

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 New Mexico, the outdoor recreation economy supported 25,916 jobs, \$1.1 billion in wages and salaries, and was 1.9% 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.

ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN NEW MEXICO

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



Mark Kaletka

Chaco Canyon National Historic Site

Between AD 850 and 1250, Chaco Canyon was an Indigenous communities' hub with extraordinary public architecture. In the high mountain desert, the Chacoans built an intricately planned landscape of enormous, multi-storied masonry buildings, roads with carved stairways and masonry ramps, water control and distribution systems, and petroglyphs, pictographs, and calendrical markings that mark solar, lunar, and stellar events. The Biden administration is moving to block new federal oil and gas leasing within a 10-mile radius around the park.



White Sands National Park

The monument protects a part of the world's largest bright white gypsum dune field that dates back 7,000-10,000 years. In 1942, President F.D. Roosevelt signed an order creating a large military land presence around the monument. The first atomic bomb was tested at Trinity Site, 60 miles north of the monument.



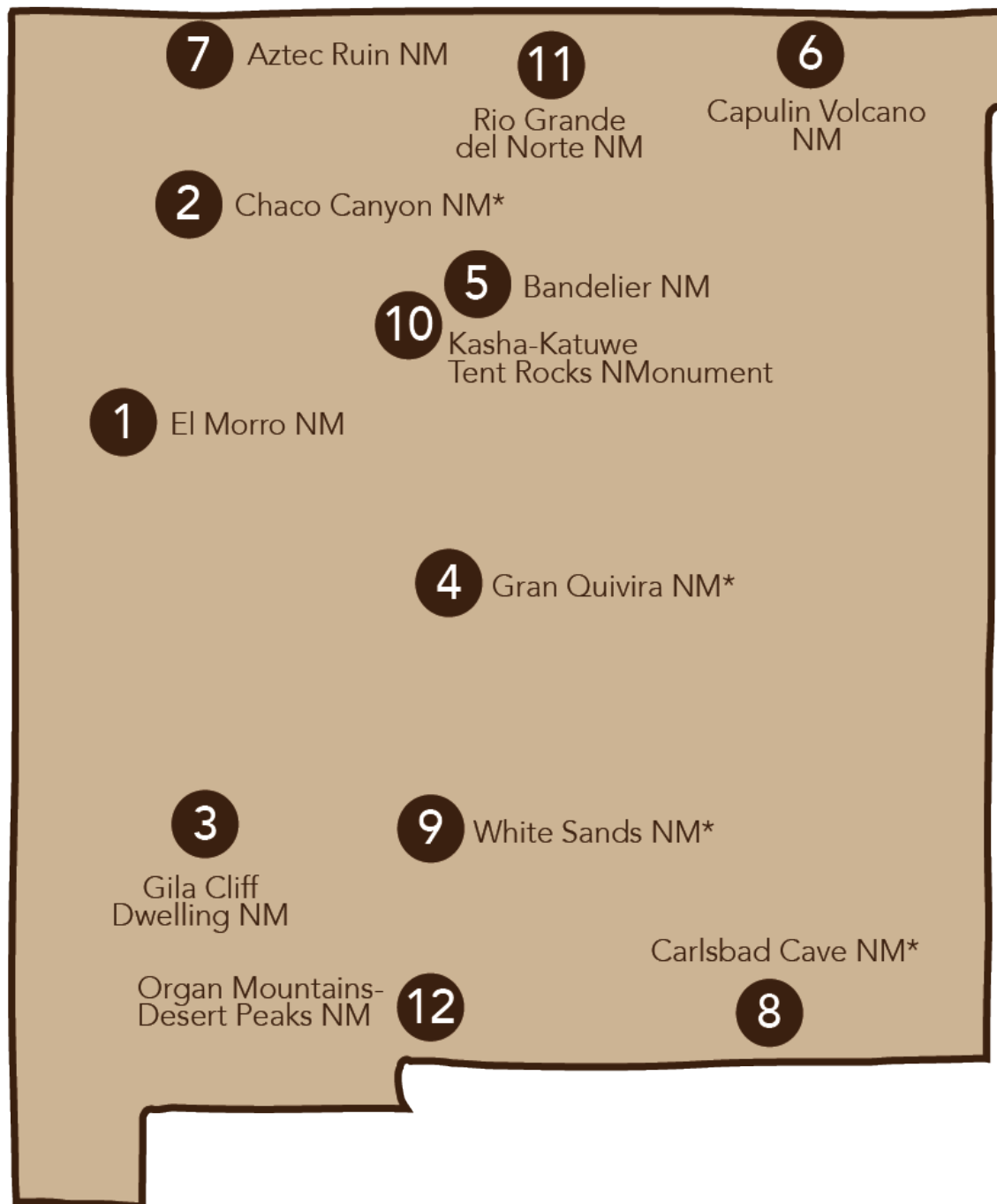
Bob Wick, BLM

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

The monument includes six stunning mountain ranges, striking geologic features, and prehistoric artifacts and is rich in ecological diversity. It was designated after decades of advocacy by a broad coalition that included local businesses, sportsmen, Tribal and Hispanic leaders, faith leaders, veterans, and others across southern New Mexico.

TREASURED PLACES IN NEW MEXICO

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.*

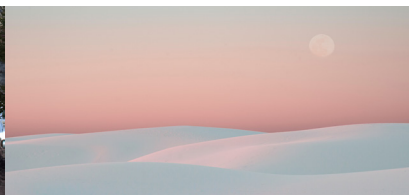
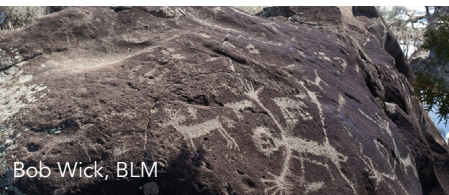




Photo by Doc Johnny Bravo

MONUMENT		DESIGNATION DATE	PRESIDENT	ACRES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	UPDATES
1	El Morro National Monument	Dec 8, 1906	President T. Roosevelt	160	National Park Service	
2	Chaco Canyon National Monument	March 11, 1907	President T. Roosevelt	10,643	National Park Service	The name was changed to Chaco Culture National Historical Park on Dec 19, 1980. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 . On Aug. 19, 2013, it was designated as an International Dark Sky Park .
3	Gila Cliff Dwelling National Monument	Nov. 16, 1907	President T. Roosevelt	160	Bureau of Land Management	
4	Gran Quivira National Monument	Nov 1, 1909	President Taft	150	National Park Service	The monument was abolished in 1980 and the funds were given to Salinas National Monument, which was redesignated Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument on Oct 28, 1988.
5	Bandelier National Monument	Feb 11, 1916	President Wilson	23,352	National Park Service	
6	Capulin Volcano National Monument	Feb 11, 1916	President Wilson	640	National Park Service	
7	Aztec Ruin National Monument	Jan 24, 1923	President Harding	4.6	National Park Service	
8	Carlsbad Cave National Monument	Oct 25, 1923	President Coolidge	719	National Park Service	On May 14, 1930, it became Carlsbad Caverns National Park . Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995 .
9	White Sands National Monument	Jan 18, 1933	President Hoover	142,987	National Park Service	On Dec. 20, 2019, the monument was redesignated as a national park.
10	Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument	Jan 17, 2001	President Clinton	4,148	Bureau of Land Management	
11	Rio Grande del Norte National Monument	March 25, 2013	President Obama	242,555	Bureau of Land Management	
12	Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument	May 21, 2014	President Obama	496,330	Bureau of Land Management	