RE: Efforts to Repeal or Undermine Protections for Parks and Monuments

April 28, 2017

Dear President Trump, Secretary Zinke, and Secretary Ross,

On behalf of the over 400 undersigned organizations and our millions of members across the country, we are writing to express our deep concern with your recent Executive Orders and our unified opposition to any efforts to remove or decrease protections for any national monuments.

Since its enactment over a hundred years ago, the Antiquities Act has been one of our nation’s most critical conservation tools for preserving our nation’s most important public lands and waters. Our national parks and monuments and other protected public lands and waters unite all Americans by protecting our shared American heritage for future generations to enjoy. The sheer diversity of historic, cultural, and natural treasures that have been protected by the Antiquities Act is the reason why hundreds of groups representing sportsmen, cultural heritage organizations, evangelicals, conservation, recreation businesses, historic preservation, social justice, and many others all oppose efforts to undermine our national monuments and view an attack on any one national monument as an attack on them all.

Whether focused on the Bears Ears National Monument and the over 100,000 irreplaceable cultural and archaeological resources protected in this landscape or the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument which protected unique and pristine ocean habitats and marine life, or any other monument that protects our cultural, historic and natural treasures, an attempt to undermine protections for these uniquely American places would not only rob the American people of our shared heritage but establish a dangerous precedent that we can no longer trust that park or monument can be considered fully safeguarded for future generations.

The American people, including the millions of members we represent, overwhelmingly oppose efforts to roll back protections for the parks, monuments, marine sanctuaries and other public lands and waters they love. According to Colorado College’s Conservation in the West Poll, 80% of western voters support keeping existing national monuments protections in place while only 13% of western voters supported removing protections for existing monuments. This poll reinforces other surveys that document widespread public opposition to congressional attacks on new parks. In a December 2014 Hart Research Poll, 90% of Americans support the permanent protection of some public lands, monuments, wildlife refuges and wilderness. Americans want more protected public lands and waters, not less!
We are concerned that this review is a pretense to advance efforts to undermine or strip protections for current national monuments. This review and the implied effort to roll back our monuments worries those who love our national monuments and the communities that rely on them to power their local economies. Just this week the Outdoor Industry Association unveiled a study that shows the outdoor recreation economy generates $887 billion in economic activity and is responsible for 7.6 million jobs. Protected public lands and waters are the backbone of this economy and any effort to introduce uncertainty by implying that the national monuments that drive local economies may not be permanent will hurt those gateway communities and businesses that depend on them.

We believe that any review that is rigorously fact based, includes robust public input and is cognizant of the resources on the ground will undoubtedly show that our National Monuments are beyond deserving of their status and protections and should be safeguarded in their current states for future generations. We encourage the Department of the Interior to listen to the American people and reflect deeply on the values and resources they are sworn to protect and believe that this can lead to only one recommendation – that our national monuments are treasures worthy of the utmost protection.

Our organizations and the diverse array of members and interests we represent are united in our support for our national parks and monuments. Our national monuments protect our uniquely American heritage and we stand with the overwhelming majority of our fellow Americans in defending them from efforts to undermine protections for parks and monuments. We urge you to refrain from any effort to shrink, repeal or otherwise undermine any National Monuments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

350.org
ACORN Partners in Education
African American Nature and Parks Experience
Agua Fria Open Space Alliance
Alabama Hills Stewardship Group
Alaska Wilderness League
Amargosa Conservancy
American Association of Independent & Minority Enterprises
American Bird Conservancy
American Rivers
Amigos Bravos
Anchorage Audubon Society
Appalachian Mountain Club
Applegate Neighborhood Network
Aquarium of the Bay
Archeology Southwest
Arizona Conservation Partners
Arizona Joshua Tree Forest
Arizona Wilderness Coalition
ARTFARM

