shaped our nation. From Native American cultural sites to historic icons, these lands represent our way of life, a living link to the past and our pledge to tomorrow.

In Colorado, our heritage is not only tied to people and events; it is tied to places where we experience the outdoors. Colorado has a great outdoor heritage that is proudly maintained in Browns Canyon and the Arkansas River Valley.

For me, the connection to Browns Canyon is very personal. My grandfather, whose nickname I share, moved to Chaffee County and became part of local legacy of boaters and hunters. He was active in FIBArk, both as an organizer and competitor. He won the downriver race in 1959 and was inducted to the FIBArk Hall of Fame in 2011.

My grandfather shared his passion for the river with our whole family and anyone who would listen to him. He understood how important the river is to our enjoyment of life.

He also understood how beneficial the river is to the community. By permanently protecting Browns Canyon, we have the opportunity to see this continued benefit.

With national monument designation, Chimney Rock will bring even more attention to the area, boosting tourism and helping the local economy. A recent economic study showed the Chimney Rock National Monument will double the economic benefits to the region within 5 years.

It's for these reasons that, here in Chaffee County, river outfitters and business owners like me are supporting a proposal to permanently protect Browns Canyon.

Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River – and opportunities it provides for rafting, hunting, fishing, climbing, hiking and other forms of recreation – is already a major economic engine and job creator for our region.

This section of the Arkansas River is one of the most popular whitewater rafter destinations in the country, bringing in more than $23 million each year to the Arkansas Valley.

Sen. Udall has been a great supporter of protecting Browns Canyon. He understands Browns Canyon is a national treasure which deserves to be permanently protected, both to ensure the area will remain open to hunting, fishing and rafting and to preserve Colorado's outdoor legacy for future generations.

Protecting these lands and activities that currently occur here is key to the quality of life that has inspired my grandfather and so many families, artists and business owners to locate and stay here.

Protecting Browns Canyon is an investment in our community. I urge President Obama and our congressional delegation to act swiftly to ensure permanent protection of this area – for the future of our community, economy and our way of life.

Christian "Campy" Campton, Frisco

The Georgia BULLETIN

Concern for protecting nature spurs Catholic youths to visit Washington

The Georgia Bulletin
by Staff
October 8, 2012
http://www.georgiabulletin.org/world/2012/10/08/NEWS-1/

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As 19-year-old Annalisa Martinez put it, "It's our job to be leaders." She made the comment after she and a group of her peers from a Catholic parish in Denver met with Colorado's U.S. senators on Capitol Hill for an environmental cause: urging federal protection for Browns Canyon in Colorado. Ranging in age from 12 to 19, the Latino youths from Denver's St. Cajetan Parish and an organization called Environmental Learning for Kids were brought together by the Washington-based Hispanic Access Foundation. Maite Arce, executive director of the foundation, founded the nonprofit after growing up as the child of Mexican immigrants who had trouble accessing information and resources in their new country. The foundation has partnerships with mostly faith-based community groups, such as St. Cajetan, to organize events and programs that inform Hispanics about education, voting, the environment and other issues, as well as to promote responsible citizenship and community involvement. St. Cajetan is one of the oldest Hispanic Catholic parishes in the Denver Archdiocese. Over a three-day visit in Washington in mid-September, the youths' schedule included a meeting with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, both Colorado Democrats, to express their concern for Browns Canyon and to promote scholarships for Hispanic students. The canyon, southwest of the Denver metro area, is a popular place for hiking, camping, viewing wildlife, fishing and white-water rafting. Udall has proposed that Congress designate it as national monument or wildlife preserve. It's a place the youths and many others have grown to love, they said. They were among those who went on a recent trip to the canyon sponsored by Hispanic Access Foundation and Environmental Learning for Kids; 250 families participated in the trip, the first of its kind for many in the group.

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THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Letters: 'Protecting Browns Canyon supports future'

The Mountain Mail
by Keith Baker
October 4, 2012
http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_eefacf78-0e40-11e2-8b7e-001a4bcf6878.html

Dear Editor:

I want to thank President Obama for using his authorities under the Antiquities Act to establish Chimney Rock National Monument in southwest Colorado.

This site is an important piece of natural and cultural history, and preserving it for future generations is essential to maintaining our country's shared past.

As a Coloradan, I encourage our elected officials to continue efforts to permanently protect other nationally significant lands. Like Chimney Rock, areas such as Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River deserve national recognition.

There are few public lands left that offer this type of historical and cultural importance, along with tremendous natural beauty and abundant opportunity for outdoor enjoyment.

Senators Udall and Bennet and the other members of the Colorado delegation showed great leadership and refreshing cooperation and collaboration in their work to protect Chimney Rock.

Sen. Udall has also been a champion for protecting Browns Canyon. He understands, as I do, that this area embodies what it means to live in Colorado. Browns Canyon provides our families and communities with opportunities for rafting, fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation.

A Browns Canyon national monument designation would bring positive attention to our area while ensuring that the natural legacy of this area remains intact for succeeding generations.

Permanently protecting Browns Canyon will help support Chaffee County's economic future and guarantee that our children will have the opportunity to enjoy this unique area as we do today.

Keith Baker,

Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired),

Buena Vista

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL
denverbusinessjournal.com

Denver Latino High Schoolers Visit D.C., Advocate for Environment

Denver Business Journal
By PR Newswire
September 27, 2012
http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/prnewswire/press_releases/Colorado/2012/09/27/DC82779

Group Meets with Congress Members, Key Presidential Advisors

DENVER, Sept. 27, 2012 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Eleven Latino high schoolers and six parents from Denver visited the District of Columbia to encourage their elected officials to protect Browns Canyon by providing it with monument status and to preserve other Colorado outdoor locations. The students also met with White House staff, representatives from the Department of Interior and the director of the National Parks Service.

"These kids are vocal champions for the outdoors," said Maite Arce, executive director for Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF). "They are eager to make a difference for Browns Canyon – they are inspired to fight for its protection so that other young people will be able to enjoy it in the future."

The students met with Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO), who is spearheading the effort to afford permanent protection for Browns Canyon, and Sen. Michael Bennett (D-CO), who successfully led the charge to designate Colorado's Chimney Rock as a national monument.

"These Latino youth learned the power of their voice when they participate in public policy," said Linda Sosa, an educator with St. Cajetan Catholic Church. "Browns Canyon and other public spaces have become a passion for these kids. They want to see other generations enjoy what they've been able to experience."

The participants of the visit, which was arranged by HAF, included eight students from St. Cajetan Catholic Church and three from Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK). In July, these same students attended a weekend rafting trip in Browns Canyon organized by HAF and ELK, which helped to teach leadership skills and develop these youth as environmental stewards.

Browns Canyon has become a popular destination, but the area has been degraded by illegal roads leading to erosion and habitat destruction in one of the country's last remaining unprotected wilderness areas. In the 2012 Colorado College Western States Survey, Latino voters expressed stronger pro-conservation views than their Anglo-counterparts. For example, 75 percent said they would support the creation of new parks and monuments in their states.

The voices of the students were also heard by key presidential advisors including Nancy Sutley, chair of the President's Council for Environmental Quality, John Jarvis, director of the National Parks Service and representatives

for Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

"This has been a dream of ours – to be able to go to Washington and build the skills, confidence and knowledge of our church's youth," said Sosa. "They know they can achieve their dreams by having access to our nation's leaders, and becoming leaders themselves in fighting for what they believe in."

About Hispanic Access Foundation

Hispanic Access Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to promote responsible citizenship, educational attainment, and active engagement in the improvement of the health, environment, and financial well-being of Hispanic families throughout the United States. Working with and through our strategic partnerships with faith and community organizations, we are dedicated to providing greater access to information and local resources to the U.S. Hispanic population to improve their health and quality of life. For more information visit www.hispanicaccess.org.

Contact: Robert Fanger
E: fangerpr@hispanicaccess.org
P: 317-410-7668

SOURCE Hispanic Access Foundation

THE DENVER POST
denverpost.com

Preserving areas like Browns Canyon is good for business, too

The Denver Post
by Tim Gaudette
August 25, 2012
http://blogs.denverpost.com/eletters/2012/08/25/preserving-areas-browns-canyon-good-business/19165/

Browns Canyon is not only beautiful, but important to the economy, too. Scott Willoughby's article did a great job showing the cultural, environmental and aesthetic importance of Browns Canyon. It briefly mentioned another fact that, in this tough economy, is just as important: Preserving areas like Browns Canyon is good for business.

Opinion polling we recently released found 63 percent of small-business owners in Colorado agree access to public lands and outdoor opportunities is a large part of why they live and do business in the state, and more than half agree protecting public lands by designating new national monuments would positively impact small business opportunities tied to job creation, as well as help Colorado attract and retain new businesses. What's more, two-thirds support designating Browns Canyon as a national monument, and 83 percent believe we can protect land and water, maintain a strong economy and create local jobs all at once.

Small businesses are our primary job creators. When large majorities support proposals they believe can help put our economy back on track, everyone should pay attention.

Tim Gaudette, Denver

THE HUFFINGTON POST

Champions for the Outdoors

Huffington Post
by Maite Arce
August 17, 2012
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maite-arce/champions-for-the-outdoor_b_1783905.html

Some people were surprised by the pro-conservation findings of a recent Sierra Club-National Council of La Raza national poll of Latino voters. I wasn't, and you wouldn't be either if you saw the thrilled faces of the young people the Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF) and Denver-based Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) took rafting in Colorado this summer. One trip down Class III rapids in Browns Canyon, and now these kids are vocal champions for the outdoors.

It took a caravan of eight vans and SUVs to carry our group of 68 young people (mostly high school-age) and their parents through the scenic Rockies to Buena Vista, Colorado, in July. We tightened our life jackets, strapped on helmets, and climbed into 11 rafts for the guided trip down the Arkansas River through the breathtaking Browns Canyon landscape. We looked for wildlife on the shores - and learned the definition of a "high side." Some of us had never been rafting before, but we were all inspired to return.

Better yet, we were inspired to fight to protect this place so that young people could always enjoy it. U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) is leading a local effort to ensure permanent protection for Browns Canyon. Working with Congress, President Barack Obama could declare a National Monument here so that the river, its native wildlife, and the experiences of visitors like us are preserved for future generations.

Local business owners, like the experienced outfitter that led our trip, Noah's Ark, are engaged in these conservation efforts, as are local elected officials. And yes, Latinos too.

According to the National Council of La Raza poll results, more than 9-in-10 Latino voters (94%) say outdoor activities such as fishing, picnics, camping, and visiting national parks and monuments are important to them and their families. Nearly 7-in-10 (69%) Latino voters say they would support the president designating more public land as national monuments.

The young people in our group sent postcards about the Browns Canyon trip and its protection to Sen. Udall. They are planning a trip to Washington, D.C., next month to visit Secretary Ken Salazar at the U.S. Department of Interior and encourage him, policy-makers and the public to join them in championing the protection of Browns Canyon, and all of our parks, rivers and national monuments.

These outdoor wonders belong to all of us, and these kids didn't need polling to inspire their leadership -- just a trip down a river. Maybe we need to get Congress outside, too.

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

BV trustees support national monument proposal

Chafee County Times
7/26/2012
Casey Kelly

Jill Ozarski, natural resources policy advisor to Sen. Mark Udall, speaks to the Buena Vista board of trustees Tuesday about the senator's proposal to designate permanent wilderness protection for Browns Canyon.

The Buena Vista town board of trustees unanimously passed a resolution supporting permanent wilderness protection for Browns Canyon during its regular meeting Tuesday in Buena Vista.

Residents in the audience applauded the board's vote in support of U.S. Sen. Mark Udall's proposal to grant permanent wilderness protection for Browns Canyon and designate an area around the Arkansas River as a national monument.

"Do we want to protect that area? Do we want it to be there, or do we want to let somebody subdivide it and develop it? To me, that's pretty much a no-brainer," Trustee Duff Lacy said in support of the resolution.

Jill Ozarski, natural resources policy advisor to Udall (D-Colo.), spoke to trustees about the proposal, stating the designation would not change management, access or traditional uses of the area.

She said Udall is still listening to public input on the proposal.

"We're listening to the community right now," Ozarski said. "We're waiting until that process finishes before we put together draft legislation and introduce it."

Trustee Keith Baker discussed his recent trip earlier this month to Washington, D.C., with a group of Chaffee County residents in support of wilderness protection for Browns Canyon.

The group met with representatives from Rep. Doug Lamborn's office, Udall's office, the Obama administration's Council of Environmental Quality, Sen. Michael Bennet and the Bureau of Land Management.

Baker said, "All of them want to know, 'What does the community think?' So this is a part of trying to speak to what this municipality thinks about it."
Ozarski and Baker discussed studies detailing the economic impact of national monuments on adjacent communities, conducted by Headwaters Economics, an independent research group that uses federal and regional statistics to study land management decisions.

The national monument studies can be found at www.headwaterseconomics.org/interactive/national-monuments.

Joe Greiner, owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting in Johnson Village, attended the meeting to speak in support of the resolution. He said he expects to see an increase in business if the area is designated as a national monument.

"The biggest impact it is going to have on us is economic," Greiner said. He said the rafting industry spends "literally millions of dollars promoting this area.

"A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list … and if that's on the map, they'll come here. If they see our millions of dollars in marketing, that's going to create some excitement," Greiner said.

In a press release Wednesday, Sen. Mark Udall called the Buena Vista trustees' vote supporting permanent wilderness protection for Browns Canyon "an encouraging development."

Udall said, "Protecting Browns Canyon will ensure that this truly magnificent area – a river recreationist's dream – remains protected and an ongoing draw for tourists, guides and outfitters.

"There is broad support that we need to act to preserve and protect Browns Canyon. "Protecting this special area is one of the best investments we can make to create jobs and support the local economy. The Buena Vista trustees underlined just that last night with their unanimous endorsement of protecting Browns Canyon."

http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/news/article_b7968f06-d734-11e1-9435-0019bb30f31a.html

public news service
NEWS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Something Monumental is Happening in Colorado

Public News Service
7/18/2012
Kathleen Ryan

DENVER - Some Coloradans are asking President Obama to do something monumental.

They're part of a group of 800 people from across the West seeking national monument status for five locations in the region. Two of them - Chimney Rock and Browns Canyon - are in Colorado, and the others are in New Mexico and Nevada.

The Monumental West campaign reports the Colorado locations require little infrastructure development, and state Rep. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, D-Boulder, says the designation would have a big upside. "I think that preservation of land, quality of life, is one of the most important economic drivers we have, particularly in Colorado and in the West."

U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and Mark Udall, both D-Colo., and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Colo., all are encouraging recognizing Chimney Rock near Durango as a national monument. Meanwhile, Browns Canyon, along the Arkansas River, is known for hunting, fishing, whitewater rafting and wildlife watching.

The Outdoor Industry Association reports that outdoor recreation contributes nearly $650 billion to the U-S economy every year. Joanne Schwartz, executive director of ProgressNow Colorado says 107,000 jobs in the state are tied to public lands and the outdoors.

"That will only increase with the designation of additional monuments in Colorado. There are a lot of families across the nation who pay attention to that star on the map for national monuments, and plan their vacations accordingly."

Hullinghorst sees the national monument designation as perfect for places such as Browns Canyon or Chimney Rock - areas without enough acreage to become national parks, but still deserving of protection. "It's important to note that there are a lot of folks in Colorado and in the West who really value this kind of preservation and who understand how important it is."

Other proposed monuments include Rio Grande del Norte and the Organ Mountains in New Mexico, and Nevada's Tule Springs. More information is on the "It's Monumental!" website, monumentalwest.com.

Kathleen Ryan, Public News Service - CO

http://www.publicnewsservice.org/index.php?/content/article/27495-1

President Obama Can Protect Browns Canyon

Daily Camera
7/8/2012
Tom Plant

President Obama has a unique opportunity to do something truly monumental by making Browns Canyon a National Monument.

Browns Canyon, located near Salida, is a unique experience and one of my favorite whitewater destinations in the nation. As a college student, I spent two summers as a guide, leading raft trips through Browns Canyon. Although I was on the river every day, the spectacular scenery and uniquely western ecosystem never failed to leave me breathless. The abundant fish population almost guaranteed a successful day of fishing. But, as Browns Canyon has grown in popularity, it has also become threatened by illegally established motorized routes that cause erosion and habitat destruction.

Protection of Browns Canyon has always been a bi-partisan issue supported by the surrounding communities and our Congressional delegation. Since 1992, the Bureau of Land Management has recommended wilderness designation and in 2005, Joel Hefley (R-Colorado Springs), introduced legislation to designate 20,000 acres of the pristine region as a wilderness area. The entire bi-partisan Colorado Congressional delegation swiftly jumped on board to support Hefley's legislation. Despite the overwhelming support, the legislation did not make it to a vote, leaving Browns Canyon in limbo.

Designation of the canyon as a National Monument will protect the Browns Canyon bighorn sheep population as well as the many other important wildlife species in the areas. There is a herd of approximately 150 bighorn sheep in the area, increased from a small population reintroduced in the 1980s. These lands are important wintering ground for deer and elk as well as golden eagles, prairie falcons, and great-horned owls, mountain lions, black bears, bobcats, foxes, coyotes and pine martens.

Even with the permanence of a monument designation to ensure the natural legacy, there will be continued mechanized recreation and trail maintenance as well as emergency vehicle access. Among supporters of the designation are the Colorado Backcounty Hunters/Angers, Colorado Trout Unlimited, the Arkansas River Outfitters Association, The Buffalo Peaks Backcountry Horsemen, the BLM, USFS, Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area and Colorado State Parks as well as five recent County Commissioners.

Eight out of 10 Western voters agree that we can protect our land and water while still maintaining a strong economy and good jobs. By designating Browns Canyon a National Monument, President Obama has a

unique opportunity to strengthen our western legacy of conservation and stewardship.

Tom Plant represented Boulder County in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1999-2007 and led the state's Energy Office under Governor Ritter from 2007-2011.

http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_21021611/president-obama-can-protect-browns-canyon?IADID=Search-www.dailycamera.com-www.dailycamera.com

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Residents travel to Washington, D.C. to campaign for Browns Canyon

Mountail Mail
7/6/2012
Cailey McDermott

Chaffee County residents and business owners who support Sen. Mark Udall's proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument stand in front of the White House. The group visited Washington, D.C., last week to talk to Colorado politicians as part of Great Outdoors America Week.

Six Chaffee County residents and business owners traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to campaign for the proposed Browns Canyon National Monument.

The trip was in conjunction with Great Outdoors America Week.

Nikol Noll, campaign organizer for Friends of Browns Canyon, called the trip a success.

She said the group met with "important decision-makers" to tell them how the community supports the proposals – and why they should, too.

Noll said The Wilderness Society sponsored the trip.

Dick Scar, member of Republicans for Environmental Protection;"Campy" Campton of Kodi Rafting; Lindsey Levick from The Wilderness Society; Keith Baker, Buena Vista trustee and owner of The Trailhead; Bill Dvorak of Dvorak's Kayak and Rafting Expeditions; and Noll went on the trip.

Included on their four-day schedule were meetings with Rep. Doug Lamborn's office, Sen. Mark Udall's office, the Obama administration's Council of Environmental Quality, Sen. Michael Bennet and the Bureau of Land Management.

Noll said everyone they spoke to was "very supportive."

She said Lamborn's office said they are "open to supporting the proposal once they see the public's support."

Noll said support includes more than 150 businesses, 15 associations, rafting companies and Colorado River Outfitters Association.

While in D.C., Dvorak told representatives that outfitters in Browns Canyon have been losing business to the Royal Gorge and Clear Creek. He said the designation would help market the area and bring the numbers back up.

Noll said Campton discussed being a third-generation river runner and how Browns Canyon is an important stretch of river for him and his family.

Because it was Great Outdoors America Week, many senators and representatives talked about the importance of recreation, she said.

Noll said from their meetings she heard respect for their grassroots process.

"We got the impression that nobody wants to act without fully hearing from the community," she said.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_3c2d8578-c784-11e1-ba6e-001a4bcf6878.html

Jeff Mitton: Browns Canyon National Monument?

Daily Camera
7/5/2012
Jeff Mitton

The Arkansas River flows nearly 1,500 miles from its headwaters in the Sawatch Mountains, near Leadville, to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Napoleon, Ark. South of Buena Vista but north of Salida it lingers, courses and plunges through Browns Canyon, dropping 360 feet in 10 miles.

The area referred to as Browns Canyon is strikingly beautiful and for the last 18 years has been protected as a wilderness study area.

The river at the lower end of the canyon is at about 7,500 feet, and Creep Mountain reaches 10,276 feet, so the area is intermediate in elevation. Lower-elevation hillsides are covered predominantly by piñon juniper woodland. Cottonwoods line the riverbanks and streams, while higher ponderosa pines and clones of aspen shade elevations. The land is semi-arid and rugged, adorned by knobs, domes, hoodoos and cliffs.

Browns Canyon has been referred to as a naturalist's paradise. Some focus on charismatic mega fauna, looking for elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, black bears, bobcats, rock squirrels and chipmunks, but there is much more. Birds run the gamut from blue herons, golden eagles and ospreys through acrobatic swallows and dippers to sonorous canyon wrens and diminutive juncos, nuthatches and hummingbirds. Brown and rainbow trout lure fishermen.

Tiger beetles hunt smaller insects on sandy beaches, dragonflies and robber flies snare prey from the air, iridescent long-legged flies gather at springs and a wide range of butterflies and moths puddle and pollinate. Tree lizards bask on prominent rocks. The flowers of cacti, evening primroses, prickly poppy and Indian paintbrush illuminate the landscape.

Many people love wild lands, and some declare earnestly that they honestly need them. But the justification of the need is all over the map, partly because it is difficult to express, but largely because people have diverse needs and different ways of enjoying open spaces. Fishermen and birders both enjoy wildlife, but their ways of pursuing their passions are dramatically different. Hikers enjoy strolling in beautiful natural areas. Rafters and kayakers thrill in their mode of transportation and have no doubt that they enjoy the best view of the canyon. Some people want to be isolated from civilization, some seek solitude. Naturalists revel in the community of plants and animals while painters and photographers strive to capture a scene, a memory or an emotion.

In 1972, this area was the 102,000-acre Aspen Ridge Roadless Area. Tragically, that immense gem was whittled down to 12,000 acres by 1987. With the adjacent 9,000 acres

of BLM lands, the plot is now 21,000 acres. If we do not permanently protect Browns Canyon for all of us, it will shrink until it is owned by an affluent few that hide its natural beauty behind rows of barbed wire fences dangling "no trespassing" signs.

About 10 years ago, people in and around Salida began to work together to protect Browns Canyon from development. Already, more than 130 local businesses have joined the effort. Former congressman Joel Hefley launched legislative action, but that torch has been passed to U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., and the effort has bipartisan support from former U.S. lawmakers Tom Tancredo, Marilyn Musgrave, Wayne Allard, Ken Salazar, John Salazar Bob Beauprez. This coalition of rafters, kayakers, sportsmen, naturalists, businesses and legislators is known as the Friends of Browns Canyon.

In the spirit of inclusiveness and compromise, Udall has established a web site to provide information and to collect opinions and ideas. More specifically, the web site displays three maps for the proposed Arkansas River Canyon National Monument and Browns Canyon Wilderness. The maps are in high resolution and can be downloaded so that you can carefully compare them to consider the alternatives. You are invited to contribute comments and record your preferences: markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=51.

For the most extensive information on the area and the effort, plus the opportunity to join Friends of Brown Canyon, email friendsofbrownscanyon@gmail.com

We have a choice: protect it or lose it.

Jeff Mitton (mitton@colorado.edu) is a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado.

http://www.dailycamera.com/science-columnists/ci_21015536

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Reader Thanks EcoFlight for Flyover

Mountain Mail
7/5/2012
Matt Brown

I would like to thank EcoFlight for taking the time to fly me and others over Browns Canyon last week.

Seeing the area from this angle really shows how untouched and remote it is.
As someone who hikes and fishes but also enjoys off-road motorized vehicles, I would like to see this area stay as it is. There is only one road in the proposed national monument and there doesn't need to be any more.

We have the Fourmile recreation area just to the north for off-highway-vehicle recreation. There is enough motorized trail riding within a 30-mile radius of Salida now that you could ride something new every day for a year.

From a business perspective, a national monument designation will help our local economy. This is a tourist-based valley and more tourism dollars will help locals make a living.

Matt Brown,
Salida

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_6c5ebf04-c6b3-11e1-823f-0019bb30f31a.html

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Friends of Browns Offers Thanks

Mountain Mail
7/4/2012
Anne Graf

Friends of Browns Canyon would like to thank the 170 people who attended the recent John Fielder slide show at Salida SteamPlant benefiting the permanent protection of Browns Canyon.

We would also like to thank the two artists, Joshua Been and Susan Mayfield, for displaying their art and donating 30 percent of gross sales to Friends of Browns Canyon. John Fielder's generous donation of an enlarged print of his photograph, Browns Canyon Sunrise, was auctioned off for $1,250. He donated all of this money to FOBC plus 30 percent of his book sales. Thousands of dollars were raised for Browns Canyon.

John is a passionate conservationist who has been working for decades to protect different areas of our state so future generations can enjoy it. His love for nature is seen in his photographs and felt through his presentation.

His photographs of the "Rivers of Colorado" were presented to show those in attendance that these areas are special and worth preserving. We are lucky to have him focusing some of his efforts on protecting Browns Canyon.

If you are interested in showing your support for Browns Canyon or would like to become more involved, please visit www.brownscanyon.org.

Thanks again to all who helped make this a successful event.

Anne Graf, event coordinator,
Friends of Browns Canyon

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Browns Flyover Reveals Uniqueness

Mountain Mail
7/4/2012
Phillip Puckett

On June 20 I had the privilege of flying over the Browns Canyon area to get a better understanding of the proposed national monument and wilderness areas.

I was amazed. Being able to see this area from above really drove home how unique and special Browns Canyon is to our valley. So much goes on in this area from rafting, kayaking and fishing on the Arkansas River to hiking, horseback riding and hunting up on the trails and rocky terrain.

As a Buena Vista trustee, I feel that all of the surrounding communities should support this effort to permanently protect Browns Canyon, which will drive economic growth and preserve the outdoor recreation activities that we all love.

I'm very thankful to the folks at EcoFlight, The Wilderness Society and Friends of Browns Canyon who sponsored this event as well as the other officials and volunteers who participated.

I encourage everyone to learn more about this proposal and join the campaign by visiting www.BrownsCanyon.org. Pictures of the flight can be seen at www.ecoflight.zenfolio.com/p64659299

Phillip Puckett,
Buena Vista trustee

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_87426872-c5d5-11e1-9d7f-0019bb30f31a.html

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Fielder presentation raises Browns Canyon awareness

Mountain Mail
6/29/2012
Ashlyn Stewart

Friends of Browns Canyon hosted a slide-show presentation by photographer John Fielder, entitled "Rivers of Colorado," June 21 at Salida SteamPlant.

Anne Graf, event coordinator for Friends of Browns Canyon, said Fielder gave the presentation to "raise awareness for permanently protecting Browns Canyon."

The organization is working with Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), hoping to permanently protect the area as a national monument, Graf said.

About 170 people attended, resulting in "standing room only," which "pleasantly surprised" Graf.

She said, "About $10,000 was raised between ticket sales, sponsorships and art and book sales."

Local artists Susan Mayfield and Joshua Been displayed paintings of Browns Canyon at the event and donated 30 percent of their sales.

Fielder auctioned a print of his photo "Browns Canyon Sunrise," which sold for $1,250. Graf said he donated all proceeds from that photo to the organization.

Fielder also donated 30 percent of his book sales. He signed copies for about 1½ hours before the show.

"John is a true conservationist … and is truly passionate about the great outdoors," Graf said.

Matt Sugar, of Udall's office, presented a 5-minute DVD of Udall and members of Friends of Browns Canyon speaking about permanently protecting the area.

Graf added state Sen. Gail Schwartz (D-Snowmass) also attended.

"The energy there was all positive for moving forward with protection of Browns Canyon," Graf said. "(The organization) is hopeful that this is going to happen."

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/arts_entertainment/article_6ec0f8c0-c203-11e1-b850-001a4bcf6878.html

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Officials participate in flyover of Browns Canyon

Mountain Mail
6/22/2012
Cailey McDermott

Rugged terrain comprises most of the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) is proposing the area to be designated as a national monument.

Friends of Browns Canyon teamed up with EcoFlight, Aspen, to offer flyovers of the proposed national monument site to elected officials, business owners and the media.

Reed Dils, Friends of Browns Canyon board member, was the tour guide on each of the three flights.

Bruce Gordon, who started EcoFlight in 2000, was the pilot.

He is the president of the nonprofit membership organization EcoFlight and said the goal is to educate and advocate for the environment by using small airplanes.

Gordon said he works with organizations with similar goals, like Friends of Browns Canyon, to inform politicians, media and residents about different conservation issues.

Because all places are unique, Gordon said he likes for the "land to speak for itself."

Gordon has been doing "conservation flying" for more than 30 years.

He has flown all over the state for projects involving oil and gas development, clean air and water, watersheds, rivers and controversial subjects.

Jim Osborne, Chaffee County commissioner candidate, flew on the second flight and said he enjoyed the flight – despite a little airsickness "here and there" near the end of the ride.

"From the air you can really see the ruggedness of the area. It's not that big, but you can see it should be preserved as a wilderness area," Osborne said.

If designated as a national monument through the efforts of Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), "Browns Canyon could be an economic boost for the county by attracting different people to explore the area," Osborne said.

Mayor Don Stephens said he has been recreating in the Browns Canyon area for 27 years, and as a professional rafting guide, he traveled the canyon about 500 times.

"This flight showed the wildness of the area. It is a fantastic resource, and it would be great for people to be able to enjoy it for eons. I am supportive of permanent protection, and I think the people of Salida are supportive," Stephens said.

Commissioner Dave Potts said the flight was informative but said he hasn't "committed to any (stance on the designation) yet."

Sam Bricker with Outside TV; Shawn Gillis, owner of Absolute Bikes; Potts; and Lindsey Levick with the Wilderness Society took the first flight.

Matt Brown, Town & Country Dealerships owner; Osborne; Bill Donovan, creator of the Salida Citizen; and a Mountain Mail reporter were on the second flight.

Phillip Puckett, Buena Vista trustee; Stephens; Nikol Noll, campaign organizer for Friends of Browns Canyon; and Alan Robinson, executive director of Friends of Fourmile, took the third flight.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_c9b576a4-bc7a-11e1-9bbc-001a4bcf6878.html

Drifting and dancing down Browns Canyon

Daily Camera
6/21/2012
Jeff Mitton

Each year for the last seven years, I have traveled to Salida to give a presentation at a training session for river guides.
The training session is organized by Bill Dvorak, director of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, and is designed to help river guides become better naturalists and more familiar with the history and status of the Arkansas River and the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area. The river guides are young men and women who row the rafts, taking visitors through Browns Canyon, just north of Salida. They learn about current issues, such as Christo's project "Over the River," and the effort to preserve the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

Christo's project will drape 5.9 miles of silvery, translucent fabric over the river. A coalition of groups is planning to propose that the wilderness study area be designated as a national monument.

My presentation, on the natural history of a river canyon, is rewarding, for the guides are passionate about their work and eager to be better naturalists. Furthermore, information provided to them is passed on to visitors enthralled by a trip through a wild canyon in the Rocky Mountains.

But in addition, I always take several days, camping at Hecla Junction Campground in Browns Canyon, to explore the local plants and animals.

Previous columns were based on experiences in Browns Canyon: canyon wrens, western swallowtail butterflies, cedar waxwings, tiger beetles, violet green swallows, red crossbills and a dense aggregation of spiders at an alkaline spring. And I have just scratched the surface. It is a mid-elevation, semiarid paradise for a naturalist.

Dvorak, sensing my growing commitment to the preservation of Browns Canyon, offered me a different perspective. He has been leading river expeditions since 1969, and Dvorak's Expeditions now has expeditions on seven rivers in the West; his unbiased opinion is that the best view of Browns Canyon is from a raft.

So Bill rowed his 12-foot raft through 10 miles of magnificent canyon while I enjoyed the ride and took pictures. Drifting south to the canyon, the land to the west is privately owned, so fishermen, rafters and naturalists are not allowed to step ashore. It is this sort of restriction that drives those who want to permanently preserve what is publicly owned.

To the east is the extensive Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area, a wild place, open

to all. Further into the canyon, BLM lands are to the west, so that both sides of the river are publicly owned.

Drifting down a river through wilderness lands is a thrill. The flow of water this year is less than one-fifth of what it was last year, so the thrill is different this year. Rocks that were below several feet of water last June are immovable obstacles this year, transforming the river into an aquatic slalom course.

Low, fast water demands skill to choose the deepest path, dance around the obstacle, shoot a narrow passage and then immediately assess the next challenge. But stretches of tortuous turns and whitewater chutes alternate with placid, deeper, slower water. In these quiet stretches, one has the luxury of enjoying the scenery slipping by. In some places, cliffs drop straight into the water. The occasional sandy beach entices people to stop, stretch, take a swim or even try to convince a brown or rainbow trout to take a fly. In many places, the land rises steeply on both sides of the river as a series of benches crowned by clusters of granite domes.

Cottonwoods crowd to the shore, but behind them a few large ponderosa pines tower above a pinyon juniper woodland. Bighorn sheep are attracted to a prominent cliff of white rock, which they use as a salt lick. Neither they nor the mule deer are alarmed by the people passing below them.

Cliff swallows and violet green swallows dive and swoop acrobatically, snagging insects in mid-flight. Cedar waxwings pick berries from junipers. Dippers bob along the shore and then venture under water to pluck insects from the rocks.

I have grown to treasure the wild area around Browns Canyon, and I have the sense that a growing number of people feel the same way. U.S. Sen. Mark Udall is helping a consortium of local groups have the area designated as a combination of national monument and wilderness. But more about that in the next column.

Jeff Mitton (mitton@colorado.edu) is a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado.

http://www.dailycamera.com/science-columnists/ci_20911709/jeff-mitton-drifting-and-dancing-down-browns-canyon

eLetters
blogs.denverpost.com/eletters

Why Browns Canyon Should Be A National Monument

Denver Post
6/14/2012
Tom Pokorny

In my line of work, I often talk to people who appreciate the quality of life that comes with being surrounded by the natural beauty of Colorado. They choose to live and work here for the same reasons we all do — to have the ever-changing outdoors just steps away from the front door. Browns Canyon is such a unique area with the Arkansas River's beautiful rapids, the rugged hiking trails up the canyon's sides, a tremendous wildlife habitat, and the views of Mount Shavano in the distance.

Sen. Mark Udall has started a process to make sure that this area remains a scenic treasure for all of us to enjoy. He's asking for our input on how to best protect Browns Canyon. One path he is considering would make Browns Canyon a national monument — literally putting our community on the map and welcoming people who will come to hike, raft, fish and just take in the amazing views.

Given a recent study that showed Colorado's federally protected lands, including monuments, are driving economic growth, protecting Browns Canyon would be good for business, good for Salida and good for our future.

Tom Pokorny, Salida

http://blogs.denverpost.com/eletters/2012/06/14/browns-canyon-national-monument-2/18254/

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Browns Canyon access will remain the same

Mountain Mail
6/11/2012
Ericka Kastner

With a single exception reflected in one proposed map, all currently allowed use and access in Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area will continue whether or not the area is designated as a national monument or wilderness area.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) said all roads and trails that presently accommodate four-wheel-drive vehicles, off-highway vehicles and motorcycles will remain the same.

"Currently, motorized use borders the proposed monument on the north and east sides. The motorized access to Ruby Mountain and Hecla Junction would remain as it is," Udall said.

Maps outlining the proposed designation, available at www.markudall.senate.gov/?=form&id=51, indicate three possible boundaries for a monument area.

Udall said Option 1 would close the last 3 miles of the Turret Trail where it enters the proposed wilderness past the town of Turret, limiting motorized access to the monument in this area.

By contrast, options 2 and 3 retain the Turret Trail "in the exact same place and configuration as it is now, so there would be a 3-mile route that any motorized vehicle or bike could take to enter and explore this part of the monument," Udall said.

These options "accommodate access for the mobility-impaired in exactly the same manner that they do now," he added.

Pedestrians and horses are allowed anywhere in a national monument or wilderness area, Udall said. Mountain biking is allowed on designated roads and trails. Enforcement of use would continue to be managed by the same agencies that currently have jurisdiction over the area, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Udall said.

"They will continue to be responsible for management and law enforcement as they are today. This will ensure the area remains open to hunting and fishing and will ensure consistency in the management of the area that residents and outfitters are currently accustomed to."

Udall described the approximately 20,000-acre Browns Canyon area as part of the "overall suite of recreational opportunities in Chaffee County."

He said the area is bordered by motorized roads or trails, and provided as an example the 100,000-acre Fourmile Recreation Area adjacent to the proposed national monument. "Since (the national monument or wilderness) designations would be designed to accommodate existing uses, people will see very little change with anything they do now," Udall said.

Regarding discussions among a local interest group to develop a tourist train utilizing Union Pacific Railway lines that pass through the study area, Udall said, generally, either designation would not affect existing rights such as rights-of-way, grazing permits and other valid existing rights.

http://www.themountainmail.com/free_content/article_2c3d95b8-b3d9-11e1-b60f-001a4bcf6878.html

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Natural assets are our most reliable economic drivers

Mountain Mail
6/11/2012
Senator Mark Udall

From the West Slope to the San Luis Valley to the eastern plains, Colorado has been blessed with some of the country's most spectacular natural resources.

For many of us, the outdoors is why we have chosen to live and do business in Colorado. It is one of the ways we define ourselves. Last weekend we celebrated Great Outdoors Day, an occasion to appreciate the natural wonders of our state. It also is an opportunity to recognize that our natural assets are growing our economy.

A new study from Montana think tank Headwaters Economics points to the increasing diversity of Colorado's economy. From 2000 to 2010, Headwaters reports, Colorado's economy created 228,893 new jobs, with the great majority of this growth coming from service-related industries.

While maintaining jobs in traditional industries like oil and gas development, our fastest-growing sectors now include health care, finance and professional services such as architects.

Moreover, in 2010, Colorado was ranked a top state for entrepreneurship, creating 450 new businesses per month for every 100,000 adults — outpacing the country as a whole, which created 340 new businesses per month for every 100,000 adults.

Economists say this growth isn't happening just because of Colorado's business-friendly tax or regulatory policies, but in part because of the quality of life inherent in our great outdoors.

Traditionally, protecting our natural resources has been thought to bolster Colorado's tourism industry, supporting jobs in hotels, restaurants, guide businesses and others.

Indeed, activities like hiking, skiing, shooting and angling contribute more than $10 billion a year to our economy, supporting more than 100,000 Colorado jobs and generating $500 million in state tax revenue.

But now, economists like Daphne Greenwood of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs say Colorado's prosperity depends on protecting our natural resources: "Protected public lands play an important role by providing recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and amenities that attract and keep creative people in Colorado."

As Colorado Tourism Office Director Al White told a meeting of business leaders in Denver last month, people visit our state first as tourists, but they return as CEOs, setting up businesses here and hiring talented Coloradans.

We need to keep this economic engine humming. That is why I am working with President Obama and my colleagues in Congress to ensure America's all-the-above

energy policy includes balanced protections for public lands in Colorado and across the country.

Already, Coloradans strongly support an energy policy that promotes development of various energy sources, including natural gas and our abundant solar and wind resources.

According to a recent poll, 55 percent of Colorado small business owners want to see that policy formally expanded to include protections for public lands, which they see as key to their economic growth.

I am the proud sponsor of the San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act, a common-sense proposal that will promote that outdoor heritage economy in southwest Colorado for generations to come.

I also welcome all Coloradans to comment in the local collaborative processes we are conducting. Your comments will help us draft public lands protection legislation in the central mountains and national monument legislation for Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley — an economic booster and sportsmen's and river recreationists' dream.

Places like these are not just for weekend enjoyment. Our landscapes and waterways represent a covenant with future generations. Our national parks, monuments and wilderness areas are not gifts we inherited from our parents — they are national treasures we are borrowing from our children and future generations.

They also are Colorado's most reliable, enduring economic drivers. Taking smart steps to preserve Colorado's natural assets, including establishing national parks and monuments and pursuing energy policies that include provisions to protect public lands, is just good business.

Democrat Mark Udall is the senior U.S. senator for Colorado. He serves on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and is chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks.

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/article_5479a34e-b3db-11e1-b43e-001a4bcf6878.html

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
Salida, Colorado USA Our 125th year The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

Business leaders chime in on Browns Canyon

Mountain Mail
6/6/2012
Cailey McDermott

Business leaders of Chaffee County recently discussed with The Mountain Mail their opinions about proposed national monument designation in Browns Canyon.

Wendell Pryor, Chaffee County Economic Development Corp. director, said he understands the national monument consideration is important, but from the perspective of the development corporation, "we need to stay focused on broadband access."

He said while a designation would be "nice and good" for the county and economy, "it doesn't matter without adequate broadband."

Without adequate access, the county can't attract businesses, Pryor explained. Getting involved with the potential designation of Browns Canyon is premature, he said.

April Prout-Ralph, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau marketing director, said having a national monument would provide the county with another tool to market the area.

On behalf of the Friends of Browns Canyon, Michael Kunkle recently gave a presentation to the Visitors Bureau about how national parks and monuments affect tourism, Prout-Ralph said.

She said the monument, like the Creative District designation and the "Over the River" art project, will be another accolade for the county.

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) seems to be trying to create a "win-win situation," Prout-Ralph said.

"People from Europe and Asia like (national monuments). They build their trips around them. It's another thing to stay and see," she said.

John Engelbrecht, Heart of the Rockies Chamber of Commerce executive director, said the chamber's official statement is that there is "no downside" to the proposed designation and it has the "potential of being a very positive attraction to our area." Engelbrecht said, "(The designation) could be an economic benefit. Our responsibility as chamber businesses is to be ready to serve the needs of the (visiting) people."

Vickie Sue Vigil, Salida Business Alliance president, said the monument designation "could be a great economic boost to businesses. The SBA thinks it's important." Vigil said the problem with the designation is that it could take a long time to be implemented.

After about 10 years, Chimney Rock is still waiting for national monument status, she said.

According to a Small Business Majority opinion poll of Colorado small business owners released May 15, 93 percent think

national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife areas are important to the state's economy.

Of those polled, 66 percent support Udall's proposal to establish a national monument at Browns Canyon, and 64 percent believe designating national parks and monuments enhances local jobs.

In addition, 92 percent believe public spaces draw tourists and two-thirds believe allowing private companies to develop such lands would limit the enjoyment.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_ec2e895a-afeb-11e1-8ea3-0019bb30f31a.html

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High Country News
For people who care about the West

Protection versus promotion at Brown's Canyon

High Country News
June 4, 2012
By Ed Quillen

Can you protect an area by publicizing it and attracting more visitors? That question first hit me a few years ago when I encountered a guidebook that featured Colorado's waterfalls.

The book argued that the more visitors that various backcountry cascades received, the greater the constituency for protecting them. The corollary to that, alas, is that the more visitors a place gets, the greater the need for protection.

The question comes up again in considering the future status of Browns Canyon. The canyon proper is a stretch of the Arkansas River in central Colorado between Buena Vista and Salida. It's one of the most popular places for whitewater rafting in the U.S. On the east side of the canyon are 20,000 acres of public land ranging from sagebrush and piñon-juniper to spruce and subalpine fir, inhabited by peregrine falcons, pine martens, elk, bighorn sheep and black bears.

There's serious talk of making that land and the adjoining canyon a national monument, a designated wilderness, or both. U.S. Senator Mark Udall, a Colorado Democrat, was in Chaffee County gathering local input this spring.

Current land management is a patchwork of Forest Service and BLM land, with Colorado State Parks managing river traffic and some private property in the form of a defunct rail line. Udall said he would prefer that management remain with the same agencies, even if it became a national monument.

Wilderness designation would preserve existing grazing rights, but would eliminate motorized uses -- mostly ATVs -- on some rough old mining and logging roads.

National monument status would give land managers more authority than they have now, although it would not necessarily ban motorized uses. Any change, though, raises the question: Is formal protection just another way to exploit a natural resource?

River outfitters have supported either national monument or wilderness designation. The monument makes the area better known, and it's a great marketing angle to tell raft passengers that you're floating them through a genuine wilderness.

John Engelbrecht, executive director of Salida's chamber of commerce, likes the idea of a national monument. "It's a star on the map," he says. "It makes the area much more visible. It will bring people here who wouldn't come otherwise. And that will be good for local businesses."

How good? Headwaters Economics, a nonprofit research group based in Bozeman, Mont., recently released the results of a study of the economic effects of national monuments on nearby communities. All 17 monuments in the study had been created since 1982, and were larger than 10,000 acres. They ranged from Ironwood Forest in Arizona to Mt. St. Helens in Washington.

"The analysis found that the local economies surrounding all 17 of the national monuments grew following the creation of new national monuments," Headwaters reported. "While this does not demonstrate a cause-and-effect relationship, this finding shows that national monuments are consistent with economic growth in adjacent local communities."

In most cases, growth after monument designation continued an existing trend, but there was an exception. For El Malpais National Monument in western New Mexico, the leading indicators of population, employment, personal income had all been declining in the years before designation, then suddenly reversed course and began climbing. Overall, "the rise in personal wealth is significant, particularly in rural areas where average earnings per job are often declining."

Monument status or formal wilderness protection, Salida's Engelbrecht said, "are also seen as an amenity that lead to increased property values."

Promoting local business is Engelbrecht's job. But if national monument or wilderness designation gets more people to visit Browns Canyon, wouldn't that threaten the very resource that is supposed to be protected by that action?

Ben Lara, recreation and lands program manager for the local U.S. Forest Service ranger district, said options to contain human impact are rather limited when the agency is trying to accommodate crowds in designated wilderness. "We can build and improve foot and horse trails," he said, but no matter how many visitors arrive, "we can't install privies. We can't develop campgrounds." What the agency can do, he said, is establish wilderness trailhead quotas, requiring overnight campers to get permits, as happens at the overcrowded Indian Peaks Wilderness Area west of Boulder.

On the other hand, any wilderness portion of Brown Canyon, whether in a national monument or not, is unlikely to see a major influx of visitors. The vast majority would just float through under the supervision of a river outfitter. The land east of the river is rugged and rather inaccessible to normal vehicles, though it sees some ATV and dirt-bike traffic. Some locals point to those motorized routes and occasional prospect holes as reasons that Browns shouldn't qualify as a wilderness area "where the earth and community of life are untrammeled by man."

Protection of the Browns Canyon area has been a source of local contention for as long as I've lived here, since 1978, and likely before that. Wilderness protection was close to a done deal a few years ago, with support from the entire Colorado congressional delegation, until the National Rifle Association opposed it on the grounds that even though big-game hunting would still be permitted, wilderness would infringe on the Second Amendment rights of geriatric ATV-

driver hunters who were too cheap to rent pack horses and mules.

If there were an easy answer, we'd have likely come up with it by now. Over the years, I've come to think that the best course is monument designation for long-term protection that would allow some ATV use but under tight regulation. Not that I like ATVs and dirt bikes (Barry Goldwater once described them as Japan's revenge for losing World War II), but their users are citizens and taxpayers, and this is their country, too

THE DENVER POST

Report: Federal lands driving Colorado economy

The Denver Post
5/17/2012
Jason Blevins

Protected federal lands are fueling Colorado's economic vitality by luring both employers and employees eager to pursue a quality of life elevated by wild, open spaces.

A new study released today by Montana's Headwaters Economics - an independent research group that compiles federal and regional statistics into research aimed at improving community development and land management decisions - shows that Colorado's federally protected national parks, wilderness areas and monuments are driving economic growth. The study of Colorado and the West reports that Western non-metro counties with more than 30 percent of lands federally protected enjoyed a 345 percent increase in jobs since 1970 while non-metro counties with no protected lands saw only 83 percent job growth in the same period.

It's not just the host communities that are thriving.

"The lands immediately surrounding these federally protected areas are the fastest growing," said Ray Rasker , the executive director of Headwaters Economics who describes himself as an "economic geographer."

Dispelling the notion that land protection hinders economic development, Rasker's research points to Colorado's vast collection of federal land - 36 percent of the state - as a primary driver in growing the state's economy.

In 2010, Colorado was a top-ranked state for entrepreneurs, with 450 new businesses every month for every 100,000 residents compared to a national rate of 340 new businesses a month.

David White , head of marketing for the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corp. regularly trolls California for chieftains of fast-growing companies eager to escape a rough business climate. Focusing on six key industries, White has found a gold mine of California CEOs ready to move to Colorado for personal lifestyle reasons. His group's new ad campaign emphasizes Colorado Springs' outdoor fun. A list of Orange County businesses that recently relocated to the city is growing.

"Our quality of life and our open spaces and our trails are very appealing in trying to attract the companies we want to attract," White said.

High wage services industries have led Colorado's job growth, with Rasker's research showing new health care, finance, real estate and professional services jobs driving and diversifying the state's job landscape. Many of those workers were lured by the state's outdoor offerings, he said.

Colorado's wildlands not only attract new businesses but contribute to existing business growth. Ryan Martens , founder of Boulder's Rally Software, said Colorado is "the best combination of place, knowledgeable workers and lifestyle."

"I can't think of a better place to anchor a business," said Martens, who employs 200 highly skilled workers in Colorado. "It allows us a place to regenerate also. It's a place for us to actually clear our heads."

John Land Le Coq recently relocated his Fishpond and Lilypond fly-fishing gear and apparel companies from Kansas to Denver and is infusing his brands with not just Colorado's sustainable, open spaces but the workers drawn to those places.
"We could have gone to several different places, but Colorado was vital to us because of the employee base," Le Coq said. "The kind of people we want in our business are here for the same reason we are. It's the employee base we need."
Read more: Report: Federal lands driving Colorado economy - The Denver Post
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20742482/report-federal-lands-driving-colorado-economy#ixzz1wTzfBNi6
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http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20742482/report-federal-lands-driving-colorado-economy

How Now, Browns Canyon

High Country News
April 30, 2012
By Ed Quillen

U.S. Senator Mark Udall, a Colorado Democrat, got two differing views about Browns Canyon when he met with constituents and hiked in the area during the congressional Easter recess.

The meetings were in Chaffee County in central Colorado. The Arkansas River flows through Browns Canyon, which sits between Salida and Buena Vista. It may well be the most popular whitewater rafting course in America.

Udall was soliciting input on two separate but related proposals. One is to designate the canyon and some surrounding land a national monument, and the other is to designate wilderness on the east side, from the railroad tracks that parallel the river up to the ridge that separates Chaffee and Park counties.

Although most national monuments are created by presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (which allows the president to set aside federal land), some have been created by Congress, and Udall said he would prefer to go that route.

Congress is unlikely to pass it, though, without the approval of the relevant congressman, and Browns Canyon sits in the district of Doug Lamborn, a Colorado Springs Republican who's yet to display any public interest in protecting Browns Canyon. "But Lamborn had said he's willing to talk about it," Udall said. Speaking in generalities, the local business community, heavily dependent on tourism, supports monument designation. "A national monument is a star on the map, and that attracts people," said John Engelbrecht, executive director of the Salida Chamber of Commerce. River outfitters like the idea of floating through a national monument.

On the other hand, there are those who worry that they'll lose motorized access to the land east of the river, as well as the bizarre complaint at Udall's second meeting that "this is a federal land grab," even though all the land in question is already owned by the federal government. And even with wilderness designation, grazing and hunting would still be allowed.

Udall said he'd prefer to leave management as it is, with the Forest Service and the BLM in charge, rather than the National Park Service, which administers most national monuments. One complication, though, is that river traffic is managed by Colorado State Parks as part of the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

It might be simpler to turn it all over to the National Park Service than to figure out who's in charge of what. Then again, I can already hear the local right-thinkers complain about more federal bureaucrats, even if they do turn out to be good for business.

http://www.hcn.org/blogs/range/how-now-browns-canyon

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
Salida, Colorado USA Our 125th year The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

Economic study indicates Browns designation could affect economy

Mountain Mail
4/26/2012
Ericka Kastner

From a branding and visibility standpoint, a national monument designation will get Chaffee County on the map in a significant new way.

Ben Alexander, Bozeman, Mont., associate director of the nonprofit Headwaters Economics, made this assertion when he provided independent research on Western land development to Chaffee County commissioners during a recent work session. Alexander said he used economic reporting software developed for U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management officials with the goal of "helping policymakers make better decisions." He said he frequently works with county commissioners.

To create his socioeconomic profile of Chaffee County, "The Value of Public Lands: Lessons for Communities & Businesses Around Browns Canyon," Alexander said he put 1,000 variables into a statistical model to compare gateway communities of 17 national monuments across the Western U.S. to Chaffee County.

The statistical analysis showed a community's education level, producer services, arts, entertainment and food, and proximity to airports, ski resorts and mountains contributed to more personal income growth in areas where public lands are found in the West.

Conversely, Alexander said a community's economic specialization, percentage of native state residents, driving distance to nearby cities and transformative industries such as mining and logging were correlated with less personal income growth.

Alexander clarified later, "The greater the degree of economic specialization, the higher the percent of residents born in the state, etcetera, the higher the correlation with negative personal income growth over time."

During the work session, Alexander said he found all 17 of the communities' economies continued to grow in regard to employment rates and in personal income after receiving a national monument designation on nearby public lands.

"Over the last several decades, public lands have been correlated with growth of personal income. In rural areas, public lands are much more important economically," Alexander said.

As an example, he focused on the 1.7 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Kanab, Utah, because of its mining, ranching, distinctly elderly population and small county population size.

Following designation of the monument in 1996, Alexander said the attitude of Kanab residents toward the monument shifted from "We can't believe the administration designated a national monument" to "This thing is our cash cow."

Statistics compiled regarding population, employment, personal income and per capita income indicate a steady, upward trend from 1970 to 2008 in data reported for Kane and Garfield counties in Utah where Grand Staircase is located, according to Headwaters research.

Alexander described Chaffee County as an aging population with smaller families, a county where people are not moving in and deaths have been outstripping births in the last decade.

Data collected by the U.S. Department of Commerce and included in the socioeconomic profile indicates from 2000 to 2009, there were 1,317 births in Chaffee County compared to 1,403 deaths, or a 6 percent variance. The county experienced a net growth of 841 residents over the same time period.

Additional Commerce Department data in the profile indicates the average earnings per job countywide were close to $33,000 in 1970, compared to $29,041 in 2009. Per capita income was just below $20,000 in 1970 and increased to $34,354 by 2009, suggesting a need to seek a second source of income.

For Chaffee County to succeed, Alexander suggested capitalizing on the 80 percent of public lands available in the county. He mentioned Salida and Buena Vista's "natural positioning" as gateways on the north and south ends of the proposed approximately 20,000 acres of Browns Canyon National Monument.

"We know international visitors are particularly drawn to national parks, but they also visit national monuments," Alexander said.

Commissioner Dennis Giese expressed worry if broadband Internet services are not improved in Chaffee County, some visitors won't come.

"To draw the higher-wage person … if you can't get connected to the outside world with high speed Internet, you are not going to get those people," Giese said. Nikol Noll, Salida, Friends of Browns Canyon campaign organizer, also attended the work session and said the group invited Alexander to speak to the commissioners but did not fund his trip.

Alexander said Headwaters paid for the visit as part of its public education mission. The Headwaters research may be viewed at http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/reports/national-monuments.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_cfa6140c-8fb0-11e1-8a3f-001a4bcf6878.html

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Top 5 reasons canyon should be protected

The Mountain Mail
April 25, 2012
Nikol Noll

Browns Canyon should be protected for wildlife.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has determined the area provides important habitat for black bear, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lions, eagles, peregrine falcons, imperiled bats and other species.

Most of the U.S. Forest Service segment is managed as big game winter range. When higher elevations are cold and snowy, game move into lower elevations for food, water and shelter in deep gulches.

A Bureau of Land Management segment has been deemed an "area of critical environmental concern" due to its scenic value and importance to wildlife. Wildlife need areas of unfragmented habitat to prosper, and Browns Canyon provides this.

Protecting the area would preserve existing recreational opportunities.

Many people live in this area because of its incredible access to outdoor recreation. Rafters, boaters, hikers, fishermen, horseback riders and hunters all enjoy this area.
Rugged formations have been carved through centuries in stunning pink granite and metamorphic rock and provide awe-inspiring experiences for visitors and locals alike.

Drawn by spectacular box canyons, towering rocky spires and impressive cliffs in the river canyon and east of the river, recreationists return again and again. Protecting Browns Canyon will ensure users will continue to have access and enjoy it for years to come.

People, pols and agencies want this area protected.

Thousands of individuals, more than 30 local organizations and more than 130 local businesses have gone on record to support permanent protection of this area.

Six recent Chaffee County commissioners have supported more permanent protection.

In 1976, the BLM identified some of the area's significant primitive and/or wilderness qualities and designated that portion as a Wilderness Study Area in 1993.

Bills proposing to protect the area as wilderness have been introduced by Reps. Joel Hefley (R-Colorado Springs) and Diana DeGette (D-Aurora). Republican Sen. Wayne Allard and the entire Colorado congressional delegation supported Hefley's bill.

Colorado Sen. Mark Udall has noted interest in protecting this area and has started a public process seeking input for further protection.

In 2011, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar released a report placing Browns Canyon on a list of 19 areas of BLM-managed land nationwide deserving immediate attention by Congress for further protection.

Protecting Browns Canyon would preserve a vital component of local economy.

Tourism is the basis of local economy. Most Chaffee County visitors come to participate in outdoor recreation. The Colorado Tourism

Office (colorado.com/dean-runyan) reports tourism brings in $750 million in state and local taxes and results in the average family of four paying $600 per year less in taxes.

Ben Alexander from Headwaters Economics recently visited to discuss a study he conducted on economic impacts of national monument designation.

All 17 areas studied experienced continued or increased growth in per-capita income and employment.
Chaffee County unemployment is hovering around 7.5 percent, and many families struggle to make a living. While this proposal would not be an end-all solution to economic challenges, it will be one arrow in our quiver.

Protection would help ward off threats the area faces.

Without additional protection, there are no guarantees this area will continue to be managed for future generations. Land management plans change, and there is a trend in federal and state legislatures to sell off public lands for agriculture and development.

One example, H.R. 1581, the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act, known as The Great Outdoors Giveaway, would eliminate the forest service roadless rule protecting more than 58 million acres of national forest roadless lands and 6.7 million acres of BLM Wilderness Study Areas.

Unmanaged recreation has been identified as a major threat to public lands. For example, in areas of Browns Canyon unauthorized motorized recreation is destroying vegetation, displacing wildlife, eroding landscape and negatively impacting resources and other users.

Protecting Browns Canyon is an intelligent way to plan "smart growth." Colorado population is expected to double by 2050.

Instead of allowing this area to deteriorate so it no longer has wildlife habitat and recreation values we now enjoy, we have the chance to be proactive and preserve and enhance these values for future generations.

Salida resident Nikol Noll is the campaign organizer for Friends of Browns Canyon.

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/article_ddc86aee-8ee8-11e1-8f70-001a4bcf6878.html

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Sen. Mark Udall visits Frisco to announce possible wilderness legislation in the Senate

Summit Daily News
4/25/2012
Janice Kurbjun

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall announced Sunday that he wants public feedback on proposals to establish wilderness and national monument status for two popular Colorado areas.

"I'm excited to announce a collaborative, community-driven process that I hope will ultimately allow Colorado to create legislation to protect two very special places in our state: The central mountains and the Arkansas River (Browns) Canyon."

"The outdoors is an important part of the quality of life in Colorado," Udall said, explaining why he's using his leverage as chairman of the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on National Parks, co-chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus and involvement on the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee to take the proposals to the next level in the political process.

"Wilderness is one of our state's great economic engines... We need to fuel that engine and protect that engine," he said.

He emphasized that both projects are only just beginning. The draft maps are based off work done by U.S. Rep. Jared Polis in his Eagle and Summit wilderness plan, Wilderness Workshop and their latest version of Hidden Gems in Pitkin County, and work done by former U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley in identifying potential wilderness east of the Arkansas River in the Browns Canyon section through Chaffee County.

The Browns Canyon wilderness proposal is new to recent politics, though it earned support 10 years ago when Hefley, a Republican, presented the idea and began work on it. In 2005, he introduced a bill in Congress for a 20,000-acre wilderness area, but it never went to a vote and wasn't supported by Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn, who took Hefley's place in Congress.

Udall's current plan — which is still a "working document" with three possible versions — is to place 20,000 acres of already roadless area (mostly east of the river) under permanent protection as a national monument with wilderness status. It's currently designated a wilderness study area, which affords less protection.

It would "put a star on the map" for the area, Udall said, which already sees 250,000 commercial rafting trips as well as significant recreational activity outside of the river, from mountain biking to off-highway vehicles to hiking.

"It's an area that deserves permanent protection," said Nikol Noll of Friends of Browns Canyon. It could balance the 180 miles of off-highway vehicle trails in existence to the north, in the Fourmile Recreation Area, she said.

North and west of Browns Canyon, 32 areas have been identified for possible wilderness protection, totaling slightly more than 233,000 acres. Some of it involves new proposals and some adds to existing wilderness. All of it has already seen plenty of verbal battles during prior work, and Udall is already soliciting more feedback from sportsmen, snowmobilers, off-highway vehicle recreationists, mountain bikers, rafters and kayakers, fishermen and fisheries advocates, agencies such as the Elk Foundation and the Colorado Environmental Coalition, as well as county commissions and municipalities.

With so much work already completed, Udall said, "Many of these areas have been exhaustively vetted and debated ... We start with an excellent foundation" as the public feedback process commences.

"This is a bill that promotes our region for world-class recreation" while preserving other uses, like the High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site in Gypsum, Udall said about the Summit, Eagle and Pitkin wilderness proposal.

It could take several months, maybe longer, to continue prior work and come to a consensus for legislation to present on the Senate floor. Udall said there's no deadline. The proposed legislature is expected to largely match the wilderness bill still hanging from Polis, meaning both the House and the Senate will be considering similar action nearly simultaneously.

Comments from the crowd

Rafting outfitter Bill Dvorak has been working on getting Browns Canyon more protection for roughly 15 years, and is excited to see Udall take the reins this time around.

"We got real close (several) years ago," he said, referring to Hefley's bill.

"Mark seems to have a better ability than just about anyone in Congress right now to go across lines and get things accomplished," Bill Dvorak said. Maybe it's because he tends to be sincere and aiming to simply do what's best for his constituents and the environment.

This time, the wilderness proposal has additional support from the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that manages roughly half of the 20,000 acres.

A preliminary report, issued toward the end of 2011 by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, identified 17 backcountry areas on bureau land in nine states where there is "significant local support for Congressional protection," according to Salida's Mountain Mail. Among those lands is Browns Canyon.

According to the Mountain Mail, the report describes the Browns Canyon area as the backdrop for one of the most popular U.S. whitewater rafting destinations, a place where visitors can enjoy "striking red hoodoos, dramatic gulches and abundant wildlife."

Dvorak echoed the report when he said it would be one of Colorado's first low altitude environments to receive wilderness protection.

"Most of our wilderness is alpine in Colorado," he said. "We need to protect a place for critters to go when they're pushed out of the High Country."

It's also good for business to have nearby wilderness, Dvorak said. National and international customers typically don't understand nuanced land designations such as "wild and scenic" or "wilderness study area." But words like "national park" and "national monument" ring a bell, he said. Bill's wife, Jaci, said it also helps to be on the parks list to drive traffic. They saw a bump in visitation when Browns Canyon became part of Colorado's state park system, she said.

"For many outfitters and small business owners, preservation of our state's majestic mountains and valleys is vital for their livelihoods," Udall said.

Municipal and county representatives attending Udall's announcement said process is important, and that they believe Udall is taking the appropriate "ground-up" approach by talking to the people first.

"This is Colorado's playground, we think," said Breckenridge mayor John Warner, adding that the Breckenridge Town Council has talked about protecting areas of Hoosier Ridge and the Tenmile Range. "We live for recreation in Summit County. ... Protection of our lands is very important. We're anxious to be a part of this process."

http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20120226/NEWS/120229869&parentprofile=search

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

Protecting Browns Canyon

Chaffee County Times
4/18/2012
Ron Ferris

As the owner of Riverboat Works, and as an avid personal boater, I've witnessed first-hand the look on people's faces as they paddle through the beautiful granite gorge at Browns Canyon. Seeing the unspoiled wilderness area along the river corridor is a magnificent experience.

Senator Udall understands the importance of protecting Browns Canyon, for the sake of protecting this national treasure that exists in our own backyard, and also for the economic well-being of our community. This section of the Arkansas River is one of the most popular whitewater rafter destinations in the country, bringing in more than $23 million in spending each year to the Arkansas Valley.

I want to thank Sen. Udall for taking a bottom-up approach by talking to the local community about the best way to safeguard this area. His proposal to designate the area as a national monument would allow continued use of the river and preserve the core of the Browns Canyon area in its current state. If we do this right, we can ensure that a protected Browns Canyon will continue to be a destination area for rafting and other outdoor activities, thus attracting entrepreneurs to our state, creating jobs and support the quality of life that makes Colorado such a great place to live.

The national monument proposal would allow the continuation of rafting, hunting, fishing, and hiking. Both the Arkansas River Outfitters Association and the Colorado River Outfitters Association support the national monument proposal. Permanently protecting the wild character of Browns Canyon is important to the economic health of local businesses like mine, river oufitters and the surrounding communities which is something we can all get behind.

Sincerely,
Ron Ferris
Salida

http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_ce1d366c-898c-11e1-aa7c-0019bb30f31a.html

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Salida, Colorado USA Our 125th year The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

Angler supports wilderness idea

The Mountain Mail
4/12/2012
Kerry M. Gubits

Colorado enjoys a great heritage of wildlife conservation, and an exceptional fishing and hunting tradition proudly maintained in the Arkansas River Valley.

As part of this tradition, I applaud Senator Udall for generating community conversations about protecting Browns Canyon as a national monument or wilderness.

My sons and I have fished together for many years in the beautifully rugged Browns Canyon. Protecting its fish and wildlife habitat also is good for the local economy.

Fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing contribute more than $3 billion to Colorado's economy and support more than 34,000 jobs. Rafting in Browns Canyon adds an estimated $23 million annually to the local economy.

Other anglers I know well also support protecting Browns Canyon. Permanent protection will ensure the legacy of this unique area remains intact for future generations of sportsmen and other outdoor recreationists.

Kerry M. Gubits,
Littleton

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_74e2d482-88a4-11e1-82ce-001a4bcf6878.html

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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County residents attend Browns Canyon meeting

The Mountain Mail
4/11/2012
Cailey McDermott, Mail Staff Writer

About 35 Chaffee County residents attended Sen. Mark Udall's staff information hours Wednesday at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds to discuss his proposed national monument and wilderness plans for Browns Canyon.

Salida City Councilman Mike Bowers and representatives from the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service attended.

Jill Ozarski, natural resources policy advisor to Udall, said last week Udall was told by local business owners that designating a national monument would help drive the local economy and put a star on the map. She said the plan is to gather a variety of opinions.

Ozarski said she felt it is important to clarify that the national monument designation would not be a National Park Service national monument.

She said the monument and wilderness area would be managed by the same agencies that currently manage the area – the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Ozarski said dogs, horseback riding, hunting and fishing will be allowed in the designated areas.

However, because they are mechanical devices, bicycles would not be allowed in the wilderness area, she said.

The three proposed maps are intended to be guidelines and may not represent the final designation, Ozarski explained.

She said motorized use would be restricted to designated routes, with the intent of keeping the area as it is now.

In map Options 2 and 3, Turret Trail is unchanged; in Option 1, the three-mile trail is closed to motorized use.

Of those who made general comments and questions, all but two were opposed to the designation of a national monument or wilderness area in Browns Canyon.

Several residents said the designation would limit its use by the elderly and disabled. Paul Jensen, Chaffee County, said people wanting to see the wilderness area will drive up Turret Trail, which will create more traffic.

Jensen asked who will pay to maintain the roads.

"I don't think Chaffee County residents want to see a wilderness area or a national monument," he said.

Robert Smith, Poncha Springs, said he doesn't think the area warrants a national monument designation. He said it's not unique and it's not wilderness.

Multiple residents echoed this comment. Carol Sterle, Salida, said she is a fifth-generation Chaffee County resident and said for the past 150 years Browns Canyon has been "free for all people."

She said it would be unfair to close the area off and create a "private playground." Matt Sugar, Udall staff member, said the area deserves monument status because it's a unique area. He told the room that while "it's your own backyard," other people find the area worthy of the designation.

Sugar said there might be minimal costs that come with the designation, and that Udall's staff is looking at impacts.

Joe Granzella said, "A national monument is stealing from the public for private interests. This is a theft of the American people."

His comment received a round of applause. Frank McMurray, Chaffee County, asked about grazing permits in the designated areas.

Ozarski said grazing is allowed in both the wilderness area and the national monument. McMurray said it doesn't matter if it's allowed. "Cattle and people don't mix," he said.

Dick Dixon, Salida, said for an area to be designated as wilderness it can't be trampled by man. He said the area doesn't meet standards.

Ozarski said the Wilderness Act of 1964 has no criteria. She said Congress can designate any area they want. "They could designate this room as wilderness," she said.

Merle Baranczyk, editor and publisher of The Mountain Mail, asked if it would be possible to create a national monument without a wilderness designation. Ozarski said that comment has been mentioned previously and is being considered.

She said Udall's office has already received 600 comments, and they are just beginning their public input process.

Written comments may be submitted online at www.markudall.senate.gov.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_1ae5414c-84b0-11e1-a77a-001a4bcf6878.html

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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Reader supports Browns proposal

The Mountain Mail
4/4/2012
Ron Ferris

As the owner of Riverboat Works and an avid personal boater, I've witnessed firsthand the look on people's faces as they paddle through the beautiful granite gorge at Browns Canyon. Seeing the unspoiled wilderness area along the river corridor is a magnificent experience.

Sen. Udall understands the importance of protecting Browns Canyon – for the sake of protecting this national treasure that exists in our own backyard but also for the economic well-being of our community. This section of the Arkansas River is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country, bringing in more than $23 million in spending each year to the Arkansas Valley.

I want to thank Sen. Udall for taking a bottom-up approach by talking to the local community about the best way to safeguard this area. His proposal to designate the area as a national monument would allow continued use of the river and preserve the core of the Browns Canyon area in its current state.

If we do this right, we can ensure that a protected Browns Canyon will continue to be a destination area for rafting and other outdoor activities, thus attracting entrepreneurs to our state, creating jobs and supporting the quality of life that makes Colorado such a great place to live.
The national monument proposal would allow the continuation of rafting, hunting, fishing and hiking. Both the Arkansas River Outfitters Association and the Colorado River Outfitters Association support the national monument proposal.

Permanently protecting the wild character of Browns Canyon is important to the economic health of local businesses like mine, river outfitters and the surrounding communities, which is something we can all get behind.

Ron Ferris,
Salida

http://www.themountainmail.com/opinion/letters/article_c6a4062c-7e65-11e1-a960-001a4bcf6878.html

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THE DENVER POST

Guest Commentary: Balancing energy development with protecting public lands

The Denver Post
4/3/2012
Eddie Sandoval

In an op-ed earlier this month, White House Deputy Assistant Heather Zichal praised the president's "all-of-the-above" approach to energy production, and pointed out that he was attempting to maintain a balance that ensured "a strong economy and strong environmental safeguards can go hand in hand." I would argue, as a small business owner, that key to maintaining that balance here in Colorado is to protect our last special landscapes as parks, wilderness and monuments.

Over the past few years, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has instituted important reforms to onshore oil and gas leasing policies, to make sure leasing happens in places where it would have the least amount of impact on critical wildlife habitat, clean water supplies, and our natural resources. This provides certainty for industry, as development is less likely to be stalled by protests and lawsuits. It likely also contributed to Zichal's claim that "domestic oil production is at an eight-year high. We are producing more natural gas than anytime in history."

But now we need balance. More than 100 economists, including three Nobel laureates, sent a letter to the president underscoring this point: "America's public lands can be used responsibly while expanding protections for the nation's world-class natural amenities. We urge you to create jobs and support businesses by investing in our public lands infrastructure and establishing new protected areas such as parks, wilderness, and monuments."

Protecting Browns Canyon and the Arkansas River Valley as a National Monument is a great "balanced" idea and would support Colorado's small businesses and rural and urban communities today, while offering lasting economic benefits for our future. Browns Canyon has worldwide recognition for its whitewater rafting. But this place is also prized by sportsmen and loved by local families and hikers. The Arkansas River is a critical source of drinking water and irrigation for southern Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

If President Obama works with U.S. Senator Mark Udall and our congressional delegation to take steps to protect Browns Canyon, future generations of Coloradans would be guaranteed its recreational opportunities and clean water. But importantly, it would also enhance the visibility of our corner of Colorado and lure new tourists and residents to explore our Great Outdoors and invest in our small businesses and local jobs.

Balance means more than responsible development of solar, wind, oil and gas on our public lands. Balance means taking steps to ensure we can all access and enjoy them,

and Colorado's diverse economy and small businesses can continue to grow.

Eddie Sandoval is a chef and owner of The Asian Palate in Buena Vista.

http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_20470094/guest-commentary-balancing-energy-development-protecting-public-lands

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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Local businesses support Browns Canyon ideas

The Mountain Mail
4/3/2012
Ericka Kastner, Mail Staff Writer

Proposals by Sen. Mark Udall to create a Browns Canyon national monument and wilderness area received endorsements from Monarch Mountain, Salida Business Alliance and Colorado River Outfitters Association of Buena Vista.

Distribution lists in the letters indicate copies were also sent to 5th Congressional District Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colorado Springs), Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colorado) and U.S. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. Representatives from Udall's office forwarded the letters of support to The Mountain Mail Monday.

In the letter from the Salida Business Alliance, Vickie Sue Vigil, alliance president, said Salida businesses chose to support the plans because Browns Canyon is the "most popular whitewater rafting destination in the nation.

"By preserving this incredible landscape that surrounds the river, we can ensure that visitors continue to benefit from inspiring recreational experiences and continue to sustain and grow our local and regional economy."

Members of the alliance "strongly support" protecting the area, Vigil said, because member businesses benefit from visitors enjoying recreational activities in areas like Browns Canyon.

In another letter, Greg Ralph, Monarch Mountain marketing director, referred to bipartisan efforts to protect the area and said, as a business, Monarch is "dependent on the area for economic security."

Tom Kleinschnitz, chairman of the outfitters association, said whitewater sports in the Browns Canyon region account for "over $23 million in direct expenditures for a total economic impact of over $60 million in the Arkansas Valley annually."

Vigil said she was one of several Chaffee County businesses and organizations who received a form letter from Friends of Browns Canyon to send to Udall.

Friends of Browns Canyon representative Michael Kunkel of Salida said more than 130 local businesses and 30 organizations volunteered to sign letters of support for the national monument.

Kunkel said those letters will be submitted to Udall.

"We suggested a form letter for the sake of expediency," Kunkel said. "Not all of the letters are form letters. We have been working on this project for the last couple of years."

Udall will meet with Chaffee County commissioners, community and business leaders, and members of the press during a visit to the county April 3.

He will also attend an invitation-only roundtable discussion of the proposed Brown's Canyon national monument and wilderness protection plans at the Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort pavilion in Nathrop.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_982045c0-7d9f-11e1-8710-001a4bcf6878.html

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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Udall visits Chaffee County

The Mountain Mail
4/3/2012
Ericka Kastner, Mail Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall met with nearly 50 Chaffee County community leaders and business owners Tuesday about potential national monument and wilderness designation for Browns Canyon.

The meeting was at the Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort pavilion in Nathrop. Udall said the time line for establishing a national monument in the county is open-ended.

"I think moving something in this Congress is a long shot," Udall said. "This Congress hasn't been very productive … I have been dismayed but I am going to keep at it because the country has many challenges."

He said his ideas for use in the area are based on the history of Browns Canyon.

"We put together three draft concepts and overarching those concepts is the idea of a national monument," he said. "The national monument (concept) is a strong brand.

"It puts a real star on the map for people who come (to Colorado from) out of state." Among other topics, individuals who offered comment at the invitation-only roundtable event spoke of concerns about rafting capacity in the canyon, feasibility of cattle grazing in a designated wilderness area, limited resources for management of a wilderness area and the potential for a ballot question on the topic.

Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Rafting and Kayak Expeditions, said he supported the idea of a national monument.

"Many people on the East Coast don't understand what a wilderness area is but they understand national park and monument ... this could get (the county) back where we were (economically) in the late '90s and early 2000s," Dvorak said.

Agreeing with Dvorak, Christian Campton, owner of KODI Rafting, said, "You hold a special place in your heart for your home river. Browns Canyon is a spectacular place… . (A national monument) is going to boost the economy all around."

Rancher Jay Wilson of Nathrop expressed worry about potential costs of establishing the designation and questioned whether rafting companies who are regulated as to the number of trips they are allowed would truly benefit from increased tourism. Campton said in actuality only five or six calendar days per year are limited by the regulations.

Rancher Frank McMurry of Nathrop asked Udall whether a national monument designation would limit his decades-long permit to graze cattle in the area.

"It's usually a whole lot easier to manage cattle than people. … There needs to be some protection for agriculture and permits," McMurry said.

Udall said McMurry's grazing rights would be maintained and added, "With the national monument designation there is a lot of flexibility."

County resident Denise Scifres questioned Udall's plan to manage the area through the use of existing infrastructure, such as local officials from the Bureau o=f Land Management and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

"Their resources are stretched really thin, " Scifres said. She asked how Udall would accommodate the area wildlife managers' existing needs while asking them to do more by managing the monument.

Udall said, "It is an area we are all concerned about. Land agencies are not without their flaws. … It is a broader issue." Near the end of the roundtable discussion, Chaffee County Commissioner Frank Holman said it was clear to him the county is "divided over the issue." He asked Udall about the possibility of letting voters decide in November whether they wanted to see a national monument established.

Udall said Holman's suggestion was an "intriguing idea" and could provide his office with direction, but questioned whether such a vote would be legally binding.

Udall is seeking public comment regarding three proposed maps created for discussions about the potential wilderness legislation.

For more information, to comment or view the proposed maps, visit www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=51 .

Comments may also be offered by attending Udall's office hours with his staff from 3 to 5 p.m. April 11 at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds on CR 120 in Poncha Springs.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_7f167364-7e63-11e1-ade7-001a4bcf6878.html

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

A Win-Win for Everybody

Chafee County Times
3/28/2012
Robert L. Parker

Sen. Mark Udall has started a community-driven process that could ultimately allow us to designate the Browns Canyon and adjacent wilderness by the same name - a very special place in our state - as a national monument.

I wholeheartedly support the creation of Browns Canyon National Monument. My wife, Kay, and I own an art gallery several miles downriver from Browns Canyon in Bighorn Sheep Canyon. Our canyon is wonderful but it has been severely impacted by mining, highway and railroad traveling and hundreds of years of human encroachment. Browns Canyon though is the rarest of opportunities. We actually can protect a canyon and keep it pristine for perpetuity. As generations pass our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be able to hike as well as raft through the untouched beauty that is Browns Canyon.

From an economic standpoint designating Browns Canyon as a National Monument will bring quality business to our region forever. People who appreciate the value of wilderness and unspoiled nature also tend to appreciate the arts. More people will get to create and sell beautiful things to people who appreciate natural beauty and people who like to stay in beautiful places can recreate in beautiful places and we'll all save a little gas.This will be a win-win for everybody. It will even be good for the people who ride four-wheelers or off-road motorcycles. Now they will have a place to dismount and stretch their legs. Thank you,

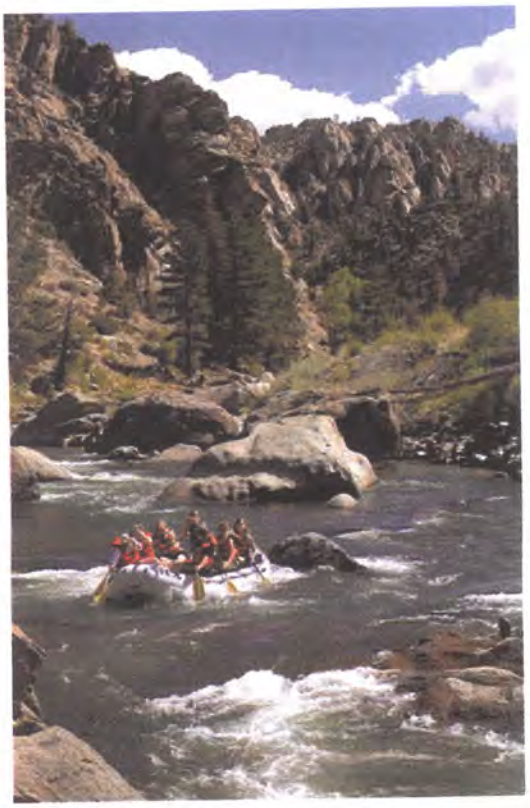
Robert L. Parker
Coaldale

http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_85c3e1c2-7915-11e1-9eb0-0019bb30f31a.htm

High Country News
For people who care about the West

A monumental proposal

High Country News
March 21, 2012
By Ed Quillen



Things have sure changed around here. When I moved to Salida in 1978 to work for the local newspaper, I covered many hearings about roadless areas and their suitability as wilderness. And invariably, the local business community was opposed to "another federal land grab" that would "lock up valuable resources" and "deprive us of a livelihood."

Nowadays -- now that mining and logging have nearly vanished from the local economy, which has become based on tourism -- the attitude is different. At a meeting of the Salida Business Alliance last week, the president asked for comments about a proposed national monument designation north of town, and got unanimous encouragement to write a letter supporting it.

The area in question has been an issue at least since 1978, when it was known as Aspen Ridge and proposed for wilderness designation. It sits between Buena Vista and Salida in central Colorado, and runs from the east side of the Arkansas River to the crest of Aspen Ridge, the boundary between Park and Chaffee counties.

Sometime in the past 34 years, the area's name changed to Browns Canyon, although the wilderness would not include the river, one of the most popular whitewater rafting streams in America. One outfitter supported wilderness designation because "I want to be able to promote that. I think it would be a great marketing angle for us: 'Come visit Browns Canyon Wilderness.'"

The area in question, from the river to Aspen Ridge, is fairly rough terrain at a relatively low elevation, providing for year-round big-game habitat.

In 2006, the stars appeared to be aligned for congress to set it aside, with the state's entire delegation in favor of wilderness designation. But then the National Rifle Association butted in.Not that designation would have affected anyone's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. And the area still would have been open to big-game hunting. But the NRA believed "the bill would drastically reduce access to the area for hunters and sportsmen,

especially those who are elderly," and "Without roads in the area, it would make it nearly impossible to pack out big game."

Well, hunters could hire local outfitters with horses and mules, but that would cost money that should be spent on ATVs and NRA dues.

At any rate, political support faded as soon as the NRA weighed in. Most Western politicians would rather support free heroin than oppose the NRA.

But it isn't settled. The BLM has identified Browns as an excellent potential wilderness designation, and U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, a Colorado Democrat, is asking for public input on either wilderness or national monument status for Browns.

In ways, monument designation makes more sense than wilderness designation, because management could be more flexible. And the monument, since it doesn't have to possess all those wilderness characteristics, could include the canyon proper with its railroad tracks, as well as land on the west side between the river and the highway.

If Udall gets enough support, he would likely push the White House for a monument proclamation. National parks and national monuments are both generally managed by the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior. The difference is that parks are designated by Congress and monuments by the President.

And how quickly it might happen might depend on the outcome of the presidential election. If Barack Obama is defeated, look for some national monuments to be declared as his term winds down in early 2013.

Monument declarations are something of a tradition for presidents as they leave office. In January of 2009, as his second term was winding to a close, George W. Bush proclaimed the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument as well as two others. In 2000, at the start of his last year in office, Bill Clinton proclaimed three national monuments.

Two of Colorado's national parks -- Great Sand Dunes and Black Canyon of the Gunnison -- began as national monuments proclaimed in 1933 by Herbert Hoover in his final days in the White House.

The tradition may be as old as the Antiquities Act of 1906 that allows presidents to set aside federal land as national monuments, for in 1908, Theodore Roosevelt's last full year in the White House, he set aside eight national monuments, and in 1909, just before leaving, he added Mt. Olympus in Washington to the list.

So if Obama is defeated this year, look for some monumental proclamations. If he's re-elected, the proclamations will come in late 2016 and early 2017. That may not be a law of nature, but it's a feature of American politics.

http://www.hcn.org/hcn/blogs/range/a-monumental-proposal

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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No guarantees here

The Mountain Mail editorial
March 20, 2012

Sen. Mark Udall's proposal to create a national monument and wilderness area out of Browns Canyon has won praise but has also raised questions.

The senator's staff members are expected to call meetings in the county in coming weeks to explain details of the proposal, in particular, how elements of a national monument would apply and what it would mean.

Browns has been a wilderness study area since the mid-1980s. In 2006, retiring 5th District U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley of Colorado Springs and Sen. Wayne Allard proposed legislation which had the support of the Colorado congressional delegation. But a late objection by the National Rifle Association raised questions and prevented passage.

In 2009, Rep. Doug Lamborn, a Colorado Springs Republican, hinged support of Browns as a wilderness on allowing motor vehicle traffic on the Turret Trail, which bisects the proposed area. He has not yet taken an official position on the current proposal by Sen. Udall, a Democrat.

Approval of a wilderness area requires the approval of both houses of Congress. While Sen. Udall and Sen. Michael Bennet support the question, Colorado Republicans on the House side, Cory Gardner, Mike Coffman and Scott Tipton, like Rep. Lamborn, have not taken a stand.

Without broad support of a given state's congressional delegation, wilderness areas are seldom approved. And even with support, passage is not guaranteed, such as happened in 2002

Reader responds to Udall

The Mountain Mail
March 19, 2012

Recently, Sen. Mark Udall announced he's looking to have a dialogue with people of Colorado about protecting Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River.

As avid kayakers, we can attest to what an incredible place this is for boating throughout the year.

My wife and I recently moved to the area because of its world-class whitewater. We run the river several times a week, even in winter.

We also live at the mouth of the canyon. Designating Browns Canyon as a national monument would provide the strongest protection for this area and ensure that public land, and the broad range of recreational opportunities it provides, will remain intact for the future.

With its outstanding scenery and critical winter habitat for wildlife, it's also an incredible place to hike and hunt.

Thank you, Senator Udall, for showing a commitment to protecting the public land in Browns Canyon as a national monument.

Matt and Jennifer Fritz, *Salida*

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Udall staff to hold local office hours on wilderness plan

Summit Daily News

March 17, 2012

Individuals wishing to learn more or comment on Sen. Mark Udall's proposed wilderness plan may do so at his staff's Summit office hours, slated for 3-5 p.m. on March 28 at CMC in Breck.

The goal is to further establish the collaborative, community-driven process Udall announced in Frisco in February. The plan includes wilderness areas and national monument designations in two areas of the state: the central mountains (Summit, Eagle and Pitkin counties) and the Arkansas River Canyon and Browns Canyon (Chaffee County).

Maps, spokespeople and comment cards will be available at the office hours session. View draft maps at http://markudall.senate.gov/outdoorheritage.

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THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
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No guarantees here

The Mountain Mail
March 16, 2012
Cailey McDermott

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colorado) told The Mountain Mail Wednesday about his proposal to designate about 22,000 acres on both sides of the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista as a national monument.

In an email Udall said, "A national monument designation protects the land and encourages the public to recreate and view unique natural and historic sites in the area, but protects it from development and resource extraction."

He said the monument would be an opportunity to put "a star on the map," drawing attention to world-class river rafting and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Udall is seeking public comment about the proposed national monument.

"We are receiving a lot of positive comments from people who are familiar with the area. People are especially intrigued by the idea of a national monument because it would add a real star on the map for the community," he said.

Some comments have expressed concern that the proposal would limit motorized vehicle access, "but two of the three map drafts do not close a single motorized trail," Udall explained.

Maps and comment forms are available at www.markudall.senate.gov/?p=form&id=51.

In April, Udall's employees will conduct office hours in Chaffee County to discuss the proposal, but a date and time has not been announced.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
Salida, Colorado USA Our 125th year The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

Reader supports Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
March 13, 2012

Dear Editor:

We would like to express our support for the Browns Canyon National Monument.

The designation would protect the area for wildlife habitat and, at the same time, allow for proper recreation in the form of hiking, fishing, rafting and hunting.

Economic benefits of such a designation are huge. To preserve the area would also give visitors an idea of the historical significance of the discovery of the canyons and landforms of the Upper Arkansas River Valley.

We support the Friends of Four Mile, Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, and Friends of Browns Canyon in their efforts to preserve and protect the local environment for future generations.

Those who wish to establish an all terrain vehicle rodeo mecca can find one thriving about 17 miles north of Amarillo, Texas.

Tom Rollings,

Buena Vista

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The Gazette

Expanding wilderness makes sense

Colorado Springs Gazette
March 13, 2012
By Barry Noreen

The push to protect the Upper Arkansas River corridor has begun again — this time by Sen. Mark Udall, who is proposing a 20,000-acre Arkansas River National Monument and a Brown's Canyon wilderness area.

The central idea is to keep the popular river-rafting corridor between Buena Vista and Salida as it is. Udall also is seeking public comments about adding 235,773 acres to three existing wilderness areas in Pitkin, Eagle and Summit counties. The central mountain and the Upper Arkansas River Valley depend heavily on tourist and recreation dollars, but wilderness proposals are always controversial.

Udall is just getting started with what he calls "a collaborative, community-driven process – in partnership with Senator Bennet and affected members of the House of Representatives."

One of those members is Rep. Doug Lamborn, whose district includes Colorado Springs and Brown's Canyon, in Chaffee County. Lamborn's reaction to Udall's idea has been lukewarm at best: "I am open to listening to Senator Udall's proposals for the federal land bordering the Arkansas River. My main concern has always been to ensure that that land continue to be multi-use, available for both recreational and commercial users."

Lamborn's predecessor, former Rep. Joel Hefley, supported preserving the Brown's Canyon area but Lamborn has said he is generally leery of wilderness proposals and in the case of Brown's Canyon, has cited the opposition of the National Rifle Association.

It will be close to impossible for any wilderness legislation to get through the Republican-controlled House without support from the Colorado delegation. Dozens of businesses from both area already have backed the wilderness plan, but Lamborn is insisting on a community consensus.

Well, it's never going to be unanimous. Lamborn will always be able to hang a 'no' vote on someone's complaint letter. It's logical to believe river rafting, hunting, fishing and hiking in Chaffee County has some economic spillover to Colorado Springs, but it would hard to quantify.

There's no doubt many in Colorado Springs enjoy going over there.

The notion of protecting the river corridor and the economic vitality it supports is a good idea. Udall noted that "with our population expected to double by 2050, we need to be proactive so that future generations can experience the beauty, clean water and air, and wildlife that we have today."

Lamborn has legitimate concerns about keeping a road open near Brown's Canyon, so one of Udall's maps takes that in account. Instead of looking for reasons this shouldn't be done, Lamborn should be finding ways to make it work.

The Pueblo Chieftain

Protect Browns Canyon

The Pueblo Chieftain

March 11, 2012

Sen. Mark Udall announced his intention to begin a public dialogue concerning the protection of Browns Canyon. As an Arkansas River outfitter and board member of the Colorado River Outfitters Association, I would like to thank the senator.

A national monument will bring the attention to Browns Canyon that it deserves. The deep granite canyon walls are a spectacular backdrop to the world-class whitewater. In short, rafting Browns Canyon is an incomparable experience.

We need to protect and preserve what is best about Colorado. Permanently protecting Browns Canyon will attract new visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting. This fits into Chaffee County's plans for its economic future by helping to sustain property values and attract new investment.

Thanks to Senator Udall for taking steps to protect our outdoor heritage so that our children and grandchildren can continue to experience the outdoors the way we have been so fortunate to enjoy.

Bill Dvorak

Nathrop

http://www.chieftain.com/opinion/tell_it_to_the_chieftain/protect-browns-canyon/article_bed9d8fe-6a5b-11e1-ba74-001871e3ce6c.html#user-comment-area

THE ASPEN TIMES

Need to protect state's backcountry

The Aspen Times

March 10, 2012
David A. Lien

Recently Sen. Mark Udall took action to help protect Colorado's outdoor heritage and our backcountry hunting and angling traditions by starting a collaborative, community-driven process to develop legislation protecting public lands in the central mountains and Arkansas River Canyon area.

As Udall knows well, "Activities such as hiking, skiing, paddling and fishing contribute more than $10 billion annually to our economy, supporting some 100,000 Colorado jobs and generating $500 million in state tax revenue. Wilderness ensures that skiers and hikers have beautiful vistas, anglers have clean streams in which to fish and hunters have healthy big game herds. These resources attract visitors from all over the nation and world."

He understands that about 250,000 people float down the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon every year, through a unique landscape of rock formations, hidden side canyons, piñon and juniper covered hills, and cottonwood oases. Bounded by the Arkansas River to the west, the 20,000 acres of big-game habitat here can be accessed via the roads defining the other three boundaries.

Most of the Forest Service land within the proposed Browns Canyon Wilderness Area is currently designated as a unit to be managed for "big game winter range," including "deer, elk, and bighorn sheep." The Colorado Division of Wildlife identified Browns Canyon as an important wintering ground for deer and elk, and between 1980 and 1985, the division introduced 60 bighorn sheep into Browns Canyon.

The proposal is also supported by the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that manages roughly half of the 20,000 acres. A preliminary report issued toward the end of 2011 identified 17 backcountry areas on BLM land in nine states where there is "significant local support for Congressional protection." Among those lands is Browns Canyon.

National Rifle Association life-benefactor member (and military veteran) Bill Sustrich hit the nail on the head when he said, "From my own observations, I have seen nothing yet created by mankind that offers the degree of habitat protection that is achieved through wilderness designation." Bill should know, having raised a family of four youngsters on deer, elk and trout he hunted and caught in the Browns Canyon area.

Bill knows that we need to take the advice of Theodore Roosevelt, and "preserve large tracts of wilderness … for the exercise of the skill of the hunter, whether or not he is a man of means." Like Udall, Bill understands that healthy public wildlife habitat, rivers and streams are the foundation supporting the American pastimes of hunting and fishing and our unequaled outdoor recreation economy.

David A. Lien
Co-chairman, Colorado Backcountry
Hunters & Anglers
http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20120310/LETTER/120309823/1020

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Investing in our natural capital

Summit Daily News

March 9, 2012
John Land Le Coq

I'm writing to thank Sen. Mark Udall for looking into new Wilderness designations in central Colorado and Browns Canyon. It's no surprise that Mr. Udall chose these areas to study for possible protection, because support for wilderness protection runs deep.

As the co-founder of Fishpond USA, my business is directly impacted by how we treat our public lands and rivers. The gear we sell is used on our rivers, and healthy rivers are dependent on healthy watersheds. Wilderness protects the headwaters and wetlands that comprise these vital watersheds. Wilderness designation is the best way to preserve the "natural capital" that makes Colorado great.

Fishpond, inc. both employs people here in Dillon and has relationships with suppliers and retailers in other markets. The healthy environment that allows me to do business in Dillon has a ripple effect on other economies in the Colorado Rockies and beyond. Local businesses like mine benefit from our surrounding natural landscapes. It is important we invest in our "natural capital" by protecting portions of the landscape. I applaud Mr. Udall for beginning a process to designate new wilderness and urge him to introduce legislation as soon as possible.

John Land Le Coq
Founder/Fishpond, Inc.
Dillon

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

THE DAILY SENTINEL

Grand Junction Sentinel
March 5, 2012

Thanks to Udall for protection of Browns Canyon

This week Sen. Mark Udall announced his intention to begin a public dialogue concerning the protection of Browns Canyon. As an Arkansas River outfitter and board member of the Colorado

River Outfitters Association, I would like to thank the senator.

A national monument will bring the attention to Browns Canyon that it deserves. The deep granite canyon walls are a spectacular backdrop to the world-class whitewater. In short, rafting Browns Canyon is an incomparable experience. We need to protect and preserve what is best about Colorado.

Permanently protecting Browns Canyon will attract new visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting. This fits into Chaffee County's plans for its economic future by helping to sustain property values and attract new investment. Thanks to Sen. Udall for taking steps to protect our outdoor heritage so that our children and grandchildren can continue to experience the outdoors the way we have been so fortunate to enjoy.

Bill Dvorak
Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions
Nathrop

http://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/articles/email-letters-march-5-2012

Sen. Udall sets wilderness info meeting in Avon

Public comments wanted

Summit County Citizens Voice
March 4, 2012

SUMMIT COUNTY — Sen. Mark Udall's staff this month will start taking public input to help shape a possible wilderness bill that could encompass many parcels of land previously included in the grassroots, citizen-driven Hidden Gems wilderness campaign, as well as a House bill introduced by Rep. Jared Polis.

The first meeting is set for March 14 at the Avon library (3 p.m. to 5 p.m.). Another meeting is planned for later in the month in Summit County, where there has already been an extensive collaborative stakeholder process to discuss potential wilderness additions and other specially designated recreation and conservation areas.

Udall has said his wilderness effort will be a community-driven process that could also result in designation of the Arkansas River Canyon as a national monument and Browns Canyon as a new wilderness area.

Udall met with business community leaders in Eagle County this week to get some additional input. He has touted the wilderness and monument designations as a benefit to the state's recreation economy.

Draft maps and other information on the proposals are online at **Udall's website.**

http://summitcountyvoice.com/2012/03/04/sen-udall-sets-wilderness-info-meeting-in-avon/

Sen. Udall's campaign to protect wilderness areas

March 4, 2012

Sen. Mark Udall announced he's looking to have a dialogue with the people of Colorado about protecting Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. As an avid kayaker, I can attest to what an incredible place this is for boating throughout the year.

My wife and I recently moved to the area because of its world-class whitewater. We run the river several times a week, even in winter. We also live at the mouth of the canyon. Designating Browns Canyon as a national monument would provide the strongest protection for this area and ensure that these public lands, and the broad range of recreational opportunities they provide, will remain intact for the future.

With its outstanding scenery and critical winter habitat for wildlife, it's also an incredible place to hike and hunt.

Thank you, Sen. Udall, for showing a commitment to protecting the public lands in Browns Canyon as a national monument.

Matt Fritz, *Salida*
This letter was published in the March 5 edition.
http://blogs.denverpost.com/eletters/2012/03/04/sen-udall%E2%80%99s-campaign-to-protect-wilderness-areas-3-letters/16890/

The Gazette

LETTERS: Preserving Browns Canyon

Colorado Springs Gazette
March 3, 2012

This week, Sen. Mark Udall announced that he's looking to have a dialogue with the people of Colorado about protecting Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. As an avid kayaker, I can attest to what an incredible place this is for boating throughout the year.

My wife and I recently moved to the area because of its world-class whitewater. We run the river several times a week, even in winter. We also live at the mouth of the canyon. Designating Browns Canyon as a national monument would provide the strongest protection for this area and ensure that these public lands, and the broad range of recreational opportunities they provide, will remain intact for the future.

With its outstanding scenery and critical winter habitat for wildlife, it's also an incredible place to hike and hunt.

Thank you Sen. Udall for showing a commitment to protecting the public lands in Browns Canyon as a national monument.

Matt and Jennifer Fritz
Salida

Read more: http://www.gazette.com/articles/insult-134473-letters-owners.html#ixzz1oXciHuYj

Lindsey Levick: Protect our public lands

Boulder Daily Camera
March 2, 2012

I want to thank Sen. Udall for showing his commitment to protecting the public lands in the Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River as a national monument. For years, countless numbers of local citizens, businesses and elected officials have supported preserving the wild character of Browns Canyon.

As a local Coloradan and avid enjoyer of the outdoors, I truly appreciate Browns Canyon as a national treasure. The spectacular landscape is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country along with providing outstanding scenery, critical winter habitat for wildlife and a wonderful place to hike and fish.

My favorite hike is in the railroad gulch where the views are incredible -- from the Collegiate Mountain Range, to the Arkansas River below, a favorite view of mine.

Along with hiking opportunities, Browns Canyon's low elevation provides critical habitat for big horn sheep, deer and elk -- all deserving of protection for the future.

LINDSEY LEVICK
Superior
http://www.dailycamera.com/letters/ci_20081257

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
Salida, Colorado USA Our 125th year The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

Udall proposes two ideas for Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
February 28, 2012
Cailey McDermott

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Denver) initiated a process Sunday which could lead to the establishment of Arkansas River Canyon National Monument and Browns Canyon Wilderness Area during a press conference in Frisco.

In addition, he proposed the Central Mountains Outdoor Heritage Act.

The national monument and canyon wilderness proposal would lead to designation of a national monument and a wilderness area that would protect 20,000 acres on both sides of the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista.

A national monument designation would draw attention to the area's world-class river rafting and outdoor recreation opportunities and support local tourism economy, he said.

The Central Mountain heritage act will consider 32 areas in Eagle, Pitkin and Summit counties totaling about 236,000 acres. It would include additions to existing wilderness areas like Holy Cross, Eagles Nest and Maroon Bells.

Udall envisions a bill that promotes the region as a world-class destination for outdoor recreation while protecting other multiple uses.

At a press conference in Frisco Udall outlined his plans to get feedback from affected communities and a wide range of interest groups what they would like to see from a wilderness proposal.

He will use the input to help shape legislation that supports interests of communities, protects public land and shores up jobs, economy and "Colorado's special quality of life."

"Wilderness is one of our state's great economic engines. Wilderness areas not only give local outdoors enthusiasts beautiful vistas and healthy game, but they attract visitors and businesses that help the state economy thrive," Udall said.

Before starting he said he wants to gather input from surrounding communities.

"If we do wilderness in the right way, with a bottom-up rather than top-down approach, protecting public land will help attract entrepreneurs to our state, create jobs and

support the quality of life that makes Colorado the envy of the world," he said.

As part of the process, Udall has developed a range of maps to start discussions about boundaries and varying acreage of wilderness.

The maps are available at markudall.senate.gov.

Udall said outdoor recreation contributes more than $10 billion a year to the Colorado economy, generating $500 million in state tax revenue and supporting more than 100,000 jobs.

U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Denver) said, "As a fourth-generation Coloradan, I know firsthand Colorado's beautiful lands are one of our greatest resources. The special lands not only provide clean air, clean water and critical wildlife habitat, they help drive tourism as our state's number one economic engine.

"It is critically important we preserve these remaining wild areas so future generations have access to the same benefits we enjoy.

"I am so pleased the Senator has identified so many of the precious lands I've had the privilege of working to protect for many years."

During the last 12 years, DeGette worked on wilderness protection throughout the state.

She said Colorado residents often expressed a desire to preserve the quality of life.

"With efforts in the U.S. House and now the U.S. Senate, our state's precious lands are that much closer to being protected.

"I look forward to working with Senator Udall to set forth a balanced approach to protecting some of the last remaining wild places in Colorado," DeGette said.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_baa75898-61e5-11e1-86b5-0019bb30f31a.html

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
Salida, Colorado USA Our 125th year The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

Wildlife, environmental groups applaud proposal

The Mountain Mail
February 28, 2012
Joe Stone, News Editor

The Wilderness Society, Colorado Wildlife Federation and Friends of Browns Canyon applauded U.S. Sen. Mark Udall's proposal to engage in public dialogue about the future of Browns Canyon.

Udall's announcement Sunday would initiate what he called a "bottom-up" process to engage local residents in crafting a bill to designate a national monument and a wilderness area in Chaffee County, protecting 20,000 acres.

Suzanne O'Neill, Colorado Wildlife Federation executive director, said, "For more than a decade, local citizens, businesses, sportsmen and conservation groups have advocated permanent protection of Browns Canyon.

"(It's) a stunning, rugged stretch of natural landscape that supports a multimillion-dollar local outdoor industry."

Nikol Noll of Friends of Browns Canyon said, "Protecting the (Browns Canyon) area as a national monument … will ensure these public lands remain intact for future generations of boaters, hikers, hunters and explorers."

The Browns Canyon area provides critical winter range for deer, elk and bighorn sheep because of its relatively low elevation compared to other areas, which can be buried under snow until late spring or early summer.

The national monument proposal would preserve habitat for game species and keep Browns Canyon open for hunting and other outdoor recreation activities that contribute to the Colorado economy.

As one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the nation, Browns Canyon supports a rafting industry that contributes more than $23 million a year to the Upper Arkansas Valley economy.

"If this Congress is truly focused on creating and preserving jobs in our outdoor recreation sector, they will support federal protection for Browns Canyon," O'Neill said.

Bill Dvorak of Nathrop, organizer with the National Wildlife Federation and a fishing and

rafting guide, said protecting the area for hunters, anglers and rafters is a "no-brainer."

Bob Hamel, owner of Arkansas River Tours and a board member of Colorado River Outfitters Association, said, "A national monument enhances the river corridor and brings attention to the Arkansas River.

"It puts the Arkansas (River) on the maps as a destination. People go out of their way to find national monuments."

A statement by Friends of Browns Canyon said, "Protecting the federal land in Browns Canyon as a national monument is important to the economic health of local businesses, river outfitters and the surrounding communities.

"A large and growing body of literature demonstrates protected public land, like national monuments, assist western communities

working to promote a more robust economic future."

Ron Ferris, owner of Riverboat Works in Salida, said "My business livelihood and quality of life depend on protection of Browns Canyon

Protecting this natural treasure will continue to benefit our local economy by keeping jobs here.

"If we do wilderness in the right way, with a bottom-up rather than top-down approach, protecting public land will help attract

entrepreneurs to our state, create jobs and support the quality of life that makes Colorado the envy of the world," he said.

When Udall announced his proposal Sunday in Frisco, he said ranchers would still be able to graze cattle, fire suppression would remain unchanged and existing groundwater systems often would be grandfathered.

http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_4111e484-61e6-11e1-8aa6-0019bb30f31a.html

real ASPEN

Udall pitches plan for new Pitkin County wilderness, Arkansas River Canyon National Monument

By Troy Hooper
Real Aspen – February 27, 2012

FRISCO — Saying the economy is intrinsically intertwined with the environment, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall rolled out a proposal Sunday to designate 236,000 acres of new wilderness in central Colorado and establish a 20,000-acre national monument along the Browns Canyon stretch of the Arkansas River.

He called on the public to help him craft a pair of public-lands bills.

Sen. Mark Udall in Frisco on Sunday. Photo by Troy Hooper

In the first — the Central Mountains Outdoor Heritage Act — the Democratic senator wants to consider 32 pockets in Eagle, Pitkin and Summit counties for wilderness protection, many of them additions to Holy Cross, Eagles Nest and Maroon Bells-Snowmass areas. Udall said he envisions a bill that would foster "a world-class destination for outdoor recreation while protecting pre-existing uses," such as the Colorado National Guard's high-altitude helicopter training area.

Draft maps for the proposal are largely based off of Eagle and Summit County wilderness plans that U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colorado, submitted to the House two years ago, along with input regarding Pitkin County from Carbondale-based Wilderness Workshop. The three counties comprise a veritable paradise for skiers, hikers, cyclists, mountain bikers, snowmobilers, hunters and fishermen.

"Many of these areas have been exhaustively vetted and debated," Udall said.

The second bill — the Arkansas River Canyon National Monument and Browns Canyon Wilderness – borrows from former U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colorado, in identifying wilderness on both sides of the iconic river between Salida and Buena Vista in south-central Colorado. Hefley introduced a similar bill in 2006 but the legislation didn't get very far. Hefley's successor, Rep. Doug Lamborn, abandoned the plan.

"A national monument designation would put a star on the map, drawing more visitors to the area's world-class river rafting and outdoor recreating activities and support our local tourism economy," Udall said against a backdrop of blue skies and snow-covered mountains.

As he spoke, cross-country skiers snaked around a meadow in the distance. Giggling children raced inner tubes down a nearby hill. And snowboarders in SUVs passed by on their way to Breckenridge.

"The outdoors is an important part of our quality of life here in Colorado," Udall continued. "For many outfitters and small business owners the preservation of our state's majestic mountains

and valleys is vital for their livelihoods." He called for "a collaborative community driven process."

Eagle County's Jon Stavney and Sen. Udall. Photo by Troy Hooper

Eagle County Commissioner Jon Stavney, Summit County Commissioner Dan Gibbs and Breckenridge Mayor Dr. John Warner also spoke in favor of protecting more of Colorado's rugged landscape, and they emphasized how it serves as the backbone of their economies.

"Future generations will ... judge our wisdom by the places we protect," Stavney said.

As a member of the Senate's Subcommittee on National Parks and co-chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus, Udall plans to leverage his leadership "to take this [proposal] to the next level."

Getting Colorado's conservative congressmen on board could prove difficult. Not only did Lamborn fail to see Hefley's vision through, he and U.S. Reps. Scott Tipton, Cory Gardner and Mike Coffman have a history of voting against public land protections and for allowing GOP-friendly industrialists to mine minerals and harvest forests.

Udall does have the assistance of Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colorado, who revived a plan to better protect public land in the San Juan Mountains with Udall in September. That bill, which would declare roughly 61,000 acres of southwestern Colorado as federal wilderness or special management areas, had died in the 111th Congress.

Whether the 112th Congress is any better for wilderness remains to be seen.

Browns Canyon - Friends of Browns Canyon

"Coloradans want to preserve their quality of life and their opportunities," said Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colorado. "With efforts in the U.S. House and now the U.S. Senate, our state's precious lands are that much closer to being protected. I look forward to working with Senator Udall to set forth a balanced approach to protecting some of the last remaining wild places in Colorado."

The Department of Interior also supports several aspects of Udall's plan.

Udall said it could take several months, or longer, before legislation is introduced in the Senate.

"I don't have a deadline. Of course if we're standing here 10 years from now, we've fallen short."

http://www.realaspen.com/article/1055/Senator-Mark-Udall-pitches-plan-to-establish-Arkansas-River-Canyon-National-Monument-protect-more-Colorado-wilderness

Colorado: Sen. Udall joins push for new wilderness

Protected areas touted as driver of recreation economy

Summit County Citizens Voice
February 27, 2012
by Bob Berwyn

SUMMIT COUNTY — A slew of wilderness proposals for lands in Summit and Eagle counties that have been stuck in a gridlocked, do-nothing U.S. House of Representatives could gain traction in the Senate, where Mark Udall says he will introduce a wilderness bill once he's taken input from local communities and other stakeholders.

"Starting today, I am kicking off a collaborative, community-driven process to listen to the community and create legislation to protect Colorado's outdoor heritage in two very special places in our state – the Central Mountains and the Arkansas River Canyon," Udall wrote on his **blog**.

He announced his wilderness bid Sunday during a press conference in Frisco, with the gleaming, snow-covered peaks of the Eagles Nest Wilderness as a backdrop. So far, the proposal doesn't include much detail and it's not clear whether the legislation would include so-called companion designations for some areas carved out by mountain bikers, who say they support wilderness but want to retain access to favored trails.

Such companion designations were discussed in the context of the Polis wilderness measure. The lands designated under those alternate designations are sometimes known as national recreation or national conservation areas, and still prevent most extractive uses while allowing a little more flexibility for recreation than the ironclad wilderness designation.

Udall has a well-deserved reputation as a wilderness advocate, and has made repeated efforts to fashion bipartisan support in an era of polarized politics.

While serving in the House of Representatives, Udall worked across party lines in 2002 to craft a deal that expanded the James Peak wilderness in the northern Front Range. Udall is an avid outdoorsman and served as a course director for Outward Bound in Colorado before starting his political career.

Links to maps of the proposed areas are **online here.**

Udall specifically is aiming at two areas, including many parcels identified in what was first called the Hidden Gems proposal, then later dubbed the Summit-Eagle Wilderness Act by U.S. Rep. Jared Polis' stalled legislation in the House.

Udall's second targeted area is along the Arkansas River and Browns Canyon, where the idea of a potential new wilderness area dates

back to about 2005, based on another stalled measure in the House.

Udall touted new wilderness as a potential economic driver for Colorado, and said he hopes to get stakeholder consensus before drafting legislation. The collaborative process touted be Udall is, in some ways, a re-invention of the wheel, as Rep. Polis went through a similar process before introducing his legislation.

"By hearing your comments from the outset, I hope to develop a plan that a majority of the community agrees will support their interests and further develop Colorado's booming recreation economy," Udall wrote in his **blog**.

He garnered support from U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, who has also been working to advance a multi-parcel wilderness plan through Congress.

"As a fourth-generation Coloradoan, I know firsthand that Colorado's beautiful lands are one of our state's greatest resources. These special lands not only provide clean air, clean water and critical wildlife habitat, they help drive tourism as our state's number one economic engine," DeGette said in a press release.

"Coloradoans want to preserve their quality of life and their opportunities. With efforts in the U.S. House and now the U.S. Senate, our state's precious lands are that much closer to being protected. I look forward to working with Senator Udall to set forth a balanced approach to protecting some of the last remaining wild places in Colorado."

http://summitcountyvoice.com/2012/02/27/colorado-sen-udall-joins-push-for-new-wilderness/

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Protecting High Country lands next up for Udall

Sen. Mark Udall visits Frisco to announce possible wilderness legislation in the Senate

Summit Daily News

February 26, 2012
By Janice Kurbjun

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall announced Sunday that he wants public feedback on proposals to establish wilderness and national monument status for two popular Colorado areas.

"I'm excited to announce a collaborative, community-driven process that I hope will ultimately allow Colorado to create legislation to protect two very special places in our state: The central mountains and the Arkansas River (Browns) Canyon."

"The outdoors is an important part of the quality of life in Colorado," Udall said, explaining why he's using his leverage as chairman of the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on National Parks, co-chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus and involvement on the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee to take the proposals to the next level in the political process.

"Wilderness is one of our state's great economic engines... We need to fuel that engine and protect that engine," he said.

He emphasized that both projects are only just beginning. The draft maps are based off work done by U.S. Rep. Jared Polis in his Eagle and Summit wilderness plan, Wilderness Workshop and their latest version of Hidden Gems in Pitkin County, and work done by former U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley in identifying potential wilderness east of the Arkansas River in the Browns Canyon section through Chaffee County.

The Browns Canyon wilderness proposal is new to recent politics, though it earned support 10 years ago when Hefley, a Republican, presented the idea and began work on it. In 2005, he introduced a bill in Congress for a 20,000-acre wilderness area, but it never went to a vote and wasn't supported by Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn, who took Hefley's place in Congress.

Udall's current plan — which is still a "working document" with three possible versions — is to place 20,000 acres of already roadless area (mostly east of the river) under permanent protection as a national monument with wilderness status. It's currently designated a wilderness study area, which affords less protection.

It would "put a star on the map" for the area, Udall said, which already sees 250,000 commercial rafting trips as well as significant recreational activity outside of the river, from mountain biking to off-highway vehicles to hiking.

"It's an area that deserves permanent protection," said Nikol Noll of Friends of Browns Canyon. It could balance the 180 miles of off-highway vehicle trails in existence to the north, in the Fourmile Recreation Area, she said.

North and west of Browns Canyon, 32 areas have been identified for possible wilderness protection, totaling slightly more than 233,000 acres. Some of it involves new proposals and some adds to existing wilderness. All of it has already seen plenty of verbal battles during prior work, and Udall is already soliciting more feedback from sportsmen, snowmobilers, off-highway vehicle recreationists, mountain bikers, rafters and kayakers, fishermen and fisheries advocates, agencies such as the Elk Foundation and the Colorado Environmental Coalition, as well as county commissions and municipalities.
With so much work already completed, Udall said, "Many of these areas have been exhaustively vetted and debated ... We start with an excellent foundation" as the public feedback process commences.

"This is a bill that promotes our region for world-class recreation" while preserving other uses, like the High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site in Gypsum, Udall said about the Summit, Eagle and Pitkin wilderness proposal.

It could take several months, maybe longer, to continue prior work and come to a consensus for legislation to present on the Senate floor. Udall said there's no deadline. The proposed legislature is expected to largely match the wilderness bill still hanging from Polis, meaning both the House and the Senate will be considering similar action nearly simultaneously.

Comments from the crowd
Rafting outfitter Bill Dvorak has been working on getting Browns Canyon more protection for roughly 15 years, and is excited to see Udall take the reins this time around.

"We got real close (several) years ago," he said, referring to Hefley's bill.

"Mark seems to have a better ability than just about anyone in Congress right now to go across lines and get things accomplished," Bill Dvorak said. Maybe it's because he tends to be sincere and aiming to simply do what's best for his constituents and the environment.

This time, the wilderness proposal has additional support from the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that manages roughly half of the 20,000 acres.

A preliminary report, issued toward the end of 2011 by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, identified 17 backcountry areas on bureau land in nine states where there is "significant local support for Congressional protection," according to Salida's Mountain Mail. Among those lands is Browns Canyon.

According to the Mountain Mail, the report describes the Browns Canyon area as the backdrop for one of the most popular U.S. whitewater rafting destinations, a place where visitors can enjoy "striking red hoodoos, dramatic gulches and abundant wildlife."

Dvorak echoed the report when he said it would be one of Colorado's first low altitude environments to receive wilderness protection.

"Most of our wilderness is alpine in Colorado," he said. "We need to protect a place for critters to go when they're pushed out of the High Country."

It's also good for business to have nearby wilderness, Dvorak said. National and international customers typically don't understand nuanced land designations such as "wild and scenic" or "wilderness study area." But words like "national park" and "national monument" ring a bell, he said. Bill's wife, Jaci, said it also helps to be on the parks list to drive traffic. They saw a bump in visitation when Browns Canyon became part of Colorado's state park system, she said.

"For many outfitters and small business owners, preservation of our state's majestic mountains and valleys is vital for their livelihoods," Udall said.

Municipal and county representatives attending Udall's announcement said process is important, and that they believe Udall is taking the appropriate "ground-up" approach by talking to the people first. "This is Colorado's playground, we think," said Breckenridge mayor John Warner, adding that the Breckenridge Town Council has talked about protecting areas of Hoosier Ridge and the Tenmile Range. "We live for recreation in Summit County. ... Protection of our lands is very important. We're anxious to be a part of this process."

http://www.summitdaily.com/article/20120226/NEWS/120229869/1078&ParentProfile=1055

THE DENVER POST

Udall: Weigh in on wilderness proposals

The Denver Post
U.S. Sen. Mark Udall
February 26, 2012

For me, and so many Coloradans, the outdoors is an important part of our quality of life. It's where we recreate, hunt and fish, and find excitement or peace of mind. And, for many outfitters, restaurateurs, hotel owners and other small businessmen, preservation of our state's majestic mountains and valleys is vital for our livelihoods.

As chairman of the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on National Parks and co-chairman of the bipartisan Outdoor Recreation Caucus, I'm committed to ensuring Coloradans have a wide variety of options for recreation, including places to bike, ski and snowmobile — as well as backcountry trails and wide-open pristine lands that will be preserved for generations. Wilderness is one of our state's great economic engines. Protected public lands help create jobs and keep entrepreneurs and investment moving to and thriving in our state.

That's why I'm proud to launch a collaborative, community-driven process that I hope will ultimately allow Colorado to create legislation for wilderness and national monument designations in two areas — the Central Mountains and the Arkansas River Canyon. If we do it in the right way — with a bottom-up rather than top-down approach — protecting public lands will support jobs, our economy, and the quality of life that makes Colorado the envy of the world.

With the support of Sen. Michael Bennet, I'm asking Coloradans in those communities what they would like to see from a wilderness proposal. My goal is to build on work that has been done previously and develop a plan that a majority of the community agrees will support their interests and their local economies. In order to facilitate the conversation with these communities, I've developed draft maps of possible wilderness boundaries, which will give us a firm base to compare notes and ideas.

For example, the Central Mountains proposal could encompass as many as 32 areas in Eagle, Pitkin and Summit counties, expanding wilderness areas in the region, including Holy Cross, Eagles Nest and the Maroon Bells. I envision a bill that promotes the region as a world-class destination for outdoor recreation while protecting pre-existing uses, such as the Colorado Air National Guard's high-altitude helicopter training area.

The second proposal would protect some of our best-loved river rafting spots along the iconic Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista by designating the area as a national monument. The official designation would literally put the region on the map, drawing more visitors to the area's world-class outdoor recreation opportunities and supporting the local tourism economy.

Before we do anything, it's important to me to hear from as many Coloradans as possible. I've posted all of the maps at http://markudall.senate.gov/outdoorheritage, along with an e-mail comment form. I encourage you to share your thoughts about the maps, how the land is used today and your vision for the future

of these special places. My staff and I will meet with stakeholders and talk through the issues for each area.

Activities such as hiking, skiing, paddling and fishing contribute more than $10 billion annually to our economy, supporting some 100,000 Colorado jobs and generating $500 million in state tax revenue. Wilderness ensures that skiers and hikers have beautiful vistas, anglers have clean streams in which to fish, and hunters have healthy big-game herds. These resources attract visitors from all over the nation and world.

With our population expected to double by 2050, we need to be proactive so that future generations can experience the beauty, clean water and air, and wildlife that we have today. I'm proud of my successful past work to designate wilderness at James Peak and in Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as the proposed San Juan Mountains Wilderness. I look forward to this process and encourage all Coloradans to join in the conversation

Read more: Udall: Weigh in on wilderness proposals - The Denver Post
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_20031690#ixzz1oYMzplz6

Sen. Udall wants feedback on wilderness, national monument designations for 2 areas in Colo.

The Washington Post
February 26, 2012
http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/sen-udall-wants-feedback-on-wilderness-national-monument-designations-for-2-areas-in-colo/2012/02/26/gIQAzdVbcR_story.html

DENVER — U.S. Sen. Mark Udall said Sunday he wants the public to help him craft legislation that would create wilderness and national monument designations for two popular recreation areas in Colorado.

Udall said 32 areas covering almost 236,000 acres in Eagle, Pitkin and Summit counties in the central mountains are under consideration as wilderness areas. The proposal, which he stressed is in its infancy, includes additions to existing wilderness areas like Holy Cross, Eagles Nest and the Maroon Bells.

"The whole point is we're going to work in a collaborative, bottom-up process to protect lands that are important to our economy," he said, referring to Colorado's tourism industry.

"It's been proven without a doubt that wilderness is one of the state's economic drivers."

The senator, a Democrat, also wants feedback on designating as a national monument 20,000 acres on both sides of the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista in south-central Colorado, as well as creating wilderness along Browns Canyon, areas known for whitewater rafting.

"It would draw national, international attention to the world-class rafting and outdoor recreation economy," Udall said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. He added a national monument designation "puts a place on the map."

He also outlined his plans Sunday at a press conference in Frisco.

Meanwhile, Bill Dvorak of Nathrop, an organizer with the National Wildlife Federation and a fishing and rafting guide, said protecting the area for hunters, anglers and rafters is a "no-brainer."

"Local residents and business owners have been trying for more than a decade, so the time to move forward is now," he said.

Udall acknowledged that some in Congress are against wilderness designations and national monuments because they think they completely bar human activities on the land.

The Obama administration has come under fire for an internal memo that identified several areas in the West as potential national monuments, and critics had pointed to that as a sign the administration aimed to unilaterally lock up land from development.

But, Udall said, although roads and other manmade infrastructure would be barred under his proposal, ranchers would still be able to graze their cattle, fire suppression would remain unchanged, and existing groundwater systems often would be grandfathered.

He said most of the land is owned by the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and is not being logged or mined, which would be outlawed under either designation.

"The heart of the wilderness concept is that man is a visitor," Udall said. "Man isn't the permanent presence."

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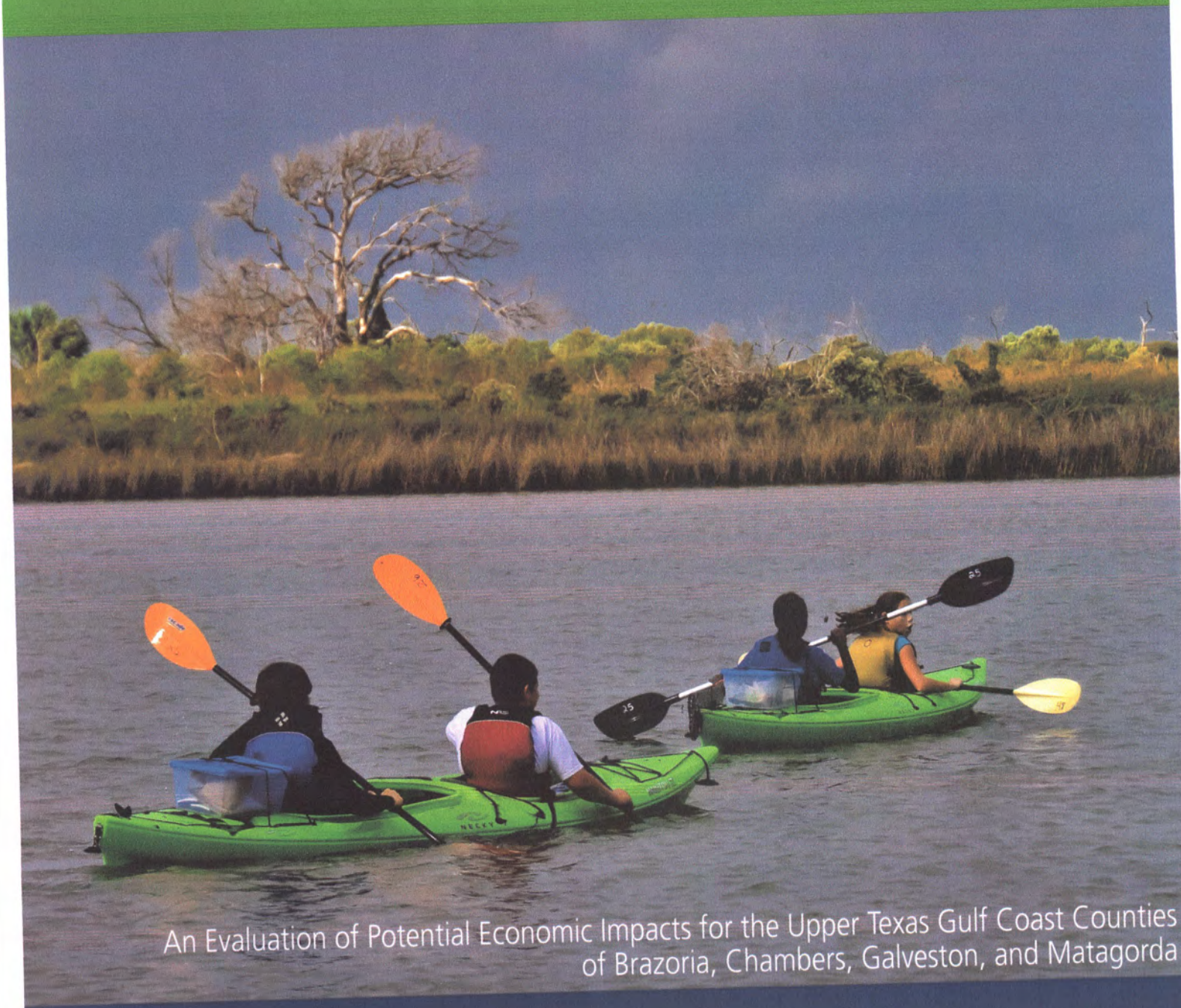
Opportunity Knocks

How the Proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area Could Attract Visitors, Boost Business, and Create Jobs



An Evaluation of Potential Economic Impacts for the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda

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Michele L. Archie and Howard D Terry
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Michele L. Archie
The Harbinger Consulting Group

Project advisors and contributors
Suzanne Dixon, Erika Pelletier, Perry Wheeler (National Parks Conservation Association)
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Alfred C. Glassell, III

Cover photo
Paddlers participate in an Artist Boat program. The non-profit Artist Boat uses art and science to promote awareness of coastal areas like this Galveston Island marsh. Photo: © Bob Howen.

Special Thanks

Thank you to the dozens of community, government, NGO, and business leaders in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, and Matagorda counties who provided invaluable information and insight for this report and the underlying economic impact analysis.

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Since 1919, the non-profit, non-partisan National Parks Conservation Association has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. NPCA, its members, and partners work together to protect the park system and preserve our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage for generations to come.

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About This Report

About this Report

In 2011, the Harbinger Consulting Group conducted a study to evaluate the potential economic impacts of the proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area (LSCNRA) in four counties along the upper Texas Gulf coast. The study was commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association with funding assistance from Houston Wilderness, the Rice University SSPEED Center, Houston Endowment, and Alfred C. Glassell, III. This report summarizes the study's findings.

Understanding the Economic Impact Study

In its analysis, the Harbinger Consulting Group estimated economic impacts using an "input-output" model. This model assumes that money spent locally—for example, by visitors paying for meals, lodging, fuel, and gifts—supports further economic activity. Businesses spend these dollars to pay employees, purchase goods, and pay for rent, fuel, taxes, and other expenses. Some of these expenditures are made locally, where the money can then be spent "again" by the businesses and persons who receive it, and so on.

"Direct impacts" are calculated as the amount of spending for an activity or by an organization or group—such as a nonprofit preserve manager or non-local visitors—and the jobs this spending immediately supports. "Total impacts" reflect the "multiplier effect" of portions of those direct expenditures being circulated through the local economy, as described above.

Impacts of visitor spending are estimated based on non-local visitor spending only. Their expenditures are clearly "new" dollars that originated outside the study area and can be clearly linked to the presence of the sites and entities that together could comprise the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area. Spending by local visitors does have an economic impact, but it is difficult to determine how much of that money would not have been spent locally if the LSCNRA did not exist. Given these difficulties, and the relatively small contribution local visitor spending would make to the impacts examined in this study, this analysis takes a conservative approach, calculating the economic impact of visitor spending based solely at the expenditures of out-of-area visitors (those from outside the four-county study area).

Download the study, *Economic Impact of the Proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area* (The Harbinger Consulting Group, December 2011), at www.npca.org/TXCoastalEconomic.

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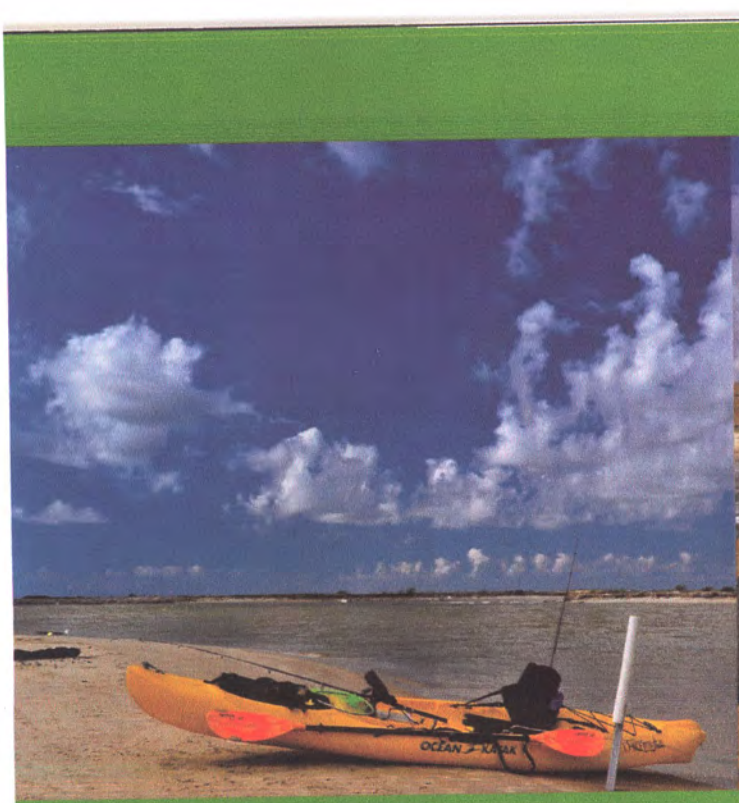

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Introduction

Hurricane Ike tore through the upper Texas Gulf coast in 2008, unleashing devastation on communities and economies. Yet portions of the region fared better, showing that undeveloped lands along the coast serve as a natural buffer for a tremendous amount of storm surge tide. This natural landscape, from sea level to as much as 15 feet elevation, is an integral part of a long-term, non-structural flood mitigation system. In other words, the water-storage capacity of these low-lying areas can help reduce flooding and property damage inland.

Creating a new recreation area under joint management of local partners and the National Park Service (NPS) has been proposed as one strategy for enhancing community safety while deriving additional economic benefits from these lands. This new national recreation area would include voluntary land-owning participants in the coastal buffer zone. Behind this proposal is the idea that enhanced recreational use of these lands would draw additional economic value from maintaining this aspect of the region's flood mitigation system.

This report examines the potential economic impacts of the proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area (LSCNRA) on Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda counties. It does not assess additional benefits from enhanced flood protection; however these benefits are likely to be sizeable.

A national recreation area would offer the region's communities significant economic advantages. At the same time, it could provide a framework for coordinated protection of critical natural flood control capacity and natural-resource-based industries along the upper Texas Gulf coast.

Ann Willis
President,
Bolivar Chamber of Commerce

"A national recreation area would give our world-class coastal resources a level of national and international exposure that couldn't be anything but good for business."

Key Findings

Projected benefits for Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda counties

By its 10th year of full operation, the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area could:

Attract

1,500,000 annual visitors

Support

$192 million local sales

5,260 local jobs

Sustain

2% increase in private employment over current levels

11% more jobs in the tourism industry

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Four-County Economic Impact Study Area

On the map:

Coastal buffer zone, in which the proposed Lone Star National Recreation Area would be located.

Four-county economic impact study area

The proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area would include voluntary partners in four coastal counties: Matagorda, Brazoria, Galveston, and Chambers. This region boasts significant natural areas, outdoor recreation opportunities, and historical sites. The proposed recreation area would be built around a core of existing sites through coordinated management by various public, private, and nonprofit landowners. Map: Dan Servian, Direwolf Graphics.

What is a National Recreation Area?

- An opportunity to coordinate flood control, visitor services, tourism marketing, and land management among voluntarily participating partners.
- A flexible National Park Service designation that allows for significant local control.
- A Congressionally created unit of the National Park Service that protects a nationally significant land and water recreation area, which may also include historical sites.

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The proposed national recreation area

Benefits and Opportunities

ıe upper Texas Gulf coast harbors patchwork of natural, cultural, and storical sites with largely untapped :onomic value. A national recreation ea could develop this potential more lly, offering a range of benefits to par- :ipating sites and local communities.

ɔ identify likely advantages, this study 'aluated areas similar to the proposed SCNRA. These include national recre- ion areas and other NPS sites, as well : other regional recreation, tourism, ıd heritage "trails" and areas.

ɔtential Benefits of National ecreation Area Designation

1) **National Park Service visitor appeal.** NPS affiliation would put this region on par with the nation's finest public lands, and offer exposure to large national and international markets.

   At seven NPS sites similar to the proposed LSCNRA, visitation grew an average of 565 percent in the first ten years of operation.[1]

2) **A shared identity for tourism development and marketing.** Experience in heritage areas and tourism trails suggests this regional focus can expand the size of the "tourist pie."

   One success story: The Crooked Road music heritage trail spans ten Virginia counties. In four years, collaborative marketing led lodging sales in one county to grow 90 percent, and triple in one town. Music events drew five percent more visitors each year, and the region's share of Virginia tourism grew two percent.[2]

3) **Quality of life for residents.** Like other scenic and heritage areas, a national recreation area can help protect what people value most about their communities.

   Residents along the Lake Country scenic byway in Minnesota see the byway as contributing to their quality of life. Natural areas, cultural and historical sites, and recreation opportunites are important community attributes they say the byway supports.[3]

4) **Coordination among land managers toward common goals and functions.** Programming, facilities construction and maintenance, signage, and resource protection can all benefit from coordination.

   At Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in California, operating agreements allow goods and services to move easily between partner agencies to address recreation area needs.

5) **Financial leverage and access to funding sources.** Collaboration within the national recreation area and the high profile of NPS designation could help attract nonprofit, corporate, federal, and other funds. Some funds are available only to NPS units—such as NPS project funding and the Centennial Challenge, which funded projects in advance of the 2016 NPS 100th anniversary. NPS units are typically supported by strong friends groups that help raise funds, recruit volunteers, and conduct special programs.

Dennis J. Harris
Director,
Galveston County Department of Parks and Senior Services

"The coordination and stature of a national recreation area could help Galveston County leverage its resources as we implement our new Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Conservation/Natural Resources Master Plan. This plan focuses on nature-based recreation and open space.

"Participating in a national recreation area could help us attract funding and get some things accomplished at Fort Travis Seashore Historic Park and other nature and historical parks that we have identified as priorities."

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Jeff Pynes
City Manager,
City of Freeport

"A lot of people come to Freeport and this area because of our fantastic outdoor recreation. But while they are here camping, or fishing, or bird-watching, many of them take time to visit our historical sites and museums. We've found that nature is an important draw for opening people's eyes to history."

6) **Reduced property damage from flooding and storm surge.** A national recreation area could promote long-term, coordinated storm protection. Barrier islands, shoals, marshes, forested wetlands and other coastal features can protect against wind waves and storm surge.

Enhancing the economic value of wetlands and other low-lying coastal areas for recreation makes it more likely these areas will remain undeveloped. The cost savings could be dramatic, both in diminished property damage and in avoided costs of installing massive flood-control structures to replace these natural buffers.

7) **Long-term cost savings for local governments.** Maintaining the region's working and open lands makes local governments money over time.

American Farmland Trust studies of three Texas counties found that working and open lands generate revenue, while residential development costs local governments money. In these counties, providing services to agricultural lands and open space cost only $0.28 for each dollar of revenue from these lands. On the other hand, serving residential areas cost local governments $1.17 for each dollar of revenue.[4]

How a National Recreation Area Works

Although designated by Congress, a national recreation area can be governed by a local partnership. The partnership blends local priorities with National Park Service policies, garnering the advantages of both.

- The local governing partnership can include local, state, and federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners.
- A locally-developed charter can govern the national recreation area.
- The National Park Service is likely—although not required—to own land within the national recreation area.
- Participation is voluntary. Land is not condemned. If land is acquired for the national recreation area, it is from willing sellers. Any land-use regulations related to the recreation area would apply only to participating landowners.
- The designation may leverage federal funding and resources. The Park Service can play a coordinating role and contribute expertise in areas such as education, interpretation, science, visitor services, recreation management, and planning.
- Partner organizations contribute in various ways, consistent with their mandates and resources.
- A general management plan for the national recreation area does not override partners' decision-making authorities. It guides operations and helps coordinate participating agency plans.

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What We Can Learn: Lessons from Three National Recreation Areas

Alignment and Cohesion among Partner Agencies

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

"This is a collaborative park. Each partner agency is a different kind of 'glue.' At the start, Park Service contributions were mostly in education, scientific research, and planning. State land conservancies had the most flexibility for land acquisition.

"State Parks provided tested standards for operating parks, especially in the area of public safety and resource protection. We also built programming on education and recreation services that nonprofit and other groups offered before the recreation area started.

"The county helps glue together the national recreation area with land-use planning that supports park resource-protection goals."

— Woody Smeck, Superintendent

Integrating History and Outdoor Recreation

Gateway National Recreation Area

"Gateway includes almost 600 historic structures. We have a huge opportunity to connect people with nature and culture through recreation.

"For example, Gateway has a variety of sports fields that bring people here who otherwise wouldn't know anything about the national recreation area. The parents watching the Little League game and looking at a beautiful beach or historic lighthouse might later take their kids to walk on that beach or see the lighthouse.

"We've recently gotten Little Leaguers involved in our kayaking program. This was a huge success and has gotten people who had no idea what national parks were about interested in what we offer."

— Linda Canzanelli, Superintendent

Improved Visitor Access Boosts Visitation

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

"Most visitation is to two hub islands of the 34 in our national recreation area. That's because Georges Island and Spectacle Island have the most developed visitor facilities and we focus our programming there. Since Spectacle Island's facilities opened to the public in 2006, visitation to the national recreation area overall has nearly doubled. We expect to open a third hub island (Peddocks) next summer, and expect that to produce continued increases in visitors."

"Only ten of our islands see much public use. Improving access in targeted locations has helped us serve more visitors and still maintain the undeveloped nature of the remainder of the islands."

— Tom Powers, Boston Harbor Islands Allliance

The Historic Strand District, downtown Galveston. Historical sites and attractions may participate in, and benefit from, the proposed national recreation area. Photo © Bob Howen.

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Economic Impacts—How a national recreation area could

Boost Economic Activity

"Residents and visitors share a tremendous interest in nature, and we have that in abundance here in Chambers County. Our annual Gatorfest is a three-day celebration built on the success of bringing alligators back from the brink of extinction.

"The alligator population now outnumbers humans by almost three to one, and provides a great hook to bring in those nature tourists wanting to visit the 'wild' of the Texas Coast."

Sarah Cerrone
General Chairman,
Texas Gatorfest

As with any national park, visitor spending will support the largest share of the economic impact of the proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area.

Because it would be built on a core of existing natural areas and heritage sites, the LSCNRA would start out with a strong base of visitors in its first year of full staffing and operation. Over the first ten years, as the national recreation area matures, visitation is projected to triple.

Three basic factors account for this increase:

1) The exposure and drawing power associated with the National Park Service.
2) Development of new or expanded recreational sites, visitor facilities, services, and programs.
3) Regional coordination in connecting discreet sites and events into more cohesive offerings for visitors, and of tourism marketing and marketing collaboration.

Increasing visitation, and visitors staying longer in the area, are projected to quadruple the economic impact of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area in its first ten years of operation.

By its tenth year, the national recreation area could support 4,060 new jobs in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda counties—in addition to 1,200 jobs projected for its first year of full operation. These additional jobs would represent a two percent increase over the region's current private employment. Approximately 3,500 of these jobs would be in tourism-related businesses—an eleven percent increase in tourism jobs over current levels.

Economic Impact of the Proposed Lone Star Coastal Recreation Area Could Quadruple in Ten Years

Growing visitation is expected to quadruple the economic impact of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area in its first ten years of operation.

YEAR ONE of Operation	YEAR TEN of Operation
Attract	Attract
500,000 annual visitors	1,500,000 annual visitors
Support	Support
$46 million local sales	$192 million local sales
1,200 local jobs	5,260 local jobs
$19 million personal income	$69 million personal income

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Opportunities to Boost Natural and Cultural Tourism

Photographer at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Nature photography is a largely untapped area of visitor interest. Installation of photo blinds, development of a photography "trail" linking these facilities, and promotion of nature photography safaris and field courses could help develop this into a regional specialty. Photo: © Bob Howen.

The proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area region is replete with opportunities for building, improving, and expanding offerings for visitors interested in nature, cultural heritage, and outdoor recreation activities.

Visitor centers and nature centers

Several new nature centers are already on the drawing board in the region. The LSCNRA could coordinate and promote the development of these centers, which might also serve as national recreation area visitor centers.

Nature lodges

New eco-lodges, and rebuilt or improved facilities, could provide national-park-quality lodging and activities.

Expanded recreation access

Expanded public access to the bay and focused development of recreational facilities could flesh out the LSCNRA's recreational offerings and help open new areas for public use. Boat launches, boardwalks, hike/bike trails, and driving routes are examples.

Integrating nature and heritage

Linking nature experiences with historical sites and interpretation could leverage the region's rich heritage. The LSCNRA could focus on links between people and nature as a key interpretive theme.

Developing "high-touch" visitor services

Local business development and recruitment can help create the personalized, authentic experience many nature and cultural travelers want.

Thematic itineraries and "trails"

Thematically promoting recreation and heritage opportunities can encourage visitors to explore more of the region. The LSCNRA could build on existing history, birding, and kayaking trails, and local festivals, as well as promote new themes such as local foods and untold history.

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Building on Existing Plans and Efforts

Making it Happen

Doug McLeod
Galveston attorney and former state legislator

"Moody Gardens on Galveston Island gets two million visitors a year in search of ecotourism. A national recreation area could offer an entire range of similar educational and recreational benefits to our four-county region.

"While ensuring long-term natural protection from storms and flood damage, it could also put a spotlight on some of the things we love most about this area—the bay, the birds, our marshes, bayous, great fishing, and beautiful sunsets.

"This designation could also create tremendous economic leverage, translating into more tourists, more jobs, and increased revenues for our business owners."

By itself, designating a new national recreation area is not likely to lead to the levels of increased visitation and economic impact projected in this study. The Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area could, however, serve as a vehicle for coordinated and focused development that could turn the upper Texas Gulf coast into a premier outdoor recreation destination.

Expanding an Already-Important Industry

Tourism is already big business here. About one in five jobs across the four counties is related to tourism, with the highest concentration being in Galveston county.[5] Visitation to the Texas Gulf Coast tourism region ranks second among the state's seven tourism regions.[6]

Nature and cultural tourism are more important here than in Texas as a whole. Nearly one in five Gulf Coast region visitors participate in nature-based recreation, compared to one in ten statewide. In large measure, the difference is due to the region's ocean and bay coastal areas. Hunting and fishing are more popular among visitors here, and by a slight margin, more Gulf Coast region visitors participate in cultural activities.[7]

Leveraging Existing Plans

Economic development plans in each of the four counties point to nature and heritage tourism as a key part of the region's economic future.

In 2011, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) reported on its evaluation of tourism opportunities and challenges in the four-county coastal region.[8] The proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area could help address some of the challenges the IEDC identified, and catalyze progress toward some of its recommended strategies. These include:

1) Improving way-finding and signage to help unite the region, connect visitors with opportunities, and make remote sites feel more accessible.
2) Strengthening the identity and function of local communities as gateways to the region's recreational opportunities.
3) Encouraging knowledge of the experiences, services, and sites that are available for visitors throughout the region.
4) Promoting sites, events, and itineraries that cross typical tourism promotion boundaries (e.g. counties or cities).
5) Creating and promoting a regional brand identity.

Making progress on these recommended strategies would contribute to the success of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area, boosting its economic benefits to the region.

Components for Success

A new national recreation area could build on the area's strengths, and provide a new catalyst for regional collaboration. Interviews with community and business leaders, land managers,

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and others in the region suggest that addressing three specific needs could be critical to the success of the national recreation area initiative:

1) Research support for developing a better understanding of tourism in the area, gauging the success of initiatives and the national recreation area over time, and tracking economic impact.

2) Coordinated support for small businesses, and possibly new funding mechanisms to encourage the development of high-quality visitor services and facilities.

3) Mechanisms for regional communication and coordination, and easy access to up-to-date information about the national recreation area and related events, services, and facilities throughout the four counties.

Roseate spoonbill takes off from a marsh. These striking birds are spring-through-fall residents of the upper Texas Gulf Coast. Photo: © Bob Howen.

Nate McDonald
County Judge,
Matagorda County

"We practice collaboration here in Matagorda County to create opportunity for the many. A national recreation area could be a great tool to extend that collaboration beyond our county's borders to other coastal counties.

"Communities in all four counties could benefit from tapping into the region's enormous potential to be recognized as a top-shelf destination for outdoor recreation."

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Moving Forward

James A. Baker III
Honorary Chair,
Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area Steering Committee

"Creating and developing a national recreation area along the upper Texas Gulf coast would foster economic activity and growth, and bring national and international recognition to our tremendous natural and cultural resources. This would be a boon not just to the coastal counties, but to the Houston-Galveston region as a whole.

"For these and other reasons, I support this worthwhile effort and encourage others to join me."

This economic impact analysis suggests that the proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area would be a good investment in the region's long-term propserity—as well as in its integrity and resilience in the face of the storms that periodically hit the upper Texas Gulf coast.

Creating a new national recreation area will require a collaborative approach that would be echoed in how the national recreation area is managed.

The Designation Process

A member of Congress can propose a candidate for national recreation area designation by introducing legislation to authorize a National Park Service evaluation. Eligibility criteria include:

- Unique natural, cultural, or recreational resources;
- Representation of natural or cultural themes not adequately represented in the National Park System;
- Sufficient size and configuration to ensure long-term resource protection and accommodate public use; and
- Potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost.

After the NPS finds an area eligible for national recreation area status, Congress passes the designation into law. The authorizing legislation can be crafted with significant local input to match the vision and governing approach worked out in the region prior to designation.

How to Participate

Public support will be indispensible to shaping the proposed national recreation area, and creating the momentum that results in congressional action. Some steps are currently underway, including:

- Establishing a steering committee of public and private leaders to expand the circle of participation and support;
- Identifying local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofits, and private landowners that might support designation and ultimately, participate in the national recreation area;
- Coordinating with local and regional planning processes such as the Houston-Galveston Area Council's new sustainable communities initiative;
- Continuing the technical and analytical work behind incorporating a national recreation area into a regional approach to flood mitigation; and
- Lining up a regional group of collaborators in tourism marketing, economic development, and business to develop strategies for coordinated marketing and business development.

Significant community involvement will ensure that a Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area would be managed with local priorities at the forefront—and bring the greatest economic advantages possible for the upper Texas Gulf coast.

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End Notes

1 The National Park Service units used for comparison are C&O Canal National Historical Park; Cuyahoga Valley National Park; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area; Gateway National Recreation Area; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore; Padre Island National Seashore; and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

2 Robert R Jones. Economic Impact Assessment of the Crooked Road; Virginia's Heritage Music Trail. Lebanon, Virginia: Sustainable Development Consulting International. 2008.

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4 American Farmland Trust. Cost of Community Services studies for Bandera County (2003), Bexar County (2004), and Hays County (2003).

5 Profiles of Industries that Include Travel and Tourism (Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Matagorda counties). Generated using the Economic Profile System-Human Dimensions Toolkit (http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt). December 2011.

6 D.K. Shifflet & Associates. Texas Destinations 2008-2009. The Office of the Governor, Economic Development Tourism Division. 2010.

7 *ibid.*

8 International Economic Development Council. Coastal Tourism Webinar. August 2011.

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2201 Main Street, Suite 600
Dallas, TX 75201
214.370.9735

777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

9654 C Katy Freeway, #252
Houston, Texas 77055

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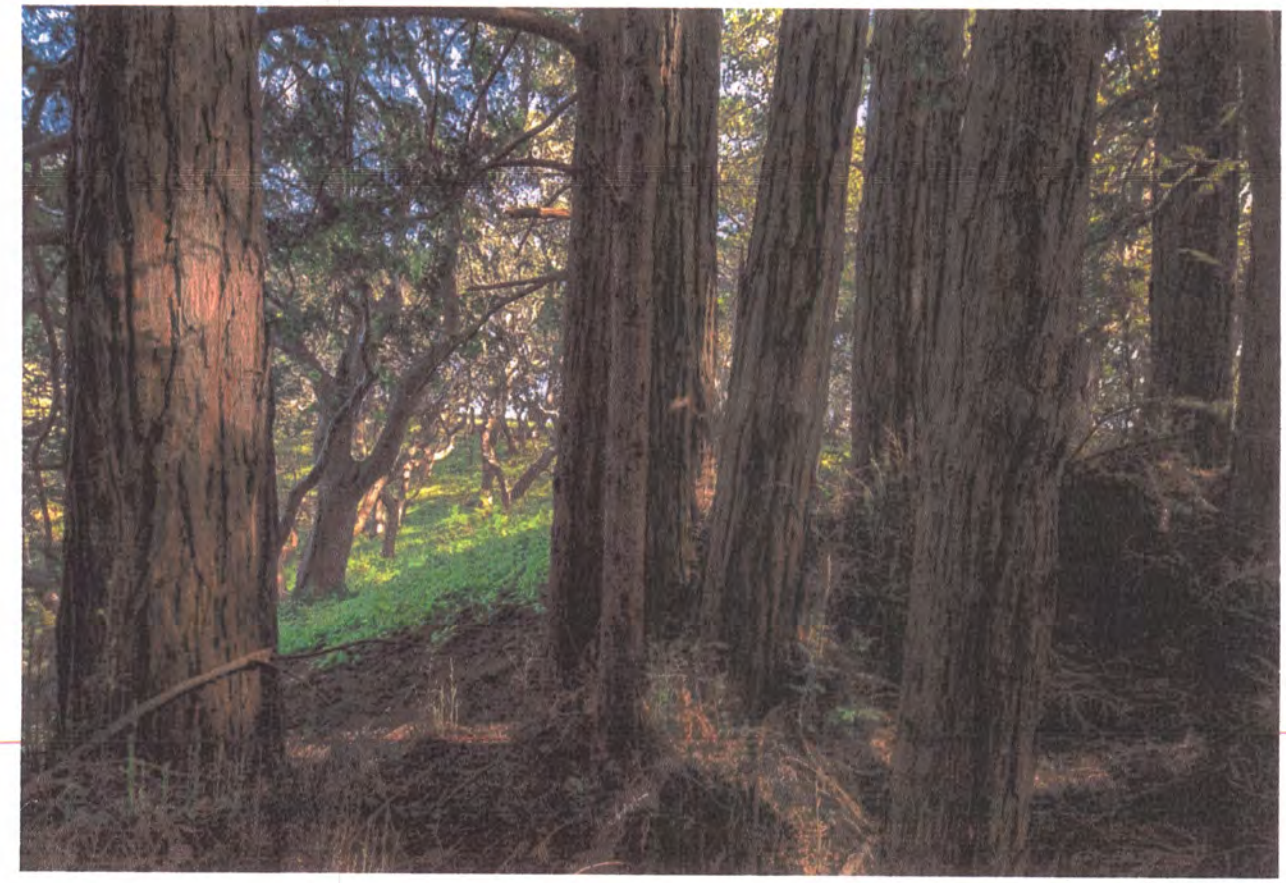

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Government Support

U.S Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (House Resolution 908), and
Resolution co-sponsors (as of 4/28/15):

Rep. Pete Aguilar
Rep. Xavier Becerra
Rep. Ami Bera
Rep. Julia Brownley
Rep. Lois Capps
Rep. Judy Chu
Rep. Jim Costa
Rep. Susan A. Davis
Rep. Sam Farr
Rep. Janice Hahn
Rep. Michael M. Honda
Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Rep. Alan S. Lowenthal
Rep. Doris O Matsui
Rep. Scott H. Peters
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard
Rep. Adam B. Schiff
Rep. Brad Sherman
Rep. Jackie Speier
Rep. Mike Thompson
Rep. Norma J. Torres
Rep. Juan Vargas

California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird (on behalf of the Governor's office)
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (unanimous support)

Partner Nonprofit Supporters

Sempervirens Fund
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Save the Redwoods League
Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)
The Nature Conservancy
Conservation Lands Foundation

Sempervirens Fund

Preserving redwood forests since 1900

LAND TRUST OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

POST

Save The Redwoods LEAGUE

The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Conservation Lands Foundation

Protecting America's Heritage

Partner Funders

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Resources Legacy Fund

the David & Lucile Packard FOUNDATION

GORDON AND BETTY MOORE FOUNDATION

RESOURCES LEGACY FUND
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

Nonprofit & Foundation Endorsements

Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
California Wildlife Foundation
Coast Dairies & Land Co.
Coastal Watershed Council
Crosson North County Democratic Club
Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County
Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
KUSP 88.9 – Central Coast Public Radio
Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz
National Steinbeck Center
O'Neil Sea Odyssey
Parks Now
Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters (SCCLCV)
Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee
The Santa Cruz Education Foundation
Save Our Shores
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA)
Surfrider Foundation – Santa Cruz Chapter
The Trust for Public Land
Valley Women's Club
Watsonville Wetlands Watch

AMAH MUTSUN TRIBAL BAND

California Wildlife Foundation

Coast Dairies & Land Co.

COASTAL WATERSHED COUNCIL

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN are the life of the Party

Democratic Women's Club Of Santa Cruz County

Friends OF SantaCruz STATE PARKS THATSMYPARK.ORG

KUSP 88.9 CENTRAL COAST PUBLIC RADIO

MOUNTAIN BIKERS OF SANTA CRUZ

NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER

O'NEILL SEA odyssey

PARKS NOW

Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters

The Santa Cruz Education Foundation

Save Our Shores

Awareness
Advocacy
Action

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

SURFERS' ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE
SEA

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION
SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER

THE TRUST for PUBLIC LAND

Valley Women's Club
VWC

WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH

Business Endorsements

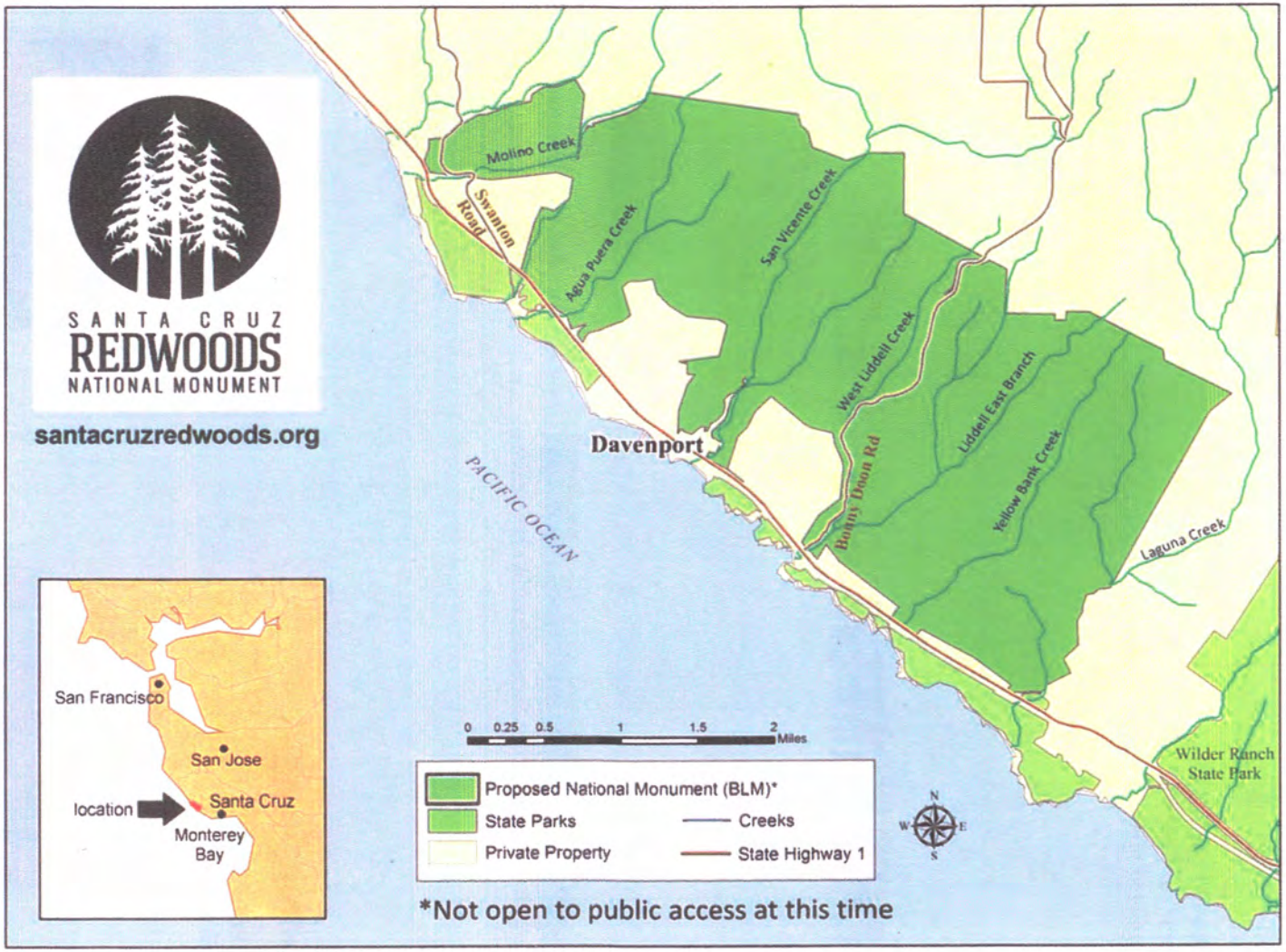
Charlie Hong Kong
Hilltromper
Range of Light
Santa Cruz Signs
Sentinel Printers

Union Support

IBEW Local 234
SEIU Local 521

Background – Map

5,800-acre Coast Dairies property



SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT at Coast Dairies - Info Sheet

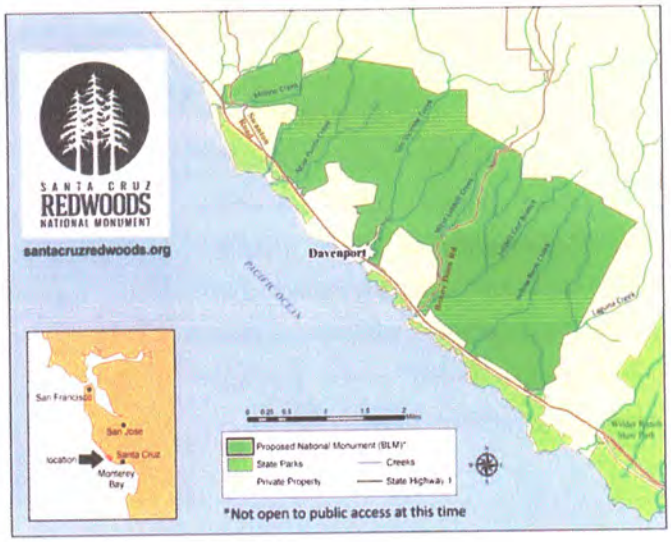
The 5,800-acre Coast Dairies property merits national monument designation for future generations to enjoy because of its significant cultural and natural resources including thousands of years of Native American history, precious redwood forests, dramatic coastal views and connectivity to over 12,000 acres of adjoining protected lands.

Critical Habitat

Designation will permanently protect critical wildlife corridors, habitat for endangered and rare species such as the American peregrine falcon and Coho salmon, and important native plant communities. It will also protect the six watersheds that flow into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and provide clean drinking water, agricultural water, and aquifer recharge to our ecosystem.

