

Standing With The Commission

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|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Senator John McCain | Archery Trade Association | Fredonia Town Council |
| Senator Jeff Flake | Arizona Antelope Foundation | Houston Safari Club |
| Congressman Paul Gosar | Arizona BASS Nation | Masters of Foxhounds Association |
| Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis | Arizona Big Game Super Raffle | Mohave County Board of Supervisors |
| Congressman Mark Amodei | Arizona Bowhunters Association | Mohave Sportsman Club |
| Congressman Cresent Hardy | Arizona Chapter of Safari Club International | Mule Deer Foundation |
| Congressman Doug LaMalfa | Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited | National Association of Forest Service Retirees |
| Congressman Glenn Thompson | Arizona Deer Association | National Rifle Association |
| Congressman David Schweikert | Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society | National Shooting Sports Foundation |
| Congressman Scott Tipton | Arizona Elk Society | National Wild Turkey Federation |
| Congressman Bruce Westerman | Arizona Flycasters Club | North American Bear Foundation |
| Congressman Ryan Zinke | Arizona Game and Fish Commission | Orion: The Hunter's Institute |
| Congressman Paul Cook | Arizona Houndsmen | Outdoor Experience 4 All |
| Congressman Mike Kelly | Arizona Outdoor Sports | Quality Deer Management Association |
| Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen | Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation | Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation |
| Congressman Daniel Webster | Arizona State Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation | Ruffed Grouse Society |
| Congressman John Culberson | Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | Safari Club International |
| Congressman John Fleming | Association of Wildlife Conservation Partners | South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen's Club |
| Congressman Trent Franks | Boone and Crockett Club | SRT Outdoors |
| Congressman Louis Gohmert | Bullhead City Town Council | The BASS Federation |
| Congressman Bob Goodlatte | Camp Fire Club of America | Tread Lightly! |
| Congressman Steve King | Coconino Sportsmen | Tusayan Town Council |
| Congressman Doug Lamborn | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation | U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance |
| Congressman Tom McClintock | Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports | Whitetails Unlimited |
| Congressman Steve Pearce | Dallas Safari Club | Wild Sheep Foundation |
| Congressman Matt Salmon | Delta Waterfowl Foundation | Wildlife Management Institute |
| Congressman Don Young | | Williams Town Council |
| Arizona Speaker of the House David Gowan | | Xtreme Predator Callers |
| 1.2.3.Go... | | |
| Anglers United | | |

Stop and consider: A "monument"-al mistake?

Why the Arizona Game and Fish Commission *objects to a proposal to create the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.*



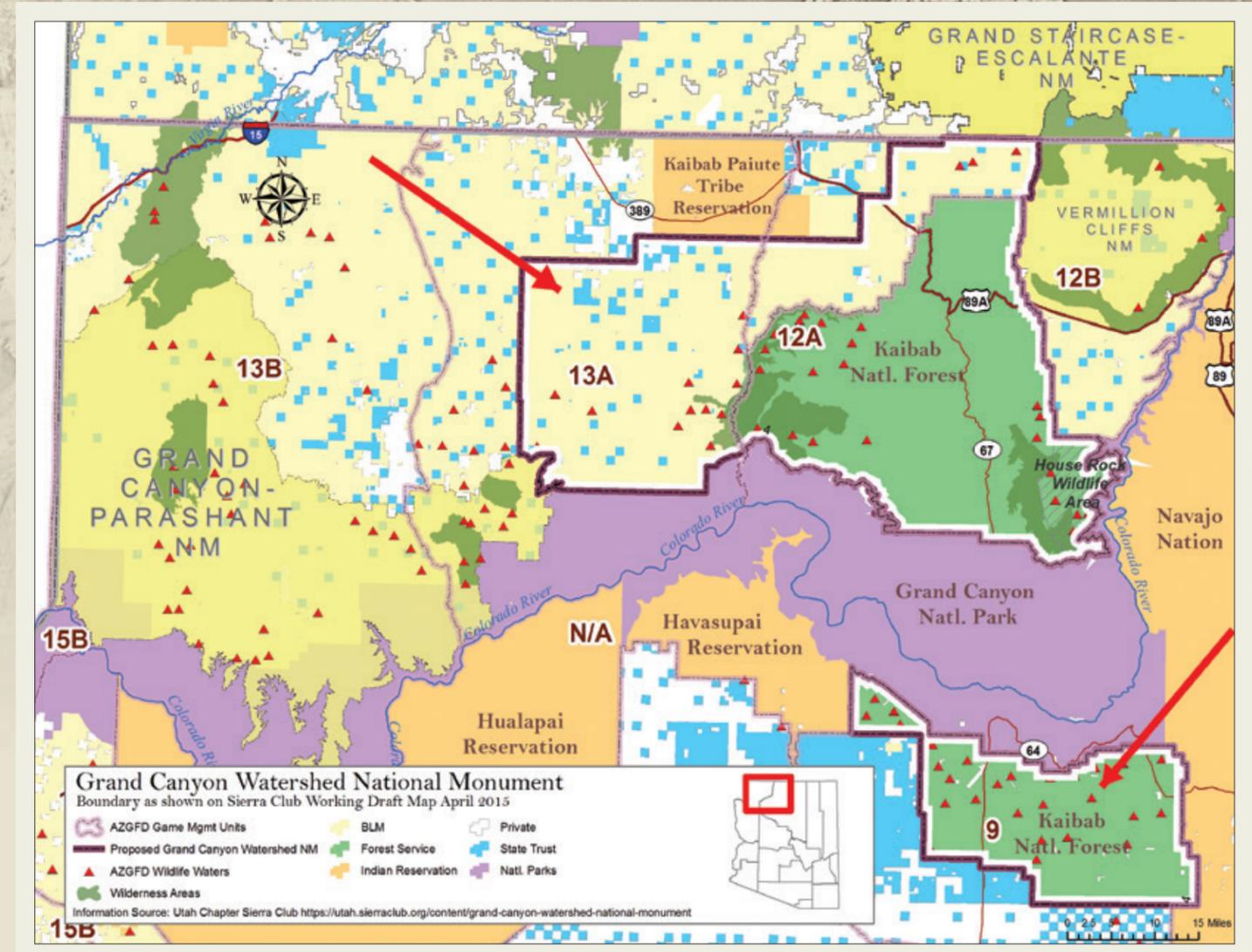
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"Wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will."

