

# New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts

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New Mexico  
Coalition



of  
Conservation  
Districts

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## Resolution #2012-1

### **Opposing Dona Ana Citizen's National Monument Proposal Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**

**Abstract:** The United States Congress set forth through FLPMA a finite process of defining designated Wilderness on lands managed by the Department of Interior. In 1991, the Record of Decision was signed by the Secretary and the results were sent to the President. In a succession of recent efforts, attempts have been made to designate Wilderness in Dona Ana County beyond the basis of science outlined in the Record of Decision. The consistent theme has been to increase the acreages and layer matters of extrinsic resource management without legislative authority. The emergence of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument a) clearly demonstrates the community is not supportive of the scope of the idea or it would have been resolved at lesser acres of total impact, and b) the NGO designers of the plan have determined they must bypass the more transparent Congressional path to get the plan passed into law.

**Whereas,** the matters of national defense, watershed management, and the recapture and beneficial application of the newly sourced floodwater rights by Elephant Butte Irrigation District are left silent in the current and past proposals, and

**Whereas,** the dramatic and relentless pressure on farmland from a real estate market created by the dominion of federal lands is only exacerbated with added federal access restrictions, and

**Whereas,** fully 70% of the beef cattle in the county are impacted by the plan, and

**Whereas,** 99.52% of all waters west of the Mesilla Valley are predicated on the existence of those livestock operations, and

**Whereas,** the announcement to acquire all private and state property and deny all new contracts, and

**Whereas,** the Hatch domestic water source is within the plan,

**Now Therefore Be it Resolved,** on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2012 the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD) does hereby proclaim this proposal an outright threat to the stewardship of soil and water resources, the safety and wellbeing of the citizens, and the customs and cultures of Dona Ana County, and

**Let it be Further Resolved,** that NMCCD calls upon the Mayor of the City of Las Cruces, the Las Cruces City Council and the Dona Ana County Commission to recognize their fiduciary responsibilities and elevate their duties of public safety, halt their actions that threaten to further make a mockery of the Antiquities Act of 1906, and rescind any and all support for this orchestrated NGO attempt to make an end run around FLPMA with the intention to ultimately designate Wilderness in Dona Ana County.

David King, Chairman  
New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts

This resolution passed unanimously upon motion by Richard Shovelin and seconded by Preston.  
Roll Call Vote: Richard Shovelin (aye), Preston Stone (aye), Joe Delk (aye), José Varela Lopéz (aye), David King (absent), Aubrey Dunn (absent)