Cultural History

National Monument designation will protect the property's cultural and historical resources and provide opportunities for studying and interpreting how Native people lived on the land for thousands of years. The land also has Euro-American history as a Swiss dairy farm from the late 1800s until the 1950s.



Recreational Opportunities

The lands will be open to the public for daytime use including hiking, bird and wildlife watching, mountain biking, and nature photography. Vast and diverse terrain including canyons, riparian corridors, rolling hills and grasslands

offer something for all ability levels. Awe-inspiring views of the Pacific Ocean and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary abound, while redwood groves and stands of California Live Oaks provide inspiration and solitude.

Investing In Conservation

Philanthropic foundations and public agencies have generously supported conservation priorities in the Santa Cruz Mountains over the years, including the gift of $45M by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation that made it possible for the Trust for Public Land to purchase Coast Dairies. Today, many foundations are increasingly focused on international conservation, where their dollars go further. A Monument designation for Coast Dairies will send a strong signal to foundations, individual philanthropists and public funding agencies that the region's natural and cultural resources are of statewide, national and even global importance and worthy of continued investment to ensure the best possible stewardship.

The conservation organizations who are sponsoring the monument campaign (Sempervirens Fund, The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Peninsula Open Space Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Save the Redwoods League) are working to raise $50,000 in seed funding to establish a Friends group that would support careful ongoing stewardship of the property once this monument is designated.

Visitors to national monuments generate revenues for local businesses and support job creation in eco-tourism and related fields.

Collaborative Stewardship

Coast Dairies is surrounded by a variety of public and private conservation lands and working lands, presenting a unique opportunity for collaborative land stewardship among Federal, state, local government and private landowners in the region.

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Amah Mutsun Land Trust

Indigenous Cultural Resources at Coast Dairies

AMLT Executive Board

Valentin Lopez, President
Chair,
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
vlopez@amahmutsun.org

Paul Mondragon, VP
Vice-Chair,
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

M. Kat Anderson, Ph.D.
Ethnoecologist,
USDA-NRCS

Reed Holderman
Principal,
Slippery Rock Consultants

Jim Keller
Director of Land Conservation and Land Initiatives,
Amah Mutsun Land Trust
jkeller@amahmutsun.org

Ed Ketchum
Tribal Historian,
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

Kent Lightfoot, Ph.D.
Professor, Dept. of Anthropology,
University of California, Berkeley

Jeff Pace
Director of Operations and Finance,
The Christensen Fund

Bianca Pineida
Tribal Member,
Amah Mutsun Tribal Band

AMLT Associates

Rob Cuthrell, Ph.D.
Director of Archaeological Resource Management, AMLT
rcuthrell@amahmutsun.org

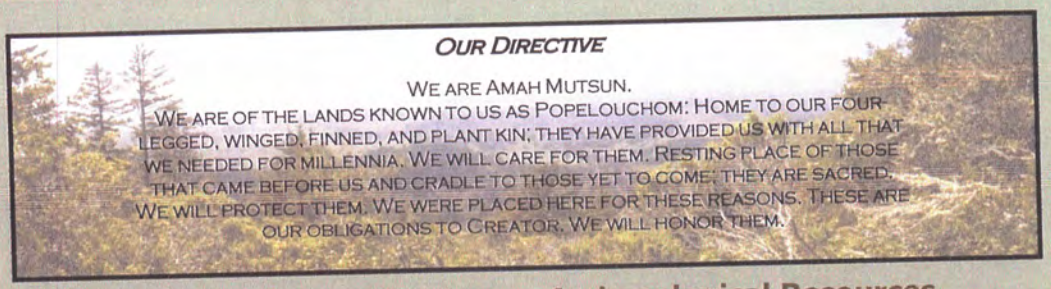
Rick Flores
Traditional Resource Management Specialist, AMLT
rflores@amahmutsun.org

Sara Reid
Tribal Ethnobotanist, AMLT
sreid@amahmutsun.org

Contact us

Amah Mutsun Land Trust
P.O. Box 5272
Galt, California 95632
(916) 743-5833
Email: vlopez@amahmutsun.org
www.amahmutsun.org/land-trust

Our Traditional Territory, known as *Popeloutchom* in Mutsun, stretches from Año Nuevo south along the west slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains to Monterey Bay and the Salinas River. It includes the entire Pajaro and San Benito watersheds, encompassing all of San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties, southern Santa Clara County, and eastern Monterey County.



Native History at Coast Dairies

Although Coast Diaries has been home to Native people for thousands of years, the cultural resources associated with their deep history on the landscape have been the subject of much less research than resources associated with later occupation by Euro-Americans. Despite the lack of prior study, we think that Coast Dairies has tremendous potential to teach us about Native people's relationship with the landscape through archaeological and ecological research. From vegetation type surveys of the property, it is also clear that Coast Dairies contains extensive and diverse ethnobiological resources which are culturally important to contemporary tribes.

The Cotoni tribe stewarded Coast Dairies' landscape at the time of Spanish colonization. These speakers of the Awaswas language were brought into Mission Santa Cruz in the 1790s, where they suffered greatly from disease, confinement, and mistreatment. Through the 1800s, their descendants formed emergent tribal affiliations with other Native people brought into the missions. Their traditional territory is now associated with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band. Their legacy persists on the landscape through archaeological sites and remnants of the native vegetation stands they tended for their food, crafting, and construction needs. Because there is little historical documentary information about the Cotoni people, the Native cultural resources at Coast Dairies may be our only window into their traditional cultural practices and daily lives.

Archaeological Resources

- Currently, four Native archaeological sites have been documented on BLM lands at Coast Dairies. However, very little formal archaeological survey has been completed (2% of the 5800 acres), and we believe there may be many unidentified archaeological sites on the property.
- At one site, dozens of Native burials were disturbed by road construction in the early 1900s. This site, sacred to the Amah Mutsun, must be protected.
- Another site contains both Native and Colonial period artifacts. If Native people lived at this place during the 1800s, it may teach us how they coped with colonial pressures at a time when few people recorded Native histories.

Ethnobiological Resources

- Coast Diaries contains hundreds of acres of central coast live oak and mixed evergreen woodlands. These vegetation types provide an abundance of Native food resources in the form of acorns, bay nuts, hazelnuts, buckeye, and many types of berries.
- There are limited stands of native coastal prairies in Coast Dairies, which may be expanded through restoration work. This is a rare vegetation type with a high proportion of native rather than exotic grasses and forbs. Research suggests this vegetation type was expanded and maintained by Native people through regular landscape burning, producing seed foods for people and forage for animals.
- Coast Dairies contains a high diversity of native plant communities, with dozens of native plant species traditionally used for crafting, medicine, and ceremony. Some of these plants are difficult for tribes to access elsewhere, thus Coast Dairies can play an important role in ensuring that Native people are able to continue their traditional cultural practices by providing access to

The Amah Mutsun Land Trust

In 2005, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Council agreed that that we must find a way to re-engage in stewardship of the lands and waters of Popeloutchum even though we owned no land. We began by building partnerships and alliances with public land owners and educational institutions. In 2013, we established the Amah Mutsun Land Trust (AMLT) to provide land conservation and stewardship within our traditional Tribal territory. Our AMLT is being fostered with organizational support from Sempervirens Fund and financial assistance from the Christensen Foundation and the Kalliopeia Foundation.

Our Vision is of a future where our people, and all people, may once again drink safely from clean and clear flowing waters; tend and gather from vigorous populations of plants; hunt from strong herds of elk and deer; harvest salmon and abalone from healthy fisheries; behold self-sustaining populations of condor and eagle soaring the ridges and valleys; witness the sky darken with waterfowl rising off full lakes and vibrant wetlands; be assured that those who have passed may rest in peace; and know our connection to the land because we live connected to it.

Our goals are to restore and apply the ecological knowledge gained over 10,000 years of indigenous presence to issues of ecological conservation, resource enhancement, and sustainability in the contemporary world. We want to provide a hopeful and healthful future for our children; protect the sacred sites and resting spirits of our ancestors; access, manage, and harvest the bounty of these lands that sustain the people spiritually and physically; repair and make resilient the natural systems that modern ways have disrupted; integrate traditional knowledge and methods into the science of conservation; guide decisions that affect our lands and well-being; and reunite our people upon Tribally-owned homelands.

Indigenous knowledge and stewardship are integrated into all phases of work by the AMLT. Our belief is that there is both a spiritual and ecological basis to vegetation management. The health of the ecosystem is enhanced and maintained through burning, sowing, tilling, and other physical types of indigenous land management techniques. But ecosystem health is also fostered through Amah Mutsun ceremony including, singing, dancing, prayers, gratitude, and stories. These essential rituals speak to the spirit in all life and renew the earth. They also are a way of respecting our ancestors. We also honor our ancestors by restoring long-term relationships with plants, animals, rocks, and water through traditional uses and spiritual rituals on the landscape.

We seek to return a rich suite of native plants and animals to grasslands in our traditional territory

In December 2011, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in collaboration with Pinnacles National Park carried out the first cultural burn on public land in their territory. A stand of deergrass, traditionally used in basketry, was burned to stimulate new growth.

Our commitments

- To be stewards of the land, water, and marine environments and to look after the native species that Creator entrusted to our care.
- To work in collaborative partnership with the community to conserve, protect, and heal Mother Earth within the lands of Popeloutchom.
- To restore and enhance the indigenous knowledge of our ancestors and apply this knowledge directly to the land through stewardship practices, sustainable harvesting, and management techniques, and cultural use of natural resources to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems long into the future.
- To cultivate relationships and create opportunities for our people to hunt and harvest culturally significant resources in order to reinforce and teach our traditions.
- To facilitate development of partnerships and agreements with those who wish to protect the cultural and natural resources upon the lands under their care.
- To maintain confidentiality in assisting partnering landowners and land managers in their conservation objectives.
- To educate, consult, and partner with the public, land conservation organizations, public agencies, and private landowners on native land stewardship principles and practices.
- To incorporate adaptation strategies that address climate change and promote resilience for humans and native species alike.
- To maintain a professional, effective, and efficient organization based on cultural values and governed with excellence and accountability.

Native plant knowledge is shared with Tribal members and the public at the UCSC Arboretum.

Our creation story tells us that Mount Umunhum is the origin of our people.

Our partners and allies

The Amah Mutsun value the great work being done by like-minded individuals and organizations in service of our lands and our people. Wherever possible, the Tribe seeks to partner with these groups to accomplish shared goals. Some of our partners include:

Governments and Agencies

- California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
- City of Santa Cruz
- Canada de los Osos Ecological Reserve
- National Park Service
- City of San Juan Bautista
- Santa Clara County Parks
- Pinnacles Partnership

Land Trusts and Conservation Organizations

- Sempervirens Fund
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
- Bay Area Open Space Council
- Land Trust Alliance
- Pie Ranch
- The Nature Conservancy
- Native Land Trust Alliance

Educational Institutions

- UC Berkeley
- UC Santa Cruz
- Cabrillo College
- De Anza College
- Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology
- UC Davis
- SF State University
- Oakland Museum of California
- Stanford University
- California Academy of Sciences
- Exploratorium

Results of collaborative ecological and archaeological research at Quiroste Valley Cultural Preserve are guiding cultural management of the landscape by AMLT today.

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AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 908

To include the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands in the California Coastal National Monument as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Ms. ESHOO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To include the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands in the California Coastal National Monument as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "California Coastal National Monument Santa Cruz Redwoods Expansion Act".

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

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(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map created by the Bureau of Land Management, entitled "Santa Cruz Redwoods California Coastal National Monument Addition" and dated February 3, 2015.

(2) MONUMENT.—The term "Monument" means the California Coastal National Monument established by Presidential Proclamation 7264.

(3) SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS PUBLIC LANDS.—The term "Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands" means the Federal land comprising approximately 5,800 acres in Santa Cruz County, California, as generally depicted on the map.

(4) PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 7264.—The term "Presidential Proclamation 7264" means Presidential Proclamation Number 7264, dated January 11, 2000 (65 Fed. Reg. 2821).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands contain significant and diverse natural landscapes including six watersheds, redwood and riparian forests, freshwater wetlands, and rolling coastal terrace

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grasslands in the Santa Cruz Mountains that should be preserved for present and future generations;

(2) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands are habitat for numerous wildlife populations including endangered and rare species such as the California red-legged frog, the American peregrine falcon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout;

(3) the ocean and coastal ecosystems adjacent to and visible from the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands are within the California Coastal Monument, and contain habitat for endangered and unique marine species including gray whales, sea otters, and harbor seals;

(4) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands contain threatened vegetation communities such as purple needlegrass and riparian red alder forest;

(5) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands and surrounding coastal lands have been used by humans since prehistoric times and were historically inhabited by the native Ohlone people;

(6) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands are historically associated with adjacent lands managed for the enjoyment of current and future generations, including Coast Dairies State Park and Wilder Ranch State Park;

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(7) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands represent a model partnership where future management can be successfully accomplished among the Federal Government, State of California, Santa Cruz County, local communities, and private landowners;

(8) permanent protection of the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands will provide important economic benefits to surrounding communities, and has broad public support in the community;

(9) the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands will make a significant addition to the California Coastal National Monument and National Landscape Conservation System administered by the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior; and

(10) statutory protection would ensure that the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands remain a part of the historical, cultural, and natural heritage of the United States and a source of inspiration for the people of the United States.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to protect, conserve, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the unique and nationally important historical, natural, cultural, scientific, edu-

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cational, and scenic values of the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands, while allowing certain recreational and research activities to continue.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Monument established by Presidential Proclamation 7264 is expanded to include the Federal land shown on the map.

(b) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall create a map and boundary description of the land added to the Monument by this Act.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and boundary description described under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct any minor errors in the map and boundary descriptions.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—The map and boundary description described under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

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SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall manage the land added to the Monument by this Act—

(1) as a part of the Monument;

(2) by allowing only such uses of the Monument as will further the purposes for which the Monument is established; and

(3) in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7264.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize an amendment to the Monument management plan for the long-term protection and management of the land added to the Monument by this Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan amendment shall—

(A) be developed with an opportunity for full public participation; and

(B) describe the appropriate uses and management of the land consistent with this Act.

(c) MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED TRANSPORT.—Except as needed for emergency or authorized administra-

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tive purposes, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles in the Monument shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for their use.

(d) INCORPORATION OF LAND AND INTERESTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may acquire non-Federal land or interests in land within or adjacent to the land added to the Monument by this Act only through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—Any land or interests in land within or adjacent to the land added to the Monument by this Act acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the Monument.

(e) OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act—

(1) restricts or precludes overflights, including low-level overflights or military, commercial, and general aviation overflights that can be seen or heard within the land added to the Monument by this Act;

(2) restricts or precludes the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace or the establishment of military flight training routes over the land added to the Monument by this Act; or

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FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

(3) modifies regulations governing low-level overflights above the adjacent Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

(f) RESTORATION.—Nothing in this Act affects the ongoing restoration and reclamation being performed pursuant to the December 2, 1968 lease between the Coast Dairies and Land Company and the Lone Star Cement Corporation, or under a renegotiation or renewal of that lease, as long as such restoration and reclamation furthers the purpose of the Monument described in section 2(b) and is performed in accordance with—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other applicable law.

(g) NATIVE AMERICAN USES.—Nothing in this Act enlarges, diminishes, or modifies the rights of any Indian Tribe or Indian religious community.

(h) BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The expansion of the Monument is not intended to lead to the establishment of protective perimeters or buffer zones around the land included in the Monument by this Act.

(2) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE MONUMENT.—The fact that activities outside the Monument can be seen or heard within the land added to the Monu-

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FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

ment by this Act shall not, of itself, preclude those activities or uses up to the boundary of the Monument.

(i) GRAZING.—Nothing in this Act affects the grazing of livestock within the Santa Cruz Redwoods Public Lands.

(j) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Santa Cruz Redwoods expansion to the Monument is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) leasing or disposition under all laws relating to—

(A) minerals; and

(B) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(k) NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall manage the Monument as part of the National Landscape Conservation System.

○

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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
On the Date of April 21, 2015

REGULAR AGENDA Item No. 48

Upon the motion of Supervisor Coonerty, duly seconded by Supervisor Leopold, the Board, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution No. 122-2015, as amended, in support of a proclamation to declare the Coast Dairies as a National Monument; and directed the Chair to write a letter in support of National Monument designation for the Coast Dairies property, which includes the conditions listed in Resolution No. 122-2015, as amended, and send to the elected officials and organizations copied on page 4 of the Resolution, and ask that they consider similar support for the designation

cc:

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
On the Date of April 21, 2015

CAO
County Counsel
President Barack Obama
Sally Jewell, US Secretary of the Interior
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Congressman Sam Farr
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
John Laird, CA Secretary of Natural Resources
State Senator Bill Monning
Assembly Member Mark Stone
Assembly Member Luis Alejo
Mayor Don Lane, City of Santa Cruz
Mayor Dennis Norton, City of Capitola
Mayor Nancy Bilicich, City of Watsonville
Mayor Dene Bustichi, City of Scotts Valley
Sempervirens Fund
Land Trust Santa Cruz County
Board of Education, Santa Cruz City Schools
Board of Trustees, PVUSD
Board of Trustees, SLVUSD
Board of Education, SVUSD
Board of Trustees, Bonny Doon ESD
Board of Trustees, Pacific Elementary School Dist.
Cabrillo Community College Governing Board
Dan Haifley, Chair, NMFC

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
On the Date of April 21, 2015

Bonny Hawley, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
Rural Bonny Doon Association
Davenport/North Coast Association

State of California, County of Santa Cruz-ss.

I, Susan A. Mauriello, Ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the order made and entered in the Minutes of said Board of Supervisors. In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed tthe seal of said Board of Supervisors.

by _____, Deputy Clerk ON April 29, 2015

County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 • FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JOHN LEOPOLD	ZACH FRIEND	RYAN COONERTY	GREG CAPUT	BRUCE MCPHERSON
FIRST DISTRICT	SECOND DISTRICT	THIRD DISTRICT	FOURTH DISTRICT	FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 4/21/15

April 15, 2015

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: COAST DAIRIES NATIONAL MONUMENT

Dear Members of the Board:

As you may recall, last year The Trust for Public Land (TPL) conveyed over 5,000 acres of land on the North Coast of Santa Cruz County, known as the Coast Dairies property, to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The transfer occurred after many years of hard work by members of the community, as well as by staff from TPL, BLM, and the Third District Supervisor's office, to ensure that the Coast Dairies property had strong deed restrictions which protect the property in perpetuity from development, off-road vehicles, resource extraction, and other intensive uses. The transfer of Coast Dairies into public ownership was indeed a major accomplishment by all those involved and represents a significant contribution to open space on the North Coast of Santa Cruz County.

Subsequent to the transfer, a campaign was organized to designate Coast Dairies as a National Monument. The unparalleled beauty of Coast Dairies, the flora and fauna that thrive on the property, coupled with Coast Dairies' historic significance to California native peoples and as a working ranch and dairy for over 100 years, clearly warrant national recognition of this magnificent property. In addition, BLM lands that have a special designation such as a National Monument are eligible for additional federal funds to steward and manage the property. And though Coast Dairies is adequately protected from development and intensive uses, a National Monument designation would further protect the property from an Act of Congress to sell off undesignated BLM

lands. As you may have read, there was recently an effort on behalf of the Republican-led Congress to suggest that the United States government sell off undesignated BLM property. Properties designated as National Monuments were excluded from consideration in that discussion. All of these reasons, and many more, make a significant case to support a National Monument designation on the Coast Dairies property.

As our community looks toward National Monument designation, it is essential that we properly plan for the impacts that a National Monument designation will bring to the North Coast. Lands designated as National Monuments, in general, have substantially higher visitor use than BLM lands that do not have the designation. The North Coast in Santa Cruz is largely undeveloped and does not have the infrastructure or emergency services to support a substantial visitor population. As such, it is imperative that we plan to mitigate the impacts of increased visitors to the North Coast should Coast Dairies be opened up for intensive use by the public.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board support the designation of Coast Dairies as a National Monument, with the following conditions:

1. The name of the National Monument shall be the Coast Dairies National Monument; references to Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument should be changed to Coast Dairies. This recognizes the century-long cultural and historical value of the Coast Dairies name. However, if there is a will to change the name of Coast Dairies National Monument to another name, that should be accomplished through a public process with public input.
2. The Proclamation designating the National Monument shall contain a commitment that the National Monument Management Plan shall be finalized within three years of the designation of the Monument.
3. The Proclamation designating the National Monument shall contain a commitment that the National Monument Management Plan shall:
    a. Be comprehensive and specific to the land included in the Coast Dairies National Monument;
    b. Be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act and go through a Coastal Act consistency process;
    c. Provide opportunity for full public participation;
    d. Describe the appropriate uses and management of the land consistent with the conditions in the Act and Proclamation;

e. Provide that stewardship, access, traffic, and safety concerns are comprehensively addressed prior to intensive public use;

f. Assure that local fire and rescue services are not overburdened by increased use, that watersheds and natural resources are sustainably managed, and that potential traffic hazards and impacts to adjacent private properties are intentionally addressed;

g. Negotiate a fee for service for emergency services that occur on the property similar to the fee for service for fire protection services, and consider costs that occur off the property as a result of its public use;

h. Explicitly develop a plan to coordinate emergency and law enforcement services across federal, state, and county entities;

i. Be consistent with existing deed restrictions on the property.

4. Only limited public access shall be allowed on the property until the amendment to the existing BLM National Monument Management Plan or a separate Coast Dairies National Monument Plan has been completed and has addressed the issues described in "a" through "i" above.

5. A map shall be included as part of the Proclamation and Act.

6. Only the Coast Dairies Ranch lands designated on the map shall be included in the National Monument and there shall be no mention of possible expansions, with the exception of the potential annexation of Davenport Beach (the beach where San Vicente Creek reaches the Pacific Ocean) as a potential link between the California Coastal National Monument and Coast Dairies.

7. There should be no implication in the Proclamation that the National Monument is adjacent to the California Coastal National Monument.

8. There should be no specific reference to plant communities not specifically listed as endangered on Federal or California state endangered species lists.

9. Long-term funding from private, as well as public, institutions should be secured to assure adequate management of the Monument.

With the inclusion of the above conditions, I strongly support the designation of Coast Dairies as a National Monument. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt the attached resolution in support of the National Monument designation on the Coast Dairies property; and

2. Direct the Chair to write a letter in support of National Monument designation for the Coast Dairies property, which includes the above conditions, to the elected officials and organizations copied on this letter and ask that they consider similar support for the designation.

Sincerely,

RYAN COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District

RC:ted
Attachment

cc: Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Congressman Sam Farr
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
John Laird, Secretary, California Secretary for Natural Resources
State Senator Bill Monning
Assembly Member Mark Stone
Assembly Member Luis Alejo
Mayor Don Lane, City of Santa Cruz
Mayor Dennis Norton, City of Capitola
Mayor Nancy Bilicich, City of Watsonville
Mayor Dene Bustichi, City of Scotts Valley
Sempervirens Fund
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Board of Education, Santa Cruz City Schools
Board of Trustees, Pajaro Valley Unified School District
Board of Trustees, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District
Board of Education, Scotts Valley Unified School District
Board of Trustees, Bonny Doon Elementary School District
Board of Trustees, Pacific Elementary School District
Cabrillo Community College Governing Board
Dan Haifley, Chair, National Monument Friends Committee
Bonny Hawley, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
Rural Bonny Doon Association
Davenport/North Coast Association

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REVISED 5.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 122-2015

On the motion of Supervisor Coonerty
duly seconded by Supervisor Leopold
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A PROCLAMATION TO
DECLARE THE COAST DAIRIES NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, Coast Dairies Ranch on the north coast of Santa Coast is a beautiful open space property providing spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and the California coastline; and

WHEREAS, Coast Dairies Ranch is home to a number of important environmental resources worthy of ongoing protection and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, for over a century, Coast Dairies Ranch was a notable part of the agricultural industry in Santa Cruz County and has significant cultural and historical value; and

WHEREAS, The Trust for Public Land, the steward of Coast Dairies Ranch after its purchase from private landowners in 1998, prepared a management plan describing the many environmental and cultural values of the Ranch and proposing low intensity public recreational use of the Ranch and protection of its environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired ownership of over 5,000 acres of Coast Dairies Ranch to assure permanent protection and management of the Ranch for the public; and

WHEREAS, the Sempervirens Fund is spearheading an effort to declare the Coast Dairies Ranch property owned by BLM as a National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the environmental, historical, and cultural values of the Coast Dairies Ranch merit its inclusion in the National Monument system; and

WHEREAS, National Monument status for the Coast Dairies Ranch will increase the number of visitors to the Ranch, the need for services on the North Coast, and the need for active management of the property; and

WHEREAS, it is important to assure the local community that the boundaries of the National Monument will not be expanded; and

WHEREAS, there should be adequate water; and

REVISED page 6

WHEREAS, until the management plan for the National Monument is completed and approved, interim public access to the property should be limited to prevent its overuse and/or misuse; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the citizens of Santa Cruz County that the Coast Dairies Ranch be declared a National Monument only if conditions are included to mitigate any adverse community impacts resulting from the declaration and to assure adequate future management of the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors supports the designation of the BLM-owned portions of the Coast Dairies Ranch as a National Monument if the following conditions are met:

1. The name of the National Monument shall be the Coast Dairies National Monument; references to Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument should be changed to Coast Dairies. This recognizes the century-long cultural and historical value of the Coast Dairies name. However, if there is a will to change the name of Coast Dairies National Monument to another name, that should be accomplished through a public process with public input.
2. The Proclamation designating the National Monument shall contain a commitment that the National Monument Management Plan shall be finalized within three years of the designation of the Monument.
3. The Proclamation designating the National Monument shall contain a commitment that the National Monument Management Plan shall:
    a. Be comprehensive and specific to the land included in the Coast Dairies National Monument;
    b. Be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act and go through a Coastal Act consistency process;
    c. Provide opportunity for full public participation;
    d. Describe the appropriate uses and management of the land consistent with the conditions in the Act and Proclamation;
    e. Provide that stewardship, access, traffic, and safety concerns are comprehensively addressed prior to intensive public use;
    f. Assure that local fire and rescue services are not overburdened by increased use, that watersheds and natural resources are sustainably managed, and that potential traffic hazards and impacts to adjacent private properties are intentionally addressed;

REVISED page 7

g. Negotiate a fee for service for emergency services that occur on the property similar to the fee for service for fire protection services, and consider costs that occur off the property as a result of its public use;

h. Explicitly develop a plan to coordinate emergency and law enforcement services across federal, state, and county entities;

i. Comply with the deed restrictions on the property.

4. The conditions outlined in the Coastal Development Permit must be incorporated into the management plan.

5. Only limited public access shall be allowed on the property until the amendment to the existing BLM National Monument Management Plan or a separate Coast Dairies National Monument Plan has been completed and has addressed the issues described in "a" through "i" above.

6. A map shall be included as part of the Proclamation and Act.

7. Only the Coast Dairies lands designated on the map shall be included in the National Monument and there shall be no expansion allowed, with the possible exception of the potential annexation of Davenport Beach as a potential link between the California Coastal National Monument and Coast Dairies.

8. There should be no implication in the Proclamation that the National Monument is adjacent to the California Coastal National Monument.

9. There should be no specific reference to plant communities not specifically listed as endangered on Federal or California state endangered species lists.

10. Long-term funding from private, as well as public, institutions should be secured to assure adequate management of the Monument.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 21st day of April, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Leopold, Friend, Coonerty, McPherson, Caput
NOES: SUPERVISORS None
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS None

GREG CAPUT, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: Susan Galloway
Clerk of said Board

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ) ss

I SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, County Administrative Officer and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed and adopted by said entered in the minutes of the of Supervisors. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Board on April 30, 2015.

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, County Administrative Officer

By _____ Deputy

8

Approved as to form:

County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION:
President Barack Obama
Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior
Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
Congressman Sam Farr
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
John Laird, California Secretary of Natural Resources
State Senator Bill Monning
Assembly Member Mark Stone
Assembly Member Luis Alejo
Mayor Don Lane, City of Santa Cruz
Mayor Dennis Norton, City of Capitola
Mayor Nancy Bilicich, City of Watsonville
Mayor Dene Bustichi, City of Scotts Valley
Sempervirens Fund
Land Trust Santa Cruz County
Board of Education, Santa Cruz City Schools
Board of Trustees, Pajaro Valley Unified School District
Board of Trustees, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District
Board of Education, Scotts Valley Unified School District
Board of Trustees, Bonny Doon Elementary School District
Board of Trustees, Pacific Elementary School District
Cabrillo Community College Governing Board
Dan Haifley, Chair, National Monument Friends Committee
Bonny Hawley, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
Rural Bonny Doon Association
Davenport/North Coast Association

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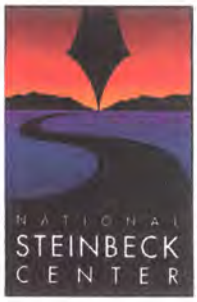


President Barak Obama
The White House
Washington D.C.

Cc:Secretary of the Interior Jewell
Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Anna Eshoo

Via: The Campaign for Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument at Coast Dairies & Sempervirens Fund

April 24, 2015

Dear President Obama,

The National Steinbeck Center submits this letter of support for the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument.

John Steinbeck was one of the first novelists to bring to life and integrate environmental concerns and the destiny of mankind. Steinbeck would have strongly supported the preservation of this setting, which was part of his world.

John Steinbeck told the stories of ordinary people, and showed that everyone's story is important. The preservation of this rich natural setting will provide another opportunity for citizens of modest means to afford themselves of a world-class setting to enjoy and learn about the natural world. If preserved as a National Monument, this new and resource-diverse property will be open at no charge for local residents and visitors alike.

The Monument will help provide a local and regional context for understanding the world of John Steinbeck, as the Salinas Valley, Monterey, Monterey Bay and Santa Cruz are all culturally linked. The 5800 acres being proposed for the Monument will

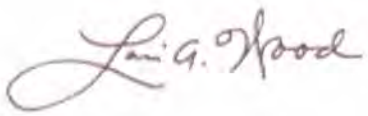
FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

be used for outdoor education, cultural understanding, environmental lessons and stewardship.

We strongly support this project and urge you to designate Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument at Coast Dairies our newest National Monument. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Co-Director
National Steinbeck Center
One Main Street
Salinas, CA 93901
831-775-4727
lori@steinbeck.org

xc: Congressman Sam Farr

Sempervirens Fund
419 So. San Antonio Road, Suite 2111
Los Altos, CA 94022

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Designating the Coast Dairies property as a National Monument would grant this special property and its six precious watersheds one of the highest levels of permanent federal protection – preserving this exceptional local landscape for all future generations.

Designation as a National Monument would ensure that this diverse and ecologically rich landscape is managed with conservation as the highest priority – helping to protect rare and endangered plant and animal species.

The National Monument would be open to the public, welcoming local and international visitors alike and offering recreational and nature-based educational opportunities so that students and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages can learn about and enjoy the region's culture, history, flora and fauna.

Because I/we agree that these are important reasons to support the designation of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument, I/we sign below as endorsers of this effort.

Signature

Second Harvest Food Bank SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
Printed Name or Business/Org name

4/20/15
Date

Yes, I support the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign!

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
428 13th Street, Suite 10A
Oakland, CA 94612

WWW.CALIFORNIAWILDLIFEFOUNDATION.ORG
tel 510 208 4436
fax 510 268 9948

January 21, 2015

Mr. Fred Keeley, President
Sempervirens Fund
419 South San Antonio Rd., Ste. 211
Los Altos, CA 94022-3640

Dear Mr. Keeley:

This letter is written in support of Sempervirens Fund and your partners' efforts to gain designation of special California coastal properties as the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument.

We appreciate every effort made by you, your Board of Directors, staff and partners, to protect this valuable natural resource for public benefit into the future.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Janet Cobb

Janet Santos Cobb, Executive Officer
California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County

P.O. Box 394
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Designating the Coast Dairies property as a National Monument would grant this special property and its six precious watersheds one of the highest levels of permanent federal protection – preserving this exceptional local landscape for all future generations.

Designation as a National Monument would ensure that this diverse and ecologically rich landscape is managed with conservation as the highest priority – helping to protect rare and endangered plant and animal species.

The National Monument would be open to the public, welcoming local and international visitors alike and offering recreational and nature-based educational opportunities so that students and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages can learn about and enjoy the region's culture, history, flora and fauna.

Because we agree that these are important reasons to support the designation of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument, we sign below as endorsers of this effort.

Signatures: Carol Fuller Mike Rotkin

Carol Fuller and Mike Rotkin
Co-Presidents, for Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County
Date:

Yes, we support the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign!
You may use Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County in public endorsements.

Public Pledges of Support

Individual pledges: 5,650+

Facebook fans = 1,200+

(stats as of 5/4/15)

Hard Copy Petition Sample:

SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

I / WE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT ON THE LANDS FORMALLY KNOWN AS THE 'COAST DAIRIES' PROPERTY.

First Name	Last Name	City/ Community	Email Address (optional) Get news and event updates.	Interested in joining a Friends group? (Y/N)
VENUS	NIENOW	Santa Cruz	NA	N
[illegible]	LIESY	Santa Cruz	(b) (6) [redacted]	N
Aster	Usher	Santa Cruz		
[illegible]	[illegible]	Santa Cruz	(b) (6) [redacted]	
CAROL	CARR	SANTA CRUZ	(b) (6) [redacted]	Y
MAEVE	O'HARA	SANTA CRUZ		
Shirley	Wadtke	Cupertino	(b) (6) [redacted]	Y
Gia	BATCHIK	Santa Cruz	[redacted]	Yes
DON	LEATHERMAN	SANTA CRUZ	dleathermanarch@abi.com	N
MARY	NELSON	Santa Cruz	mnelson.sc@comcast.net	Y
Esther	Frances	Soquel	(b) (6) [redacted]	N
Lance	Sprague	Santa Cruz	(b) (6) [redacted]	Y
Aurie	Aguirre	Santa Cruz		
Emily	Enriquez	Santa Cruz	(b) (6) [redacted]	Y
Jane	Stillinger	Capitola	(b) (6) [redacted]	
Natasha	Hazari	SANTA CRUZ		
Isabelle	Zirbes	Santa Cruz	(b) (6) [redacted]	
Deborah	Osterberg	Santa Cruz		
Pat	Dellin	Santa Cruz	(b) (6) [redacted]	

Kids & Conservation

Ask your children and family to support the Monument as well. This Monument will be owned and used more by our kids than it will be for us! We want them to feel that, years from now their action in support of the Monument had an impact on the President's decision. Help them understand the positive impact of citizen participation in government and environmental stewardship.

Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign · c/o Sonoservirons Fund | 419 South San Antonio Rd., Suite 211 | Los Altos, CA 94022-3640

www.santacruzredwoods.org

Online Petition Sample:

SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Pledge of Support

Yes, I support the creation of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument at Coast Dairies and the permanent protection of the land, watersheds, views and vistas, redwoods, and the diverse plants and animals it supports. I agree to allow my name to be listed as a supporter. Kids are welcome to sign too! Learn more at www.santacruzredwoods.org

* Required

First Name *
Submit one form per person. You will be returned to this form upon submission. Thank you.
Mike

Last Name *
Kahn

City/Community *
San Bruno

Email Address
For additional info, such as updates and upcoming events
(b) (6)

I'm interested in joining a Friends of Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument auxiliary organization when one is formed.
Check the box below and be sure to include your email address above.
☑ Yes

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

Powered by Google Forms

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.
Report Abuse - Terms of Service - Additional Terms

Available at www.santacruzredwoods.org (direct link: http://bit.ly/SCRNMpledge)

San Jose Mercury News

New National Monument Proposed for Santa Cruz Coast

By Paul Rogers progers@mercurynews.com

POSTED: 01/12/2015 05:07:54 AM PST6

Bill introduced to create new national monument on Santa Cruz County coastline

Coast Dairies, a 5,843-acre expanse of rolling hills, redwood forests and scenic trails that stretches for six miles along the north coast of Santa Cruz County, was preserved from development in 1998 when environmentalists purchased the land with roughly $40 million from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Now Bay Area conservation groups want to raise its profile. They are launching an effort to have President Obama declare the property a new national monument this year.

The plan, which would establish the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument, could bring national attention to the bucolic oceanfront land along Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Davenport.

It would also, supporters hope, help attract more federal money and private donations to build trails, hire rangers and open the property -- which was donated to the federal Bureau of Land Management last year -- more broadly to hikers, horse riders and mountain bikers.

"The coastal views are just amazing. There are also 500 acres of redwoods there, and it is a gateway into the Santa Cruz Mountains," said Reed Holderman, executive director of the Sempervirens Fund, a nonprofit park-preservation group based in Los Altos that is leading the effort.

"It's a superlative property that warrants this level of recognition," Holderman said.

On Feb. 12, Bruce Babbitt, who served as U.S interior secretary under President Bill Clinton, will travel to Santa Cruz for a free public event at 6 p.m. at the Kaiser Permanente Arena to kick off the campaign and answer questions.

Sempervirens Fund, which takes its name from the Latin word for coast redwood, has preserved more than 33,000 acres of redwood land since its founding in 1900, including much of Big Basin, Castle Rock and Butano state parks. The organization joined the Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the Peninsula Open Space Trust to form a coalition to push for the new monument.

Last week, the group established a website: http://santacruzredwoods.org. It has also set up a group called Friends of Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument, funded with a $50,000 donation from Sempervirens Fund. To manage the effort, monument supporters have hired Steve Reed, a Santa Cruz port commissioner and former campaign manager for Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce McPherson.

Under federal law, only Congress can establish new national parks. But the 1906 Antiquities Act, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, allows presidents to declare federal lands as "national monuments," which enjoy most of the same protections, if they contain "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest."

Nearly every president since then has used the law to set aside lands, sometimes in controversial ways. Presidents have established 137 national monuments under the law, including places like the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Arches in Utah, and Pinnacles in San Benito County -- all of which Congress later upgraded to national parks.

Obama has so far established 13 national monuments. During his most recent signing ceremony in October, after creating the 346,000-acre San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in national forest land east of Los Angeles, he said:

"I've preserved 3 million acres of public lands for future generations, and I'm not finished. We are looking at additional opportunities to preserve federal lands and waters, and I will continue to do so, especially where communities are speaking up."

Although the idea is receiving early support, some people, particularly residents of Bonny Doon, Swanton, Davenport and other small communities nearby, are raising concerns.

"There's a lot of concern about where the entrances are going to be, the impacts on traffic and the impact on public safety and fire risk," said Ted Benhari, a board member of the Rural Bonny Doon Association.

If those issues are addressed, he said, he would likely support a new monument.

Similarly, Big Creek Lumber, which was founded in 1946 and employs 200 people near the border of Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties, does not oppose a monument as long as it doesn't grow in the future, putting lands currently open to logging off limits, said spokesman Bob Berlage.

"Generally speaking, the company believes it would be all right," he said. "But we have very serious concerns about a national monument designation that would involve anything more than 5,800 acres of Coast Dairies."

For most of the 20th century, Coast Dairies was run as a farm and ranching operation by the descendants of two Swiss families. After it was purchased by Save the Redwoods League in 1998, it was transferred to the Trust for Public Land. Then, in 2006, about 400 acres of its beaches were donated to the state parks department. And last April, most of the rest of the land was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management.

Last month the BLM began docent-led tours, and it is patrolling the land. But it has not yet set a date for broad public access because of the limited number of rangers and funds.

Paul Rogers covers resources and environmental issues. Contact him at 408-920-5045.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign Kickoff Thursday

By Samantha Clark, Santa Cruz Sentinel

POSTED: 02/11/15, 8:52 PM PST

Drivers of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign, Reed Holderman of the Sempervirens Fund, Dan Haifley of O'Neill Sea Odyssey, Dan Winterson of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, former secretary of the interior Bruce Babbitt and Rick Cooper of the Bureau of Land Management hike the hills of Coast Dairies near Davenport on Wednesday. (Stephen Reed -- Contributed)

DAVENPORT >> More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign kickoff event Thursday evening.

Bay Area conservation groups are leading an effort aimed at President Barack Obama declaring 5,843 acres of the North Coast's bucolic Coast Dairies a national monument by the end of the year. Valued at $40 million, the spectacular swath of land offers ocean views, prairie hills and redwood forest spanning Highway 1 near Davenport.

Supporters hope the designation will improve the federal Bureau of Land Management's ability to carry crowds and protect coastal wilderness and salmon-spawning streams.

The goal is to open the property for hiking, mountain biking and horse riding, which will require hiring rangers and building restrooms, parking and visitor centers.

"Coast Dairies has a wonderful stand of iconic redwoods. It has meadows and grasslands and other proprieties that are habitat for many endangered species," said Fred Keeley, board president for the Sempervirens Fund, a Los Altos-based nonprofit preservation group leading the campaign effort that includes the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, the Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League and the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Without the designation, the BLM will still hold the land but won't have the resources to allow public access and to carry out environmental conservation and preservation plans, Keeley said.

National monuments are more competitive when vying for federal funds and more attractive to private donors. Congress also sometimes promotes national monuments to national parks, as happened with the Pinnacles in San Benito County.

Bruce Babbitt, who served as U.S. interior secretary under President Bill Clinton, will keynote the free public event at 6 p.m. at the Kaiser Permanente Arena. Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, who is introducing legislation in support of the designation, will share her endorsement via video. Secretary for National Resources John Laird has a special announcement. And a panel will answer questions from the audience.

"If you look at President Obama's designations, they've been really diverse," Babbitt said. "What has been a common stream in all of those is clear demonstration of local support. It's really critical."

Like many presidents before him, Obama has so far used the 1906 Antiquities Act to dub 13 federal lands as national monuments, including the former Fort Ord Army base in Monterey County.

"Our visitation has grown substantially," said Fort Ord National Monument manager Eric Morgan.

The number of visitors to Fort Ord grew from 40,000 in 1999 to 200,000 in 2011, but has doubled to 400,000 since gaining national monument status in 2012. However, Fort Ord hasn't seen more federal funding since then, Morgan said.

"It came on just as sequestration, which we survived," he said. "Funding hasn't decreased, but we haven't really seen increases."

Fort Ord already had public access and recreation, unlike Coast Dairies. But land managers are working to boost transportation and tourism with nearby cities and Monterey County.

The campaign is already seeing early support, but the potential influx of visitors clogging Highway 1, racing mountain back roads and further straining public services worries some neighbors around Bonny Doon and Davenport.

"Our concerns are traffic, trash and trauma," said Noel Bock, chair of the Davenport/North Coast Association, a group that works on issues facing the community. "But we would be interested in having the cement plant being the gateway to this public land because it has the capacity for parking and would keep visitors away from other public access points that are closer to residents."

Coast Dairies used to be a dairy ranch and then was poised for luxury homes in the 1990s, which is when conservation group the Trust for Public Land bought the property and later donated it to the BLM last year.

If You Go

What: Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign Kickoff and Q&A Panel.

Who: Former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird, the Bureau of Land Management's Rick Cooper, Citizens Campaign Committee chair Dan Haifley, Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker, CEO of Visit Mendocino Scott Schnieder and Amah Mutsun Tribal Band chair Val Lopez.

When: 6 p.m. Thursday.

Where: Kaiser Permanente Arena.

HILLTROMPER SANTA CRUZ

Bruce Babbitt on the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt toured the Coast Dairies property on Santa Cruz's north coast in advance of his keynote address Thursday at the kickoff event to launch the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign. Afterwards Hilltromper's Traci Hukill and Eric Johnson visited with Babbitt at the Dream Inn around a table overlooking the wharf, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and Monterey Bay.

EJ: You've seen a lot of national monuments. How does this place stack up?

BB: Beautifully. It exceeds any description I've read. It's a remarkable juxtaposition—huge open terraces, old sea-level terraces that are quite distinct. And then you have these deep erosional canyons where the redwood forests are, and then there are madrone and other vegetation, all merging together at the top as you hike up the watercourse.

And at the top—I swear you can see Hawaii from up there.

We drove up a road along a creek, and then got off and hiked. Hiked up the creek, which is part of the Santa Cruz city water system, and then walked along a knife-edge ridge and descended through all the terraces back to the Fambrini farm. It's an amazing piece of land.

Follow this link to RSVP for the Thursday campaign kickoff for the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument

Think there are no heroes anymore? Read Bruce Babbitt: Monuments Man.

EJ: I was living and working in Montana when you and President Clinton created a whole bunch of national monuments in the 1990s...

BB: ... including the Missouri Breaks—one of the great ones.

EJ: Definitely ... but I remember that some environmentalists at the time were howling: "We need this to be an act of Congress. The next president could undo this." So: Did any of those 21 national monuments ever get un-designated?

BB No. Not one. The track record of presidents under the Antiquities Act is really very good. In the 100-plus-year history of the Antiquities Act none have been revoked. There've been a few minor boundary changes. But several hundred proclaimed. None abolished.

TH: Why this mechanism of national monuments? We could be vigorously campaigning for more national parks or more state parks...

BB: Traditionally, through history, presidents have used the Antiquities Act to carve out national monuments to turn over to national parks. It was a turn-of-the-centaury idea that parks equal conservation. We changed that with the Grand Staircase Escalante monument [in Utah].

I sat down with the president and said, we need to have a bigger view of national conservation. And BLM particularly ought to be encouraged and motivated to become a conservation agency. It is the biggest landowner of all federal agencies— 250 million acres of land. We need to give them some inspiration. Rather than just taking land away from them and give it to Parks Service.

So most of the monuments on our watch were created and left with BLM in the National Landscape Conservation System [created by Secretary Babbitt in 2000]: Wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers and a whole collection of national monuments. It's having its intended effect. I think even environmentalists who were skeptical have come around.

Here we are in Santa Cruz County on some BLM land. It's particularly appropriate here on the Coast Dairies because it's a good fit. BLM should continue to manage the land. There are multiple uses out there, including some agriculture, some grazing permits. And it doesn't need to be dramatically changed. What it needs is more resources, more attention and the gradual development of public access, of which there is virtually none right now.

EJ: I remember 20-plus years ago the idea of public access wasn't something we cared much about. We agreed about protecting land. But the idea frequently was, we'll keep people out. I have the sense that philosophy has given way to some thinking that inviting people onto these lands is the way to go.

BB: Well, I think that's exactly right. There are a lot of reasons for thinking carefully about how it is you provide the outdoor experience and access to the public. First thing is, it's the best way to generate support for public lands. People who use them will be in the front ranks of their defenders.

It's particularly important now. We used to be as a society in an age when lots of people grew up with rural experience. Certainly you [Traci] did, growing up on the Navajo Reservation and you [Eric] living in Montana. Now 80 percent of people in this country live in cities. We're in danger of losing this connection with the natural world. And I think it's really important that we use pubic land at appropriate levels to try to reconnect, if you will. It's important as part of the national experience.

What I've heard in one day here is kind of two questions: One is, why do you think it should be a national monument? And second is, do you think President Obama will do it?

EJ: You've answered the first. What's the answer to the second?

BB: It's a little more complicated. Prior to Clinton, the Antiquities Act was kind of a fairly well kept secret. It wasn't much of an issue. Presidents would throw some national monuments over the transom, on the way out, and it didn't connect very much. The way we got into really using them has created a completely different environment. There are monument proposals floating down like snowflakes, all around the country. So the question is: how do you get in line and improve your position in line?

One thing I read Pres. Obama very clearly about is he's saying: I'm judging to a significant degree on the amount of community support for a monument. A critic might say, "When Babbitt and Clinton were doing this, they weren't too concerned about whether there was any opposition." [Laughs.] But the president now appropriately is saying, "OK, the debate's under way, I want to see real community

support." That is number one. Get the support out there. Get the public officials lined up in favor, all the disparate groups.

This meeting going on tomorrow [Thursday] night is a perfect platform to do that.

EJ: At the same time that there's all this public support for the idea of national monuments, and even skeptics have bought into it, there's this huge push against them. I read about the bill in Nevada, which they're calling the Anti-Babbitt bill.

BB: [laughs] I didn't see that.

EJ: It was an editorial in the Elko paper.

BB: That's great! Well, at least they remember me.

California is different from the Mountain West. There's a much stronger consensus for environmental protection here in California. It's a function of lots of things. There are 35 million people in California. There are 1 million in Nevada. In California people say, "Let's better get on with protecting open space. It's not infinite."

See what all the fuss is about: Read Traci Hukill's account of a hike at Coast Dairies.

It can happen here. Read about the creation of the Fort Ord National Monument.

EJ: What do you think will happen with the bill from [Alaska congressman Don] Young, who essentially reintroduced the [Alaska Sen. Lisa] Murkowski bill from last year? What it says, if I read it correctly, is the Antiquities Act stands but the President has to get approval from Congress. Which essentially kills it.

BB: There's a whole variety of ways seeking to dilute this. And those bills have gone nowhere. The reason is a vast majority of members of Congress come from states where there is strong consensus for conservation on public lands.

But we can't take that for granted. You can't just say, "It won't happen," because in this new political landscape it might happen.

And I'm out on the road a little more this year because of it. Two weeks ago I was in Utah to speak to the Outdoor Industry Association. It's a huge organization. All the outdoor businesses and suppliers. I basically got in front of 'em and said, "Look, you guys gotta get organized. Public lands and the outdoors is the basis of your business. It's your economy. "

TH: Do you find receptive audiences?

BB: Yes, because I am targeting audiences that we want to motivate. I'm not talking to the opposition; they're already out there. We're going for people who in the middle—who are family oriented, not deeply engaged in politics, but highly receptive to this message.

Not everywhere I go is Santa Cruz County. It ain't that easy.

EJ: I know from living in Montana—and when I was living there the militias were going crazy, but even normal folks who weren't progressives have a real distrust of federal government. And you've always

been a champion of federal authority. In your book [Cities in The Wilderness] you make an argument for the federal government stepping up with regards to land use planning. Can you talk about that?

BB: Sure. If you look at the history of conservation in the American West, it's clear that the conservation movement has a broad base of national support. And it's always been a major factor in the creation of national parks and national forests. It's all too common to hear people say we should turn public lands over to states. But when you listen carefully, these arguments are about turning them over to the industries: transfer the lands to the state and they'll have the power to convey them right out of public hands and into the hands of the industrial users. You see it right now with oil and gas in in the Rocky Mountains. Much of this Sagebrush Rebellion stuff, I think, is being backed by the oil and gas industry saying, "We're going to finance these crusades." It's kind of a front for getting rid of regulation and turning it over to the discretion of the resource users.

There ought to be a nice strong dialog between national, state and local governments, but the reason we have public lands, if you read history as I do, is because they are public and they are national.

Utah has put a surprising amount of public resources in its budget toward this effort. The old Sagebrush Rebellion was a disorganized, haphazard thing. It's part of American culture; there are always people saying, 'Get the government out, leave us alone.'

This Sagebrush Rebellion is really well organized. It's got big money behind it.

TH: Going back to the Coast Dairies for a minute. One thing I hear is "Is it worthy of national monument status?" Can you speak to that?

BB: One reason I was out there all afternoon looking at it is there's a whole flock of related things. There's the scenic values, the uniqueness of it. Frankly, in the early days of the conservation movement it was all about scenery. That's how come you have Yellowstone as the first national park. But now it's biodiversity, the contents and uniqueness of the environment. These Mediterranean coastal ecosystems, the only place they exist in the US is on the California coast. They disappear very rapidly once you get north of San Francisco, and they disappear in this form very quickly once you get to the south. And then you have to look at kind of the context in which these are happening. The important thing about this is there is an important pattern of public land conservation on the Peninsula, and it's really important for BLM to be a part of it.

EJ: It seems like things shifted from scenery-based decision making to science-based decision making, at least at Interior, under your watch. When you were talking about bringing wolves back to Yellowstone, or fire as an important part of the landscape it was about the science ... I don't remember electeds or anyone in politics talking about ecological science the way you did back then.

BB: Well, I plead guilty!

EJ: Have things gotten better?

BB: Go to Washington and listen to the climate change deniers and you could despair. Many people do believe that in national politics, science has less support now than it did previously. Largely as a result of the discussion about global warming, there is a burgeoning crowd of science deniers that say the facts don't matter and it's only opinions.

EJ: It seems like you were among the first elected officials talking about global warming.

BB: Among the first elected officials ... that's not much of a compliment. This discussion has been going on since the early 1970s.

EJ: Were you involved then?

BB: Oh yes. This is not germane to this conversation, but I'm on my way to meet next week with environment ministers in Bonn, London and Paris on tropical forest issues relating to climate change and how protection of tropical forests has to be wrapped into the issue of climate change.

My day job is in South America, actually. I'm down there a week, 10 days, every month, year in, year out, envisioning the future of the Amazon basin and the tropical forests and biodiversity that go with that.

EJ: Who are you doing that with?

BB: I'm embedded in kind of a virtual network of foundations, local NGOs we support. I technically am close to a private foundation that supports this, the Blue Moon Fund out of Charlottesville. That supports a lot of the work I'm doing.

EJ: So ... you served in both terms of the first Clinton Administration. Would you be available to serve in the next one?

BB: No. No, unequivocally. It's always time to move on. On both sides of the equation. Personally—a person needs to keep growing. And new administrations should bring in new blood.

KUSP 88.9
CENTRAL COAST PUBLIC RADIO

Campaign Seeks President's Signature on Redwoods National Monument

By J.D. HILLARD • FEB 12, 2015

The group of conservation organizations campaigning for a new national monument on the land of the former Coast Dairies are gearing up for a strenuous effort. Though to hear the campaign discuss it, the challenge might have less to do with persuading reticent neighbors than competition during the a short time left in the current president's term.

The Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument would include about 8,500 inland of Highway One to the north and south of Davenport. Image courtesy of the Campaign for the Redwoods National Monument.

The Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument would include about 8,500 inland of Highway One to the north and south of Davenport. Image courtesy of the Campaign for the Redwoods National Monument.

The campaign hosts an event Thursday to explain the plan and seek input from county residents. Leading off the discussion will be Bruce Babbitt, who served at Secretary of the Interior under President Clinton. While Babbitt served in that role, Clinton declared 22 national monuments.

KUSP's Wes Sims and I interviewed Secretary Babbitt. Here are our first two questions:

What is the personal importance of the project to you?

Babbitt: "Well I think there's a tremendous opportunity to enhance the value of that land for ecological protection for visitation and to really put some energy and some resources into managing that land. It's a unique parcel I was up there yesterday I walked the width of the parcel from all the way in the mountains back down to the ocean and I gotta tell you there's nowhere else in the world where you get this combination of redwood forests, mountains those big pastoral terraces above the ocean and then down to the seashore. It's really unique. It is certainly worth managing and preserving and I think the monument status will help get to those objectives."

There may people around who imagine and even more protective status that limits access. What is the importance of making it a monument?

Babbitt: "Public lands are a public resource they're owned by the people of the United States and I think it only fair to say to the public these lands be available for your use. Now that imposes on the land managers some obligations to make sure that it's well-managed that it's not overrun but that's perfectly possible to do. That's what public lands are about. Now you don't need to turn it into an amusement park or overdevelop it. I think that this region's got a lot of public land resources. That's why BLM is the

perfect steward for this land. They're into multiple use management. There's some grazing out there. There's some agriculture. We should think of some fairly light kind of use. We don't need to put up a lot of facilities but it ought to be open under reasonable regulations for anyone who wants to go out and see what it is we own. Because it is the public that owns these lands."

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County's Stephen Slade also took up the question of what harm a monument might do the environment. He said planning for limited access doesn't necessarily reduce human effects. The land trust regularly cleans up after people using open space land when they're not supposed to. Meanwhile, the public are more likely to protect what they do have access to: "Do we think we'd have a national park system if Yosemite and Yellowstone were closed to protect them from visitor impacts?"

Incidentally, Hilltromper did an excellent interview with Babbitt in which he illuminates the ways Clinton and President Obama have used the Antiquities Act to protect land.

Neighbors in Davenport and Bonny Doon seem to be the only ones recording concerns. KTVU's coverage gives their voices fair time.

Expect more coverage in coming weeks.

San Jose Mercury News

Bill introduced to create new national monument on Santa Cruz County coastline

By Paul Rogers progers@mercurynews.com

POSTED: 02/12/2015 02:27:28 PM

Rep. Anna Eshoo on Thursday introduced legislation to designate a scenic expanse of Santa Cruz County beaches and rolling pastures "where the redwoods meet the ocean" as a national monument.

Eshoo's bill, if approved, would draw widespread attention and lock in place permanent federal protections for Coast Dairies, a 5,843-acre oceanfront property that stretches for about six miles along Highway 1 from north of Wilder Ranch State Park past the tiny town of Davenport.

"In real estate they say "location, location, location," said Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, in an interview Thursday. "This is an extraordinary location, right off the Pacific Coast Highway, where the redwoods meet the ocean."

The property, a former dairy farm, is part of Eshoo's congressional district.

For most of the 20th century, Coast Dairies was run as a farm and ranching operation by the descendants of two Swiss families. An environmental group, Save the Redwoods League, purchased the land with roughly $40 million from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in 1998 to stop developers' plans for hundreds of luxury homes.

The league then transferred the property to the Trust for Public Land. In 2006, about 400 acres of its beaches were donated to the state parks department. Last April, most of the rest of the land was transferred to a federal agency, the Bureau of Land Management.

Last month the BLM began docent-led tours, and is patrolling the land. But it has not yet set a date for broad public access because of the limited number of rangers and funds.

Designating the land as a national monument carries many of the same protections against logging, mining and dirt bike riding that national parks have. Supporters say that title will raise the Coast Dairies' profile and help boost federal and private funding for restoration and patrols on the land. Environmentalists say they want Congress to establish the land as a monument, or President Barack Obama to do it using his executive authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act.

"It's very important to pursue both tracks -- Congress and the president," said Reed Holderman, executive director of Sempervirens Fund, a nonprofit park-preservation group in Los Altos that is leading the effort. "Our main goal is to have it declared a monument. We'll take it either way."

On Thursday night, a public meeting featuring former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt was scheduled at the Kaiser Permanente Arena in Santa Cruz to kick off the campaign. For more information go to http://santacruzredwoods.org.

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Santa Cruz County Supervisors Support Proposed National Monument

By Samantha Clark , Santa Cruz Sentinel
POSTED: 04/21/15, 7:01 PM PDT

Proposed National Monument
Led by the Sempervirens Fund, Bay Area conservation groups want to elevate the profile of Coast Dairies near Davenport by turning it into a national monument. Since a campaign kicked off in February, 4,500 people have signed a petition in support.

SANTA CRUZ >> Santa Cruz County is one step further in a race to have President Obama designate a national monument on the picturesque North Coast.

Tuesday, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to support the proposed Coast Dairies National Monument, rather than the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument, but with a dozen conditions.

After months of gathering community input, Supervisor Ryan Coonerty brought forward a resolution that reflects neighboring residents' concerns about increases in traffic and further strains on public safety services.

In addition to keeping the name Coast Dairies for the property, he wants full public participation, limited public access until necessary funding is secured, implementation of the stronger Coastal Development Permit protections and a three-year deadline for a management plan.

"I think what we've done is gone through the first stage of what is a long process to ensure there are adequate resources for this land," Coonerty said. "If these conditions aren't met, then I will bring back a resolution to draw support."

Having the Board of Supervisors' backing helps show the federal government a unified voice, said Shelley Ratay, executive director of Sempervirens Fund, a land trust based in Los Altos that is leading the designation effort to bring in more funding and open up the land more broadly.

"We'll regroup as a campaign and make sure we give voice to all these important elements," she said of Coonerty's conditions.

Though the name change may celebrate local history, the iconic redwood offers broad appeal beyond the region.

The campaign enjoys support from 4,500 signatories so far and local environmental and land trust groups, but some North Coast neighbors aren't on board yet.

Leaders of the Davenport/North Coast Association and Rural Bonny Doon Association applaud Coonerty for listening but still think the process should move slower, allowing for the study of potential impacts that national recognition likely will bring.

"Let's just take our time and do this right," said Rural Bonny Doon Association chair Ted Benhari.

HILLTROMPER SANTA CRUZ

Supes to Vote on Coast Dairies National Monument

By Eric Johnson and Traci Hukill

April 20, 2015—The idea of turning 5,800-plus acres on Santa Cruz's North Coast into a national monument has captured the imagination of many locals from the moment the school-kids sang "This Land Is Your Land" during the monument campaign kickoff at Kaiser Permanente Arena in February.

Since a drive formally started a few weeks ago, almost 5,000 people have signed the petition to be sent to President Obama supporting national monument designation for the Coast Dairies property. Steve Reed, chairman of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign, says he and his crew have been making presentations at Rotary Clubs and other service clubs, places of worship, high schools, bike community meetings, at school boards and chambers of commerce—and that the idea's been received with almost universal enthusiasm.

"It's been nothing but delighted support and expressions of gratitude that we're doing this," says Reed.

Tuesday, April 21, the campaign hopes the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will approve a resolution in support of the monument.

Campaign outreach coordinator Laura Kasa echoes Reed. "I would say it's been 95 percent positive feedback," she says. "People think this is a very cool campaign, and for the most part people are really supportive. They're excited about the opportunity to have the property protected, number one, and also have it accessible—being able to go there."

That accessibility and the crowds it will inevitably draw is a serious concern to the people who will be most impacted by the national monument designation—members of the communities of Davenport and Bonny Doon. The "three T's"—trash, traffic and trauma—come up often in conversations about the monument.

Rachael Spencer, who sits on the board of the Davenport North Coast Association, is deeply concerned about what she calls the "collateral damage" of national monument designation.

"This isn't about the national monument itself, but the national monument will put this place on the map," she says. "These people are all going to be coming to Davenport. They're all going to be going to the beaches. We don't have any infrastructure for this many visitors."

Even now, with the mere announcement that the area is being considered, they have begun to arrive, she says. "For the past couple of weekends the line to get into the bathroom at Whale City Bakery has been a mile long."

Similarly, there are folks in Bonny Doon who are not happy about the idea of having a national monument in their neighborhood. Ted Benhari, chairman of the board of the Rural Bonny Doon Association and editor of The Highlander, the group's monthly newsletter, is one of them.

In an article last month Benhari laid out the problems he foresees: "Traffic, at least on dry season weekends, on Highway One between Davenport and Santa Cruz, will increase many-fold, to the detriment of locals, including the hundreds who ride their bikes on it each Saturday and Sunday. Beach parking lots will overflow, and, without adequate trash pickup, litter will abound. Police and fire and rescue departments, without additional resources, will be overmatched."

Benhari says he would far prefer that the Bureau of Land Management put out a management plan prior to designation of national monument status.

That's something monument supporters say is not possible. But they promise that once the designation has been achieved, there will be a long public process in which everyone's concerns will be dealt with.

Reed says while he understands the neighbors' concerns, he believes they are laboring under a number of misconceptions. "We understand that their fears are very real," Reed says, "but the things they are afraid will happen are not real."

Reed cites the number of visitors that critics claim will visit the monument as an example of one of those misconceptions. Spencer, Benhari and others consistently point to an estimate that 400,000 visitors per year will enter the monument. One piece of evidence they use to support that number is a claim that on Fort Ord National Monument, which was created in 2012, visitation was reported to have jumped from 40,000 to 400,000 "within just a few years of its designation."

The figure of 40,000 is from 1999; in fact, visitation to Fort Ord increased steadily during the decade before its designation as a national monument. In 2011, the year before the designation, Fort Ord had 250,000-300,000 visitors.

Additionally, monument supporters point out that Fort Ord, unlike Coast Dairies, is virtually surrounded by towns and cities including Seaside, Marina and Del Rey Oaks, with Salinas nearby, and for residents of those communities there aren't many easily accessed recreational opportunities nearby.

Benhari concedes that the number 400,000 might be inflated. "The monument will bring more people," he says. "Four hundred thousand? Two hundred thousand? One hundred thousand? We just don't want them to be making a back-of-the-envelope calculation."

Some critics of the national monument see it as part of a larger scheme to turn the entire North Coast into a massive tourist destination. As Benhari wrote in The Highlander:

"If [national monument designation] happens, and it has a pretty good chance, it may be followed by the addition of the 8,500 acres of the San Vicente Redwoods, the former CEMEX coastal chaparral and timberlands. This would form what the leaders of the Sempervirens Fund envision as the 'Great Park.'

"What will it mean if, as seems very possible, this comes to be? In all likelihood the Cemex cement plant property, or part of it, will become the Curry Village of Santa Cruz County."

Shelley Ratay, executive director of the Sempervirens Fund, points out that the Cemex plant is not part of Coast Dairies, but she concedes that "if we have the opportunity, Sempervirens Fund would love to help transform that heavily impacted site from a brownfield into a greenfield," and says that transformation might include "public recreational amenities."

"It's the perfect location to provide safe parking and other visitor services away from existing residential neighborhoods, establish trailheads into Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods beyond, and tie into the regional Rail Trail line along the coast."

Curry Village, Yosemite National Park's budget destination, has several bars, a gear store and an ice rink, none of which is planned for Coast Dairies.

Two other elements of the proposal found in legislation authored by Rep. Anna Eshoo are of deep concern to North Coast and Bonny Doon locals. One is the name. While some critics complain that only 10% of Coast Dairies contains redwood trees, and others feel that the families that founded Coast Dairies deserve to have

their legacy honored, still others believe it's proof that this monument is the camel sticking its nose under the tent.

To them, Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument is obviously intended to include the San Vicente Redwoods and—according to one theory—lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains now in private hands and targeted for acquisition by eminent domain. This theory also points to another proposal being discussed at Tuesday's meeting: an open space district being spearheaded by former Assemblymember Fred Keeley, who is also chairman of the board of the Sempervirens Fund.

Many of these issues will be dealt with tomorrow. At the Board of Supervisors meeting, County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty, whose district includes Bonny Doon and Davenport, will introduce a resolution in support of what he's calling the Coast Dairies National Monument.

In addition to changing the proposed national monument's name, the resolution addresses many other concerns raised by North Coast and Bonny Doon neighbors. Most importantly, it stipulates that BLM establish a management plan—including citizen input—within three years of designation and that public access be "limited" until that plan is complete.

In response to concerns about expansion into San Vicente Redwoods, Coonerty's amended resolution says that "there shall be no mention of possible expansions, with exception of the possible annexation of Davenport Beach."

Those concerned about eminent domain might rest easier knowing that Keeley has submitted a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that the Parks, Recreation, Agricultural Conservation and Open Space District "not have eminent domain powers."

It remains to be seen whether North Coast and Bonny Doon neighbors will find this acceptable. The DNCA's Spencer, herself an avid hiker, says she's not opposed to Coast Dairies being opened, but wants to see the process delayed significantly.

"I think everybody in the Bay Area should come down here and take a hike," she says. "I just don't want to see the North Coast overwhelmed."

Sempervirens Fund's Ratay points out that National Monument status will almost certainly provide the community as a whole more resources to help deal with visitors to the North Coast, and help deal with problems that already exist. And, she says, this is the time to make this happen.

"Right now is the time when President Obama is making final decisions about the legacy he will leave for future generations," she says. "We can't take for granted that an opportunity for monument designation will come around again. Political winds can change quickly.

"There's momentum in Washington DC to unravel conservation protections on federal lands nationwide – protections that we've relied on for decades to hold the best of our nation's lands in public trust. The Antiquities Act is also under threat. Coast Dairies deserves the federal government's utmost care and permanent protection. The community needs to rally together and deliver this message to Washington DC with one loud voice. Now is our chance."

Full disclosure: Hilltromper is a media sponsor of the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign. Sempervirens Fund is a Hilltromper partner. Fred Keeley serves on the Hilltromper Board of Advisors. For those reasons and many others, we took pains to ensure that this article fairly represent all sides of the debate.

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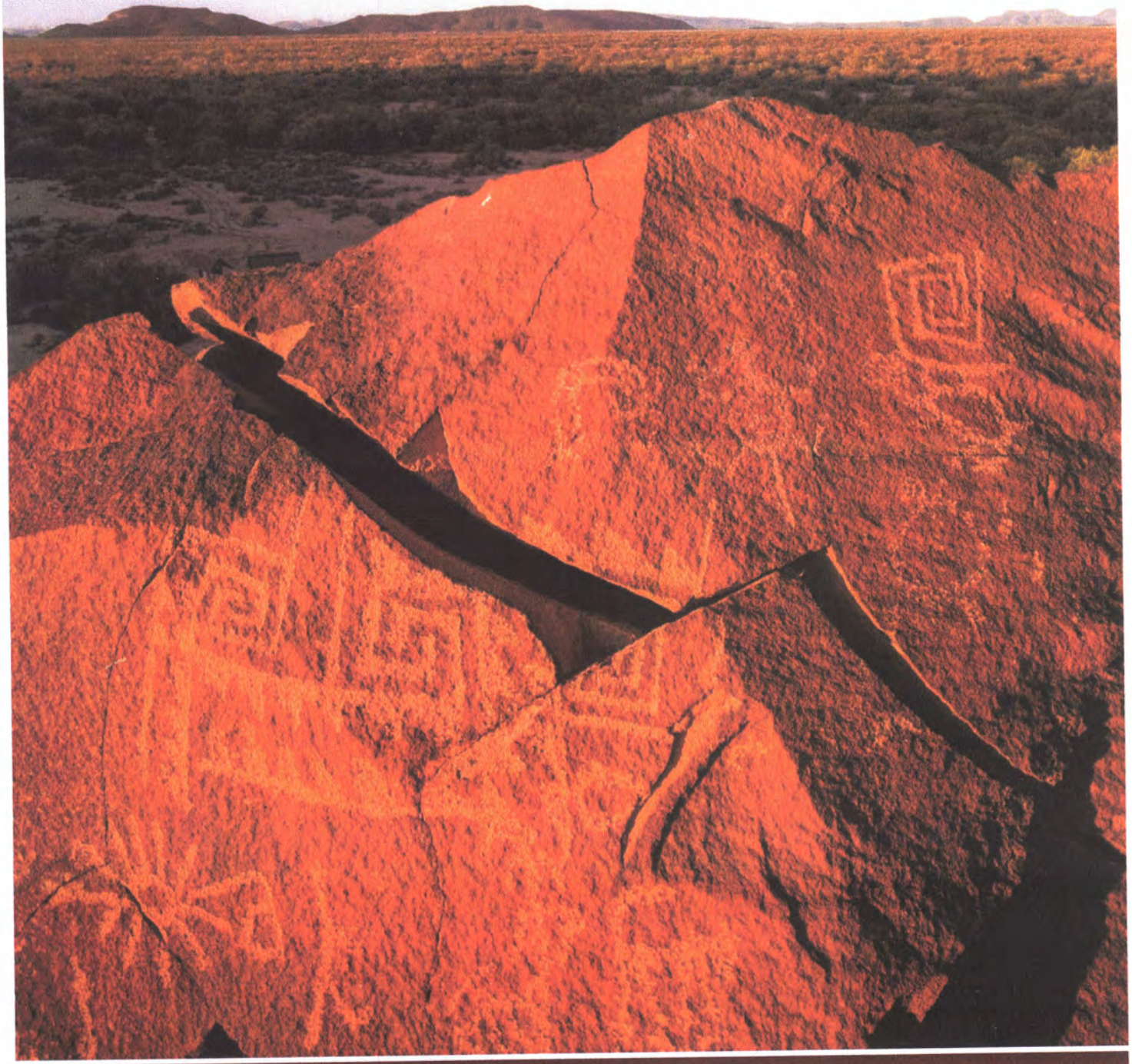
THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

A Nationally Significant Cultural Landscape



Aaron M. Wright Pat H. Stein Barnaby V. Lewis William H. Doelle

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The Great Bend of the Gila: A Nationally Significant Cultural Landscape

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Aaron M. Wright has more than 15 years of professional archaeological experience in private, academic and nonprofit settings, most of which has focused on the American Southwest. He earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington State University in 2011.

Pat H. Stein is a historical archaeologist with 40 years of experience in the American Southwest. Since 1995, she has owned and managed a historic preservation consulting company based in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Barnaby V. Lewis is the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Gila River Indian Community.

William H. Doelle earned his doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1980. He has more than 40 years of professional experience, and his research focus is southern Arizona. He is the President and CEO of the Tucson-based nonprofit, Archaeology Southwest.

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The Great Bend of the Gila

A Nationally Significant Cultural Landscape

Aaron M. Wright
Pat H. Stein
Barnaby V. Lewis
William H. Doelle

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FOREWORD: TRIBAL PERSPECTIVES

AN *O'ODHAM* PERSPECTIVE ON THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

The *O'odham* (people) of central and southern Arizona are represented by four separate federally recognized tribal governments that include *O'odham* of the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, and the *Tohono O'odham* Nation. *O'odham* of the *Tohono O'odham* Nation also hold lands at San Lucy in Gila Bend, Florence Village west of Florence, and the San Xavier District Community in Tucson. The *O'odham* have a familial relationship of shared cultural group identity that can be traced historically and prehistorically to the *Huhugam* who inhabited central and southern Arizona, as well as the northern region of present-day Mexico.

The *O'odham*, in accordance with their story of creation, have inhabited their lands from the beginning of existence of human life in central and southern Arizona. The *O'odham* have a reverence for the natural landscape that is central to *O'odham* traditional and spiritual understanding of, and respect for, the natural resources and vast ecosystem. This unique relationship enabled *O'odham* ancestors to live harmoniously within this harsh desert environment, and this relationship is essential to the continued survival of *O'odham Himdag* (Way of Life).

The proposed boundary of the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument encompasses numerous archaeological sites attributed to ancient *Huhugam* farmers. Many *Huhugam* petroglyph sites are located from the Gillespie Dam through Sears Point. These places hold ancient teachings on stone that document traditional religious use of the region since the precontact days of our *Huhugam* ancestors. *O'odham* Traditional Religious Practitioners, in private religious activities, continue to conduct ancient rituals and ceremonies at these places.

Prehistorically, the *Huhugam* shared southern Arizona with peoples of the *Patayan* tradition, who are the ancestors of present-day Yuman Tribes along the lower Colorado River. Among the descendant Yuman Tribes are the Yavapai-Apache Nation, Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Cocopah Indian Tribe, Fort Mojave Tribe, Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and Maricopa (*Pee Posh*) Indian Tribe. The *Pee Posh* have a separate and distinct culture, history, and language from the *O'odham*. Historically, the *Pee Posh* have lived beside the *O'odham* since the 1800s, and reside in the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Archaeological sites define and establish the connections *O'odham* have with their *Huhugam* ancestors. The spiritual, reverent, and respectful associations assist in maintaining our links

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to these ancestral and sacred places. Spiritual associations to sacred places in the landscape define the existence and extent of the *O'odham* world. These places are not only historically significant; by virtue of their role in annual cycles of universal and spiritual renewal, religious practice, and traditional knowledge, they are critical to *O'odham* beliefs about cultural perpetuation and survival.

The *O'odham* believe that everything in nature within the proposed boundary of the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument is of great cultural significance. Evidence of the existence of our *Huhugam* ancestors' travels throughout this land—such as shrines, prehistoric trails, archaeological sites, and petroglyphs—is certain. We all share a strong interest in the long-term protection of the many things our ancestors left behind for *O'odham* as messages to continue the traditional ways of life.

Barnaby V. Lewis
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Gila River Indian Community
Sacaton, Arizona

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A *QUECHAN* PERSPECTIVE ON THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

Kukumat was the creator of all people including the Quechan nation. He lived with one of the women he had made, and she gave birth to a son, Kumastamxo. After his father's death, Kumastamxo stepped in, took control of the people, and continued to live at *Avikwame* Mountain in the southeastern part of Nevada. *Avikwame* ("high mountain") is the tribal name; it translates as Spirit Mountain in English, and it is sometimes called Newberry Mountain. There, he taught the people everything they needed for survival. Kumastamxo then dismissed the people and told them to leave *Avikwame* in groups. After doing this he became ill, and before he died he directed the people to turn his body towards east, north, west, and south in the four cardinal directions. Therefore, his people placed his body on the ground and moved him about and finally he chose south. Kumastamxo held that position until he passed away. By taking such a position he set the example for coming generations that when they die their spirits will travel south.

Before dying, Kumastamxo made a wish for the coyote to take after his heart and do what is right, but the coyote took it wrong and thought he was asked to take the actual heart of Kumastamxo. He took the heart and ran east to the Gila Bend Mountains and to the junction of the Gila and Salt Rivers. At a mountain near present-day Tempe, Arizona he ate the heart and then rubbed his fingers on the mountain, calling it *Avi Kwahas* ("greasy mountain"). He then went south to another mountain and named it Heart Mountain after his father's heart. This mountain is known today as the South Mountain. After naming the mountain coyote went to a slough several miles southeast of present-day Sacaton, Arizona and claimed it as his swimming pool. After swimming in the pool he exposed himself to all the sickness in the world, and from there he dragged himself to the ocean and onto an island. He named the island *Avi Ni Wa*, meaning Heart Mountain, again referencing his father Kumastamxo's heart. There coyote cured himself.

During the time of creation, all of the people lived as spirits in a mystical dimension, but in the physical world they appeared in animal or bird form. At the end of creation, each group traveled to different areas along the Colorado River. Kumastamxo had created this river by tracing a course through the desert with the tip of his lance. Several groups journeyed south on a trail called *Xam Kwacan*, which means "descending and going by." After many years, some settled on fertile land northeast of the Colorado and Gila River confluence.

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Ancient Villages

Overlooked then and forgotten now, the small settlements of many affiliated natives were once the homes of Southwest tribes. Several centuries ago they left those villages, as they became victims of changing times. Mud piles remain where dwellings used to stand. It was once a land grand enough to hold all of life's passions and contradictions, to expand one's soul with vast possibilities, and to awaken all of one's senses. The ruins evidence the passage of time, but they once spoke well for the society that lived there. They reveal that their residents were wealthy enough in spiritual and natural resources, but all that remains are the human artifacts. Stone tools, utilitarian items, petroglyphs, human remains, lithic sites, and prehistoric trash heaps are all that exist today. During the early days, these native villages sprang up in so many places along the Gila River. They started in the west and spread eastward, but they have since disappeared.

The Quechan people live around the junction of the Gila River and the Colorado River. It was never a place of beauty, located as it is in the most barren and forbidding part of the Southwest region. In some areas bold, bare volcanic cones rise steeply upward. These are located east, west, and north of the settlements on the divided Gila and Colorado River. In historical times, Quechan people known as the Gila Group lived north and south of the confluence of the Gila and Colorado River and east of present-day Yuma, Arizona. In the late nineteenth century they joined the south dwellers in filing for homesteads near Somerton, Arizona. Some Quechan people moved on to reservations to take land allotments. Another group of Quechan people resided north of the Gila River several miles east of the Gila and Colorado River confluence. They were called *Akitkwamac* ("Sunflower Eaters"), and they had a particular function to perform for a sacred ceremony. Another group of Quechan people called *Ami* ("high") settled near the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers.

Beginning in the prehistoric era, the Quechan villages and neighboring villages, together, created the Native Gila River corridor that extends upriver and into the eastern reaches of the Gila. Quechan people traveled along the route for trading, exploiting resources, and reaching distant regions in Arizona. From the prehistoric era to modern times, the Gila River and adjacent geological features have served as landmarks and comprise part of the ancient Quechan homeland. For these reasons this area is highly significant to the Quechan people.

The Quechan nation and the Quechan Cultural Committee view the efforts to establish a Great Bend of the Gila National Monument as a way to glue time back together. It honors the last pieces of wilderness for the purposes of educating people and enchanting every child. The Great Bend of the Gila is part of the story and history of our Quechan ancestors. It is a subject sometimes complicated to non-Indians, but we recognize this landscape as a dramatic

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portrait of life on the Gila Corridor. The resources of this fragile area are a major scholarly addition to our growing, collective knowledge and appreciation for Arizona.

Lorey Cachora
Quechan Tribe
Yuma, Arizona

Quechan community members, Yuma, Arizona (left to right): Lorey Cachora, Sophia Rendon, Linda Cachora with baby Justine Rendon, (back) Barbarita Aguilar, Quechan Tribal President Mike Jackson Sr., with Maliha Rendon, (back) Ida Jose, Ernestina Noriega (Yaqui Tribe), (back) Manfred Scott, Claudette C. White, Zion White, (front) Kenna Escalanti, Layla Escalanti, Keely Escalanti, (back) Kendrick Escalanti. (Photograph by Elias Butler.)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great Bend of the Gila occupies a stretch of the lower Gila River in southwestern Arizona, where the westerly flowing river turns south and then west again as it empties into the Colorado River. Here, the river is lined by jagged peaks and ancient lava flows, which meld into an interesting and harmonious balance between water and fire, mountains and valley. Atop this unique natural landscape lies an equally intriguing ancient cultural landscape that speaks to a deep history of multiculturalism in one of the most challenging environments on Earth.

For more than 12,000 years, the Great Bend of the Gila has been a cultural crossroads on the American frontier, where people of different backgrounds, traditions, and values came together in interesting and inspiring ways. This legacy is preserved in an amazing array of fragile cultural resources dotting the landscape. The region is best known for the countless examples of visually stunning petroglyphs carved into the cooled and hardened lava. The petroglyphs were authored by Native Americans, as well as by Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American explorers and travelers. Most of the rock art is attributable to Archaic, Patayan, and Hohokam cultural traditions that are ancestral to many contemporary Native American communities in Arizona, New Mexico, southern California, northern Sonora, and Baja California. The rock art materializes the cultural diversity that has characterized the region for millennia.

The Great Bend of the Gila is also recognized as the eastern range of geoglyphs. Geoglyphs are symbols created on the ground surface by either removing the desert gravels to expose lighter-colored sediments, or by aligning rocks to create designs. These enigmatic features occasionally take the form of humans or animals, but most often, they consist of abstract and geometrical shapes.

While rock art and geoglyphs adorn the cliffs and mesas lining the river, ancient villages cover the valley floor. Hohokam and Patayan farmers cultivated these lands for more than 1,000 years. They left their mark in a variety of architectural signatures, such as buried pithouses, adobe and stone buildings, ballcourts, and irrigation canals. This village-scape also includes several walled settlements built on promontories along the river. Early explorers believed these to be ancient forts, and archaeologists and Native American consultants agree that they likely served a defensive purpose.

As a cultural crossroads, the Great Bend of the Gila was a corridor for people and goods moving through this frontier. This is most evident in the extensive network of ancient trails that criss-cross the landscape and converge in the valleys of the Great Bend. These trails stretch in every direction, linking the Pacific Coast to the Great Plains and West Mexico with

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the Great Basin. The Great Bend of the Gila was central to pre-Hispanic economies that circulated goods over incredibly long distances.

The Great Bend's frontier essence persisted into the Historic era and was instrumental in the westward expansion of the United States. The river valley served as an overland route between Spanish settlements in Sonora and their missions along the California coast. This trail was blazed by Father Eusebio Kino in 1699, and later formalized by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775. This route was the foundation for many subsequent transcontinental trails and roads, including Kearny's Trail for the Mormon Battalion and the Butterfield Overland Stage Line. Stage stations and pioneer communities sprang up along these trails. At one of these, Stanwix station, the California Column encountered several Confederate Rangers and a battle ensued, thus marking the site of the westernmost skirmish of the Civil War.

The area's cultural resources are truly world class, and the region's history is a one-of-a-kind chapter in our country's saga. The Great Bend of the Gila, as a natural and cultural landscape, is nationally significant and speaks to aspects of our country's cultural composition in a way no other place can.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

The Gila River is one of the epic waterways of the American West (Corle 1951). Born in the high country of southern New Mexico, this mighty river snakes westerly across the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and empties into the Colorado River, just north of the Sea of Cortez. The river's lower stretch, between the cities of Phoenix and Yuma, is bound by extinct lava fields and jagged mountains, landforms famed naturalist John Audubon (1906:153) called "peaks of the wildest character and desolation." As the Gila's waters wind around these monoliths, the river's course veers south and then swings west once again, creating its distinctive "Great Bend" before spilling into the Colorado River (Figure 1.1). These life-giving waters have enabled cultures to flourish and cities to rise in one of the world's most challenging and least hospitable terrains. Cultural resources attributed to Native Americans, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans represent the region's deep history of cultural diversity and the legacy of frontier life in the early American West. The river's Great Bend, in particular, is renowned for an impressive and dense array of cultural resources, most notably, a rich tapestry of ancient, world-class rock art (Figure 1.2). Because the landscape along the Great Bend of the Gila remains sparsely inhabited, much of its natural character and the unique cultural resources concentrated there persist untouched. It is this spectacular composition of remarkable cultural resources within a pristine natural setting that merits special recognition and heightened protection.

To celebrate the Great Bend's diverse cultural heritage and contribution to our nation's story, a Great Bend of the Gila National Monument (GBGNM) has been proposed. As currently drawn up, this monument would contain approximately 84,000 acres of nearly contiguous public lands along the lower Gila River corridor, from Robbins Butte in the Town of Buckeye in Maricopa County to Sears Point in Yuma County (Map 1.1). Except for a few inholdings of land owned by the Tohono O'odham Nation, the state, and private parties, the area within the perimeter of the proposed national monument is currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which has designated two cultural Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within this parcel that the national monument boundary generally follows. Non-BLM-administered land within the outer boundary would not be part of the GBGNM.

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Figure 1.1. The Great Bend of the Gila is a stark yet beautiful desert landscape. This view is from the summit of Powers Butte, just upstream from where the Gila River takes its big turn south between the Buckeye Hills (at center) and the Gila Bend Mountains (on the horizon at right). One of the many low rock walls atop Powers Butte is visible in the foreground. These walls were part of a fortified village built about 800 years ago by a farming society archaeologists call the Hohokam. The Hohokam are ancestral to several contemporary Native American communities who consider the Great Bend of the Gila part of their traditional lands. (Photograph courtesy of Elias Butler.)

Although layered in a deep history, many contemporary Native Americans continue to identify with the lands and resources encompassed by the boundary of the proposed Gila Bend of the Gila National Monument. As Barnaby Lewis and Lorey Cachora explained in the Foreword, the Great Bend of the Gila is a sacred, ancestral landscape to the Native American commu-

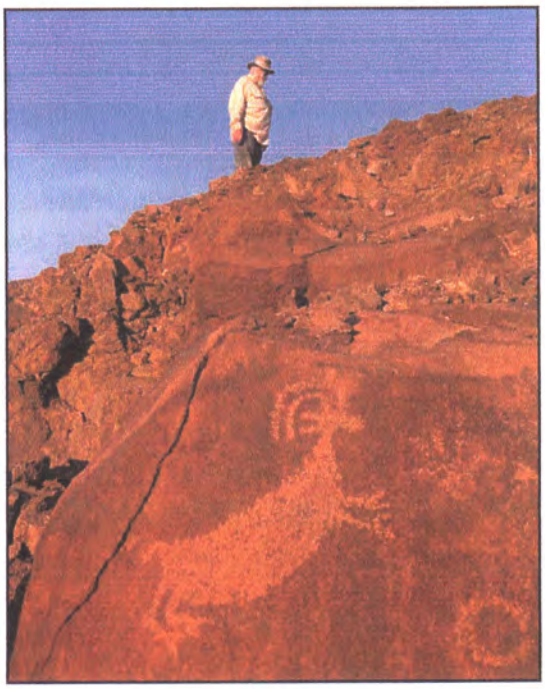

Figure 1.2. Petroglyphs carved into ancient lava fields and mountains tower over the lower Gila River throughout the boundary of the proposed national monument. Although a full inventory awaits, available information suggests at least 100,000 individual glyphs may adorn the cliffs and mountains along the river's Great Bend, between the towns of Agua Caliente and Buckeye, representing one of the richest collections of rock art in North America. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

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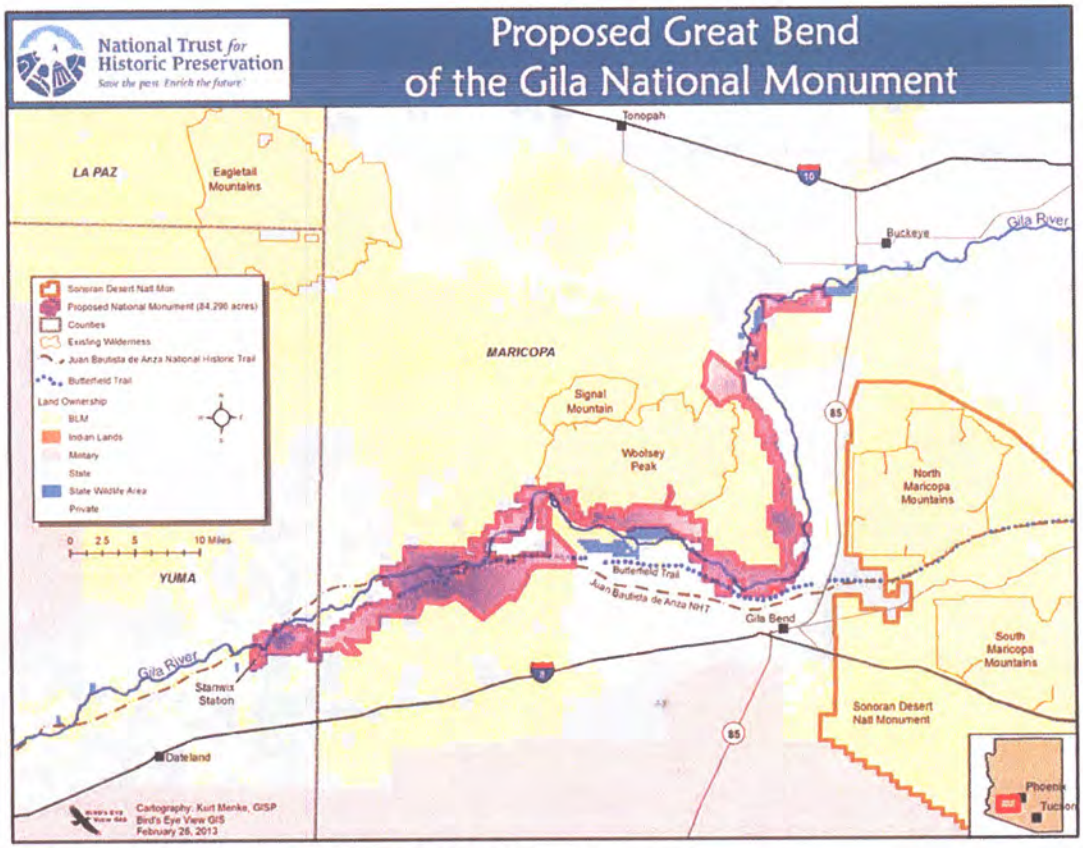

Map 1.1. The boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

nities who identify with this area and its cultural resources. The cultural resources are a testament to their connection to the land and are critical in maintaining their traditional ways of life. Indeed, 14 Native American tribal entities are historically and traditionally associated with the landscape of the Great Bend of the Gila and attribute heritage value to the landscape as well as the cultural and natural resources it contains (Table 1.1). A more comprehensive report on the significance of the Great Bend to these associated tribal communities is in progress and will ultimately complement this cultural resource study.

This report provides a historical perspective on the significance of the cultural resources and natural landscape encompassed by the boundary of the proposed GBGNM. To set the stage, Chapter 2 briefly describes the Great Bend's distinctive natural landscape, and the curious ways in which the terrain and cultural resources are intertwined. Portions of notable landforms and natural features encompassed by the boundary include:

- the **Gila River**, an important waterway and former international border;
- the **Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field**;
- the **Gila Bend Mountains**;

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Table 1.1. Tribal entities traditionally associated with the Great Bend of the Gila

• Ak-Chin Indian Community	• Hopi Tribe
• Cocopah Indian Tribe	• Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
• Colorado River Indian Tribes	• San Carlos Apache
• Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation	• Tohono O'odham Nation
• Fort Mojave Indian Tribe	• Yavapai-Apache Nation
• Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe	• Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe
• Gila River Indian Community	• Zuni Pueblo

- the **Painted Rock Mountains**;
- the **Buckeye Hills**; and
- **Oatman Mountain**.

Chapter 3 outlines 12,000 years of history along the Great Bend of the Gila, and the enormous breadth of cultural resources within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM are synthesized in Chapter 4. This impressive array of cultural resources embodies much of Great Bend's deep history, including:

- upwards of **100,000 Ancient Petroglyphs**, spanning thousands of years;
- **Giant Ground Figures**, or geoglyphs, covering the volcanic mesa tops;
- **Pre-Hispanic Forts** with dramatic rock walls;
- the **Rock Ballcourt** site, a one-of-a-kind Hohokam village;
- **Ancient Trails** that linked the Pacific Ocean to the continent's deep interior;
- **Stanwix Stage Station**, site of the westernmost **Civil War** skirmish;
- historic roads, including the **Anza Trail** and **Butterfield Overland Stage Line**;
- site of the infamous **Oatman Incident**; and
- **Nineteenth-Century Irrigation Canals** dug by the area's pioneers.

The following pages offer a comprehensive review of the history of the Great Bend of the Gila, coupled with a synopsis of the most notable cultural resources it has to offer. They will show that the significance of this landscape to our country's storied history, its relevance to our nation's cultural identity, and its continued value to a diverse body of contemporary communities are self-evident.

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CHAPTER 2

THE LANDSCAPE OF THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

One of the first things visitors to the Great Bend of the Gila notice is the extreme heat and aridity that characterize this remote quarter of the American Southwest. The town of Gila Bend, for instance, receives an average of just 7.0 inches of rainfall each year and witnesses summer temperatures typically in excess of 110°F, with a record high of 122°F (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2014). It becomes even less bearable downstream; the city of Yuma has a record high temperature of 124°F and averages less than 3.5 inches of rain per year. This low section of the Sonoran Desert is indeed one of North America's most daunting terrains, but it is a landscape layered deep in history nonetheless due, in large part, to the life-giving waters of the lower Gila River.

The lower Gila River was once a perennial river that flowed through an ever-evolving braided network of channels interspersed with cobblebars, sandbars, dunes, swales, and marshes. In years past, the river supported a rich riparian habitat full of waterfowl and fish-life (Haase 1972; Minckley and Brown 1994; Stromberg 1993). The mountain ranges lining the Great Bend pinch and constrict the river at various points along its course, which has created valleys of deep, fertile soil that have been farmed almost continuously for more than a millennia. The floors of these valleys rise gradually away from the river channel until they meet the slopes of granitic mountain ranges and ancient lava fields, and cycles of flooding have cut a series of shallow terraces that parallel the river channel (Ross 1923). Much like the communities along the Great Bend today, ancient Native American farmers favored these terraces as settings for their villages and fields. Fortunately, the incredible and inspiring legacy of their endeavors endures in a world-class assemblage of visually stunning archaeological resources located within the rocky and mountainous landscape along the river's edge (Map 2.1).

FRAGILE-PATTERN AREAS OF THE GREAT BEND

The archaeological resources within the boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument (GBGNM) are found in and around a series of geological rises lining the river valleys—the Buckeye Hills, the Gila Bend Mountains, the Painted Rock Mountains,

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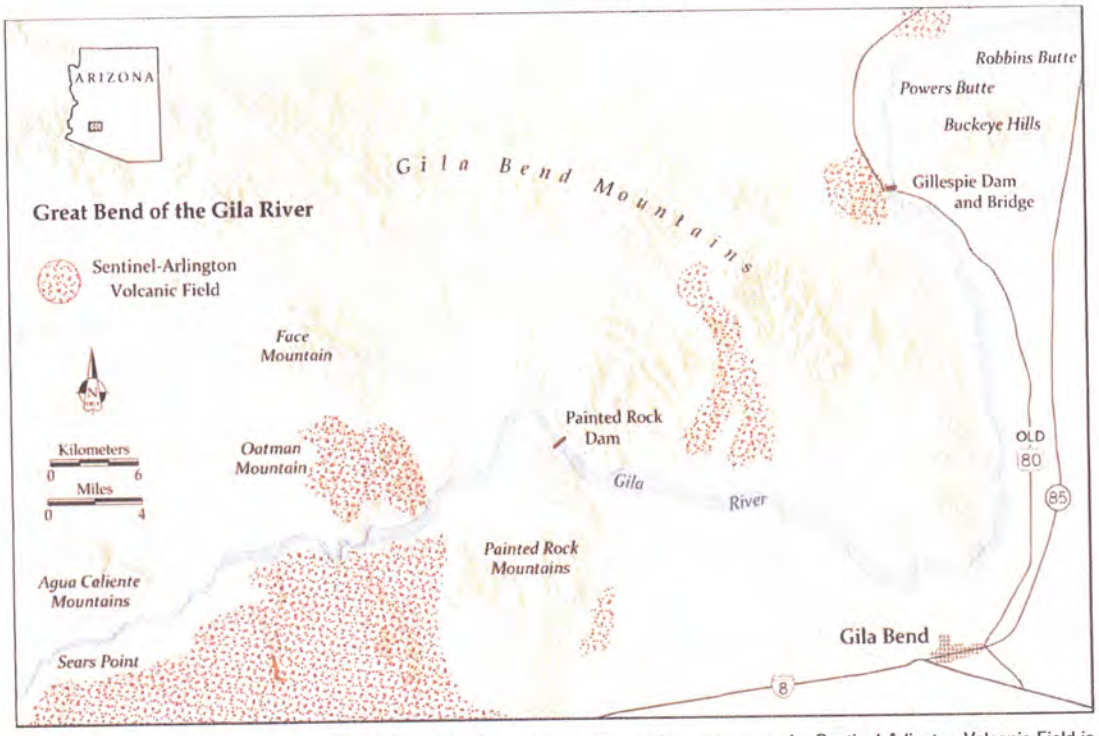

Map 2.1. Major landforms of the Great Bend of the Gila. Formed around two million years ago, the Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field is comprised of numerous shield volcanoes and their associated basaltic lava flows. The surfaces of these rocks developed a dark patina, which, when pecked away by humans, revealed lighter rock beneath and enabled communication of bold signs and symbols. Older geological features, such as the Gila Bend Mountains, Painted Rock Mountains, and the Buckeye Hills, are embedded in and adjacent to the volcanic field. Powers Butte and Robbins Butte are two volcanic spires between the Gila River and the Buckeye Hills.

Oatman Mountain, and the Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field. Containing some of the oldest and youngest rocks in Arizona (Chronic 1983), these geological formations are stained with patinas and varnishes that add different hues and chromas—dark reds, greens, purples, browns, grays, and blacks—to the desert's palette. These windblown and sand-blasted formations host an assortment of peculiar geological surfaces that archaeologists consider "fragile-pattern areas." Fragile-pattern areas are natural surfaces upon which cultural resources rest without any overlying sediments (Hayden 1965). It is this unguarded exposure to environmental and human forces that make them fragile.

Most of the unique, world-class cultural resources within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM are found in two types of fragile-pattern areas within and around the region's mountains and lava fields. The surfaces of many of the outcrops, boulders, and cliffs lining the Great Bend are one type of fragile-pattern area. Many of the rock surfaces are covered in layers of remarkable rock art crafted first by Native Americans, who have called this place home for millennia, followed by early American sojourners on westward journeys to California (Figure 2.1).

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Figure 2.1. Many of the archaeological resources around the Great Bend of the Gila are tied to the unique geology of the Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field, a series of late Tertiary shield volcanos and lava flows. The lava flows end abruptly where they meet the river channel. This has created black, blocky, sheer-faced cliffs all along the river corridor. For thousands of years, people of variable cultural backgrounds chose these smooth, dark surfaces as canvases for petroglyphs. The examples here, near Gillespie Dam, were pecked by Hohokam farmers more than 1,000 years ago. Experience has shown that fragile patterns such as these are highly prone to graffiti and bullets, which cause irreversible damage to archaeological resources of great cultural and spiritual significance to contemporary people. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Desert pavements, another type of fragile-pattern area, are thin, generally compact lenses of rocks that form upon the slopes and terraces between the river and mountains, as well as atop and around lava flows (Dixon 1994). The stones in desert pavements typically exhibit dark patinas, and when one is moved, the lighter-colored sediments below are exposed. Desert pavements around the Great Bend preserve a range of inadequately understood but important archaeological resources, such as trails, cleared sleeping circles, and giant ground figures of mysterious geometric and naturalistic forms, which are often discernible and identifiable only from the air (Figure 2.2).

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND THE FUTURE

One may find it challenging to picture the dry riverbed as a magnificent riparian corridor teeming with life. Nevertheless, accounts from the seventeenth century through the nineteenth century attest to just how grand the lower Gila once was (see Clarke 1852:96; Hinton 1878:281-282; Manje 1954:84). Descriptions of a river a quarter mile wide and full of beaver, ducks, and other water-loving animals are common.

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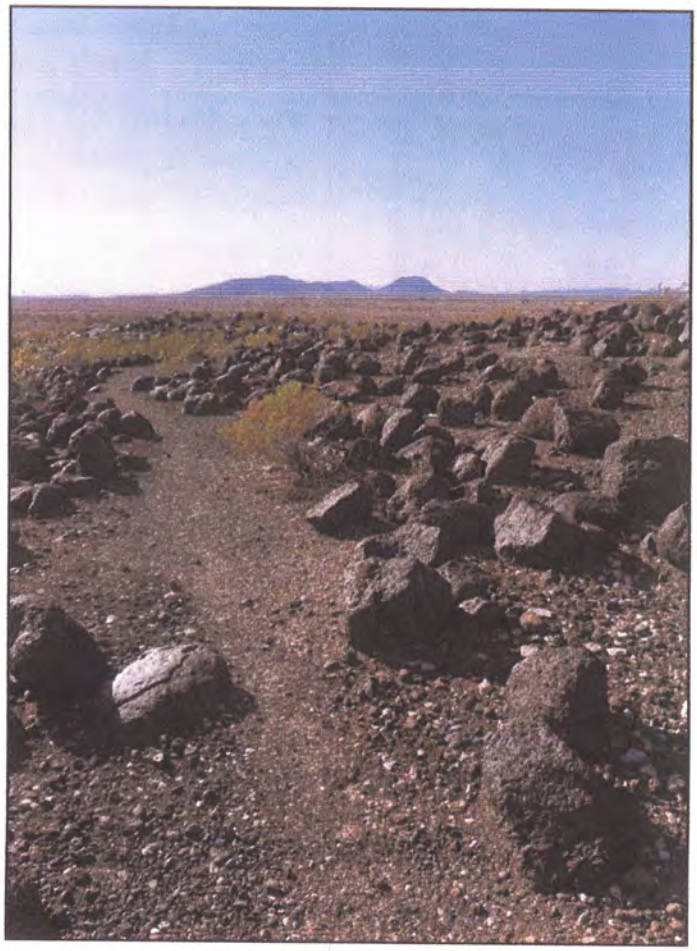

Figure 2.2. Desert pavements preserve traces of human movement and activity across the landscape of the Great Bend of the Gila. Trails, such as the one here, were created by walking atop the pavement, which impressed the stones into the surface and pushed the larger rocks to the side. Some trails are thousands of years old, and by studying them, we can learn about the social and economic networks that linked communities in far-off places. As fragile-pattern areas, desert pavements and associated cultural features are highly susceptible to vehicular damage. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

These historical accounts captured the river the way it was then, the way it had been for centuries, and the way it continued to be until the dawn of the twentieth century, when amazing feats of engineering tamed the river and paved the way for the industrial agriculture and urbanization we see today. Although the river's water has been diverted, the remarkable human story tied to it remains etched in sand and stone within the boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

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CHAPTER 3

THE DEEP HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

For more than 12,000 years, the waters of the lower Gila River have enabled culturally diverse communities to flourish in what is one of the most arid and inhospitable environments in North America. Much like the river itself, the human story tied to this linear oasis has taken dramatic turns as it coursed through the jagged and boulder-strewn landscape along the river's Great Bend. At various times through the millennia, people of different and sometimes contrasting cultural traditions seemingly spread out from regions to the north, south, east, and west and into the valleys and mountains of the Great Bend of the Gila (Figure 3.1). Native American hunters, gatherers, and farmers, followed by Spanish and Mexican explorers and missionaries, and most recently, American pioneers and homesteaders, all etched their legacy in this austere desert frontier in unique and fragile ways. Some settled down and developed bustling communities along the river corridor, only to later retreat to their homelands or move to greener fields elsewhere; others simply paused for awhile before continuing their journey through one of the most foreboding places on earth. The following is an outline of these cultural traditions as we understand them from the cultural resources they left on the landscape. The intent is to provide an overview of the historical setting around the Great Bend of the Gila. Chapter 4 focuses explicitly on the cultural resources within the boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument (GBGNM) that link this important cultural landscape to its larger historical framework.

THE FIRST AMERICANS (10,000–7000 B.C.)

"Paleoindian" denotes a time when the first Americans moved into, migrated across, and eventually settled into different ecological niches throughout the Western Hemisphere. The term thus subsumes a series of early cultural traditions archaeologists identify through distinct, subsistence-related technological complexes/industries, which likely represent unique cultural adaptations to specific environments. Two such Paleoindian traditions—Clovis/Folsom and San Dieguito—overlapped in the valleys of the Great Bend (Map 3.1).

Finely crafted projectile points of distinctive styles attributed to the Clovis and the slightly younger Folsom traditions are the earliest traces of a human presence in the area of the Great Bend of the Gila. It is generally accepted that these points, which are sometimes found with

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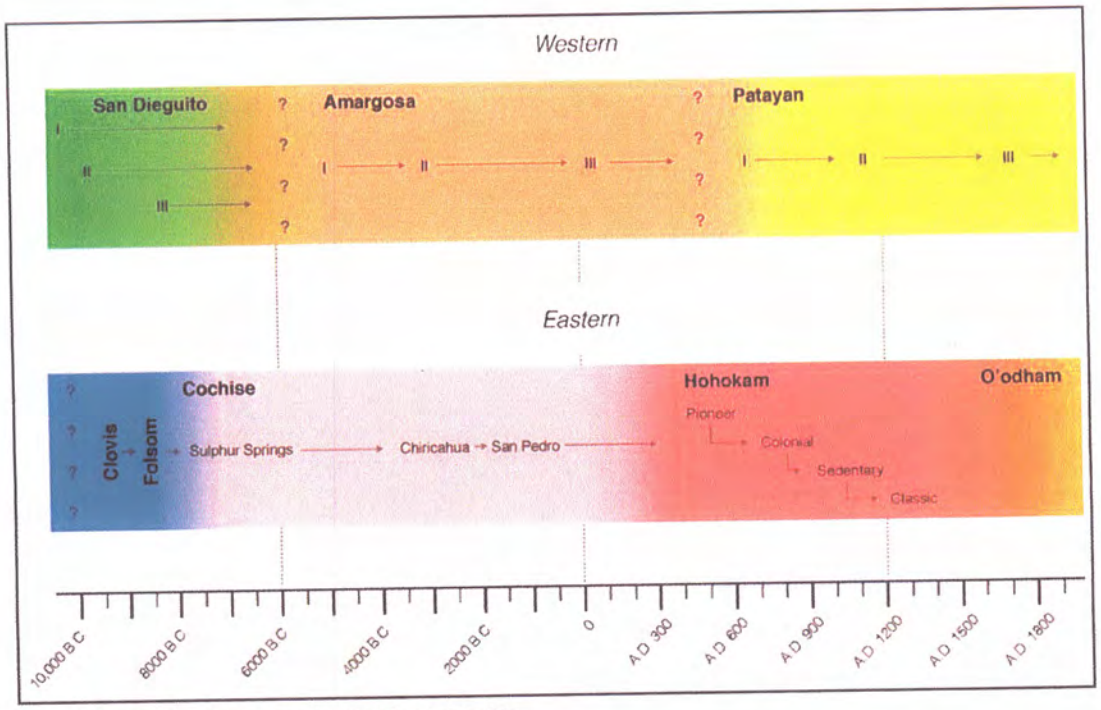
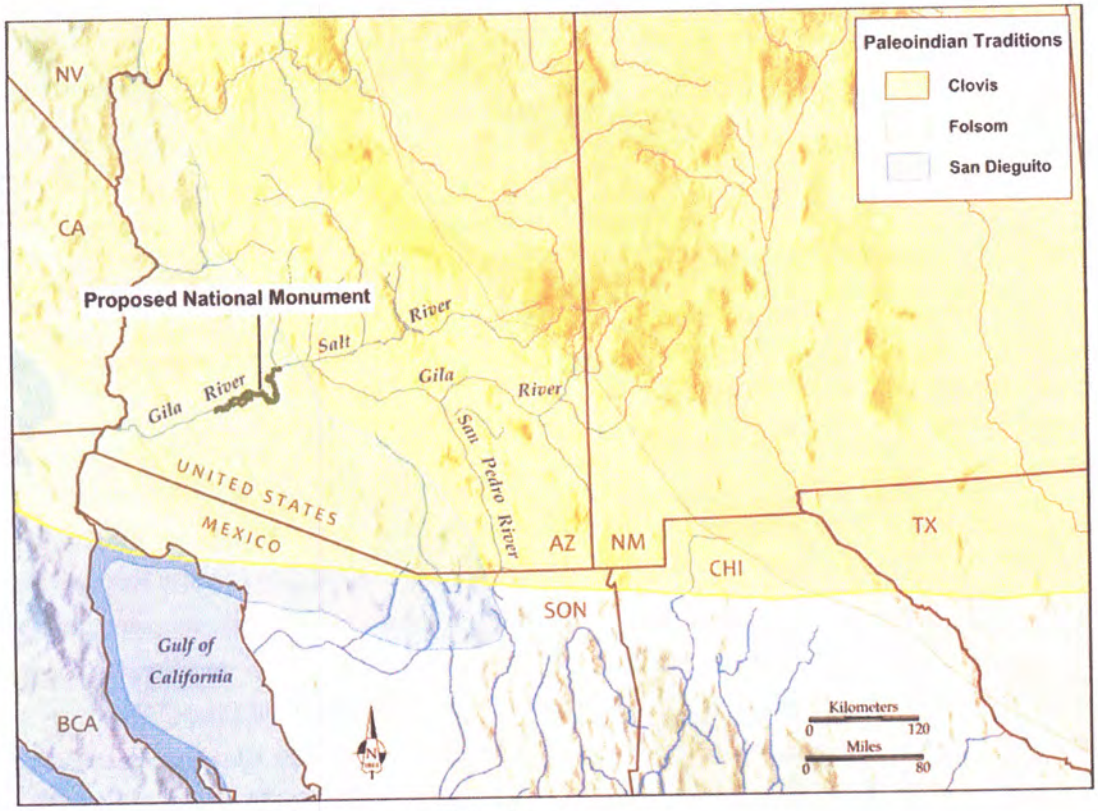


Figure 3.1. Cultural traditions along the Great Bend of the Gila.



Map 3.1. Overlapping Paleoindian traditions across southern Arizona.

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the remains of extinct Pleistocene megafauna, represent adaptations to big-game hunting and a highly mobile lifestyle that accompanied it (Haynes 2002). Although Clovis points have been found across the continent, those of Folsom—a descendant technological tradition focused on bison hunting—are more localized to the Rocky Mountains and surrounding regions (Figure 3.2). Nevertheless, the westernmost Folsom point in Arizona was found in the southern Dendora Valley, just north of the boundary of the proposed GBGNM (Effland and Green 1983).

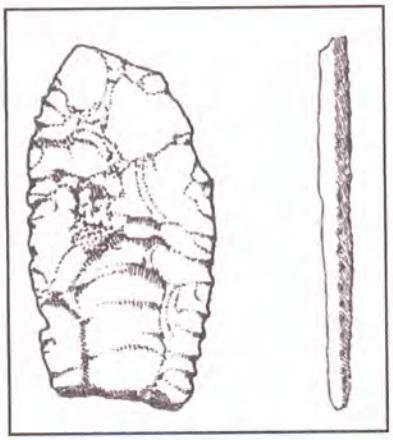

Figure 3.2. This Folsom point, made sometime between 8900 and 8200 B.C., was found at AZ S:16:37 (ASM) in the lower Dendora Valley, just north of the Gila River between Face Mountain and Signal Mountain. It is the westernmost Folsom point found in Arizona (from Effland and Green 1983:Figure 27).

The other Paleoindian tradition found within the region of the Great Bend, San Dieguito, is known best from sites in southern California and northwest Sonora, Mexico (Hayden 1976, 1998; Huckell 1998; Rogers 1939, 1958, 1966; Warren 1967). From what remains, the San Dieguito lifestyle was apparently less concerned with hunting big game and more focused on exploiting lowland aquatic environments. Although projectile points are known from some contexts, the San Dieguito tool kit emphasized a specialized flaked stone technology well suited for working wood. Also attributed to the San Dieguito tradition are ancient trails and enigmatic clearings in the desert pavement, including "sleeping circles" and geometric and amorphously shaped geoglyphs, rock alignments, and rock piles many researchers interpret as ancient shrines. Found predominantly on desert pavements lining river terraces and the shores of desiccated lakes, archaeological resources assigned to the San Dieguito cultural tradition extend into southwestern Arizona but are rare east of the Great Bend area.

ARCHAIC GATHERER-HUNTERS (7000 B.C.–A.D. 200)

Between 9500 and 8000 B.C., as the Ice Age ended, the planet entered a prolonged period of warmer temperatures. This warming initiated a cascade of global-scale environmental changes, including the retreat of Pleistocene ice sheets, the mass extinction of most species of megafauna, and the formation of new plant and animal communities, all of which impacted human communities across the globe (Straus et al. 1996). With many of the large species gone and new ecosystems taking root, many people dependent on big-game hunting had to shift their dietary foci. The widespread adoption of grinding technology (for the processing of seeds) and changes in projectile technology show that populations in the Greater Southwest

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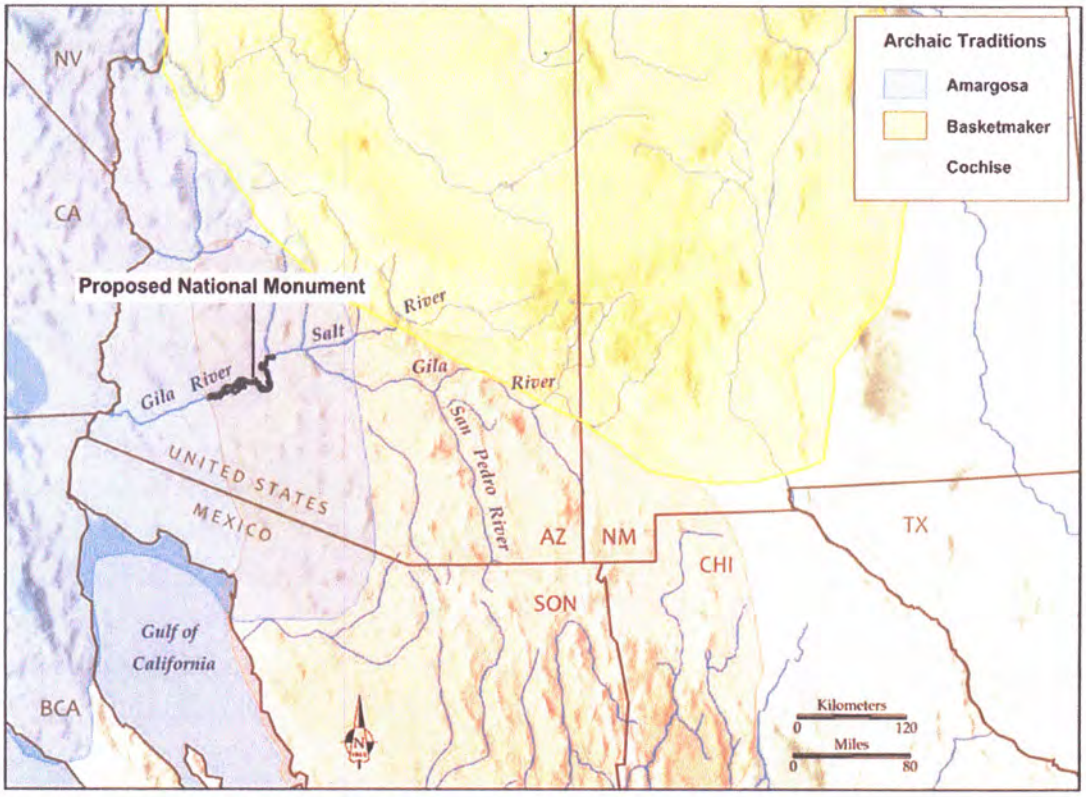
met this challenge by intensifying their use of plants and by increasing their reliance on smaller game animals (Huckell 1996). As with the Paleoindian traditions, however, the Great Bend of the Gila was a crossroads where two long-lived Archaic traditions overlapped: Cochise to the east and Amargosa to the west (Map 3.2).

The Cochise tradition, dating from about 7500 B.C. to A.D. 200, was centered around the international four corners of New Mexico, Arizona, Sonora, and Chihuahua. It is thought to be a local derivation of the preceding Clovis and Folsom traditions (Meltzer 2006; Sayles and Antevs 1941). This tradition developed characteristic styles of ground stone and projectile points, indicating an ongoing process of adaptation that, near the end, witnessed semi-sedentary communities experimenting with incipient agriculture and new forms of social organization in villages. In fact, the earliest irrigation canals in the Americas are attributed to the early part of the San Pedro phase of the Cochise tradition, circa 1500 B.C. (Figure 3.3) (Vint and Nials 2015).

The Amargosa tradition was centered in the deserts of southern Nevada and south-central California. It is not as well studied as the neighboring Cochise tradition but is thought to date from about 7000 B.C. to A.D. 500 (Hayden 1976; Rogers 1939, 1958, 1966). Although the relationship between the Amargosa tradition and that of San Dieguito, its regional Paleoin-



Map 3.2. Overlapping Archaic traditions across southern Arizona.

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Figure 3.3. San Pedro projectile points, such as these replicas, are diagnostic of the later stages of the Cochise cultural tradition in southern Arizona. Such points are somewhat rare west of the Tucson Basin, but have been recorded at sites along the Great Bend of the Gila. (Replicas and photograph by Allen Denoyer.)

Figure 3.4. This broken projectile point, found lying on the desert pavement near Rocky Point, tipped the end of an Archaic atlatl dart. The breakage patten is typical of fractures that occur when projectiles miss their targets and impact hard surfaces. Typologically, this point falls within the Elko Eared style, dating from about 1500 B.C. to A.D. 600. The Elko series is attributed to Archaic Great Basin cultures, and in this context, it likely signifies an Amargosan cultural affiliation. (Photograph by John Alcock.)

dian predecessor, is inadequately understood, similarities in archaeological resources, such as sleeping circles, geoglyphs, and sundry rock features, as well as site location, suggest the Amargosa tradition also entailed a proclivity for riverine and lacustrine environments of the desert lowlands. The Amargosa tradition adopted ground stone technology slightly later than the Cochise did, and projectile points from Amargosa contexts more closely resemble Great Basin styles than other Southwestern Archaic traditions (Figure 3.4). Nonetheless, the Amargosa tradition is recognized in southwestern Arizona about as far as the Great Bend of the Gila.

FORMATIVE FARMERS (A.D. 500–1500)

The adoption of an agricultural village lifestyle closes the chapter on the Archaic period in the American Southwest (Huckell 1996). Southwestern farming traditions had more significant impacts to the landscape than their more transient Archaic and Paleoindian ancestors, so considerably more is known about them. Indeed, the majority of the archaeological resources within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM can be attributed to two formative farming traditions that, once again, overlapped in this desert frontier (Map 3.3) (McGuire and Schiffer 1982).

The first farmers to work the valleys of the Great Bend moved into the region around A.D. 500 (Schroeder 1961; Wasley and Johnson 1965). Archaeologists attribute these pioneering agriculturalists to the Hohokam, a Southwestern farming tradition whose core area was the middle Gila and lower Salt River valleys just east and upstream from the Great Bend. The Hohokam tradition is renowned for its elaborate, Mesoamerican-inspired material culture,

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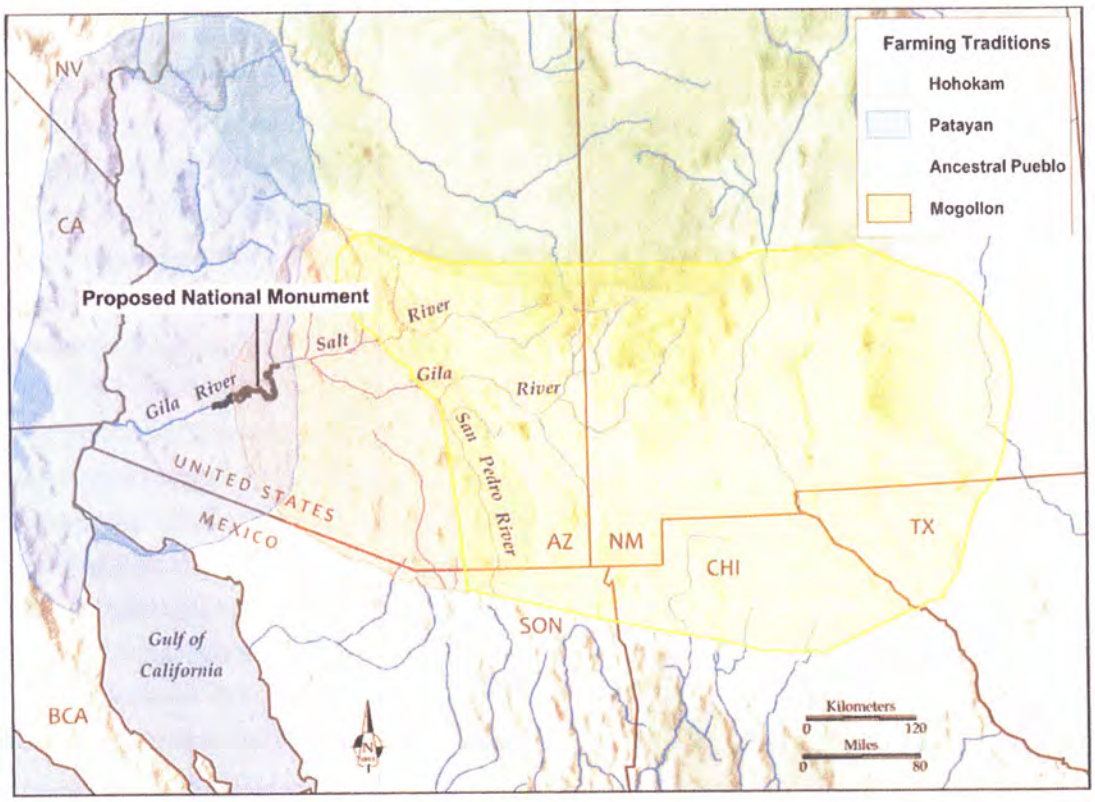

Map 3.3. Overlapping farming traditions across southern Arizona.

monumental architecture, and the complex canal irrigation networks it engineered and operated for nearly a millennium (Fish and Fish 2007; Gumerman 1991; Haury 1976). Typical of frontier communities, however, Hohokam farmers along the Great Bend did not mirror their core-area neighbors in every aspect (Map 3.4).

Occupying the western frontier of the Hohokam world, communities in the valleys of the Great Bend played a key, perhaps strategic role in the exchange of goods and information with neighboring traditions to the west and south (Doyel 1991, 1996, 2008; McGuire and Howard 1987). Linguistic and archaeological evidence indicates some Hohokam communities maintained steady contact with Yuman speakers, who archaeologists refer to as Patayan, residing along the lower Colorado River for centuries (Shaul and Andresen 1989; Shaul and Hill 1998). The Patayan tradition subsumes a conglomerate of material culture traditions centered along the lower Colorado River that are thought to be ancestral to modern Yuman speakers (Colton 1938, 1945; Rogers 1941, 1945; Schroeder 1952). These traditions are unfortunately understudied, especially along the lower Gila River, as research emphasis in southern Arizona has long been placed on the easier to identify, more flamboyant footprints of the Hohokam. Nevertheless, sometime between A.D. 900 and 1000, Patayan groups began to migrate up the Gila River and, in some instances, alongside and into Hohokam communities

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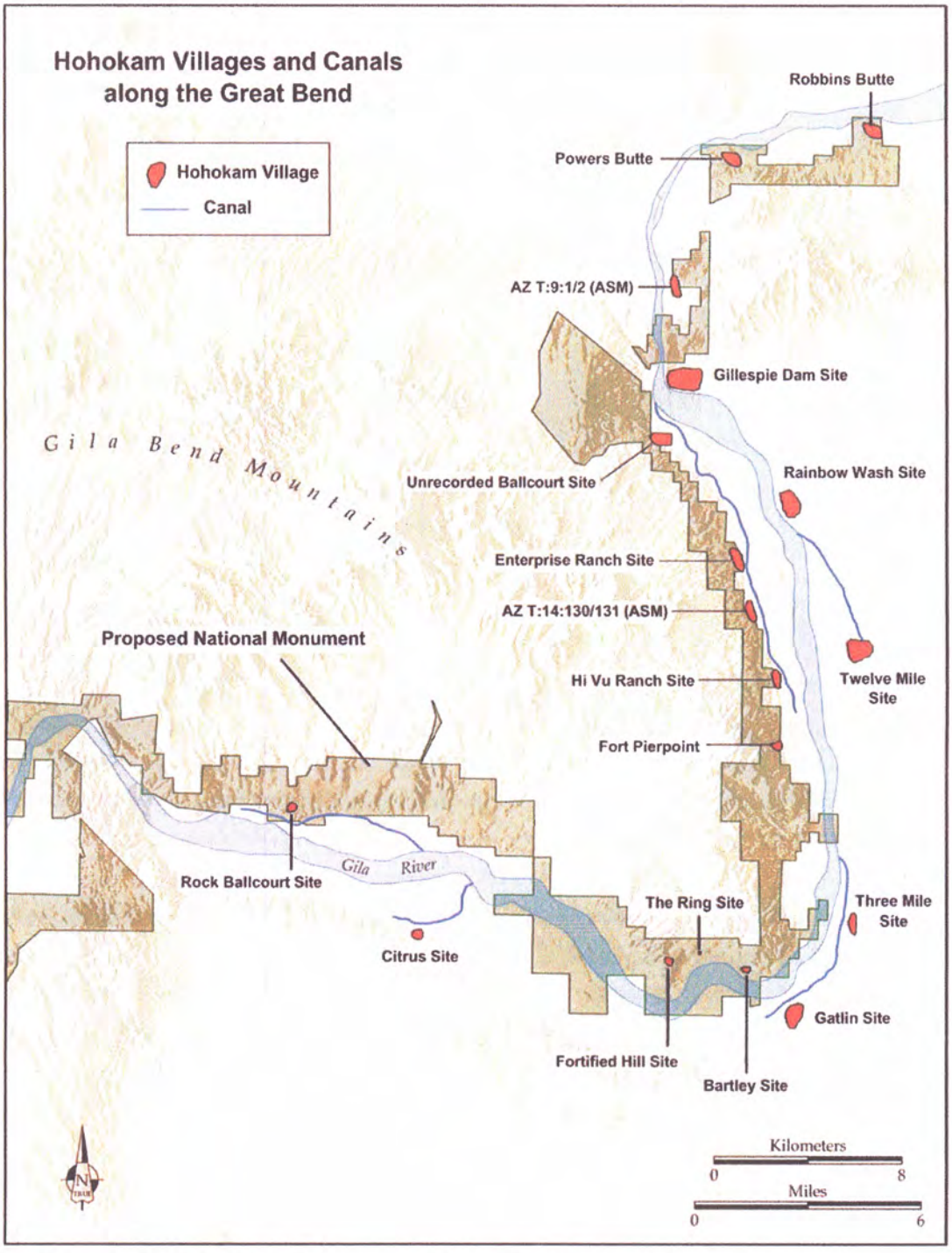

Map 3.4. The Great Bend of the Gila was the western range of Hohokam irrigation communities. The local Hohokam villages were large, and many had ballcourts, a form of monumental architecture in which a ritualized ballgame was played. The westernmost Hohokam ballcourt is found at the Rock Ballcourt site, at lower left in the map and within the boundary of the proposed national monument. Canal locations are based on maps created by Frank Midvale and reported in Dart et al. (1989). The canal leading to the Rock Ballcourt site, as alluded to in Bernard-Shaw (1990), is not confirmed.

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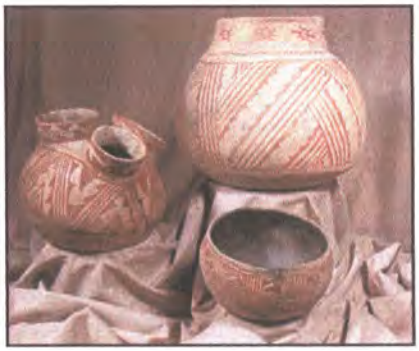
The Hohokam Tradition

The Hohokam tradition is well known for producing exquisite craft items, as well as the economy that moved these goods across vast expanses of desolate desert terrain. Hohokam artisans worked in numerous media, including clay, stone, shell, textile, and paint. Shown here are examples of etched-and-painted shell and distinctive styles of red-on-buff pottery. The shell was gathered from the Pacific Ocean, and the artisan probably used a weak solution of acid to create the designs. Red-on-buff pottery is a hallmark of the Hohokam tradition. Much of it was manufactured by specialists, and it was possibly distributed to surrounding communities by virtue of a nascent market economy linked to a ritual ballgame. (Photograph of shell courtesy of the National Park Service. Photograph of pottery by Mat Devitt, courtesy of Eastern Arizona College.)



(Doyel 2000, 2008; Henderson 2011; Rice et al. 2009; Schroeder 1961; Wasley and Johnson 1965). An interesting contrast between the two is that the Hohokam tradition relied largely on canals to irrigate their fields, whereas Patayan farmers relied on floodwater, or overbank irrigation, to water their crops.

By A.D. 1100, after a century or two of persistent and evidently peaceful cooperation between neighboring and possibly cohabitating Hohokam and Patayan farmers, the influence of the Hohokam tradition, as it is understood from the core area to the east, began to weaken around the Great Bend. Archaeologists refer to this time of widespead social change within the Hohokam world as the beginning of the Classic period. This change in social alliances left farmers within the frontier of the Great Bend in the Gila to adopt their own developmental trajectory. During the A.D. 1200s, communities along the Great Bend began erecting clusters of stone buildings in seemingly defensive settings. Three such settlements are found atop Powers Butte, Robbins Butte, and the Fortified Hill. Powers Butte and Robbins Butte are on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land within the proposed national monument, whereas the Fortified Hill is on Tohono O'odham reservation land of the San Lucy District and is encompassed by the proposed national monument. At about the same time that such fortified settings began to take shape, local communities also began experimenting

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The Patayan Tradition

Patayan material culture is not as flamboyant or abundant as that of the Hohokam. In fact, Malcolm Rogers, the first archaeologist to define Patayan material culture and map its distribution, stated, "The material pattern of this culture is so poor that it seems necessary to conjecture whether the producers might not have been proficient in some of the perishable arts such as the wood and fiber crafts" (Rogers 1945:171). Nevertheless, Patayan communities along the lower Colorado and lower Gila rivers crafted a distinctive type of pottery known as Lower Colorado Buffware. Although its buff color resembles that of Hohokam pottery, the Lower Colorado variety exhibits unique forms, surface treatments, and paste qualities. The reconstructed vessel (top) is a Palomas series wide-mouth jar with a stucco finish. It dates to the Patayan III phase, probably between A.D. 1650 and 1900. The Palomas series of Lower Colorado Buffware predominates at Patayan sites along the lower Gila River. The pottery fragments from a Lower Colorado Buffware jar (bottom) found at a small village near Oatman Point, exhibit telltale features of Patayan manufacture, including a grayish paste (bottom left) and a scummy exterior surface that gives the pottery its buff color. (Photograph of Palomas vessel courtesy of the Arizona State Museum, Accession No. 23225. Photograph of sherds by Andy Laurenzi.)

with new forms of architecture and the social and religious customs that guided those decisions. An example of this is the Ring site, AZ T:14:12 (ASM) (Figure 3.5). Like Fortified Hill, the Ring site is on Tohono O'odham reservation land encompassed by the proposed national monument. Tested and partially excavated in 1960 (Wasley and Johnson 1965), the Ring site consists of a roughly circular, 50-m-diameter masonry wall encompassing a similarly fashioned rectangular masonry structure. The Ring site may not have been a residential village, but was perhaps a ceremonial center for a dispersed community of small, Classic period hamlets on the floodplain north of the Gila River and south of the Gila Bend Mountains, between Point of Rocks and Cobble Mountain. The contemporaneous settlement on Fortified Hill was possibly part of this sprawling community.

By A.D. 1300, communities around the Great Bend had formed unique cultural identities that hybridized elements of the Patayan and Hohokam traditions in new and innovative ways (Doyel 2000, 2008; Henderson 2011; Rice et al. 2009). This was the blended cultural landscape that Spanish Jesuit missionaries described a little over three centuries ago as they,

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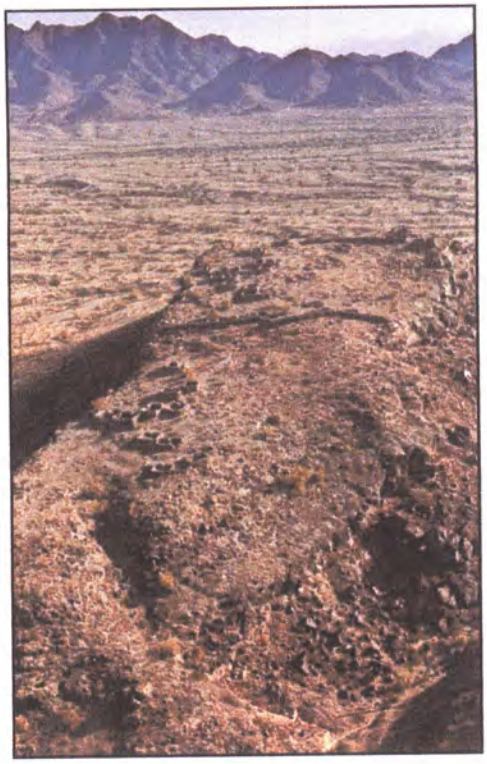
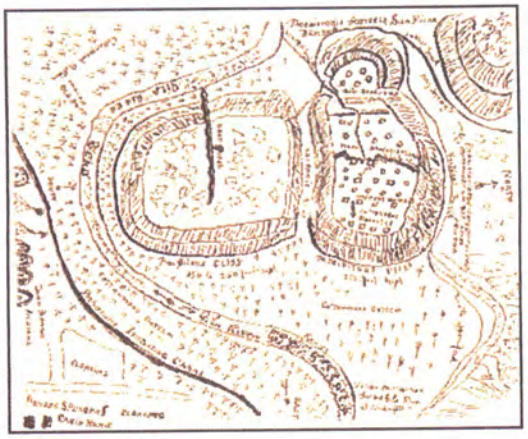
La Fortaleza

La Fortaleza (aka, "The Fortified Hill site"), AZ T:13:8 (ASM), is stationed atop a volcanic bluff at the southeastern tip of the Gila Bend Mountains. Archaeologists from the Arizona State Museum excavated and partially reconstructed the site in the 1960s (Greenleaf 1975), and it is one of the few archaeological properties in the region listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This hilltop village contains at least 57 rooms, and its elevated perch offers expansive views across the Gila River valley. Pottery at the site suggests the village was built and occupied by several generations of Hohokam farmers in the A.D. 1200s. The village's defensive posture—bounded on three side by steep cliff faces and enclosed by two large masonry walls—has long fueled debates about the causes and consequences of the retreat of the Hohokam farmers to the Phoenix Basin and the migration of Patayan communities up the Gila River (Rogers 1945; Schroeder 1961). Newton Henry Chittenden, a famed explorer and writer, visited the Fortified Hill site in 1888-1889 and drafted this illustration.





Chittenden's sketch, the first published map of La Fortaleza, appeared in the December 1905 issue of the popular magazine *Overland Monthly*. (Photographs by Henry Wallace.)

by royal decree, began to establish missions in Sonora and Alta California. The river corridor of the Great Bend of the Gila was their principal gateway connecting those regions.

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Figure 3.5. In 1993, abnormally high rainfall caused the Painted Rock Reservoir to breach its 660-ft-high impoundment and inundate important cultural resources in the surrounding floodplain, including the Ring site shown here. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

THE HISPANIC HERITAGE (1699–1848/1854)

The American Southwest was initially colonized by Spain, later becoming the northern extent of Mexico after its declaration of independence from Spain. Beginning in the sixteenth century, conquistadores laid claim to the region in the name of the Spanish crown. A party led by the legendary Jesuit friar Eusebio Francisco Kino entered the valleys of the Great Bend of the Gila in 1699. Most historians credit Father Kino and his party as the first Europeans to travel through much of what is now southwestern Arizona. Father Kino's journals (Bolton 1919) and those of his military escort, Lieutenant Juan Matheo Manje (1954), offer the earliest historic details of this country and its people. Although Yuman speakers (whom the Spaniards called "Opas" and "Cocomaricopas," and who refer to themselves as Pee Posh) inhabited most of the rancherías along the lower Gila at this time, Kino and Manje described a considerable degree of interaction and cultural sharing with the O'odham ("Pimas" and "Papabotes," or Papagos), including extensive bilingualism, intermarriage, and several instances of O'odham peoples residing at Opa villages and vice versa. This cultural mixing was most pronounced around the river's Great Bend. Subsequent descriptions by Spanish, Mexi-

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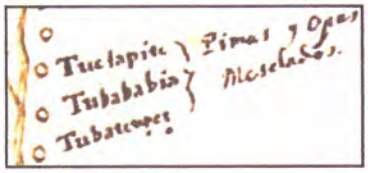
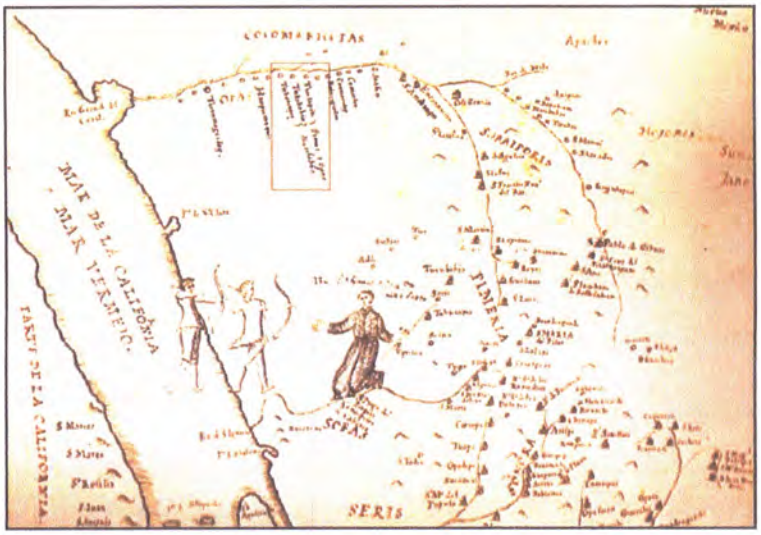
Father Eusebio Kino, "Priest to the Pimas"

Father Eusebio Kino drafted this untitled map of Pimería Alta to illustrate the 1695 Pima revolt in the Altar Valley. The uprising started at Tubutama and spread to the mission of Caborca, resulting in the death of Father Francisco Javier Saeta (depicted on the map) and his assistants on April 2 of that year. The map, probably intended as an illustration for Kino's biography of Father Saeta, was prepared in 1696–1697 and accompanied a letter to Thirso Gonzalez, Father General of the Jesuit Order. It predates Kino's discovery that California is a peninsula and therefore portrays Baja California as an island. The map also depicts a continuous array of Opa and Cocomaricopa villages along the Rio Grande del Coral (lower Gila River), which, at the time, was the northwestern reach of the known Spanish world. Kino noted "Pimas y Opas Mesclados" (Pimas and Opas mixed) at Tucsapitc, Tubababia, and Tubatcupot (see inset). In Kino's "Teatro de los Trabajos Apostolicos de la Compa de Jesus en la America Septentrional, 1696," an earlier and more detailed map from which this version was based, these three villages are shown adjacent to and upstream of Oiadaibu. Oiadaibu is undoubtedly San Felipe y Santiago de Oyadoibuise, an early village located in the vicinity of the modern town of Gila Bend and a major node on the east-west and north-south trail networks running though the area. Accordingly, these "mixed" communities were located along a stretch of the Gila River between Gila Bend and Buckeye. (Illustration of Father Kino courtesy of Tumacácori National Historic Park, U.S. National Park Service.)





can, and early American travelers through the region portray a very similar cultural landscape well into the nineteenth century (Map 3.5).

By the late seventeenth century, Spaniards referred to the vast and mostly unexplored lands of southern Arizona and northern Mexico as the Pimería Alta. It was a landscape identified by the culture and language of its residents, and the name persisted under Mexican rule. In subtle ways, the Pimería Alta has survived to the present as a cultural entity straddling the international boundary. The cultural resources of the Great Bend of the Gila help keep that multinational heritage alive. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

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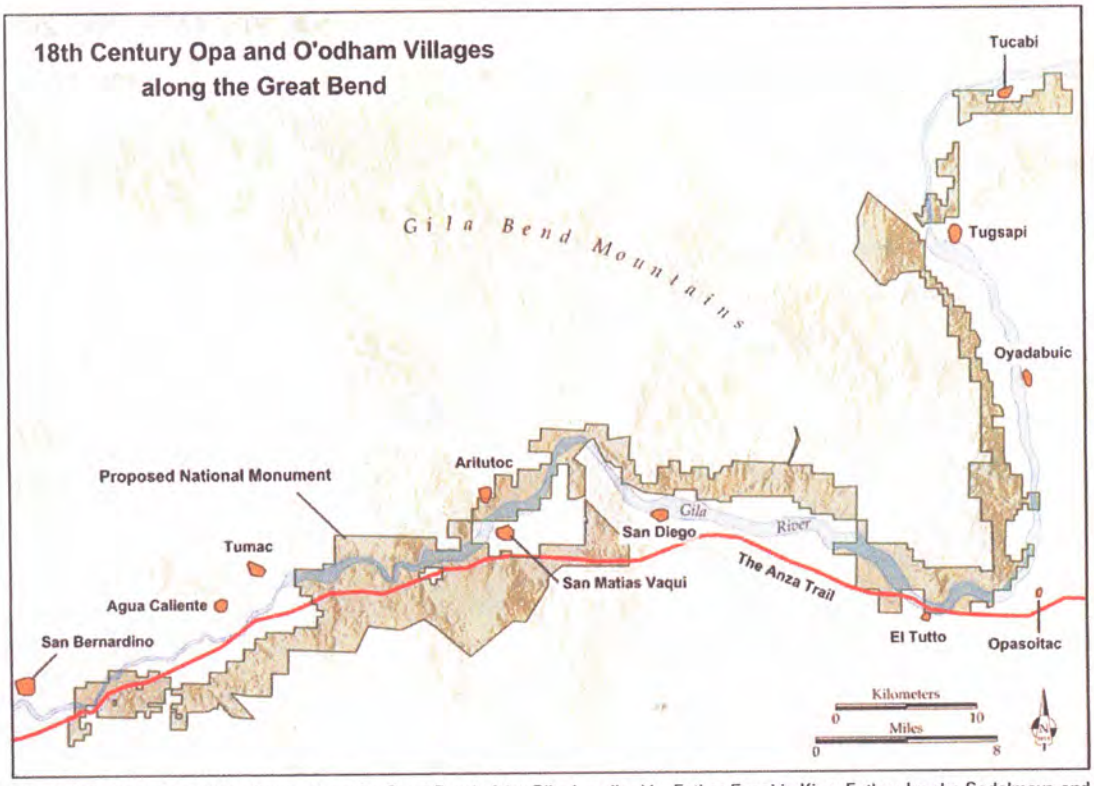

Map 3.5. Eighteenth century villages along the Great Bend of the Gila described by Father Eusebio Kino, Father Jacobo Sedelmayr, and Captain Juan Bautista de Anza.

provides a case in point. The search for gold, silver, transportation routes, and souls to convert drew Spanish soldiers and missionaries such as Melchior Díaz (in 1540), Juan de Oñate (1604), Father Kino with Juan Mateo Manje (1699), Jacobo Sedelmayr (1744), Francisco Garcés (1771), and Pedro Fages (1781) to and through the lower reaches of the Gila River (Bannon 1970; Fontana 1994; Officer 1987). A quest of a different nature launched Anza on his remarkable journey.

By the 1770s, Spain was eager to safeguard its California outposts from Russian and English incursions. The Bay of San Francisco was considered a critical point in the power struggle. Anza, a Basque military captain serving at Tubac Presidio in southern Arizona, scouted an overland route to the bay in 1774, and led an expedition to colonize the area the following year. The expedition included 30 families, totaling about 240 men, women, and children. The ethnically diverse colonists were of Native American, European, and African ancestry. The expedition—with its colonists, military escort, support workers (cowboys, mule packers, and Indian guides), supplies, and more than 1,000 head of livestock—resembled a traveling town as it trekked across the desert. The party left Tubac on October 23, 1775; more than 1,000 miles and seven months later, it safely reached its destination in northern California. Much of Anza's

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success was attributable to the cooperation of native O'odham, Cocomaricopa, Chumash, and Quechan people encountered along the route.

As it made its way to California, the Anza expedition journeyed down the lower portion of the Great Bend of the Gila. Diaries recorded no fewer than eight campsites used by the colonists in that area. Although the exact positions of the encampments and trail are uncertain (because the river has changed course through time), the corridor of the expedition is sufficiently known to be designated as a National Historic Trail. Today, the trail is a piece of living history celebrated annually by reenactors at events such as "Anza Days" in southern Arizona (Figure 3.6) (Anza Trail Foundation 2015).

The Southwest became part of Mexico when that country won its independence from Spain in 1821. In 1823, an effort was made to reopen Anza's overland trail so that it could be used as a mail route by Native American runners. As part of that effort, Father Félix Caballero, a Dominican priest, traveled with an Indian escort from his mission in Baja California, up the lower Gila River valley, across the "Forty-Mile Desert" between the southern Great Bend and the O'odham (Pima) villages, and finally south to Tucson. Brevet Captain José Romero, commandante of the Tucson Presidio, accompanied Caballero on his return voyage. Through such effort and under Mexican rule, the trail along the lower Gila River valley again became an important route through the Pimería Alta, although Mexicans did not establish settlements within the valleys of the Great Bend (Map 3.6) (Fontana 1994).

Figure 3.6. Every October, community events throughout southern Arizona pay tribute to the legacy of Juan Bautista de Anza's remarkable mission to California. Shown here is a reenactment of the Anza Expedition's departure from the Tubac Presidio in 1775, which led a colonizing expedition through the Sonoran and California deserts to reach the Bay of San Francisco in 1776. The expedition followed the natural corridor of the lower Gila River, from the vicinity of Gila Bend to its mouth at Yuma. This route is commemorated by the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. (Photograph courtesy of Paula Beemer.)

This western leg of the "Gila Trail" played a dynamic role during the United States-Mexican War. When the war erupted in 1846, the Army of the West, commanded by Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny and guided by Kit Carson, used the trail to establish U.S. control over a vast area of the Southwest. A topographical engineer with Kearny's force produced the first relatively accurate map of the Gila Trail (Walker and Bufkin 1986).

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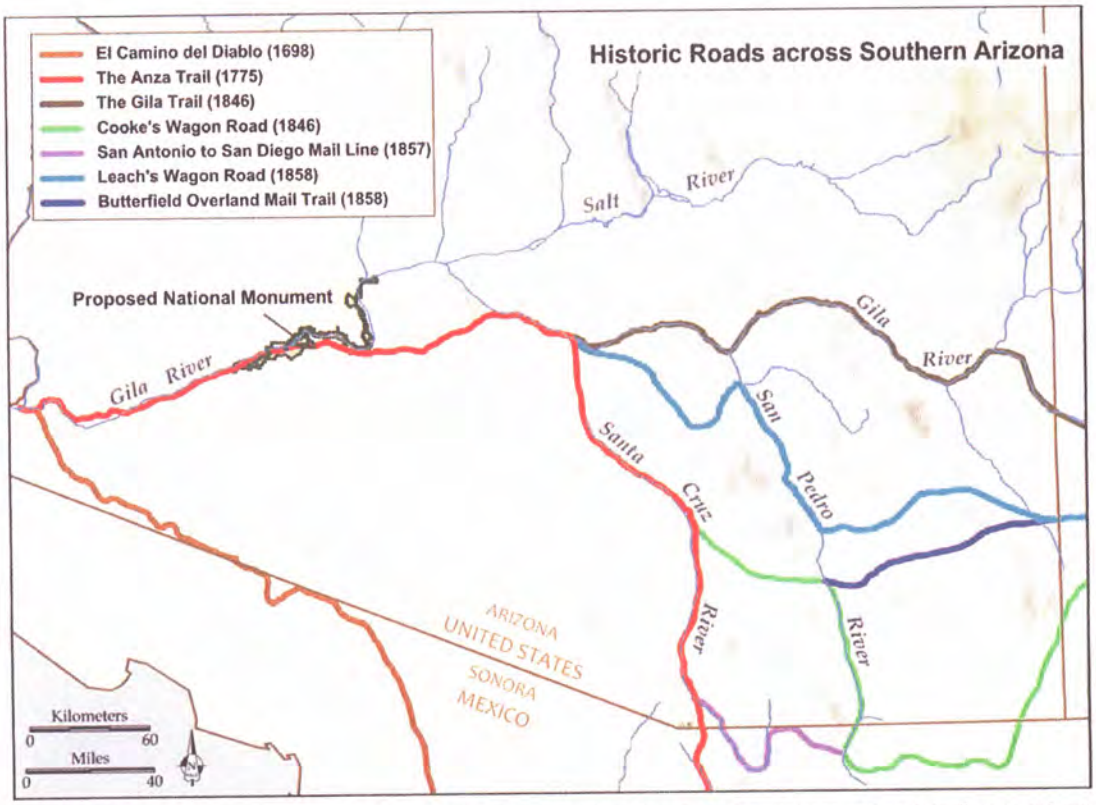

Map 3.6. The lower Gila has long served as the primary east-west corridor through southern Arizona and northern Sonora and was instrumental in opening the West. The closest alternatives were the Camino del Diablo that linked Yuma to the Spanish missions in Mexico's Altar Valley, and Beale's Wagon Road (not shown), which passed through Flagstaff and Kingman in northern Arizona. Many different trails and wagon roads heading west from Texas and southern New Mexico converged at the O'odham village of Maricopa Wells, just east of the proposed national monument. This thoroughfare through southwestern Arizona followed the path blazed over a century earlier by Father Kino. This route was subsequently followed by the Southern Pacific Railroad (1877), the Dixie Overland Highway (1914), the Bankhead Highway (1916, aka the "Broadway of America"), U.S. Highway 80 (1927), and most recently, Interstate 8 (1977).

Reinforcements for the Army of the West left Fort Leavenworth about a month after the main body. A 500-man infantry, consisting of volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was called the Mormon Battalion. Its captain, Philip St. George Cooke, was ordered to march the force to California and build a wagon road along the way. Cooke diverged from Kearny's route in southeastern Arizona, but followed it from the Pima villages westward. Cooke's Wagon Road would soon carry thousands of "49ers" through the Great Bend of the Gila to California (Figure 3.7) (Walker and Bufkin 1986).

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war with Mexico by ceding most of the Southwest to the United States. Under the terms of the 1848 treaty, land lying north of the Gila River became part of the United States, while that lying south of it remained under Mexican rule. The Gila River itself thus became one large, linear cultural resource: a man-made political boundary conveniently defined by a geographical feature. The Great Bend of the Gila was part of that international border (Figure 3.8) (Griswold del Castillo 1990).

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Figure 3.7. "O. W. Randall 1849" is the signature of Osborn Woods Randall, a New England-born man who moved to Nacogdoches, Texas, and who fought in the Texas War of Independence (Randall 2014). Like tens of thousands of others, Randall was eventually struck by the gold bug and set out for California in what is known as the Gold Rush of 1849. Randall reached California over the Southern Emigrant Trail, and returned to Texas in 1851 via a steamboat. Family legend asserts that Randall did in fact find gold, which he buried inside two tin cans in his peach orchard. Randall's inscription here, surrounded by several of his descendants at a water tank on the Sentinel Plain within the boundary of the proposed national monument, is one of many with stories and legacies tied to the opening of the American West. (Photograph by Randy Randall.)

In 1851, the Great Bend became the scene of an incident that would draw national attention. The Royce (aka Roys) Oatman family had left a caravan of dissident Mormons bound for California and was journeying alone on Cooke's Wagon Road. On February 18, the Oatmans were approached by a group of Native Americans seeking tobacco and food. The family was attacked: the events leading to the attack are unclear. All family members were killed except a son, who was left for dead, and two daughters, who were abducted. The daughters were eventually sold by their captors to Mojave Indians living along the lower Colorado River valley. One of the girls died but the other, Olive, lived among the Mojave until the military command at Fort Yuma negotiated her return in 1856. The story of the Oatman family long resonated in the national consciousness through novels, plays, movies, poetry, and Olive's own speeches and memoir (Kroeber 1951; McGinty 2005; Mifflin 2009; Stratton 1857). The prominent tattooing of Olive's face further piqued public interest. The site of the Oatman Incident lies within the proposed national monument boundary, where a sign commemorates the tragedy (Du Shane 2012).

The 1848 international boundary did not long satisfy the need and desire of the United States for an all-weather route to the Pacific. James Gadsden, the U.S. minister to Mexico, negotiated the purchase of lands south of the Gila River from a government desperate for cash. The United States paid Mexico $10 million for more than 29 million acres, establishing the present international border. The entire Great Bend of the Gila officially became part of the U.S. Territory of New Mexico. With the ratification of the Gadsden Treaty in 1854, the expansion of the American frontier was complete (Figures 3.8-3.9) (Garber 1959; Weber 1982).

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Figure 3.8. This ornamental map celebrates the U.S. victory over Mexico and the country's expansion to the Pacific Ocean (from Ensigns & Thayer 1848). At this time, much of what is now Arizona, ceded by Mexico under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, was subsumed under New California. The Gila River, dividing New California from the Mexican state of Sonora, became the new international boundary. The proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument straddles this former political boundary.

THE AMERICAN ERA (1854–Present)

The ink was barely dry on the Gadsden Treaty when the federal government took steps to learn about its vast new tract of land. Parties were sent to explore possible routes for a transcontinental railroad. Money was appropriated to survey, mark, and improve wagon roads. In 1857–1859, James B. Leach was assigned to work on the El Paso-Fort Yuma Wagon Road. Leach's Wagon Road, as it came to be known, diverged from Cooke's Wagon Road in southeastern Arizona, but closely followed the earlier route from Maricopa Wells westward. The Great Bend of the Gila formed an integral part of the improved road (Wagoner 1975; Walker and Bufkin 1986).

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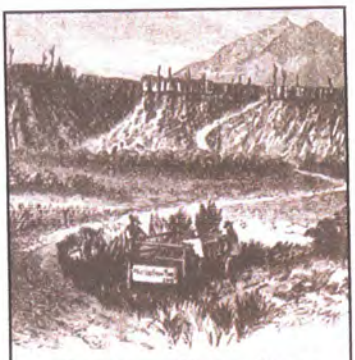
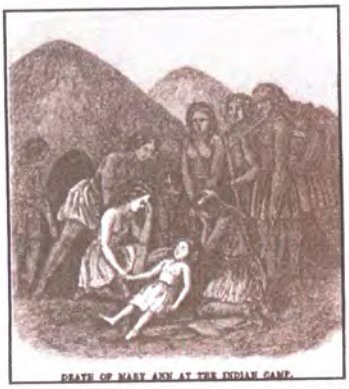
The Oatman Family

The Oatman Incident of 1851 captured headlines from coast to coast. The conflict took place on the edge of Oatman Flat, just above the floodplain of the Gila River, and resulted in the deaths of Royce and Mary Oatman and four of their children. The bodies were eventually buried in 1854 on the floodplain below (illustrated at top right, from J. Ross Browne's [1869] *Adventures in Apache Country*). Lorenzo (age 15), Olive (age 14), and Mary Ann Oatman (age 7) were the sole survivors. Lorenzo was left for dead, whereas Olive and Mary Ann were taken captive and a year later sold to a band of Mojave Indians on the Colorado River. Both girls were tattooed on their chins, a Mojave custom. Several years later, Mary Ann succumbed to starvation during a severe drought and famine (illustrated at bottom right, from Royal Stratton's [1857] *Captivity of the Oatman Girls*). Olive was returned to the U.S. Army at Fort Yuma in 1856, at age 19. The iconic photograph at left, taken in 1857, shows a 20-year-old Olive Oatman caught between two worlds; she's garbed in Victorian dress yet courageously bears tattoos from her life among the Mojave. Olive eventually married John Fairchild and settled in Sherman, Texas. Olive Oatman-Fairchild passed away on March 30, 1903, at the age of 65. (Photograph of Olive Oatman courtesy of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University.)



GRAVE OF THE OATMAN FAMILY



DEATH OF MARY ANN AT THE INDIAN CAMP.

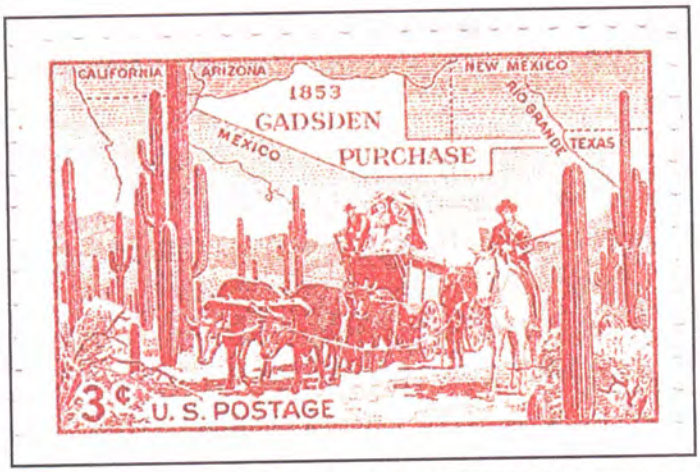


Figure 3.9. This 3-cent postage stamp, issued on December 30, 1953, commemorates the centenary of the Gadsden Purchase. The massive land deal cost the United States a mere $10 million, but it settled a range of boundary disputes with Mexico and finalized the country's westward expansion. (Image courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service.)

Leach's Wagon Road quickly became a resource of strategic importance to the nation and its new territory. The road made emigration across the desert easier and helped the federal government strengthen its hold on the Southwest. Communications were vital to the development of the new lands. The Gadsden Purchase received its first regular and reliable link

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Hi Jolly's Camels

"Hi Jolly," an emigrant of Greek and either Turkish or Syrian descent, was not the real name of this Muslim pioneer but it was what Americans could pronounce. Some say Ali al-Hajaya took the name Hadji Ali early in life after making a religious pilgrimage to Mecca. He was working for the Ottoman Empire as a breeder and trainer of camels when the U.S. government recruited him to be a camel driver for the U.S. Camel Corps, an experiment using camels as pack animals in the desert Southwest (Fowler 1950). The camels and their drivers were imported on the orders of Jefferson Davis, then U.S. Secretary of War.

Lieutenant Edward F. Beale, a veteran of the U.S.-Mexican War, used the Camel Corps in 1857 to survey a wagon road from Texas to California (Lesley 1970). The route began in Camp Verde, Texas, went up the Rio Grande to Albuquerque, and followed approximately the 35th parallel through Arizona into California.

The Beale Road was extensively used from 1858 to 1883, helping unite the East and West. The camel experiment, however, was considered a failure. The large, alien animals were said to cause panic among the Army's burros, horses, and mules. The camels' feet did poorly on volcanic soils. Mounting tensions of the impending Civil War made Congress reluctant to continue funding the experiment.

Most of the camels were auctioned at Benicia, California, in 1864, and at Camp Verde, Texas, in 1866, but Hadji Ali kept a few of them (Frangos 2005). He used the beasts to carry freight between the lower Colorado River and Tucson and to surrounding mines. When the freighting business failed, Ali released the camels into the Arizona desert near Gila Bend.

William Fourr's memoir tells about the fate of some of the auctioned camels (Fourr 1935). While running the stage station at Oatman Flat, Fourr met a Muslim porter who was using between 16 and 30 camels to haul water between Yuma and Tucson. The porter, who Fourr contends was not Hadji Ali, had purchased the camels from the government; they were likely some of the camels auctioned after the failed Camel Corps experiment. However, like Hadji Ali, after one trip up the Gila, the porter released the camels near Gila Bend. Sightings of camels in southern Arizona continued for many years.

After his involvement with the U.S. Camel Corps, Hi Jolly took up prospecting, and continued to be a familiar presence among the frontier towns along the lower Gila River. The U.S. Army continued to intermittently employ Hi Jolly as a mule packer, guide, and scout until 1870 (Frangos 2005). His whereabouts are then unknown until 1880, when he was once again employed by the Army (Frangos 2005). At this time, Hadji Ali began to assert his Greek name, Philip Tedro, and in the same year, he married Gertrudis Serna of Tucson (photo top right; courtesy of the University of North Texas and the Marfa Public Library). The couple soon had three children: Amelia, Herminia, and Fernando (Al-Ahari 2015; Frangos 2005). While in Tucson, Philip Tedro once again worked for the Army, this time as a packer or Indian Scout at Fort Huachuca during the Geronimo campaign. In 1889, Tedro left his family in Tucson and resumed life as a prospector in the mountains around the Great Bend of the Gila. Tedro died on December 16, 1902, while walking the desolate desert road between the Colorado River and Wickenburg. Hadji Ali/Philip Tedro was buried in the town cemetery in Quartzite. In 1934, the Arizona State Highway Department erected a pyramidal monument over his grave topped by a copper camel weathervane (photo at left; courtesy of Jeremy Butler). Some of the boulders in the monument bear pre-Hispanic petroglyphs, and a vault was placed in the monument's base. It allegedly contains some personal letters, his government contracts, and a few coins that was all the money Tedro had to his name. It also contains the ashes of 80-year-old Topsy, the last camel from the original herd that had died that same year at Los Angeles' Garfield Zoo.

