

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 Utah, the outdoor recreation economy supported 61,890 jobs, \$2.7 billion in wages and salaries, and was 2.5% 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 UTAH



Matthew Dillon

Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Perched high in Utah's Wasatch Mountains, the monument consists of [three spectacularly decorated caverns](#). This system of caves is known for its abundance of helictites, colorful formations, and unusual history. President Warren G. Harding used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to set the caves aside because it "...is of unusual scientific interest and importance."



Bernard Spragg

Natural Bridges National Monument

Utah's first national monument, the [bridges, sculpted by stone from water](#), are named "Kachina," "Owachomo", and "Sipapu" in honor of ancestral Puebloans who inhabited the area and left rock art.



Tim Peterson

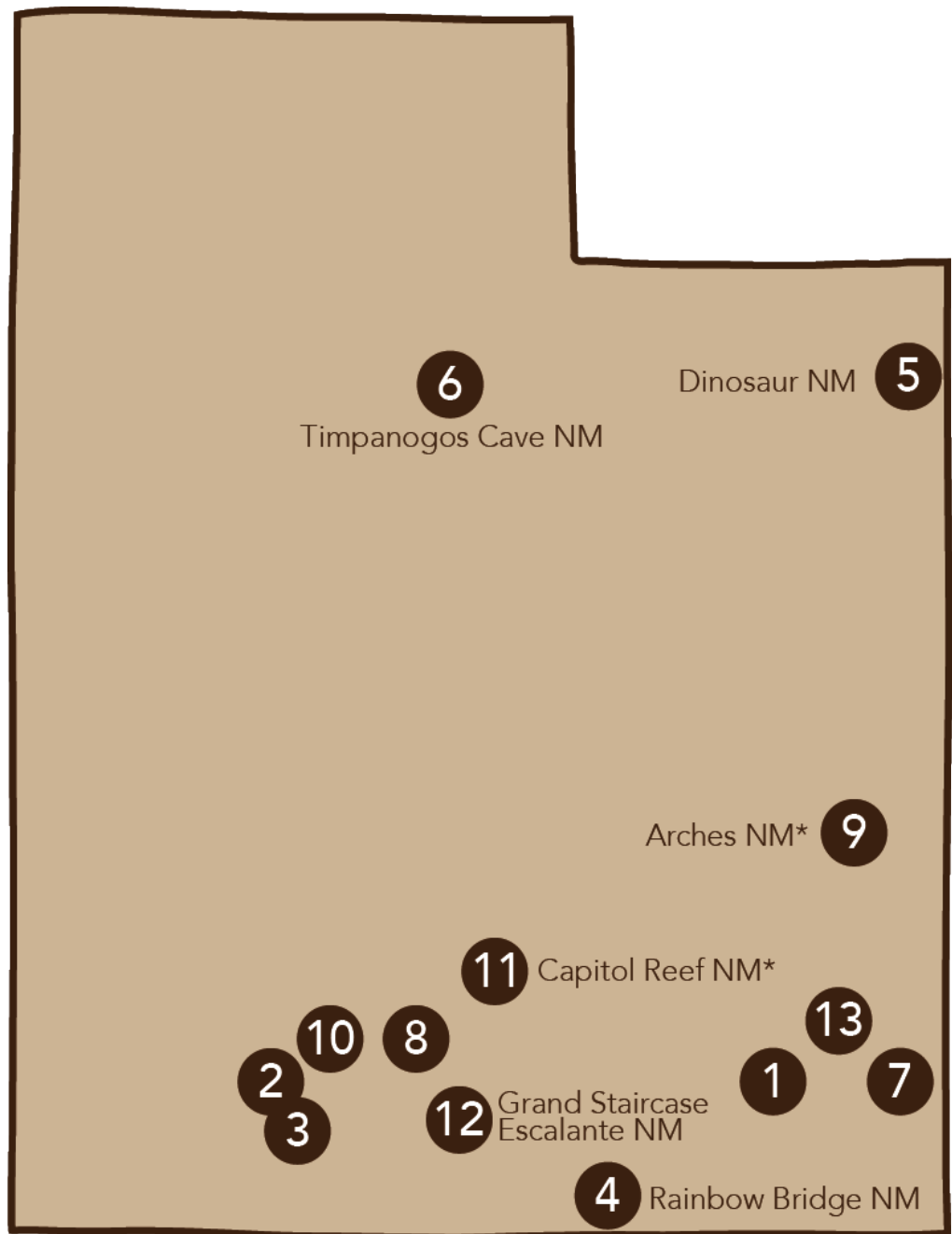
Bears Ears National Monument

The [proclamation](#) states, "For hundreds of generations, native peoples lived in the surrounding deep sandstone canyons, desert mesas, and meadow mountaintops, which constitute one of the densest and most significant cultural landscapes in the United States. Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record that is important to us all, but most notably the land is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation, and Zuni Tribe."

NATIONAL TREASURES IN UTAH

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

- 1 Natural Bridges NM
- 2 Mukuntuweap NM*
- 3 Zion NM*
- 7 Hovenweep NM
- 8 Bryce Canyon NM*
- 10 Cedar Breaks NM
- 13 Bears Ears NM



**Since this place's initial designation, this location's management and/or name has been updated. See details on the next page.*



MONUMENT		DESIGNATION DATE	PRESIDENT	ACRES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	UPDATES
1	Natural Bridges National Monument	April 16, 1908	President T. Roosevelt	120	National Park Service	
2	Mukuntuweap National Monument	Jul 31, 1909	President Taft	15,840	National Park Service	On Nov. 11, 1919, it was designated Zion National Park.
3	Zion National Monument	Jan. 22, 1937	President Taft	49,150	National Park Service	Incorporated into Zion National Park on July 11, 1956.
4	Rainbow Bridge National Monument	May 30, 1910	President Taft	160	National Park Service	
5	Dinosaur National Monument (Colorado/Utah)	Oct 4, 1915	President Wilson	80	National Park Service	
6	Timpanogos Cave National Monument	Oct 14, 1922	President Harding	250	National Park Service	
7	Hovenweep National Monument (Colorado/Utah)	March 2, 1923	President Harding	285	National Park Service	
8	Bryce Canyon National Monument	June 8, 1923	President Harding	7,440	National Park Service	Redesignated Bryce National Park on Feb. 25, 1928.
9	Arches National Monument	April 12, 1929	President Hoover	4,520	National Park Service	Redesignated Arches National Park on Nov. 12, 1971.
10	Cedar Breaks National Monument	Aug 22, 1933	President F.D. Roosevelt	5,701	National Park Service	
11	Capitol Reef National Monument	Aug 2, 1937	President F.D. Roosevelt	37,060	National Park Service	Redesignated Capitol Reef National Park on Dec 18, 1971.
12	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument	Sep 18, 1996	President Clinton	1.7 million	Bureau of Land Management	Boundaries reduced by President Trump on December 4, 2017. Protections restored by President Biden on October 8, 2021.
13	Bears Ears National Monument	Dec 28, 2016	President Obama	1.36 million	Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service	Boundaries reduced by President Trump on December 4, 2017. Protections restored by President Biden on October 8, 2021.