

03-2017 Protection of Red Rock Wilderness and Bears Ear National Monument

Whereas the Red Rock Wilderness of Southern Utah is one of the few remaining places in the lower 48 states where American's can have a frontier experience. It is the grandest network of unprotected wild lands outside of Alaska. A landscape of jaw-dropping beauty, it is composed of a labyrinth of deep gorges, towering mesas, and a mind-boggling maze of sinuous canyons, and

Whereas archeological artifacts abound; striking stone architecture of the ancient Puebloan and Fremont cultures stand essentially undisturbed. These national treasures were sacred to many in the past and continue to inspire and draw visitors from around America and the world - they deserve lasting protection, and

Whereas the region faces significant threats, including potential oil and gas drilling along with tar sands and potash mining. There is also extensive off-road vehicle use in sensitive areas resulting in damage to irreplaceable archeological and riparian resources, and

Whereas America's Red Rock Wilderness Act defines what remains wild on Bureau of Land Management lands and provides the protection these lands deserve, and

Whereas, the nearby Bears Ears National Monument was established by President Obama using the Antiquities Act at the request of five Native American tribes whose reservations are in the immediate vicinity of the Monument; and whereas the monument status protects a crucial natural and cultural landscape of these areas. This wild and rugged area contains the largest concentration of Native American cultural resources in the entire country – the two things the Antiquities Act was designed to protect. The area is sacred to many Native Americans, and the Obama Administration received tens of thousands of supportive comments from across the country in addition to the public hearing in Bluff, UT attended by 1,500 people, and

Whereas, some members of the Utah delegation are asking President Trump to rescind President Obama's designation and may bring similar legislation before Congress.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America in convention on April 30, 2017, supports America's Red Rock Wilderness Act and the Bears Ears National Monument Act and opposes all attempts to override laws that established and protected these areas (including the Antiquities Act).

*Submitted by Minnesota Valley Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America
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BACKGROUND:

<http://www.startribune.com/trump-to-sign-orders-on-oil-drilling-national-monuments/420292183/>