

# PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY REFORM THE ANTIQUITIES ACT



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The Antiquities Act empowers the president to designate national monuments to protect “objects of historic or scientific interest” on federal lands.

The Act requires designated areas to be constrained to the “smallest area compatible” with their care and management.

Instead of protecting objects, presidents now use the Act to set aside entire ecosystems, removing vast areas of land and water from productive use.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

- 28% of U.S. land is owned by the federal government and is potentially available for designation.
- For 20 years, presidents have designated increasingly large monuments far beyond the “smallest area compatible.”
- Designations limit the productive use of public land including fishing, grazing, and resource extraction.

## SOLUTIONS

- Subject the Antiquities Act to the Administrative Procedure Act.
- Require congressional approval over a certain size (as in the 5,000-acre limit in Alaska).
- Define what constitutes an “object.”
- Limit designations to land, as originally intended, and never water.

**OVER 90% OF ALL NATIONAL MONUMENT  
ACREAGE—ABOUT 778 MILLION ACRES OF LAND  
AND WATER—HAS BEEN DESIGNATED SINCE  
2000.**

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