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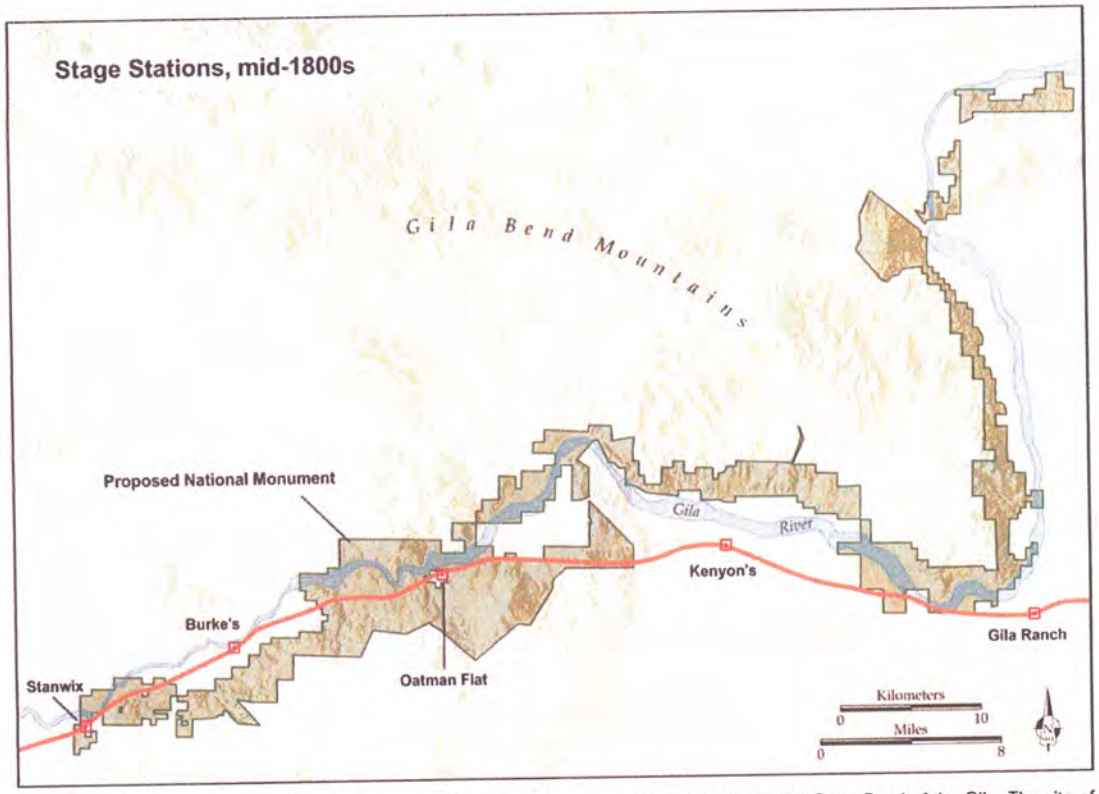
to the outer world in 1857, when the San Antonio & San Diego Mail Line, nicknamed "the Jackass Mail," began using Leach's Wagon Road. Then, in 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail Company started service along the route. Butterfield established stage stations where horses and people could find rest, food, and water. Five such stations were located within or immediately adjacent to the boundary of the proposed GBGNM (Map 3.7). They were called, from east to west: Gila Ranch (aka Tezotal), Kinyon's (aka Murderer's Grave), Oatman Flat, Burk's, and Stanwix (aka Flap-Jack Ranch) (Figure 3.10) (Ahnert 2011; Conkling and Conkling 1947; Wagoner 1975; Wright and Bynum 1942).

Stanwix stage station and Leach's Wagon Road played notable roles in the Civil War. In the spring of 1862, Confederate Captain Sherod Hunter marched from the Rio Grande to Tucson, where he was hailed by a majority of Southern sympathizers. He built on his success by sending a platoon of mounted rangers down the Gila to dispose of wheat at former Butterfield stations he believed would be used by Union troops advancing from California. On March 29 at Stanwix, the Confederate rangers encountered two Union vedettes (mounted sentinels). The Rebels took aim, injuring Private William Semmilrogge of Company A, First California Cavalry. The wounded private and his comrade rode for help without returning



Map 3.7. Several stage stations along the Butterfield Overland Stage Line were located along the Great Bend of the Gila. The site of Stanwix stage station, at far left, is on land within the boundary of the proposed national monument.

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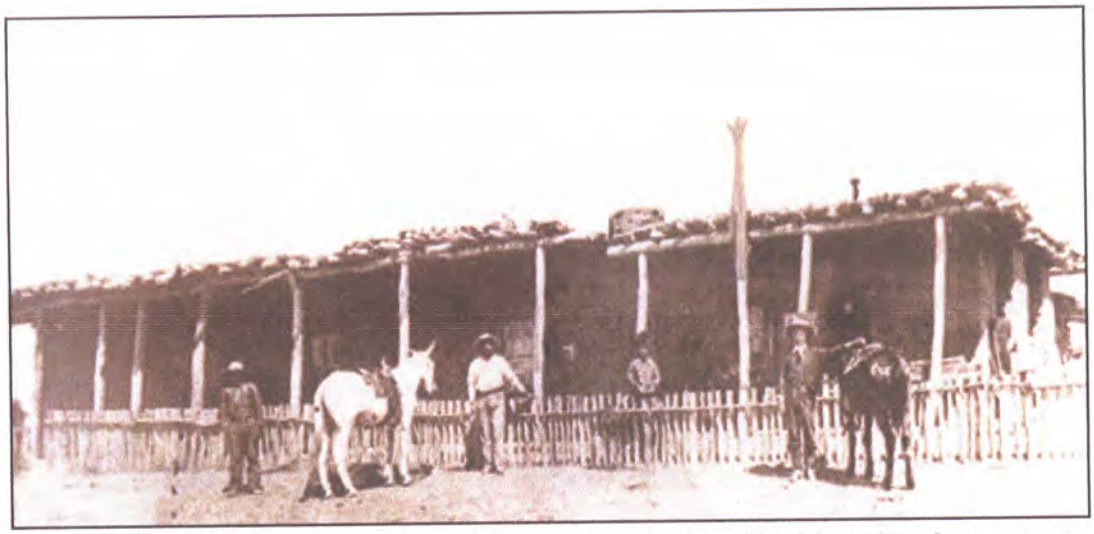

Figure 3.10. Stanwix stage station (aka Flap-Jack Ranch and Grinnell's Station), just west of Sears Point in Yuma County, was a stop along the Butterfield Overland Stage Line. It was also the site of the westernmost skirmish of the Civil War, between the Union's California Column and a detachment of Confederate troops out of Tucson. It later served as a repair station for the U.S. military telegraph in the 1870s. The site of Stanwix stage station in within the boundary of the proposed national monument. (Photograph courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society.)

fire. Hunter's men meanwhile beat a hasty retreat when they realized they had encountered an advance guard of Colonel James H. Carleton's California Column. Leach's Wagon Road would become one of the routes used by the Column to wrest New Mexico Territory from the grip of the South. The incident at Stanwix stage station would mark the westernmost skirmish of the Civil War (Horn & Wallace 1961; Masich 2006; Wagoner 1975).

Confederate interest in Arizona and the discovery of gold there spurred Congress to create Arizona as a territory separate from New Mexico. The Union badly needed gold to finance its war effort and was anxious that the mineral wealth of Arizona not fall into enemy hands. While the Confederates envisioned a new territory that would comprise New Mexico and Arizona south of the 34th parallel, the Union chose to divide the two territories vertically, approximately along the 109th meridian. President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill creating the Arizona Territory on February 24, 1863 (Wagoner 1975; Walker and Bufkin 1986).

A state of near lawlessness settled over the Great Bend in the years immediately following the Civil War. As stage service and emigration resumed, Euro-American entrepreneurs acquired former Butterfield stations, turning them into outposts where travelers could restock supplies. King S. Woolsey, a notorious Indian fighter, owned Stanwix stage station. Billy Fourr owned Oatman Flat, and Edward Lumley and John Murphy jointly held Kinyon's (by then called Kenyon's). Fourr hired Lumley and Murphy to move the wagon road so that it would pass by Fourr's newly erected station house. Fourr then operated that section as a toll road. Emigrants did not know of the arrangement until they reached the area and had to

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pay the fee. Disputes became common. Fourr could show travelers his legislative license to collect tolls, but sometimes found that his double-barreled shotgun offered a more expedient solution (Du Shane 2012; Fourr 1935; Smith 2006).

Despite gaining territorial status in 1863, much of Arizona remained tierra incognita, a vast expanse of largely unexplored country. In those formative years, news and military orders were conveyed slowly over rutted roads and desolate trails by runners and wagons. Word from Prescott, the territorial capital, to Los Angeles took at least seven days, and newspapers mailed from Saint Louis to Tucson took two to three weeks to arrive. Arizona Territory was truly part of a wild and sometimes lawless West. For example, on August 18, 1873, Edward Lumley was murdered and robbed at his Kenyon Station. His assailants fled down the Gila River, where one of them (Lucas Lugas) was shot and killed, and the other (Manuel Subiate) was injured and arrested. While Subiate was being transported under sheriff's custody along the wagon road, a group of vigilantes stopped the stagecoach, took the prisoner, and hanged him from a mesquite tree near the spot where he had killed Lumley (Smith 2006).

Arizona's landscape of lawlessness and vigilante justice ended with the arrival of the military telegraph (Rue 1967). When Lieutenant Colonel George Crook, of the U.S. Army's 23rd Infantry, assumed command of the Department of Arizona in 1871, he immediately undertook improvements to the territory's meager military infrastructure. With a campaign soon underway to subjugate the Yavapai, Crook, a Civil War veteran who had subsequently developed a reputation as a successful Indian fighter in the Pacific Northwest, saw the telegraph as a way to overcome Native American resistance. He lobbied for and received authorization and funding from the War Department for a telegraph linking the Arizona Territory to the rest of the country. Originally estimated to cost approximately $150,000, the War Department sought to cut costs by relying on military transport and labor. The wire line was planned and erected by the Quartermaster Corps of the Division of the Pacific. It extended from Los Angeles to San Diego, then turned east passing through Yuma on its course to Maricopa Wells; from there it split into lines serving both Prescott and Tucson. The corps chose this route, in part, because of the availability of cottonwood trees (for poles) and the existing wagon roads along the lower Gila River.

The first pole was raised on August 8, 1873, in San Diego, and on November 18, Prescott was finally linked to the transcontinental telegraph, followed by Tucson on December 2. The new line cost merely $47,557.97, covered 540 miles, required 9,820 poles, and took just 97 days to build (Rue 1967). Completed under budget and before deadline, "Crook's project" was hailed as a success, and on October 29 the lieutenant colonel was promoted to brigadier general (skipping the rank of colonel), weeks before the line was finished. However, complaints of shoddy craftsmanship using inferior supplies soon surfaced, and the need for a

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constant stream of repairs became apparent as early as December 1873, barely a month after completion. Soon, a repairman, John T. Gifford, was housed at Stanwix stage station and was paid $100/month plus room and board to maintain a large stretch between Gila Bend and Yuma (Rue 1967).

Stressed by the price tag of operation and maintenance, neither of which were budgeted in the original appropriation, control of the line switched from the Quartermaster Corps to the Signal Corps in July 1874. Nonetheless, by 1882, the military telegraph line through Arizona Territory had been largely phased out as the arrival of the railroad and the commercial telegraph line accompanying it came on the scene (Rue 1967).

In 1879, the Southern Pacific Railroad reached the Great Bend (Orsi 2005). A new settlement called Gila Bend sprouted near the tracks about 3 miles southwest of the Gila Ranch stage station. The transcontinental carrier used a largely Chinese work force to lay tracks across the desert south of the Gila River. Railroad officials claimed that Anglos could not work in the extreme heat, but the real reason for the use of Chinese laborers was that they could be paid lower wages. Once the tracks were laid, some of the Asian sojourners remained behind to work as cooks, waiters, gardeners, miners, section hands, and entrepreneurs. Some stayed permanently, contributing to the ethnic mix of newcomers to the Gadsden Purchase area (Fong 1980; Sheridan 1995; Wilson 2014).

If the transcontinental railroad carried new populations to the Great Bend, it was perceived opportunities that drew them. Two pieces of federal legislation particularly appealed to potential settlers: the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Desert Land Act of 1877. These acts (and their amendments) made it possible for heads-of-households, or persons at least 21 years of age, to acquire land by making improvements to it. Pioneers pursuing the dream of nearly free land helped settle and populate the Great Bend communities of Gila Bend, Arlington, Palo Verde, and Buckeye (Meck 2007; Murray 2012). Because it was one of the few ways to acquire land cheaply, homesteading appealed to a broad cross section of America, especially to people of disadvantaged backgrounds. One such person was Warren Goode, an African-American sharecropper from Oklahoma (Stein 2009). Goode's son, Calvin, would later become the second African-American elected to the Phoenix City Council, where he was instrumental in getting the city and state to recognize Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Schemers joined the dreamers. By the 1870s, speculators envisioned making the Great Bend desert an agricultural mecca by bringing irrigation water to it. Just as it was for Hohokam and Patayan farmers in prior centuries, American pioneers in southern Arizona had to tap the Gila's life-giving waters to raise enough food to support their fledgling frontier communities. Nowhere was this more precarious than along the river's lower stretch, from the Great Bend to its mouth at the Colorado River.

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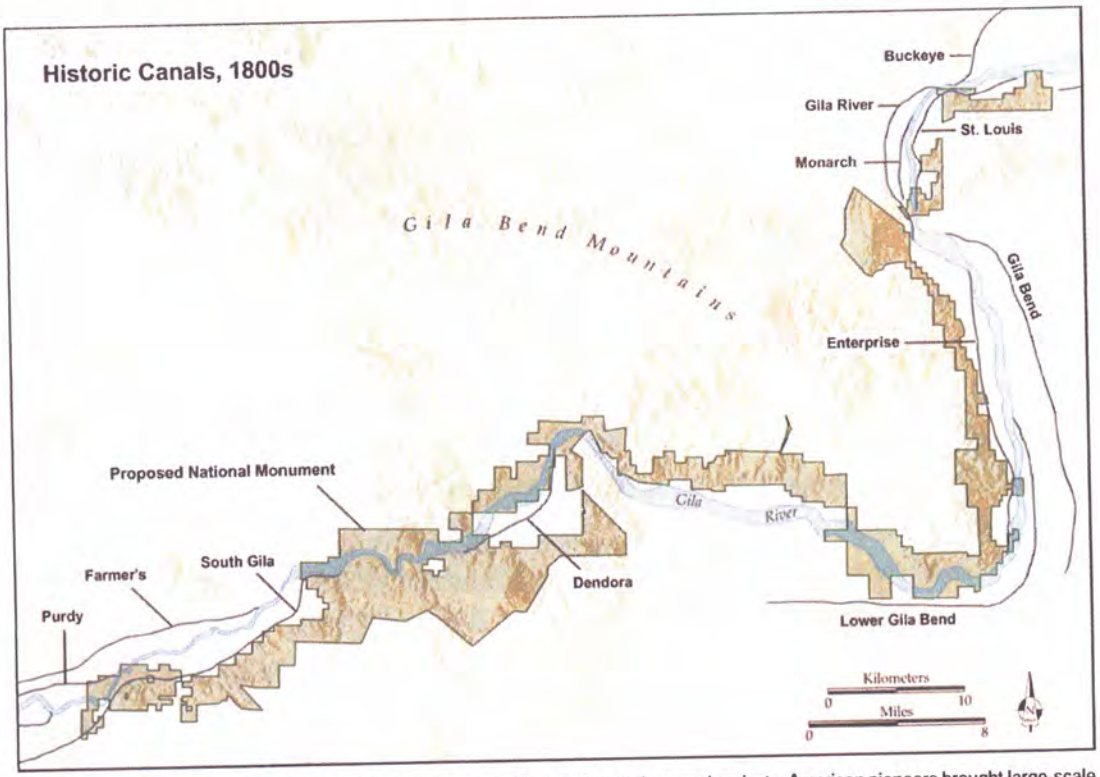
Records from the nineteenth century are sparse and vague, but government reports document at least 15 pre-twentieth century canals between Buckeye and Palomas, the two frontier communities that bracket the proposed GBGNM (Map 3.8) (Davis 1897; Newell 1894; Olberg 1923; Southworth 1919). These early canals include the Contreras, Purdy, Farmers' (aka Palomas), South Gila, and Dendora canals between the Painted Rock Mountains and the proposed monument's western edge; the Citrus, Papago (aka the Anderson Canal or Farmer's Ditch), and the Lower Gila Bend (aka Riverside or Palmer) canals around the town of Gila Bend; the Enterprise and Gila Bend (aka East River or Peoria) canals just below the Gillespie Dam; and the Gila River, Monarch, Arlington, St. Louis, and Buckeye canals between the towns of Arlington and Buckeye.

Most of the early irrigation projects along the lower Gila amounted to little more than a few miles of shallow ditches; rarely was an actual diversion dam erected. However, the Gila was so inconsistent that, without dams or pumps, the canals would flow only after floods. Several dams were raised, but torrential floods would wash them out and fill the canals with mud and silt. Rehabilitation of the canals was an annual ritual, done mostly so that farmers



Map 3.8. More than 400 years after the Hohokam walked away from their massive canal projects, American pioneers brought large-scale canal irrigation back to southern Arizona. By the early 1870s, successful canal systems had been operating near Phoenix and Yuma. Soon after, similar operations were planned along the Great Bend of the Gila, and by the 1880s, a number of attempts were underway (as shown here, based on information in Newell [1894] and Southworth [1919]). A significant portion of one of these, the South Gila Canal, falls within the boundary of the proposed national monument.

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The Gillespie Dam

Built between 1919 and 1921 at a cost of $1.6 million, the Gillespie Dam tamed the powerful floodwaters of the lower Gila River (Stein 2011). By providing flood protection and a stable supply of irrigating waters, the dam and associated modifications to the Gila Bend Canal system succeeded where nearly 40 years of prior, half-hearted attempts failed. The dam also functioned as a river crossing for the Arizona segment of the Dixie Overland Highway (later renamed U.S. Highway 80). In the early years, automobiles crossed via the dam's concrete apron, and during spillovers, trucks were used to haul caravans of smaller vehicles through the waters (pictured at left; courtesy of Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records: No. 98-2339 and 98-2645).

With the onset of the federal highway system, in 1926, the Arizona State Highway Department funded construction of a steel truss bridge below the Gillespie Dam (shown below; photograph by Henry Wallace). Finished in 1927, with a price tag of approximately $320,000, the Gillespie Dam Bridge continued the Great Bend's legacy as a travel and transport corridor well into the twentieth century. The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 (Davidson 2011; Jones et al. 2006). Although neither the bridge nor the dam are within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM, they span the river between the Gila Bend Mountains and the Buckeye Hills, symbolically bridging these two parcels of the proposed GBGNM (Map. 2.1).

could maintain their shares in these "franchises" and any future prosperity they may bring. As a result, many of the early irrigation projects never actually operated and were eventually abandoned.

It took an Oklahoma oilman and a wartime market for cotton to bring successful large-scale irrigation to the Great Bend. Between 1916 and 1920, Frank Gillespie amassed large

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tracts of land, acquired the holdings of previous canal companies, redesigned the Gila Bend Canal, and built a dam that actually held water. The system began irrigating the Great Bend in the early 1920s, and, with occasional modification, has remained functional into the twenty-first century (Stein 2011).

Native Americans fared poorly as their traditional territory gained agricultural value. The federal government responded to the worsening plight of Native Americans by creating reservations that both defined and delimited their traditional lands. Thus, in 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed an executive order creating the Gila Bend Indian Reservation for the Papago (now the Tohono O'odham). The reservation contained more than 22,400 acres. However, by the early 1900s, non-Indian settlers began agitating for greater access to valley land. President William A. Taft became convinced that the initial Gila Bend reservation was too large, and in 1909, he reduced its size to 10,297 acres. The 1909 action meant that an O'odham village called Si:l Mekk no longer fell within the reservation boundary. Some people left the village, while others chose to remain there (Fontana 1999; Laurenzi 2013; McIntyre 2008; Murray 2012).

In the 1960s, the Army Corps of Engineers built the Painted Rock Dam to provide flood control for the lower Gila River. The water impound area jeopardized Si:l Mekk and most of the remaining reservation. The federal government therefore set aside a 40-acre tract, next to the town of Gila Bend, where some of the Si:l Mekk residents agreed to move. However, they insisted that a cultural resource of prime importance be relocated with them: their church. Villagers walked behind the St. Lucy Church as it made the slow and fragile journey to its new home. They named the new community San Lucy Village. The church remains the heart of that community (Figure 3.11) (Laurenzi 2013).

CONCLUSION

The Great Bend of the Gila is, and always has been, a frontier into which many diverse cultural traditions spread, each of which contributed something unique to the region's cultural landscape. The histories of these traditions—San Dieguito, Clovis/Folsom, Amargosa, Cochise, Hohokam, Patayan, O'odham, Pee Posh, Spanish, Mexican, and American—come together in the valleys of the Great Bend of the Gila; at times they have collided, but more often they have coalesced in fascinating and unpredictable ways, ways that inspire and speak to us to this day with tales of ingenuity and multiculturalism unique to the American West.

Today, agriculture is still the main economic activity of the Great Bend. New enterprises have come, and some gone, in modern times. In the age of the automobile, Gila Bend became

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Figure 3.11. The Saint Lucy Church stands as a pillar of San Lucy Village, a district of the Tohono O'odham Nation. This religious edifice once stood at the historic village of Si:l Mekk, but when the community was forced to relocate in response to rising waters from the Painted Rock Reservoir, they brought the church with them. Many community members remember participating in the procession that brought the church to the new village, as well as the difficult feelings the relocation inflicted. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

a crossroads for U.S. highways 80, 84, and 85, earning the moniker "Fan Belt Capital of the World." The unlikely desert activity of shrimp farming gained traction: hatcheries produce food, fertilizer, and biofuels. A solar energy plant has developed in the lower reaches of the Great Bend. A state prison occupies some acreage upstream. These modern industries are curiously—and have so far been carefully—woven into a landscape rich in ancient and historical cultural resources. Foresight will be needed to ensure the cultural resources of the Great Bend survive as unique, irreplaceable national treasures.

Because the Great Bend's cultural resources preserve key elements of its ancient, historical, and modern cultural landscape, they have substantial potential for future research into how people of very different backgrounds and technologies faced common challenges in one of the world's driest and hottest environments. In fact, some of the best preserved evidence of some of the least understood cultural and historical aspects of Southwest, especially the Patayan tradition, is concentrated within the boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument. As the following pages detail, much of what remains are truly world-class resources that instill profound senses of awe, wonder, and national pride in just about anyone who is fortunate enough to experience them. These fragile cultural resources stand as tangible vestiges of the deep history of this amazing landscape, and they encourage people to experience and connect with the Great Bend's unique chapters in the nation's story.

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CHAPTER 4

THE RICH CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PROPOSED GREAT BEND OF THE GILA NATIONAL MONUMENT

The lower Gila River is a formidable landscape, but the legacy of human struggle, triumph, and, ultimately, cultural florescence in one of the most austere environments on earth is just one element in the tale of the river's Great Bend. The Great Bend of the Gila has been a cultural frontier since people first set foot in its valleys and mountains more than 12,000 years ago. Frontiers arise between regions that exhibit relatively homogenous cultural traditions, areas social scientists tend to consider heartlands. They are transitional cultural landscapes where social rules, norms, and identities may not mirror those of communities in the differing, and perhaps competing, heartlands. As a result, frontiers are places where social and political boundaries form, cultures overlap, and people either conflict—sometimes quite violently—or learn to live together peacefully (Green and Perlman 1985; Lewis 1984). Instances of all of this are found in the human stories of the Great Bend.

The Great Bend of the Gila has long been a frontier, first between cultural heartlands to the east and west for thousands of years, and most recently between empires and national governments to the north and south. Therefore, what makes the Great Bend unique and remarkable is that this frontier landscape boasts an incredibly deep history of multiculturalism. Equally amazing is the fact that this deep history—and the lessons and values we can draw from it—are quite tangible and highly visible among the cultural resources preserved on the landscape. However, there have been few professional, legally mandated, mitigation-related cultural resource surveys of the lands within the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument (GBGNM), so a comprehensive inventory is not currently available. Though current inventories are incomplete, we do know that most of the cultural resources are extremely fragile because they lie unburied and thus exposed on the ground surface.

Even though many of the Great Bend's cultural resources have evaded the level of professional attention directed at many other places in the state, records at the Arizona State Museum (ASM), the state's official repository for cultural resource site files, attest to an incredibly rich and diverse assemblage. These records show that as of August 2015, less than 13

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percent of the lands (circa 10,627 acres) within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM have been systematically surveyed to professional standards. The museum, nevertheless, holds information on 247 archaeological and historical sites on BLM-administered land within the proposed monument area. Extrapolating this figure to the unsurveyed regions suggests there may be upwards of 1,900 sites within the boundary of the proposed national monument. State records attribute the area's cultural resources to Archaic, Hohokam, Patayan, Yavapai, Hopi, O'odham, and historic Euro-American traditions. This relatively small sample clearly demonstrates the breadth of cultural diversity materialized in the resources within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM.

To represent the diversity of cultural resources on BLM-administered lands within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM, Table 4.1 summarizes the types of archaeological and historical features among the sites listed in the ASM records. However, due to a lack of modern and professional archaeological attention as noted above, a comprehensive tally of what actually resides within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM awaits further study. Nevertheless, because many of the Great Bend's cultural resources are so impressive—indeed world-class—a fair amount of general information is known about them, including those that have yet to be officially documented. Despite the limited amount of surveyed lands, it is clear that there is an abundance of cultural resources within the proposed national monument, the vast majority of which are nationally significant. Of the 247 documented archaeological and historical sites that have had their significance professionally assessed, 93 percent are considered or have been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two places—the Sears Point Archaeological District and the Painted Rocks—are already listed on the NRHP. The national significance of the proposed GBGNM, however, is not just in the number of sites on or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

One of the ways in which the cultural resources of the Great Bend of the Gila are unique is how they are tied to the immediate landscape—in particular, the way rock art and geoglyphs adorn the ancient lava flows of the Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field and other landforms, how ancient and historic canals course across the braided river floodplain, and the manners in which pre-Hispanic villages and forts stretch from summits to the valley floor. It is this intricate relationship between the natural landscape and the cultural resources that makes the significance and value of the Great Bend's cultural landscape greater than the sum of its constituent resources. The following sections closely examine the types of cultural resources within the boundary of the proposed national monument that make the Great Bend such a truly remarkable, one-of-a-kind landscape.

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Table 4.1. Cultural resources within the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

Pre-Hispanic Villages and Farms	Pre-Hispanic Resource Gathering Locales
• Prehistoric Trash Mounds	• Bedrock Grinding Features
• Human Cremation Areas	• Hearths/Roasting Pits
• Agricultural Terraces	• Artifact Scatters
• Masonry Structures	• Rockshelters
• Prehistoric Canals	• Clearings
• Ballcourts	• Quarries
• Pithouses	• Trails
Pre-Hispanic Ritual and Ceremonial Sites	**Historic Homesteading, Ranching, and Mining**
• Rock Piles (shrines)	• Structure/Buildings
• Rock Alignments	• Wagon Roads
• Rock Art Panels	• Stock Tanks
• Rock Rings	• Log Cabins
• Geoglyphs	• Canals
	• Corrals
	• Fences
	• Mines
	• Wells

ROCK ART

One of the clearest signatures of the overlap and admixture of ancient cultural traditions within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM is found in the famous rock art written upon the walls of the valleys and mountains. Geometric and representational images have accumulated over years into great galleries lining the river's terraces. A complete inventory of the region's rock art has never been attempted; however, if we extrapolate from the few small surveys that have been conducted, an estimated 100,000 petroglyphs likely occur along this stretch of the river, with perhaps 75 percent falling within the boundary of the proposed national monument. This far surpasses the amount of rock art, in terms of quantity and density, found in most other regions in North America, including Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico (Map 4.1).

The curious symbols scattered about the dark rocks lining the river valleys of the Great Bend of the Gila are some of the longest known archaeological resources in the American Southwest. The earliest account can be found in the journal of eighteenth century Spanish Jesuit missionary Jacobo Sedelmayr (Dunne 1955), who described the area's rock art as "painted" (Figure 4.1). Archaeologists refer to painted rock art as "pictographs," and although

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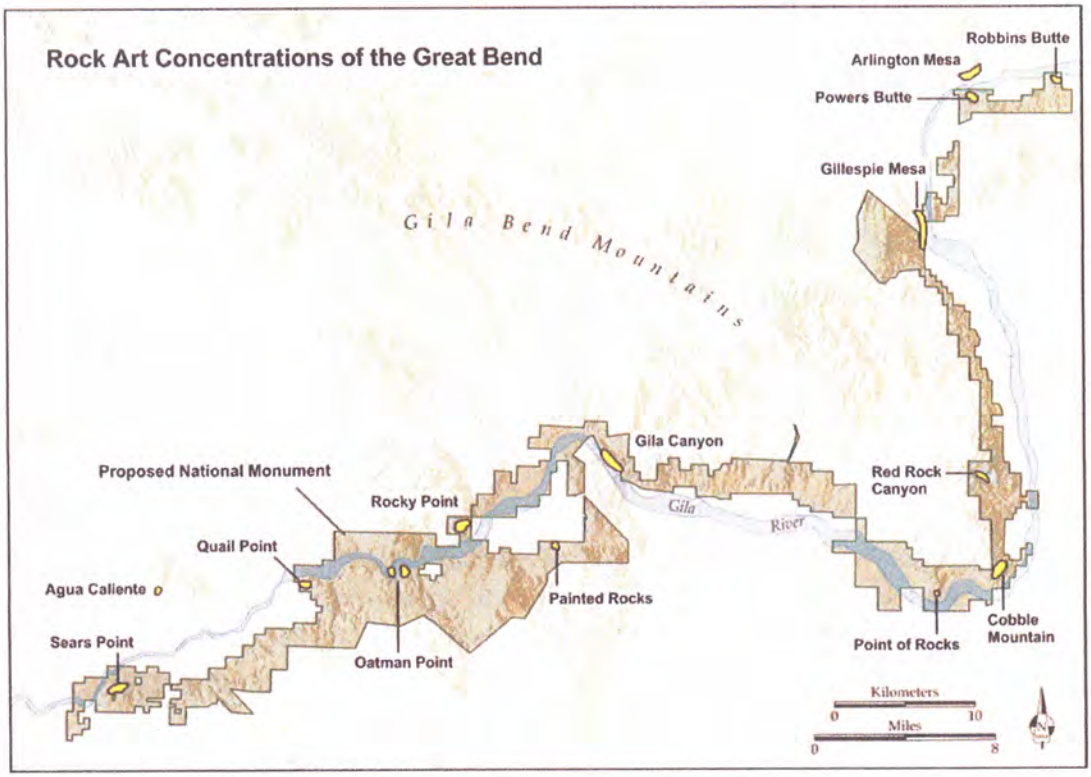

Map 4.1. Large rock art clusters along the Great Bend of the Gila.

highly prone to erosion, a few pictographs are still found in the area today (Childress and Phifer 1997; Mark and Billo 2016). Petroglyphs are images that were cut, scratched, abraded, or pecked into the rock. Petroglyphs, some of which were probably once painted as well, are the predominant type of rock art around the Great Bend. Sedelmayr and many subsequent explorers and travelers down the lower Gila took notes on what they saw and what they believed these images meant or told. A common interpretation was that the symbols relate war stories or enshrine peace treaties among warring communities of Yuman and O'odham speakers. We now know that much of the area's rock art predates such intertribal conflict, and that at least four cultural traditions are represented by the petroglyphs and pictographs.

The oldest rock art around the Great Bend conforms to what researchers call the Western Archaic Tradition, a petroglyph style attributed to the Archaic cultural traditions of the area (Figures 4.2-4.3) (Hedges 1982; Hedges and Hamann 1993; Thiel 1995; Wallace 1989; Wallace and Holmlund 1986). From what is known, Western Archaic rock art consists mainly of deeply executed abstract shapes and tend to be found, if not exclusively, on prominent rock faces in open settings. Because it is so rare and little studied, it is unclear whether regional and cultural variability exists within this broadly shared Western Archaic Tradition, and assigning its authorship to either an Amargosa or Cochise cultural tradition is not yet possible. Further

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Figure 4.1. When Father Jacobo Sedelmayr traveled through the area in the 1740s, he noted many "painted" designs upon the rocks, as opposed to the numerous engraved petroglyphs for which the area is known. This red pictograph was recently discovered at Quail Point and is one of the only known painted designs along the lower Gila River. Only faint traces of the red pigment are visible to the unaided eye, but enhancement with digital image editing software (as done here) reveals an intricate geometric pattern of likely Patayan manufacture. Advances in technology continue to add to our knowledge of the area and reframe our understanding of the region's past. (Photograph by Robert Mark.)

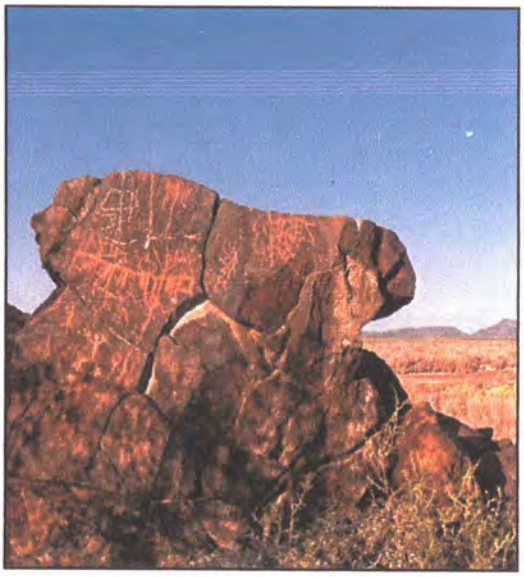

Figure 4.2. The orange, abstract petroglyph designs on this prominent rock exposure at Quail Point, AZ Y:4:2 (ASM), are a rare occurrence of Archaic rock art in the region. Several younger, lighter-colored designs are superimposed over the Archaic glyphs. The color differences are due to variable thicknesses of desert varnish, which grows slowly across rock surfaces. The amount of desert varnish is a clue to the petroglyphs' antiquity. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Figure 4.3. This boulder exhibits a heavily varnished circular petroglyph of likely Archaic origin surrounded by younger Hohokam designs. The relationship between Archaic and Hohokam rock art is not well understood. Hohokam petroglyph artisans continued to depict some Archaic designs in their work. In this case, the younger Hohokam rock art incorporated the older Archaic glyph into a new scene, thereby altering both the panel and likely meaning of the imagery. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

research is also needed to more accurately date this early rock art. The Archaic cultural traditions spanned many thousands of years, and some of the Great Bend's rock art may be equally as old. Paleoindian rock art has been recently discovered in the desert regions in western North America, and its presence in the Great Bend area is plausible.

Most of the rock art within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM was created by Patayan and Hohokam farmers who took up residence in the river's valleys after A.D. 500 (Figures 4.4-4.5). This later rock art differs from its Archaic predecessor in that it is found in both open and secluded settings and incorporates a wide assortment of symbols not present before, including an abundance of animal and

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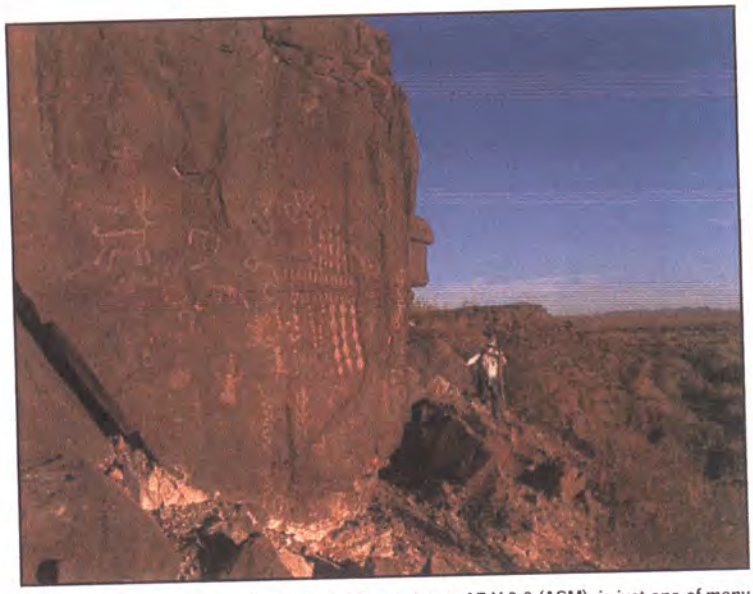

Figure 4.4. This large petroglyph panel at Sears Point, AZ Y:3:6 (ASM), is just one of many lining the edge of the Sentinel Lava Field, just above and visible from the Gila River floodplain below. These glyphs are thought to be of Patayan manufacture, but the animal designs bear strong affinities to those crafted by the Hohokam further upstream. Rock art such as this has much to teach about the history and cultural identities of the area's ancient residents. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Figure 4.5. At Hummingbird Point, AZ-055-2733 (BLM), this boulder and its highly figurative and unique bird petroglyph—for which the landform is named—are situated high above the river's floodplain and are visible to passersby below. The design is presumed to be Patayan in origin, although bird designs are well documented among Hohokam petroglyphs in the Phoenix Basin. (Photograph by Aaron Wright.)

human imagery (Figures 4.6-4.11) (Bostwick 2002; Schaafsma 1980; Wallace and Holmlund 1986; Wright 2014). Gila style petroglyphs, attributed to the Hohokam, dominate in the eastern portion of the proposed national monument boundary, whereas Patayan style imagery predominates below the Painted Rock Mountains (Doolittle 2000; Hedges and Hamann 1992, 1994, 1995; Wallace 1989; Weaver et al. 2012). These two styles have much in common, which, as with similarities in Hohokam and lower Colorado decorated buffware pottery, shows considerable sharing in technology and symbolism between the two cultural traditions. In fact, these styles overlap to a great extent between Sears Point and Oatman Mountain, so much so that some researchers think this brief stretch of the river exhibits a style of rock art (called the Sears Point style) that is so blended and unique that it is distinct from either the Gila or Patayan style (Hedges 2000; Thiel 1995). Some of the symbols unique to the Great Bend's rock art include broken diamonds, shields, and certain renditions of birds (Hedges 2000; Martynec 1989; Wallace 1989; Weaver et al. 2012).

The most recent style of rock art in the area of the Great Bend includes a variety of incredible nineteenth and early twentieth century petroglyphs left by resident Native Americans, as well as Hispanic and Anglo-American travelers along the numerous wagon roads through

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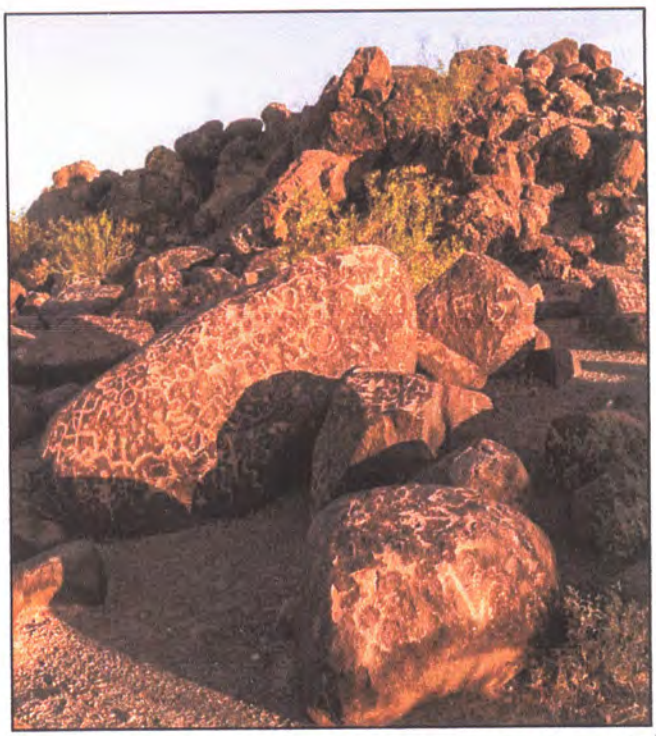

Figure 4.6. This incredibly dense concentration of Hohokam rock art is located at Painted Rock Campground, AZ S:16:1 (ASM), at the northern end of the Painted Rock Mountains. Although the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the rock art and other cultural features have never been fully documented. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

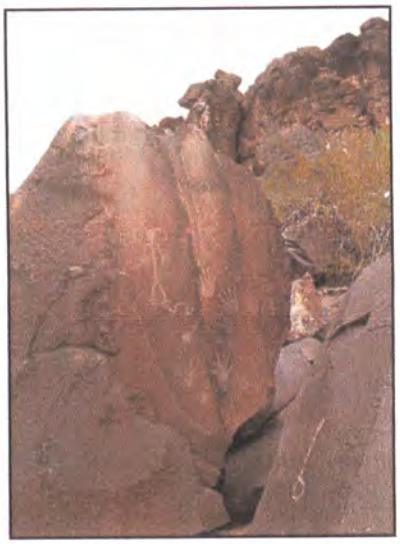

Figure 4.7. This tall panel at Hummingbird Point depicts a large human-like figure, numerous handprints, and several geometric designs. Two curved lines protrude from the human-like figure, possibly representing horns or a headdress. The figure's appendages are also digitated, showing fingers and toes. Digitated appendages on human and animal forms, which are quite rare in Hohokam rock art, seem to be a distinctive stylistic attribute of Patayan rock art along the lower Gila River. (Photograph by Aaron Wright.)

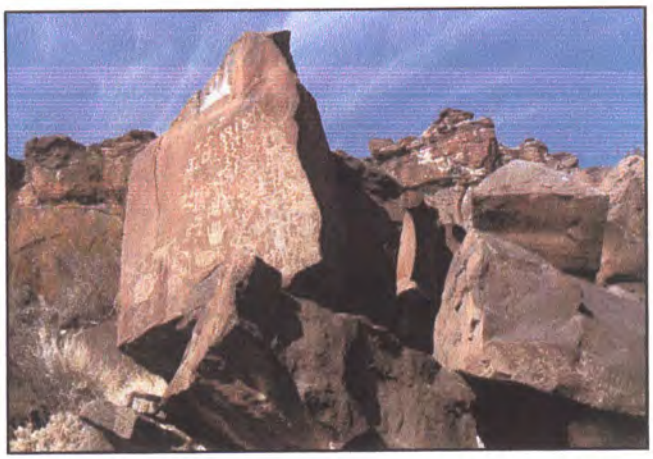

Figure 4.8. Rock art panels along the edges of the Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field tower above the river floodplain. As if it were an ancient billboard, this large panel at Oatman Point broadcasted messages to people as they moved up and down the river valley. The crowded and superimposed composition of the rock art suggests it was incrementally added to over the centuries, most recently in 1916. The handprints and digitated human-like figure are characteristic of the style of rock art found at Oatman and Hummingbird Points. The white stains on the rocks to the right of the panel show that raptorial birds also perch themselves at this high point as they scan the valley floor for food. (Photograph by Aaron Wright.)

the area. Because much of this historic rock art consists of names and dates, it can be assigned to specific people and certain historical events and eras important to the nation's history, such as the Mexican-American War, the California Gold Rush, and the Dust Bowl. The legendary Christopher "Kit" Carson, who guided Kearny's Army of the West down the lower Gila, and members of his party allegedly carved their names at Independence Rock in 1845 (Grandrud 2009; Griffen 1942:214; see also Johnston 1848:

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Figure 4.9. The remoteness of the Great Bend of the Gila from urban centers provides tranquility and minimal light pollution at night. This panel at Sears Point displays a juxtaposition of animal, human, and geometric elements. The vertical lines with alternating attached lobes have been referred to as "decorated staffs" (Weaver et al. 2012); however, what they may symbolize remains to be determined. Nearly 50 decorated staff designs have been recorded at Sears Point (Weaver et al. 2012:Figure 6.1), but they are rarely, if ever, found at other places along the lower Gila. They are part of the corpus of rock art symbols unique to the area within and around the proposed GBGNM. (Photograph by Elias Butler.)

Figure 4.10. This large petroglyph panel at Oatman Point contains many designs that may be diagnostic of the area's unique style. (Photograph by Aaron Wright.)

Figure 4.11. Much of the rock art around the Great Bend of the Gila adorns the cliff faces of ancient lava flows lining the river corridor. The Hohokam placed petroglyphs in a diversity of settings, including atop summits. This panel, adjacent to a fortified village on Powers Butte, accompanies an expansive view over the wide valley created by the confluence of the Salt and Gila rivers. (Photograph courtesy of Elias Butler.)

605). Historians had long misplaced Carson's Independence Rock at the famous Painted Rocks, when, in fact, it is now known as both Maxwell's Point and Independence Point, near Sears Point, and within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM.

Continued study and preservation of the rock art within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM has much to reveal about the ancient cultural traditions, especially the Patayan, and the historical personae and events that took place within this frontier. The rock art, so visual and abundant throughout the area, seemingly invites people to add to the galleries, or in more extreme cases, take away from them through vandalism and theft. Because the rock art comprises a unique type of fragile-pattern area, such damage is irreversible. Ongoing van-

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Red Rock Canyon and Protohistoric Rock Art

Red Rock Canyon, at the eastern edge of the Gila Bend Mountains, is a rare exposure of reddish and pinkish sedimentary rock. In addition to Hohokam petroglyphs, the canyon hosts a curious assortment of early historic Native American petroglyphs of probable Yavapai or Apache manufacture. Horse-and-rider glyphs are shown in the left and central images, and must postdate the Spanish conquest of the sixteenth century that brought horses into the region. The human figures in the central

and right images wield circular objects that may be shields, emblems of a warrior's identity among many Native American communities. The figure in the right image also dons a feathered headdress and instead of being pecked like most other petroglyphs in the area, it was created through incision. The incisions suggest a metal implement was used to create the glyph, another clue to its likely historic origin. (Central photograph by Andy Laurenzi; other two by Craig Weaver.)

Historic Inscriptions: Graffiti or Rock Art?

Often considered vandalism, at some point, graffiti itself becomes an important cultural resource. The examples shown here, all from the famous Painted Rocks at the northern end of the Painted Rock Mountains, show the initials, names, and dates of early travelers and settlers to the region. Dates of 1879, 1885, 1907, and 1908 have been carved into the rock alongside (and sometimes on top of) older Hohokam and Patayan petroglyphs.

Archaeologists and scientists can rely on variability in varnish formation, attested to by the color differences between the historic and pre-Hispanic rock art, to date the rock art and study climatic and environmental changes in the area. The actual names and dates permit historians and genealogists to research the thousands of people and families who made their way west through Arizona Territory and on to California. (Photographs by Aaron Wright.)

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dalism and theft of the Great Bend's world-class rock art constitute losses of global significance.

GEOGLYPHS

The lower Gila River, including the region around its Great Bend, is within the eastern range of a peculiar class of cultural resource archaeologists refer to as geoglyphs, or ground figures (Davis and Winslow 1965; Harner 1953; Holmlund 1993; Johnson 1986; Solari and Johnson 1982; Vanderpot and Altschul 2008). First noted by travelers in the late 1800s (Blake 1857), these features consist of geometric and, less commonly, figurative shapes arranged horizontally on the ground surface (Figure 4.12). Like the world famous Nazca lines in Peru, geoglyphs within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM and surrounding areas give the impression they were intended to be seen from the sky, which adds to their mystique. Archaeologists have yet to determine what functions these enigmatic features may have served, but since some depict recognizable forms—such as humans and animals—and others con-

Figure 4.12. This series of intaglios is at Oatman Point, on the edge of the Sentinel Lava Field. The cliff faces below are covered in petroglyphs, and a summit trail leads from the intaglios to a village encampment on the river's floodplain below. Repeated vehicular access to the escarpment, evidenced by numerous faint two-tracks, has resulted in considerable damage to the intaglios. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

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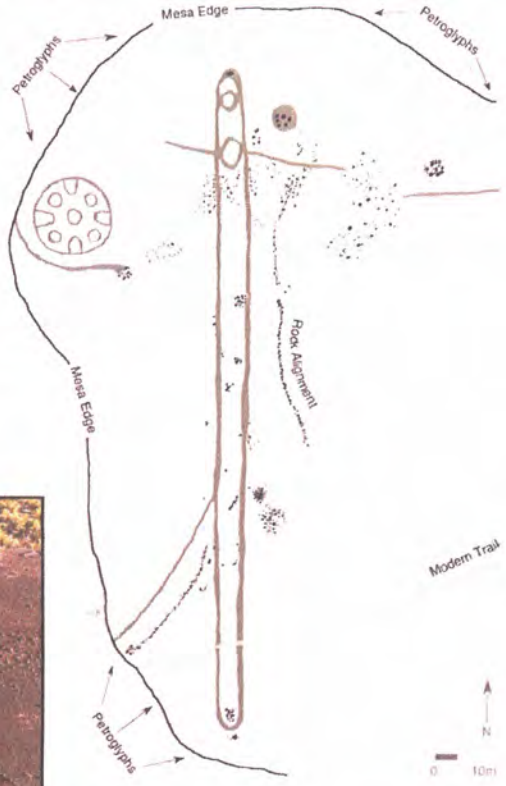
Rock Art, Geoglyphs, and Trails at Sears Point

The cultural resources along the Great Bend hold their own as impressive, world-class antiquities that speak of a deep history to which many different people can connect and experience. Another unique aspect of the region, however, is how the different cultural resources come together in meaningful ways, and incorporate elements of the natural landscape into the tapestry that is the cultural landscape. This is why the significance and value of the cultural landscape—as a composition of the different archaeological, historical, and natural resources—is greater than than the sum of its parts.

Sears Point Archaeological District, AZ-050-1902 (BLM), which is just one small piece of the larger Great Bend of the Gila landscape, provides a case in point. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, the Sears Point Archaeological District is located at the northwestern edge of the Sentinel Lava Field. It is an incredibly dense concentration of distinctive rock art on a series of prominent cliff faces above the river channel. Almost 10,000 individual glyphs were recently recorded (Weaver et al. 2012), but the composition does not stop there. Above the cliffs, on the escarpment of the plain, is an intricate pattern of geoglyphs. One of these is the Agua Caliente "Racetrack," an elliptical intaglio once argued to be a prehistoric racetrack (Johnson 1986). The recent recording project revealed that the intaglio is actually part of a larger, complex pattern that incorporates lines, piles, and geometric shapes composed of rocks, as well as multiple trails that merge and splinter from the design. At Sears Point, artisans designed a ritualized place on the landscape that utilized both vertical and horizontal planes in ways archaeologists are just starting to understand. Similar associations between geoglyphs, rock art, and trails occur throughout the boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument. (Photograph courtesy of Elias Butler; the map is an adapted and updated version based on an original in Weaver et al. 2012:Figure 6.10a.)



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form to symbols in rock art, many believe they were ritually and spiritually important in the lives of the area's indigenous communities. Because geoglyphs may be difficult to discern from the ground, they are more prone to inadvertent damage, such as foot and vehicular traffic, than rock art, which faces its own threats.

There are two general types of geoglyphs around the Great Bend: intaglios and rock alignments. Like sleeping circles and trails, intaglios are shapes in negative relief created by the selective removal of stones in the desert pavement to expose the lighter-colored sediments underneath. Other examples in which the stones were impressed into the pavement, rather than removed, have been interpreted as ancient dance grounds (Johnson 1986). Rock alignments, on the other hand, were made by placing rocks, sometimes on desert pavements and at other times on lighter-colored ground surfaces, thereby forming designs in positive relief (Figures 4.13-4.16). At times, geoglyphs were made through a combination of these methods, and by integrating other types of features, such as rock piles and gravel mounds, the geoglyph artisans formed complex, bichromatic, three-dimensional images.

Figure 4.13. Unlike rock enclosures, walls, and trails, many of the geoglyphs around the Great Bend of the Gila, including the rock alignment pictured here, lack any clear indication of a utilitarian function. Their enigmatic nature suggests they instead served a religious purpose and were part of a much larger ritual landscape. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Because the distribution of geoglyphs maps onto the historic range of Yuman-speakers, they are generally attributed to these communities and their ancestral cultural tradition, the Patayan. Dating these mysterious features, however, has been a methodological hurdle for archaeologists, but advances in archaeological and geomorphological science show promise for resolving some of these issues. Previous researchers have attributed some of these features to the region's first inhabitants, the Paleoindians (e.g., Hayden 1976, 1982). More contemporary perspectives hold intaglios to be much more recent phenomena, perhaps less than 500 years old (Holmlund 1993; Vanderpot and Altschul 2008), but the rock alignments may be of much greater antiquity. Serious, in-depth

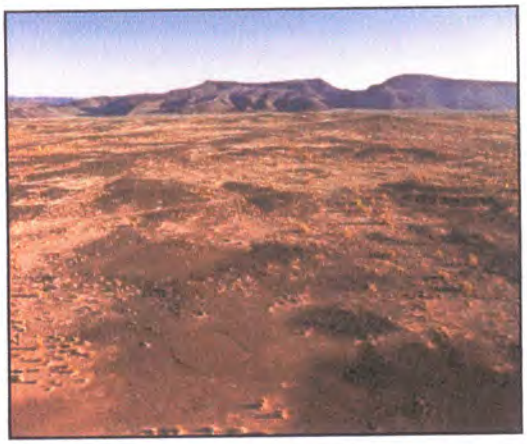

Figure 4.14. A circular rock alignment lies upon the desert pavement west of Oatman Mountain. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

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Figure 4.15. This rock alignment, formed by the selective placement of boulders upon the desert pavement, appears to depict a quartered circle. Quartering, a common design layout on Hohokam pottery, may relate to the ritualized orientation of the four cardinal directions, a religious premise widely shared among indigenous communities of the American Southwest. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

studies and greater protection efforts are sorely needed to better understand and preserve these enigmatic features.

Figure 4.16. These long, linear rock alignments are bisected by a trail. Shorter rock alignments paralleling and lining the trail suggest the trail and geoglyph are contemporaneous, and perhaps part of a composite design and ritual stage. (Photograph by Henry Wallace).

PRE-HISPANIC VILLAGES AND FORTS

The Great Bend of the Gila was the western extent of the Hohokam world, and the region contains villages with unique styles of architecture. One of these is the Rock Ballcourt site, AZ T:13:9 (ASM), a pioneering Hohokam village in the area (Figure 4.17). About one-third of the site was excavated in the 1960s (Wasley and Johnson 1965), and the founding of this village was determined to date to the early Colonial period, around A.D. 750. In addition to a ballcourt, the village contained multiple trash mounds and an unknown

Figure 4.17. The Rock Ballcourt stands to this day on the floodplain of the lower Gila River. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

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number of houses and other structures. The Rock Ballcourt is important in several regards. First, it is one of the few Hohokam ballcourts to have been fully excavated, so archaeological knowledge of these features is indebted to the work done here. Even more significant, however, is that of the more than 200 known Hohokam ballcourts in southern Arizona, the Rock Ballcourt is the only known example made entirely of stone. All the others are made of mounded soil. The Rock Ballcourt is truly a one-of-a-kind cultural resource.

After A.D. 1100, disparate communities throughout the southern Southwest began raising dry-laid masonry buildings atop hills and buttes (Fish et al. 2007). Several lines of evidence, including their locations and the character and organization of the architecture, suggest these villages assumed defensive postures. Three such hilltop sites, each with masonry buildings and seemingly fortified with defensive walls, overlook the Gila River as it winds its way through the boundary of the proposed GBGNM. Two of these fortified hilltop villages are found on Powers Butte, AZ T:10:1 (ASM) and AZ T:10:2 (ASM) (Figures 4.18-4.19), and Robbins Butte, AZ T:10:6 (ASM). Powers Butte and Robbins Butte are prominent rises in the Buckeye Hills along the Great Bend's northern arc, and both are within the boundary of the proposed national monument. A third, the Fortified Hill, is on an inholding of Tohono O'odham reservation land encompassed by the proposed national monument. Between these three fortified hilltops lies another defensively postured village, Fort Pierpoint, AZ T:14:136 (ASM) (Figures 4.20-4.21). However, unlike the hilltop villages, Fort Pierpoint is nestled in a canyon

Figure 4.18. Dry-laid masonry walls and rooms atop Powers Butte. (Photograph by Elias Butler.)

Figure 4.19. View to the west, across the Gila River valley, from the crest of Powers Butte. The masonry wall in the foreground encircles a cluster of rooms and other features on the summit of the butte. (Photograph by Elias Butler.)

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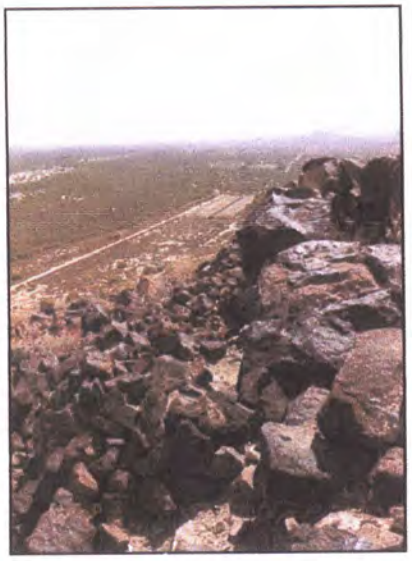
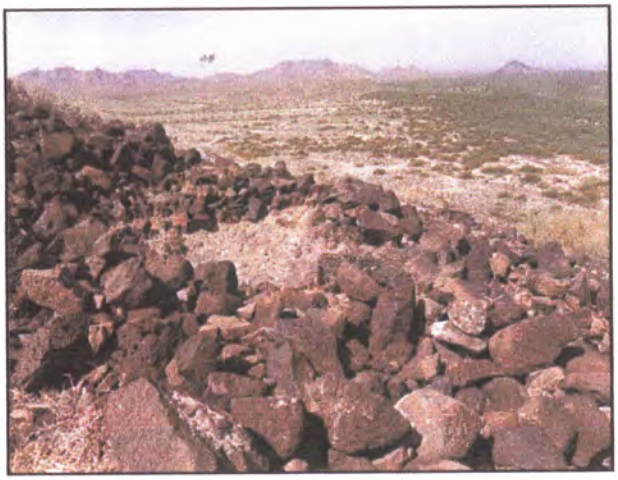
Robbins Butte





The fortified site atop Robbins Butte, AZ T:10:6 (ASM), consists of a cluster of dry-laid masonry walls and rooms such as the one pictured at the top right. Terraces, likely used to grow corn, agave, or some other domesticated crops, extend down the slope of the butte to the floodplain below.

At the top left, modern agricultural fields fill views to the east from atop Robbins Butte. In prior centuries, this valley was densely inhabited by Hohokam farmers who tilled the same fertile fields as today. The cluster of small boulders in this picture are remnants of a walled enclosure.

One of the many advantages of hilltops are the wide vistas they provide over the landscape. From this masonry enclosure atop Robbins Butte pictured above, one can survey nearly the entirety of the lower Salt River valley and north into the valley of the Hassayampa River. Powers Butte, visible in the top right of the image, hosts a similarly elevated and seemingly fortified village. (Photographs by Andy Laurenzi.)

within the Gila Bend Mountains, and it was fortified with two massive walls that barricaded the canyon's mouth. It is also within the proposed national monument.

All four fortified villages are attributed to the Classic period Hohokam and, from the limited data available to date, appear to be contemporaneous. The Fortified Hill, known since at least 1860 and partially excavated and reconstructed in the 1960s, is one of the best known archaeological properties in the valleys of the Great Bend. Excavations there revealed that the

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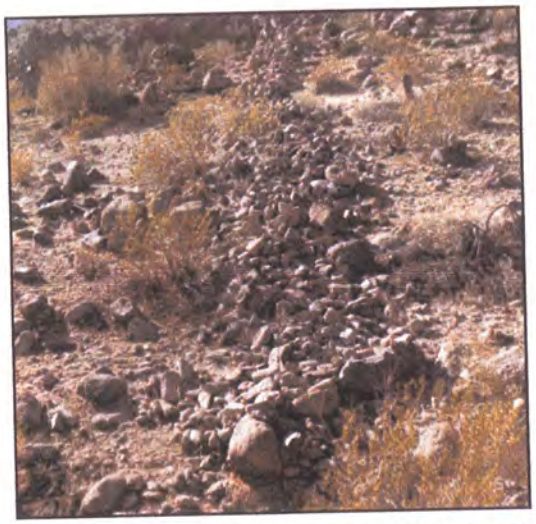

Figure 4.20. One of several massive walls raised to enclose the canyon around the Fort Pierpoint site. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Figure 4.21. View across the Gila River valley to the east from behind a wall at the Fort Pierpoint site. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

57-room fort was more than a defensive retreat; it housed a residential community for at least several generations. However, evidence of habitation at the Fortified Hill and the other three fortified villages around the Great Bend does not rule out defense as a motivational factor for establishing settlements in such guarded, hard-to-reach settings. The question nevertheless remains as to who or what these communities were shielding themselves from? Early investigators believed the forts protected Hohokam farmers from Patayan raiders, or vice versa, but it is now known that some Patayan and Hohokam farmers were living together in the surrounding valleys for at least a century before these forts were raised. The dangers that drove farmers to take refuge in these defensive settings remain a mystery.

TRAILS

The boundary of the proposed GBGNM contains numerous stretches of ancient trails that are preserved on the desert pavements atop the mesas flanking the river. These trails criss-cross the valleys and uplands, forming webs of movement that model the social networks and exchange systems among ancient villages and important places within this formidable landscape. Ancient trails are what integrate all the region's archaeological resources into a unified cultural landscape, and for this reason, archaeologists have recently turned their attention to exploring these features in greater detail (Figures 4.22-4.23) (e.g., Darling and Eiselt 2009; White 2012). When mapped out, these trail networks stretch in every direction, sometimes reaching the beaches of southern California, Baja, and northwest Sonora. These long-distance connections are what facilitated the flow of people, ideas, and goods across western North America for millennia. They are also

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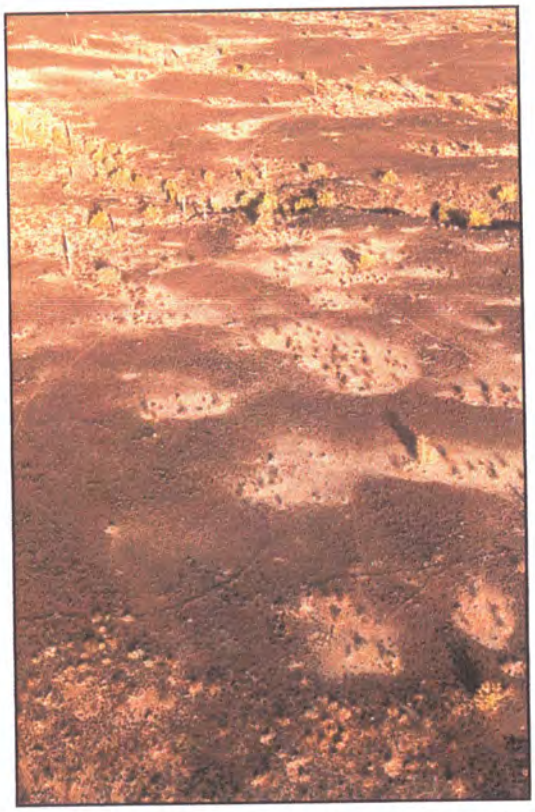

Figure 4.22. Ancient trails blazed into the desert pavement often intermix with geoglyphs and other rock features in intricate and curious ways. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

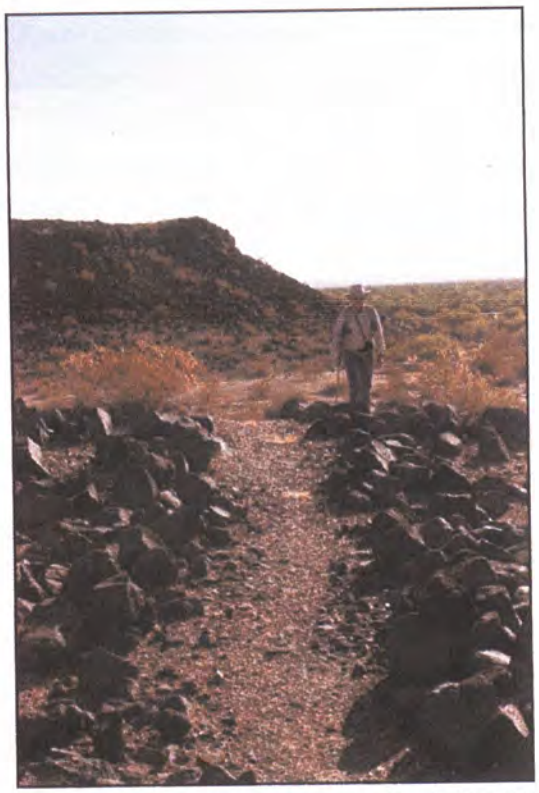

Figure 4.23. For ages, perhaps even several millennia, this trail at Sears Point, just one of thousands in the area, has guided countless people on excursions through this remote desert landscape. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

the core infrastructure onto which the roads of later Spanish, Mexican, and American pioneers expanded, including those of Kino, Anza, Emory, and Kearny.

Historical and ethnographic accounts relate how descendants of Hohokam and Patayan farmers used the Great Bend's trails in a number of important ways. For instance, O'odham villagers from further upstream along the middle Gila traveled though this area on ritualized salt pilgrimages to the Gulf of California (Underhill 1979). They recorded their routes and waypoints along the trails in songs that are still remembered and sung by community elders (Darling and Lewis 2007). Between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, hundreds, if not thousands, of Yuman-speakers fleeing conflict along the lower Colorado River migrated en masse over these trails in search of a more peaceful life in the valleys of the Great Bend and later among O'odham villages further upriver (Ezell 1963). Later, bands of Quechan, Mojave, O'odham, and Pee Posh warriors traversed these ancient trails between the middle Gila River valley and the lower Colorado River as intertribal warfare waged on well into the mid-nineteenth century (Kroeber and Fontana 1986; Kroeber and Kroeber 1973).

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Because they were used repeatedly throughout the years, determining just how ancient the trails around the Great Bend of the Gila are can be rather difficult. Nevertheless, many are undeniably thousands of years old, and some of the trails may have been blazed by the first people to enter the region more than 12,000 years ago. A general impression of the antiquity of the trails can be garnered from the types of other archaeological resources found alongside them (Figure 4.24). These include stone artifacts, clearings, and various other features, such as piles and rings of rock, some of which may be of Paleoindian (San Dieguito) and Archaic (Amargosa) manufacture.

Figure 4.24. Rings and piles of rocks are occasionally found alongside ancient trails. In this example, a ring of rocks (at center) is positioned inches away from a well-worn trail (at left). What rock rings such as this were used for is not clear, but similar features have been interpreted as sleeping circles and trail-side shrines. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Hohokam and Patayan farmers also traveled over and added to the trail network throughout the Great Bend of the Gila (Figures 4.25-4.26). These trails were integral to regional economies because they enabled many exotic, prestigious items to circulate across social and physical boundaries. Obsidian, coveted for its physical properties and color, was quarried in the mountains around the Great Bend and transported in all directions over these trails (Doyel 1996). Shell, salt, and other aquatic resources from the Pacific Ocean moved north and east into central Arizona and New Mexico, whereas beautifully decorated pottery and finely crafted stone axes moved west and south into southern California and Sonora (Hayden 1972; McGuire and Howard 1987; Merrill 2014; Mitchell and Foster 2011). Many of these trade goods, as well as rock art and geoglyphs, can be found to this day lying beside the trails atop the desert pavements.

Figure 4.25. The trails running throughout the region of the Great Bend of the Gila connected Hohokam and Patayan communities with distant places and resources. Shell was an integral component of the Hohokam economy. There is ample evidence that the Hohokam maintained trade relations with communities in southern California who had access to seashell, and it is clear that some Hohokam villagers made pilgrimages to the Sea of Cortez to acquire shell firsthand. This *Conus* sp. shell, from the Pacific's waters, was found at a small village on the river floodplain below Oatman Point. (Photograph by John Alcock.)

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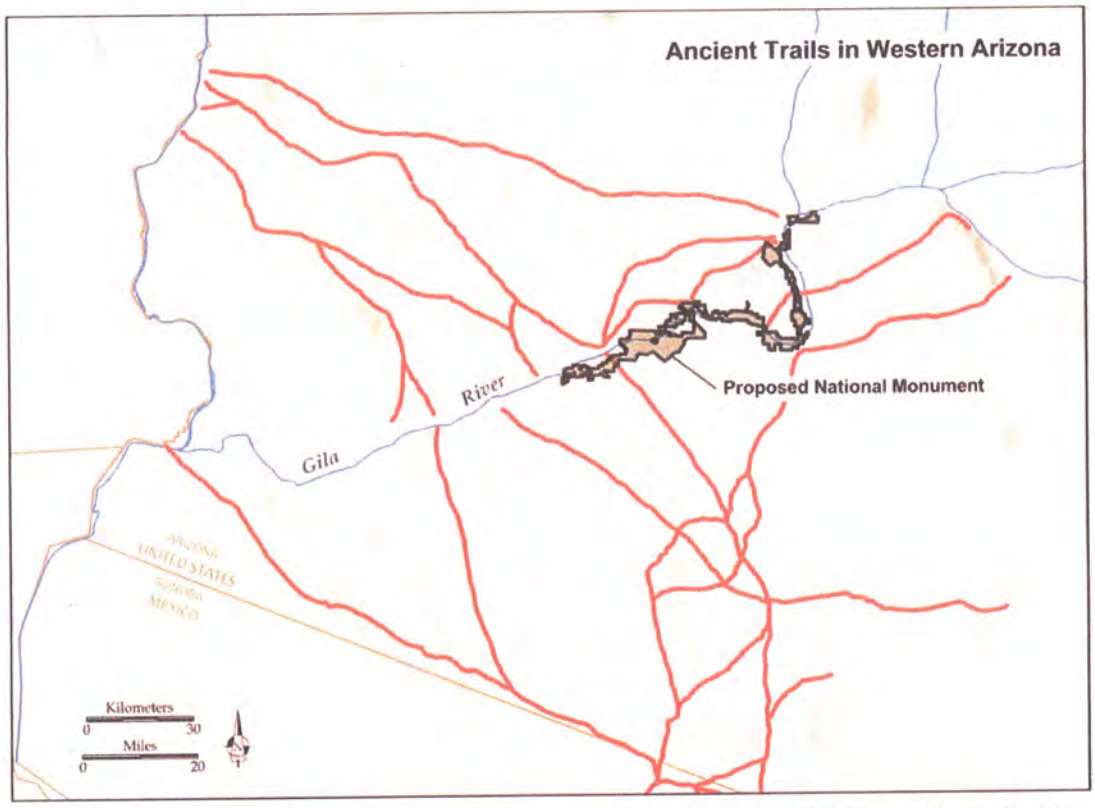
Figure 4.26. Archaeologists have noticed an unusually high proportion of nonlocal pottery in the refuse at Hohokam villages in the vicinity of the Great Bend of the Gila. This fragment of a black-on-white vessel, found amid a scatter of artifacts at a small village near Hummingbird Point, was likely made hundreds of miles to the north and east by Ancestral Puebloans around A.D. 1000. The trail network facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and genes across cultural boundaries. (Photograph by John Alcock.)

In addition to trails for traveling, the region of the Great Bend of the Gila is also the center of a distribution of ritualized trails archaeologists have just recently begun to recognize and study (Map 4.2; Figures 4.27-4.28). Called ascent paths or summit trails, these footpaths, sometimes rock-lined or actually dug into the hillside, ascend conically shaped summits and other rises in a strictly linear fashion (Darling and Eiselt 2009; Wallace 2008; Wright 2014). Clusters of rock art are often found at either or both ends, and on occasion, rock piles thought to be shrines were built atop the summits. Ethnographic insights about the significance and use of mountains among local indigenous communities and the association with shrines and rock art suggest these summit trails were designed to



Map 4.2. Ancient trails across southwestern Arizona and northern Sonora, as mapped by Malcolm Rogers (n.d.), Julian Hayden (1972), Darling and Eiselt (2009), and Rice et al. (2009).

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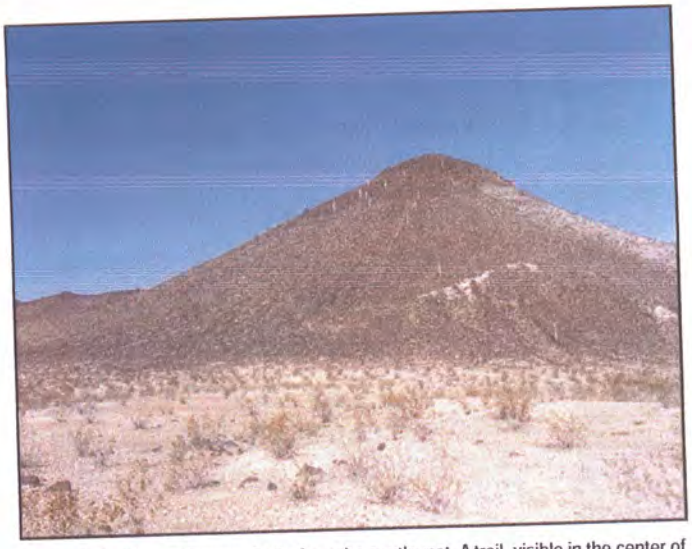

Figure 4.27. View of Powers Butte from the southwest. A trail, visible in the center of the slope, ascends the butte from base to summit. Summit trails such as this probably directed ritualized processions between the valley floor and the crests of religiously important landforms. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

guide ritualized processions up and down the landforms. Because they are confined largely to this lower stretch of the Gila River, and because they are so new to researchers, summit trails are the most understudied and arguably the least understood archaeological resource within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM. They are, nevertheless, one of the unique, fragile components of the area's world-class archaeological resources.

WAGON ROADS

Beginning with Father Eusebio Kino's first descent down the lower Gila River in 1699, the valleys and wide plains through the Great Bend have served as a natural travel and transport corridor for colonial governments and the people, animals, mail, and goods they shuffled between outposts on the California coast and the continent's interior. As with the ancient trails described previously, numerous historic trails and roads known under a series of monikers—the Anza Trail, Gila Trail, Kearny Trail, Southern Emigrant Trail, Leach's Wagon Road, Cooke's Wagon Road, Sonoran Road, and Butterfield Overland Stage Line, for examples—merged and diverged along this stretch of the lower Gila. Remnants of these trails, as well as lesser known roads such as William Fourr's Toll Road, remain etched in the desert pavement and rutted in the river floodplains (Figures 4.29-4.31). They are reminders of what life must have been like before the automobile and testaments to the countless Spanish, Mexican, and American soldiers, migrants, and pilgrims who opened the West.

Most of the notable historical resources within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM are tied to the wagon roads that criss-cross this landscape. These include the historic petroglyphs reviewed above and the Stanwix stage station and U.S. military telegraph described below. It also includes the site of the Oatman Incident, which occurred along a desolate stretch of Cooke's Wagon Road (the Mormon Battalion's Trail) as it rises out of the river floodplain and

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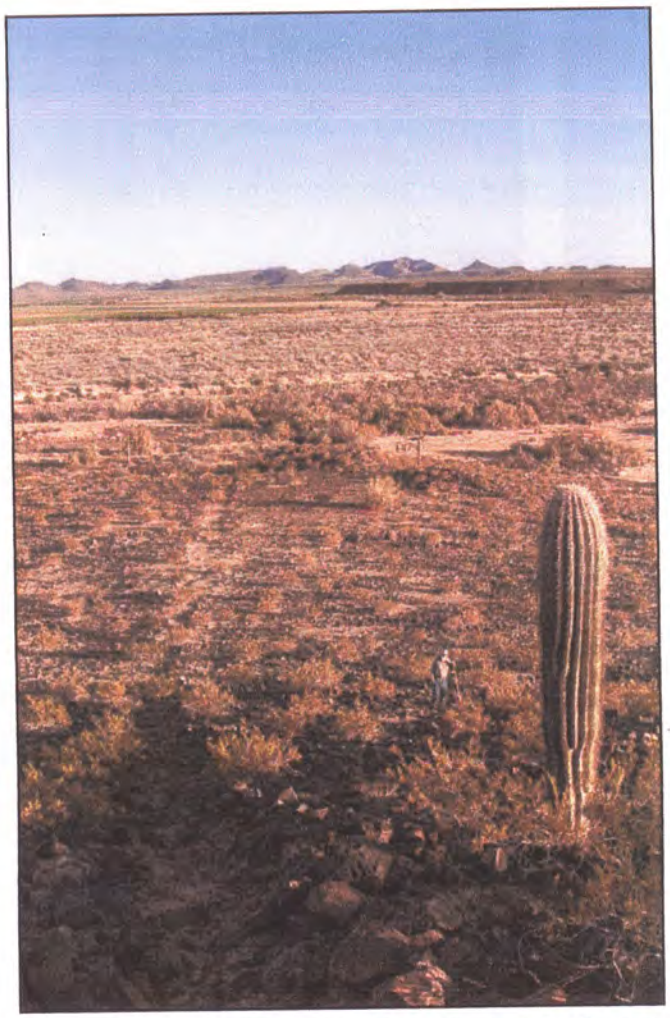

Figure 4.28. This view from the top of Rocky Point shows a summit trail up close. In this example, large boulders were moved to the sides, creating a causeway that directed movement in a strictly linear manner from the edge of the lava field near the river to the hill's summit. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

atop the Sentinel Lava Field (Figure 4.32). The incident is memorialized in the names of several local landforms, such as Oatman Mountain, Oatman Flat, and Oatman Point. It is also memorialized by a series of cairns at the site, which some think are the grave sites for the deceased members of the Oatman family (Du Shane 2012).

COMMUNICATION FEATURES

For much of its stretch from Yuma to Maricopa Wells, along the lower Gila River and through the southern portion of its Great Bend, the U.S. military telegraph paralleled the wagon road of the Butterfield Overland Stage Line (Figure 4.33) (Rue 1967). In fact, repairmen were stationed at both Stanwix and Gila Ranch, two former stops along the Butterfield Overland Line.

This key piece of communications infrastructure helped bring law, order, and commerce to the Arizona Territory and the country's western frontier. Remnants remain standing along the lower Gila River and within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM (Figure 4.34).

STAGECOACH STATIONS

As detailed in the previous chapter, Stanwix stage station is tied to several key historical events and people. Originally a station along the Butterfield Overland Stage Line, Stanwix

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Figure 4.29. Many segments of the Butterfield Overland Stage Line, as shown here, remain in a remarkable state of preservation within the boundary of the proposed national monument. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Figure 4.31. The Oatman Incident occurred at this point along Cooke's Wagon Road, where it leaves the sandy river floodplain and ascends the basalt mesa of the Sentinel Lava Field. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

Figure 4.30. After running mail between Fort Yuma and Stanwix stage station for the government, William Fourr (1843–1935) capitalized on the Butterfield Overland Stage Line. He first owned Kenyon's, sold it and bought Burke's, then sold it and set up shop at the deserted Oatman Flat station. There, he invested $5,000 to improve the road, where he charged a toll and 10 cents a head for water. Fourr operated the Oatman Flat stage station from 1869 to 1877, when he left and ultimately settled in the Dragoon Mountains of southeastern Arizona. However, Fourr's Toll Road, shown above, remains etched in the desert pavement within the proposed national monument. (Photograph by Henry Wallace.)

Figure 4.32. A sign erected by the Yuma Historical Society marks the site of the Oatman Incident. (Photograph by Bill Doelle.)

was also the site of the westernmost skirmish of the Civil War, in which Confederate rangers wounded Private Semmilrogge of the California Column. About a decade later, Stanwix served as a repair station for the U.S.

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Figure 4.33. Fragments of the 140-year-old glass insulators used to protect the cables can be found to this day along the U.S. military telegraph route as it passes through the proposed national monument. (Photograph by Darryl Montgomery.)

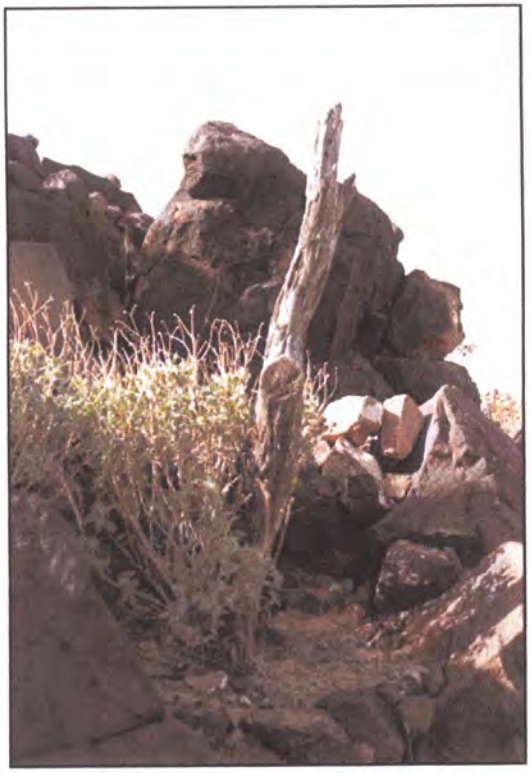

Figure 4.34. This short post was part of the U.S. military telegraph. As shown, the height of the line in the vicinity of Oatman Point was notoriously low. This led to the need for constant repairs, as cattle often walked into it. (Photograph by Darryl Montgomery.)

military telegraph. None of the buildings associated with the Stanwix stage station remain standing, but the location is well known and continues to be a significant part of the local community's history (Figure 4.35) (McDaniel 2013). The site of Stanwix stage station lies within the westernmost section of the proposed national monument.

HISTORIC CANALS

The proposed GBGNM contains short segments of the historic Arlington Canal, AZ T:10:80 (ASM), and the Gila Bend Canal, AZ Z:2:66 (ASM), both in the vicinity of the Gillespie Dam. It also contains tangible traces of several ill-fated irrigation projects, including canal segments, headworks, and dilapidated dams that are inadequately known and many of which remain undocumented (see Map 3.8). The best preserved, and one of the better known, is that of the South Gila Canal Company (Figure 4.36). In the works since at least 1879, the South Gila Canal, AZ Y:3:50 (ASM), was completed in the 1880s for approximately $45,000 (Southworth 1919). It starts from a point just below Oatman Flat, stretches for 22-1/2 miles along the river's south bank, and ends near Stanwix stage station. South Gila Canal Company president Oscar Fitzallen Thornton, a retired newspaper editor and former Tombstone Ranger, claimed the project would soon irrigate 18,000 acres of river bottom and 162,000 acres of mesa (Hughes 1893).

The South Gila Canal was just the first stage in a loftier, more ambitious project that Thornton predicted would attract 70,000 settlers to Yuma County. In 1892, the company be-

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gan erecting an asphalt-faced dam 1,400 ft long, 106 ft broad at the base, 13 ft at the top, and 50 ft high. The dam, the base of which is designated AZ S:16:11 (ASM), was needed to raise and divert water to the canal's headgate, which was 30 ft above the natural riverbed (Davis 1897). Thornton's plan was to eventually heighten the dam to 110 ft to create a massive, 252,000-acre reservoir. Thornton projected that this impoundment would hold enough water to irrigate 1 million acres for 3 years without additional water from the river's natural flow. Plans were also in place to build a companion canal on the north side of the river that would reclaim another 320,000 acres.

Figure 4.35. The story of Stanwix stage station engages younger generations to this day. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, 17-year old Lucas Daniel, a member of local Boy Scout Troop 8004, enlisted the help of his community in erecting this informational kiosk near the site of Stanwix stage station. (Photograph by Elias Butler.)

Figure 4.36. This turn-of-the-century building at AZ S:16:9 (ASM), located within the proposed national monument's boundary and affiliated with the South Gila Canal, stands as a memorial to the labors and struggles of efforts to tame the floodwaters of the lower Gila River. (Photograph by Andy Laurenzi.)

To finance this grandiose project, the South Gila Canal Company sold bonds to American and foreign investors (Figure 4.37). Nonetheless, the venture to reclaim 500,000 acres of Arizona desert proved futile. The north canal was never dug, the dam never finished, and by 1893, the project was abandoned due to financial troubles (Davis 1897). Several attempts to rework the canal were made, including an undertaking by the Southwestern Arizona Fruit & Irrigation Company between 1911 and 1914. This last ditch effort amounted to little, and the company was later sued. In the end, not a single crop was ever irrigated by the South Gila Canal

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Figure 4.37. This 100 pounds sterling gold bond was issued in 1892 to help finance the expansion of the South Gila Canal. (Image courtesy of Scripophily.com.)

(Southworth 1919). Much of the South Gila Canal and its associated facilities, untouched in over a century, sit quietly within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM.

THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA'S NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

For thousands of years, people of very different backgrounds, lifeways, and customs have left their mark in one way or another on the landscape of the Great Bend of the Gila. Some settled along the river, whereas others simply passed through, taking advantage of the river corridor and the Gila's life-giving waters. The preceding pages outlined the region's deep history and the many cultural resources that materialize this unique and important chapter in our nation's story. Today, as it has for millennia, the history of the Great Bend of the Gila touches people from many different walks of life in variable though compatible ways. Likewise, the wide variety of cultural resources draw their national significance in different but complimentary ways, each of which is a compelling case for commemoration, continued preservation, and national recognition.

Cultural resources within the boundary of the proposed GBGNM are associated with significant people and events in our country's past. The cast of historical figures begins with Father Eusebio Kino in the seventeenth century, when our country was still a hodgepodge of colonial enterprises by distant European empires. Others include Juan Bautista de Anza, Kit Carson, Steven Kearny, Olive Oatman, and Hi Jolly, to name just a few. Magnifying this historical legacy are nationally significant events that played out along the Great Bend of the Gila, in ways unique to this peculiar landscape. Notable events and developments include the Mexican-American War and the Mormon Battalion; 49ers and the California Gold Rush; the former international border and the Gadsden Purchase; the Butterfield Overland Stage Line; the infamous Oatman Incident; the California Column, Stanwix station, and the Civil War; and the Dust Bowl. A wide swath of our country's history is encapsulated in this narrow stretch of the lower Gila River.

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The Great Bend of the Gila does not owe its significance to just famous people, places, and events important to our nation's short history. The vast majority of the region's cultural resources are far older, dating to an era before contact with the Euro-American world. Although nameless, the people who crafted this ancient cultural landscape were not insignificant, nor are they forgotten. The rock art, geoglyphs, trails, villages, and countless other features and artifacts attest to a much deeper Native American history that is intrinsically linked to the desert's harsh yet dramatic landscape. Although we do not know the personal names or events from which these ancient cultural resources were born, we do not need to. Their mark on history is unmistakable, and the significance of those cultural resources is self-evident to anyone who is fortunate enough to experience them in their natural, unadulterated settings.

We are just beginning to understand the diversity preserved within Great Bend's ancient cultural landscape and the lessons it can teach as we build a future of trust, tolerance, and cooperation in an increasing multicultural world. What we do know is that the Great Bend of the Gila bridges cultures and millennia in a way very few places can. With just a fraction of this landscape professionally surveyed, and research into the Great Bend's deep history so nascent, this important landscape will continue to yield new insights and a continued sense of wonder for years to come.

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CHAPTER 5

PROTECTING THE FRAGILE PATTERNS OF THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA

The deep history of the Great Bend of the Gila is preserved, ironically perhaps, in the region's incredibly dense concentration of surficial cultural resources. Due to the xeric climate, the landscape is subject to only minor sedimentation, meaning that little, if any, sand or soil accumulates upon its surface. This has left an amazing array of visually stunning rock art and other curious cultural resources, as well as countless artifacts, exposed on the desert pavement and rock faces. In fact, one of the peculiar aspects of the landscape encompassed by the boundary of the proposed Great Bend of the Gila National Monument is that many of the cultural resources reveal how people of diverse cultural backgrounds, and separated by hundreds if not thousands of years, intentionally altered and manipulated the landscape's sediment-free surfaces to address shared concerns. Over thousands of years, people wore trails into the desert pavement that memorialize the Great Bend's central position in the American Southwest. Early wagon roads expanded on these trails and played a vital role in the opening of the West. People crafted enigmatic rock art and geoglyphs by modifying rock surfaces and mesa tops. Religious expression and human triumph over incredible hardships come together in compelling and interesting ways, and the Great Bend's story of multiculturalism along a persistent frontier is vibrantly told through the highly visible cultural resources dotting the landscape.

However, the proclivity for the Great Bend's remarkable cultural resources to lie exposed on the modern ground surface, and to therefore be so visually engaging, is a mixed blessing. Much of what is known, despite the limited amount of professional attention directed toward the region, is due to the fact that so much can be seen and studied by simply walking across the landscape. The locations of many resources are known in spite of a lack of official records. This has been a boon for researchers and the interested public alike. The other side of this situation is more problematic. Because most of the cultural resources remain unburied, they are highly prone to loss, whether intentional or inadvertent. Off-road vehicular traffic that strays from well-established routes and trails has had an irreversible impact to geoglyphs and other cultural resources etched into the desert pavement. Graffiti, bullet holes, and chisel scars mar the surfaces of rock art-adorned boulders and cliffs. This recklessness has obscured and, in some cases, obliterated petroglyphs that once boldly told stories of an ancient past. As

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Barnaby Lewis remarked in the Foreword, these images are teachings to contemporary Native peoples, and they are instrumental to the continuity of O'odham Himdag (Way of Life) and crucial for cultural perpetuation and survival.

The cultural resources of the Great Bend of the Gila are truly fragile patterns. Even though some impacts have taken their toll, the vast majority of this cultural landscape is in a remarkable state of preservation, and proactive foresight by policymakers and land managers can curtail continued loss. As the Phoenix metropolitan area continues to expand westward, just as the Hohokam cultural tradition did 1,500 years ago, the Great Bend's landscape and cultural resources will experience increased visitation and face an exponential growth in potentially adverse impacts. These are the future challenges for the Great Bend of the Gila.

This important landscape should not be cordoned off from the public, nor should the Great Bend and its cultural resources be neglected. These resources can serve to educate the public about important aspects of our nation's history and encourage respectful visitation.

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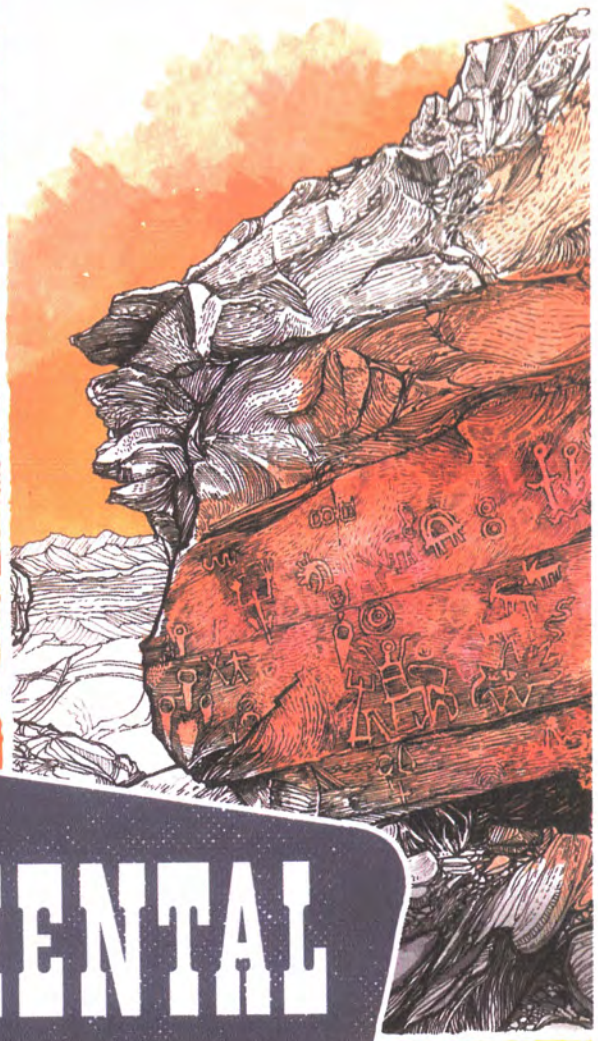
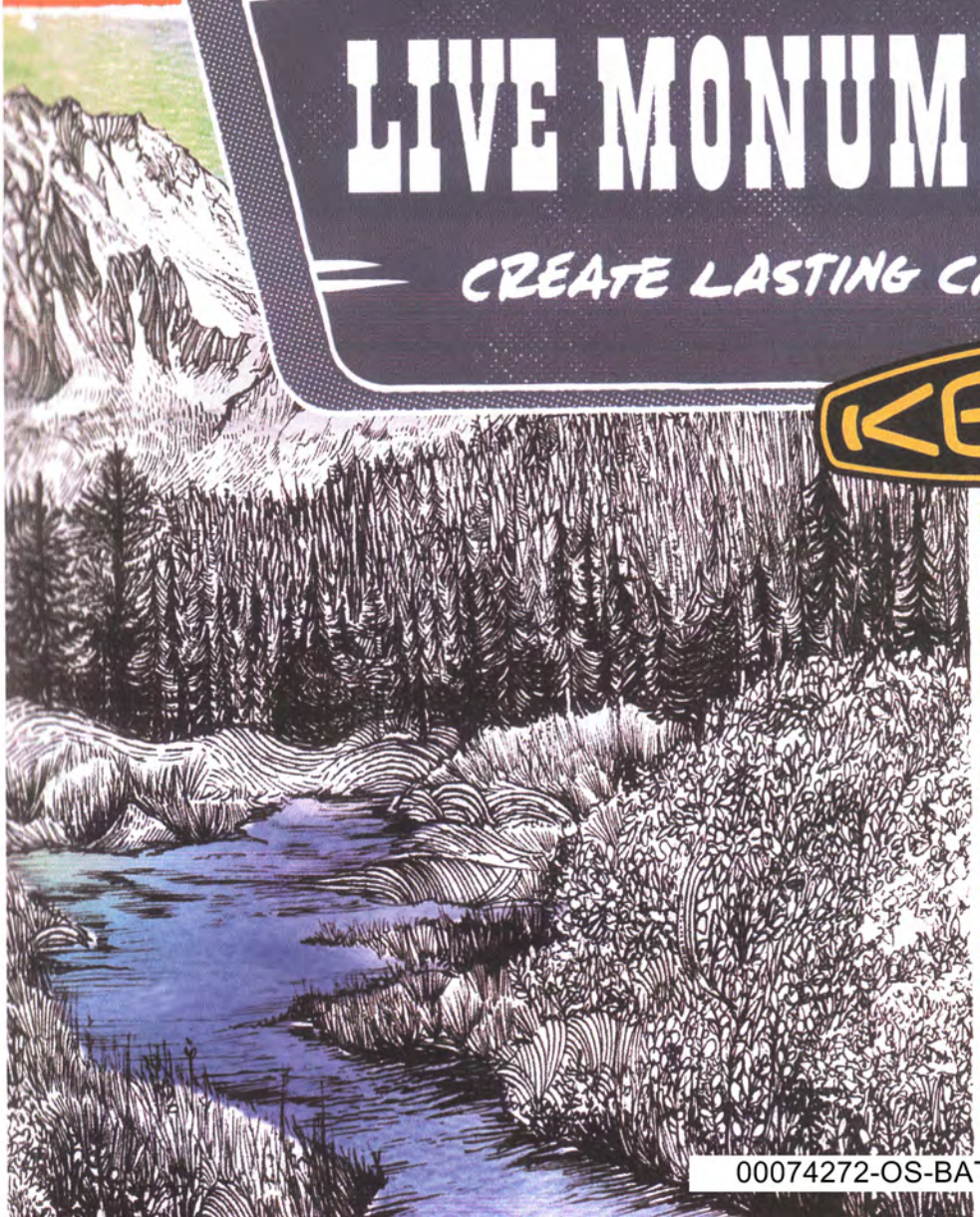
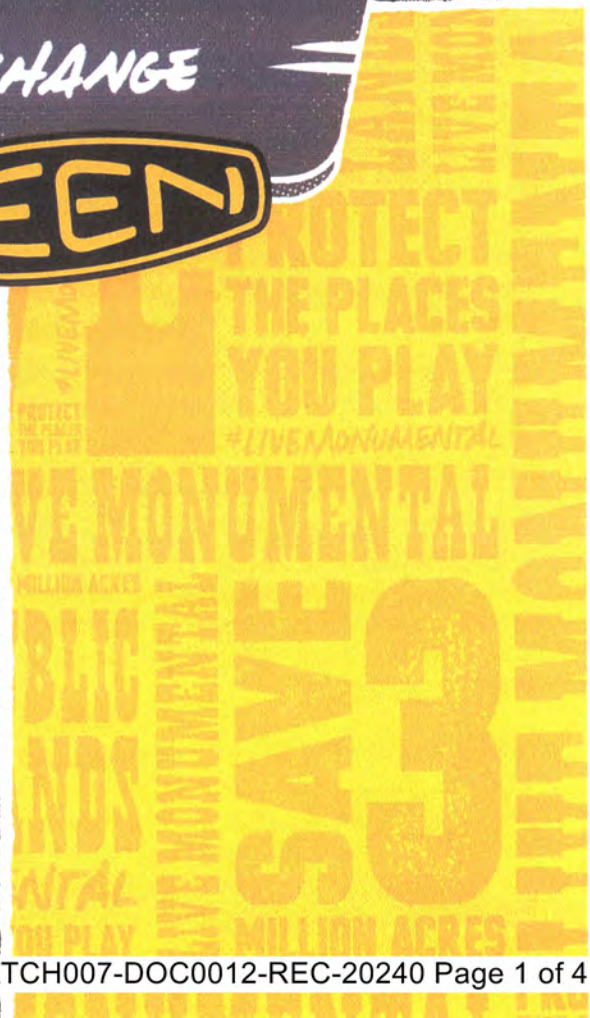


LIVE MONUMENTAL

CREATE LASTING CHANGE

KEEN





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#LiveMonumental

KEEN

DEAR VALUED KEEN PARTNER,

Starting July 29, 2015, a bright yellow '76 GMC RV will be hitting the road for a two-month road trip to raise awareness for preserving public lands and celebrating the places we all play.

WE ARE REACHING OUT TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE LAUNCH THE LIVE MONUMENTAL™ CAMPAIGN - A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF 3 MILLION ACRES OF THE PLACES WE PLAY.

Starting in Portland, Oregon, the road trip will go down the West Coast, up through the Rockies, across the Midwest, and onward to the Southeast, and Washington, DC. The RV will stop along the way to meet with outdoor enthusiasts, partners, business friends, and local policy makers, gathering signatures in support of five new national monument designations: **Gold Butte, NV, Boulder-White Clouds, ID, Owyhee Canyonlands, OR, Mojave Trails, CA, and Birthplace of Rivers, WV.**

With the help of partners like you, KEEN aims to collect more than **100,000 signatures** in support for public land protection on livemonumental.com that we will personally deliver to the Obama Administration when the RV arrives in Washington, DC, in September.

The Live Monumental campaign is an opportunity for the Outdoor Industry to collectively take action and encourage the Obama Administration to use its powers under the Antiquities Act to create five new national monuments and protect an area twice the size of Delaware for its recreation and environmental value. We look forward to partnering with you to create lasting change in our public lands landscape.

Sincerely,

Steve Meineke,
President, KEEN, Inc.

JOIN US

SHOW WASHINGTON D.C. PUBLIC LANDS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. **Add your name** to the petition on livemonumental.com
2. **Display** the enclosed table topper in your store to encourage your customers to add their name to the petition
3. **Sign** on to the business support letter at Outdoor Retailer (KEEN booth #32183)
4. **Join** us on night two of Outdoor Retailer for a Monumental Celebration of our Public Lands at KEENfest

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LIVE MONUMENTAL

PROTECT 3 MILLION ACRES OF THE PLACES WE PLAY

National monuments comprise some of America's most celebrated icons – from California's Giant Sequoia National Monument to New York's Statue of Liberty to Wyoming's Devil's Tower – the country's first national monument. Through the Antiquities Act, created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, the president of the United States can protect natural, historical, and cultural wonders with the stroke of a pen, by designating them as national monuments. By asking President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to designate five treasured recreational areas as national monuments we can protect valued recreation lands within a day's reach of major urban centers, and create an outdoor legacy for future generations.

GOLD BUTTE (NEVADA)

Just over an hour outside of the Las Vegas Strip waits a hidden gem of the Southwest - the 350,000 acre region of Gold Butte. Its historical significance to this country far surpasses that of its Las Vegas neighbor. For more than 3,000 years Native Americans flourished in the Gold Butte area, which is evident by the artifacts, rock shelters with blackened roofs, and ancient writings that dot the landscape. Gold Butte's recreation opportunities are endless, and its tourism opportunities positively impact nearby rural communities like Mesquite, Nevada.

BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS (IDAHO)

The Boulder-White Clouds are a sanctuary for threatened animal and plant species and cherished by hikers, hunters, and especially mountain bikers – boasting some of the best biking trails in the world. For decades, Idahoans and other stakeholders across the country have worked tirelessly to protect one of the largest intact landscapes in the Lower 48. Born from this area are the headwaters of much of Idaho's clean water, water that breeds the farthest and highest elevation migrating salmon and steelhead and provides many communities -like Sun Valley- with clean, fresh water. This area contains 150 peaks over 10,000 feet tall, as well as the world's oldest white bark pine tree clocking in at 1270 years old.

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS (OREGON)

This treasured landscape is the largest conservation opportunity left in the Continental U.S. Its area is twice the size of Yellowstone, our nation's oldest park. This untouched stretch of the American West is awe-inspiring, featuring sheer 1,000-foot desert canyons, 186 miles of designated Wild & Scenic Rivers, incredible red-rock formations, and rich wildlife including our nation's largest herd of California bighorn sheep as well as mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope. The vast rolling sagebrush hills serve as one of the last strongholds for the greater sage-grouse, a species already imperiled due to dwindling habitat. Its recreational opportunities are endless, and the solitude and inspiration afforded to visitors is priceless.

MOJAVE TRAILS (CALIFORNIA)

One of North America's most unique landscapes, the Mojave Desert is home to desert tortoises, bighorn sheep, and a wide array of rare and unique species. Like the Gold Butte region, the Mojave Trails area is also a bridge to our Native American roots, offering hikers an opportunity to engage with a landscape virtually unchanged for thousands of years. While hikers and other human powered recreationists are drawn to this area, so are those who wish to travel on the historic and scenic Route 66. Protecting this area would also preserve

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BIRTHPLACE OF RIVERS (WEST VIRGINIA)

Six rivers spring forth high in the Yew Mountains of the Monongahela National Forest. This intersection of humanity and nature is home to a tightly-packed complex of West Virginia's most iconic and ecologically significant features: West Virginia's most dramatic vistas, tallest waterfalls, and cleanest waterways. Its center is the Cranberry Wilderness, the largest federally-designated wilderness area in the Eastern United States. Six rivers are spawned in this area, connecting a network of communities downstream and some of the most important whitewater in the United States.

WHAT IS A NATIONAL MONUMENT?

A National Monument is a section of public land set aside for its natural, historical or cultural value. National Monuments range from structures to oceans to large tracts of land. They make up some of America's most celebrated icons, from California's Giant Sequoia National Monument to New York's Statue of Liberty.

National monuments are designated with local input and managed by varying governmental organizations depending on the reason they were designated.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN A NATIONAL MONUMENT?

Once a National Monument is designated most pre-existing public and commercial activities continue including access to private property; rights of way for roads and utility infrastructure. Additionally, the following recreational activities are almost always allowed in national monuments:

- Hunting and fishing
- Rafting and boating
- Horseback riding
- Camping, Backpacking, Hiking and Biking
- Riding motorized vehicles on designated routes

HOW DOES A NATIONAL MONUMENT GET DESIGNATED?

Thanks to President Teddy Roosevelt's Antiquities Act, with the stroke of a pen, the President of the United States can protect natural, historical and cultural wonders by designating them as National Monuments.

In order for National Monuments to be designated, the public needs to share its support and love for our country's most special places. Let's do it! Let's celebrate the places we all play, let's Live Monumental.

PLACES TO LEARN MORE:

- Livemonumental.com
- Wilderness Society: wilderness.org
- Bureau of Land Management: blm.gov
- National Park Service: nps.gov
- U.S. Forest Service: fs.fed.us
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: fws.gov

WHY DOES KEEN CARE?

As a business rooted in the outdoors we feel it is our responsibility to take action, to speak up for what we believe is right, and to share that conversation with outdoor enthusiasts around the world.

KEEN is dedicated to building stronger communities and a healthier planet through three strategic areas:

1. Community: building the next generation of planet stewards
2. Environment: access to clean air and water everyplace we do business
3. Supply Chain: managing what goes into our product and how those elements affect you and the environment around you

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE LASTING CHANGE.

CONTACT KEEN:

LIVEMONUMENTAL@KEENFOOTWEAR.COM

971.200.4000

LIVEMONUMENTAL.COM

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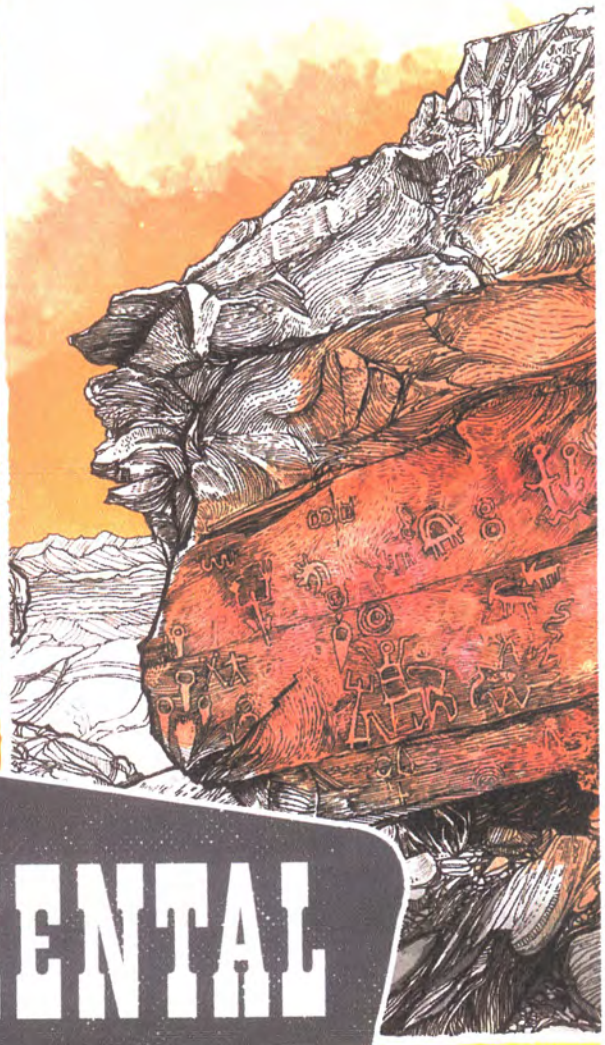

LIVE MONUMENTAL

CREATE LASTING CHANGE

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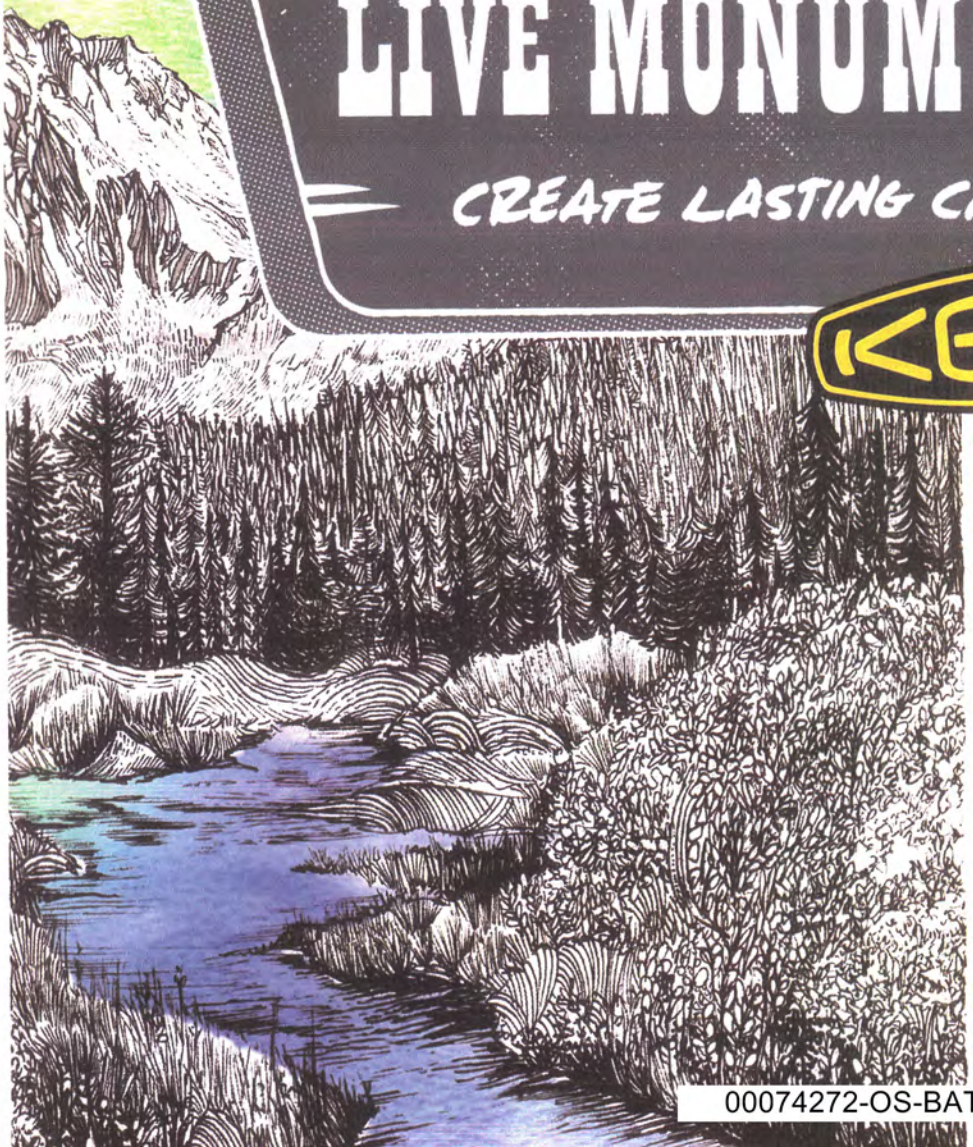

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KEEN

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Sincerely,

Steve Meineke,
President, KEEN, Inc.

GETTING INVOLVED IS EASY, HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. LEARN

- HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PUBLIC LANDS: LIVEMONUMENTAL.COM

2. COMMIT

- SIGN THE PETITION TO SHOW YOU CARE
- ADD YOUR COMPANY TO THE BUSINESS SIGN ON LETTER

3. SHARE

- YOUR PASSION FOR THE OUTDOORS #LIVEMONUMENTAL

4. CELEBRATE

- GET OUT AND PLAY

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MEMO

To: Elected Officials
From: KEEN Effect Team
Date: Monday, September 28th
RE: Live Monumental Campaign Update

For the last nine weeks, KEEN road-tripped across the county advocating for the protection of 3,000,000 acres of the places we all play. In a 1976 GMC motorhome, the KEEN Effect team set out to activate fans, elected officials, local communities, and small business owners across the United States to join KEEN in our mission to create lasting change and show widespread support for the designations of four new National Monuments: Owyhee Canyonlands (Oregon), Mojave Trails (California), Gold Butte (Nevada), and Birthplace of Rivers (West Virginia).

We continue to build momentum in the final months of the Obama Administration. Here's a glimpse of the first three months of the Live Monumental campaign:

- 30,000 Petition Signatures and Counting
- 40 Businesses Supported and Counting
- 42 Community Events
- 10 National Monuments Visited
- 4 Proposed National Monuments Explored
- 1 Stop At Our Country's Newest Wilderness Area, Boulder White Clouds (Idaho)
- 25 Original News Articles
- 8,700,000 Social Media Impressions
- 25 States Visited
- 7,500 Miles Driven
- 5,024 Mini Clifbars Consumed
- Tens Of Thousands of High Fives Given

WHY KEEN CARES

Rooted in the outdoors, KEEN feels it is our responsibility to take action, advocate for the protection of public lands, and communicate our message with outdoor enthusiasts all over the world. We are dedicated to building stronger communities and a healthier planet.

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July 1, 2015

Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear President Obama, Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Jewell,

With strong national support and encouragement, you have begun the curation of your public lands legacy. From the National Monument designations of Brown's Canyon and the San Gabriel Mountains, to a wilderness recommendation for one of America's last great wild landscapes – The Arctic Refuge, you have generated constituent consensus across the United States for the protection of our public lands for their recreational, ecological and historical values. Thank you.

As the outdoor industry and related companies, we not only stand for our businesses, we also stand for our employees and customers. We represent a growing industry that supports more than six million American Jobs, generates more than $646 billion in consumer spending, contributes $80 billion in federal, state, and local taxes, and provides products and services for over 140 million Americans who recreate on our revered public lands each year. We all depend on the conservation and historic preservation of our public lands.

Far too often during the Obama presidency, communities have come together to propose legislated protections for federal lands, only to have those proposals fail to move through Congress. Most of your national monument proclamations have preserved special landscapes that Congress has not protected legislatively. We applaud your use of the Antiquities Act to save these places.

We, the undersigned business, announce our support for the permanent protection of more of the places we all play. Specifically, we support the protection of Boulder-White Clouds, Gold Butte, Mojave Trails, Birthplace of Rivers, and Owyhee Canyonlands. Several of these areas have been proposed for protection through Congressional legislation. If Congress fails to act on these bills, we encourage you to protect these special places through National Monument designations.

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✓ **Boulder-White Clouds, Central Idaho**

The Boulder-White Clouds are a sanctuary for threatened animal and [illegible]s and cherished by hikers, hunters, and especially mountain bikers – boasti[illegible]ng trails in the world. For decades, Idahoans and other stakeho[illegible] have worked tirelessly to protect one of the largest intact land[illegible]. Born from this area are the headwaters of much of Id[illegible] that breeds the farthest and highest elevation migrating salm[illegible] provides many communities -like Sun Valley- with clean, fresh water. This ar[illegible]50 peaks over 10,000 feet tall, as well as the world's oldest white bark pine tree clock[illegible]ng in at 1270 years old.

PROTECTED AS WILDERNESS, AUGUST 7TH, 2015

Gold Butte, Southern Nevada

Just over an hour outside of the Las Vegas Strip waits a hidden gem of the Southwest - the 350,000-acre region of Gold Butte. Its historical significance to this country far surpasses that of its Las Vegas neighbor. For more than 3,000 years, Native Americans flourished in the Gold Butte area, which is evident by the artifacts, rock shelters with blackened roofs, and ancient writings that dot the landscape. Gold Butte's recreation opportunities are endless, and its tourism opportunities positively impact nearby rural communities like Mesquite, Nevada.

Mojave Trails, Southern California

One of North America's most unique landscapes, the Mojave Desert is home to desert tortoises, bighorn sheep, and a wide array of rare and unique species. Like the Gold Butte region, the Mojave Trails area is also a bridge to our Native American roots, offering hikers the opportunity to engage with a landscape virtually unchanged for thousands of years. While hikers and other human powered recreationists are drawn to this area, so are those who wish to travel on the historic and scenic Route 66. Protecting this area would also preserve the most undeveloped remaining stretches of this historic route.

Birthplace of Rivers, West Virginia

Six rivers spring forth high in the Yew Mountains of the Monongahela National Forest. This intersection of humanity and nature is home to a tightly-packed complex of West Virginia's most iconic and ecologically significant features: West Virginia's most dramatic vistas, tallest waterfalls, and cleanest waterways. Its center is the Cranberry Wilderness, the largest federally-designated wilderness area in the Eastern United States. Six rivers are spawned in this area, connecting a network of communities downstream and some of the most important whitewater in the United States.

Owyhee Canyonlands, Southeastern Oregon

This treasured landscape is the largest conservation opportunity left in the lower 48 states. Its area is twice the size of Yellowstone, our nation's oldest park. This untouched stretch of the American West is awe-inspiring, featuring sheer, 1,000-foot desert canyons, 186 miles of designated Wild & Scenic Rivers, incredible red-rock formations, and rich wildlife including our nation's largest herd of California bighorn sheep as well as mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope. The vast rolling sagebrush hills serve as one of the last strongholds for the greater sage-grouse, a species already imperiled due to dwindling habitat. Its recreational opportunities are endless, and the solitude and inspiration afforded to visitors is priceless.

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The outdoor industry and related businesses are important economic drivers for the communities in these five areas in Central Idaho, Southern Nevada, Southern California, West Virginia, and Southeast Oregon. From guide services and outdoor gear manufacturers, to shops, hotels, and restaurants, locally-owned small and large businesses depend on the protection of these landscapes for increasing economic viability, recruiting new talent, and maintaining a high standard of living for employees, consumers, and families.

We support Congressional protection or National Monument designations of these five places. Please, continue to create your public land's legacy by protecting Boulder-White Clouds, Gold Butte, Mojave Trails, Birthplace of Rivers, and Owyhee Canyonlands for generations to come. #LiveMonumental

Sincerely,

Steve Meineke
President
KEEN, Inc.

klean kanteen — Chico, California
CLIF BAR — Emeryville, California
eno — Ashville, North Carolina
Outside — Santa Fe, New Mexico
LEATHERMAN — Portland, Oregon
OR Outdoor Research — Seattle, Washington
Mountain Khakis Jackson Hole • Wyoming — Jackson Hole, Wyoming
GOALZERO — Bluffdale, Utah
Hydro Flask — Bend, Oregon
YAKIMA — Beaverton, Oregon
Trail Butter — Portland, Oregon
Base Camp Brewing Company — Portland, Oregon
Zappos.com Powered by Service — Las Vegas, Nevada
REI — Seattle, Washington
RootsRated — Chattanooga, Tennessee
NRS — Moscow, Idaho
JAX Mercantile Co. — Bellvue, Colorado
visit knoxville Tennessee — Knoxville, Tennessee
River Sports — Knoxville, Tennessee
U.S. National Whitewater Center — Charlotte, North Carolina
patagonia — Ventura, California

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North Carolina

UPSLOPE BREWING COMPANY
BOULDER, COLORADO
Boulder,
Colorado

THE CIRCUIT
bouldering gym
Portland,
Oregon

Metolius
Bend,
Oregon

playmakers
Okemos,
Michigan

SKA BREWING
DURANGO, CO
Durango,
Colorado

PISGAH
Brewing Company
Asheville,
North Carolina

GSI OUTDOORS
Spokane,
Washington

ADVENTURES ON THE GORGE
Leading the world outdoors
Summersville,
West Virginia

ROCK CREEK
ROCKCREEK.COM
Chattanooga,
Tennessee

RAM MOUNTS
Seattle,
Washington

Lewisburg, West
Virginia

RUFFWEAR
Bend,
Oregon

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAFTS
Fountain Hills,
Arizona

OSPREY
Cortez,
Colorado

BLUE RIDGE outdoors
Asheville,
North Carolina

ELEVATION outdoors
Boulder,
Colorado

CARBON media group
Minneapolis,
Minnesota

To add your business name to this letter. Please email livemonumental@keenfootwear.com with your Business name and logo.

LIVE MONUMENTAL

CREATE LASTING CHANGE

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PLEASE JOIN KEEN FOR A LIVE MONUMENTAL RECEPTION

★ **CELEBRATE 3 MILLION ACRES** ★

IN 5 PLACES WE PLAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY

OWYHEE CANYONLANDS, OR • MOJAVE TRAILS, CA • GOLD BUTTE, NV • BIRTHPLACE OF RIVERS, WV • BOULDER WHITE CLOUDS, ID •

THE MOTT HOUSE
122 MARYLAND AVE NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2015
DOORS 5:00PM
RECEPTION 6:00-8:00PM

★ THIS IS A WIDELY ATTENDED EVENT ★

PLEASE RSVP TO
LIVEMONUMENTAL@KEENFOOTWEAR.COM

APPETIZERS & BEVERAGES WILL BE SERVED

THIS EVENT IS CO-HOSTED BY THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY AND T

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Outdoor Recreation Is Big Business IN THE UNITED STATES

Everything grows outside, including jobs and the economy.

Americans want and deserve access to a variety of quality places to play and enjoy the great outdoors. Outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy if we manage and invest in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for America.

An Overlooked Economic Giant

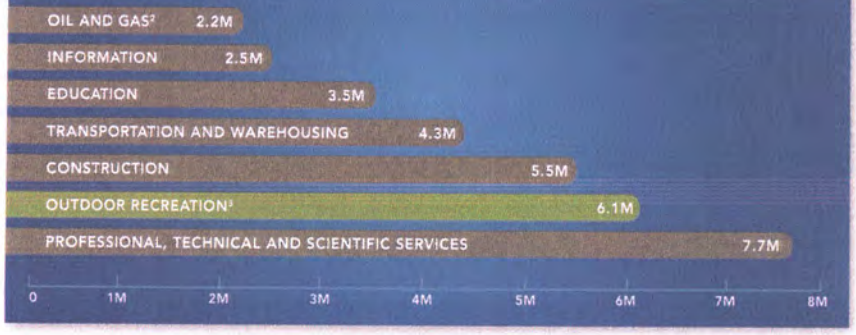
Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions[1]

1 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Product, based on available 2011 data.

Nationally
outdoor recreation is bigger than you might think and a significant economic driver in the United States.

Outdoor Recreation Employs America

Job Comparisons by Industry, in Millions[1]



1 Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011.
2 American Petroleum Institute, direct jobs in 2009 from *The Economic Impacts of the Oil and Natural Gas Industry on the U.S. Economy: Employment, Labor Income and Value Added*, updated June 2011
3 Direct employment in the outdoor recreation sector — as opposed to indirect, implied, multiplier or ripple effects that include impacts of spending, jobs and wages as they circulate throughout the economy.

6.1 million
American livelihoods depend on outdoor recreation, making it a critical economic sector in the United States.

View all 50 states and learn more at:
outdoorindustry.org/recreationeconomy

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Except as noted here, all results are based on national surveys of outdoor recreation conducted for OIA in 2011 and 2012. Motorcycle Industry Council and National Marine Manufacturers Association contributed [illegible]. Hunting related estimates were provided by the National Shooting Sports Founda[illegible] American Sportfishing Association. Wildlife viewing estimates were developed from data provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BOULDER, CO 80301 | 303.444.3353

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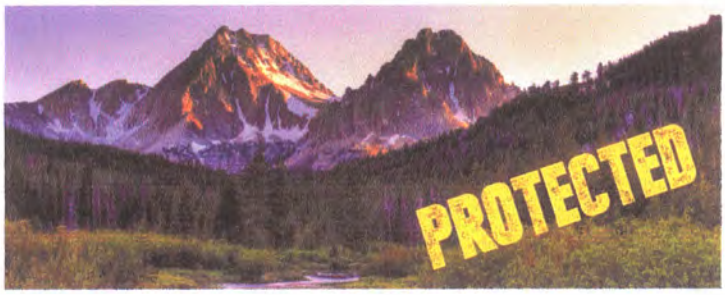

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Six rivers spring forth high in the Yew Mountains of the Monongahela National Forest. This intersection of humanity and nature is home to a tightly-packed complex of West Virginia's most iconic and ecologically significant features. West Virginia's most dramatic vistas, tallest waterfalls, and cleanest waterways. Its center is the Cranberry Wilderness, the largest federally-designated wilderness area in the Eastern United States. Six rivers are spawned in this area, connecting a network of communities downstream and some of the most important whitewater in the United States.

WHY DOES KEEN CARE?

WHAT IS A NATIONAL MONUMENT?

A National Monument is a section of public land set aside for its natural, historical or cultural value. National Monuments range from structures to oceans to large tracts of land. They make up some of America's most celebrated icons, from California's Giant Sequoia National Monument to New York's Statue of Liberty.

National monuments are designated with local input and managed by varying governmental organizations depending on the reason they were designated.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN A NATIONAL MONUMENT?

Once a National Monument is designated most pre-existing public and commercial activities continue including access to private property; rights of way for roads and utility infrastructure. Additionally, the following recreational activities are almost always allowed in national monuments:

- Hunting and fishing
- Rafting and boating
- Horseback riding
- Camping, Backpacking, Hiking and Biking
- Riding motorized vehicles on designated routes

HOW DOES A NATIONAL MONUMENT GET DESIGNATED?

Thanks to President Teddy Roosevelt's Antiquities Act, with the stroke of a pen, the President of the United States can protect natural, historical and cultural wonders by designating them as National Monuments.

In order for National Monuments to be designated, the public needs to share its support and love for our country's most special places. Let's do it! Let's celebrate the places we all play, let's Live Monumental.

PLACES TO LEARN MORE:

- Livemonumental.com
- Wilderness Society: wilderness.org
- Bureau of Land Management: blm.gov
- National Park Service: nps.gov
- U.S. Forest Service: fs.fed.us
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: fws.gov

As a business rooted in the outdoors we feel it is our responsibility to take action, to speak up for what we believe is right, and to share that conversation with outdoor enthusiasts around the world.

KEEN is dedicated to building stronger communities and a healthier planet through three strategic areas:

1. Community: building the next generation of planet stewards
2. Environment: access to clean air and water everyplace we do business
3. Supply Chain: managing what goes into our product and how those elements affect you and the environment around you

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE LASTING CHANGE.

CONTACT KEEN:

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NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

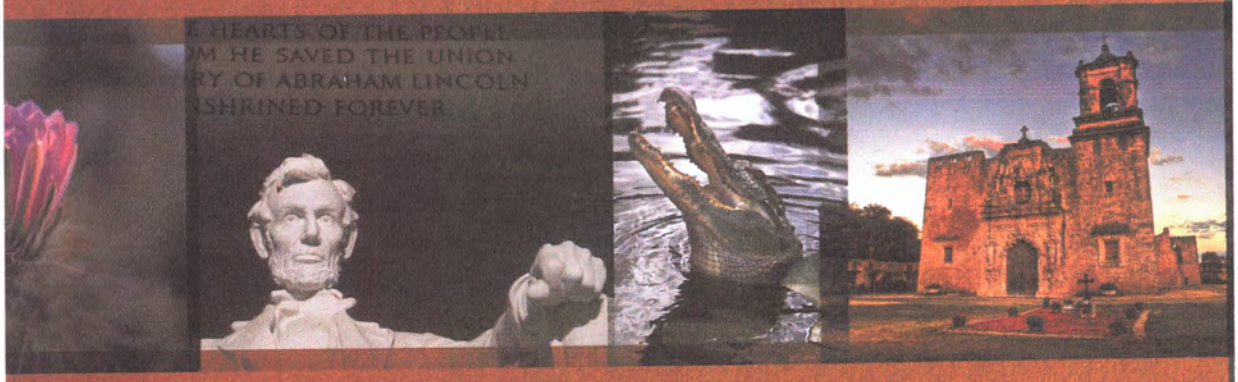
Protecting our national parks for future generations.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Suzanne B. Dixon
Regional Director, Texas

sdixon@npca.org
P 214.370.9735 x11 | **F** 214.370.8527
C 214.288.1346 | npca.org

2904 Swiss Avenue | Dallas, Texas 75204



NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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WACO MAMMOTH FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 326 Waco, Texas 76703 (254) 750-5640

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Melanie Sheedy
Brooke Taylor
Gloria Young

September 16, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

As you may be aware a special Resource Study was completed by the National Park Service on the Waco Mammoth Site in July 2008 which clearly concluded that the site meets all four criteria necessary to be added to the National Park System. We have been unsuccessful to date in attempts to gain national recognition through acts of Congress in both the 111th and 112th Congressional Sessions. Despite the merits of our Site, we fear that future congressional efforts will continue to be unsuccessful.

We respectfully request that the Waco Mammoth Site be designated as a National Monument through use of the Antiquities Act of 1906. This national treasure has solid community support. Over $4.4 million has been raised locally to construct a climate controlled protective structure for the *in situ* remains along with associated infrastructure to allow for visitation by the public. The Waco Mammoth Foundation was established as a formal partnership between the City of Waco and Baylor University along with an active Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site group for fund raising activities.

If the site receives national recognition through the Antiquities Act, we would desire a management and operations partnership be developed with the NPS, the City, and Baylor. Approximately five acres would be conveyed to the National Park Service for operation of the core site and the City would maintain the surrounding 100 acres for park and recreational purposes. The City of Waco would commit that this protective buffer surrounding the core site would not be developed for anything other than park appropriate uses. Baylor University would continue to be a partner in scientific research and would continue to provide appropriate storage for the previously excavated remains. The Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site is committed to future fund raising activities for capital projects. In fact, they are currently raising funds for a proposed Children's Discovery Area.

This anticipated partnership would capitalize on the strengths of each of the participating groups and ensure that the Waco Mammoth Site would receive the same protections and operate under the same guidance required of all other units of the NPS.

We look forward to your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Judge Ken Starr
President, Baylor University

Malcolm Duncan, Jr.
Mayor, City of Waco

Gayle Lacy
President, Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc.

Nell Hawkins
Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site

CC: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

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WACO MAMMOTH FOUNDATION, INC.

P.O. Box 326 Waco, Texas 76703 (254) 750-5640

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Kay Olson
Cynthia Perry
Melanie Sheedy
Brooke Taylor
Gloria Young

September 16, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

As the president of the Waco Mammoth Foundation, I am deeply interested in the Waco Mammoth Site being designated as a National Monument through use of the Antiquities Act. Our foundation was established as a 501.c.3 organization in 2006. Since that time we have raised approximately $4 million dollars that enabled us to build a protective shelter at the site, along with many other improvements. Our continuing mission is to promote, protect, and preserve the Waco Mammoth Site. Additionally, we support the site's tourism, scientific research, and development.

The National Park designation would further validate the importance of the Waco Mammoth Site on a national level. The National Park Service has verified the site's scientific significance through a special resource study. Meanwhile, the Waco Mammoth Foundation raised funds to build a protective shelter that met all National Park criteria in anticipation of inclusion as a unit of the NPS.

Since it opened to the public in 2009, the Waco Mammoth Site has generated tremendous interest. As a national monument, it would be exposed to a much larger audience. This increased visibility would greatly enhance the local economy as the visiting public spends its tourism dollars at our hotels and restaurants. We would like for a tour of the Mammoth Site to be a part of a larger experience in our area.

As a research facility, the Waco Mammoth Site offers unlimited opportunities for both visiting scientists and students alike. They too would aid the local economy with regular work-related visits. Additional paleontological digs at this site in the future could actually create jobs for our area.

Given the Site's great potential as a national treasure, we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the Waco Mammoth Site a unit of the National Park Service.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Gayle Lacy

Gayle Lacy, President of the Board of Directors
Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc.

CC: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

GREATER WACO CHAMBER

Oct. 1, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, I'm writing you in support of the Waco Mammoth Site being designated as a National Monument.

Home to the largest known concentration of mammoths that perished in one locality in the Western Hemisphere, the Waco Mammoth Site had humble beginnings upon its discovery in 1978 along the Bosque River. This remarkable paleontological site uncovered 25 mammoths that are assumed to have been trapped in a sudden flash flood. Due to the collaborative efforts between the city of Waco, Baylor University and community investors, this central Texas wonder opened to the public in 2009.

The site also has the rare combination of unique paleontological and geological attributes that is accessible by millions of people that travel along Interstate 35.

Not only will it positively impact Greater Waco's economic vitality and quality of life, but thousands of school-age children are inspired by the site's overlook of these extinct leviathans annually. It opens up opportunities to engage our young people and inspire them to develop skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking, science, technology and math. Now, we seek your help in ensuring the Site's longevity as a national treasure as its impact will be seen for generations.

Please help us invest in America's future, preserve a national monument and continue to impact the Greater Waco economy. Given the Site's great potential as a national treasure, we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the Waco Mammoth Site a unit of the Park Service.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Meadors
President & CEO
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce

CC: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Services

WACO WE DO
101 S. Third St. Waco TX 76701 • P.O. Box 1220 Waco TX 76703-1220 • 254.752.6551 • fax 254.752.6618 • WacoChamber.com
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W.W. "FOOTS" CLEMENTS FREE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE at the Dr Pepper Museum

300 South 5th St.
Waco, TX 76701
Ph. 254-757-1024
Fax 254-757-2221
fei-dpm.org
Jack N. McKinney, Executive Director - Ext.110
Bill Flynt, CFRE, Director - Ext.153

September 24, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to express my support for designation of the Waco Mammoth Site as a national monument under the Antiquities Act. This is truly a unique site that deserves to be protected and shared with the nation and the world. Located in Waco. Texas not far off Interstate 35, this site contains the remains of a herd of Columbian Mammoths that had circled around their young to protect them before being buried by a mud slide. Like Dr Pepper it is truly One of a Kind.

It is my opinion that Designation this site under your authority in the Antiquities Act will assure that the site is preserved and available to the public into the future. As a National Park site it will get the recognition and promotion that it deserves and afford thousands of visitors the opportunity to experience something extraordinary.

I believe that this designation will benefit the entire community in a positive manner by stimulating the economy and enabling visitors to Waco to discover some of the truly unique venues in the area including the Dr Pepper Museum and Free Enterprise Institute, the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame and the Browning Library and Museum at Baylor University. In addition to these attractions, there are many other equally interesting sites to discover.

Given the site's great potential as a national treasure, we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the Waco Mammoth Site a unit of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

William Flynt

William Flynt, Director
W. W. "Foots" Clements
Free Enterprise Institute

CC: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
John Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

WACO & THE HEART OF TEXAS

September 12, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

The City of Waco is actively committed to marketing and promoting tourism in Waco & the Heart of Texas. This beautiful part of central Texas offers a diverse product mix and provides a fun visitor experience, rich in Texas history and popular culture. One of our most surprising attractions, though, was created more than 65,000 years ago.

The Waco Mammoth Site is a key component of our entire tourism mix and attracts long-term visits and overnight visitors year-round. Local support for The Waco Mammoth Site has been phenomenal, with the City of Waco, Baylor University and private donors all stepping up to make this star attraction a reality!

Travel spending in the Waco MSA annually generates more than $510.7 million and supports more than 5,100 jobs in our local economy. Tourism is real business and in Waco & the Heart of Texas and The Waco Mammoth Site is an important piece of that picture.

While I am enthused and excited about this Site's tourism appeal, I know the real value of The Waco Mammoth Site is all about education. Education is one of the primary goals of this Site because it is a great place for students to discover the worlds of geology, paleontology and archeology. There is no place like it anywhere in the United States and it needs to be used to teach young people.

Given this Site's great potential as a national treasure, I urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the Waco Mammoth Site a unit of the National Park Service. I am respectfully requesting your sincere attention to this matter and hope you will recognize the tremendous opportunity and value this important paleontological site represents.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Taylor

Elizabeth A. Taylor
Director
Waco & the Heart of Texas

Cc: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

PO Box 2570
Waco, Texas 76702-2570
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254-750-5801 (fax)

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FRIENDS OF THE WACO MAMMOTH SITE

P.O. Box 326 Waco, Texas 76703 (254) 750-5640

September 16, 2014

Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site
Patty Davis
Susan Duecy
Betty Haas
Nell Hawkins
Leanne Howell
Gayle Lacy
Wilton Lanning
Nancy Logan
Kay Olson
Cynthia Perry
Melanie Sheedy
Brooke Taylor
Gloria Young

President Barack Obama
The White House
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

My husband and I have long been interested in the Columbian Mammoth site discovered here in Waco. It has been my honor to have served as the chairperson for the Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site which is the fundraising group for the Waco Mammoth Foundation. Obviously many of the citizens of our area share this same interest since my Friends group has been able to raise approx 4 million dollars since 2008 from private donations and local foundations necessary to provide the proper protection for the site and to construct the required infrastructure to allow it to be safely opened for visits by the public.

The positive result of the Special Resource Study of the Waco Mammoth Site conducted by the National Park Service validated our belief that this is truly a national treasure and needs to be preserved for the entire nation. From the beginning of our talks with the representatives of the NPS we have proposed a three-way partnership in the care and operation of this park site. That partnership includes the NPS, Baylor University and The City of Waco including the added support of the Waco Mammoth Foundation. The continued area-wide interest and outpouring of financial support for this project emphasizes the high esteem this site holds in the hearts of our community members.

We have been very careful with the expenditure of these funds making sure all of our construction plans have met the guidelines of the NPS so that nothing would need to be rebuilt if we were taken into the NPS as a National Monument. We opened the site to the public in December of 2009 and revenue from our gate receipts, along with souvenir sales and the continued support of the City of Waco and Baylor University have proven we can operate with minimal support if any from the NPS. We feel the prestige of being a part of the NPS will boost our visitor numbers by providing national exposure to a large segment of the population.

I urge you to designate the Waco Mammoth Site as a National Monument through use of the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,

Gloria Young

Gloria Young
Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site

CC: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY

September 15, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

At the confluence of the Brazos and Bosque rivers in central Texas is the world-class Waco Mammoth Site dated to about 65,000 years ago. This Site has high scientific significance with at least twenty four nearly-complete remains of Columbian Mammoths, from a time when a large ice sheet covered much of the Northern Hemisphere and the southwestern U.S. was far wetter than today. The Site is the largest known concentration of mammoths that perished in one locality in the Western Hemisphere. Uncertainty remains whether this mass of 1000's of bones and tusks reflect one or multiple death events and why so many succumbed in one place. These mammoth remains, many exposed at the Site, is one of the most important paleontological localities in North America for the number of and completeness of skeletons, excellent preservation and range of mammoth ages. The geology of the Site is also worthy of preservation because it is one of the oldest relict landscapes in the southwest reflecting past changes in river discharge, and environmental and climate change. The viewing of so many complete skeletons has particular poignancy for unanswered questions on how mammoths survived climate change and the cause of their ultimate extinction. The Site has the rare combination of unique paleontological and geological attributes and is readily accessible by millions of people from Interstate 35. Thousands of school-age children are inspired by the Site's overlook of these extinct leviathans and has propelled many of varying ages toward the STEM disciplines. We believe that this Site is a national treasure; should be preserved and improved for future generations. Thus, we urge you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the Waco Mammoth Site a unit of the National Park Service.

Respectfully yours,

Steven L Forman

Steven L. Forman, Professor
Department of Geology
Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Lee Nordt

Lee Nordt, Professor and Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geology
Baylor University
Waco, Texas

CC: Mike Boots, Acting Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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McLennan Community College

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT STATUS

NAME: Waco Mammoth Site
RE: Designation of the site as a National Monument
DATE: September 18, 2014

To President Obama:

I am requesting your consideration of designating the Waco Mammoth Site as a National Monument. The next time you come to Waco, Texas, this should be on your priority list to visit. If you have not been to this site, you are missing out on experiencing one of our nation's treasures.

I teach geology courses at McLennan Community College and this is one of my student's favorite field excursions. Students can physically witness the historical account of fossil preservation by walking through the site. From an educator's point of view, the Waco Mammoth Site provides a grand-slam teaching moment for students about living versus death assemblages of fossils. That is a difficult concept for student's to grasp. Once students observe the fossils exposed at the Waco Mammoth Site, they truly comprehend how these creatures lived, how they were preserved, and the unique conditions that preserved their remains. One interesting fact about the site is that the rock layers literally record repeated flooding events that buried these mammoths. That means that two completely unrelated groups of mammoths are buried at different intervals of geologic time in the exact same geographic location. Besides mammoth fossils, this site has an exposed camel and the remains of a saber tooth kitten. One of the important reasons to protect this site as a National Monument is that additional fossils have been observed in the area. This justifies the need for additional scientific research to be conducted in order to determine the full scope of the fossil community that exists at the site.

It is my understanding that the Waco Mammoth Site is currently being considered for Presidential Executive Order under the Antiquities Act for assignment to the National Park Service as a National Monument. Besides the educational benefits of this site, I strongly urge you to consider the geologic significance of this site. These animals represent one of the few Columbian Mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*) nursery herds that have ever been discovered. That makes this site critically important for the future scientific research of this species and their habitat.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 254-722-9865 or email me at efagner@mclennan.edu. In closing, I am advocating that you approve the Waco Mammoth Site as a National Monument to protect this rare living fossil assemblage. Your decision would protect these fossils future generations can continue to study their value to the fossil record.

Sincerely,

ELAINE K. ALEXANDER FAGNER, P.G.
MCC Professor of Geology, Earth Science, & Environmental Science
CC: CEQ Acting Chair Mike Boots, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Director Jon Jarvis

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Hillcrest Professional Development School

4225 Pine Ave. • Waco, Texas 76710 • (254) 772-4286

June 9, 2011

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you to urge your support of and effort toward the passage of House Resolution 1545, to include Waco Mammoth Site as part of the National Park System. This site is a treasure we want to share!

I am an elementary teacher at Hillcrest Professional Development School in the Waco Independent School District. Over the past four years, my students and I have become ardent supporters of the Waco Mammoth Site. Beginning in the fall of 2007, before the site was open to the public, my class of 5th grade gifted and talented students was studying archaeology and paleontology. They had been hearing about the site and wanted to go there. Since it was not yet open, they decided to help the community raise money to build the dig shelter. That was the beginning. Ever since then, each class of 5th grade students have participated in research about the mammoths, in learning about the history of the dig site and in fund-raising and awareness-raising here at our school and in the community. We have taken field trips to the site, seeing in person the amazing glimpse of the past and what our efforts helped accomplish toward its preservation. What wonderful learning experiences we have had! Since its opening in December of 2009, the site has hosted numerous groups of students of all ages, from pre-school to high school and university students, as well as groups of adults and even family reunions. The site is an amazing resource for the public to learn from and to enjoy.

In addition to my involvement as an educator, I have also become personally involved by volunteering at the site on week-ends and during summer vacations. It is my privilege to serve as docent to visitors from all over Texas and the United States and beyond as they come to see and hear about the history of these magnificent creatures who inhabited this area. Many educational avenues converge at the Waco Mammoth Site. Authentic learning about geological timelines, megafauna and their habitats and environmental changes and concerns takes place when one is standing on the cat-walk overlooking the remains and imagining the events of 65,000 years ago. Visitors leave pondering the wonders that the earth and her history hold for her people.

By including the Waco Mammoth Site in the National Park System, we can insure that it will continue to be a source of learning and inspiration for present as well as future generations. After one 8-year-old visitor told me with great confidence that he knew exactly what "unidentified mammal" one of the bones came from, I challenged him to study and become a paleontologist so he could return and prove his theory. There is much potential at the site; I urge you and your committee to invest in the future by valuing the past.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne S. Beaty

Jo Anne S. Beaty
Teacher of Gifted and Talented Students

Dear Elected Official, December 8, 2010

Hi, my name is (b) (6) I am a 5th grade student at Hillcrest PDS Elementary School in Waco. My gifted and talented class has currently been studying mammoths and the Waco Mammoth Site. One thing we learned is that the Waco Mammoth Site is being considered for inclusion in the National Park System. I am writing this letter to ask for your support of this bill.

I support this is because it would most likely bring more attention to Waco and the Waco Mammoth Site. It would be great if even more people got the experience to see all of those bones and learn about these mammoths. I also think that it would be great for Texas to have another National Park.

Thank you for reading my letter and considering this. Have a great day!!!

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

December 15, 2010

Dear **Elected Official,**

I am a student from elementary school, Hillcrest PDS. I live in Waco, Texas so I am very close to The Waco Mammoth Site. This letter is about how I would like the Mammoth Site to be a National Park Unit.

I would like the mammoth site to become a national park unit because Texas would get more publicity. Another reason is more visitors may come and with the money the Mammoth Site makes, it can help improve the site. If the Mammoth Site becomes a national park unit it can bring more people from far away. The people from far away can learn about mammoths and Waco's history.

I would like the Waco Mammoth Park to become a national park. I hope you can help make this happen. Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely Yours,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS
Waco, TX

December 8, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

I am a 5th grade Gifted and Talented student at Hillcrest PDS and I want to ask for your support for the Waco Mammoth Site.

I think the Waco Mammoth Site should be a National Monument because it would be good for the business and people of Waco. It would be a great tourist attraction and Waco could be known for something new. Perhaps the site could be made bigger and have more facts as we learn more about the mammoths.

Thank you for your time to read this and I will look forward to the site becoming a National Monument.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Waco, TX

(b) (6)

December 8, 2010

Dear Elected official,

Hello, I am a Gifted and Talented 5th grader at Hillcrest PDS in Waco, Texas and I would like for you to consider some things.

I would like for the Waco Mammoth Site to be a National Park Monument. It would be a good thing for business because of the money spent in Waco. We could us National Park funds to make the site bigger and better. Also, being a National Monument would be a good thing for the Waco Mammoth Site because it would get more publicity. It would be a great learning experience for everybody. It would be cool to be able to put the National Park Service logo on our Waco Mammoth Site building.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for considering supporting the Waco Mammoth Site.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

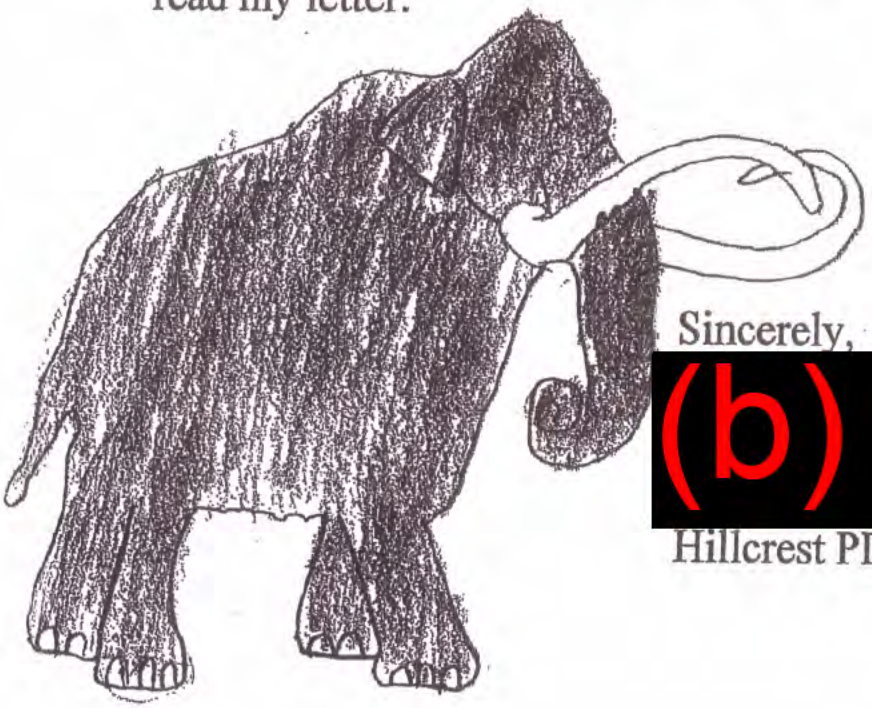
December 8, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

Hello, I am a 5th grader at Hillcrest PDS in Waco. Our GT class is studying the Waco Mammoth Site.

I understand that there is some legislation on the Senate floor to make the Waco Mammoth Site a unit of the National Park System. If the site gets to be a National Park it will be very good publicity for the site and Central Texas. And it will also get more money for the site. We already have visitors from all over all over the world. People have come from New Zealand, Sweden, and Japan to see the mammoth remains!

I hope you take this into consideration. I know you have a very busy schedule. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.



Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS Waco, TX

December 8, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

I am (b) (6) I am a 5th grader at Hillcrest PDS in Waco. Our Gifted and Talented class is studying about mammoths. I am writing you this letter because I want you to vote for the Waco Mammoth Site's inclusion in the National Park System.

If this bill passes, it will bring many tourists, a lot of money, and publicity for the city of Waco. We have already had many people from the USA and around the world come and visit the Waco Mammoth Site. The Waco Mammoth Site is growing in size and popularity. It is a great place to learn about mammoths.

Thank you for reading this letter and considering this decision.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS
Waco, TX

Dec. 18, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

I am a 5th grade GT student at Hillcrest PDS. We have been studying the Waco Mammoth Site. I would love it if you voted for designating the WMS as a National Park unit.

If this legislation passes, funding for the WMS could provide many benefits. Tourists would bring more business and money into Waco, Texas, and to the mammoth site. It would be good for people to learn more about mammoths, and Central Texas history! It would also give Texas something else to brag about!

I am asking for your support, and thank you for your time, and consideration in helping the Waco Mammoth Site.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS
Waco, TX

Dec. 8, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

My name is (b) (6) I am in 5th grade at Hillcrest PDS Elementary School. Our Gifted & Talented class has been studying about the Waco Mammoth Site for several weeks now.

We would like to make the Mammoth site a National Park Monument. We need your help! This could make money for Texas and the Mammoth Site. It's just a fun place to visit. People learn more about our earth's past and mammoths that lived here,

We thank you for your work and time you have given us. We hope you can help to make the Mammoth Site into a National Park. Have a great day!

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS Waco, TX

December 8, 2010

Dear Elected official,

Hello, I'm in the 5th grade and my Gifted & Talented class is studying about Mammoths and we will be taking a trip to the Waco Mammoth Site. I have been hearing about the bill on whether to make the Waco Mammoth Site a National Park Monuments.

The benefits of the bill can help the WMS raise money and help the site get bigger, more fun, better, and nice looking. If the WMS receives money it can be more attractive to people. More people will want to come out and enjoy learning the history of the Mammoths. So I hope that you can vote for the WMS so that it can be known as a National Park. I hope that the WMS can become the most known popular Mammoth Site in the world.

Thanks for taking time to read my letter!!

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS
Waco, TX

December 15, 2010

Dear Elected official,

My name is (b) (6) I go to school at Hillcrest P.D.S. (b) (6)
(b) (6)

But that is not the point of this letter. I wish for the Waco mammoth site to become a national park monument. It would be good for Waco by raising money for Waco. Part of it can go to the Waco mammoth site, too. It could also help the world learn about all of these different animals and things that can change lives.

~~Doing this you can change lives. So~~ please help people learn about things that they have never known about the plant's past.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)
Hillcrest P.D.S. 5th G.T.
Waco, Texas

December 15, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

My name is (b) (6) I am a fifth grade student at Hillcrest P.D. S. My Gifted and Talented class is learning about mammoths and the Waco Mammoth Site. We would like for you to support the bill to make the Waco Mammoth Site a National Park.

Being a National Park unit would make more people come and see the site. The Waco Mammoth Site could raise more money so that they can keep maintain and improve the facilities. People can come to learn more about mammoths.

We need your help for the Waco Mammoth Site to become a National Park unit. I hope you will be able to support the Waco Mammoth Site. Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest P.D.S

December 15, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

Hello my name is (b) (6) I am in 5th grade at Hillcrest PDS Elementary School. My 5th grade Gifted & Talented class and I have been learning about the Waco Mammoth Site. We would like it if the Waco Mammoth Site could become a National Park.

There are several reasons that I want the Waco Mammoth Site to become a National Park. It would bring more visitors to the Waco Mammoth Site, possibly even money to Texas. Also people could learn more about Mammoths and their history.

Thank you for reading my letter and considering this. Have a good day.

Sincerely

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS Waco, Texas

December 15, 2010

Dear Elected Official,

My name is (b) (6) I am a 5th Grade Gifted and Talented student at Hillcrest PDS. I am writing this letter to you because our Gifted and Talented class needs your help.

We heard that the Waco Mammoth Site might become a national park monument. It would be good for it to become a national park monument because Waco would get more tourists, and people would learn more about mammoths. Also, it would be a good family vacation during the summer. Another reason is that it would raise money for the Waco Mammoth Site and for Waco because people from all around the world could come and see it.

The only way that it can become a national park is with your help by voting, so we are asking if you would please vote to make the Waco Mammoth Site become a national park so that everyone can come to Waco to see it and learn more about mammoths.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest PDS

Waco, TX

Dear Elected Official,

December 15, 2010

My name is (b) (6) (b) (6) (b) (6)

I would like it if the Waco Mammoth Site was made a National Park. It has more known mammoth bones than any other place in America. It has been visited by people from Asia, Europe, and the Oceanic Islands. It also has skeletons of camels, unidentified animals, and saber-tooth tigers.

If it was a National Park it might attract more visitors. It would be good for business here in Waco and helpful to those running the educational site. It can help protect the land around it.

We would really appreciate it if you could help make the Waco Mammoth Site a National Park.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Hillcrest Professional Development School
Waco, Texas

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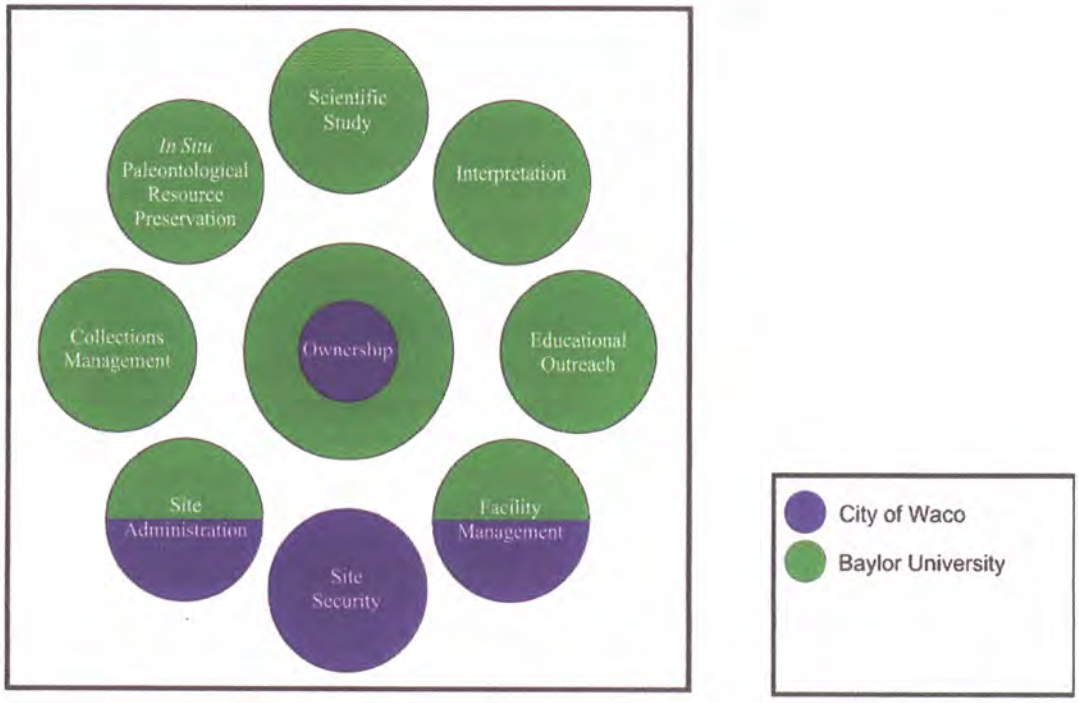

ALTERNATIVE A: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT TRENDS (NO-ACTION)

Overview

The no-action alternative represents the continuation of current management trends at the Waco Mammoth Site and serves as a base-line measurement for comparing three proposed alternative management strategies. New programs, activities, or site development beyond the efforts currently underway by the Waco community are not considered in this alternative. For the purposes of this study, the following conditions and trends are presumed to continue.

Concept for Management

The Waco Mammoth Site is managed for the continuing preservation and protection of the paleontological resources, conducting scientific study, working towards enhancing resource protection of the *in situ* specimens, and providing for onsite visitor enjoyment and understanding through local community efforts.

Overall Management Framework

The existing cooperative management arrangement between the city of Waco and Baylor University is continued. The city of Waco manages the security and maintenance of the 4.93-acre property containing the core paleontological site. Baylor University manages the surrounding 104.41 acres and provides preservation of the *in situ* and collected specimens, preservation of the archives, scientific research involving the site and the collections, and educational expertise supporting the interpretive program for the core paleontological site.

Resource Management

Resources continue to be monitored and protected by the city of Waco and Baylor University.

Baylor University would continue to ensure the *in situ* paleontological resources are

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stabilized and preserved. The current moratorium on excavation activities would continue.

The larger specimens collected from the site would remain in plaster jackets while the smaller bone fragments and soil samples would remain in cataloged cardboard boxes and stored within Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex. Research reports and documentation of the site and excavation activities would continue to be archived at the Mayborn Museum Complex.

Scientific Study

The university would continue to conduct scientific study of the resource to further the understanding of the circumstances of the site.

Level of Development

For the purposes of this study, it is assumed that the Waco community efforts to erect a protective shelter over the excavation area and to provide for controlled visitor access to the site are underway. Under this alternative, there would be no expansion of development beyond this effort.

Visitor Experience

Visitor understanding and appreciation of the resource continues to be provided off-site by a dedicated exhibit room within the museum setting of Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex.

Once the excavation shelter and site improvements are completed, visitor access would be accommodated. Opportunities for visitor understanding and appreciation of the paleontological resources would be greatly enhanced through onsite interpretive waysides and through controlled visitor access into the excavation shelter where views of the *in situ* specimens would be provided. However, as additional operational funding has not been allocated to accommodate daily visitation, there would not be any permanent onsite staff. Visitor access would be on a limited basis, with at least 12 events scheduled throughout the year to accommodate visitors into the excavation shelter as required by the Save America's Treasures grant. It is anticipated that existing staff from the city and Mayborn Museum would manage these events. Educational outreach programming for local schools or other groups would be very limited.

Facility Management

When the excavation shelter is completed, the city will be responsible for maintaining and operating the onsite facilities that provide for the protection of the *in situ* specimens and the accommodation of visitors.

The collection storage area housing the Waco Mammoth Site's paleontological collection and archives would continue to be maintained off-site within the geology/paleontology collections room of Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex.

Site Administration and Security

The city of Waco and Baylor University would continue to share site administration responsibilities. The city would continue to provide security, police, fire, and emergency medical services for the site.

Potential Site Recognition

Based on the initial findings of the special resource study, the Waco Mammoth Site is a potential candidate for two categories of site recognition. The first category is based on the resource evaluation and initial findings of national significance, which indicate that the Waco Mammoth Site is a potential candidate for national natural landmark status. The second category is based on the resource evaluation and initial findings of national significance and suitability, which indicate that the Waco Mammoth Site is potentially eligible for Congressional designation as a National Park Service affiliated area. A brief outline of each of these two designations is presented below.

National Natural Landmarks: National natural landmark designation is a process by

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which natural areas, in both public and private ownership, are recognized as outstanding examples of our nation's natural heritage. The secretary of the interior, with the landowner's consent, designates national natural landmarks. Nationwide, nearly 600 sites have received this special designation. Two sites were designated national natural landmarks in 2006: Ashfall Fossil Beds National Natural Landmark in Nebraska, and Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmark in California. Prior to 2006, it had been almost 18 years since a site was designated. The National Natural Landmarks Program encourages conservation of these outstanding natural features. The National Park Service administers the program, and if requested, can assist national natural landmark owners and managers with the conservation of these important sites. These services may include any of the following:

1) Assisting national natural landmark owners with grant applications to fund site conservation and interpretive projects.

2) Providing or brokering technical assistance to national natural landmark owners.

3) Building partnerships by coordinating for research and other purposes with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and the network of Cooperative Ecosystems Study Units and collaborating with academic institutions in various aspects of achieving the National Natural Landmarks Program's objectives.

National Park Service Affiliated Areas: Affiliated areas include a variety of locations in the United States and Canada that preserve nationally significant properties outside the national park system. Congress designates affiliated status through legislation, which may also authorize the secretary of the interior, through the National Park Service, to provide technical and/or financial assistance.

Technical assistance may include access to training and/or services such as interpretation, historic preservation, and other resource protection and preservation. Congress may appropriate financial assistance for one-time studies or preservation projects, or it may appropriate annual funds to help manage the affiliated area. Affiliated areas are permitted to display the NPS arrowhead symbol in tandem with the partner's symbol and may use it in their printed and online literature and other interpretive media about the site.

Under this alternative, it is assumed that these options represent potential site recognition only, as neither of these designations is actively being pursued by the city of Waco, Baylor University, or Congress at this time.

Ownership

The core paleontological site remains under the ownership of the city of Waco, while the surrounding lands continue under the ownership of Baylor University.

Ownership of the collected specimens and archives continues under shared ownership between the city of Waco and Baylor University.

Cost Estimate

The current costs for managing the Waco Mammoth Site are difficult to quantify. Staff support for the site is an assigned collateral duty among other responsibilities. Under this alternative, it is assumed that no new funding for staffing, maintenance, and operations beyond what is currently being provided by Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex and the city of Waco's Department of Parks and Recreation would be provided. The costs to provide continued stewardship of the resource, as well as the added responsibilities for facility maintenance, utilities, security, and staffing when the site is open to visitors during the 12 scheduled events per year, would be covered by the city and the Mayborn Museum's existing funding levels.

Partnership Opportunities

The Waco Mammoth Foundation and the local community continue to play a key partnership role in supporting preservation

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and public access initiatives for the Waco Mammoth Site.

The Waco Mammoth Foundation has spearheaded an energetic effort to seek public and private support for the Save America's Treasures initiative. Major donors include Baylor University, the city of Waco, McLennan County, the Cooper Foundation, the Waco Foundation, as well as a host of other foundations and private individuals.

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VOTE FOR THE BEST BEAR EVER!

Waco Mammoth Site advocates make National Monument case in D.C.

Staff photo— Jerry Larson, file

Visitors get a look at preserved bones at the Waco Mammoth Site, which is up for National Monument status.

Buy this photo

Posted: Tuesday, October 28, 2014 6:01 pm

By J.B. SMITH jbsmith@wacotrib.com

Waco leaders are in Washington, D.C., this week to make the pitch for an executive order to make the Waco Mammoth Site a national monument and to invite top federal parks officials to Waco to see it.

Officials with the city, Baylor University, Waco Mammoth Site and the National Parks Conservation Association will meet Wednesday and Thursday with administration staff and elected officials about the site.

