

# FOIA MARKER

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**Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument**

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## **V. General Information**

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**PRESIDENT CLINTON:**  
**PROTECTING AMERICA'S NATURAL AND HISTORIC TREASURES**  
December 14, 1999

*President Clinton will make two announcements today on new and proposed actions to protect critical lands around the country. The Administration will forward to Congress a list of 18 natural and historic sites proposed for protection with \$35 million secured through the Administration's Lands Legacy initiative. The President also will announce that he is studying recommendations from Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for the creation or enlargement of four national monuments on federal lands in Arizona and California.*

**Preserving America's Lands Legacy.** As part of the recent budget agreement, the President secured \$652 million in FY 2000 for his Lands Legacy initiative, a 42 percent increase. About a third of the funding will support efforts by states and communities to protect farms, forests, urban parks, and other local green spaces. Much of the rest is committed to federal acquisition of New Mexico's Baca Ranch and other specified lands, from the Everglades to the California desert. The remaining \$35 million is available for federal acquisition of other sites. Today, the Administration will propose to the Appropriations committees, for their concurrence, protection of 18 sites, including:

- Expansion of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida -- America's first refuge, established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 -- to protect habitat of the endangered wood stork, endangered manatee, and juvenile sea turtles (\$4.6 million).
- Steps toward acquisition of the Atlanta birth home and burial place of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and neighboring properties within the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (\$3.5 million).
- Expansion of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge on Hawaii's Big Island, including habitat for nine endangered bird and plant species (\$1.6 million).
- Additions to two Civil War battlefields -- Stones River in Tennessee, and Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania in Virginia (\$3.8 million).
- Land surrounding Lake Logan and adjoining the Shining Rock Wilderness in Pisgah National Forest, at the foot of North Carolina's Cold Mountain (\$1.25 million).
- Additional acreage within the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway linking the Cascade Range to Puget Sound in Washington state (\$3.7 million).

**Proposed National Monuments.** President Clinton will announce that he has received recommendations from Secretary Babbitt for the creation or expansion of four national monuments on federal lands in Arizona and California. The President, who had requested that the Secretary report to him on unique and fragile places in need of additional protection, plans to study the recommendations and reach a decision on each proposal early next year. The Secretary is recommending:

- Designation of a new 1 million-acre Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument on federal land on the north rim of the Grand Canyon.
- Designation of a new 71,100-acre Agua Fria National Monument on federal lands north of Phoenix that contain hundreds of prehistoric sites with petroglyphs (stone inscriptions) and ancient ruins.
- Designation of a new California Coastal National Monument encompassing thousands of federally owned islands, rocks, and reefs off the California Coast.
- An 8,000-acre expansion of Pinnacles National Monument 65 miles south of San Jose to preserve the monument's unique geologic resources.

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## LANDS PROPOSED FOR PROTECTION WITH FY 2000 LANDS LEGACY FUNDING

*December 14, 1999*

In the recent budget agreement, President Clinton secured \$652 million in FY 2000 for his Lands Legacy initiative, a 42 percent increase. About a third of the funding will support efforts by states and communities to protect farms, forests, urban parks, and other local green spaces. Much of the rest is committed to federal acquisition of New Mexico's Baca Ranch and other designated lands, from the Everglades to the California desert. The remaining \$35 million is available for federal acquisition and protection of other sites. Today, the Administration is proposing to the Appropriations committees, that the \$35 million be used to protect the following sites:

### **COLORADO**

**Gunnison Basin** – This \$2.5 million proposal would allow the Bureau of Land Management to help preserve critical elk and Bighorn sheep habitat, communities of threatened and endangered species and scenic views.

**Silver Mountain** – In a partnership with the local community, \$5 million would be used by the Forest Service to acquire lands located near Telluride. This acquisition would provide protection of wildlife habitat and alpine ecosystems and would preserve valuable public recreational resources and open spaces. The historic Alta Townsite would also be preserved and managed under the agreement.

### **FLORIDA**

**Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge** – The FY 2000 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act includes \$2 million for the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for Pelican Island. And additional \$4.6 million would allow the Service to acquire two key tracts to protect the Island's historic and scenic values from residential development.

### **GEORGIA**

**Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site** – \$3.5 million of funding would provide a significant down payment toward acquisition of properties surrounding the birth home and burial place of Martin Luther King Jr., including the King Center. The King family intends to donate the birth home and burial to the Park Service upon completion of these acquisitions.

### **HAWAII**

**Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge** – The \$1.6 million proposal would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire a portion of the McCandless Ranch, which supports the last remaining wild population of the alala, or Hawaiian crow. This acquisition would enhance the Service's ability to control alien species and manage the native plants and animal populations.

-more-

## IDAHO

**Sawtooth National Recreation Area** – This year's budget includes \$1 million for the Forest Service to make easement acquisitions for critical habitat of threatened and endangered fish species, like bull trout and Chinook salmon. The additional \$1 million proposed today would help move the Service towards acquiring the remaining \$7.5 million of high priority land just east of Boise.

## MINNESOTA

**Chippewa National Forest** – Located in northern Minnesota, the Chippewa National Forest has a boundary that overlaps with the Leech Lake Reservation. The new \$550,000 proposal would allow the Forest Service to complete acquisition of a 146-acre tract on the shoreline of Leech Lake, by ensuring that a large span of the lakeshore remains untouched by encroaching development and by protecting wetlands and white cedar swamps.

**Superior National Forest** – Funding of \$500,000 would allow the Forest Service to acquire a key lake front property for recreation and resource protection. This parcel features Native America burial sites, proposed Wild and Scenic River lands, and wilderness entry points.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Lake Logan** – This year's budget includes \$1 million for the Forest Service to acquire portions of a tract within the Pisgah National Forest. An additional \$1.25 million would enable purchase of more of this tract, which adjoins the Shining Rock Wilderness near the base of Cold Mountain. Preserving these undeveloped lands would protect wilderness and fish and wildlife habitat.

## TENNESSEE

**Gulf Tract** – This year's budget includes \$3.5 million for the acquisition of this tract, which is four miles from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and borders six miles of the Appalachian Trail. The additional \$1 million proposed today would allow the Forest Service to complete the acquisition.

**Stones River National Battlefield** – This year's budget includes \$1.5 million for the National Park Service to purchase land within the national battlefield. The \$2.8 million Title VI request would be used to complete all necessary land acquisition within the current boundary of the national battlefield.

## UTAH

**Bonneville Shoreline Trail** – This year's budget includes \$750,000 for the Forest Service to complete the Bonneville Shoreline Trail to serve as an artery for access to other trails and provide urban recreation to more than a million people in the Salt Lake area. An



additional \$1 million proposed today would allow the complete acquisition of the Harvey property and continued land purchases along the urban interface.

**Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument** – The \$2 million proposed today would allow the Bureau of Land Management to protect key land from development, preserving the numerous resources the property contains.

## **VIRGINIA**

**Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Battlefield Memorial National Military Park** – This year's budget includes \$2 million for the National Park Service to acquire several of the nine tracts of private land within the national park. An additional \$1 million would allow the Service to acquire more of these lands.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**Virgin Islands National Park** – \$1.5 million in funding would be used by the National Park Service to buy a property known as Estate Maho Bay within the park boundary.

## **WASHINGTON**

**Mountains to Sound Greenway** – This year's budget includes \$2.5 million to allow the Forest Service to begin acquiring lands as part of a greenway along the I-90 corridor near Seattle. An additional \$3.7 million proposed today would allow the Forest Service to improve public access to existing public land and enhance management of the fragile ecosystem, which supports several threatened and endangered species.

## **WYOMING**

**Royal Teton Ranch** – \$500,000 would be used to retire grazing permits from willing sellers on the recently acquired Royal Teton Ranch, just outside Yellowstone National Park, ensuring additional winter range for Yellowstone bison.

## **MULTI-STATE**

**Chattooga Wild & Scenic Ecosystem** – The Chattooga Wild and Scenic River, flowing through North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, is one of the Forest Service's most popular recreation destinations in the South. \$1 million would allow acquisition of critical land to protect unique plant communities and provide habitat for threatened and endangered species.

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## ***Proposed Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument***

### **Location:**

The proposed monument is located on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona, within the drainage of the Colorado River. It borders Grand Canyon National Park to the south, the state of Nevada to the west, and encompasses a portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

### **Description:**

The proposed monument's remote open, undeveloped area and engaging scenery is located on the edge of one the most beautiful places on earth—the Grand Canyon. This 1,017,000 acres of federal land<sup>1</sup> is a scientific treasure holding many of the same values that have long been protected in Grand Canyon National Park. Deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes testify to the power of geological forces and provide colorful vistas. Its Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, providing a unique view into the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau. The proposed monument encompasses the lower portion of the Shivwits Plateau. Much of the proposed boundary follows the divide between the Grand Canyon and the Virgin River drainage to the north. The Shivwits Plateau (which is bounded by the Grand Wash Cliffs to the west and by the Hurricane Cliffs to the east) is a part of the larger Colorado Plateau of the region. To the south are the Parashant, Whitmore, and Andrus canyons. The Shivwits Plateau forms an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. Beyond the phenomenal geological resources, the proposed monument contains countless biological, archeological, and historical resources. This area will be increasingly threatened by potential mineral development and by intensive recreational use from fast growing urban areas in the region.

### **Management:**

The federal lands within the proposed monument are managed by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS, within the boundaries of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This arrangement would continue, but would be subject to the overriding purposes of protecting the scientific and historic objects for which the monument was created. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would the designation affect state or private property or other valid existing rights such as water rights.

### **Process:**

President Teddy Roosevelt first set aside a portion of what is now the Grand Canyon National Park under the Antiquities Act in 1908. In 1919, Congress converted

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<sup>1</sup> 804,000 acres are owned by the Bureau of Land Management and 213,000 acres are in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. 18,000 acres of private land and 22,000 acres of state land are also located within the boundary.

the Grand Canyon National Monument to a national park. Additional lands were made national monuments by Presidential Proclamation in 1932 and 1969. Congress enlarged the Park in 1975 to include these lands, but that Act left open whether several drainages north of the Grand Canyon should be protected and directed that the Secretary of the Interior study and issue a report on these lands. Most of the studied lands are included within the proposed monument.