- President Theodore Roosevelt

Several environmental organizations, along with members of the Arizona congressional delegation (Representatives Kirkpatrick, Grijalva and Gallego), are advocating for designation of a new 1.7 million-acre Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument on two areas adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park (arrows, map right). Most lands within the proposed monument are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in a multiple-use framework.



Proponents have identified various justifications for monument designation. How do they stand up?

MYTH

Old-growth forests are threatened by commercial logging.

FACT: The greatest threat to old-growth forests on the proposed monument is catastrophic wildfire.



Commercial-scale logging of old-growth in Arizona ended in the 1990s, following administrative and legal challenges. These challenges also curtailed mechanical thinning on USFS lands within the proposed monument, setting the stage for unnaturally large, intense, and destructive wildfires.

One such event (Warm Fire, 2006) has already occurred within that area. Designation may make it difficult or impossible to implement needed forest restoration projects, including mechanical thinning, before another major wildfire occurs.

MYTH

Wildlife movements (connectivity) are at risk.

FACT: Areas within the proposed monument are currently protected and managed to provide the largest block of unfragmented wildlife habitat in Arizona. Impediments to wildlife movements are highly localized and typically associated with major transportation corridors and associated fencing. The Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Game and Fish Department, land management agencies, and others are already working to mitigate these barriers.

MYTH

Off-highway vehicles (OHV) pose a significant threat to the area.

FACT: Cross-county off-road travel is already prohibited, with limited exceptions for fuelwood harvest and recovery of legally-taken big game animals. OHV use is restricted to designated roads/routes and managed by BLM and USFS under the Travel Management Process, an adaptive framework that can address future concerns and management needs.

MYTH

Inappropriate levels of livestock grazing are disturbing fragile ecosystems.

FACT: Livestock grazing within the proposed monument is managed by BLM and USFS.



Herd size, seasons, and levels of use are specified by the management agency and adjusted to address resource needs and changing conditions. Grazing permits on two large allotments within or adjacent to the proposed monument are held by an environmental group (Grand Canyon Trust) dedicated to sustainable management.

MYTH

Public lands in the proposed monument area lack sufficient protection under current federal regulations) protection.

FACT: Extensive tracts of public land proximate to or within the proposed monument are already protected by special designations. These include the Grand Canyon Game Preserve (600,000 acres), eight national parks/monuments (4.9 million acres) and nine wilderness areas (400,000 acres). Management of BLM and USFS lands within the proposed monument is driven by current resource management plans incorporating extensive public involvement, the best available science, and expertise provided by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

What are the concerns and potential consequences of monument designation?

The new monument would add to a system the federal government is already struggling to maintain. The current estimated shortfall in deferred maintenance at existing national parks and monuments is \$11.5 billion; Grand Canyon National Park is 5th on that list with backlogged projects totaling \$330 million. If the federal government cannot efficiently operate and maintain a world-class national park of 1.2 million acres, how can adding 1.7 million more acres be financially prudent?

Designation will add new layers of bureaucratic process and delay needed management actions. Once designated, the federal agency responsible for the monument will need to develop a new resource management plan, a process that took 11 years on another recently designated Arizona monument. Important actions could be placed on hold until the plan is complete and has withstood potential administrative and legal challenges.

Designation will impede proactive and effective management of wildlife populations and habitats within the monument.



Wildlife management activities on included federal lands will require more complex planning by agencies that are already understaffed, and will face challenges from elements of the public who oppose active management in “protected” areas. Wildlife captures/translocations, maintenance/development of water sources, and habitat restoration projects may be delayed or prohibited, impeding the state’s ability to meet its trust responsibilities and diminishing state wildlife management authorities.

The proposed monument includes some of the most important hunting areas in the United States, including the iconic Kaibab deer herd, portions of the Arizona Strip that produce trophy mule deer, and areas south of the Grand Canyon known for trophy bull elk. Over time, an inability to properly manage these populations and their habitats may result in decreased populations, reduced hunter opportunities and loss of revenues that directly support conservation and local communities.

Monument designation sets the stage for future, more restrictive designations, further impeding public access, hunting, and management flexibility. Areas within the new monument that are



determined to have “wilderness characteristics” would face activity restrictions similar to designated wilderness areas. USFS and BLM lands within the new monument could also be transferred to the National Park Service, in which case that agency’s narrower mission and greater restrictions on management and recreational activities would apply. A majority of national parks in Arizona were previously designated as national monuments.

Designation under the Antiquities Act disenfranchises stakeholders and deprives local communities a voice in the process. Designating a new monument via unilateral executive order undermines extensive prior collaboration, agency planning, and public support for existing management of this area.