

## 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 Colorado, the outdoor recreation economy supported 120,063 jobs, paid \$5.6 billion in wages and salaries, and was 2.5% 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.

Canyon of the Ancients NM photo by Graeme Churchard

# ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN COLORADO

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



## Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

The Great Sand Dunes originated from large lakes that once covered portions of the San Luis Valley. [If you listen carefully, you can hear a humming sound](#) coming from the dunes as air is pushed through millions of tumbling sand grains when the sand is pushed down a dune.



## Chimney Rock National Monument

The site holds great importance to [Native American Tribes of southwestern Colorado](#) and neighboring states and the area hosts more than [118 known archaeological sites](#). It is home to the [ancestors of the Puebloan peoples](#), who built more than 200 homes and ceremonial buildings high above the valley floor more than 1,000 years ago.



# NATIONAL TREASURES IN COLORADO

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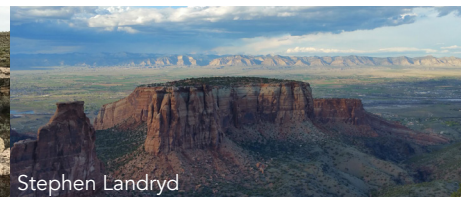
*\*Since this place's initial designation, this location's management and/or name has been updated. See details on the next page.*



Matthew Dillon



Martha Todd



Stephen Landryd







Bob Wick, BLM

MONUMENT		DESIGNATION DATE	PRESIDENT	ACRES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	UPDATES
1	Wheeler Geologic Area	Dec. 7, 1908	President T. Roosevelt	300	National Park Service	Abolished on Aug 3, 1950, and the area became part of the Rio Grande National Forest. On Aug. 13, 1993, it was Included in the La Garita Wilderness Area. Managed by U.S. Forest Service.
2	Colorado National Monument	May 24, 1911	President Taft	13,466	National Park Service	
3	Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado/Utah)	Oct. 4, 1915	President Wilson	80	National Park Service	
4	Yucca House National Monument	March 2, 1923	President Harding	9.6	National Park Service	
5	Hovenweep National Monument (Colorado/Utah)	March 2, 1923	President Harding	285	National Park Service	
6	Holy Cross National Monument	May 11, 1929	President Hoover	1382	National Park Service	Abolished in 1950
7	Great Sand Dunes National Monument	March 17, 1932	President Hoover	35,528	National Park Service	Redesignated a national park and preserve on Nov. 22, 2000.
8	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument	March 2, 1933	President Hoover	10,287	National Park Service	Redesignated a national park on October 21, 1999.
9	Canyons of the Ancients National Monument	June 9, 2000	President Clinton	164,000	Bureau of Land Management	
10	Chimney Rock National Monument	Sept. 21, 2012	President Obama	4,726	U.S. Forest Service	
11	Browns Canyon National Monument	Feb. 18, 2015	President Obama	21,589	U.S. Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management	