In November 1998, Secretary Babbitt went to Northern Arizona and began a dialogue that has included two more visits, two large public meetings, and more than 59 other meetings with concerned local governments, tribes and other groups regarding the future of these lands. Congressman Bob Stump introduced a bill (H.R. 2795) that would actually have lowered protections in existing law, thus allowing the degradation of these lands in perpetuity. Senator Kyl also introduced legislation on this subject (S. 1560), but no hearings have been held on it.

###

## ***Proposed California Coastal National Monument***

### **Location:**

The proposed monument would include all the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles above the high water mark owned by the U.S. Government along the 840 mile California coast, extending out for 12 miles. (Because of the scattered small bits of land involved, acreage cannot be readily calculated and is not meaningful.) Islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles already appropriated or reserved for other purposes would not be affected.

### **Description:**

The proposed monument is a biological treasure. A crucial part of the fragile coastal ecosystem, the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the California coast are part of the nearshore ocean zone that begins just off shore and ends at the boundary between the continental shelf and the continental slope. The proposed monument contains many geologic formations that provide unique habitat for biota, such as sensitive feeding and nesting habitat for an estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds, including gulls, the endangered California least tern, and the brown pelican. Development of the mainland has forced seabirds that once fed and nested in the shoreline ecosystem to retreat to the proposed monument. There is also forage and breeding habitat for several mammal species such as the threatened southern sea otter. Future economic or commercial development as well as some recreational use threaten the objects of the proposed monument.

### **Management:**

The federal lands in the area are currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior. After a monument designation, management would continue under the BLM's existing authorities for the predominant purpose of protecting the objects for which the monument was created. Currently California State Department of Fish and Game manages the area under a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM. This arrangement could continue (with any necessary revisions to the MOU) following the establishment of the proposed monument. The proposed monument would not enlarge or diminish state or federal regulatory authority over fishing, oil and gas development, or other uses of adjacent waters.

### **Process:**

Proposals to protect the California coastline have generally been met with wide acceptance. In June 1999, Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California, introduced, for the second time, a bill (H.R. 2277) to designate these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the coast of California as wilderness. No hearings have been held on this bill. In September 1999, Secretary Babbitt, accompanied by Congressman Farr as well as state and community leaders, visited the coastline to discuss protection for the rocks and islands including possible designation as a national monument.

###

## ***Proposed Agua Fria National Monument***

### **Location:**

The proposed monument is located in central Arizona approximately forty miles north of central Phoenix. The 71,100 acres of federal land comprise two mesas—Perry Mesa and the adjacent, smaller Black Mesa – the public land to the north of these mesas, and the canyon of the Agua Fria River. Elevations range from 600 feet above sea level along the Agua Fria Canyon to about 4,300 feet in the northern hills.

### **Description:**

The proposed monument contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. Its ancient ruins offer insights into the lives of those who long ago inhabited this part of the desert southwest. At least 450 prehistoric sites are known to exist within the proposed monument, and there are likely many more. Many intact petroglyph sites within the proposed monument contain rock art symbols pecked into the surfaces of boulders and cliff faces. The area also holds an extraordinary record of prehistoric agricultural features, including extensive terraces bounded by lines of rocks and other types of landscape modifications. In addition to its rich record of human history, the proposed monument contains other objects of scientific interest: a diversity of vegetative communities, a wide array of sensitive wildlife species, and native fish. The area, vital open space on the northern edge of the rapidly expanding Phoenix urban area, has already suffered from extensive vandalism.

### **Management:**

The proposed monument would continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management for the predominant purpose of protecting the objects for which the monument was created. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would private property within the boundary (1,440 acres) or other valid existing rights such as water rights.

### **Process:**

Secretary Babbitt initiated a process in July 1999 to solicit public input and advice about the future management and protection of the Agua Fria region, meeting with leading archeologists, Arizona State officials, and staff from the Arizona delegation. Three public open houses were held in nearby communities in September 1999 specifically to discuss the area's possible designation as a national monument.

In October 1999, the Bureau of Land Management forwarded to the Secretary a report of the meeting discussions and an assessment of future management.

###

## ***Pinnacles National Monument Proposed Expansion***

### **Location:**

Only 65 miles from San Jose, California, Pinnacles National Monument is about halfway between Hollister and King City, California.

### **Description:**

Pinnacles National Monument was created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 to protect Pinnacle Rocks and the series of caves underlying them, both of scientific interest. Two primary drainage channels cut water gaps through these rocks which were roofed over as large rocks spilled off the adjacent cliffs, slid down the slopes, and became wedged in the tops of gaps to form the talus caves of the monument.

The proposed boundary enlargement is vital to the continued preservation of Pinnacles National Monument's resources. In addition to containing pieces of the same faults that have created the tremendous geological formations throughout the monument, the expansion lands hold some of the headwaters of the monument basin. Over millions of years, flash floods and currents of streams have helped to sculpt the geological features of the monument. The expansion lands also hold important habitat for raptors (such as prairie falcons, golden eagles, and red-tailed hawks), amphibians, and reptiles. The area is threatened by exurban development and by watershed degradation.

### **Management:**

The 7,960 acres of adjacent public lands would be transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service and managed under the same laws and regulations that apply to the rest of the monument. Wilderness Study Areas in the expansion lands would continue to be managed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Although 2,850 acres of private land are inside the expansion boundary, the private land owners will be unaffected by the designation unless they choose to sell, in which case the lands would become part of the monument.

### **Process:**

Pinnacles was originally designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, consisting of 2,060 acres, and was expanded five times by subsequent Presidents and once by Congress. This proposed expansion—discussed at length in local communities in recent years—would bring important pieces of adjacent public land into Pinnacles National Monument. An expansion, along with wilderness designation, has on two occasions been proposed by Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California. No committee hearings have been held on his bill (H.R. 2279). Secretary Babbitt visited Pinnacles National Monument and the adjacent public lands in October 1999 to discuss the expansion proposal with private ranchers and other landowners, and community and environmental leaders.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
DEPARTURE REMARKS ON LAND PRESERVATION  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
December 13, 1999**

Good morning. At the dawn of this century, President Theodore Roosevelt defined America's "great, central task" as "leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us." This is the vision of environmental stewardship that we had in mind when we created our Lands Legacy Initiative – the historic plan I unveiled earlier this year to protect America's threatened green and open spaces.

Two weeks ago, I had the great honor of signing into law the funding for this Lands Legacy Initiative. Although much of the news of that day concentrated on budget victories for education and public safety, it was also a remarkable day for the environment. With one stroke of the pen, we made it possible to add hundreds of thousands of acres to our children's endowment of natural wonders – places like New Mexico's Baca Ranch, home to one of North America's largest herds of wild elk.

Today, I will be sending to Congress a list of 19 additional natural and historic sites we propose to protect with this new Lands Legacy funding. Our list includes sections of Hawaii's Hakalau Forest, which supports hundreds of species of rare plants and birds. It includes critical habitat on Florida's Pelican Island, where Theodore Roosevelt established the nation's very first wildlife preserve. And it includes the birth home and burial place of Martin Luther King, Jr. We have the funding. We have willing sellers. Now we just need Congress to approve the list. I hope they will do so as soon as they return.

I am also pleased to report on the status of yet another effort to protect the lands we hold sacred. A year ago, I asked Sec. Babbitt to report to me on unique and fragile places that deserved to be protected as National Monuments. This morning, Sec. Babbitt presented me with his recommendation that I use my executive authority to create three new National Monuments and to significantly expand a fourth. Each of the sites already belongs to the American people, so no land purchases would be required. But National Monument status would ensure that these lands will be passed along to future generations healthy and whole.

The first of the proposed new monuments is located on the northern rim of the Grand Canyon, and it consists of stunning canyons and lonely buttes shaped by the hand of God over millions of years. The second, a desert region in the shadow of rapidly expanding Phoenix, is an archeological treasure trove containing some of the most extraordinary prehistoric ruins and petroglyphs in the American Southwest. The third, off the coast of California, would encompass thousands of small islands and reefs that serve as essential habitat for sea otters and seabirds forced from the shore by extensive development. And finally, Sec. Babbitt has proposed expanding California's Pinnacles National Monument, the site of spires and crags that represent the last remnants of an ancient volcano.

Sec. Babbitt's recommendations come as a result careful analysis and extensive discussions with local citizens, state and local officials, and Members of Congress over the past year – and I will take them very seriously. I expect to make a decision on these sites early in the new year.

Draft 12/12/99 2:40pm  
Lowell Weiss

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## ***Pinnacles National Monument Proposed Expansion***

**Description:** Pinnacles National Monument was created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 to protect Pinnacle Rocks and the series of caves underlying them, both of scientific interest. Two primary drainage channels cut water gaps through these rocks which were roofed over as large rocks spilled off the adjacent cliffs, slid down the slopes, and became wedged in the tops of gaps to form the talus caves of the monument.

The proposed boundary enlargement is vital to the continued preservation of Pinnacles National Monument's resources. In addition to containing pieces of the same faults that have created the tremendous geological formations throughout the monument, the expansion lands hold some of the headwaters of the monument basin. Over millions of years, flash floods and currents of streams have helped to sculpt the geological features of the monument. The expansion lands also hold important habitat for raptors (such as prairie falcons, golden eagles, and red-tailed hawks), amphibians, and reptiles. The area is threatened by exurban development and by watershed degradation.

**Location:** Only 65 miles from San Jose, California, Pinnacles National Monument is about halfway between Hollister and King City, California.

**Management:** The 7,960 acres of adjacent public lands would be transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service and managed under the same laws and regulations that apply to the rest of the monument. Wilderness Study Areas in the expansion lands would continue to be managed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Although 2,850 acres of private land are inside the expansion boundary, the private land owners will be unaffected by the designation unless they choose to sell, in which case the lands would become part of the monument.

**Process:** Pinnacles was originally designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, consisting of 2,060 acres, and was expanded five times by subsequent Presidents and once by Congress. This proposed expansion—discussed at length in local communities in recent years—would bring important pieces of adjacent public land into Pinnacles National Monument. An expansion, along with wilderness designation, has on two occasions been proposed by Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California. No committee hearings have been held on his bill (H.R. 2279). Secretary Babbitt visited Pinnacles National Monument and the adjacent public lands in October 1999 to discuss the expansion proposal with private ranchers and other landowners, and community and environmental leaders.

