

## NATIONAL MONUMENTS

A Critical Tool for Conservation

#### THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

In 1906, Congress passed the Antiquities Act, which created the first national historic preservation policy for the United States and ensured that the president can designate national monuments to protect natural, cultural, and historic sites, as well as waters and lands of great scientific value.

Since the act was passed, 18 presidents - nine

Democratic and nine Republican - have designated
or expanded 158 national monuments across the
country. Presidents have exercised their authority under
the Antiquities Act to create many iconic monuments
including the Statue of Liberty, Bears Ears, Grand Canyon,
Giant Sequoia, Muir Woods, Great Sand Dunes, Chimney Rock,
among others.

#### **CONSERVING AND PROTECTING AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**

National public lands are an integral part of the fabric of Western mountain communities and a major driver of their local economies. In 2020 in California, the outdoor recreation economy supported 488,755 jobs, paid \$26.6 billion in wages and salaries, and was 1.8% of the state's GDP. Protected places are more vital to our health and well-being than ever even as communities are grappling with the consequences of record-breaking visitation and the impacts of climate change.

The Biden administration can achieve its goal of protecting more nature by using the Antiquities Act to create new national monuments. Community-led solutions, like locally-led national monument efforts, can protect archeological, historical, and cultural resources; ensure more equitable access to nature; address the climate crisis; restore America's biodiversity and wildlife; and begin to reckon with historic and present injustices. With an evenly split Senate, Congress is unlikely to move on its own to protect public lands so we are counting on the administration to move swiftly to use its authority to conserve vital places for our communities.

Mojave Trails photo by John Dittli



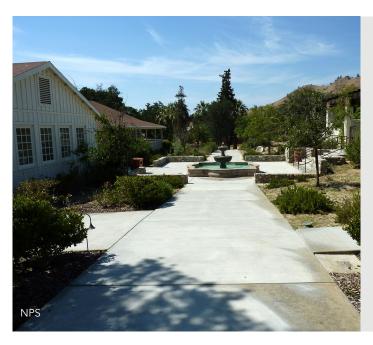
# ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN CALIFORNIA

These places were first designated as national monuments through the Antiquities Act.



### **Death Valley National Park**

The discovery of silver and borax initially brought people to Death Valley, the hottest and driest place in North America, in the late 1800s. The Civilian Conservation Corps played a big role in building roads, campgrounds, ranger stations, and other facilities to serve the public.



## Cesar E. Chavez National Monument

The monument recognizes the tremendous significance of the headquarters of the United Farm Workers in the 20th century labor, civil rights, Chicano, and environmental movements and the contributions of Cesar Chavez, who was the leader of the United Farmworkers of America from 1927-1993.

### TREASURED PLACES IN CALIFORNIA

These places were first designated as national monuments through the Antiquities Act.



\*Since this place's initial designation, this location's management and/or name has been updated. See details on the next page.



