

May 24, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF), I am writing you concerning the Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act issued on April 26, 2017. The PLF supports the use of the Antiquities Act by Presidents in the past, and in the future, to help conserve and manage valuable natural and cultural resources on public lands, including the establishment of National Monuments.

Your task as ordered by the President is important to many communities in the western states. Nationally designated areas are a tremendous asset to states and local communities particularly in the rural West and provide diversity and stability to the overall economic portfolios of our western states. The Outdoor Recreation Economy 2017 report by the Outdoor Industry Association, highlights \$254 billion in consumer spending annually, 2.2 million American jobs, \$19.4 billion in Federal tax revenue and \$17.3 billion in state and local tax revenue in the western United States and growing annually.

One of the key items we want to emphasize is that the mission of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as outlined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), provides a very broad construct under which the agencies, local communities, industries and organizations, can participate in determining how our public lands will be managed for future generations. In less than 15 years, nationally designated areas on public lands, including National Monuments, have become just as important to the public's western heritage, economy and stability as energy production has over the last several decades.

The PLF is a nonprofit national organization which supports keeping public lands in public hands, embracing multiple use management of the public lands managed by the BLM and following sound environmental principles. We are a membership organization whose members are predominantly retired former employees of the BLM. As such, our membership represents a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience in public land management.

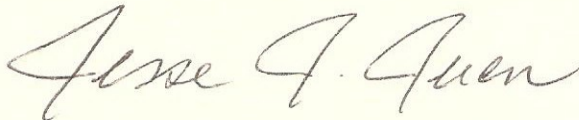
The PLF believes that many of the issues surrounding the use of the presidential authority within the Antiquities Act have been addressed and should continue to be addressed in processes provided for in FLPMA. Rather than revise or create new authority, FLPMA

allows local community and government engagement on how the areas should be managed for use and enjoyment by a broad constituency.

We note that in 2001, Secretary Norton directed her own similar review of National Monuments created by the previous administration and the first National Monuments to be managed under the BLM and FLPMA. In many cases, this use of presidential authority allowed for continuation of traditional multiple uses as directed in each unique presidential proclamation. FLPMA provides creative options to "grandfathering" traditional uses, while still protecting the objects and values identified in each unique proclamation. This is a lesson that previous administrations came to realize, and concluded that these management situations can best be addressed in land use plans developed for each area.

In context to the specific authorities under FLPMA, the PLF is uniquely situated to be able to assist in your effort by our expertise at the "grass roots" level of western public land management. We have lived in these communities, sent our children to schools in these communities, and often gone back and retired in these communities. We have also seen how the West has changed over the last 50 years under FLPMA. Please contact us if we can assist in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse J. Juen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jesse J. Juen, President