## ***Proposed Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument***

- Description:** The proposed monument's remote open, undeveloped area and engaging scenery is located on the edge of one of the most beautiful places on earth—the Grand Canyon. This 1,017,000 acres of federal land<sup>1</sup> is a scientific treasure holding many of the same values that have long been protected in Grand Canyon National Park. Deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes testify to the power of geological forces and provide colorful vistas. Its Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, offering a clear view to understanding the process of the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau. The proposed monument encompasses the lower portion of the Shivwits Plateau, bounded by the Grand Wash Cliffs to the west and by the Hurricane Cliffs to the east. Much of the proposed boundary follows the divide between the Grand Canyon and the Virgin River drainage to the north. The Shivwits Plateau is a part of the larger Colorado Plateau of the region. To the south are the Parashant, Whitmore, and Andrus canyons. The Shivwits Plateau forms an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. Beyond the phenomenal geological resources, the proposed monument contains countless biological, archeological, and historical resources. This area will be increasingly threatened by potential mineral development and by intensive recreational use from fast growing urban areas in the region.
- Location:** The proposed monument is located on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona, within the drainage of the Colorado River. It borders Grand Canyon National Park to the south, the state of Nevada to the west, and encompasses a portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
- Management:** The federal lands within the proposed monument are managed by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS, within the boundaries of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This arrangement would continue, but would be subject to the overriding purposes of protecting the scientific and historic objects described in the proposed monument's proclamation. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would the designation affect state or private property or other valid existing rights such as water rights.
- Process:** President Teddy Roosevelt first set aside a portion of what is now the Grand Canyon National Park under the Antiquities Act in 1908. In 1919, Congress converted the Grand Canyon National Monument to a national park. Additional lands were made national monuments by Presidential Proclamation in 1932 and 1969. Congress enlarged the Park in 1975 to include these lands, but that Act left open whether several drainages north of the Grand Canyon should be protected and directed that the Secretary of the Interior study and issue a report on these lands. Most of the studied lands are included within the proposed monument.
- In November 1998, Secretary Babbitt came to Northern Arizona and began a dialogue that has included two more Secretarial visits, two large public meetings, and more than 59 other meetings with concerned local governments, tribes and other groups regarding the future of these lands. Congressman Bob Stump introduced a bill (H.R. 2795) that would have established a National Conservation Area in this area in August 1999, but this bill actually would lower protections in existing law, thus allowing the degradation of these lands in perpetuity. Senator Kyl also introduced legislation on this subject (S. 1560), but no hearings have been held on it.

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<sup>1</sup> 804,000 acres are owned by the Bureau of Land Management and 213,000 acres are in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Within the boundary is also found 18,000 acres of private land and 22,000 acres of state land.

# **Public Process for the Proposed Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument**

As of 11/29/99

- Secretary Babbitt tour of the area with Federal officials and press
- 2 public meetings attended by Secretary Babbitt (Flagstaff and Colorado City)-- over 600 members of the public attended
- Secretary Babbitt met separately on two occasions with local officials, tribes, and ranchers
- BLM Director, Counselor to the Secretary, and Assistant Secretary tour of the area with the Congressional delegation staff
- Numerous meetings/briefings held by BLM and/or NPS, including:
  - 4 meetings with grazing community
  - 5 meetings with Indian Tribes
  - 26 meetings with county or state government
  - 7 meetings with local or interest groups
  - 4 meetings with other Federal agencies
  - 7 meetings with Congressional delegation and/or staff
- 2 press releases/media advisories
- Briefing materials:
  - Sent to Indian Tribes on 2 occasions
  - Sent to Congress on 7 occasions
- BLM attended 2 congressionally held meetings/hearings

## ***Proposed California Coastal National Monument***

- Description:** The proposed monument is a biological treasure. A crucial part of the fragile coastal ecosystem, the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the California coast are part of the nearshore ocean zone that begins just off shore and ends at the boundary between the continental shelf and the continental slope. The proposed monument contains many geologic formations that provide unique habitat for biota, such as sensitive feeding and nesting habitat for an estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds, including gulls, the endangered California least tern, and the brown pelican. Development of the mainland has forced seabirds that once fed and nested in the shoreline ecosystem to retreat to the proposed monument. There is also forage and breeding habitat for several mammal species such as the threatened southern sea otter. Future economic or commercial development as well as some recreational use threaten the objects of the proposed monument.
- Location:** The proposed monument would include all the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles above the high water mark owned by the U.S. Government along the 840 mile California coast, extending out for 12 miles. (Because of the scattered small bits of land involved, acreage cannot be readily calculated and is not meaningful.) Islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles already appropriated or reserved for other purposes would not be affected.
- Management:** The federal lands in the area are currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior. After a monument designation, management would continue under the BLM's existing authorities, but subject to the overriding purpose of protecting the objects described in the proclamation. Currently California State Department of Fish and Game manages the area under a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM. This arrangement could continue (with any necessary revisions to the MOU) following the establishment of the proposed monument. The proposed monument would not enlarge or diminish state or federal regulatory authority over fishing, oil and gas development, or other uses of adjacent waters.
- Process:** Proposals to protect the California coastline have generally been met with wide acceptance. In June 1999, Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California, introduced, for the second time, a bill (H.R. 2277) to designate these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the coast of California as wilderness. No hearings have been held on this bill. In September 1999, Secretary Babbitt, accompanied by Congressman Farr as well as state and community leaders, visited the coastline to discuss protection for the rocks and islands including possible designation as a national monument.

## ***Proposed Agua Fria National Monument***

- Description:** The proposed monument contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. Its ancient ruins offer insights into the lives of those who long ago inhabited this part of the desert southwest. At least 450 prehistoric sites are known to exist within the proposed monument, and there are likely many more. Many intact petroglyph sites within the proposed monument contain rock art symbols pecked into the surfaces of boulders and cliff faces. The area also holds an extraordinary record of prehistoric agricultural features, including extensive terraces bounded by lines of rocks and other types of landscape modifications. In addition to its rich record of human history, the proposed monument contains other objects of scientific interest: a diversity of vegetative communities, a wide array of sensitive wildlife species, and native fish. The area, vital open space on the northern edge of the rapidly expanding Phoenix urban area, has already suffered from extensive vandalism.
- Location:** The proposed monument is located in central Arizona approximately forty miles north of central Phoenix. The 71,100 acres of federal land comprise two mesas—Perry Mesa and the adjacent, smaller Black Mesa – the public land to the north of these mesas, and the canyon of the Agua Fria River. Elevations range from 600 feet above sea level along the Agua Fria Canyon to about 4,300 feet in the northern hills.
- Management:** The proposed monument would continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management, but subject to the overriding purposes of protecting the objects described in the proclamation. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would private property within the boundary (1,440 acres) or other valid existing rights such as water rights.
- Process:** Secretary Babbitt initiated a process in July 1999 to solicit public input and advice about the future management and protection of the Agua Fria region, meeting with leading archeologists, Arizona State officials, and staff from the Arizona delegation. Three public open houses were held in nearby communities in September 1999 specifically to discuss the area's possible designation as a national monument. In October 1999, the Bureau of Land Management forwarded to the Secretary a report of the meeting discussions and an assessment of future management.

## Fact Sheet on Presidents and the Antiquities Act

The Antiquities Act, enacted by Congress in 1906, authorizes the President to create national monuments on federal land in order to protect “objects of historic and scientific interest.”

Every President since Theodore Roosevelt (except Presidents Nixon, Reagan and Bush) has exercised this authority. More than 100 monuments have been created. They range in size from less than ten acres to twelve million acres. They are found in 24 states and the Virgin Islands. In total, monument designations have protected about 70 million acres of federal lands, about 10% of the federal land base.

Beginning with Devil’s Tower in Wyoming, some of the Nation’s best-loved places were first protected by Presidents exercising Antiquities Act authority: the Grand Canyon; Glacier Bay, Alaska; the Olympic Peninsula mountains and rainforests in Washington; Acadia in Maine; Carlsbad Caverns; Death Valley; Zion, Bryce and Chaco Canyons; Dinosaur; Petrified Forest; Muir Woods; the C&O Canal in Washington D.C.; Arches; and Bandelier in New Mexico.

Protecting these wonders through the Antiquities Act has been a bipartisan undertaking—Democrats and Republicans have used it about an equal number of times.

President Carter set aside the most land under the Act, more than 56 million acres in seventeen national monuments in Alaska in 1978.

Calvin Coolidge, more than a dozen including about 2.6 million acres;

Herbert Hoover, more than a dozen including a little more than two million acres;

Franklin Roosevelt set aside or enlarged more than two dozen, including a total of nearly two million acres;

President Clinton’s 1996 designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah comprised nearly two million acres;

Teddy Roosevelt more than a dozen, including more than 1.5 million acres;

Woodrow Wilson more than a dozen, including more than one million acres.

**[ATTACH OR MAKE AVAILABLE LISTS OF EVERY MONUMENT DESIGNATION AND ADDITION - CHRONOLOGICAL AND GROUPED BY PRESIDENT]**

**DRAFT DRAFT Presidential Statement:**

Some of the most gratifying accomplishments of my Administration have come from our efforts to preserve America's great natural legacy for future generations. To make sure we are doing all we can toward that end, in November 1998 I asked Secretary Babbitt to give me recommendations for exercising my authority under the Antiquities Act. That Act, enacted with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress in 1906, empowers Presidents to create national monuments to protect objects of historic or scientific interest on federal lands.

The Secretary has just forwarded me recommendations to create three new national monuments—one in California and two in Arizona—and to make an addition to the existing Pinnacles National Monument in California (65 miles south of San Jose). The three new ones proposed are the Grand Canyon-Parashant (on the northwestern rim of the Grand Canyon); the Agua Fria (just north of the Phoenix metropolitan area); and the California Coastal (thousands of islands, pinnacles, exposed reefs, and rocks off the California coast, mostly off northern California). Maps, brief histories, and descriptions of the Secretary's recommendations are being provided.

During the many months since I asked the Secretary for recommendations, he has spent considerable time exploring, in public meetings and discussions with members of Congress and affected interests, what further protections are appropriate for these areas, so that their historic and scientific values may be preserved for future generations.

I should also note that these areas have been proposed for various kinds of protection in the past. Much of the proposed Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, for example, was in a House-passed bill to enlarge Grand Canyon National Park in 1975. Congressman Farr of California has likewise sponsored legislation to provide further protections to the two California areas, but it has languished.

