

OPPOSE CONGRESSIONAL ATTACKS ON NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Bears Ears National Monument / Bob Wick, BLM

On Dec. 4, 2017, President Trump slashed protections from 2 million acres of public lands in Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. Sixteen presidents — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — have used Antiquities Act authority to protect exceptionally valuable cultural, historic, natural and scientific wonders, wildlife habitat, and sacred American Indian sites on public lands and oceans.

Several bills have been introduced that would legislate the reduced monument boundaries in Trump's executive orders and eviscerate a future president's ability to preserve our national heritage and take management of public lands out of the hands of the American people. Please oppose the following bills:

H.R. 3990: National Monument Creation and Protection Act

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) wants to pass this legislation invalidating the Antiquities Act and putting national monuments at risk. It would:

- Limit new national monuments to 85,000 acres;
- Require county and state approval for national monuments larger than 10,000 acres;
- Stop future designations from protecting natural or scientific wonders, only allowing them to preserve "objects of antiquity" such as relics, cultural artifacts and fossils;
- Give private landowners veto power over national monument designations if their land abuts proposed monument boundaries.

H.R. 4532: Shash Jaa National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act

This bill from Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah) would codify Trump's illegal order to slash Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent, leaving more than 1 million acres unprotected. It would:

- Create two smaller national monuments: Shash Jaa (142,337 acres) and Indian Creek (86,447 acres);
- Create a new management council with the same local elected officials that sought the undoing of the monument, with the Utah delegation picking tribal representatives, rather than tribal governments;
- Exclude three of the five tribes who advocated for protection of Bears Ears from the council.

H.R. 4558: Grand Staircase Escalante Enhancement Act

From Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah), this bill would codify Trump's illegal rollback of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, reducing it by 48 percent, and give local government control over federal public lands, also:

- Creating three smaller national monuments, Grand Staircase (211,983 acres), Kaiparowits (551,117 acres) and Escalante Canyons (243,241 acres), plus Escalante Canyons Park and National Preserve;
- Handing control of nearly 1 million acres of new designations to Kane and Garfield counties, including give away of 55 mile Hole in the Rock Road to Utah;
- Prioritizing recreation, hunting and livestock grazing over conservation;
- Reopening nearly 900,000 acres to oil, gas and coal leasing;
- Giving 55-mile Hole in Rock road to state of Utah, likely reopening destructive ORV use on routes previously closed to protect sensitive resources.

Please also oppose the following bills that weaken a president's ability to designate national monuments or include provisions that do so: H.R. 243, H.R. 2074, H.R. 2284, H.R. 200, H.R. 1489, H.R. 3905 and H.R. 4239.

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