

ANTIQUITIES ACT

May 2017

THE SITUATION



The Antiquities Act of 1906 authorizes the president to designate national monuments on **EXISTING federal land**, including land under federal waters. Both the Antiquities Act and national monuments are extremely popular – the 2017 Conservation in the West Poll conducted by Colorado College found that 80% of voters in the West support existing national monument designations.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS & PUBLIC LANDS

Since Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was established in Utah in 1996, in nearby Garfield and Kane counties **population grew by 8%**, real **personal income grew by 40%**, **jobs grew by 38%** and real per capita income grew by 30% (*Headwaters Economics, 2017*).

Per capita income in 2010, in western non-metropolitan counties with at least 100,000 acres of protected public lands was on average **\$4,360 higher than per capita income in similar counties with no protected public lands** (*Headwaters Economics, 2014*).

On an annual basis, outdoor recreation across the country generates **\$887 billion in consumer spending**, supports **7.6 million jobs**, and brings in **\$65.3 billion and \$59.2 billion in federal tax and state and local tax revenue**, respectively (*Outdoor Industry, 2017*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT PUBLIC INPUT

National monuments are established after years of close federal consultation with multiple local stakeholders and elected officials. They are a product of careful consideration and extraordinary scientific and historical analysis. There's no better evidence for this than the trove of recently released documents showcasing the extensive, years-long record of contact between officials at the Department of the Interior and a wide array of federal, state, and local stakeholders leading up to the December 2016 designation of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.

WHAT ARE REPUBLICANS DOING?

Attacking the Act. Flanked by House and Senate Republicans, President Trump signed an executive order on April 26 directing Interior Secretary Zinke to review the establishment history and current status of certain national monuments created since 1996 under the Antiquities Act. Most observers view this order as a thinly veiled assault on decades of conservation gains. The President does not have legal authority to shrink or abolish existing monuments and any such action President Trump takes will be challenged in the courts. If they want to rescind or shrink a national monument, **Republicans in Congress should try to pass legislation.**

WHY HAVEN'T REPUBLICANS SIMPLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION?

Any Member of Congress can introduce a bill to modify or abolish a national monument. Republicans would prefer Trump do their work for them, sparing them the backlash from the majority of Americans who love their national monuments.