

# New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts

P.O. Box 1050, Moriarty, NM 87035

Phone – 505-832-1111 Fax – 505-832-1121

*New Mexico  
Coalition*



*of  
Conservation  
Districts*

## BOARD of DIRECTORS

*David King*  
President

*Aubrey Dunn*  
Vice-Chair

*Joe Delk*  
Secretary / Treasurer

*Preston Stone*  
Member At-Large

*José Varela López*  
Northern Districts

*Richard Shovelin*  
Southern Districts

*(Vacant)*  
Central Districts

November 27, 2012

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

RE: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument  
Organ Mountains-Doña Ana County Conservation and Protection Act

Dear President Obama:

The New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts represents seventeen New Mexico soil and water conservation districts.

It is our understanding that you have been asked to consider the declaration of 600,000 acres as a national monument in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. It is also our understanding that New Mexico Senators Bingaman and Udall have requested that the federal lands identified in SB 1024 (just under 400,000 acres) come also under your consideration for national monument status.

Mr. President, the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts is deeply concerned about the unintended consequences which could result if these lands are placed in national monument status and therefore must stand in opposition to such action.

Each of our member districts is represented by elected officials with statutory authority and responsibility to manage the natural resources within their respective watersheds, many of which are dominated by federal land. Any restrictive land designations on these federal lands would restrict access and hamper the ability of the districts to design, develop and manage flood control measures in those watersheds. The danger to public life, welfare, and safety requires us to have clear access and protocol before any lands are so named.

Again, we respectfully request you not designate any National Monuments in southern New Mexico and instead work with the local community to seek out alternative methods for the conservation of these federal lands.

Sincerely yours,

David W. King  
President  
New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts

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

DWK/JD/mw