



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

P. O. Box 35388

Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388

August 19, 2024

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is in strong support of the protection of the Mimbres Peaks as a National Monument. The Mimbres Peaks contain important habitat for diverse plant and wildlife species. With the nation's loss of biodiversity, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to preserve these diverse sky island mountains and unique Chihuahuan Desert flora into the nation's landscape preservation system. The New Mexico Native Plant Society NPSNM has over 840 members. We strive to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; foster plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; support botanical research; and encourage the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

The Chihuahuan Desert lands in southern New Mexico are among the most biologically diverse in the Western Hemisphere and are home to rare and endangered wildlife and plant species. The mountains and their water resources play a pivotal role in sustaining life in an otherwise arid environment, making them critical in the face of our rapidly changing climate. These lands are also of profound significance to the modern-day Tribes and Pueblos and local communities. The ecological and scientific importance of these areas cannot be overstated.

In addition to their cultural and ecological significance, these lands offer invaluable opportunities for outdoor recreation. By establishing the Mimbres Peaks National Monument to include the Florida Mountains, Tres Hermanas, the Cookes Range and the Good Sight Mountains, we are not only preserving our natural heritage but also ensuring the well-being and economic vitality of Southern New Mexico. The positive impact of such a designation is evident from the success story of neighboring Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, which has brought hundreds of millions of dollars of new economic activity and other important benefits to Doña Ana County over the past decade.

We support the Biden Administration working with New Mexico's congressional delegation, Tribes and Pueblos, and local communities to take swift and decisive action and by designating these public lands as a National Monument.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sylvan Kaufman
Conservation Chair
Native Plant Society of New Mexico

CC: US Representative Gabe Vasquez (NM-02)
US Senator Martin Heinrich (NM)
US Senator Ben Ray Lujan (NM)
US Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland
Chair Brenda Mallory, Cncl. on Env. Quality