

National Monument Overview

12/1/2016

National Monuments Administered by National Park Service

According to the 2005- 2007 Official Index of the National Park Service there were 73 areas of the national park system officially titled “national monuments.” In 2008, Congress converted a national monument in Idaho (“Minidoka Internment”) to a national historic site, making 72 national monuments.

Since then President George W. Bush declared national monument #73 in New York (“African Burial Ground”), and President Obama declared national monument #74 in Virginia (“Fort Monroe”) and #75 in California (“Cesar Chavez”).

In January 2013, Congress converted Pinnacles National Monument into a national park. As of January 3, 2013, there were 74 national monuments. In March 2013, President Obama declared three new national monuments to be administered by the NPS. They are “The First State National Monument” in Delaware, the “Charles Young-Buffalo Soldier National Monument” in Ohio and the “Harriet Tubman-Underground Railroad National Monument” in Maryland. This action brought the number of national monuments to 77.

In December 2014, Congress directly established a new national monument in Nevada – Tule Springs, and renamed the First State National Monument as a “national historical park,” thus leaving the number of monuments unchanged at 77. Also in December 2014, Congress incorporated (though technically did not abolish) the Harriet Tubman National Monument into a new “national historical park.” For purposes of this compilation, it is considered abolished. National Monuments thus stood at 76.

In February 2015, President Obama declared two new national monuments – Pullman National Monument in Chicago Illinois and Honouliuli National Monument on Oahu in Hawaii. There were 78 national monuments in the national park system. In July 2015, President Obama declared a new national park system national monument as Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas. It is #79. In February 2016, President Obama declared the Castle Mountains National Monument in California for a total of 80 NPS-administered national monuments. In April 2016, President Obama proclaimed the 81st NPS-administered national monument – the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument. In June 2016, President Obama proclaimed Stonewall National Monument in New York City, New York, the 82nd NPS-administered national monument. On August 29, 2016, President Obama proclaimed the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine. It is NPS national monument #83.

National Monuments Administered by the Bureau of Land Management

The BLM administers 24 “national monuments,” with over 8 million acres of public lands. All except one (Prehistoric Trackways) were established by presidential proclamation. Of the 23 BLM presidentially-proclaimed monuments, 15 were proclaimed by President Bill Clinton, and, as noted in italics, 8 by President Obama. The BLM national monuments, listed by State, are:

Agua Fria (AZ)
Grand Canyon-Parashant (AZ) (overlaps some lands in Lake Mead NRA administered by NPS, a dual reservation)
Ironwood Forest (AZ)
Vermillion Cliffs (AZ)
Sonoran Desert (AZ)
California Coastal (CA) (enlarged by Obama)
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains (CA)
Carrizo Plain (CA)
Fort Ord (CA) (Obama)
Berryessa-Snow Mountain (CA) (Obama) (Shared with Forest Service)
Sand to Snow National Monument (CA) Obama (shared with Forest Service)
Mojave Trails National Monument (CA) Obama
Canyons of the Ancients (CO)
Craters of the Moon (ID)
Pompeys Pillar (MT)
Upper Missouri River Breaks (MT)
Basin and Range (NV) (Obama)
Tent Rocks (NM)
Prehistoric Trackways (NM) ((By Statute)
Rio Grande Del Norte (NM) (Obama)
Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks (NM) (Obama)
Cascade-Siskiyou (OR)
Grand Staircase-Escalante (UT)
San Juan Islands (WA) (Obama)

National Monuments Administered by Other Federal Agencies?

The Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also administer monuments. President George W. Bush is noted for establishing vast national monuments in the marine areas and exclusive economic zones of the Pacific, administered by NOAA and the USFWS. He established the following:

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument (2006); renamed the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in 2007
Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (2009)
Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (2009)
Rose Atoll Marine National Monument (2009).

On August 26, 2016, President Obama expanded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to reach the full extent of the United States' controlled Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), i.e. 200 miles seaward of U.S. territorial lands.

President Obama established the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument off of the coast of New England on September 15, 2016.

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