Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and its Impact

Presented by the Western Conservationist Movement
Common Misunderstandings About the Monument Proposal
Monumental Control of Our Lands

**FACT:** Total acres in Doña Ana County:
2,436,480 (100%)

**PROPOSAL:** Acreage of the proposed Organ Mountain/Desert Peak Monument:
600,000 (25%)

**FACT:** Land in Doña Ana County needed to protect the Organ Mountains and its foothills:
About 58,512 acres (2%)
Monumental Control of Our Lands

**RESULT:** One in four acres of Doña Ana County will be under stricter control of the Federal Government.

**QUESTION:** Why do we need an additional 541,188 acres (23% of Doña Ana County) added under the protection of the Organ Mountain/Desert Peak Monument?
Agricultural Economic Impact in Doña Ana County (DAC)
Agricultural Economic Impact in DAC

- 82.19% (484,405 acres) of total county farm land (589,373 acres) is cattle grazing pasture.

- Natural resources, mining and agriculture employ just over 4,000 people in DAC.

- Ranked #5 in NM for cattle inventory and #3 for the market value of livestock, poultry and their products.

- Livestock sales account for 57% of agriculture products sold in DAC.

*Information courtesy of United States Dept. of Agriculture*
Who Are These Monument Guys?

According to their own websites:

- A coalition of groups that believe traditional land use destroys the scenic beauty of the lands.

- They support preservation which protects the land *from* the people, not *for* the people. We believe in conservation so that the mountains can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Information courtesy of www.organmountains.org
Who Are These Monument Guys?

- The Friends of the Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks Monument and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. Leaders of these environmental groups went to Washington, D.C. with a list of their supporters and testified before Congress on June 28, 2012 that there was no opposition to this act.
But in Fact

- On the exact same day Matt Rush, NMF&LB Executive Vice President, testified to a Congressional Committee that there was significant opposition to the monument.
So, Who Are These Monument Guys?

They’re ambitious!

- They are the same people that created the 2007 Organ Mountain Wilderness bill that proposed to make 300,000 acres in Doña Ana County a National Wilderness Area, which became stalled in Congress.
Ambitious? Greedy is More Like It!

- When the 300,000-acre National Wilderness Area bill failed to pass in 2011, they decided to go around Congress in 2012 and doubled the size of their proposal for Doña Ana County! They introduced the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument proposal to be signed by the President under the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act.
Greedy and Lazy!

When wilderness supporters raced to create the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument proposal early last year, they pushed to get their new proposal on President Obama’s desk before the 2012 presidential election.

Why would they do this?
Time Was Their Enemy!

- They were concerned that the business community would realize the wool was being pulled over their eyes before it was passed.

What does this mean long term if signed into law by the President?
The Fast Track to Wilderness

The Organ Mountain/Desert Peak Monument is a stepping stone to making 600,000 acres into National Monument which would put 25% of Doña Ana County under the most strict Federal Government controls in our nation.
How Can We Believe Anything They Are Telling Us?

- A large portion of their support base went out of business, or never existed, before the Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument was proposed on March 20, 2012 and many other supporters can not be confirmed.

- They did not reconfirm support of a protective land proposal that has now doubled in size.
They Lied to Congress & the President!

- Monument proposal leaders shifted their support from the smaller 300,000-acre wilderness bill to the 600,000-acre Federal Monument proposal without confirming with the supporters.

- They did not have time to go back and get local/area business supporters to sign off on the new 600,000-acre national Monument proposal which would put the land under stricter Federal control.
Who Are Some of the Supporters Listed on the Monument Supporter Website?

- Sandoval Dodge (Out of business 2010)
- Saturn of Las Cruces (Out of business 2010)
- 5 Brothers Chinese and Burgers (Out of business 2010)
- Dutch’s Meat Market (Out of business)
- Jesse's Phone Accessories (Out of business)
- Red Mountain Café (Out of business)
- Savino's Ristorante Italiano (Out of business)
- Las Cruces Custom Tours (Out of business)
- Picacho Mexican Grill (Out of business)

- And ten more who are now out of business, yet still noted on their list of supporters.
Who Are These Monument Guys?

According to their own websites:

- They worry about mining & energy resources that may be found and developed within the designated monument area.

- They believe monument status will reduce human activity and reduce climate change.

- They claim that invasive species (humans, cattle & horses) and off-road vehicles will lead to land destruction and waste in the 600,000-acre monument.

Information courtesy of www.organmountains.org
So, Who Are These Monument Guys?

- NM State Senator Bill Soules, DAC, whose brother is on the board of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

- Nathan Small, City Councilor Las Cruces, who is also a paid community organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

- NM State House Rep. Jeff Steinborn, DAC, who is also a paid community organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

- Martin Heinrich, U.S. Senator NM, co-founder and past board chair of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.
Who is the NM Wilderness Alliance?

