

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

Office of the Executive Director
CHRIS W. COX

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
18th and C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing on behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA) regarding your review of previous national monument designations pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order of April 26, 2017. As you conduct this review, we fully support your stated intent to examine whether these designations have resulted in reduced public access to traditional uses, such as hunting and recreational shooting, while balancing the need to protect our natural resources for future generations.

America's sportsmen and women serve as the backbone of modern natural resource management in the United States. Our resource management successes over the last century are remarkable, but have only been made possible because traditional uses, such as hunting and recreational shooting, remain an indelible part of the landscape, including on our nation's public lands. The NRA remains fully committed to ensuring such access is protected where currently available and expanded where possible.

Decisions regarding national public lands should be conducted with maximum transparency and accountability, especially those which involve the transition of landholdings to monument status. The NRA, therefore, has serious concerns with any monument designation that failed to include local stakeholders in the process, as excluding local input necessarily impairs the ability of hunters and recreational shooters to have their voices heard.

The NRA commends your review of monument designations to potentially identify where negative impacts on traditional uses of public lands by sportsmen and women were not considered in the process. If there is additional information you would find helpful in completing your review, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris W. Cox".

Chris W. Cox