I intend to give the Secretary's proposals very serious consideration, and to decide by mid-  
January whether to move forward with them.

## **DRAFT DRAFT**

Memorandum for the President

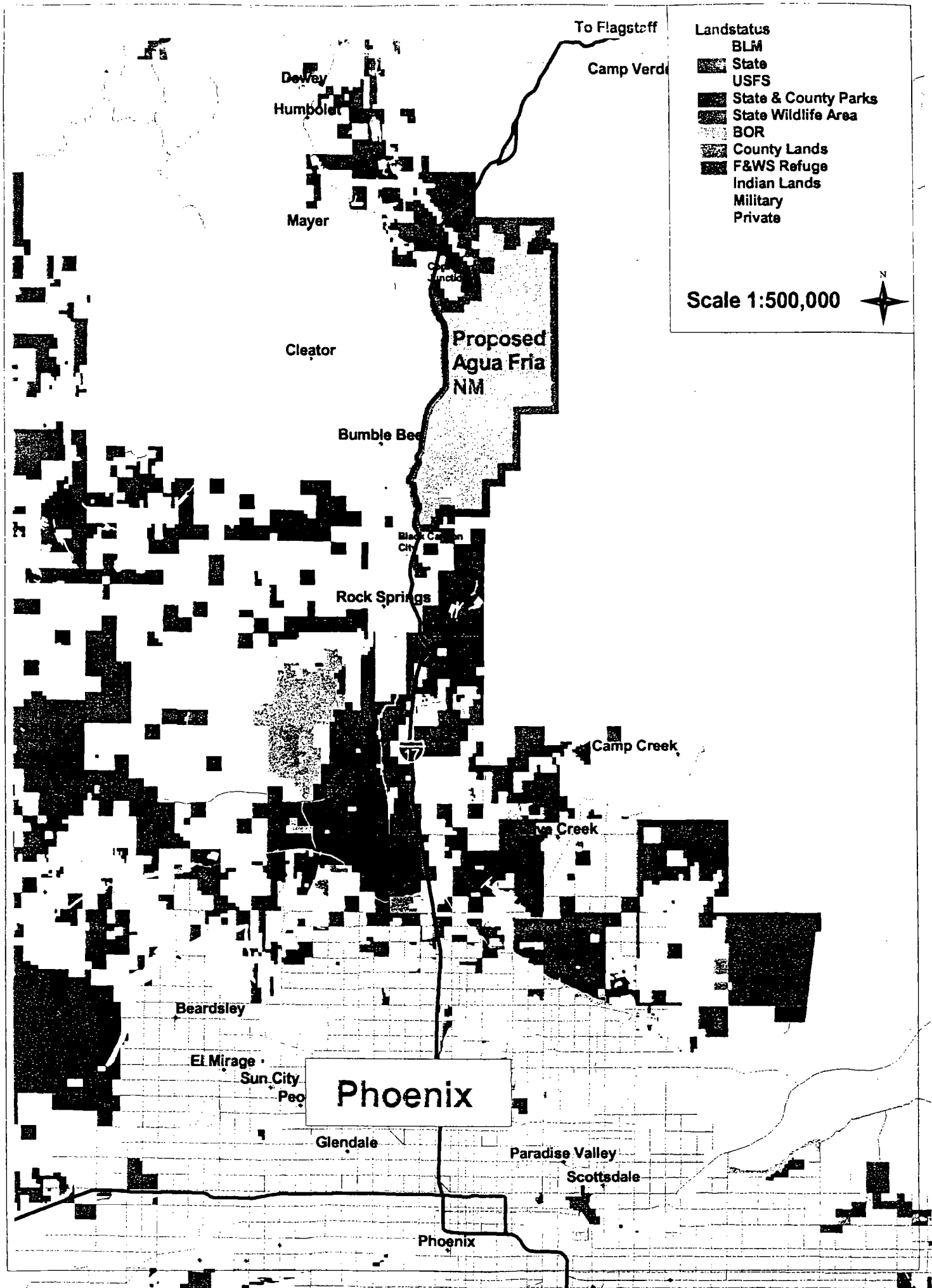
In response to your request of November 10, 1998, I recommend that you establish three new national monuments, and enlarge a fourth existing monument, exercising your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906.

The three new monuments I am proposing are the Grand Canyon-Parashant (on the northwestern rim of the Grand Canyon); the Agua Fria (just north of the Phoenix metropolitan area); and the California Coastal (thousands of islands, pinnacles, exposed reefs, and rocks off the California coast, mostly off northern California). I am also recommending expansion of the existing Pinnacles National Monument in California (65 miles south of San Jose).

I believe taking these steps is in the public interest, and well within your authority under the Act. I stand ready to provide further information as needed.

Secretary of the Interior





To San Jose  
(approximately 65 miles)

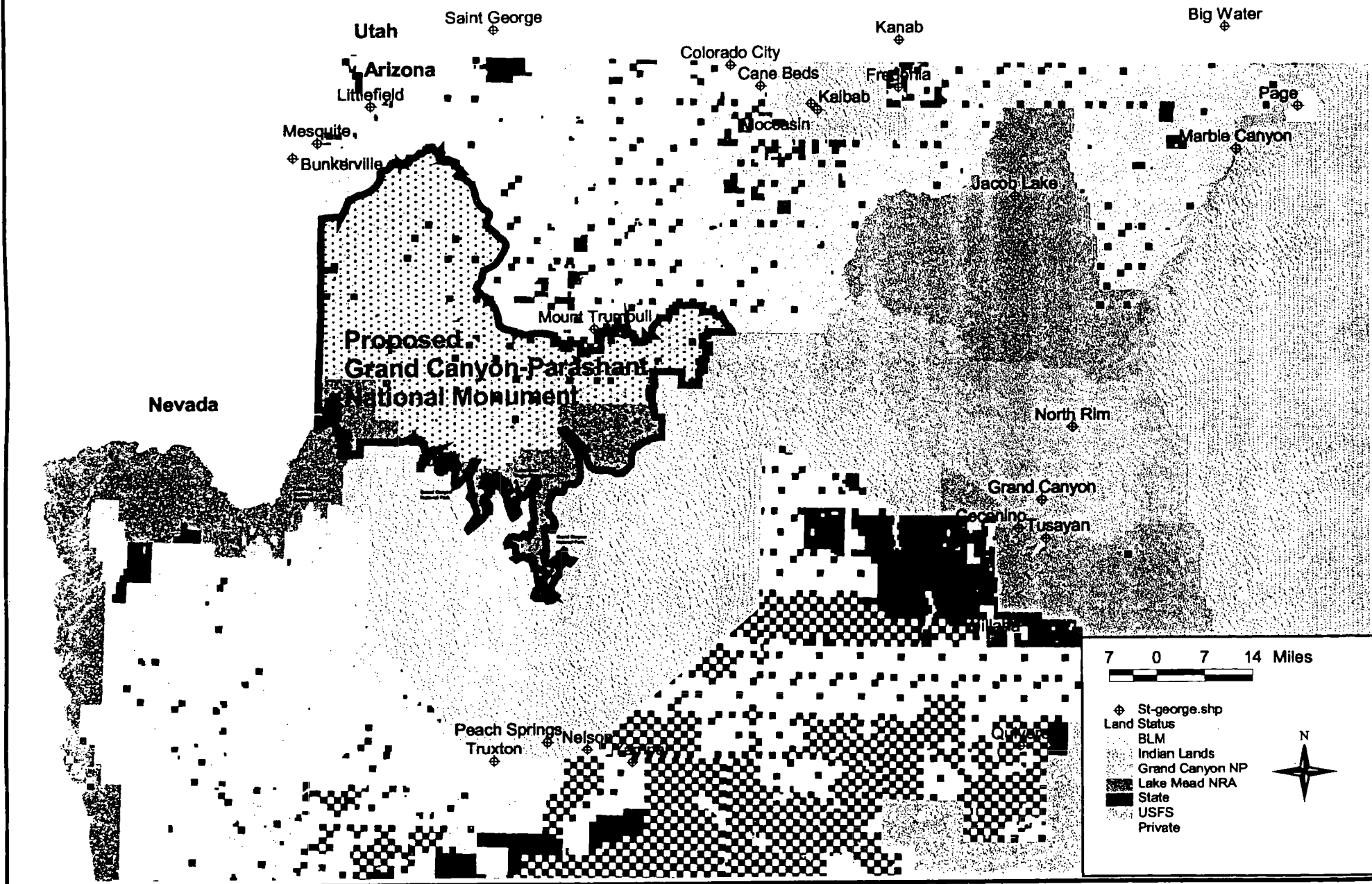
-  Hwy 25
-  Rivers
-  Expanded Pinnacles NM Boundary
-  Existing Pinnacles NM Lands-NPS
-  Federal Lands to be added

Scale 1:75,000



# Pinnacles National Monument

25



**Proposed  
California  
Coastal  
National  
Monument  
(offshore Islands,  
Rocks and Pinnacles  
above the high water line  
within the blue line off  
the coastline)**