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Audubon Alaska
Audubon Connecticut
Audubon Great Lakes
Audubon New York
Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Audubon Society of the Capital Region
Audubon Washington
Back Country Horsemens of New Mexico
Bad River Watershed Association
Basin and Range Watch
Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters
Bedford Audubon Society
Bielenberg Historic Pullman House Foundation
Birds of Prey Partnership
Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission
Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership
Bozeman Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
| Braided River | Conservation Voters New Mexico & CVNM Education Fund |
| Bronx River – Sound Shore Audubon Society | Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship |
| Bronzeville Historical Society | Conserve Southwest Utah |
| Buffalo Audubon Society | Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM) |
| Business for Water Stewardship | Craighead Institute |
| Cabrillo Marine Aquarium | Crow Canyon Archaeological Center |
| California Coastkeeper Alliance | Defenders of Wildlife |
| California Native Plant Society | Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society |
| California State Parks Foundation | Diverse Environmental Leaders (DEL) National Speakers Bureau |
| California Wilderness Coalition | Dolores River Boating Advocates |
| California Wilderness Project | Earth Island Institute |
| Californians for Western Wilderness | Earth Ministry |
| Calumet Collaborative | EarthEcho International |
| Calumet Heritage Partnership | Earthjustice |
| Carrizo Plain Conservancy | Earthworks |
| Cascade Forest Conservancy | East West Printing, Inc. |
| Center for American Progress | EcoFlight |
| Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium | Elders Rising |
| Center for Biological Diversity | Ellen's Homemade Ice Cream |
| Center for Diversity and the Environment | Environment America |
| Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation | Environment Arizona |
| Central Colorado Wilderness Coalition | Environment California |
| Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broads | Environment Colorado |
| Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center | Environment Connecticut |
| Central Westchester Audubon Society | Environment Florida |
| Chaffee County, Colorado | Environment Georgia |
| Chemung Valley Audubon Society | Environment Illinois |
| China Ranch Date Farm | Environment Iowa |
| Clean Water Action | Environment Maine |
| Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection | Environment Maryland |
| Coalition to Protect America's National Parks | Environment Massachusetts |
| Coloradans for Utah Wilderness | Environment Michigan |
| Colorado Canyons Association | Environment Minnesota |
| Colorado Mountain Club | Environment Missouri |
| Colorado Native Plant Society | Environment Montana |
| Colorado Sierra Club | Environment Nevada |
| Computer Sprout | Environment New Hampshire |
| Conejos Clean Water | Environment New Jersey |
| Connecticut Fund for the Environment | Environment New Mexico |
| Connecticut Land Conservation Council | Environment New York |
| Connecticut Ornithological Association | Environment North Carolina |
| Conservation Colorado | Environment Ohio |
| Conservation Lands Foundation | Environment Oregon |
| Conservation Law Foundation | Environment Rhode Island |
| Conservation Southwest Utah | Environment Texas |
| Conservation Voters for Idaho | Environment Virginia |
Environment Washington
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Eric Larsen Explore
Eyak Preservation Council
Farmington River Watershed Association
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
First Unitarian Church, Salt Lake City
Footsteps of Leopold Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Forest Issues Group
Fort Ord Recreation Trails
Fort Stanton Cave Study Project
Four Harbors Audubon Society
Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area (FANs)
Friends of Agua Fria National Monument
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges
Friends of Basin & Range
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Friends of Browns Canyon
Friends of Cascade Siskyou National Monument
Friends of Cedar Mesa
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Oregon Badlands Wilderness
Friends of Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks
Friends of Peru State Forest
Friends of Point Arena - Stornetta Lands
Friends of Pompeys Pillar
Friends of Sloan Canyon
Friends of the Bitterroot
Friends of the Cheat
Friends of the Cliffs
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Forest Preserves
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Kalmiopsis
Friends of the Owyhees
Friends of the Sonoran Desert
Friends of the Yampa
Gathering Waters
Genesee Valley Audubon Society
Geos Institute
GLSEN
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Grand Junction Chapter - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Grand Valley Audubon Society
Great Basin Eastern Nevada Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Greenbelt Alliance
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace
Hells Canyon Preservation Council
High Country Conservation Advocates
Hills For Everyone
Hispanic Access Foundation
Hispanic Federation
Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)
Historic Pullman Foundation
Hoosier Environmental Council
Housatonic Valley Association
Human Rights Campaign
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
Huron River Watershed Council
