

## 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 Washington, the outdoor recreation economy supported 113,933 jobs, paid \$5.8 billion in wages and salaries, and was 1.7% 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.

San Juan Islands NM photo by BLM

# ICONIC NATIONAL TREASURES IN WASHINGTON

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



## Olympic National Park

Interest in preserving the Olympic Peninsula's spectacular mountains, rain forest, and unique wildlife helped push for national monument designation in the 1890s. In 1981, the park was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



## San Juan Islands National Monument

The proclamation states, "Within Washington State's Puget Sound lies an archipelago of over 450 islands, rocks, and pinnacles known as the San Juan Islands. These islands form an unmatched landscape of contrasts, where forests seem to spring from gray rock and distant, snow-capped peaks provide the backdrop for sandy beaches. Numerous wildlife species can be found here, thriving in the diverse habitats supported by the islands. The presence of archeological sites, historic lighthouses, and a few tight-knit communities testifies that humans have navigated this rugged landscape for thousands of years."



# NATIONAL TREASURES IN WASHINGTON

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

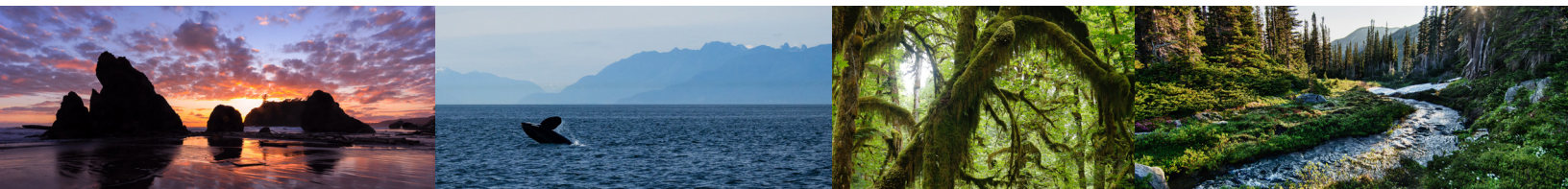






Photo by BLM

MONUMENT		DESIGNATION DATE	PRESIDENT	ACRES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	UPDATES
1	Olympic National Monument	March 2, 1909	President T. Roosevelt	610,650	National Park Service	On June 29, 1938, it was designated Olympic National Park.
2	Hanford Reach National Monument	June 9, 2000	President Clinton	195,000	Fish and Wildlife Service	
3	Minidoka Internment National Monument (Idaho/Washington)	Jan 17, 2001	President Clinton	72	National Park Service	Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, which honors the first Japanese Americans forced from their homes in 1942, is part of Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho.
4	San Juan Islands National Monument	March 25, 2013	President Obama	1,000	Bureau of Land Management	