



## **Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District**

**2507 North Telshor Boulevard, Ste. 1 - Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011 - Phone (575) 522-8775, Ext. 101**  
[www.daswcd.org](http://www.daswcd.org)

November 27, 2012

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by Executive Order

Dear President Obama:

The Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District is a locally-elected subdivision of state government with state authority to manage soil and water resources within our district boundaries which encompass the Lower Rio Grande Watershed from Caballo Dam at Caballo, New Mexico to the Texas state line at El Paso, Texas within Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Both the Organ Mountains-Dona Ana County Conservation and Protection Act (S1024-Senator Bingaman) and the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (proposed by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance) would absorb large areas of our watershed that contain uncontrolled arroyos or flood control dams that DO NOT meet current state or federal dam safety standards.

Because of our state mandate, it is our responsibility to stand opposed to any land classification of federal lands in Dona Ana County that could limit the ability of local government officials to seek measures to manage storm water in these areas. Every sophisticated and modern strategy of watershed management around cities like Las Cruces must have access upslope because that is where the least cost yet most effective flood control measures are started and shaped. Access to these areas will be at great risk in any special land designations. The danger to public life, welfare, and safety must have clear cut allowances and protocol.

Notwithstanding what has been presented to you, this matter has huge consequences to this community. With your successful election results, please allow this continuing debate to work its way through congressional channels in order that the full measure of the impact to the community can be fully defined. There is now time. There is no demand that must be considered on the basis of the Antiquity's Act authority alternative.

Your understanding of watershed management is hugely important to us for our community's future. People's lives depend on the outcome.

Respectfully,

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Joe Delk, Chairman  
Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District

cc:

Secretary Ken Salazar  
Senator Jeff Bingaman  
Senator Tom Udall  
Representative Steve Pearce  
Senator-elect Martin Heinrich