Idaho Conservation League
Indivisible Ogden
Institute for a Progressive Nevada
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Islanders for the San Juans Islands National Monument
Izaak Walton Leage of America, Headwaters Chapter
Kanawha Forest Coalition
Keep the Woods
Kentucky Heartwood
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Landmarks Illinois
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce
Lassen Forest Preservation Group
League of Conservation Voters
Lee International
Lider Engineering
Loo Wit Group
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Los Padres ForestWatch
Lost Coast Interpretive Association
Lutheran Office of Public Policy
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Rivers
Marine Conservation Institute
Mattole Restoration Council
Mendocino Land Trust
Michael Gordon Photography
Milwaukee River Keeper
Mission Blue
Mississippi Park Connection
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Mojave National Preserve Conservancy
Mono Lake Committee
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund
Montana Wilderness Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance
Mystic Aquarium
NAACP
National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
National Audubon Society
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Abounds
Nevada Conservation League
New Hampshire Audubon
New Hampshire Lakes Association
New Hampshire Rivers Council
New Mexico Friends of Utah Wilderness
New Mexico Sportsmen
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
North Shore Audubon Society
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Northern Catskills Audubon Society
Northern Initiatives
Northern San Juan Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Northwest Indiana Restoration Monitoring Inventory
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Conservation Research
Oceana
Ohio Environmental Council
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Onondaga Audubon
Openlands
Orange County Audubon Society
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregon Wild
ORV Watch Kern County
OUT There Adventures
Outdoor Afro
Outdoor Project
Outside Las Vegas Foundation
Partnership for Responsible Business
Partnership for the National Trails System
Patagonia Area Resource Alliance
Patagonia, Inc
Pathways - Wildlife Corridors of New Mexico
Peaceful Uprising
Penn Center
PennEnvironment
Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc.
Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
Praxis Project
Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Public Citizen
Pullman Civic Organization
PullmanArts
Putnam Highlands Audubon Society
Quaker Voice
Quiet Use Coalition
Reno Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
RESTORE: The North Woods
Rio Grande del Norte
Rivers & Birds
Rivers Alliance
Roaring Fork Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Rocky Mountain Wild
Salt Lake Indivisible
San Bernardino Valley Audubon
San Gabriel Mountains Forever
San Gorgonio Wilderness Association
San Juan Citizens Alliance
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
Sanctuary Forest
Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society
Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce
Save The Bay
Save the Sound
Scenic America
Seattle Aquarium
Sempervirens Fund
Shedd Aquarium
Sheep Mountain Alliance
Shoshone Village
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Military Outdoors
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sky Island Alliance
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Soul River Inc. Runs Wild
Southeast Environmental Task Force
Southern Adirondack Audubon Society
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Southwest Environmental Center
St. Croix River Association
Surfrider Foundation
Swan View Coalition
Territory Run Co.
Teton Valley Chapter - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
The Bay Institute
The California Chaparral Institute
The City Project
The Friends of Sparta Mountain
The Mountain Pact
The National Aquarium
The Ocean Project
The Trail Posse
The Wilderness Society
Torrey House Press
Transition Habitat Conservancy
Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Trout Unlimited, Illinois Chapter
Trust for Public Land
Tucson Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Tuleyome
Tuolumne River Trust
Uplift Climate

Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Utah Dine Bikeyah
Utah Indivisible
Utah Interfaith Power & Light
Utah Professional Archaeological Council
Utah Rivers Council
Utah State University's Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources (SOSNR)
Utahns Speak Out
Vet Voice Foundation
Voces Verdes
Voyageurs National Park Association
Waitt Foundation
Waitt Institute
Wasatch Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Wasatch Mountain Club
Washington Conservation Voters
Washington Environmental Council
Washington Trails Association
Washington Wild
WasteWater Education
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Land Trust
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Western Colorado Congress
Western Environmental Law Center
Western Resource Advocates
Western Slope Conservation Center
Western Watersheds Project
Western Wildlife Conservancy
Wild Utah Project
Wild Virginia
WILDCOAST
Wildearth Guardians
Wilderness Workshop
WildLands Defense
Wildlards Network
Wildlife Conservation Advocacy Southwest
Willamette Valley Broadband - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Winter Wildlards Alliance
Wisconsin Environment
Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection