**Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument**

**Relevant Background & Historic Information**

The Antiquities Act was signed By President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906 to Safeguard and preserve federal lands, objects of scientific interest, and cultural and historical sites for all Americans. This law gives the President of the United States the authority to, by [presidential proclamation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_proclamation), create [national monuments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Monument_%28United_States%29) from [federal lands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_land) to protect significant natural, cultural, or scientific features.

* *The Antiquities Act of 1906 has been used by 16 presidents -- from Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama – to designate national monuments. Only three presidents did not use the Act: Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.* The Antiquities Act does not give the President the legal authority to eliminate or reduce a national monument – nor does any other law delegate that authority to anyone other than Congress. There have been rare occasions when Presidents have altered the boundaries of existing monuments but the majority of these instances have been to correct mistakes but never to diminish or reduce the protection of cultural, natural, or scientific interests.
* *The original monument was designated on June 9, 2000 President Clinton, via Presidential Proclamation 7318.*

* *The argument that public input did not occur in establishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is wrong.* Prior to designation of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM), in October 1999 Secretary Bruce Babbitt toured the area and discussed the issues with elected county officials, congressional staff, and representatives from each major interest group. Secretary Babbitt met again with stakeholders and others including Representative Greg Walden and BLM State Director Elaine Zielinski in Medford in February. A few months later Secretary Babbitt held a teleconference with the media, local officials and people representing local interests. The issues were discussed and questions concerning a potential special designation were brought forward.
* *The CSNM expansion was well supported by the public.* While 85 scientists endorsed the need for Monument expansion, the ultimate boundaries were shrunk to less than scientists recommended to accommodate specific local concerns. Science-based boundaries were formally endorsed in writing by: the Klamath Tribes, the Governor of Oregon, both the Ashland and Talent Chamber of Commerce boards, the Ashland and Talent City Councils, the Mayors of Ashland and Talent, local state Representative Pam Marsh, local state Senator Alan Bates (deceased 8/16), private landowners accounting for over 14,000 acres in and near the scientists’ recommended monument expansion, and many more lovers of our public lands. (Note: Ashland and Talent are the two closest towns to the Monument.)
* *Jackson County Commissioners, Klamath County Commissioners, and Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors also had public hearings to provide public comment on the proposed expansion.*
* *President Obama used the Antiquities Act to expand the monument by less than 48,000 acres in early January 2017.* The size of the proposed expansion was reduced from 62,000 in response to concerns from grazing lease holders and timber interests. Modifications were made to accommodate recreational access concerns allowing for reasonable off-road snowmobile use mountain bikes in the expansion area.
* *Early in its term, the George W. Bush Administration also initiated a process to reconsider the recently proclaimed monuments.* After receiving input from state and local governments and overwhelming support for the monument designations they concluded that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to undo or alter many of the presidential proclamations. They directed the BLM offices where those new monuments resided to proceed with writing management plans for the new monuments.
* *The use of the Antiquities Act to establish the original CSNM and several other newly proclaimed monuments was challenged in court and dismissed in 2002.* A court case was filed by Mountain States Legal Foundation and the Blue Ribbon Coalition, Inc. arguing that President Clinton unlawfully designated the CSNM and other monuments. A district appeals court disagreed and the Supreme Court deferred to the lower court ruling that the monument met the criteria for a monument to be established.
* *The CSNM is a national treasure and the first monument SPECIFICALLY set aside to protect an area's biological diversity.* Plant communities there represent vegetation types found in the Great Basin, Cascade and Klamath-Siskiyou Mountains. A remarkably high diversity of butterflies occurs there, along with many other animal species, including unique fish and mollusks, as well as a number of rare plants.
* *As a result of the mixing of varying floras and faunas at the confluence of differing geomorphic environments, a unique area of rich ecological and biological diversity has developed.* The monument offers vistas, access to over 25 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, protection for cultural sites (Applegate Trail, Native America sites, and a Chinese railroad construction site), learning opportunities for youth, and year-­‐round outdoor recreation.

*With a combined total of just under 114,000 acres, the monument has been established to protect a landscape that connects vital habitat, protect watersheds and preserves the area's extraordinary biodiversity. The Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument opposes any action to revoke or reduce the protections to this and other Monuments.  And we ask our supporters and others to stand with us and take action.*