



Board of Supervisors Memorandum

May 16, 2017

Resolution 2017-_____

**Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the 1906 Antiquities Act and Supporting the
Ironwood Forest National Monument Designation in Pima County
Consistent with the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan**

Introduction

This memorandum and the accompanying Resolution 2017-_____ are being presented at the request of Chair Sharon Bronson for Board of Supervisors consideration and adoption.

Background

On April 26, 2017, President Donald Trump called for a review of designated National Monuments and issued Executive Order 13792 that directs the Secretary of Interior to review some 27 national monuments over 100,000 acres in area and designated since 1996. The order itself does not rescind existing National Monuments, but it does make them vulnerable to elimination or reduction in size.

Not only does this threaten to eliminate or reduce these National Monuments, it threatens to undermine the 1906 Antiquities Act. Presidents of both political parties have used this 1906 law to protect public lands as national monuments. It is thanks to the Antiquities Act that sites of national importance, from Yellowstone National Park to the Statue of Liberty to the Grand Canyon, remain protected for the public's enjoyment and benefit.

There are four National Monuments in Arizona under review – Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert, Grand Canyon-Parashant, and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments – all of which conserve a diversity of natural and cultural resources at the landscape level. Not only do these monuments provide habitat for endangered species and game species, they continue as working landscapes and provide enormous economic benefits to the state from outdoor recreation and tourism.

According to a 2017 report produced by the Outdoor Recreation Association, the economic benefits to the Mountain West states, including Arizona, from outdoor recreation included annual direct spending of \$104.5 billion; 925,000 jobs; federal tax revenues of \$7.7 billion; and state and local tax revenues of \$7.2 billion.

In Pima County alone, travel and tourism accounted for \$2.24 billion in direct spending; 24,060 jobs, \$115.4 million in State tax revenue, and \$81.9 million in local tax receipts. Should Arizona's National Monuments be eliminated or reduced in size, we could expect less

The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors

**Re: Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the 1906 Antiquities Act and Supporting the
Ironwood Forest National Monument Designation in Pima County Consistent with the
Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan**

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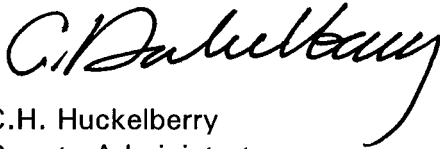
tourism based on outdoor recreation, fewer visitors, diminished economic benefits, and perhaps more listings of endangered species, such as the Desert Tortoise and other species, as habitat for their survival is lost.

Such an extensive review of National Monuments is unprecedented, and it is cause for concern as a threat to the integrity of our public lands, which millions of Americans see as national treasures. Here in Pima County, it is a threat to the Ironwood Forest National Monument and our region's economic vitality.

Recommendation

I recommend the Board of Supervisors pass, adopt and approve the attached Resolution 2017-____.

Respectfully submitted,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk

Attachment

RESOLUTION 2017 - ____

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 1906 ANTIQUITIES ACT
AND SUPPORTING THE IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT
DESIGNATION IN PIMA COUNTY CONSISTENT WITH THE SONORAN
DESERT CONSERVATION PLAN**

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. Since 1872, the United States National Park System has grown from a single, public reservation now called Yellowstone National Park to embrace over 450 natural, historical, recreational, memorial, and cultural areas throughout the United States under the control and protection of the Secretary of the Interior.
2. The Antiquities Act of 1906, (P.L. 59–209, formerly 16 U.S.C. §§ 431-433, now 54 U.S.C. §§ 320301-320303), the cornerstone of our nation’s cultural heritage protection laws, was passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906.
3. Section 2 of the Antiquities Act gives the President the authority to set aside for protection "...historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States."
4. In 1998, the Pima County Board of Supervisors entered into Resolution 1998-250 with the Secretary of Interior to support the Endangered Species Act and to work with the Department of Interior to develop the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
5. In 1999, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan that encompasses five conservation elements – riparian areas, habitat protection, mountain parks, ranch conservation, and cultural and historic site preservation.
6. In 2000, scientific findings concluded that the Ragged Top Mountain and Cocoraque Butte areas had the highest levels of species richness due to the Ironwood tree forest in the study area, as well as numerous cultural resource sites, and that these areas should be identified as priorities for new protection and for strengthened conservation management.
7. In 2000, the Pima County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2000-63, witnessed by the Secretary of Interior, to pursue the establishment of a Ragged Top and Silverbell Mountains Ironwood Preserve “up to and including a National Monument designation....”

