

NEVADA

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in Nevada

Nevada is home to many national monuments that were designated using the Antiquities Act including Basin and Range, Gold Butte, and the recently designated Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. Support for the protection of public lands in Nevada has steadily been on the rise. This is demonstrated by polling showing that 87% support presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments.

87

percent of Nevada residents support presidents using the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments.

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument | Photo Credit: Justin McAfee

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"I'm lucky that my parents imbued in me and my siblings a love for our public lands. Some of my fondest memories growing up are from being outside - marveling at the redwood forests in California or the blue waters of Crater Lake in Oregon; laying out under the stars in Moab, Utah, and exploring Arches National Park or hiking high in the Uintahs with a church youth group; and parking our beaten-up green motor home in Yellowstone while it rained cats and dogs. My wife and I have tried to give our kids the same experience, visiting national parks and monuments from Mesa Verde in Colorado to Denali in Alaska. But more than anything, we enjoy our backyard treasure, hiking, and biking in Red Rock National Conservation Area, along with Gold Butte and our newest national monument, Avi Kwa Ame. America is truly beautiful.

In Nevada, we recognize the beauty we are surrounded by and the billions in recreational tourist dollars generated by visitation to the many national parks, monuments and protected spaces here in southern Nevada and as a gateway to Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. Many of those same visitors will enjoy places like Bears Ears and the new Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument."

Clark County, Nevada Commissioner Justin Jones



Gold Butte National Monument | Photo Credit: Bob Wick

NEVADA - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

In 2021, Nevada was ranked #14 for the percentage of its economy based on outdoor recreation. In 2022, this sector accounted for 2.7% of state GDP, \$2.8 billion in wages, 53,835 direct jobs, and added a value of \$6.1 billion to the state economy.

Outdoor activities like RVing, motorcycling, ATVing, climbing, hiking, and camping are surging in popularity in Nevada, leading to growth in the outdoor recreation economy and benefits for the people who call this state home. The importance of this sector is being recognized by Nevada State Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, who announced millions in funding for an industry that they see as “the backbone of our economy here in Nevada.” The outdoor recreation economy will also continue to be supported by the designation of new national monuments. In 2019 these protected landscapes received 14 million visitors throughout the state.

"Protected public lands, like national monuments, are important to Nevadans and Renoites. Places like Avi Kwa Ame, Tule Springs Fossil Beds, Gold Butte, and Basin & Range national monuments bring us peace of mind, protect important cultural resources, and generate economic revenue. Protected places like these help sustain our state's vital outdoor recreation economy, which is why and how so many of our small towns and businesses thrive. The vitality of our communities is linked to the health of our public lands. I encourage President Biden to designate more national monuments across the country."

City of Reno, Nevada Council Member Devon Reese



Basin and Range National Monument | Photo Credit: Bob Wick

NEVADA - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

National Park Service Visits, Spending, and Economic Contributions to the Nevada Economy

State	Total Recreation Visits	Total Visitor Spending (\$2022)	Jobs	Economic Output (\$2022)
Nevada	4,393,768	\$224,100,000	2,357	\$283,400,000

National Park Service National Monuments Designated Through the Use of the Antiquities Act

Park Unit	Total Recreation Visits	Total Visitor Spending \$2022	Jobs	Labor Income \$2022	Value Added \$2022	Economic Output \$2022
<u>Great Basin National Park*</u>	142,115	\$9,151,000	122	\$2,644,000	\$4,847,000	\$9,668,000

*Since this place's initial designation, this location's management and/or name has been updated. See our 2022 Mountain Pact [Nevada](#) National Monuments Fact Sheet for more information

Bureau of Land Management National Monuments Designated Through the Use of the Antiquities Act

<u>Basin and Range National Monument</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2016 study found that <u>Basin and Range National Monument</u>, along with 9 others, contributed \$156 million in revenue and created 1,800 jobs per year. • According to the <u>2021 Annual Manager's Report</u>, in 2021 Basin and Range National Monument received about 5,145 visits and 3,231 visitor days.
<u>Gold Butte National Monument</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis estimated that the <u>Gold Butte National Monument designation could produce as much as \$2.7 million in economic output in the nearby community.</u> • According to the <u>2021 Annual Manager's Report</u>, in FY21 there were an estimated 114,458 visits to Gold Butte National Monument.

