



Range of Light National Monument: Coalition Letter to President Biden

Tuesday, July 23, 2024*

Dear President Biden, Secretary Haaland, & Chair Mallory:

Your administration set the historic goal of conserving 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, and the Range of Light National Monument will help fulfill that incredible land legacy in a big way.

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, encourage you to protect the 1.4 million acres of federal land between Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks as the Range of Light National Monument. This extraordinary place, between the parks and in the center of the longest interconnected wilderness in the lower 48 states, presents a rare opportunity to create an integrated ecosystem in one the most biodiverse places in the world.

From the blue oak woodlands to the granite spires of the high alpine, the beauty and biodiversity of the Sierra Nevada is nothing short of remarkable. While the Sierra Nevada takes up only 20 percent of California's land mass, half of its native plant species live there and more than 400 of its species are found nowhere else on earth, including the infamous giant sequoia. The Range of Light National Monument is home to 24 species listed as endangered or threatened by state and federal agencies, six distinct ecoregions, and three major watersheds: the Kings, the Merced and the San Joaquin Rivers, which support wildlife, fish, farms, and families.

Not only will the monument benefit native species, but it will serve humanity, where it is most needed. The closest urban area to the monument is Fresno, and it is ranked as the second worst metro area in America to raise children based on the Child Opportunity Index (COI), outranked only by Bakersfield just to the south. Fresno's concentrated poverty rate is the highest in California, and its residents suffer through the worst air pollution in the nation, the highest levels of asthma, (20 percent of adults and 17 percent of children have asthma) and the lowest levels of local parks. Youth and families in this region deserve the opportunity to experience parks and natural places that are free of pollution.

This monument offers that, and more. The new national monument, managed by the National Park Service, will also increase local employment by some 2,900 jobs – providing 40 new jobs for every job displaced. This will catalyze park-based tourism, residential growth, and business opportunities, increasing them to \$1.1 billion annually, when combined with Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks.

Finally, adding 1.4 million acres to America's conserved lands would significantly advance the goal of protecting 30 percent of the nation's lands by 2030. This would preserve and expand forests and soils sequestering carbon and create a wildlife corridor enabling plants and animals to adapt to climate change.

The Antiquities Act is a critically important presidential tool that has played a pivotal role in our country's history, and in the history of the National Park Service. As advocates for the protection of our National Parks, public lands, and nature itself — we urge you to use the Antiquities Act to protect the southern Sierra Nevada, and create Range of Light National Monument for people and wildlife for all time.

Sincerely,

1. 350 Bay Area Action
2. 350 Eugene
3. 350 Salem Oregon
4. 350 Seattle
5. 350Hawaii
6. 350PDX
7. Adventure Safety International
8. Aequor Inc.
9. Alliance for the Wild Rockies
10. Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
11. Anthropocene Alliance
12. Arts District Community Council
Los Angeles
13. Athens County's Future Action
Network
14. AV Exit, LLC
15. Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
16. Battle Creek Alliance
17. Blue Mountains Biodiversity
Project
18. Bozeman Birders
19. California Chaparral Institute
20. Californians for Energy Choice
21. Cascadia Climate Action Now
22. Christians Caring for Creation
23. Christians For The Mountains
24. Clean Energy Action
25. CleanEarth4Kids.org
26. Climate Action Now, Western
Massachusetts
27. Climate Communications
Coalition
28. Climate Reality Bay Area
Chapter
29. Climate Reality Chapter,
Sacramento
30. Climate reality Massachusetts
Southcoast
31. Climate Reality Project San Diego
32. Climate Reality Project, Riverside
County Chapter

*List is being updated daily; the date reflects last recorded update.

33. Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
34. Coastal Plain Conservation Group
35. Co-Chair
36. Conservation Congress
37. Creation Justice Ministries
38. Dogwood Alliance
39. Don't Waste Arizona
40. Earth Ethics, Inc.
41. Earth Law Center
42. Earth Neighborhood Productions
43. Earth Neighborhood Productions
44. ecoAmerica
45. Eco-Integrity Alliance
46. Elders Climate Action Northern California Chapter
47. Elders Climate Action Southern California Chapter
48. Empower Our Future
49. Endangered Species Coalition
50. Environmental Center of San Diego
51. Environmental Education Fund
52. Environmental Protection Information Center
53. Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
54. Feather River Action!
55. Forest Keeper
56. Forest Unlimited
57. Forests Forever
58. Foundation Earth
59. Friends of Big Bear Valley
60. Friends of the Bitterroot
61. Friends of the Clearwater
62. Friends of the Earth US
63. Gallatin Wildlife Association
64. Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance
65. Green Latinos
66. Heartwood
67. Heirs To Our Ocean
68. Inland Ocean Coalition
69. Interfaith Oceans program
70. Intheshadowofthewolf
71. John Muir Project
72. Kettle Range Conservation Group
73. Klamath Forest Alliance
74. Last Tree Laws
75. Last Tree Laws Massachusetts
76. Latino Outdoors
77. Legal Rights for the Salish Sea
78. Los Padres ForestWatch
79. Massachusetts Forest Watch
80. Melrose UU Church Climate Action Team
81. MO's Defensible Space
82. Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
83. Natural Resources Law
84. New Jersey Forest Watch
85. North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
86. North County Climate Change Alliance
87. Northwest Watershed Institute
88. NTS Group
89. Oil and Gas Action Network
90. Old-Growth Forest Network
91. One Earth
92. Our City SF

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93. Peace Action Wisconsin
94. Project Monarch LA
95. Protect Our Woods
96. Protect Thacker Pass
97. Public Land Media
98. Public Lands Conservancy
99. Putnam Progressives
100. Rachel Carson Council
101. RESTORE: The North Woods
102. Ridgeview Conservancy
103. Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)
104. Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
105. Santa Fe Forest Coalition
106. Selkirk Conservation Alliance
107. Sequoia ForestKeeper
108. Shawnee Natural Area Guardians
109. Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
110. Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
111. Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!)
112. Spokane Audubon Society
113. Standing Trees
114. Sustainable Central Savannah River Area
115. Sustainable Mill Valley
116. Swan View Coalition
117. Terra Advocati
118. The Climate Reality Project: California Coalition
119. The Enviro Show
120. The Forest Advocate
121. The People's Justice Council
122. The Wei LLC
123. Thurston Climate Action Team Tree Action Group
124. Timbuctoo Mountain Club
125. Turtle Island Restoration Network
126. Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub
127. Umpqua Watersheds
128. Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
129. Valley Watch, Inc.
130. Vote Climate
131. Wall of Women
132. Water League
133. We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review
134. Western Watersheds Project
135. Wild Heritage
136. Wild Watershed
137. WildEarth Guardians
138. Women's Earth and Climate Action Network
139. World Rainforest Fund
140. World Stewardship Institute
141. Yaak Valley Forest Council
142. National Religious Coalition on Creation
143. Young Democrats of America Environmental Caucus
144. Unite the Parks

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