

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 Montana, the outdoor recreation economy supported 26,169 jobs, \$1.1 billion in wages and salaries, and was 4.3% 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.

River photo by John Todd; Cavern photo by AllAroundTheWest

ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN MONTANA

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



Big Hole National Battlefield

The monument is the location of the Aug. 9, 1877, U.S. surprise military attack on a sleeping camp of the Nez Perce causing 90 to die as well as the deaths of 31 soldiers and volunteers.

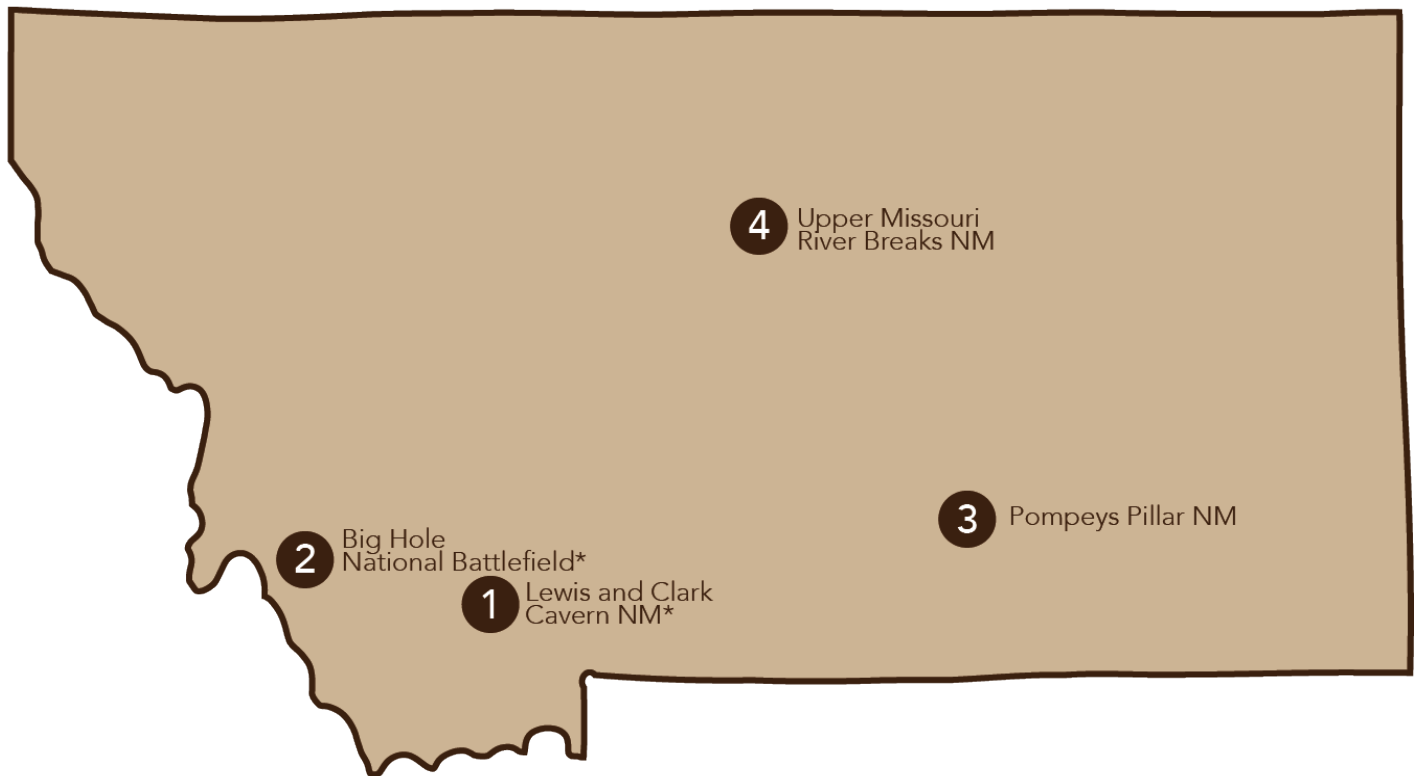


Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

The monument consists of a very rugged landscape, which served as the homeland for many Indigenous communities. In 1805, the Lewis and Clark expedition traveled the Missouri River on their epic adventure. Much of the monument remains as it was 200 years ago.

NATIONAL TREASURES IN MONTANA

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.*



Ann Boucher, BLM



Roger Peterson



Doug Zwick



Bob Wick, BLM



Photo by Bob Wick, BLM

MONUMENT		DESIGNATION DATE	PRESIDENT	ACRES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	UPDATES
1	Lewis and Clark Cavern National Monument	May 11, 1908	President T. Roosevelt	160		Abolished on Aug. 24, 1937 when the property was transferred to the state of Montana and became its first state park.
2	Big Hole Battlefield Monument	June 23, 1910	President Taft	5	National Park Service	The park name was changed to Big Hole National Battlefield on May 17, 1963
3	Pompeys Pillar National Monument	Jan. 17, 2001	President Clinton	51	Bureau of Land Management	
4	Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument	Jan. 17, 2001	President Clinton	377,000	Bureau of Land Management	