**Sacramento**

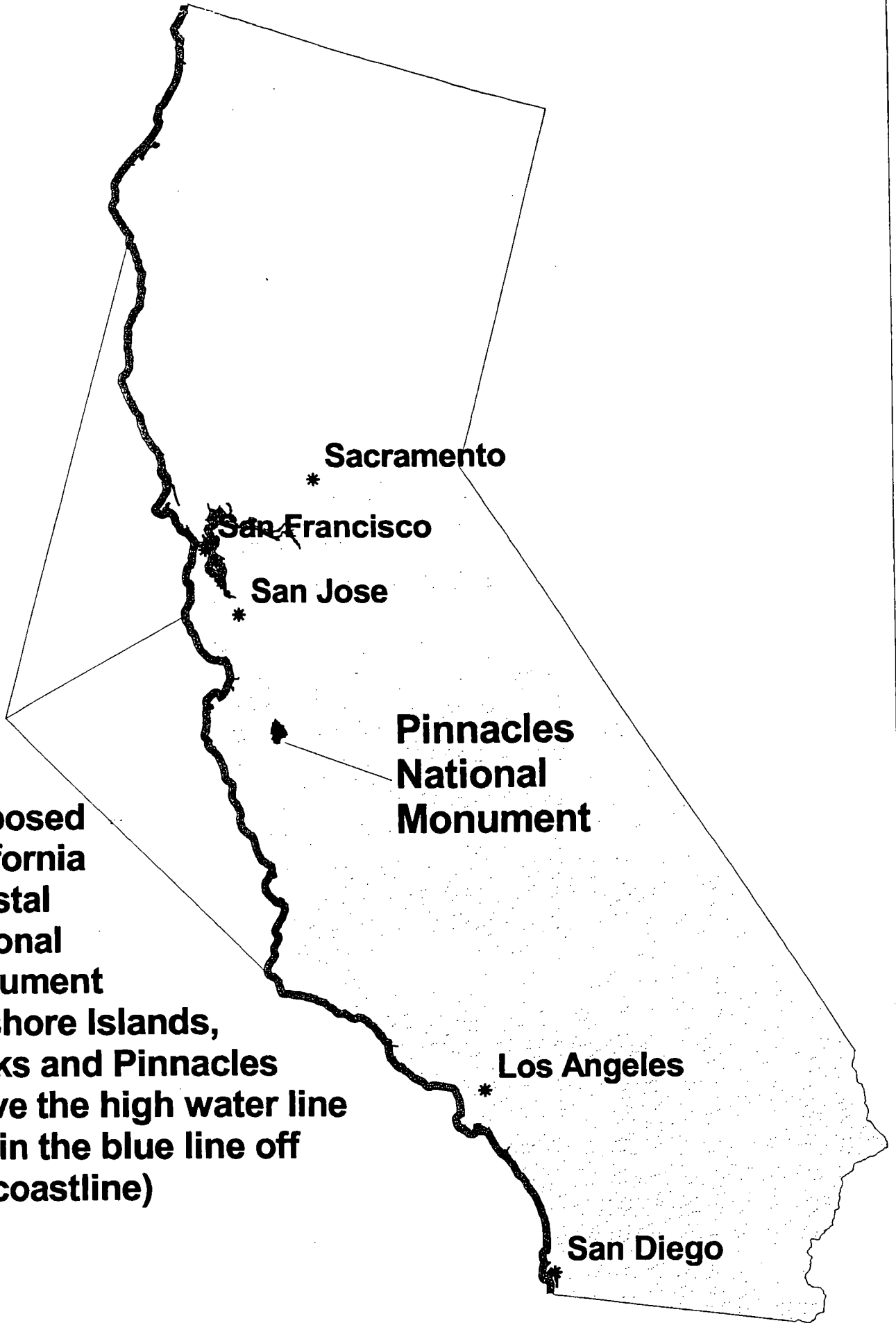
**San Francisco**

**San Jose**

**Pinnacles  
National  
Monument**

**Los Angeles**

**San Diego**



**DRAFT Q'S AND A'S** [for Secretary] [in progress]

**Q.** Have you forwarded draft proclamations to the WH? If not, when are they coming?

**A.** That's a privileged, confidential communication [alternative answer: No, and when I do is up to the President.]

**Q.** Do you fear retribution by Congress if the President acts?

**Q.** Are these areas being threatened? If so, by what? If not, then what is the need for this action now? Can't you wait until Congress has another chance to protect these areas in the next session? You still have another thirteen months in this Administration.

**Q.** Will the Administration continue to oppose legislative amendments to the Antiquities Act that would provide more public process?

**Q.** Are you or is the President inviting public comment on these proposals?

**A.** As the President pointed out, I have already spent a lot of time out on the ground and on Capitol Hill talking about protection for these areas and how it is best provided; and on what terms. There has, in other words, already been a fairly elaborate public process, especially with the largest of these areas. I have nothing to add to what the President said. The timing and the substance of this decision is his.

**Q.** Have you consulted with the environmental community in putting these proposals together?

**Q.** Is the President playing a numbers game with the acreage - to try to beat FDR or TR?

**A.** This is about historic and scientific objects and values, not about acres.

**Q.** How do you answer the charge that this is a unilateral land grab by the President for political purposes?

**A.** The people of the U.S. already own these lands; there is no land grab here. The Congress has given the President clear authority to do this. Many Presidents have exercised this power, with wondrous results. This is a gift to future generations. It is political only in the sense that everything the President does is political.

Q. The Antiquities Act speaks of reserving the “smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” Why is the Grand Canyon proposal so big? It goes way beyond the north rim. Your original proposal was much smaller; what happened? How did it get enlarged to include the Grand Wash Cliffs? Why didn’t you let the public respond to this proposal?

Q. How much are these monuments going to cost the taxpayers?

*A*

Q. How will these monuments affect existing uses? What about ranchers, hunters, ORV users, etc. If monument status won’t change these things, why are you recommending the monuments be created?

Q. Does the California Coastal proposal affect oil and gas development? Does it affect fishing, hang-gliding, boating, etc.? How many islands and rocks are there?

Q. The fact sheet says Cal. State F&G manages the islands and rocks under an MOU with BLM, and that may not change. What kind of management is done?

Q. The map indicates the Pinnacles National Monument expansion boundary includes a fairly big chunk of private land on the east side. Why?

A. The monument expansion itself only covers federal land, but I understand the owner of much of that property is interested in selling, and would want it to become part of the monument. That is why we drew the boundary that way.

Q. How does monument status affect private land within the boundaries? (That’s a question at Pinnacles, Grand Canyon, and Agua Fria.) State land? (That’s a question only at Grand Canyon.)

Q. You’re recommending BLM manage the three new monuments (except for the Lake Mead NRA piece of the Grand Canyon one, which will remain with NPS). Why BLM? Many national monuments have become national parks, managed by NPS. Do you see this happening here? Why not?

Q. What’s the difference between BLM running a monument and NPS doing it? Is BLM just

*pushing to have  
more in  
legislation?  
pipeline?*

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A. That's for the White House to disclose.

Q. Do you fear retribution by Congress if the President acts?

A. No. The Antiquities Act has had a long successful history, where in practically every case Congress has come to endorse what the Presidents have done. We expect that to happen here, if the President decides to move forward. I look forward to working with Congress to protect more areas through legislation, where that is possible.

Q. Are these areas being threatened? If so, by what? If not, then what is the need for this action now? Can't you wait until Congress has another chance to protect these areas in the next session? You still have another thirteen months in this Administration.

A. The character of the threats vary from area to area - some are immediate, such as vandalism and urban encroachment. Others are more long term. The Antiquities Act does not require a threat before the President acts. In fact, it is usually better to act before an area is under immediate threat.

For example, given the fantastic growth of the Phoenix area in the last few decades, there is absolutely no doubt that the Agua Fria area will have huge value as protected open space for central Arizona. We have talking about protecting this area for many months, and Congress has never shown any interest in legislating.

Congressman Farr has introduced legislation regarding the two California area for two years, and can't even get a hearing on the bill.

We've been talking with Congress for over a year on the Grand Canyon-Parashant, and the House bill that would address the area is a step backwards in terms of protection, not forwards.

Congress has been given a chance to act. *He has no reason to wait* ~~If the President waits until the end of his term~~ and then acts, he will be accused of abusing his power as a lame duck.

*Now the risk of further harm*

Q. Will the Administration continue to oppose legislative amendments to the Antiquities Act that would provide more public process?

A. Yes. The Antiquities Act has been enormously successful and not a comma needs to

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A. First of all, Presidents have properly recognized that, when you are talking about properly caring for historic and scientific values, very large areas may be required. Many national monuments have involved millions of acres of land each, and the courts have long upheld this practice, dating back to a unanimous Supreme Court decision in 1920 which upheld Teddy Roosevelt's setting aside part of the Grand Canyon under the



Antiquities Act.

As part of our consultation process, we heard from some who thought the original area we talked about should be enlarged. We decided there were important values in the Grand Wash Cliffs, there were conflicts over uses, and that, being part of the watershed of the Grand Canyon, reserving that area is important for proper protection of the values. There were many different proposals offered during the consultation process, some much larger than this. Interested people had opportunities to comment on them all.

Q. How much are these monuments going to cost the taxpayers?

A. In the near term, very little over current management costs. We hope that additional funding will be available for these special areas; at Agua Fria, for example, we need to do a better job of protecting these ruins against vandalism.

Q. How will these monuments affect existing uses? What about ranchers, hunters, ORV users, etc. If monument status won't change these things, why are you recommending the monuments be created?

A. In general, I believe these monuments can be established without serious disruption of existing uses. At the Grand Canyon, for example, I think it is very important to keep the area open for hunting. Grazing should remain subject to the same laws and regulations that it is already subject to. Some things may need to be regulated strictly if they directly threaten the values we're trying to protect. We don't want ORVs to trample archeology sites, do we?

Again, immediate threats are not a precondition of using the Antiquities Act. And it is, as I said, important to keep a long term perspective in mind, and not to wait until huge threats emerge before acting.

Q. Does the California Coastal proposal affect oil and gas development? Does it affect fishing, hang-gliding, boating, etc.? How many islands and rocks are there?

A. There should be no effect on oil and gas development or fishing, because all the proposal deals with is fast land, above the high water mark, not things in or under the water. Activities on the rocks (such as, perhaps, recreation) might be affected. There are thousands of islands and rocks, which may be as small as a few square feet in area. Nobody's bothered to count them; it's not a meaningful statistic.

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A. There should be no effect. The creation of any monument would be subject to valid existing rights of all kinds. At the Grand Canyon, we would be delighted to trade out the state lands, as we have done so successfully at the Grand Staircase.

Q. Are you proposing to have BLM manage the three new monuments (except for the Lake Mead NRA piece of the Grand Canyon one, which will remain with NPS). Why BLM? What's the difference between BLM running a monument and NPS doing it? Is BLM just NPS-lite?

A. I have repeatedly said BLM deserves more management responsibilities to protect areas primarily for conservation. It is the right agency to manage such lands when uses like grazing and hunting are still appropriate. Etc.

Q. Many national monuments have become national parks, managed by NPS. Do you see this happening here? Why not?

A. No. Many, perhaps nearly all, of the national monuments converted to park status were originally managed by the National Park Service. I don't believe such a conversion is appropriate or inevitable here.

*Proactive*

Q. Why are you including Lake Mead NRA? Isn't it already protected?

A. It was the part of the area considered in 1975 for Grand Canyon expansion; it's part of the same ecosystem/drainage as the BLM lands, and it has not been completely off limits to mineral development.

Q. In at least some of these areas, your local process showed nobody or very few wanted a

monument. Why are you recommending it anyway? Does that suggest your local process was a sham?

