

H.R. 10669, LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS (LANDs) ACT

Supported by: Americans for Prosperity, American Stewards of Liberty, Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, Association of National Grasslands, BlueRibbon Coalition, Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, New Mexico Federal Lands Council, Pacific Legal Foundation, Public Lands Council (PLC)

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

To restore the power of public land management to the people and their elected representatives, the **Legislative Approval for National Designations (LANDs) Act** places new limits on the Presidential authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (P.L. 59-209) and requires congressional approval for covered federal land withdrawals exceeding 5,000 acres.

Specifically, the LANDs Act:

- Requires Congressional approval of any federal land withdrawal that totals more than 5,000 acres,
- Prohibits new national monument designations within 50 miles of another monument,
- provides an exception for emergency designation for no more than one-year to prevent "imminent and irreparable harm" to a covered antiquity,
- Restores the Antiquities Act to its original intent of the smallest amount practicable by capping new monuments at 640 acres without Congressional approval,
- Requires private property owners' written consent before their property can be encumbered by a national monument,
- Prohibits reserving water rights through a designation, and
- Provides common sense reform to the definition of antiquities to be protected.

WHY IS THE BILL NECESSARY?

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President authority to set aside public land for national monuments. Although originally intended to protect prehistoric structures and artifacts on federal lands, more than a century later, the original purpose of this bill has been significantly abused by limiting public input and bypassing Congress each time. [During their tenure:](#)

- Clinton designated 19 new monuments and enlarged three others.
- Obama designated 29 new monuments and enlarged five others.
- President Trump designated one new monument, reduced in size and modified the management of two, and modified the management of one monument.
- Biden designated 10 new monuments, enlarged four, and redesignated an additional monument.

Section 2 of the Antiquities Act requires National Monuments to be the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected," but most monuments neglect this compulsory obligation.

BOTTOM LINE

The LANDs Act builds upon the oversight under the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order 3418, which called for "actions to review and, as appropriate, revise all withdrawn public lands, consistent with existing law, including 54 U.S.C. 320301 (national monuments) and 43 U.S.C. 1714 (other federal land withdrawals)." It empowers the elected representatives of affected lands to determine which use is best suited for their communities: livestock grazing, energy and mineral development, timber production, recreation, wildlife and fish protection, or a national monument land-use restriction.