

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 Nevada, the outdoor recreation economy supported 45,501 jobs, \$2.1 billion in wages and salaries, and was 2.3% 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.

Butte photo by Mason Cummings

ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN NEVADA

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



Basin and Range National Monument

The monument includes basins that are framed by Nevada's long and narrow rugged mountain ranges and contains historic Indigenous artifacts and petroglyphs, and unique flora and fauna. The land tells the story of a rich cultural tradition, Indigenous peoples, and explorers and fur trappers first visiting the area in the 1820s.

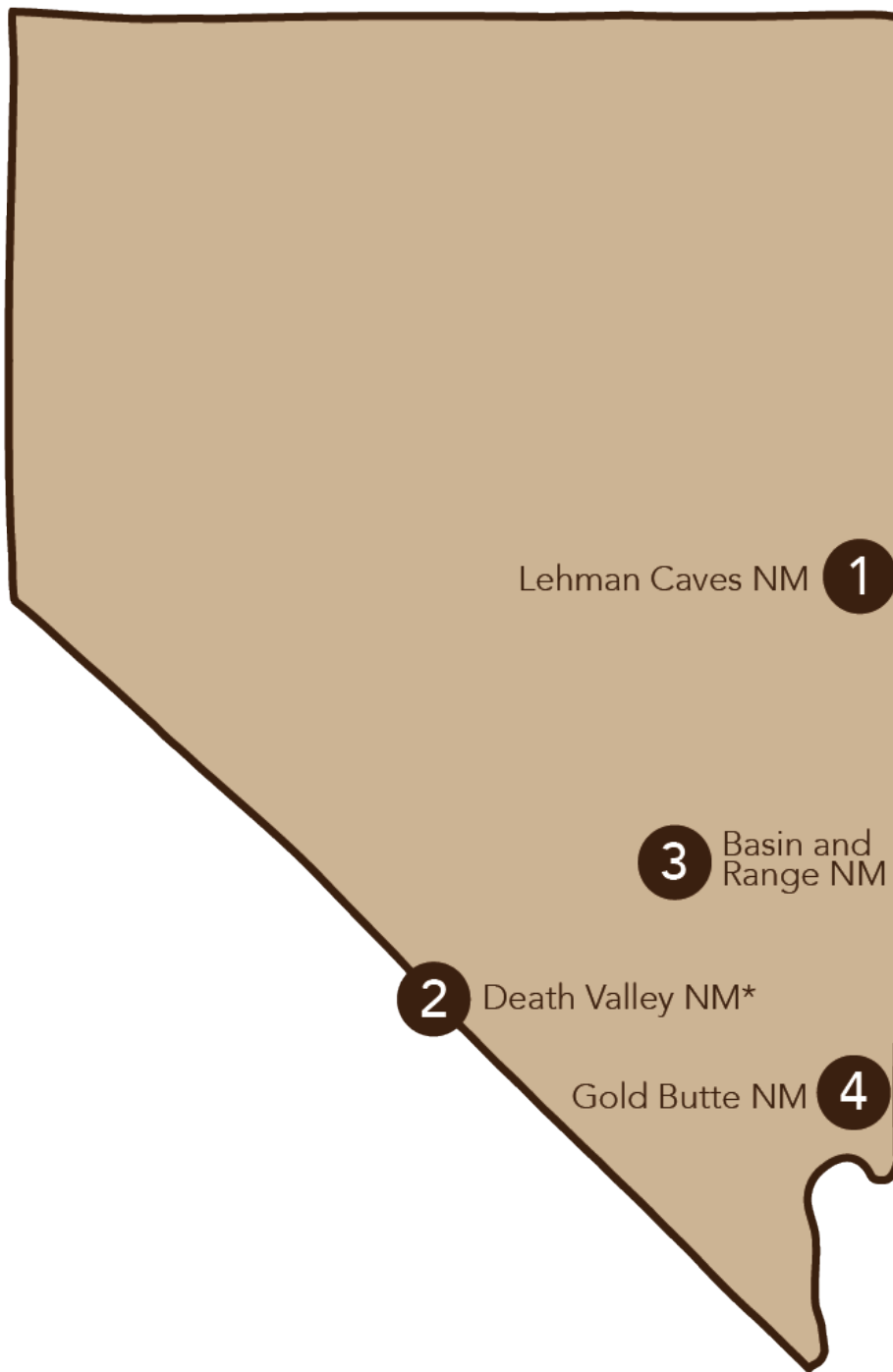


Gold Butte National Monument

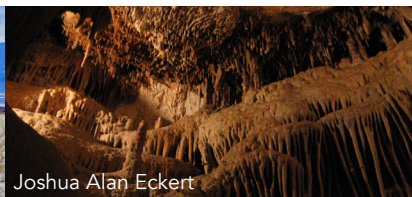
The area contains world-renowned archeological sites and objects, which show that humans have long interacted with this harsh desert environment. It is sacred to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and provides habitat to many plant and wildlife species, including the only pocket of Arizona cypress found in Nevada and the Mojave desert tortoise, which is listed under the Endangered Species Act.

TREASURED PLACES IN NEVADA

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.*



Joshua Alan Eckert



Mason Cummings



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The Mountain Pact



Photo by Mason Cummings

MONUMENT		DESIGNATION DATE	PRESIDENT	ACRES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	UPDATES
1	Lehman Caves National Monument	Jan. 24, 1922	President Harding	593	National Park Service	
2	Death Valley National Monument (California/Nevada)	Feb. 11, 1933	President Hoover	848,581	National Park Service	On Oct. 31, 1994, redesignated a national park, the country's largest national park outside of Alaska.
3	Basin and Range National Monument	July 10, 2015	President Obama	704	Bureau of Land Management	
4	Gold Butte National Monument	Dec. 28, 2016	President Obama	300,000	Bureau of Land Management	