They will ask the Interior Department and National Park Service to request an order from President Barack Obama to incorporate the mammoth site into the federal system under the Antiquities Act.

Obama already has used that power for 13 sites across the country. Suzanne Dixon, who is representing the conservation association at the meetings as Texas regional director, said there is a strong case to add the Waco Mammoth Site, whose application has been stalled in Congress for several years.

She said the delegation will show "that the community of Waco wants this, it's nationally significant, and it should be a unit of the parks system."

Dixon said the National Park Service could adopt the mammoth site at minimal cost, given that it already has been developed and run by a nonprofit organization and the city of Waco.

Video

Waco Indian Village rededication
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"The public-private partnership is a great story," she said. "The first time I drove up there, I thought, 'Oh, my god, the only thing missing from this is the Park Service logo.' "

She said the heads of the National Park Service and Interior Department will be invited to come to Waco in the next couple of months to see the site and the public support for it.

The site on Steinbeck Bend Road showcases a "nursery herd" of two dozen mammoths that formed a defensive circle before being covered by a mudslide some 60,000 years ago. Dixon said no other national monument site can offer anything comparable.

The National Park Service declared in 2007 that the site met its standards for inclusion.

Gayle Lacy, chairwoman of the Waco Mammoth Foundation, said she feels "very positive" about the chances to get a national monument marker.

"I think the best thing is that we have the perfect model for the future set up, a coordinated effort between the private sector, Baylor, the city and the Park Service," said Lacy, who is part of the delegation to Washington.

Lacy said she expects that the city would continue to operate the site as an educational tourist attraction but turn over the five-acre dig site to the National Park Service. The city owns a total of 100 acres around the bones.

Lacy said the national monument status would give the mammoth site a national profile and increase attendance, which is now about 20,000 a year.

Discovery area

She said the designation also would help with fund-raising for a new $1 million children's "discovery area," that will encourage families and school groups to stay at the site longer.

Joining Lacy and Dixon for the Washington meetings are Waco City Manager Dale Fisseler, mammoth site supervisor Raegan King and Mayborn Museum Complex director Ellie Caston.

The delegation is scheduled to meet this week with the White House's Council on Environmental Quality, the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior and the offices of U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan.

Flores sponsored a bill in 2012 that would have brought the mammoth site into the national park system but with a stipulation that no federal funds would be spent on it. That bill passed the House but never came up for a vote in the Senate.

Flores has said he would not oppose the city of Waco's efforts to get federal status for the site through executive order.

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Posted in POLITICS, CITY OF WACO on *Tuesday, October 28, 2014 6:01 pm.*

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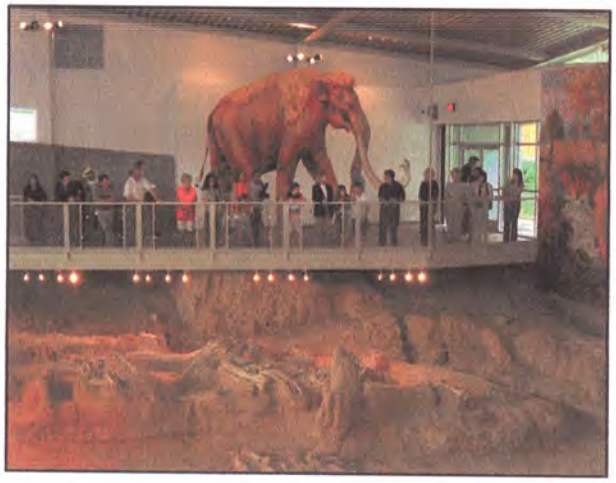
WACO MAMMOTH SITE



The Waco Mammoth Site is a significant paleontological site with Columbian mammoth bones dating back 68,000 years. The Site was opened to the public in December 2009 and has become an incredible educational experience for children and adults of all ages.

Construction of a protective structure and related site development at the Waco Mammoth Site was a collaborative effort involving the National Park Service, the City of Waco, Baylor University, foundations, and local citizens. The property that holds the Columbian mammoth remains was donated to the City of Waco in 1996 by Sam Jack McGlasson with an additional 103.443 acres donated by Baylor University. The City of Waco is responsible for operations and maintenance while the Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex is responsible for preservation, collection management and overseeing scientific research.

First discovered in 1978, the Waco Mammoth Site is the largest known concentration of prehistoric Columbian mammoths dying from the same event in North America. Twenty-four Columbian mammoths, one camel, and the tooth from a saber-toothed cat have been discovered to date. Boreholes in the site area indicate that additional mammoths have yet to be unearthed. While most of the mammoth bones exposed by excavation have been removed from the site to Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex for preservation purposes, a significant number of exposed *in situ* remains are still located on site.

Development of the Site is divided into phases and is designed in a manner that meets National Park Service standards. Phase I provided protection for the existing dig site and access for visitation by the public. This phase includes a dig shelter building, walkways, welcome center, drainage improvements, parking, an entry road and utility improvements at a total cost of $3,881,340. An overall master plan includes future development as funds become available.

Located close to IH-35, the Waco Mammoth Site is a western anchor for tourist sites along the Brazos River Corridor and has had a direct impact on economic development in the area. Designation of the Site would result in additional exposure, increased visitor attendance from outside the community and an increased economic impact in the community. The National Park Service projected that the annual visitation rate after designation could increase to between 75,000 and 100,000 with revenues increasing upward to $400,000 per year. The Site will exceed 20,000 visitors in 2014. The Ray Perryman Group projected that 10 % of the visitors to the Site would spend at least one additional day in the central Texas region.

Donations:

Save America's Treasures Grant	$ 197,058
Foundation Grants	560,000
City of Waco	140,000
Baylor University	101,000
McLennan County	100,000
City of Bellmead	20,000
Meyer Family Foundation Challenge Grant	1,500,000
Private Donations (230 Donations)	1,608,680
Hillcrest PDS Elementary School Children	1,507
Total Funds Raised	$4,248,567

Donations – In-Kind:

Building demolition and asphalt on entry road and parking area	$ 280,224
Concrete curbing on entry road and parking area	64,354
Left turn lane, materials testing, installation of irrigation and landscaping	55,422
Total In-Kind Donations	$ 400,000

Includes additional funds raised for future Phase II Children's Discovery Area

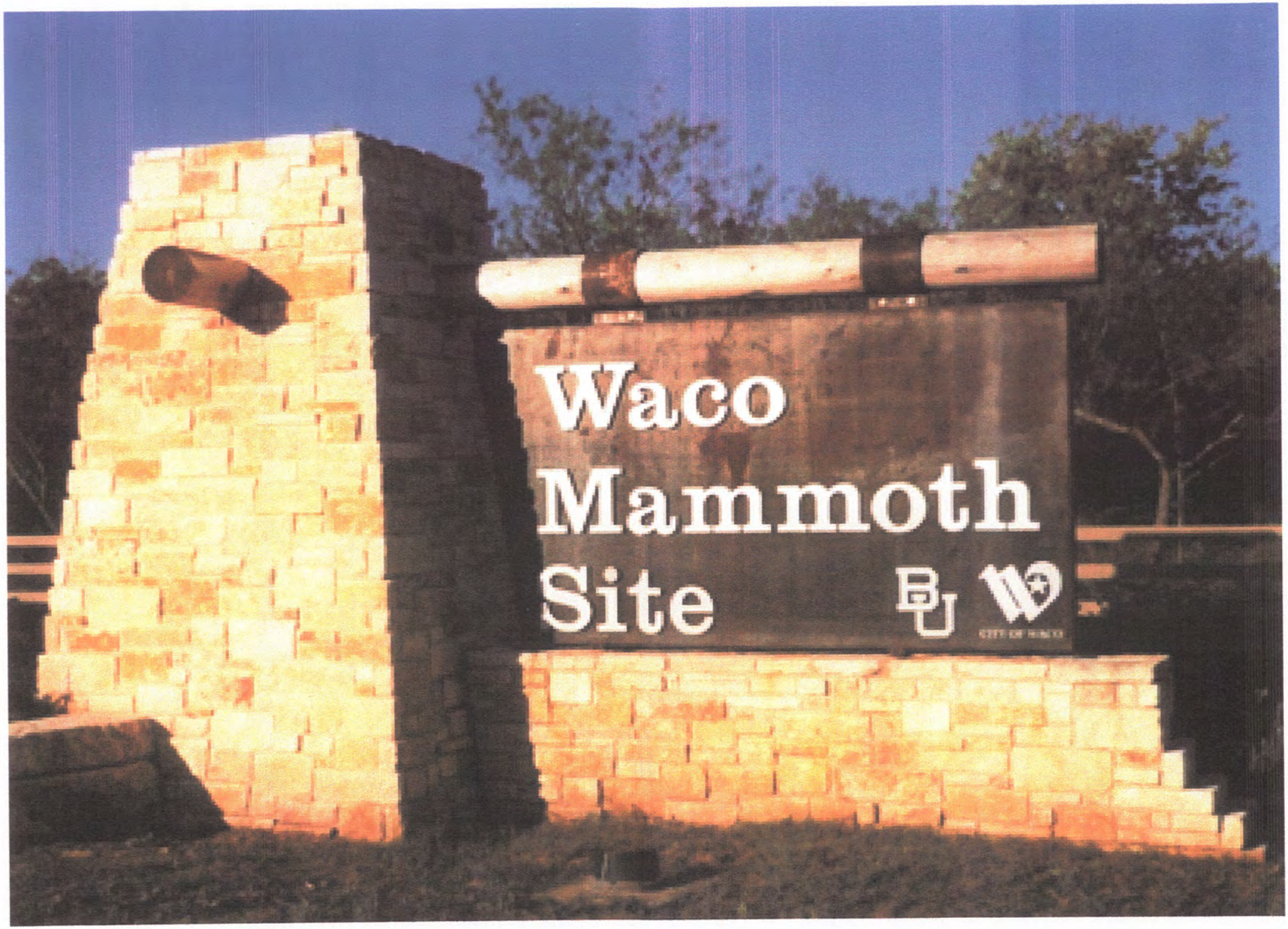
2014 Visitors have come from all 50 U.S. states, 1 U.S. territory and 42 foreign countries

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Revenues	193,216	144,916	140,528	146,778	173,566
Expenses	326,711	232,225	228,539	244,340	259,793

Staffing: 3 Full Time 4 Part-Time

Operations: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Tuesday – Saturday

If the Site is designated as a unit of the National Park Service, the City of Waco will continue to be responsible for operations and maintenance at the Waco Mammoth Site within the City's operating budget, and Baylor University will continue to provide research and collection management. The Waco Mammoth Foundation, along with the Friends of the Waco Mammoth Site, will raise funds for future development at the Site.


Waco
Mammoth
Site

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CITY OF WACO

(Revised 09/2014-Legal)

Resolution

Council Date:	Originating Department:	Presentation By:	Reference #:
09/16/2014	Parks & Recreation	Rusty Black	RES-2014-535

Item:

Consider a resolution supporting the designation of the Waco Mammoth Site as a National Monument and a part of the U.S. National Park Service under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Background:

The City of Waco, Baylor University, the U.S. National Park Service, and the U.S. Department of the Interior have supported the efforts of local officials, congressmen, and senators over the past five years to achieve National Monument status for the Waco Mammoth Site. Then, in February 2014, the National Park Conservation Association met with City staff and the Waco Mammoth Foundation in an effort to utilize the Antiquities Act of 1906 to gain National Monument status. At that meeting, the City learned that the Waco Mammoth Site was one of four sites on a short list for possible designation. This show of support by the City Council will help achieve the City's goal to designate the Waco Mammoth Site as a National Monument.

Resolution (DOC)

Fiscal Impact:

Project Schedule:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

WHEREAS, the Waco Mammoth Site sits on more than 100 acres of wooded parkland along the Bosque River; and

WHEREAS, between 1978 and 1990, the fossil remains of 16 Columbian mammoths were discovered; and

WHEREAS, between 1990 and 1997, six additional mammoths were excavated, including a large male (bull), and crews also uncovered the remains of a camel (*Camelops hesternus*), the tooth of a juvenile saber-tooth cat (*Smilodon sp.*), and the remains of an unidentified animal; and

WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, Baylor University staff, students, and volunteers spent countless hours excavating the Waco Mammoth Site; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, plans were initiated to make the Waco Mammoth Site a public park and this goal became a reality with the support of the Waco Mammoth Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Waco Mammoth Site opened to the public in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Waco Mammoth Site is the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WACO, TEXAS:

I. That all of the above recitals are true and correct and made a part hereof for all purposes.

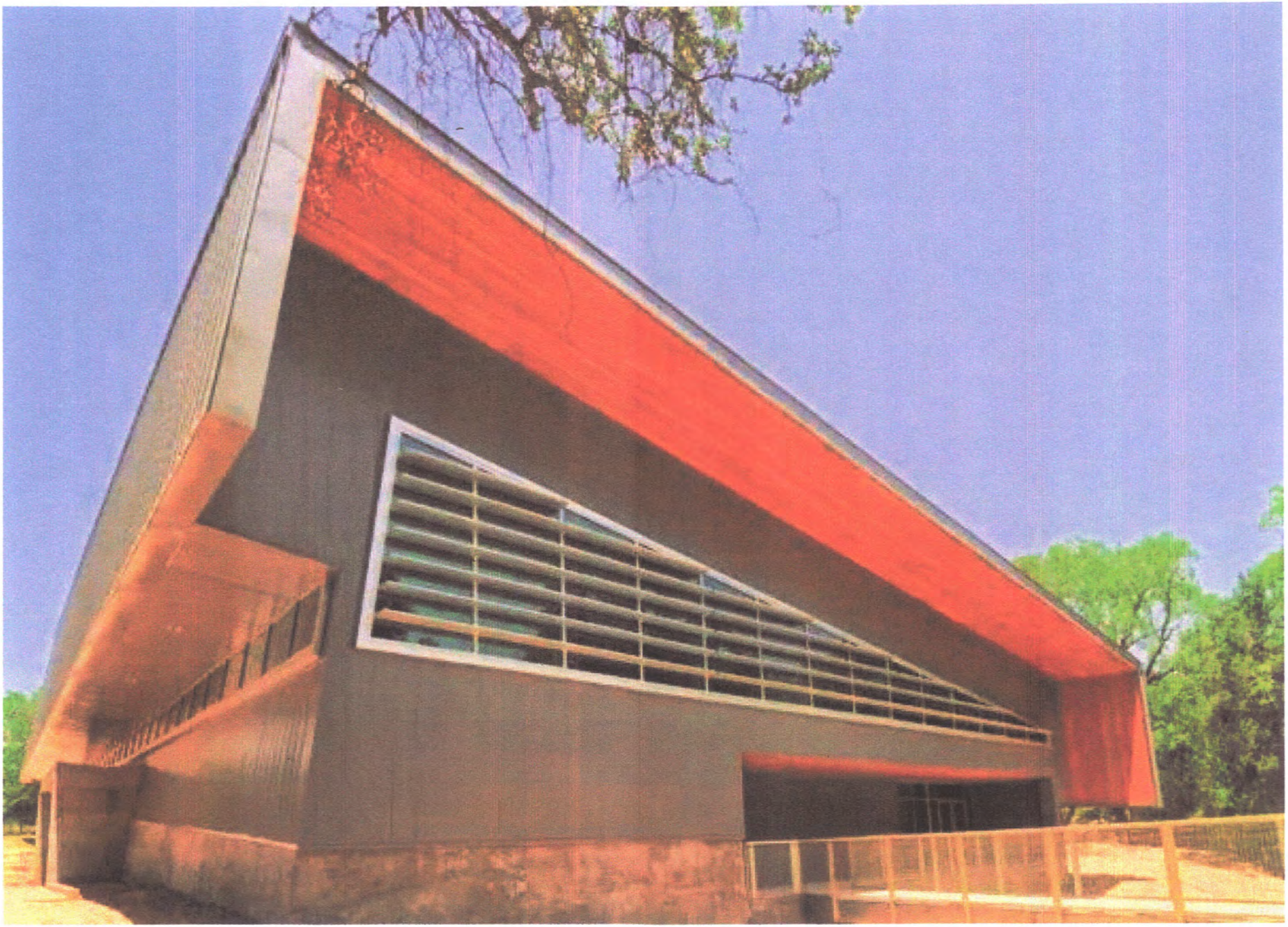
II. That the City Council hereby approves a resolution supporting the designation of the Waco Mammoth Site as a National Monument and a part of the U.S. National Park Service under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

III. That it is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of September, 2014.

_____

Malcolm Duncan, Jr., Mayor
City of Waco, Texas



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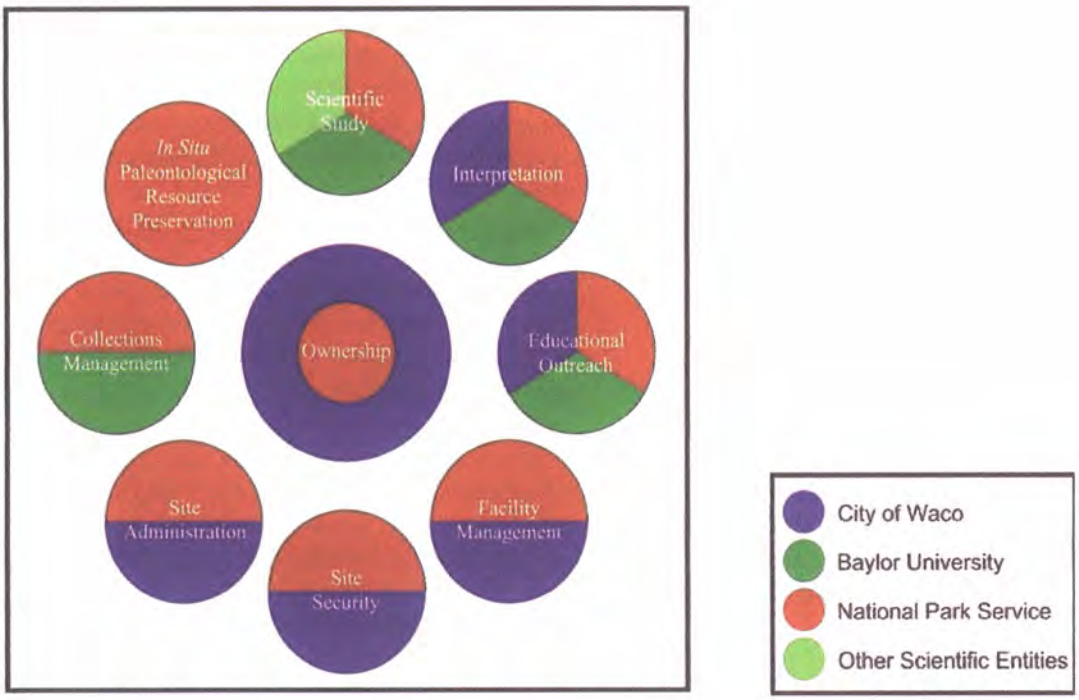

ALTERNATIVE C: PARTNERSHIPS LED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Concept for Management

Similar to the management described in alternative B, in alternative C the Waco Mammoth Site would be managed for the continuing preservation and protection of the paleontological resources, conducting scientific study, providing for onsite visitor enjoyment and understanding of the paleontological resources, and providing a range of recreational and environmental educational opportunities. Alternative C is different from alternative B in that management responsibilities for fulfilling this purpose would be delegated among the National Park Service, the city of Waco, and Baylor University, and there would be an expansion of partnership opportunities with others.

Overall Management Framework

The Waco Mammoth Site would be managed as a new unit of the national park system, in partnership with the city of Waco, Baylor University, and others.

The National Park Service would prepare a general management plan to guide future managers of the site by clearly defining what level of resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time. Developed in consultation with local governments, park stakeholders, and the general public, the plan would establish overarching resource management goals and provide guidance concerning the overall level and intensity of development appropriate for the site. A partnership development strategy would be included as an integral component of the plan. Under this alternative the National Park

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Service would take the lead responsibility for ensuring the protection, scientific study, and visitor enjoyment of paleontological resources, enlisting the help of partners to accomplish this mission. The city of Waco or other partners would take the lead for initiating additional recreational, interpretive, and environmental educational opportunities on the site. For example, the National Park Service would make sure that *in situ* paleontological resources are protected and would provide opportunities for visitor enjoyment, but would not likely initiate major capital improvements for expanded visitor services or administrative facilities. Any major investments to provide a full service visitor center or environmental education facility, administrative facilities, and regional trail connections could be pursued by the city and other partners.

Resource Management

The National Park Service would develop a resource stewardship strategy including a collections management plan to guide resource management activities. For the purposes of this study, it is assumed that future resource management strategies would include the following recommendations:

The National Park Service would assume responsibilities for the core paleontological resources of the site. This would include monitoring the conditions of the *in situ* specimens and perhaps exploring other areas within the excavation shelter to acquire additional information about the circumstances of the site. Other site resources in the surrounding lands would be managed by the city of Waco.

The paleontological collections management would be divided between the National Park Service and Baylor University. The National Park Service would develop protocols and methodologies for initiating preparation and cataloging of the specimens currently housed in plaster jackets and the smaller fragments and soil samples in cardboard boxes. It is assumed that a specimen preparation laboratory could be incorporated into the city's proposed environmental education center at the site with the National Park Service operating the lab. The collection would continue to be housed within Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex, except that select portions of the collection may be housed onsite within the education center for the purposes of exhibiting prepared specimens and/or exhibiting the specimen preparation process to the public. Research reports and documentation of the site and excavation activities would be maintained onsite by the National Park Service. Similar to alternative B, this would benefit future researchers as access to prepared specimens would be made possible for the first time. It would also provide a benefit for the public as select fossils could be cast for exhibit purposes. However, under this alternative, it would provide an added benefit of integrating the specimen preparation activities into the interpretive experience at the site.

Scientific Study

To further the understanding of the site and its circumstances, the National Park Service would support and coordinate the scientific study of the core paleontological resources and geologic context. Opportunities would be pursued to establish an endowment to support continued scientific study of the resource. The National Park Service would consult with the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) national network to help facilitate expanded research opportunities through other scientific institutions. Each CESU is structured as a working collaborative among federal agencies and universities that are focused on specific biogeographic regions of the country. The Waco Mammoth Site falls within the interface of three biographic regions: the Gulf Coast, Desert Southwest, and Great Plains. Baylor University could apply for inclusion in either of these units to expand their opportunities to apply for potential federal funding of future research initiatives for the site..

Level of Development

The National Park Service would initiate a general management planning effort to

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provide guidance concerning the overall level and intensity of development appropriate for the site. For the purposes of this study, it is assumed that the level of development would be as follows.

Similar to alternative A, the Waco community efforts to erect a protective shelter over the excavation area and to provide for controlled visitor access to the site are underway. However, under this alternative the National Park Service would provide for enhanced interpretive mechanisms of the paleontological resources and would partner with others to initiate a broader range of other onsite visitor opportunities. For example, the city of Waco could pursue their long-range vision for developing a city park at the site that may include, as future funding permits, an environmental education center with expanded indoor and outdoor interpretive opportunities, interpretive nature trails connecting to the Bosque Riverfront and other regional trailways along the Brazos River corridor, boat access along the Bosque Riverfront, and picnic and informal play areas. It is also assumed that NPS staff could be accommodated within the administrative facilities developed by the city.

Visitor Experience

Visitors would be able to participate in a similar range of interpretation programs as outlined under alternative B.

Similar to that described in alternative A, visitors' understanding and appreciation of the resource would continue to be provided off-site by a dedicated exhibit room within the museum setting of Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex.

Once the excavation shelter and site improvements are completed, visitor access would be accommodated. Opportunities for visitor understanding and appreciation of the paleontological resources would be greatly enhanced through onsite interpretive waysides and through controlled visitor access into the excavation shelter where views of the *in situ* specimens would be provided. Access to the core paleontological area and surrounding lands would be made available to the visiting public on a daily basis.

Interpretive programs and media provided through the Waco community's Phase I park development efforts would be expanded through the collaborative efforts of the National Park Service, the city of Waco, and Baylor University. A comprehensive interpretive plan would be prepared to guide the development of enhanced interpretive mechanisms and programs for the resource. Guided tours and interpretation programs for school groups and special events would be provided. Opportunities to allow the visiting public to observe the specimen preparation work would be developed.

The partners would also collaborate on educational outreach programs targeting school groups at the elementary through high school level, programs for the general public to promote life-long learning, and scientifically detailed programs for students at the post-secondary education level.

In addition, an environmental education center would provide enhanced visitor understanding and appreciation of the mammoth site as well as of the distinctive environment found along the interface of the Texas Hill Country and Gulf Coastal Plain.

The specimen preparation laboratory with strategically placed viewing windows could be integrated into the city's environmental education center to provide opportunities for visitors to observe the fossil preparation process.

An interactive website could be established to provide a "Portal to the Pleistocene" with an in-depth presentation of the site and its relationship to the Pleistocene, updates on the progress of ongoing scientific study efforts, and links to other mammoth sites found throughout the country and potentially other locations around the world.

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Recreational opportunities could be developed by the city by providing access to the Bosque Riverfront and Brazos River corridor by way of connecting trails. Water taxis could be accommodated along the site's Bosque riverfront, which would extend the additional connections to other community attractions.

Facility Management

The facilities constructed through the Waco community initiative providing protection of the *in situ* specimens and providing visitor access to the excavation area would be operated and maintained by the National Park Service.

Additional facilities developed by the city to enhance the environmental educational and recreational opportunities of the site would be operated and maintained by the city of Waco.

Similar to alternative A, the collection storage facility housing the Waco Mammoth Site's paleontological collection would continue to be maintained off-site within Baylor University's Mayborn Museum Complex.

Site Administration and Security

The National Park Service would be the primary manager of the 4.93-acre core paleontological site, while the city of Waco would be the primary manager of the surrounding 104-acre city park. The city would provide city services such as security, police protection, fire suppression, and emergency medical response for the entire site. It is assumed that shared jurisdiction for law enforcement would be established between the city of Waco and the National Park Service for areas under NPS management.

Site Recognition

Congress would designate the site as a new unit of the national park system. The process for national natural landmark designation could be pursued by the National Park Service.

Ownership

Enabling legislation would allow flexibility for a mixture of land ownership and management among the key entities that would best fulfill the mission. For example, while a National Park Service boundary may be authorized for the entire site, some or all of the land may remain with the city of Waco and Baylor University. It is assumed for the purposes of this study, that the federal government would acquire ownership of the core paleontological site, the collected specimens, and archives. The lands owned by Baylor University would be transferred to the city of Waco for the purpose of allowing the city to more fully develop the surrounding lands as a city park.

Cost Estimate

Similar to alternative B, capital improvement cost estimates for this alternative are based on the recent master planning effort commissioned by the city. It is anticipated that $8.1 million would be needed to implement the city's long-range vision for creating a municipal park at the Waco Mammoth Site.

The city projects a staff increase of approximately 5.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions would be needed to provide entry control, schedule group tours, provide general information, and maintain facilities. Additional assistance for large ground maintenance could be provided by existing crews from the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. Their annual operational costs are estimated to be approximately $300,000.

There would be no projected increases in staffing or operational expenses beyond current levels already provided by Baylor University's Mayborn Museum.

The National Park Service would program and develop enhanced interpretive mechanisms for the site as well as within the excavation pavilion. The projected estimated cost for enhanced interpretive media is $585,000. It is anticipated that NPS staff could be accommodated within the administrative spaces of city-owned facilities, so there would

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be no additional capital improvement costs for NPS needs.

The estimated annual costs for NPS employees is based on the assumption that staff would be supervised and supported by the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park located in Johnson City, 144 miles to the southwest of the site. At the fully staffed level, it is estimated that approximately 4 FTE (full-time equivalent) positions would work at the Waco Mammoth Site with a focus on the core paleontological area. Employees would include a paleontologist who would serve as the resource manager and research coordinator for the site; a collections manager/fossil preparator who would work with Mayborn Museum staff and trained volunteers to initiate specimen preparation efforts; an interpretive specialist who would oversee the interpretive/educational outreach programs, supervise seasonal interpreters, and serve as the volunteer coordinator; and two to three seasonal interpreters.

Annual staffing costs including benefits are estimated to total $246,000. Annual operational costs for supplies, materials, utilities, and equipment would be approximately $99,000 annually.

Partnership Opportunities

The National Park Service would join the existing management partnership between the city of Waco and Baylor University, taking the lead regarding the resource protection and visitor enjoyment of the fundamental paleontological resources.

As in alternative A, the Waco Mammoth Foundation and the local community would continue to play key partnership roles in supporting preservation and public access initiatives for the site. A written agreement could be developed between the National Park Service and the Waco Mammoth Foundation establishing the foundation as an NPS Friends Group. Additional partners would be invited to help support expanded resource protection and visitor enjoyment opportunities.

Cooperative agreements could be developed with the city and/or other partners for taking the lead in funding and managing a more fully developed surrounding parkland for enhanced visitor opportunities.

A number of other opportunities could be pursued to help support management of the site, including the following:

- donations or grants from government, corporate, and/or private sources
- community volunteers and student interns
- volunteer scholar and student led research activities
- entry fees could be charged to help offset operational expenses

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Archaeology Southwest™

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The Great Bend of the Gila

William H. Doelle and Andy Laurenzi, Center for Desert Archaeology
Ella Pierpoint, Arizona Site Steward

FROM ITS SOURCE in the highlands of western New Mexico, the Gila River flows for nearly 650 miles in a westerly direction to join the Colorado River at Yuma. Just forty miles southwest of downtown Phoenix, the Gila River makes a very sharp bend to the south. After twenty-two miles, it turns abruptly to the west-northwest. This "Great Bend of the Gila" was carved as the river's waters were pushed left and right by the unique geology of this area. Several ancient volcanoes and extensive lava flows flank much older sedimentary layers that are exposed in the Gila Bend Mountains (see map on pages 6–7).

This distinctive pair of petroglyphs is extraordinarily large. Together, they convey a dynamic scene of a hunter with bow and arrow (right) aimed at a prey animal (left). The hunter image has had a second, very bold design of interlocking scrolls pecked over it.

Since ancient times, countless travelers have passed through the Great Bend. The river was essential to a prehistoric trail network linking the California deserts, lower Colorado River, and Gulf of California with the verdant Salt and middle Gila river valleys. European explorers and Euro-American travelers crossed this arid landscape in close proximity to the river. Remnants of their passage are still visible today.

The Gila River sustained many communities for hundreds of years: Mimbres villages in its upper reaches, Hohokam irrigation farmers between Safford and Gila Bend, and Patayan groups from Gila Bend to Yuma (see map on page 2). In the Great Bend, the two desert cultures met. Substantial Hohokam ballcourt villages were established along the margins of the floodplain here, and an early Hohokam platform mound was built at the Gatlin site, north of Gila Bend. These settlements thrived from the 800s to the 1100s. By the 1100s, Patayan groups had also moved into the region. Areas of culture contact such as this are dynamic places—sometimes creative and peaceful, at other times socially tense, and, in extreme cases, torn by conflict.

Much of this story is—literally—written upon the rocks. Taking advantage of the lava flows and volcanic features along the river, native peoples transformed long stretches of the Great Bend of the Gila into an extraordinary gallery over the past two millennia. These fragile traces of the past have yet to be fully explored.

This issue of *Archaeology Southwest* presents several thousand years of human history along the Great Bend of the Gila. We tap the records of early travelers and archaeologists to reveal some of the hidden history of a unique, sometimes overlooked, cultural landscape.

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Hohokam and Patayan

ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING aspects of archaeology in the Great Bend of the Gila is the growing body of evidence that people from two distinct cultural traditions, Hohokam and Patayan, lived there, concurrently, for several centuries.

Archaeological surveys of the lower Gila region in the 1950s and 1960s identified a pattern: Patayan pottery was more abundant west of the Painted Rock Mountains, and Hohokam pottery was more common to the east of this range. Likewise, large sites with Hohokam ballcourts were found east of the Painted Rock Mountains. These ballcourt villages were settled around A.D. 800 and inhabited until about 1150. At least four major canal systems served these settlements, and some canals may have served as many as three villages.

Three major cultural traditions were found along the Gila River around A.D. 1000 to 1150. Archaeologists use the term Patayan to describe a prehistoric culture associated with the lower Colorado and lower Gila rivers. These people produced pottery collectively known as Lower Colorado Buff Wares, and they are believed to be ancestral Yuman.

Archaeological work conducted in anticipation of the Painted Rock Dam and Reservoir, which was completed in 1965 (see map on pages 6–7), found smaller sites containing mostly Patayan ceramics in areas closer to the Gila River. Albert Schroeder, a National Park Service archaeologist who performed an initial survey for the project, thought that these sites represented the movement of Yuman speakers from the lower Colorado River into the area by 1100.

Two recent excavations near Gila Bend provided intriguing glimpses into Hohokam-Patayan interaction in the centuries between 1000 and 1200. Excavations by Rio Salado Archaeology at a site southeast of the Gillespie Dam (see map on pages 6–7) revealed two contemporaneous burial areas that were very different from each other: based on the associated ceramics, one was clearly Hohokam, and the other was distinctly Patayan. Rio Salado archaeologist Glen Rice thinks both groups lived in the community at the same time. The presence of Patayan households within Hohokam communities is also seen at the ballcourt village of Las Colinas, on the western side of Phoenix.

At the same Gillespie Dam site, a few hundred yards to the north, archaeologists from Desert Archaeology, Inc., discovered a series of exceptionally large Hohokam pithouses—one more than 1,000 square feet in floor area, five times the usual square footage (see *Archaeology Southwest* 21[4]). Built and used in sequence, these structures may have been formal meeting places for heads of household who provided leadership for the community.

It is striking that leadership and ritual in this apparently multicultural community did not employ a ballcourt or a platform mound, as we see at other Hohokam sites in this time period. The nearby and roughly contemporaneous Gatlin site (see page 4), for example, had a platform mound as a community focus. The mound was excavated by Arizona State Museum archaeologists William Wasley and Albert Johnson in the winter of 1958–1959. Although they interpreted the site as a vacant ceremonial center, we now think it was a thriving community of some 500 residents. Clearly, there is much to learn about how Hohokam and Patayan people were living and working together within and among villages, and how community-level decisions might have been made.

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Top: Aerial view of very large Hohokam pithouses at the Gillespie Dam site. Left: Many of the region's ball-court villages have been destroyed by agricultural development and flooding from the Painted Rock Dam. This aerial image shows two of six known remaining courts; at least twelve were originally documented. One court is in the center of the photo; the other, subtler depression is in the upper right.

There is linguistic, historical, and oral history evidence of close, long-term contact between Hohokam and Patayan people, as well. Archaeologist John Andresen and linguist David Shaul examined words shared by Yuman speakers of the lower Colorado River area and Piman, or O'odham, speakers. Their conclusion, reported almost twenty years ago, was that Yuman and O'odham speakers probably interacted very closely for at least several centuries around A.D. 1000.

When Father Kino passed through Gila Bend in 1699, he observed settlements of Yuman speakers to the west, O'odham speakers to the east, and bilingual people in the middle. By the mid-1800s, warfare with lower Colorado River groups had forced the abandonment of the Gila Bend area. People resettled farther upstream with allies and relatives living on the stretch of the Gila between Coolidge and the junction of the Gila and Salt rivers. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Pee Posh (Maricopa) and Akimel O'odham (Pima) of the Gila River Indian Community continue to recognize the languages and cultural traditions of this earlier time.

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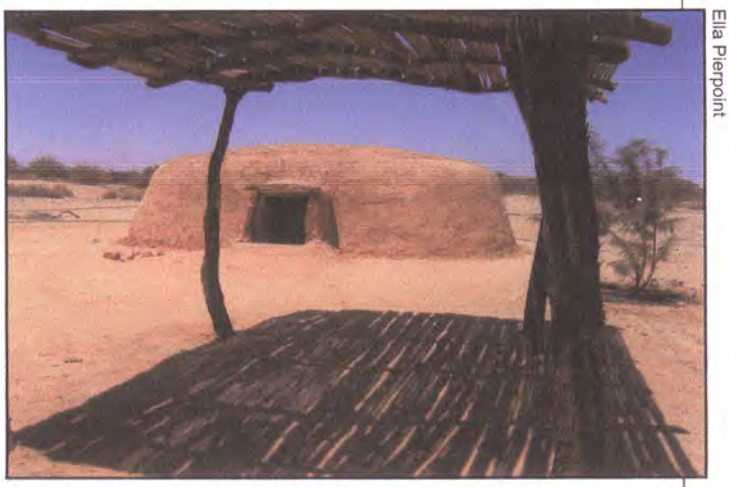
The Gatlin Site, a National Historic Landmark

The Gatlin Site National Historic Landmark (NHL) and Archaeological Park preserves and interprets a major Hohokam village that was inhabited from A.D. 800 to 1200. The Gatlin site—also known as the Gila Bend site—had two ballcourts, a unique platform mound, a large plaza, and more than thirty trash mounds. The platform mound dates to the 1100s, which makes it earlier than other mounds outside the lower Salt and middle Gila river areas. Furthermore, it seems to be the only platform mound ever built in the Great Bend area.

Thirty acres of the site were designated as a NHL in 1964, following William Wasley and Albert Johnson's excavations; this represents only a portion of the site. The Town of Gila Bend purchased the NHL property in 1986 and an adjoining eighty acres to the south in 1987. Although the twelfth century settlement covered nearly twice this preserved area, the Town of Gila Bend's Gatlin Site Archaeological Park contains a substantial portion of the original core of the community.

The Gatlin Steering Committee was established in 1990. Consulting archaeologist David Doyel has led development, interpretive, and preservation efforts at the site, and a diverse group of volunteers has devoted time to these projects. Funding has come from local, state, and federal sources.

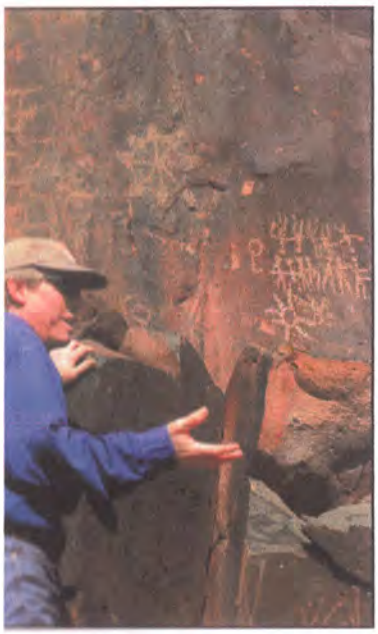
As a result of these efforts, the site is now fenced; sixteen trash mounds have been stabilized; a road and a power line through the site have been formally abandoned; portions of the site are landscaped with native plants; and entry and exit roads, as well as a parking area, have been developed. Interpretive elements include walking-tour trails, ramadas, signage, and replica pithouses. At present, the park is open for walking tours and special events by prior arrangement with the Town of Gila Bend (928-683-2255).



Ella Pierpoint

Reconstructed pithouse at the Gatlin Site Archaeological Park.

Ancient Rock and the Great Bend Gallery



Desert Archaeology, Inc., archaeologist Henry Wallace discusses a Gila Bend petroglyph panel.

The Great Bend of the Gila is a dramatic landscape, bounded by a volcanic field, cleaved by the Gila River, and studded with mountains and buttes. These geologic features provided centuries of residents and travelers with ideal surfaces for imparting information and artistry.

Formed three to four million years ago, the Sentinel-Arlington Volcanic Field is comprised of basaltic lava flows and two shield volcanoes, one west and one north of Gillespie Dam (see map on pages 6–7). As the Gila River cut through this volcanic field, cliff faces and boulders formed. The surfaces of these rocks developed a dark patina, which, when pecked away by humans, revealed lighter rock beneath and enabled communication of bold signs and symbols.

Older geologic features, such as the Gila Bend Mountains and the iconic Powers and Robbins buttes of the Buckeye Hills, are embedded in and adjacent to the volcanic field. Striking reddish sandstone outcrops in the Gila Bend Mountains host petroglyphs dating from early prehistoric through protohistoric times.

Three major styles of petroglyphs are found across the region. The Archaic style, which dates before A.D.

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100, features geometric elements rather than human or animal forms. Because of their greater age, Archaic petroglyphs often exhibit a dark patina. During the ceramic period, both Hohokam and Patayan styles are evident. Circular images that may represent shields became more common in Patayan glyphs over time, and may indicate increased conflict between Patayan and Hohokam people in this boundary zone after 1100.

The ground surface of this arid, sparsely vegetated volcanic landscape is itself a messenger. Geoglyphs—arrangements of rocks or boulders on the ground surface—are often found on the terraces overlooking the Gila River. Archaeologists have also documented trails and the patterned removal of desert pavement, which is comprised of closely packed rocks or gravels that have weathered to a dark patina.

All of these expressions in or on the rock landscape are extremely fragile—and greatly endangered. When a vehicle drives over intact desert pavement, it leaves an indelible scar. Geoglyphs are under constant threat from vehicles and vandals. Petroglyphs are especially vulnerable to vandalism, and spray paint is their worst modern enemy.

Henry D. Wallace

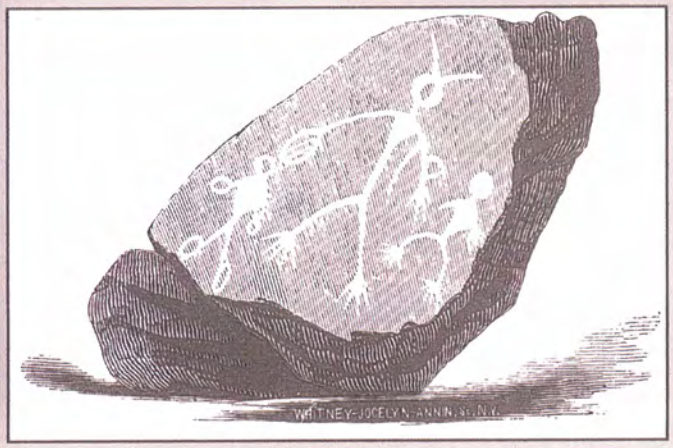
Henry D. Wallace

Top: A geoglyph—an arrangement of large volcanic cobbles on the ground surface—presents a striking view in this aerial image taken just after sunrise. Right: A very complex panel with many distinctive Patayan elements is found at Sears Point.

First Recording in 1852

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT (1805–1886) headed the United States–Mexico Boundary Commission, which surveyed the boundary imposed by the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo at the close of the Mexican-American War. At that time, the Gila River constituted the boundary with Mexico across what is now Arizona. In his published account, Bartlett describes the June 1852 journey from Fort Yuma to Gila Bend: the oppressive heat, meals of fish, "sculptured rocks," stands of willows, trailside graves, U.S. Army camp remains, abandoned canal systems, a river crossing, the tragic fate of the Oatmans a year earlier. He sketched a number of these "sculptured rocks"—petroglyphs—at two locations along the way.

Henry D. Wallace



Bartlett recorded this Patayan image (left) near Antelope Hill, some twenty-eight miles west of the Great Bend region. It bears a close resemblance to a petroglyph (far left) at Sears Point.

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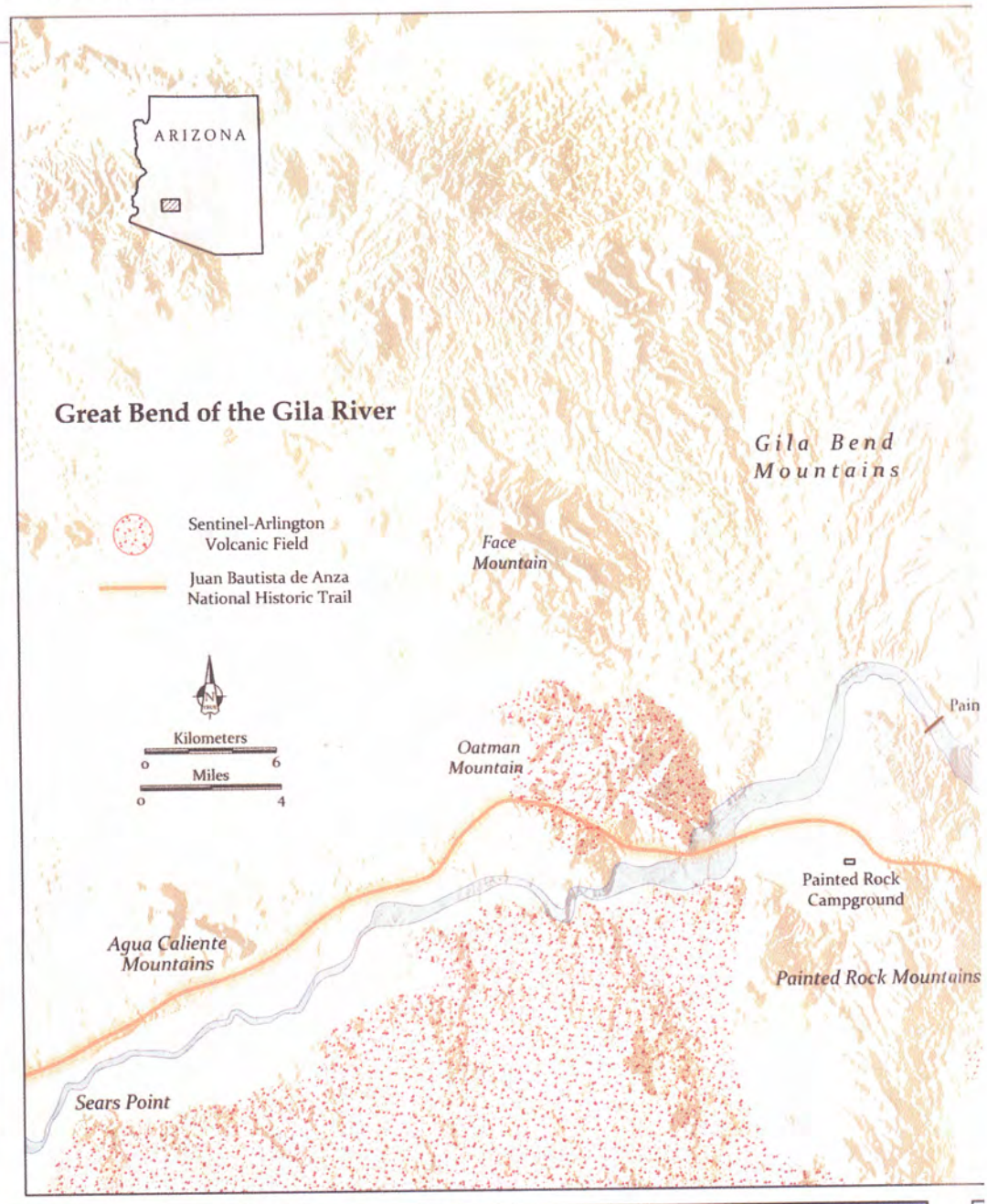

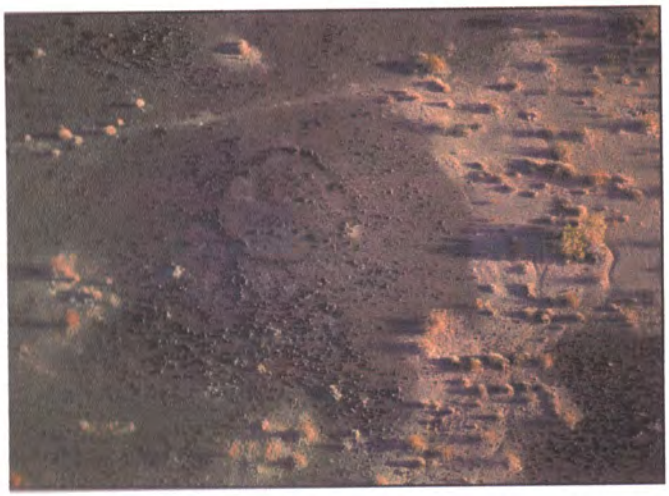

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Counterclockwise from above: anthropomorph along the Gila River; Patayan shield petroglyph along the Gila River; geoglyph on Sentinel Plain; Patayan waterbird image of a deer on a sandstone outcrop in Red Rock Canyon in the Gila Bend Mountains.

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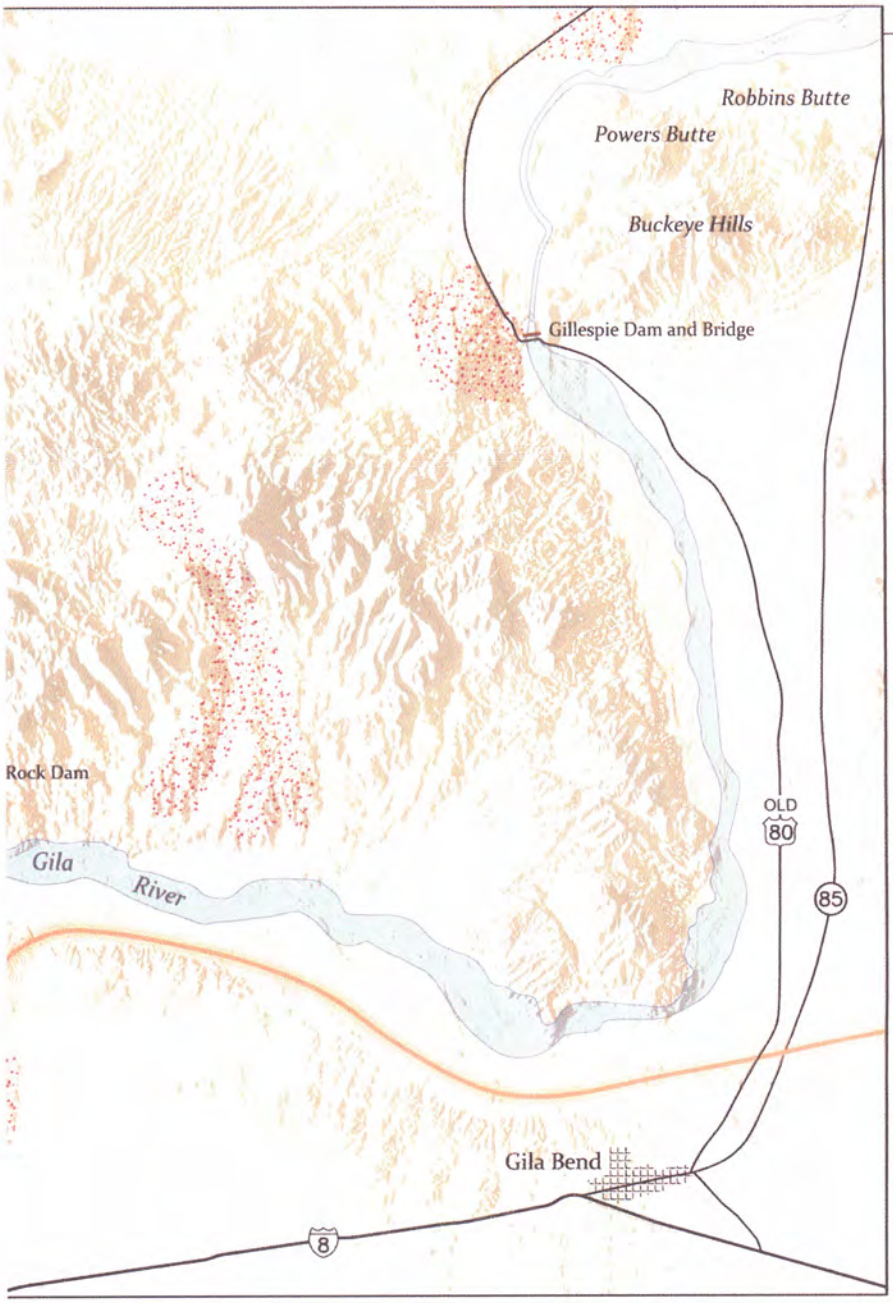

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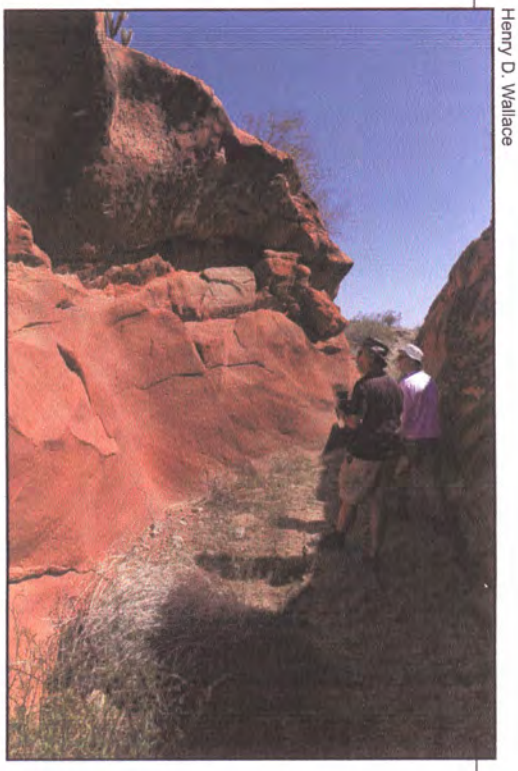
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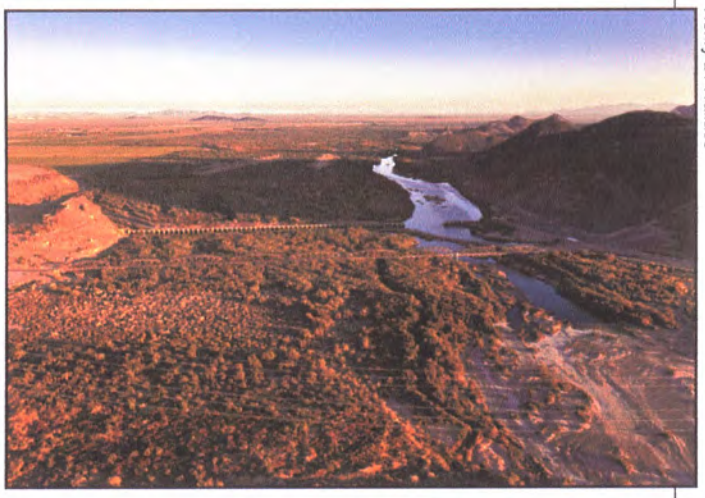
Henry D. Wallace

Iummingbird Point; Robbins Butte; view north of Gillespie Dam Bridge and Dam; a small group examines a large petroglyph panel at Red Rock Canyon;

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Trails Across the Millennia

THE DARKENED, CLOSELY PACKED GRAVELS known as "desert pavement" have recorded at least two thousand years of journeys. Feet, hooves, and wagon wheels displaced the thin layer of dark rock and exposed the lighter-colored soils beneath. Trails through the Great Bend of the Gila can be traced continuously for tens of miles—or even longer—in many areas. Despite the apparent longevity of these traces, their durability is under constant threat; desert pavement is extremely fragile, and particularly vulnerable to off-road vehicle damage (see *Archaeology Southwest* 21[4]).

Later travelers followed in the footsteps of the native peoples. In addition to grooves and ruts worn by wagon wheels, occasional inscriptions and camp remains provide a physical record of the Bartlett survey (see page 5), the Butterfield Overland Stage, and the rush of "Forty-niners," among others. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (see map on pages 6–7) now marks the route taken by the Spanish Expedition of 1775–1776 on its way to the San Francisco Bay area.

Inscription by "O W Randall," a Texas rancher who made two trips to California, at least one in 1849, at the time of the Gold Rush.

In the Sentinel Plain, south of the Gila River, little has changed since prehistoric times. Remarkably, this plain preserves portions of ancient and historical routes, as well as the landscapes experienced by those who traversed them.

Henry D. Wallace

A remnant of the Butterfield Overland Stage (and probably earlier wagon roads and prehistoric trails) that was improved by William Fourr (1843–1935), owner of the Oatman Flat Stage Station. Between 1869 and 1877, Fourr managed this as a toll road, but was ultimately driven from the area by Apache and Yavapai raids. After a time in California, he and his family settled in the Dragoon Mountains of Arizona.

U.S. Route 80, Broadway of America

IN 1925, the U.S. Department of Agriculture submitted a proposal to the American Association of State Highway Officials (the "Association"). In it, they created a numbered system of U.S. highways that was stitched together with formally designated state highways. In 1926, the Association adopted these recommendations for U.S. Route 80, and the Arizona segment of a federal highway system was officially born.

Prior to designation as U.S. 80, the Arizona route was part of the Dixie Overland Highway. The latter was promoted as a southern, all-weather transcontinental highway beginning in 1914. After 1916, the Arizona segment was also listed as part of the Bankhead Highway, a second transcontinental highway comprised of regional auto trails. This network of auto trails, which shared portions of other named routes such as the Dixie, was complex and confusing. For a time, the Bankhead was touted as the "Broadway of America."

Lack of consistent standards for these long-distance auto trails led states to petition the federal government to establish a formal system of interstate highways. The Department of Agriculture's proposal followed. The first official description of the federally approved U.S. 80 appeared in April 1927. In Arizona, the route came through Douglas, Bisbee, Tombstone, Benson, Tucson, Florence, Mesa, Phoenix, Buckeye, Gila Bend, Sentinel, and Yuma. It crossed the Gila River at the Gillespie Dam Bridge (see page 11).

In 1956, the section of U.S. 80 between Buckeye and Gila Bend was realigned to the current State Route 85. The former alignment was decommissioned, and that segment of U.S. 80 came under the control of Maricopa County. Today, the section of U.S. 80 between Buckeye and Gila Bend, including the Gillespie Dam Bridge, retains much of the historical character present when it first became a part of the federal highway system.

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Gillespie Dam Bridge

Hugh Davidson, Maricopa County Department of Transportation

In 1926, in anticipation of the federal highway system, the Arizona State Highway Department commissioned the construction of a steel truss bridge just downstream from Gillespie Dam (see map on pages 6–7). Prior to the bridge's construction, the concrete apron fronting the 1921 dam provided the only vehicular crossing in the area. Heavy runoff over the diversion dam required trucks to pull cars through the flow. During major floods, automobiles could not cross at all. The bridge was completed and opened to traffic on August 1, 1927, at a cost of $320,000 ($3,950,000 in 2009 dollars).

A ride across the Gillespie Dam Bridge evokes that earlier era of road travel. The striking steel thru-truss spans, the concrete piers and road deck, the substantial length, and the dramatic physical setting all contributed to a successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Henry D. Wallace

Looking east along the Gillespie Dam Bridge.

In 2010, Maricopa County proposed bridge rehabilitation according to federal preservation standards. The project cost is estimated at $6.8 million, three-quarters of which will be borne by Maricopa County. The remainder of the funds comes from the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Rehabilitation and Transportation Enhancement programs. Significant effort has been invested in retaining the historical character of the bridge through the rehabilitation process, which is scheduled to begin in 2011, after five years of planning. Concrete abutment and pier footings will be reinforced and refurbished; broken, bent, and rusted steel elements will be treated and reintegrated into place; and compromised steel roller bearings crucial to stability will be replaced by new elastic bearings that will better absorb the forces that have threatened the bridge's survival. This important historic resource will be preserved, safe, and efficient for the foreseeable future.

See the Center for Desert Archaeology website for more information: <http://www.cdarc.org>

At the Center for Desert Archaeology, we envision a society in which the places of the past are valued as the foundations for a vibrant future. As such, it is our mission to preserve the places of our shared past. A private 501(c)(3) organization, the Center is supported through donations, memberships, and grants from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Center members receive an annual subscription to *Archaeology Southwest* and a host of other benefits. For more information or to join, contact Membership Coordinator Kate Sarther Gann at 520.882.6946, ext. 16, or kate@cdarc.org.

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Back Sight

THE GREAT BEND OF THE GILA is a unique and fragile place. Its most visually spectacular resources are the geoglyphs and petroglyph panels that border the Gila River floodplain, sometimes continuously for more than a mile. The volcanic hills that tower above parts of this area also show special uses—some probably defensive, others more likely ceremonial. Many Hohokam and Patayan sites have been degraded or destroyed by agricultural and flood control activities, but several significant villages have survived. This is fortunate.

Petroglyph sites along the Great Bend of the Gila are among the largest concentrations of rock art in the desert west. Some designs are thousands of years old, and some inscriptions date from the mid-1800s. In the short stretch from Painted Rock Dam to Sears Point, a very distinctive variety of Patayan rock art occurs that has not been found elsewhere.

Threats to this area are numerous. The Painted Rock Dam was constructed to slow and briefly retain floodwaters in order to protect downstream agricultural areas. As a result, archaeological resources over a very large area are exposed to intermittent inundation and the destructive wave action of rising and falling water levels. As recreational use of the area grows in tandem with Arizona's metropolitan areas, other deleterious impacts occur.

Much less archaeological work has been accomplished in the Great Bend than upstream on the Salt and middle Gila rivers—yet nearly every study has yielded unexpected results. In an area where so much more could be learned, loss of or damage to archaeological sites is particularly tragic. The Center for Desert Archaeology is working with diverse groups who are also concerned about this area. We continue to work with private landowners, but protection of this vast, valuable landscape also urgently requires significant safeguards on public lands.

Spray paint and recent pecking deface these ancient petroglyphs. Irrevocable vandalism to petroglyphs is on the rise.

back sight (băk sīt) n. **1.** a reading used by surveyors to check the accuracy of their work. **2.** an opportunity to reflect on and evaluate the Center for Desert Archaeology's mission.

William H. Doelle

William H. Doelle, President & CEO
Center for Desert Archaeology

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M- Golden Butte

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Gold Butte

National Monument Proposal

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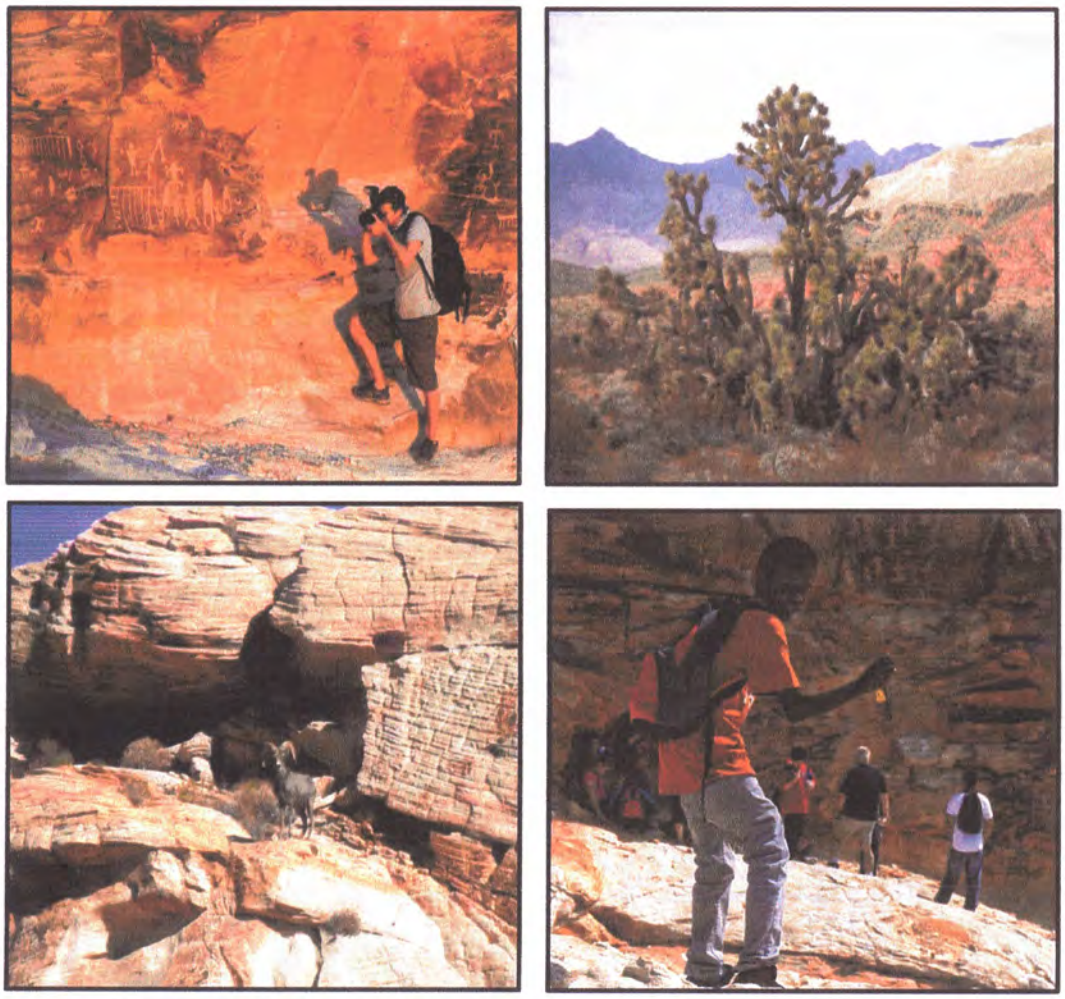
INTRODUCTION

Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon, the proposed Gold Butte National Monument comprises 348,000 acres of public lands in southeastern Nevada. The area is treasure trove of 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 bighorn sheep, dramatic geologic features such as hobgoblins and rock spires, and fossil track sites dating back to 170 to 180 million years ago.



In addition, Gold Butte is an amazing place where people can experience the great outdoors. In addition to important traditional tribal use, outstanding hiking, hunting, birding, riding ATVs, camping, can be found in this area.

Sandwiched between two of America's fastest growing counties, Clark in Nevada and Washington in Utah, Gold Butte is experiencing an unprecedented number of visitors, who want to explore the area.

The proposed boundaries for the Gold Butte National Monument contain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (336,100 acres) and the Bureau of Reclamation (11,600 acres). Clark County also has a vested interest in the management of Gold Butte: conservation of habitat found here enables the County to satisfy legal obligations under the 1998 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

The campaign to protect Gold Butte began more than 15 years ago. Permanently protecting Gold Butte currently has the endorsement of local and state government officials, Nevada's tourism leaders, over 60 local businesses and over two dozen local and national community organizations. In addition, Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiutes support permanently protecting Gold Butte.

Objects of National Significance

Gold Butte's landscape is rich in cultural, historical, biological, geological, and paleontological resources, including thousands of petroglyphs; historic mining and pioneer era artifacts; threatened wildlife such as the Mojave desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep; rare plants such as the Las Vegas bearpoppy, breathtaking geologic features; and fossil track sites dating back to 170 to 180 million years ago.

Prehistoric Habitation of the Region

Gold Butte—at the crossroads of the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin, and the Colorado Plateau culture zones—has a 12,000-year record of human occupation with artifacts that can be traced to all three culture zones. Perhaps most significantly, it marks the western-most expansion of the ancestral Puebloans from their core territories in the Southwest at about AD 800 to 1250. The regional collapse of the Puebloans (approximately 1250 AD) led to the Patayan moving to Gold Butte and ultimately the southern Paiutes (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. 2008).

Kohta Circus Panel (Friends of Gold Butte)

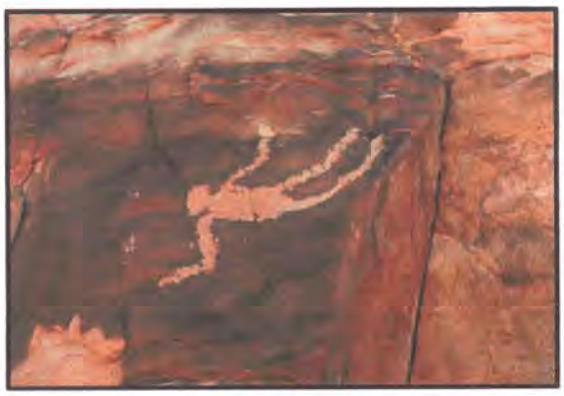
From the pit houses dotting the mesa overlooking the Virgin River to the pinyon camps of the Virgin Mountains, Gold Butte contains an abundance of cultural artifacts dating back thousands of years. Hiding in the sandstone in proposed national monument are "billboard style" rock art panels of petroglyphs and pictographs (etchings and paintings) portraying generations of use. Deserted shelters with nearby kitchens of agave ovens accompanied by roasting sticks and grinding stones known as a metate and mano can be found lying about as if awaiting use.

One of the Gold Butte's largest most comprehensive studies was completed by Far Western Anthropology Research Group in 2008. All told, 31,196 sample areas were surveyed resulting in the documentation of 341prehistoric sites and 387 isolated finds. The results from this study tell the story

of prehistoric populations' movements and their lives in the region (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. 2008).

Some of the notable petroglyph and cultural sites in Gold Butte include Kohta Circus, Falling Man, Kirk's Grotto, and Little Finland. Kohta Circus is noted as the longest panel of petroglyphs in Clark County measuring roughly 80 feet in length and approximately 6 feet high. The panel is just a few feet off the ground within reach of anyone who visits the area (Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. 2008).

Falling man is an iconic petroglyph gallery that is one of the most popular sites in Gold Butte. This petroglyph could represent an actual event, a wish that this event would occur, a shaman descending to or from the spirit world, or something entirely different. The walk to the panel is lined with rock art on the crags along the trail.



Falling Man petroglyph (N. Layman)

Kirk's Grotto is a slot canyon that is also home to many petroglyphs and pictographs. Little Finland is both a geographic and cultural treasure. Found among the spectacular rock formations, fins and arches are panels of ancient petroglyphs, both on the rock walls but also along the ground on the benches of Little Finland.

Historic Settlement of the Region

For most of this early history of Gold Butte and the surrounding region, nomadic ancestral Native Americans called the region home. These early Native Americans were the ancestors of current Southern Paiute Tribe, who eventually settled in the region. In the 1800's, the region saw an influx of Mormons settling in the region.

Southern Paiute

The Southern Paiute subsistence base emphasized hunting, foraging, and farming in the valley bottoms. They used many plants and animals ranging from insects and small mammals to deer and mountain sheep. Wild plant foods were prickly pear, yucca, piñon nuts, grass seeds, agave, acorns, wild grapes, and roots. These wild plant foods, primarily gathered by the women, were the dietary mainstay, with mesquite beans and pods of considerable importance. Maize, beans, squash, sunflower, and amaranth were farmed. Men were the hunters (Raish 2013).

Southern Paiute habitation structures known archaeologically and ethnographically consisted of wickiups (a conical frame of branches covered with layers of bark, grass, or brush) in winter and brush shelters in summer. Material culture comprised a wide range of basketry forms for storage, transport,

resource gathering, and cooking, as well as ceramics in some groups. Baskets were apparently favored over the heavier pottery owing to the nomadic Paiute lifestyle. Other items of material culture included the bow and arrow, nets, woven items, grinding implements, and flint knives, with trade items such as shells and cloth (Raish 2013).

Resources were generally obtained in a seasonally transhumance round (seasonal movement to gather resources), which varied from group to group and habitat to habitat. Farming was normally not intensive; older people often cared for the fields while the remainder of the group gathered resources in other areas. Most sources agree that the nuclear family was the primary unit of social organization for the Southern Paiute with aggregation and dispersal of larger and smaller groups throughout the year. As Euro-Americans increased in numbers in the region, the Native Americans were forced to congregate in bigger groups to survive (Raish 2013).

Southern Paiute woman (Wikipedia)

The first reported direct European contacts were with the Spanish in the late 1700s with the expeditions of Garcés and of Domínguez and Escalante, who were attempting to establish a route between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Monterey, California. Although the expedition did not succeed in reaching its goal because of the onset of winter, part of their route became a portion of the Old Spanish Trail that consisted of previously existing trails used for raiding and trading. After the explorers, trappers, and traders extended their operations into the area, an active slave trade began that lasted from the late 1700s to the mid-1850s.

Captives, often Southern Paiute, were transported along the Old Spanish Trail between California and New Mexico. Prior enemies of the Southern Paiute, such as the Ute and Navajo, conducted slave raids in the region as they went between Spanish, and later, Mexican settlements. These raids seriously impacted the people of the Moapa and Las Vegas Valleys forcing them away from favorable agricultural lands, depopulating some Southern Paiute bands, and increasing their hostility and fear of travelers and other outsiders. Slave raiding continued in the region until the mid-1850s when steps taken by the Mormons and the territorial legislature ended the trade (Raish 2013).

During the 1850s, the Old Spanish Trail became the Mormon Road, which brought settlers and other travelers to the area (the trail is just due north of the proposed national monument). Increased Euro-American settlement displaced the Southern Paiute from long-used agricultural, foraging, and hunting lands, which became depleted by livestock grazing and larger farming operations. Interactions with Mormon settlers increased so that by the 1870s the majority of Southern Paiute had direct contact with Euro-Americans, with some settling near Mormon communities.

Expansion of Euro-American settlement led to increasing hostilities. In 1873, an executive order was issued setting aside two million acres to form the Moapa River Reservation. The entire proposed monument was within this original boundary. The reservation was then sharply reduced to 1,000 acres in 1876 to accommodate complaints from Euro-American settlers within the reservation lands. (Note: the tribe was federally recognized in 1942 and it was not until 1980 that the Carter Administration provided an additional 70,000 acres to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians.)

Lands within the proposed national monument remain vitally important to local Native Americans because it is a Traditional Lifeway sacred to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. Native American Traditional Lifeways are important for their sociological values. The resources associated with these lifeway include, but are not limited to, the plants and animals essential to maintaining the cultural integrity of the lifeway.

Often depicted in the local rock art, the bighorn sheep, chuckwalla and tortoise, were important food sources in the Gold Butte area. Plants were also vital in their daily lives and a single plant can have a variety of uses. Desert prince's plume was an important source of dietary greens in the spring. These plants were intensely managed by the Native populations to ensure their successful return in following years. These greens are similar to spinach in nutritional importance and value (BLM 1998).

Desert prince's plume (enature.com)

The entire Purple Sage shrub was considered a superfood with a variety of purposes. The tea boiled from the leaves is useful for stomach troubles, colds, sore throats, and other ailments. The dried leaves were smoked for medicinal purposes. The tops of the plant were boiled and the solution was an external wash for swollen leg veins. Some groups of Southern Paiute preferred the branches of this plant as thatching material for brush houses (BLM 1998).

Mormon Settlements

While the settlement of northern Nevada was preeminently for economic reasons, the settlements in southern Nevada were originally, almost exclusively, made for religious reasons. The early Mormons, under the direction of Brigham Young, were encouraged to spread to the parts of the country most accessible from Salt Lake City for the joint purpose of converting the Indians and making homes. It was with these objectives in mind that settlements were made along the principal streams and water sources in what is now southern Nevada, the Virgin and Muddy River valleys, Meadow Valley, Rose Valley, Eagle Valley, Clover Valley, and Las Vegas (Scrugham 1935).

Of these centers little is known prior to the coming of the early Mormon settlers. Las Vegas and the Muddy and Virgin River valleys were in line with the Old Spanish trail through the Southwest connecting with the coastal settlements of the Spanish.

Trail Marker (Mormon.com)

In 1877, the recolonization of the region began with the settlement of Bunkerville (named after Edward Bunker) on the south side of the Virgin River and but a few miles from the Arizona line. This settlement was organized under the communitarian United Order and require residents to share the work and the fruits of their work and all land was held in common. The experiment in communal living, however, failed after a few years (Scrugham 1935).

In 1880, the Mesquite settlement was planted on the other side of the river and upstream a few miles from Bunkerville. This settlement was abandoned a few years later and no further work was done until 1895 when a new migration settled on that site (Scrugham 1935).

The Virgin River Valley has, on the whole, defied settlement. It is an alkaline and muddy stream, and, for the most part, flows over a broad bed between precipitous, alluvial bluffs, leaving little opportunity for agriculture.

Early in 1881, a new group of Mormons settled in the region. The sites of the old settlements were then occupied by large ranches, but arrangements were made and the present towns occupy the sites of the old settlements. St. Joseph was renamed Logan (Logandale) after the principal settlers of the new migration. It was some time, however, before the population of the valley reached its status held prior to the exodus of 1871, when disputes over taxes in the newly formed state of Nevada cause the Mormon Church leaders to call settlers back to Salt Lake (Scrugham 1935).

The modern day unincorporated areas of Bunkerville (1,300 residents) and Logandale are west of the proposed national monument and the incorporated City of Mesquite (16,000 residents) is located north of the proposed national monument.

Historic Land Uses and Features

Gold Butte has a rich history including mining as early as 1730, ranching, historic transportation routes such as the 1905 Grand Gulch Trail, vintage car races on the Arrowhead Highway in early 1900s, and vital infrastructure projects completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Mining

Mining in Gold Butte began with the Spanish in 1730. Evidence of their efforts can be seen near the townsite of Gold Butte in the form of an arrastra. An arrastra is a large flat rock hollowed out, over

which donkeys or bullocks would drag another rock to crush ore. There are four known arrastras in Gold Butte.

The first recorded instance of pioneer mining was by Daniel Bonelli, who discovered mica in 1873, and shipped mica from the region in the early 1890s.

Gold Butte Town site (BirdandHike.com)

Gold was discovered after the turn of the 20th century and by 1906, the Las Vegas Age newspaper was stirring the excitement about the prospects at Gold Butte. In 1907, the newspaper reported the mining was going well and the new town was on its way to becoming a permanent settlement. It had a post office and a saloon, but few permanent buildings. The Gold Butte town site, which at one time had a population approaching 2,000 residents, had only a brief period of glory as a permanent community.

This boom time was short lived because the ore concentrations found were limited in quantities, making a few miners well off, but not sufficient to support larger enterprises. By 1909, the post office was closed because so few people lived in the region (Bly 2008).

Mining continued in the area as the Grand Gulch copper mine produced much of the needed copper for World War I. The wagon trails that carried the copper to the St. Thomas railroad spur can still be followed to this day. The wagon masters' signatures in wagon wheel axel grease tell the story on the sandstone walls of Mud Wash.

Ranching

Similar to mining, ranching in the Mojave Desert was certainly an arduous task in the early 1900s. Yet, the hard work of pioneers carved out corrals, water improvements, and fencing. The historic corral at Horse Springs is a wonderful example of early pioneer ingenuity. Short on wood, the corral is set back against a rise and rocks were used to create its walls. The wood that was used in the coral still stands, a weathered character of its own. To direct the herd to the corral, a rock wall was built up the hillside. These incredible pioneer artifacts help tell the story of why Gold Butte is so special.

Prominent Pioneers

Equally interesting were the people who lived in Gold Butte country, including two men known as "The Odd Pair." Bill Garrett, was a tall Texan cowboy and an expert gunman, and the nephew of Pat Garrett, the lawman who shot Billy the Kid. His sidekick was Art Coleman, short and slight, intellectual, and of frail health.

The two men arrived in the Gold Butte area about 1916, and for years, their humble shack was a stopping place for travelers. They were known for their hospitality and for keeping their word. Those who knew the two men nicknamed them "the long and the short of it" because Garrett was 6-foot-1 and Coleman was 5-foot-1. Coleman died in 1958 and Garrett died a few years later. They were both buried at Gold Butte, although a ground radar scan showed their grave markers were interchanged (Bly 2008).

Pioneer grave site (NVRockArt.com)

In the 1960's, Howard Hughes, known mostly as an aviator, held many of the grazing permits in Southern Nevada. One of these permits was in the proposed Gold Butte National Monument. The North end of the allotment started at the cattle guard four miles south of Whitney Pockets. The east side was the Nevada-Arizona state line and the south and west borders was Lake Mead. Hughes was most likely the driving force behind the back country highway being paved from the interstate to Whitney Pockets.

The Grand Gulch Trail

The Grand Gulch Trail, travelling through the center of the proposed national monument, was the Southwest's busiest and most profitable freighting trail from 1905 to the end of World War I. The men who freighted the trail were some of the West's most rugged teamsters. The trail got its name from the Grand Gulch Mine, a copper mine north of the Colorado River in Arizona. The Grand Gulch Trail was built in 1905 to accommodate the arrival of the railroad to Moapa until the St. Thomas spur was laid in 1911. From 1909 until 1920, the Grand Gulch Trail was alive with six, eight, ten, and twelve-horse freight rigs. The Mine shipped over 1 million dollars' worth of ore and was an important supplier of copper in World War I (Jensen 1981).

The Arrowhead Highway

Motor West Magazine boasted "probably no other unit of the national highway system has received so much favorable publicity throughout the United States, especially in the East, during the first year of its existence as the Arrowhead Trail, connecting Los Angeles with Salt Lake City" (Motor Age 1917).

The Arrowhead Trail Association hosted its first race from Los Angeles to Salt Lake in the fall of 1916. Charles Bigelow, car racer, Arrowhead Trail Association field organizer, and trail advocate drove the entire route many times between 1915 and 1916 in his twin six Packard "Cactus Kate" for publicity. The most hazardous part of the 853 mile trail is the section crossing the Virgin River and around the Virgin Mountains, right in the heart of the proposed national monument. Portions of the original route through Gold Butte can still be driven today in a high clearance vehicle. (The Automobile 1916).

Civilian Conservation Corps Projects

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established in 1933 and combined work relief and restoration and preservation of the natural environment. In the 1930's, Nevada was the least populated state in the Union. However due to three powerful Nevada legislators Senators Patrick McCarran and Key Pittman and Congressman James Scrugham, Nevada had 59 main CCC camps operating throughout the state (Ford and Kolvet 2006).

CCC field camp at Whitney Pockets (Friends of Gold Butte)

The CCC left their mark on Gold Butte. Bunkerville would periodically be swept away by flash floods from the northern slopes of the Virgin Mountains. Men from the Bunkerville Camp spent three seasons fighting bank erosion, repairing flood damage, and slowing the loss of rich bottomland along the Virgin River. In 1934 alone, Bunkerville enrollees built twenty-two rock barriers along drainages and planted twelve thousand tree cuttings to stabilize the riverbank and slow channel movement. Working alongside residents, the CCC helped secure a clean source of water from the Virgin Mountains. With funding from the Mormon Church, the CCC and residents constructed several miles of pipeline to bring water from Cabin Springs to a storage tank on the alluvial slope above town (Ford and Kolvet 2006).

At Whitney Pockets, a CCC field camp was established to build a dam to catch rain water for ranching. Left behind in this camp are storage rooms built into the sandstone alcoves. Interestingly, this is all built within a Native American habitation site. Today this area is the focal point of the recreation in Gold Butte, with the heaviest camping and ATV riding in the area.

Biological Resources

Gold Butte is a unique, fascinating, and fragile combination of wildlands where three desert ecosystems—Great Basin, Mojave and Sonoran—collide at the boundary of the Colorado Plateau. The varied flora and fauna can be found in the proposed national monument and include the following ecological communities and features: Virgin Mountains, Pinyon-Juniper, Joshua Tree, Creosote, and Biological Crust. This diversity combined with the rugged and remote nature of the regions has created critical habit for threaten species such as the Mojave desert tortoise, desert bighorn sheep, and the relic leopard frog.

Virgin Mountains

Vegetation in the Virgin Mountains is unique in Nevada. The lower elevations are typical Mojave Desert Scrub, and the sunny south-facing slopes support Single Leaf Pinyon and Utah Juniper all the

way to the summit. From the summit, however, you can look down the shady north and east-facing slopes to see tall conifer trees, including White Fir, Douglas Fir, and Arizona Cypress. There used to be Ponderosa Pine on these slopes too, but all of it burned during a wildfire in the 1940s. The Douglas Fir and Arizona Cypress are Pleistocene relics here, species left over here from the ice age.

Virgin Peak (K. Kuznicki)

Above 5,000 feet in the Virgin Mountain Range is a band of dense mountain shrubs composed primarily of manzanita, Gambel oak, mountain mahogany, and buckbrush. This shrub community forms a wide band on the mountain tops and surrounds the fir and pine community. The primary components of the shrub community form a very dense over story about three feet in height. This habitat is particularly important for birds and bats to use for nesting and roosting (Clark County 2007).

Pinyon-Juniper

Pinyon-juniper habitat generally occurs at middle elevations adjoining a number of other wildlife habitats. At lower elevations, pinyon-juniper may interface with habitats such as Joshua tree and desert scrub. At higher elevations, habitats of conifer, sagebrush and mixed chaparral border on pinyon-juniper. Common shrubs in Pinyon-Juniper Woodland include blackbrush, bitterbrush, and rabbitbrush. Cactus include cholla, pricklypear and hedgehog cacti, and the tiny pincushion cactus.

Characteristic vertebrate species of this habitat include bobcat, woodrat, pinyon jay, leopard lizard and pale Townsend's big-eared bat. Both pinyon nuts and juniper berries are important food sources and many wildlife species serve as dispersal agents for these plants (Feller 2014b).

Joshua Tree

The Joshua tree, the largest of the yuccas, grows only in the Mojave Desert. Natural stands of this picturesque, spike-leafed evergreen grow nowhere else in the world. Its height varies from 15-40 feet with a diameter of 1-3 feet. They grow 2 to 3 inches a year, take 50 to 60 years to mature, and they can live 150 years.

Joshua trees, like many yuccas, rely on the female pronuba moth for pollination. No other animal visiting the blooms transfers the pollen from one flower to another. In fact, the female yucca moth has evolved special organs to collect and distribute the pollen onto the surface of the flower. She lays her eggs in the flowers' ovaries, and when the larvae hatch, they feed on the yucca seeds.

Without the moth's pollination, the Joshua tree could not reproduce, nor could the moth, whose larvae would have no seeds to eat. Although old Joshua trees can sprout new plants from their roots, only the seeds produced in pollinated flowers can scatter far enough to establish a new stand.

The Joshua tree community is diverse and transitions with elevation. The upper bajada and higher slopes are mixed with blackbrush, Mojave yucca, and various cacti. This community is home to the red-tailed hawk, ladder-backed wood pecker and the Scott's oriole. The blackbrush provides valuable browse to bighorn sheep and nesting for Brewer's sparrow and the rocky outcrops are habitat for ringtails and chuckwalla.

Joshua Tree (K. Kuznicki)

The lower elevations of the Joshua tree habitat include creosote, bursage, Mormon tea, indigo bush, cholla, and a variety of prickly pear cacti. This is home to a diverse group of animals including badger, fox (kit and gray) and the desert kangaroo rat. Nesting in the Joshua trees are northern shrike, cactus wren and ash-throated flycatcher (Feller 2014a).

Creosote

The strong-scented creosote bush dominates much of proposed national monument. Low-lying expanses are covered by these widely spaced shrubs. Creosote bushes are said to be some of the world's oldest living things; some colonies in the Mojave Desert are 11,500 years old. The white bur sage frequently found in stands of creosote is a "nursery" plant for creosote and other shrubs in this community.

This harsh landscape, at first glance, gives the impression of a somewhat inhospitable and uninviting habitat. However, a large compliment of wildlife species, including many bird, small mammal, and reptile species depend on these habitats. Here is found the desert tortoise, listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Desert tortoises often place their burrows directly under creosote bushes, taking advantage of the shade and stability created by the creosote roots. A host of additional heat-tolerant reptile species are also dependent on this habitat, including the desert iguana, Gila monster, and spotted leaf-nosed snake. Desert kangaroo rats and the desert pocket mouse depend on windblown sandy areas within the creosote bush—white bursage and creosote seeds make up a large part of the desert pocket mouse's diet. In turn, these small mammals and reptiles are an important prey source for snakes, burrowing owl, and loggerhead shrike (NDOW 2013).

Biological Soil Crusts

Biological soil crusts (also known as cryptobiotic soils) are formed by living organisms and their by-products, creating a crust of soil particles bound together by organic materials. Crusts play an important role in the environment, including soil stability and combating wind and water erosion. Soil crusts can contribute to atmospheric nitrogen and carbon fixation, provide other plant nutrients, aid in

soil-plant-water interactions, increase water retention, promote some seedling germination, and increase plant growth.

Crusts are well adapted to severe growing conditions, but poorly adapted to compression disturbances. Domestic livestock grazing and recreational activities (hiking, biking, and off-road driving) place a heavy toll on the integrity of the crusts. Disturbance and loss of these biological soils lead to decreased organism diversity, soil nutrients, stability, and organic matter (USGS 2014).

Threatened Species

Gold Butte is also home to threatened wildlife and plants. The Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan (USFWS 1994) directs land management agencies to protect reserves for the desert tortoises. The Bureau of Land Management created Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect critical desert tortoise habitat at Gold Butte. Specifically, the 185,128-acre Gold Butte (Part A and Part B) Areas of Critical Environmental Concern were created to project the Mojave Desert tortoise (BLM 2014a).

Desert Tortoise (DesertTortise.org)

In addition, Gold Butte Part B Area of Critical Environmental Concern was created to protect habitat for the relicleopard frog and desert bighorn sheep as well as rare stands of Las Vegas buckwheat and Las Vegas bearpoppy. The Las Vegas bearpoppy is also a state protected species, only occurs in rare gypsum soils found in a few places such as Gold Butte. Gold Butte Part C Area of Critical Environmental Concern was create to protect desert bighorn sheep habit as well as relict forest stands (BLM 2014a).

Geologic Features

The proposed national monument ranges in elevation from 1,600 feet to more than 8,000 feet. The high point is found at the summit of Virgin Peak and lowest points are found near the shores of Lake Mead and on the valley floor near Devil's Throat.

The proposed national monument lies on the western margin of the tectonically stable Colorado Plateau physiographic province and at the eastern margin of the Basin and Range physiographic province. This convergence produces a stunning landscape. Because of the dry climate and the temperature extremes prevalent there, the physiography of the mountain ranges commonly exposes the composition of the bedrock. Limestone rocks form rugged, linear ridges, whereas sandstone, shale, and tuffaceous rocks form less regular and more subdued shapes seen at places like Whitney Pockets. The crystalline rocks in the Virgin Mountains are resistant to erosion, producing massive 8,000 foot Virgin Peak (Ludington, Haxel, Castor, McLaurin, and Flynn 2006).

The vivid sandstone of Whitney Pockets is a popular site with visitors. Exploring this area's stunning sandstone formations visitors can discover ancient rock art, ruins of centuries-old habitations and roasting pits where native people cooked food. Another unique geologic feature is the Devil's Throat, a 100-foot wide by 100-foot deep sinkhole. This is an active geologic feature that enlarges regularly from erosion. Its formation is poorly understood, but is believed to be caused by dissolution in the subsurface or erosion by groundwater flow (BLM 2014a).

Little Finland (Friends of Gold Butte)

Little Finland, also known to locals as locals Devils Fire, Hobgoblin, or Lone Palm, is a mastery of geology and wind/water erosion. This particular erosion pattern that sparks the imaginations of so many consists of a very specific geologic recipe. Jurassic Period sand dunes were buried by deposits and solidified. Millions of years later, faults began to lift the sandstone up, cracking it into blocks. Around 10 million years ago, these cracks (called joints) in the rock became a vessel for mineral-rich ground waters, which eventually crystallized due to the climate. As centuries go by, the sandstone has eroded but the mineral-rich joints resist. That coupled with the usual wind/water erosion and pervasive salt weathering leaves behind the intricate designs that make this area intriguing to visitors. This is an important site to the Paiute tribe and possesses a variety of rock art styles (Atlas Obscura 2014).

Paleontological Resources

The Gold Butte regionis well known for its panels of petroglyphs. Much less known is the abundance of fossil footprints. Numerous fossil tracks, widely dispersed throughout the Gold Butte area, occur within the Jurassic Aztec Sandstone—the same rock formation that occurs in Valley of Fire State Park and Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area. The fossil track ways were discovered by members of the Friends of Gold Butte who frequently hike in the area. None of the Gold Butte fossil track sites has yet been formally described in a scientific publication, although one spectacular site with hundreds of tracks was briefly described in a 2013 UNLV master's thesis by Heather Stoller; the same site was the subject of a recent presentation at a scientific conference (Rowland and Chesser 2014).

Most of the tracks discovered in Gold Butte were made by squirrel-size proto-mammals that lived in the dune field desert that occupied this region of ancestral North America approximately170 to 180 million years ago. These tracks are named Brasilichnium, which is the name of the tracks themselves, not the name of the animal that made them. They were first studied and named in Brazil. Tracks of dinosaurs and arthropods (including scorpions) have also tentatively been discovered in Gold Butte but have not yet been systematically studied. UNLV geology professor Steve Rowland and his graduate

student Gordon Haight are currently engaged in a systematic study of fossil track ways throughout Southern Nevada, including those of Gold Butte. Preliminary results suggest that fossil tracks are more abundant in the Gold Butte area than any other area of Southern Nevada (Stoller 2013).
Recently, members of Friends of Gold Butte located a track site in Esplanade Sandstone which is of Permian Era (approximately 290 million years ago). This particular location is a significant geologic and paleontological resource as it was situated at the tidal and beach dune interface. In addition to the tracks, evidence of creatures burrowing in the shallow sea, ripple marks and beach dunes preserved in stone provide evidence of the environment during early Permian Era.

Threats to the Nationally Significant Objects

Sandwiched between two of America's fastest growing counties in the past decade, Clark County, NV and Washington County, UT, Gold Butte is experiencing an unprecedented number of visitors. The impact of visitors dwarfs the BLM's current ability to manage the area to protect these world class cultural, historic, and natural resources.

Cultural Resource Impacts

Pottery shards and pieces of rock tools have all disappeared from the area, which was once littered with these relics. Metates, manos, and arrowheads, all of scientific importance, are vanishing. Rock shelters and habitation sites are sifted through and dug out by those looking for artifacts. ATV tracks cross agave pits, churning the blackened earth. Once elusive sites are now easily accessed by vehicles, resulting in the destruction of plant life and the creation of new routes, changing this landscape forever. For example, Mud Wash Panel is a stunning panel located high on a bluff. In 2008 a large image was etched in rock, forever impacting the panel.

Damage to the Mud Wash Panel (Coalition to Preserve Rock Art)

Historic Resource Impacts

Similarly to impacts on cultural treasures, historic features and artifacts have been impacted by desecration and theft. When the fire of 2005 burned the area, an arrastra, hidden for over 100 years in shrubs, was uncovered. In just a few weeks some of the more valuable artifacts surrounding the arrastra were gone, forever lost to the public.

A 1930s Civilian Conservation Corp storage room at Whitney Pockets has experienced substantial damage. One of the walls had been torn down for a fire ring and graffiti scrawled inside the alcove covers the wall. After the initial damage, signs were installed showing what the site looked like several years ago. This did reduce the damage from continuing; however, it could not repair the previous destruction inflicted on the historic site.

The historic corral from the 1930s associated with colorful characters such as Bill Garrett and Art Coleman has had the wooden boards of the loading shoot sawed off and used for firewood. This area's pioneer artifacts were further desecrated in the spring of 2014, when the Coleman's grave was dug up, leaving a deep hole surrounded by pieces of wood from the coffin.

Pioneer gravesite desecrated (Las Vegas Review Journal)

Natural Resource Impacts

The easily drivable Gold Butte Backcountry Byway and over 500 miles of routes allows vehicles and ATVs easy access to the vast public lands in Gold Butte, creating easy access for illegally dumping. Vegetation is impacted by the trash left behind as well as the permanent damage to the sensitive biological crusts and plants when vehicles and ATVs ignore closure signs and/or create new unauthorized routes.

Currently there are over 500 head of trespass cattle in the proposed national monument. These trespass cattle destroy fragile springs, trample fire-rehabilitated vegetation, and run amok through the most sensitive habitats and cultural sites of Gold Butte.

Domestic livestock grazing and recreational activities (hiking, biking, and off-road driving) place a heavy toll on the integrity of the region's unique biological crusts. Disturbance and loss of these biological crusts lead to decreased organism diversity, soil nutrients, stability, and organic matter (USGS 2014)

Agency Assessment of Impacts

The BLM's March 2014 report, titled Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone, had the following to say about the lands in the proposed national monument: "The resource values found in the Gold Butte ACEC are threatened by: unauthorized activities, including off-road vehicle use, illegal dumping, and trespass livestock grazing; wildfire; and weed infestation" (BLM 2014c).

Current Management

The proposed boundaries for the Gold Butte National Monument contain federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Clark County also has a vested interest in the management of Gold Butte. Conservation of habitat found here enables the County to satisfy legal obligations under the 1998 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Bureau of Land Management

Lands managed by the BLM are the vast majority (336,100 acres) of the public lands in the proposed national monument. The proposed Gold Butte National Monument also has areas designated as Special Management Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and has been recognized by the BLM in 2011 as a "Crown Jewel", highlighting the importance of permanent protection for the area.

Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas in Gold Butte include the Lime Canyon and Jumbo Spring Wilderness Areas (24,000 acres and 4,600 acres, respectively) as well as the Virgin Mountain Instant Study Area and the Million Hills Wilderness Study Area (6,600 acres and 22,600 acres, respectively).

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

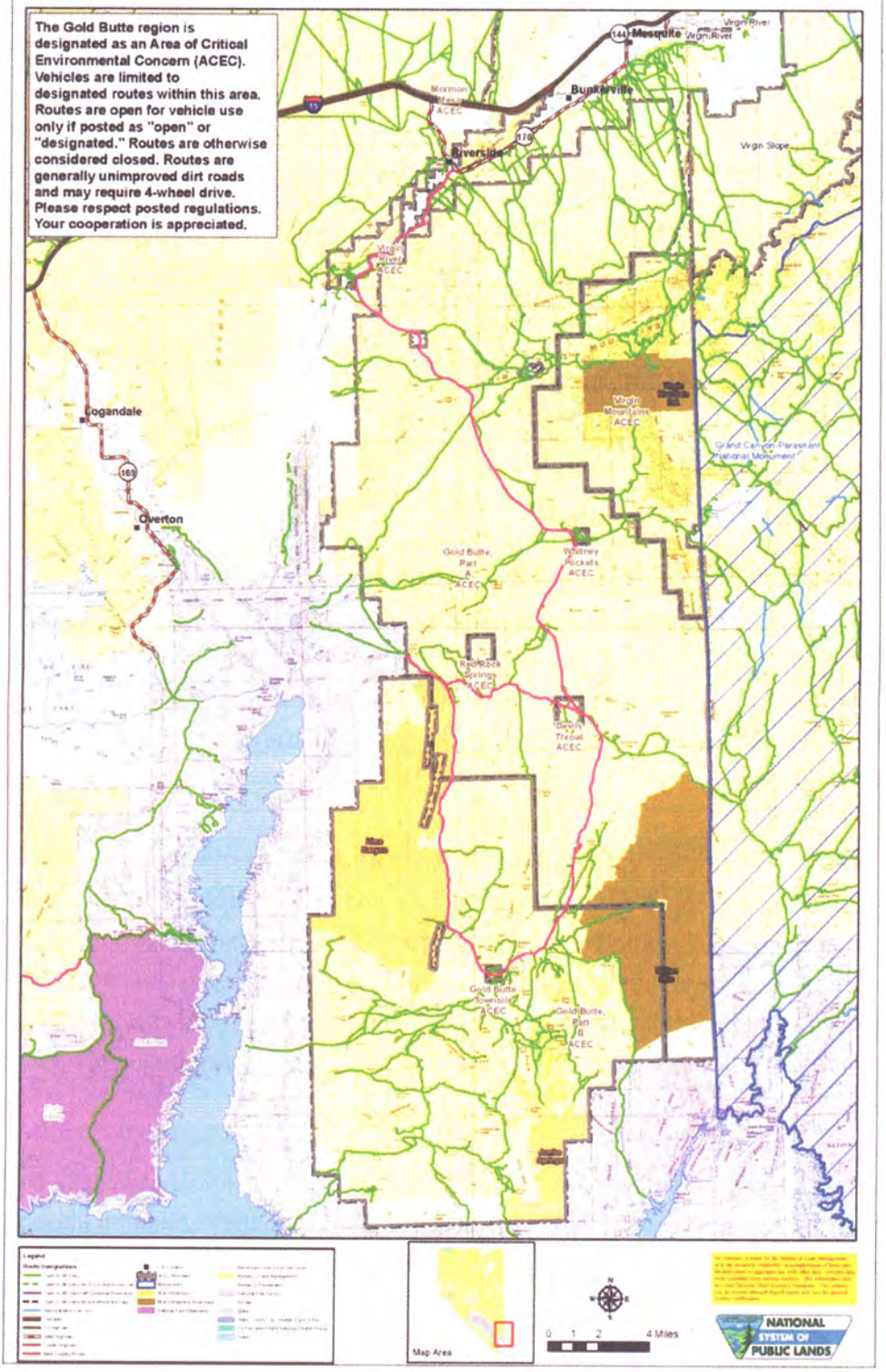
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) are designated to protect important riparian corridors, threatened and endangered species habitats, cultural and archeological resources, and unique scenic landscapes on the BLM managed lands (BLM 2014a).

Gold Butte ACEC is managed as three separate ACECs. Gold Butte: Part A (185,130 acres) covers the portion that is designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise. Gold Butte: Part B (122,540 acres) lies to the south of Part A and is managed to protect a number of biological resources including habitat for sensitive plants, desert bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise. Gold Butte: Part C, formerly known as the Virgin Mountain ACEC (35,700 acres), is located near the peak of the Virgin Mountains, protecting unique high elevation habitats including relic forest stands and habitat for desert bighorn sheep. Part C is also classified as a Clark County Natural Area (BLM 2014a).

Whitney Pockets ACEC, located in Gold Butte: Part A, is a cluster of sandstone outcrops with cultural resource sites including prehistoric habitation and rock art. Red Rock Springs ACEC, located in Gold Butte: Part A, contains prehistoric habitation sites and rock art. Devils Throat ACEC, located in Gold Butte Part: A, is a 100-foot wide by 100-foot deep sinkhole. Gold Butte Townsite ACEC, located in Gold Butte Part: B, is the location of the historic mining town of Gold Butte (BLM 2014a).

In addition, the proposed national monument is home to the Gold Butte Backcountry Byway (Byway). The 62-mile scenic trip offers opportunities to see desert wildlife, red and white sandstone, sinkholes, petroglyphs, the Muddy Mountains, and Lake Mead. Primitive camping and hiking are available along the Byway.

Gold Butte Areas of Critical Environmental Concern



Agency Recognition

The BLM in its November 2011 "Preliminary Report on BLM Lands Deserving Protection as National Conservation Areas, Wilderness or Other Conservation Designations" highlighted Gold Butte as one of 18 areas across the nation that deserved permanent protection.

Bureau of Reclamation

There is a small portion (11,600 acres) of public lands in the proposed national monument managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR). These lands were leftover from the creation on the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 1936 and were not part of the transfer of lands to the National Park Service (Carr 2007).

Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Clark County has a legal obligation under the 1998 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) to ensure the natural resources of Gold Butte are managed to protect conservation values. Under the MSHCP, the county's future growth was charted to allow for reasonable development while avoiding what the plan calls "no unmitigated net loss" of habitat for hundreds of critical species (see Appendix A for a detailed list of species). The Gold Butte region, including the majority of the area proposed for a national monument, was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern for one of the keystone species of the MSHCP, the desert tortoise.

From 1998 to 2006 Clark County, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, purchased the property with attached grazing preference, water rights, and range improvements from willing sellers as mitigation for desert tortoise and other species covered under the plan. Following the purchase, Clark County agreed to relinquish the grazing permits and preferences associated with the allotments with the understanding that BLM, as a signatory to the implementing agreement for the MSHCP, would consider their closure and reallocation of forage for desert tortoise and protection of other MSHCP covered species.

Formal closure of these allotments is currently being analyzed as part of the Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices draft amendment to the resource management plan and environmental impact statement for the region (BLM 2014b).

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

The following issues and management practices are essential to protecting the values of the proposed Gold Butte National Monument:

1. The BLM should prepare a separate resource management plan for the Monument which includes a transportation plan and addresses the actions necessary to protect the objects identified in the Proclamation, including travel restrictions and road closures. The management plan shall be developed in consultation with state and local governments, tribal governmental entities, and the public.
2. The Monument should be managed on a landscape scale to protect conservation values and enhance recreation opportunities. To achieve this goal with the simplest administrative burden to the Department of Interior, 11,600 acres of isolated Bureau of Reclamation lands within the proposed monument boundary should be transfer to the Bureau of Land Management.
3. Historic and cultural resources should be protected. In addition, the Monument's species and ecosystems should be protected and restored.
4. The BLM, in consultation with Indian tribes, should ensure the protection of religious and cultural sites in the monument and provide access to the sites by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (92 Stat. 469, 42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites).
5. The Monument would not reserve federal water rights nor relinquish any water rights held by the Federal Government existing on this date. The agencies would work with appropriate State authorities to ensure that water resources needed for monument purposes are available.
6. The BLM should consider acquisition private land within the Monument's boundaries through exchanges and purchase as lands become available from willing sellers. Lands acquired would automatically become part of the Monument.
7. The Monument should be established subject to valid existing rights.
8. The creation of new rights of way within the Monument boundaries should be prohibited. Upgrading of existing utility line rights-of-ways within the physical scope of each such right-of-way that exists on the date of this proclamation, should only be authorized if consistent with the care and management of the Monument objects.
9. The Monument should be withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws.
10. The Monument should be withdrawn from mineral and geothermal leasing laws.
11. Land within the Monument boundaries should not be disposed of through public land laws.
12. Renewable energy development should be prohibited within the Monument.
13. The undeveloped character of the area should be maintained wherever possible. Impacts from all surface-disturbing activities should be minimized.

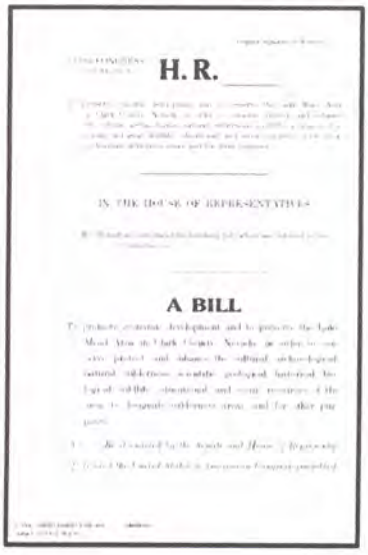
14. Minimal facilities necessary for visitor enjoyment should be provided while protecting Monument resources. A visitor center should be sited in Mesquite.
15. Monument resources should be studied for the effects of climate change and managed to boost resiliency and facilitate adaptation to human-caused climate change.
16. Invasive species should be inventoried. Native plant species should be used in Monument planning for projects.
17. Motorized use should be permitted only on designated roads; mechanized use should be permitted on designated roads and trails. Motorized use should be prohibited on primitive roads, trails, or any other routes, except in emergencies or for administratively designated purposes
18. Wildlife should continue to be managed by the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife.

History & Support for Permanent Protection

The campaign to protect Gold Butte began more than 15 years ago. Since inception, the campaign has focused on a compromise that would protect legal activities, such as hiking or riding OHVs on designated routes, on the ground while strengthening protection for the globally significant cultural, historic, and natural resources.

History of Permanent Protection

In 1998 the BLM designated several Areas of Critical Environment Concern in southern Nevada including an area referred to as Gold Butte near Mesquite. The Gold Butte complex has 7 ACEC's and account for the protection of resources such as cultural resources, scenic value, wildlife habitat and sensitive plant and animal species, among which is the desert tortoise. In 1999, volunteers inventoried wild lands in Gold Butte and identified 348,241 acres of wilderness-quality lands for their Citizens' Wilderness Proposal.


H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

In 2002 the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act protected 27,600 acres of wilderness in Gold Butte out of 348,241 acres proposed. Since that time advocates have been working to protect the natural, historic, and cultural treasures of Gold Butte. Gold Butte supporters began advocating again for a National Conservation Area (NCA) with Wilderness with the state's congressional delegation.

Supporters included the city, county, and community leaders in discussions on the future of Gold Butte. The NCA and Wilderness proposal included significant decreases in the amount of land proposed for Wilderness protection. Changes were based on conversations with local stakeholders and Gold Butte advocates in developing a balanced proposal.

During 2009 and 2010, resolutions of support were given by the Clark County Commission, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes and 25 conservation organizations. Letters of opposition were submitted by the Moapa Valley Town Advisory Board and Bunkerville Town Advisory Board. The Moapa Town Advisory Board voted against submitting a letter of opposition, affirming its neutral position on the proposal.

In 2011 and 2012 Congressman Joe Heck (NV-3) indicated he would consider introducing legislation. However, Congress has repeatedly failed to make land protection a priority including the protection of Gold Butte, despite broad public support. In 2010 the Mesquite City Council voted unanimously to support protection for the area, and in April 2012 a newly elected city council voted to uphold that resolution of support.

In 2013 Rep. Steven Horsford and Sen. Harry Reid introduced legislation to protect Gold Butte. Their legislation would protect over 440,000 acres of land in Gold Butte, designating a nearly 350,000-acre national conservation area (NCA), containing 129,500 acres of wilderness. An additional 92,000 acres of wilderness would also be preserved within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. These protections would preserve ancient petroglyphs, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat, while also keeping over 500 miles of roads open for ATV use. They would also raise the profile of the area, driving tourism and helping to support the local economy.

Early in 2015, Representative Titus and Senator Reid introduced legislation to protect Gold Butte (H.R. 856 and S. 199).

On February 18th of 2015, Representative Titus and Senator Reid held a conversation about conservation in Southern Nevada. Over 300 people crowded into a public meeting room in downtown Las Vegas to let congressional leaders know that Gold Butte's cultural, historic, and natural resources are nationally significant and deserve protection now.

Supportive meeting participants included Representative Horsford; Jenna Morton, Afterschool All-Stars Board Member; Chairman Darren Daboda from the Moapa Band of Paiutes; Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resort Association and Isaac Barron, North Las Vegas City Councilman; 30 students from Valley High School; and community groups, including a large contingent from Mesquite. Supportive statements were also read at the meeting from Sig Rogich and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority.

Advocates continue to build support for protecting Gold Butte thru direct outreach to groups and stakeholders; organizing interpretive hikes with community residents and schools groups such as the

Las Vegas All-Stars; hosting educational lectures about the area's geology, history, plants, and wildlife; and completing restoration projects with community members and staff from business supporters such as Lush, an international cosmetic company.

Permanent Protection Supporters

Permanently protecting Gold Butte has the endorsement of the Mesquite City Council and the Clark County Board of Commissioners as well as the Moapa Band of Paiutes and the Las Vegas Paiutes. In addition, fifteen State of Nevada Assembly members and ten State of Nevada Senators support protecting Gold Butte.

Gold Butte is a scenic and cultural treasure that deserves long term protection and greater visibility. Protecting Gold Butte will draw visitors to southern Nevada, provide additional recreational amenities for residents and boost the bottom line of hundreds of southern Nevada businesses. Tourism industry leaders like the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority and the Nevada Resort Association, who represent the largest employers in Nevada, as well as major regional employers such as Caesar's Entertainment and Howard Hughes Corporation all support permanently protecting Gold Butte.

Permanently protecting Gold Butte is supported by over 60 local businesses:

4 Charity Group
A PurrFurred Pet Care Service
Caesars Entertainment
City Shoppes
Cloud Nine Balloons
Colonial Life - C. Leda
Connaghan/Newberry Law Firm
Data-Mailing Systems
Dennis Stein & Associates
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC
Edge Media Group
Escape Adventures
Eureka Casino
Farmers – R. Sopi
Farmers Insurance
FDI Pharmacy Discount Care
FIGHTDENTISTS
Fitness Transitions
Fresh52 Farmers Market
Garden Farms
Howard Hughes Corporation
HRisFUN
Izigg
Jest Serendipity Improv
Keen
Las Vegas Cyclery
Linda's Original Jewels
Lush
Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority
Majestic Business Support Services
Majestic Pools
MaxX promotions
Mayan Storage
Meramak
Mesa View Hospital
Mesquite Loc Doc
Mesquite Realtors
Mesquite Veterinary
Morton Group
My Sales Tracker
Nevada Resort Association
Photographika
Pictographics
Purdue Marion & Associates
Quality 1 Real Estate
R&D Events
Red Hills Cinema
Ready Golf
Rogich Communications Group
RX Realty
Sage Designs
SH Architecture
Shevlin Financial Services
Skydance Studios
Southern Nevada Medical Industry Coalition
Strategic International Resources

TCRA LLC
Time Wise Concierge
True Life Solutions Inc.
Unity Center Valley
View on Mesquite
Wolfcreek

Protecting Gold Butte's nationally significant natural and cultural resources is also important to over two dozen local and national community organizations.

American Hiking Society
American Rock Art Research Association
Californians for Western Wilderness
Environment America
Environment Nevada
Conservation Lands Foundation
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Ironwood
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
Friends of Sloan Canyon
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
League of Women Voters of Nevada
League of Women Voters of Mesquite
League of Women Voters of the Las Vegas Valley
League of Women Voters of Pahrump
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Nevada Archaeological Association
Nevada Conservation League
Pew Charitable Trusts
Progress Now
Protectors of Tule Springs
Republicans for Environmental Protection
Sacred Sites International
Sierra Club
Southern Nevada Rock Art Association
The Wilderness Society
Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club

Opposition to Protection

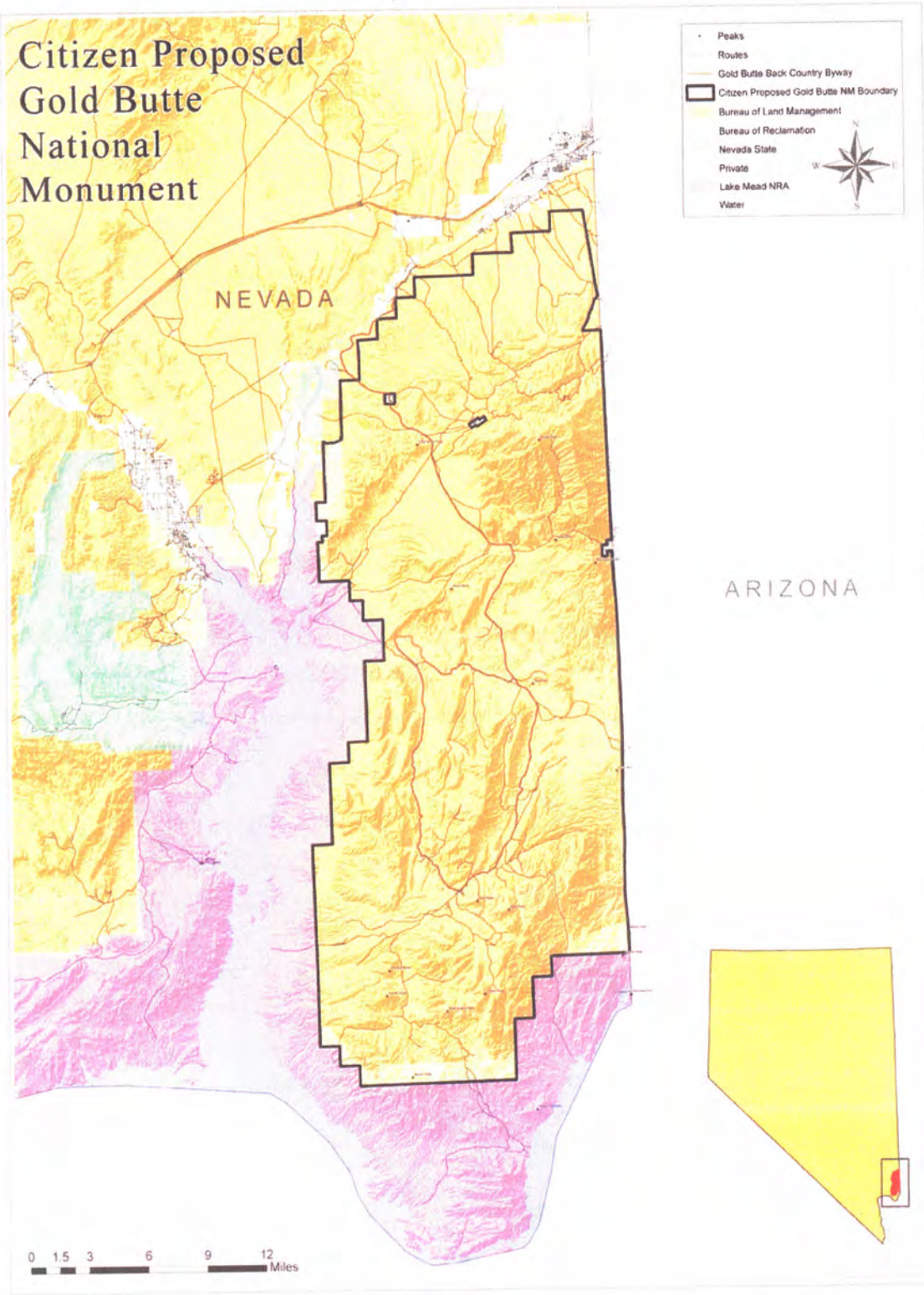
Local opposition to protecting Gold Butte as a National Monument has come from a small but vocal minority of individuals and organizations who have expressed general concerns about additional federal government regulations and the strong desire to transfer the land to the State of Nevada. The local working group has been engaging with individuals and organizations to provide the specifics about the proposal and proposed designation, and listen to concerns.

Historic conversations have found that there are no substantive resource conflict issues but rather ideological opposition associated with the federal government and its land management agencies. Some of this opposition has been further fueled by the standoff between Cliven Bundy and the BLM over 20 years of illegal grazing and millions of dollars in fines owed to the federal government. The April 2014 "standoff" was in the national spotlight and has embolden the anti-federal government sentiment with some locals.

While there has not been significant progress swaying these oppositional parties, advocates continue their outreach efforts, focusing on open dialogues and sharing information. It is important to note that

even these opposition voices, who oppose a federal designation, agree that Gold Butte is a special place and needs enhanced protection and management.

MAP: CITIZEN PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT BOUNDARY



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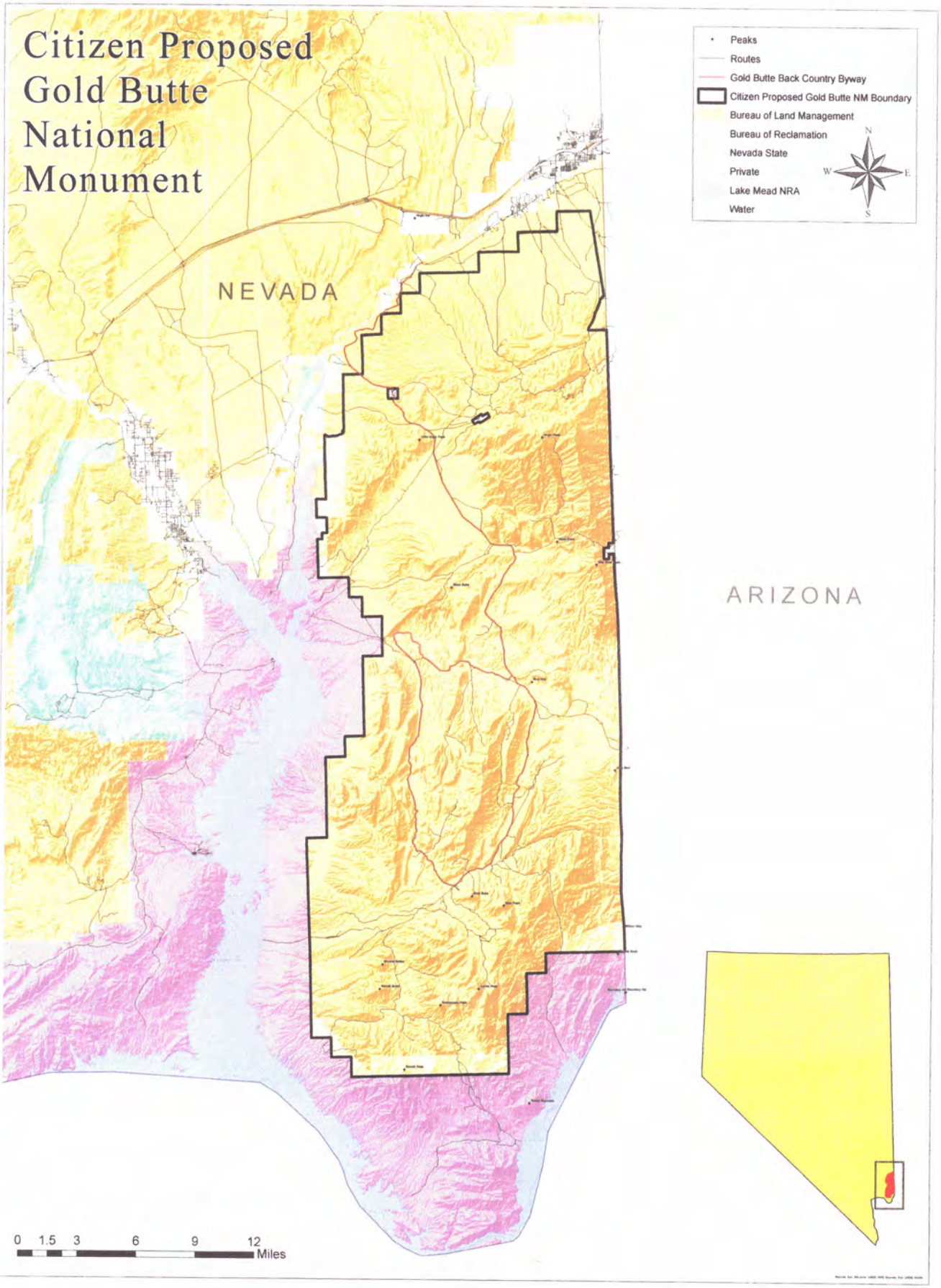
APPENDIX A: CLARK CO. MSHCP WILDLIFE/PLANTS AT GOLD BUTTE

Banded gecko - *Coleonyx variegatus*
Banded Gila monster - *Heloderma suspectum cinctum*
California kingsnake - Lampropelitis *getulus californiae*
Desert iguana - *Dipsosaurus dorsalis*
Desert kangaroo rat - *Dipodomys deserti*
Desert night lizard - *Xantusia vigilis*
Desert pocket mouse - *Chaeotdipus penicillatus sobrinus*
Desert tortoise - *Gopherus agassizii*
Glossy snake - *Arizona elegans*
Great Basin collared lizard - *Crotaphytus insularis bicintores*
Kit fox - *Vulpes macrotus*
Large-spotted leopard lizard - *Gambelia wislizenii wislizenii*
Las Vegas bearpoppy - *Arctomecon californica*
Mojave green rattlesnake - *Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus*
Pale Townsends big eared bat - *Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens*
Sidewinder - *Crotalus cerastes*
Sonoran lyre snake - *Trimorphodon biscutatus lambda*
Southern desert horned lizard - *Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum*
Speckled rattlesnake - *Crotalus mitchelli*
Sticky buckwheat - *Eriogonum viscidulum*
Western burrowing owl - *Athene cunicularia hypugea*
Western chuckwalla - *Sauromalus obesus obesus*
Western leaf-nosed snake - *Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*
Western long-nosed snake - *Rhinocheilus lecontei lecontei*
Western red-tailed skink - *Eumeces gilberti rubricaudatus*
White Bearpoppy - *Arctomecon merriamii*
Yellow two-tone beardtongue - *Penstemon bicolor ssp. Bicolor*


Citizen Proposed
Gold Butte
National
Monument
Peaks
Routes
Gold Butte Back Country Byway
Citizen Proposed Gold Butte NM Boundary
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Nevada State
Private
Lake Mead NRA
Water
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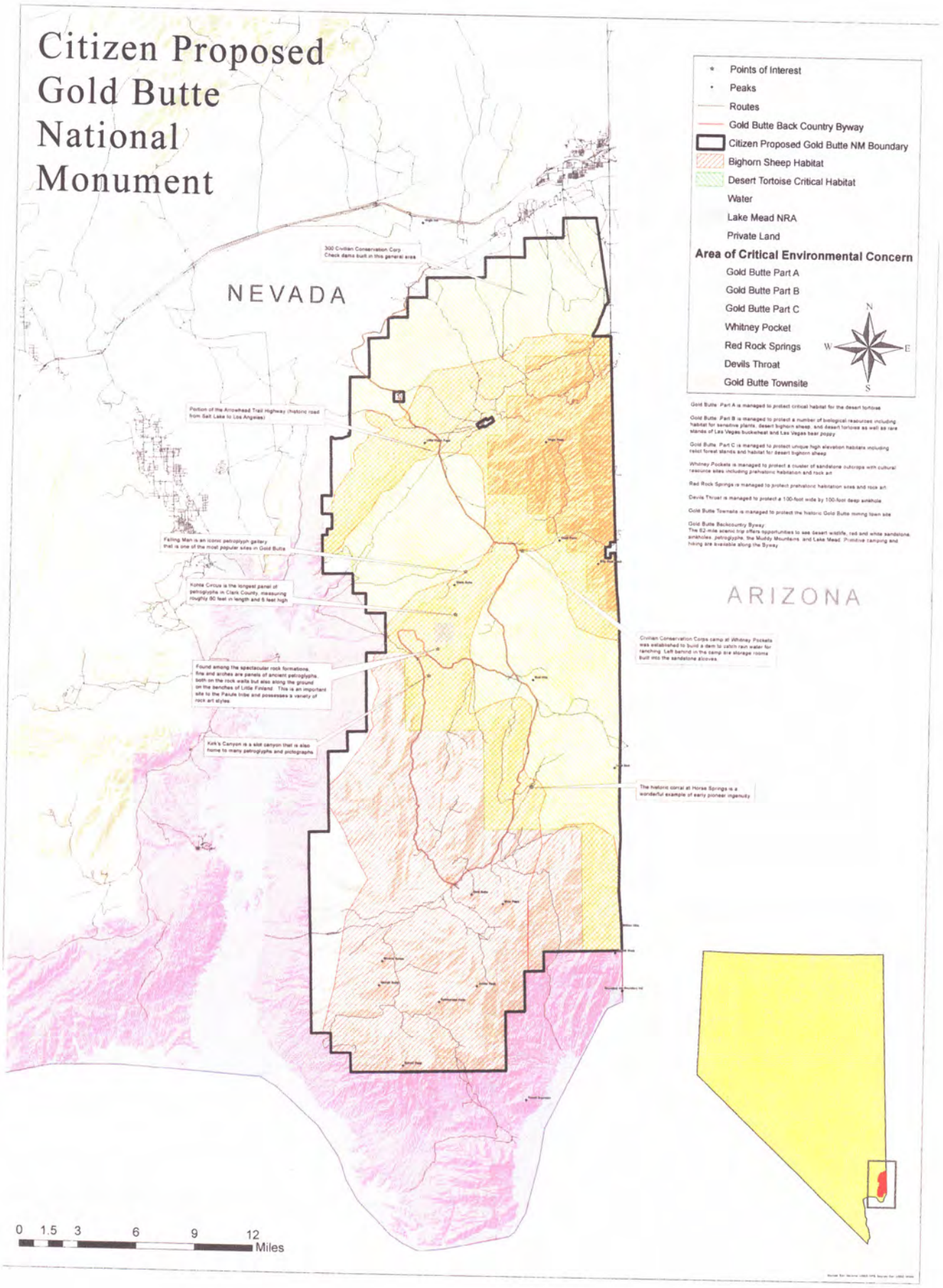
Citizen Proposed
Gold Butte
National
Monument
NEVADA
ARIZONA
Points of Interest
Peaks
Routes
Gold Butte Back Country Byway
Citizen Proposed Gold Butte NM Boundary
Bighorn Sheep Habitat
Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat
Water
Lake Mead NRA
Private Land
Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Gold Butte Part A
Gold Butte Part B
Gold Butte Part C
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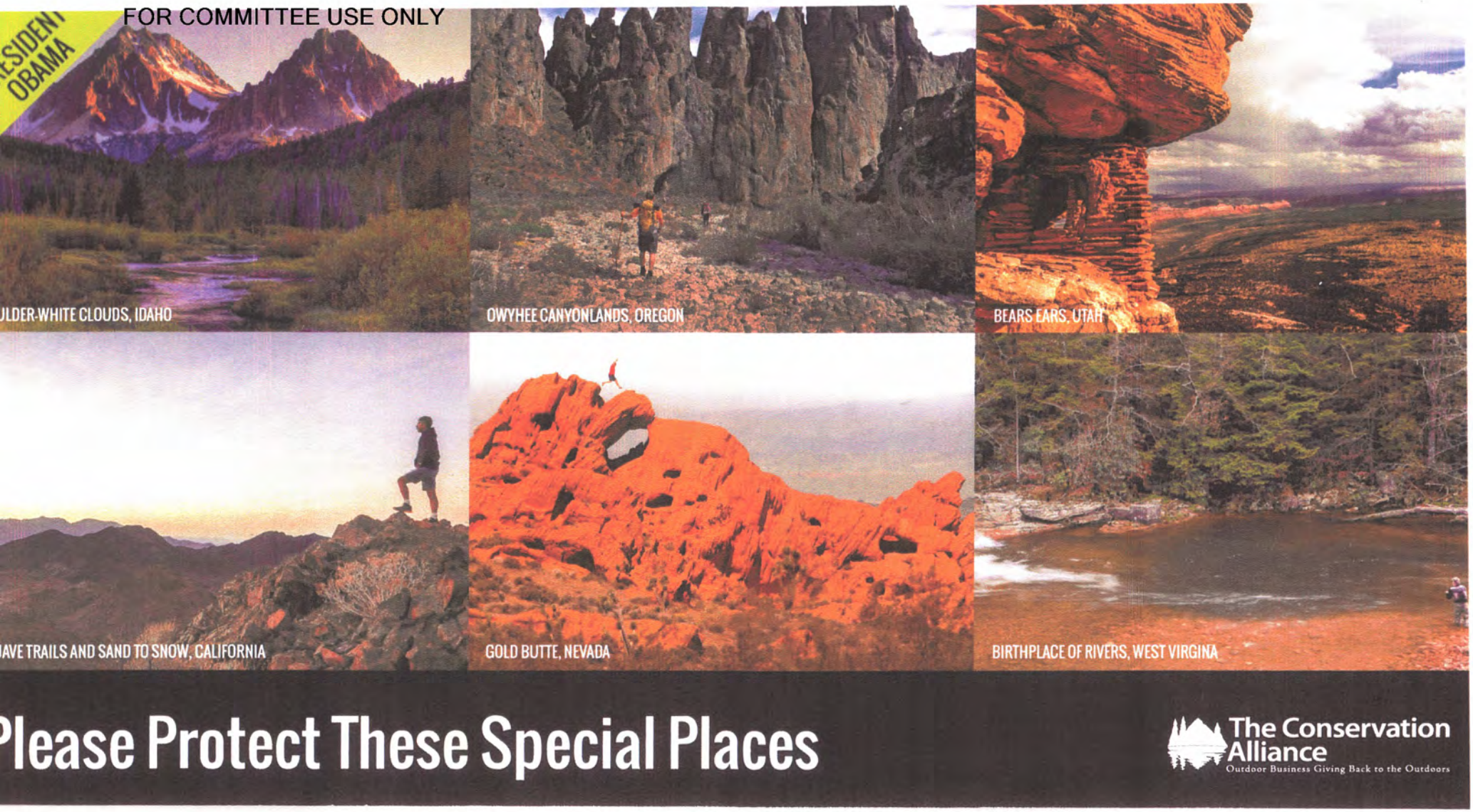

Please Protect These Special Places

The Conservation Alliance
Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Dear President Obama,

Outdoor industry companies thank you for your leadership protecting special wild places on our public lands. Our customers depend on protected public lands to enjoy the outdoor recreation so important to their lives. Thank you for responding to the needs of local communities and economies by protecting places like Browns Canyon and Berryessa-Snow Mountain as national monuments.

Many other places with strong local support and important economic benefits to the outdoor industry await much-needed permanent protection. ***I urge you to protect the national treasures listed below if Congress fails to act.*** These areas deserve protection, and their protection benefits our local and national outdoor recreation economies.

Name _____

Company _____

City _____ State _____

Email _____

Boulder-White Clouds, Idaho:
One of the largest, unprotected landscapes in the Lower 48, cherished by hikers, hunters, and mountain bikers.

Owyhee Canyonlands, Oregon:
This vast area is rich in desert canyons, paddling opportunities, cultural history, rare plants, and habitat for wildlife including the Greater sage-grouse.

Bears Ears, Utah:
From Cedar Mesa to Indian Creek, this area contains world-class rock climbing, and the largest collection of unprotected cultural resources in the lower 48 states.

Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow, California:
Set in the California Desert, this vibrant landscape holds remnants of prehistoric peoples, Spanish and stagecoach trails, and stunning desert habitat.

Gold Butte, Nevada:
A spectacular desert gem near Las Vegas rich in both cultural history and recreation opportunities.

Birthplace of Rivers, West Virginia:
The source of six important rivers, this area is known for its tall waterfalls and dramatic vistas, and holds some of the best whitewater paddling in the US.

Cover Photos: (Left to Right Top Row First) Ed Cannady, Tim Neville, Josh Ewing, John Dittli, Tyler Roemer, Kent Mason

The Conservation Alliance
Outdoor Business Giving Back to the Outdoors

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Proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Utah Land Exchange Timeline

1981-1985 - Project BOLD. This was Governor Scott Matheson's effort to consolidate all state trust lands into 45 large land blocks. It was introduced in Congress after a lengthy statewide public process, but withdrawn shortly after Gov. Matheson left office.

1993 – Public Law 103-93. This federal legislation authorized a land exchange/negotiated purchase process for all state trust land "inholdings" in National Park Service units, national forests, and tribal reservations, with the purchase price to be paid from federal coal royalties. Disputes over appraisals led to subsequent gridlock and litigation.

1994 – The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) was created by the Utah legislature as an independent, non-partisan agency to manage Utah's school trust lands.

1996 – The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was created by presidential proclamation. SITLA subsequently declined a DOI offer to include state trust lands inside GSENM in the ongoing P.L. 103-93 appraisal process.

1998 – Utah/SITLA/DOI negotiations led to the May 8, 1998 agreement between Secretary Babbitt and Governor Leavitt to resolve all outstanding land exchange issues involving P.L. 103-93 and GSENM. The agreement was ratified by Public Law 105-335, which directed closing to occur within 70 days. Utah conveyed 409,000 acres to the United States, and in return received 119,000 acres of federal lands, plus subsurface coal and $50mm cash. This was a negotiated exchange without formal appraisals, NEPA, NHPA, etc.

2000 – Secretary Babbitt and Governor Leavitt reached agreement on a footprint for BLM wilderness designations in western Utah, but their compromise proposal failed to advance in Congress due to opposition from both rural counties and environmental groups. The related land exchange agreement did advance, resulting in the Utah West Desert Land Exchange Act - Public Law 106-301 – which authorized exchange of approximately 106,000 acres of state trust lands in proposed wilderness in western Utah, and the Red Cliffs NCA in St. George (desert tortoise habitat) for 106,000 acres of BLM lands in western Utah. This was also a negotiated exchange without formal appraisals or NEPA, but the legislation did require independent valuation review.

2002-2003 - San Rafael Swell land exchange proposal. A pending local proposal for National Monument designation for San Rafael Swell in central Utah was accompanied by a proposal for state trust lands to be traded for BLM oil shale and oil & gas in Uintah County. The National Monument proposal was subsequently voted down by local voters. The land exchange proposal passed the House but failed in the U.S. Senate due to valuation concerns. The DOI Inspector General concluded that the negotiated valuation process was misleading, and DOI subsequently revised its appraisal policies amid substantial public controversy.

2009 – The Utah Recreation Land Exchange Act (Public Law 111-153) authorized the exchange of 45,000 acres of scenic state trust lands in Colorado River corridor for 35,000 acres of BLM lands, mostly in Uintah Basin. Full appraisals and NEPA were required. The legislation authorized alternative valuation for oil shale through revenue-sharing between SITLA and BLM.

2014 – The Utah Recreation Land Exchange closed after a 4½ year administrative process. The SITLA lands conveyed were reduced to 25,000 acres due to a valuation imbalance in favor of SITLA.

2014 – The Hill Creek Cultural Preservation and Energy Development Act (Public Law 113-133) authorized SITLA to relinquish 18,250 acres of state minerals in the southern portion of the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and select replacement lands of equal acreage from BLM minerals in the north portion of the reservation. The purpose of this legislation was to permit the protection of tribal wilderness and sacred areas in the southern part of the reservation, while allowing SITLA to co-develop acquired minerals with the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. This legislation authorizes revenue-sharing between SITLA and BLM to eliminate the need for mineral appraisals. There is a pending dispute between DOI and SITLA/Ute Tribe over whether BLM's duty to process selections made under P.L. 113-133 is non-discretionary, and thus does not require NEPA, etc.

2016 – Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act (S. 2814/H.R. 4909). This legislation authorizes the exchange of state trust lands out of newly-created closure areas within the Utah Test and Training Range in western Utah. The legislation also conveys to BLM state trust lands in the Cedar Mountain Wilderness, and provides for the conveyances of critical rare plant habitat and state-owned desert tortoise habitat inside the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, in Washington County, Utah. The rare plant habitat and the Red Cliffs NCA lands are both the subject of prior unfulfilled commitments by BLM to acquire the state lands. 94,889 acres of BLM lands are identified for SITLA acquisition in the exchange, while 84,249 acres of state trust lands will be conveyed by SITLA to BLM, exclusive of the Washington County conservation lands.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

M-Browns

Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon – Press Releases

Whitewater Rafting Colorado: The Adventure Company Owner Backs Udall Proposal

Mark Hammer, owner of The Adventure Company, supports Sen. Mark Udall's proposal to make Browns Canyon a National Monument.

Buena Vista, Colorado (PRWEB) August 01, 2014 - Mark Hammer, owner of Colorado whitewater raftingcompany The Adventure Company, and 26-year veteran rafting guide declared his support for the Browns Canyon and Wilderness Act of 2013, written by U.S. Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) to establish a 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument and a 10,400 acre area of wilderness around the Arkansas River south of Buena Vista as a national monument.

"Colorado and the Arkansas River valley depend on tourism and recreation for economic health," said Hammer. "Browns Canyon is one of the most popular stretches of river in the country for whitewater rafting. This Colorado resource is also known for its rugged beauty, gold medal fishing, abundant wildlife, and world class outdoor recreation."

Hammer sees current gold mining claims as a threat to the region's habitat and recreation opportunities. Browns Canyon between Buena Vista and Salida is a favorite destination for outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, anglers, and boaters. This rugged environment provides critical habitat for eagles, elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. Browns Canyon was recently designated Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado making it the longest stretch of Gold Medal waters in the state.

The US Bureau of Land Management currently manages Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area. This designation temporarily prevents mining and some development in the area. Udall's legislation provides permanent protection for the region, its habitat and for tourism and recreation including whitewater rafting in one of Colorado's most popular river rafting spots. Upwards of 100,000, people raft through Browns Canyon each summer, accounting for almost 40 percent of Colorado's entire river rafting activity.

Udall's bill is derived from the input of rafting outfitters, local business leaders, fishing guides, and ranchers. Hammer said he and other business owners support the bill because it will provide increased wildlife preservation, sustainability of the local outdoor recreation economy and the ability for future generations to enjoy pristine scenery and clean water.

"As a company that annually contributes a percentage of our rafting income to the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas (LTUA)," said Hammer, "The Adventure Company believes that river conservation is of the utmost importance in protecting this special area for the future."

About The Adventure Company - *Founded in Breckenridge, Colorado in 1987, whitewater rafting outfitter The Adventure Company provides half-day to 5-day river rafting trips from 6 convenient locations and a wide range of outdoor adventures in Breckenridge and Buena Vista, Colorado for family vacations, business and organizational team-building exercises and adult trips. The company provides shuttle service from Denver and provides a complete experience for its customers. The company is the only whitewater rafting company in Colorado to require four years of professional experience for its river rafting guides. For more information, please contact Erin Melrose, erin(at)theadventurecompany(dot)com, 800-497-RAFT.*

THINKPROGRESS GREEN

On 50th Anniversary, These Major Environmental Acts Are In Danger After Decades Of Wild Success

Think Progress, 9/3/2014
http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/09/03/3478275/wilderness-act-land-conservation-50th-anniversary/

On Wednesday, two of America's most influential and successful environmental statues turn 50 years old. For half a century, the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act have slowly entered the fabric of communities across the country to the point that the wild lands and recreational areas they created are taken for granted. However this anniversary comes at a turning point for both statutes, as congressional inaction and partisan politicking have put both at risk of becoming obsolete, or even extinct, in the near future.

The Wilderness Act, designed to preserve wild places from any development — the highest level of protection accorded to federal lands — has been neglected by recent Congresses. Every Congress since 1966 designated new federal lands to the wilderness system up until the 112th Congress, which in 2011 and 2012 actually reduced the size of the wilderness system. In spite of recent setbacks, after starting at nine million acres, national wilderness areas now cover 110 million acres. These areas include Ansel Adams Wilderness, California; Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, Montana; and Great Gulf Wilderness, New Hampshire to name a few.

"Every president since 1964 has signed a bunch of wilderness bills; Ronald Reagan alone approved 43," wrote the Editorial Board of the New York Times this week. "Congress has sent President Obama a grand total of two."

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) established what amounts to the country's most effective means of protecting natural, historic, and cultural treasures. Funded by offshore oil and gas development, the LWCF has supported more than 40,000 state and local recreation projects and helped project more than seven million acres of land, including postcard destinations like Grand Canyon National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

In 2015 the LWCF is up for reauthorization for the second time in its 50-year history, and without congressional action it will expire. Even when Congress is working across the aisle, the legislative body rarely finances the LWCF to the authorized level of $900 million. Last year Congress appropriated $234 million and this year the hope is for closer to $300 million. The remaining balance, which does not come from taxpayer dollars but offshore oil and gas royalties, is raided by Congress and spent on things other than conservation.

"In every state, the LWCF has helped fund everything from ball fields to trails to certain federal lands projects," Matt Lee-Ashley, a senior fellow and director of the Public Lands Project at the Center for American Progress, told ThinkProgress. "Without that stream of investment there will be a big slowdown in park construction in the U.S. starting next year. This is a big risk for communities that want open spaces and an outdoor economy."

Regarding the Wilderness Act, Lee-Ashley said that in the last five years Congress has basically

stopped passing bills to create new wilderness because of "a handful of folks in Congress who are philosophically opposed to wilderness protection."

The recent "Languishing Lands" report goes over some of the bills that have been stalled in Congress for years and sometimes decades. For example, 23 years ago legislation was introduced to permanently protect Colorado's Browns Canyon, a popular whitewater rafting and kayaking destination. Since then, 13 separate bills to conserve the landscape have failed to pass Congress despite having widespread public support.

"The threat to the Wilderness Act is from non-use," said Lee-Ashley.

Similar to his executive efforts with the Climate Action Plan and proposed EPA existing power plant carbon rules, Obama has been making independent efforts to conserve land in the face of Congress's neglect. Using a statute called the Antiquities Act, signed into law by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, Obama has designated 11 important landscapes for preservation by declaring them national monuments. While these have mostly been small, the latest is the 500,000-acre Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico. Both the New York Times' Editorial Board and the League of Conservation Voters wrote pieces this week imploring the President to do more with the Antiquities Act.

Not only are right-wing politicians holding up environmental conservation efforts on all fronts — from clean water to climate change — but some actively want to open up national parks and federal lands to drilling in order to further propel fossil fuel production. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) recently filed an amendment that aims to sell off national forests, parks, and other public lands for use in mining, drilling, and logging operations.

Lee-Ashley said that the rapid growth of natural gas production and fracking that is happening across the country right now is upending the longstanding balance to try to manage development and resource extraction with conservation. "The energy boom has swung the pendulum to one side, and conservation has ground to a halt," he said.

According to the New York Times, Obama still has time to establish a conservation legacy. Fifty years ago today, Lyndon B. Johnson did this for himself when he signed these two bills into law, saying that "America can not only be made strong by a Congress that acts only to the needs or irritations or frustrations of the moment. True leadership must provide for the next decade and not merely the next day."

He called the 88th Congress the "Conservation Congress." The current 113th Congress will need a new moniker to describe their legacy.

THE DENVER POST

"Other" Browns Canyon provides spectacular solitude, needs protection

The Denver Post, 8/17/2014
By Scott Willoughby
http://www.denverpost.com/outdoors/ci_26351159/other-browns-canyon-provides-spectacular-solitude-needs-protection

NATHROP — Follow the Arkansas River south from Buena Vista, across the Fisherman's Bridge to the Ruby Mountain campground and boat launch, and park near the end of the road. Now walk away. With your back to the river, head east, past the sign banning bikes and motors, and follow the trail until you begin to wonder if there really is a trail.

Walk on.

It will take some time, minutes measured by the hundreds of heartbeats required to generate the necessary sweat, but eventually the sound of ravens and raptors, even the gentle purr of hummingbirds, will overtake the noise of the highway and heavy breathing that brought you there. Ensconced in rolling hillsides and oblong granite gorges, you will soon begin to distinguish the difference between a national monument and a Wilderness Area.

There are no marked trails in the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area, nor are they much needed. The overwhelming majority of visitors to this treasured Chaffee County landscape never set foot on a trail anyway. They merely hop in a rubber raft or kayak and paddle the Arkansas Riveras it flows south past the Collegiate Peaks toward Salida.

This 7,303-acre Wilderness Study Area (WSA) spanning seven miles along the eastern edge of the Arkansas qualifies as the "other" Browns Canyon. Recognized for its rugged backcountry values, it's the part seen only by those who seek out the opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation that may someday earn it formal designation as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

It's a far cry from the Browns Canyon most visitors know. The river caravan of more than 110,000 boaters and float fishermen annually passing through Browns Canyon proper qualifies it among the most popular whitewater destinations in America. And that familiar fleet is a vital component of the current push to designate the entire area as Colorado's newest national monument.

The discussion is not entirely new, although the combination of preservation through promotion offers an interesting twist.

Protection of up to 100,000 acres in the Browns Canyon area has been a topic of conversation from Chaffee County to the halls of Congress for decades, and a variety of bipartisan efforts to safeguard its future have made their way to Washington through the years. In 2005, legislation to protect Browns Canyon was introduced by Congressman Joel Hefley and Sen. Wayne Allard. It was ultimately derailed by opposition from the National Rifle Association over a lack of ATV access.

The latest legislative proposal (S. 1794) is carried by U.S. Sen. Mark Udall and co-sponsored by Sen. Michael Bennet. Their proposed 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument includes both pieces of the puzzle — a federal Wilderness designation expanded to 10,500 acres alongside existing multi-use recreational sites ranging from whitewater

paddling to mountain biking and motorsports, hunting and fishing throughout.

The land is currently managed as a patchwork of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, with parcels of Colorado State Parks and some private property in the form of a defunct rail like thrown into the mix. While national monument designation is unlikely to change much of that, it raises the question of compatibility between contrasting sides of the same coin.

The most vocal supporters of the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act made a presentation to the Senate National Parks Subcommittee last month citing the economic benefits associated with monument status, the star on the map designed to attract more tourist dollars to the river's $55 million annual economic impact. But an influx of tourists would seem antithetical to the Wilderness mission, defined as "an area where the earth and community of life are untrammeled by man."

Is it possible to achieve both at once?

"I've been asked why we need to make Browns Canyon a national monument - why can't we just leave it as it is?" said Bill Dvorak, a local rafting outfitter, hunter and longtime advocate of both Wilderness and monument designation. "My response has always been that if we do nothing, there's no way to ensure Browns Canyon and its wilderness will in fact be left as it is. Without the protections of the national monument bill, the federal lands could be sold off, mined or mismanaged under future federal administrations."

One of Dvorak's greatest fears became reality last year when a cluster of mining claims covering 100 acres in Browns Canyon were filed during a temporary lapse in protections for the area due to a legal technicality. Permanent monument and Wilderness designation would prevent such threats while maintaining recreational flexibility in the future, Dvorak said.

On the other hand, the options for land managers trying to contain human impacts in designated Wilderness are somewhat limited. Forbidden by statute to build structures for bathrooms or campgrounds in the Wilderness portion of the monument, the most effective means of mitigating an influx of human traffic on the environment is through trailhead permits, a quota system limiting the number of users.

At the moment, such a system is far from necessary. Aside from the river itself, it's the ATV trails that share parking with the WSA boundary that attract the most traffic. Other than hunters, most hikers never venture far from existing facilities.

Then again, that star on the map doesn't exist, yet.

"People have compromised through the years to come up with a plan that will work," Dvorak said. "It's time to take action to make sure that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come."

THE Durango HERALD

The wilderness drought: Gridlock in Congress means broad focus may help land bills

Durango Herald, 8/13/2014
By Denis Webb
http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140813/NEWS06/140819822/-1/News06/The-wilderness-drought-

GRAND JUNCTION (AP) – Blame congressional gridlock, at least in part. But the last few years haven't been good ones when it comes to attempts to add acreage to the nation's wilderness system.

Wilderness designations require congressional action, and from 2010 forward, just two wilderness areas have been designated, out of 758 total in the 50-year history of the Wilderness Act, according to www.wilderness.net.

"I think some of these bills are moving slower than they normally would be, just because of the larger dynamics in Washington, D.C.," said Scott Miller, senior regional director of the Wilderness Society.

"Wilderness has never been a quick and easy process. But added to that these days is congressional dysfunction, and land bills are getting hung up in that just like everything else," said Sloan Shoemaker, executive director of the Wilderness Workshop in Carbondale.

But some are holding out at least cautious hope for approval of some legislation designating wilderness in Colorado – among them, U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Cortez.

Not surprisingly, the hopes appear to be highest where broad-based, bipartisan support has been procured for measures, often as a result of involvement from diverse interests in early discussions and a willingness to have a bill do more than just create wilderness.

That's the case with the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act legislation that Tipton is sponsoring, with U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., carrying a companion measure in the Senate. The measure targets 108,000 acres north of Durango, but part of its wider support comes from the fact that only about 38,000 of those acres would be designated as wilderness.

"Hermosa Creek really is a landscape management plan. It's not a wilderness bill. It does have wilderness in it, but it's part of a bigger picture puzzle," said Scott Jones, who represents several motorized-use groups in Colorado that support the bill.

Their support stems from the fact that the bill also would establish a special management area of about 70,000 acres where motorized uses would be protected.

Tipton has called the bill a "win-win" approach.

"I think we're getting a sensible position of actual balance," he said.

Jones contrasts that measure with the Hidden Gems wilderness proposal pushed several years ago by the Carbondale-based Wilderness Workshop. It focused solely on wilderness designation and didn't propose management areas for motorized use, he said.

The success that can come from seeking broad-based, bipartisan, public buy-in and making wilderness designation part of a larger package bill was exemplified by Scott McInnis when he represented western Colorado in the U.S. House of Representatives. During the 106th Congress in 1999 and 2000, the Republican successfully sponsored three wilderness bills:

One created the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, later renamed in McInnis' honor, and includes the Black Ridge Wilderness, covering about 75,000 acres.

Another changed the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument near Montrose into a national park, and designated the 17,800-acre Gunnison Gorge Wilderness within the newly created Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area.

The third created the Spanish Peaks Wilderness, covering about 19,000 acres near La Veta.

McInnis believes part of the success of those measures came because they only designated as wilderness acreage that actually is deserving of the designation. The Spanish Peaks area "is very special, it's very pristine and it fits that definition," he said.

Part of what's now McInnis Canyons was pristine, remote and appropriate for wilderness, but for the larger area "wilderness doesn't fit because we didn't want it to be that restrictive," he said.

He believes opposition comes when advocates seek wilderness designation in inappropriate places, in an attempt to lock out other uses.

"Had we stayed true to the original intent of wilderness areas I think you would find wilderness (legislation) going through pretty easily," he said. "In my opinion it's being totally manipulated for other purposes."

Jones says the proposed Hermosa Creek wilderness "is remote, rugged, difficult to access, the whole nine yards. It fits the criteria."

He doesn't believe that was the case for some of the proposed Hidden Gems acreage. He also thinks if the Hidden Gems proponents had involved others in outreach from the beginning, some of the problems with some of the acreage it included would have come to light early on and conflicts could have been avoided.

Shoemaker agrees that one lesson wilderness advocates are learning is the importance of involving other stakeholders earlier and considering everyone's needs. But he added that while Hidden Gems supporters were able to eliminate some opposition by adjusting their proposal to address specific concerns, in other cases there was no eliminating ideological opposition to wilderness.

Today, U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, a Boulder Democrat, and U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., are pursuing wilderness proposals in the central Colorado mountains that include some of the Hidden Gems acreage. And for well more than a decade, U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, a Democrat from Denver, has pursued a sweeping wilderness bill targeting lower-elevation lands rather than the "rock and ice" terrain typifying many Colorado wilderness areas. Her latest proposal takes in about half the acreage she initially sought to protect, but still would cover about 750,000 acres of primarily Bureau of Land Management land.

Miller, with the Wilderness Society, thinks that given their amount of public buy-in, the highest-prospect measures right now include the Hermosa Creek bill and proposals by Udall to create a national monument and wilderness at Browns Canyon in Chaffee County, and to pass a San Juan Mountains bill creating wilderness, special-management area and other designations on 61,000 acres.

Miller is hopeful for such measures in part because he has seen wilderness bills stall in Congress before, but not forever.

"That kind of logjam always breaks sooner rather than later," he said, pointing to a major wilderness bill that passed in 2009. That year, according to www.wilderness.net, 52 areas covering more than 2 million acres were created.

Tipton said he is still evaluating the San Juan proposal and is undecided on whether to support it.

He called wilderness "one tool in the toolbox" for protecting lands, and said that because of the restrictions it places on land use, it needs to be used in a judicious fashion.

But he believes the proper province for protective land designations is Congress. After he unsuccessfully pushed for legislation to create Chimney Rock National Monument in Southwest Colorado, President Obama created the monument using the Antiquities Act. Tipton said the act was intended for lands facing immediate threats, which didn't apply to Chimney Rock.

"There needs to be a thoughtful process, and that's what Congress is actually for," he said.

That being the case, while Tipton is hopeful his Hermosa Creek measure will pass in the House, he added, "We can only do it on the House side. The Senate has to act as well."

SIERRA

Legislation Advances to Protect Colorado's Browns Canyon

Sierra Magazine, 8/1/2014
By Stephanie Steinbrecher
http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lay-of-the-land/2014/08/legislation-advances-protect-colorado-s-browns-canyon

This month, The Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act -- sponsored by U.S. Sen. Mark Udall -- was approved by the Senate National Parks Subcommittee.

The bill, which Sen. Udall proposed last year, highlights what Coloradans see as an important priority -- maintaining the legacy and beauty of our natural spaces so they may be enjoyed well into the future. The bill would protect existing legal uses of the land and ban future mining on the riverbeds, thereby protecting the river's water supply.

The Arkansas River runs through Browns Canyon, making the region a haven for whitewater rafting, fishing, and many other kinds of recreation. The region also supports local agriculture and tourism industries.

Another step closer to earning National Monument recognition, the proposal would protect 22,000 acres of public land from future development and 10,500 acres of designated wilderness. The bill now moves on to the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

A recent poll by Conservation Colorado indicates that 77 percent of Colorado residents support the monument designation proposition. Summit Daily reports that conservationists, locals in Chaffee County, and business owners are enthusiastic about the environmental, economic, and recreational opportunities for Browns Canyon posed by this bill. In a piecefor the Denver Post, Joseito Velasquez and Rigo Magaña -- representing Hispanic and religious communities in Colorado -- praised the bill and called upon the Senate to keep "encouraging stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage."

"I've spent 18 months developing this bill side by side with Chaffee County residents and other stakeholders. I've held public meetings, received thousands of written comments, and my staff and I conducted over 50 meetings," Sen. Udall said in a hearing as the Chairman of the National Parks Subcommittee. "The resulting bill is emblematic of how public lands bills should be done: from bottom up, based on what the community wants."

Browns Canyon National Monument Proposal

September 5, 2014 Update

Press Releases

- Sportsmen-Veterans Support Efforts To Protect Browns Canyon, Colorado – August 15, 2014, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
  AW Supports Senate Bills To Protect Rivers In CO, MT & WA –August 5, 2014, American Whitewater
- Whitewater Rafting Colorado: The Adventure Company Owner Backs Udall Proposal – August 1, 2014
- Sportsmen applaud Senate hearing on Browns Canyon – July 23, 2014, Sportsmen for Browns Canyon
- Sportsmen, wildlife advocates back Browns Canyon bill: Groups say monument designation would permanently protect prized landscape – July 23, 2014 – National Wildlife Federation
- Poll Shows Broad Support for Browns Canyon National Monument – July 22, 2014, Conservation Colorado

Earned Media

- On 50th Anniversary, These Major Environmental Acts Are In Danger After Decades Of Wild Success
  Think Progress, 9/3/2014
  http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/09/03/3478275/wilderness-act-land-conservation-50th-anniversary/
- "Other" Browns Canyon provides spectacular solitude, needs protection
  The Denver Post, 8/17/2014
  http://www.denverpost.com/outdoors/ci_26351159/other-browns-canyon-provides-spectacular-solitude-needs-protection
- The wilderness drought: Gridlock in Congress means broad focus may help land bills
  Durango Herald, 8/13/2014
  http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140813/NEWS06/140819822/-1/News06/The-wilderness-drought-
- Legislation Advances to Protect Colorado's Browns Canyon
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  http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lay-of-the-land/2014/08/legislation-advances-protect-colorado-s-browns-canyon
- Brockmeier: Browns Canyon something Democrats and Republicans can agree on
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- Browns Canyon monument status advances
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- Movement to make stretch of Arkansas River a national monument passes first hurdle
  Colorado Springs Gazette, 7/24/2014
  http://gazette.com/movement-to-make-stretch-of-arkansas-river-a-national-monument-passes-first-hurdle/article/1534245#S0oloZBlZIo3eKa0.99
- Bill to turn Browns Canyon into National Monument gets first hearing
  Colorado Public Radio, 7/23/2014
  http://www.cpr.org/news/story/bill-turn-browns-canyon-national-monument-gets-first-hearing
- Hispanic clergy: Protect Browns Canyon in Colorado
  The Denver Post, 7/23/2014
  http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_26201982/hispanic-clergy-protect-browns-canyon-colorado

- Sportsmen, wildlife advocates back bill to protect Browns Canyon bill
  Our Public Lands, 7/23/2014
  http://www.ourpubliclands.org/news/sportsmen-wildlife-advocates-back-bill-protect-browns-canyon-bill
- Browns Canyon closer to national monument status
  Summit Daily, 7/22/2014
  http://www.summitdaily.com/news/12309262-113/browns-canyon-bill-monument?utm_source=swift_rss&utm_section=News
- Poll shows 'Broad Support' for Browns Canyon National Monument on eve of Senate committee hearing
  Chaffee County Times, 7/22/2014
  http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_511ad04c-11c6-11e4-a7d9-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=story
- Poll Shows 77% of Coloradoans Support Proposed Browns Canyon Designation
  KRCC, 7/22/2014
  http://krcc.org/post/poll-shows-77-coloradoans-support-proposed-browns-canyon-designation

The Chaffee County Times
BUENA VISTA, COLORADO

Poll shows 'Broad Support' for Browns Canyon National Monument on eve of Senate committee hearing

Chaffee County Times, 7/22/2014
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_511ad04c-11c6-11e4-a7d9-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=story

A new poll released today shows 77 percent of Coloradans support designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

The Conservation Colorado poll comes on the eve of an important U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing on legislation to permanently protect Browns Canyon this week.

"This poll demonstrates there is strong bipartisan support across Colorado to protect Browns Canyon. The time is right to give Browns Canyon the protection it deserves," said Pete Maysmith Executive Director Conservation Colorado.

The hearing on Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act (S.1794), introduced by Senator Mark Udall (D-CO), is a result of years of outreach and broad support in the local community. Browns Canyon is an iconic scenic section of the Arkansas River in central Colorado. It's inner canyon and upland valleys are popular with whitewater rafters, kayakers, anglers and hikers. This stretch of the Arkansas River has recently been designated as a Gold Medal trout fishery by the State of Colorado and is the most popular whitewater rafting stretch in the entire nation.

"Browns Canyon is a sought after tourism destination, with visitors from around the world. Designation as a monument will not only protect our wildlife and recreation opportunities for future generations, it will be a boon to our local economy. It's no surprise that so many people support a National Monument here." said Keith Baker, a veteran and director of the Friends of Browns Canyon.

The poll details support from citizens throughout Colorado and across party lines with 62 percent of Republicans surveyed reporting they support a national monument. A Browns Canyon National Monument also earns 81 percent support from Colorado women and significant backing in each Colorado congressional district.

Senator Udall's legislation would designate a 22,000 acre national monument along with a 10,500 acre wilderness area. The proposal has garnered support from the local business community, sportsmen, whitewater outfitters, the outdoor recreation community and local elected officials.

The hearing to consider a Browns Canyon National Monument will be held before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on National Parks on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 12:30 PM MDT in room S-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. The hearing will be available in livestream at: http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/live-webcast

Poll Shows 77% of Coloradoans Support Proposed Browns Canyon Designation

KRCC, 7/22/2014
By Dana Cronin
http://krcc.org/post/poll-shows-77-coloradoans-support-proposed-browns-canyon-designation

A poll released Tuesday shows many Coloradoans support designating Browns Canyon in Chaffee County as a national monument. KRCC's Dana Cronin reports.

Listen to the story
0:54

The poll released by Conservation Colorado comes on the eve of a scheduled legislative hearing by the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on National Parks.
Keith Baker is the Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon, an organization that's been working to protect the popular recreation area. He says he's not surprised by the 77% of Coloradoans in support of the proposed designation.

"The geological formations of Browns Canyon are unique even by Colorado standards," says Baker. "Once you get in there and start looking around, you'll say 'Wow this is something like I've never seen before."

The proposal would make the 22,000-acre site a national monument with a 10,500-acre wilderness area. Baker says this designation could nationally increase the profile of Browns Canyon and could boost Chaffee County's economy.

Sportsmen, wildlife advocates back bill to protect Browns Canyon bill

Our Public Lands, 7/23/2014
By Judith Kohler
http://www.ourpubliclands.org/news/sportsmen-wildlife-advocates-back-bill-protect-browns-canyon-bill

DENVER – Sportsmen's and wildlife groups are urging members of Congress to support a bill that would permanently protect Colorado 's Browns Canyon, a treasured wildlife and recreation area.

The Senate National Parks Subcommittee was scheduled Wednesday to consider S. 1794, a bill by Colorado Sen. Mark Udall that would establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument. The hearing represents a step forward after more than two decades of work by grassroots organizations and elected officials to conserve the nationally known whitewater rafting site and important fishing and hunting spot, National Wildlife Federation and Colorado Wildlife Federation representatives said.