A. We learned a lot in our consultations. I disagree that there was anything like unanimous opposition from local interests. Naturally some local people were concerned about what might happen with such a change. I am confident that, if the President moves forward, the local communities will see that this is a positive step.

Q. What about water? Is that an issue with any of them?

A. Yes, at Pinnacles and Agua Fria, I believe water is an important component of the objects to be protected. Water played a huge role in the formation of the Pinnacles, for example. Whatever we might end up doing regarding water, it would be subject to valid existing rights, including water rights.

Q. Did you talk to Senators Kyl or McCain or the AZ delegation about the Grand Canyon or Agua Fria proposals?

A. Yes.

Q. Is your effort at a public process here an implicit admission that the surprise announcement of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was a mistake?

A. No. Each situation is different. It is interesting, however, that in these areas and in the Grand Staircase, management of these public lands has been much debated in the general public, which included proposals for more protective management.

Q. How many other national monuments do you intend to recommend to the President? Are you in effect indicating today that Oregon is next? Or Colorado?

A. It's no secret that I have been traveling around the country talking about the need to better protect some fantastic areas of public lands. I have also made no secret of my desire to work with Congress on this agenda. And I have made no secret of my interest in recommending that the President use his clear authority under the Antiquities Act if necessary.

No  
but

NPS-lite?

A. Hunting can be allowed, grazing - competition is healthy, etc.

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Q. What about water? Is that an issue with any of them? Would you recommend that any of these monuments reserve water?

A. Yes, at Pinnacles and Agua Fria. Explain.

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not factoring in the?

management planning process?

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Is this public notice

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Do you  
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

TRANSMISSION NOTICE

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TO: Elliot Diringer & Linda Lance  
AGENCY: CEQ  
FAX No.: 456-2710 PHONE: 456 6542  
FROM: Molly S. McIsic, Counselor to the Secretary  
PHONE: 202/208-6359 FAX: 202/208-2547  
FAXED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NO. OF PAGES: 4  
REMARKS:

~~Confidential~~

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INITIALS: JGP DATE: 8/21/17  
2017-0879-F

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Q. What about water? Is that an issue with any of them?

A. Yes, at Pinnacles and Agua Fria, I believe water is an important component of the objects to be protected. Water played a huge role in the formation of the Pinnacles, for example. Whatever we might end up doing regarding water, it would be subject to valid existing rights, including water rights.

Q. Did you talk to Senators Kyl or McCain or the AZ delegation about the Grand Canyon or Agua Fria proposals?

A. Yes.

Q. Is your effort at a public process here an implicit admission that the surprise announcement of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was a mistake?

A. No. Each situation is different. It is interesting, however, that in these areas and in the Grand Staircase, management of these public lands has been much debated in the general public, which included proposals for more protective management.

Q. How many other national monuments do you intend to recommend to the President? Are you in effect indicating today that Oregon is next? Or Colorado?

A. It's no secret that I have been traveling around the country talking about the need to better protect some fantastic areas of public lands. I have also made no secret of my desire to work with Congress on this agenda. And I have made no secret of my interest in recommending that the President use his clear authority under the Antiquities Act if necessary.

## ***Proposed Agua Fria National Monument***

- Location:** The proposed monument is located in central Arizona approximately forty miles north of central Phoenix. The 71,100 acres of federal land comprise two mesas—Perry Mesa and the adjacent, smaller Black Mesa – the public land to the north of these mesas, and the canyon of the Agua Fria River. Elevations range from 600 feet above sea level along the Agua Fria Canyon to about 4,300 feet in the northern hills.
- Description:** The proposed monument contains one of the most significant systems of late prehistoric sites in the American Southwest. Its ancient ruins offer insights into the lives of those who long ago inhabited this part of the desert southwest. At least 450 prehistoric sites are known to exist within the proposed monument, and there are likely many more. Many intact petroglyph sites within the proposed monument contain rock art symbols pecked into the surfaces of boulders and cliff faces. The area also holds an extraordinary record of prehistoric agricultural features, including extensive terraces bounded by lines of rocks and other types of landscape modifications. In addition to its rich record of human history, the proposed monument contains other objects of scientific interest: a diversity of vegetative communities, a wide array of sensitive wildlife species, and native fish. The area, vital open space on the northern edge of the rapidly expanding Phoenix urban area, has already suffered from extensive vandalism.
- Management:** The proposed monument would continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management for the predominant purpose of protecting the objects for which the monument was created. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would private property within the boundary (1,440 acres) or other valid existing rights such as water rights.
- Process:** Secretary Babbitt initiated a process in July 1999 to solicit public input and advice about the future management and protection of the Agua Fria region, meeting with leading archeologists, Arizona State officials, and staff from the Arizona delegation. Three public open houses were held in nearby communities in September 1999 specifically to discuss the area's possible designation as a national monument. In October 1999, the Bureau of Land Management forwarded to the Secretary a report of the meeting discussions and an assessment of future management.

## ***Proposed California Coastal National Monument***

- Location:** The proposed monument would include all the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles above the high water mark owned by the U.S. Government along the 840 mile California coast, extending out for 12 miles. (Because of the scattered small bits of land involved, acreage cannot be readily calculated and is not meaningful.) Islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles already appropriated or reserved for other purposes would not be affected.
- Description:** The proposed monument is a biological treasure. A crucial part of the fragile coastal ecosystem, the islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the California coast are part of the nearshore ocean zone that begins just off shore and ends at the boundary between the continental shelf and the continental slope. The proposed monument contains many geologic formations that provide unique habitat for biota, such as sensitive feeding and nesting habitat for an estimated 200,000 breeding seabirds, including gulls, the endangered California least tern, and the brown pelican. Development of the mainland has forced seabirds that once fed and nested in the shoreline ecosystem to retreat to the proposed monument. There is also forage and breeding habitat for several mammal species such as the threatened southern sea otter. Future economic or commercial development as well as some recreational use threaten the objects of the proposed monument.
- Management:** The federal lands in the area are currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Department of the Interior. After a monument designation, management would continue under the BLM's existing authorities for the predominant purpose of protecting the objects for which the monument was created. Currently California State Department of Fish and Game manages the area under a Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM. This arrangement could continue (with any necessary revisions to the MOU) following the establishment of the proposed monument. The proposed monument would not enlarge or diminish state or federal regulatory authority over fishing, oil and gas development, or other uses of adjacent waters.
- Process:** Proposals to protect the California coastline have generally been met with wide acceptance. In June 1999, Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California, introduced, for the second time, a bill (H.R. 2277) to designate these islands, rocks, exposed reefs, and pinnacles off the coast of California as wilderness. No hearings have been held on this bill. In September 1999, Secretary Babbitt, accompanied by Congressman Farr as well as state and community leaders, visited the coastline to discuss protection for the rocks and islands including possible designation as a national monument.

## ***Proposed Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument***

- Location:** The proposed monument is located on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona, within the drainage of the Colorado River. It borders Grand Canyon National Park to the south, the state of Nevada to the west, and encompasses a portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
- Description:** The proposed monument's remote open, undeveloped area and engaging scenery is located on the edge of one the most beautiful places on earth—the Grand Canyon. This 1,017,000 acres of federal land<sup>1</sup> is a scientific treasure holding many of the same values that have long been protected in Grand Canyon National Park. Deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes testify to the power of geological forces and provide colorful vistas. Its Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, offering a clear view to understanding the process of the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau. The proposed monument encompasses the lower portion of the Shivwits Plateau, bounded by the Grand Wash Cliffs to the west and by the Hurricane Cliffs to the east. Much of the proposed boundary follows the divide between the Grand Canyon and the Virgin River drainage to the north. The Shivwits Plateau is a part of the larger Colorado Plateau of the region. To the south are the Parashant, Whitmore, and Andrus canyons. The Shivwits Plateau forms an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. Beyond the phenomenal geological resources, the proposed monument contains countless biological, archeological, and historical resources. This area will be increasingly threatened by potential mineral development and by intensive recreational use from fast growing urban areas in the region.
- Management:** The federal lands within the proposed monument are managed by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS, within the boundaries of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This arrangement would continue, but would be subject to the overriding purposes of protecting the scientific and historic objects for which the monument was created. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would the designation affect state or private property or other valid existing rights such as water rights.
- Process:** President Teddy Roosevelt first set aside a portion of what is now the Grand Canyon National Park under the Antiquities Act in 1908. In 1919, Congress converted the Grand Canyon National Monument to a national park. Additional lands were made national monuments by Presidential Proclamation in 1932 and 1969. Congress enlarged the Park in 1975 to include these lands, but that Act left open whether several drainages north of the Grand Canyon should be protected and directed that the Secretary of the Interior study and issue a report on these lands. Most of the studied lands are included within the proposed monument.
- In November 1998, Secretary Babbitt came to Northern Arizona and began a dialogue that has included two more Secretarial visits, two large public meetings, and more than 59 other meetings with concerned local governments, tribes and other groups regarding the future of these lands. Congressman Bob Stump introduced a bill (H.R. 2795) that would have established a National Conservation Area in this area in August 1999, but this bill actually would lower protections in existing law, thus allowing the degradation of these lands in perpetuity. Senator Kyl also introduced legislation on this subject (S. 1560), but no hearings have been held on it.

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<sup>1</sup> 804,000 acres are owned by the Bureau of Land Management and 213,000 acres are in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Within the boundary is also found 18,000 acres of private land and 22,000 acres of state land.

## ***Pinnacles National Monument Proposed Expansion***

**Location:** Only 65 miles from San Jose, California. Pinnacles National Monument is about halfway between Hollister and King City, California.

**Description:** Pinnacles National Monument was created by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 to protect Pinnacle Rocks and the series of caves underlying them, both of scientific interest. Two primary drainage channels cut water gaps through these rocks which were roofed over as large rocks spilled off the adjacent cliffs, slid down the slopes, and became wedged in the tops of gaps to form the talus caves of the monument.

The proposed boundary enlargement is vital to the continued preservation of Pinnacles National Monument's resources. In addition to containing pieces of the same faults that have created the tremendous geological formations throughout the monument, the expansion lands hold some of the headwaters of the monument basin. Over millions of years, flash floods and currents of streams have helped to sculpt the geological features of the monument. The expansion lands also hold important habitat for raptors (such as prairie falcons, golden eagles, and red-tailed hawks), amphibians, and reptiles. The area is threatened by exurban development and by watershed degradation.

