



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## Board of Supervisors

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November 02, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**Subject: Proposed Expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument**

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing to express our concerns and objection to the proposed 64,000 acre expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (Monument), which would result in total coverage of the Monument being 130,000 acres, 10,000 of which would be in Siskiyou County. First, we were made aware of this proposal one week prior to the October 14, 2016, public meeting in Ashland, Oregon. As part of the community who will be impacted by expansion of the Monument, we are owed appropriate and timely notification of any such actions. In addition, as a result of the large crowd that the public meeting drew, it is crucial that future public outreach occur if this improper Monument expansion were to move forward.

The Monument expansion would occur under the Antiquities Act, which would allow the President of the United States to designate the Monument by signature, without coordination with Congress or the impacted states. The original intent of the Antiquities Act was to protect archeological and Native American areas by giving the President of the United States power to declare as Monuments "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" while at the same time limiting that designation to the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the *objects* to be protected." Based on this direction, it is the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors position that the broad designation of a Monument under the Antiquities Act, such as the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion, is misuse of the act itself and should be prohibited. Designation of a Monument, that would have significant impacts on local citizens and the economy, needs to be vetted through a more deliberate and thoughtful process prior to any possible implementation.

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Brandon Criss  
*District 1*

Ed Valenzuela  
*District 2*

Michael N. Kobseff  
*District 3*

Grace Bennett  
*District 4*

Ray Haupt  
*District 5*

In addition, the Shasta Tribes must be coordinated with throughout this process as portions of their tribal homelands would be impacted by the expansion and their input is critical (please see attached map).

According to a February 02, 2016, article in the Mail Tribune, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), who manages land within the boundaries of the current and proposed Monument, was considering closing 164 miles of logging roads within the Monument, which is nearly forty percent of its total road system. BLM stated that along with pressure from environmental groups to close the roads, which include threat of lawsuit, they could not afford to maintain these roads due to their limited road maintenance funds. In addition, these roads were chosen to be decommissioned as the road network was originally created for commercial logging, which is no longer allowed within the boundaries of the Monument, and BLM anticipates that the roads would no longer be needed. Conversely, it is our position that without proper maintenance of these roads, firefighting activities, fire-line and fire-break maintenance, search and rescue efforts, access to recreation, and access to range allotments would be severely hampered. In areas that experience wildfire, there would be no way to access them after the fires to address water quality and future fire protection issues, which is essential for restoration efforts. If the BLM does not have the funds to maintain the road structures and land within the existing Monument, additional funding should not be spent to expand this Monument and risk the closure of other critical road systems.

Siskiyou County is extremely concerned about the future of logging and rangeland grazing in the areas where Monument expansion is proposed. Although Senator Merkley outlined during the October 14, 2016, public meeting that grazing practices would need to be taken under serious consideration if the Monument expansion were to be established, we know that grazing activities could suffer greatly. If roads are to be closed, as is proposed for the current Monument, this could extremely inhibit access to grazing allotments, making it impossible and infeasible for livestock owners to continue grazing on these public lands. As for forested areas, Siskiyou County is concerned that timber lands covered by the proposed Monument would be prohibited from timber harvest activities as was outlined for the original Monument under Proclamation 7318 by President Bill Clinton. Active forest management and restoration of these lands would continue to be further complicated and prohibited by possible expansion, and have not been properly addressed throughout this rushed effort to approve the Monument. Allowing for the continuation of responsible livestock grazing and timber harvesting activities is essential to the health of these lands and ecosystems. Discontinuation of these activities will promote overgrowth of plants and trees, which will result in future catastrophic wildfires with no way to access them.

Senator Merkley also stated during the public meeting that private lands within the footprint of the proposed expansion would not be affected by management of the Monument. However, under Proclamation 7318, lands within the original Monument not owned by the United States were reserved as a part of the Monument upon acquisition of title by the United States. This

signifies to us that there is future intent to take these lands out of private ownership, resulting in impacts to private landowners and local economics by removing this property from the tax basis. This assumption has been made evident by the private land within the footprint of the existing Monument that has previously been turned over to the Federal government.

We urge you to reconsider the proposal to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and instead manage this land for the benefit of all United States citizens, including the local public, who depend on it for economic, recreational, grazing, and forest management purposes. Siskiyou County remains opposed to Monument expansion, and any other Monument designation due to its impacts on the public, local economy and overall health and management of the land.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Nielsen, Siskiyou County Natural Resource Policy Specialist at 530-842-8012, or by email at [enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Grace Bennett, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

cc: Congressman Rob Bishop  
cc: Congressman Doug LaMalfa  
cc: Rural County Representatives of California  
cc: California State Association of Counties  
cc: Senator Jeff Merkley  
cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
cc: American Forest Resource Council