"The legislation would safeguard one of Colorado's most treasured landscapes. The Colorado Wildlife Federation has actively supported protecting Browns Canyon for many years because of its importance to anglers, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts," said Suzanne O'Neill, CWF's executive director.

Browns Canyon offers some of the country's best whitewater rafting and premier fishing, said Bill Dvorak, a rafting and fishing guide and NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado. He noted that Colorado Parks and Wildlife recently designated a 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas River, which runs through Browns, as a Gold Medal fishery based on the quantity and quality of the trout.

"I've been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon in the area since the early '80s and it's undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country," Dvorak said. "Browns Canyon is a critical part of the area's economy. Last year, recreation on the Arkansas River pumped at least $55 million into the economy."

Dvorak noted that earlier proposals to protect Browns would have set aside 100,000 acres.

"People have compromised through the years to come up with a plan that will work," Dvorak added. "It's time to take action to make sure that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come."

Browns, with its granite rock formations and sweeping views of the Arkansas Valley and the Collegiate Peaks, some higher than 14,000 feet, is home to bighorn sheep, elk, deer, black bears, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. Udall's bill, cosponsored by Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet, would classify 10,500 acres within the monument as wilderness. Existing access and land uses, including hunting, commercial outfitting, motorized travel and livestock grazing, would continue.

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Browns Canyon closer to national monument status

Summit Daily, 7/22/2014
http://www.summitdaily.com/news/12309262-113/browns-canyon-bill-monument?utm_source=swift_rss&utm_section=News

Browns Canyon — already one of Colorado's most popular whitewater rafting and fishing destinations — is expected take a step closer to achieving national monument status this week. Sen. Mark Udall will present the bill in a U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee hearing set for 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 23. If approved the bill will move on to the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee before being submitted for approval in front of the full Senate and House of Representatives.

"We're making good progress on the bill," Udall spokesman Mike Saccone told the Daily Tuesday. "Sen. Udall's goal is to get it through Congress this session."

Close to two years in the making, the Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act was introduced in Congress in December 2013. The bill would preserve 22,000 acres surrounding the Browns Canyon stretch of the Arkansas River — between Buena Vista and Salida — and include 10,500 acres designated as a new wilderness area.

The proposal has been well received by a number of conservation groups as well as Chaffee County area fishing and whitewater outfitters.

"We're excited about it," Arkansas River Outfitters Association president Mike Kissak said. "Browns Canyon is a very special place and we're excited to protect it."

In addition to preserving the land, area residents like Kissak — who owns American Adventure Expeditions rafting company — said the bill should also help the local economy, which relies primarily on tourism.

"It's a very positive thing for my business, for rafting and the community as a whole," Kissak said. "Protecting a place like that is important to everyone in the valley."

Udall spent time in 2013 meeting with various community groups and holding public comment sessions to receive input on his initial draft of the bill. He and others have said that the proposition would "put a gold star on the map," potentially leading to an increase in out-of-state and international tourism.

According to the Bureau of Land Management, Browns Canyon annually receives about 94,000 to 155,000 visitors from commercial rafting trips alone. Those figures do not include private boaters, fisherman or other guests.

Kissak said there is room for growth under current permit allotments, which are expected to stay in place if the bill is approved.

In addition to being a popular whitewater destination, Browns Canyon also was recently awarded gold medal status for trout fishing by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

A poll released Tuesday by Conservation Colorado revealed that 77 percent of the state's residents surveyed approved of the monument designation proposition.

Wednesday's subcommittee hearing will be streamed online at www.energy.senate.gov and will include several other public lands bills. If the act is approved by Congress, Browns Canyon will join popular travel destinations like Muir Woods, Fort Sumter, the Statue of Liberty, Devils Tower, Mount St. Helens and a number of other sites as a national monument.

We applaud Sen. Udall's efforts thus far to permanently protect Browns Canyon. We urge the Colorado congressional delegation and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to listen to communities of faith like ours. But, ultimately, we need President Obama to recognize the importance of Browns Canyon to Colorado's natural environment and our local economies.

We have a moral responsibility. We belong to the land, it doesn't belong to us — to serve as its stewards and protect our outdoor heritage. Let's hope the Senate fulfills this responsibility to protect Browns Canyon.

Joseito Velasquez is a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center in Denver. Rigo Magaña is a paster with New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

THE DENVER POST

Hispanic clergy: Protect Browns Canyon in Colorado

The Denver Post, 7/23/2014

By Joseito Velasquez and Rigo Magaña

http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_26201982/hispanic-clergy-protect-browns-canyon-colorado

This week, the U.S. Senate is expected to hold a hearing on providing permanent protection for Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River. As pastors, we want to see our public lands protected -- we have a moral obligation to do so. We also see the need for Congress and the White House have an opportunity to work with the faith community and others throughout Colorado.

Last month, President Obama protected the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument near Las Cruces, N.M. These lands are significant to Hispanics because of our history with these lands, and because our families today can access and enjoy them.

Fortunately for Colorado, President Obama said, "I'm not finished."

Protecting Browns Canyon would ensure these public lands near Salida are protected from mining and other energy development, while providing a boost in economic benefit from recreation and tourism for nearby communities. We've been to Browns Canyon and can vouch for the beauty of the place. In fact, we'll be taking dozens of our youth to Browns Canyon for camping and whitewater rafting later this month as part of Latino Conservation Action Week.

Late last year, Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., unveiled a proposal to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument. "Over the last 18 months I developed this bill working side-by-side with Chaffee County leaders, residents, businesses and other stakeholders," he said. "We developed this community-driven bill to ensure future generations of Coloradans can enjoy Browns Canyon's unique mix of whitewater and wilderness."

Now that Browns Canyon will finally have its day in the Senate, it's important for policymakers to take into account the Latino perspective on issues such as this. In Colorado, for instance, the Latino population accounts for more than 21 percent of Colorado's total population. And the polling reinforces the amount our community supports protections of public lands.

In 2012, Colorado College released its annual State of the Rockies Conservation in the West poll, which found that 94 percent of Latinos agreed that public lands such as forests, national parks, monuments and wildlife areas are essential parts of the Western states' economies. Additionally, the 2014 Colorado College survey found that Latino voters were more likely than non-Hispanic whites to agree that conservation issues such as clean water supplies, park funding and air quality are a serious problem.

As leaders within the Latino community, we recognize that we have an important voice in the protection of our public lands and we should not be afraid to use it. All Latinos have a critical role to play in encouraging stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage. Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife.

COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO

Bill to turn Browns Canyon into National Monument gets first hearing

Colorado Public Radio, 7/23/2014

By Mark Bevis

http://www.cpr.org/news/story/bill-turn-browns-canyon-national-monument-gets-first-hearing

A bill to turn Browns Canyon in Colorado into a National Monument got its first hearing in a U.S. Senate subcommittee Wednesday.

The bill would protect 22,000 acres along the Arkansas River, between Salida and Buena Vista, Colorado, and include another 10,500 acres as new wilderness area.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udal, D-Colo., sponsored the bill and says local communities also support it.

"Both the towns of Buena Vista and Salida passed resolutions in support, and two of the three Chaffee County commissioners, both Republicans, support the legislation with its carefully crafted conditions," Udall told the Senate National Parks Subcommittee.

Those conditions include allowing all legal uses currently in the area including hunting, livestock, rafting and motorized vehicles. It would also ban any mining in the area along the river banks and river bed.

The bill now moves to the full Energy and Natural Resources committee.

If Congress approves the bill, Browns Canyon would join the Natural Bridges, the Statue of Liberty and the Giant Sequoias as a National Monument.

The Gazette

Movement to make stretch of Arkansas River a national monument passes first hurdle

Colorado Springs Gazette, 7/24/2014
By Lance Benzel
http://gazette.com/movement-to-make-stretch-of-arkansas-river-a-national-monument-passes-first-hurdle/article/1534245#S0oloZBlZIo3eKa0.99

A bill to designate Browns Canyon in Chaffee County as a national monument passed its first legislative hurdle Wednesday.

The measure, which would protect a 22,000-acre stretch of the Arkansas River between Buena Vista and Salida, was approved by the Senate National Parks Subcommittee. It will next be heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. No timetable has been set.

The canyon is a popular destination for rafting and fishing, and drives tourism and spending in the area west of Colorado Springs.

The bill was introduced in December by Sen. Mark Udall. It would allow all current uses, including rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, livestock grazing, mountain biking and motorized vehicle use.

Many previous attempts at protecting Browns Canyon have failed, falling victim to conflicts over motorized use and whether permanent federal restrictions should be imposed.

The Pueblo Chieftain

Browns Canyon monument status advances

Pueblo Chieftain, 7/25/2014
By Chris Woodka
http://www.chieftain.com/news/2754546-120/browns-canyon-monument-national

A proposal to create a national monument covering 22,000 acres in Browns Canyon, located along the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista, is moving ahead in Congress.

"Browns Canyon National Monument is an idea whose time has come — and I speak from experience," U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., said. "Over the Independence Day weekend, I rafted Browns Canyon with a group of Colorado veterans. Like the many other times I have visited, hiked and rafted Browns Canyon, I was awestruck by this special place."

Udall made the remarks as he chaired a hearing of the National Parks subcommittee meeting Wednesday.

There were 18 months of public meetings leading up to the introduction of the Browns Canyon National Monument bill, which was introduced last December and co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo.

Read full story at: http://www.chieftain.com/news/2754546-120/browns-canyon-monument-national#sthash.Mj4TWsii.dpuf

SUMMIT DAILY NEWS

Brockmeier: Browns Canyon something Democrats and Republicans can agree on

Summit Daily, 7/31/2014
http://www.summitdaily.com/news/12413859-113/browns-canyon-letters-national

Browns Canyon something Democrats and Republicans can agree on

I am so relieved that Browns Canyon is one step closer to being designated as a national monument. In this season of constant bombardment by political commercials with each party attacking the other, it is easy to develop a political apathy. However, today's development of Browns Canyon passing the national parks subcommittee hearing gives me some hope. There has to be some issue that both Democrats and Republicans can agree on, and I think that protecting Browns Canyon can be one of those.

It's really a common-sense initiative that would not only protect an iconic Colorado landscape but also help to boost the local economy. A bill so widely supported seems like it would be something both parties can get behind.

A recent poll showed that 77 percent of Coloradans support the designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument. My hope is that our congressmen and -women will refrain from any partisan bickering and support what their constituents already know, that designating Browns Canyon as a national monument is good for Colorado.

Connor Brockmeier, Breckenridge

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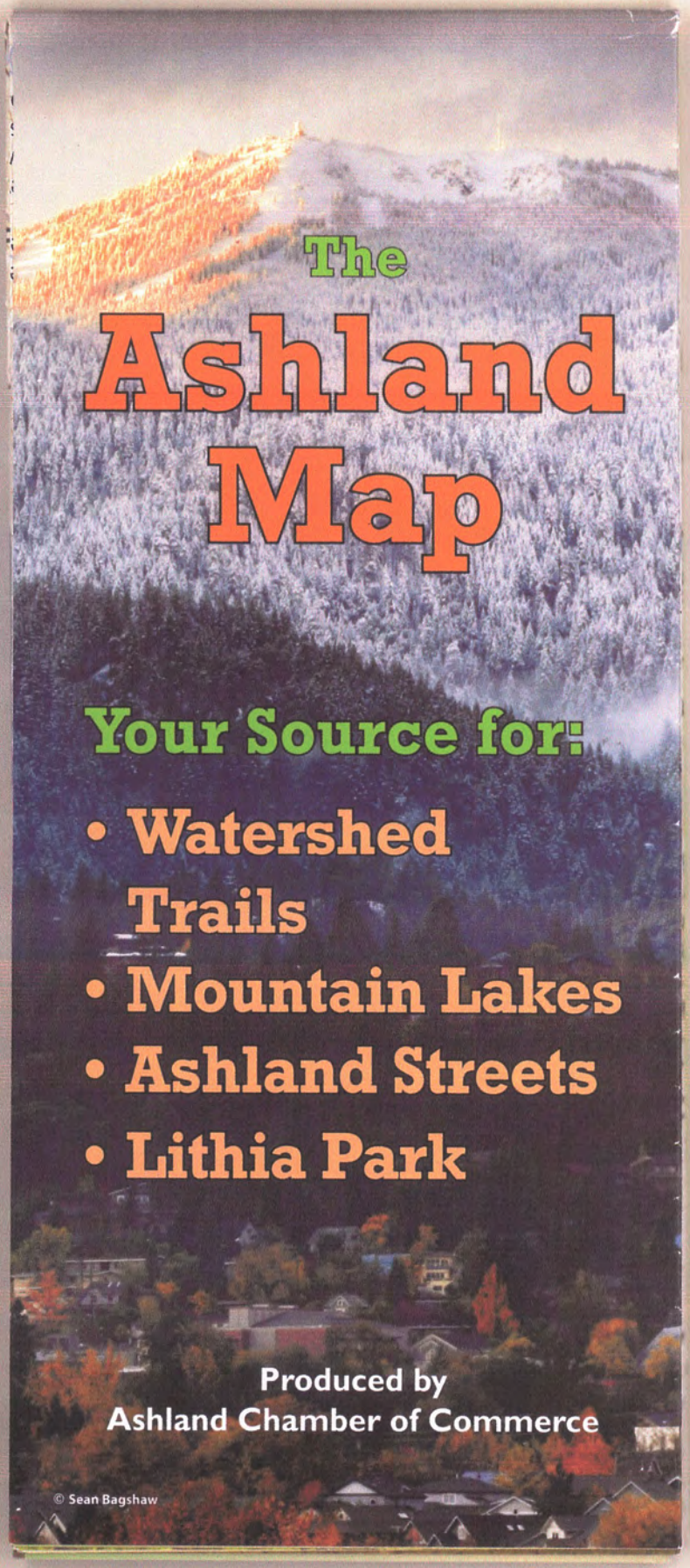

"Engage in the Legacy" - Donate today.

You can become a part of this legacy. To ensure this amazing resource of the Ashland Watershed, its drinking water and scenic beauty continues to thrive, we ask for your support by contributing financially. Your tax deductible donation will go to fund future work of the Ashland Forest Resiliency Project. As of 2014, $4 million more is needed to complete the current AFR phase. Please make payable to Ashland Chamber Foundation (501c3) – PO Box 1360 Ashland, Oregon 97520. For questions contact: Katharine@ashlandchamber.com or 541-482-3486 ext. 106.

Sustainable Travel

Ashland was voted one of the Top 10 towns to visit based on Geo-Tourism by National Geographic Traveler. Geo-tourism is defined as: Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents. By using this Watershed, you become a steward of the land. Consider greening your travel, by reducing, reusing and recycling. Reduce your carbon footprint, to find out more visit www.sustainabletravelinternational.org

Partners of this Map Guide

This Collaborative Map Project is the result of community cooperation between the Ashland Chamber, Ashland Forest Resiliency Project, City of Ashland Public Works, Ashland's Parks & Recreation Commission, Bureau of Land Management, Rogue - Siskiyou Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy. Technical support from Bureau of Land Management and Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest.

ASHLAND Chamber of Commerce

Ashland Forest Resiliency

CITY OF ASHLAND

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Maps created by Lea Richards, GIS Analyst, City of Ashland.

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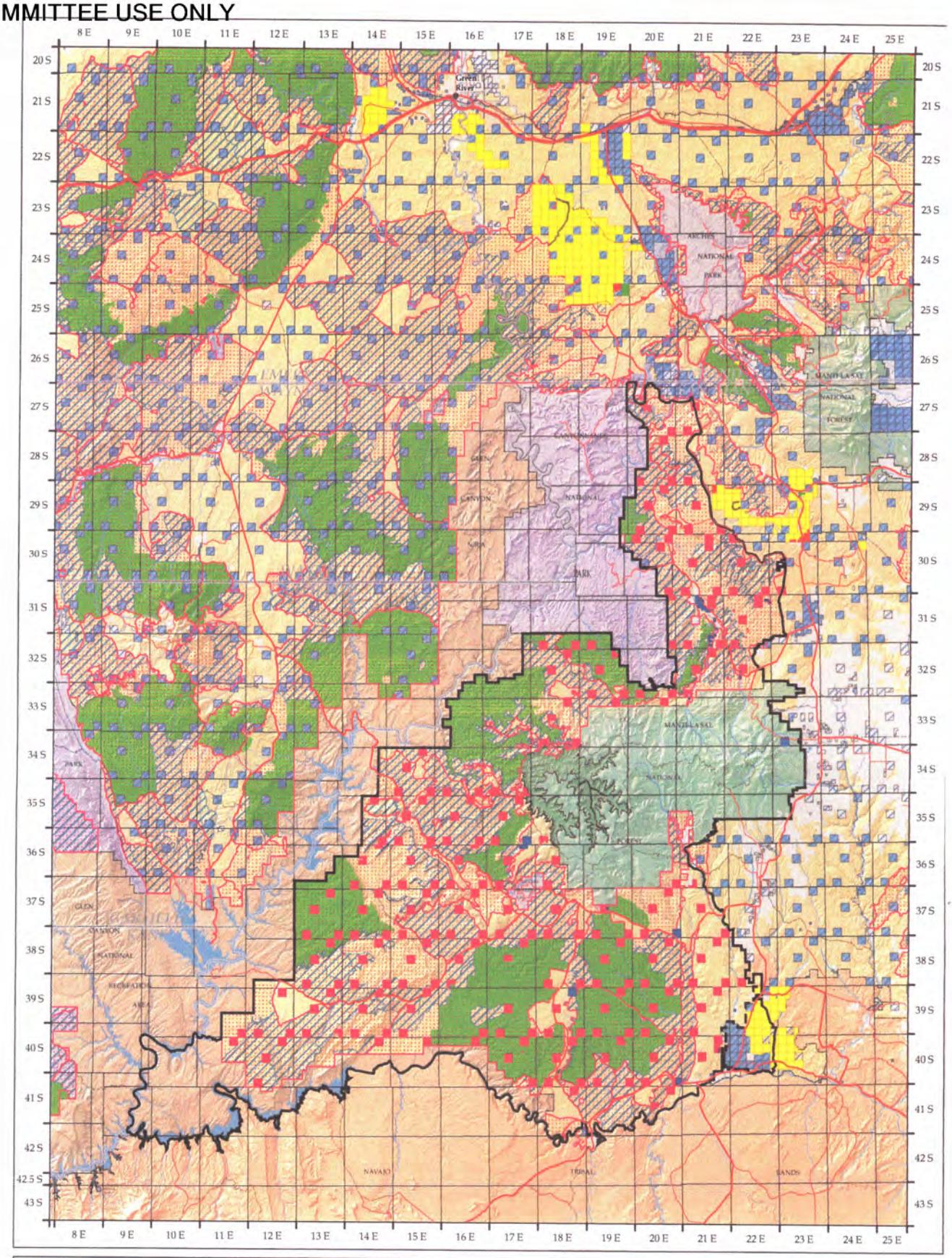

Bears Ears Exchange

Citizen's Wilderness Proposal
BLM Wilderness Character
BLM Wilderness Study Areas

Trust Lands Mineral Ownership
Full Mineral
Partial Mineral

Land Ownership and Administration
Bureau of Land Management
National Recreation Area
National Parks, Monuments & Historic Sites
National Forest
National Wilderness Area
Other Federal
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State Sovereign Land
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State Wildlife Reserve/ Management Area
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State of Utah
School & Institutional
Trust Lands Administration

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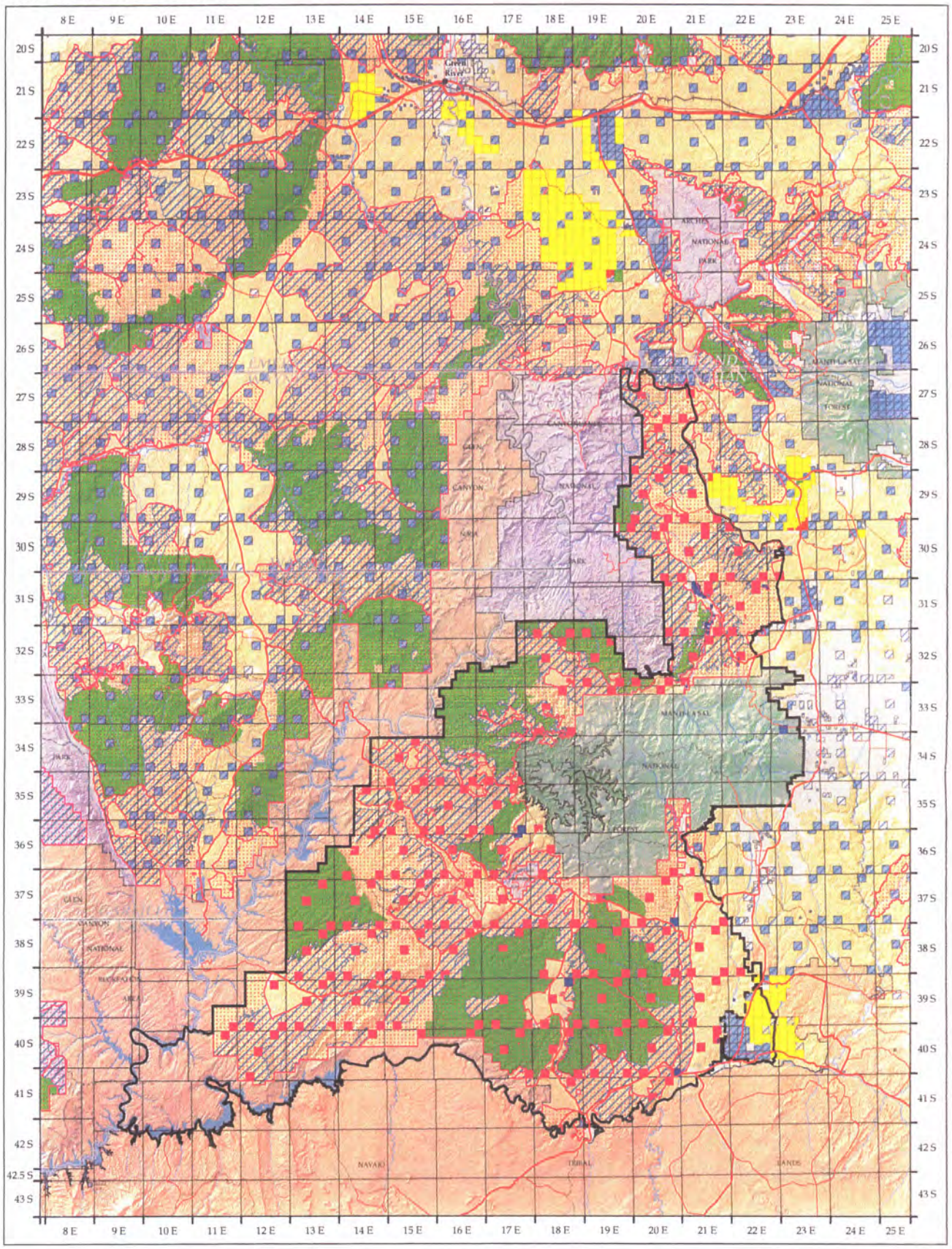

Bears Ears Exchange

Citizen's Wilderness Proposal
BLM Wilderness Character
BLM Wilderness Study Areas

Trust Lands Mineral Ownership
Full Mineral
Partial Mineral

Land Ownership and Administration
Bureau of Land Management
National Recreation Area
National Parks, Monuments & Historic Sites
National Forest
National Wilderness Area
Other Federal
Military Reservations & Corps of Engineers
Private
State Trust Lands
State Sovereign Land
State Parks and Recreation
State Wildlife Reserve/Management Area
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State of Utah
School & Institutional
Trust Lands Administration

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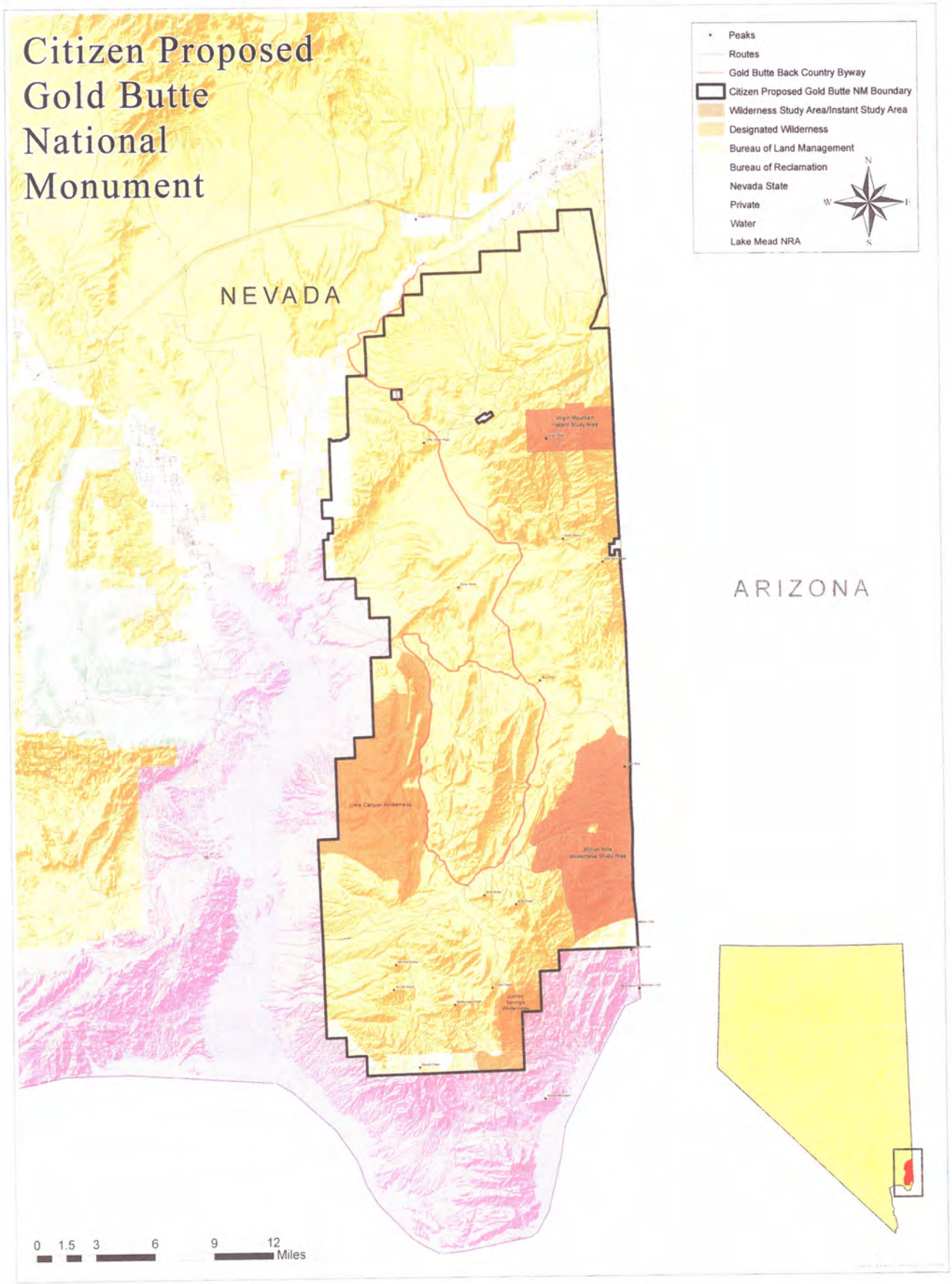
Citizen Proposed
Gold Butte
National
Monument
NEVADA
ARIZONA
Peaks
Routes
Gold Butte Back Country Byway
Citizen Proposed Gold Butte NM Boundary
Wilderness Study Area/Instant Study Area
Designated Wilderness
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Nevada State
Private
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Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon National Monument Proposal

June1 - July 15, 2014 Update

Bill Ritter

Endorsements/Supporters

- Governor Bill Ritter (Retired)

Press Releases

- Friends of Browns Canyon and Volunteers Complete Trail in Browns Canyon – July 14,2014
- Vet Voice Foundation Launches New Online Ads Encouraging Action to Protect Browns Canyon in Colorado – July 7, 2014

Earned Media

- Sportsmen's Coalition Seeks Monument Status for Browns Canyon
  MidCurrent - July 16, 2014
- Outdoor Insider: Campaign for Browns Canyon
  The Patriot News - July 14, 2014
- Browns Canyon: monumental
  Trout Unlimited blog - July 11, 2014
- A scarce and valuable resource
  The Chaffee County Times - July 11, 2014
- Sportsmen group steps up Browns Canyon awareness
  The Mountain Mail - July 11, 2014
- Ritter: Browns Canyon should be protected as a national monument now
  The Denver Post - July 10, 2014
- Sportsmen's coalition seeks monument status for Browns Canyon
  Angling Trade - 7/10/2014
- Sportsmen's Coalition Launches Move Seeking Monument Status for Brown's Canyon
  The Outdoor Wire - July 9, 2014
- Wilderness is worth championing: Guest View with U.S. Sen. Mark Udall
  The Chaffee County Times - July 3, 2014
- Visitors Bureau uses several approaches to market area
  The Mountain Mail - July 3, 2014
- Udall visits Salida
  The Mountain Mail - July 3, 2014
- Udall Aims To Get More Protection For Browns Canyon
  CBS – Denver - July 4, 2014
- States working together to protect public lands
  The Denver Post - July 3, 2014
- There's gold in that river
  The Mountain Mail - July 2, 2014
- Gold claims impede Colo. wilderness protection effort
  USA Today - June 25, 2014
- American values, the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Browns Canyon
  The Mountain Mail - June 20, 2014
- Veterans Expeditions hosts veterans on Arkansas River trip
  The Mountain Mail - June 18, 2014
- Letters: Action Needed on Browns Canyon
  Durango Herald – June 7, 2014

Browns Canyon – Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Keith Baker, 719.966.5074
friendsofbrowns@gmail.com

Friends of Browns Canyon and Volunteers Complete Trail in Browns Canyon

SALIDA, CO (July 14, 2014) -A group of 12 volunteers working with Friends of Browns Canyon and with assistance from U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management personnel recently completed the Catkin Gulch Loop trail in the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

"This is a major milestone in efforts to make the interior of the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area more accessible to hikers, pack stock, and backcountry hunters," said Friends of Browns Canyon co-founder Michael Kunkel.

The volunteers installed two new fence crossings where the Catkin Gulch Loop trail crosses the boundary between the U.S. Forest Service and BLM-managed public lands. They also repaired normal damage. The crossings allow horseback riders and hikers to cross but are too high for cattle to step over, and discourage crossing with mechanized transport.

Because the WSA is treated as wilderness, all material and equipment was packed in by burros, with 13-time World Burro Racing Champion Barb Dolan and Friends of Browns Canyon board member Diana Koss leading the burros on horseback.

"This project completes the out-and-back Catkin Gulch Loop," Kunkel added. "The trail can be accessed from the Ruby Mountain Trailhead or from where FSR 184 (the Turret Trail) intersects the WSA boundary to the east."

The Catkin Gulch Loop project was initiated in 2009, with the first major work weekend conducted in May of 2011 when over 100 volunteers working with Volunteers for Outdoors Colorado constructed the first 1.5 miles of trail. Multiple groups have assisted with the project over the years, including Trout Unlimited, Friends of Fourmile, Backcountry Horsemen, Friends of Browns Canyon, and local hiking groups.

The Catkin Gulch Loop trail is within the proposed Browns Canyon National Monument.

###

Friends of Browns Canyon is a 501(C)3 non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to protecting and preserving a gorgeous stretch of public land on the Arkansas River known as Browns Canyon.

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2014

Garett Reppenhagen, repp@vetvoicefoundation.org, 719-235-7030

Vet Voice Foundation Launches New Online Ads Encouraging Action to Protect Browns Canyon in Colorado

Denver – The nonprofit Vet Voice Foundation today launched an online advertising campaign intended to build support for protecting Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

The $11,000 online advertising buy ensures that the ads will run on Facebook, and as desktop banner and mobile banner ads seen by users in Colorado and Washington, D.C.

"The proximity of Browns Canyon to Colorado military bases, like Ft. Carson and the Colorado Springs Air Force Academy, allows service members and veterans gain easy access to the outdoors, heal from the trauma of war and reconnect with family members after long deployments," said the Vet Voice Foundation's Rocky Mountain Regional Coordinator and OIF veteran Garett Reppenhagen. "We hope Senator Udall and the White House collaborate to protect these public lands."

The Vet Voice advertisement references the new Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico, which was protected by President Obama on May 21, 2014, and widely praised by local veterans and 70 retired U.S. Generals. The Vet Voice Foundation is calling for the same protections for Browns Canyon.

Senator Udall proposed protecting Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River, near Salida, Colorado, as a National Monument in 2013 after collecting extensive community input. Local veterans, the business community and outdoor recreationists support permanent protection of Browns Canyon because of its significance as a destination for fishing, rafting and hiking.

According to a recent poll commissioned by Vet Voice Foundation, an overwhelming majority of veterans favor protection land and clean water by designating new national monuments, wilderness areas, and national parks. They value the need to defend our heritage for future generations.

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Browns Canyon - Earned Media

Sportsmen's Coalition Seeks Monument Status for Browns Canyon

MidCurrent
July 16, 2014 by Erin Block
http://midcurrent.com/2014/07/16/sportsmens-coalition-seeks-monument-status-for-browns-canyon/

A coalition of sporting groups and business are rallying behind legislation that would designate Browns Canyon a national monument. "Browns Canyon is a special place for sportsmen," said Kyle Perkins, Trout Unlimited's organizer of the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon campaign. "We just want to keep it the way it is—wild and pristine."

Read more in the press release below.

> Sportsmen's Coalition Seeks Monument Status for Browns Canyon
>
> Launches campaign for enhanced protections for a Colorado 'last best place'
>
> (Denver)—A coalition of sportsmen's groups this week announced a new push to protect Brown's Canyon, a unique natural and economic resource, as a national monument.
>
> Browns Canyon, on the Arkansas River between Buena Vista and Salida, has long been a favorite destination for hunters and anglers, said the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon group. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry forests provide critical habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. And each year, thousands of rafters and anglers float the upper Arkansas River through Browns. The canyon section is an outstanding wild trout fishery that was recently designated Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado—part of the longest stretch of Gold Medal waters in the state.
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For decades, the BLM has managed Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area, a designation that prevents mining and development. But in 2011, the mining ban expired, and several gold mining interests have filed claims along the river that, if developed, could damage or destroy wildlife habitat in Browns Canyon—and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go with it.

"That sent off alarm bells," said Perkins. "As hunters and anglers, we have to protect this place or risk losing it."

Sportsmen for Browns Canyon this week launched a new website, which will help rally hunters and anglers to support monument protections for the canyon. Several prominent hunting and fishing businesses and sportsmen conservation groups have already signed on to the campaign, including Colorado Trout Unlimited, Ross Reels, Fishpond, Umpqua, RepYourWater, Scott Rods, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, , Bull Moose Sportsmen, and Anglers Covey.

"The outdoor recreation Industry is big business, and nationally, it is double the size of the auto industry," said David Leinweber, owner of Angler's Covey, a fly-fishing shop in Colorado Springs. "A monument would help protect this resource and grow our local recreation economy."

"The immediate need is for sportsmen and women to speak up and tell our leaders that Browns Canyon must be protected," said Perkins. For more information, and to sign up to join the coalition, please visit www.sportsmenforbrowns.com or contact Kyle Perkins at kperkins@tu.org.

Trout Unlimited is the nation's largest coldwater conservation organization, with 150,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Colorado Trout Unlimited has 11,000 grassroots members across the state. Follow TU on Facebook and Twitter, and visit us online at tu.org

The Patriot-News

Outdoor Insider: Campaign for Browns Canyon

The Patriot News
July 14, 2014 by Marcus Schneck | mschneck@pennlive.com
http://blog.pennlive.com/pa-sportsman/2014/07/four_ds_of_mosquito_bites_your.html

A coalition of sportsmen's groups has announced a new push to protect Browns Canyon in Colorado as a national monument.

Browns Canyon, on the Arkansas River between Buena Vista and Salida, has long been a favorite destination for hunters and anglers, said the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon group. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry forests provide critical habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. And each year, thousands of rafters and anglers float the upper Arkansas River through the canyon, which also is an outstanding wild trout fishery that was recently designated Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado.

Colorado Sen. Mark Udall has introduced legislation that would designate Browns Canyon a national monument and protect for all time the 22,000-acre backcountry area and its current mixed uses, which include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, wood-gathering, grazing and horseback riding. Besides preserving vital fish and wildlife habitat, the monument designation would also be an economic boon for the Arkansas River valley and the state, which depend on tourism and recreation dollars.

For decades, the Bureau of Land Management has managed Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area, a designation that prevents mining and development. But in 2011, the mining ban expired, and several gold mining interests have filed claims along the river that, if developed, could damage or destroy wildlife habitat in Browns Canyon-and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go with it.

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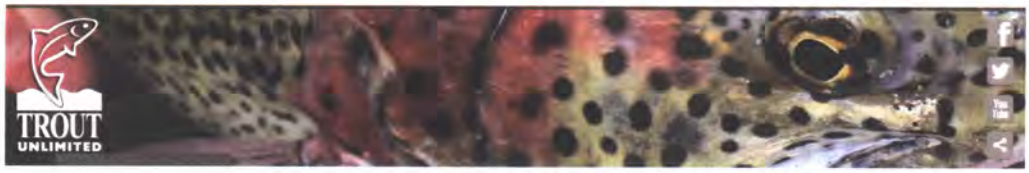
Sportsmen for Browns Canyon has launched a website to rally hunters and anglers to support monument protections for the canyon.



Browns Canyon: monumental

July 11,2014 by Randy Scholfield
http://www.tu.org/blog-posts/browns-canyon-monumental

It's not a household name. It's not on every angler's bucket list. But make no mistake: Browns Canyon is something special.

Browns is part of a 100-mile stretch of the Arkansas River recently designated as Gold Medal Trout Water by the state of Colorado--think wild, big browns. And the backcountry is a favorite destination for elk, deer and bighorn sheep hunters.

Now Colorado sportsmen are making a renewed push to protect this rugged backcountry and river canyon.Colorado Sen. Mark Udall has introduced legislation that would forever protect the 22,000-acre sportsmen's paradise as a national monument, and local support for the designation is bipartisan and overwhelming.

Trout Unlimited this week helped launch a new website--Sportsmen for Browns Canyon--that makes it easy to join the effort and let our leaders know you want this special place protected. In a release, TU's Browns Canyon coordinator, Kyle Perkins, said, "We just want to keep it the way it is--wild and pristine."

Also check out this recent oped in the Denver Post from former Colorado governor Bill Ritter, who notes that a Browns Canyon designation would be a tremendous boost to Colorado's important recreation and tourism economy.

Browns is a "last best place" worth protecting. Join the effort and help us get this done.

Randy Scholfield is TU communications director for the Southwest region.

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

A scarce and valuable resource

The Chaffee County Times
July 11, 2014 by Dick Scar
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_8b25f04c-07ca-11e4-87c9-001a4bcf6878.html

People who have lived in congested other parts of our country can appreciate the wide-open spaces we live in here. Most people in our country live where there is so much nightlight that they never see the stars. It's difficult to get away from the din of traffic noise in the big cities.

We are really fortunate to have designated wilderness and other roadless areas within easy driving distance here in our state and county. Land without roads is a rare and rapidly diminishing resource in the United States, one that cannot be remade or restored. It is a valuable resource that will increase in value as time goes by.

Even though our county contains portions of the Buffalo Peaks and Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Areas, there are few, if any, points in Chaffee County farther than 5 miles from a road. I think we have enough roads.

Our family operated an outdoor specialty shop, The Trailhead, in Buena Vista for 32 years. During that time we saw visitors from across the country and around the world who were attracted to the nearby wilderness areas. Many passed through on their way to more distant wilderness areas. They had nothing like these places near where they lived.

Jan and I led commercial hiking trips into wild areas of five western states for the first 15 years of our business. A primary reason was to introduce our guests to such places so they could experience them first-hand and often for the first time. They came away with a sense of ownership and profound appreciation that led to their becoming strong advocates for preserving such areas.

Wilderness has many resource values. Besides the economic value of visitors coming to our area to experience places without roads, it

serves as important habitat for wildlife, another key attraction. Roads disrupt and fragment this habitat. Undisturbed vegetation provides valuable protection for watersheds.

Wilderness also protects the air quality throughout a region. It offers a place for quiet and solitude. Only one noisy motor can shatter the peace of an entire headwater basin. One of the best wilderness experiences is to visit as an observer and spend unhurried time watching a functioning natural ecosystem. Lying under the stars at night puts a person in proper perspective.

Our country was once all wilderness. Now only 2.7 percent of the contiguous United States is protected as wilderness.

This wild land molded our country. It was an important heritage for us living today. Future generations deserve to know what our land was like before development.

I know what it's like to live in a congested, highly developed urban setting. It's important to be able to leave that setting once in a while and get to some natural peace and quiet. That's why I testified before U.S. House and Senate subcommittees in support of the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Bill which included the Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Area.

The proposed Wilderness Area within a Browns Canyon National Monument is a small parcel by wilderness standards. The 10,500 acres proposed for wilderness in Sen. Udall's bill is only about 10 percent of what once was the Aspen Ridge Roadless Area covering more than 100,000 acres. But the wildlife habitat and watershed contained in this remnant should be protected.

Renegade ATV and motorcycle users have illegally entered the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area for years from the 100,000-acre Fourmile Area to the north. It only takes a few irresponsible users to cause much resource damage. A lacework of user-created trails can easily be seen from the air. The soil erosion that results during a rain sends silt down into the Arkansas River.

The designation of a Browns Canyon Wilderness Area would preserve land at a lower elevation than that contained in current designated areas and would be a fine addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Dick Scar is a co-founder of The Trailhead in Buena Vista, operated guide service Rocky Mountain Expeditions and helped introduce paddle-sports to the Upper Arkansas Valley.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Sportsmen group steps up Browns Canyon awareness

The Mountain Mail
July 11, 2014 by James Redmond
http://www.themountainmail.com/sports_outdoors/article_a4e4515e-0914-11e4-ad15-0017a43b2370.html

Sportsmen for Browns Canyon announced a new push Tuesday to raise awareness and to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument.

A coalition of outdoor sports enthusiasts, Sportsmen for Browns Canyon is expanding its efforts to let everyone in the state know about Browns Canyon and the legislation introduced by Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) to designate the area as a national monument, Kyle Perkins, Trout Unlimited's organizer of the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon campaign, said Thursday.

The group has begun spreading information through sportsmen in the state while stepping up its press releases and other media.

Sportsmen for Browns Canyon launched a new website the week of July 6, which will help rally hunters and anglers to support monument protections for the canyon, a release from the group stated.

"Several prominent hunting and fishing businesses and sportsmen conservation groups have already signed on to the campaign, including Colorado Trout Unlimited, Ross Reels, Fishpond, Umpqua, RepYourWater, Scott Rods, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Bull Moose Sportsmen and Anglers Covey," according to the release.

"Browns Canyon is a special place for sportsmen," Perkins said. "We just want to keep it the way it is – wild and pristine."

For decades, the Bureau of Land Management managed Browns Canyon as a wilderness study area, a designation that prevents mining and development, the release stated.

In 2011, the mining ban expired, and several gold mining interests filed claims along the river that, if developed, could damage or destroy wildlife habitat in Browns Canyon – and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go with it, according to the release.

"That sent off alarm bells," said Perkins. "As hunters and anglers, we have to protect this place or risk losing it."

Udall's legislation would "designate Browns Canyon a national monument and protect – for all time – the 22,000-acre backcountry area and its current mixed uses, which include hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking, off-highway vehicle use, wood-gathering, grazing and horseback riding," the release stated. Besides preserving vital fish and wildlife habitat, the monument designation would be an economic boon for the Arkansas River Valley and the state, which depend on tourism and recreation dollars.

"The outdoor recreation industry is big business, and nationally, it is double the size of the auto industry," David Leinweber, owner of Angler's Covey, a fly-fishing shop in Colorado Springs, said. "A monument would help protect this resource and grow our local recreation economy."

"The immediate need is for sportsmen and women to speak up and tell our leaders that Browns Canyon must be protected," Perkins said.

THE DENVER POST

Ritter: Browns Canyon should be protected as a national monument now

The Denver Post
July 10, 2014 by Bill Ritter
http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_26124731/browns-canyon-should-be-protected-national-monument-now

Browns Canyon along the Arkansas River has been managed by the BLM as a Wilderness Study Area for more than a decade. (John Fielder, Special to The Denver Post)

Last month, 100 eager faces gathered amid the sound and spray of the swollen Arkansas River for a crash course in history, ecology and customer relations. Colorado's newest crop of river guides had gathered in Salida to learn about Browns Canyon, which will be their home for the next several months as they lead visitors through the whitewater of one of Colorado's most iconic and popular landscapes.

Browns Canyon is both an economic driver and a pillar of life in the upper Arkansas Valley. The values that attracted these guides - and that will draw tens of thousands of visitors this summer - are what make Browns Canyon a jewel worthy of preservation as a national monument.

The river valley and surrounding mountains provide ideal habitat for a variety of species: peregrine falcons, golden eagles, elk, bighorn sheep, bobcats, to name a few. Hikers, hunters and anglers treasure this quiet and rugged landscape and the unique experiences it offers. The 100-mile section of the Arkansas River that includes Browns Canyon was recently designated as Colorado's longest stretch of Gold Medal Trout Water, sustaining some of the state's most productive fishing and attracting more than 100,000 anglers a year.

And it's no secret that Browns Canyon is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the U.S. Beginning in June, and for the next few months, more than 200,000 visitors will paddle down the Arkansas River, generating more than $55 million in revenue.

Over the years, there have been a variety of community-driven efforts to safeguard the future of this pristine place. In 2005, legislation to protect Browns Canyon was introduced by Congressman Joel Hefley and Sen. Wayne Allard, both Republicans. The companion bills, which ultimately were derailed by special interests, had the support of more than 100 local businesses, not to mention Colorado's entire congressional delegation.

The latest legislative proposal, carried by U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, reflects this same broad, bipartisan and community-driven approach. In fact, his bill to set aside the canyon and 22,000 acres of adjacent public land as a national monument is the result of 18 months of meetings, public-comment sessions and written input from Chaffee County leaders, residents, businesses and other stakeholders. This is how public lands designations should be done — and I strongly urge Congressman Doug Lamborn, whose district includes Browns Canyon, and the entire delegation to get behind this grassroots bill.

If other recent national monument designations are any guide, Browns Canyon is a no brainer. For example, consider the recent designations of Point Arena-Stornetta seashore along the rocky northern California coast and 500,000 acres of rugged land in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks of New Mexico. These are valuable additions to our national heritage, protecting for future generations access to land for hunting and outdoor recreation, critical wildlife habitat, and places of cultural and historical significance.

And the public supports a similar designation in Colorado.

In polling conducted last year, two-thirds of voters in nine western states said that protecting public lands for future generations was very important to them. And in Colorado College's annual "Conservation in the West" poll earlier this year, a stunning 98% of Coloradans said that public lands are an "essential part" of the state's economy, providing recreation opportunities and enhancing our quality of life.

It's hard to argue against such sentiment, considering that outdoor recreation supports 125,000 jobs and is responsible for more than $13 billion in spending each year in Colorado. That translates to almost a billion dollars in annual revenue for local and state governments.

Places like Salida and Buena Vista know this already. They recognize the threat that things such as potential mining in Browns Canyon pose to their quality of life. The only guarantee for ensuring that the canyon remains the lifeblood of the upper Arkansas Valley for generations to come is to protect it in perpetuity.

Recognizing Browns Canyon as a national monument is the best way to ensure that its many unique values are safeguarded and remain available to us and our kids far into the future. We should not wait any longer. The time to act is now.

Bill Ritter served as governor of Colorado from 2007-2011. He is currently the director of the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University.

the buzz on the flyfishing biz
Angling® TRADE

Sportsmen's coalition seeks monument status for Browns Canyon

Angling Trade
7/10/2014
http://www.anglingtrade.com/2014/07/10/sportsmens-coalition-seeks-monument-status-for-browns-canyon/

A coalition of sportsmen's groups this week announced a new push to protect Brown's Canyon, a unique natural and economic resource, as a national monument.

Browns Canyon, on the Arkansas River between Buena Vista and Salida, has long been a favorite destination for hunters and anglers, said the Sportsmen for Browns Canyon group. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry forests provide critical habitat for elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lion and black bear. And each year, thousands of rafters and anglers float the upper Arkansas River through Browns. The canyon section is an outstanding wild trout fishery that was recently designated Gold Medal status by the state of Colorado—part of the longest stretch of Gold Medal waters in the state.

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"The outdoor recreation Industry is big business, and nationally, it is double the size of the auto industry," said David Leinweber, owner of Angler's Covey, a fly-fishing shop in Colorado Springs. "A monument would help protect this resource and grow our local recreation economy."

"The immediate need is for sportsmen and women to speak up and tell our leaders that Browns Canyon must be protected," said Perkins. For more information, and to sign up to join the coalition, please visit www.sportsmenforbrowns.com or contact Kyle Perkins at kperkins@tu.org.

THE OUTDOOR WIRE
The Outdoor Industry's Daily Transactions Newsletter

Sportsmen's Coalition Launches Move Seeking Monument Status for Brown's Canyon

The Outdoor Wire
July 9, 2014
http://www.theoutdoorwire.com/story/140487075914g7ra3tc41

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The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

Wilderness is worth championing: Guest View with U.S. Sen. Mark Udall

The Chaffee County Times
July 3, 2014
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_a192d072-02be-11e4-9be0-001a4bcf6878.html

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colorado) leads a hike through the Browns Canyon Wilderness Study Area on April 3, 2012, to get input on his proposals to designate the Arkansas River Canyon as a national monument and the adjacent Browns Canyon as wilderness.

Coloradans understand that we don't inherit the earth from our parents — we borrow it from our children.

That covenant is woven into the fabric of the West, and it's why protecting our public lands links us not only to our parents and grandparents, but also the earliest days of Colorado and the rugged men and women who settled the West.

The story of our nation and the American West is an epic chronicle of exploration, ambition and grandeur. As Americans embraced Manifest Destiny — the famous travels of Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike, John Wesley Powell and all the lesser known treks — they discovered stunning beauty and a landscape that would inspire the song "America the Beautiful" and countless other odes to our nation's landscape.

Those whose paths crossed Colorado discovered everything from the vastness of the eastern plains to the tallest, snow-capped peaks to the red rock canyons of the Western Slope.

Even today, these wild places inspire us and offer a place of refuge to seek the renewal that only nature can provide. We in Colorado understand that nature changes us and gives us perspective on life and what's truly important.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act — which has been used to protect many of these breathtaking public lands —we should reflect not only on how wilderness is an essential part of Colorado's special way of life, but also upon the work we still have to do.

One of the best examples of my ongoing effort to protect Colorado's natural gems is my grassroots Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Act, which would designate 22,000 acres surrounding the Arkansas River as the Browns Canyon National Monument, including 10,500 acres as Wilderness.

My bill would keep faith with the intent of the Wilderness Act and preserve visitor access and existing legal uses as they are now, including fishing, hunting and livestock grazing.

Browns Canyon also is a great example of how public lands are one of our state's great economic engines. In fact, more than 100,000 people each year visit Browns Canyon for its unique mix of exciting whitewater and wilderness backcountry.

Browns Canyon, and special places like it, attract visitors from far and wide, fuel local economies and support Main Street businesses in places like Salida, Buena Vista, Durango and dozens of other communities across Colorado.

Wilderness's importance to Colorado's special way of life is why I am working to protect more than 61,000 acres of critical public lands in San Miguel, Ouray and San Juan counties through my San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act. It's why I will continue to listen to community leaders to craft my Central Mountains Outdoor Heritage Act to preserve nearly a quarter-million acres of wildlands important for recreation, hunting, fishing, and water supplies in Summit, Eagle and Pitkin counties.

It's why I led the effort in Congress more than a decade ago to create the James Peak Wilderness, which encompasses more than 17,000 acres along the Continental Divide within the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

Wilderness is worth it and it's an idea I will, with Coloradans by my side, continue to champion in Congress.

Mark Udall, Colorado's senior U.S. senator, serves on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Visitors Bureau uses several approaches to market area

The Mountain Mail
July 3, 2014 by Maisie Ramsay, Times Staff Writer
http://www.themountainmail.com/free_content/article_15d5cd6c-02ca-11e4-987f-0017a43b2370.html

Buena Vista – If you're heading to downtown Denver this month, you might see some familiar sights displayed on huge digital billboards: rafters in Browns Canyon, a stand-up paddleboarder surfing the Arkansas River, children biking local trails, anglers enjoying Gold Medal trout waters.

These high-profile, high-visibility ads are part of the Chaffee County Visitors Bureau's work to get the word out about Buena Vista, Salida and the rest of the county.

"We're fun, friendly and affordable," said April Ralph, visitors bureau marketing director. "You can do all the things you can do in a resort town, but on a much smaller dime."

Getting that message to a broad audience is Ralph's goal.

When she began at the visitors bureau in 2008, Ralph found little awareness of the area among the general public.

"People didn't know where we were or what we were," she said.

Ralph set about marketing Chaffee County with all the tools at her disposal.

"I take any advantage I can," she said.

Stretching a $400,000 budget

The Chaffee County Visitors Bureau is funded through a 1.9-percent lodging tax that brought in $401,467 last year. Ralph is the bureau's sole employee.

While $400,000 may sound like a considerable amount to spend on marketing, Ralph, who previously headed public relations at Crested Butte Mountain Resort, points out that the marketing budget in rival mountain communities is much larger.

"Gunnison/Crested Butte has over $1 million. You're competing against places like that so you have to find ways to stand out," she said.

That means leveraging social media, managing NowThisIsColorado.com, hosting journalists, writing press releases, setting up webcams, answering inquiries from would-be tourists, partnering with Arkansas Valley Publishing on the "Now This Is Colorado" visitor's guide, to name a few.

Ralph even installed a blue light on the top of Tenderfoot Mountain in Salida that shines whenever Monarch Mountain gets 6-plus inches of powder.

Advertising is also part of Ralph's strategy, but the visitors bureau's limited budget makes costly ad purchases impractical. For instance, Ralph reports a quarter-page color ad in United Airline's in-flight magazine Hemispheres costs

$15,000, "and this is just in the marketplace section in the back."

With those sorts of rates out of reach for the visitors bureau, Ralph targets ad purchases for more affordable publications.

One of those is EnCompass, a magazine produced by the Colorado branch of AAA. The visitors bureau bought a full-page color ad in it for $4,000 to reach AAA's summer road trip audience.

"We make the most of it," Ralph said.

Events like the USA Pro Challenge stage finish at Monarch Mountain in August will put the county on national television, providing the kind of publicity that's completely outside the visitors bureau budget.

"I can't pay for that, I can't buy that at all," Ralph said.

A county-wide approach

The Chaffee County Visitors Bureau aims to market the entire county, not just Salida or Buena Vista.

"Most of the ads I do, I try to pitch things at both ends of the county," Ralph said, pointing to the marketing for PaddleFest in Buena Vista and FIBArk in Salida.

The larger volume of festivals in Salida creates an imbalance when it comes to event marketing, as Buena Vista simply has fewer events to market. Winter snow sports also focus attention on the southern end of the county, where Monarch Mountain is.

Ralph said she makes a concerted effort to include the northern half of the county, regardless of event volume.

"I try to balance it out as best as I can," she said.

Chaffee County online

Online awareness of Chaffee County is a good barometer of how local attractions are faring compared to Colorado's other tourism hot spots.

R.A. Burrell, CEO and chief analyst at Tourism Intelligence Group, tracks that awareness through Google searches.

Burrell recently told the visitors bureau board that Chaffee County's online presence is on the rise.

"More people are looking for you, are looking for your brand," Burrell said, pointing to Google searches with keywords such as Salida and Buena Vista.

That wasn't always the case. Looking through his data after the meeting, Burrell said the county didn't always have such a robust online presence.

The visitors bureau website, NowThisIsColorado.com, has seen a "big run-up in growth" from several years ago, when it was "not running very well," Burrell said.

"It's a hot product. It has a lot of cool factor," Burrell said.

That growth is a good thing, but Burrell predicts it may eventually necessitate a shift in strategy.

"At this point, the brand is 'Now This Is Colorado.' There's only so far a consumer can attach their plans to that," Burrell said. "Salida as a product, Buena Vista as a product, Monarch as a product – those can grow faster and larger than 'Now This is Colorado' alone."

Burrell expects there will be a time when the Chaffee County brand will need to expand to maintain its cachet with consumers, though "Chaffee doesn't really need to necessarily change things immediately."

Ralph said she is on board with Burrell's suggestions.

"R.A. is absolutely correct," she said. "We're just starting to touch on that."

Burrell cited Cortez as an example of the potentially negative impacts of limiting destination marketing to a single concept.

"They market themselves as 'Mesa Verde Country,'" he said. "They're so beholden to that they don't even market themselves as Cortez."

Highlighting an area's various amenities as their own brands could be an important next step for Chaffee County, Burrell said.

"When that happens, the brand equity becomes larger than the sum of its parts," he said. "You don't have to, but we think there's a bigger opportunity there."

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Udall visits Salida

The Mountain Mail
July 3, 2014 by Merle Baranczyk, Mail Editor and Publisher
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/election/article_feef6b64-02c2-11e4-8bd9-0017a43b2370.html

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) talks with Salida community members following an informal meet and greet Wednesday outside Moonlight Pizza & Brewpub. Udall, who is running for re-election, visited the area to talk with locals and hear their views on his politics, according to a news release from his office.

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall said every dollar spent on the front end working to prevent forest fires saves $10 on the back end.

Speaking outdoors at a campaign rally Wednesday evening at Moonlight Pizza in Salida before 40 supporters, Udall said, "It's the smart thing we can do," noting steps Congress has taken to add firefighting assets such as air tankers.

As raindrops fell on the gathering, Udall said he won Chaffee County in 2008 by some 400 votes while President Barack Obama carried the county by just 4 votes.

"With your help, we're going to do it again," he said.

The Democratic Party, he said, is going to focus on getting the vote out, with a goal of getting 40,000 more voters to the polls for the election, tracking registrations and then following up by encouraging voters to get their ballots filled out and returned.

"That's how we're going to win," he said.

Udall cited the need to continue to build support for creating a Browns Canyon National Monument and Wilderness Area. As a national monument, Browns would make the valley's economy stronger as well as protect a resource.

"We need to make the list (of Browns' supporters) as big as possible," he said.

Noting this week's U.S. Supreme Court decision on birth control, Udall said five men are making decisions for millions of American women.

He said he was proud to have voted for both Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

Noting differences between himself and his opponent, Cory Gardner, Udall said his GOP

challenger does not believe in climate change in spite of the fires and floods the state has had to deal with in recent years.

Congressman Gardner, Udall said, voted to shut down the government over budget issues which resulted in millions of dollars lost in communities like Estes Park, a gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, a vote that he called reckless.

"A senator doesn't act that way," Udall said.

He said the country is waiting for the Republican Party to ends its civil war so the nation can deal with issues such as immigration reform.

"I'm waiting for the Republican Party of old to come back."

Udall said he voted against going into Iraq and was "deeply disappointed" with how President George W. Bush conducted that war.

Of the current crisis in Iraq, he said any U.S. involvement "must be paid for up front."

He said he "wants to see democracy flourish, but we need to be smart about what we support." He said leaders in Iraq need to bring the different political factions together.

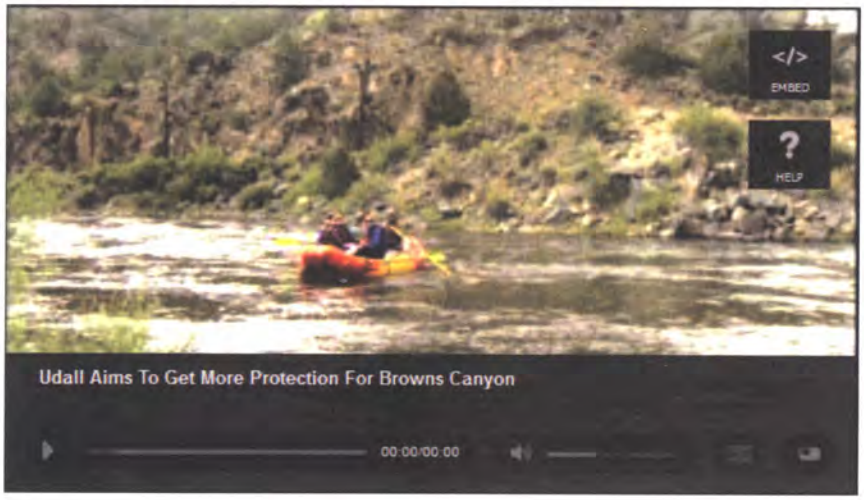
Udall said he will continue to stand up to the CIA and other entities who are invading the privacy of Americans.

Udall said he enjoys climbing Colorado's mountains though he's not as quick getting to the top as he once was, and he's "seen the bottom" of the Arkansas River while kayaking on more than one occasion.

CBS

Udall Aims To Get More Protection For Browns Canyon

CBS – Denver
July 4, 2014
http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/07/04/udall-aims-to-get-more-protection-for-browns-canyon/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter



CHAFFEE COUNTY, Colo. (CBS4)- For three decades one of the most popular rivers in Colorado has flowed through an uncertain future but one senator wants to turn it into a national monument.

The Arkansas River flows through Browns Canyon, where a majority of the 250,000 people who raft in Colorado each year make their destination.

Browns Canyon (credit: CBS)

"Somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 to 100,000 people are going through Browns Canyon each summer," said The Adventure Company owner Mark Hammer.

With the holiday weekend, boat after boat makes the trip through the canyon.

"I've been through this canyon hundreds of times, a lot of memorable moments," said Hammer. "This is quite a mecca right here for wildlife."

Browns Canyon, with its magnificent rock formations is deemed a wilderness study area.

"More protection is what the public wants," said Hammer.

"It's temporarily protected. We want to protect it for the long term," said Sen. Mark Udall, a Democrat representing Colorado.

Udall has written a bill that would make 20,000 acres around the Arkansas River south of Buena Vista a National Monument.

"It'll put a gold star on the map for Chaffee County. We'll draw more people here to this river corridor to experience it and it'll create a year-round economy here," said Udall.

There is strong local support for the added protection, especially from rafting companies.

"So almost every river we offer has a road alongside it, where as this does not," said Hammer. "Seeing that places like this are so hard to find anymore in my opinion it would be great to have it protected forever."

"In the end people here want to know this will be managed for the natural values and for the recreational values and the wildlife so no further development can take place," said Hammer.

Udall said the best case scenario is that the legislation could be passed by the end of the year for business owners like Hammer.

THE DENVER POST

States working together to protect public lands

The Denver Post
July 3, 2014 by Dave Chadwick, Garrett VeneKlasen and Suzanne O'Neill
http://www.denverpost.com/Opinion/ci_26085663/States-working-together-to-protect-public-lands

Chimney Rock (Handout/CU-Boulder)

Public land management in the West has never been easy. With so many interests at stake, it can be tough to find the right balance between land protection and multiple use.

Over the last few months, however, the debate over public land management has gone from difficult to toxic. A handful of extremists have captured public attention with angry protests and threats of armed conflict. Land management, their story goes, is fundamentally broken and can only be fixed by ignoring the law or dismantling government agencies altogether.

This narrative is dramatic but wrong. What is broken is the ability by some to have respectful dialogue that leads to commonsense solutions.

Federal lands are held in the public trust for all Americans. Proximity should not bestow special privilege, but rather a heightened sense of stewardship.

So no, federal land management isn't broken. In fact, people all over the West have been working together and getting past old disagreements:

• In Montana, conservationists, landowners, outdoor businesses and communities have been working to protect the Rocky Mountain Front, the North Fork of the Flathead River, and wilderness lands around the state. They've built consensus and found ways to protect natural areas, preserve ranching and other traditional land uses, and maintain access for hunting, fishing and other recreation.

• In Colorado, bipartisan community-driven efforts to protect Browns Canyon and Hermosa Creek Watershed with little opposition have been under way for a long time, followed with bills introduced by our senators. Similar broad support had paved the way for Chimney Rock to become a national monument.

• In both northern and southern New Mexico, tribal leaders, Hispanic land grant heirs, state and county officials, sportsmen, ranchers and business leaders came together and helped

convince President Obama to designate two new national monuments, Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks. A similar effort is under way to create the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness near Taos.

This kind of collaboration is happening all over the West. People from all walks of life have looked at the issues, found common ground and crafted ways to manage natural resources for everyone's benefit.

These grassroots efforts don't grab headlines like gun-waving trespassers and angry mobs. Respectful dialogue doesn't get airtime on the 24-hour news channels, but it does represent the reality of Western public land management.

These solutions are possible because they make economic sense. Protected public lands support local economies, and not just through tourism. Although recent estimates show that more than $50 billion was spent on visits to public lands in 2012 alone, protected public lands also attract businesses and high paying jobs.

Our organizations have participated in many of these efforts, representing the views of outdoor recreationists including hunters, anglers, viewers, wildlife photographers and others. Last month, we visited Washington to encourage our elected officials to enact legislation to implement the plans we've helped develop around the West.

While a few bold leaders have stepped forward to advocate for local land management solutions, Congress seems paralyzed. Committees appear to have given up on moving any bills to protect federal lands, no matter how broad the local consensus. Congressional leaders of both parties are crippled by the fear of letting "the other side" take credit for the smallest victory.

This gridlock over federal land management is a slap in the face to the people that have put so much effort into building local consensus.

Congressional leaders from both parties need to honor the hard work that people all over the West have put into improving public land management. They need to pass legislation to protect the Rocky Mountain Front, Columbine Hondo, Hermosa Creek, Browns Canyon and other priorities around the West. Then maybe our elected officials can rediscover how much can be accomplished when we work together.

Dave Chadwick is executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation. Garrett VeneKlasen is executive director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation. Suzanne O'Neill is executive director of the Colorado Wildlife Federation.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

There's gold in that river

The Mountain Mail
July 2, 2014 by Kim Marquis, Times Correspondent
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_55110c30-0202-11e4-bafb-0017a43b2370.html

Figure 1 Buena Vista resident Johnny Schnaderbeck demonstrates May 10 how to pan for gold along the Arkansas River south of Salida. A panning instructor with Gold Prospectors of Colorado, Schnaderbeck said he hunts for gold as a way to relax and enjoy the river.

Buena Vista – Swirling a glassful of water in a green plastic dish on the side of the river, Buena Vista resident Johnny Schnaderbeck tells me to look for school bus yellow in the mud settling at the bottom of his pan.

I see shiny speckles he said are mica and iron pyrite — fool's gold — as he keeps the pan moving in a circular motion to coax the blackest sand to settle at the bottom. Ten minutes later, he teases out a dust-sized, bright yellow speck.

Eureka! We've found gold on the Arkansas River.

Gold prospecting has become more popular in the Arkansas River Valley over the past decade, according to the Bureau of Land Management, which keeps track of notices and claims in the area.

After the economy tanked in 2007, gold prices skyrocketed, reaching nearly $2,000 an ounce by 2011. Then came reality television shows like "Gold Rush" and "Alaska Gold Diggers," creating an excitement that lured people with picks, pans, shovels and much larger machinery, out to strike it rich on public lands.

But on the Arkansas River few prospectors hit pay dirt, finding gold flecks and dust instead of large nuggets or deep veins of gold.

"If you're gonna try to live on it, forget it, you'll starve," said Schnaderbeck, an instructor with Gold Prospectors of Colorado, a panning club that owns several mining claims in the Arkansas River Valley.

A retired AT&T engineer, Schnaderbeck, like many other recreational prospectors, hunts for gold as a way to relax, get outside and enjoy the river.

"There's nothing like sitting next to a stream on a nice hot day with your bare feet in the water, with no one bothering you. What do you hear?" he asks. "The water rushing by; it's very relaxing."

For $30 a year, a family can join Colorado Springs-based Gold Prospectors of Colorado and get access to mining claims along the river.

For another few bucks, they can buy a pan and a thumb-sized glass vial to carry their gold home. Members can take minerals but aren't supposed to sell the gold they find, although it's easy enough to do on the Internet.

According to Cindy Peratt, owner of The Rock Doc in Nathrop, that's the type of gold hunting most of her customers are interested in doing.

"The gold we have here is not nuggets or big flakes, it's dust," Peratt said. "It's all over in the river, so there's a lot of it out there. If you put your mind to it and go looking in the right places, you'll definitely find gold."

How much gold? Maybe a couple dollars' worth in a whole day.

"If you're asking how much you're going to make, it's not the right hobby for you," Peratt said. "It's about the experience, it's not about the gold."

But with gold prices still at historical highs, Peratt also sees "gold fever" at her rock and mineral shop.

These people get a glint in their eye, quickly moving from plastic pans to the selection of sluices and powered dredging machines that let prospectors dig much more dirt in their hunt for the yellow dust.

"We occasionally have to talk somebody down, and there have been a few people I won't sell equipment to," she said. "People say, you must be making money with all these reality shows. But if they're out there and they misbehave, they ruin it for the rest of us ... Reality shows are definitely not reality."

Membership in Gold Prospectors of Colorado – one of several clubs with mining claims in the Arkansas River Valley – doubled to 1,000 during the recession, then dropped to about 700 this year after gold prices slid downward, settling out recently near $1,200 an ounce.

The BLM requires different levels of paperwork, fees and reclamation of prospectors, depending on the size of an operation. Club memberships let recreational prospectors skip this time-consuming and costly permitting process, and despite the attention toward simple panning, members in Colorado are allowed to use powered machinery.

A weekend warrior can purchase an $800 suction dredger, don a wetsuit and vacuum the bottom of the river, sucking dirt and rocks into a sluice box that helps separate riverbed material and parse out the gold. Prospectors can also "high bank," or dig into the dry riverbank looking for larger gold deposits.

This type of planned activity in Browns Canyon by two claims owners from Nathrop caused U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) to call for legal action.

Udall supports national protection for the scenic canyon and said in a press release in December that prospecting "could destroy the pristine water quality and scenery that has made Browns Canyon one of the top rafting and fishing destinations in the country."

The matter of claims in Browns Canyon is still waiting for a public hearing.

Outside the canyon, prospecting is legal and popular in the Arkansas River Valley.

USA TODAY
A GANNETT COMPANY

Gold claims impede Colo. wilderness protection effort

USA Today
June 25, 2014 by Trevor Hughes
http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/06/25/colorado-browns-canyon/11318259/

(Photo: Trevor Hughes, USA TODAY)

congressional delegation

SALIDA, Colo. — A proposal to permanently designate as wilderness tens of thousands of acres of canyons and mountains flanking the Arkansas River in central Colorado is being complicated by gold mining claims.

The federal Bureau of Land Management since 1980 has managed the Browns Canyon area between Salida and Buena Vista as a wilderness study area. As part of that "study," the BLM prevented anyone from mining in the area. But in December 2011, the ban on mining expired and two groups quickly filed five mining claims along the river, which is heavily used for white-water rafting and fly fishing.

The BLM is now trying to get a judge to throw out the claims so it can prevent mining in the area. If mining begins, it would further complicate efforts to protect the area from new roads, more mining and potential development. A dozen rafting companies take tens of thousands of tourists through Browns Canyon each summer as melting snows create a surge of white water, funneling millions of dollars into the local economy.

"All we're trying to do is preserve it as it is," said raft guide Bill Dvorak, who has been leading trips through the canyon for 30 years. "The biggest concern that we have right now is these mining claims. And they're in places where they could dredge the whole river."

Members of Colorado's congressional delegation from both parties have pushed to have Congress designate the area as an approximately 20,000-acre national monument under a compromise plan that would keep open more than 180 miles of off-road trails for ATVs and snowmobiles. Sponsors say there's little evidence Congress plans to act on the proposal anytime soon, so they're now considering whether to ask President Obama to use his

Despite potential impacts, the BLM's directive is to manage for multiple land uses, said Stephanie Carter, a geologist with the BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office.

"There is some fabric as far as laws and framework," Carter said. "Everyone needs to play in the sandbox together."

A club officer who has been prospecting on the Arkansas River since 2007, Colorado Springs resident Wayne Wittkopp said he hunts for gold just for fun, and even with a suction dredger, has not extracted enough to pay for a tank of gas. He dismisses concerns over mining's impacts.

"I love having the rafters and the fishermen out there on the river. It's shared use, it's for everybody," Wittkopp said. "They enjoy riding on a raft. I enjoy digging in the dirt."

Club officers and instructors like Schnaderbeck and Wittkopp hold classes to teach members basic Leave No Trace ethics, as well as how to reclaim mined areas.

"In the club we push reclamation," Wittkopp said. "If you dig a hole, you're going to fill it back in."

Wittkopp and other suction dredgers say they create good habitat for fish by making spawning areas to lay eggs. But Colorado Parks and Wildlife aquatic biologist Greg Policky disagrees.

Policky, who has worked in the Arkansas River Valley for 20 years to improve the fish habitat, said that when sediment from dredging settles back into the river bottom, it can suffocate fish eggs and kill insects, the food source for fish.

Policky said he is not overly concerned about impacts to the fishery from prospecting, since rules prevent overuse and disturbances to habitat are short-lived.

"If we were seeing as many suction dredgers out there as we do fishermen, holy cow," he said. "But we are talking about very localized, short-term impacts."

Peratt said The Rock Doc also does its part to keep its customers prospecting within the law.

"We work pretty closely with the BLM on what is and isn't allowed," Peratt said, "and we try to disseminate that information. If somebody walks into my shop and said they want to buy that thingy with the gas-powered motor on it, I usually ask where they are working.

"It goes back to longevity of my business," she adds. "It doesn't do my business any good or the hobby any good. My point is not where they are working, but that they have the facts in hand and know they need permission."

authority to declare the area a national monument.

While only Congress can create a national park, both Congress and U.S. presidents can create national monuments. The first national monument, Devils Tower in Wyoming, was created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 because he felt Congress was moving too slowly in protecting it.

The Chaffee County Times
Buena Vista, Colorado

American values, the Wilderness Act of 1964 and Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
June 20, 2014 by Keith Baker
http://www.chaffeecountytimes.com/free_content/article_819ceb5e-f747-11e3-bfc5-001a4bcf6878.html

I'm a bit of an idealist: I came of age when Americans, collectively, believed we could do great things as a people, and that government – of, by and for the people – had a legitimate function in harnessing and coordinating the power of the citizenry.

Protecting our unique landscapes and ecological treasures is as integral to our American heritage as the space program, the federal highway system, eradicating polio, building a strong middle class, and offering the hope of a comfortable retirement.

Love of our land was a prime motivator behind my military career, and love of our land continues to motivate me today.

I love being outdoors, especially in Colorado, and I am thankful there are conservation laws like the Wilderness Act for expanding opportunities for those uplifting experiences.

Fifty years ago, the United States Congress empowered the American people with a tool to protect places like Browns Canyon.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 was the first of its kind in the world, setting a new American standard that ensures that our nation can continue to experience those places that shape our citizens' values of freedom, self-reliance and determination.

These are the very American traits you lean on to push further on a trail, climb higher to a peak, or enter more challenging rapids in a raft or kayak.

Retiring from the Navy after a 23-year career afforded me great latitude in choosing where to live.

I wanted to live in the West from a very young age, and Colorado's Upper Arkansas Valley

fulfills all my dreams: high mountains, white water streams, broad grasslands and high-country ranches, woodland trails, and plenty of rock to climb.

We have a wonderful triple heritage here of mining, the railroad and ranching — and now we've added a fourth component of world-class outdoor recreation.

The people are wonderful, the air and the water are still clean and fresh, growth is centered on the municipalities, and there are fewer than a half-dozen traffic signals in the entire area.

Browns Canyon is a unique landscape even by Colorado standards, with characteristics of alpine forests and grasslands, high desert rock formations and the upper Arkansas River running through it.

Americans have long valued a high level of protection for the best of our public lands, owned by us all in equal share.

This is a value I deeply cherish, and I see protecting Browns Canyon as in keeping with that long-held national value.

We should also recognize the economic benefits that wild places bring to our communities.

Statewide, commercial rafting - the kind of premier water experience found in Browns Canyon - brings about $55 million in direct spending and a total economic boost of $140 million to Colorado, according to 2013 data collected by the Colorado River Outfitters Association.

More broadly, outdoor recreation in Colorado pumps $994 million into state and local tax coffers, generates $13.2 billion in consumer spending here, and creates 125,000 jobs for Coloradans.

Nationally, Americans spend more on outdoor activities - $646 billion - than they do on pharmaceuticals or gasoline.

Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet deserve our hearty gratitude for introducing legislation in Congress that would preserve 22,000 acres around Browns Canyon as a national monument, including 10,500 acres that would be protected as wilderness.

The proposal will maintain current uses and accesses, including current grazing allotments, and provide for a rigorous public input process in establishing the management plan for these special lands.

Browns Canyon National Monument will thus embody the best of long-held values that are uniquely American - here in Colorado and all across our beautiful country.

Keith Baker, Commander, United States Navy Retired, is a resident of Buena Vista and is a former owner of The Trailhead and Trailhead Cycle & Ski. He is also the executive director of Friends of Browns Canyon.

THE MOUNTAIN MAIL
SALIDA, COLORADO • THE VOICE OF SALIDA AND THE UPPER ARKANSAS VALLEY

Veterans Expeditions hosts veterans on Arkansas River trip

The Mountain Mail
June 18, 2014 by J.D. Thomas
http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_bb7510a4-f706-11e3-8edc-0017a43b2370.html

Veterans Expeditions will host its second trip taking 15 military veterans through Browns Canyon Saturday through Monday.

"Our first such mission in June 2013 was an unqualified success, and we want to build on that," said Lee Hunnicutt, volunteer-coordinator.

"Veterans Expeditions co-founder and friend Nick Watson and I share a belief based upon our own individual experiences recovering from the effects of combat and the difficulties faced while trying to reintegrate into civilian society."

Hunnicutt received two Purple Hearts serving in the U.S. Army, 11th Armored Calvary, as a scout in a reconnaissance platoon during the Vietnam War.

"Each of us, and countless others, found the solace we sought in the outdoors," Hunnicutt said. "Even with the recent problems with the VA (Veterans Affairs) and soldiers returning home with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), veterans have consistently been reaching out to help other veterans."

"The time spent out with all these veterans and all these services and all these service stories is nothing short of awesome," Watson said. "Veterans let their guard down with one another, and out came stories of war and civilian life struggles and success."

Watson is a former U.S. Army Ranger.

Veterans Expeditions is a nonprofit organization and the trip is fully funded by donations. The expedition will be conducted in partnership with Friends of Browns Canyon.

For more information about volunteering and contributing to Veterans Expeditions, email Hunnicutt at lee@hunnicutt.com or Watson atnick@vetexpeditions.com. The group's website is vetexpeditions.com.

THE Durango HERALD

Letters: Action needed on Browns Canyon

The Mountain Mail
June 18, 2014 by Tony Miely & Andy Corra
http://durangoherald.com/article/20140607/OPINION03/140609631/0/OPINION01/Action-needed-on-Browns-Canyon

Because our scenic Durango landscape draws visitors from across the U.S. and around the world, we genuinely appreciate the natural beauty around us. It's why many of us call Durango home. For that reason, it's good policy to protect this beauty. It's good for recreation, and it's good for our economy.

Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River is another rafting mecca. Like Durango, nearby Colorado communities benefit from visitors who are attracted to the dramatic Rocky Mountains and world-class rafting opportunities. Colorado's whitewater industry brings an economic boost of $140 million, according to 2013 data collected by the Colorado River Outfitters Association. By far, the single largest contributor to this economic benefit to the state is rafting in Browns Canyon.

Sen. Mark Udall deserves our gratitude for introducing legislation to protect Browns Canyon as a national monument. This would protect current uses of the land – such as hunting, fishing and grazing – and would ensure it retains its natural, undeveloped character.

For the past decade, attempts have been made to pass legislation for this purpose, and we must ensure Browns Canyon gets the permanent protection it deserves as a national monument. We only need to look to our southern neighbor, New Mexico, to see how that can work.

President Obama recently responded to the local community in Las Cruces, whose leaders have worked for a decade to protect the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks area legislatively. He used his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the area as a national monument. For this, the American people should be grateful, as are we. Over the years, 16 presidents (eight Republicans and eight Democrats) have used the Antiquities Act to protect publicly owned lands or water for their historic, cultural or natural resources.

Sen. Udall deserves enormous credit for his hard work to protect Browns through his forward-thinking legislation, and we encourage him to use all tools at his disposal to make sure that permanent protection happens.

Tony Miely & Andy Corra, 4Corners Riversports Durango

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Confidential Internal Work Product

Pullman Historic District

Chicago, Illinois
Senators: Dick Durbin (D), Mark Kirk (R)
Representatives: Robin Kelly (D-IL-2)
Governor: Pat Quinn (D)

Objects of National Interest

- The original factory served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States, the Pullman Strike, led primarily by African American factory workers and porters.
- The approximately 300-acre site was designated a National Landmark District in 1970 that includes private residences. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (HPA) purchased the 11.2-acre Administration and Factory Complex and the Hotel Florence in 1991. This "core" acreage could comprise a National Monument designation.

Public Engagement and Support

- The Historic Pullman Foundation was founded in 1973 as a 501c3. The group works to preserve the historical integrity of the Pullman community.
- In 1999, Governor George Ryan and Mayor Richard M. Daly appointed the Pullman Factory Task Force to consider reuse options for the Pullman factory buildings damaged by the 1998 fire. In its June 2000 report, the task force recommended that the factory and adjacent Hotel Florence be restored as part of ongoing revitalization effort in Chicago's South Side.
- The task force recommended that the factory and hotel serve as a history center and cultural tourism attraction operated by the NPS or Illinois HPA.
- In 2000, the State appropriated $10 million of the estimated $21 million needed for initial stabilization.
- Unanimous resolutions of support for the establishment of a national park at Pullman have been passed by the Chicago City Council, Cook County Board, Illinois House of Representative, and the Illinois Senate.

Land Status

- The Illinois HPA is ready to donate the factory site and to the Federal government in order to establish a National Park Site.

Legislation

- H.R. 3929, Pullman National Historical Park Act, was introduced in the 113th Congress by Rep. Kelly to establish the Pullman National Historical Park as a unit of the National Park System. S. 1962 is companion legislation in the Senate.
- H. R. 3131, National Park Service Study Act of 2013, was introduced in the 113th by Congressman Gregorio Sablan to conduct a special resource study of the site.

Additional Information

- National Park Service completed a reconnaissance study for the site in July 2013
- On-site public meeting should be held.
- Executable in the next few months.
- Requires and environmental site assessment prior to transfer.
- Designation should recognize the partnership with Illinois HPA and the city of Chicago.

Updated: June 12, 2014

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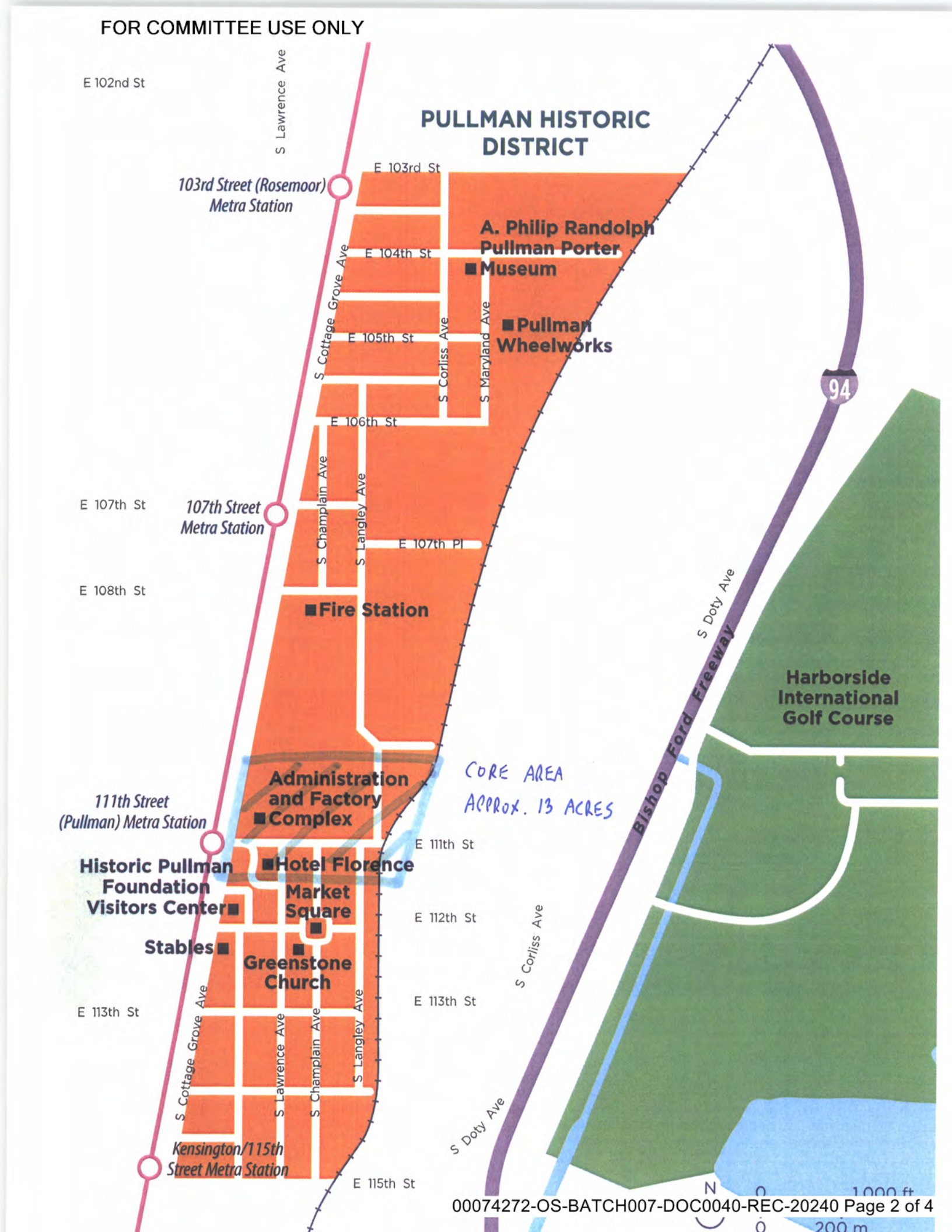


San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains

Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernandino Counties, California

Senators: Barbara Boxer (D),
Barbara Feinstein (D)

Representatives: Julia Brownley (D-CA-26), Tony Cardenas (D-CA-29), Paul Cook (R-CA-8), Judy Chu (D-CA-27), Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA-25), Gary Miller (R-CA-31), Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32), Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-CA-35), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40), Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38), Adam Schiff (D-CA-28), Brad Sherman (D-CA-30), Henry Waxman (D-CA-33)

Governor: Jerry Brown (D)

Objects of National Interest

- The NPS Special Resource Study (April 2013) reached a positive finding of national suitability, feasibility, and significance.

Public Engagement and Support

- There have been extensive public involvement efforts, first in 2005 and 2006, and then again in late 2009 that identified strong interest in additional NPS involvement in the region to help protect significant resources and provide additional recreation and public enjoyment opportunities.
- Nearly 5,000 written comments were received on the 2009 draft management alternatives, with the vast majority supporting more NPS involvement and designation of a larger park unit then previously proposed.
- The majority of governmental and private respondents to the 2009 draft management alternatives, including seven Congressional representatives, the U.S. Forest Service, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), supported an NPS-led, partnership based national recreation area.

Land Status

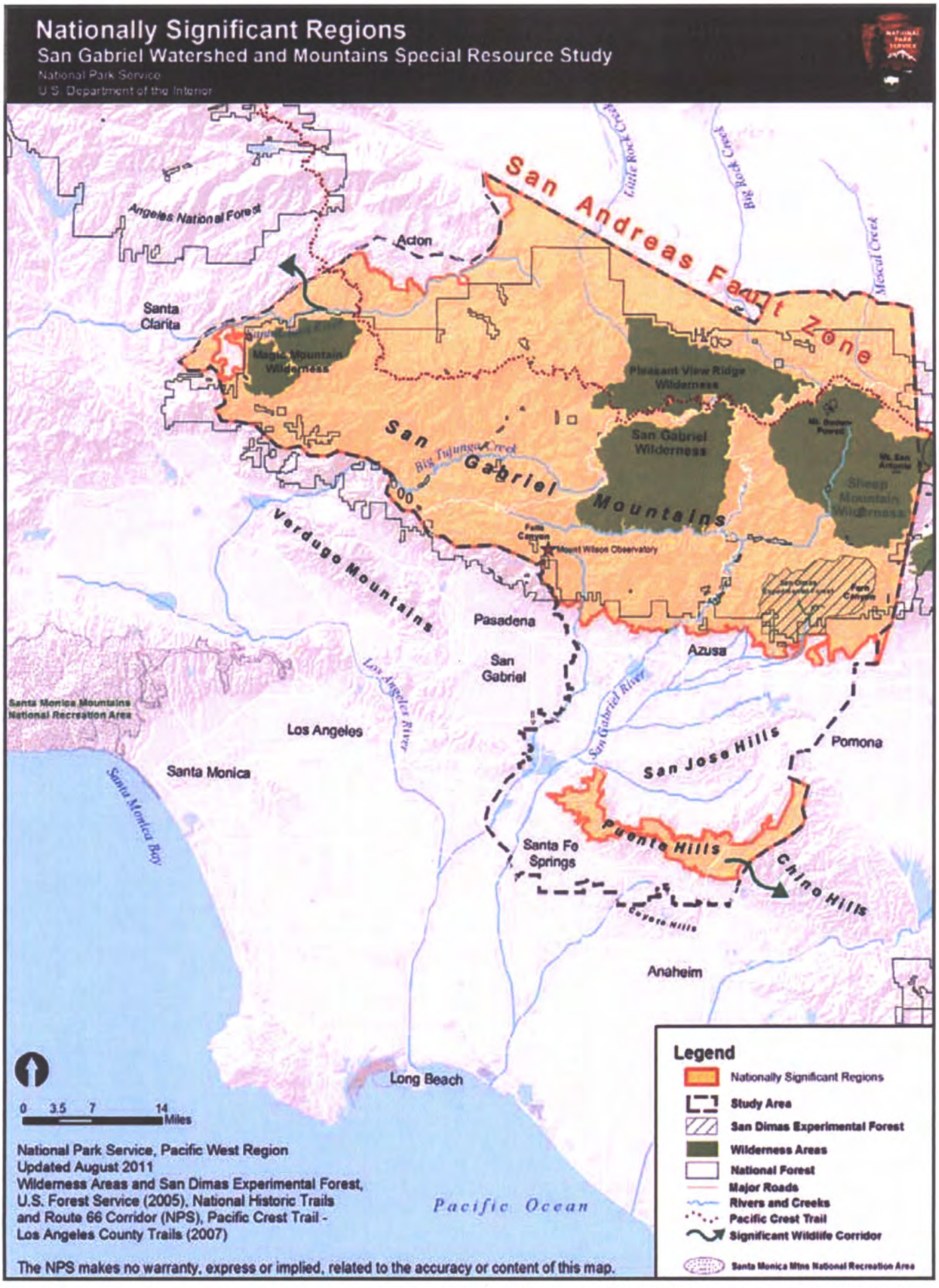
- The 415,000-acre Angeles National Forest contains the headwaters of the San Gabriel River and would provide the basis for the necessary land base.
- A 90-acre tract of private land, with improvements, could potentially be donated to the NPS and provide for administrative facilities in the area.

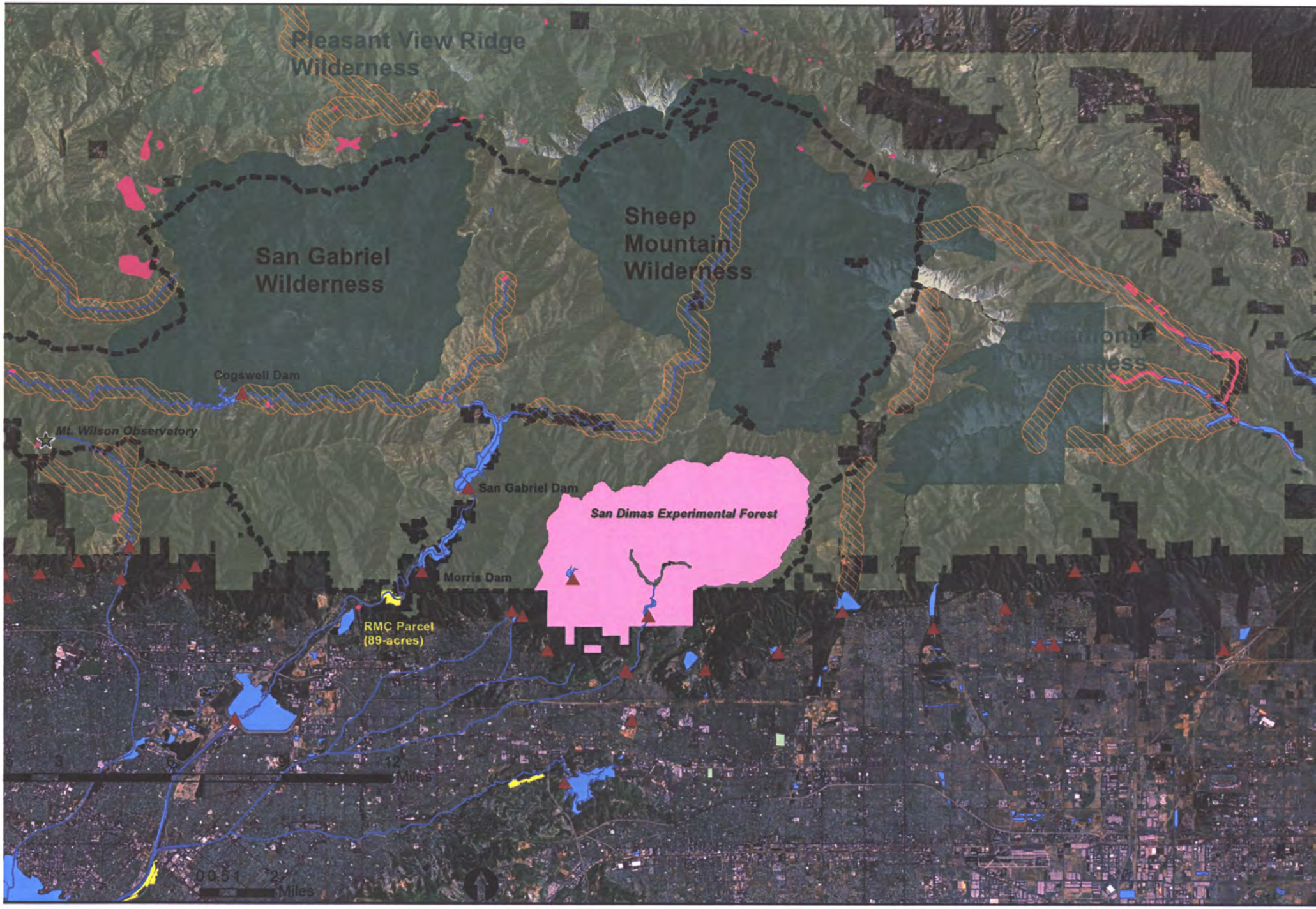
Legislation

- Representative Chu is drafting legislation to establish the San Gabriel National Recreation area.

Additional Information

- A NPS monument in this area would mean that hunting, ORV use, recreational gold panning, and possibly other uses that are valued by the community may not be allowed to continue. This has the potential to erode support for a designation within the community.
- For the NPS to have meaningful role there must be NPS control over the management of some portion of the land.
- NPS staff is not well suited to interpret the mission, values and goals of land that is managed by another federal agency.


Nationally Significant Regions
San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resource Study
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
San Andreas Fault Zone
Angeles National Forest
Acton
Santa Clarita
Magic Mountain Wilderness
Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness
San Gabriel Wilderness
Sheep Mountain Wilderness
San Gabriel Mountains
Verdugo Mountains
Mount Wilson Observatory
Pasadena
Azusa
San Gabriel
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Los Angeles
Santa Monica
Santa Monica Bay
Los Angeles River
San Gabriel River
San Jose Hills
Pomona
Puente Hills
Chino Hills
Santa Fe Springs
Coyote Hills
Anaheim
Long Beach
Pacific Ocean
0 3.5 7 14 Miles
National Park Service, Pacific West Region
Updated August 2011
Wilderness Areas and San Dimas Experimental Forest, U.S. Forest Service (2005), National Historic Trails and Route 66 Corridor (NPS), Pacific Crest Trail - Los Angeles County Trails (2007)
The NPS makes no warranty, express or implied, related to the accuracy or content of this map.
Legend
Nationally Significant Regions
Study Area
San Dimas Experimental Forest
Wilderness Areas
National Forest
Major Roads
Rivers and Creeks
Pacific Crest Trail
Significant Wildlife Corridor
Santa Monica Mtns National Recreation Area


Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness
San Gabriel Wilderness
Sheep Mountain Wilderness
Cogswell Dam
Mt. Wilson Observatory
San Gabriel Dam
San Dimas Experimental Forest
Morris Dam
RMC Parcel (89-acres)
3
6
9
12
Miles
0 0.5 1
2
Miles

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Confidential, Internal, Pre-decisional and not for release

From Jon
To: Nikki

Briefing: 6/11/2014

Subject: Transfer of some lands from the US Forest Service (USFS) to the National Park Service (NPS) in the San Gabriel Mountains, a portion of the Angeles National Forest

Background: The competition between the USFS and the NPS goes back to the earliest establishment of the two agencies and is at the core of why the USFS is in Agriculture and NPS is in Interior. For much of the first half of the 20th Century, millions of USFS acres were transferred to the NPS as National Parks or Monuments much to the dismay of the Forest Service. (This conflict is well documented in memoirs and scholarly books authored by Hartzog, Frome, Twight and others.) The establishment of Great Basin National Park in 1986 was the last significant transfer of lands to the NPS from USFS, resulting in an internal commitment by the USFS to "never lose another acre to the NPS" (personal communication). Since that time, even small acreages that make ecological or recreation sense have met vehement resistance by the USFS (e.g. Oregon Caves).

Cooperation: While land transfers has been contentious, on-the-ground coordination between the NPS and adjacent National Forests is generally excellent. Using Service First or informal agreements, the NPS and USFS share resources, work together on fire, wilderness planning, creating trail access, resource management and law enforcement.

San Gabriel: The San Gabriel Mountains are an urban forest, adjacent to a high density and highly diverse population. The National Forest's river valleys, trails, and open spaces are heavily used. Due to budget erosion and a shift in the USFS budget towards fire suppression, the San Gabriel Forest has very little funding for visitor services, recreation facilities, signing, or maintenance. To be frank, there is very little management of the public use of the forest and it shows. The community contrasts this with the nearby (45 minutes) Santa Monica Mountains NRA (SAMO), managed by the NPS. SAMO has an annual operating budget of $8 million which is leveraged with partners to create trails, visitor centers, high quality signing, ranger programs, education programs, and youth projects. The communities around SAMO are generally less diverse and more affluent (e.g. Thousand Oaks, Malibu). The communities around the San Gabriel NF (e.g. Azuza, Glendora) are more diverse and less affluent, They want what they see in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. For over a decade there have been calls, studies and surveys that indicate a strong community desire for the NPS to be present in the management of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Special Resource Study: Under legislation submitted by then congresswoman Hilda Solis, the NPS completed a special resource study. While some transfer of lands from the USFS were considered early in the process with strong local support, the idea was rejected by the USFS in Washington, and removed from consideration in the final. The study did recommend the designation of a National Recreation Area, with the USFS keeping their lands and the NPS acquiring lands over time outside of the National Forest along the river valley.

Jointly Operated Monument with BLM: The Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation in 2000 and is jointly managed by the NPS and the BLM, with

(b) (5)

each owning a piece of the landscape but totally engaged in cooperative planning, resource management, fire, and public use. The model works.

NPS Monuments: The NPS manages 73 National Monuments established by Presidential Proclamations and comprise over two million acres. They are managed in accordance with the NPS Organic Act and other specific laws related to the NPS that unify the National Park System, "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations". It is the commitment to the "mission" that inspires the employees and the visitors and generates strong public support. Our policies, training, regulations, and organizational structure unify the system so that regardless of the nomenclature (park, monument, site, battlefield, etc.) there is a common high standard of resource condition and visitor service. In addition, each "unit" of the national park system receives a line item in the Interior Budget, assuring the local superintendent can make discretionary decisions regarding local park needs.

NPS in San Gabriel: There is the opportunity for this administration to resolve nearly 100 years of institutional conflict between the USFS and the NPS with establishing a new model of monument where the NPS and the USFS each own a piece and work together across the entire landscape to bring the best of our two agencies expertise. The NPS is a land and resource management agency with a special set of skills. The USFS is also a land and resource management agency with excellent but different skills. The NPS cannot bring its visitor services and resource management skills and passion to federal lands that operate under laws that are unfamiliar and unrelated to our mission. But if provided a portion of the forest lands, to be managed in accordance with the NPS Organic Act, then we can partner with the USFS to bring our skills to co-manage to the entire National Monument as we do with the BLM at Parashant. That piece must be large enough to justify an appropriation in the next budget cycle so that we can have the staff on the ground, in equivalent force to compare to the Santa Monica Mountains NRA, or else we will have a very disappointed local community.

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WORKING DOCUMENT - FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

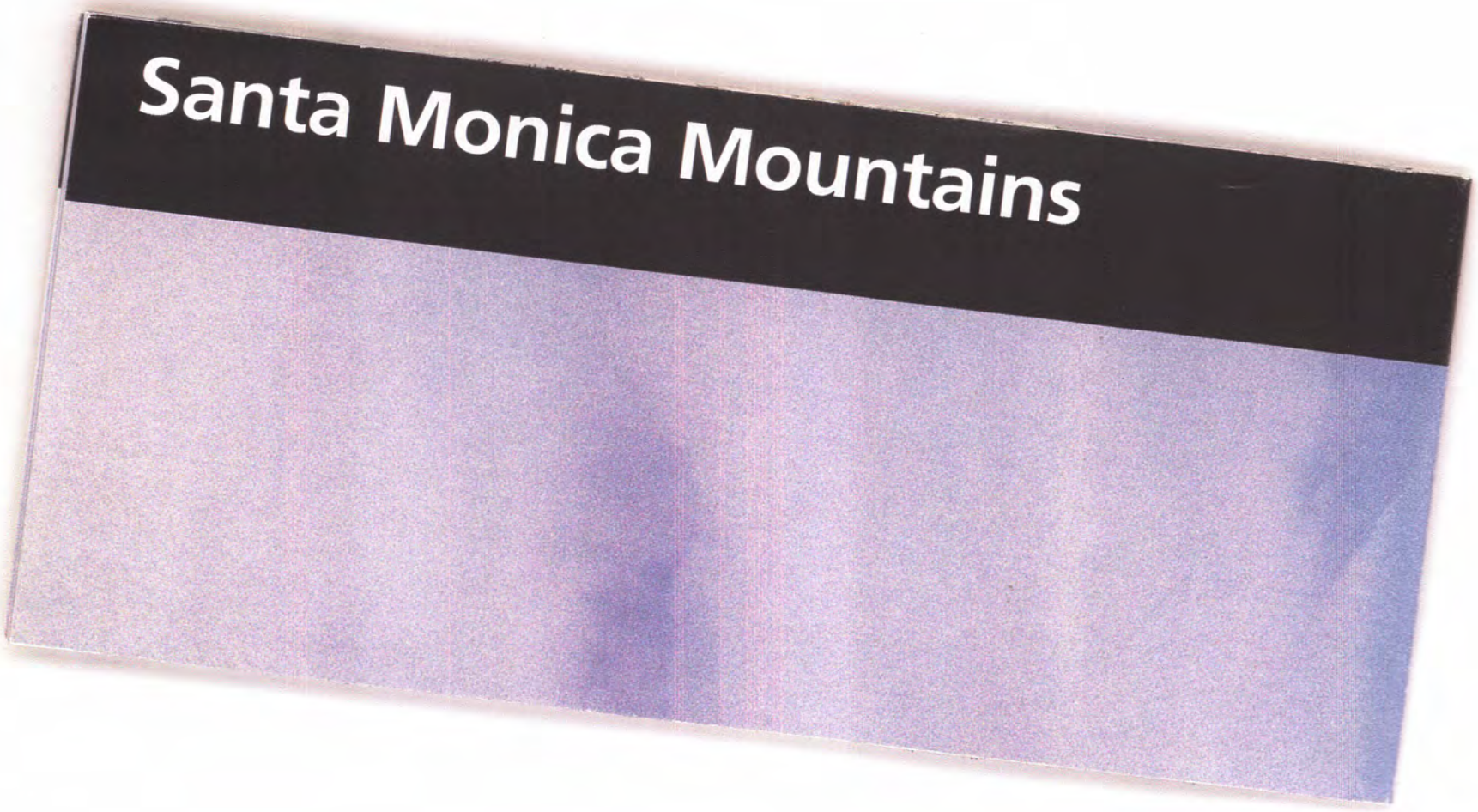
Potential Area	Very Approximate Acreage	Significant Resources	Current Uses and Facilities	Issues / Concerns
Option 1: Wilderness areas within the San Gabriel watershed	75,000 acres	San Gabriel Wilderness (36,000 acres) Sheep Mountain Wilderness (39,000 acres) Biodiversity Geologic resources		- Likely strong opposition from water agencies. Water agencies will have concern about use impacts on regional water supply, impacts to their operations.
Option 2: San Gabriel Wilderness	36,000 acres	San Gabriel Wilderness (36,000 acres) Biodiversity Geologic resources		General access to the West Fork is more limited than the east and north fork areas. - Likely strong opposition from water agencies. Water agencies will have concern about use impacts on regional water supply, impacts to their operations.
Option 3: Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area	39,000 acres	Upper East Fork San Gabriel River Geologic Resources Vincent gap (tells story of how mountains were formed) Dynamic River Systems Geologic Diversity		- Likely strong opposition from water agencies. Water agencies will have concern about use impacts on regional water supply, impacts to their operations.
Option 4: San Gabriel River Corridors, excluding dams and impoundments, OHV, shooting area	10,000 acres of River Corridor (including RMC parcel)	Dynamic River Systems Geologic Diversity High Biodiversity Eligible W&S River segments (east fork, north fork, west fork) of San	Picnic areas, campgrounds, hunting, fishing, gold panning, trails West Fork National Scenic Bikeway Angeles Crest National Recreation Trail Highly used recreational areas (picnic areas, trails, gold panning)	- Includes some very heavily used /overcrowded areas w limited capacity (parking is limiting factor) - Likely strong opposition from water agencies. Water agencies will have concern about use impacts on regional water supply, impacts to their operations (but perhaps to a lesser degree than

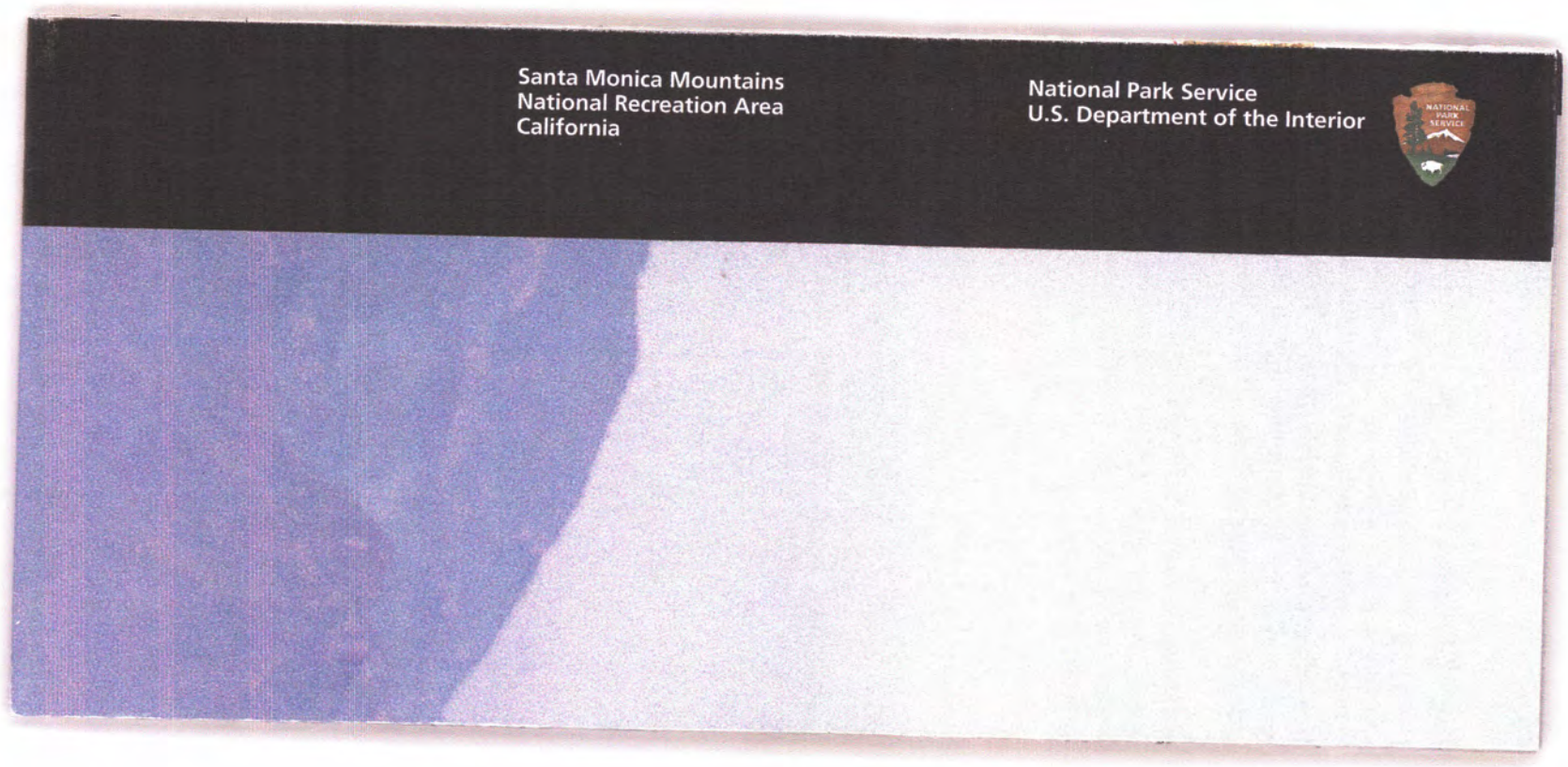
(Cont.)		Gabriel River	Dogs allowed	option 7) - Discontiguous units and resulting challenges with jurisdiction (use road corridor to connect discontiguous areas?) - Areas along river are heavily used by a diversity of users from the Los Angeles Region. There are considerable opportunities to reach out to underserved audiences and achieve NPS goals for relevancy and connecting to people.
Option 5: East Fork San Gabriel River corridor (above OHV area and shooting range)	5,000 acres (both within and outside of wilderness)	Eligible W&S River segment (east fork)	Highly used recreational areas (picnic areas, trails, gold panning) Dogs allowed	Heavily used access road along lower portion of river, - Includes some very heavily used /overcrowded areas w limited capacity (parking is limiting factor) - Likely strong opposition from water agencies. Water agencies will have concern about use impacts on regional water supply, impacts to their operations (but perhaps to a lesser degree than option 7) - The east fork is probably the heaviest used stretch of the river corridor - on its own would offer some considerable opportunities to reach out to underserved audiences. This section is also most heavily used for gold panning.
Option 6: Include road corridors			Include road corridor from RMC parcel to the confluence, connect the otherwise discontiguous units	

Option 7: San Gabriel River Watershed (Considered but not feasible)	160,000 acres	Dynamic River Systems Geologic Diversity Scientific Discovery (Mt. Wilson, San Dimas Experimental Forest) High Biodiversity Eligible W&S River segments (east fork, north fork, west fork) of San Gabriel River San Gabriel Wilderness (36,000 acres) Sheep Mountain Wilderness (39,000 acres)	OHV area at river confluence (150 acres) Picnic areas and Campgrounds West Fork National Scenic Bikeway Angeles Crest National Recreation Trail Burro Canyon Shooting Park (north of river confluence - concession operated) Hunting and Fishing Gold Panning San Dimas Experimental Forest (17,000 acres) / UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Mt. Lowe Mt. Wilson Observatory - 99 year lease with the Carnegie Institute Mining claims? Cabin Permits? Angeles Crest Highway Utility corridors Dogs allowed	- Many current recreational uses are not compatible with NP designation (OHV, hunting, gold panning) - Many permitted land uses may not be compatible with NP designation (Mt Wilson Observatories, recreational cabin permits (need to confirm if there are cabins in the upper watershed) - The San Gabriel River system supplies water for the Los Angeles Basin - Water agencies will have concern about use impacts on regional water supply, impacts to their operations such as dredging sediment from reservoirs. They are also concerned are about unintended consequences. - Includes some very heavily used /overcrowded areas, w/ limited capacity - Inholdings include summer camps, cabins - Debris basin / sediment disposal sites (Burro Canyon) - Areas along river are heavily used by a diversity of users from the Los Angeles Region. There are considerable opportunities to reach out to underserved audiences and achieve NPS goals for relevancy and connecting to people.

General Issues:

- Long-standing recreational uses that NPS may not want to allow (hunting, gold panning, cabin permittees)
- Water supply concerns - San Gabriel River system supplies approximately 30% of the LA basin's water supply. Numerous separate water agencies would want their concerns addressed
- Flood control & response concerns (debris basins, sediment disposal areas). LA County Dept of Public Works concerns.
- Any proposals that aren't preceded by substantial civic engagement are likely to run into opposition from stakeholders who have participated in previous & related efforts.
- Utility corridors (major electrical transmission lines) cross the mountains
- Agencies that manage utilities, public works and infrastructure are concerned about unintended consequences that could limit their ability to carry out operations.
- Budget - what would it take to make a positive difference?


Santa Monica Mountains


Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area
California
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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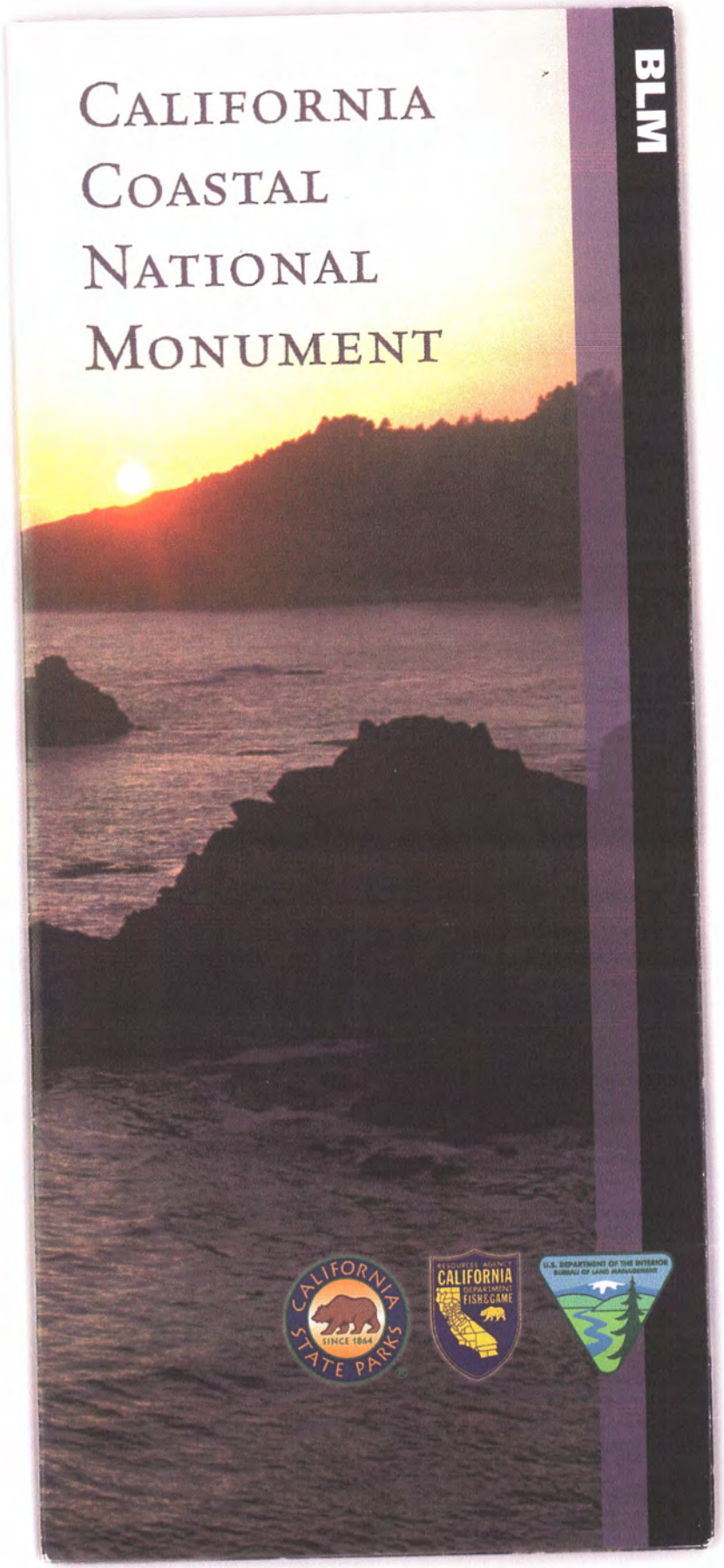
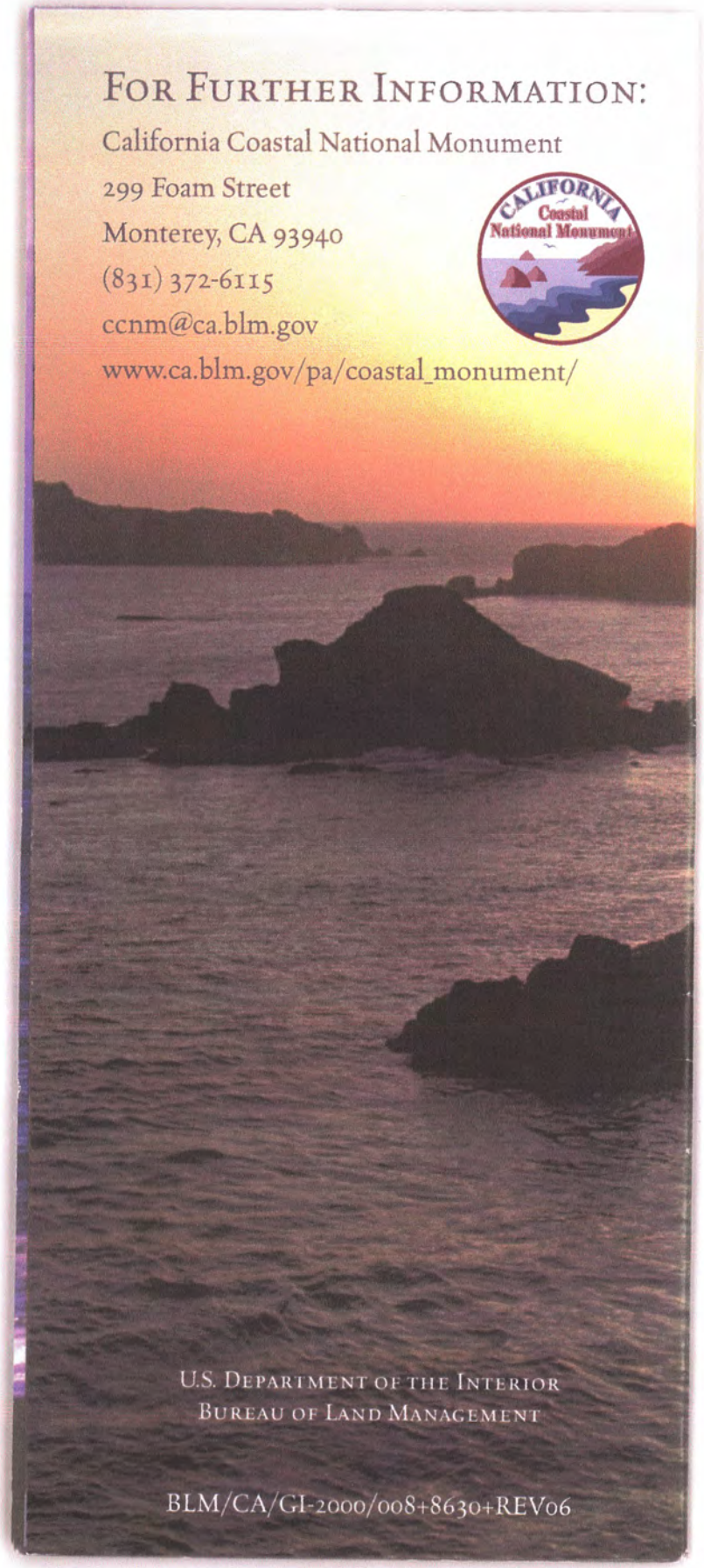


For Further Information:

California Coastal National Monument
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 372-6115
ccnm@ca.blm.gov
www.ca.blm.gov/pa/coastal_monument/



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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HAMILTON CANDEE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

ALTSHULER BERZON LLP
177 POST STREET, SUITE 300
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108

(415) 421-7151
FAX (415) 362-8064
hcandee@altshulerberzon.com

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Monuments

Credit: Robert Campbell

WILDERNESS AT RISK

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING DRAKES ESTERO, THE WEST COAST'S ONLY CONGRESSIONALLY DESIGNATED MARINE WILDERNESS AREA

Americans overwhelmingly value full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero, the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore. Of the 52,473 comments submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the future of the Estero, 92% of the comments supported honoring the 1976 Congressional wilderness designation for Drakes Estero instead of extending commercial use.

The 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act is a promise to the American people that the ecologically rich areas of the Seashore would be protected from exploitation or interference.

Americans clearly believe that the highest and best use of Drakes Estero is as Congress intended under the 1976 Act – a marine wilderness.

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"There is a chance now, to take action that will provide for the nation an enduring legacy of a largely intact estuary, a hope spot within the country's increasingly troubled waters."

– **Sylvia Earle**, Former Chief Scientist NOAA, National Geographic Explorer in Residence

Shorebird flies over Drakes Estero / *Rudi Dundas Schmidt*

Wilderness Protection Laws And Policies Prioritize Natural Resources Over Commerce

Drakes Estero is the West Coast's only designated marine wilderness area. This estuary is currently occupied by an industrial-scale commercial oyster operation that is using political and industry interests to attempt to overturn the wilderness designation and stay beyond its lease expiration later this year. The Seashore's 1962 authorizing legislation requires the Park Service to administer the Seashore "without impairment of its natural values" and in a manner that is "supportive of the maximum protection, restoration, and preservation of the natural environment."

The 1964 Wilderness Act protects our nation's richly diverse natural landscape as part of our national heritage, and allows Americans to enjoy these areas. "A wilderness ... is and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The 1964 Act prohibits commercial uses or motorized boats in designated wilderness areas.

One-Way Journey To Full Wilderness Protection

Under the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress designated Drakes Estero as wilderness, but placed it in a special "potential" wilderness category due the existence of an oyster operation's terminable private rights to operate in the Estero until 2012. The Park Service's best management practices and the specific stated intent of Congress was that the "land and waters potential designated as wilderness additions [at Point Reyes] . . . *be essentially managed as wilderness, to the extent possible, with efforts to steadily continue to remove all obstacles to the eventual conversion of these lands and waters to wilderness status.*" In other words, the Estero has been on a one-way journey to receiving full wilderness protection since 1976.

A Deal Is A Deal

In 2004, the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office advised the Park Service and the Drakes Bay Oyster Company (DBOC) that it is "mandated by the Wilderness Act, the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and its Management Policies" to remove the oyster operation when its private rights expire in 2012. The DBOC understood the terms of the lease before it acquired the business from the original owners in 2005, but now seek a new perpetually renewable permit to continue private use of this public trust resource. Legislation attached to an appropriations bill in 2009 granted the Secretary discretion to break the 1976 agreement and provide a new permit.

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Extension of Commercial Use Would Set Poor Public Policy

Granting DBOC a new Special Use Permit would be an unprecedented act. Congress has never overturned the permit expiration of "potential" wilderness in favor of private, commercial use. It would reverse the long-standing management planning of the estero and weaken the integrity of the Wilderness Act, which is intended to provide maximum natural resources protection over commercial use. Practically, it sets a poor public policy example and provides a blueprint for other special interests to seek their special exemptions from park law and policy.

Best Available Science Supports Wilderness For Drakes Estero

The National Park Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) used best available science to determine that the "environmentally preferable" alternative is to allow the terminable private rights to *[cont on page 4]*

Drakes Estero is a primary breeding ground for Harbor Seals / *Sue Van Der Wal*

Ranches Would Not Be Impacted

The Seashore's wilderness zone, including Drakes Estero, was intended to be free from commercial activity where wildlife and natural processes could run unabated, but visitors are welcome. The Seashore's "pastoral zone", where ranching and dairying continue, was intended both for commercial use and wildlife to find a sustainable balance. The pastoral zone is outside of the designated wilderness area, and therefore would not be impacted by honoring the 1976 wilderness designation for Drakes Estero. As of 2009, the Park Service has invested more than $3 million to assist ranchers in upgrading their infrastructure and making range improvements to keep their dairy and beef operations up-to-date and viable.

Selected Timeline of Important Dates & Events

- **1962 Point Reyes National Seashore is created**
- **1964 Wilderness Act** defines wilderness as "an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation."
- **1972 National Park Service purchases Johnson Oyster Company** land on the northeast shore of Drakes Estero, for which JOC retains a 40-year, non-renewable Reservation of Use and Occupancy to expire in 2012.
- **1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act** establishes over 33,000 acres of wilderness, including 25,370 acres of fully protected Wilderness and 8,003 acres as Potential Wilderness - which includes Drakes Estero.
- **2005 Drakes Bay Oyster Company** buys the oyster operation and remaining 7 years of the Reservation of Use and Occupancy at a discount, due to the limited terms of occupancy.
- **2007 California Coastal Commission Issues a Cease and Desist Order** to DBOC due to unpermitted oyster operation activities.
- **2009, December Coastal Commission Fines DBOC $61,250 for numerous ongoing violations,** including operating in areas of Drakes estero that are off limits during the crucial harbor seal pupping and rearing season.
- **2012, February, Coastal Commission Rebukes DBOC for 4 Years of Violating Harbor Seal Protection Regulations** and violating both the 2007 Cease and Desist Order and its Special use Permit with the National Park Service.
- **2012, March, more than 92% of public comments** on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for future use of Drakes Estero support protecting marine wilderness.

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cont from page 3 expire in 2012 and establish full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero. The Interior Department's independent peer review of the Draft EIS confirmed the Park Service's science that the best alternative for protecting this ecological treasure is to eliminate commercial use and restore Drakes Estero to its natural beauty and biological productivity.

Seashore and Wilderness Provide Enormous Economic Benefit to the Region

The undisturbed Seashore is a major economic driver for the local economy. In 2010, visitors spent $85 million during visits to the Seashore and non-local visitor spending supported 981 local jobs, and accounted for $41 million in labor income.

Oyster Company Violates State and Federal Regulations

Since its inception, DBOC has operated in violation of California Coastal Commission, National Park Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit conditions and requirements. These ongoing violations are causing significant harm to the environment and there is nothing to suggest that these problems will be rectified if DBOC is granted a new operating permit. Additionally these violations significantly undermine the ability of state and federal agencies to administer laws and policies and in a manner that
will protect and enhance the Seashore's natural resources.

Brown Pelican perching on Estero Sandbar / *D. Wimpfheimer*

Some of the thousands of pieces of DBOC mariculture debris collected by beach walkers / *Amy Trainer*

Black Brants at the Estero / *David Wimpfheimer*

Conclusion

Law, policy, and best available science call for full Wilderness Protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. The issuance of a new 10-year special use permit would roll back wilderness protection to benefit a single business at the expense of the public trust and would jeopardize the fragile ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore. It is time to return Drakes Estero to all Americans as the West Coast's only marine wilderness.

For more information, visit: www.savepointreyeswilderness.org

Organizations in favor of the protection of Drakes Estero:

Alaska Wilderness League * Alaska Wildlife Alliance * Arizona Wilderness Coalition * Audubon California * Audubon Canyon Ranch * Californians for Western Wilderness * Cascadia Wildlands * **Center for Biological Diversity** * Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition * Coalition of National Park Service Retirees * Defenders of Wildlife * Endangered Species Coalition * **Environmental Action Committee of West Marin** * Environmental Defense Center * Environmental Protection Information Center * Friends of the Columbia Gorge * Golden Gate Audubon * Great Old Broads for Wilderness * Idaho Conservation League * International Marine Mammal Project * John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute * Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center * Marin Audubon Society * Marine Mammal Center * National Outer Continental Shelf Coalition * **National Parks Conservation Association** * **National Wildlife Federation** * **Natural Resources Defense Council** * Northeast Wilderness Trust * Ocean Conservancy * Oregon Wild * Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations * Pacific Environment * People for a GGNRA * People For Puget Sound * Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility * Rainforest Action Network * Residents For Responsible Desalinization * Resources Renewal Institute * Save our Seashore * SF Bay Joint Venture * **Sierra Club** * Soda Mountain Wilderness Council * Sonoma County Conservation Action * Salmon Protection And Watershed Network * **The Wilderness Society** * Virginia Wilderness Committee * Washington Wilderness Coalition * West Virginia Wilderness Coalition * Wild Equity Institute * Wild Fish Conservancy * Wild West Institute * Wild Wilderness

Support Drakes Estero Wilderness

Protect California's Coast and Fulfill the Promise of Wilderness Made to the American People

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and the only marine wilderness area on the West Coast, but currently lacks protection. The Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl. In 1976 Congress passed the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and committed to the local community, and to all Californians and Americans, that Drakes Estero would revert to wilderness in 2012, when the existing oyster lease expires. Congress committed to full wilderness protection for the ecological treasure that is the Estero even as they agreed that agriculture would continue in the Park's pastoral zone. The threat of global warming and ongoing assaults on our marine ecosystems make full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero even more important today than it was 40 years ago. In 2005, the original company owner sold the business to new proprietors who have sought to overturn the 2012 sunset date and block the Estero's wilderness protections. It is time to return Drakes Estero to all Americans, as long intended.

Americans and Conservation Leaders Want This Special Place Protected

Americans overwhelmingly value full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero: of the 52,473 comments submitted on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the future of the Estero, 92% of the comments supported honoring the 1976 Congressional Wilderness designation for Drakes Estero instead of extending commercial use.

Leading conservationists and marine scientists such as E.O. Wilson, Sylvia Earle, Jean-Michel Cousteau, and Roderick Nash have urged Secretary Salazar to protect Drakes Estero Wilderness. Dr. Sylvia Earle wrote this about the Estero: *"There is a chance now, to take action that will provide for the nation an enduring legacy of a largely intact estuary, a hope spot within the nation's increasingly troubled waters."*

Wilderness Protection is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The National Park Service Draft EIS makes clear that the "no action alternative" – allowing the Drakes Bay Oyster Company (DBOC) lease to expire in 2012 and establishing full wilderness protection to the Estero – is the most consistent with law, policy, and science. It is the "environmentally preferred alternative." Extending the DBOC lease would have negative environmental impacts on Drakes Estero that would be inconsistent with national park policies and management goals for resources such as wilderness, wetlands, harbor seals and soundscapes.

Oyster Company Violates State and Federal Regulations

Since its inception, DBOC has operated in knowing violation of California Coastal Commission, National Park Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit conditions and requirements. These violations

are causing harm to the environment and there is nothing to suggest that these problems will be rectified if DBOC is granted a new special use permit. For example:

- **In July 2012**, the California Coastal Commission sent an enforcement letter outlining how DBOC has been continuously in violation of its State and National Park Service permits for the past six years. Highlights of the letter include that DBOC 1) admitted to violating harbor seal protection protocols since 2008; 2) conducted illegal development knowingly since 2005; 3) contributed to significant marine debris pollution throughout Seashore beaches and failed to adequately clean-up its known plastic pollution problem since 2005; and 4) failed to pay fines in the amount of $61,250 in fines from harbor seal protection permit violations imposed in 2009.
- **In September 2011**, the California Coastal Commission advised DBOC to "aggressively and comprehensively" address significant amounts of plastic and other marine debris from DBOC operations that pose "a hazard to the marine environment and natural resources of Drakes Estero" and address "adverse impacts from the boats and DBOC personnel on the sensitive harbor seals and their habitat during the breeding and pupping season."
- **In November 2010**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers advised the Park Service that the DBOC aquaculture activities require a Corps permit but that the Corps does not have either a current permit application or permit on file.
- **In December 2009**, the California Coastal Commission fined DBOC $61,250 for numerous ongoing violations of five separate provisions of a Cease and Desist and Consent Order that was issued to DBOC in 2007 and advised DBOC that the fines will continue to accrue until DBOC comes into compliance. Violations included operating in areas of Drakes Estero that are off limits during the crucial harbor seal pupping and rearing season.

Local, State, and National Coalition Support Drakes Estero Wilderness

More than 50 local, state, and national conservation groups support protecting Drakes Estero Wilderness, including groups such as: Alaska Wilderness League, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Audubon California, Californians for Western Wilderness, Center for Biological Diversity, Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition, Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Idaho Conservation League, International Marine Mammal Project, Marin Audubon Society, Marine Mammal Center, National Parks Conservation Association, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northeast Wilderness Trust, Ocean Conservancy, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association, Sierra Club ,The Wilderness Society, Virginia Wilderness Committee, Washington Wilderness Coalition, and West Virginia Wilderness Coalition

Extending the Permit Would Risk Damaging the Wilderness Act

The University of California, Berkeley's *Ecology Law Quarterly* published a July 2012 article on Secretary Salazar's upcoming decision on Drakes Estero's future. The article's legal research and analysis shows that granting an extension to the commercial oyster operation would be an unprecedented act that would dilute the Wilderness Act.

TPs Against Vitter #545- Drakes' Bay- SHORT

- I urge my colleagues to oppose Vitter #545, which would extend the lease of an oyster company operating on public lands in the Point Reyes National Seashore, California, despite direction from Congress nearly 40 years ago that this area should become wilderness.

- The current owner purchased the oyster company in 2004, knowing full well that the company's lease to operate in this area would expire in 2012.

- As Secretary Salazar put it, "Very simply, a deal is a deal."

- At least 4 Federal and State agencies have reviewed this oyster lease, and Congress has already considered this issue twice. Enough taxpayer money has been spent examining this issue, and it is time to move on.

- I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

DBOC's Repeated Permit Violations Should Preclude A New Permit

Since its inception, DBOC has operated in knowing violation of California Coastal Commission, National Park Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit conditions and requirements. DBOC was most recently cited for ongoing violations of its permit requirements in July 2012. These violations are causing harm to the environment and there is nothing to suggest that these problems will be rectified if DBOC is granted a new special use permit. To the contrary, all evidence strongly suggests that these violations will continue. For example:

- **In July 2012**, the California Coastal Commission sent an enforcement letter outlining how DBOC has been continuously in violation of its State and National Park Service permits for the past six years. Highlights of the letter include that DBOC 1) admitted to violating harbor seal protection protocols since 2008; 2) conducted illegal development knowingly since 2005 despite repeated letters from the Commission and now seeks approval after the fact; 3) contributed to significant marine debris pollution throughout Seashore beaches and failed to adequately clean-up its known plastic pollution problem since 2005; and 4) failed to address stipulated penalties in the amount of $61,250 in fines from harbor seal protection permit violations imposed in 2009.
- **In February 2012**, the California Coastal Commission advised DBOC that it has been consistently out of compliance with permit conditions established to protect harbor seals and other marine resources, including through repeated incursions into off-limits areas, since those conditions were established.[i] The Commission wrote that "complete and consistent adherence" to these conditions "is crucially important as they were not designed to provide a level of protection that would be considered adequate with only partial compliance." The Commission noted that it may have no choice but to seek penalties and/or file a lawsuit to ensure compliance.
- **In September 2011**, the California Coastal Commission advised DBOC to "aggressively and comprehensively" address significant amounts of plastic and other marine debris from DBOC operations that pose "a hazard to the marine environment and natural resources of Drakes Estero" and address "adverse impacts from the boats and DBOC personnel on the sensitive harbor seals and their habitat during the breeding and pupping season."[ii]
- **In November 2010**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers advised the Park Service that the DBOC aquaculture activities require a Corps permit but that the Corps does not have either a current permit application or permit on file.[iii]
- **In December 2009**, the California Coastal Commission fined DBOC $61,500 for numerous ongoing violations of five separate provisions of a Cease and Desist and Consent Order that was issued to DBOC in 2007 and advised DBOC that the fines will continue to accrue until DBOC comes into compliance. Violations included operating in areas of Drakes Estero that are off limits during the crucial harbor seal pupping and rearing season.[iv]
- **In September 2009**, the California Coastal Commission advised DBOC of numerous ongoing violations of a Cease and Desist and Consent Order issued to DBOC in 2007, including provisions developed to protect the Estero from invasive species, to impose appropriate restrictions on new construction, and to protect water quality.[v]
- In February 2009, DBOC began harvesting Manila clams without a Park Service permit and 10 months prior to review and approval by the California Fish and Game Commission. DBOC declined to provide information on cultivation to assist the Park Service in evaluating this expansion of species cultivation. Manila clam cultivation has never been approved by the Park Service.[vi]

- **In December 2007**, the California Coastal Commission issued a Consent Cease and Desist Order to DBOC regarding unpermitted activities carried out in connection with DBOC oyster operations in Drakes Estero. In the related staff report, the Coastal Commission noted that DBOC was not in compliance with the provisions of the cease and desist order requirements assumed by DBOC when it purchased the oyster operation (the "Johnson Cease and Desist Order") and that DBOC had engaged in new development and unauthorized uses without the required permits (*e.g.*, refrigerated storage units installed, second leach field constructed, parking area paved, boat transit outside established channels).[vii]
- **In October 2007**, the California Coastal Commission advised DBOC that it intended to commence Cease and Desist Order Proceedings due to DBOC's continued unpermitted offshore and onshore operations and facilities.[viii]
- **In June 2007**, the California Coastal Commissions again advised DBOC that it was not in compliance with the Johnson Cease and Desist Order and that DBOC also may require a coastal development permit, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit, and Park Service permits.[ix]
- **In March 2006**, the California Coastal Commission again advised DBOC that it was not in compliance with the Johnson Cease and Desist Order, that it was in violation of the Coastal Act, and that it must obtain a coastal development permit for additional new and unpermitted development.[x]
- **In May 2005**, the California Coastal Commission advised DBOC that it was not in compliance with the Johnson Cease and Desist Order and that it must obtain a coastal development permit.[xi]
- In December 2004, DBOC purchased the remaining seven years of the Johnson Oyster Company mariculture lease, knowing that it would expire in 2012, and assumed responsibility for complying with the Johnson Cease and Desist Order.[xii]

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[i] February 1, 2012 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission. The Commission advised DBOC that it has been out of compliance with its special use permit since that permit was issued in 2008 and out of compliance with Consent Cease and Desist Order CCC-07-CD-11 since it was issued in 2007.
[ii] September 29, 2011 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission.
[iii] Draft EIS, Ch. 2 at 130, Table 2-6; November 16, 2010 Letter to the Park Service from the Corps of Engineers.
[iv] December 7, 2009 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission
[v] September 16, 2009 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission.
[vi] Draft EIS, Ch. 1 at 20.
[vii] Consent Cease and Desist Order CCC-07-CD-11, December 12, 2007. When DBOC purchased the remaining seven years of the mariculture lease in December 2004 it assumed the compliance obligations arising from a cease and desist order issued to the prior owner; November 29, 2007 California Coastal Commission Staff Report and Findings for Cease and Desist Order.
[viii] October 3, 2007 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission.
[ix] June 5, 2007 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission.
[x] March 21, 2006 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission.
[xi] May 11, 2005 Letter to DBOC from the California Coastal Commission.
[xii] Consent Cease and Desist Order CCC-03-CD-12; November 29, 2007 California Coastal Commission Staff Report and Findings for Cease and Desist Order; Draft EIS Ch. 1 at 19.

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Lawmakers say tribal support for Bears Ears monument is a 'charade'

Al Hartmann | The Salt Lake Tribune) San Juan County County Commissioner Rebecca Benally, a Navajo tribal member, urges the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands to pass the Antiquities Act resolution. She went on record that a Bear's Ears National Monument would be devestating to S

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Bears Ears / PLI contrasts are stark

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DUST IN THE WIND
by Bill Boyle

The future of the Cedar Mesa / Bears Ears area is uncertain as the clock ticks toward the end of the Obama Administration.

On one side, the massive Public Lands Initiative (PLI) Bill is painstakingly making its way through Congress.

The PLI was created by Representatives Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop and includes the input and participation of everyone who wanted to be involved.

The PLI covers public land in seven counties in Utah, including large portions of San Juan County and significant areas on Cedar Mesa.

On the other side, the Bears Ears Coalition is supporting the creation of a new national monument in San Juan County that would be created by executive order through the use of the Antiquities Act.

President Obama promised in his 2014 State of the Union Address that if Congress did not act on issues such as this, he would. The clock is ticking, and the Congressional effort may be running out of time.

Area residents are lining up on either side of the issue, with local members of the Navajo Nation, in particular, caught between the two proposals.

San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally expressed her concerns about the Bears Ears proposal in a Letter to the Editor in the April 13 San Juan Record.

This week, there are a number of additional letters and submissions. We welcome the contributions.

• • • • •

The process of developing the two proposals are in stark contrast.

The development of the PLI involved painstaking work over several years, with every entity invited to the table. It required listening and debate and teamwork and compromise.

The San Juan County effort is a case in point. A diverse group of San Juan County residents met in public meetings over the course of several years.

They bickered and argued and visited spectacular areas throughout the county, with the goal of understanding the on-the-ground reality.

Although they represented diverse interests, over time they were able to hammer out a compromise agreement.

No one was fully satisfied, everyone had to let go of their ideal positions, and they compromised.

It is how the system is designed to work. It is the genius of the American way.

In contrast, the Bears Ears proposal was created in a laboratory far from San Juan County. It was created with the core assumption that an executive decision would be made more than 2,000 miles from the Bears Ears.

Thursday
April 21, 2016

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Diverse constituencies were not included in its development. It was not an open and public process. You had a say only if you were one of the select few who were invited to the table behind closed doors and protected from public scrutiny.

The Bears Ears Coalition may be many things, but it is not a local coalition. And frankly, to suggest that it is a grassroots effort is absurd.

The grassroots effort was the Diné Bikeyah Coalition, which introduced a new concept for federal land management in San Juan County in 2011.

The core proposal of Diné Bikeyah was to create a National Conservation Area (NCA) in the Cedar Mesa/Bears Ears Area. An NCA extends additional protection to an area, while continuing to be managed for traditional multiple use on BLM lands and allowing local participation in management.

Ideas from the Diné Bikeyah proposal are implemented into the Public Lands Initiative. In fact, the PLI proposes the Bears Ears NCA, a 1,145,237-acre NCA which would extend the protections that were sought by Diné Bikeyah through the entire process.

The problem is that the Bears Ears proposal was dropped into the conversation very late in the game.

After nearly four years of intense work and negotiations on the PLI, the Bears Ears was first introduced in a massive PR campaign less than a year ago.

Instead of the National Conservation Area (NCA) sought by Diné Bikeyah, the new Bears Ears proposal would create a National Monument. While a National Conservation Area and a National Monument may seem similar, the public lands involved are managed in dramatically different manners.

I am not sure where the Bears Ears proposal was created, but I know it was not in San Juan County.

• • • • •

We hope you are enjoying the news coverage provided by Eric Niven. Eric has tackled the challenging task of covering the San Juan County Commission meetings, in addition to City Council meetings in Monticello and Blanding. I think he is doing a great job.

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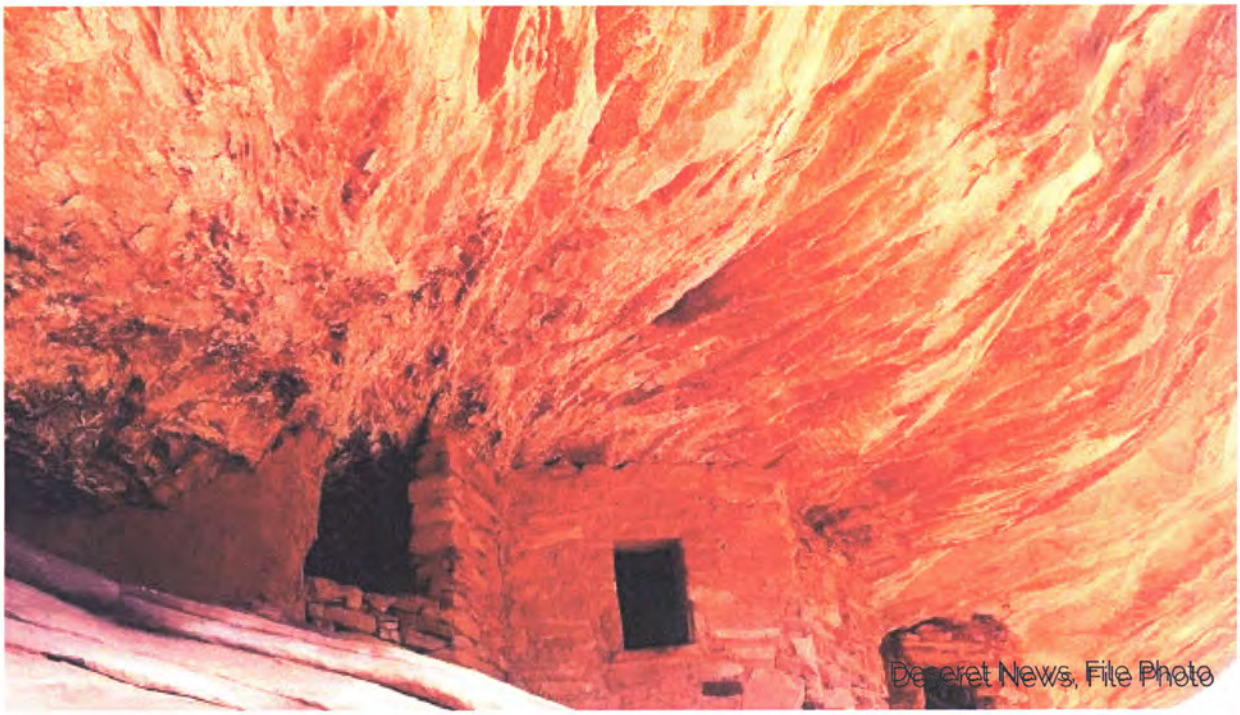

Deseret News, File Photo

7 eastern Utah counties stand behind 18M-acre public lands initiative

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue | Posted Mar 13th, 2016 @ 10:34am

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SALT LAKE CITY — The elected leaders of seven rural Utah counties came together Friday to reiterate their support for the Public Lands Initiative process involving proposed land uses for 18 million acres.

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Chaffetz, R-Utah.

"We have had numerous meetings with special interest groups and we have reached a consensus that is somewhere in the middle," said Uintah County Commissioner Mark Raymond.

Raymond added that if elected leaders had been asked five years ago if they would support the creation of any more wilderness areas, the answer would have been a "flat out" no.

"But as we have worked with these special interest groups, we have recognized their passion to protect certain lands," he said.

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None of the commissioners said the draft discussion bill released by the congressmen in January is perfect. Leaders in Summit and Grand counties, for example, say changes are necessary.

Everyone, however, said the draft bill — which has come under vehement criticism by multiple environmental groups — strikes a compromise that recognizes the tenets of multiple use that include conservation of high-value landscapes, outdoor recreation, grazing and resource extraction.

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Jackson. "Some of our recommendations were followed and some were not. … It is the nature of compromise. No one is ever going to get everything they want."

Critics like the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance say the "wilderness" areas in the lands proposal are in name only because they would allow present-day uses to continue such as grazing or helicopters. They assert the bill, too, tips too heavily in favor of industries like oil and gas producers or potash miners and gives away thousands of miles of trails and two-tracks in dispute to counties.

Rural leaders insisted Friday they want to stick with the imperfect process because it was built on the backs and voices of hundreds of local residents who not only yearn for certainty in land uses but want to see protections in place for landscapes.

"Over the years there has been a lot of work that has taken place, a lot of compromise and a lot of give and take," said Rebecca Benally, a Navajo tribal member who is on the San Juan County Commission.

The public lands bill or 'Grand Bargain' proposed by Bishop and Chaffetz was carved out after more than three years and thousands of meetings and hundreds of field trips. It calls for the creation of a new national monument in Utah, but in dinosaur country, not the Bears Ears in San Juan County like a coalition of tribes are pushing for.

Tribal objections

Benally said local Navajo don't want a monument designation for the sacred area because it would restrict Native American access and activities and ignore their desires voiced in the Public Lands Initiative process. The draft legislation sets up a National Conservation Area to protect Bears Ears.

"It will be the right decision for generations to come," she said, adding that the Public Lands Initiative process was tough and complex, involving more than 60 proposals.

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County leaders, too, bristled at the accusation by some critics who assert that because the draft bill grew out of a locally driven process it caves in to local economics for some at the expense of preserving scenic landscapes for all.

Recreation

"This is the land I go out and recreate it in, the land our neighbors go out and recreate it in. We camp, we hunt, we fish," said Carbon County Commissioner Casey Hopes. "The people in our community do not want to see these things destroyed or taken away."

Chaffetz made a quick appearance at the conference and thanked leaders for sticking with the land planning effort.

"We are trying to do the right thing at the full political spectrum by having the maximum amount of people involved," he said. "And keep in mind — this is just seven counties in a state with 29 counties. Certainly we can come to fair, balanced resolution."

Leaders say they are hopeful they can continue to work on ironing out the conflicts and come to agreement among interested parties where the public lands bill has shortfalls.

"In order for the Public Lands Initiative to be acceptable to us there will need to be broad consensus in the bill," said Chris Robinson, vice chairman of the Summit County Council. "That being said, there is really a great opportunity — and hopefully it is not too late — if all the stakeholders could come together where a compromise could be wrought and this could live up to its name of the Grand Bargain."

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Bishop public lands bill unveiled, eliciting support and criticism

By Amy Joi O'Donoghue, Deseret News
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Published: Wednesday, Jan. 20 2016 9:00 a.m. MST

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The San Rafael Swell in Emery County.

Steve Baker, Deseret News

Summary

The long-awaited Public Lands Initiative by Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz was released to the public Wednesday. The bill attempts to solve public land disputes, but it has its critics.

SALT LAKE CITY — Rep. Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative bill was unveiled Wednesday with provisions to expand Arches National Park, create a new national monument in Utah and establish designated recreation and energy zones to provide "certainty" among Utah's public land users.

What remains to be seen, however, is if Bishop and his co-sponsor, Rep. Jason Chaffetz, can harness the maelstrom of criticism from environmental groups and garner enough support to move his proposal forward to a place called success.

Bishop, R-Utah, said he is not deterred by those lining up against his bill and will continue over the next few weeks to work with both critics and supporters to tweak the measure before it is introduced in Congress. There may be modifications that help quell some of the hue from detractors, he added.

"If they shoot it down they shoot it down," he said Wednesday after a press conference unveiling his 63-page bill. "We did the best we could do. But what it does mean is that any kind of future positions are going to be much more radical, much more confrontational, much more litigious than what we were attempting to do in solving these problems."

Bishop's bill, crafted in concert with Chaffetz, R-Utah, promises new conservation areas, new wilderness designations, protection for prime hunting and angling areas, as well as energy and recreation zones.

Among its many provisions, built over three years of meetings with conservationists, sportsmen, county and

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Native American leaders, energy and mining industry representatives, recreationists and agricultural interests, are:

• 40 new wilderness areas in Utah covering 2.2 million acres

• Recreation zones in Grand and San Juan counties of 375,000 acres

• Expedited mineral leasing and development on certain public lands

• Expansion of Arches National Park to the north to protect Delicate Arch and possibly improve congestion

• A new national monument at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry

• 4 National Conservation Areas — including Bears Ears in San Juan County, Book Cliffs in Emery County and White River in Uintah County

The bill has drawn criticism from some Native American tribes because it falls short of creating a Bears Ears National Monument and consolidates mineral resources currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management by proposing to trade them to the Utah Schools and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

"If Congressman Bishop and Chaffetz did not want to fix land management problems on Indian lands, they should have left our lands out of their bill," said a statement issued by the Ute Tribal Business Committee. "Instead, the bill proposes to take Indian lands and resources to fix Utah's problems."

Bishop asserts the measure is the largest conservation lands bill in the history of the lower 48 states and proposes to protect or safeguard 4.3 million acres.

Groups like the Wilderness Society, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Grand Canyon Trust say the bill does just the opposite.

"We are disappointed. We think it is a missed opportunity, and there are certainly opportunities for common ground in Utah," said Paul Spitler, director of wilderness campaigns for the Wilderness Society. "This proposed draft goes far beyond what we and other stakeholders can agree to and will have detrimental effects on public lands in Utah."

Spitler was especially critical of the energy zones provided for in the bill and management options in wilderness and conservation designations that "undermine their conservation purposes."

Under Bishop's bill, he directs the Interior and Agriculture departments to manage the 40 areas under the provisions of the Wilderness Act, but with multiple exceptions that allow mechanized equipment or aircraft for wildfire management, continued grazing for those with current allotments, commercial outfitting activities and state wildlife functions that include maintenance of current and future support buildings.

"The draft PLI is an un-wilderness bill," said Scott Groene, executive director of the Southern Utah

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Wilderness Alliance. "Effectively less wilderness would be protected in Utah if this bill is passed than what is currently managed for the public. The wilderness it designates includes unprecedented loopholes and caveats, like enshrining grazing."

Bishop dismissed the groups' complaints.

"It's crap. There is no value to it at all," he said. "Wilderness becomes wilderness. And it is a designation of something that was never officially done as wilderness. We are ending the potential debate about that."

He added the criticisms over "loopholes" confounds him.

"That is bizarre, too, because the same language that we have in our bill was in other bills that have been done in the past, too. That is a ridiculous argument. ... There is no merit whatsoever."

Bishop, who is chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, has been working on the Public Lands Initiative proposal for three years, sifting through dozens of detailed proposals for various land uses in Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Summit and Uintah counties covering 18 million acres. Bishop's primer on the legislation says there were more than 1,200 meetings and 65 detailed land proposals that went into building the comprehensive public lands package.

The land uses tackled in the legislation include grazing, oil and gas development, recreation, such as off-highway trails and mountain climbing, and outdoor sporting activities, such as big-game hunting and angling, as well as recreation zones.

Bishop's bill designates a little over a million acres for recreation and energy, allowing for energy development in areas not already protected or in conservation designations under his measure. It also expedite the federal process for permits and protests, narrowing the window for uch procedures to 60 days. s

The energy provision brought a nod of support from the Western Energy Alliance, wh ch represents more than 450 independent oil and gas companies in the West.

"We applaud the concept of energy planning areas that are primarily focused on energy development and understand that in return, other areas will be designated for conservation," said Kathleen Sgamma, vice president for government and public affairs at Western Energy Alliance, adding that the group is concerned that so many areas are being placed off-limits.

Andy Ras ussen, Utah coordinator for Trout Unlimited m Sportsmen Conservation Project, said his organization is encouraged by the proposed creation of a national first — the Book Cliffs National Conservation Area of 42,352 acres, which would be managed for sportsmen qualities with input from a public advisory council.

"That is a new federal designation, and if we can get something that works moving forward, that will provide a real nice precedent throughout the West," he said. "The top management priority would be the

management of fish and wildlife and sportsmen's access. That is a good deal."

Rasmussen added the group has concerns over some of the language but is optimistic the collaboration and compromise he said played out in the process will continue.

Bishop has said all along that no one will be completely happy with his bill — that everyone will get something and no one will get everything they asked for.

On Wednesday, he and Chaffetz reiterated that point.

"There is something for everyone to like and something for everyone to hate," Bishop said. "But if you look at the totality of what we are doing, it is so positive, it is moving everything forward, there is value in that."

Environmental groups and Native American tribes have been strident in their criticism of the measure because of its failure to designate a new national monument for Bears Ears in San Juan County.

The congressman pushed for the conservation designation for Bears Ears rather than what was sought by a coalition of Native American tribes beca se he said it offers greater flexibility for multiple uses, including access by tribes to participate in sacred ceremonies and gather firewood and herbs.

"The Bears Ears National Conservation Area was an idea that actually came from the people who actually live in the county. It is far more benefical to have a conservation area if you are going to go about tribal practices and activities than if you were to make some kind of monument."

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, which lobbied in Washington, D.C., for monument designation, pulled out of the Public Lands Initiative talks in December, citing lack of communication and not being taken seriously by Utah's congressional delegation.

"The Bears Ears designation is more than a million acres. It is a huge swath of land," Chaffetz said. "I take great exception to the idea that, even the suggestion that we have not heard or spent time addressing concerns from Native Americans."

Chaffetz added he'd personally met with the president of the Navajo Nation and had meetings with representatives as recently as December.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition issued a statement Wednesday describing the conservation area component as "woefully inadequate" and a confirmation of "inequitable" treatment over the last three years.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert called for support of the Bishop proposal, saying public lands contention has been a part of Utah history for more than 100 years and what Bishop and Chaffetz have done should be commended.

"They have brought people together in a signficant way. ... There will be some who criticize because they don't get everything they want," Herbert said. "Let's have a positive attitude to say this will work. There are some ways to tweak it, maybe make it better. But I think the

congressmen have done a great job in finding the sweet spot in something that is common sense."

The legislation attempts to solve long-standing disputes involving public land issues that have dogged agencies for decades, if not more than a century.

The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, according to the bill, gets to trade out lands and consolidate its holdings, which are scattered in square-mile sections granted at statehood in 1896. SITLA officials have said more than 300,000 acres will be put into one block in an exchange that will trade the revenue-building agency into more optimal lands for energy development and out of acreage valued for its recreation or scenic qualities.

Cabin owners in a dispute with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over shoreline property adjacent to Scofield Reservoir are promised relief in Bishop's proposal through a provision that gives them title to their property as long as they absolve the federal government of any flooding liability.

There are a number of other components — an expansion of Arches National Park to protect Delicate Arch, the creation of a 93-mile Red Rock Country OHV trail and an expansion of Goblin Valley State Park by 10,000 acres. It also sets up a co-managed area in the San Rafael Swell area of 156,000 acres to be run by the BLM and the state to better manage the visitor experience and protect natural resources in the heavily visited region.

Chaffetz and Bishop urged the public and other groups to take time to read the bill and explore its provisions as they weigh its impact on public lands in Utah.

"So I know there are these radical environmentalists who say it is dead on arrival and we will never do it. Shame on them. Shame on them," Chaffetz said. "We have come far, far beyond what I thought we could actually do. I think it is a great opportunity for the state. I think it is a great opportunity for our country. It would be a crying shame if there were just a natio al monument designation. That is not the way to do things. It sells our state short."

Email: amyjoi@deseretnews.com

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Western Energy Alliance Supports Utah's Public Lands Initiative

January 20, 2016

DENVER – Western Energy Alliance welcomes the release by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop and Congressman Jason Chaffetz of draft language for the Utah Public Lands Initiative (http://www.utahpli.com/). After years of working with the state, counties, conservation groups, ranchers, industries, and other stakeholders, Representatives Bishop and Chaffetz have put forward important draft legislation that could help achieve a meaningful resolution to contentious public lands confrontations in Utah.

"After working with Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz and a broad range of Utah stakeholders (http://robbishop.house.gov/243589072345908723409582734 58/response-letters-from-participants.htm), we are proud to be part of this important milestone," said Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at Western Energy Alliance (http://www.westernenergyalliance.org/). "Balancing conservation and multiple-uses (http://archive.sltrib.com/story.php?ref=/sltrib/opinion/56862754-82/lands-public-energy-utah.html.csp) on public lands in Utah is important. For decades, certain groups and politicians from outside Utah had been pushing for a top-down bill to lock away millions of acres of public lands, whether or not those lands were supporting the economic viability of local communities or actually required special conservation. By engaging in a bottom-up approach with those directly affected as well as a broad range of stakeholders, Congressmen Bishop and Chaffetz have shown that collaboration and compromise can work, even on very contentious public lands issues.

"We will of course need to carefully evaluate the proposals, but we understand that no one stakeholder can get 100 percent of what it wants. We applaud the concept of energy planning areas that are primarily focused on energy development, and understand that in return other areas will be designated for conservation. We are concerned that prospective areas are being placed off-limits, since advances in technology have enabled the oil and natural gas industry to reduce the impact on the land by as much as 70 percent (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/267765279_Oil_and_gas_impacts_on_Wyoming's_sage-_grouse_summarizing_the_past_and_predicting_the_foreseeable_future), and improved reclamation means that the impact from development is small and temporary (http://www.westernenergyalliance.org/knowledge-center/land/wilderness).

"We are disappointed that the draft, which designates 4.3 million acres for conservation only, does not include a provision to require congressional consent for any Antiquities Act designation in Utah, as Wyoming enjoys. With such a large area designated for conservation, it seems that such a provision is in order," concluded Sgamma.

# # #

Western Energy Alliance represents over 450 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. Alliance members are independents, the majority of which are small businesses with an average of fifteen employees.

Deseret News

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My view: Praise for the Utah Public Lands Initiative Act

By Michael Ralphs
For the Deseret News
Published: Monday, Feb. 29 2016 12:00 a.m. MST
Updated: Monday, Feb. 29 2016 7:35 a.m. MST

In the initiative's Conservation Section (Division A), 4.3 million acres would be locked up in land protection and conservation, and 301 miles in wild and scenic rivers.

