



## DOÑA ANA COUNTY FARM AND LIVESTOCK BUREAU

P.O. Drawer 2246 • Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004 • (505) 524-8632 • FAX (505) 524-8426

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

RE: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Dear Mr. President:

Dona Ana County Farm & Livestock Bureau is the state's largest and oldest private organization of farmers, ranchers and rural New Mexicans. We represent more than 2700 farm and ranch families in our county.

We are opposed to the designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by Presidential proclamation for the following reasons:

◦ Public scoping was non-existent. A short list of scoping oversight impacted by the National Monument footprint would include: 60 parcels of private land, more than 80 sections of State Trust land, nearly 70 of the cattle in the county and domestic water supply for one of our cities in the county, thereby creating a large economic impact in Dona Ana County.

◦ Environmental designations such National Monuments restrict or limit access by law enforcement officers including the Border Patrol. Such restrictions close to our border with Mexico have resulted in damage to the resource and threats to public safety for rural residents in our neighboring state of Arizona. We do not want to import such problems to southern New Mexico.

◦ Restrictions on roads, motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment will impair the ability of state and local government to maintain existing flood control dams in the footprint of the proposed monument, again presenting a threat to public safety.

◦ Restrictions on motorized vehicles, the ability to maintain or construct range improvements and other standard ranching operations will result in the demise of many of the thirty-eight historical ranches located within the footprint of the proposed monument.

For the above-mentioned reasons we respectfully request you not exercise your executive authority to designate a national monument and instead let the local stakeholders pursue other administrative and legislative remedies to protecting these lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Deerman, President of Dona Ana County Farm and Livestock Bureau

cc:

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