

NEW MEXICO

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in New Mexico

There is strong support among New Mexicans for the protection of more public lands with 87% of people in the state supporting presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments. 63% of these respondents also consider themselves to be conservationists and 85% are in favor of protecting 30% of Americas land and waters by 2030.

This strong support may be bolstered by the fact that national monuments in New Mexico have been shown to increase spending and visitation. This includes Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and the recently designated Castner Range National Monument, which is just over the state border in Texas.

87

percent of New Mexicans support presidents continuing to use their ability to protect existing public lands as national monuments.

NEW MEXICO

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in New Mexico

"Public lands hold cultural significance, provide recreational opportunities, contribute to the economy, and sustain the natural ecosystems that support a healthy environment in New Mexico. As we celebrate the tenth year since Río Grande del Norte National Monument was established, I've reflected on how important this special place is to so many of the residents and visitors to Taos County. The mighty river and dramatic gorge often welcome many visitors to our community. New Mexico's public lands will continue to benefit from increased protections. We look to President Biden to establish more national monuments so that other communities are able to enjoy the many benefits that come with having a national monument in their region."



Taos County, New Mexico County Commissioner Darlene Vigil

"The Biden administration can reach the goal of protecting more nature by using the Antiquities Act to designate new national monuments proposed through locally and community-led efforts. This will 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."



Mayor Alan Webber of the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in New Mexico

"In the West we know firsthand the powers of the great outdoors, and we're so thankful for our protected public lands like national monuments. For too long, our country has rapidly depleted our natural resources, often at the added destruction of public health, Native rights, and local communities. I appreciate that the Biden administration is proactively working to undo the damage and move forward with smart, sustainable policies, and designating national monuments through the President's authority granted by the Antiquities Act.

Public lands, our deep cultural history, and national monuments play a critical role in helping New Mexico remain the "land of enchantment." Our communities depend upon the world class hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities these lands provide since our state's culture, heritage and way-of-life are forever connected to these protected lands.

I've spoken with the businesses, families, and communities that rely on the land, not just for its enduring beauty, but for sustenance, mental, and physical health. These lands belong to all of us, not just the CEOs with the closest contacts in Washington D.C.

More than that, they belong to the future generations of New Mexicans, and it is the responsibility of all elected leaders to protect those lands for future families. Our national monuments conserve cultural sites and scenic areas, and can help at-risk and endangered species recover. They can also help improve watershed quality, which is especially critical in the arid Southwest.

The damage to our climate and landscapes wasn't done in a day and it won't be undone quickly either, but with President Biden's leadership and a coalition of stakeholders who represent all those concerned, and locally led efforts, we can heal our earth and protect all that it provides. We owe that to our land, ourselves, and our future generations."

Santa Fe County, New Mexico County Commissioner Chair and President of Women of the National Association of Counties (NACo), Anna Hansen



NEW MEXICO

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in New Mexico

"Our county is grateful to have two national monuments right in our backyard. Our local and regional economy has greatly benefited from the increased tourism generated by these national treasures like the nearly 500,000 acre Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks. Every day residents enjoy being able to recreate, rejuvenate, and recuperate on lands so close to home. Further protections of our vital public lands, and designations of more national monuments, is important as it will add a competitive economic advantage in southern New Mexico but also so that future generations may enjoy them as we have."



Doña Ana County, New Mexico County Commissioner and Vietnam Veteran Shannon Reynolds

NEW MEXICO

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in New Mexico

"The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks (OMDP) national monument provides a range of recreational opportunities for Las Cruces, while drawing tens of thousands of visitors to our region each year. The positive economic impact has been estimated from \$11-33M/year, and that money is invested back into our community through infrastructure, economic development, and community programming.

In addition to the added economic and recreational benefits of the monument, the national monument designation has led to place-based curriculum in local schools, broader participation in nature-conserving recreation, and elevated a broader understanding of the land's meaning in the context of our cultural and indigenous histories.

While our region has always been extraordinarily beautiful, the national monument designation creates a more clearly articulated sense of place and appreciation for our landscapes.

There are only upsides: a more heartfelt sense of place combined with systematic investments by both residents and visitors in preserving and protecting the land.

Every day, just as the sun is setting, I walk my dog in a nearby desert area. The Organ Mountains loom in the midground and makes these walks feel like I'm living in "America the Beautiful"— my home.

Please up the pace of designation. Communities will match the investment with care, advocacy, and education that will result in a future America that values natural stewardship."

