

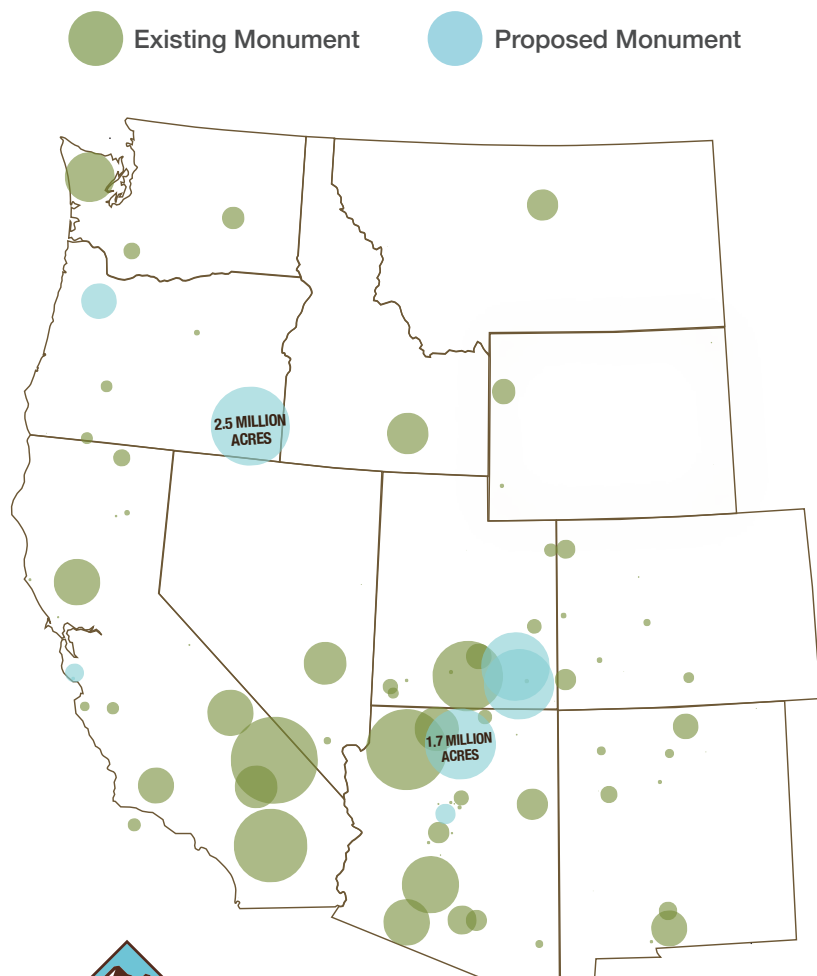


Monuments Burnish a Presidential Legacy at the Expense of Western Communities

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.

President Obama is considering creating several new national monuments on millions of acres of land at a time. This will significantly disrupt 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.



A Lesson From History:

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.