



“Containing the highest known density of archaeological sites in the Nation, the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument holds evidence of cultures and traditions spanning thousands of years.”

Proclamation 7317—Establishment of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

ABOUT THE CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT (CANM)

- Located in the Four Corners region of southwestern Colorado, the monument is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- The 175,160 acre monument was designated in 2000 by President Clinton.
- The rugged landscape and remarkable cultural resources of the CANM offer visitors an unparalleled opportunity to observe and study an Ancestral Puebloan culture and the area's fragile resources.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Humans have been a part of this particular landscape for at least 10,000 years.
- The CANM has been a focal point for archaeological interest for over 140 years.
- More than 6,000 ancient sites have been identified - including cliff dwellings, kivas, and rock art - and all represent Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) and other Native American cultures. There may be as many as 20,000 undiscovered sites.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND USE OF THE CANM

- The CANM provides fantastic recreation opportunities, including hunting, hiking, horseback riding, biking, rock climbing and camping.
- BLM's multi-use management plan allows for grazing and oil and gas development on parts of the monument, just as it did before the designation.

“The monument is a huge part of the overall story of the Ancestral Puebloans, and we rely heavily on its importance to our tourism economy.”

- Kelly Kirkpatrick, head of the Mesa Verde County Visitor Bureau

LOCAL SUPPORT & OUTDOOR ECONOMY

83% of Coloradans support existing monument designations (*Colorado College Conservation in the West Poll, 2017*).

In Colorado, the outdoor recreation economy supports **125,000** jobs and contributes **\$994M** in state and local tax revenue (*Outdoor Industry Association, 2017*).

From 2000 to 2008 in the CANM region, population grew by **5%** and jobs grew by **10%**. These increases mirror other western counties with national monuments or other protected lands.

Protect Our National Monuments!

President Trump and Republicans in Congress want to take public lands away from everyday Americans and hand them over to oil, gas and mining companies. Last month, President Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Department of the Interior to review the establishment history and current status of 27 national monuments created since 1996 under the Antiquities Act – a law Congress passed more than a century ago that authorizes the president to designate national monuments on existing federal land. On June 10, 2017, the Secretary of the Interior will produce a preliminary recommendation, focused on Bears Ears National Monument. By August 24, Secretary Zinke will make a final recommendation as to whether the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and the other monuments under review should be modified or rescinded.