- Democratic NM Sen. Martin Heinrich co-founded this extreme environmentalist group with the convicted eco-terrorist Dave Foreman in the 1990s.

- Dave Foreman currently serves on the NM Wilderness Alliance board and helps direct their extreme environmentalist group’s efforts, aimed at controlling the use of New Mexico government owned lands.

- Foreman pled guilty in 1991 to conspiracy to damage the property of an energy facility as part of an “Earth First” attempt to destroy an electrical transmission line leading to a nuclear power plant, according to a report funded by the U.S. Department of Justice entitled “Pre-Incident Indicators of Terrorist Incidents.”
Who is the NM Wilderness Alliance?

- Foreman’s guilty plea occurred years before the earliest verifiable evidence of his working relationship with Heinrich, who now sits on the Senate Energy Committee. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance was formed in 1997, according to the group’s website.

- In his writings, Foreman has said that “World War III has already begun, and that is the war of industrial humans against the Earth.” He has also advocated for “civil disobedience” and “environmental espionage,” and coached his followers in the methods of “conscious lawbreaking.”
Who is the NM Wilderness Alliance?

- This group, along with the support of the Conservation Voters of New Mexico and the Sierra Club, have spent millions of dollars to achieve the goal of controlling New Mexico public lands.

- These groups are the creators and promoters of the failed wilderness legislation and the current monument proposal.

- This group has a long-term goal to put over 3 million acres of New Mexico public lands under the strict protection of the Federal Wilderness and Monument control.
What happens if the monument is approved?

- 25% of our county lands will be taken out of use for more traditional economic development.
- 75 private parcels of land will have access impacted.
- The ranching industry will be severely impacted.
- The FAA’s radar transponder will not be accessible by powered vehicles.
- Part of the Village of Hatch’s water system will not be accessible by powered vehicles.
- Parts of the Century Link fiber optics system will not be accessible by powered vehicles.
- Access for Border Security will be impacted.
Monument Myths
Myth: Ranching will not be impacted by the monument.

Fact: Cattle grazing and hunting ARE NOT allowed on 10 of the 12 New Mexico monuments.

Remember: Monument status is the stepping stone to the most restrictive Federal Government control—Wilderness.
Ranching May be included in Proposal, but can be eliminated with one lawsuit:

- Advocates for the West sued the BLM because grazing was destroying **plant resources** in the Sonoran National Monument. Grazing permits revoked.

- Advocates for the West sued the BLM because grazing was destroying **prairie dog and pygmy rabbit habitat** in Wyoming. Grazing permits revoked.

- Advocates for the West sued the BLM because grazing was destroying **“wilderness values”** in Nevada. Grazing permits revoked.

- Advocates for the West sued the BLM because grazing was destroying **sage-grouse habitat** in Idaho. Grazing permits revoked.

- Advocates for the West sued the BLM because grazing was destroying **native plants** in Oregon. Grazing permits revoked.
Myth: “Monument Status Will Drive Tourism & Provide Significant Income”

Carlsbad Caverns National Monument costs $6 million annually to operate, earning roughly $1.6 million in annual revenue with over 400,000 visitors.

There is no study or guarantee that converting 25% of the county into a monument will attract enough visitors to offset our economic losses put the lands from strict Federal controls. National parks and monument attendance is currently down.

The Federal Government is running out of money. How will they fund the management of the 600,000-acre Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument?

*Information courtesy of Headwaters Economics, Dona Ana County Report, Carlsbad Convention & Visitors Bureau and US Bureau of Land Management*
Myth: “Monument status is the only way to protect the Organ Mountains”

FACT:

- The monument option is not the only option!
- HB 995 protects the Organ Mountains
- HB 995 preserves workable land in DAC
- HB 995 defends growth and development
- HB 995 ensure economic prosperity in the future of DAC
How do we STOP this Monument Madness?

The Alternative

- Join the growing members of the Western Conservationist Movement who support HB 995. This will protect the Organ Mountains without putting 25% of Dona Ana County’s available land under strict Federal Government monument control, which would drastically reduce economic revenues and jobs in our county.
Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce • Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District • Council of Border Conservation Districts • Southwest County Commission Alliance • Farm Credit of New Mexico • Las Cruces Four Wheel Drive Club • New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau Doña Ana County Farm and Livestock Bureau • Luna County Farm and Livestock Bureau • New Mexico Four Wheel Drive Group • Elephant Butte Irrigation District People for Preserving our Western Heritage • Doña Ana County Sheriff • National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers • Village of Hatch • Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District • Las Cruces Crawlers Four Wheel Drive Group • People for Prosperity • Otero County Farm and Livestock Bureau • Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association • New Mexico Cattle Grower’s Association • New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.