



NEW MEXICO FARM & LIVESTOCK BUREAU

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January 3, 2013

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

RE: Proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, New Mexico

Dear Mr. President:

New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau is the state's largest and oldest private organization of farmers, ranchers and rural New Mexicans. We represent almost 17,000 farm and ranch families in all 33 counties of the state.

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

- Designating such National Monuments restricts or limits access by law enforcement officers including the Border Patrol. These restrictions so 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 similar 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 in the event of a 100 year flood.
- 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 that you not exercise your executive authority to designate this national monument and instead let the local stakeholders pursue other administrative and legislative remedies in order to protect these lands.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike White
President, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau

cc:

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