8. On June 9, 2000, President William J. Clinton signed a Proclamation declaring the establishment of the Ironwood Forest National Monument in on public lands in Pima and Pinal counties to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
9. There are currently 22 National Parks, National Monuments, Historic Sites, Trails and Memorials managed by the National Park Service in Arizona, and five National Monuments that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
10. On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13792 instructing the Department of Interior to review 27 national monuments designated under the 1906 Antiquities Act. The order specifically instructs the Department of Interior to review monuments over 100,000 acres and designated since 1996, to decide whether these should be retained, eliminated or reduced in size. Public comment will be taken after May 12, 2017, for a period of 60 days.
11. Four out of the five National Monuments in Arizona managed by the Bureau of Land Management are under review, including Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert, Grand Canyon-Parashant, and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments.
12. These four Arizona National Monuments conserve a great diversity of natural and cultural resources, protect magnificent landscapes, preserve countless archaeological sites considered sacred by Arizona tribal nations, provide habitat for endangered species and game species, provide public access and enjoyment of some of the Nation's best remaining wildlands, and ultimately provide enormous economic benefits to the state of Arizona from outdoor recreation and tourism.
13. The economic benefits to the Mountain West states, especially in rural areas including Arizona, from outdoor recreation on public lands resulted annually in direct spending of \$104.5 billion; 925,000 jobs; federal tax revenues of \$7.7 billion; and state and local tax revenues of \$7.2 billion, according to the Outdoor Recreation Association Economic Benefits Report 2017.
14. In Pima County in 2015, travel and tourism accounted for \$2.24 billion in direct spending; 24,060 jobs, \$115.4 million in state tax revenue, and \$81.9 million in local tax receipts, and because of tourism and visitor spending, each Pima County household had their tax burden reduced by \$490, according to Visit Tucson Economic Impact of Travel and Tourism Report 2017.
15. Should the Ironwood Forest National Monument be eliminated or reduced in size, Pima County could expect less tourism based on outdoor recreation, fewer visitors, diminished economic benefits, and less in state and local tax receipts and benefits to the local economy.
16. Should the Ironwood Forest National Monument be eliminated or reduced in size, Pima County will experience the loss of protections for the Monument's natural

resources and cultural and historic sites that would lessen the effectiveness of landscape level protections and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors:

1. Supports retaining the full text and authorities of the 1906 Antiquities Act, signed by President Roosevelt, as one of the nation's most important conservation laws to safeguard and preserve public lands, natural wonders, and cultural and historic sites for all Americans to enjoy.
2. Reaffirms its support for the designation of the Ironwood Forest National Monument consistent with the findings and objectives of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.
3. Concludes that the Ironwood Forest National Monument and all designated National Monuments deserve to be safeguarded and retained as proclaimed under the 1906 Antiquities Act.
4. Finds that numerous values, including enormous economic benefits, accrue from the designation and protection of National Monuments throughout the United States, and that their value to the American people should not be questioned or threatened with diminished protections.
5. Authorizes and directs the County Administrator and appropriate staff to effect this resolution and urge the United States of America through the Secretary of Interior and Arizona's Congressional delegation to retain the full text and authorities of the 1906 Antiquities Act and to retain the full designation and protections of the Ironwood Forest National Monument.

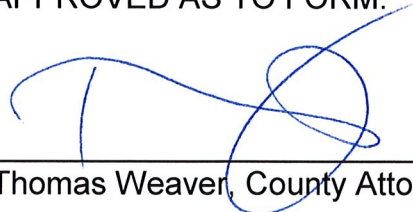
Passed, adopted and approved, this ___ day of _____, 2017.

Sharon Bronson, Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board



Thomas Weaver, County Attorney