

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2014

641871

Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I have heard from many Montanans who have raised serious concerns regarding land protections that may be recommended by the Department of the Interior. Montanans are rightly worried that a presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act could be used to create national monuments in Montana without taking the appropriate and necessary first step of speaking with our local communities. I strongly urge you not to consider the designation of any new monuments in Montana unless there is significant discussion, collaboration, and support of local citizens.

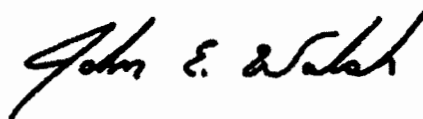
As you know, the Department of the Interior in 2010 was compelled to disclaim any interest in designating Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in the Northern Montana Prairie as a national monument. A leaked memorandum referenced a potential designation and our communities were rightfully outraged by the lack of outreach or consent. They voiced their opposition at a meeting with former BLM Director Bob Abbey.

The current management of BLM land in Montana works to effectively balance land conservation with the needs of local communities, citizens, and industry. For example, livestock grazing takes place on a large portion of BLM land in Montana, supporting the agricultural industry and providing beef to all Americans. Oil and gas development on BLM land likewise supports the growing energy industry in Montana. In addition, BLM land provides extraordinary outdoor recreation and hunting opportunities while also generating recreation-based jobs in neighboring communities.

I strongly encourage you to continue the commitment previously made by the Department of the Interior and the White House to not make any monument designations in Montana without significant discussion, collaboration, and support of local citizens. Collaborative and balanced decisions about how to use and enjoy public land is an important part of the Montana way of life, and this heritage cannot be endangered by top-down monument designations.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John Walsh
United States Senator

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2014



Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: monument letter

1 message

Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Mar 18, 2014 at 1:10 PM

To: Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Fay Iudicello <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_Neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

FYI: we'd like to task to OCL

——— Forwarded message ———

From: **Gray, Spencer (Walsh)** <Spencer_Gray@walsh.senate.gov>

Date: Fri, Mar 14, 2014 at 12:41 PM

Subject: monument letter

To: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Letter attached. We aren't doing any press. Hope the trip is going well.

—
Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

 20140313 Jewell Antiquities.pdf
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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Secretarial Correspondence Transmittal**

Date ES Received: 03/18/2014

ES Tracking #: ESO-00053992

Date Forwarded for Signature: 04/29/2014

To: Jewell, Sally
From: Walsh, John
 United States Senate
Subject: Concern regarding the use of the Antiquities Act on land in Montana

Response Summary: Response states that the Secretary agrees with the Senator that public involvement, discussion, and debate must be part of any recommendation to designate any national monuments in Montana, and that she will not recommend a proposal without the support of local citizens.

Lead Response Office: OCL

Response Writer: Harding

Summing Office

SOL
BLM
ASLM
OCL

Approved By

Boling
Juen (initials)
Beaudreau
Neimeyer

Date Approved

04/14/2014 / 4/29/14
04/15/2014
04/16/2014
04/28/2014

(Handwritten initials in a circle)

Deputy Secretary

Chief of Staff

Deputy Chief of Staff

Associate Deputy Secretary

Senior Advisor

Executive Secretariat

Secretary

(Handwritten signatures and initials over lines)
 James Oas
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]
 [Signature]

(Handwritten dates over lines)
 5/1/14
 5/1/14
 5/1/14
 5/1/14

(Handwritten initials "jm")

SIGMAC:

COMMENTS:

(Handwritten signature/initials over SIGMAC and COMMENTS)

Other (NOT SECRETARY): _____



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 01 2014

The Honorable John Walsh
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Walsh:


Thank you for your letter dated March 13, 2014, concerning the use of the Antiquities Act to protect lands within the State of Montana. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me on this important matter.

The Administration has a demonstrated commitment to working with both the public and elected officials in making Federal land use decisions of this nature. I recognize and respect the importance of public and congressional input when considering appropriate protections for our natural, historic, and cultural treasures. I constantly strive to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders both to protect America's public lands and provide economic development in a manner that is consistent with law and sound public policy.

When the Administration held its first listening session for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in Montana, ranchers, landowners, community leaders, conservationists, and business owners told us they valued their working relationship with the Federal Government. The conservation model of the Crown of the Continent holds many lessons for how private landowners, nonprofit organizations, and governments can work together to accomplish mutually beneficial goals. I agree with you that public involvement, discussion, and debate must be part of any recommendation to designate any national monuments in Montana. Currently, the Department of the Interior has no plans to recommend Federal lands in Montana be designated as a national monument and I will not recommend a proposal without the support of local citizens.

Designating national monuments should truly represent American democracy in action. I look forward to working with you and all interested stakeholders as we move forward to protect our Nation's treasures and provide for economic opportunities for our communities.

Sincerely,


Sally Jewell