Stacie Scott, Deseret News

Enlarge photo»

Summary

In the initiative's Conservation Section (Division A), 4.3 million acres would be locked up in land protection and conservation, and 301 miles in wild and scenic rivers.

Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz should be commended for their tireless efforts to try to bring together many different stakeholders holding conflicting land-use values. All stakeholders were invited to come forward with their proposals and participate in the process. Most accepted the invitation with guarded optimism of this grass-roots effort. Bishop stated from the onset that this effort would require compromise; no one would get all of what they want.

Following the release of the draft initiative on Jan. 20, 2016, the public outcry from all sides, particularly loudest from the environmental and tribal groups, signaled they didn't get what they wanted — they wouldn't accept the compromise. This response is revealing; a close analysis of the initiative appears that it was a one-sided giveaway — to the environmental groups.

In the initiative's Conservation Section (Division A), 4.3 million acres would be locked up in land protection and conservation, and 301 miles in wild and scenic rivers. This consists of 41 new wilderness areas, 14 national conservation areas, seven special management areas on Forest Service lands, and an expansion of Arches National Park.

In the Opportunity Section (Division B), 1.05 million acres would be designated for new recreation and economic development. However, most of this land is set aside for recreation, and is withdrawn from multiple use and from mineral exploration, development and grazing. SITLA will transfer 336,441 acres of state lands within the wilderness areas for federal land outside that is already designated for multiple use. This is simply a change in land ownership and blocking up these parcels

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My view: In support of the Public Land Initiative

By Barrett Anderson
For the Deseret News
Published: Sunday, April 3 2016 12:05 a.m. MDT
Updated: Saturday, April 2 2016 11:39 p.m. MDT

FILE - Peter Gatch holds a sign in the hallway prior to the meeting beginning as several hundred Utah citizens gather at the University of Utah to voice their opinions of the proposed Public Lands Initiative Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Scott G Winterton, Deseret News

Enlarge photo»

Summary

The Public Lands Initiative gains my support because it preserves Utah's treasures and allows for our energy sector to grow in a responsible manner.

Last week I read an interesting article discussing Congressman Rob Bishop's Public Lands Initiative (PLI). The article highlighted how university students throughout Utah opposed the measure. I am writing because there are also students throughout the state of Utah who strongly support Bishop and the realistic approach that he is taking to improve our great state. I am writing for a statewide coalition of students that have signed their support for the PLI in the form of a letter to our federal delegation, Gov. Gary Herbert and President Obama.

As a university student, I love Utah and the environmental treasures that I can enjoy on a daily basis. Utah truly is full of unique and beautiful landscapes that must be protected. These incredible areas bring peace to the soul and unparalleled recreational opportunities. No one wants to see these opportunities become degraded or disappear for future generations.

Additionally, as a student, I will soon be entering the workforce and want ample opportunities to care for my family, which requires a healthy and growing economy. Too many times I have heard that the economy and conservation are at odds. One must pay the price if the other is to succeed.

I join Bishop in flatly rejecting this negative ideology. Conservation does not have to lose for the economy to grow and vice versa. We can grow the economy and access Utah's natural resources while protecting the environmental treasures that our state has to offer. For conservationists and those who wish to develop Utah's lands for economic purposes, compromise is going to be necessary. Both sides are not going to get everything

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Media Coverage

Bishop seeks grand bargain on public lands

By Thomas Burr, Salt Lake Tribune
April 16, 2013

http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/56160669-90/areas-bishop-county-lands.html.csp

Washington • Tired of the gridlock over how to manage federal lands, Rep. Rob Bishop is attempting to bring together all sides of the issue to find common ground to either preserve or drill.

The Utah Republican is one of Congress' top cheerleaders for oil and gas development and a dogged critic of environmentalists — but he says it's time to tone down the rhetoric and seize on a change at the Interior Department to get beyond the bitter feud in the public-lands debate.

Bishop has invited energy companies, green groups, local officials and other interested parties to submit their plans for what they want to get done and hopes to craft legislation to bring up later this year.

"There is some land that needs to be preserved and there's nothing wrong with that," Bishop said in an interview recently. "There's also land that needs to be developed, and there's no reason why the two can't coexist."

Bishop's office has held more than 100 individual meetings with environmentalists, oil and gas officials, county leaders and other interested parties to gauge input on a grand bargain of sorts aimed at ending the back-and-forth sparring about what to do with millions of acres awaiting a designation.

"I think we know that we're not going to agree on everything. In fact, we may not agree on many things," says Paul Spitler, director of wilderness campaigns with The Wilderness Society, who has met with Bishop about the proposed collaboration. "But there are some areas we will agree."

With the exception of a few small parcels, there hasn't been agreement on how to divvy up federal lands in Utah since then-Sen. Bob Bennett pushed through his Washington County Lands Bill in 2009 that sought the same type of compromise solution. Similar efforts have stalled or are still in the early stages in a few other Utah counties.

About 12.7 million acres in Utah are already set aside for national parks or monuments, conservation areas, wilderness or wilderness study areas as well as wild and scenic river corridors and Forest Service roadless areas. About 4.3 million acres are currently leased for oil and gas exploration by the Bureau of Land Management, meaning about 36 percent of the state is off-limits to development while 12 percent is for oil and gas drilling, according to Bishop's office.

Deadlock

Congress is equally deadlocked on wilderness. The past congressional session was the only one in modern times during which not a single acre in the United States was set aside. President Barack

Obama, however, circumvented Congress last month to declare five new national monuments that had been awaiting designations.

Bishop, who heads a House subcommittee over federal lands, says he wants to widen the effort, looking regionally in Utah for potential compromises and not just county by county. His first target, he says, is eastern Utah, and he hopes to unveil legislation this summer to start the process.

Unlike Bennett's legislation — which was tacked onto another bill in the waning hours of a congressional session — Bishop wants to run his bill through the regular process, including a full committee hearing and floor debate.

"I want to bring some conclusion to the issues we're dealing with there," Bishop says, noting that, as a former teacher, he wants to bring more revenue in for Utah students from school trust lands and energy company royalties.

The timing is right, the congressman adds, since new Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has taken office and signaled an interest in working with local officials to tackle land concerns.

"If we can do it now, while we have a new Interior secretary coming in, [and] before everyone gets too locked down in their habits or biases, I think this is an opportunity to finally get something done," Bishop says. "There's a window of opportunity now, which if we were to wait too much longer would probably get closed."

Fresh start

Jewell, the former head of Recreational Equipment Inc., whose first full day in office was Monday, said during her Senate confirmation hearing that she is committed to public input and working with communities on issues "so that it's not a surprise" when an action is taken.

"I think people in our states [who] are on the ground by these spectacular places or important places know that better than anybody else around the country," she said.
In his letter to various groups seeking compromise, Bishop said the history of public lands in Utah is "long on episodes of contention and conflict and short on examples of compromise and consensus."

"Much of the debate has centered on a false choice between multiple use or land conservation," Bishop wrote in the letter obtained by The Salt Lake Tribune. "I reject this either-or proposition."

The prospect of a deal, or series of deals, has generated some optimism that perhaps for the first time the parties can sit down and settle some of the long-standing land disputes.

"We're weary of the struggle," says Kathleen Clarke, the former BLM director who now heads up Gov. Gary Herbert's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office. "We're tired of the endless battle, and nobody is winning. Everyone is anxious to see something break loose."

Herbert has endorsed the process and twice met with Bishop to go over the concept, Clarke said.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, too, is on board.

"We look for every opportunity to protect wilderness," says Richard Peterson-Cremer, SUWA's legislative director based in Washington. "We're open to see how this progresses."

Uintah County Commissioner Mike McKee, who also met with the congressman and his staff on the proposal, says it's time to put the controversy aside and work it out.
"Special interests have dug in, counties have dug in, and there has been an impasse here for a bunch of years," McKee says, noting that the Washington County Lands Bill paved the way for others to follow.

"There is probably more of a willingness of the parties to work together and for that to happen," McKee adds. "It has to benefit all parties."

A New Route to Ending Utah's Wilderness Stalemate
by Greg Hanscom, High Country News
July 22, 2013

https://www.hcn.org/issues/45.12/eastern-utahs-wilderness-stalemate

On Feb. 15, 2013, Congressman Rob Bishop, a Republican from a deeply conservative stretch of northern Utah, sent a letter to groups representing environmentalists, oil and gas companies, off-road vehicle users and others, announcing his plan to end the state's decades-long wilderness war.

The missive didn't specify what was at stake -- millions of acres of jaw-dropping red-rock desert, lands that hold riches in oil and gas, and that, if opened to off-road riding, could be a motorhead's Disneyland -- but the battle-hardened recipients needed no reminder. Conservationists have long wanted these lands protected forever, but dozens of wilderness bills have gone down in flames, thanks to people like Bishop, who blocked any legislation that would "lock up" Western land.

Now, Bishop claimed he wanted to turn over a new leaf. "I believe Utah is ready to move away from the tired arguments of the past," he wrote. "We have a window of opportunity to end the gridlock and bring resolution to some of the most challenging land disputes in the state."

He asked each group to list its priorities for eastern Utah's public lands -- wilderness protection, energy development and everything in between. His plan wouldn't cover the entire state, but it would include some of Utah's most spectacular and contested landscapes, including the area around Canyonlands National Park, the San Rafael Swell, the Book Cliffs and Desolation Canyon -- 5.5 million acres that conservationists believe are worthy of wilderness protection, plus the energy-rich Uintah Basin.

"I look forward to working with you as we move into the next phase of this critically important endeavor," Bishop concluded. "I ask that you please provide your list of priorities via email ... no later than March 15, 2013."

One month to lay the groundwork for resolving a war that had been raging for a generation, from Washington, D.C., to the Statehouse in Salt Lake City, inside county commission chambers and out on the sand and slickrock.

To many of its recipients, the letter seemed to drop out of the sky. The rhetorical battle between conservationists and state leaders, and between Utah's elected officials and the federal government, had recently boiled over for the umpteenth time. Led by chest-thumping states-rights advocate Gov. Gary Herbert, Utah was suing the feds for control over 19,000 miles of rights of way across public lands -- a blatant frontal attack on proposals to protect those lands as wilderness. If that wasn't enough, Herbert and the state Legislature were pouring millions of tax dollars into a dubious campaign to take control of 22 million acres of federal land, arguing that it had been stolen from the state, which they insisted could do a better job of managing it anyway.

Conservationists, in turn, had taken their cause to a friendly Interior Department, asking officials to provide temporary protection for a 1.4 million-acre bulwark of mountains, sandstone spires and river canyons surrounding Canyonlands National Park, and to initiate a public process to explore long-term protection. Internet chat boards lit up with chatter about the "Greater Canyonlands conspiracy" and bitter reminders of the last "federal land grab" in Utah in 1996, when President Clinton designated the 1.7 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, a move that still chafes many locals.

The Outdoor Industry Association and more than 100 gear companies threw gas on the flames when they sent President Obama a letter urging him to use his executive powers to protect the area as Greater Canyonlands National Monument. In Moab, furious off-road vehicle enthusiasts and self-proclaimed Sagebrush Rebels organized a boycott of businesses that supported the monument. The backlash was so vitriolic, says one local mountain-bike tour operator, that "there were a couple of weeks there when I was worried about my son wearing his Patagonia coat to school."

Bishop had made no secret about where he stood. When an Obama administration plan to provide temporary protection for the state's wild lands came to light in late 2010, he howled that it was the work of "far left extremists who oppose the multiple uses of our nation's public lands." A longtime critic of federal environmental laws, and federal power in general, he told The Salt Lake Tribune that conservationists and the outdoor industry were "trying to do an end-run around what is good for Utah."

But here he was, just a few months later, holding out an olive branch, promising to put an end to the fighting.

If you want to understand the fragile détente currently being negotiated in Utah, take a trip to St. George, in the southwest corner of the state. It wasn't all that long ago that the town was a sleepy Mormon backwater -- "Utah's Dixie," as locals called it, because the area's earliest Mormon pioneers, lead by Robert Dockery Covington, a Southern slave owner, hoped to grow cotton here.

The old town center has survived -- the original Mormon temple, hewn from tawny native sandstone, the wide, well-tended green, and Thomas Judd's general store, established in 1911, where you can still buy Judd's famous breadsticks with cheese sauce. But in the late 1990s and early 2000s, St. George and the rest of Washington County exploded. For a while, it was among the fastest growing counties in the U.S., as Vegas-style suburban development sprawled into the desert east, south and west of town.

Today, the county's population has topped 140,000. The old town center is surrounded by a sea of clay-tile roofs tucked behind iron gates flanked with burbling fountains -- housing developments with names like Sedona Hills, Artesia Terrace and Lakota Ridge.

But north of all this, flame-colored cliffs rise like a dragon's back -- and much of that land is protected as wilderness. To the northwest, Red Mountain, a buttress of sandstone the color of dried blood, rises 1,500 feet straight out of the subdivisions. To the northeast, Cottonwood Canyon snakes through domes of Navajo sandstone. These wilderness areas are bound together by the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, a 45,000-acre swath of land that is jointly managed by federal, state and local governments to protect the threatened Mojave Desert tortoise and other wildlife.

The deal that protected that land was born in the early 2000s, largely out of frustration. For 20 years, conservationists, led by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), had fought to pass a mammoth statewide wilderness bill. They'd scoured the state for lands worth protecting, ratcheting up their proposal to cover 9.4 million acres and building a national following in the process. But without support from Utah's congressional delegation, the proposal foundered time and again. In the absence of a resolution, the players resolutely stuck to their roles: SUWA fought to protect wild areas with lawsuits and executive action from allies in the White House, while anti-wilderness interests punched back with claims that the counties held rights of way across many roadless areas.

Even as Utah was mired in a stalemate, however, other Western states were negotiating deals over smaller-scale, locally generated wilderness bills. Utah's then-governor, Olene Walker, took notice and approached the state's county commissions, asking for volunteers for a first Utah attempt. Washington County jumped.

What convinced the county commissioners, traditionally hostile to wilderness protection, to come to the table? It was all that growth. Inspired by a similar deal in Nevada, they realized that they could use wilderness as a bargaining chip to win more ground for subdivisions and shopping malls.

But the path forward was anything but smooth. The original Washington County lands bill, championed by Republican Sen. Bob Bennett and introduced in the House by Utah's token Democrat, Jim Matheson, was a developer's dream. It would have protected approximately 220,000 acres of wilderness, including much of what was proposed for the county by SUWA. In return, roughly 24,000 acres of federal lands could be sold off for development. The bill would have also laid the groundwork for a new highway that would cut through endangered desert tortoise habitat, connecting St. George's booming western suburbs to Interstate 15. And 8 percent of the proceeds from land sales would have gone to the local water conservancy district to fund a long-dreamed-of pipeline to pull water from Lake Powell.

The bill outraged locals who dreaded more uncontrolled sprawl as well as environmentalists and their friends in Congress, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. "Reid wouldn't let it happen," says Alan Gardner, a rancher and longtime county commissioner who has sold ground to developers, with obvious bitterness. "What was good for Nevada couldn't be good for anywhere else."

It would be more than a year before Bennett and Matheson would take their bill back to Washington, D.C. In that time, Washington County would go through a major strategic planning process called Vision Dixie, which involved extensive public input and revealed that most locals supported managed growth and opposed selling off federal lands. Bennett also met with conservation groups and made a series of concessions to win their support.

By the time it was reintroduced in 2008, the bill included more than 260,000 acres of wilderness, a substantial increase from the original, as well as "wild and scenic" designation for 165 miles of the Virgin River in and around Zion National Park, and the creation of two new national conservation areas. Rights of way for the highway and Lake Powell pipeline were dropped and federal land sales were cut to approximately 9,000 acres.

The new bill won the support of national conservation groups, including The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy and the National Parks Conservation Association, but SUWA and a local group called Citizens for Dixie's Future still opposed it. It failed a second time, and the county made yet more concessions before it finally passed in 2009 as part of an omnibus lands bill.

Looking back, County Commissioner Gardner has mixed feelings. "Had we ever contemplated the amount of wilderness and some of the boundaries we ended up with, we never would have gotten started," he says. "The big thing the county got was resolution."

Conservationists remain similarly ambivalent: "The outcome of all this was a good wilderness bill," SUWA Executive Director Scott Groene said in a letter published in High Country News. "But the bill wasn't the result of a consensus-based process, and it shouldn't serve as a model."

To date, none of the available 9,000 acres of federal land has been sold: The real estate market imploded just as the bill finally passed. But county officials are optimistic that, once the market rebounds, the land will sell, and St. George will resume expanding.

More than anything, the Washington County deal showed local officials around Utah that wilderness designation could serve as a lever: If they were clever enough, they could use it to pry things out of environmentalists' tight fists.

Rob Bishop is a silver-haired mountain of a man with a self-deprecating sense of humor and a gift for working a conservative crowd into a lather. He has built his career on anti-government, anti-environmentalist bombast, often delivered in the calm tones of a Mormon patriarch.

Aside from a two-year Mormon mission in Germany and his time in D.C., where he has represented Utah's first congressional district since 2002, Bishop has lived in Utah all his life. He resides in Brigham City, a town of 18,000 near the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake. He and his wife, Jeralynn, have five children: Shule, Jarom, Zenock, Maren and Jashon -- named after people and places in the Book of Mormon.

Bishop taught high school history for more than a decade, something he often mentions in interviews and campaigns, but his main occupation has been politics. He was elected to the state House in 1978 at the age of 27 and rose through the ranks to be that body's speaker, and later, chairman of the Utah Republican Party. In 1992, he co-founded the Western States Coalition, a group of lawmakers, ranchers and Sagebrush Rebels that raised a hue and cry over President Clinton's conservation initiatives.

In D.C., Bishop has been one of the extractive industries' most loyal supporters, sponsoring at least three bills that would require the feds to "more efficiently develop" oil and gas on public lands. Oil and gas interests donated more than $58,000 to his 2012 campaign, more than any other industry, according to the nonprofit Open Secrets.

The League of Conservation Voters, meanwhile, gives Bishop a lifetime score of just 4 percent. He has campaigned to allow Border Patrol agents to drive willy-nilly across fragile desert in pursuit of "bad guys" and "potential terrorists," and supported efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other bedrock environmental laws.

Bishop has also pushed legislation that would turn over patches of federal land to the states and supports Utah's efforts to lay claim to most of the 30-plus million acres of federal estate within its borders. At a 2011 energy summit in Uintah County, he held up a map with what looked like a red paint spatter covering roughly a third of the state. "This is the real state of Utah," he said. "Everything that's red is private property. The rest is public property. That's why I want my land back."

Still, Bishop isn't opposed to protecting wilderness when it suits his needs. He sponsored the 2006 bill that created the 100,000-acre Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area in western Utah -- the state's first new wilderness since 1984. The law, which SUWA supported, blocked a proposed rail line that would have carried radioactive waste to a storage site on the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation -- waste that the military believed could have jeopardized activities at a nearby bombing range.

But while wilderness has its uses, there's one thing Bishop simply cannot abide: the Antiquities Act, which Clinton famously used to protect Grand Staircase-Escalante in 1996. Last March, Bishop was one of the few to object to President Obama's creation of four national monuments, including the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico, the San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington state, and a monument in Delaware dedicated to Harriet Tubman, who helped escaped slaves make their way north along the Underground Railroad.

"There is a right way to designate federal lands, and there is a wrong way," Bishop told The Washington Post. "Executive fiat is unquestionably the wrong way and is an abuse of executive privilege."

With pressure mounting for Obama to designate a massive new monument in eastern Utah, Bishop has an opportunity to show the president, and the world, what he means by the right way. That, however, requires a dramatic change of tactics. Pulling a line from his history books, Bishop hearkens back to general-turned-president Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Eisenhower used to say, if he had a problem he couldn't solve, he made it bigger."

The same day Bishop sent his letter to stakeholders asking for input on his new wilderness project, he also wrote to commissioners in six eastern Utah counties. This second letter was more persuasive, making the case that it was in the counties' best interest to participate. It was also more frank about the rules of the game.

"Wilderness, or other land designations, can act as a currency," Bishop wrote. "If wilderness is designated in your county, you should receive some specific, tangible benefit for it."

This could be good, he argued, as counties dominated by federal lands could win rights of way for roads, special zones for energy development, or federal acreage for a local park, an airport or other amenities -- if the counties were willing to pay. "The more (wilderness) we're willing to designate," Bishop wrote, "the more we can expect on the other side of the ledger."

But while eastern Utah holds some wilderness gems, none of the communities there are booming the way that St. George was back in the early 2000s. So what, one might ask, are Bishop and the local economic interests really after? In a word: energy.

The Uintah Basin is a wide concavity in the earth that sweeps down from the Uinta Mountains in the northeast corner of Utah. The scattered communities here -- Duchesne, Roosevelt, Vernal, and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation -- are longtime agricultural centers that have in recent decades been transformed by oil and gas development.

Ten thousand pump jacks and gas wells currently suck liquid and gaseous gold from the ground here. At night, they light up the juniper-dotted hills like bonfires. The industry, which now accounts for roughly 60 percent of the region's economy, wants to drill another 25,000 wells in the near future -- and that's just the beginning. The basin holds enough tar sands, oil shale and shale oil to keep the drill rigs and strip mines cranking for years to come.

"The neat thing about the Uintah Basin from a producer's or a geologist's standpoint is that you've got productive (rock) horizons that are stacked geologically on top of each other," says Lowell Braxton, the Utah representative for the Western Energy Alliance, an industry group. "Right now, we're working in young, shallow formations. But there's Mancos shale underneath that, which has potential as a shale oil producer, and there's potential for gas formations in the sands. And then you can keep going on down. The deepest well in the basin is 18-20,000 feet right now. People aren't drilling that deep, but the infrastructure is there -- the roads, the pipelines -- to get the resource out. Our long-term interest (as an industry) is likely to be in the Uintah Basin."

But if companies are going to invest in this kind of development, Braxton says, they need some assurance that they're not going to be held up or locked out. "If you could increase the probability of getting a lease and not have somebody say, 'We're going to make a monument out of it, or a wilderness area,' I think you could actually do some investing in that."

A county-level wilderness deal like Washington County's just wouldn't work here, though. The Uintah Basin is carved up among at least three counties, and combined they don't hold enough wilderness "currency" to buy the kind of access Bishop and his industry friends are seeking. Thus, the regional approach: Expand the bargaining table to include wild lands south of the basin, such as Canyonlands, and maybe you have enough to trade with.

Of course, there are more than two players at this table. Any discussion of the future of wilderness and energy in Utah must include a whole range of stakeholders, from state officials and land managers to county commissioners and everyday citizens, who have a wide range of interests in the public lands. No surprise, then, that this process is taking a little longer than Bishop anticipated.

By late May, Bishop's staff reported that they'd held 160 meetings with various interest groups and county, state and federal officials, including newly minted Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Their list of stakeholder groups has swelled into the 60s; they've opened the discussions to include more parties, brought in Utah's other Republican congressmen, Chris Stewart and Jason Chaffetz, and moved their input deadline to July 10.

Bishop's team is planning field trips in August and September to get stakeholders out on the ground. After that, details get murky, but at some point this fall or winter, they'll need to start drawing lines on maps and getting down to the difficult business of negotiating boundaries. So far, there has been little communication between the players, but the game chips are beginning to pile up.

What do the various interests want? The state government, for its part, wants to resolve longstanding issues with school trust lands. The trust lands, given to Western states by the federal government to generate revenue for the state's schools, are scattered throughout Utah. The agency that oversees them, the State of Utah Institutional Trust Lands Administration, has opened many of these parcels to energy development, and sold off others. But some of the land remains inaccessible, landlocked in a sea of federal land, and the state would love to trade those parcels out for acres that can be easily drilled or mined.

County commissioners are looking for their own land swaps to make way for development, and the kind of certainty that Lowell Braxton talks about. They are also demanding permanent rights of way across federal lands -- access routes for industry and recreation.

Hikers, mountain bikers, motorized recreationists and sportsmen -- and the increasingly vocal companies that supply them with high-tech toys -- want some assurance that they will retain unfettered access for their various pursuits. The muscle-powered recreation crowd, led by the Outdoor Industry Association and its nonprofit affiliate, the Conservation Alliance, has become an aggressive wilderness supporter.

Off-road vehicle riders, meanwhile, want "regulatory security," says Brian Hawthorne, public-lands policy director for the BlueRibbon Coalition, which represents that constituency. "We just got these new management plans (on BLM lands). Now to start a new planning process based on these new wilderness designations, national conservation areas, maybe a national monument -- there's no way." That said, Hawthorne acknowledges that there are areas in eastern Utah that merit wilderness protection.

It's incredibly complex, but what begins to emerge is a picture of a grand bargain that would protect some of Utah's most spectacular and fought-over wild lands in return for land trades that would allow for mining or other economic development, and potentially much larger-scale energy development in the Uintah Basin. It's certainly not what Utah's environmentalists have been fantasizing about these past three decades, but if Bishop can convince counties to offer up sufficient wilderness, it just might be enough to make a deal.

When asked what's in it for him, Bishop cites the battle fatigue that you hear about from many corners these days: "It's tiresome to always have to fight over these areas."

But Bishop could also earn major political points by providing more funding for state schools and boosting rural economies. "Bishop may not give a hoot about wilderness," says Marcia Argust, policy manager for the Pew Campaign for America's Wilderness, "but he does seem to want to solve this problem for the counties and the schools -- and we're part of the equation."

Perhaps most importantly, Bishop would prove that he is capable of something more than just ranting against the government of which he is a part. The last Congress was the first since the passage of the

Wilderness Act in 1964 to protect not a single acre of wilderness -- and Bishop is largely responsible for that. He is chairman of the House National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, the gateway through which any wilderness bill must pass if it wants to see the light of day.

"I am in a position where my committee assignments can do a lot for the state of Utah," Bishop says. "I started thinking that now would be a good time to bring people together. I could say, 'Yeah, I created wilderness, but we created some kind of development at the same time. Everyone got something decent out of it.' "

That could put Bishop in line to become the next chairman of the powerful House Natural Resources Committee, whose current chair, Washington Republican Doc Hastings, has to step down soon due to term limits. And while no one's whispering about it yet, Utah's senior senator, Orrin Hatch, will be 80 next year. Utah will be looking for a new senator in the not-too-distant future, and with a massive wilderness and energy deal in his trophy case, Bishop would be a strong contender.

Bishop says, so far, he's optimistic about the prospects for a grand deal. "And that scares me," he adds. "It's never a done deal until it's actually done."

Scott Groene sits in his office in Moab on a scorching early summer day, the mercury hovering around 106 degrees. Through his window, the executive director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance can see the sandstone turrets of Arches National Park, the place that, in many ways, sparked the fight to protect Utah's red-rock country and has carried it in the public's imagination all these years.

For several months, Groene has been impossible to reach by phone, emailing that it's too early in the process to know where Bishop's proposal will go, or if it will move at all. But today, he's talkative, upbeat -- still careful with his words, but almost giddy with the scope of the discussions underway.

"It's likely that there's not much we agree with Bishop on in general on public lands," Groene says. "But we worked really well with him on the Cedar Mountains wilderness bill. It intrigues us to see what we can accomplish here."

SUWA has been meeting privately with a coalition of other conservation groups to hash out an offer that they plan to present to Bishop later this summer. Still in draft stages, it includes new wilderness areas on both BLM and Forest Service land, plus new national conservation areas. In return, sources involved with the discussions say they're willing to give Bishop and his allies much of what they want.

In addition to conceding a substantial amount of the land they're now proposing for wilderness, conservationists would cease fighting many of the rights of way on federal lands that counties claim. The groups also seem willing to agree, in principle, to a massive land trade, swapping scattered patches of school-trust lands for drilling and mining ground in the Uintah Basin.

Others have been meeting, too, sketching out their own versions of a deal, but their numbers are less ambitious than the conservation crowd's. Grand County Commissioner Lynn Jackson, a Moab resident, says discussions on the county level have been in the range of 1.5 to 2 million acres of wilderness -- a non-starter for conservationists -- plus a couple of national recreation areas. "To me, as a Westerner, this is the way you do it," Jackson says. "You negotiate, you horse-trade. Everybody gets a piece of the pie. But we're not going to get a bill that makes everybody happy."

If Washington County's wilderness deal is any kind of guide, the negotiating process will be dramatic and filled with land mines. True to form, though the actual work of drawing lines on maps has yet to begin, already both the commissioners and conservationists have nearly stomped away. Environmentalists erupted when yet another letter from Bishop seemed to suggest that he would entertain wilderness designation only for lands officially identified in 1980s surveys as "wilderness study areas." He later explained that this was not the letter's intent, but it raised suspicions that his overtures might just be a ruse to prevent Obama from designating a Greater Canyonlands National Monument.

Conservationists asked Bishop to create a professionally facilitated public process surrounding the proposal, but so far, the dialogue has largely been between Bishop's staff and individual stakeholders, with the extractive industry and county and state officials enjoying the most access to the congressman. "None of the meetings any of us (environmentalists) have ever been involved in have ever gotten serious about talking about places, or gotten stakeholders together to try to work anything out," says Bill Hedden, executive director of the Grand Canyon Trust and a member of SUWA's board of directors. "There has been no process, no negotiation whatsoever to this point."

Local officials, meanwhile, were enraged when Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune came through Moab in June, once again raising the spectre of a national monument.

From the outside, it looked like the nation's biggest environmental group was trying to increase the pressure on counties to cut a deal or suffer the consequences.

"If he was interested in turning up the heat, he sure did that, but he might have just torpedoed the whole process," Jackson says. "We need some assurance out of the White House that if we work on good faith with Rep. Bishop and work something out, they're not going to slap a monument on us, too."

There's no telling what will happen when the four-wheelers get involved, or the local extractive industries, or those Sagebrush Rebels who see any wilderness as a serious threat to their freedom. And even if Bishop is able to convince them all to hammer out a deal, any bill will have to win the support of Utah's other congressional representatives. Will Sen. Mike Lee, a hard-line right-winger who unseated Bennett in the Republican primaries in 2010, agree to a massive wilderness bill on his watch? Will Sen. Hatch, who took a sharp tack to the right during his last primary in order to beat a Tea Party rival, tilt back toward the center and lend his support?

All of these questions still hover in the hot desert air. But despite many misgivings, most of the people who have been privy to the conversation so far express a surprisingly widespread sense of optimism. "We're ready to do something big, we're ready to play, let's do this," says Cody Stewart, Gov. Herbert's energy adviser.

"Sooner is better than later," says Bishop when asked when he'd like to have a bill ready. "We've got a new secretary of Interior coming online. The Interior Department is more receptive to new ideas than they have been. Not to disparage past leadership, but everyone looks at things anew."

On good days, environmentalists are calling this the deal that could protect enough ground that it puts SUWA out of business. "That's always been our goal," Groene says, when the notion is put to him. "It would be a remarkable success.

"I know where the smart money would be on this thing," he adds. "More likely than not, there will be no success. It's just too big and too challenging."

Where's SUWA's money, then? Groene pauses, then replies: "We're willing to spend all of our time and resources working on it. Whether that's a smart bet, that's a different question. But we're in."

Former High Country News editor Greg Hanscom is now a senior editor at Grist.org. A Utah native, he lives in Seattle.

What is Utah's 'secret sauce' for a good economy?
LaVarr Webb and Frank Pignanelli, Deseret News
August 25, 2013

http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765636521/What-is-Utahs-secret-sauce-for-a-good-economy.html?pg=all

Utah's congressional delegation, led by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, and his staff member Fred Ferguson, is making an unprecedented effort to forge a "grand bargain" to solve long-standing public lands disputes. It could result in additional wilderness designation in Utah, along with more energy development. Does this initiative have a chance to succeed?

Pignanelli: "Bargaining has neither friends nor relations" — Benjamin Franklin

"Grand bargains" between special interests are the bedrock of this country. The Constitution is stuffed with them, and they provide the structure for all significant legislation adopted since the inception of this republic. When Congress ultimately decides to accomplish something, grand bargains will dictate changes to entitlement programs, regulatory schemes and ending budget deficits.

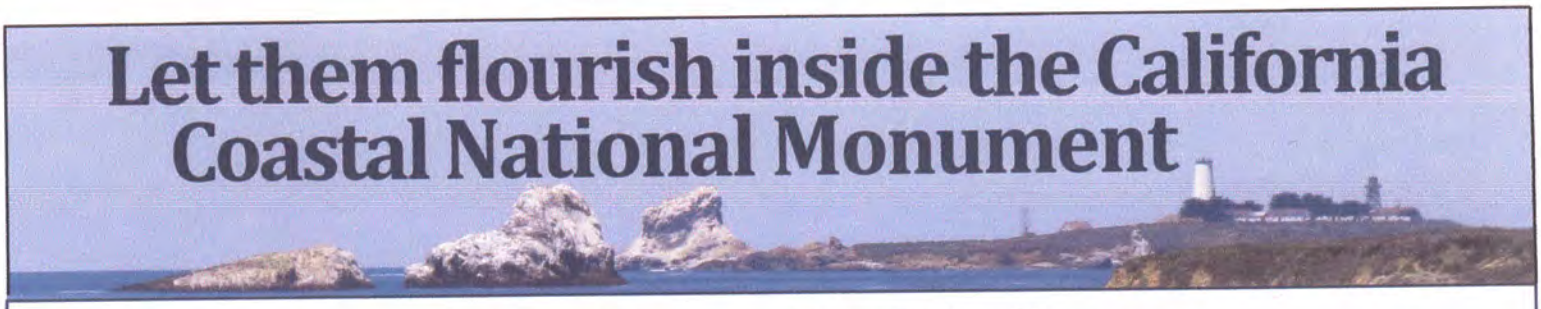
Until recently, Bishop was unable to say the words "wilderness designation" without a massive smirk. So his efforts, and those of Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, to structure a compromise are significant. Equally eye-opening is the willingness of Scott Groene (director of Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance) to meet with these conservatives. The level of hostility among the negotiating parties is only outmatched by the violent emotions between Israelis and Palestinians. Mistrust and a long history of antagonism could inhibit success. But if a grand bargain is reached, these three must be shipped to the Middle East to spread their charm.

Webb: So far, so good — but the trickiest part is still ahead. Bishop and other members of the delegation have worked incredibly hard to bring every interest group together to try to find common ground, including many groups that have been enemies for decades.

What makes this effort different is that Bishop is appealing to the selfish interests of all parties: "Get more of what you want by giving up something of value to someone else." He's telling rural counties to

Our treasures can't be buried.
So, how else can we protect them?

Let them flourish inside the California Coastal National Monument



The National Treasures of Point Piedras Blancas

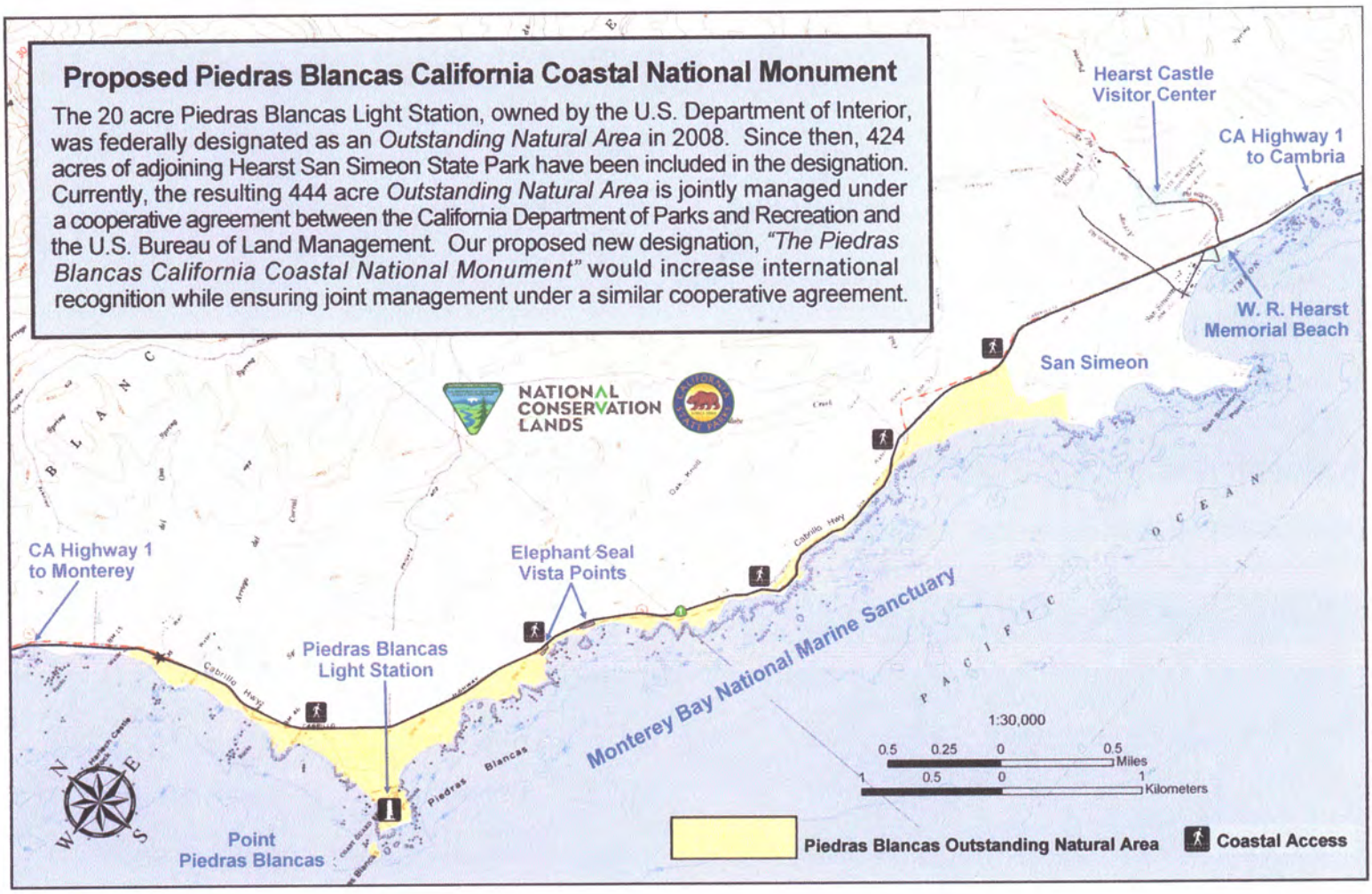
Since 1875, mariners have relied on its light station to guide them along the rocky shoreline of Point Piedras Blancas. Sweeping coastal vistas encompass six miles of beaches where a colony of 23,000 northern elephant seals give birth, mate and molt, creating a wildlife refuge in a scenic park landscape. In the surrounding *Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* are centuries-old Native American sites, estuaries, riparian wetlands, dune fields, and coastal plains that support a wide variety of native plants, hundreds of species of birds, several species of land mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The *Area* also includes a rich variety of marine mammals including harbor seals, sea lions, sea otters and the only elephant seal rookery in the world that is free, easily accessible and open to the public every day of the year.

Inclusion in the *Piedras Blancas California National Monument* will elevate the *Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* to a prestigious status recognizable by everyone. It will unify the response of federal, state and volunteer organizations to current management challenges that threaten precious cultural and natural resources. It will expand public access with new trails and enhance understanding with new scenic viewpoints and information centers.

ADVOCATES FOR THE PIEDRAS BLANCAS MONUMENT INITIATIVE NEED YOUR HELP! Only a local initiative with a robust expression of support from citizens across the nation can successfully petition state and national officials to include the *Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* in the *Piedras Blancas California Coastal National Monument.*

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW? Go to our website and sign our petition. Urge others to sign our petition.

www.piedrasblancasmonument.com


Proposed Piedras Blancas California Coastal National Monument
The 20 acre Piedras Blancas Light Station, owned by the U.S. Department of Interior, was federally designated as an Outstanding Natural Area in 2008. Since then, 424 acres of adjoining Hearst San Simeon State Park have been included in the designation. Currently, the resulting 444 acre Outstanding Natural Area is jointly managed under a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Our proposed new designation, "The Piedras Blancas California Coastal National Monument" would increase international recognition while ensuring joint management under a similar cooperative agreement.
Hearst Castle Visitor Center
CA Highway 1 to Cambria
W. R. Hearst Memorial Beach
San Simeon
NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS
CA Highway 1 to Monterey
Elephant Seal Vista Points
Piedras Blancas Light Station
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Point Piedras Blancas
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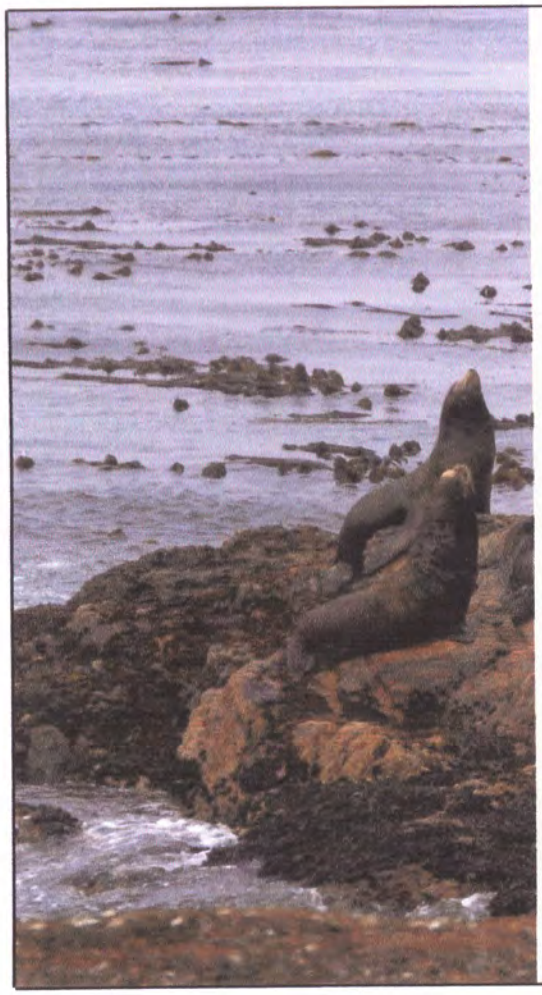
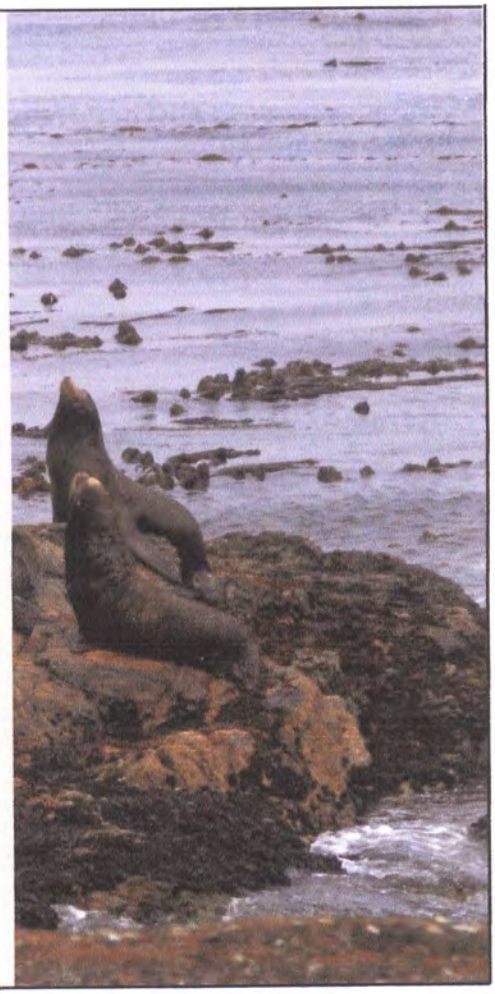
Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area
Coastal Access



The Piedras Blancas Light Station Association and ***Friends of the Elephant Seal*** are leading the initiative to secure the highest level of protection for the Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area (PBONA.) State and federal officials have asked us to demonstrate that the citizens of the California Central Coast want the PBONA to be included in the California Coastal National Monument.

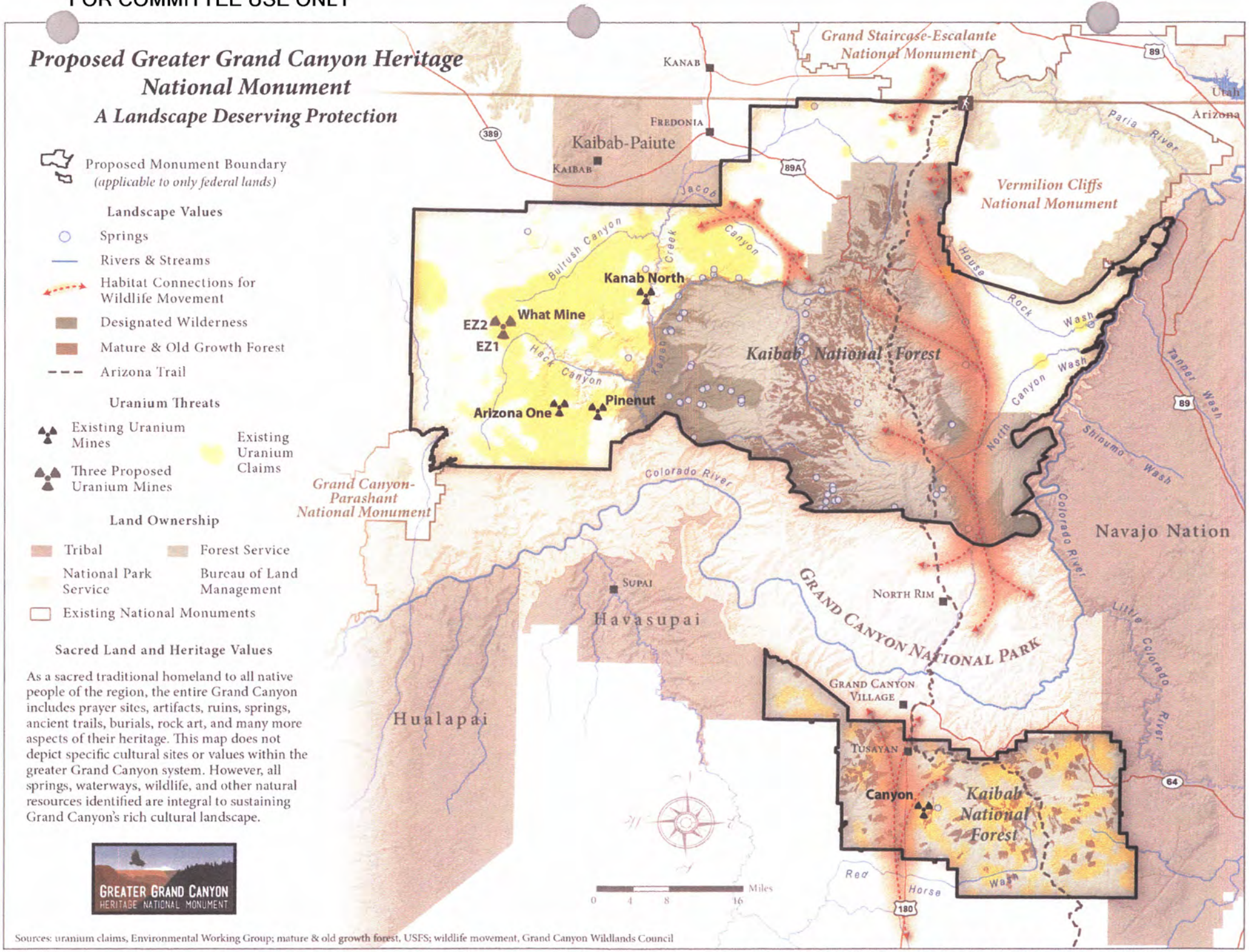
In response, we are gathering letters and resolutions of support from governmental, business, environmental, fraternal, and service organizations; and we have created an on-line petition so each citizen can ask for legislative action that will authorize the highest level of protection for the national treasures that surround Piedras Blancas Lighthouse.

Your signature on this petition is vital to the success of our initiative. Please visit **www.piedrasblancasmonument.org** and sign our petition; urge your family and friends to join with us. Together, we can protect the cultural and natural treasures of Piedras Blancas . . . forever.



Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

A Landscape Deserving Protection



Sources: uranium claims, Environmental Working Group; mature & old growth forest, USFS; wildlife movement, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council

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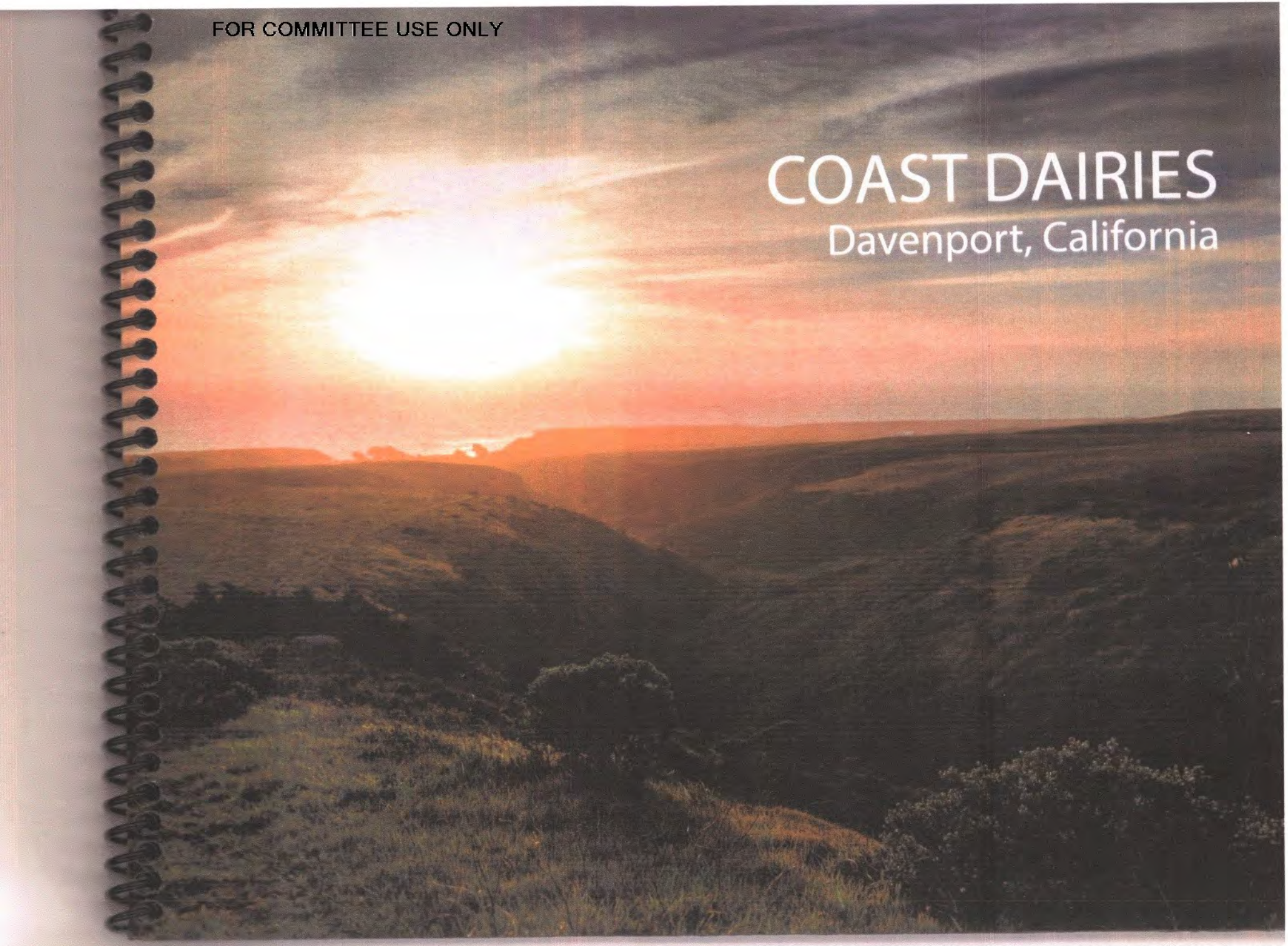

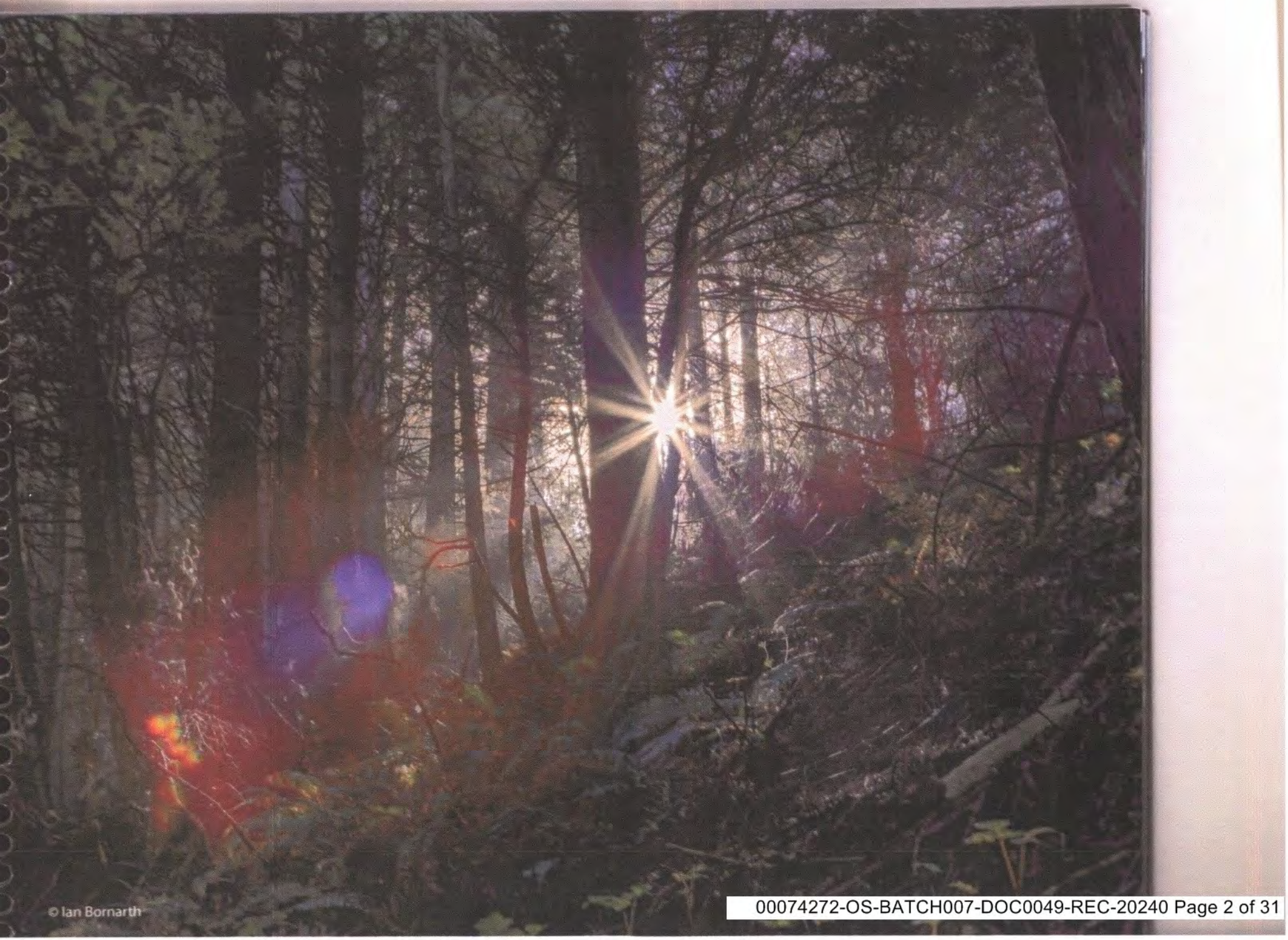
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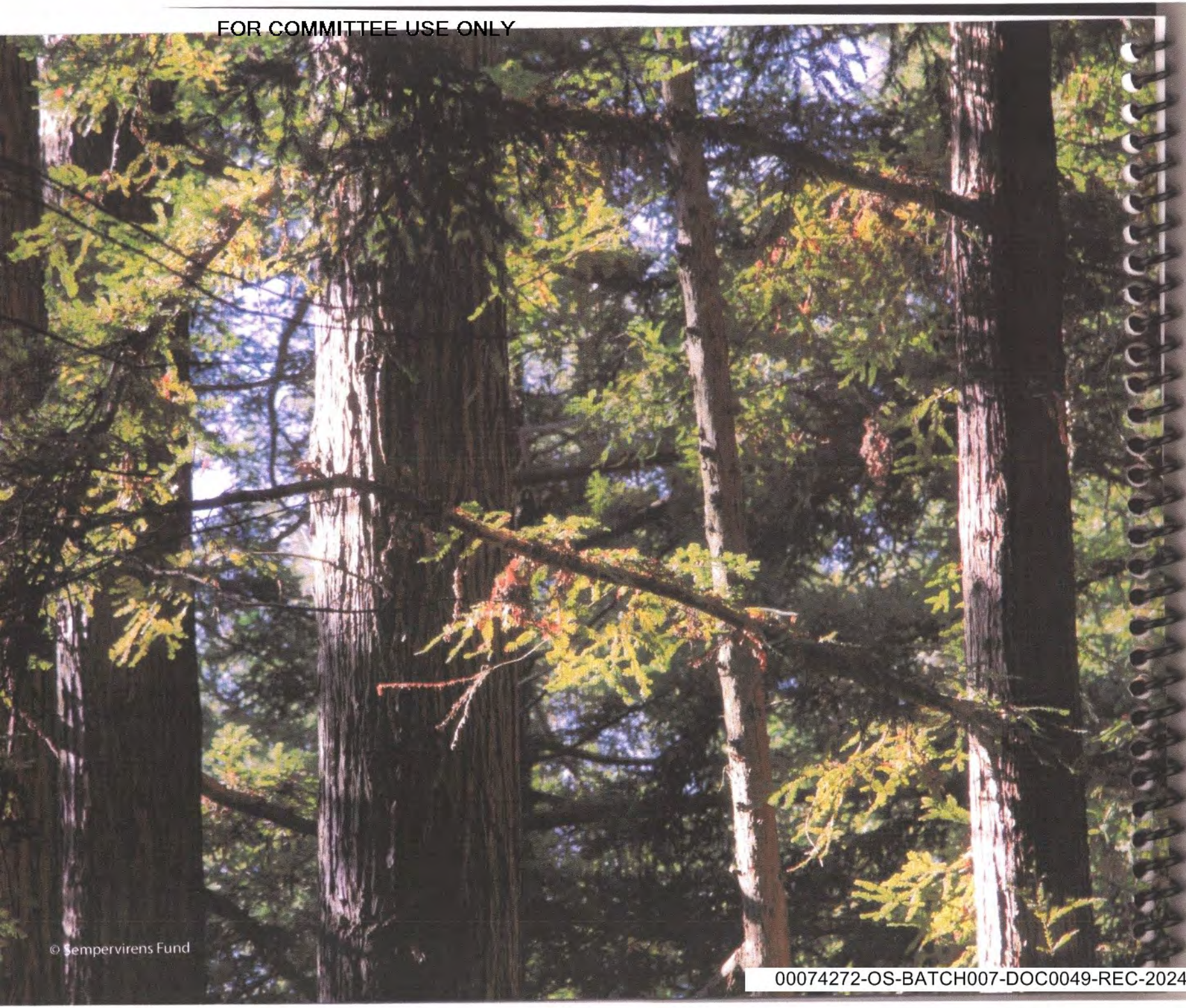

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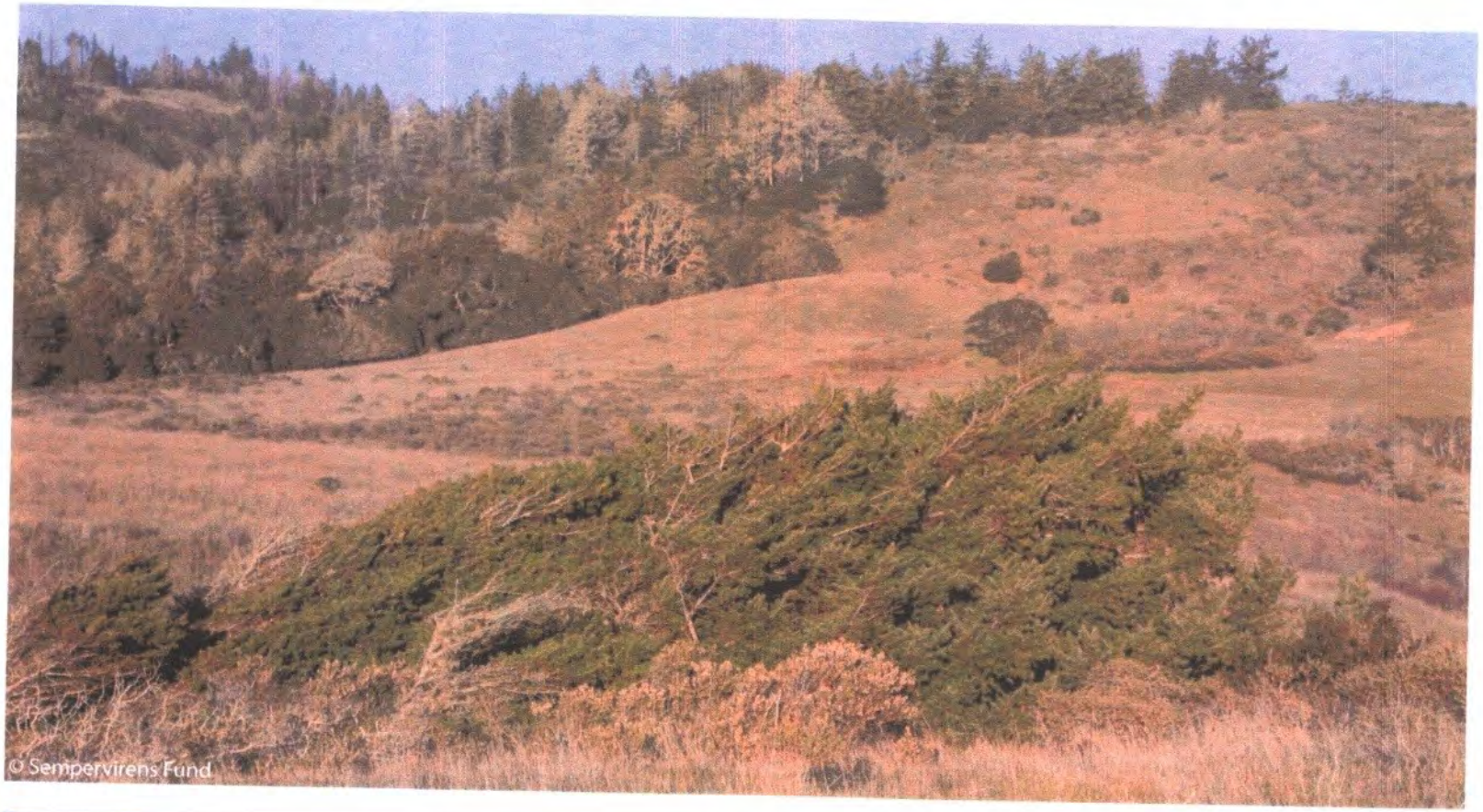
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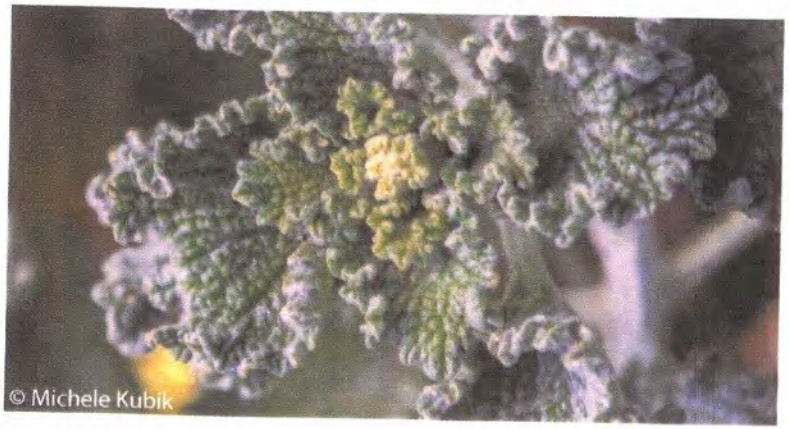
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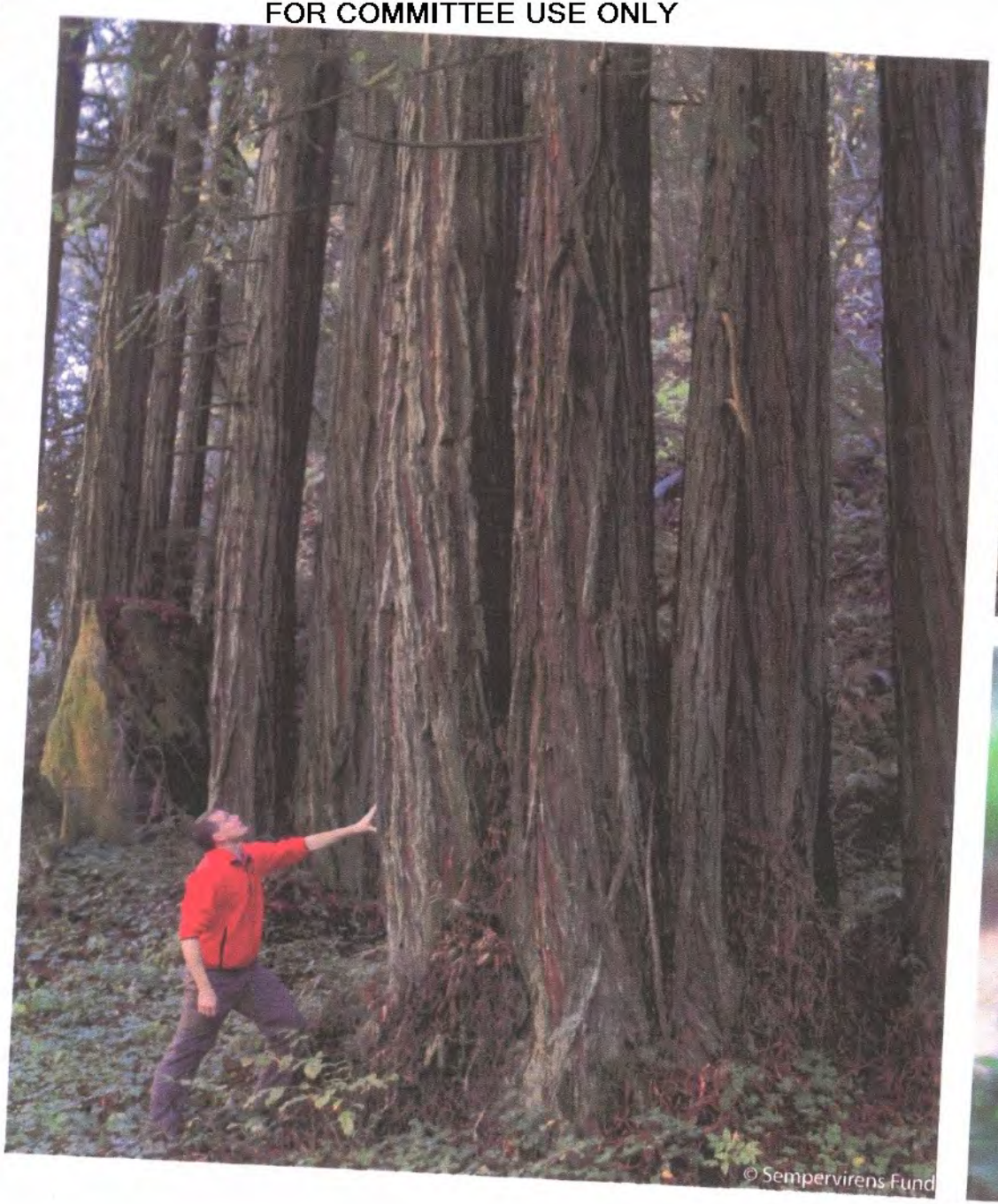
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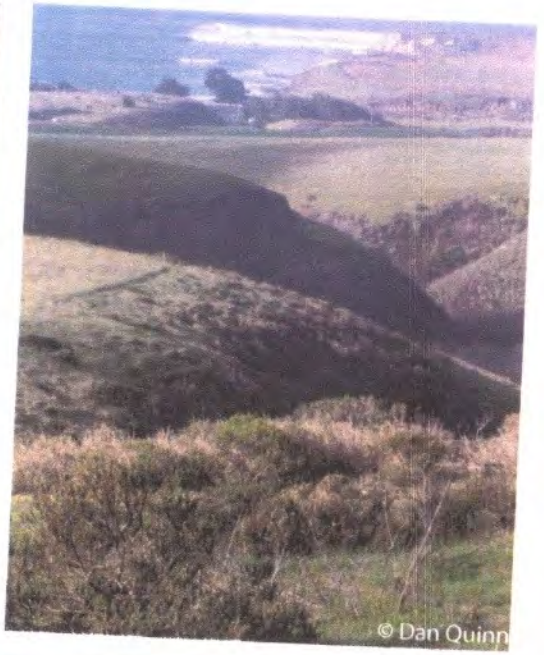
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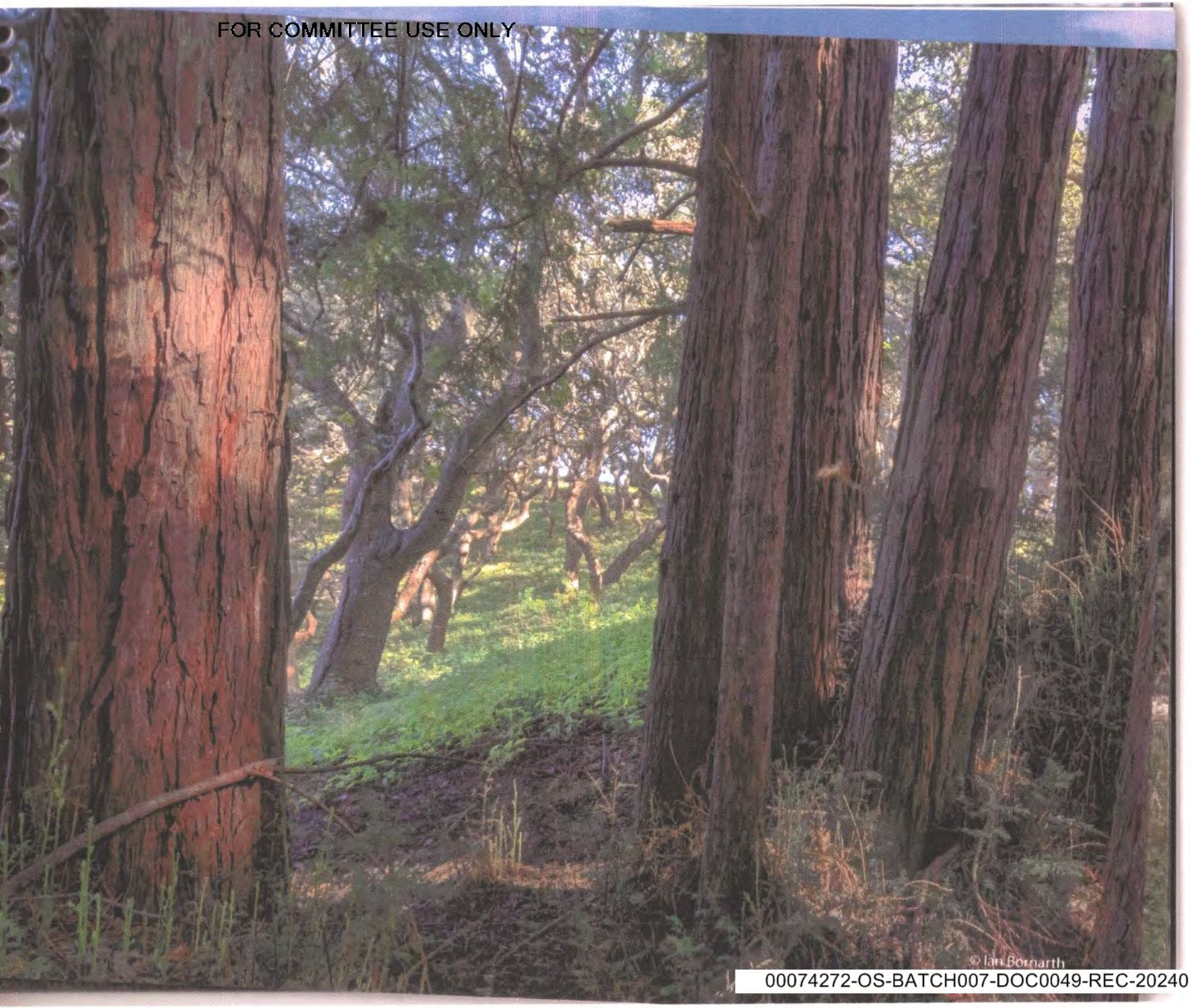

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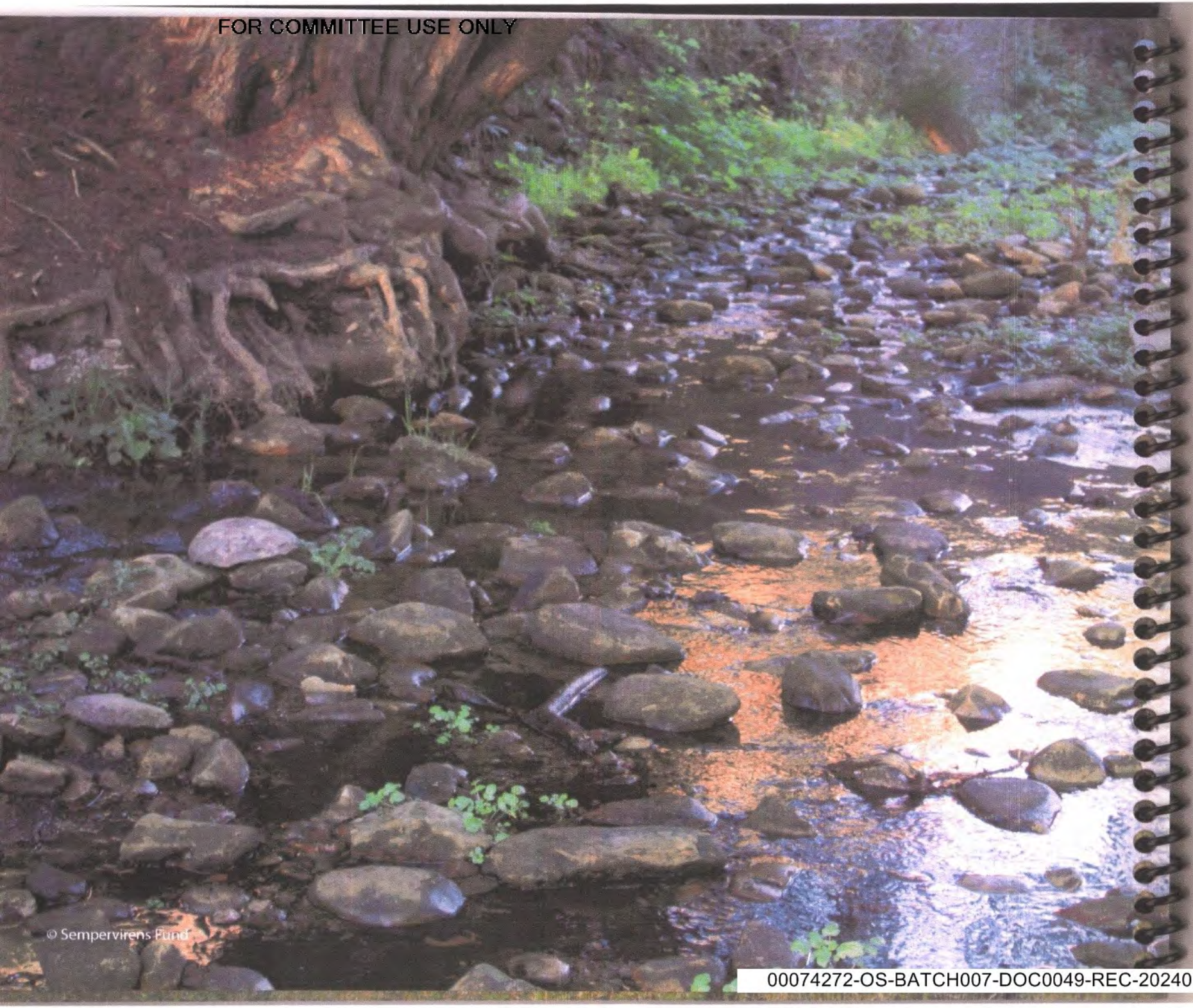

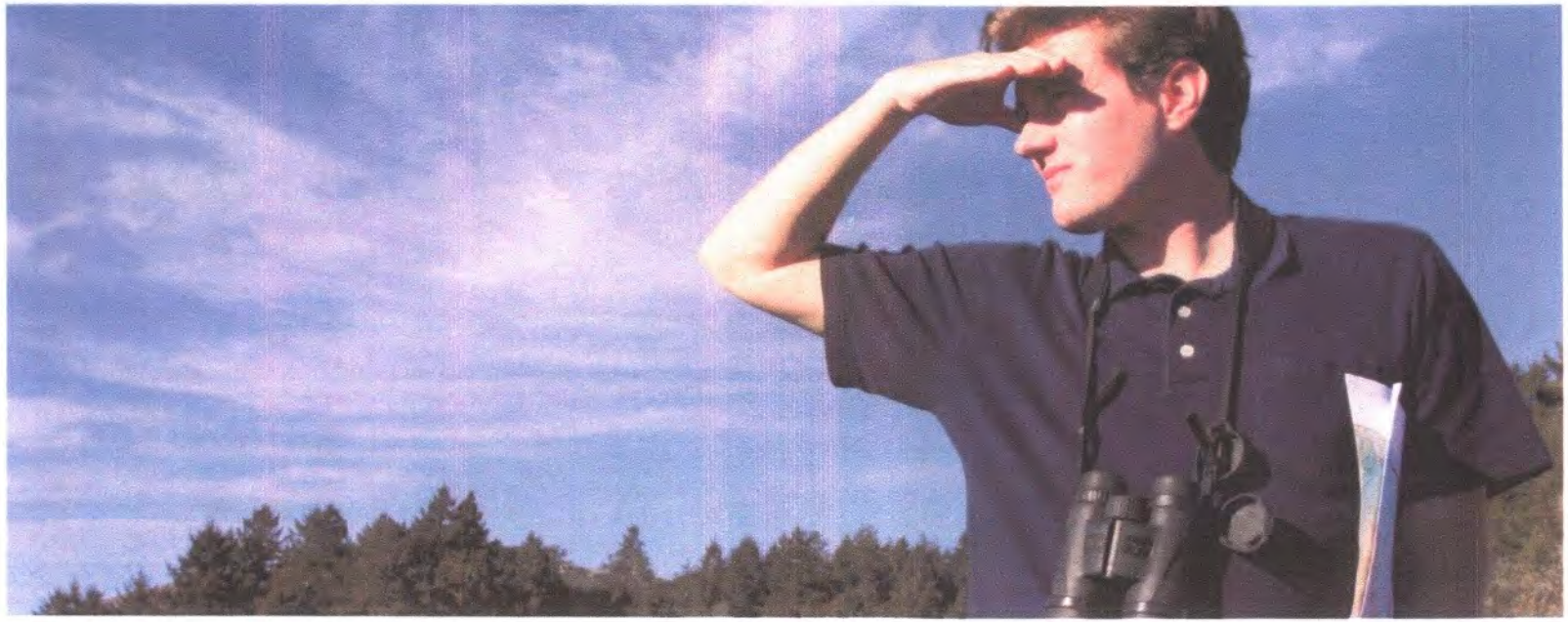

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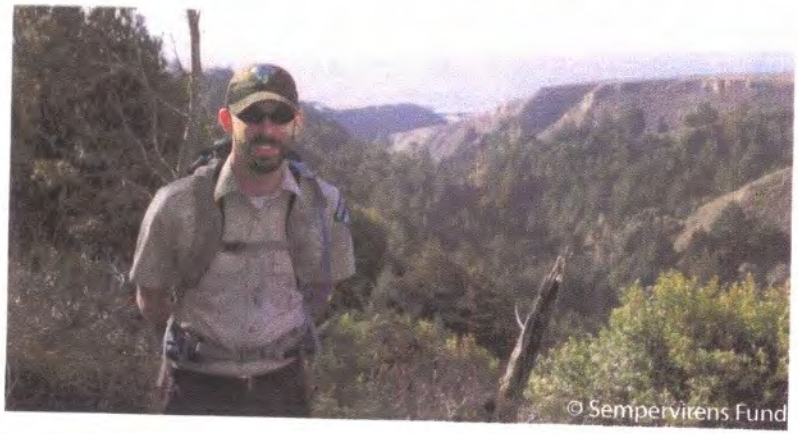
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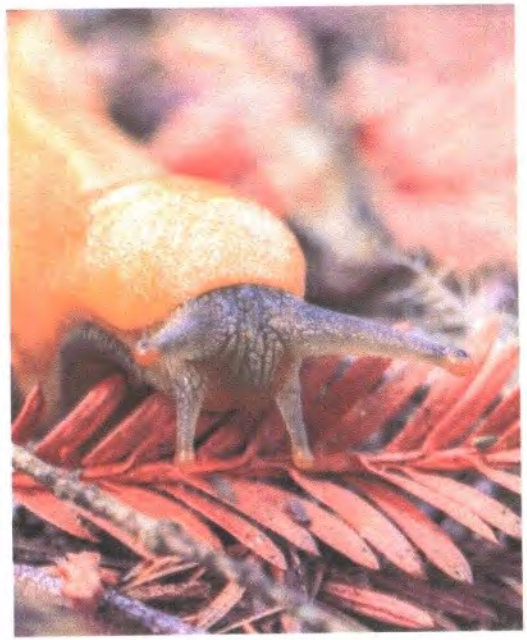

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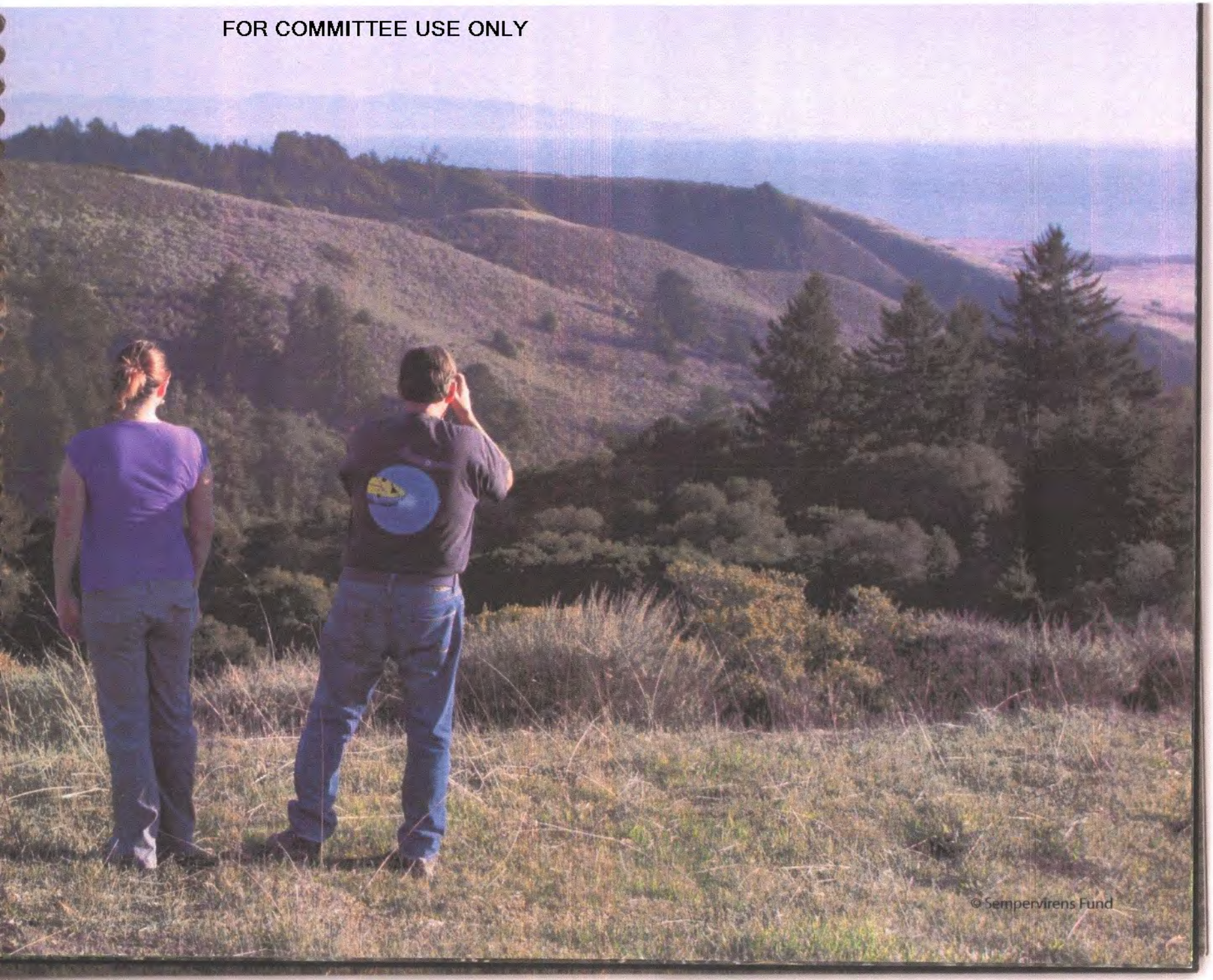
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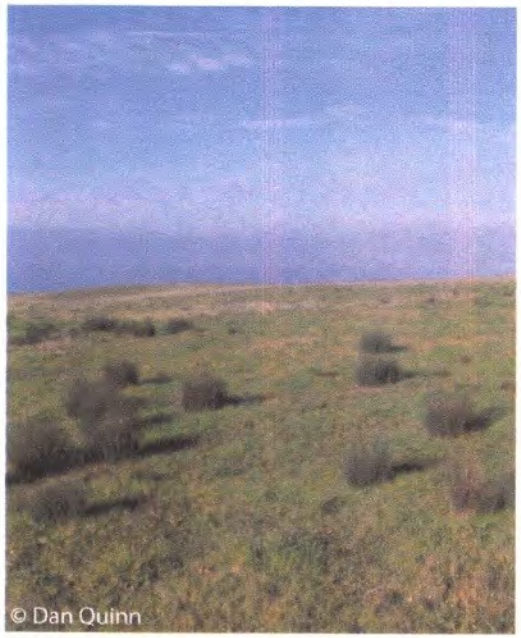
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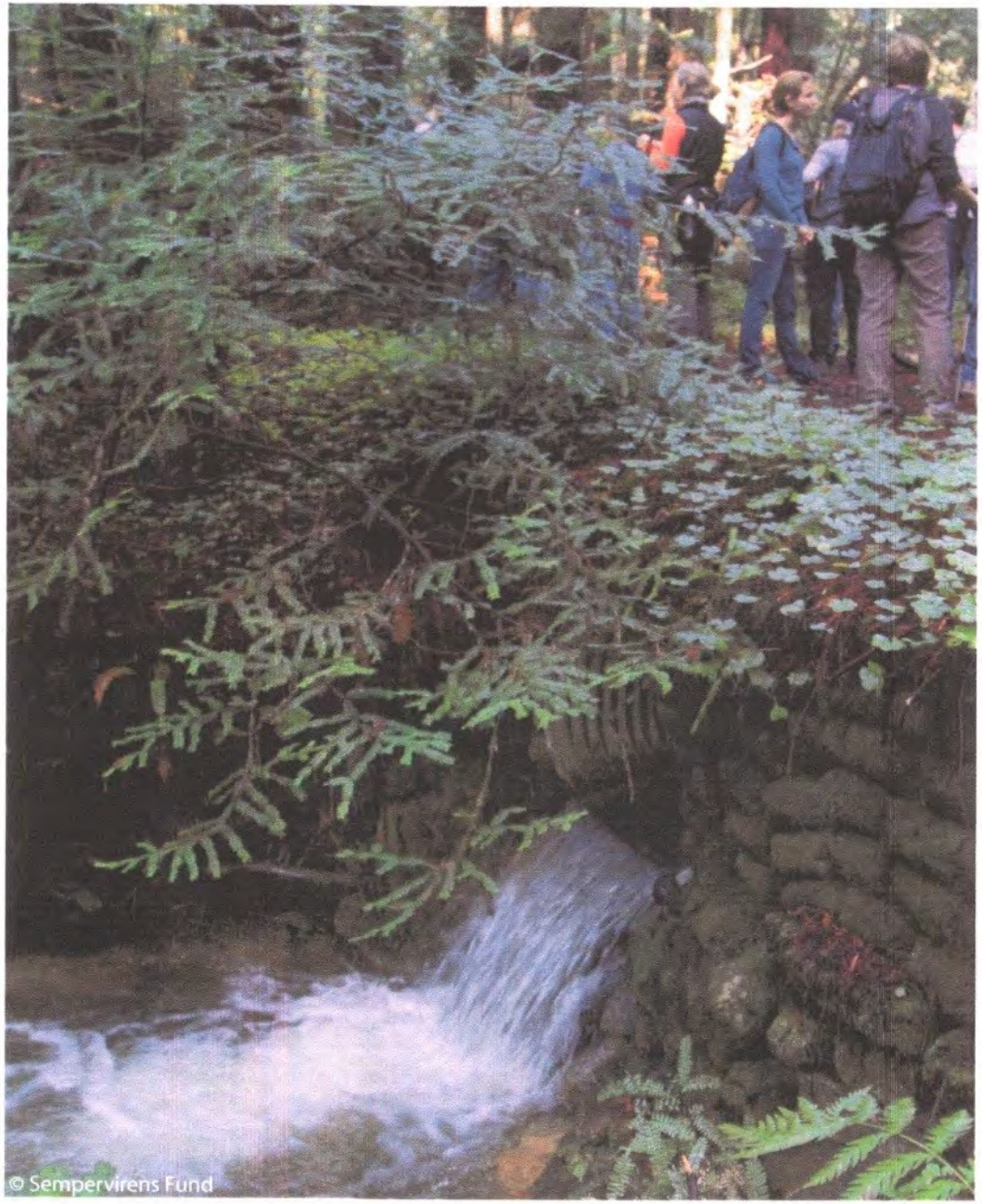
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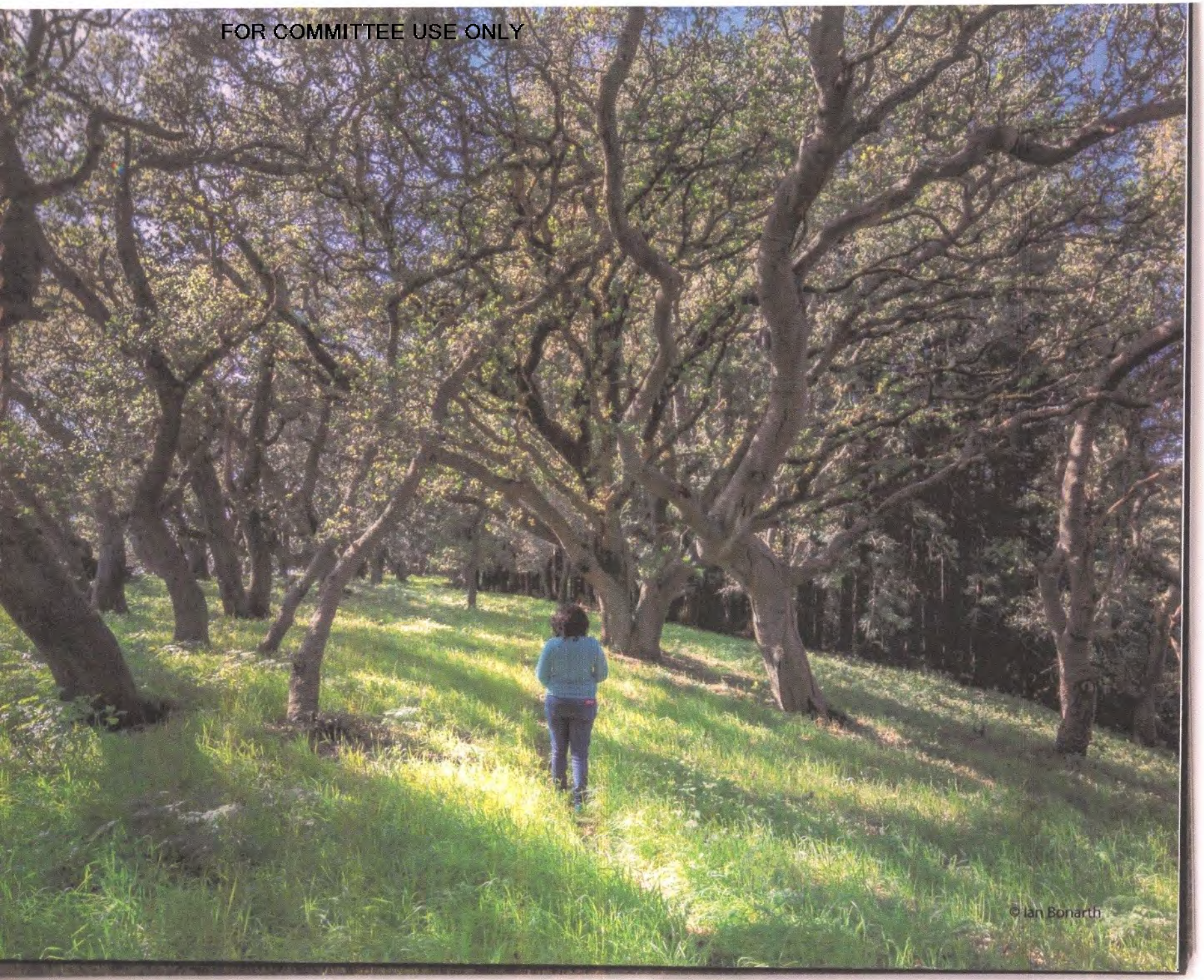

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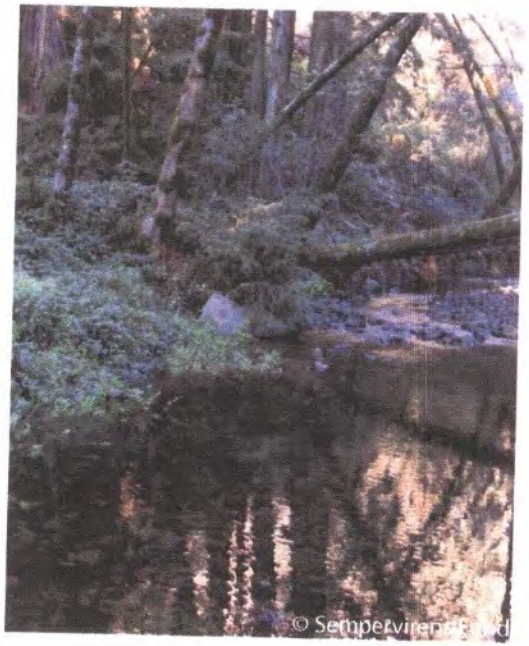

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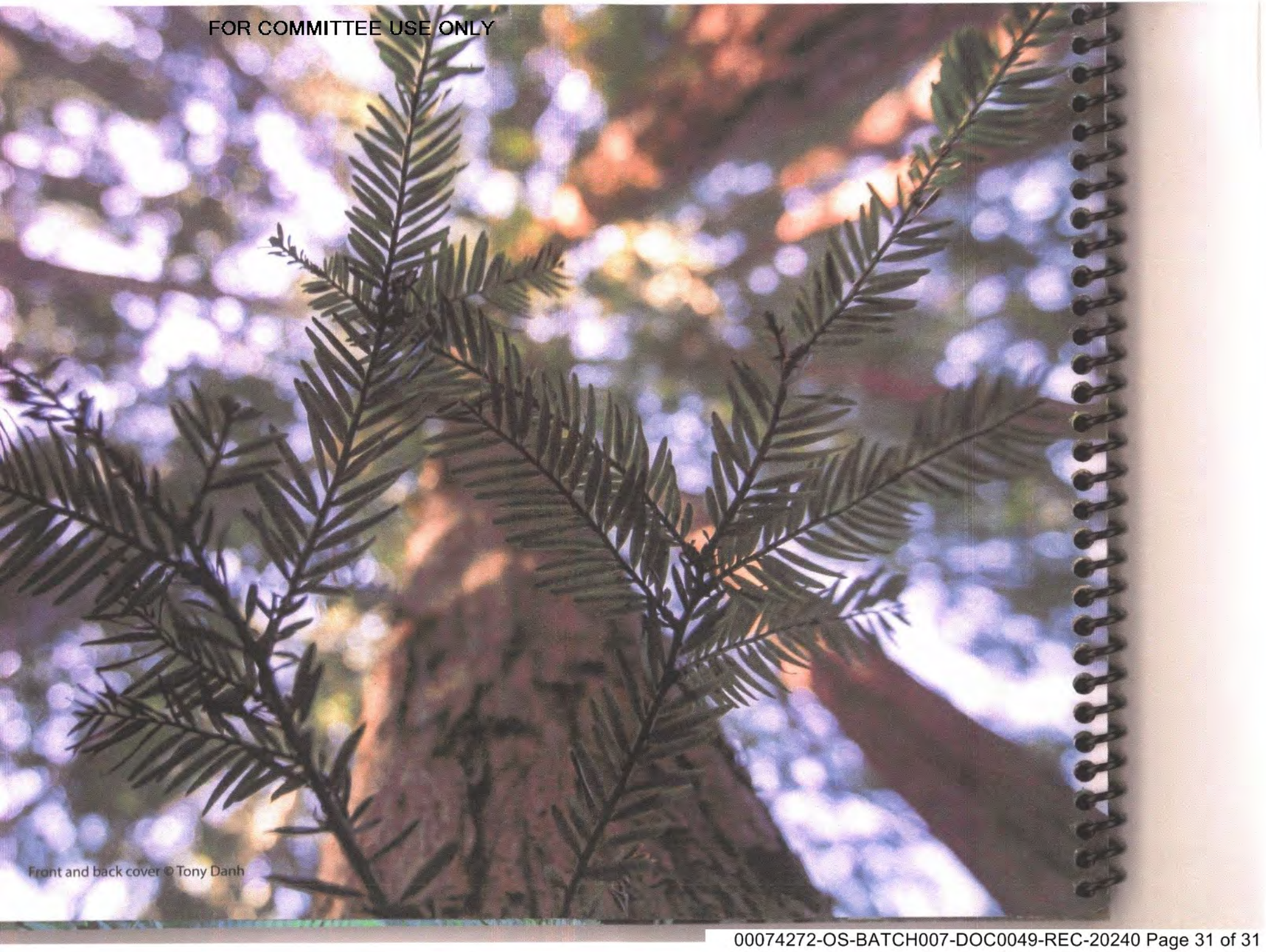

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The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Madam Secretary,

Through passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the 59th Congress authorized the President to declare national monuments to preserve, "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States." After signing the Antiquities Act, President Roosevelt used the authority granted in the Act to designate a portion of the Grand Canyon as a National Monument, before Congress created Grand Canyon National Park in 1919.

In 2012, after extensive review and public comment, the Obama Administration acted appropriately to temporarily halt new mining claims in the vicinity of the Grand Canyon and its watershed. Now is the time to bring this nearly century-long process to a close and provide the Canyon and its surrounding area the lasting protection they require.

At your request, and working closely with our tribal nation partners and other supporting organizations, we have compiled information regarding the significance of the greater Grand Canyon region to area tribes, as well as the threats to structures, objects, and places of historic and scientific interest.

This effort is about protecting lands and waters sacred to Native peoples in Arizona and other southwestern tribes. Since midway through the last century, these lands have been under threat by harmful uranium mines which impact seeps and springs vital to native people living in the vicinity, as well as livestock, wildlife, and air quality along mining transportation routes.

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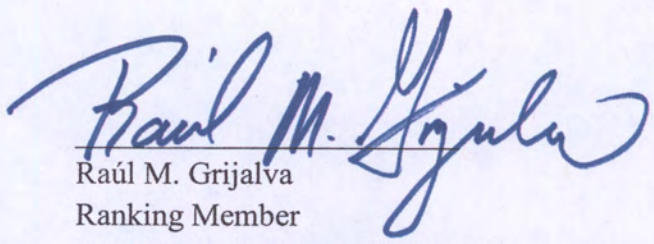
Tribes affiliated with the Grand Canyon enjoy a deeply interconnected relationship with the life-giving waters of the Colorado River and its tributaries and demand greater protections for sacred sites, structures, waters, and landscapes of deep religious and cultural significance. Our Tribal Nations coalition leaders are eager to discuss in greater detail their perspectives on the need to protect these lands and their collaborative approach to working with stakeholders through their advisory oversight board model and its applicability under the Antiquities Act.

The time to address these threats is now. The current withdrawal has afforded a temporary reprieve from the flood of over 11,000 mining claims throughout most of the proposed monument region. That temporary reprieve is currently being litigated and until new uranium claims are permanently halted, spikes in uranium prices will always lead to new and possibly devastating uranium rushes in this fragile, sacred area.

Thanks to former Secretary Salazar, and the ongoing work of the National Park Service, BLM, and Forest Service, the Obama Administration already has a proud legacy of protecting the Grand Canyon and its surrounding area. Working with Native People who view this area as sacred, and millions of people all over the world who revere the Grand Canyon and its fragile surrounding lands, it is now time to cement that legacy for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources

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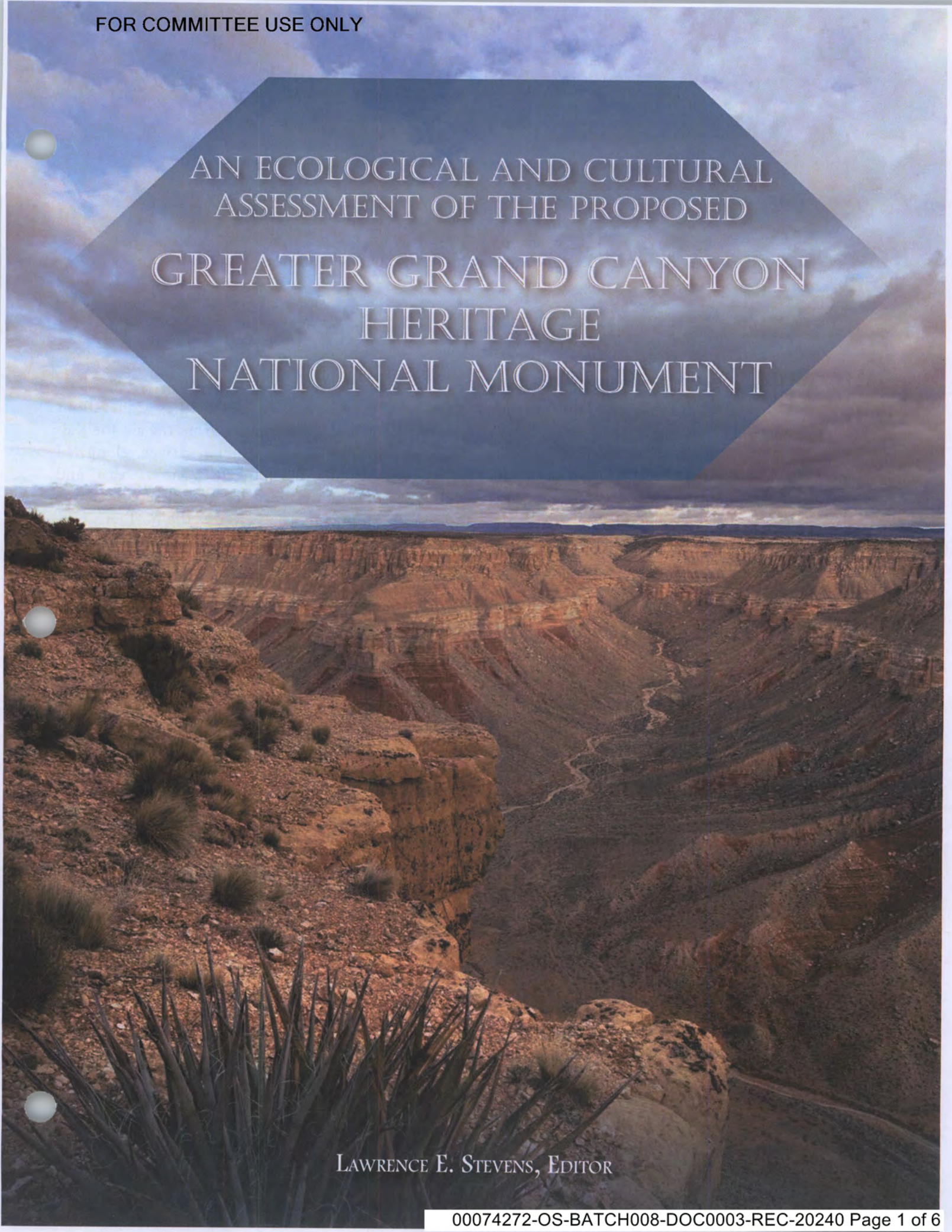

AN ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

LAWRENCE E. STEVENS, EDITOR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A VAST, REMOTE, FORESTED LANDSCAPE

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) includes the Kaibab Plateau, House Rock Valley, and the southern part of the Kanab Creek drainage, as well as a portion of the Coconino Plateau immediately south of Grand Canyon National Park. The proposed monument area spans Grand Canyon and is a vast, arid, largely forested landscape on the southwestern Colorado Plateau. GGCHNM is bordered to the west by the Shivwits Plateau, and to the east by the Vermilion Cliffs. The Utah border and Highway 89A create the northern boundary. The eastern margin of the GGCHNM at the edge of Marble Canyon is distinguished by the enormous East Kaibab Monocline, a grand warping of the Earth's crust that elevates the North Rim of Grand Canyon more than 800 m above the South Rim. The GGCHNM then steps westward down an ecological transition, or ecotone, across a profound geological and biological boundary in one of the world's most iconic landscapes. This western ecotone frames the transition between the Colorado Plateau and the southern US desert biomes.

This report was prepared by scientists and researchers of the Museum of Northern Arizona and presents a detailed analysis of the existing physical, biological, and socio-cultural information on the GGCHNM region. This effort augments excellent syntheses by individual federal and state managing agencies including: the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM; 1990, 1992); Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD; BLM and AGFD 1997); U.S. National Park Service (NPS; 1981); and the U.S. National Forest Service (USFS; 2012). We strive to incorporate their reports and scientific studies over the past century into a single overview of the GGCHNM region.

GEOGRAPHY AND CONTEXT

Most of the 6,877 km^2 GGCHNM lies at elevations between 1,500 and 2,700 m. Seen from the air, the Kaibab Upwarp appears as a domed surface, elongated north-south, sloping abruptly up from the east, and gently down to the west. Erosion and dissection across the Kaibab Monocline characterizes the northern portion of GGCHNM. Along its western side, north of the Park boundary, the monument area includes most of the Kanab Plateau and a section of the Uinkaret Plateau east of the Hurricane Cliffs and the Hurricane Fault. To the east of the Kaibab Plateau, GGCHNM includes lands in House Rock Valley and the northern Marble Platform, wrapping around the base of the Paria Plateau and abutting the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. The GGCHNM region is remote, in large part due to its topographic isolation, its location on the Arizona Strip between the Colorado River and Utah, and because access into the region is seasonal or weather dependent and largely restricted to Highways 89A and 67 and several major dirt roads.

The GGCHNM encompasses public lands, most of it presently administered by the Kaibab National Forest (KNF), BLM, AGFD and NPS. Formal designation and permanent protection for the proposed monument would allow for continued public access, traditional lifeways, rights of way, sightseeing, hiking, wildlife observation, birding, hunting, fishing, and many other activities, including traditional Tribal access and uses. Permanently protecting this area will help conserve and restore grasslands and old growth forests, and protect important archaeological sites, native wildlife, springs and wetlands, endemic species, and wildlife migration routes. The GGCHNM may be jointly managed by the USFS and the BLM. The USFS currently manages

nine national monuments. Although their histories are sometimes complex, four are the result of Presidential proclamations and five are congressionally designated.

SCIENCE VALUES

The information summarized here, and presented in detail in the full report, identifies ten outstanding characteristics of the GGCHNM region, including: 1) its position encompassing the local watershed or drainage surrounding Grand Canyon and the ecotonal transitional boundary from the Colorado Plateau to the Basin and Range Geologic Provinces; 2) its function as a remarkable geohydrological laboratory, with unique springs, seeps, natural ponds and source of headwaters for some of the last remaining pristine streams in the Southwest, 3)its paleoecological significance as a landscape demonstrating vegetation responses to global climate change over the past 50,000 years along a world-class stepped ecotone at the edge of Grand Canyon; 4) its value as a biodiversity hotspot for endemic species and 5) refuge for sensitive and game species; 6) its large north-south escarpment, which serves as a corridor for migratory raptors and other species; 7) its scientific and management value as a study area for the implementation of restoration projects for wildlife populations and landscapes; 8) the existence of artifacts and sites that date back nearly 8000 years; 9) its place in the tumultuous recent human history of the Grand Canyon region; and 10) its vast, remote, little-developed character that provides tremendous scenic, recreational and dark skies value, while acting as a natural buffer for Grand Canyon National Park in the face of human development. As a result of this comprehensive, science-based analysis, it is clear that the national monument proposal being considered is well supported in this remarkable, iconic landscape. The ten outstanding characteristics are described below, along with the importance of landscape connectivity and the protection of the Grand Canyon's watershed and surrounding lands.

Unique Geographical Significance

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) includes the Kaibab Plateau, House Rock Valley, and the southern part of the Kanab Creek drainage, as well as a portion of the Coconino Plateau immediately south of Grand Canyon

Aerial view looking across the Kaibab Monocline and House Rock Valley with the Vermilion Cliffs and Paria Plateau in the distance. Photo ©Kristen M. Caldon.

National Park, spanning the Grand Canyon and forming its proximal watershed. Bordered on the west by the Shivwits Plateau, to the east by the Vermilion Cliffs, and on the north by Highway 89A and the Utah state line, the proposed monument captures a piece of western geography that has shaped the distribution of humans and wildlife across the southwest for millennia.

The GGCHNM's geographical significance is also due in large part to the unique geological activity that resulted in the enormous East Kaibab Monocline, which elevates the North Rim of Grand Canyon as much as 800 m above the South Rim and the geological and biological western ecotone that frames the transition between the Colorado Plateau and the southern US deserts. Influencing processes from the movement of water to the evolution of native species, this geographical and geological transition zone is of significant scientific value.

Hydrogeology

The GGCHNM region spans one of the most profound geological features in the United States, the chasm of Grand Canyon. The exposure of Colorado Plateau strata reveals not only the vastness of time that has transpired over Earth's history, but also provides a detailed look into the geohydrology that supports the aquifers and hydrologic cycle of this arid region. As such, the GGCHNM is a geohydrological laboratory, which can be studied to better understand how water moves through the Earth and how aquifers function, especially karstic systems. While the proposed GGCHNM does not, itself, contain many flowing streams, it protects the headwaters of a large number of pristine streams and contains numerous ecologically and culturally significant springs, seeps, and natural ponds. This landscape also provides recharge to regional aquifers that contribute more than 5% of the base flow of the Colorado river.

Mineral resources are relatively few in the GGCHNM, except for uranium, which is deposited in many breccia pipes throughout the region. The present temporary ban on new mining claims is scheduled to end in 16 years, although some mining in the region is underway. The question of whether to allow uranium mining on the periphery of Grand Canyon remains an important social question, one that warrants careful consideration.

Climate Change and Ecotone Ecology

A remarkable paleoecological transformation has occurred in the GGCHNM over the past 50,000 years. The western margin of the GGCHNM roughly coincides with the boundary between the Sonoran/Mojave/Great Basin floristic provinces to the west, with the Maderan province to the south, and the Intermountain province to the northeast. Analysis of ancient packrat middens and cave deposits has revealed that the pinyon-juniper treeline rose 914 m upslope in less than 7,000 years during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition, as a warmer, drier climate developed. These environmental shifts resulted in the mixing of plant species from the surrounding ecosystems and biomes. Environmental and floristic changes, coupled with the arrival of early humans, resulted in the extinction of the Pleistocene megafauna – elephants, camels, mountain goats, large predators, and giant birds that roamed the plateaus and lowlands, prior to natural desertification. On-going concerns over how ecosystems will function in response to global climate changes, can be examined through space-for-time stud-

A panoramic view looking south to the lower plateau. Elevation and vegetation change dramatically from north to south in the GGCHNM. Photo by Kristen Caldon.

ies across the elevation and aspect gradients that are so abundantly expressed in the GGCHNM. Thus, the region is a unique and critically important natural laboratory in which to study and understand these changes.

A Biological and Evolutionary Hotspot

Desert and plateau springs, deep and enormous karst cave systems, and old growth coniferous forests provide refugia and make the Kaibab an important biological hotspot. The Forest Service manages more than 200 springs on the North Kaibab, many of which harbor rare and sometimes unique life forms. For example, the springs and habitats in the North Canyon drainage support at least 6 rare or endemic species of plants and invertebrates, as well as endangered Apache trout. Many Forest springs have been altered by human activities, but can be easily restored. These springs and seeps are hot spots for biodiversity: stoneflies, beetles, and various amphibians require springs wetland habitats.

A Refuge for Sensitive and Game Species

The GGCHNM region supports at least 1500 plant species, an extraordinary but poorly documented entomofanua with several endemic species, one endangered fish species, 6 amphibian species, more than a dozen reptile species, 112 bird species, and 79 mammal species. Several dozen Kaibab plant and animal species are rare or endemic, and are species of concern to the State of Arizona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the USFS, or other agencies, Tribes, and organizations. The extent of migratory and upland species using the GGCHNM and its role as a corridor, flyway, and refuge is critical to the persistence of those many iconic species and populations.

An Important Migratory Corridor

The long, north-south aligned escarpment of the East Kaibab Monocline has been identified as one of the primary hawk migratory flyways in the Southwest. Cliffs such as these provide migratory pathways for hawks, eagles, and other species, and are well-documented, with more than 20 years of autumn raptor monitoring data available from Hawk Watch International. A large number of raptors migrate through southern Utah and use upwardly-rising air currents that develop as daytime mountain winds along cliff lines. Raptor densities often exceed 30 birds/hr. These observations indicate that the use of escarpments by raptors is commonplace. Continued monitoring is beginning to provide trend assessment capacity, but thorough surveys continue to be needed to improve resolution of the extent, timing and daily variability of raptor migration along the East Kaibab Monocline and across Grand Canyon. The North Kaibab region also provides an important primary movement corridor for Desert Mule Deer, and likely other large mammals, such as Desert Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Lion from lowland to upland habitats.

Population and Landscape Restoration Ecology

Restoration ecology is being explored and implemented in the region through several different projects. 1) USFS has undertaken springs and forest rehabilitation projects. 2) Endangered California Condors have been released from a site on the Vermilion Cliffs near Marble Canyon, with more than 75 birds presently flying. 3) Pronghorn and Bighorn Sheep population restoration efforts have increased the herd and flock sizes. 4) Non-native tamarisk, an invasive woody tree, has been removed from desert springs along Kanab Creek, and the impacts of tamarisk leaf beetles are being examined throughout northern Arizona. The region has enormous potential for restoration projects to restore old growth forests and their ecological functions. These population and ecosystem management activities demonstrate that the GGCHNM region is an extraordinary natural laboratory in which to test and apply the principles of conservation and restoration ecology.

Exploration and Settlement History

The color and harshness of the GGCHNM region is strongly reflected in its exploration and settlement history. Though the focal point of the region is the Canyon itself, a large portion of its history and development took place in the proposed GGCHNM. Expeditions led by European explorers resulted in the first documentation and interaction with Grand Canyon by those outside American Indian communities. As new settlers moved west from eastern America, early mountain men and pioneers created and maintained trails and villages throughout the proposed monument landscape. Interactions, both peaceful and violent, between American Indian tribes and European settlers influenced the politics and use of the lands and waters in the region. Industries such as cattle operations, mining, and timber harvest popped up, all of which played an important role in the development of local economies. The GGCHNM is a reflection of the dynamic and ever-shifting understanding of the role and influence of human development on the Grand Canyon region, all of which is of great historical importance for all Americans.

Vast, Scenic Landscape that Protects Grand Canyon

The GGCHNM region is a truly vast and largely undeveloped landscape, made more remote and inaccessible due to its geographical features. The Plateau, its escarpment margins, and the surrounding lands, have exceptional regional and global scenic, recreational, scientific, and cultural value. Protection of this region will provide a better buffer from the impacts of human development and climate change, helping to protect Grand Canyon from the onslaught of environmental disruption that so greatly threatens the ecological integrity of the Southwest.

SUMMARY

This landscape analysis indicates that significant geological, biological and human history features and processes exist in the GGCHNM region, and additional research will likely contribute substantial information to understanding the processes and impacts of geological, biogeographic, and global environmental change. The objects, features, and scientific opportunities mentioned herein, coupled with the overall high ecological integrity of most of the landscape, its low human population density and development, and few extractable resources, are values that contribute to the national significance of the proposed national monument.

Protection of these distinctive characteristics of the GGCHNM region will also buffer Grand Canyon National Park from the impacts of rapid population expansion in southern Utah and Nevada, as well as threats just outside the Park. In addition, the proposed National Monument will provide better landscape linkage among the region's Wilderness Areas, protect prominent north-south migration routes, springs, caves, the Kanab Creek drainage, old growth forest stands on the Kaibab Plateau, and sensitive and game populations and their habitats. Much remains to be learned about the GGCHNM region, and future inventories and studies are likely to substantially increase the list of species, identify important, as yet unrecognized, archeological sites, ecological processes, and insights into how climate changes affect or are buffered in complex landscapes. Such research opportunities are only likely to further strengthen the rationale for preserving this geologically, biologically and anthropologically outstanding landscape.

The Kaibab Plateau: A Conservation and Restoration Showcase within the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Rising above lower elevation and drier deserts, scrublands, and woodlands on all sides and towering over the Grand Canyon just to its south, the Kaibab Plateau forms what millions of visitors each year come to know as the Grand Canyon's north rim. Its ecological value is profound. A sky island like no other, it holds the largest contiguous remaining old growth ponderosa pine forest in the Southwest. It is home to the Kaibab mule deer herd, renowned by conservationists, hunters, and historians alike. It provides bountiful surface water in the form of lakes and the rarest of streams in a region otherwise devoid of such water, and holds groundwater that feeds Roaring Springs and countless additional springs within Grand Canyon National Park.

The history of the Kaibab Plateau is rich. After visiting the Plateau, Teddy Roosevelt designated it in its entirety in 1906 as the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve. Aldo Leopold visited the Plateau numerous times, telling the story of the Kaibab deer herd's population explosion in the 1920s in the absence of top predators – a story that has become a classic case study for any biology student.

The Kaibab Plateau's value to the region's tribes is immense. The word Kaibab means "mountain lying down" in Paiute, and the Plateau is considered ancestral homelands for the southern Paiutes and others. Within the process of drafting the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act, Grand Canyon-affiliated tribes pushed forcefully to include the Kaibab Plateau within any proposed monument, characterizing it as part of the "Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed that contains various tribal sacred sites and resources, including religious places and burial sites, with significant ancestral and contemporary values..."[1].

The biological, cultural, and historical case to be made for including the Kaibab Plateau in a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage national monument couldn't be stronger. It would indeed be the heart of such a monument, and its protection would complete the visionary work started but left unfinished by Teddy Roosevelt in 1906.

A Conservation and Restoration Showcase

A national monument inclusive of the Kaibab Plateau will ensure that the U.S. Forest Service is not left behind as efforts accelerate to designate special places warranting special conservation and restoration attention. Indeed, such a monument would spotlight and showcase the Forest Service's stewardship efforts and responsibilities across the Plateau. In an era of climate change, and as the mission of the Forest Service has evolved to center on ecological restoration, and where watershed protection has become paramount, monument designation for the Kaibab Plateau would shine a much needed light on the Forest Service's role in conserving and restoring vital public lands.

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[1] Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act of 2015, H.R. 3882, 114th Cong.

Specifically across the Plateau, it would spotlight the Forest Service's efforts to restore cheatgrass-infested lands on the western slope of the Plateau. It would also shine such a light on current efforts and future needs to restore just over 100,000 acres of the Plateau's ponderosa pine forests. While such forests are some of the most remaining intact in the Southwest, the Forest Service and a broad cross-section of stakeholders have recognized the need to restore fire to these forests, and the need to thin small trees in the process, while keeping intact the old growth that is unparalleled in southwestern forests.

Monument designation that is inclusive of the Kaibab Plateau should not be viewed as impeding restoration efforts, rather as highlighting such efforts and setting the frame for restoration that is science-based, collaborative, and standard-setting. Indeed, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act, recognizes this need and opportunity explicitly, setting forth the charge to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to "provide for the development and implementation of credible science-based ecological restoration projects that provide for the retention of old growth and large diameter trees, developed in coordination with the advisory council, with the intent of restoring natural fire regimes, enhancing old growth forest characteristics, and assisting in the recovery and maintaining the viability of at-risk, threatened, and endangered species"[2].

A Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument designation that includes the Kaibab Plateau would recognize the exceptional conservation, cultural, and historical values of the Plateau. It would tell the story of a conservation legacy beginning with indigenous people and their strong connection to this area to Teddy Roosevelt in 1906, and continuing forward through President Obama's actions in 2016. And, importantly, it would bring much needed attention and direction to priority restoration efforts that can and must proceed with appropriate care, and a sense of urgency, over the coming decades.

[2] Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act of 2015, H.R. 3882, 114th Cong.

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CONSERVATION SCIENCE PARTNERS

FINAL REPORT
(4 October 2016)

For the project entitled:

An assessment of landscape-level ecological values and climate resilience associated with the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Submitted to:

The Center for American Progress

And

The Grand Canyon Trust

By:

Brett G. Dickson, PhD – Chief Scientist

Christine M. Albano, MS – Lead Scientist

Nicole H. Shaw, MS – Scientist

11050 PIONEER TRAIL • SUITE 202 • TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA • 96161 • (p) 530.214.8905 | (f) 530.214.8907
5 OLD TOWN SQUARE • SUITE 205 • FORT COLLINS, COLORADO • 80524 • (p) 970.484.2898 | (f) 970.484.1069
info@csp-inc.org | www.csp-inc.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under rapid climate and landscape change, there is a significant need to identify and expand protected areas to prevent further loss of biodiversity and preserve ecological functions across broad geographies. Basic principles of systematic conservation planning suggest that an ecologically functional protected areas network requires a sufficient land base, should protect a variety of habitats, and—perhaps most critically—needs to be resilient to ongoing climate change and interconnected. The proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) in northern Arizona presents an opportunity to conserve key elements of ecological function within the region and across the western U.S.

In this context, we leveraged existing research and sources of readily available spatial data to conduct a rigorous, landscape-level assessment of ecological features and values across the GGCHNM and adjacent lands. Specifically, we focused our assessment on information that highlighted the ecological importance, climate resilience, and ecological representativeness of the GGCHNM in a West-wide comparative analysis.

Our results indicated that designation of the proposed GGCHNM would substantially...

- **Enhance regional resilience to climate change and support regional climate adaptation**
- **Increase regional potential to facilitate high levels of ecological connectivity and ecological intactness**
- **Promote the geological and ecological uniqueness of America's protected areas network**
- **Encompass some of the most unfragmented and remote areas in the western U.S.**
- **Enhance the ecological diversity and representativeness of the U.S. protected areas network**

Our analysis of the GGCHNM indicated that this area far exceeded other western landscapes of equivalent size, in terms of ecological connectivity and intactness, geophysical uniqueness, and richness of rare and irreplaceable species.

Compared to a random sample of lands in the West, the GGCHNM scored in the...

- **98th percentile for ecological connectivity**
- **96th percentile for ecological intactness**
- **91st percentile for geophysical rarity**
- **85th percentile for rarity-weighted species richness**

Protective designation of the proposed GGCHNM would purposefully and strategically strengthen America's existing network of protected areas in the face of climate change, while supporting fundamental ecological processes, such as habitat connectivity, in the region. The value of the GGCHNM in sustaining the ecological function and large, contiguous landscapes that also support high levels of regional biodiversity should not be underestimated.

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INTRODUCTION

Fundamental principles of systematic conservation planning (e.g., Margules and Pressey 2000) suggest that an ecologically functional protected areas network requires a sufficient land base, should protect a variety of habitats, and—perhaps most critically—needs to be resilient to ongoing climate change (Dawson et al. 2011), and interconnected (DeFries et al. 2007, Cumming et al. 2015). Yet, in the United States, as is the case in other places in the world, protected areas have rarely been selected to meet these criteria (Scott et al. 1993, Jenkins et al. 2015). Existing protected areas in the U.S. are likely insufficient to guard against the long-term loss of species and the habitats they require (Scott et al. 2001). Thus, there is a significant need to expand and connect protected areas to prevent further loss of biodiversity and preserve ecological functions in the face of climate change.

In the western U.S., vast areas of unprotected and undeveloped public land currently serve to enhance the ecological effectiveness of the U.S. protected areas network (Dickson et al. in press). However, the expansion of energy development, mining, timber harvesting, and other extractive land uses threaten to fragment these areas, reducing their ecological function (Hansen and Defries 2007). These activities can also reduce the effectiveness of existing protected areas (e.g., Berger et al. 2014). Thus, careful selection of new areas for conservation and protection that are based on the area's ecological significance and context is an important step for both maintaining and enhancing the existing protected areas network (Dickson et al. 2014, Watson et al. 2016). Moreover, there is a critical need to address the impacts and conservation implications of ongoing climate change on vulnerable public lands (Stein et al. 2014). Federal agencies are attempting to address this need through recent environmental initiatives, such as the strategy for improving the mitigation policies and practices of the Department of the Interior (Clement et al. 2014) and the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy (National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Partnership 2012). Federal land managers are particularly well positioned to work across jurisdictional boundaries and coordinate their climate adaptation planning strategies and activities among agencies and stakeholders (Olliff and Hansen 2016). Concomitantly, nongovernmental organizations and other partners must continue working with agencies to develop collaborative approaches for addressing climate change and adapting their own conservation and stewardship strategies (GCT 2016).

In this context, the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM; Map 1) in northern Arizona presents a significant opportunity to conserve key elements of ecological function within this region and across the western U.S. A recent study by Dickson et al. (2014) was designed to provide a sound scientific basis for future proposals for conservation-based special designations in the western U.S., with an emphasis on unprotected, roadless BLM lands. Results from this study suggested that areas within and around the GGCHNM were among the most important in the West, in terms of their conservation value. Here, we leverage input data and results produced by this study, as well as other sources of readily available spatial data, to conduct an assessment of ecological features and values across the GGCHNM and adjacent lands. We focused our assessment on information that highlighted the ecological importance, climate resilience, and ecological representativeness of the GGCHNM in a West-wide comparative analysis.

METHODS

Assessing the ecological importance of the GGCHNM

For our assessment, we mapped and summarized nine landscape-level indicators of resilience to climate change, ecological connectivity and intactness, biodiversity, and remoteness (detailed in Table 1). Specifically, we used readily available spatial data layers and published methods to model two indicators

of resilience to climate change: climate velocity (Hamann et al. 2014) and geophysical diversity (Theobald et al. 2015); three indicators of potential landscape connectivity and intactness: ecological flow (Dickson et al. in press), ecological integrity (after Theobald 2013), and proximity to the nearest protected area (USGS 2012); three indicators of biodiversity: vegetation community diversity (Scott et al. 1993), rarity-weighted species richness (Chaplin et al. 2000; updated in 2013), and geophysical rarity (Theobald et al. 2015); and one indicator of remoteness: night sky darkness (NOAA 2012). Notably, some of the variables used in our analysis could be used to simultaneously indicate different categories of ecological or conservation value. For example, geophysical diversity is expected to promote climate resilience and biodiversity. Data for each indicator was generated at a 270-m pixel resolution. Although we focused our assessment on the GGCHNM, our indicator maps extended across all 11 western states, permitting comparisons between the GGCHNM and equivalently sized areas within these states, regardless of jurisdiction.

We derived a model and map of ecological flow among existing protected areas (Dickson et al. in press) within the 11 western states in order to quantify the ability of currently unprotected areas to enhance potential connectivity across the existing protected areas network. This connectivity model was designed to inform land use planning and policy efforts concerned with the maintenance of connectivity processes (e.g., migration and dispersal, gene flow) for multiple terrestrial species simultaneously. Specifically, we used a model of human modification (updated after Theobald 2013) to estimate landscape resistance (see Krosby et al. 2015) and concepts from electronic circuit theory (McRae et al. 2008) to estimate the flow (as measured by current density) of ecological processes across the region.

We determined the values of each of the indicators relative to the larger landscape using a simple scoring system based on percentile ranks. Specifically, the mean value of each indicator within the GGCHNM was compared to the distribution of means of a large (n = 1000) random sample of areas across the 11 western states, including all jurisdictions. The size of the random samples was equivalent to the size of the proposed GGCHNM. Scores ranged from 0 to 100. For example, a score of 98 for a given indicator would indicate that the mean value of that indicator in the GGCHNM was greater than or equal to 98% of the equivalently-sized random samples. Scores of 50 or higher suggest a relatively important indicator.

As a final step in assessing ecological importance, we summarized the amount of currently unprotected, roadless BLM lands within the proposed GGCHNM boundary that were identified as having particularly high conservation value. This analysis was based on the approach and results described in Dickson et al. (2014), namely the conservation priority areas and high conservation value areas they identified.

Assessing the ecological representativeness of the GGCHNM

The ability of any protected areas network to capture biodiversity and maintain ecological function will depend on the variety of ecosystem components (e.g., vegetation and landform types that contribute to habitat) that are represented within the network (Aycrigg et al. 2013). In the U.S., only 12% of lands have protected status (USGS 2012), and these lands have typically not been selected on the basis of representation (Pressey 1994). Thus, as a second step, we assessed the degree to which the GGCHNM diversifies the existing protected areas network by increasing representation of different ecosystem components. We compiled spatial data on major ecosystem (USGS 2011) and landform (Theobald et al. 2015) types across the western U.S. and within the proposed GGCHNM (Table 2). Next, we calculated the percentages of different ecosystem components in the western U.S. that are represented in the current protected areas network, including lands managed specifically for conservation of species (IUCN 2008; categories I-IV) and those within the BLM National Conservation Lands (NCL) system. We also

calculated the percentages of ecosystem components that would be represented within the protected areas network following any designation of the proposed GGCHNM.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The designation of GGCHNM would enhance regional resilience to climate change and support regional climate adaptation

Based on the model of climate resilience we used, which considered projected changes in 11 biologically relevant climate parameters including average and extreme seasonal temperatures and precipitation amounts (see Table 1), the proposed GGCHNM exhibits relatively high values for climate resilience (i.e., low climate velocity; see Table 2), scoring in the top 30%, as compared to a random sample of all other similarly size landscapes in the West (Fig. 1, Map 2). Indeed, permanent protection of the GGCHNM would address *five* of the seven climate adaptation strategies developed by a consortium of experts, including representatives from seven federal natural resource management agencies (Stein et al. 2014; Table 3). Specifically, this designation would further *protect key ecosystem features*, including a high diversity of geophysical features that have the potential to serve as *refugia* and facilitate ecological and *evolutionary processes* that promote biodiversity as individual species shift their ranges in response to climate change (Lawler et al. 2015). Compared to other western lands, the GGCHNM is in the 61st percentile for geophysical diversity (Fig. 1, Map 2). Further, the proposed GGCHNM would *reduce non-climate stresses* by minimizing the risk of water quality degradation associated with uranium mining (BLM 2012), which has the potential to be exacerbated as water availability declines under changing climate. This is particularly important in an area that can *ensure connectivity* between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Indeed, the area is one of the most ecologically connected and intact landscapes of its size in the West (see below).

The GGCHNM has exceptionally high potential to facilitate ecological connectivity and maintain ecological intactness

The maintenance of connectivity processes is one of the most important aspects of biodiversity and landscape-level conservation (Taylor et al. 1993, Noon et al. 2009). Considering all other western lands and jurisdictions, we observed exceptionally high values for ecological connectivity and intactness within the proposed GGCHNM, scoring in the 98th and 96th percentiles, respectively (Fig. 1, Maps 3 and 4). Similarly, the area scored in the 90th percentile for its high adjacency to existing protected areas (Fig. 1, Map 4). The GGCHNM would serve to facilitate the flow of multiple ecological processes, such as dispersal, migration, and gene flow (Dickson et al. in press). The area also would secure the connection of habitats between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, enhancing their overall value (Berger et al. 2014). For example, the GGCHNM would form a critical piece of an important complex of well-connected and intact habitats for multiple wide-ranging species, including, but not limited to: mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), and desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelsoni*). Moreover, because BLM lands dominate much of the area within and surrounding the proposed GGCHNM, relatively unmodified landscapes in this domain may be key to the movement of fundamental ecological processes between existing protected areas and the GGCHNM (Dickson et al. in press). The designation of the GGCHNM could help to build a true network of protected areas that enhance landscape connectivity (Krosby et al. 2010) and integrity (Theobald 2013), as well as the associated capacity for adaptation to future climate change (Heller and Zavaleta 2009; Dawson et al. 2011).

The ecological and geological uniqueness of the GGCHNM contributes to its high value for biodiversity conservation

Our results indicate the West-wide importance of the proposed GGCHNM to sustaining an imperiled but wide diversity of species, given its high values with respect to geophysical rarity, rarity-weighted species richness, and vegetation community diversity. The area scored in the 91st percentile for geophysical rarity (Fig. 1, Map 5). This geophysical uniqueness gives rise to ecological uniqueness (Lawler et al. 2015). For example, limestone geologies, such as those found on the Kaibab Plateau, are well-recognized to promote species diversity given that they harbor unusually high numbers of endemic species (Krukeberg 2002), including extremely rare *Pediocactus* species (Hannemann and Foster 2014). At the same time, the GGCHNM scored in the 85th percentile for rarity-weighted species richness, a relative measure of the concentration of rare and irreplaceable species for the conterminous U.S. (Chaplin et al. 2000) (Fig. 1, Map 5). There are 82 special status species occupying areas within or immediately adjacent to the proposed monument (BLM 2011). Thirty-six of these species are federally listed, including the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), and Apache trout (*Oncorhynchus apache*). In addition, the GGCHNM scored in the 52nd percentile for vegetation community diversity (Fig. 1, Map 6), owing in part to its > 6000-ft elevational gradient. Our results point to the highly distinctive nature and irreplaceable value of this area with respect to rare and endemic species, as well as the diverse habitats they depend on.

The GGCHNM encompasses some of the most unfragmented and remote areas in the western U.S.

Our analysis suggests that the GGCHNM includes some of the most unfragmented BLM lands remaining in the western U.S. Based on the results derived by Dickson et al. (2014), the GGCHNM contains over 225,000 acres of unprotected, roadless BLM lands with high conservation value (Map 1). Protection of these landscape features, in particular, would promote climate resilience and facilitate key ecological connections with protected areas immediately to the north and south of the GGCHNM boundary. The GGCHNM also has some of the lowest levels of light pollution in the western US, and as a result, one of the darkest night skies of any equivalently sized areas in the western U.S. (Fig. 1, Map 6). In North America, light emissions have historically increased at an estimated rate of 6% annually, resulting in a rapid increase in light pollution (Cinzano and Elvidge 2003). Considering our results, the GGCHNM may afford one of the best opportunities in the U.S. to preserve remote environmental assets of both human and ecological significance (Watts et al. 2007).

The GGCHNM would enhance the diversity of the U.S. protected areas network

Based on our assessment of representation, the proposed GGCHNM stands to increase the variety of vegetation and landform types in the U.S. protected area network, a number of which are currently underrepresented. The majority of protected areas in the western U.S. occur within high montane and alpine ecosystems (Fig. 2). This underrepresentation presents a significant bias, since most temperate forestland-, shrubland-, and grassland-dominated ecosystem types are offered little protection. Nevertheless, our assessment indicated that the GGCHNM encompasses a relatively large amount of temperate forest and cool semi-desert scrub and grassland, which are currently underrepresented in the existing protected areas network (Fig. 2; Aycrigg et al. 2013). Perhaps one of the most extensive stands of old-growth ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) forest remaining in the West is found on the Kaibab Plateau (Sesnie and Bailey 2003). This forest, which would define much of the core of the GGCHNM, is home to the endemic Kaibab squirrel (*Sciurus aberti kaibabensis*) and provides important foraging habitat for the globally significant Kaibab mule deer herd, among other species.

Around the West, significant biases also are evident with respect to the protection of major landform types. For example, cliffs and mountain tops have much more protection than basins, flats and valley bottoms (Fig. 3). However, the GGHCNM includes a diversity of landform types (Fig. 3) that together would serve to protect biodiversity under a changing climate (e.g., Lawler et al. 2015). These diverse terrain features also give rise to the collection of springs and seeps, riparian areas, meadows, and other wetland habitats that sustain the terrestrial and aquatic biota in the region. The presence of these features suggest that designation of the GGCHNM would protect the high elevation habitat features that could serve as refugia for species moving up in elevation due to climate change. The varied topography, geophysical diversity, and low climate velocity of the proposed GGCHNM would contribute substantially to a national portfolio of protected areas lacking resilience to a changing climate.

CONCLUSIONS

Our landscape-level assessment of the GGCHNM in a West-wide context highlighted the intrinsic value of the area with respect to multiple indicators of conservation value, namely resilience to climate change, ecological connectivity and intactness, and biodiversity. Considering also the results of Dickson et al. (2014, in press), protective designation of the proposed GGCHNM would substantially enhance the existing network of protected areas in the face of climate change, while supporting fundamental ecological processes, such as habitat connectivity. The value of this area in sustaining the ecological function and large, contiguous landscapes that also support high levels of biodiversity should not be underestimated.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Table 1. *Nine indicators used to assess ecological and conservation values within the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.*

Indicator	Primary source	Description
Climate resilience	Hamann et al. (2014)	We used a published model of multivariate climate velocity (Hamann et al. 2014) to quantify potential resilience to climate change. The estimate was based on the averages of model projections from an ensemble of 15 CMIP5 models and the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 scenario (IPCC 2014), and included 11 biologically-relevant climate metrics related to changes in both temperature and precipitation between 1995 and 2055. Climate velocity represents the velocity (speed and direction) a species must migrate to persist in an area with the same climatic conditions, given projected changes in climate. Low velocities (high climate resilience) indicate that the same climate conditions the species currently occurs within are nearby, whereas high velocities (low climate resilience) indicate a species will have to migrate longer distances to keep up with changing climate.
Geophysical diversity	Theobald et al. (2015)	Geophysical diversity is a fundamental driver of both ecological and evolutionary processes that generate species diversity and foster landscape resilience to climate change (Lawler et al. 2015). To characterize geophysical diversity we used a model of physiographic diversity (Theobald et al. 2015) that characterizes unique geophysical units based on an overlay of landforms and surficial lithology. In this model, diversity is calculated using the Shannon-Weaver Equitability Index (described in Magurran 1988) and at multiple spatial scales, equivalent to average sizes (1.2 – 115.8 km radii) of HUC 4-16 watersheds.
Ecological flow	Dickson et al. (in press)	We derived a model and map of ecological flow among existing protected areas within the 11 western states in order to quantify the ability of currently unprotected areas to enhance potential connectivity across the existing protected areas network. This connectivity model was designed to inform land use planning and policy efforts concerned with the maintenance of connectivity processes (e.g., migration and dispersal, gene flow) for multiple terrestrial species simultaneously. Specifically, we used a model of human modification (Theobald 2013) to estimate landscape resistance and concepts from electronic circuit theory (McRae et al. 2008) to estimate the flow (as measured by current density) of ecological processes across the region.
Ecological integrity	Theobald (2013)	We used an updated version (Theobald et al. 2016) of a model of human modification (Theobald 2013), which characterizes the intensity and footprint of human modification across the West, based on 12 types of human activities.
Proximity to protected areas	USGS (2012)	Distance to nearest protected area as defined by the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US version 1.3). Protected areas were identified as IUCN categories I-IV and category V Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Lands for this analysis.
Vegetation diversity	USGS Gap Ecological Systems Type (USGS 2011)	We followed methods in Theobald et al. (2015) to derive an estimate of ecological systems diversity at multiple spatial scales, equivalent to average sizes (1.2 – 115.8 km radii) of HUC 4-16 watersheds and using the Shannon-Weaver Equitability Index. We used the USGS Gap Ecological System Land Units (2011) as the basis for calculating ecosystem diversity

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		and assigned null values to all developed and invasive species land cover types prior to running the analysis, so that these lands would not contribute toward the diversity calculation.
Rarity-weighted species richness	NatureServe (2013)	We used NatureServe's rarity-weighted richness index data layer (NatureServe 2008; refreshed in 2013) as an indicator of species rarity and irreplaceability (see Chaplin et al. (2000) for references and description of methods). This index identifies sites that contain critically-imperiled or imperiled species with restricted distributions (i.e., G1-G2 – ranked species).
Geophysical rarity	Theobald et al. (2015)	To characterize geophysical rarity, we calculated the areal extent of each of 188 unique geophysical unit types based on an overlay of landforms and surficial lithology (Theobald et al. 2015) across the western US, then normalized the values based on the maximum value so that they ranged from 0 (least rare) to 1 (most rare).
Night sky darkness	NOAA (2012)	We used an existing dataset of artificial nighttime lights observed via satellite (NOAA 2012).

Table 2. *Datasets used to calculate the degree to which the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) diversifies the existing protected areas network by increasing representation of different ecosystem components, specifically major vegetation types and landforms.*

Dataset	Source	Applied to representation analysis
Major vegetation types in western U.S.	Gap vegetation classes (USGS 2011)	Used to assess the degree to which the proposed GGCHNM diversifies the existing protected areas network by increasing representation of different vegetation classifications.
Landform types in the western U.S.	Theobald et al. (2015)	Used to assess the degree to which the proposed GGCHNM diversifies the existing protected areas network by increasing representation of different landform types.
Protected areas network	PAD-US v1.3 (USGS 2012)	We included lands managed specifically for conservation of species, IUCN categories I-IV IUCN (2008), and category V within the Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Lands (NCL) system.

Table 3. *Climate change adaptation strategies identified in Climate Smart Conservation – putting adaptation principles into practice (adapted from Table 8.1 of Stein et al. [2014]). These guidelines were developed by a 23-member expert workgroup led by the National Wildlife Federation, and included membership from seven federal natural resource management agencies.*

Adaptation strategy	Definition
Reduce non-climate stresses	Minimize localized human stressors (e.g., pollution) that hinder the ability of species or ecosystems to withstand or adjust to climatic events
Protect key ecosystem features	Focus management on structural characteristics (e.g., geophysical stage), organisms, or areas (e.g., spawning sites) that represent important "underpinnings" or "keystones" of the current or future system of interest
Ensure connectivity	Protect, restore, and create landscape features (e.g., land corridors, stream connections) that facilitate movement of water, energy, nutrients, and organisms among resource patches
Restore structure and function	Rebuild, modify, or transform ecosystems that have been lost or compromised, in order to restore desired structures (e.g., habitat complexity) and functions (e.g., nutrient cycling)
Support evolutionary potential	Protect a variety of species, populations, and ecosystems in multiple places to bet-hedge against losses from climate disturbances, and where possible manage these systems to assist positive evolutionary change
Protect refugia	Protect areas less affected by climate change, as sources of "seed" for recovery (in the present) or as destinations for climate-sensitive migrants (in the future)
Relocate organisms	Engage in human-facilitated transplanting of organisms from one location to another in order to bypass a barrier (e.g., urban area)

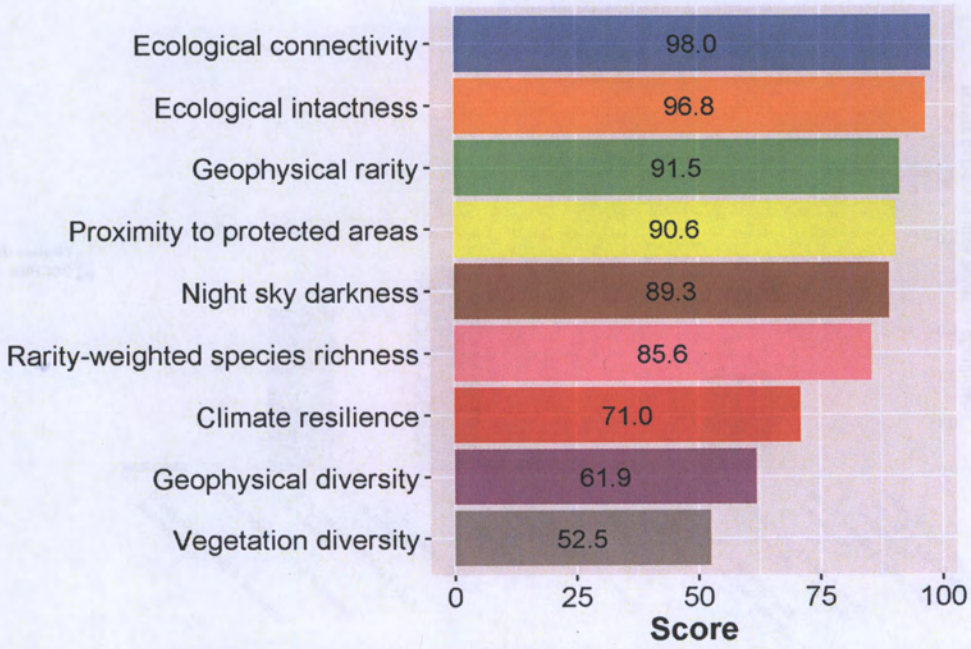


Figure 1. *Scores received by the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) for each of nine indicators by comparing them to a random set of equivalently sized areas located across the entire western U.S. Potential scores range from 0-100 (100 being highest). A score of 98 for a given indicator indicates that the mean value of that indicator in the GGCHNM was greater than or equal to the mean value in 98% of equivalently-sized random samples. Scores of 50 or higher generally suggest a relatively important indicator.*

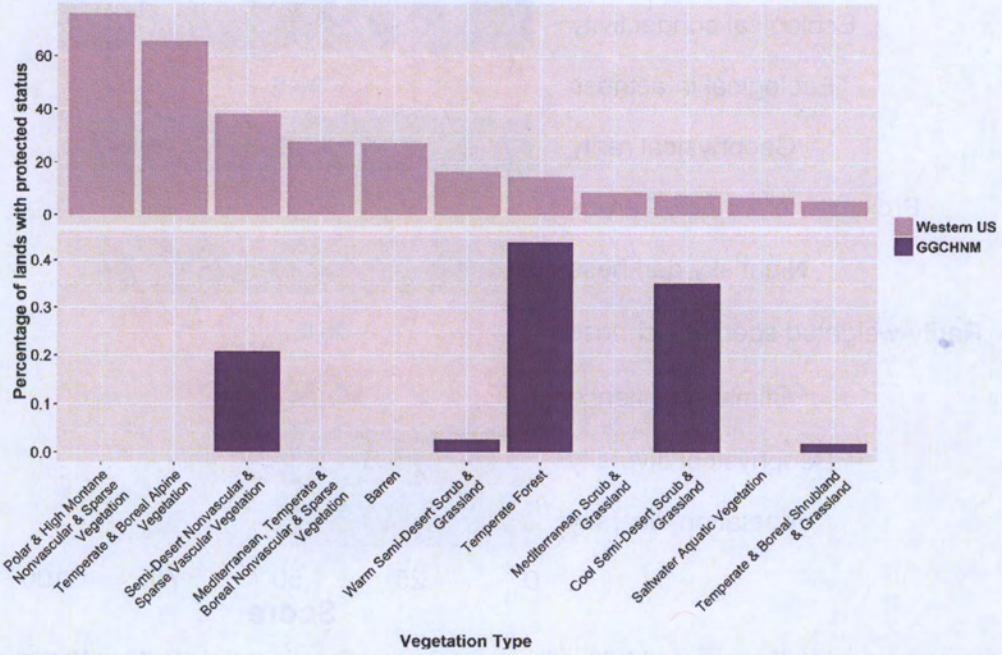


Figure 2. *Percentage of lands within different major vegetation types in the western U.S. that have protected status (IUCN categories I-IV and NCL lands in IUCN V; upper panel) and percentage of additional lands that would be protected with designation of the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM; lower panel). The area would serve to enhance and diversify the existing protected areas network by increasing the representation of key vegetation types, namely temperate forests and cool semi-desert scrub and grasslands, which currently have low representation within the current network.*

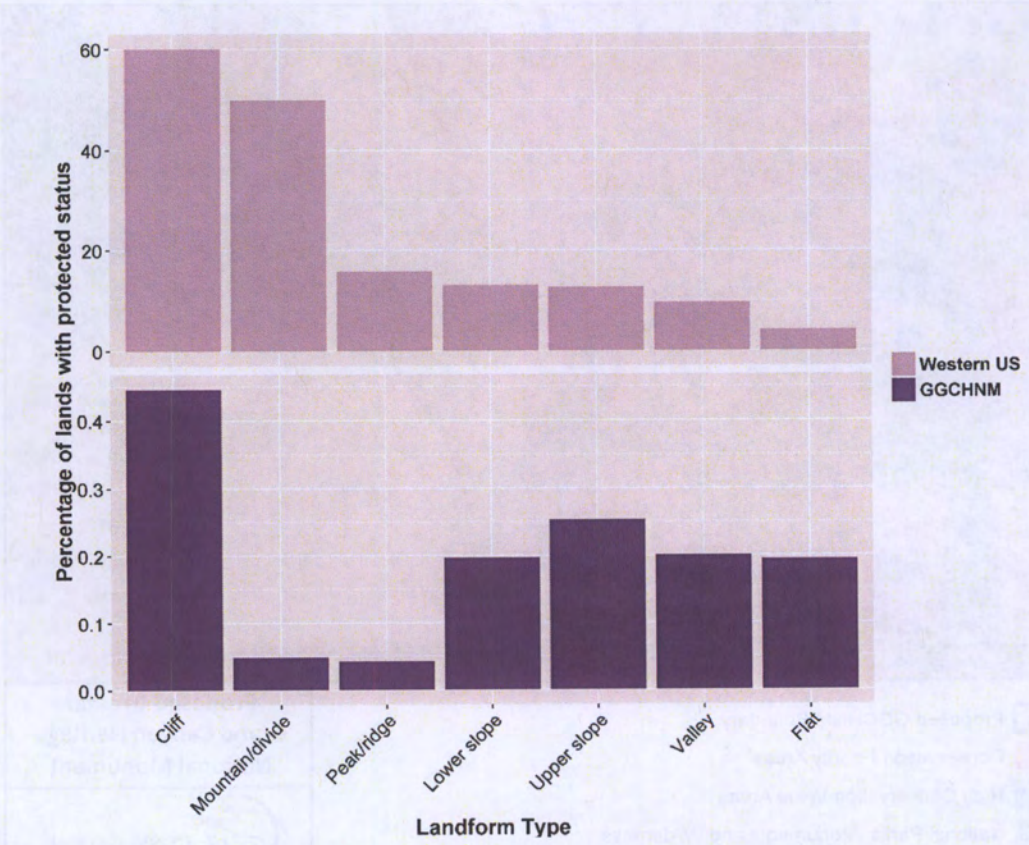
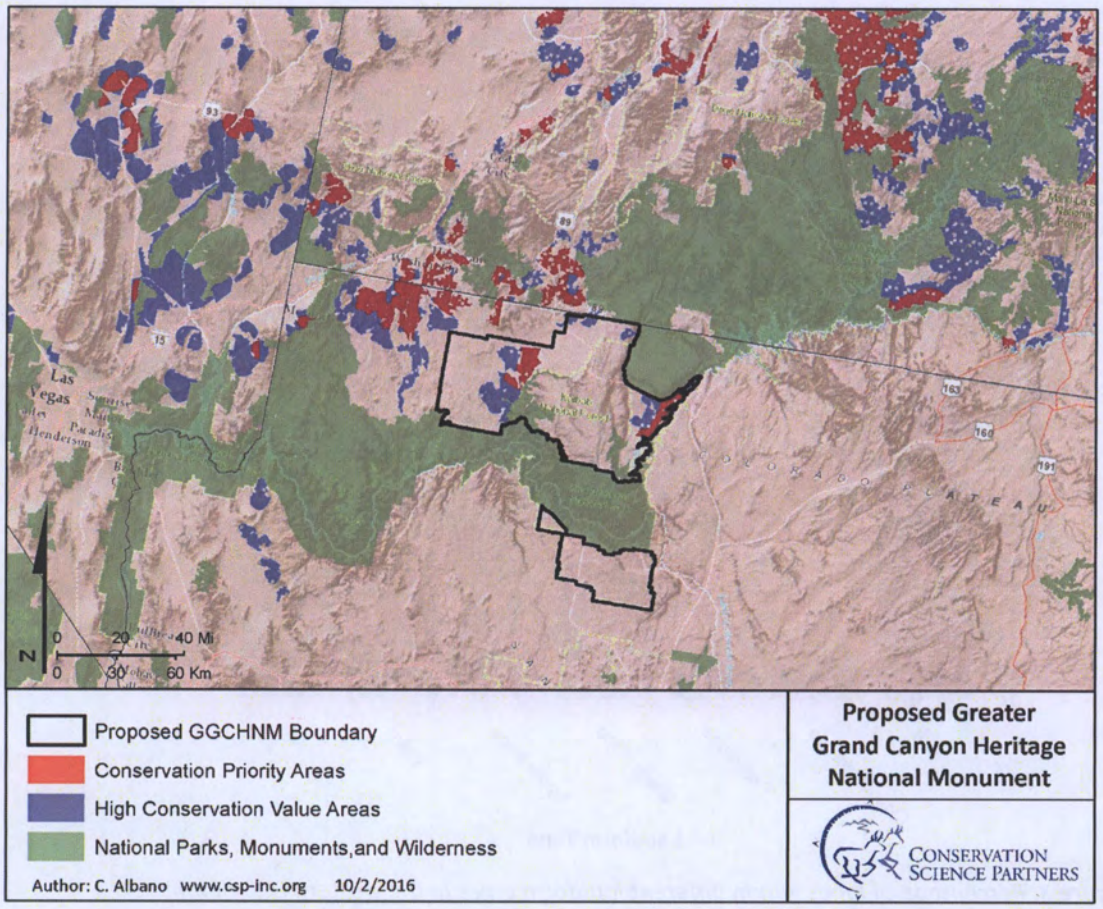
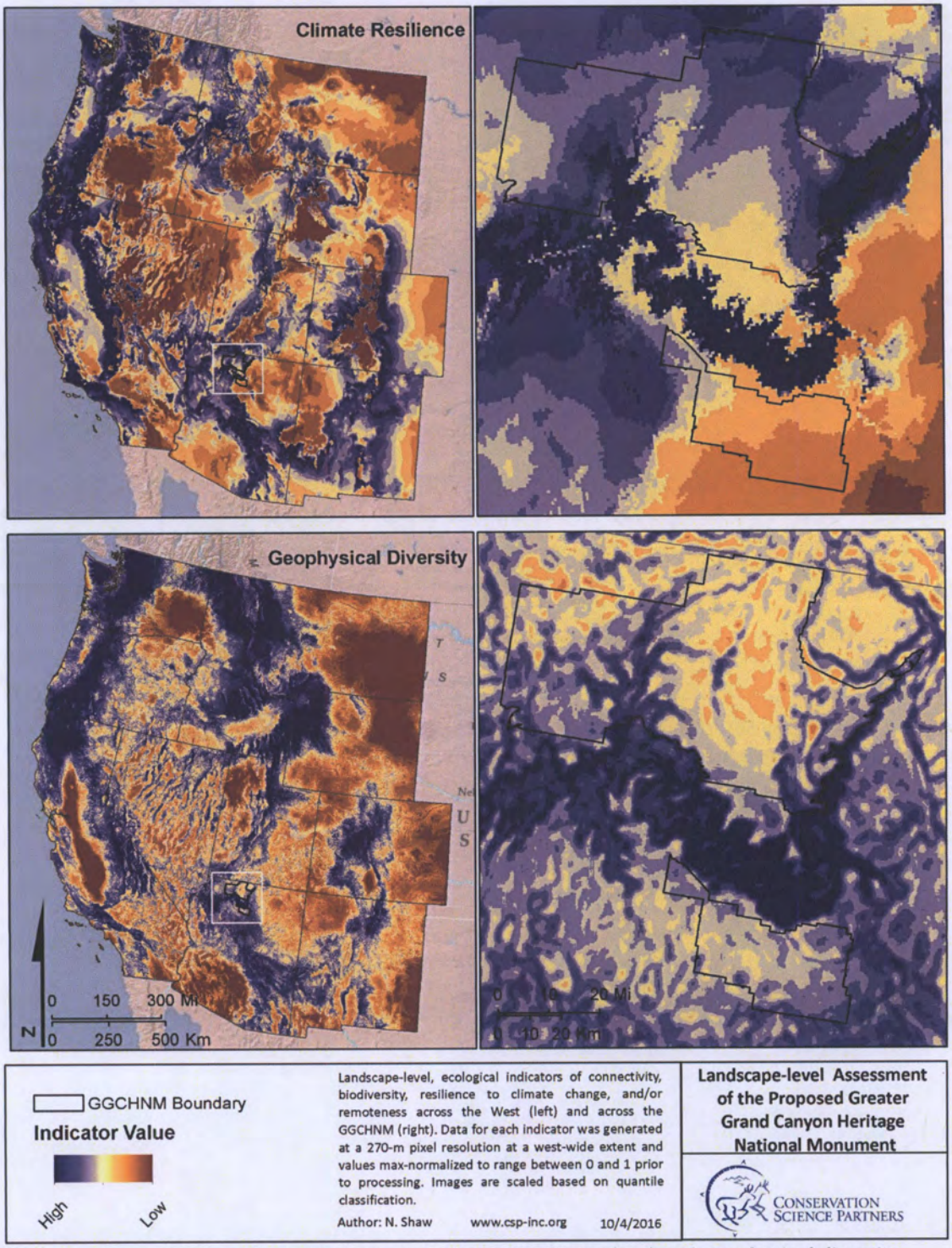


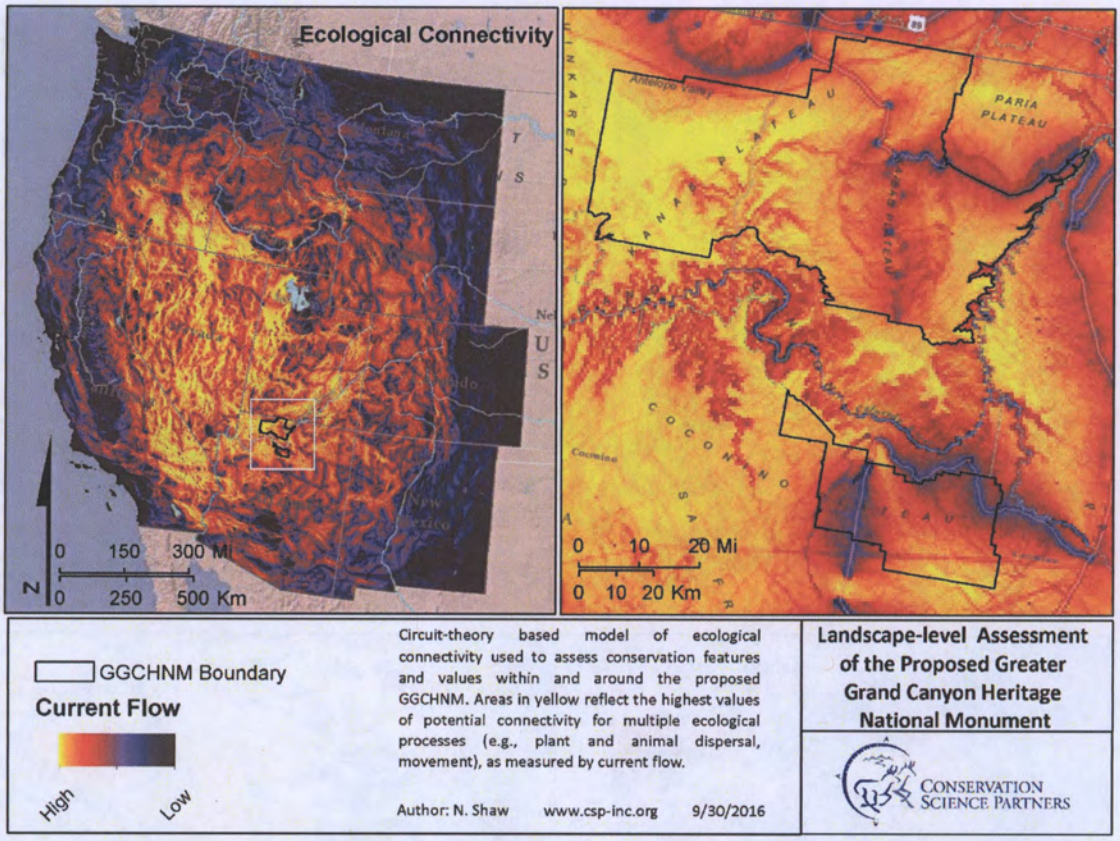
Figure 3. *Percentage of lands within different landform types in the western U.S. that have protected status (IUCN categories I-IV and NCL lands in IUCN V; upper panel) and percentage of additional lands that would be protected, with designation of the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (lower panel). The area has a disproportionately higher diversity of landform types than is found across the existing protected areas network. The area would serve to enhance and diversify the existing protected areas network by increasing the representation of most landform types, including valley bottoms and the terrain features that promote biodiversity and connectivity.*



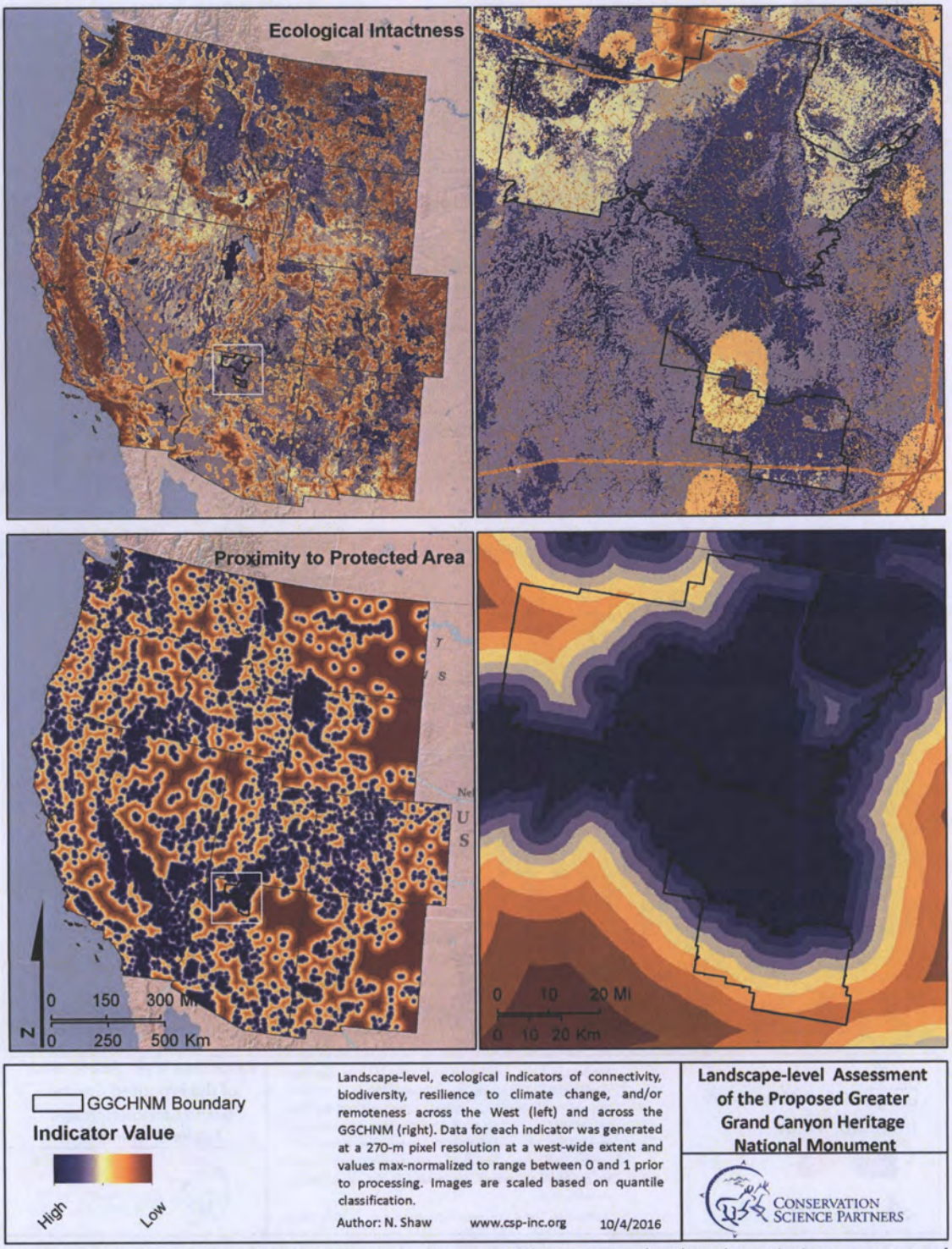
Map 1. *Proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM). This map includes the conservation priority areas and other high conservation value areas identified on unprotected, roadless BLM lands derived by Dickson et al. (2014). Protection that includes these areas, in particular, would promote climate resilience and facilitate key ecological connections with protected areas immediately to the north and south of the GGCHNM boundary.*



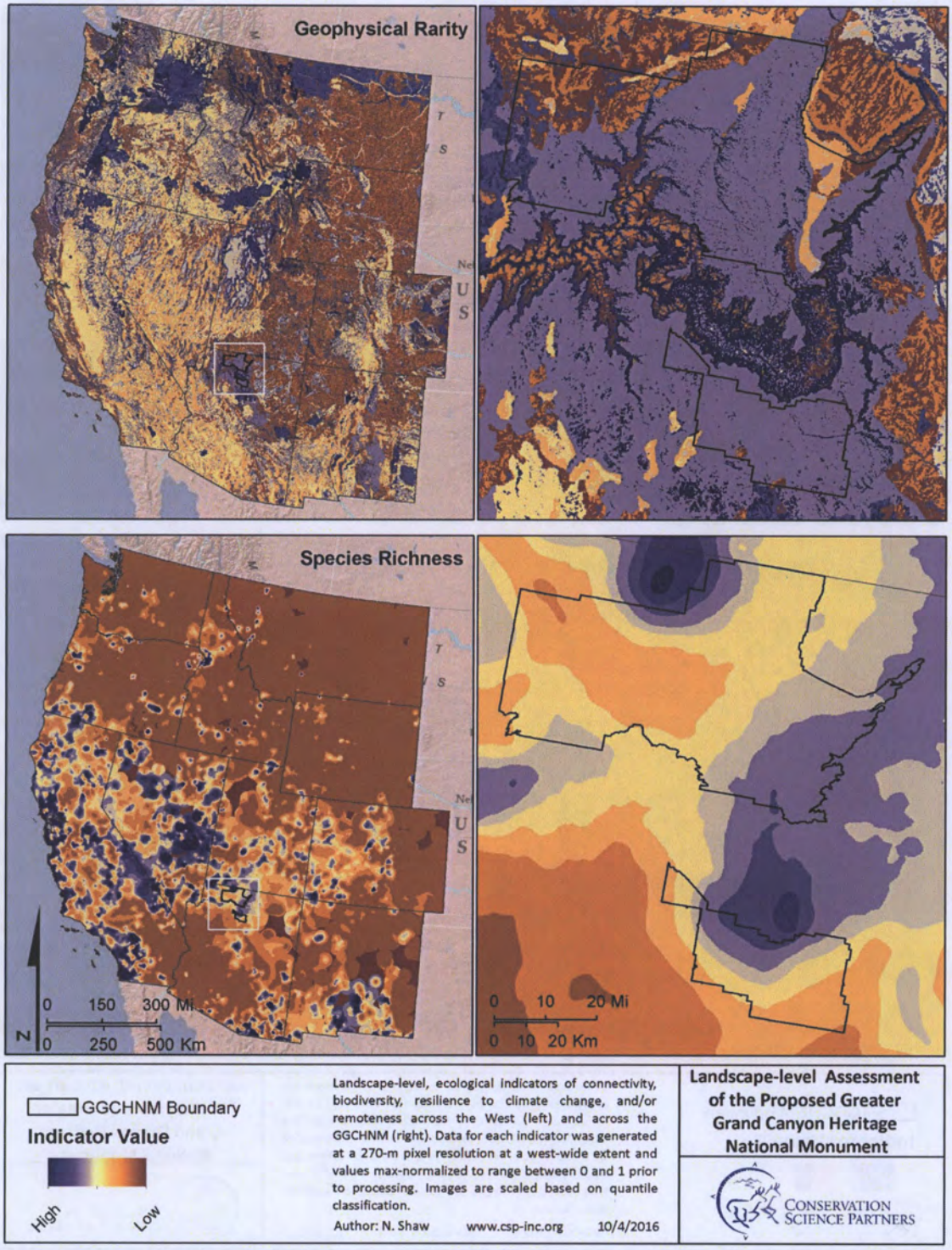
Map 2. *Landscape-level, ecological indicators of* ***climate resilience*** *(top) and* ***geophysical diversity*** *(bottom).*



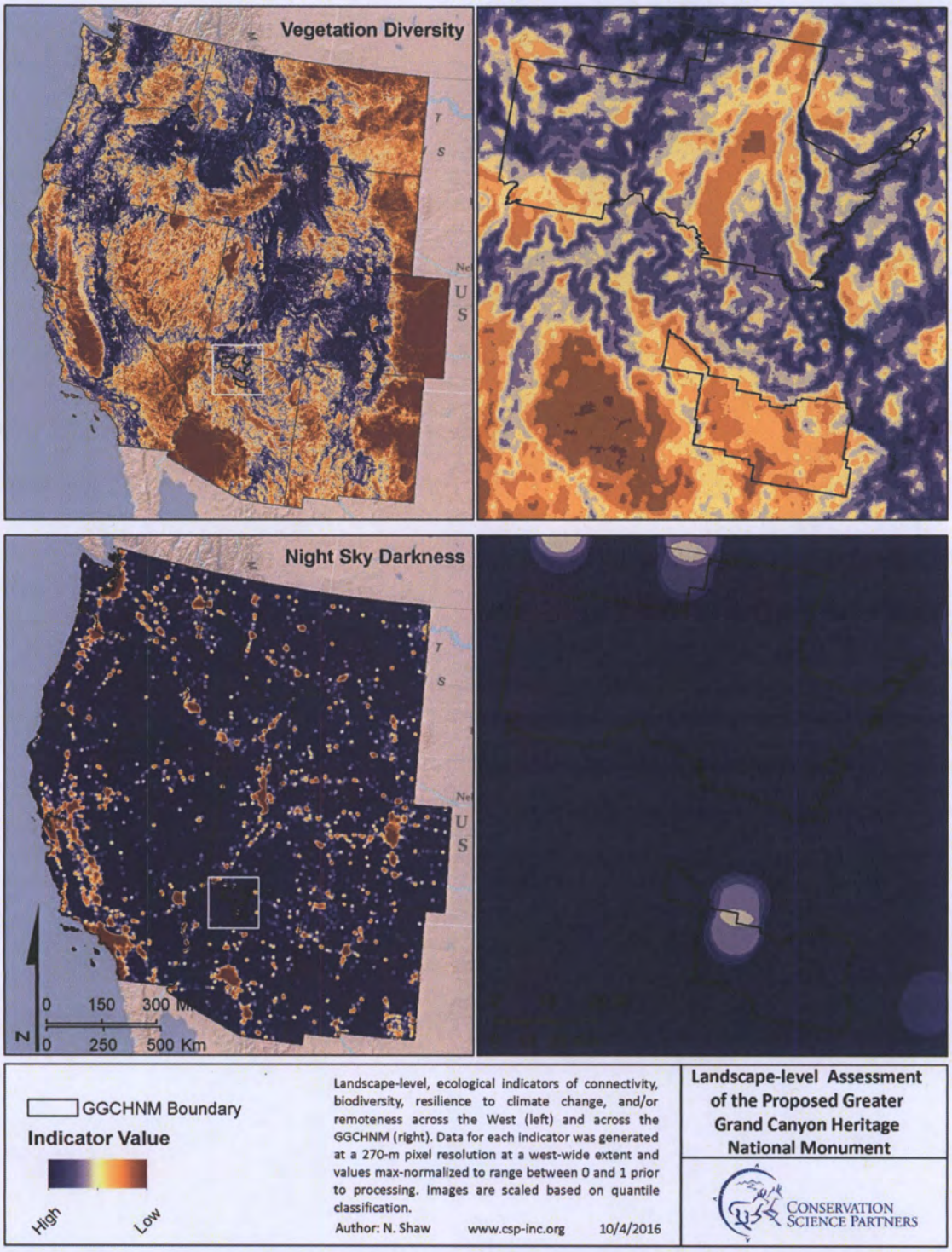
Map 3. *Circuit-theory based model of West-wide ecological connectivity used to assess conservation features and values within and around the proposed 1.78-million acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM). Model derived and described by Dickson et al. (in press).*



Map 4. *Landscape-level, ecological indicators of* ***ecological intactness*** *(top) and* ***proximity to protected area*** *(bottom).*



Map 5. *Landscape-level, ecological indicators of* ***geophysical rarity*** *(top) and* ***rarity-weighted species richness*** *(bottom).*



Map 6. *Landscape-level, ecological indicators of* ***vegetation community diversity*** *(top) and* ***night sky darkness*** *(bottom).*

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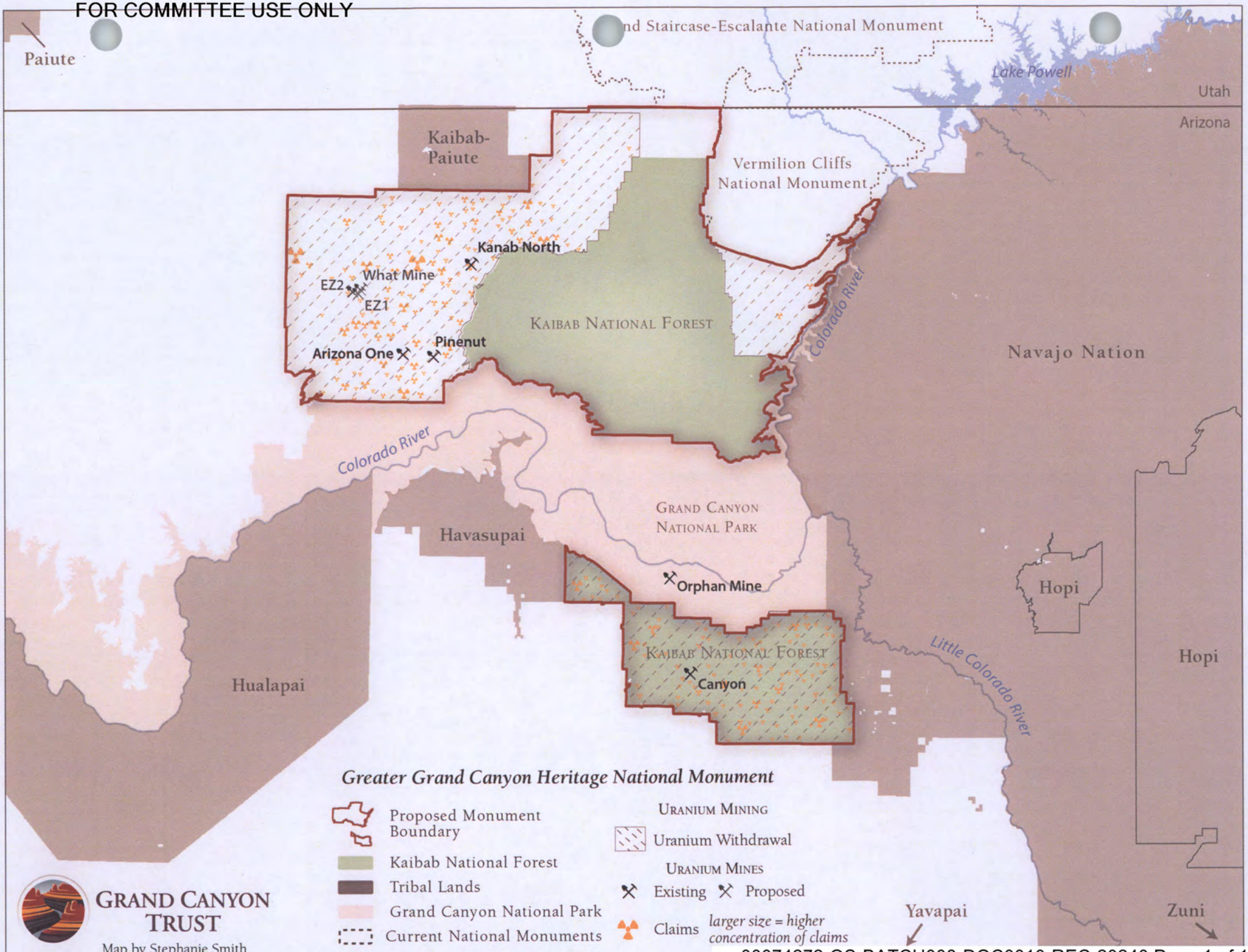

The Need for Permanent Protection of Grand Canyon from Uranium Mining

A key element of President's Obama legacy should be the permanent protection of the public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. These lands, under the management jurisdiction of both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service, and the interconnected above and underground waterways, are threatened by the uranium industry's desire to mine ore deposits that lie 1,500-feet below the earth's surface. The immediacy of the threat waxes and wanes–coinciding with a fluctuating uranium market. The discovery of uranium in the region in the 1940's and early mines has poisoned springs and aquifers that tribal communities and wildlife depend on. Since the 1950's the possibility of widespread development has been hanging over the park, forcing the region's eleven tribes, local governments, and people across the nation (and the world) to be vigilant in their efforts to prevent toxic uranium mining next to Grand Canyon National Park, with unpredictable and often unsuccessful outcomes.

