



Presidential Monument Designations Wreak Havoc on Local Communities: The Owyhee Canyonlands

President Obama has proposed a new national monument across 2.5 million acres of public land in the southeastern portion of rural Oregon. This potential monument – more than double the size of the entire state of Delaware – would be among the largest in the United States. If approved, it would come to be known as the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument.

Public Dissent: Oregonians React

Often, when new national monuments are proposed by the President, the state and local communities are not consulted and unfortunately in many cases, locking up this land has a very negative impact on the surrounding community's ability to thrive.

Recently, residents of Malheur County – the site of the proposed Owyhee monument – had the chance to voice their opinion on the proposal due to an advisory vote called for by the local County Court. **Ninety percent of local respondents voted against the proposed monument.**

Unfortunately, this vote is non-binding, as monument designations are under the sole discretion of the President. Nevertheless, voters in the region hoped to have their voices heard on an issue so critical to their livelihoods, communities and local economies.

"We're here to listen to our people who live here and work here," summed up Don Hodge, a Malheur County commissioner who attended a 500-person town hall meeting about the designation. "We don't want to get this land locked up. We want to have a say in it."

Impact: Economic Downturn

Although the specifics of the future local impact on Malheur County are yet unclear, we only need look to history to see the terrible economic impact similar monument designations have had on other communities in the West, especially those with local businesses that rely on the use of public lands. The proposed Owyhee Monument is often compared to the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument designated in Utah in 1996, as it is similarly sized.

Residents of Malheur County look at the economic downturn that has been attributed to the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument and are bracing for the similar impact the Owyhee Canyonlands monument would have on their community. In the areas surrounding the Grand Staircase, businesses were forced to close, families left the area due to a lack of local jobs and schools were shuttered.

For more information, visit: www.publiclandscouncil.org

It's Time to Protect Local Communities and End Unrestricted Presidential Authority to Authorize New National Monuments!



"A special federal land designation, such as a monument, will have a negative economic impact to those living in the area. Ranching operations throughout southeastern Oregon will be reduced as the majority of ranchers are tied to federal grazing."

- Linn County Commissioners
Roger Nyquist, John Lindsey and Will Tucker
In a letter to Oregon elected officials.