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

Located south of Las Vegas, Avi Kwa Ame, roughly translates to “Spirit Mountain” in Mojave. The mountain, which is on the eastern boundary of the newly established 506,814 acre national monument, is sacred to twelve Native American tribes. The new monument was designated by President Biden on March 21, 2023. Through the hard work of these tribes, local residents in the towns of Searchlight, Boulder City, and Laughlin, the Nevada Legislature, and a coalition of conservation and recreation groups, this sweeping landscape has now become Nevada’s



Photo Credit: Justin McAfee

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

4th national monument. Rich in both history and beauty, these protections for Avi Kwa Ame will preserve petroglyphs, historic mining and pioneer-era artifacts, and territory for rare and threatened wildlife such as the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep.

In 2021, Data for Progress found that 62% of voters were supportive of the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, while in 2022, another poll found that this number had risen to 77%. Then in 2023, the same year Avi Kwa Ame was designated a national monument, the Conservation in the West Poll found 83% of Nevadans support this monument.

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

"President Biden's designation of Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument is a profound validation of our efforts and a fulfillment of a promise deeply cherished. It's an exhilarating moment to finally acknowledge 'Avi Kwa Ame National Monument' — a name that resonates with the sacred pulse of the Tribes whose genesis and creation stories are rooted in these lands. Their tireless work and years of advocacy have brought us to this pivotal moment, signaling a significant and hopeful shift in the federal government's approach to Indigenous peoples.

This historic designation is just the beginning. While we celebrate the protection of Avi Kwa Ame, we remain aware that countless other sacred spaces across Tribal Nations await similar respect and guardianship. In Nevada, we are jubilant to see the dedication of so many come to a successful resolution. Our journey continues as we collaborate with the Biden-Harris Administration to affirm the sovereignty of Tribal Nations and uplift their voices regarding their ancestral lands. Today, as we embrace this landmark achievement, we are invigorated by the promise it represents — a future where the sanctity of Indigenous heritage is acknowledged and honored."

Taylor Patterson, Executive Director of Native Voters Alliance Nevada



Photo Credit: Alan O'Neill

NEVADA - President Biden Designated National Monuments

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

"We are grateful President Biden has designated Avi Kwa Ame National Monument. This area in Clark County is rich in both history, wildlife, and beauty. For years, Tribes, local elected officials, community leaders, and businesses have supported the creation of a national monument because protecting the area is both the right thing to do and the economically beneficial approach. Nearby communities like Searchlight and Laughlin will benefit from the financial impact of achieving monument status.

Avi Kwa Ame, the Mojave name for Spirit Mountain, is located in Clark County, Nevada, protecting over 500,000 acres just south of Las Vegas and surrounding the town of Searchlight. This landscape not only represents the origin place for nearly a dozen Yuman-speaking tribes, but is a source of life and livelihood for these Indigenous communities and a sacred place for Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute people. It is also home to some of the world's rarest species of flora and fauna—desert tortoise and Bighorn Sheep—and the world's largest Joshua Tree forest."



Clark County, Nevada Commissioner Michael Naft

Photo Credit: Alan © Neill

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument

"Clark County is home to more than two million residents who enjoy our public lands. As we've seen over the past three years, access to public lands is more vital to our health and well-being than we ever thought.

We also recognize the devastating worldwide effects of climate change and in our community specifically, with Las Vegas being one of the fastest-warming cities in the country.

The Clark County Commission passed a supportive resolution and joined the overwhelming local support for the establishment of Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument. We thank President Biden for using his authority, under the Antiquities Act, for designating Avi Kwa Ame a national monument! Actions like this thwart the loss of biodiversity and combat climate change and we encourage him to designate more national monuments across the country and here in Nevada."



Clark County, Nevada Commissioner Justin Jones