President Obama's January 2012 mining withdrawal represented a bold, first step to lasting protection. It provided a needed reaction to a sharp spike in the price of uranium in 2005-06, which led to the establishment of literally thousands of new uranium mining claims, many by individual prospectors hoping to profit from then-existing circumstances. It also was an implicit recognition that a legislative fix was not a viable solution to protect the Grand Canyon, tribal and community health.

Not unexpectedly, the withdrawal is being challenged in court. The withdrawal relied on a provision from a 1976 law (FLPMA) for authorization. However, that provision was, and continues to be, susceptible to a constitutional challenge. The district court correctly rejected that argument in a thoughtful and carefully worded opinion. Yet the case is currently on appeal in the Ninth Circuit and the challengers are likely to press their constitutional argument to the Supreme Court. The withdrawal's legal footing could be tenuous as the case winds its way through the courts.

National monument designation will not only moot these judicial proceedings, more importantly, it would also provide lasting protection regardless of the courts' rulings and solidify the Administration's 2012 withdrawal. The withdrawal will expire on its own terms in January 2032. And over the next sixteen years, future administrations can void the withdrawal for any reason, including an increase in uranium prices.

For their part, BLM and the Forest Service have not been able to say no to new mining, both before and since the withdrawal was adopted. They have been unwilling to exercise available discretion under existing laws, and further believe they are hamstrung by the Mining Law. Consequently, we cannot rely on individual project approvals as a means to protect the region from uranium mining. A national monument will protect these lands from the vagaries of the uranium market and provide land managers a way to say no to new mining activities.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

RECORD OF DECISION

NORTHERN ARIZONA WITHDRAWAL

Mohave and Coconino Counties, Arizona

January 9, 2012

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FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

RECORD OF DECISION

NORTHERN ARIZONA WITHDRAWAL

Mohave and Coconino Counties

--- ERRATA ---

January 2012

Section VII contains a typographical error which incorrectly reports the acres the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) consented to withdrawing on the Kaibab National Forest in Northern Arizona as 134,454 acres. The actual approximate acreage as documented in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Final Environmental Impact Statement (Alternative B, October 2011, Table 2.7-1, page 2-31) and the USFS letter of consent dated January 6, 2012 is 355,874 acres. In all other respects the language of the Record of Decision is accurate.

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RECORD OF DECISION

NORTHERN ARIZONA WITHDRAWAL

Mohave and Coconino Counties, Arizona

I. SUMMARY

This document constitutes the Record of Decision (ROD) of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) for the Northern Arizona Withdrawal. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. § 1714, this ROD documents the decision to select Alternative B identified in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and withdraw from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, approximately 1,006,545 acres of federal land in Northern Arizona for a 20-year period in order to protect the Grand Canyon Watershed from adverse effects of locatable mineral exploration and development. The withdrawal does not affect use, management, or disposition of the lands other than under the Mining Law of 1872, 30 U.S.C. §§ 22-54 (Mining Law).

The lands are located near Grand Canyon National Park in northern Arizona and consist of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). They contain significant environmental and cultural resources as well as substantial uranium deposits. The USFS has consented to the withdrawal of the lands under its jurisdiction.

II. INTRODUCTION

President Theodore Roosevelt withdrew the North Kaibab Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest from mineral location and entry when he first created the Grand Canyon Preserve in 1906. Tribal lands bordering the park became off limits to uranium development when the Grand Canyon Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments were created and the lands were withdrawn from mineral entry.

Uranium ore deposits were discovered and mines were opened in northern Arizona in the 1940s and 1950s. A price spike in uranium in the late 1970s triggered increased demand for exploration by mining companies. In the 1980s, the U.S. Geological Survey began studying the uranium deposits of the area and produced maps. These deposits consist of pipe-shaped breccia bodies generally no more than 300 feet in diameter that can extend 2,000 feet below the surface. Copper production from breccia pipes dates back to the late 1800s.

Exploration activities resulted in six new uranium mines that together produced 1,471,942 tons of uranium during the late 1980s-early1990s. Three of seven mines have been reclaimed. The remaining four were put into "maintenance" or standby status in the early 1990s due to declining prices for uranium and economic considerations.

From the period of 1978 – 1992, over 900 exploration holes were completed on the USFS-managed Tusayan Ranger District. One underground mine, the Canyon Mine, was proposed and approved on the District in the late 1980s in the same area.

Uranium is a mineral locatable under the Mining Law. Historically, the number of claims located and interest in development of existing claims appear to relate to the price of uranium. In 2004, mining-related activities increased on BLM and USFS managed lands tracking another surge in uranium prices. In 2007, the demand for uranium pushed the commodity price to over $130/lb before returning to the $40/lb range in 2009. This price spike prompted new interest in the breccia pipe uranium deposits on federal lands to the north and south of Grand Canyon National Park, causing thousands of new mining claims to be located in the area. In late 2007 and into 2008 mining-related activities slowed due to a downturn in uranium prices. The price of uranium declined from $135 per pound to below $42 per pound in June 2007. The price currently is at about $48 per pound. The increase in new mining claim locations during the period of 2004 to 2008 generated public concern that uranium mining could adversely affect natural, cultural, and social resources in the Grand Canyon watershed, which includes resources in Grand Canyon National Park. Over 10,000 mining claims had been located within the withdrawal area by 2009.

In response to the concern over potential environmental effects of uranium exploration and mining, a number of events occurred in 2008 and 2009 to bring attention to these lands and the potential for long term or permanent impacts to the Grand Canyon watershed. Among those events was legislation introduced by Representative Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) in March 2008 (H.R. 4483) to permanently withdraw over 1 million acres from location and entry under the Mining Law, as well as from mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, mineral material sales, and the public land laws. The area proposed for legislative withdrawal includes federal lands north of Grand Canyon National Park administered by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Arizona Strip Field Office and the USFS's North Kaibab Ranger District, and lands south of the Park in the Tusayan Ranger District administered by the USFS. The legislative withdrawal was reintroduced as H.R. 644 on January 22, 2009, and again in March 2011 as H.R. 855.

On July 21, 2009, the Department of the Interior published notice of the Secretary of the Interior's proposed 20-year withdrawal under the authority of FLPMA. The Secretary's proposed 20-year withdrawal covered essentially the same area (the "withdrawal area") as the proposed legislative withdrawal in H.R. 4483 and the subsequent bills; however, under the Secretary's proposal, the subject lands would only be withdrawn from location and entry under the Mining Law and would remain available for mineral leasing, geothermal leasing, and mineral materials sales and open to the public land laws generally.

Under section 204 of FLPMA, the July 21, 2009, publication of the *Federal Register* notice of the proposed withdrawal (Appendix A of the Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]) had the effect of segregating the lands involved for up to 2 years from the location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, while the BLM evaluated the withdrawal application. On June 21, 2011, the Department of the Interior published Public Land Order 7773, which effected a six-month emergency withdrawal of the withdrawal area. The emergency withdrawal prevented the lands from opening to location and entry under the Mining Law upon expiration of the two-year segregation while the Department completed the decision-making process on the proposed withdrawal. The emergency withdrawal became effective on July 21, 2011, and ends January 20, 2012. The BLM, along with its cooperating agencies, has completed various studies and analyses of resources in the withdrawal area, including an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347 (NEPA). These

studies and analyses provided the basis for the final decision regarding whether or not to proceed with the proposed withdrawal or to select an alternative action.

The EIS addresses the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on the human environment of the proposed withdrawal and alternatives to the proposed withdrawal. The EIS also discloses any unavoidable adverse impacts, impacts to the long-term productivity of affected resources, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that result from the proposed withdrawal or the alternatives to the proposed withdrawal, including the No Action Alternative.

III. AUTHORITY

Section 204 of FLPMA provides the Secretary of the Interior with the authority to make, modify, revoke and extend withdrawals, subject to valid existing rights (43 U.S.C. § 1714). Withdrawals can be used to remove lands from the operation of the public land laws generally, including the Mining Law. The Secretary of the Interior can withdraw lands under the jurisdiction of another agency, but only with the consent of that agency (43 U.S.C. § 1714(i)).

FLPMA also directs that lands under BLM jurisdiction are to be managed under principles of multiple-use and sustained yield unless another law provides otherwise (43 U.S.C. § 1732(a)). FLPMA defines multiple-use as "a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values" (43 U.S.C. § 1702(c)). The USFS has a similar multiple-use mandate (16 U.S.C. § 529, 531). This grants BLM and the USFS substantial discretion to balance the competing uses on particular parcels of land; it does not require every use on every parcel.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE WITHDRAWAL AREA

The withdrawal area in northwest Arizona is located adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park and consists of three parcels: the North Parcel, with approximately 549,995 acres; the East Parcel, with approximately 134,454 acres; and the South Parcel, with approximately 322,096 acres. The North and East parcels are both north of the Park, while the South Parcel is south of the Park. The withdrawal will have no effect on mine development of any non-federal lands within its exterior boundaries. However, they are included within the boundary of the withdrawal in the event that they are acquired by the federal government sometime in the future, at which point the lands would become subject to the withdrawal.

Approximately 982,552 acres within the boundaries of the withdrawal are managed by the BLM or the USFS. The remaining 23,993 acres are split estate lands where the surface is non-federal but the locatable minerals are owned by the federal government. The withdrawal will withdraw all lands from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, regardless of surface ownership. This means that no new mining claims can be established to develop the locatable minerals in those lands or interests in lands. The withdrawal will not limit development of non-federal mineral estate or federal leasable or salable minerals (e.g., oil and gas leasing, sand and gravel permits), which are not subject to appropriation under the Mining Law.

Crafted by the immense power of the Colorado River, the Grand Canyon and the greater ecosystem that surrounds it have long been recognized as one of the Nation's most treasured landscapes. This area is known as a home or sacred place of origin to many Native Americans,

including the Havasupai, Hualapai, Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Southern Paiute, and others, and its cultural significance goes back thousands of years. Although first afforded federal protection in 1893 as a Forest Reserve and later as a National Monument, the Grand Canyon achieved National Park status in 1919, three years after the creation of the National Park Service (NPS). The Park is a world heritage site and an international icon. The Grand Canyon National Park is dominated by the Grand Canyon, a twisting, 1-mile deep, 277-mile-long gorge formed during some 6 million years of geological activity and erosion by the Colorado River on the upraised earth's crust. The river divides the Park into the North and South rims, which overlook the approximately 10-mile-wide canyon. The Park encompasses 1,217,403.32 acres and in 2010 received 4,388,389 visitors. The Park is closed to location and entry under the Mining Law.

The three withdrawal parcels are located within the Colorado Plateau, which is characterized by highlands to the north and lowlands to the south and west. The three withdrawal parcels contain many of the unique geographical features that characterize the Colorado Plateau, such as river narrows, natural bridges, and slot canyons. The three withdrawal parcels contain a variety of plant life, from desert-type vegetation in the low-lying rocky areas to forests of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsugamenziesii*) and aspen (*Populus*sp.) in the higher elevations.

The Grand Canyon and the greater ecosystem surrounding it is a cornerstone of the region's economy with hunting, fishing, tourism, and other outdoor recreation generating billions of dollars in economic activity in the area. Millions of people living in seven states in the U.S. and in Mexico depend upon the Colorado River for water for drinking, irrigation, and industrial use, as well as for hydropower. The National Forest System lands in the area are located in the Kaibab National Forest, including lands on the Tusayan Ranger District and on the North Kaibab Ranger District. These lands are set aside for public recreation and a habitat for birds and animals.

Mineral resources, particularly high-grade uranium, are found in this area. Uranium mineralization was first discovered in the breccia pipes of northern Arizona in 1947. The uranium occurred in association with copper mineralization at the Orphan mine 2 miles west of the visitor center on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon (not within the withdrawal area). The first uranium ore was shipped by the Golden Crown Mining Company in 1956 to a buying station in Tuba City, Arizona. Before closing in 1969, the Orphan operation produced a reported total of 2,200 tons of processed uranium (U_3O_8).

Since the discovery of uranium in the Orphan Mine, extensive fieldwork has been conducted by government and private concerns to define the spatial extent of the breccia pipes in northern Arizona. The recognition of a relationship between uranium and copper mineralization sparked an investigation of several small copper deposits in the region. Uranium was identified in the Hack Canyon copper mine on the Arizona Strip in the 1950s. From the 1950s through the 1990s, 10 breccia pipes were developed or mined for uranium ore within the withdrawal area. Until the 1980s, the only mine producing uranium within the withdrawal area was the original Hack Canyon Mine, which had ceased production in 1964. Additional pipes were discovered in Hack Canyon in the 1970s, and production from these breccia pipes began in 1981. As the price of uranium went up in the late 1970s and 1980s, along with the demand for uranium products, exploration for uranium increased dramatically. Exploration uncovered six other breccia pipes with minable uranium ore during the early and mid-1980s, and production from these mines began with the Pigeon mine in 1984. By the end of 1990, collapse of the Soviet Union and decommissioning of large numbers of nuclear warheads made huge stockpiles of material available for use in nuclear electrical production. The subsequent plunge in uranium prices resulted in the cessation of all uranium production from the withdrawal area. Six breccia pipes, accessed from three mines, were

considered mined out and were closed or reclaimed (the four Hack Complex pipes, Pigeon, and Hermit) and four mines were placed in interim management until prices recovered.

In 2010 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) was directed by the Secretary to develop the scientific basis for analysis in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal EIS. As a consequence, it developed Scientific Investigation Report 2010-5025 to characterize breccia pipe uranium ore and mining in Northern Arizona. That study estimates the undiscovered uranium endowment within the three withdrawal parcels, which was estimated to be 162,964 tons of U_3O_8 (about 326 million pounds). The endowment, as defined by USGS, included ore concentrations as low as 0.01%, which is lower than would be economical to mine. The Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) scenarios developed for the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal EIS estimated the quantity of uranium that could be mined economically to be 39,664 tons of U_3O_8 (79,328,000 pounds).

With the passage of FLPMA in 1976, the BLM was directed to conduct inventories for areas meeting the characteristics of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Several areas were determined to have those characteristics within what is now the proposed withdrawal area and, as a consequence, were designated as Wilderness Study Areas. The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 was an historic piece of legislation negotiated by a coalition of interests including representatives of environmental groups, uranium mining interests, the livestock industry, and others. That Act, specifically Title III, designated wilderness areas within the Arizona Strip, including Kanab Creek Wilderness, Mount Logan Wilderness, Mount Trumbull Wilderness, Paria Canyon–Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, and Saddle Mountain Wilderness. The Act "release[d] certain lands not designated as wilderness for such management as is determined appropriate through the land management planning process of the administering agency." Areas previously designated as Wilderness Study Areas, including any within the withdrawal area, that were not designated by Congress as Wilderness in the act, were "released" from that designation and protections for maintaining wilderness characteristics were removed. The Act designated Wilderness in furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The legislation recognized the uranium resource in the region and the Congressional Record notes that the boundary of one Wilderness area was adjusted to accommodate development of a uranium mine.

There are four mines within the withdrawal area that have approved plans of operations that predate the Secretary's withdrawal proposal. The Pinenut, Kanab North, and Canyon mines were approved in the late 1980s and are operating under the interim management plans contained in their approved mining plans of operation, but are not currently producing uranium ore. The Kanab North mine has been largely mined out and only a very small amount of ore remains. It is now being prepared for reclamation. The Pinenut mine was partially mined and is moving towards active mining and could be in production in the near future. The Canyon Mine was just being developed when uranium prices plummeted in the late 1980s, and though it has only about 50 feet of shaft, is being prepared for further development. The Arizona 1 mine has been operating since late 2009 and is expected to be mined out within the next year.

As of December 11, 2011, the withdrawal area contains 3,156 mining claims that predate the publication of the Notice of Proposed Withdrawal on July 21, 2009. Withdrawals under section 204 of FLPMA must be made subject to valid existing rights, which means that new mineral exploration and development could still be authorized under the withdrawal on valid existing mining claims. The RFD scenarios developed for the EIS indicate that potentially 11 mines could develop with a full withdrawal, including the four mines currently approved, as opposed to 30 mines (including the four mines currently approved) with no withdrawal. On withdrawn lands, neither the BLM nor the USFS will process a new notice or plan of operations until the surface managing agency conducts a mineral examination and determines that the mining claims

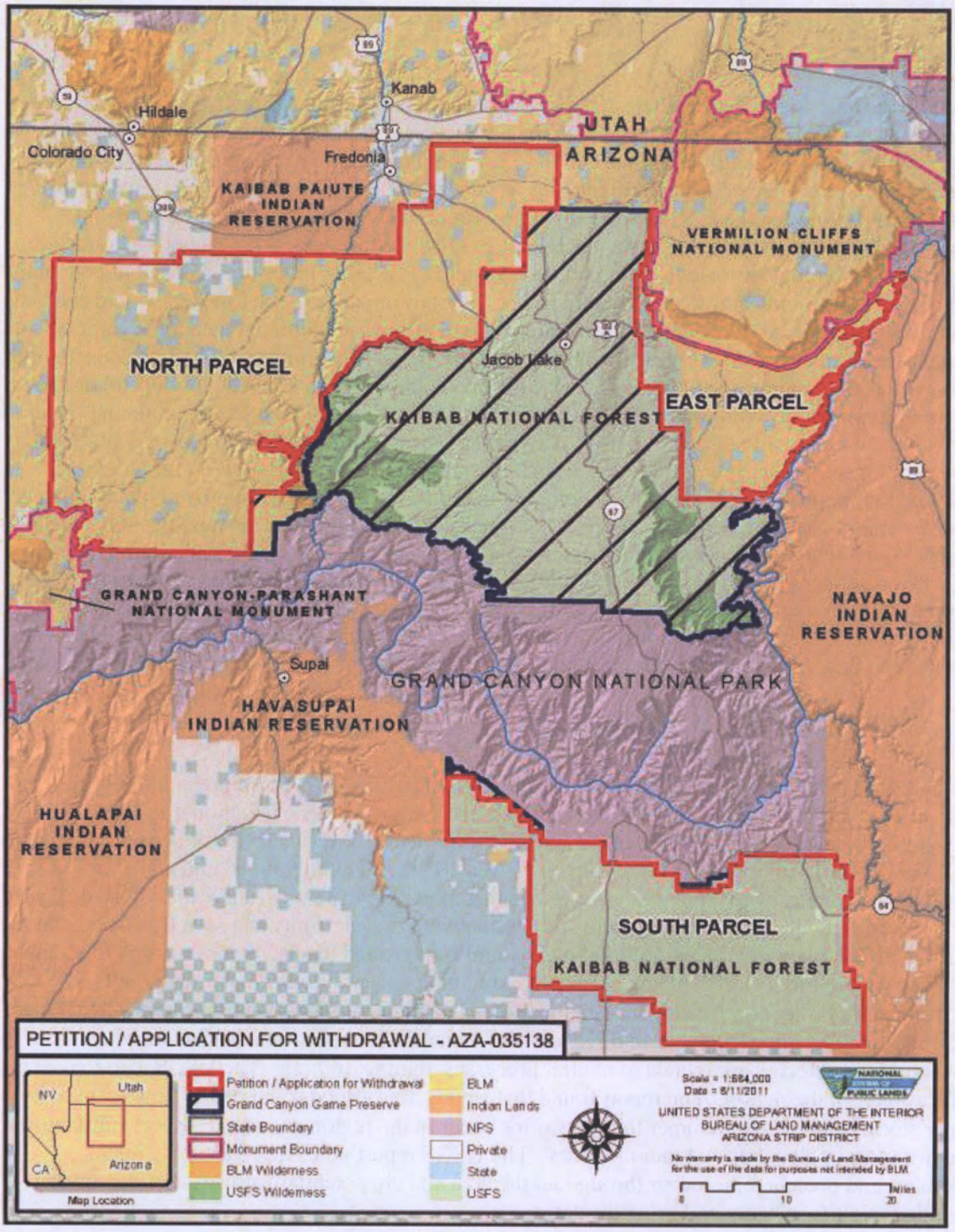
on which the surface disturbance would occur were valid as of the date the lands were segregated or withdrawn. Determining the validity of a mining claim is a complex and time-consuming legal, geological, and economic evaluation that is done on a claim-by-claim basis. For a mining claim to be valid, the claimant must make an actual physical exposure of the mineral deposit within the claim boundaries. For the mining claims containing breccia pipe deposits, unless erosion has exposed mineralization in a canyon, this would probably require exploratory drilling and sampling. The mining claim or site would need to have been valid as of the date of segregation, July 21, 2009, and have been maintained until the time of the mineral examination.

There are 26 confirmed breccia pipes within the withdrawal area known to have some level of mineralization. Of these, seven have been confirmed to have uranium resources, and those uranium resources have been estimated. It was assumed for purposes of determining the impacts of withdrawing the lands from the Mining Law that any mining claim containing these seven breccia pipes would be able to demonstrate valid existing rights and would be mined. Based on this reasonably foreseeable development, the analysis in the EIS assumes that there will still be mining activities in the withdrawal area under all alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, which could result in impacts to the resources discussed below. However, mining activities would be limited with implementation of this withdrawal, since mining claims that do not constitute valid existing rights would not be developed and no new mining claims could be located.

V. DECISION

Department of the Interior: It is the decision of the Department of the Interior to select Alternative B as described in the EIS and withdraw from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, approximately 1,006,545 acres of federal land in Northern Arizona, as depicted on Map 1, for a 20-year period. A complete legal description of the withdrawal is contained in the Public Land Order. The withdrawal only affects the disposition of lands and locatable minerals under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, and does not restrict the disposition, use, or management of the lands for any minerals subject to disposition by lease or sale. It also does not affect disposition, use, or management of the lands other than under the Mining Law, including access to and across the lands. In addition, the withdrawal does not apply to private mineral estate, although the withdrawal will remove from the operation of the Mining Law any lands or interests in lands within the outside boundaries of the withdrawal acquired in the future by the United States as long as the withdrawal is in effect. On Federal lands, exploration and mining would be subject to Federal surface management regulations and other applicable State and Federal laws. The USFS has consented to the withdrawal of land under its administration that is subject to this decision.

Map 1


Kanab
Hildale
Colorado City
Fredonia
UTAH
ARIZONA
KAIBAB PAIUTE INDIAN RESERVATION
VERMILION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT
NORTH PARCEL
Jacob Lake
EAST PARCEL
KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST
GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT
NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION
Supai
GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
HAVASUPAI INDIAN RESERVATION
HUALAPAI INDIAN RESERVATION
SOUTH PARCEL
KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST
PETITION / APPLICATION FOR WITHDRAWAL - AZA-035138
NV
Utah
CA
Arizona
Map Location
Petition / Application for Withdrawal
Grand Canyon Game Preserve
State Boundary
Monument Boundary
BLM Wilderness
USFS Wilderness
BLM
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Scale = 1:684,000
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ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT
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VI. RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

Summary

Based on the analysis in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal EIS, the Department of the Interior has decided that, in accordance with the preferred alternative, a withdrawal of 1,006,545 acres from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, is warranted. Several key factors were considered in making this decision. In particular, the USGS report (SIR 2010-5025) included in the EIS acknowledged uncertainty due to limited data. The potential impacts estimated in the EIS due to the uncertainties of subsurface water movement, radionuclide migration, and biological toxicological pathways result in low probability of impacts, but potential high risk. The EIS indicates that the likelihood of a serious impact may be low, but should such an event occur, significant. A twenty-year withdrawal will allow for additional data to be gathered and more thorough investigation of groundwater flow paths, travel times, and radionuclide contributions from mining as recommended by USGS. Millions of people living in seven states depend on the Colorado River for drinking, irrigation, industrial use. Second, it is likely that the potential impacts to tribal resources could not be mitigated. Any mining within the sacred and traditional places of tribal peoples may degrade the values of those lands to the tribes that use them. Third, the RFD projected that potentially eleven mines, including the four mines currently approved, could proceed under a withdrawal of the 1,006,545 acres. This pace of development for the next twenty years is roughly equivalent to the pace of development that occurred during the peak of uranium interest in the 1980s when ten breccia pipes were developed and six were mined out. Thus, development of the uranium resource will continue even if all of the lands in the proposal are withdrawn. And finally, the set of circumstances and the unique resources located in this area support a cautious and careful approach. It is for these reasons that a decision is being made to withdraw 1,006,545 acres.

1. USGS Analyses and Water Resources

The USGS developed the Scientific Investigative Report 2010-5025 prior to preparation of the Draft EIS, which incorporates that Report by reference. As part of its evaluation, the USGS analyzed soil and sediment samples at six sites that experienced various levels of uranium mining in the Kanab Creek area north of Grand Canyon National Park, including mined and reclaimed sites, 3 approved mined sites where operations have been temporarily suspended, and exploratory drill sites that were drilled but not mined. Uranium and arsenic were two elements consistently detected in the areas disturbed by mining in quantities above natural background levels. Samples from 15 springs and five wells in the region contained dissolved uranium concentrations greater than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency maximum allowed contaminant for drinking water. The springs and wells sampled are close by or in direct contact with mineralized ore bodies, and the concentrations detected are related to natural processes, mining, or both. The USGS also looked at surface water in the region. The report found that floods, flash floods, and debris flows caused by winter storms and intense summer thunderstorms occur in the region and can transport substantial volumes of trace elements and radionuclides. The USGS report notes that fractures, faults, sinkholes, and breccia pipes occur throughout the area and are potential pathways for downward migration of surface water and groundwater.

The USGS report acknowledges uncertainty as data is sparse in this region and often limited[1]. The timing and location of water quality information in the area is important because the potential effects of breccia pipe uranium mining may be localized and appear rapidly or may be more dispersed during longer time scales. The data evaluated for 1,014 water samples from 428 sites indicate that about 70 sites have exceeded the primary or secondary maximum contaminant levels for certain major ions and trace elements, such as arsenic, iron, lead, manganese, radium, sulfate, and uranium. The USGS concluded that a more thorough investigation is required to better understand groundwater flow paths, travel times, and contributions from mining.

The most prominent example of the uncertainty of impacts is with respect to how mining might affect perched aquifers. The EIS acknowledged that "… change in the quantity or chemical quality of the discharge from perched aquifer springs cannot be projected with the data available." For that reason, the EIS assumed that "… any mine located within the groundwater drainage area calculated for a spring might cause an impact ranging from none to major to that spring." A similar effect was projected for wells which are dependent on perched aquifers. Although the probability of any impact to springs ranged from 0% (in the South and East Parcels with full withdrawal) to 13.3%, (in the North Parcel with no withdrawal) the risk of those impacts to animal or human users of the water is unacceptable.

Uncertainty also affects the potential impacts to deep aquifer springs. Because the potential for migration of mine released radionuclides is unknown, the EIS assumes a relatively high concentration of potential discharge from mines to the R-aquifer. The R-aquifer is the principal aquifer in the area and includes the carbonate rocks of the Redwall Limestone, Muav Limestone, and Temple Butte Formation. Although, using this assumption, no R-aquifer spring would exceed Environmental Protection Agency minimum concentrations for drinking water, increases in radionuclides could occur.

The uncertainties of effects to water quantity and quality, also leads to uncertainties of effects to animals and humans. The effects of exposure of native plants and animals to increased levels of radionuclides are unknown. Some research has been performed, but Hinck noted in the 2010 USGS study that "… chemical and radiation effects thresholds for radionuclides are consistently limited to only a few species for most biological receptors, and limited data are available for wildlife species (Hinck et al. 2010). During the USGS study (Hinck et al. 2010), minimal chemical toxicity data were available for microbes, aquatic vascular plants, terrestrial invertebrates, and amphibians, and no data were found for reptiles, birds, or mammalian wildlife. Toxicity data are most abundant, but still limited, for aquatic invertebrates, fish, and laboratory test mammals." The potential effects of increased radionuclides in wildlife, livestock, or humans would be unacceptable.

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[1] Although the USGS report, the EIS, and this ROD acknowledge uncertainty with respect to water quality and quantity as explained below, information that would help resolve that uncertainty is not "essential to making a reasoned choice among alternatives" (see 40 C.F.R. § 1502.22) since, as explained in the preceding paragraph, there is data regarding dissolved uranium concentrations near six previously-mined sites to inform a reasoned choice, and the EIS used reasonable conservative assumptions to estimate impacts as a method of addressing such unknowns. Although obtaining additional data to address the uncertainty regarding impacts on water quantity and quality is not essential to a reasoned choice, such data, particularly data collected on a site-specific basis as mines are developed, will nevertheless be helpful for future decisionmaking in the area.

2. Cultural and Tribal Resources

Although there is only one eligible traditional cultural property (Red Butte on the South Parcel) the entire area is recognized as the traditional homeland and use area for seven tribes. Many of these tribes include the Grand Canyon in their creation stories, and all continue to use all or portions of the withdrawal area for traditional tribal purposes. All seven tribes, the Havasupai Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Kaibab Band of Paiutes, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, and the Zuni Tribe, uniformly believe that continued uranium mining will result in the loss of their functional use of the area's natural resources.

3. Other Resources

Many of the roads within the withdrawal area are unpaved. The volume of truck traffic expected without a withdrawal could create a major cumulative effect to visual resources resulting from dust emissions of vehicle passage. The withdrawal would likely reduce truck traffic by 98% for exploration, 63% at mines, and 67% related to ore transport.

As a result of projected surface and groundwater effects, wildlife may be impacted. These impacts may result in mortality of aquatic-dependent species such as aquatic plants, algae, benthic invertebrates, amphibians, fish, and other wildlife dependent on these rare surface water resources. Mining activity can result in changes to these habitats that may increase exposure of the biological resources to chemical elements, including uranium, radium, and other radioactive decay products. As discussed by the USGS (Hinck et al. 2010), uranium and other radionuclides can be transported through the environment and contribute to exposure of biological receptors via atmospheric deposition, dust, runoff, erosion and deposition, groundwater and surface water, and the food chain. As a result, biological receptors can be exposed to radionuclides through various pathways, including ingestion, inhalation, cell membrane–mediated uptake, cutaneous absorption, and biotic uptake/trophic transfer. The use of subterranean habitats (e.g., burrows), by birds, reptiles and mammals in uranium-rich areas or reclaimed mining areas, is of particular concern. These species spend a considerable amount of time in subterranean habitats, where individuals could potentially inhale, ingest, or be directly exposed to uranium and other radionuclides. The further identification of biological pathways of exposure and the compilation of the chemical and radiological hazards for these radionuclides are important for understanding potential effects of uranium mining on the northern Arizona ecosystem.

4. Continued Mining

Withdrawal of the entire withdrawal area will not result in cessation of uranium mining. Four mines are currently approved within the withdrawal. In addition, the RFD scenario in the EIS indicates that seven other breccia pipes could be developed if they are located within the boundaries of mining claims which are determined to have valid existing rights. Assuming these pipes were to be developed over the next 20 years, the total number of mines developed would be similar to the pace of development in the 1980s when the price of uranium was high and the region experienced a surge in mining interest. Consequently, even with a full withdrawal, the economic benefits of continued uranium mining could still be realized by local communities. While the lands are withdrawn, studies can be initiated to help shed light on many of the uncertainties identified by USGS in SIR 2010-5025 and by BLM in the EIS.

The withdrawal area is located in the Grand Canyon watershed and its environs and adjacent to the Grand Canyon National Park. As this area contains unique landscapes, is a sacred place for

numerous tribes, and receives visitors from all over the world, it is appropriate to tread carefully. Millions of people living in seven states depend on the Colorado River for drinking water, irrigation use, and industrial use. Unlike the Mineral Leasing Act, which provides the Secretary with discretionary authority to lease oil, gas, and other minerals, the Mining Law operates under principles of self-initiation by the miners themselves. Thus, on lands that are "open" to the Mining Law, individuals can locate new mining claims and sites without seeking prior approval from the Secretary. These mining claims and sites may become vested property interests if the claimant complies with the requirements in the Mining Law for validity. A withdrawal prevents new mining claims and sites from being located and property rights from being established. Withdrawals under FLPMA are made subject to valid existing rights, which means that mining activities in withdrawan areas may still be authorized, provided the mining claim or site is valid.

5. Conclusion

In sum, the RFD projects a greater increase in uranium mining activity over the next twenty years if these lands remain open to location and entry under the Mining Law. Even if all of the lands are withdrawn, such as under the preferred alternative, potentially 11 mines, including the 4 mines currently approved, are projected to be developed over the next 20 years—with as many as six operating at any given time. The EIS states that impacts are possible from uranium mining in the area, including, in particular, impacts to water resources. It also expresses uncertainty with respect to hydrology and groundwater flow in the area as well as the potential effects of increased radionuclides to plants and animals.

Given these factors, a withdrawal is the most appropriate option to influence the pace of reasonably foreseeable hardrock mining, particularly uranium, in this area to not only ensure protection of water resources, but also to ensure sustainable, long term uranium development. As development moves forward on previously-approved mines and mining claims with valid existing rights, the impacts associated with uranium mining on the Grand Canyon watershed will continue to be monitored and studied. Based on any such monitoring and study, it may well be that these lands or a portion thereof will be appropriate for re-opening to the Mining Law at some point in the future. This decision slows the pace of hardrock mineral development in a sensitive area and preserves the remaining uranium deposits in that area for possible future development.

VII. USDA CONSIDERATIONS

Consent by the Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture consents to the withdrawal of approximately 134,454 acres of Kaibab National Forest lands in northern Arizona from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights. A withdrawal is appropriate to help protect the natural, cultural, and social resources in the Grand Canyon watershed from the adverse effects of the locatable mineral exploration and development.

Kaibab National Forest Land Management Plan

Withdrawal decisions are outside the authority of National Forest Planning, so no plan amendment is required. Any development on existing mining claims that can prove valid existing rights will follow the same standards and guidelines identified in applicable Forest Plans.

VIII. CONSISTENCY WITH ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE RESOUCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP)

The withdrawal decision is consistent with the Arizona Strip Field Office RMP decision DFC-MI-05 which states "Allow the ASFO to remain open to mineral leasing, location and sale except where restricted by wilderness designation, withdrawals or specific areas identified in this RMP."

Decision LA-MI-03 is changed through plan maintenance under 43 CFR 1610.5-4 to update acreages open or withdrawn to mineral entry.

IX. PRACTICABLE MEANS TO AVOID OR MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

The withdrawal does not result in environmental harm, and is, itself, a practicable means to minimize or avoid such harm. For this reason, no additional means have been adopted for this action.

X. OVERVIEW OF THE ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives were analyzed in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Final EIS:

Alternative A: No Action
The proposed withdrawal would not be implemented and the proposed withdrawal area would remain open to location and entry under the Mining Law. New mining claims could be located, and exploration and mine development proposals would continue to be processed by the BLM or the USFS. This alternative serves as the baseline for measuring the impacts of the other action alternatives and reflects the management situation for all federal land within the withdrawal area at the time that the withdrawal proposal was published in the Federal Register.

Alternative B: Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)
The proposed withdrawal would be implemented and the entire 1,006,545 acres of federal locatable mineral estate within the three parcels would be withdrawn for 20 years from the operation of the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights. On mining claims where valid existing rights are determined to exist, authorizations for new exploration and mining activities would continue to be processed by the BLM or the USFS.

Alternative C: Partial Withdrawal
Under this alternative, 648,802 acres of federal lands within the three parcels would be withdrawn for 20 years from the operation of the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights. This alternative would withdraw a large proportion of those areas, identified by analysis, having concentrations of cultural, hydrologic, recreational, visual, and biological resources that could be adversely affected by locatable mineral exploration and development. Alternative C would leave the remaining portion of the proposed withdrawal area with isolated or lower concentrations of these resources open to the operation of the Mining Law. The mitigation of potential effects from exploration or development would continue under the applicable surface managing agency regulations.

Alternative D: Partial Withdrawal

Under this alternative, 292,086 acres of federal lands within the three parcels would be withdrawn for 20 years from the operation of the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights. This alternative would withdraw areas, identified by analysis, where there is a relatively high concentration of cultural, hydrologic, recreational, visual, and biological resources that could be adversely affected by locatable mineral exploration and development. Alternative D would leave the remaining portion of the proposed withdrawal area with isolated or relatively low concentrations of these resources open to the operation of the Mining Law. The mitigation of potential effects from exploration or development would continue under the applicable surface managing agency regulations.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

An Environmentally Preferable Alternative is judged using the criteria in the NEPA and subsequent guidance by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 1981. The CEQ has defined the environmentally preferable alternative as the alternative that will promote the National policy as expressed in Section 101 of NEPA. This section lists six broad policy goals for all federal plans, programs, and policies as follows:

- Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our National heritage, and maintain, whenever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- Achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Based on these criteria, identification of the most environmentally preferable alternative involves a balancing of current and potential resource uses with that of resource protection, and the Preferred Alternative best fulfills that role. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative best meets the definition of the environmentally preferable alternative as it minimizes impacts through providing the greatest reduction in the potential impacts of hardrock mining to the environment.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Change in Duration of Withdrawal

An alternative was initially considered to change the time frame of the proposed withdrawal from 20 years to 10 years, or even to 5 years. However, it was determined a shorter term withdrawal does not warrant evaluation as a separate alternative because withdrawals can be renewed by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that the underlying reason for the withdrawal is still valid. Therefore, an alternative that consisted solely of changing the duration of the proposed withdrawal was eliminated from further detailed analysis.

Withdraw Only Lands with Low Mineral Potential

It was suggested early in scoping that a partial withdrawal of only the lands with low mineral resource potential be considered for withdrawal. Such an alternative was suggested as a possible

means to leave the high-potential lands available for mineral development, with a withdrawal to remove other lands with high nonmineral natural resource values from location and entry under the Mining Law. This alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis for several reasons. All the lands in the proposed withdrawal area are rated as having a high potential for uranium resources, lying within what USGS terms Favorable Area A (USGS 2010b). While certain specific areas within the proposed withdrawal area have attracted greater industry interest than others (the North and South parcels in particular), all of the lands involved in the proposed withdrawal are considered to be lands with some of the highest uranium potential in the country. Another factor affecting the feasibility of this alternative is that much of the uranium exploration and development activity to date tends to coincide with many of the areas that have the highest concentration of nonmineral resource values. This is evident when comparing the active and existing mines shown on the figures in this chapter with the areas depicted as having high concentrations of nonmineral resources. This coincidence suggests that mineral potential, or mineral development interest, would not be a useful discriminating factor in designing a partial withdrawal alternative that would meet the purpose of and need for action.

No Withdrawal—Phased Mine Development

This alternative was considered as a way to limit the level of exploration and development activity in place of a withdrawal. Under this alternative, potential impacts to resources in the Grand Canyon watershed would be protected by limiting mineral development to certain areas at certain times, with a limited amount of mineral exploration and development activity occurring at any one time. This "phased development" alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis because it does not address the relevant aspect of the mining issue—the location of the activity—and the effects from specific individual mines on area resources. The RFD scenarios described in Appendix B do not indicate the likelihood of multiple mines overlapping in time or location and creating such extensive cumulative impacts that phased development would be a particularly useful mitigation approach. The alternatives that prohibit mining in areas with sensitive resources under one of the withdrawal alternatives address more directly the issue of impacts from the development of multiple mines. Therefore, the phased mine development alternative, as a separate alternative, was eliminated from further analysis.

Permanent Withdrawal

During scoping, it was suggested that a permanent withdrawal be implemented instead of the proposed withdrawal for 20 years. The rationale for this is that if Grand Canyon resources require protection from the potential adverse effects of mining that protection should be for longer than 20 years.

This alternative was considered but eliminated from detailed analysis. Because a permanent withdrawal would require congressional action, the Secretary does not have the ability to implement a withdrawal for more than 20 years for areas aggregating more than 5,000 acres (FLPMA Section 204(c)).

Change the Mining Law

Many comments received in response to the Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and during scoping suggested that reforming or changing the Mining Law would address potential environmental impacts to the Grand Canyon watershed from development of locatable minerals. While the Mining Law is fundamentally a law for acquiring property rights, rather than an environmental law, presumably the comments were directed at increasing agency discretion to prevent mining. Making or amending law is an explicit function of the Congress, and proposals to change the Mining Law are currently under consideration before Congress. As such, it has been eliminated from detailed analysis.

New Mining Regulations

During scoping, it was suggested by members of the public and the Resource Advisory Council that instead of the withdrawal, the BLM and USFS should consider new locatable mineral exploration and development requirements, along with certain program initiatives, to protect the resources in the Grand Canyon watershed from the potential adverse effects of uranium exploration and development. During alternative formulation, the interagency team identified a number of potential new requirements for uranium exploration and development within the area proposed for withdrawal. Such requirements included processing and review requirements specific to notices and plans of operation, as well as regional monitoring programs, remediation efforts, targeted research initiatives, and coordinated interagency oversight, including the following:

- The BLM and USFS would require a plan of operations for all activity exceeding casual use in the area. Surface disturbance exceeding casual use, including exploratory drilling, could not be conducted under a notice but would require a plan of operations and be subject to NEPA analysis and the opportunity for public comment.
- The BLM and USFS would not approve a plan of operations in which the environmental analysis determines that substantial irreparable harm would occur to significant natural or cultural resources in the Grand Canyon watershed that could not be effectively mitigated. This requirement would be used where the plan of operations was considered unreasonable because it posed a substantial risk of causing impacts that would result in the permanent loss of significant values and irreplaceable resources that could not be mitigated using available technology.
- Before approving a plan of operations, the BLM or USFS would consult with the NPS on the operating and reclamation standards needed to prevent the impairment of Grand Canyon National Park System resources. Such measures would be incorporated into the BLM or USFS decision as conditions of approval when determined necessary to protect National Park System resources.
- The BLM and USFS would assess civil penalties, when necessary, in order to enforce their respective operating requirements.
- A compensatory off-site mitigation program would be established that could be used for regional mitigation at legacy uranium mine sites that require cleanup, or for responding to unanticipated events or conditions at mine operations that are found to be adversely affecting natural, cultural, or social resources in the Grand Canyon watershed.
- A cost recovery program would be used to fund federal agency monitoring and compliance activities determined necessary to oversee individual mining operations.
- The BLM and USFS would undertake an initiative, in conjunction with other federal and state agencies, to establish regional programs to monitor wildlife indicator species for effects resulting from uranium mining.
- The BLM and USFS would undertake an initiative, in conjunction with other federal and state agencies, to establish regional programs to identify, characterize, and monitor area groundwater and spring conditions for effects associated with uranium mining.
- The BLM and USFS would undertake an initiative, in conjunction with other federal agencies and tribal governments, to establish regional programs to identify and monitor other natural and cultural resources for effects associated with uranium mining.
- The BLM and USFS would establish a standing regional interagency workgroup to advise the federal land managing agencies on monitoring, research needs, and operating and reclamation performance standards.

Most of the requirements described above would require changing the BLM and USFS surface management regulations at 43 CFR 3809 and 36 CFR 228A, respectively, in order to be implemented. The rulemaking process is a public process that can be lengthy, and the final outcome is not certain until a final rule is published. Because any new regulations would depend on the outcome of some future regulatory process yet to be initiated, and its ability to be implemented is speculative, a separate alternative considering such measures and their effectiveness was eliminated from detailed analysis.

XI. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Scoping

The scoping process used for the withdrawal EIS was initiated by publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on August 26, 2009. The formal period for submitting scoping comments was from August 26, 2009, through October 30, 2009, although scoping does not end until the EIS is completed.

BLM hosted two public meetings, one in Fredonia, Arizona, and one in Flagstaff, Arizona, in September and October 2009, respectively.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft EIS was released to the public for a 45-day review and comment period on February 18, 2011. The review period was initiated by a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *Federal Register* by the Environmental Protection Agency, and announced by NOA published in the *Federal Register* by BLM on that date. The comment period was later extended 45 days, to total 75 days, concluding on May 4, 2011.

During the public comment period, four public meetings were held during the week of March 7 to 11, 2011. Meetings were held in Phoenix, Arizona; Flagstaff, Arizona; Fredonia, Arizona; and Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition, community meetings were held for tribes in Moccasin, Arizona, (Kaibab band of Paiute); Peach Springs, Arizona (Hualapai Tribe); and Cameron, Arizona (Western Navajo Nation).

Over the course of the public comment period, 296,339 comment submittals were received, approximately 1,400 of which included individual substantive comments.

Final Environmental Impact Statement

The Final EIS was released to the public on October 28, 2011. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the *Federal Register* by BLM on October 27 and by the Environmental Protection Agency on October 28, 2011. The Final EIS includes responses to comments consistent with 40 CFR 1503.4 and guidance in BLM Handbook 1790-1, section 6.9.2.1. Changes to the Draft EIS for the Final included:

- Identification of the Proposed Action as the Preferred Alternative;
- An adjustment to the boundary of the North Parcel to exclude the Kanab Creek Wilderness Area, which is already withdrawn by Congress;
- An adjustment to the boundary of the North Parcel that corrected a mapping error discovered in the Draft, aligning the boundary along the Grand Canyon Game Preserve boundary.

- An adjustment to the South Parcel Boundary excluding 40 acres within the Navajo Nation that was erroneously included;
- Boundary adjustments noted above resulted in adjustments to Alternative acreages.
- Detailed legal descriptions of the withdrawal alternatives by Parcel included in an appendix;
- Numerous edits to improve the clarity and consistency of the analysis; and
- A refined economic analysis.

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Although public comment was not sought, after release of the Final EIS and prior to publication of this Record of Decision, BLM received several hundred form letters and postcards supporting the withdrawal in the Preferred Alternative. In addition, two letters that contained substantive comments were received from industry representatives. The letters received during the review period were considered in making the decision on the withdrawal, and following are responses to substantive comments submitted.

One of the comments received stated that multiple commenters during the public comment period provided "…new information regarding the mineable uranium endowment of the withdrawal area that is about five to six times greater than what the BLM reported in the DEIS, new information regarding blind breccia pipes and their additional contribution to the uranium endowment of the withdrawal area above that previously expected by federal agencies…" BLM determined that this comment did not warrant any additional analysis or changes to the Final EIS, which had already considered this point and noted that:

> While the commenter provided a statistical correlation of known mineralized breccia pipes to underlying geologic structures, no geologic explanation or new information was provided to justify the hypothesis that mineralized breccia pipes occur preferentially on the proposed withdrawal lands.
>
> The USGS Report is a peer-reviewed publication that provided the estimated uranium endowment for the proposed withdrawal area. While some commenters have presented alternate or supplemental approaches to assessing the uranium endowment from that provided by USGS, these alternate approaches have not been developed or peer reviewed to the extent that they can replace or supersede the USGS endowment assessment presented in SIR 2010-5025. As with many scientific fields, new information is constantly being collected which leads to new or refined conclusions. However, at present, the USGS Report contains the best credible information available regarding the uranium endowment estimate and was therefore used as the basis for the reasonably foreseeable development scenarios in the EIS." (Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal final EIS Table 5.6-4, page 5-169.)

Because the USGS report relied on published and peer reviewed data and was peer reviewed itself, BLM considered it the most credible information available regarding the uranium endowment.

One commenter also stated that the EIS should have contained an analysis of the reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from use of the mined uranium for electrical production in place of other fuels. BLM determined that this comment did not warrant any additional analysis or changes to the Final EIS, which noted that

> The EIS does not include an analysis of GHG "offsets" (i.e., uranium as a replacement for other energy sources) for several reasons. First, there is no guarantee that uranium mined from the proposed withdrawal area would be allocated exclusively to energy production. Some percentage may go to defense uses, medical applications, or other uses. In addition, with notable exceptions such as Iran and North Korea, processed uranium may be legally sold on the open market and shipped anywhere in the world. Finally, there is no assurance uranium would be used to replace—rather than simply augment—other energy sources such as coal, natural gas, hydroelectric, solar, or wind power. The analysis the commenter requests is beyond the scope of the EIS because the proposed action is a withdrawal of certain lands from location of hardrock mining claims that might result in the production of uranium, not the approval of any particular plan of operations or even consideration of the sitting and/or development of a nuclear reactor that might use uranium to produce electricity.

In sum, any attempted analysis of possible "offsets" from GHG emissions would be speculative.

A commenter also stated that the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 was not mentioned in the Draft EIS. BLM determined that this comment did not warrant any additional analysis or changes to the Final EIS which does recognize the act, and notes its effect in the area. The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 represented an historic piece of legislation negotiated by a coalition of people representing diverse views and interests. Neither the Act nor its legislative history contain any indication of an intent to remove from the Secretary the authority to withdraw land provided under FLPMA. The purpose of the Arizona Wilderness Act was to designate certain lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. This withdrawal, in contrast, is focused strictly on whether to withdraw lands from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights. The withdrawal does not designate any lands within its boundaries as wilderness and has no impact on activities in the withdrawal area other than location and entry under the Mining Law, including activities that could impair wilderness characteristics. Nothing in the Arizona Wilderness Act demonstrates intent to resolve the wilderness question in Arizona for all time so as to prohibit future wilderness designations. Finally, most of the lands covered by this withdrawal were never considered or reviewed by Congress for possible Wilderness designation as part of the Arizona Wilderness Act because BLM inventory in the 1970s determined they do not possess characteristics of wilderness.

Another commenter asserted that the Purpose and Need changed frequently through the NEPA Process. BLM determined that this comment did not warrant any additional analysis or changes to the Final EIS because the Purpose and Need in the Draft EIS was derived directly from the stated purpose in the Secretary of Interior's *Federal Register* Notice of July 21, 2009, and refined to describe the agency's Purpose and Need in accordance with BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1. Once published in the Draft EIS, the Purpose and Need remained consistent throughout the EIS process.

Two commenters stated that the mining analysis from the RMP for the Arizona Strip BLM lands (completed in 2008) was not mentioned in the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal EIS. BLM determined that these comments did not warrant any additional analysis or changes to the Final EIS. Although the RMP was completed relatively recently, uranium mining was not a major issue at the time it was being written. The RMP did not contain an analysis to the depth needed to satisfy the Purpose and Need of the Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal, which in part responded to the significant increase in the location of mining claims in the area at the time the planning process was completed. Finally, closing of lands to location and entry under the Mining Law is, by law, not a

decision that can be made through BLM's planning process (see section 202(e)(2) of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1712(e)(3)). The withdrawal process, which culminates in this ROD, is the appropriate decision-making process to evaluate the potential impacts of a closure to location and entry under the Mining Law.

Finally, two commenters stated that new information provided by themselves and others during the review period pertaining to the uranium resource and the changes to the EIS from Draft to Final constitute sufficient "new information" to warrant a Supplemental EIS. BLM determined that this comment did not warrant any additional analysis or changes to the Final EIS. As noted in Section 1.5.4 of the Final EIS, "most changes made to the EIS were editorial or clarified the EIS in response to public comments. However, in response to public comment and to correct errors discovered after release of the DEIS, the sections discussed below did undergo some changes beyond those of an editorial or clarifying nature." As explained further in the FEIS, BLM did not substantially alter the Proposed Action or any of the alternatives in a way that is relevant to environmental concerns. In addition, none of the information relied upon in support of these changes constitutes significant new information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. Therefore, supplementation of either the DEIS or FEIS is not required under CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1502.9(c). None of the comments resulted in a substantial alteration to the Proposed Action and, to the extent any of them relied on new information, that information was not sufficient to show that the Proposed Action would affect the quality of the human environment to a significant extent not already considered.

Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Consultation with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in compliance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was conducted. A memorandum was sent on August 8, 2011, from the Arizona Strip District Manager requesting concurrence with a finding that "the Proposed Action May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect" the 12 listed species within the Proposed Withdrawal area. BLM received a memo from the FWS concurring with that finding dated August 29, 2011. This completed the Section 7 consultation process.

Consultation with Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer

Consultation with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was conducted in coordination with the EIS process. A letter was sent to the Arizona SHPO on June 16, 2011, requesting concurrence with the determination by the BLM that the Proposed Withdrawal "…does not have the potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties." The Arizona SHPO responded with his concurrence on June 20, 2011. This completed the Section 106 process.

Tribal Participation

In August 2009, the BLM and USFS initiated government-to-government consultation via letter with the following American Indian governments regarding the proposed withdrawal: Chemehuevi Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, Pahrump Band of Paiutes, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Pueblo of Zuni, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Navajo Nation, White Mountain Apache Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. Seven tribes elected to actively participate in consultation on the project: the Havasupai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Pueblo of Zuni, and Navajo Nation. Throughout the EIS process, nearly 40 meetings were held with these tribes.

Cooperating Agencies

The CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.5 define a cooperating agency as any federal agency (other than the lead agency) and any state or local agency or Indian tribe with jurisdictional authority or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal. Because of the size of the proposed withdrawal area and the resources potentially affected by the proposed withdrawal or alternatives, 15 agencies (federal, state, tribal, and county) with jurisdictional authority and/or applicable special expertise cooperated in the development of this EIS.

The cooperating agencies assisted with EIS preparation in a number of ways, including conducting or providing studies and inventories, reviewing baseline condition reports, identifying issues, assisting with the formulation of alternatives, and reviewing Preliminary Draft EIS text and other EIS materials. Not all of the cooperating agencies participated in all aspects of the EIS preparation. As lead agency, the BLM is responsible for the content of the EIS.

Coordination with Local Governments/Consistency with Local Government Plans

The BLM coordinated with local governments by attending meetings conducted by local government organizations and by maintaining open channels of communications between the Arizona Strip District Manager and elected county officials. Four Southern Utah Counties and two Northern Arizona counties participated as Cooperating Agencies. In addition, Washington, Kane, San Juan and Garfield Counties in Utah and Mohave County in Arizona formed the AZ/UT Coalition of Coordinating Counties. This coalition held four meetings, three of which were attended by managers from the BLM, and/or USFS. These meetings were held with industry representatives and others in attendance to discuss the withdrawal and to coordinate comments on the EIS and directly to the Secretary of the Interior. The meeting/hearing dates attended by BLM or National Forest management were: March 21, 2011, meeting in St. George, Utah; April 18, 2011, meeting in Fredonia, Arizona; and September 7, 2011, hearing in St. George, Utah. At the meeting held on April 18, 2011, the Coalition passed a resolution supporting Alternative A (No Action) as the Preferred Alternative.

The withdrawal affects federal lands in Coconino and Mohave counties in Arizona. Review of plans in those counties indicates that the withdrawal is not inconsistent with either plan. However, Mohave County passed a resolution on May 12, 2008, (County Resolution 2008-10) that supports multiple-use of public lands in general, and lists uranium mining as one of those uses. It also passed a resolution in February, 2009, (County Resolution 2009-040) that supports continued uranium mining on the Arizona Strip. Coconino County passed a resolution in 2008, (County Resolution 2008-09) opposing uranium mining in the county. The withdrawal will be consistent with the Coconino County Resolution 2008-09, but inconsistent with Mohave County Resolutions 2008-10 and 2009-040.

FEDERAL COOPERATING AGENCIES

- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey

STATE OF ARIZONA COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Geological Survey
- Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources
- Arizona State Land Department

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AS COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Hualapai Tribe
- Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AS COOPERATING AGENCIES

- ***Coconino County, Arizona***: The majority of the withdrawal area is located in Coconino County. Arizona Department of Commerce (ADOC) official population estimates for Coconino County are 136,735 for July 1, 2009 (ADOC 2009b). Coconino County's commercial economy is largely tourism-based accounting for a large percentage of the county's jobs and tax income.

- ***Mohave County, Arizona:*** A large portion of the withdrawal area north of the Grand Canyon is in Mohave County. The official ADOC population estimates for Mohave County are 206,763 for July 1, 2009 (ADOC 2009c). Leading industries in the county are retail trade, tourism, construction, and health care and social services.

- ***Kane County, Utah:*** Because of its proximity to the withdrawal area and its historic dependence on the Arizona Strip as a significant source of income and employment for its residents, Kane County participated as a cooperating agency in the EIS process. Kane County had an estimated population of 6,577 in 2008 (U.S. Census Bureau [Census Bureau] 2008a). Like Coconino County, Kane County's economy is primarily tourism based. Lake Powell, Zion National Park, and other recreation sites attract tens of thousands of visitors each year. As a result, the leisure/hospitality services sector is the leading employment sector. The mining industry is also a significant employer in Kane County. Mining wages and salaries per job have consistently been the largest in the study area and have experienced steady growth from 1980 through 2000. However, it should be noted that the number of mining jobs in Kane County has been low since at least 1980 (BLM 2008c).

- ***San Juan County, Utah***: San Juan County had an estimated population of 15,055 in 2008 (Census Bureau 2008a). One of the major employment sectors driving San Juan County's economy is mining. Denison Mines (USA) Corporation (Denison) and the recently closed Lisbon Valley Copper Mine are located in the county and have both historically, as well as recently, provided employment for county residents. The White Mesa Uranium Mill, located 6 miles south of Blanding, is used for processing uranium ore mined in the proposed withdrawal area. The proposed withdrawal or alternatives could change the amount of ore transported to the mill. Because of its economic connection with mining in the proposed withdrawal area, San Juan County participated as a cooperating agency in the EIS process.

- ***Washington County, Utah:*** Washington County had an estimated population of 137,589 in 2008 (Census Bureau 2008a). The Arizona Strip (where the North and East parcels are located) has historically been recognized as a primary source of income and employment for many of southern Utah's residents. For this reason, Washington County was a cooperating agency in the EIS process. Over the past decade, Washington County has experienced major population growth. From 1990 to 2008, the total population increased by 183.3% and is expected to continue growing. Manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, construction, and tourism- and recreation-related services are the leading industries. Nearby Grand Canyon National Park, Zion National Park, Dixie National Forest, and Snow Canyon State Park are important recreational attractions.

- ***Garfield County, Utah***: Garfield County had an estimated population of 5,172 in 2010, up from 3,980 in 1990 (Census Bureau 1990; 2008a). It is located in south central Utah, north of Kane County and west of San Juan County and includes large swaths of open desert as well as nationally designated scenic places such as Bryce Canyon National Park, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Capital Reef National Park, and a portion of Canyonlands National Park. Garfield County joined the EIS process as a cooperating agency in August 2011. The Shootaring Canyon Uranium Processing Facility (mill) is located in Garfield County near the small town of Ticaboo. The mill has been in stand-by status since 1982.

XIII. FINAL AGENCY ACTION

Pursuant to section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, it is my decision to withdraw from location and entry under the Mining Law, subject to valid existing rights, approximately 1,006,545 acres of federal land in Northern Arizona, as depicted on Map 1, for a 20-year period. My approval constitutes the final decision of the Department of the Interior and, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.410(a)(3), is not subject to appeal under Departmental regulations at 43 CFR Part 4. Any challenge must be brought in federal district court.

Ken Salazar 1/9/2012

Ken Salazar — Date
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

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NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS
RANKING MEMBER
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act
Section- by -Section Summary

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Sec. 2- Definitions

Sec. 3 – Establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, Arizona

- Recognizes that the Greater Grand Canyon region contains various tribal sacred sites and resources, including ancestral sites, sacred places, and water sources such as springs and falls
- Acknowledges that the Grand Canyon-Associated tribes should play an integral role in the planning and ongoing management of the monument
- Recognizes that the region's interconnected streams, tributaries, and groundwater contain nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, and scientific values, provide drinking water for millions of Americans, and play an integral role in the health of the Colorado River
- Recognizes the important contributions of the region's wildlife corridors
- Emphasizes the importance of recreational activities as drivers of sustainable economic development

The purpose of the monument is to restore and preserve:

- Cultural, sacred lands and key tribal resources
- Nationally significant biological, ecological, wildlife, cultural, historical, recreational, geological, hydrological, educational, scenic and scientific values, including above-ground tributaries, springs and interconnected groundwater that contribute significantly to the Colorado River
- Secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the diverse tribal resources, landscape, wildlife, water flows and recreational use of the lands included in the national monument

Sec. 4- Management of the Federal Lands within the National Monument

- Provides that the monument will be managed in accordance with all applicable land management laws, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act
- Ensures that only uses that further the aforementioned purposes of the monument are authorized
- Protects property rights of Indian Nations, state and local governments, and other private property

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Sec. 5 Development of Management Plan

Directs the Secretaries to develop a management plan under NEPA to:

- Describe the appropriate uses of the monument
- Establish management directives
- Protect sacred sites
- Plan for the development of science-based ecological restoration projects
- Evaluate the naturally dark time conditions
- Provide for continued recreational use

The management plan will be developed with extensive public comment and the agencies shall collaborate with the affected Native American tribes in the development of the management plan and the ongoing management of the monument. Cooperative agreements, such as shared management arrangements, with tribes are encouraged.

Sec. 6- Existing and Historical Uses of Federal Land Included in Monument

- Retains the state's jurisdiction over fish and wildlife within the monument
- Permits motorized vehicles on roads and trails designated for their use
- Authorizes the continuation of previously established grazing activity
- Authorizes wildfire management activities
- Permits commercial recreational activities
- Authorizes hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering
- Permits commercial harvest of timber as long as it is consistent with the purposes of the monument

Sec. 7 – Acquisition of Land

- Provides authority to acquire non-federal land by donation, exchange, or purchase from a willing seller through the use conservation easement or at fair market value

Sec. 8- Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Advisory Council

- Establishes an advisory council, subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to collaborate with the Secretaries in the preparation and implementation of the management plan, the management of tribal resources, and oversee the management of natural resources such as forest restoration and wildlife.
- Membership of the advisory council includes representation from each of the affected tribes, scientific experts, environmental organizations, state fish and wildlife, and hunting and fishing groups

Sec. 9- Water

- Protects existing water rights and settlements, including those not yet asserted or finally determined

Sec. 10- Withdrawal of Federal Land from Mining Laws

- Makes permanent the 20-year moratorium on new mining claims

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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3882

To designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Establishment of Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, Arizona.
Sec. 4. Management of Federal lands within the National Monument.

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Sec. 5. Development of management plan.
Sec. 6. Existing and historical uses of Federal lands included in monument.
Sec. 7. Acquisition of land.
Sec. 8. Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Advisory Council.
Sec. 9. Water.
Sec. 10. Withdrawal of Federal land from mining laws.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term "advisory council" means the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Advisory Council.

(2) GRAND CANYON-ASSOCIATED TRIBES.—The term "Grand Canyon-associated tribes" means the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, Hualapai Indian Tribe, the Navajo Nation, Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Yavapai-Apache Nation, and the Zuni Tribe.

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "management plan" means the plan developed consistent with section 5.

(4) NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term "national monument" means the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means—

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(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to those national monument lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to those national monument lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) SECRETARIES.—The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior acting jointly.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT, ARIZONA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed contains various tribal sacred sites and resources, including religious places and burial sites, with significant ancestral and contemporary values to the Grand Canyon-associated tribes.

(2) The Grand Canyon-associated tribes have a longstanding historical, cultural and religious connection the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed and should play an integral role, through collaboration and consultation, in the planning and ongoing management of the monument.

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(3) The Grand Canyon-associated tribes have historically been stewards of the region, with obligations to care for the land that has provided for them since time immemorial, including natural and cultural resources such as ancestral sites, sacred places, plants, wildlife, water sources, and minerals, resulting in an accumulated body of traditional ecological knowledge that holds great potential for contributing to the sustainable and holistic management of the unique and fragile landscape.

(4) The surface tributaries and interconnected ground water of the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed are the source for Native American sacred springs and falls, such as Havasupai Falls.

(5) The Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed in northern Arizona contains nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, and scientific values.

(6) The Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed is integral to Grand Canyon National Park. The surface tributaries and groundwater sources within the watershed are interconnected and contribute significantly to the flow of the Colorado

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River, and provide a source of drinking water for millions of American citizens.

(7) The Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed contains a diverse array of canyons, cliffs, grasslands, springs, and escarpments that create a landscape unlike any other within America.

(8) Wildlife corridors within the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed facilitate the migration and survival of many native game species while the rivers, forests, and grasslands provide habitat for many rare, threatened, and endangered species.

(9) The Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed provides a wild and rugged landscape enjoyed by hunters, campers, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and other recreationists.

(10) Recreational activity within the watershed is the primary driver of sustainable economic development in local communities.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, there is hereby established the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in the State of Arizona, which consists of Federal land and interests in Federal land in Arizona, as generally depicted on the map entitled

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"Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument" and dated September 11, 2015.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the national monument are—

(1) to preserve and, if necessary, restore the native, cultural, sacred lands, and key tribal resources, nationally significant biological, ecological, including wildlife connectivity, cultural, historical, recreational, geological, hydrological, education, scenic and scientific values found in the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed, including above-ground tributaries, springs and interconnected groundwater that contribute significantly to the Colorado River; and

(2) to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the diverse tribal resources, landscape, wildlife, water flows, and recreational use of the lands included in the national monument.

(d) LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS; CORRECTIONS OF ERRORS.—

(1) PREPARATION.—As soon as practical after the date of the enactment of this Act, but not later than 2 years after such date, the Secretaries shall prepare final maps and legal descriptions of the na-

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tional monument, which shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretaries may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(2) SUBMISSION.—As soon as practicable after the preparation of the maps and legal descriptions under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall submit the maps and legal descriptions to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(3) CONFLICT BETWEEN MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—In the case of a conflict between the maps and the legal descriptions, the maps shall control.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be available for public inspection at appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service.

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL LANDS WITHIN THE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) BASIS OF MANAGEMENT.—

(1) APPLICABLE LAWS.—The Secretary shall manage the national monument in a manner that

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conserves, protects, and enhances the natural resources and values of the national monument, in accordance with—

(A) this Act;

(B) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

(D) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.) and section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a);

(E) other laws (including regulations) applicable to the National Forest System for land managed by the Forest Service; and

(F) other applicable law (including regulations).

(2) RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS.—If there is a conflict between a provision of this Act and a provision of another law specified in paragraph (1), the more restrictive provision shall control.

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(b) AUTHORIZED USES.—The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the national monument as the Secretary determines would further the purposes specified in section 3(c).

(c) PROTECTION OF RESERVATION, STATE, AND PRIVATE LANDS AND INTERESTS.—The establishment of the national monument shall not—

(1) affect the property rights related to any Indian reservation, individually held trust land, other Indian allotments, lands or interests in lands held by the State of Arizona or any of its political subdivisions, or any private property rights within the boundaries of the national monument; or

(2) grant the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture any new authority not already provided by law on or over non-Federal lands.

(d) SCOPE.—The authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture under this Act shall extend only to Federal lands and Federal interests in lands included in the national monument.

(e) NON-FEDERAL LANDS AND INTERESTS.—Nothing in this Act—

(1) requires a non-Federal property owner to allow public access to private property; or

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(2) modifies any provision of Federal, State, or local law with respect to use of non-Federal land.

SEC. 5. DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, collaborating at regular periods, shall—

(A) develop, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and in collaboration with the advisory council, a comprehensive plan for the protection and management of the national monument to fulfill the purposes of the national monument; and

(B) submit the management plan to Congress before making it available to the public.

(2) CONTENTS.—The management plan developed under this section shall—

(A) describe the appropriate uses and management of the national monument;

(B) identify short-term and long-term management actions and prioritize the management actions based on projected availability of resources;

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(C) protect and preserve Indian sacred sites (as defined in section 1(b) of Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996) and allow for Indian tribal members to access those sites for traditional, cultural, spiritual, and tree and forest product, food, and medicine-gathering purposes;

(D) include appropriate transportation planning that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects of the national monument and to further the purposes of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.);

(E) provide for the development and implementation of credible science-based ecological restoration projects that provide for the retention of old growth and large diameter trees, developed in coordination with the advisory council, with the intent of restoring natural fire regimes, enhancing old growth forest characteristics, and assisting in the recovery and maintaining the viability of at-risk, threatened, and endangered species;

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(F) evaluate the naturally dark time conditions and propose goals and management directives to retain current characteristics; and

(G) provide for continued recreational use of the national monument, including hunting, hiking, camping, mountain biking, birding, and horse-back riding, to the extent such recreational use is consistent with this Act and applicable law.

(3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing and implementing the management plan, and to the extent consistent with this section, the Secretaries—

(A) shall solicit extensive public input;

(B) shall take into consideration any information developed in studies of the land within the national monument;

(C) shall assess available climate change information pertinent to the national monument and include standards and practices to ensure the preservation of wildlife corridors and facilitate species migration;

(D) shall identify opportunities to promote voluntary cooperative conservation projects with tribal, State, local, and private interests;

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(E) shall take into consideration land uses (including tribal treaty and statutory rights) on the Federal lands within the national monument on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(F) may incorporate any provision from a resource management plan, land and resource management plan, or any other plan applicable to the national monument.

(4) COLLABORATION WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES.—The Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall formally collaborate with the Grand Canyon-associated tribes in the development of the management plan and in the ongoing management of the national monument.

(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretaries may make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements and shared management arrangements with, federally recognized Indian tribes, with special emphasis on collaboration with the Grand Canyon-associated tribes, to conduct research, develop scientific analyses, and carry out any other initiative relating to the restoration, conservation, or management of the national monument.

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(6) APPROVAL OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior may approve funding arrangements under the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 458aa et seq.) for management of programs and functions related to the management and protection of Traditional Cultural Properties and other culturally significant programming.

SEC. 6. EXISTING AND HISTORICAL USES OF FEDERAL LANDS INCLUDED IN MONUMENT.

(a) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to the management of fish and wildlife located on public land in the State, except that the Secretary, after consultation with the Arizona Department of Game and Fish, may designate zones in the national monument where, and periods when, hunting shall not be allowed to accommodate traditional tribal uses, public safety, administration, or public use and enjoyment.

(b) MOTORIZED AND MECHANIZED VEHICLES.—Except where needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles on lands within the national monument shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for their use.

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(c) GRAZING.—Livestock grazing within the national monument, where established or planned before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be allowed to continue subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

(d) WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS.—In cooperation with other Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies, as appropriate, the Secretary shall conduct wildland fire operations in the national monument consistent with the purposes specified in section 3(c).

(e) COMMERCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall allow commercial recreation activities within the national monument in accordance with—

(1) this Act;

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133 et seq.); and

(3) all other applicable laws and regulations.

(f) HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING, AND GATHERING.—The Secretary shall allow hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering within the national monument in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the State of Arizona.

(g) COMMERCIAL HARVEST OF TIMBER.—The Secretary may allow cutting, sale, or removal of timber and other vegetative material within the national monument to the extent consistent with the purposes of the Act and

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as part of an authorized restoration project under section 5.

SEC. 7. ACQUISITION OF LAND.

(a) ACQUISITION AUTHORIZED; METHODS.—Non-Federal held land or interests in land within the boundaries of the national monument may be acquired for management as part of the national monument only by—

(1) donation;

(2) exchange with a willing party; or

(3) purchase from a willing seller.

(b) USE OF EASEMENTS.—To the extent practicable, and if preferred by a willing landowner, the Secretary shall use permanent conservation easements to acquire interests in land in the national monument instead of acquiring land in fee simple.

(c) VALUATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.—The United States shall offer the fair market value for any interests or partial interests in land acquired under this section.

(d) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LANDS AND INTERESTS.—Any land or interest in land within the boundaries of the national monument that is acquired by the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the national monument.

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(e) LIMITED CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may authorize the conveyance of Federal land within the national monument if—

(1) the purpose for which the land is to be conveyed is consistent with the purposes specified in section 3(c);

(2) the conveyance would benefit the national monument and is in the public interest, as determined by the Secretaries; and

(3) the conveyance is made in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

SEC. 8. GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not more than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall establish an advisory council to be known as the "Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Advisory Council".

(b) DUTIES.—The advisory council shall—

(1) collaborate with the Secretaries with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan;

(2) oversee and collaborate on the management of tribal sites, artifacts, ancient trails, burial sites,

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and resources within the boundaries of the national monument; and

(3) oversee and provide consultation on adaptive management of natural resources within the boundaries of the national monument, including forest restoration and wildlife resources.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The advisory council shall be subject to—

(1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.);

(2) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(3) all other applicable law.

(d) REPRESENTATION.—The advisory council to be appointed by the Secretaries, and, to the extent practicable, shall be comprised of—

(1) a representative designated by each tribal community with a historical relationship to the region that wishes to participate in the management of the national monument;

(2) a representative that is a natural or cultural resource officer designated by each tribal community with a historical relationship to the region that wishes to participate in the management of the national monument;

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(3) a representative with expertise in the field of anthropology, archaeology, and/or cultural studies from an accredited university or museum, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture;

(4) a representative of environmental non-governmental organizations engaged in activities related to the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed located within Arizona;

(5) a representative of environmental non-governmental organizations engaged in activities related to the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed located anywhere in the Nation;

(6) a representative of recreational non-governmental organizations engaged in promoting opportunities for recreational hunting and fishing within Arizona;

(7) a representative of the Arizona Game and Fish Department; and

(8) a representative with expertise in the field of natural resource management, wildlife, or conservation biology selected from a regional college or university.

(e) TERMS.—

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(1) STAGGERED TERMS.—Members of the advisory council shall be appointed for terms of 3 years, except that, of the members first appointed, 5 of the members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year and 5 of the members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

(2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member may be reappointed to serve on the advisory council upon the expiration of the member's current term.

(3) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the advisory council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(f) QUORUM.—A quorum shall be 8 members of the advisory council. The operations of the advisory council shall not be impaired by the fact that a member has not yet been appointed as long as a quorum has been attained.

(g) PROCEDURES.—The advisory council shall establish such rules and procedures as it deems necessary or desirable.

SEC. 9. WATER.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) affects the use or allocation, in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, of any water, water right, or interest in water;

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(2) affects any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act, including any water right held by the United States;

(3) affects any claims or rights to water not yet asserted or finally determined;

(4) affects any interstate water compact in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(5) authorizes or imposes any new reserved Federal water rights; or

(6) relinquishes or reduces any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State of Arizona on or before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND FROM MINING LAWS.

(a) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights as provided in section 3(b), the Federal lands and interests in lands included within the National Monument are hereby withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

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(3) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws and mineral materials laws.

(b) TREATMENT OF EXISTING RIGHTS.—The withdrawal under subsection (a) is subject to valid, existing rights. If such rights are relinquished or otherwise acquired by the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act, the land that was subject to the rights shall be immediately withdrawn in accordance with subsection (a).

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BBC RESEARCH & CONSULTING

Economic Impacts of the Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

FINAL REPORT

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

FINAL REPORT
November 17, 2015

Economic Impacts of the Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Prepared for

Center for Western Priorities
westernpriorities.org

Prepared by

BBC Research & Consulting
1999 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, Colorado 80202-9750
303.321.2547 fax 303.399.0448
www.bbcresearch.com
bbc@bbcresearch.com

BBC RESEARCH & CONSULTING

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Executive Summary

The operation and visitor spending associated with the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument area (GGCHNM) in northern Arizona provides substantial benefit to the local economy—about $51 million per year, including direct and secondary impacts. The proposed monument also benefits the region by preserving lands that are historically and culturally significant, as well as an invaluable natural resource.

This study involves identifying operational characteristics of the proposed GGCHNM and an analysis of the economic impacts associated with its existence. The study also discusses visitation and economic impacts typically associated with national monument designation and strategies to leverage a designation for economic growth.

The proposed GGCHNM covers about 1.7 million acres of public land north and south of Grand Canyon National Park and in between two existing national monuments: Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument and Vermillion Cliffs National Monument. The area is home to pristine southwestern desert landscapes; numerous American Indian cultural and historical sites; and an array of wildlife, including unique and endangered species.[1] Outdoor recreation is the primary use of the proposed monument, though secondary uses include livestock grazing, mining, and timber harvest.

The land proposed for inclusion in the monument positively affects the local and regional economy through multiple channels. The proposed monument attracts a substantial number of visitors each year from outside the region, many of whom spend multiple days in the area, contributing to the local economy. Visitation and tourism expenditures are especially important in rural areas and in recreation-oriented economies where people may be particularly reliant on income derived from tourism.

The area also provides economic value through grazing allotments available to local ranchers and, to a lesser extent, through extractive industries such as mining and logging. Forest Service and BLM operations (salary and non-salary expenses) and payments in lieu of taxes to counties (PILT) are also considered economic investments to the area.

BBC estimated direct spending by visitors to the proposed GGCHNM and the production value of other land uses and operations by analyzing the best available data for all current activities within the proposed monument. BBC further evaluated how those dollars circulate through the local economy using well-known economic modeling techniques involving IMPLAN multipliers to calculate the secondary (induced and indirect) economic benefits. The total economic benefits are expressed in the labor income and economic output supported by the proposed GGCHNM visitor spending (non-local, primary visitors only), operations of land management offices (e.g., program expenditures, office supplies, payroll), and other use values. Economic output is generally synonymous with economic activity or consumption.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2 on the following page, the proposed GGCHNM has a total economic impact of about $51 million per year, including direct and secondary impacts, and contributes an estimated $22 million in labor income in the four-county study area (Coconino and Mohave counties in Arizona and Kane and Washington counties in Utah). The region is already a hub for economic activity, which would be preserved and even enhanced after a national monument designation.

[1] http://greatergrandcanyon.org

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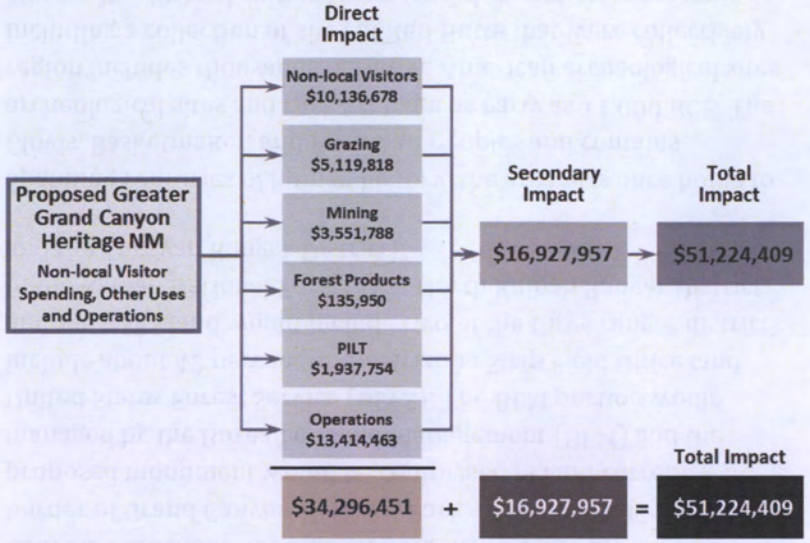
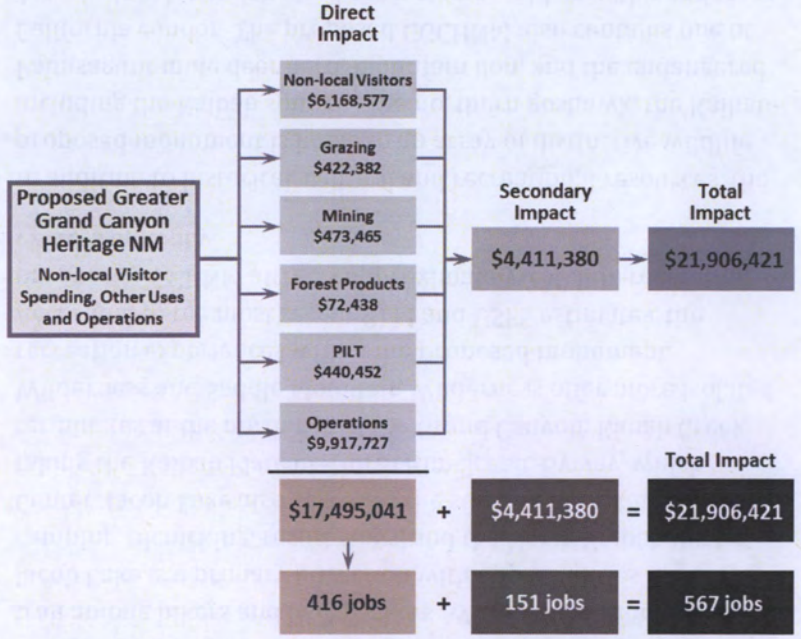
Executive Summary

Figure 1.
Annual Economic Impact—Output, Coconino, Mohave, Kane and Washington County Region



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2015. Based on IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System.

Figure 2.
Annual Labor Income Impact—Coconino, Mohave, Kane and Washington County Region



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2015. Based on IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System.

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Background and Methodology

Background

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) is an ecologically and culturally significant area located in northern Arizona that lies north and south of the Grand Canyon. The 1.7 million acres of public land are home to pristine southwestern desert landscapes; numerous American Indian cultural and historical sites; and an array of wildlife, including unique and endangered species.

The proposed monument would connect two existing national monuments—Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument—across the northern border of Grand Canyon National Park. As shown in Figure 3, the proposed monument would be comprised of land currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS). The BLM portion would include about 42 percent of the Arizona Strip Field Office land and the USFS land would include two of the three ranger districts in the Kaibab National Forest (the North Kaibab Ranger District and the Tusayan Ranger District).

Spanning centuries of human history, the area was once home to Clovis, Basketmaker, and Puebloan peoples and contains archeological sites and rock art from as early as 11,000 BCE. The region includes thousands of Native American archeological sites including a collection of sites in Red Butte that were collectively given a "traditional cultural property" designation to recognize the area for its native history and cultural significance. The Kaibab Plateau, which encompasses the proposed monument, is part of the Kaibab Paiute tribe's traditional territory and is still considered a land of great significance to the tribe. The area also holds historical and cultural significance to Hopi, Zuni, Hualapai, Havasupai, and Navajo tribes.

The proposed GGCHNM's wide variety of landscapes—from ponderosa pine forests to sweeping southwest deserts—offer a wealth of recreation opportunities including hiking, biking, camping and backpacking. Wildlife viewing and hunting are also popular activities in the proposed monument, in part due to the draw of an internationally renowned mule deer herd. The area also contains a portion of the Arizona National Scenic Trail which runs the entire north-south length of the state and is a popular trail among hikers and backpackers. Within the national forest, Jacob Lake is a primary attraction with opportunities for camping, picnicking, resort stays, and the North Kaibab Visitor Center. Jacob Lake also serves as the starting point for drivers taking the Kaibab Plateau–North Rim Scenic Byway, which terminates at the north rim of the Grand Canyon. Kanab Creek Wilderness and Saddle Mountain Wilderness offer more isolated recreation experiences within the proposed monument. According to the most recent BLM and USFS estimates, the proposed GGCHNM attracts approximately 330,000 recreation visitors annually.

In addition to historical, cultural and recreational resources, the proposed monument is home to an array of distinctive wildlife including the Kaibab squirrel, the northern goshawk, the Kaibab-Paunsagunt mule deer herd, mountain lion, and the endangered California condor. The proposed GGCHNM also contains one of America's most endangered ecosystems—old growth ponderosa pine forests.[2]

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[22] http://utah.sierraclub.org/content/grand-canyon-watershed-national-monument

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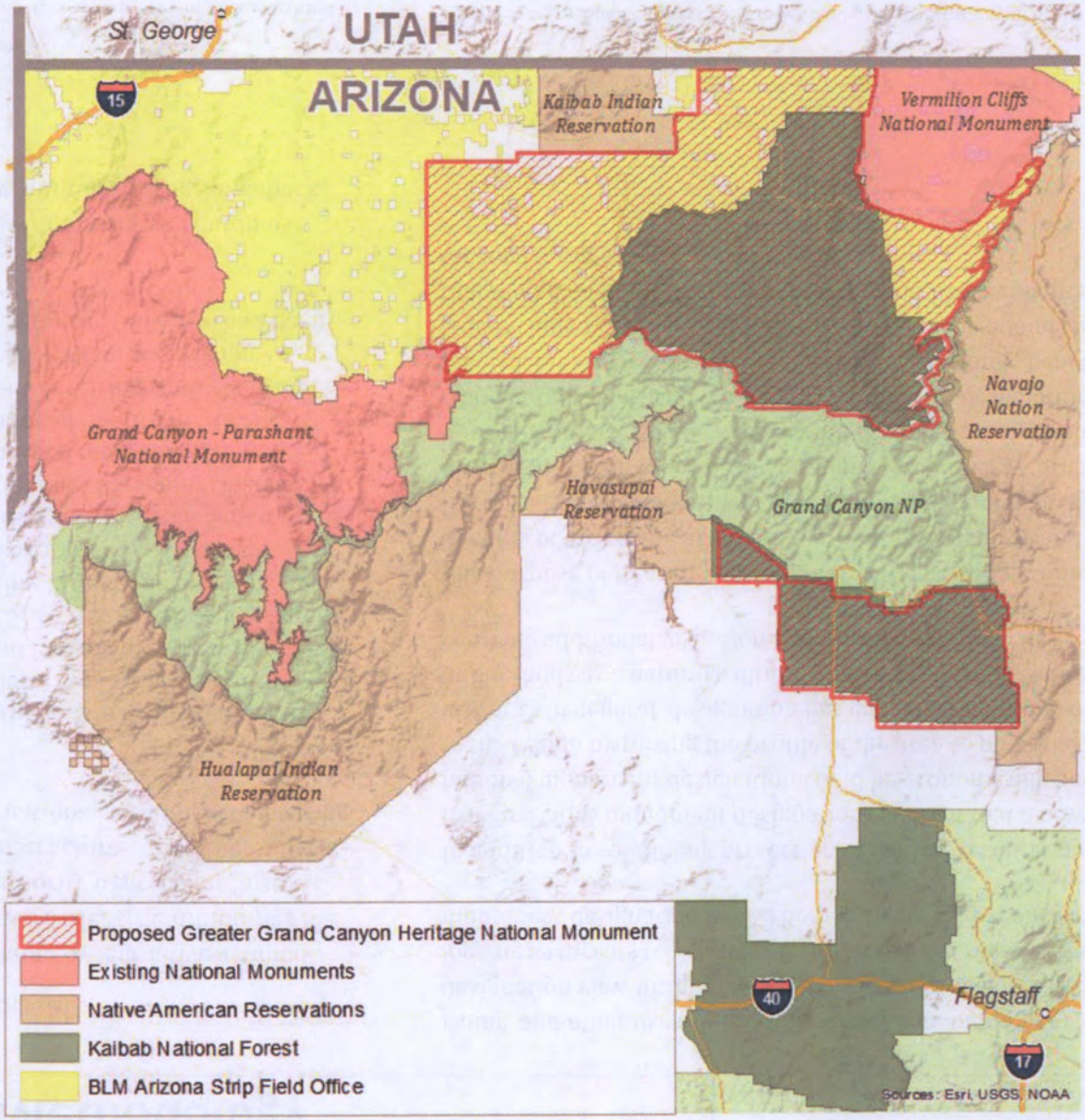
Background and Methodology

Figure 3.
Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting, 2015.



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Background and Methodology

GGCHNM Designation Proposal

National monuments can be designated by legislative action in Congress or by presidential Executive Order. The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the president the authority to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" as national monuments, ensuring their protection.

In January of 2015, U.S. Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick, Raul Grijalva, and Ruben Gallego sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting the greater Grand Canyon area be designated a national monument.[3] In March 2015, 36 Arizona state legislators signed and sent a similar letter calling for national monument designation.[4] There have also been expressions of political opposition to the monument, including a letter from Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake requesting that President Obama refuse to designate the area as a national monument. In November 2015 Rep. Grijalva introduced the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act to legislatively protect the area.[5] At the time this report was written, no decision regarding national monument status for the GGCHNM had been made.[6]

Current oversight of the area allows for a variety of outdoor recreation, including hiking, fishing, hunting, biking, horseback riding, and other uses. Supporters of national monument designation view uranium mining interests and old-growth logging as threats to the greater Grand Canyon region.[7] National monument designation would help mitigate these concerns.

In addition to solidifying protection of natural resources, evidence from previous monument designations suggest that a new national monument designation could be economically beneficial to the region by raising the profile of the area to potential visitors.[8] In general, designation has enhanced the value of other public lands as a natural, cultural and recreation attraction, spurring additional visitation and visitor spending.

The purpose of this study is to quantify the existing economic benefits of the region around the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. This report does not provide a recommendation for or against national monument status. Nor does this report provide a projection of changes to economic contribution related to the potential change in designation. Instead, the report documents the current economic benefit of the land included in the proposed monument—an economic benefit that would be more strongly preserved and likely enhanced through designation.

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[3] http://kirkpatrick.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kirkpatrick-grijalva-gallego-call-for-establishment-of-grand-canyon

[4] www.azhousedemocrats.com/2015/03/democrats-urge-president-obama-to.html

[5] https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr3882

[6] http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/473fb399-760e-4386-9eca-68fe554cf238/3-10-15-mccain-flake-letter-to-president-obama-re-arizona-national-monument-designations.pdf

[7] The U.S. Department of Interior instituted a 20-year moratorium on new mining in the Grand Canyon Watershed region in 2012, but multiple attempts have been made to repeal the moratorium.

[8] The Economic Importance of National Monuments to Local Communities—Update. Headwaters Economics, 2014. http://headwaterseconomics.org/public-lands/protected-lands/national-monuments

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Methodology

The economic value quantified in this report focuses on the primary use values and operation of the proposed monument. The analysis begins with the impact of recreation, which is the largest and most complex use within the proposed monument. Critical factors influencing economic impact of recreation include the number and type of visitors, mode of accommodations and the amount and pattern of their expenditures. This analysis distinguishes between non-local visitation (new money to the local economy) and local visitation as well as primary and non-primary visitation.[9] Non-local visitation and spending is considered a basic economic contribution and serves as the foundation for local economic stimulation. Limiting the analysis to primary trips allows the study team to isolate the recreation benefit of the proposed monument from other outdoor recreation attractions in the area (e.g. Grand Canyon National Park).

BBC estimated visitation and local spending using various data sources, including BLM Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) data and USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) data. These data sources provide the most recent data collection and analysis representative of the study area. Information obtained through stakeholder interviews was used to supplement the data where appropriate.

BBC calculated the economic benefits of the proposed monument based on estimates of visitation and direct spending. BBC estimated direct spending by visitors and utilized IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System software multipliers to calculate secondary (induced and indirect) economic impacts. Economic impacts are expressed in the labor income and economic output supported by non-local visitation and non-local visitor spending.

Report Organization

This report is organized into five sections:

- The first section provides a general description of the study area's economic characteristics;
- The second section provides a characterization and quantification of visitation and visitor spending in the proposed monument;
- The third section identifies and quantifies other economic use values associated with the proposed monument;
- The fourth section provides a description of the spending flow model used to calculate economic impacts;
- The fifth section provides economic impacts as well as non-economic benefits; and
- The sixth section discusses the relationship between monument designation and economic impact.

[9] For the purpose of this analysis, non-local visitors are defined as those who travel from outside the four-county study area (Coconino and Mohave counties in Arizona and Washington and Kane counties in Utah). Non-primary visitors are those whose recreation in the proposed monument is not the primary trip purpose.

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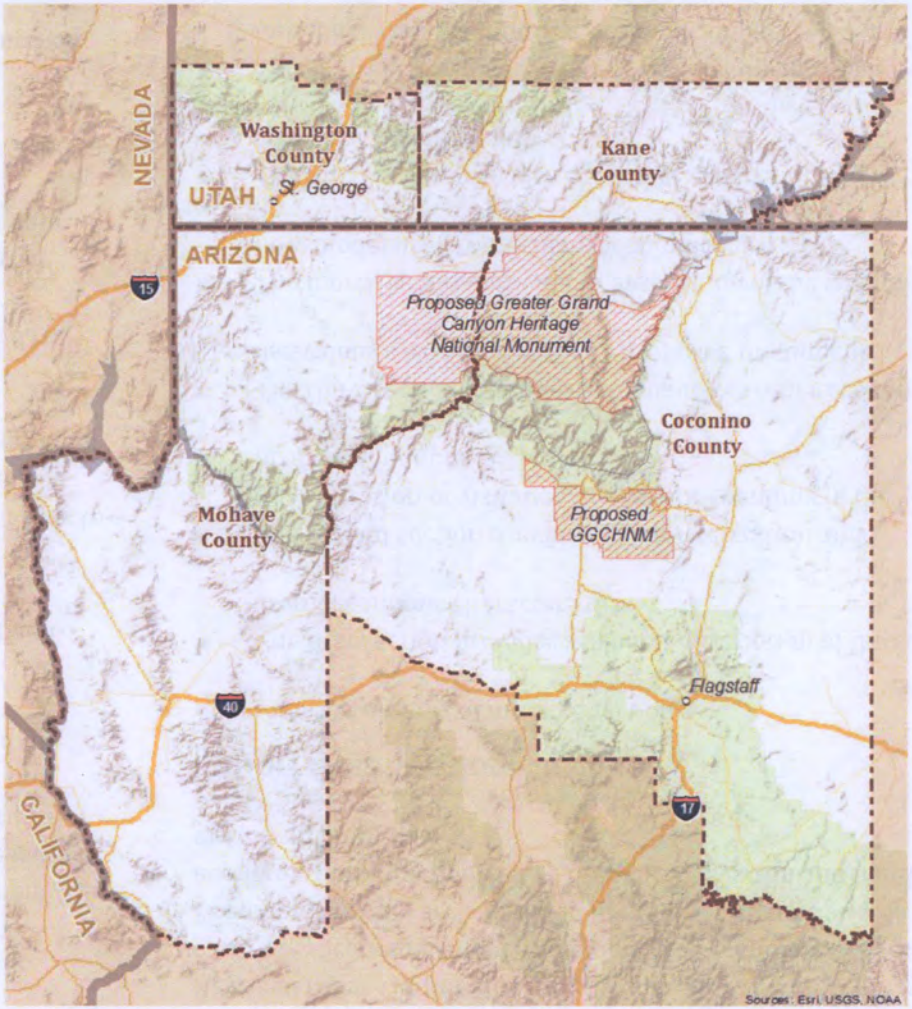
Study Area

When determining the economic activity of an area, it is important to determine the appropriate geographic area for study. Regional economic relationships are based on proximity, transportation and location of production and consumption of goods and services. Economists define this as a "functioning economic unit." Appropriately defining this area helps ensure the direct and secondary economic impacts are properly estimated.

This study defines the regional economy as Coconino and Mohave counties in Arizona and Washington and Kane counties in Utah. This specification is consistent with other economic studies of the area as well as local planning documents.[10] Coconino and Mohave counties contain the proposed monument and the Utah counties are included because they serve as the primary economic hub and entry point for recreation access north of the Grand Canyon.

The study area is generally rural, with two major urban centers—Flagstaff, Arizona and St. George, Utah. All four counties have large land areas with substantial federal land holdings. Figure 4 shows the monument's location in relation to the greater regional economy.

Figure 4.
Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument and Surrounding Region



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, 2015

[10] The Kaibab National Forest Socioeconomic Report and Resource Management FEIS, BLM Resource Management Plan FEIS for the Arizona Field Office and the Mineral Withdrawal FEIS all use similar study areas.

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Study Area

Figure 5 displays county characteristics from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) for the study area. Mohave is the largest county by population with just over 200,000 residents. Kane County is the least populous county with fewer than 10,000 residents. Median income is relatively consistent between Coconino, Kane and Washington counties ranging from about $48,500 to $49,500 but is substantially lower in Mohave County at $39,000. Poverty rates and unemployment are higher in the Arizona study area counties than in the Utah counties.

Early economic drivers of the area included farming, ranching, and mining but the area also has a long history of tourism as a major economic sector. In 1909 Mukuntuweap National Monument (later named Zion National Park) was established, marking the beginning of tourism as a significant sector in the northern portion of the study area. In 1919 Grand Canyon National Park was established, solidifying tourism as a major economic driver, particularly for the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County.

Figure 5.
County Characteristics

	Coconino County, Arizona	Mohave County, Arizona	Kane County, Utah	Washington County, Utah
Total population	134,795	201,680	7,176	141,902
Median household income	$49,555	$39,200	$48,540	$49,279
Median home value	$220,400	$133,900	$162,300	$212,900
Percent unemployed	7.2%	8.8%	4.6%	4.3%
Percent in poverty	23%	19%	8%	15%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2014 Annual unemployment rate and BBC Research & Consulting.

Tourism continues to be a primary economic contributor today. Forty percent of all study area jobs are in tourism-related industries (retail; arts, entertainment and recreation; and accommodations and food services).[11] Outdoor recreation opportunities in the broader area include a host of national parks (Zion, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands) and national monuments (Grand Canyon–Parashant, Vermilion Cliffs, Grand Staircase–Escalante, Natural Bridges, Pipe Spring, Wupatki, Sunset Crater, and Walnut Canyon). According to some government estimates, outdoor recreation in those parks and monuments accounts for over 11 million visits and $950 million in visitor spending, supporting over 21,000 local jobs.[12]

[11] Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2014.

[12] Norther Arizona Proposed Withdrawal Final Environmental Impact Statement, 2011.

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Visitation and Local Spending

Annual Visitation and Local Spending

Based on BLM and Kaibab National Forest visitation data, BBC estimates about 337,000 visits to the proposed monument annually. Visits to the Kaibab National Forest account for 83 percent of all visits to the proposed monument; the remaining 17 percent of visits are to BLM land.

Given the proposed monument's proximity to Grand Canyon National Park and other high profile outdoor recreation opportunities, it is critical to understand the balance between primary and non-primary visits to the proposed GGCHNM.[13] Many visitors may view Grand Canyon National Park as their primary destination but choose to visit the proposed monument as a side trip. While this type of secondary activity is an economic contribution to the region, it cannot be attributed to the proposed monument since the trip would not have originated without the draw of the Grand Canyon or some other local attraction. According to the most recent USFS study, nearly half of all visits (48%) to the Kaibab National Forest are non-primary visits.[14] Applying that proportion to total visits to the proposed monument suggests that 162,000 of the 337,000 total visits are non-primary trips.

Another critical component of the visitor spending profile is the makeup of local vs. non-local visitors and day visitors vs. overnight visitors, as the length of time spent in the area and visitor origin affects the amount spent in the local economy.

For the purposes of this study, "non-local" means the visitor traveled from outside the study area counties. The most recent USFS NVUM data for the region indicate that 70 percent of visitors to the proposed monument travel from outside the study area counties. Local visitors are more likely to take day trips and non-local visitors are more likely to be on overnight trips. Figure 6 displays total visitation by primary purpose, origination and duration.

Figure 6. Estimated Visitation Proposed GGCHNM

Visitor Type	Number of Visits	Percent of Visitation
Non-Primary Visitors	161,841	48%
Local Visitors		
Day visits	45,378	13%
Overnight visits	7,717	2%
Non-Local Visitors		
Day visits	45,353	13%
Overnight visits	76,881	23%
Total	**337,169**	**100%**

Note: Non-primary includes local and non-local visitors. Overnight visits include those staying on or off the proposed monument.

Source: BLM RMIS, USFS NVUM, Stynes and White 2010 and BBC Research & Consulting.

[13] Non-primary visits are those where recreating in the proposed monument is not the primary trip purpose.

[14] Stynes, Daniel J. and White, Eric M. "Updated Spending Profiles of National Forest Visitors by Activity." USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and Oregon State University Joint Venture, November 2010.

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Visitation and Local Spending

In addition to the visitor distinctions, primary activity types influence spending patterns (e.g., hunters may purchase different goods and services than hikers). Hence, it is useful to estimate visitor spending by activity. Figure 7 shows visitation to the proposed monument by primary activity.

Average daily visitor expenditures by activity type were estimated in a 2010 joint USFS–Oregon State University study of NVUM data. In that study, visitors were surveyed and asked to estimate their party's total expenditures per day during their stay. They also indicated the primary activity of the visiting party.[15]

The study team tabulated visitation data to the proposed monument by activity type, fit that information to the distribution of local/non-local and day/overnight, and used the spending patterns by activity described in the 2010 USFS NVUM study (adjusted for inflation to 2015 dollars) to arrive at estimated spending by activity and by market segment (local or non-local, day or overnight).

Figure 8 presents the spending profile by activity type on a per person basis, not per party. The overnight spending values represent total spending associated with the trip, not on a per day basis. Non-local visitors spend more than their local counterparts and overnight visitors spend more than day visitors, primarily due to lodging and dining.

Figure 7. Proposed GGCHNM Visitation by Primary Activity

Activity Type	Number of Visits	Percent of Visits
Hunting	9,651	3%
Fishing	281	0.1%
Nature-related	106,384	32%
OHV-use	3,555	1%
Driving for pleasure	86,443	26%
Picknicking / Developed camping	30,540	9%
Primitive camping or backpacking	12,827	4%
Hiking/biking	55,106	16%
Other	32,382	10%
Total	**337,169**	**100%**

Note: Nature related activities include viewing natural features, wildlife or historic sites; relaxing; resort use; nature center activities and nature study.

Source: BLM RMIS data, USFS NVUM data and BBC Research & Consulting.

Figure 8. Spending Profiles by Activity Type, per Person (2015 dollars)

Activity Type	Non-Local		Local	
	Day	*Overnight*	*Day*	*Overnight*
Hunting	$ 53	$ 223	$ 37	$ 143
Fishing	29	159	22	74
Nature-related	30	202	19	94
OHV-use	50	133	32	67
Driving for pleasure	26	265	18	152
Picknicking / Developed camping	21	82	9	63
Primitive camping or backpacking	n/a	62	n/a	58
Hiking/biking	24	218	13	69
Other	28	127	18	80

Source: Stynes, Daniel J. and White, Eric M. "Updated Spending Profiles of National Forest Visitors by Activity." USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and Oregon State University Joint Venture, November 2010.BBC Research & Consulting, 2015.

[15] Stynes and White, 2010.

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Visitation and Local Spending

Using these estimates, the proposed GGCHNM visitor spending profile is estimated to be over $32 million per year, shown in Figure 9. Because the economic model focuses on "new" money entering the area that can be reasonably attributed to the proposed GGCHNM, the analysis considers only non-local visitor expenditures and excludes both local and non-primary expenditures.

Expenditures made by non-local visitors whose primary trip purpose was to visit the proposed monument total $15.6 million. Local visitors spend about $1.4 million on primary trips to the proposed monument. The Forest Service does not provide spending profiles by activity for non-primary visitors, but if we assume those visitors mimic the distribution and spending patterns of primary visitors, the total non-primary spending is estimated to be $15.7 million per year.

Importantly, these recreation and visitation uses, including hunting and fishing, would be preserved with the designation of a national monument. While there has been some concern expressed that hunting and fishing uses will be negatively impacted, our analysis of other monument designations by the Obama administration along with the language in Rep. Grijalva's Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act indicates that hunting and fishing will continue to be permitted.[16, 17, 18]

Figure 9. Estimated Annual Proposed GGCHNM Direct Visitor Expenditures by Activity

Activity Type	Non-Local Visits		Local Visits		Non-Primary* Visits	Total
	Day	*Overnight*	*Day*	*Overnight*		
Hunting	$ 53,287	$ 557,094	$ 49,458	$ 24,488	$ 631,686	$ **1,316,013**
Fishing	1,122	10,002	904	219	11,306	**23,554**
Nature-related	443,887	4,785,380	308,453	76,419	5,182,282	**10,796,421**
OHV-use	16,169	128,404	16,468	2,801	151,239	**315,081**
Driving for pleasure	427,126	3,936,393	234,143	39,885	4,280,812	**8,918,359**
Picknicking / Developed camping	13,931	849,751	2,100	290,424	1,067,268	**2,223,474**
Primitive camping or backpacking	0	286,876	0	116,240	372,108	**775,224**
Hiking/biking	182,483	2,693,005	106,937	18,726	2,770,292	**5,771,442**
Other	85,841	1,092,874	76,127	63,757	1,217,168	**2,268,932**
Total	**$ 1,223,846**	**$ 14,339,779**	**$ 794,591**	**$ 632,960**	**$ 15,684,162**	**$ 32,408,502**
Utilized in IMPLAN Analysis	*$ 1,223,846*	*$ 14,339,779*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*$ 15,563,625*

Note:

*Non-primary spending estimate assumes the distribution and spending profiles of non-primary visitors mimics that of local and non-local visitors. Dollar values adjusted for inflation and expressed in 2015 dollars.

Source:

BLM RMIS, USFS NVUM, Stynes and White 2010 and BBC Research & Consulting.

[16] http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/nm/en/prog/NLCS/RGDN_NM.html

[17] http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/nv/special_areas/basin_and_range_monument.Par.77668.File.dat/Basin%20and%20Range%20National%20Monument%20Q&A.pdf

[18] http://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Greater%20Grand%20Canyon%20Heritage%20National%20Monument%20Act%20Bill%20Text.pdf

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Other Direct Economic Impacts

Grazing

The monument also provides economic benefit to the community through ongoing livestock grazing. The economic value attributed to grazing on the proposed monument amounts to $7.1 million annually.[19] This economic value calculation multiplies the number of animal unit months (AUMs) grazing in the proposed monument (74,030) by the dollar value per AUM for cattle and calves ($66.54), which is a weighted average of county level data reported in the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture.[20] Recent monument designations—in addition to the legislation drafted by Rep. Grijalva—allow for continued grazing rights and that is expected to be the case with the GGCHNM.[21, 22, 23]

Forest Products

In 2014, the total volume of convertible forest products harvested in the Kaibab National Forest was approximately 22,500 CCF (hundred cubic feet), valued at $235,000. Another $29,000 of non-convertible products, such as Christmas trees, boughs and cones were also harvested. The total value of convertible and non-convertible products for the forest was approximately $264,000; 51 percent of that ($136,000) is estimated to have been generated within the proposed GGCHNM.[24]

Minerals

The U.S. Department of Interior instituted a 20-year moratorium on new mining in the Grand Canyon region in 2012, but valid existing claims are currently allowed to operate and would not be impacted by national monument designation. Currently, there are four existing uranium mines with approved operating plans and seven additional mines with valid claims. Only one of those 11 mines is currently engaged in extractive activities. According to the Northern Arizona Mineral Withdrawal FEIS, the annual production value (including mining, hauling and milling) of a single mine in the proposed monument is approximately $4.2 million (in 2015 dollars).[25]

Payments to states and counties

Federal lands are not subject to property taxes that support county governments and education, although local communities play an important role in supporting the management of federal lands. Two federal programs, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRSCS) require federal land management agencies to allocate income to states and counties to help offset lost tax revenues. Annual payments to counties in the study area

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[19] Grazing economic impacts from the BLM Rangeland Administration System (RAS) http://www.blm.gov/ras/, Kaibab National Forest RMP FEIS and 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture County Profiles for Coconino, Mohave, Kane and Washington Counties.

[20] Over 100,000 AUMs are permitted but only 70%, on average, are used annually.

[21] https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/07/10/presidential-proclamation-establishment-basin-and-range-national

[22] https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/05/21/presidential-proclamation-organ-mountains-desert-peaks-national-monument

[23] http://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Greater%20Grand%20Canyon%20Heritage%20National%20Monument%20Act%20Bi

[24] As detailed in the Kaibab National Forest RMP FEIS, 25% of forest products are harvested in the North Kaibab Ranger District. The 75% harvested in the Williams and Tusayan districts was assumed to be proportional to the land area of those districts.

[25] Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal FEIS, 2011. The value estimate is derived from the average annual production per mine of 1.05 million pounds of uranium and the 2010 price of yellow cake uranium of $40 per pound. The value includes production value added through hauling and milling.

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Other Direct Economic Impacts

attributed to BLM and Forest Service land included in the proposed monument are about $1.9 million.[26]

Annual Operations

Program expenditures by the Kaibab National Forest and the BLM Arizona Field Office, including salaries, recurring contracts, and operational expenses, also contribute to the economic impact of the proposed GGCHNM. Allocating the proportion of departmental spending commensurate with the portion of land area that falls within the proposed monument indicates an additional $13 million in salaries and operational spending.[27]

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[26] U.S. Department of the Interior http://www.doi.gov//pilt/index.cfm accessed July 2015 and Kaibab National Forest RMP FEIS 2014

[27] Kaibab National Forest RMP FEIS 2014 and BLM staff, July 2015.

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Total Direct Economic Impact

Combining non-local recreation spending with these additional uses yields a combined annual direct economic impact of about $40 million. Figure 10 displays the direct spending and/or output associated with each use discussed in the previous section. The values shown in the figure were used as inputs in the spending flow model, discussed in the following section.

Figure 10. Direct Spending by Use in Proposed GGCHNM

Note:
Dollar values adjusted for inflation and expressed in 2015 dollars.

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting.

Source	Direct Spending/Output
Non-local Recreation	$ 15,563,625
Grazing	5,119,818
Minerals	4,178,575
Forest Products	135,950
Payments to Local Counties	1,937,754
Annual Operations	13,414,463
Total	**$ 40,350,185**

Spending Flow

The direct impact only represents a portion of the total impact of the proposed monument on the local economy. Visitor expenditures and spending generated by operations and other uses circulates in the local economy, as businesses where visitors spend their money purchase intermediate goods and services from other businesses and as workers spend a portion of their earnings on local goods and services. This recirculation of money in the economy is termed a "secondary impact." The direct and secondary economic impacts produced by recreation within the proposed GGCHNM and other use values also support certain levels of labor income, described later in this analysis.

For the purposes of this analysis, BBC defines the local economy as Coconino and Mohave counties in Arizona and Washington and Kane counties in Utah. This study area was chosen because it is a functioning economic unit and captures most project-related impacts.[28]

To determine the average annual economic impact of the proposed monument (the direct impact plus the secondary impacts), BBC developed a spending flow model—shown in Figure 11 on the following page—to trace the flow of dollars and associated labor income generated by the proposed monument through the local economy.

[28] See Page 6 for a more detailed description of the economic study area.

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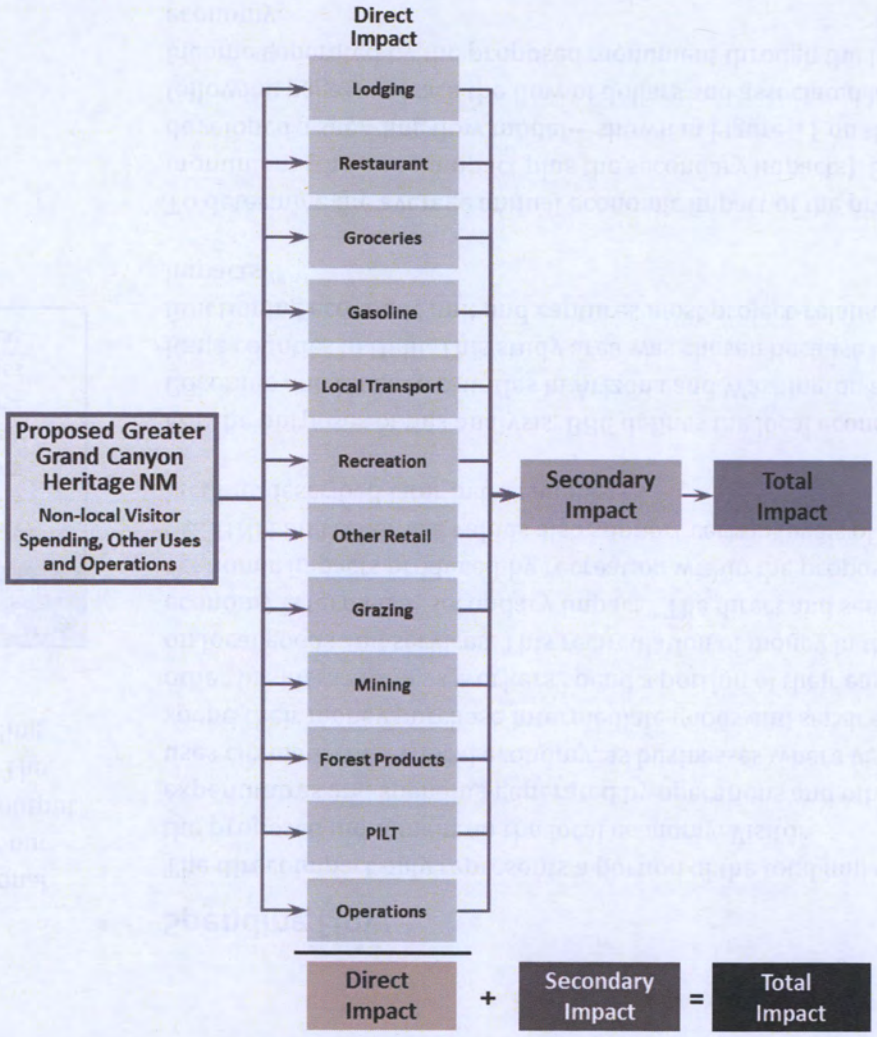
Spending Flow Model

This model is based on the IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System. A widely-used economic modeling software, IMPLAN estimates secondary economic impacts based on user-supplied direct impacts and accounts for revenue leakage from the local economy. BBC used IMPLAN to estimate economic and labor income impacts based on the spending data discussed in the preceding section.[29]

As shown in Figure 11, recreation spending was allocated to specific expenditure categories based on visitor type. Lodging and gasoline are the largest expenditure categories for non-local visitors, followed by restaurants and groceries.

Figure 11.
Spending Flow Model



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, based on IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System, 2015.

[29] For more information on IMPLAN, refer to http://implan.com/.

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Total Economic Impacts—Operations, Visitation and Other Uses

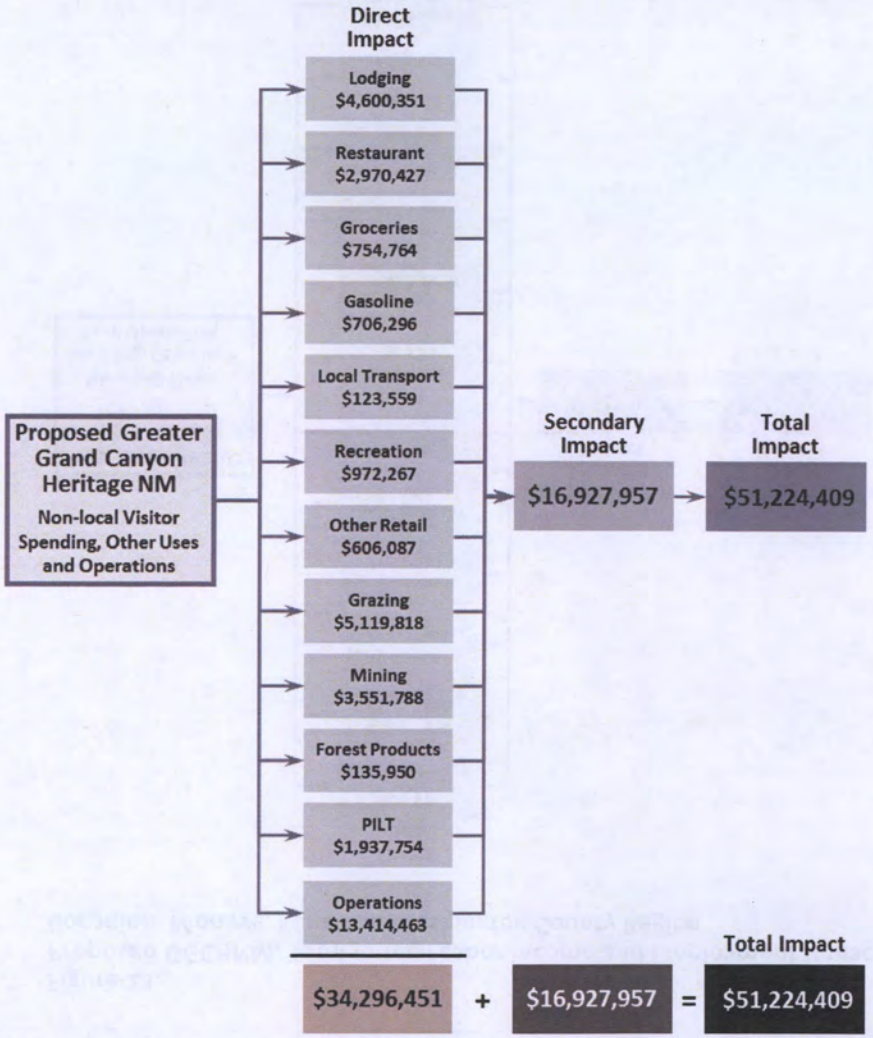
Total Economic Impact

Including direct and secondary impacts, the proposed GGCHNM has a total estimated economic impact of around $51 million per year, as illustrated in Figure 12. This figure includes economic activity generated by average annual visitor expenditures, other use values (grazing, mining and timber) and operation expenditures.

The direct impact of visitor spending presented in Figure 12 ($10 million) differs from the non-local spending numbers presented in Figures 9 and 10 because retail expenditures are treated differently than other categories in the IMPLAN model. Most products purchased at retail establishments are manufactured outside of the study area. As such, the economic contribution of those purchases should not include the wholesale value of manufacturing the product. For this reason, the study team conservatively included only the retail margin in estimating the local secondary (indirect and induced) economic effects associated with retail purchases, including labor income.

The direct output of mining differs from Figure 10 because the IMPLAN model excludes the value added from milling the ore (15% of the total value) which occurs outside the study area.[30, 31]

Figure 12.
Proposed GGCHNM, Total Annual Economic Impact—Output, Coconino, Mohave, Kane and Washington County Region



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, based on IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System, 2015.

[30] Uranium ore is milled at White Mesa Mill in San Juan County, Utah.

[31] Northern Arizona Proposed Withdrawal FEIS, 2011.

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Total Economic Impacts—Operations, Visitation and Other Uses

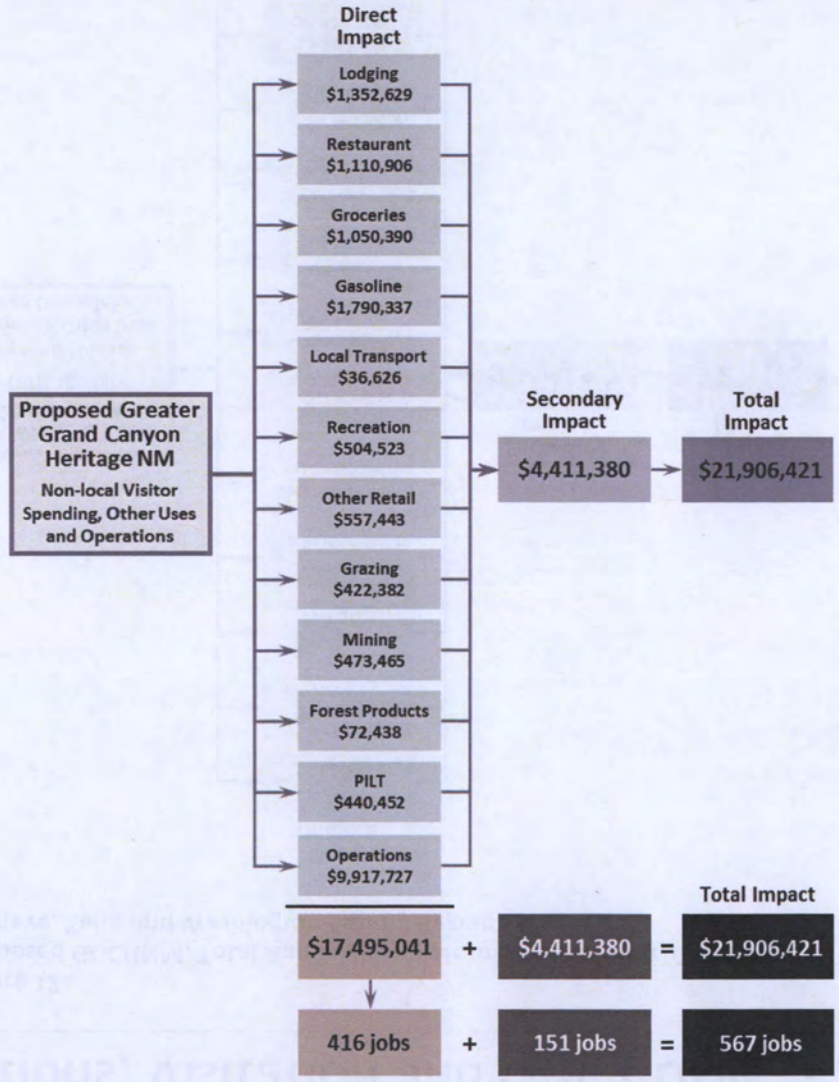
Impact on Labor Income

Proposed GGCHNM operations and uses result in approximately $22 million in labor income per year in Coconino, Mohave, Kane and Washington counties, as shown in Figure 13.

Among the sectors supported by visitor spending, lodging ($1.4 million), restaurant ($1.1 million), and gasoline ($1.8 million) industries produce the most labor income in the local economy. GGCHNM operations generate $9.9 million in labor—that estimate reflects Forest Service and BLM employees but also labor income for services contracted for program operations.

The $22 million in total labor income generated by the proposed GGCHNM supports approximately 567 jobs per year in the local economy. Non-local visitor expenditures support more jobs than any other single use in the study area (274 jobs) but at relatively low wages (about $28,800 per year on average).

Figure 13.
Proposed GGCHNM, Total Annual Labor Income and Employment Impact, Coconino, Mohave, Kane and Washington County Region



Source: BBC Research & Consulting, based on IMPLAN Regional Input-Output Modeling System, 2015.

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Other Economic Impacts

Apart from the effects that visitor spending has on the regional economies in the area surrounding the Grand Canyon, previous studies have documented that many people place a value simply on the existence of unique and pristine places like the canyon, whether they have ever visited it or not. Research indicates that existence value of a resource is most likely to be greater when the resource is unique (e.g., Grand Canyon National Park or Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone National Park).[32]

The existence value and value of ecological services reflects the value that people place on the sheer existence of a unique resource and the value of the ecological services that a large, pristine area like the greater Grand Canyon provides, such as supporting an abundant variety of species and protecting water quality.

A 1995 study estimated the existence value of the Grand Canyon at between $2.3 billion and $3.4 billion per year.[33] This study has not been updated, but presumably the effects of inflation and population growth continue to increase this value over time.

In its natural condition, the canyon and the surrounding area support numerous species of flora and fauna. The Colorado River and its watershed represent one of the most important river systems in the United States, heavily relied on by a large portion of the population of the southwest for public drinking water, agricultural production and other services.

While economists are beginning to develop tools to estimate the monetary value of some ecosystem services, these tools are far from ready to assign a monetary value on the services provided by an area as complex as the greater Grand Canyon region.

Although we cannot provide specific quantitative estimates of the existence value of the Grand Canyon and surrounding areas, it is important to note that additional land protections, such as national monument designations, help protect and even enhance the full value of the region's important ecosystem services, pristine vistas and sacred Native American sites.

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[32] Harpman, D.A., M.P. Welsh, and R.C. Bishop. 1994. Nonuse economic value: emerging policy analysis tool. Rivers 4(4):280–291

[33] Welsh, M.P., R.C. Bishop, M.L. Phillips, and R.M. Baumgartner. 1995. GCES Nonuse Value Study.Draft. RCG/Hagler Bailly.

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Monument Designation and Economic Impact

In addition to solidifying the protection of natural resources and preserving the economic and non-market values discussed in this report, evidence from previous monument designations suggest that a new national monument could be economically beneficial to the region by raising the profile of the area to potential visitors and increasing visitation and visitor spending in the region. In general, designation has enhanced the value of other public lands as a natural, cultural and recreational attraction, spurring additional visitation and visitor spending.

A 2011 study by Headwaters Economics evaluated the economic performance of communities surrounding 17 national monuments in the western United States, including nearby Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monuments. The study found that the local economies associated with each national monument expanded after monument designation. Headwaters updated the study in 2014 with post-recession data and found that the positive trends identified in 2011 continued or improved in each market. It should be noted that neither the 2011 nor the 2014 study attempt to identify a cause-and-effect relationship between monument designation and economic growth; however, the results do indicate that monument designation is consistent with local economic expansion and is not detrimental to it.[34]

In addition, previous BBC studies evaluating the economic impacts of national monument designation have consistently identified increases in visitation, associated visitor spending and subsequent economic effects post designation.[35]

As a part of those previous studies, BBC reviewed data from recently designated national monuments to gain an understanding of the potential visitor response. Although each monument is different, understanding the average impact of designation on visitation can provide a benchmark for potential visitation growth in proposed monuments, such as the proposed GGCHNM.

Monument selection for the benchmark analysis was based on data quality and availability as well as site similarities (i.e., location in the West, designation in 2000 or later and presence of multiple types of recreation). The final benchmarks included were Sonoran Desert, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks, Carrizo Plain, Vermilion Cliffs, Grand Canyon–Parashant and Upper Missouri River Breaks.[36] Data sources include interviews with staff at recently-designated sites and visitation data from the BLM RMIS.[37]

To understand the change in visitation pre- and post-designation, BBC calculated the change in visitation at each site compared to the site's average pre-designation visitation in 1999 and/or 2000. The change in visitation per site was then averaged by year across the six benchmark sites. Figure 14 shows the average annual visitation increase compared to pre-designation visitation.

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[34] The Economic Importance of National Monuments to Local Communities—Update. Headwaters Economics, 2014. http://headwaterseconomics.org/public-lands/protected-lands/national-monuments

[35] BBC has conducted economic studies of the following national monuments: Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks, Rio Grande Del Norte, Chimney Rock, Great Bend of the Gila and Upper Missouri River Breaks.

[36] Visitation data at several national monuments, including Agua Fria, Canyons of the Ancients, Ironwood Forest, Cascade Siskiyou and Prehistoric Trackways were unavailable in pre-designation years, making them unusable as benchmarks.

[37] All monuments that fit the selection criteria are managed by the BLM.

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Monument Designation and Economic Impact

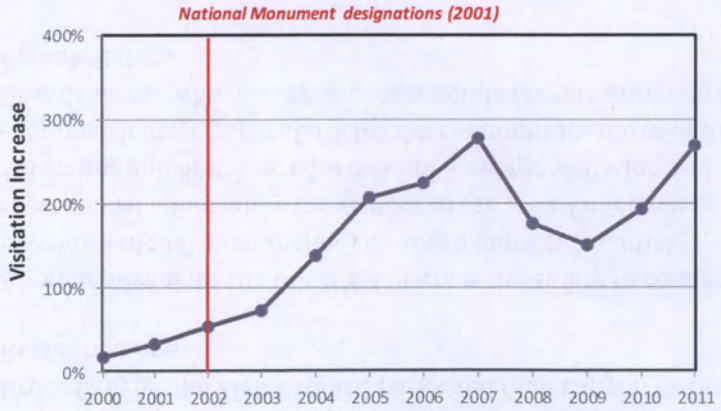
The benchmark analysis indicates that visitation growth is extensive following designation. Growth between 2002 and 2003 was slightly slower, possibly due to the September 11th terrorist attacks and a general aversion to travel in the U.S. Between 2003 and 2007, the growth in visitation is substantial, and in some sites grew by more than 500 percent. Reduced visitation in 2008 could be attributed to the financial crisis in the U.S. and the change in consumer spending patterns, but despite the decline, visitation remained greater than in pre-designation years. In recent years, visitation growth is rebounding and looks to be returning to levels found prior to 2008.

In summary, national monument designation seems to have a significant impact on visitation, but it is not the only factor that influences visitation. Other economic factors affect tourism such as geopolitical events and changes in consumer disposable income. It is important to note that overall visitation growth at all BLM lands relative to 2001 was between 3 percent and 14 percent per year, which is substantially lower than the national monument benchmarks.

Two of the benchmarks are uniquely applicable to the proposed GGCHNM due to their immediate proximity to the GGCHNM: Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument. BBC took an in-depth look at visitation patterns for those two benchmarks.

In the year after monument designation, Grand Canyon–Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs collectively increased their visitation at a faster rate (6%) than the nearby Arizona Strip BLM land (4%) and faster than other Arizona BLM lands (9% *decrease*). That difference is even more pronounced when we look at the first five years following national monument designation (13% average annual increase for Grand Canyon–Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs v. 2% for the Arizona Strip field office and 2% for other BLM lands in Arizona). Although we cannot assume the GGCHNM would follow the same growth pattern, the increase in visitation following designation for these two monuments provides an example of potential growth for the GGCHNM.

Figure 14.
Average Visitation Increase Compared to Pre-designation



Source: BBC Research & Consulting with data provided by the BLM.

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Monument Designation and Economic Impact

Local Community Participation

The data reveal strong correlations between visitation growth and monument designation; however, potential gains in visitation and spending are dependent on surrounding communities' ability to leverage a change in status. National monument designation will increase awareness of the unique historic, cultural and natural resources contained in the proposed monument but local communities should be prepared to benefit from that publicity.

The location of the proposed monument provides unique opportunities as well as challenges to capturing economic impact. One of the biggest advantages of the proposed monument's location is that potential non-local visitors are well aware of the broader area as a prime destination for outdoor recreation opportunities, due to the proximity of Grand Canyon National Park. The challenge then is not to draw visitors to the area but to draw them from the broader pool of visitors into the GGCHNM. Gateway communities should strive to position themselves as gateways to the broader Northern Arizona region, not just gateways to the Grand Canyon.

Gateway communities in southern Utah have a similar opportunity to leverage connections between the greater Grand Canyon area and the nearby Utah national parks and recreation areas such as Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Another advantage the GGCHNM offers is the ability to connect two existing national monuments, creating a more substantial recreational opportunity for visitors to the area. Collective marketing and branding efforts could leverage visitation and economic impact, particularly for the communities north of the Grand Canyon which serve as access points for recreation on the Kaibab Plateau.

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GRAND CANYON TRUST

Arizona Voter Support for Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Survey Conducted January 14-17, 2016

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY

220-4301

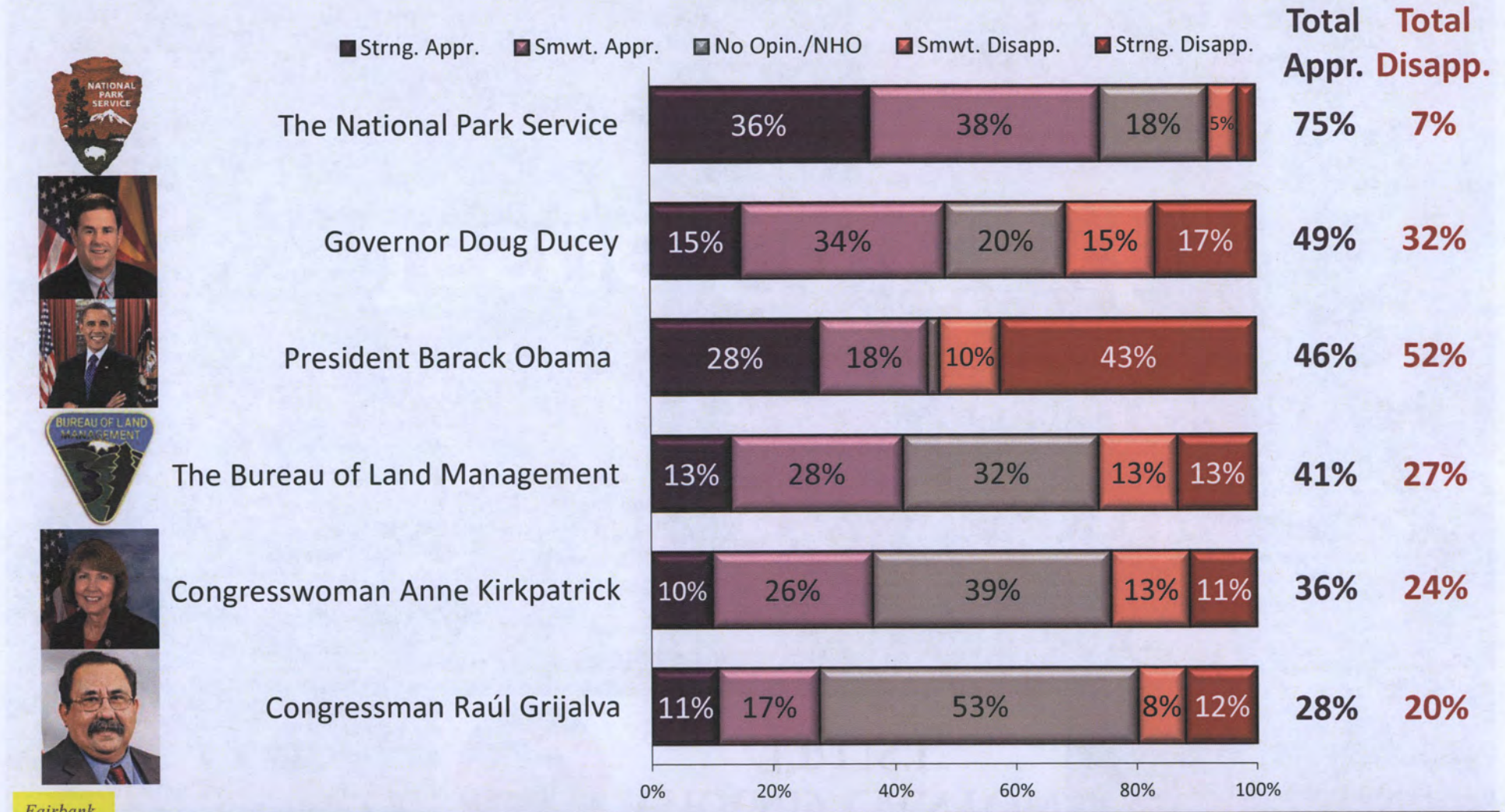
Methodology

- 500 telephone interviews with likely November 2016 voters statewide in Arizona, along with an oversample of 200 in Congressional District 1, for an unweighted total of 703 interviews
- Conducted January 14-17, 2016 via landline and cell phones
- Margin of sampling error +/-4.4% at the 95% confidence interval for the statewide sample
  - +/-6.2% for the Congressional District 1 sample
- Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%
- Selected comparisons to statewide survey conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in June of 2009

GRAND CANYON TRUST

Issue Context

Three-quarters approve of the National Park Service; attitudes toward others are mixed.



Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates

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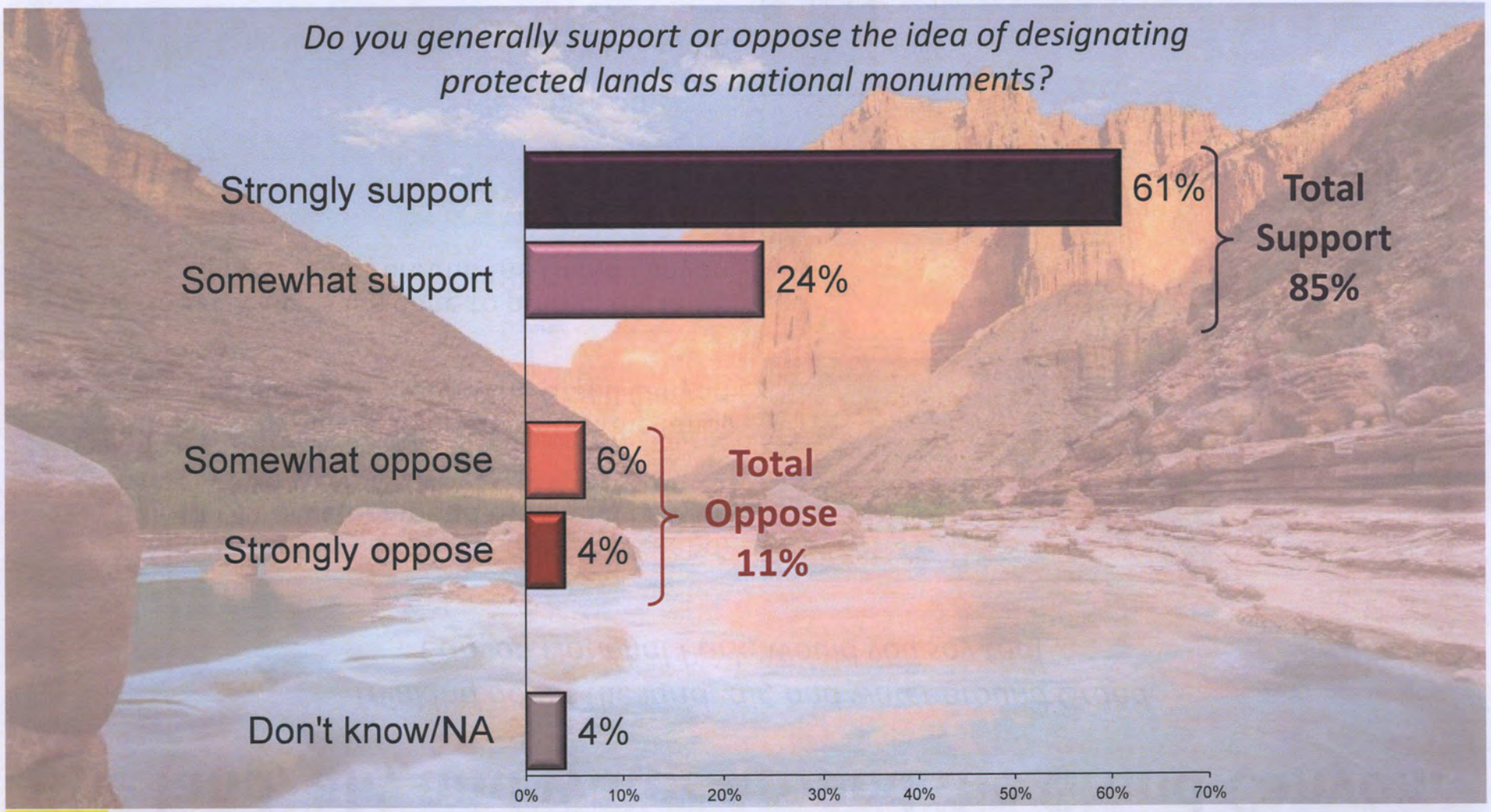
Q1. I'd like to read you a list of some different individuals and agencies active in public life. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing at this time.

Support for national monuments in principle is overwhelming.

Do you generally support or oppose the idea of designating protected lands as national monuments?



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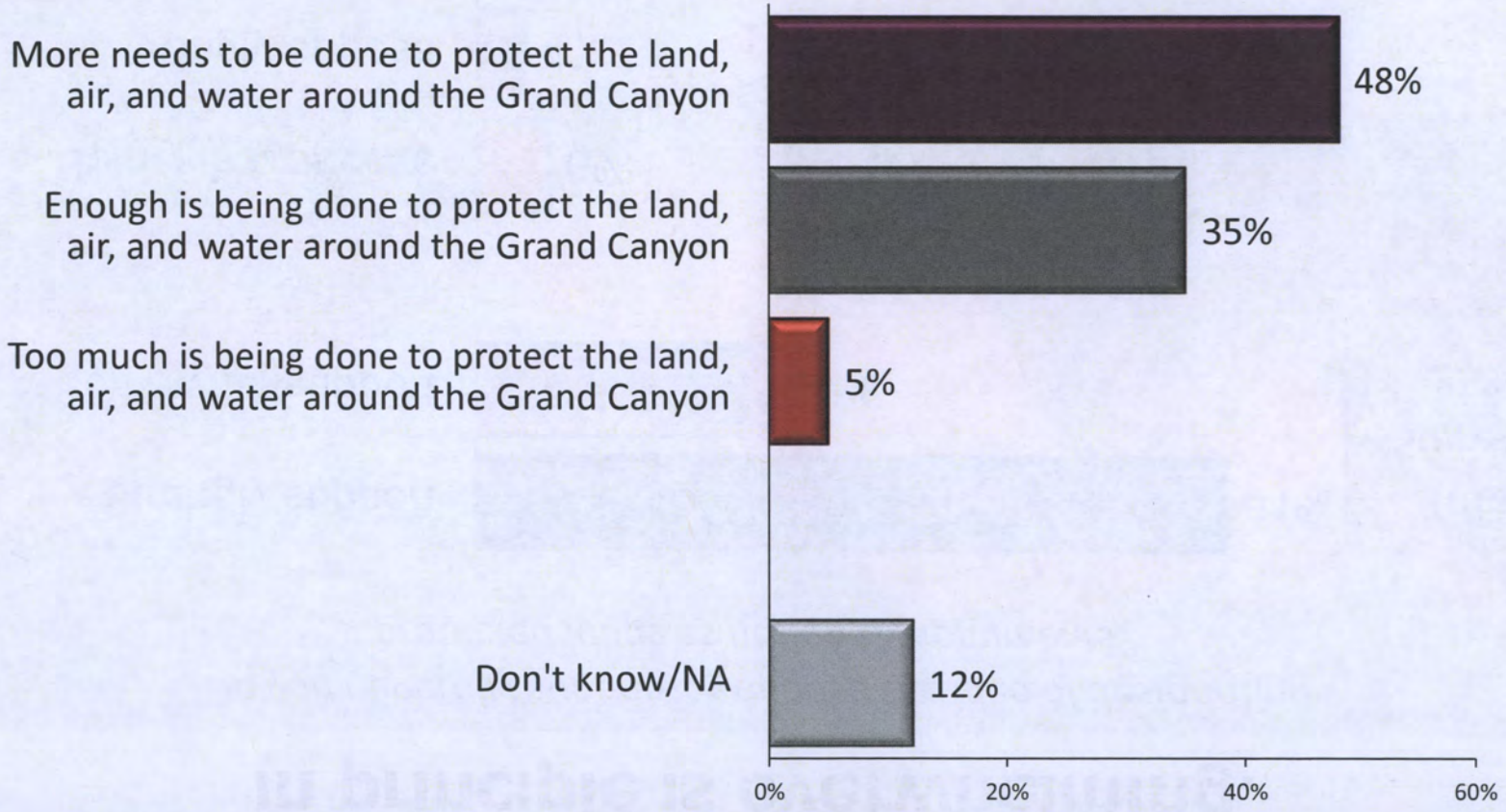
Q4.

Nearly half believe more should be done to protect the land, air, and water around the Grand Canyon.

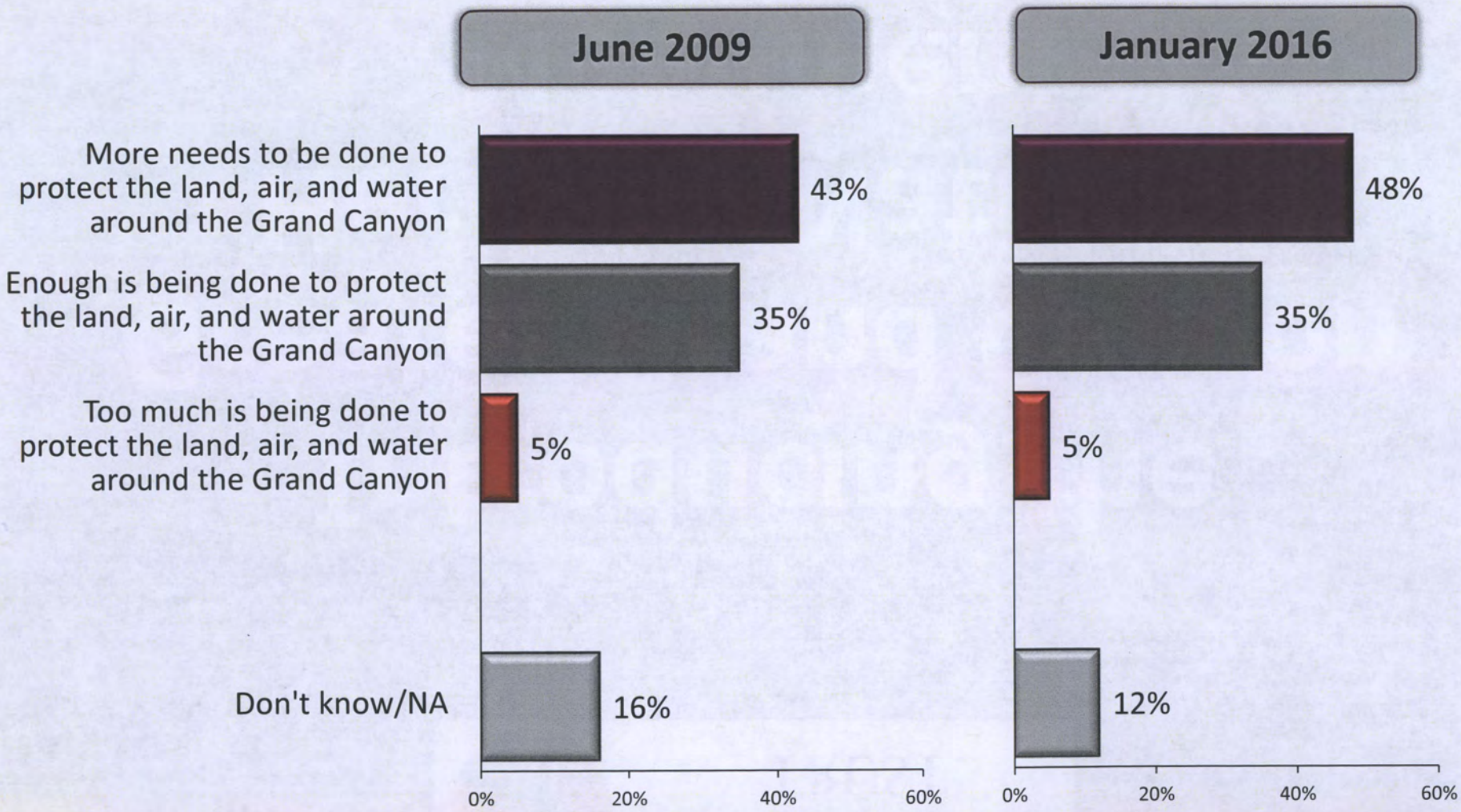
Thinking about the land, air, and water around Grand Canyon National Park, would you say that ...



Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates
FM3

Q2. Thinking about the land, air, and water around Grand Canyon National Park, would you say that ...

This is slightly higher than in 2009.



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Q2. Thinking about the land, air, and water around Grand Canyon National Park, would you say that ...