City of Las Cruces, New Mexico Council Member Becky Corran



NEW MEXICO

National Monuments Established Through the Use of the Antiquities Act in New Mexico

"The City of Las Cruces is fortunate to have two national monuments - Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Prehistoric Trackways, and one national park that started as a national monument - White Sands National Park, near our community. I have been pleasantly surprised how many visitors from all over the country and internationally come to visit these amazing places. Any day when I visit, one can see vehicle license plates from everywhere! We have seen economic benefits from having protected public lands in our backyard. In fact, we are so grateful for these national monuments, we supported the establishment of the nearby Castner Range National Monument.

The Chihuahuan desert of New Mexico, west Texas and Eastern Arizona was once 90% grasslands. Now it's merely 25% grass, the rest has succumbed to desertification. In the mid-19th century only 4.8% was in mesquite-dominated sand dunes, whereas now it is over 50%. By protecting our public lands, we protect the habitat for the ever-important diverse wildlife. I encourage all elected officials to work towards preserving public lands for Conservation Areas, National Monuments, National Parks and Wilderness. I encourage President Biden to use his authority soon to declare even more national monuments."



City of Las Cruces, New Mexico Mayor Pro Tem Emeritus Gill Sorg

NEW MEXICO - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

In 2021, New Mexico was ranked #26 for the percentage of their economy based on outdoor recreation. In 2022, this sector accounted for 1.9% of state GDP, \$1.1 billion in wages, 27,977 direct jobs, and added a value of \$2.4 billion to the state economy.

It is easy to say that national monuments and other protected landscapes are good for a state's economy, but when it comes to Bandelier National Monument, hard numbers drive home this fact. In 2021, this landscape drew 270,000 visitors who spent over \$18.9 million in the surrounding community.



Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management

Río Grande del Norte National Monument

The designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in 2012 had a similar effect, increasing visitation to the surrounding area three-fold over the last decade. This is why it can be such a hit to a community when outdoor areas have to close, like they did across New Mexico during the Spring and Summer of 2022, when wildfire spread across the state. Research also found that the Gila and San Francisco Rivers in New Mexico contribute 3,900 jobs and \$92.4 million in income to residents of the state and lead to \$427.8 million being added to the state economy. These economic gains would also be exacerbated if these rivers were granted the status of Wild and Scenic. This is shown by the fact that, according to Outdoor Recreation and New Mexico's Economy report, the outdoor recreation economy is growing faster than the state economy, seeing 11% growth between 2012 and 2017 compared to the state's 4%. Moreover, nature based recreation's contribution to GDP grew 14% during this period, compared to other types (urban sports, amusement parks, festivals, etc.), which grew 8%. Contributing to this growth is the fact that residents of New Mexico spend \$4.8 billion on outdoor recreation in the state each year. Access to the outdoors is therefore clearly important to New Mexicans as well as visitors.

NEW MEXICO - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Drives Economic Growth - 2023 Report - Visitation to the monument has more than tripled from 183,900 in 2012, prior to the site's monument designation, to 612,781 in 2022.

- Total cumulative economic impacts since monument designation are more than \$234 million, including \$35 million of positive economic impacts in 2022 alone.
- Visitation to the monument supported 305 Jobs in 2022
- Visitation to the Monument has generated \$12.9 million in increased tax revenue for state, county, and local governments since designation in 2014. In 2022, visitation to the monument generated \$1.9 million in tax revenues.
- Economic impacts from visitation to the monument have exceeded initial predictions made prior to protection by 51 percent.
- The designation of the monument has encouraged more local residents to visit; locals comprise 61 percent of total visitors.



Photo Credit: Bureau of Land Management

NEW MEXICO - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

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

State	Total Recreation Visits	Total Visitor Spending (\$2022)	Jobs	Economic Output (\$2022)
New Mexico	2,261,573	\$139,300,000	1,836	\$174,000,000

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

<u>Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument</u>	Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument saw continual increases in visitation rates, <u>resulting in 117,146 visitors in FY 2019</u> . In 2020 the monument closed due to COVID19 and remains so.
<u>Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Between 2000 and 2020</u>, Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument contributed to the growth of Dona Ana County's population by 26% and the number of service sector jobs by 45%. • <u>Between 2001 and 2015</u>, this area also saw 17% growth in real per capita income. • Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks now <u>supports 305 jobs</u> and has contributed \$234 million in economic impacts, resulting in \$13 million in tax revenue, over the past decade.
<u>Rio Grande del Norte National Monument</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Between 2000 and 2020</u>, the population grew by 15% and tourism related jobs grew by 27% in Taos county. • <u>Between 2001 and 2015</u>, Rio Grande del Norte National Monument also supported 8% job growth, with 11% growth in the service sector, and 27% growth in real per capita income in that county.

