



March 13, 2014

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I represent the Western Heritage Alliance, a 791-member coalition of business owners and professionals in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, who strongly oppose the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Our membership's concerns can be summarized around the following three issues:

- ° Flood control and watershed management – The designation would limit or prevent the maintenance of existing flood control structures and the application of modern watershed management strategies.
- ° Law Enforcement and Border Security – The designation would place limitations on motorized access by Federal, state and local law enforcement. We don't want to see replicated in New Mexico what has occurred in Arizona where these types of protective designation have had such a negative impact on natural resources and public safety.
- ° Livestock Grazing – There are 39 ranches that are within the footprint of the proposed 500,000-acre monument. The language in recent Presidential Proclamations places livestock grazing in a subservient position to the other resources listed in the purposes section of the proclamations. This will result in many problems for ranchers who seek to maintain existing range improvements or construct new ones.

During her confirmation process, Secretary Jewell indicated there should be a consensus in the local community prior to your office issuing a proclamation. We believe there is a consensus to protect the Organ Mountains. We know there is no consensus on the remaining 450,000 acres.

We respectfully request you refrain from any designation of this area until such time as all the issues have been thoroughly discussed and a consensus is reached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JG Schickedanz', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jerry G. Schickedanz, Chairman  
Western Heritage Alliance

cc: Secretary Sally Jewell