GRAND CANYON TRUST

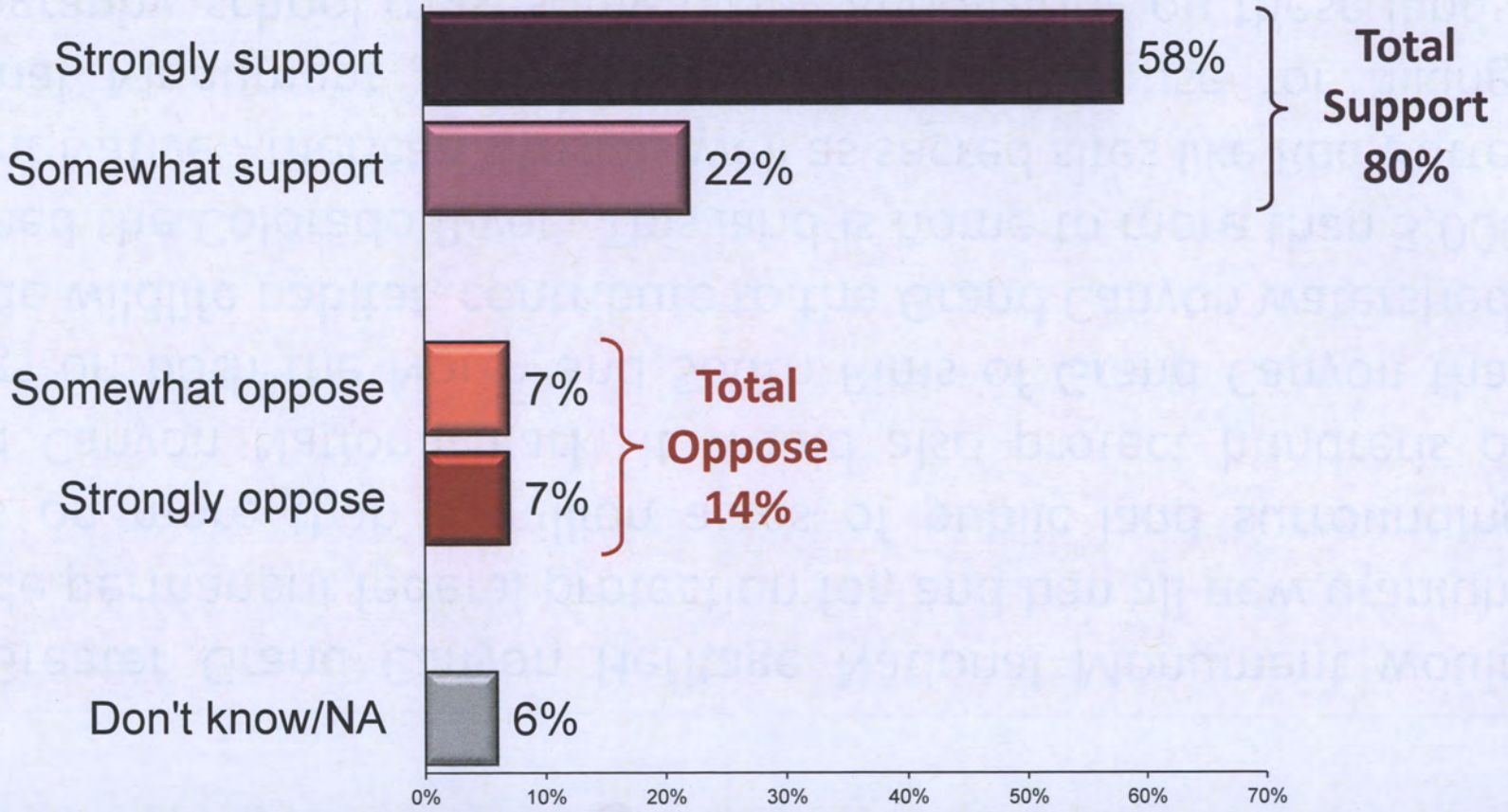
Introducing the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Introducing the Monument

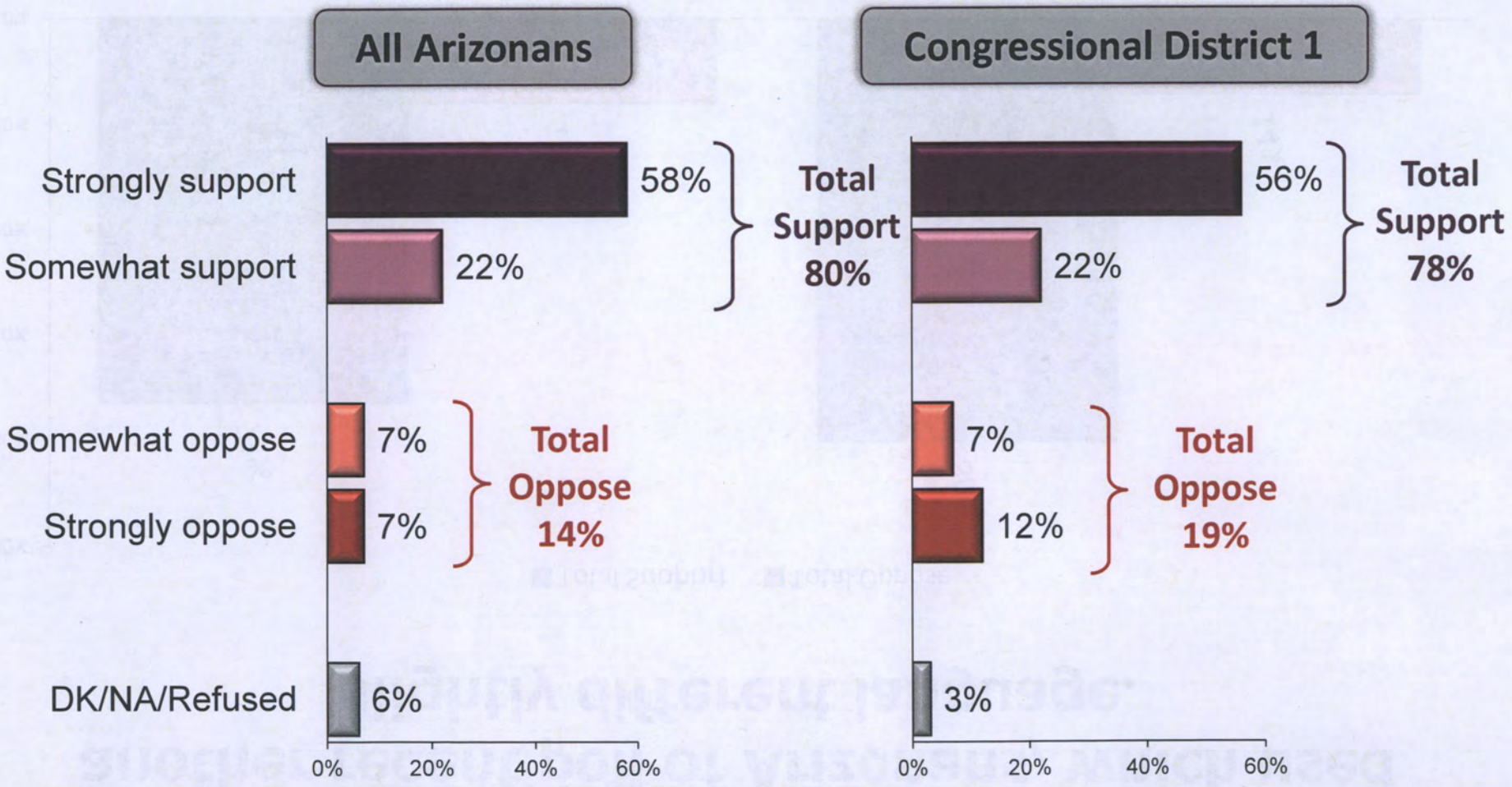
The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would provide permanent federal protection for, and ban all new uranium mines on more than a million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. It would also protect hundreds of springs on both the North and South Rims of Grand Canyon that provide wildlife habitat, contribute to the Grand Canyon watershed, and feed the Colorado River. This land is home to more than 3,000 ancient Native American sites, as well as sacred sites like Red Butte. National Monument status would allow public use for hiking, photography, school trips, some biking and grazing on these lands, while prohibiting development and mining.

Four in five Arizonans support establishing the Monument.

Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?



Voters in the First Congressional District are equally supportive.



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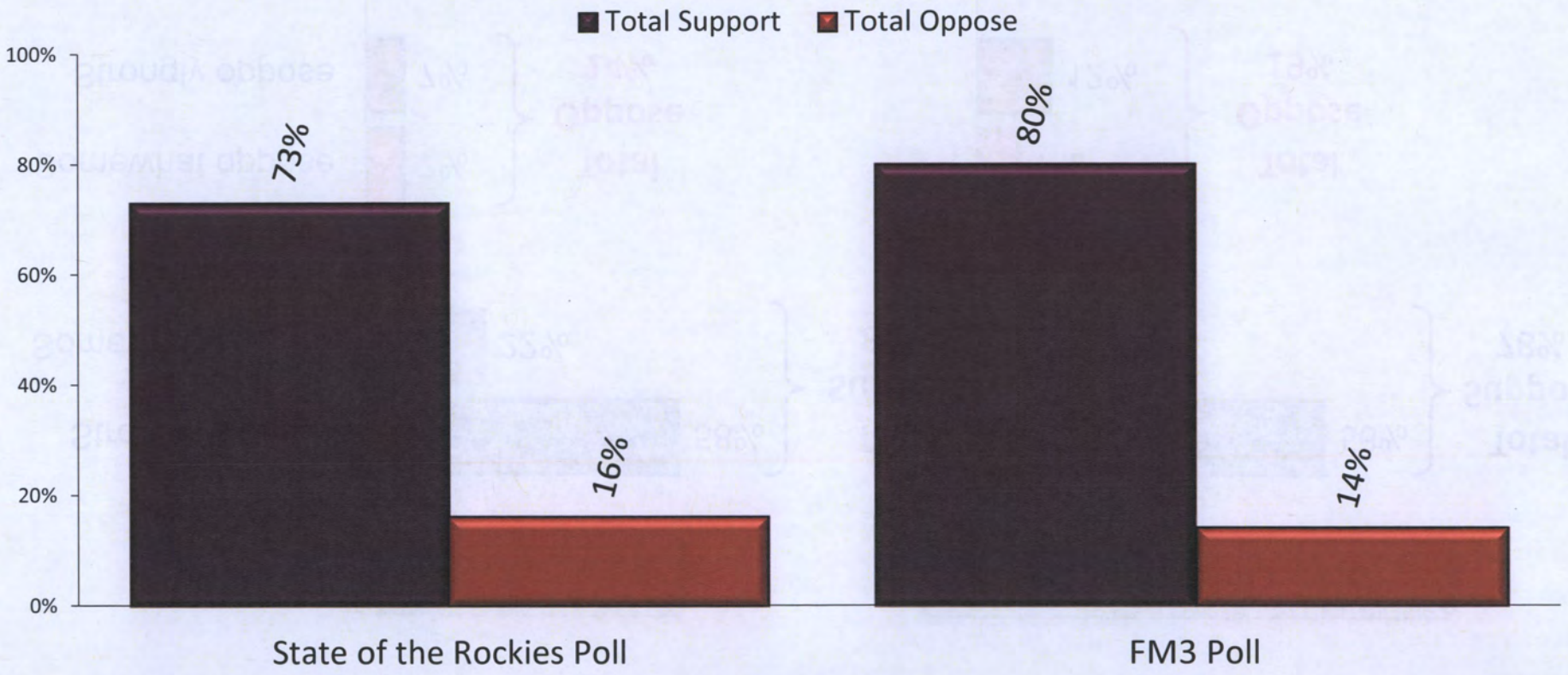
FM3

Q6. Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

This is slightly higher than found in another recent poll of Arizonans, which used slightly different language.



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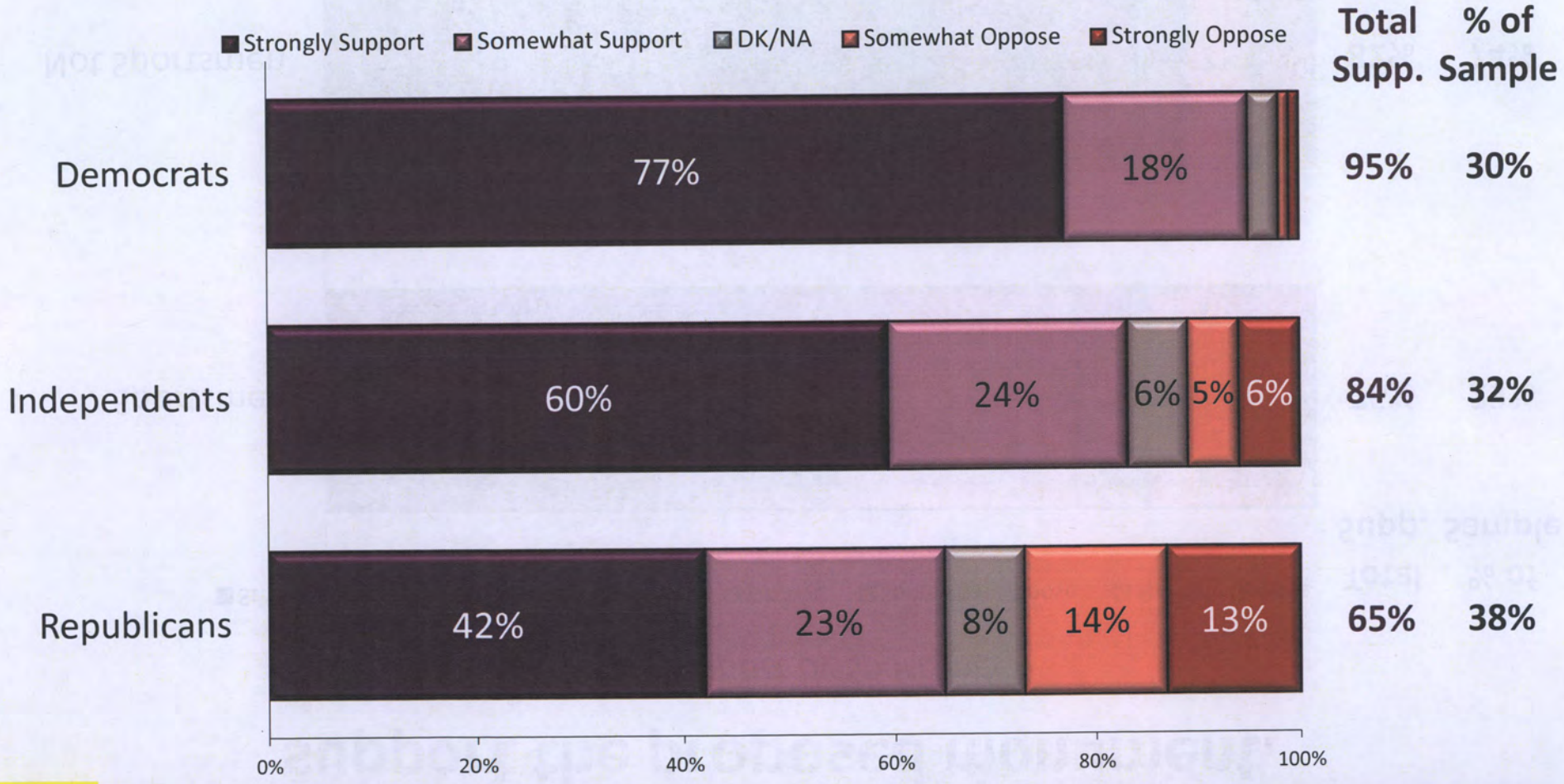
Q6. Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

Nearly two-thirds of Republicans support it, as do more than four in five Independents and Dems.

Initial Support by Party



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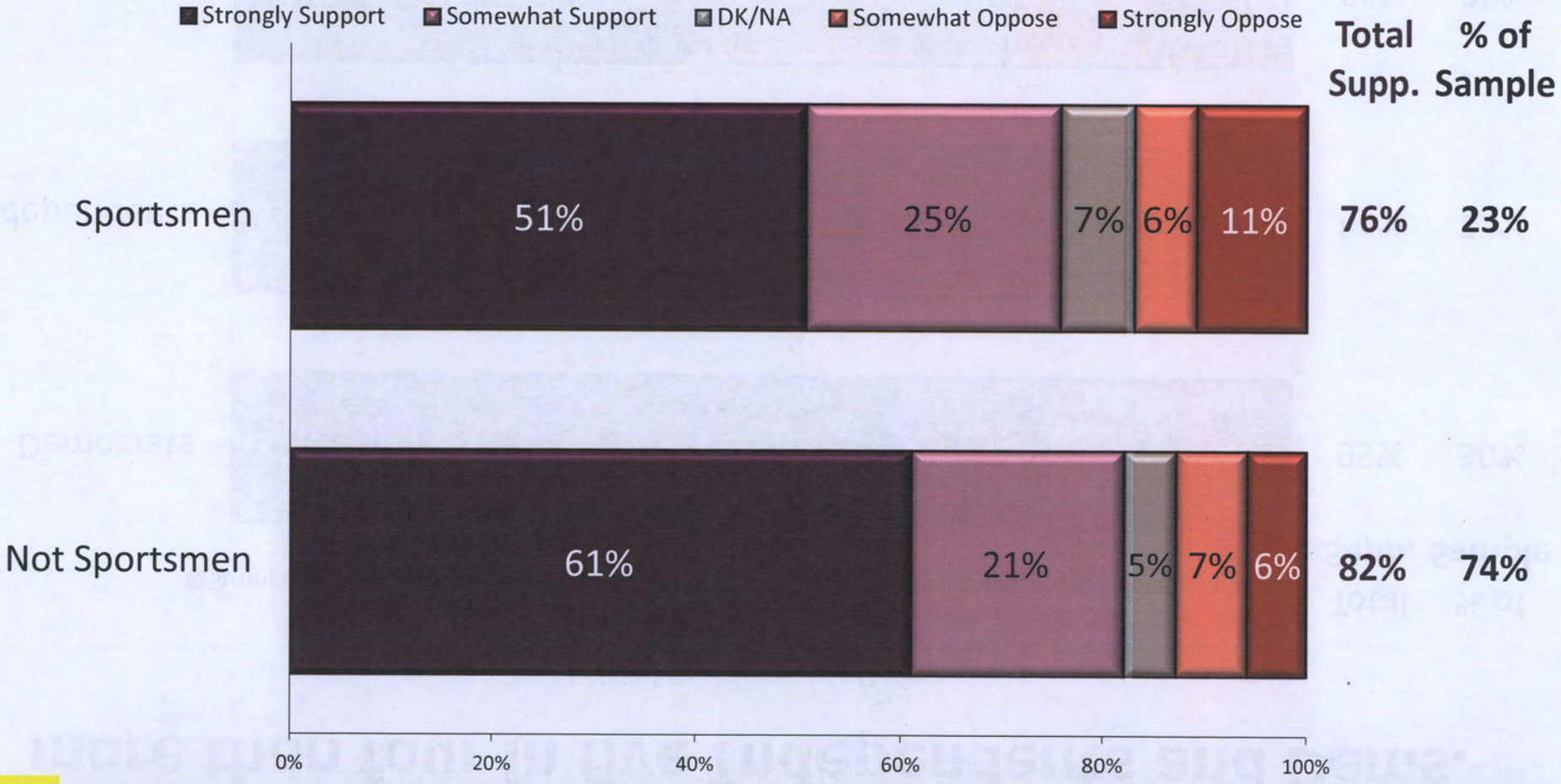
Q6. Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

A majority of sportsmen strongly support the proposed monument.

Initial Support by Sportsmen



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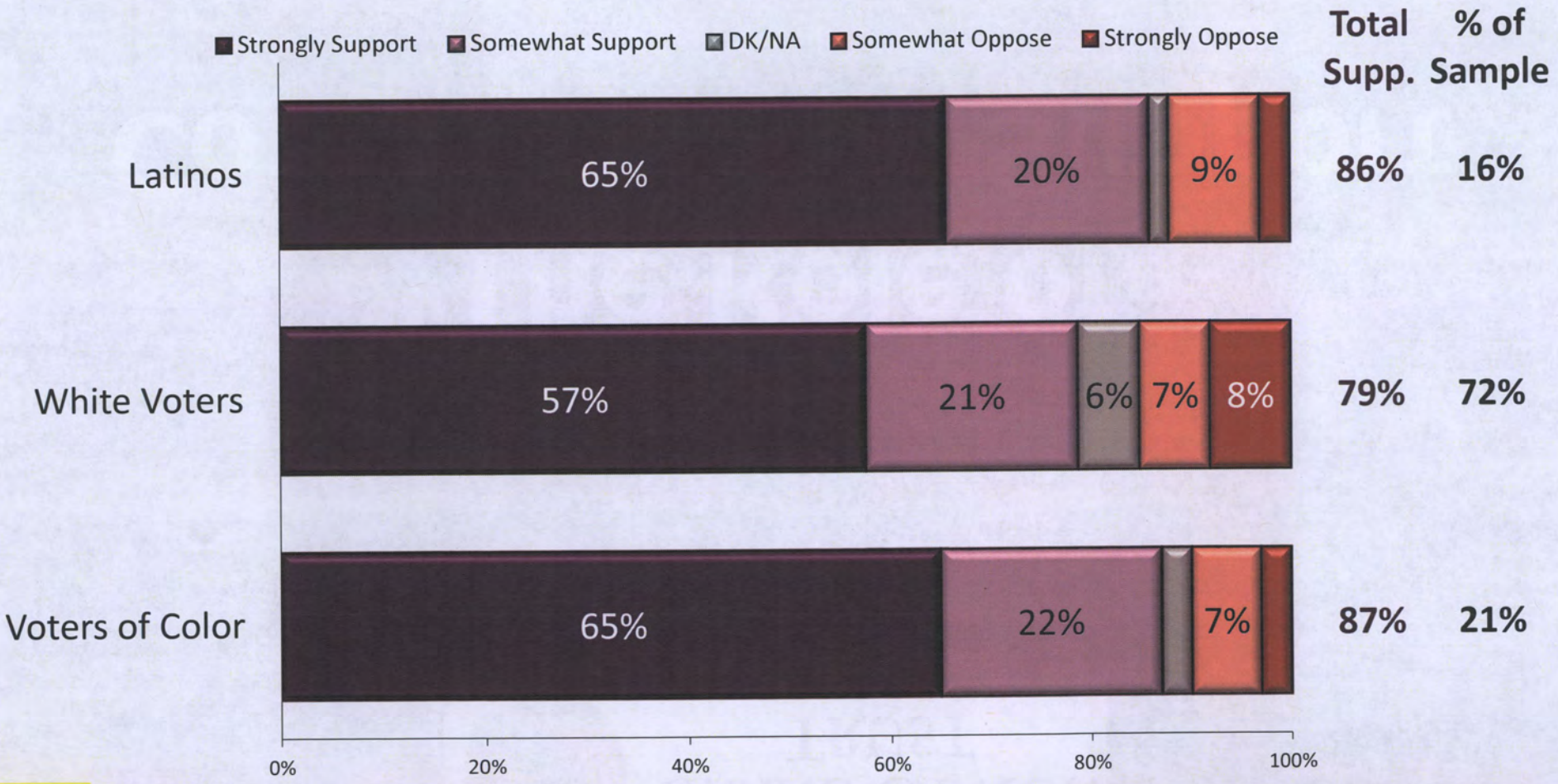
Q6. Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

Nearly two-thirds of Latinos and voters of color *strongly* support the monument.

Initial Support by Ethnicity



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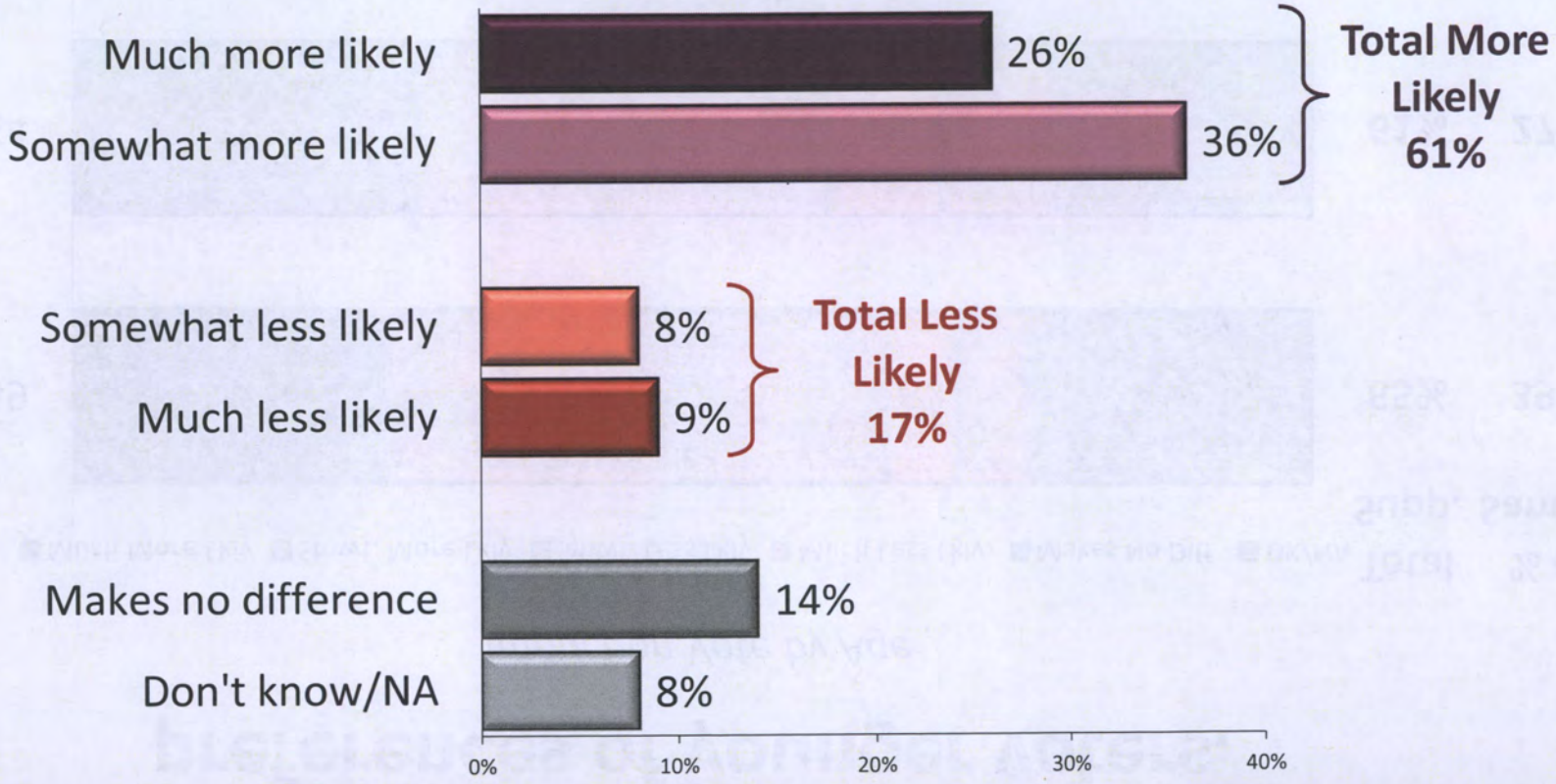
Q6. Having heard this, would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

The Role of Congressional Support

By a three-to-one margin, voters say they are more likely to support a member of Congress who backs the Monument.

Suppose that your member of Congress supported the creation of this national monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?



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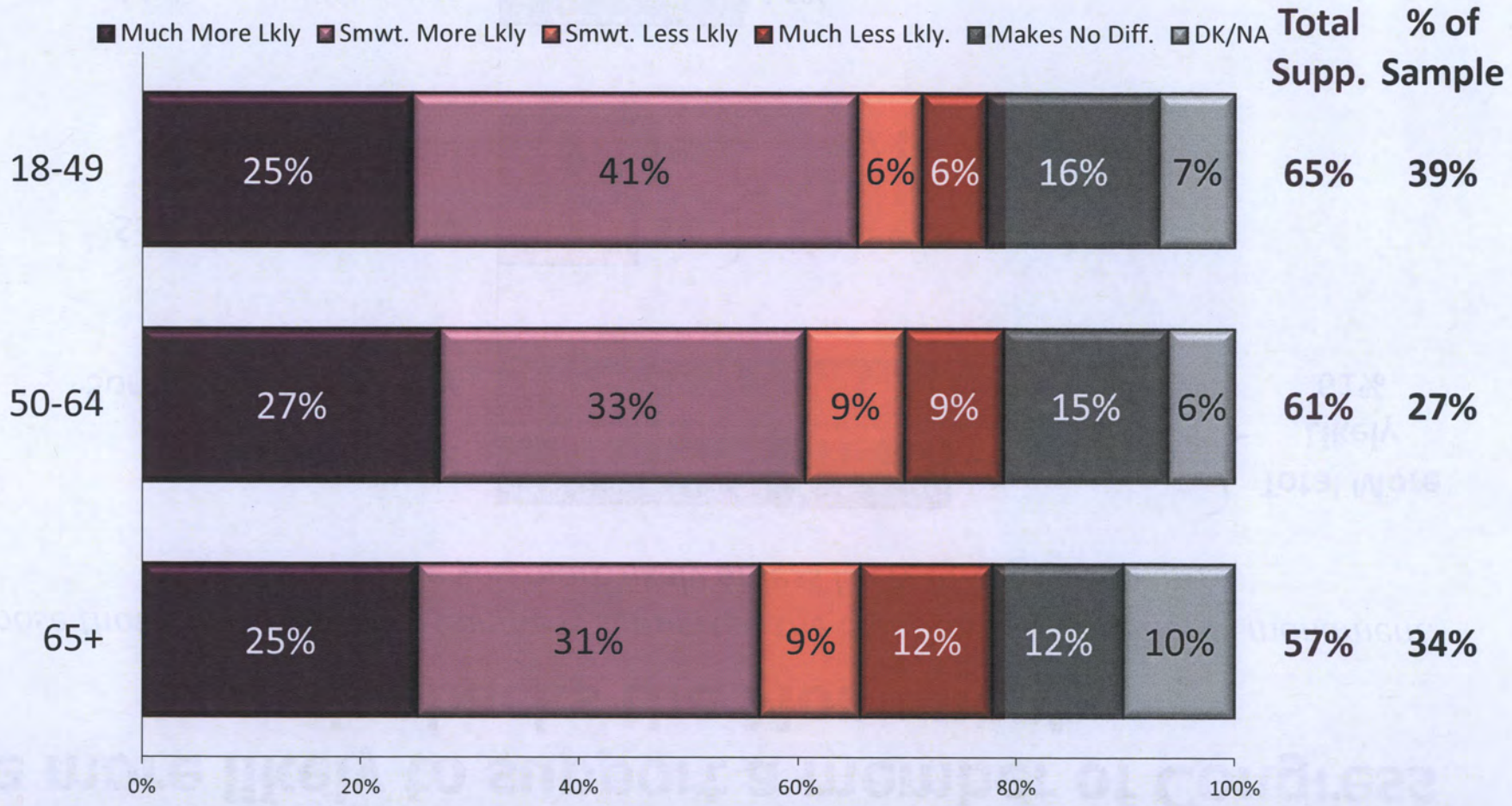
Q7.

The issue has more of an impact on the vote preferences of younger voters.

Impact on Vote by Age



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Q7. Suppose that your member of Congress supported the creation of this national monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?

Support for the monument solidifies support for a member of Congress among voters of color.

Impact on Vote by Ethnicity

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Q7. Suppose that your member of Congress supported the creation of this national monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?

Middle-income voters are most likely to say that their votes would be positively impacted.

Impact on Vote by Household Income

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Q7. Suppose that your member of Congress supported the creation of this national monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?

Even among Republicans, a plurality offers more support for a member of Congress who backs the monument.

Impact on Vote by Party

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Q7. Suppose that your member of Congress supported the creation of this national monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?

For more information, contact:

Dave Metz
Dave@FM3research.com

Miranda Everitt
Mirando@FM3research.com

1999 Harrison St., Suite 2020
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone (510) 451-9521
Fax (510) 451-0384

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GRAND CANYON TRUST

American Voter Attitudes Toward the Greater Grand Canyon National Heritage Monument

Key Findings from a Nationwide Voter Survey Conducted August 29 – September 8, 2016

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3

PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY

AMERICANVIEWPOINT

220-4634

Methodology

- 800 telephone interviews with likely voters nationwide
- Conducted August 29 – September 8, 2016 via landline and cell phones
- Margin of error of +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence interval
- Due to rounding, some percentages do not add up to 100%
- Bipartisan research team of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D) and American Viewpoint (R)

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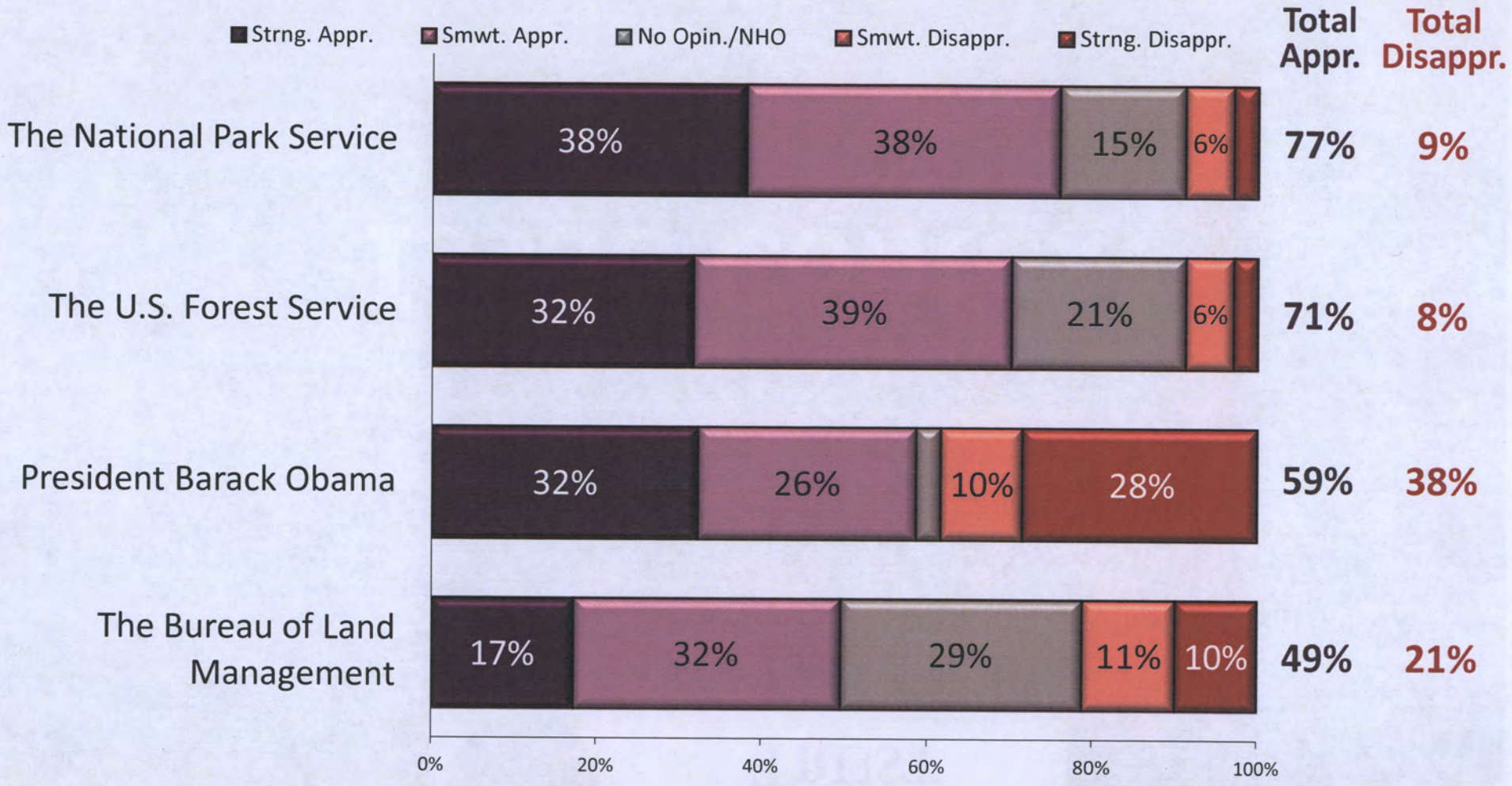
Issue Context

Voters have very positive views of NPS and USFS; fewer have opinions about BLM.



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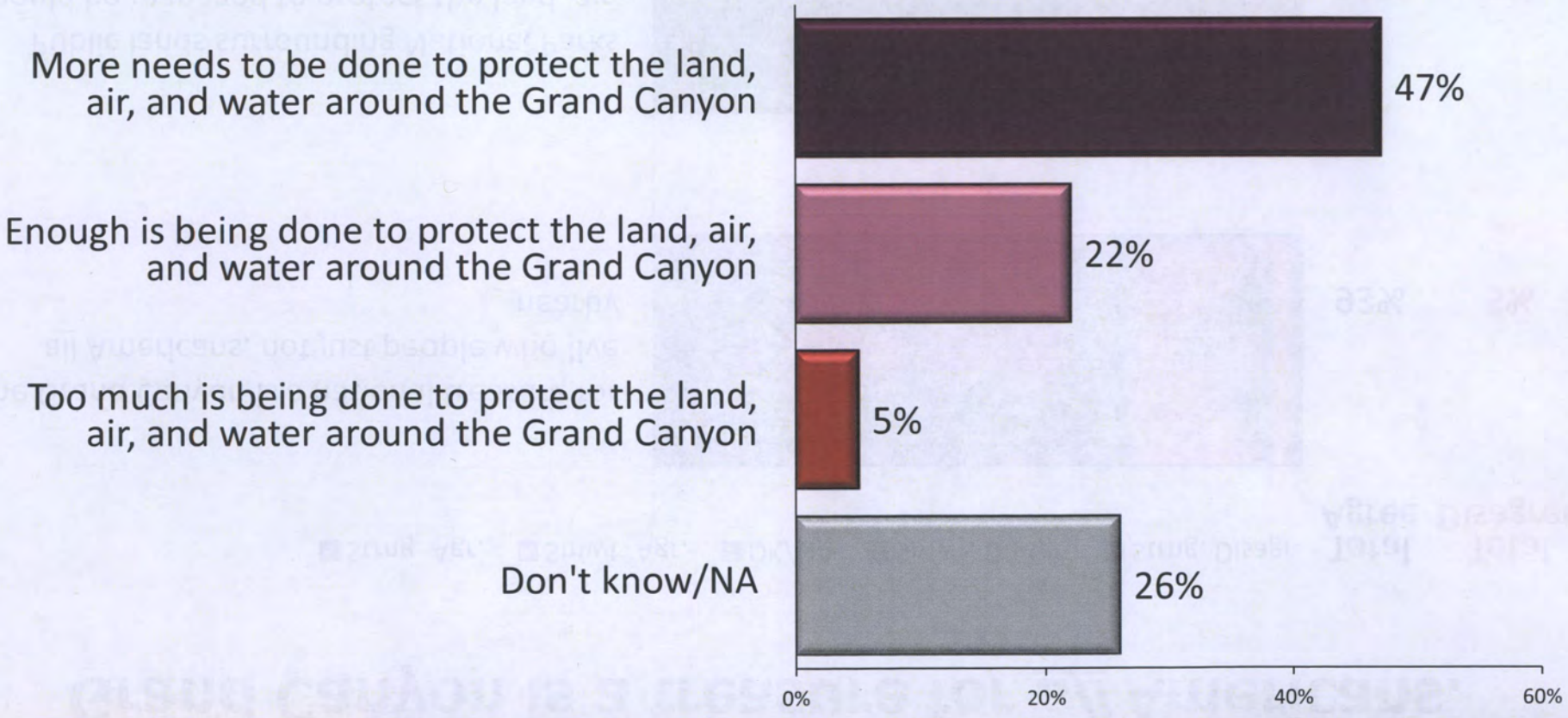
PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY
AMERICANVIEWPOINT

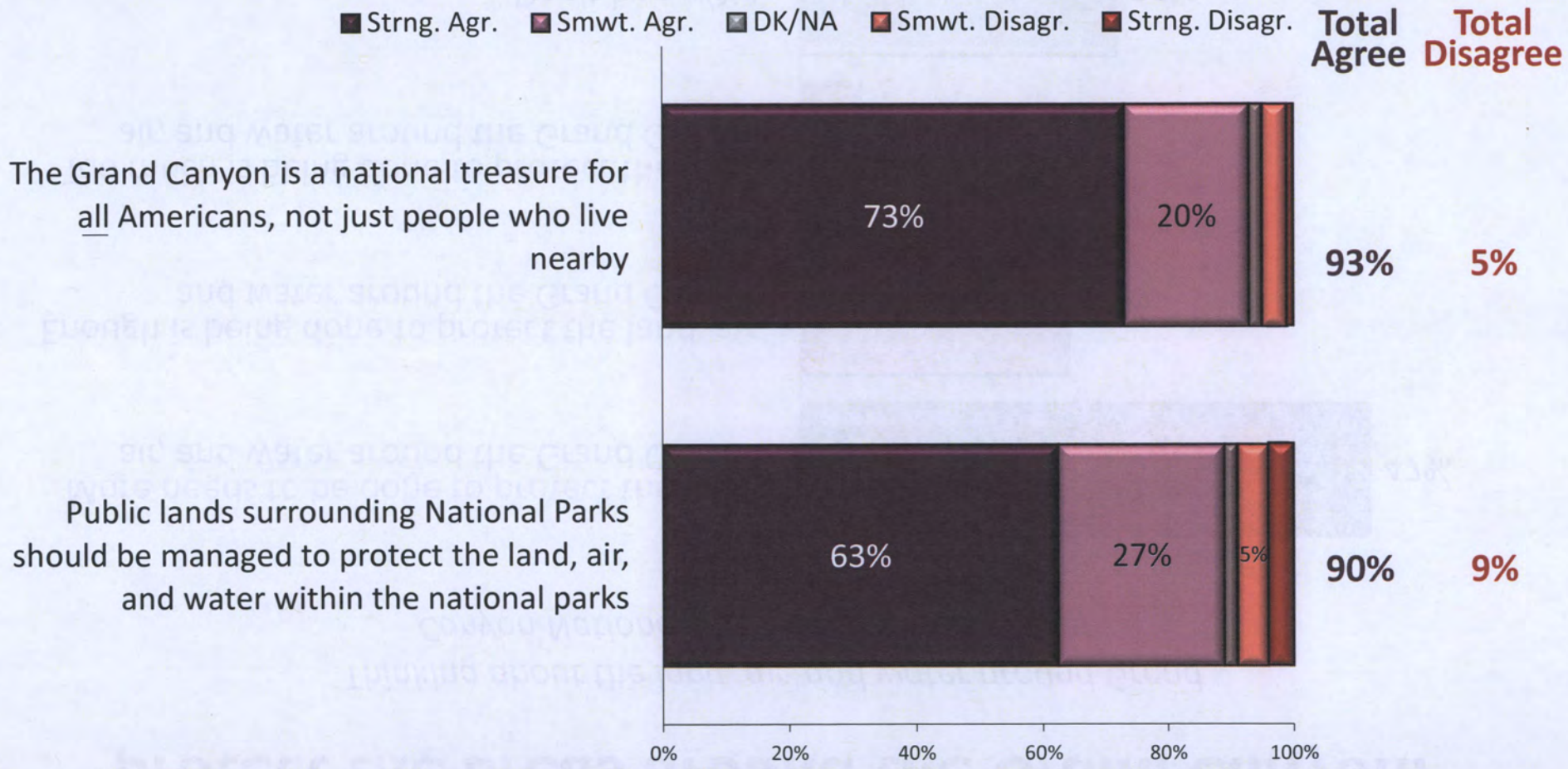
Q1. I'd like to read you a list of some different individuals and agencies active in public life. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing at this time.

A clear plurality believes more needs to be done to protect the areas around the Grand Canyon.

Thinking about the land, air, and water around Grand Canyon National Park, would you say that ...



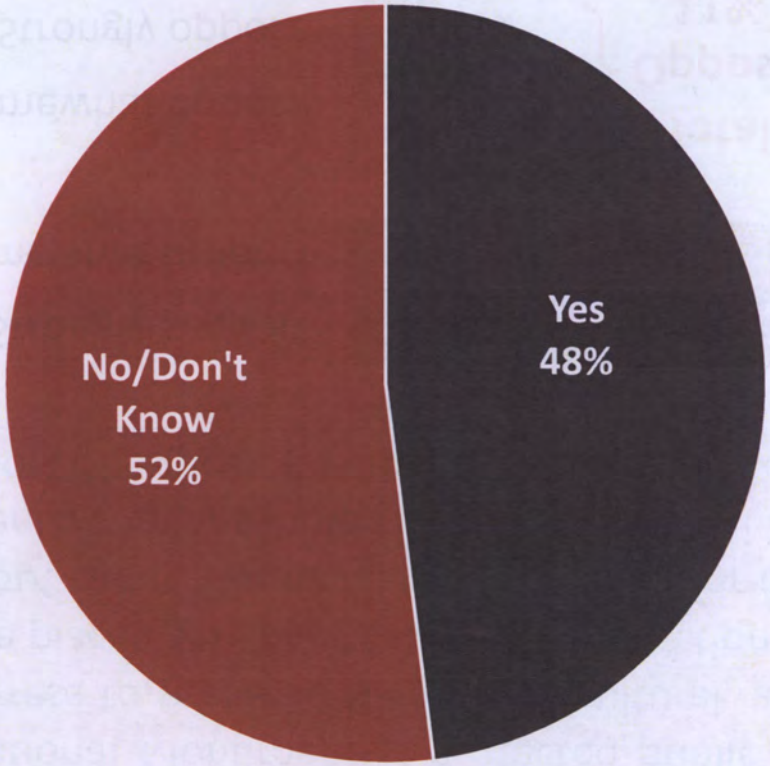
An overwhelming majority feels the Grand Canyon is a treasure for *all* Americans.



Q6. I'm going to read you a list of several statements. I'd like you to tell me whether you generally agree or disagree with it.

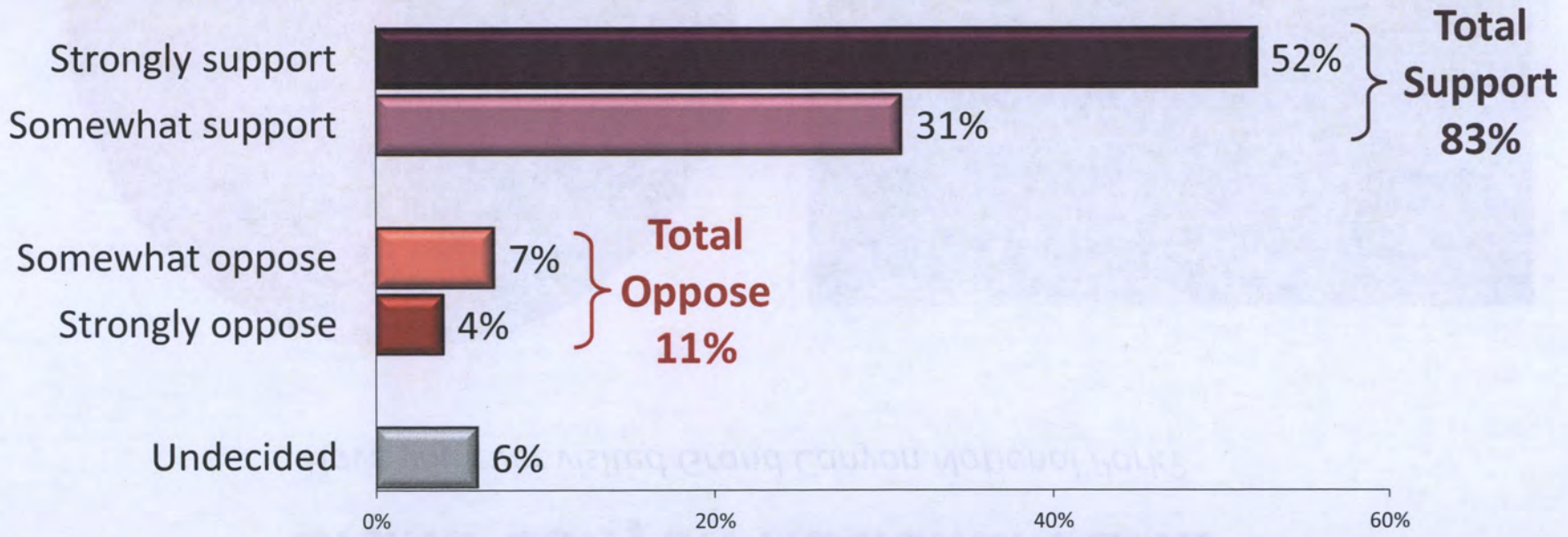
Nearly half have visited Grand Canyon National Park.

Have you ever visited Grand Canyon National Park?



More than four in five voters back the designation of National Monuments in principle.

A National Monument is protected public land that is designated by the President or Congress to preserve its natural, cultural, and historic features. This designation means these places get special care and protection. They are open to the public for recreational use but cannot be developed nor used for mining or extraction. The federal government currently manages and owns 117 National Monuments for the public. Do you generally support or oppose the idea of designating public lands as National Monuments?



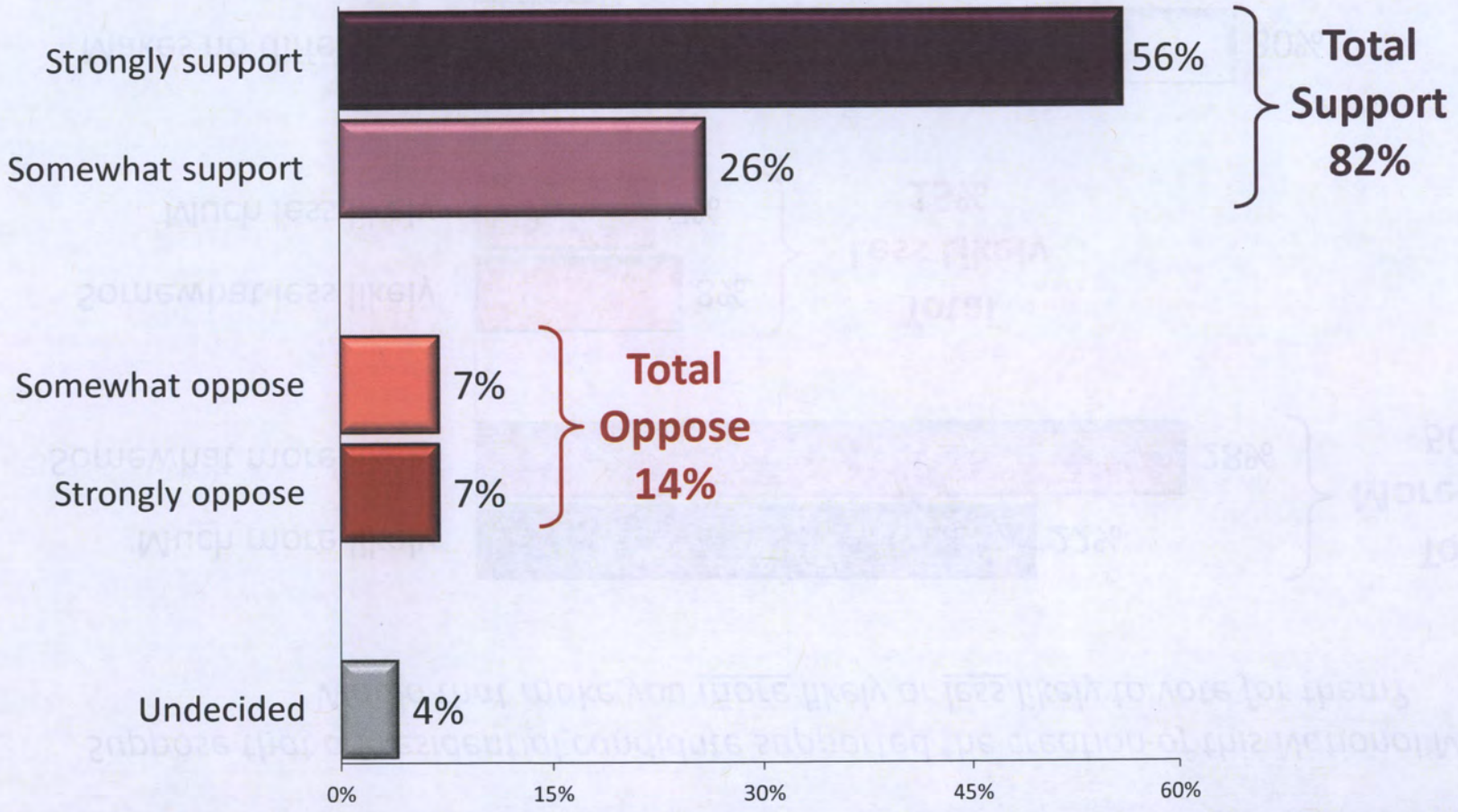
GRAND CANYON TRUST

Support for the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Explaining the Proposal

The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would provide permanent federal protection for – and ban all new uranium mines on – more than a million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. It would also protect hundreds of springs near Grand Canyon that provide wildlife habitat, contribute to the Grand Canyon watershed, and feed the Colorado River. This land is home to more than three-thousand ancient Native American sites. National Monument status would allow public use for hiking, photography, school trips, some biking, and grazing on these lands, while prohibiting mining.

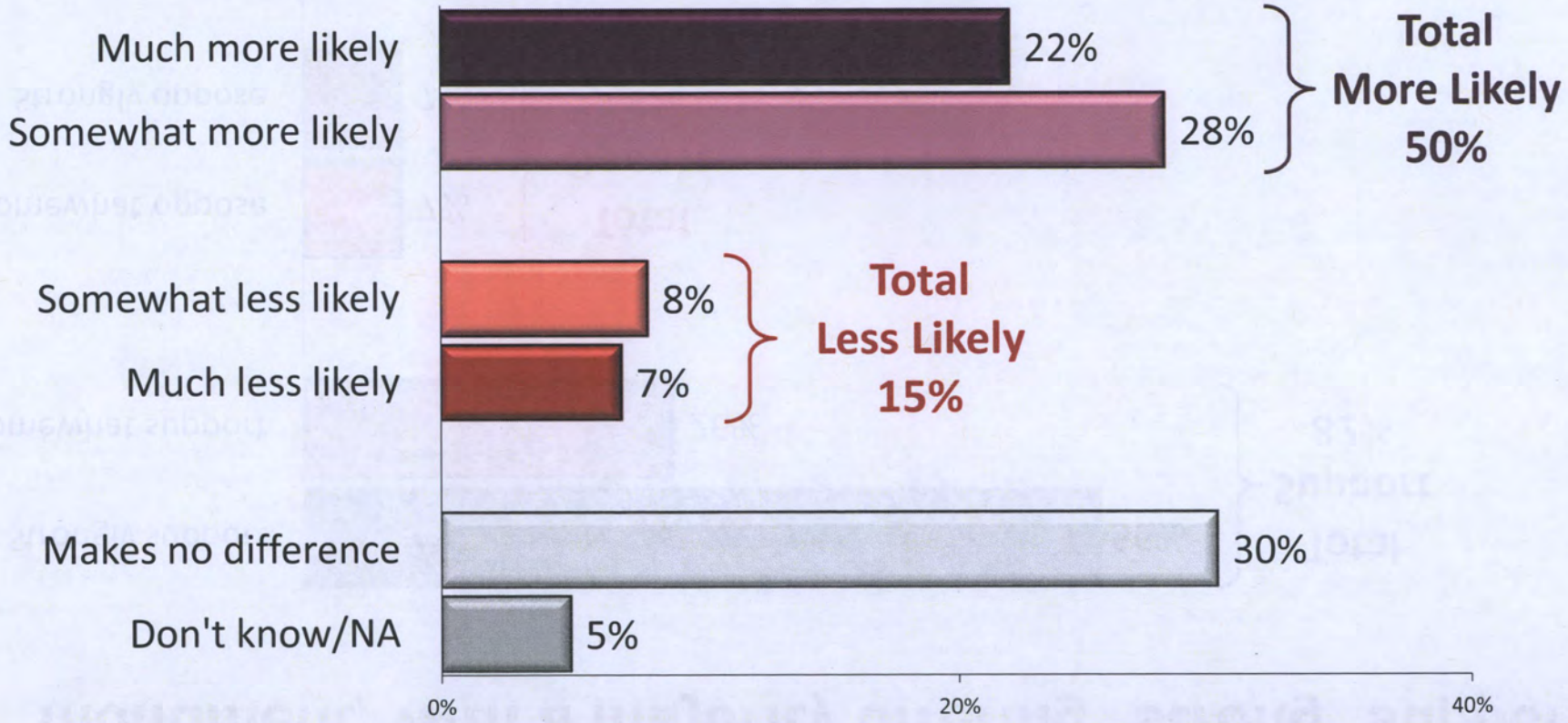
More than four in five back designation of the monument, with a majority offering "strong" support.



Q4. Would you say that you support or oppose the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

Fewer than one in six are *less likely* to support a Presidential candidate who backs the Monument.

Suppose that a Presidential candidate supported the creation of this National Monument. Would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for them?



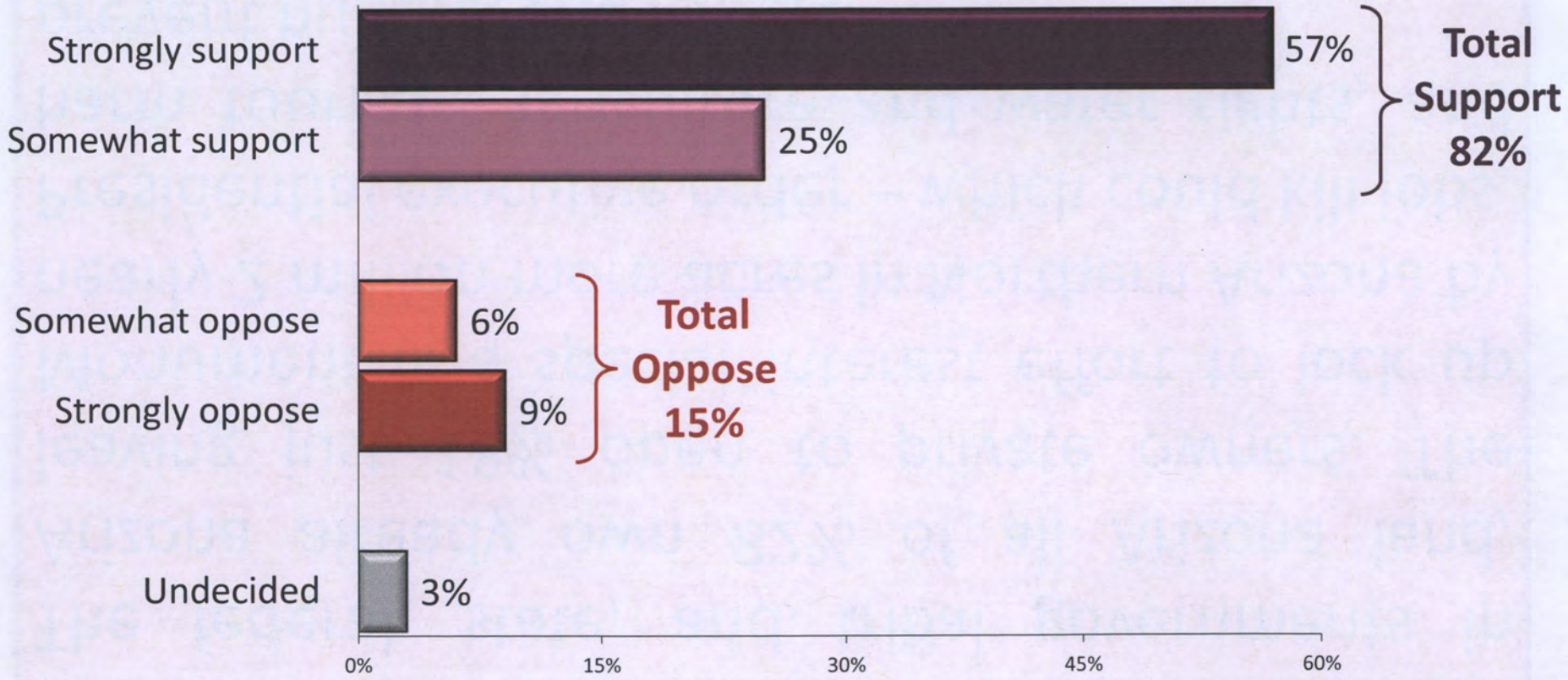
GRAND CANYON TRUST

Impact of Messaging

Statement from Supporters

The proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument lands are rich in both natural and cultural value. Located on existing public land near Grand Canyon National Park, the area covers 1.7 million acres of canyons, prairies, and streams that feed the Colorado River. It provides habitat for wildlife such as mule deer and bald eagles, and threatened species like the condor – and is home to several ancestral Native American archeological sites. Unless we take action now, new uranium mines could be opened on this land – creating a risk of radioactive, toxic contamination that could pollute soil and water as it has in other locations. Creating a National Monument will ensure that this land will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come.

After hearing the argument in favor, nearly three in five offer "strong" support for the Monument.

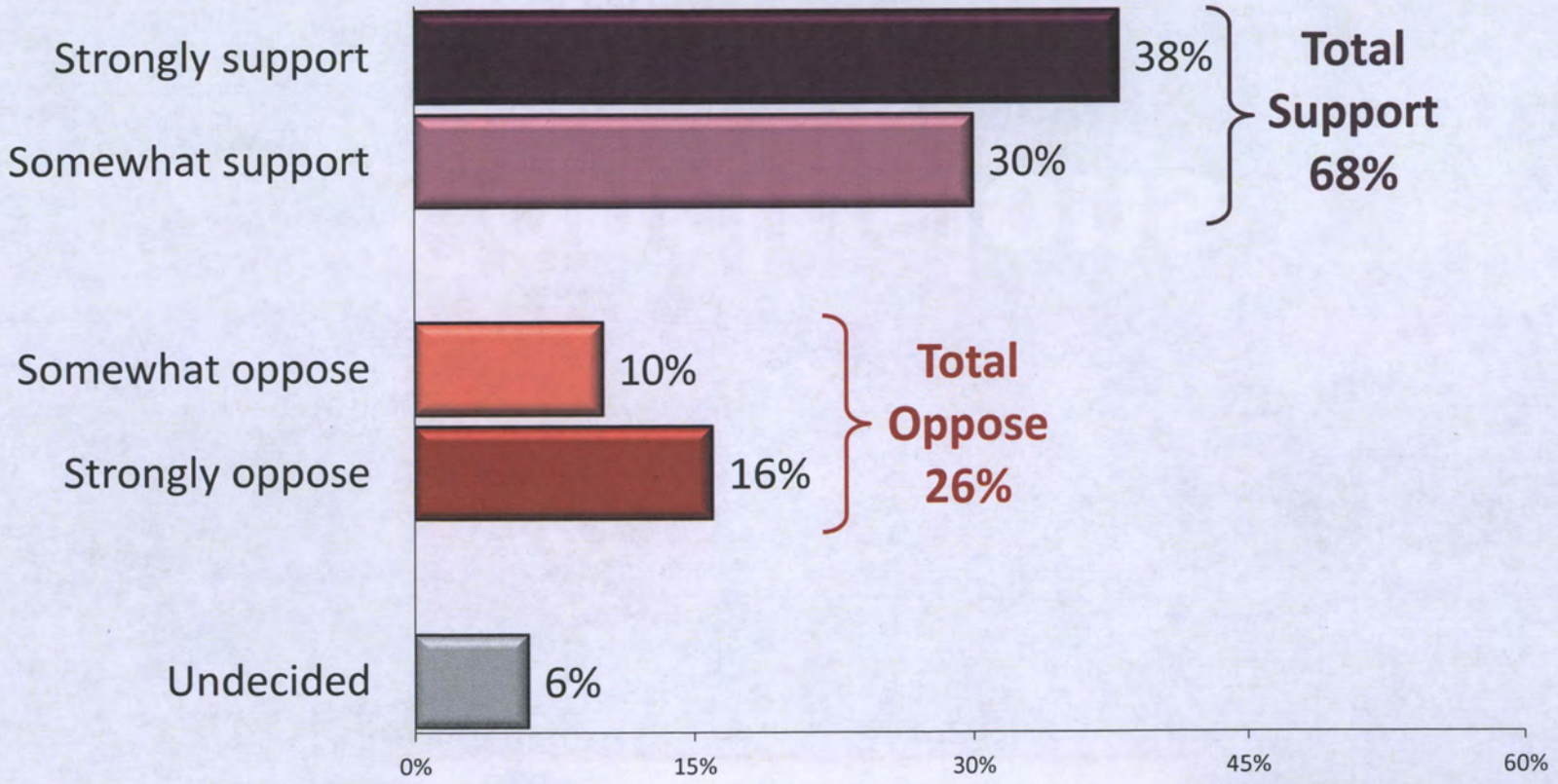


Q7. Please tell me if you support or oppose the creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

Statement from Opponents

The federal, state, and tribal governments in Arizona already own 82% of all Arizona land, leaving just 18% open to private owners. The Monument is a special interest effort to lock up nearly 2 million more acres in Northern Arizona by Presidential executive order – which could kill jobs, harm tourism, agriculture and water rights, and prevent hunting and fishing.

More than two-thirds continue to back establishment of the Monument, even after an opposition argument.



Q8. Please tell me if you support or oppose the creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument?

GRAND CANYON TRUST

Conclusions

Conclusions

- More than nine in ten American voters see the Grand Canyon as a national treasure that needs to be protected for all Americans.
- A sizable plurality of voters believe that more needs to be done to protect lands and waters around the Grand Canyon.
- More than four in five support the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to accomplish that goal.
- A majority of American voters say they are more likely to vote for a Presidential candidate who backs the Monument.
- Even after an exchange of pro and con arguments, the Monument still receives overwhelming public support.

For more information, contact:

Dave Metz
Dave@FM3research.com

1999 Harrison St., Suite 2020
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone (510) 451-9521

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates – FM3
PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH & STRATEGY

Randy Gutermuth
rgutermuth@amview.com

1199 North Fairfax St. Suite 808,
Alexandria, Va 22314
Phone (706) 684-3325

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Supporters of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument
Summary

Tribes

- Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (Passed a resolution of support on April 8, 2016) **[attached]**
    - The ITAA represents 21 tribes across Arizona and is considered support from those tribes.
- Hopi Tribe (Formal Resolution of Support passed on March 25, 2016) **[attached]**
- Hualapai Tribe (Formal Resolution of Support passed on August 19, 2015) **[attached]**
- Havasupai Tribe (Formal Resolution of Support passed in January, 2016) **[attached]**
- Colorado River Indian Tribes (Sent a formal letter of support on November 2, 2015) **[attached]**
- The Navajo Nation is not part of the ITAA but has been very involved in the process and is supportive. On April 26, 2016 President Russell Begaye spoke at a press conference at the National Press Club endorsing the proposal. He also co-authored a blog published in *The Hill* **[attached]** calling for the monument. We are working on securing a formal resolution.

Federal Elected Officials

Representative Grijalva and Representative Gallego are the two original Arizona co-sponsors of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act **[attached in the Appendix]**. Additionally, the bill has another 40 Members of Congress as co-sponsors.

In 2015 Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (CD-1) announced her support for the concept of a monument. On September 29, 2016 she announced her support for the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act **[press release attached]**, and has also clarified her support for President Obama's designation of the monument using the Antiquities Act.

Tom O'Halleran who is running for the seat that Rep. Kirkpatrick vacated in CD-1 has sent a letter **[attached]** asking that the area be designated as a new national monument.

State Elected Officials

On April 26, 2016, every Democrat in the House of the Arizona State Legislature sent a letter to the President asking that the area be designated as a new national monument **[attached]**. And on May 12, 2016 8 Arizona Senators sent a letter to the President also pushing for designation

[attached]. Below are those individuals as well as other local elected and former elected officials who support the proposal:

- Representative Raul Grijalva, AZ Congressional District 3
- Representative Ruben Gallego, AZ Congressional District 7
- Senator Katie Hobbs, AZ Senate Minority Leader
- Senator Steve Farley, AZ Senate Assistant Minority Leader
- Senator Lupe Contreras, AZ Senate Minority Whip
- Senator Martin Quezada, AZ Senate Minority Whip
- Representative Eric Meyer, M.D., House Minority Leader
- Representative Bruce Wheeler, House Assistant Minority Leader
- Representative Rebecca Rios, House Minority Whip
- Representative Rosanna Gabaldon, Legislative District 2
- Senator Andrea Dalessandro, Legislative District 2
- Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford, Legislative District 3
- Representative Sally Ann Gonzales, Legislative District 3
- Representative Macario Saldate, Legislative District 3
- Senator Lynne Pancrazi, Legislative District 4
- Representative Charlene Fernandez, Legislative District 4
- Representative Lisa Otondo, Legislative District 4
- Senator Carlyle Begay, Legislative District 7 (signed the original watershed letter, but not the second one.)
- Representative Jennifer D. Benally, Legislative District 7
- Representative Albert Hale, Legislative District 7
- Representative Randall Friese, M.D., Legislative District 9
- Former Representative Victoria Steele, Legislative District 9
- Representative Matthew Kopec, Legislative District 9
- Senator David Bradley, Legislative District 10
- Representative Stefanie Mach, Legislative District 10
- Representative Mark Cardenas, Legislative District 19
- Representative Diego Espinoza, Legislative District 19
- Representative Lela Alston, Legislative District 24
- Representative Ken Clark, Legislative District 24
- Former Senator Ed Ableser, Legislative District 26
- Representative Juan Mendez, Legislative District 26
- Representative Celeste Plumlee, Legislative District 26
- Senator Andrew Sherwood, Legislative District 26

- Senator Catherine Miranda, Legislative District 27 (signed the original watershed letter, but not the second one.)
- Representative Reginald Bolding, Legislative District 27
- Representative Richard C. Andrade, Legislative District 29
- Senator Robert Meza, Legislative District 30 (signed the original watershed letter, but not the second one.)
- Representative Jonathan Larkin, Legislative District 30
- Representative Debbie McCune Davis, Legislative District 30

Local Governments, Local Elected Officials, and Former Elected Officials

- Pima County (Passed a Resolution of Support on August 2, 2016) **[attached]**
- Art Babbott, Chair, Coconino County Board of Supervisors **[attached]**
- Liz Archuleta, Coconino County Board of Supervisors **[attached]**
- Celia Barotz, Vice Mayor, City of Flagstaff **[attached]**
- Coral Evans, Councilmember, City of Flagstaff **[attached]**
- Eva Putzova, Councilmember, City of Flagstaff **[attached]**
- Bill Mulleneaux, Former Council Member, Thatcher
- Kenneth Larson, Council Member, Thatcher
- The Honorable Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor, City of Tucson
- The Honorable Regina Romero, Council Member, Ward 1, Tucson
- The Honorable Paul Cunningham, Council Member, Ward 2, Tucson
- The Honorable Karin Uhlich, Council Member, Ward 3, Tucson
- The Honorable Shirley Scott, Council Member, Ward 4, Tucson
- The Honorable Richard Fimbres, Council Member, Ward 5, Tucson
- The Honorable Steve Kozachik, Council Member, Ward 6, Tucson
- The Honorable Kristel Foster, Tucson Unified School District, Governing Board, Tucson
- The Honorable Cam Juarez, Tucson Unified School District, Governing Board, Tucson
- The Honorable Ramon Valadez, District 2, Pima County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Ray Carroll, District 4, Pima County Board of Supervisors
- The Honorable Richard Elias, District 5, Pima County Board of Supervisors
- Mark W. Mitchell, Mayor, Tempe
- Robin Arredondo-Savage, Vice Mayor-Tempe
- Joe Navarro, Councilmember, Tempe
- Lauren Kuby, Councilmember, Tempe
- David Schapira, Councilmember, Tempe
- Randy Keating, Councilmember, Tempe
- Former Representative Chad Campbell

- Former Representative Demion Clinco
- Former Representative Jamescita Peshlakai
- Rob Adams, Former Mayor, Sedona
- Former Senator Anna Tovar

Business Associations

- Flagstaff Lodging and Restaurant Association (Letter sent on March 4, 2016) **[attached]**
- Asian American Hotel Owners Association (Letter sent March 22, 2016) **[attached]**

Outdoor Recreation Companies and Organizations

- Conservation Alliance
    - In January 2016, the Conservation Alliance made an ask of all its members to take action to support the campaign. They hand-delivered those postcards and formally made that ask in Washington, DC in April 2016.
- O.A.R.S.
    - George Wendt, Founder and President, wrote an opinion piece in *National Geographic* online on May 20, 2016
- Keen
    - Casey Sheahan, on the Board of Directors, called for the monument on August 25, 2015
- Smartwool
    - Sponsored at event at the Outdoor Retailer show in January 2016 about the proposed monument and featuring ultrarunner Rob Krar
- Black Diamond
    - CEO Peter Metcalf wrote a piece online in *National Geographic* on November 24, 2015, calling for the establishment of the monument.
- Petzl
- Patagonia
- Osprey
- Grand Canyon River Guides
    - Executive Director Lynn Hamilton traveled to DC for the proposal on March 22, 2016.
- Bright Angel Bikes

Conservation Groups

The below groups sent a letter to the President on January 20, 2016 **[attached]**:

- Sierra Club
- Conservation Lands Foundation
- The Wilderness Society
- The League of Conservation Voters
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Environment America
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Earthjustice
- Friends of the Earth
- Greenpeace
- Defenders of Wildlife

The below conservation organizations also support the monument:

- Center for Biological Diversity
- Grand Canyon Trust
- Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
- Wildlands Network
- International Dark Sky Association
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Northern Arizona Audubon Society
- Arizona Wilderness Coalition

Other Organizations and Notable Individuals

- Rob Arnberger, Former Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent (1994-2000)
- Joe Alston, Former Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent (2000-2007)
- Steve Martin, Former Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent (2007-2011)
- Bob Hernbrode, Former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner
- Jennifer Martin, Former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner
- Linn Montgomery, Former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner
- Beth Woodin, Former Arizona Game and Fish Commissioner
- Kevin Fedarko, author of *The Emerald Mile*
- Arizona Latinos for Grand Canyon (Letter sent on September 22, 2016 to the administration) **[attached]**

- Hispanic Access Foundation
- Latinos for Parks (Letter sent on May 2, 2016 to the administration) **[attached]**
- Arizona Faith Network (Letter of support on August 20, 2015 in support of Grand Canyon Watershed proposed monument) **[attached]**
- International Dark Sky Association (Letter of support sent February 1, 2016). Op-ed published in the *Arizona Daily Sun* on June 4, 2016.
- Stephen Trimble, author and professor at the University of Utah. He has also published an op-ed in the *High Country News* on June 22, 2016.
- Avaaz
- MoveOn
- CREDO

The American Public

- During the week of July 4, the coalition announced the collection of more than half a million signatures in favor of the proposal. The story was picked up by the *Arizona Daily Sun*, the *Phoenix New Times*, and KNAU radio.

Arizona Business Supporters

Flagstaff, Arizona

- Laure Bustamante, Headlines 2000
- Jennifer Shafer, Cuvee 928
- Andrea Knott, We Be Knotty
- Kendra Kime, Sutcliffe Floral
- Rian Elewant, Custon Sound Instruments
- Jenny Bertolini, Gypsy Jenny's
- Debra Malooly, Chula
- Steve Beiser, Puchteca
- Alisha Poehnelt, Flagstaff Soap Company
- Carolyn Young, West of the Moon Gallery
- Jesse Hornbeck, Pin-ups Salon
- Sebastian Monassa, Headspace Southside Salon
- Kelly McCabe, Sacred Rites
- Diana Lane, Natural Grocers
- Leslie Jean Bonderud, Bonderud LLC
- Genevieve Perkim, Flagstaff Community Supported Agriculture
- Gina Galanz, Flag Tee Factory
- Lexi Striker, Sugar Mamas

- Jill Sans, Burly Fish Tattoo and Piercing
- George Averbeck, Fire on the Mountain
- Leona Bix, Flagstaff Face and Body
- Lisa M. Lamberson, Mountain Sports
- Amy Brutcher, Historic Barrel & Bottle
- Ruth Ann Border, Visible Difference
- Miranda Sweet, Rainbow's End
- Scott Heinsius, Cosmic Cycles
- Michael Murphy, No Basis in Reality
- Nigel Sparks, Flagstaff Native Plant and Seed
- Willliam Hargrave, Floral Arts
- Bianca Mondragon, Firecreek Coffee Co.
- Hermanis Ulibarri, Ulibarri's Barber Shop
- Jamie and Laura Ann Whelan, Old Town Creperie
- Phyllis Hogan, Winter Sun
- Nancy Wardell, IncaHoots
- James Holeman, McGaughs Flagstaff
- Jeff Thorsett, Flagstaff Coffee Co
- James and Aly Jay, Uptown Pubhouse
- Nancy McCulla, Simply Delicious
- Kristen M. Caldon, Kristen M. Caldon Photogrpahy
- Noah Stalvey, Noah Stalvey Agency, Allstate Insurance
- Chuck Hofner, Summit Divers
- Lazaro A. Diaz, Ray's Barber Shop
- Mark Denune, Supernova Froyo
- Elise Fisher, Fizzy Bella
- Bruce Bourne, Linton Real Estate
- Julia Scheid, Pay n' Take
- Tony Mangine, Seasoned Kitchen
- Tyler Lee Christensen, Capital Concepts CCC
- Chris Wilkens, Wilkins Sports Chiropractic
- Elena Laude, Hair Trends
- Susan McNelly, Flagstaff Endodontics
- Eva Rupert, State Bar
- Ki Wou Choi, Collin's Irish Pub
- David Velasco, Nerd Inc
- Jackie Murphy, Alpine Pizza

- Leah Thistle, McMillan Bar and Kitchen
- Ryan Kellog, Hoot Mart
- Jeff Thorsett, Flagstaff Brewing Company
- Mikai Hardison, Criollo Latin Kitchen
- Micah Garab, Majerles Sports Grill
- Kimberley Robinson, Bibeloz
- Steve Chatinsky, Peace Surplus
- Vincent Shurf, Flagstaff Running
- Ken Lane, Absolute Bikes
- Jerome McLaughlin, Aspen Sports
- Jason P. Hughes, Wet Dreams River Supply
- Keith Harris, Babbit's Backcountry
- Danny Giovale, Kahtoola, Inc.
- Geoffrey Wittak, Flagstaff Bicycle Revolution
- Benjamin J. Murphy and Cari Murphy, All-Star Grand Canyon Tours
- Fred Thevenin, Arizona Raft Adventures
- Cari Murphy, Grand Canyon Charter and Travel, LLC
- Fred Wojtkielewicz, FLG Terroir
- Lynda Fleischer, Altitudes Bar and Grill
- Kunal Patel, Ponderosa Bar and Grill
- Ashwin V. Patel, Holiday Inn Express
- Indu Patel, Whispering Wind
- Neha Patel, Wonderland Motel,
- Karan Patel, Horseman Lodge/Days Hotel/Travelodge/Econolodge
- Hiren Patel, Highland Country Inn
- Asha Patel, Hampton Inn and Suites
- Mitch Patel, Pinecrest Motel
- Rakesh Dullbson, American Inn
- Comfort Inn
- Days Inn
- Abhay Ithage, Howard Johnson
- Mountain View Inn
- Hotel Aspen
- Rikesh Prema, Super 8 Downtown
- Sam Amin, Snow Peak Inn
- Sanjay Patel, Ramada Inn
- Bhavna Prema, Canyon Inn Motel

- Ricky Prema, Speedi Car Wash and Fuel
- Dhiru Robin Prema, Prema Group of Companies,

Tucson, Arizona

- Four Peaks Brewing Company
- Poster Frost Mirto
- REA Media Group
- Crow Communications Group, Inc.
- Western Sky Communications
- Chambers Chambers, LLC
- Conecta Los Puntos, LLC
- Blenman Elm Housing, LLC
- Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology
- Peach Properties
- RF Strategies
- The Shanty
- The Gadsden Company
- Flame Tree Initiatives
- BK's Carne Asada & Hot Dogs
- Cesar Chavez Holiday Coalition
- Sandor Vineyards
- Casa Maria Catholic Worker Foundation
- Kase and Company
- Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation
- Modern Works Music Publishing
- Visit Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Linda Cato Arts
- Economic and Human Dimensions
- Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

Cottonwood, Arizona

- Christer Radke, Pink Rain Boutique
- Clair Rasmussen, Magenta Jewelry
- Chanelle Cook, Cartwheels
- Roman Lucyszyn, The Most Interesting Store in the World
- Zakkariah Dudley, Bootleggers Saloon
- Kathleen Francis, All Things Creative

- Katie Woods, Kactus Kate's
- William Schwab, Pillsbury Wine
- Kathleen Cook, Dragonfly Handcrafted Local Art
- Deborah Patt, Desert Diamond

Jerome, Arizona

- Wynne Walker, Blue Bee Boutique
- Dawn Hughes, Mile High Grill and Inn
- Jamie Rodd, Copper Country Fudge
- Luis Yanez, Vaqueros Grill & Cantina
- Jane Rolfes, University Shack
- David Marabella, Lola
- Melissa Kline, Atlas Leather
- Steve Hanna, Aurum Jewelry
- J Keenan, Puscifer
- Laura Capp, Grapes
- Sarah Joy, Jerome Historical Society
- David Hall, Made in Jerome Pottery
- Lisa Wilson, Mojo To Go
- MB Sullivan, Caduceus Cellars
- Kelsi Savage, The Mine
- Sherry McMahon, Papillon Antiques
- Erica Raspberry, Raspberry
- Nava Din, Nellie Bly II

Prescott, Arizona

- Virginia Ricldey, Tickled Pink
- Autumn Kline, Prescott Trading Co
- Esther Mendoza, Marino's Mob
- Amanda Lane, The Hike Shack
- Ray Sola, Man at Leisure
- Rebecca Kline, Drawn West

Phoenix, Arizona

- Gregory Bryan, Oliver's Sophisticated Bean
- Randi Bilbo, Bilbo Baggs
- Miriam Adams, Afida's Hair Culture

- Jonathan Hernandez, Roosevelt Barbershop
- David Lund, Tammie Coe Cakes
- Michael Loun, The Bosque
- John Strawn, The Refuge
- Kristin Schwartz, Kaleidoscope Juice
- Alyas , Jacquee's Espresso
- John Sagasta, Jobot Coffee and Diner
- Stephanie Vasquez, Fair Trade Café
- Jaime Laza, Renaissance Jewelry
- Ebraheim Maleki, Abe's Original Signs
- James Lopez, Smelly Dog
- James Goshew, Bonus Round
- Shannon MacLeod, I Heart Beads
- Cindy Dach, Changing Hands Bookstores
- Andrew Hammeron, Think! Graphics
- Monique Papineau, One Coffee Co
- Carla Logan, Carly's Bistro

Sedona, Arizona

- Iyhab Maadi, Saad Silver
- Travis Burns, Sedona Candle Gallery Beverly Burton, Native Spirit
- Susan Sotiros, Hotspots
- Cat Beason, Out of Africa
- Joanne Pallas, Rocky Mountain Chocolate
- Tudy Longmial, Sedona Fudge Co.
- Tommy Riley, Buck Thornton's World Of Jerky
- Maribelle Perez, Del Sol Abi Hope
- Mariah Stanley, Sedona Pizza Company
- Vikki Schlee, Sedona Kid Company, Inc

Tempe, Arizona

- Rob Clark, The Baked Bear
- Josh Weems, King Coffee
- Melanie Christensen, Rainbow Bliss Botanicals
- Melissa Demel, Fuzzy's Taco Shop
- Cory Graciano, Gringo Star Street Bar
- Sam Gilbert, Ra Sushi

- Alix Roe, The Grill on Mill
- David Hirshman, The Flow Shop
- Lyndsey Mueller, Creations Boutique
- Amanda Darling, Hippie Gypsy
- Robert MacKenzie, Blasted Barley Beer Co.
- Edip Sow, Med Fresh Grill
- Arfan Tarabichi, Delice Bistro
- Kyle Benjamin, HandleBar Tempe
- Ryan Rodrigues, La Bocca Pizzeria

Colorado Business Supporters

Arvada, Colorado

- Brandon Capps, New Image Brewing
- Karen Wood, Hoggy Wood
- TJ McReynolds, Homegrown Tap and Dough
- Carly Drienka, Carly's Boutique
- Gilho Bouler, Cheapskates Action Sports Bar
- Courtney Gregory, Fiori di Flavio Flower Shop
- Kit Sunnon, Pickin Parlor
- Karen Miller, Paws N Play
- Antonia Pappas, Vouna

Boulder, Colorado

- Amanda Glenn, The Mama'hood
- Suzanne Fraser, Meow Meow
- Kevin Smith, Boulder International Film Festival

Breckenridge, Colorado

- Michael Butler, Breckenridge Hat Company
- Cassandra Schultz, Breck Sports
- Ryan Weber, Motherloaded Tavern

Carbondale, Colorado

- Ryan VanMeter, FAR OUT Factory
- Sherry Smithfaler, Skin Evolution Tattoo
- Chris Coen, Colorado Co-Op

- Robin Frodge, La Baguette
- Valerie Behling, Izzy's Gifts
- Chris Doty, Paris Crepe
- John Crandall, Old Town Bike Shop
- Chelsey Lubitz, Odyssey Gastropub
- Doug Scott, Escape Velocity Comics
- Amanda Stoke, Art 111
- Steven Cedre, The Urban Cyclery
- Rebecca Flora, Terra Verde Boutique

Colorado Springs, Colorado

- Shannon Anderson, High Rise Coffee Roasters
- Frank Seeley, The Honey Cottage
- Reveille Kennedy, Arati Art Gallery
- Meredith Klube, Jack Quinn's Pub
- Stephen Smith, Firefly Jewelers
- Sylvana Candela, Golden Light Healing Center
- Heather Joffe, Thunder and Buttons
- Kathy Roberts, A Travel Advantage
- Elyse Smith, Sun Mountain Café
- Kemper Simpich, Simpich Showcase
- Maria Uribe, Willy's Emporium Ltd
- Nanette Lampman, Metro Real Estate Group
- Alex Laszar, Podiatrist Shoe Salon
- Danielle Jurnett, Eden Salon and Barbershop
- Kate Hill, Skirted Heifer
- Kalie Martin, Vintage Wine and Spirits
- Angel Gartelum, The Chopshop
- Kevin Gilford, UCCS
- Edith Fisher, Wooly Works
- Crystal Robertson, The Ritz
- Elaine Smith, The Mountain Store
- Wahid Hafsaoui, Paris Crepe
- Richard Warner, Bingo Burger
- Ryan VanMeter, FAR OUT Factory
- Sherry Smithfaler, Skin Evolution Tattoo
- Chris Coen, Colorado Co-Op

- Robin Frodge, La Baguette
- Valerie Behling, Izzy's Gifts
- Chris Doty, Paris Crepe
- John Crandall, Old Town Bike Shop
- Chelsey Lubitz, Odyssey Gastropub
- Doug Scott, Escape Velocity Comics
- Amanda Stoke, Art 111
- Steven Cedre, The Urban Cyclery
- Rebecca Flora, Terra Verde Boutique

Denver, Colorado

- Jonah Ricke, One Love Smoke Shop
- Ann Stephens, Meanwhile back at the Ranch
- Dustin Tenski, Vom Fass
- George Nire, Fan's Chinese
- Heidi Quince, Simply Bulk Market
- James Ciletti, Hooked on Books
- Dave Tewksbury, Tewksbury and Co
- Briseida Gonzalez, My Favorite Muffin
- Ray Walters, Remote Solar
- Michael Dunston, Wazee Supper Club
- Francisco Peredia, Rhein Haus
- Stuart Brummet, Blueline Architects
- Zachary Burr, Victoriana
- Robb Horen, Dog Savvy
- Christelle Ford, Gigglers

Fort Collins, Colorado

- Marsanne Howard, Sportabout
- Michael Patterson, A Cut Above Breakfast and Deli
- Melissa Bargess, Scissors and Sinners
- Jessica Brostren, Encore Bridal
- Lindsay Dolan, Covenant Tattoo
- Ed Landry, Masque by Mask Balance Skin Care
- Maythawee Lapakulchai, Bann Thai Restaurant
- Tyler Lathrop, Down the Moon Tattoo
- Loretta Lew, Hot Wok Café

- Gabriela Loya, Los Tarascos
- Wipa Miller, Dragon Lee
- Sammie Lynn, Sammie's Lucky 27 Barbershop
- Bonnie O'Brian, Velvet Files
- Judy McClean, Apricot Lane
- Justin Serr, The Colorado room
- Jessica Knudsen, The Satin Camisole
- Dana Smith, Molly's Salon
- Desiree Suely, Photography by Desiree Inc
- Kendra Lamperes, KJ Cuts Inside Loyal Salon
- Dave Timmons, Cheba Hut
- Eric Likewise, Market Skate Shop
- Lindee Zimmer, Downtown Artery
- Issra Putvattana, Toy Thai Restaurant
- Marie Shank, Bare Bones Haircuts
- Tia Tedford, Tia's Coffee and Eats
- Erik Flashner, Trailhead Tavern
- Alison Holloran, Audubon of the Rockies
- Cameron Moon, Magnolia Moon
- Ginny Schetter, Wagz Pet Market
- Balwinder Singh, Taj Mahal Restaurant
- Danielle Zwisler, Salas
- Toby Gadd, Nuance Chocolate
- Christie Wolf Guthrie, Kansas City Kitty
- Margaret DeWase, Esscentuals
- Susan Hill, John Atencio Jewelry
- Sarah Josey, Golden Poppy Herb

Littleton, Colorado

- Maggie Waido, Amethyst Dragon
- Pappy Green, The Walk-In Boutique
- Ross Hager, Pumphouse Brewery
- Mark Lane, The Olde Town Tavern
- Courtney Gunn, The Hemp Center
- Carole Alvarez, In-Tea
- Kayla Douglas, Velvet Wolf Boutique
- Margie Drake, Colorado Frame

- Robert Miller, Littleton Gold and Silver
- Michelle Hardesty, Art Spark Creative Studio
- John Bridenbaugh, Altitude Paddleboards

New Mexico Business Supporters

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Ana Meraz, Local Jewelry Artist
- Harold Byington, HB Flint Knapping
- Casey O'Keefe, Railyards Market
- C. Philip Yost, Southwest Watercolor
- Jessi Degevilter, Found: In ABQ
- Christopher Sandoval, El Patio
- Kristen Ortiz, Wave Salon
- Devonna Katzman, Funky Olive Design
- Nicholas Panzlav, ECS Copy Center
- Jesus Corral, Cut Barbershop
- Lawrence Garcia, Coronado Boot and Shop Repair
- Herman Aragon, Perico's D'Albuquerque
- Raymond Gutierrez, Xpert Barber Shop and Shave Parlor
- Ryan Strilich, Brickyard Pizza
- Gina Yates, Frock Star
- Tasha Parker, Farina Pizzeria
- Collin Troy, Octopus and the Fox
- Ashley Few, Cheba Hut Toasted Subs
- Leo Gonzales, Stay Gold
- Vern Koczur, Ascension Body Modification
- Rosalia Cielelio, Rebel Workout
- Rafael Cox, Silver Skates Shop
- John Warble, 66 Diner
- Ecko Viamontos, Crush Salon
- Yashoda Naidoo, Annapurna's
- Zain Chowdhury, Bilasita Salon
- Robert Punya, Poki Piki
- Kenneth Ashley, The Grain Station LLC
- Richard Whiting, Route 66 Cleaners
- Mark Garcia, Library Bar and Grill

- Kyle Whitehead, Hanger Craft Beer & Spirits
- Sunny Park, Sunny's Boutique and Alterations
- Tasha Parker, Farina Pizzeria
- Caludio Cruz, Rodeo Rustic Furniture
- Gian Casale, Saggios
- Tamara Mahboub, ABQ's Nob Hill Furniture
- Helen Nash, Sahara's
- Anna Sachs, Sach's
- Robert Harrington, Town Hall's Antique Mall
- Gene Toldeo, Angela's Attic
- Ken Reiss, Carraros
- Victor Romero, People's Flowers
- Lisa Weiss, Brazilian Wax Expert
- Rufus Cohen, Izzy Martin
- Elizabeth Dineen, Mariposa Gallery
- Beverly Johnston, Gallery One
- Joe Annabi, Astro Zombies
- Diane Gutierrez, El Paso Import Company
- Chris Zaccara, Max's Magic Shop
- Stephanie Spivey, Master Cleaners
- Gloria Garcia, ABQ Cleaners
- Oscar Leon, Imbibe
- Jessica C, Artisan Santa Fe
- Patrick Frey, BZ Skateshop
- Ryan Jordan, Matanza
- William Watkins, Sign: Image Factory
- Jerry Auchibeque, One World Tea House
- Kamden Cornell, Heart and Vine: Holistic Apothecary
- Holly von Winckel, The Ornatelier
- Kyle Roberts, Vecinos del Bosque Farn
- Anndria Cornish, Native Elements Jewels
- Rebecca Grashuis, Yerbamama
- Greg and Tami Converse, Bumble Bee Printing
- Phonlawat Prasomphon, Sushi King
- Brooke Harper, Brooke and Adelyn
- Erich Lehnberg, Deep Space Coffee
- Diana Mallen, Ye Maya Healer

- Jessica Joe, Uncle Joe Designs
- Sean Wells, Sean Wells Creates
- James Newell, DuBay Beard Essentials
- Christina Herr, Western Gothic

Las Cruces, New Mexico

- Jennifer Mendini, Los Mariachis
- Zion Serrano, Main Street Bistro and Ale House
- William Davila, LPL Financial
- Tyrell Thacker, Beck's Coffee
- James Turrentine, Big Picture Digital Image Experts
- Joey Avalos, Ransomed Art
- Vicki Henley, Yours Truly Hearts
- Yolanda Hita, Creaciones Magicas
- John Stewart, Local Artist
- Mitchell Russell, Matteo Jewelry by Design

Santa Fe, New Mexico

- David Sellers, Street Food Institute

Tijeros, New Mexico

- Clarabelle Romero, Harvest Gifts NM
- Wendy Ahlm, Go to Art Camp

Nevada Business Supporters

Las Vegas, Nevada

- Nancy Baker, Williams Costume Compnay
- Sean Payne, Sean Payne Antiques
- Travis Graves, Desert Rock Sports
- Angel Barba, Manny's Discount
- Chris Baule, Mason 825
- Jim Gao, Tiayi Jade Gallery
- Paloma Lopez, Volcano Café

Reno, Nevada

- Ian Carpenter, The Framery

- James Bell, Sierra Adventures
- Josh Henriksen, Midtown Vape
- Connor Marriott, Andy's Lock and Key
- Sam Sproa, Micano Home and Garden Décor
- Sara Rollins, Statewide Lighting Center
- Charlotte Michaels, Transcend Interiors
- Tawni Grubaugh, Advanced Therapeutics
- Fidel Clulez, Casa De Oro Boutique
- Jeff Punga, Teake & Hardwood
- Timothy Post, Timothy Post Law Office
- Kristen Buchanan, Salon V
- Joe Marino, Blue Whale Coffee Company
- Renee Lauderback, Mountain Music Parlor
- Dustin Brown, Valor Art Parlor
- Samantha LaCounte, Rapscallian Seafood
- Chris Hanniy, Chocolate Walrus
- Bobby Jones, Art Dogs and Grace
- Richard McKibbin, Pettin Place
- Kashif Farman, Sam & Sons
- Lisa McDonald, Crystal Cover
- Elisa DeForest, Truckee Bagel Co.
- Emilio Ibanez, Accesorios Ibanez
- Marvin Medina, Asi Es Mi Tierra
- Candice Liberty K., Torn Arts
- Reddy Narala, S.S. Smoke and Liquor
- Lauren Dunne, Dragonfly Bath & Body
- Melanie Crane, Never Ender

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HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 10 • Supai, Arizona 86435
(928) 448-2731 • Fax (928) 448-2551

January 27, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Sent via email to: Secretary_interior@ios.doi.gov

Regarding: Proposed Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Honorable Secretary Jewell:

The Havasupai, the Havsuw B'aaja, are the people of the blue-green waters that flow through our homeland on the Coconino Plateau in Arizona. We once exclusively occupied the area in northern Arizona that is bounded by the Little Colorado River on the east, the Colorado River on the north, the Aubrey Cliffs on the west, and what is roughly I-40 on the south. The federal land within our historic homeland that is not within Grand Canyon National Park or within our reservation is to be included in the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as proposed by Representative Raul Grijalva. The Havasupai support this proposal and urge you to support a Presidential Proclamation to establish this National Monument.

We have always opposed uranium mining in this area and have long fought in the courts against the Canyon Uranium Mine. The Canyon Uranium Mine is in a meadow north of Red Butte that is a very sacred place for us. It was designated by the Forest Service to be a Traditional Cultural Property for the Havasupai and other affiliated Tribes.

The Havsuw B'aaja are permanent residents of this area and will always live on this land that is said to be rich in uranium. Our world famous waterfalls are supplied by the springs that emit from the aquifer underlying the uranium formations. The springs are our only water source. We will be the recipients of contamination from mining on the south rim whether directly from mining operations or in years to come because mines open the pathways for radioactive particles to leach into our water supply.

We are also a landowner in the proposed National Monument. We own the Bucklar Ranch, an inholding that will be included in the National Monument and are working on our application to take this land into trust. We are negotiating grazing leases with the Kaibab National Forest and hope to establish a tribal grazing enterprise on the Rain Tank Allotment. We are working with all state and federal resource managers in northern Arizona on this effort.

We also run a commercial hunting enterprise on the west side of our reservation and hope to offer guided hunts from the Bucklar Ranch in the future.

Representative Grijalva and his staff worked extensively with us, the Navajo, Hopi, Hualapai, Kaibab Paiute Tribes and other Native people connected to this landscape to develop language to protect the cultural and religious sites, trails and environment within the proposed Heritage National Monument. They also worked with us to protect our private property interests, our grazing interests, our hunting interests and our continuing use of this land for gathering of plants and animals.

We ask you to strongly urge President Obama to establish the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as proposed in the legislation drafted by Representative Raul Grijalva.

Very respectfully yours,

Don E. Watahomigie
Tribal Chairman

Cc: Honorable Raul Grijalva in care of glenn.miller@mail.house.gov

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HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 10 • Supai, Arizona 86435
(928) 448-2731 • Fax (928) 448-2551

Resolution No. 54-15
Support for Greater Grand Canyon
Heritage National Monument

WHEREAS; the Havasuw 'Baaja, the People of the Blue Green Water, are the original inhabitants of the Coconino Plateau on the south rim of Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS; we give our full and strong support for designation of the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as drafted by Representative Raul Grijalva; and

WHEREAS; members of the Havasupai Tribe now reside primarily in the Village of Supai that is located in a side canyon to Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS; members maintain a presence and connection to the Plateau lands including regular visits to numerous religious and cultural sites including the Red Butte Traditional Cultural Property that includes the site of the Canyon Uranium Mine; and

WHEREAS; the Havasupai Tribe owns private property within the area to be designated a National Monument; and

WHEREAS; the Havasupai Tribe has grazing interests and rights to use lands in the National Monument for traditional purposes including hunting and gathering; and

WHEREAS; the Village of Supai is downstream from any surface contamination on the plateau and down gradient from any groundwater contamination; and

WHEREAS; we have been denied access to the sacred meadow north of Red Butte for over 25 years because of the Canyon Uranium mine and there is not a known time when the meadow will be reclaimed so that we will again have access; and

WHEREAS; we have worked cooperatively with Representative Grijalva's staff to draft the legislation to designate the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to withdraw the lands within the National Monument from mining; and

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WHEREAS; we have determined that this National Monument will protect our multiple interests in the lands being withdrawn including protection of our sacred sites and areas of cultural significance, our private property interests, our grazing interests, our traditional uses, our water resources and it recognizes our sovereignty as a government capable of participating in the management of these lands that are our homelands and aboriginal territory; and

WHEREAS; the legislation establishes a government-to-government process for active and meaningful participation by the Havasupai Tribe in the management of the resources in the National Monument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Havasupai Tribe supports the designation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument as represented in the legislation drafted by Representative Raul Grijalva.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution is adopted pursuant to the authority of Article V, Section 1 of the Amended Constitution of the Havasupai Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe and Article II of the Bylaws of the Havasupai Tribe at the Special Council Meeting of the Tribal Council on the 1st day of October, 2015 by a vote of 4 for; 0 opposed and 0 abstained.

HAVASUPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL

Matthew Putesoy Sr.
Acting Tribal Chairman

ATTEST:
Bonnie Wescogame
Bonnie Wescogame
Tribal Secretary

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HUALAPAI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. **60-2015**
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
HUALAPAI TRIBE OF THE HUALAPAI RESERVATION

Support for Designation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

WHEREAS, the Hualapai Reservation encompasses approximately one million acres in the western Grand Canyon region, including 108 miles bordering the Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, the Hualapai Reservation encompasses approximately one-seventh of the aboriginal territory of the Hualapai Tribe, which included much of the landscape south of the Grand Canyon in the area being considered for the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument; and

WHEREAS, many places that hold religious, cultural, historic, and ecological significance for the Hualapai people are located on lands encompassed by the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Hualapai Tribe recognizes the historic and ongoing connections to the land, water, animals, plants, ancestral sites, and other natural and cultural resources of the proposed National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Hualapai Tribe further recognizes that the landscape encompassed by the proposed National Monument also holds religious, cultural, historic, and ecological significance to several other Southwestern Indian Tribes, including the Havasupai, Hopi, Navajo, Southern Paiute, Yavapai-Apache, Zuni, and others currently more distant, all of whom assert their affiliation with these lands; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has responsibilities, both legal and moral, to manage public lands in a way that shows proper respect for places that hold religious, cultural, and historical importance to Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument explicitly acknowledges the importance of the landscape to Indian Tribes, and will allow for more effective and enhanced preservation of the integrity of places that hold tribal religious, cultural, historical, and ecological significance; and

WHEREAS, creation and management of the National Monument will allow for greater opportunities for shared stewardship of natural and cultural resources between

agencies and Indian Tribes, including the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the development and implementation of management plans; and

WHEREAS, the National Monument will continue to accommodate certain past uses of the landscape, including hunting and grazing, but will protect the land from mining and other activities incompatible with wise and sustainable stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hualapai Tribe formally declares strong support for the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument designation, which reflects the will and the values of Native peoples whose identities, histories, cultures and futures are inextricably tied to these lands.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Chairwoman of the Hualapai Tribal Council hereby certify that the Hualapai Tribal Council of the Hualapai Tribe is composed of nine (9) members of whom **(9)** constituting a quorum were present at a **Special Council Meeting** thereof held on this **19th day of August 2015;** and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by a vote of **(9) - for, (0)- oppose**, pursuant to authority of Article V, Section (a) of the Constitution of the Hualapai Tribe approved March 13, 1991.

Sherry J. Counts, Chairwoman
Hualapai Tribal Council

ATTEST:

Adeline Crozier, Assistant Secretary
Hualapai Tribal Council

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THE HOPI TRIBE

Herman G. Honanie
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

Hand-delivered to the President

April 22, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for providing time to meet with your staff regarding the proposal to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM). Unfortunately, I cannot attend as the sheer volume of pressing matters before the Hopi Tribal Council necessitates my presence on the Hopi Reservation.

The Grand Canyon (*Ongtupqa*) watershed is a very special place to the *Hopisinom*, so much that it deserves protection under the Antiquities Act. The Act was created precisely for the protection of cultural and historic objects. Such Hopi objects permeate the Grand Canyon, and were left behind as "footprints" of ancient villages, trails, petroglyphs, springs, as well as our ancestors' remains. Hopi ancestors who lived in the Grand Canyon continue to inhabit Arizona land today, and are part of a living landscape that sustains our Hopi identity. The all-encompassing nature of the Hopi relationship to the Grand Canyon is so fundamentally profound it defies simple explanation.

The Hopi legislature also supports this worthy effort. On March 22, 2016, the Hopi People spoke directly to the importance of *Ongtupqa* by unanimously passing Hopi Tribal Council Resolution H-033-2016 approving support for a Presidential Proclamation favoring the establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. You will find attached to this letter a copy of that Resolution.

One of the foremost concerns of the Hopi involves the enormous damage wrought by uranium mining, and the threat of increased mining activity if former Interior Secretary Salazar's 20-year new mining claim moratorium isn't renewed. In fact, according to information provided by the non-profit Grand Canyon Trust, water samples taken by the U.S. Geological Survey show that 15 springs and five wells within the Grand Canyon's watershed contained dissolved uranium concentrates "related to mining processes" in excess of standards for safe drinking water.

P.O. Box 123 - Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039 - Phone: 928-734-3000

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The Hopi People have watched with keen interest your recent Proclamations involving Castle Mountains, Sand to Snow, and Mojave Trails, in recognizing and preserving geographical areas culturally important to Native people. We applaud your courageous actions. But, it is our sincere belief that you are not finished and that we ask that you afford the Hopi, and all other Tribal Nations that hold the Grand Canyon as sacred, the same respect and dignity by bestowing Monument status on the Grand Canyon watershed.

During the 2015 Native Nations Conference you made a commitment to "review tribal proposals to permanently protect sacred lands for future generations." *On behalf of all Hopisinom I humbly request that you honor this commitment and strongly consider asserting your authority under the Antiquities Act and make the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument a reality.*

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or any other concerns that you may wish to share with me, you may contact me at (928) 734-3101 or by email HeHonanie@hopi.nsn.us.

Respectfully,

Herman G. Honanie, Chairman
The Hopi Tribe

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

P.O. Box 123 - Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039 - Phone: 938-734-3000

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THE HOPI TRIBE

FILE

Herman G. Honanie
CHAIRMAN

Alfred Lomahquahu, Jr.
VICE-CHAIRMAN

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2016
THE HOPI TRIBE
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Darren Talayumptewa, Director**
Wildlife & Ecosystems Management Program

FROM: **Maxine Wadsworth, Tribal Secretary**
Hopi Tribal Council

DATE: **March 25, 2016**

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL FOR A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING THE GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT – A.I. #041-2016/H-033-2016**

The Hopi Tribal Council on March 22, 2016, by motion and majority vote, approved the above mentioned Action Item and Resolution.

By passage of this Resolution, the Hopi Tribal Council hereby supports the permanent long term protection of cultural and natural resources and sacred sites and access on these public lands through a House Resolution and a Presidential Proclamation designating the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

The Hopi Tribal Chairman or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to continue consultations for the purpose of supporting the proposal for the Presidential Proclamation.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at 928 734-3131. Thank you

c: Office of Chairman
Office of Vice Chairman
Office of the Treasurer
Office of Financial Management
Office of Executive Director
Office of General Counsel
Department of Natural Resources
File

time-honored, revered, respected and important place to the Hopi people; and

WHEREAS, Hopi migration is intimately associated with a sacred Covenant between the Hopi people and the Earth Guardian, in which the Hopi people made a solemn promise to protect the land by serving as stewards of the Earth, and in accordance with this Covenant, ancestral Hopi clans emerged through and settled on the lands in and around the Grand Canyon during their long migration to *Tuuwanasavi*, the Earth Center on the Hopi Mesas; and

WHEREAS, Hopi philosophy and teachings provide a way to actively participate in the decision-making process within the dominant society as this knowledge teaches respect for the deceased, respect for archaeological sites and Traditional Cultural Properties and respect for the past, and the Hopi people are committed to carrying out its world stewardship for all living things; and

WHEREAS, the land is a testament of Hopi stewardship through thousands of years, manifested by the "footprints" of ancient villages, sacred springs, migration routes, pilgrimage trails, artifacts, petroglyphs, and the physical remains of buried *Hisatsinom,* the "People of Long Ago," all of which were intentionally left to mark the land as proof that the Hopi people have fulfilled their Covenant, and the Hopi ancestors buried in the area continue to inhabit the land, and they are intimately associated with the clouds that travel out across the countryside to release the moisture that sustains all life; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi footprints and clouds are part of a living, sacred landscape that nourishes

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and sustains Hopi identity, and this landscape is steeped in cultural values and maintained through oral traditions, songs, ceremonial dances, pilgrimages, and stewardship, and as a cultural landscape, the archaeological sites and physical terrain situates the Hopi people in time and space, providing a geographical conception of history and religion that connects the past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi people continue to have a living relationship and connection to its ancestral past including Hopi landscapes, ruins (*kiikiqö*), ceremonial trails (*homvi'kya*), eagle collecting areas (*kwaatitipkya*), shrines (*pahokiki*), offering places (*tuutuskya*), springs (*nöngangva*), rivers (*paayu*), lakes (*patupha*), ancestral burials (*tuutu'ami*), petroglyphs (*tutuventiwngwu*) and places of special events, and Hopi people continue to make annual pilgrimages and deliver offerings as stewards to ancestral Hopi lands (*tutskwa*) to reinforce the Hopi people's connection to their past, present and future; and

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is fully aware that over the last few decades the archaeological, natural and geographic resources in the region have been impacted by uranium mining and we have encouraged the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service enforce the laws protecting cultural and natural resources on public land around the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Grijalva consulted with representatives of the Hopi Tribe and other tribes in the drafting of the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (**National Monument**); and

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HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
H-033-2016

WHEREAS, Congressman Grijalva, along with the Hopi Tribe and other tribes, have mutually agreed that there will be no significant changes in the current Federal and State management objectives of the land including; grazing, hunting, access for recreation, motorized vehicle restrictions, implementation of wildland fire management and restoration projects within the proposed **National Monument,** as described in The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act Myths vs. Facts (Exhibit "C").

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribal Council hereby supports the permanent long term protection of cultural and natural resources and sacred sites and access on these public lands through a House Resolution and a Presidential Proclamation designating the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Hopi Tribal Council hereby authorizes and directs the Hopi Tribal Chairman or his designee to continue consultations for the purpose of supporting the proposal for a Presidential Proclamation designating the **National Monument**, which recognizes these lands as Hopi ancestral lands and includes co-management in policy formulation, management, and evaluation of results, and such other approvals, consents, agreements and documents, and any amendments thereof, and to take such other actions on behalf of the Tribe, as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate, implement and otherwise carry out the intents and purposes of this Resolution.

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HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
H-033-2016

WHEREAS, the Hopi Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and the Hopi Tribal Council is empowered by the Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe, ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL, SECTION 1 (a), (d), and (k), respectively: "To represent and speak for the Hopi Tribe in all matters for the welfare of the Tribe . . ."; "To advise with the Secretary of the Interior and other governmental agencies. . ."; and "To protect the arts, crafts, traditions, and ceremonies . . ."; and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IV-EAGLE HUNTING TERRITORIES AND SHRINES, of the Constitution and By-laws of the Hopi Tribe provides that the Tribal Council shall negotiate with the United States Government agencies concerned, and with other tribes and other persons concerned, in order to secure protection of the right of the Hopi Tribe to "...secure adequate protection for its outlaying, established shrines . . ."; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution H-098-2011, the Hopi Tribal Council adopted the 2011 revised Hopit Pötskwaniat, the Hopi Tribal Consolidated Strategic Plan, which established Hopi Tribal goals "Towards Preservation & Protection of Cultural Resources", "to fulfill the constitutional responsibilities in the protection and preservation . . ." and to "continue the preservation and protection of cultural resources including archeological sites, traditional cultural properties and other historical properties."; and

WHEREAS, *Öngtupqa* **(the Grand Canyon)**, and its contributing Hopi cultural elements is a

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HOPI TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION
H-033-2016

CERTIFICATION

The Hopi Tribal Council duly adopted the foregoing Resolution on March 22. 2016 at a meeting at which a quorum was present with a vote of 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining (Chairman presiding and not voting) pursuant to the authority vested in the Hopi Tribal Council by ARTICLE VI-POWERS OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL. SECTION 1 (a). (d). and (k) of the Hopi Tribal Constitution and By-Laws of the Hopi Tribe of Arizona, as ratified by the Tribe on October 24, 1936, and approved by the Secretary of Interior on December 19, 1936, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. Said Resolution is effective as of the date of adoption and does not require Secretarial approval.

Herman G. Honanie, Chairman
Hopi Tribal Council

ATTEST:

Maxine Wadsworth, Tribal Secretary
Hopi Tribal Council

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THE HILL

26, 2016, 08:31 am

The Grand Canyon is under siege

By President Russell Begaye, Navajo Nation, Troy Honahnie Jr. and Dawn Hubbs

Ha ŧay g'am, Wi:Nyi Gacha, Ongtupqa, Tsékooh Hatsoh, Chimik'yana'kya deya'a. ("Grand Canyon" in Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni languages.)

You may not recognize these words, though you know the place they describe. The crown jewel of the U.S. National Park System, a place that leaves all Americans awestruck, one of the seven natural wonders of the world: The Grand Canyon.

We, the people of the Havasupai, Hopi, and Zuni tribes, the Hualapai Nation, the Navajo Nation, and other tribes, know the Grand Canyon as a place of internationally recognized beauty and unparalleled conservation value. But it is much more than that. We trace our ancestry to the Grand Canyon, and many of our ancestors are buried here. We consider the Grand Canyon sacred. It is a place where we see and understand our past, and it is vital to our future, as an eternal home and source of spiritual sustenance.

The Grand Canyon is truly under siege. For decades, uranium mining - first within Grand Canyon National Park, then just outside its boundaries - has marred our canyon home. As recently as the mid-2000s, thousands of new uranium mining claims were filed just north and south of the Grand Canyon National Park.

Uranium mining has left a toxic legacy – poisoning our waters, our homes, our families, and our children. More than 500 abandoned, un-reclaimed mines contaminate the Navajo Nation, next door to the Grand Canyon. The Hopi have yet to determine the full environmental and human cost of uranium milling waste left by mining companies.

We enthusiastically supported the Obama administration's 20-year withdrawal of more than 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining in 2012. And, we have watched in alarm as the uranium mining industry and some of our elected officials have attempted to overturn this withdrawal, promising to do away with it come 2017.

We cannot survive intact as people without an intact Grand Canyon. In the waning days of your administration, we call on you, Mr. President, to do what is right for Grand Canyon, for the people and cultures that depend on Grand Canyon, and for the American people as a whole: designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

This is no abstract idea. We have worked closely with congressional partners to develop the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act. The Act lays out a reasonable and necessary strategy for protecting 1.7 million acres of culturally and biologically invaluable land surrounding Grand Canyon.

We are skeptical that Congress will do its job and pass this important piece of legislation. If it does not, we hope this legislation will serve as a template for you, Mr. President, to declare a monument under the Antiquities Act, which authorizes the President to protect this kind of place from threats.

Despite false claims to the contrary, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will not affect private property rights, grazing, hunting, fishing, or needed forest restoration within the monument.

It will, however, prohibit new uranium mining within monument boundaries, protecting our sacred lands from an industry that is neither adequately regulated by the federal government, nor adequately self-regulating. It is an industry with a disastrous history and the potential to create irreversible damage to our home, our sacred lands, and a world treasure.

Importantly, a monument will also honor the important historical stewardship responsibilities assumed by tribes in the region, and create new opportunities for tribes to work closely with federal agencies to ensure that the Grand Canyon remains vital, sacred, and sustaining for generations to come.

This centennial year of the National Park Service, as America celebrates its commitment to conservation, is also a bittersweet moment for many tribes, as we remember the lands that were taken from us. In this centennial year, in a place of such profound importance to so many Native Americans, we ask you, Mr. President, to finish the job you started.

Stand with us and with the millions of Americans who cherish the Grand Canyon and will applaud its protection. Honor our rich heritage and promising future as a people.

Celebrate conservation in a place where we as native people have known and practiced conservation for millennia, and where the idea of conservation was reborn nearly 100 years ago. Mr. President, We respectfully ask to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage as a National Monument.

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President Begaye, Navajo Nation, Honanie Jr. is environmental policy advisor and assistant to chairman Honanie, Hopi Nation and Hubbs is director, Department of Cultural Resources and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Hualapai Tribe

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COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

Colorado River Indian Reservation

26600 MOHAVE ROAD
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220
FAX (928) 669-1216

November 2, 2015

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress
1511 Longworth House Office
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

On behalf of the Colorado River Indian Tribe, I write in support of your proposed legislation to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in the State of Arizona.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes is a federally recognized Indian tribe comprised of members of Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo descent. The Aha Macav, or Mohave people, have called the deserts, mountains, and waters of Arizona, Nevada and California that surround the current reservation lands their home since time immemorial and the Chemehuevi have lived nomadically on the land as well.

As proposed, your legislation would preserve, and if necessary, restore the native, cultural, sacred lands found in the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem. Protecting the above ground streams and tributaries that feed the main-stem Colorado River is particularly vital to our people. CRIT has worked tirelessly to protect our water resources, and have developed a vibrant on-reservation economy that is intimately tied to the continued availability of clean river water. The creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage Monument will help preserve this asset for generations to come.

The proposed national monument will also help protect CRIT sacred sites, cultural resources, and our historic and prehistoric artifacts. For years, poorly sited development on Federal lands has caused friction between the tribe, federal agencies and private developers, as the Bureau of Land

Management has embraced a policy of curating historic and prehistoric artifacts that are uncovered during development.

We have repeatedly requested that any uncovered artifacts be reburied in-situ rather than curated, and ask that you take notice of the National Congress of American Indian's recent passage of Resolution SD-15-025, in support of this position. It is my hope you will commit to work with the Colorado River Indian Tribes and other tribes to ensure a policy of reburial, rather than curation is applied to all artifacts uncovered in the proposed National Monument. Furthermore, I hope you will work with us to ensure this policy is implemented across the board so all artifacts uncovered on federal lands can be handled in a culturally appropriate way.

Finally, I want to thank you for your long time support of the Colorado River Indian Tribe. Your continued support means a great deal to me and our community, and this legislation once again demonstrates that you understand the needs and priorities of Arizona's first nations. We stand ready to support your effort to create the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument through legislation or any other means. Thank you again for your efforts, and I look forward to working with you to protect this sacred landscape.

Sincerely,

Dennis Patch
Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes

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Resolution No. 356-15

RESOLUTION

COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

A Resolution in Support of the Proposed Bill to Designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in the State of Arizona

Be it resolved by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, in *special* meeting assembled on October 8, 2015.

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes (hereinafter "CRIT" or "Tribe") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, duly organized with a tribal governing body known as the Tribal Council according to the provisions contained in the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1, (r), of the Constitution of the Colorado River Indian Tribes authorizes the Tribal Council to preserve and encourage the arts, crafts, culture and traditions of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, CRIT is a federally recognized Indian Tribe consisting of members of Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo descent; and

WHEREAS, the Aha Macav or Mohave, people of Yuman descent and Patayan Pre-Historic Man of Tribe have called the deserts, mountains, and waters of Arizona, Nevada, and California that surround the current reservation lands their home since time immemorial and the Chemehuevi of the Tribe lived nomadically upon the land; and

WHEREAS, water, emanating from the Colorado River Basin, is the physical, cultural, and economic lifeblood of the peoples comprising the Tribes and of the Colorado River Indian Reservation (the "Reservation"); and

WHEREAS, as a downstream beneficiary of 719,248 acre-feet annually of adjudicated water right the Tribes have a deep-rooted interest in the protection of the entire Colorado River Basin water in order to safeguard the health, safety, welfare, and environment of the Tribes' members and Reservation; and

The foregoing resolution was on October 8, 2015 duly approved by a vote of 7 for, 0 against and 0 abstaining, by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, pursuant to authority vested in it by Sections 1.r., Article VI of the Constitution and By laws of the Tribes, ratified by the Tribes on March 1, 1975 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1975, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (46 Stat. 984). This resolution is effective as of the date of its adoption.

COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

By

Chairman

Secretary

WHEREAS, CRIT has worked tirelessly to preserve protect both its waters, cultural resources, and sacred sites; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative Raul Grijalva is introducing a bill to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the national monument are to preserve and, if necessary, restore the native, cultural, sacred lands and key tribal resources, nationally significant biological, ecological, including wildlife connectivity, cultural, historical, recreational, geological, hydrological, education, scenic and scientific values found in the Greater Grand Canyon ecosystem and watershed, including above-ground tributaries, springs and interconnected groundwater that contributes significantly to the Colorado River, and to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the diverse tribal resources, landscape, wildlife, water flows and recreational use of the lands included in the national monument.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes to support the introduction and enactment of the bill to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage Monument in the State of Arizona; and

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the Tribal Council Chairman and Secretary, or their designated representatives, are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents necessary to implement this Resolution.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Brian Cladoosby
Swinomish Tribe

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Randy Noka
Narragansett Tribe

RECORDING SECRETARY
Aaron Payment
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan

TREASURER
W. Ron Allen
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

ALASKA
Jerry Isaac
Native Village of Tanacross

EASTERN OKLAHOMA
Joe Byrd
Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS
Leander McDonald
Spirit Lake Nation

[illegible]VEST
[illegible]er Rader
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

NORTHEAST
Lance Gumbs
Shinnecock Indian Nation

NORTHWEST
Fawn Sharp
Quinault Indian Nation

PACIFIC
Jack Potter, Jr.
Redding Rancheria

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
Darrin Old Coyote
Crow Nation

SOUTHEAST
Larry Townsend
Lumbee Tribe

SOUTHERN PLAINS
Liana Onnen
Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

SOUTHWEST
Joe Garcia
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo

WESTERN
Bruce Ignacio
Ute Indian Tribe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Pata
Tlingit

NCAI HEADQUARTERS
1516 P Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
[illegible]466.7767
[illegible]466.7797 fax
[illegible]w.ncai.org

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #SD-15-025

TITLE: Urging the Department of the Interior to Support Policy in Favor of In-Situ Reburial of Artifacts

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe consisting of members of Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi, and Navajo descent; and

WHEREAS, the Aha Macav or Mohave, people of Yuman descent and Patayan Pre-Historic Man of CRIT have called the deserts, mountains, and waters of Arizona, Nevada, and California that surround the current reservation lands their home since time immemorial and the Chemehuevi of CRIT lived nomadically upon the land; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior (DOI) has prioritized the development of renewable energy projects, many of which are sited on federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

WHEREAS, the NCAI previously adopted Resolution #LNK-12-036, opposing DOI's policy of fast-tracking solar energy projects within the ancestral territory homelands of CRIT, as well as other Yuman Tribes; and

WHEREAS, despite warnings by CRIT and other tribes, utility-scale renewable energy projects have been sited and constructed in areas known to contain sensitive cultural and tribal resources such as sacred trails and landscapes, artifacts such as manos and metates, and desert plants and animals which are intertwined with our traditional cultural and spiritual beliefs and values; and

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WHEREAS, in connection with the Genesis Solar Energy Project located outside of Blythe, California, approximately 3,000 sacred objects were unearthed and removed from the project site, including manos, metates, and pendants, many of which were carelessly destroyed or damaged by giant earthmoving equipment; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of DOI to require collection and curation of artifacts for data recovery purposes, including artifacts discovered during construction of utility-scale renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS, removal of artifacts from the ground is contrary to Mohave cultural and religious practices, and the removal of artifacts erases the tribal footprint on the land, therefore causing severe cultural and spiritual harm to Indian people; and

WHEREAS, DOI's curation policy is insensitive to the history of Indian people in the United States because it promotes the mentality and practice of putting Native American cultures on display; and

WHEREAS, DOI's rigid application of regulations to artifacts unearthed during construction of utility-scale renewable energy projects is misguided due to the rigidness of NEPA federal law because it contends that every artifact should be preserved in perpetuity at museum and research facilities, an infeasible contention; and

WHEREAS, CRIT has repeatedly attempted to engage DOI to allow reburial of all unearthed artifacts near the location where they were disturbed, discovered or unearthed, and has faced resistance on the part of the federal government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) calls upon the Department of Interior to conduct meaningful consultation with tribes affected by DOI unearthing artifacts from energy development on tribal lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DOI must allow affected Indian tribes to rebury unearthed artifacts near the location where they were disturbed, discovered or unearthed during the construction of renewable energy projects and other developments on public lands; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

00074272-OS-BATCH008-DOC0019-REC-20240 Page 22 of 54

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CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2015 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Town and Country Resort, San Diego, CA, October 18-23, 2015, with a quorum present.

Brian Cladoosby, President

ATTEST:

Aaron Payment, Recording Secretary

00074272-OS-BATCH008-DOC0019-REC-20240 Page 23 of 54

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Inter Tribal Association of Arizona

21 TRIBAL NATIONS

Ak-Chin Indian Community
Cocopah Indian Tribe
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Gila River Indian Community
Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Pueblo of Zuni
Quechan Tribe
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
San Carlos Apache Tribe
San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe
Tohono O'odham Nation
Tonto Apache Tribe
White Mountain Apache Tribe
Yavapai-Apache Nation
Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe

Resolution No. 0316

Support for Designation of Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, an association of 21 tribal governments in Arizona, provides a forum for tribal governments to advocate for national, regional and specific tribal concerns and to join in united action to address these issues; and

WHEREAS, the Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona have the authority to act to further their collective interests as sovereign tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona has the charge to support and represent particular member Tribes on matters directly affecting them upon their request; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon is a location of significance to the Native People of the Southwest with numerous locations of religious and cultural importance within the area designated as Grand Canyon National Park and on the Federal lands surrounding the Park; and

WHEREAS, the springs and seeps that provide the water for life in the Canyon for us and for the plants and animals on which we depend must be protected from depletion and from contamination and are at risk; and

WHEREAS, the ancient trails that we travel to reach each other travel through the Canyons, between the springs and across the Plateau are at risk; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation HR 3882 recognizes the importance of these lands to the Native People affiliated with the Grand Canyon Region and provides an advisory role for our Tribes and Nations regarding management of the National Monument so that we may inform the land management agencies about impacts from proposed actions; and

WHEREAS, mining and in particular the expansion of uranium mining around the Grand Canyon poses the greatest threat to our springs and seeps and to our continued use of these lands for our religious, cultural and traditional purposes; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will ban new uranium mining claims within the Monument.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona support the passage of HR 3882 to create the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if the Congressional effort to pass HR 3882 does not proceed the member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona support a Presidential Proclamation establishing the Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, where a quorum was present on **Friday, April 8, 2016.**

Shan Lewis,
President, Inter Tribal Association of Arizona
Vice-Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

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Kirkpatrick cosponsors Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act

Sep 29, 2016 | Press Release

FLAGSTAFF – U.S. Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz., is pleased to announce she is cosponsoring H.R. 3882, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act, which establishes a national monument that permanently protects more than a million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park and permanently bans new uranium mines there.

In 2015, Kirkpatrick announced her support for the concept of a monument and launched an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and constituents across Arizona. Since then, she has heard overwhelmingly strong support for a monument designation and has also pledged to address certain concerns by working to ensure the designation would protect hunting, fishing and other recreational activities important to Arizona's sportsmen and women.

"I'm backing this legislation because it will protect the greater Grand Canyon region from existing and future threats," **Kirkpatrick said.** "I've always stood with Arizona's Native American tribes in opposing uranium mining at the Grand Canyon, so it was important to me that this legislation permanently bans new uranium mining claims there. A monument designation would protect ancient forests, migratory wildlife corridors, archeological sites, and sacred tribal sites such as Red Butte on the Coconino Plateau. And it would support

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clean drinking water, cultural heritage and outdoor recreation. After listening to folks all across Arizona, I am more convinced than ever that this monument designation will benefit us all."

H.R. 3882 also:

- protects commercial and recreational hunting;
- preserves grazing and water rights;
- promotes a more collaborative regional approach between tribal nations and federal land managers;
- conserves the Grand Canyon watershed.

In a 2015 letter to the president, Kirkpatrick joined fellow Arizona Reps. Raúl M. Grijalva and Ruben Gallego to discuss the importance of establishing a national monument. The heart of the region is the Kaibab Plateau, they wrote, "where the Colorado River carves its way through the Grand Canyon and provides water for millions of people in Arizona, Nevada, and California, as well as further downstream in Mexico. The Kaibab Plateau is home to sensitive plants and animals found nowhere else in the world."

Kirkpatrick has also called for efforts to better protect and preserve Grand Canyon National Park by cutting the maintenance backlog. The Grand Canyon is not only an environmental treasure but a major economic driver that supports roughly 6,000 jobs and attracts about $415 million in visitor spending each year.

Arizona reactions to Kirkpatrick's cosponsorship:

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, D-Ariz., lead sponsor of H.R. 3882: "Since she first came to Congress, Rep. Kirkpatrick has been a good friend of the Grand Canyon. Her support for the monument brings us closer than ever to fulfilling the hopes of the people of Arizona – and the hopes of Americans everywhere – who want this beautiful land protected. I thank her for uniting Arizona's Democratic delegation and giving us another push forward as we near the finish line."

Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation Vice President: "I appreciate Ann Kirkpatrick's support for the Grand Canyon National Monument legislation. Rep. Grijalva's bill permanently protects the Grand Canyon from future uranium mining. The Navajo people are all too familiar with the legacy of uranium mining: cancer, terminal illnesses and a never-ending fight for adequate compensation for uranium mining and living downwind from nuclear testing sites. We appreciate Ann Kirkpatrick's unwavering support for the Navajo Nation on the uranium issue."

Ethan Aumack, Conservation Director of Grand Canyon Trust: "Rep. Kirkpatrick has listened carefully and respectfully to her constituents on this issue, and they have spoken clearly. The region's tribes, the people of

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Arizona, and the people of our nation strongly support a monument protecting the Grand Canyon. It's time for President Obama to build on the legacy established by Teddy Roosevelt and designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument."

Art Babbott, Coconino County Supervisor: "The greater Grand Canyon region is like nowhere else in the world, and I applaud Congresswoman Kirkpatrick for supporting this important effort to protect our forests, water, wildlife and archeological sites. Northern Arizona and the entire state will benefit from a monument designation."

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Issues: Energy and Environment, Jobs and the Economy

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TOM O'HALLERAN CONGRESS

June 24, 2016

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

Re: Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Dear President Obama,

My wife Pat and I moved to Sedona Arizona 22 years from Chicago. We were drawn to Arizona, as many are, for its unique culture and magnificent beauty. During my time here, I have served three terms in the State House and one term in the State Senate. I have also sat on countless boards and committees covering a vast array of issues pertaining to education, healthcare, and environmental conservation. I have championed water and forestry issues to help protect Arizona's greatest resources and natural beauty.

I write to you today requesting that you establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect the 1.7 million acres of federally owned public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

The Grand Canyon, with the surrounding land, is a world treasure—and more. This stunning area is vital to our watershed region, supplying water to millions of people in Arizona, California, and Nevada. The Grand Canyon is a top draw for visitors. Our tourism industry is a key economic driver for the entire state. This makes it paramount to protect the Canyon by preserving the surrounding land designated in the proposed monument.

This monument is crucial for the preservation and protection of thousands of invaluable tribal cultural sites. The land surrounding the Canyon is home to precious wildlife, irreplaceable cultural sites, and unique recreational activities for local residents and national and international visitors.

I humbly request that you consider establishing the Greater Grand Canton Heritage National Monument and permanently protect all the treasures and benefits that come from this beautiful, unique land.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Halleran

TOM O'HALLERAN FOR CONGRESS
P.O. BOX 20375
SEDONA, AZ 86341

WWW.TOMOHALLERAN.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/OHALLERANFORAZ
@TOMOHALLERAN

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Arizona State Senate

May 12, 2016

Dear President Obama:

As Arizona state senators, we are asking that you establish a new national monument in our state. Arizona has a rich history of presidents taking action to preserve its natural wonders, including prior to statehood with the protection of Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Please establish a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

North and south of Grand Canyon National Park lies the Grand Canyon watershed region. The heart of this proposed national monument is the Kaibab Plateau, where the Colorado River carves Grand Canyon. This vital river also provides water for millions of people in Arizona, Nevada, California, and Mexico.

The Kaibab Plateau is home to 22 sensitive plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world, including the Kaibab squirrel. In addition, this area provides critical wildlife corridors for iconic wildlife such as mountain lions and mule deer and important habitat for imperiled species such as the California condor.

South of Grand Canyon, the Coconino Plateau contains deep groundwater that supplies life-giving seeps and springs.

Grand Canyon, an American icon and one of the seven natural wonders of the world, deserves permanent protection. Outside Grand Canyon National Park, old growth logging, uncontrolled and irresponsible off-highway vehicle use, and uranium mining continue to threaten the lands and, due to their proximity, the park itself.

These lands are also critical to our tourism economy and bring significant dollars to northern Arizona. A recent report indicates that in 2014 more than 4.7 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park spent more than a half-billion dollars in communities near the park and supported 7,846 jobs in our local communities. Headwaters Economics found that the local economies surrounding the 17 national monuments it studied, including those in Arizona, grew after the creation of each new national monument.

Establishing a national monument would not only preserve the region's ancient forests, protect important corridors for migratory wildlife, and preserve thousands of cultural sites, it would also support clean drinking water, cultural heritage, and recreation. As you know, these lands are

valued highly by indigenous people throughout our state, which is why representatives from the Navajo Nation and from the Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai tribes have expressed support for this monument. We join them and the 80 percent of Arizona voters (as indicated in a recent poll) in support of this proposed national monument.

We ask that you please consider a proclamation to establish a national monument – make permanent the mineral withdrawal your administration established for this area and protect the vast cultural and biological resources of these lands. Please make this monument part of your legacy and ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Katie Hobbs
Minority Leader
District 24

Senator Steve Farley
Assistant Minority Leader
District 9

Senator Martin Quezada
Minority Whip
District 29

Lupe Contreras
Minority Whip
District 19

Senator David Bradley
District 10

Senator Lynn Pancrazi
District 4

Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford
District 3

Senator Andrea Dalessandro
District 2

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Arizona State Legislature
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 26, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Establishment of Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Dear President Obama:

As Arizona state legislators, we are asking that you establish a new national monument in our state. Arizona has a rich history of presidents taking action to preserve its natural wonders, including prior to statehood with the protection of Grand Canyon and Petrified Forest by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Please establish a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

North and south of Grand Canyon National Park lies the Grand Canyon watershed region. The heart of this proposed national monument is the Kaibab Plateau, where the Colorado River carves Grand Canyon. This vital river also provides water for millions of people in Arizona, Nevada, California, and Mexico.

The Kaibab Plateau is home to 22 sensitive plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world, including the Kaibab squirrel. In addition, this area provides critical wildlife corridors for iconic wildlife such as mountain lions and mule deer and important habitat for imperiled species such as the California condor.

South of Grand Canyon, the Coconino Plateau contains deep groundwater that supplies life-giving seeps and springs.

Grand Canyon, an American icon and one of the seven natural wonders of the world, deserves permanent protection. Outside Grand Canyon National Park, old growth logging, uncontrolled and irresponsible off-highway vehicle use, and uranium mining continue to threaten the lands and, due to their proximity, the park itself.

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These lands are also critical to our tourism economy and bring significant dollars to northern Arizona. In 2013, 4.5 million people visited Grand Canyon. Those visitors spent nearly a half a billion dollars in the region and supported more than 6,000 local jobs. Headwaters Economics found that the local economies surrounding the 17 national monuments it studied, including those in Arizona, expanded after the creation of each new national monument.

Establishing a national monument would not only preserve the region's ancient forests, protect important corridors for migratory wildlife, and preserve thousands of cultural sites, it would also support clean drinking water, cultural heritage, and recreation. As you know, these lands are valued highly by indigenous people throughout our state, which is why representatives from the Navajo Nation and from the Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai tribes have expressed support for this monument. We join them and the 80 percent of Arizona voters (as indicated in a recent poll) in support of this proposed national monument.

We ask that you please consider a proclamation to establish a national monument – make permanent the mineral withdrawal your administration established for this area and protect the vast cultural and biological resources of these lands. Please make this monument part of your legacy and ours.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Representative Eric Meyer, M.D. *Democratic Leader* Legislative District 28	Representative Bruce Wheeler *Assistant Democratic Leader* Legislative District 10
Representative Rebecca Rios *Democratic Whip* Legislative District 27	Representative Lela Alston Legislative District 24
Representative Richard Andrade Legislative District 29	Representative Jennifer Benally Legislative District 7

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Representative Mark Cardenas Legislative District 19	Representative Reginald Bolding, Jr. Legislative District 27
Reperesentative Ken Clark Legislative District 24	Representative Diego Espinoza Legislative District 19
Representative Charlene Fernandez Legislative District 4	Representative Randall Friese, M.D. Legislative District 9
Representative Rosanna Gabaldon Legislative District 2	Representative Sally Ann Gonzales Legislative District 3
Representative Albert Hale Legislative District 7	Representative Jonathan Larkin Legislative District 30
Representative Stephanie Mach Legislative District 10	Representative Debbie McCune Davis Legislative District 30

Representative Juan Mendez Legislative District 26	Representative Lisa Otondo Legislative District 4
Representative Celeste Plumlee Legislative District 26	Representative Macario Saldate Legislative District 3
Representative Ceci Velasquez Legislative District 29	

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RESOLUTION NO. 2016- 48

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CALLING FOR PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO EXERCISE HIS AUTHORITY UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906 TO CREATE A GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon is one of the world's great natural wonders and an important cultural, ecological, and economic resource for Arizona and the nation, and

WHEREAS, a greater Grand Canyon region designated for national monument status encompasses 1.7 million acres of public land that surrounds Grand Canyon National Park and needs this protection to preserve the Park's remarkable values, and

WHEREAS, the tribal nations and communities of the Colorado River Basin, including Havasupai Tribe, Hualapai Tribe, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, the Colorado River Native Tribes and the Inter-Tribal Association of Arizona, support the permanent protection of the land, water and sacred sites within the greater Grand Canyon region through designation of a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, and

WHEREAS, uranium mining, logging and proposals for destructive and water-intensive tourist attractions threaten the viability of the greater Grand Canyon region, the watershed of which feeds the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park, and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River is the source of drinking water for more than one million Pima County residents via the Central Arizona Project, and

WHEREAS, permanent protection of the greater Grand Canyon region would ensure and enhance the myriad recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, mountain biking, and backpacking for Arizonans and visitors from around the world, and

WHEREAS, permanent protection of the greater Grand Canyon region would preserve and enhance the region's beauty, air quality, and ecosystem in all its aspects – wildlife and its habitat, the extensive watershed, and the unique flora, and

WHEREAS, many Pima County residents, including elected officials, military veterans, members of civic organizations, and business owners support permanent protection of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage area as a National Monument,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby calls for President Barack Obama to exercise his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 without delay to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in order to preserve the many natural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and cultural values found within its boundaries.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County this 2nd day of August, 2016.

The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Robin Brigode, Clerk
Pima County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy County Attorney
ANDREW FLAGG

Greater Grand Canyon Heritage
National Monument

COCONINO COUNTY ARIZONA

Art Babbott **Elizabeth C. Archuleta**
District 1 **District 2**

July 11, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

Subject: Establishment of Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Dear President Obama:

A significant majority of Grand Canyon National Park and the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument (GGCHNM) both lie within Coconino County, Arizona. As Coconino County Supervisors, we are writing to express our strong support for the initiative and respectfully request that you designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, in perpetuity, for the greater good of Coconino County, the State of Arizona, the United States of America and for the world.

The Greater Grand Canyon area, encompassing Grand Canyon National Park and the lands surrounding the Park, are internationally known as a renowned environmental and cultural treasure. The diverse cultures, sensitive ecosystems, and endangered wildlife in this area are well-documented, unique, and irreplaceable. These lands have sustained civilizations in the Southwestern United States for millennia and contain many traditional cultural properties of high importance to many Southwestern native tribes.

This iconic landscape remains threatened by damaging uranium mining with thousands of claims which are insufficiently regulated to protect the public health, safety and welfare. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors has expressed strong concerns regarding proliferation of uranium mining in the Greater Grand Canyon region for close to a decade, as evidenced by the attached Coconino County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2008-09, A Resolution of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors Opposing Uranium Development of Those Portions of Grand Canyon National Park and Its Watersheds That Lie Within Coconino County, Arizona.

We deeply appreciate the first step taken, in 2012, to temporarily withdraw 1 million acres from new uranium claims. Now is the time to take the next right step to protect the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River and its' adjacent watersheds, and all of its inhabitants so no matter who, where, or when we live, this treasured and threatened landscape will remain protected.

Coconino County, Arizona, receives incredible benefits from the presence of public land within and beyond its borders. Our regional economy is driven by year round visitation to Kaibab National Forest

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and Grand Canyon National Park. In 2014 alone, over 4.7 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park spent over a half billion dollars in neighboring communities and supported over 7800 jobs.

In addition to playing a central role in our county's economy and everyday life of our residents, the federal land surrounding the Grand Canyon provides critical habitat and wildlife connectivity corridors, in addition to numerous springs and seeps that feed the Colorado River - a life line and critical water supply for over 20 million Americans.

According to the most recent poll, 80% of Arizonans favor the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. We would anticipate equally strong support across the nation and the world. We respectfully request that you provide a permanent legacy for all by proclaiming establishment of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

Sincerely,

Art Babbott, District 1 Supervisor
Coconino County Board of Supervisors
ababbott@coconino.az.gov
219 East Cherry Avenue
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
928-679-7151

Elizabeth C. Archuleta
Coconino County Board of Supervisors
larchuleta@coconino.az.gov
219 East Cherry Avenue
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
928-679-7152

Cc:
The Honorable John McCain, Senator, United States Senate
The Honorable Jeff Flake, Senator, United States Senate
The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick, First District Representative, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Martha McSally, Second District Representative, Unites States House of Representatives
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Third District Representative, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Gosar, Fourth District Representative, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Matt Salmon, Fifth District Representative, Unites States House of Representatives
The Honorable David Schweikert, Sixth District Representative, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Ruben Gallego, Seventh District Representative, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Trent Franks, Eighth District Representative, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, Ninth District Representative, United States House of Representatives
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality
Sally Jewell, Secretary, United States Department of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture

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City of Flagstaff

May 12, 2016

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

Re: Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Dear President Obama:

I have called the beautiful city of Flagstaff, AZ home for the last 17 years and have been very been involved in local government for most of that time. For the last six I've been a member of the Flagstaff City Council where I have championed several land protection issues, which have earned broad local support, including a resolution supporting former Secretary Salazar's mineral withdrawal on lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. I have also been a long time advocate of wise management strategies for our federal lands that do not sacrifice their long-term health for short-term gains that result in irreparable harm to the environment.

With this letter, I respectfully request that you use your executive authority before you leave office to establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect 1.7 million acres of federally owned public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park. I am grateful for the temporary mineral withdrawal for the lands surrounding Grand Canyon, which has given some protection to these lands, but the very unfortunate reality is that uranium mining remains a real threat.

Although Flagstaff has been working tirelessly to diversify our local economy, we are still heavily depending upon tourism. It isn't surprising that the iconic Grand Canyon generates tremendous tourism revenues and supports thousands of jobs in Flagstaff and the region.

These US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands offer a multitude of recreational and sightseeing opportunities for not only residents of the region but also millions of domestic and international tourists. They contain important wildlife corridors and habitat for large mammals such as mountain lions and mule deer and for imperiled species such as the California condor. Equally as important, they contain the watershed that is the source of drinking water for millions of people.

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
Main (928) 213-2000 • Arizona Relay Service 7-1-1 • www.flagstaff.az.gov

The opinions and statements written above do not necessarily represent the position of the Flagstaff City Council.

Representatives from the Navajo Nation and from the Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai tribes, as well as the Intertribal Association of Arizona strongly support this proposed monument because it hosts thousands of invaluable cultural sites.

The designation of this new national monument will give much-needed permanent protection to a great deal of this critical watershed and, as a report by Headwaters Economics suggests, will be a boost to our local economy.

I believe there is very strong support here in Flagstaff for this proposed monument. A recent statewide poll revealed that 80 percent of Arizona voters support a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. Please take this unique opportunity to leave a wonderful legacy by ensuring that this remarkable landscape in northern Arizona is permanently protected.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very sincerely,

Celia Barotz
Vice-Mayor

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City of Flagstaff

May 16, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As a member of the Flagstaff, Arizona City Council and a third-generation resident of Flagstaff with deep connections to the lands and communities of northern Arizona, I respectfully request that you establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect 1.7 million acres of public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park before you leave office.

I want to emphasize to you the importance of these public lands to me, to our northern Arizona communities, and to our local economy. The Kaibab National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Lands surrounding Grand Canyon provide important connectivity to the park for numerous wildlife species, plus protect key habitat and wildlife corridors for mountain lions and mule deer. These lands are part of the Grand Canyon's watershed and protecting them helps to protect drinking water for millions of people downstream.

The lands offer wonderful recreational opportunities for hiking, biking, climbing, and wildlife viewing, which are all important to our tourism-based economy in Flagstaff. My background in business management and sustainability provides an important perspective on how critical protection public lands is to our Flagstaff community and our economy. Grand Canyon Nation Park is an important part of the northern Arizona economy. In 2014 more than 4.7 million visitors to Grand Canyon National Park spent more than a half-billion dollars in communities near the park and supported 7,846 jobs in local communities. Research by Headwaters Economics found that the local economies surrounding 17 national monuments it studied, including those in Arizona, grew after the creation of each new national monument.

Outside Grand Canyon National Park, there are significant threats to the public lands, some of which also threaten the park itself. They include old growth logging, irresponsible off-highway vehicle use, and uranium mining. I am grateful that your administration established a temporary mineral withdrawal, which was strongly supported by the people of northern Arizona and has given protection to some of the lands. A national monument will give permanent protection to a great deal of the watershed and will help to protect our tourism-based economy as well.

The proposed national monument contains thousands of cultural sites and is highly valued and supported by representatives from the Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai tribes, the Navajo Nation, and the Intertribal Association of Arizona I join them and the 80 percent of Arizona voters (as indicated in a recent poll) in support of this proposed national monument.

Please sign a proclamation that will create the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, and make this national monument part of your legacy, part of our legacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Coral Evans

Coral Evans, Flagstaff City Councilmember

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
Main (928) 213-2000 • Arizona Relay Service 7-1-1 • www.flagstaffaz.gov

The opinions and statements written above do not necessarily represent the position of the Flagstaff City Council.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

City of Flagstaff

May 6, 2016

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Establishment of Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Dear President Obama:

As a member of the Flagstaff City Council, and a resident of northern Arizona who cares deeply about public lands and their protection, I respectfully request that you establish the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument to protect 1.7 million acres of public lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park before you leave office. The environmental, cultural, historic and recreational importance of these lands cannot be overstated.

Outside Grand Canyon National Park, there are significant threats to the public lands, including uranium mining. I am grateful that your administration established a temporary mineral withdrawal, which has given protection to some of the lands as they provide habitat and key wildlife corridors for large mammals and for imperiled species such as the California condor. A national monument will give permanent protection to a great deal of the watershed.

As a professional with a background in economics and marketing, I understand how heavily dependent the Flagstaff economy is on tourism. Headwaters Economics found that the local economies around the 17 national monuments it studied, including those in Arizona, grew after the creation of each new national monument. Protecting the lands that surround the Grand Canyon will protect our tourism-based economy as well.

These national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands are valued highly by indigenous people in the region and the proposed national monument is supported by representatives from the Navajo Nation and from the Hopi, Havasupai, and Hualapai tribes, as well as the Intertribal Association of Arizona. I join them and the 80 percent of Arizona voters in support of this proposed national monument. I hope you will too.

Please consider signing a proclamation that will create the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, and make this part of your legacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eva Putzova

Eva Putzova, Flagstaff City Councilmember

211 West Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
Main (928) 213-2000 • Arizona Relay Service 7-1-1 • www.flagstaffaz.gov

The opinions and statements written above do not necessarily represent the position of the Flagstaff City Council.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Flagstaff Lodging & Restaurant Association

2532 N 4th Street
Box 152
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

Ruben Abeyta President
rubena@swhm.com

Support the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Business culture in the 21st Century is like no other in commercial history. Returns on investments are no longer measured solely by financial gains. Consumers and employees demand measures of social and environmental impacts as well.

We are business owners and operators in the hotel, restaurant, and tourist industries. We have been on all sides of the land development issue – locally and nationally. Several years ago we led the campaign to defeat a county wide public referendum that would have allowed enormous growth in Tusayan, the entrance to Grand Canyon's South Rim. County voters supported protecting Grand Canyon 2-to-1. Although we were victorious in our efforts, the newly incorporated Tusayan is still pushing a development agenda. Bad projects like this have led us to understand and appreciate the need to further protect the Grand Canyon.

Today, we extend our support for the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. The proposed monument shall preserve the Grand Canyon's natural beauty for future generations, protect Arizona's natural resources, and benefit Arizona's economy. February 16, 2016 the White House created three new national monuments in California – Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains. In addition to protecting biologically rich lands and preserving important habitat for endangered species, the monuments are proving financially beneficial to the State. According to news articles, since Senator Dianne Feinstein proposed the legislation to protect the lands, more than three million people visited the California desert last year, and tourism is expected to increase.

Like the California monuments, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument is expected to increase awareness, increase tourism, and increase economic benefits to local communities. Independent research suggests:

- The proposed monument area currently draws 337,000 recreational visitors, not including those visiting Grand Canyon National Park as their primary destination.
- The average Grand Canyon visitor spends $595 per travel party within 90 miles of the park.
- The Grand Canyon generated $509 million for communities near the park this year.
- Economic Analyses (via Headwaters Economics) show increases in employment, personal income and per capita income after designation of both Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monuments.

A monument designation will shift focus from extraction of uranium and timber to protecting cultural, recreational and wildlife values. It creates an expectation on the local and national level for better protection of public lands around the Grand Canyon. While conducting our due diligence, we considered the Monument's impact on natural resources, the rights of Native American tribes, recreationalists (hunting, fishing), and businesses. We found the Monument:

- Does not make changes to grazing;
- Keeps hunting under the management of the Arizona Game and Fish Department;
- Protects hunting and fishing from pollution, industrialization (roads, powerlines) and from land being sold off/traded away;
- Protects surface and groundwater sources (used by hikers, ranchers, equestrians, native wildlife) from uranium contamination;
- Changes focus from old growth timber sales to restoring healthy forests and habitats.

Four tributaries of the Colorado River in Grand Canyon are already contaminated by historic uranium mining. Over 500 abandoned uranium mines remain on the Navajo Nation. Studies show soil contamination at Kanab North Mine, Pine nut Mine, and even at Canyon Mine – even though ore is not being removed from there yet.

When President Theodore Roosevelt created Grand Canyon National Park, he was proud to preserve natural lands for generations to come. He did not believe mining operations should damage Grand Canyon. We agree. That is why we are proud to join Native American nations and other Arizonans to support the proposed Greater Grand Canyon National Monument.

Ruben Abeyta
Flagstaff Lodging and Restaurant Association
Chairman

Support the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

Development of highly sensitive areas need to be carefully considered for the social and environmental impacts. In the 21st century, new businesses have led the way in considering such impacts on business decisions in equal measure with financial gains. This is what society has demanded, and businesses have responded.

Several years ago, we in the hotel, restaurant, and tourist industries led the campaign to defeat a county-wide referendum that would have allowed enormous growth in Tusayan, the entrance to the Grand Canyon's South Rim. Protecting this precious natural resource was our goal, and county voters agreed by a 2-1 margin. The newly incorporated Tusayan is still pushing a development agenda, however, and we feel the need to take a stand. Today, we stand in firm support of the creation and of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. The proposed monument will preserve the Grand Canyon's natural beauty for future generations, protect Arizona's natural resources, and benefit Arizona's economy.

Last month, President Barack Obama designated three new national monuments in California – Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains. In addition to protecting biologically rich lands and preserving important habitat for endangered species, the monuments are proving to be financially beneficial to California. Since legislation was previously proposed to protect the lands, more than three million people visited the California desert last year, and tourism is expected to increase.

Like the California monuments, the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument is expected to increase tourism and economic benefits to local communities. Independent research suggests the proposed monument area already draws more than 337,000 recreational visitors, not including those whose primary destination is Grand Canyon National Park, and the visitors spend $595 per group within 90 miles. The Grand Canyon has a current economic impact of $509 million, which supports and creates jobs in the surrounding communities.

Any question of this magnitude needs to be carefully examined for all impacts. Through our careful research, we've found that the proposed Monument respects the rights, needs, and desires of Native American tribes, recreationalists, environmental protection advocates, and businesses.

It's important shift away from the disruptive business interests of uranium extraction and timber harvesting into more sustainable, responsible activities hinging on the enjoyment of the site's cultural, recreational, and wildlife resources. Uranium mining in particular has been severely damaging to the area, and it's important to move beyond it.

When President Theodore Roosevelt created Grand Canyon National Park, he was proud to preserve natural lands for generations to come. He did not believe mining operations should damage Grand Canyon. We agree. That is why we are proud to join Native American nations and other Arizonans to support the proposed Greater Grand Canyon National Monument.

Chip Rogers
President & CEO

AAHOA
ASIAN AMERICAN HOTEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Conservation Lands Foundation • Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • Environment America • Friends of the Earth • Greenpeace • League of Conservation Voters • Natural Resources Defense Council • Sierra Club • The Pew Charitable Trusts • The Wilderness Society

January 20, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of our organizations, we commend your leadership and vision protecting public lands and cultural sites across our country for all Americans to enjoy. You have used your executive authority under the Antiquities Act to protect millions of acres of lands and waters, protections supported by a broad spectrum of local communities and constituencies. We are writing to urge you to use that authority to protect the landscape surrounding the Grand Canyon as the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

Late last year, Representative Raúl Grijalva introduced legislation that would protect this region as a national monument. Eleven local Tribes helped draft the legislation, and the bill was announced at a press conference with representatives of the Navajo Nation, Havasupai Tribe, Hualapai Indian Tribe, and Hopi Tribe. Given the unlikelihood of Congressional action to protect this area, the Tribes and Rep. Grijalva have made it clear that this legislation could be a template for executive action under the Antiquities Act.

Made up of the 1.7 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) lands surrounding the Grand Canyon, the proposed monument is a magnificent landscape held dear by Native American Tribes, Arizonans, and all Americans. The area's rugged cliffs, pine forests, deep canyons, and grasslands protect and provide clean drinking water for this parched region and for millions of people living downstream. Vast remote landscapes support countless opportunities for outdoor recreation and spiritual renewal. The desire to experience this special place draws people from around the world, generates millions each year for the economy and supports thousands of jobs.

In 2012, your administration took the historic step to withdraw much of this region from uranium mining for twenty years. All of our groups strongly supported that action and we are now urging you to take the next step. The only way to ensure that the Grand Canyon, the Colorado River, the Native American Tribes, and all the communities that depend on the landscape are protected from toxic uranium mining is to make the mineral withdrawal permanent by designating the entire region as a national monument. This region includes the BLM and FS lands that were part of the withdrawal, but also includes the vitally important FS lands of the Kaibab Plateau. This unprotected region is home to the last remaining old-growth Ponderosa forests and is the watershed for the Grand Canyon.

Again, we thank you for your leadership and vision in designating national monuments that tell the story of all Americans and our shared cultural heritage. We urge you to move that vision forward with a designation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Donnell
Executive Director
Conservation Lands Foundation

Jamie Rappaport Clark
Defenders of Wildlife
President and CEO

Trip Van Noppen
President
Earthjustice

Margie Alt
Executive Director
Environment America

Erich Pica
President
Friends of the Earth

Annie Leonard
Executive Director
Greenpeace USA

Gene Karpinski
President
League of Conservation Voters

David Goldston
Director, Government Affairs Program
Natural Resources Defense Council

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

Michael Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club

Jamie Williams
President
The Wilderness Society

Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

September 22, 2016

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

Dear President Obama,

As representatives of the diverse and growing community of Latinos in the state of Arizona, we respectfully request your support for the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. Only permanent protection under the Antiquities Act will safeguard the economically, ecologically, culturally and spiritually important public lands that surround the Grand Canyon, the defining symbol of our state.

The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument proposal seeks to protect areas of the Kaibab National Forest, as well as lands in the Arizona Strip – that portion of Arizona lying north of the Colorado River – that are currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management. All the lands included in the monument proposal are owned by the American people and are managed by either the U.S. Forest Service or BLM.

Latinos care deeply about the public lands that embody the best of our nation's culture, spirit and beauty. Within the state of Arizona, recent polling found that 86% of Latino voters support the establishment of this national monument. It's easy to see why - the Grand Canyon Heritage proposal encompasses some of the West's most spectacular wild lands, including the House Rock Valley grasslands, the Kaibab-Paunsaugant Wildlife Corridor, the largest intact ancient forest in the southwestern United States, and numerous culturally valuable areas such as Kanab Creek and Red Butte. Serving as a cultural crossroads, these landscapes have witnessed profound change and bear scars and monuments to the human inhabitation, exploration and development that created the cultural fabric of the southwest.

Protecting the lands surrounding this natural treasure will strengthen this cultural fabric and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience the Grand Canyon region as we do today. As Arizona continues to grow and attract a diverse array of residents, tourists and business owners, we need to ensure that opportunities to recreate and enjoy our natural wonders are protected and available to everyone, including future generations.

Arizona's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water and wildlife together, with a commitment to collaboration and inclusivity. With this national monument designation, we have

an opportunity to protect and preserve the unparalleled opportunities for hunting and angling, the hiking and biking trails that allow for exploration of the outdoors, and the treasured spots for family camping and picnics that are open to everyone.

According to the 2016 Conservation in the West poll, 84% of Latinos consider public lands, waters and wildlife as important issues that elected officials need to address. And the Latino community is not alone in its concern about unsound commercial development and federal land management practices that threaten Grand Canyon's heritage and ecosystem. Like our fellow Arizona residents, we choose to raise our families, give back to our communities, and work to create a better future for our children in Arizona because investing in the future of this state will mean a better life for all who call it home. We urge you to help us make progress toward this shared vision of prosperity by designating this national monument to protect the public lands we love.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
US Congress, District 3
Tucson, Arizona

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
US Congress, District 7
Phoenix, AZ

The Honorable Olivia Cajero Bedford
AZ State Legislature, District 27
Tucson, Arizona

The Honorable Richard Elias
Pima County Board of Supervisors,
District 5

The Honorable Ramon Valadez
Pima County Board of Supervisors,
District 2

The Honorable Regina Romero
Tucson City Council Ward 1

The Honorable Richard Fimbres
Tucson City Council Ward 5

The Honorable Adelita Grijalva
Tucson Unified School District Governing
Board
Tucson, Arizona

The Honorable Cam Juarez
Tucson Unified School District
Governing Board
Tucson, Arizona

The Honorable Eva Carrillo Dong
Sunnyside Unified School District Governing
Board
Tucson, Arizona

The Honorable Beki Quintero,
Sunnyside Unified School District Governing
Board
Tucson, Arizona

Latinos for Parks
Anakarina Rodriguez, CoFounder
Tucson, Arizona

Cesar Chavez Holiday Coalition
Adam Ragan, Co-Chair
Phoenix, Arizona & Tucson, Arizona

Casa Maria Catholic Worker Foundation
Brian Flagg, Manager
Tucson, Arizona

Mi Familia Vota
Francisco Heredia, National Field Director
Phoenix, Arizona

Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)
Tomas Robles, Executive Director
Phoenix, Arizona

Arizona League of United Latin American
Citizens (LULAC)
Richard Estrada, Arizona State Director

Chispa Arizona
League of Conservation Voters
Richard Castanon, Interim Director
Phoenix, Arizona

Promise Arizona (PAZ)
Petra Falcon, Director
Tony Navarrete, Organizer
Phoenix, Arizona

Center for Neighborhood Leadership
Viridiana Hernandez, Public Policy Director
Phoenix, Arizona

Conecta Los Puntos, LLC
Pamela K. Sutherland, Owner
Tucson, AZ & Washington, DC

REA Media Group
Raul Aguirre, CEO
Arizona, Utah, Nevada

BK's Carne Asada & Hot Dogs
Benjamin Galaz, Owner
Oro Valley, Arizona

Latinos for Parks
Supports Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument

May 2, 2016

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

Dear President Obama,

We thank you for all you have done for our National Parks in the past, and we respectfully request your support for the proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.

We launched **Latinos for Parks** in April 2016 – during National Park Week - because our parks need our help. We loaded up our van with our camping gear and headed out to Grand Canyon National Park. We stopped at Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick's office in Flagstaff to ask for her support, volunteered on Earth Day planting trees at the Visitor Center, and talked with many people who had traveled from all over the world to come see what we have in our back yard.

The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will help protect our Grand Canyon National Park. While the proposal seeks to protect areas managed by the US Forest Service and the US Bureau of Land Management, the only thing people will remember is that one of the greatest wonders of the world was forever protected from uranium mining that threatened its borders.

We know about borders. They divide us. They separate us.

The people who seek to divide us and separate us are wrong. We know you have always stood up for what is right, and we ask you to be a leader to protect the Grand Canyon by using the Antiquities Act to create a National Monument.

Spending by a record number of national park visitors in 2015 provided a $32 billion benefit to the nation's economy and supported 295,000 jobs. The designation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument will enhance Arizona's reputation as a place for outdoor recreation and enjoyment of the great outdoors, and will drive additional tourism and dollars throughout Arizona, to the benefit of all of us who call this state home.

Latinos for Parks join with the people of the Havasupai, Hopi, and Zuni tribes, the Hualapai Nation, the Navajo Nation, and other tribes, to celebrate Arizona's unique natural and cultural history. We hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,

Latinos for Parks, 1010 E Lester Street, Tucson, AZ 85719, LatinosForParks@gmail.com

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Armando Martinez	
Xithaly Reges	
Ana Garcia	
Amelia Massingill	
Karen Rabago	
Fabiola Delgado	
Dominique Medina	
Analarina Rodriguez	
Alfonso Ramirez	
Guadalupe Sotelo	
Michelle Jahnke	
Efren Martinez	