



Mesilla Valley Sportsmen's Alliance

December 27, 2012

Byron Delk, Chairman
Mesilla Valley Sportsmen's Alliance
9405 Dona Ana Rd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

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

Mr. President,

Re: Proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

The Mesilla Valley Sportsmen's Alliance represents over 100 families in the Mesilla Valley who value the culture and customs associated with hunting which have been passed down to us from our parents and grand-parents.

Mr. President, we know, with a national monument proclamation, restricted access for hunting on these public lands will follow. Hunting is banned in 11 of the 12 national monuments in New Mexico and the management plan for the 12th has not been completed by the BLM.

Additionally, we are supportive of vegetative manipulation, water catchments and other wildlife habitat restorative projects that would be prohibited or severely limited in a national monument.

We stand in solid opposition to the creation of the proposed 600,000 acre national monument which consumes practically all of the prime hunting areas on public land in Dona Ana County.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Byron Delk, Chairman
Mesilla Valley Sportsmen's Alliance

cc:

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