**Management:** The 7,960 acres of adjacent public lands would be transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the National Park Service and managed under the same laws and regulations that apply to the rest of the monument. Wilderness Study Areas in the expansion lands would continue to be managed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Although 2,850 acres of private land are inside the expansion boundary, the private land owners will be unaffected by the designation unless they choose to sell, in which case the lands would become part of the monument.

**Process:** Pinnacles was originally designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, consisting of 2,060 acres, and was expanded five times by subsequent Presidents and once by Congress. This proposed expansion—discussed at length in local communities in recent years—would bring important pieces of adjacent public land into Pinnacles National Monument. An expansion, along with wilderness designation, has on two occasions been proposed by Congressman Sam Farr of Monterey, California. No committee hearings have been held on his bill (H.R. 2279). Secretary Babbitt visited Pinnacles National Monument and the adjacent public lands in October 1999 to discuss the expansion proposal with private ranchers and other landowners, and community and environmental leaders.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
December 14, 1999

**Contact:** Sabrina Williams 202/429-8441  
Fran Hunt 202/429-2657

**Statement by William H. Meadows  
President, The Wilderness Society  
Regarding the Designation of Four National Monuments**

Today, The Wilderness Society applauds U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's proposal to create four national monuments in Arizona and California. Secretary Babbitt's announcement is an important step towards federal land and resource protection. We commend Secretary Babbitt for his leadership and hope that President Clinton promptly designates these areas as national monuments.

The threats to wilderness and open spaces all over the country have increased significantly in the past several years. Pollution, development, sprawl, off-road vehicles, loss of natural sound, logging, overgrazing, and mining have contributed to the degradation of too many of our nation's special wild places.

As we approach the 21<sup>st</sup> century we must celebrate our conservation achievements and address the pending challenges. We must protect and preserve our nation's wild places before they vanish forever, so that generations to come will enjoy and benefit from them.

The four proposed monuments are:

- The **Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument** in Arizona; If designated as a national monument 1 million acres northwest of the Grand Canyon currently threatened by mining and subdivisions will be protected.
- The **Agua Fria National Monument** in Arizona; If designated as a national monument, 40,000 acres north of Phoenix, Arizona, where hundreds of archeological sites are threatened by urban sprawl and pothunters will be protected.
- An additional 10,000 acres would be added to **Pinnacles National Monument** south of San Jose, California to protect it from urban sprawl.
- The **California Coastal National Monument**. This area is made up of thousands of small, uninhabited islands and rock outcroppings, which are threatened by mining.

This day is significant in preserving America's precious wild lands and open spaces. America is blessed with a great diversity of natural wonders: Our forests; deserts; mountains; rivers; fish and wildlife; and archeological, historical, and ecological treasures are the envy of the world. In creating our newest national monuments, President Clinton follows in the footsteps of President Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Calvin Coolidge, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and many others. Each of these leaders gave all Americans a gift of great worth.

--more--

## **Page 2, National Monuments**

The recommendation to designate these four areas as national monuments is an exemplary step. In addition to the four proposed areas, there are numerous wild places throughout the country that are also deserving of national monument status. We hope that the Clinton Administration will move forward on these areas as well.

Founded in 1935, The Wilderness Society works to preserve America's wilderness and to develop a network of wildlands through public education, scientific analysis and advocacy. Our goal is to ensure that future generations will enjoy the clean air and water, wildlife, natural beauty, opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal that protected forests, rivers, deserts and mountains provide. For additional information on The Wilderness Society please visit our web site at: [www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org).

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To receive Wilderness Society news releases and tip sheets online, send an email message to: [jdarisse@tw.s.org](mailto:jdarisse@tw.s.org), please type 'Get News Online' in the subject line and include your name and news affiliation. You can also subscribe online at: <http://www.wilderness.org/newsroom/getnews.htm>.



## ***Proposed Grand Canyon–Parashant National Monument***

**Location:** The proposed monument is located on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona, within the drainage of the Colorado River. It borders Grand Canyon National Park to the south, the state of Nevada to the west, and encompasses a portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

**Description:** The proposed monument's remote open, undeveloped area and engaging scenery is located on the edge of one of the most beautiful places on earth—the Grand Canyon. This 1,017,000 acres of federal land<sup>1</sup> is a scientific treasure holding many of the same values that have long been protected in Grand Canyon National Park. Deep canyons, mountains, and lonely buttes testify to the power of geological forces and provide colorful vistas. Its Paleozoic and Mesozoic sedimentary rock layers are relatively undeformed and unobscured by vegetation, offering a clear view to understanding the process of the geologic history of the Colorado Plateau. The proposed monument encompasses the lower portion of the Shivwits Plateau. Much of the proposed boundary follows the divide between the Grand Canyon and the Virgin River drainage to the north. The Shivwits Plateau (which is bounded by the Grand Wash Cliffs to the west and by the Hurricane Cliffs to the east) is a part of the larger Colorado Plateau of the region. To the south are the Parashant, Whitmore, and Andrus canyons. The Shivwits Plateau forms an important watershed for the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. Beyond the phenomenal geological resources, the proposed monument contains countless biological, archeological, and historical resources. This area will be increasingly threatened by potential mineral development and by intensive recreational use from fast growing urban areas in the region.

**Management:** The federal lands within the proposed monument are managed by the Department of the Interior through the National Park Service (NPS, within the boundaries of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This arrangement would continue, but would be subject to the overriding purposes of protecting the scientific and historic objects for which the monument was created. Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and similar activities would generally not be affected, nor would the designation affect state or private property or other valid existing rights such as water rights.

**Process:** President Teddy Roosevelt first set aside a portion of what is now the Grand Canyon National Park under the Antiquities Act in 1908. In 1919, Congress converted the Grand Canyon National Monument to a national park. Additional lands were made national monuments by Presidential Proclamation in 1932 and 1969. Congress enlarged the Park in 1975 to include these lands, but that Act left open whether several drainages north of the Grand Canyon should be protected and directed that the Secretary of the Interior study and issue a report on these lands. Most of the studied lands are included within the proposed monument.

In November 1998, Secretary Babbitt came to Northern Arizona and began a dialogue that has included two more Secretarial visits, two large public meetings, and more than 59 other meetings with concerned local governments, tribes and other groups regarding the future of these lands. Congressman Bob Stump introduced a bill (H.R. 2795) that would have established a National Conservation Area in this area in August 1999, but this bill actually would lower protections in existing law, thus allowing the degradation of these lands in perpetuity. Senator Kyl also introduced legislation on this subject (S. 1560), but no hearings have been held on it.

<sup>1</sup> 804,000 acres are owned by the Bureau of Land Management and 213,000 acres are in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Within the boundary is also found 18,000 acres of private land and 22,000 acres of state land.

**DRAFT Q'S AND A'S** [for Secretary]

**Q.** Have you forwarded draft proclamations to the WH? If not, when are they coming?

**A.** That's for the White House to disclose.

**Q.** Do you fear retribution by Congress if the President acts?

**A.** No. The Antiquities Act has had a long successful history, where in practically every case Congress has come to endorse what the Presidents have done. We expect that to happen here, if the President decides to move forward. I look forward to working with Congress to protect more areas through legislation, where that is possible.

**Q.** Are these areas being threatened? If so, by what? If not, then what is the need for this action now? Can't you wait until Congress has another chance to protect these areas in the next session? You still have another thirteen months in this Administration.

**A.** The character of the threats vary from area to area - some are immediate, such as vandalism and urban encroachment. Others are more long term. The Antiquities Act does not require a threat before the President acts. In fact, it is usually better to act before an area is under immediate threat.

For example, given the fantastic growth of the Phoenix area in the last few decades, there is absolutely no doubt that the Agua Fria area will have huge value as protected open space for central Arizona. We have talking about protecting this area for many months, and Congress has never shown any interest in legislating.

Congressman Farr has introduced legislation regarding the two California area for two years, and can't even get a hearing on the bill.

We've been talking with Congress for over a year on the Grand Canyon-Parashant, and the House bill that would address the area is a step backwards in terms of protection, not forwards.

Congress has been given a chance to act. If the President waits until the end of his term and then acts, he will be accused of abusing his power as a lame duck.

**Q.** Will the Administration continue to oppose legislative amendments to the Antiquities Act that would provide more public process?

A. Yes. The Antiquities Act has been enormously successful and not a comma needs to be changed. It is a classic example of some members of Congress taking the attitude, "if it ain't broke, let's break it."

**Q.** Are you or is the President inviting public comment on these proposals?

A. As the President pointed out, I have already spent a lot of time out on the ground and on Capitol Hill talking about protection for these areas and how it is best provided; and on what terms. There has, in other words, already been a fairly elaborate public process, especially with the largest of these areas. I have nothing to add to what the President said. The timing and the substance of this decision is his.

**Q.** Have you consulted with the environmental community in putting these proposals together?

A. I and members of my staff have been consulting with all kinds of affected interests on these proposals, including with environmentalists.

**Q.** Is the President playing a numbers game with the acreage - to try to beat FDR or TR?

A. This is about historic and scientific objects and values, not about acres.

**Q.** How do you answer the charge that this is a unilateral land grab by the President for political purposes?

A. The people of the U.S. already own these lands; there is no land grab here. The Congress has given the President clear authority to do this. Many Presidents have exercised this power, with wondrous results. This is a gift to future generations. It is political only in the sense that everything the President does is political.

**Q.** The Antiquities Act speaks of reserving the "smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." Why is the Grand Canyon proposal so big? It goes way beyond the north rim. Your original proposal was much smaller; what happened? How did it get enlarged to include the Grand Wash Cliffs? Why didn't you let the public respond to this proposal?

A. First of all, Presidents have properly recognized that, when you are talking about properly caring for historic and scientific values, very large areas may be required. Many national monuments have involved millions of acres of land each, and the courts have

long upheld this practice, dating back to a unanimous Supreme Court decision in 1920 which upheld Teddy Roosevelt's setting aside part of the Grand Canyon under the Antiquities Act.

As part of our consultation process, we heard from some who thought the original area we talked about should be enlarged. We decided there were important values in the Grand Wash Cliffs, there were conflicts over uses, and that, being part of the watershed of the Grand Canyon, reserving that area is important for proper protection of the values. There were many different proposals offered during the consultation process, some much larger than this. Interested people had opportunities to comment on them all.

