



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

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April 5, 2024

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, I write to share our support for designating the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument through your authority under the Antiquities Act. BHA represents hundreds of thousands of members and supporters nationwide and in California who recognize that healthy, intact public lands are critical to provide suitable habitat for wildlife enjoyed by sportsmen and women. Approximately 275,000 California residents take part in hunting traditions each year with revenue from their license and permit sales generating more than \$25 million annually.

The Chuckwalla National Monument would provide a permanent wildlife corridor that conserves public lands from the Joshua Tree National Park to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona. A vital part of the California desert landscape, this region provides habitat for wildlife species including desert bighorn sheep, burro and mule deer, and is the proposed location for the reintroduction of Sonoran pronghorn. The conservation of this habitat and the movement corridors found here is crucial to ensuring that future development does not negatively impact wildlife.

In addition to sportsmen and women, the Chuckwalla National Monument enjoys a diverse slate of supporters including Tribes, local businesses and residents, outdoor enthusiasts, and conservation organizations. The proposed monument boundary includes the homelands of the Iviatim, Nüwü, Pipa Aha Macav, Kwatsáan and Maara'yam peoples (Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations). With increasing visitation from millions of outdoor recreators and nearby population centers continuing to grow rapidly, the need to conserve this landscape is more important than ever.

National monuments not only enable long-term conservation of cultural sites and scientifically valuable resources, they also protect critical fish and wildlife habitat. It is paramount that national monuments uphold traditional hunting and fishing opportunities and reflect the priorities and values of sportsmen and women. To accomplish this objective, national monument designations must be pursued through a process that adheres to the following specific tenets:



- Important fish and wildlife habitat must be conserved.
- The monument proclamation must clearly stipulate that management authority over fish and wildlife populations will be retained by state fish and wildlife agencies.
- Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands must remain under the authority and jurisdiction of these multiple-use focused land management agencies.
- The monument proclamation must direct reasonable access for fishing, hunting, and wildlife management, including allowances for terrestrial habitat improvement and water developments.
- The input and guidance of hunters and anglers must be included in management plans for national monuments.
- The monument proposal must be developed through a public process—one that includes hunters and anglers, as well as appropriate state, Tribal, and local governments.
- The monument proposal must gain support from local hunters and anglers.
- Hunting and fishing opportunities must be upheld and the historical and cultural significance of our outdoor traditions explicitly acknowledged in the monument proclamation.

We ask you to continue your leadership in conserving wild public lands for future generations through the use of the Antiquities Act to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument, providing certainty for the future of this unique desert landscape. We further respectfully ask that you incorporate the perspectives of sportsmen and women in doing so.

Sincerely,

Kaden McArthur  
Government Relations Manager  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

CC:

Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
Brenda Mallory, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Honorable U.S. Senator Alex Padilla  
Honorable U.S. Senator Laphonza Butler  
Honorable U.S. Representative Dr. Raul Ruiz