



It's Time to Rein In The Antiquities Act

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President of the United States the authority – through a presidential proclamation – to create national monuments on public lands. To date, more than 80 natural areas have been set aside as park or preservation lands, including nearly 137 million acres of public lands.

The Reality for Ranchers

Although some of these designations are appropriate, many times, the President will create national monuments on millions of acres of land at a time, significantly disrupting the economies of local communities that reside on or are adjacent to those lands. The livestock industry is consistently impacted when public land that has been used for ranching for generations is taken away.

When land is designated as a national monument, new regulations greatly limit multiple uses – including livestock grazing – or create restrictions on access and range-improvement maintenance. These restrictions are often so costly that ranchers can no longer afford to use their public land allotments. When ranchers lose their allotments, the local economy suffers – incomes plummet, businesses close and schools shutter.

Reining in the Antiquities Act

Due to past controversy, the Presidential powers under the Antiquities Act have been limited in two states. The first after the Jackson Hole National Monument designation in 1943, and again after President Carter created 56 million acres of national monuments in Alaska.



The Antiquities Act in Action

In 1996, President Clinton designated the 1.9-million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. This designation is equivalent to a one-and-a-half mile wide tract of land stretching from San Francisco to New York City.

As a result:

- Four grazing allotments have closed entirely
- Portions of four additional grazing allotments have been closed
- Since the creation of the monument, middle and high school enrollment has dropped as much as 67 percent in some counties, leading to unsustainable school districts
- In 2011, the per-capita income in counties affected by the designation of a monument was nearly \$2,000 less than comparable counties

The Public Lands Council now urges Members of Congress to block efforts to create new national monument space in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Oregon and protect the livestock grazing industry.

For more information, visit: www.publiclandscouncil.org