**Q.** How much are these monuments going to cost the taxpayers?

**A.** In the near term, very little over current management costs. We hope that additional funding will be available for these special areas; at Agua Fria, for example, we need to do a better job of protecting these ruins against vandalism.

**Q.** How will these monuments affect existing uses? What about ranchers, hunters, ORV users, etc. If monument status won't change these things, why are you recommending the monuments be created?

**A.** In general, I believe these monuments can be established without serious disruption of existing uses. At the Grand Canyon, for example, I think it is very important to keep the area open for hunting. Grazing should remain subject to the same laws and regulations that it is already subject to. Some things may need to be regulated strictly if they directly threaten the values we're trying to protect. We don't want ORVs to trample archeology sites, do we?

Again, immediate threats are not a precondition of using the Antiquities Act. And it is, as I said, important to keep a long term perspective in mind, and not to wait until huge threats emerge before acting.

**Q.** Does the California Coastal proposal affect oil and gas development? Does it affect fishing, hang-gliding, boating, etc.? How many islands and rocks are there?

**A.** There should be no effect on oil and gas development or fishing, because all the proposal deals with is fast land, above the high water mark, not things in or under the water. Activities on the rocks (such as, perhaps, recreation) might be affected. There are thousands of islands and rocks, which may be as small as a few square feet in area. Nobody's bothered to count them; it's not a meaningful statistic.

**Q.** The fact sheet says Cal. State F&G manages the islands and rocks under an MOU with BLM, and that may not change. What kind of management is done?

**A.** My understanding is that the management is largely custodial. That's appropriate. If threats emerge, they can be dealt with more readily if a monument is created.

**Q.** The map indicates the Pinnacles National Monument expansion boundary includes a fairly big chunk of private land on the east side. Why?

**A.** The monument expansion itself only covers federal land, but I understand the owner of much of that property is interested in selling, and would want it to become part of the monument. That is why we drew the boundary that way.

**Q.** How does monument status affect private land within the boundaries? (That's a question at Pinnacles, Grand Canyon, and Agua Fria.) State land? (That's a question only at Grand Canyon.)

**A.** There should be no effect. The creation of any monument would be subject to valid existing rights of all kinds. At the Grand Canyon, we would be delighted to trade out the state lands, as we have done so successfully at the Grand Staircase.

**Q.** Are you proposing to have BLM manage the three new monuments (except for the Lake Mead NRA piece of the Grand Canyon one, which will remain with NPS). Why BLM? What's the difference between BLM running a monument and NPS doing it? Is BLM just NPS-lite?

**A.** I have repeatedly said BLM deserves more management responsibilities to protect areas primarily for conservation. It is the right agency to manage such lands when uses like grazing and hunting are still appropriate. Etc.

**Q.** Many national monuments have become national parks, managed by NPS. Do you see this happening here? Why not?

**A.** No. Many, perhaps nearly all, of the national monuments converted to park status were originally managed by the National Park Service. I don't believe such a conversion is appropriate or inevitable here.

**Q.** Why are you including Lake Mead NRA? Isn't it already protected?

**A.** It was the part of the area considered in 1975 for Grand Canyon expansion; it's part of

the same ecosystem/drainage as the BLM lands, and it has not been completely off limits to mineral development.

**Q.** In at least some of these areas, your local process showed nobody or very few wanted a monument. Why are you recommending it anyway? Does that suggest your local process was a sham?

**A.** We learned a lot in our consultations. I disagree that there was anything like unanimous opposition from local interests. Naturally some local people were concerned about what might happen with such a change. I am confident that, if the President moves forward, the local communities will see that this is a positive step.

**Q.** What about water? Is that an issue with any of them?

**A.** Yes, at Pinnacles and Agua Fria, I believe water is an important component of the objects to be protected. Water played a huge role in the formation of the Pinnacles, for example. Whatever we might end up doing regarding water, it would be subject to valid existing rights, including water rights.

**Q.** Did you talk to Senators Kyl or McCain or the AZ delegation about the Grand Canyon or Agua Fria proposals?

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Is your effort at a public process here an implicit admission that the surprise announcement of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was a mistake?

**A.** No. Each situation is different. It is interesting, however, that in these areas and in the Grand Staircase, management of these public lands has been much debated in the general public, which included proposals for more protective management.

**Q.** How many other national monuments do you intend to recommend to the President? Are you in effect indicating today that Oregon is next? Or Colorado?

**A.** It's no secret that I have been traveling around the country talking about the need to better protect some fantastic areas of public lands. I have also made no secret of my desire to work with Congress on this agenda. And I have made no secret of my interest in recommending that the President use his clear authority under the Antiquities Act if necessary.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 15, 1999

The Honorable James V. Hansen  
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks  
and Public Lands  
Committee on Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
814 O'Neill Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hansen:

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 1998 to the President. In that letter you and Chairman Young of the Committee on Resources request information and documents concerning plans or proposals for new national monument designations. I am responding to your letter on behalf of the President.

At present the President has no specific plans for the creation of new national monuments, and, as you know, Secretary Babbitt has no authority to announce or create a national monument. However, the President has asked Secretary Babbitt to submit to the President any recommendations for the protection of objects of historic or scientific interest on federal lands pursuant to the Antiquities Act. That request was made to Secretary Babbitt in a letter of November 10, 1998, a copy of which is enclosed, in which the President also promised to consider seriously any forthcoming proposals. However, no such recommendations have been presented to the President yet.

Your letter specifically raises questions about a northern Arizona monument. No recommendation has been made to the President on such lands. We understand, however, that Secretary Babbitt and his staff have already contacted Senator McCain and other members of the Arizona delegation to explore appropriate legislative land designations to protect the special values of certain northern Arizona lands. This is consistent with public statements that the Secretary had made previously about his desire to consult with Members of Congress and other interested parties.

I look forward to working with you cooperatively on all future lands and resources issues. If you should have any further questions on this, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 456-5147 or Ellen Athas, CEQ's Deputy General Counsel, at (202) 456-6541.

Sincerely,

George T. Frampton, Jr.  
Acting Chair

GTF/rsk  
Enclosure



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 15, 1999

The Honorable Don Young  
Chairman, Committee on Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young:

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Sincerely,

George T. Frampton, Jr.  
Acting Chair

GTF/rsk  
Enclosure



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 10, 1998

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bruce:

Some of the most gratifying accomplishments of my Administration have come from the work we have done together to preserve America's great natural legacy for future generations. I am especially proud of our efforts to preserve Yellowstone National Park by acquiring the New World Mine, to protect the old growth redwoods of California's Headwaters Forest, and to recognize the priceless resources of Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante region through their designation as a national monument.

As we approach the next century, I would appreciate any recommendations you may have for further appropriate exercise of my authority under the Antiquities Act to protect objects of historic or scientific interest on federal lands. I will seriously consider and weigh any such proposals in the context of our overall efforts to save the most valuable, unique, and threatened places in America as a legacy for our children and grandchildren.

I look forward to receiving your guidance.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*

*1/2 original deposited to George Hampton*



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D. C. 20240

Ph: (202) 208-7693

Fax: (202) 208-5533 or (202) 208-7619

**PLEASE DELIVER TO:**

NAME: Ellen A. Hansen

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NO. 456-6546

PAGES TO FOLLOW: 16 DATE: 1/15

**FROM:**

Dave Alberswerth

Laura Daniel-Davis

Sharon Hyde

Nancy Appler

Amy Holley

Sue Peake

**MESSAGE/NOTE**

☐ For your information

☐ Per your request

☐ Per our conversation



This is the entire package we are delivering to Young and Hansen this afternoon.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1999

The Honorable James V. Hansen  
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands  
Committee on Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hansen:

This is in response to your and Congressman Don Young's December 22, 1998, letter asking several questions as a result of my recent mention of possible use of the Antiquities Act to protect an area on the Arizona Strip in northern Arizona. Your letter asks for any other national monument "plans or proposals" that the Department or anyone else in the Administration is "contemplating, reviewing, considering, or planning to establish" within the next two years (question #1 in your December 22 letter) or beyond the next two years (question #3). I can answer your questions only for the Department of the Interior. An identical response is being sent to Congressman Don Young.

As you know, the Antiquities Act has been an important feature of natural resource policy making for nearly a century. About 100 national monuments have been established (through proclamations of nearly every President) since the Act was adopted in 1906. Indeed, many of our best-known and loved places - Grand Canyon, Glacier Bay, Acadia, Death Valley, Olympic and Zion - were first protected by Presidents acting under this Act. In many cases Congress has subsequently acted to lend further protection and confirmation to the President's use of the Antiquities Act.

Because the Act has been so successful, it is not uncommon for there to be informal discussions within the Department or its constituent bureaus and agencies of its possible use. I suspect that has always been true, given the relative frequency (an average of a little more than one per year) with which this power has been exercised. We do not, however, have under active consideration any concrete plans or proposals regarding Antiquities Act recommendations to the President at the current time, other than the one in northern Arizona. On that one, I have talked publicly about the possibility of recommending that the President exercise his authority, but I have also indicated I will not do so as long as acceptable progress is being made on legislation that would provide equivalent protection for the area in question. As you know, I have discussed the idea of such legislation with Senator McCain, who has indicated a desire to explore this possibility. I am enclosing copies of a map and other information relevant to our consideration of this proposal that we have provided interested members of Congress.

You also ask about any process the Department or anyone else in the Administration will use for public and congressional notification in connection with proposing any future national monuments. Although the Antiquities Act has long been an important tool of national conservation policy, no particular or regular process has been established for determining where that authority might be exercised. Rather, process questions have been, and will continue to be, determined on an ad hoc, case by case basis. The same goes for the process for determining the location of future national monuments, which is your last question.

Consultation with affected members of Congress and others on these exercises can be valuable. We are following this course with respect to the area north of the Grand Canyon. I should also note that while consultations with the Utah delegation and the Governor in advance of the President's decision to create the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument were brief, they were meaningful. They helped shape a proclamation sensitive to the concerns expressed about which agency should manage the monument, treatment of state inholdings, hunting, fishing, grazing and water.

Finally, I want to emphasize that the absence of detailed, fixed policy on these matters has not prevented the exercise of Presidential authority under the Antiquities Act from being one of the genuine governmental success stories of the twentieth century. In my judgment, that track record justifies approaching any proposals for change with considerable skepticism.

I appreciate your interest in writing.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure



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