



The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act Myths vs. Facts

Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) introduced the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act on November 3, 2015. The bill would establish a new national monument that reflects the long history and deep cultural roots of the region's Native American tribes. The following fact sheet debunks common myths about the bill:

MYTH	FACT
Establishment of a national monument will decrease opportunities for commercial and recreational hunting and fishing.	The bill explicitly protects commercial and recreational hunting (Pages 11 and 15). Additionally, the advisory council created by the bill includes a representative from the sportsmen's community (Page 19).
Establishment of a national monument will stop grazing on federal lands.	The bill protects existing and planned (those under review) grazing allotments (Page 14).
Establishment of a national monument will increase wildfire risk and impair ongoing restoration priorities and suppression activities.	The bill protects existing authority of tribal, state, and federal agencies to undertake necessary wildland fire operations within the monument (Page 14).
Establishment of a national monument will limit opportunities for motorized access.	The bill ensures continued motorized and mechanized uses on designated trails (Page 14).
A national monument will threaten existing water rights and ongoing water settlements.	The bill protects existing water rights, claims, and suits from being impacted by creation of this monument (Page 20).
The area encompassed by the national monument is the ancestral home to many Native American tribes and this initiative will limit tribal access.	The bill emphasizes the importance of protecting and preserving Indian sacred sites, as well as access for spiritual, forest product and medicinal gathering activities (pages 10-11).
A national monument will impair private property rights and limit access to privately held land.	The bill protects reservation, state, and private land rights and ensures ongoing access to privately held inholdings (Page 9).

This proposal will strip away the state's authority to regulate fish and wildlife and lead to a reduction in opportunities for hunting and fishing.	The bill affirms the Arizona Game and Fish Department's role in the management of fish and game on federal land within the State of Arizona. (Page 14). The bill also provides Arizona Game and Fish with a place on the Advisory Council established to collaborate in the planning and ongoing management of the monument (Page 19).
MYTHS	FACT
This is a federal land grab and there is no public involvement in the planning or management of the monument.	The bill includes ample opportunity for public involvement in the planning and ongoing management of the monument, including establishing an Advisory Council made up of key stakeholders. The purposes of creating a management plan, tribal and public engagement process is laid out on pages 10-13. The role and makeup of the advisory board is on pages 17-20.
The bill is a land grab by the federal government.	The bill includes the northern portion of the Kaibab National Forest, expanding the area of the initial withdrawal, due to the importance of surface and underground water sources related to the Colorado River watershed and to protect sacred and cultural sites in the region; this is already federal land.

Other Highlights

- By permanently withdrawing the federal land in question from mining laws, the bill protects underground and surface water flows in the Grand Canyon and puts an end to legal challenges that aim to upend the temporary moratorium (Pages 21-22).
- The bill allows for the voluntarily relinquishment of mining claims, allowing the federal government to purchase claims from willing sellers and permanently relinquish the mining rights (Pages 21-22).
- The bill ensures the ongoing protection of Dark Sky characteristics (Page 11).
- The bill encourages the federal government to enter into cooperative agreements with interested tribal governments (Page 13).

Key Takeaway

If you support the 20-year moratorium on new uranium mining claims in the Grand Canyon area and support a more collaborative working relationship for tribes and stakeholders, then you should support the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act.