

SOUTHWESTERN COUNTY COMMISSION ALLIANCE

COUNTY OF CATRON
P.O. BOX 507
RESERVE, NM 87830
575-533-6423

November 28, 2012

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

COUNTY OF GRANT
1400 HIGHWAY 180 EAST
SILVER CITY, NM 88061
575-574-0008

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

Dear President Obama:

COUNTY OF HIDALGO
300 SHAKESPEARE
LORDSBURG, NM 88045
575-542-9428

GREETINGS from the Southwest County Commission Alliance (SWCCA), which consists of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra and Socorro Counties, New Mexico. The SWCCA has become increasingly concerned over the six year discussion regarding expansive designation of restrictive federal lands classifications in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. Besides Dona Ana County, two of our Alliance Counties (Hidalgo and Luna) are directly adjacent to the border and these counties are extremely vulnerable to the implication of such an action.

COUNTY OF LUNA
700 S. SILVER AVENUE
DEMING, NM 88030
575-544-4293

The concern is elevated dramatically if the request to your office is carried out through the use of the Antiquities Act. The SWCCA stands in firm opposition to such an approach. This is not an issue that has any bearing on a minimum footprint that can be interpreted in that Act from 1906. This is a political end run that will have significant and unfortunate historical implications if it is done. Your office must recognize the seriousness of the fallout from such an approach.

COUNTY OF SIERRA
855 VAN PATTEN
TORO, NM 87901
575-894-6215

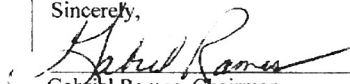
All southwestern New Mexico counties have similar land ownership as that of Dona Ana County. The inclusion of state and private land parcels in any federal legislation or proclamations has serious impact to already frail county economies. Neither of these sources of income can be isolated or diminished from productive land rolls without negative results. SWCCA has studied the suggested gain from those designations and the gains simply don't occur to counties where few complimentary industries exist.

COUNTY OF SOCORRO
P.O. BOX 1
SOCORRO, NM 87801
575-835-0589

SWCCA recognizes that Hidalgo and Luna Counties are two of the most seriously impacted bodies of governance in the nation regarding border security. The avoidance by the press and the proponents of the Dona Ana debate of the seriousness of national security implicit in safe havens close to the border is ill founded and wrong. We know the implications and we don't buy the suggestion of the supposed safeguards.

Please, don't act on this matter with the authority vested in your administration. Allow this to proceed with full Congressional attention in order to avoid the dramatic consequences of a designation of this magnitude.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Ramos, Chairman
Southwest County Commission Alliance

Cc: Secretary Ken Salazar
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Tom Udall

Representative Steve Pearce
Senator-elect Martin Heinrich
Governor Susana Martinez