NEW MEXICO - The Economic Benefits of National Monuments

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>Aztec Ruins National Monument</u>	50,396	\$3,328,000	44	\$1,178,000	\$2,097,000	\$3,990,000
<u>Bandelier National Monument</u>	210,941	\$15,018,000	200	\$6,212,000	\$10,742,000	\$19,649,000
<u>Capulin Volcano National Monument</u>	88,541	\$3,029,000	38	\$990,000	\$1,661,000	\$3,160,000
<u>Carlsbad Caverns National Park*</u>	390,932	\$28,452,000	353	\$9,838,000	\$16,890,000	\$31,166,000
<u>Chaco Culture National Historical Park*</u>	41,594	\$2,525,000	33	\$994,000	\$1,722,000	\$3,152,000
<u>El Morro National Monument</u>	60,501	\$4,319,000	56	\$1,307,000	\$2,375,000	\$4,672,000
<u>Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument</u>	43,608	\$2,880,000	37	\$919,000	\$1,602,000	\$3,066,000
<u>Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument</u>	37,190	\$2,456,000	34	\$1,045,000	\$1,770,000	\$3,246,000
<u>White Sands National Park*</u>	705,127	\$42,405,000	572	\$16,168,000	\$26,111,000	\$50,919,000

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

Castner Range National Monument

Abutting Las Cruces, New Mexico, Castner Range National Monument in Texas encompasses 6,672 acres. President Biden designated the new monument on March 21, 2023. The monument is within the Franklin Mountain Range and is located on Fort Bliss. As the first ever national monument to be overseen by the U.S. Army, Castner Range has a unique history that includes 40 years as an Army training grounds as well as numerous archeological sites and importance to the Comanche, Hopi, Pueblo, and Kiowa Indigenous peoples. It is also a critical habitat for multiple endangered species for whom its preservation will provide important ecosystem connectivity. Of particular note, this new monument is famous for its spring blooms of Mexican poppies, which blanket the landscape in orange each year. Due to the presence of dangerous explosive devices, Castner Range is not currently open to recreation, but many are hopeful that with its new protected status, this will change within the next few years.



Photo Credit: Frontera Land Alliance

NEW MEXICO - Potential National Monuments

Mimbres Peak

The stunning mountains and surrounding valleys in Luna County, New Mexico, serve as a gorgeous backdrop treasured by area residents. They also host diverse wildlife and plants and are home to documented cultural and historic sites that hold a spiritual connection for Native people and local communities. These same lands provide opportunities for recreation, subsistence, solitude, and connecting with nature that residents and visitors have valued for many generations.

The proposed Mimbres Peaks National Monument contains some of the most biologically and culturally rich federal public lands in the region. This part of the Chihuahuan Desert is the most biologically diverse desert in the Western Hemisphere. The mountains and their springs and drainages provide critical water resources in an otherwise arid environment.

Paleontological finds show that species have called this region home dating back to Devonian, Paleozoic, Cretaceous, and Mesozoic eras. Rare and endangered wildlife and plant species continue to thrive in this harsh region, including the prized Persian Ibex, pronghorn, quail, fox, mountain lion, mule deer, javelina, coyote, and badger. Recorded sightings of Northern Aplomado Falcons and Long-Billed Curlews indicate use by sensitive and threatened species.

Over the past decade the network of protected public lands around Luna County have also spurred outdoor recreation and served as a key economic driver. National monument protections for some federally managed public lands in Luna County would conserve Indigenous cultural and historical resources, protect wildlife, preserve traditional land uses including hunting and grazing, and boost the local economy.

The idea of a national monument is drawing interest, including from local and federally elected officials, Tribes and Pueblos, the local chamber of commerce, conservation and outdoor recreation groups.

Photo Credit: Jay Hemphill

NEW MEXICO - Potential National Monuments

Mimbres Peak

"The lands surrounding Deming hold stories and a history that have shaped our community for generations. They also hold opportunities for the future. We need to look no further than neighboring counties to know that protected public lands are good for our local economies and the people who call New Mexico home. That's why over the past year he city and county have been looking at the opportunities, the process, and the concept of a new national monument. This hard work has culminated in the launch announcement which opens the door for everyone to get involved and help shape the future of public lands in Luna County."



Luna County, New Mexico County Commissioner Ray Trejo



percent of people in New Mexico are in favor of protecting 30% of Americas land and waters by 2030.

Photo Credit: Wayne Suggs