

A NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION: 10 FACTS TO KNOW

Of all the different ways you can protect iconic public (federal) lands, a National Monument designation (designaton) is the most diverse land classification -- and the least understood.

1. National Monuments are significantly less recognizable in part because of their incredible and unique diversity. They range from buildings to fossil beds, reefs, ruins, railroads, statues, parks, volcanoes, forests, BLM open space and natural bridges.

2. There are at least 124 protected areas known as National Monuments in the U.S. To qualify for a protective designation, these public (federal) lands must have objects of historical, cultural, and/or scientific interest; they may also possess unique scenic, landscape or educational value.

3. Adding to the diversity of National Monuments is the fact that they can be managed by any number of agencies: the National Parks Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Bureau of Land Management. *Since the 1970's, for logistical and economic reasons, the incoming management of the land has always been maintained.*

4. One common thread of National Monument-designated land (in this case Forest) is all existing rights remain in effect but land is withdrawn from trades, sales or mining claims – this historically has created opposition from real estate developer & energy-extraction industries. As the Forest does now, the Red Rock National Monument (RRNM) allows sales for public infrastructure (The Townsite Act).

5. The National Monument designation process has been around for nearly 110 years. While Congress typically designates National Scenic Areas and National Parks, a National Monument designation is a process that begins with local input and culminates in the public asking the President to establish the proposed area as a National Monument through the Antiquities Act.

6. This Act, created by Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and passed by Congress, grants any President the authority to designate National Monument status on public lands that have objects of historical, cultural, and/or scientific interest and may possess unique scenic or educational value. The Antiquities Act has an impressive track record of preserving some of the nation's most beloved, iconic areas.

7. All public and most all commercial activities continue after monuments are established. These *include but are not limited to*: hunting and fishing, rafting and boating, camping, backpacking, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, tours, jeep rides and other motorized vehicles on designated routes.

8. The reason we say “not limited to” is because National Monument designations all have their own unique parameters: they can be tailored to each area, allowing for the maintenance of traditional cultural or recreational uses, such as the activities previously mentioned and/or other activities the public desires to have “stay the same.” A local example of this is the inclusion of hot air balloon rides included in the Red Rock National Monument designation.

9. It is federal law that National Monument designations *cannot* apply to *any* land that is not Federal, nor can it impede or hamper the access, rights or governance of any non-Federal lands. There has *never* been an instance of a National Monument designation affecting the property or water rights of a non-federal landowner when the designated land's purpose is consistent with the proposed land's purpose (**as is the RRNM**).

10. **Preservation Is Paramount.** Once a National Monument is officially established, *the preservation conversation* kicks in. Together, the managing agency (in this case, the Red Rock Forest District) and the local public come up with a long-term management plan for the area that seeks protects & *manages* the area's natural resources. This process can take 3-5 years or less if the current management plan's values are in alignment with the Monument plan's values -- which is the case with the Coconino National Forest Plan and the Red Rock National Monument (RRNM).

Bottom Line: National Monuments Save The Places We Play. They help us leave this nation beautiful and natural for future generations and for us to respectfully enjoy now.