

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 Idaho, the outdoor recreation economy supported 29,687 jobs, \$2.1 billion in wages and salaries, and was 3.8% 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.

Guard stand photo by Stan Honda, NPS

ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN IDAHO

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



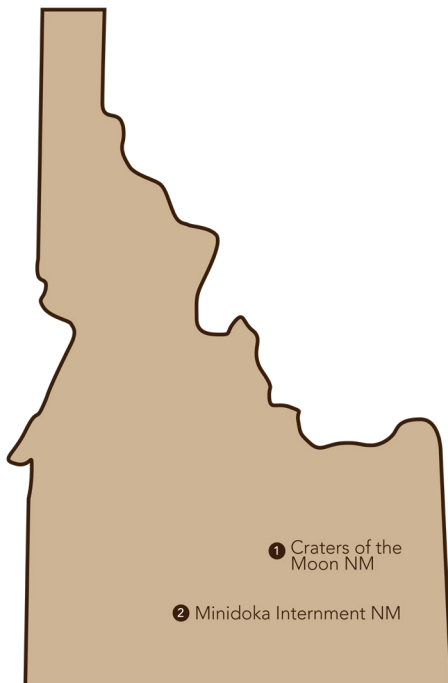
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

In the proclamation, President Coolidge said, in part, "this area contains many curious and unusual phenomena of great educational value and has a weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself." Throughout history, people traveled through this desolate and bleak volcanic landscape, but they saw it as a place on the way to somewhere else.



Minidoka National Historic Site

Minidoka was one of the internment centers that President F.D. Roosevelt created in 1942 where Japanese and Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated. While most of these camps are gone, the monument provides an opportunity for people to learn about this important chapter of World War II history.



1. Craters of the Moon National Monument

Designation Date: May 2, 1924

President: Coolidge

Acres: 22,651

Management Agency: National Park Service & Bureau of Land Management

Updates: On Aug. 21, 2002, it became Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

2. Minidoka Internment National Monument

(Idaho/Washington)

Designation Date: Jan. 17, 2001

President: Clinton

Acres: 72

Management Agency: National Park Service

Updates: It is now called Minidoka National Historic Site.