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8 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs Arizona State Legislature, Treasurer Kimberly Yee, Mohave*  
9 *County, Colorado City, and Fredonia*

10 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
11 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

12 Arizona State Legislature, by and through  
13 the President of the Arizona Senate,  
14 Warren Petersen, and the Speaker of the  
15 Arizona House of Representatives, Ben  
16 Toma;

17 Kimberly Yee, in her official capacity as  
18 Treasurer of the State of Arizona;

19 Mohave County, Arizona;

20 Colorado City, Arizona;

21 Fredonia, Arizona;

22 Plaintiffs,

23 v.

24 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., in his official capacity  
25 as President of the United States;

26 Deb Haaland, in her official capacity as  
27 Secretary of the Interior;

28 U.S. Department of the Interior;

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT**

1  
2 Tracy Stone-Manning, in her official  
3 capacity as Director of the Bureau of Land  
Management;

4 Bureau of Land Management;

5  
6 Tom Vilsack, in his official capacity as  
Secretary of Agriculture;

7  
8 U.S. Department of Agriculture;

9  
10 Defendants.

11  
12 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

13 1. In medieval England, after the Norman Conquest, the British Crown could  
14 declare land a royal forest and reserve it “solely for the king’s royal diversion.” 2 William  
15 Blackstone, *Commentaries* \*416.

16 2. The Biden Administration’s interpretation of the Antiquities Act, 54 U.S.C.  
17 § 320301, *et seq.*, creates a new royal forest law.

18 3. The Antiquities Act gives the President the discretion to “declare by public  
19 proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of  
20 historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal  
21 Government to be national monuments.” § 320301(a). “The President may reserve parcels  
22 of land as a part of the national monuments. The limits of the parcels shall be confined to  
23 the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be  
24 protected.” § 320301(b).

25 4. Once something has been declared a monument, the President’s  
26 administration may then strictly limit the use and development of the land. Indeed, the  
27 administration can stop it altogether.

28 5. The Biden Administration reads the law as permitting it to declare things that

1 are not monuments in common parlance, or within the original meaning of the Antiquities  
2 Act, to be monuments, including—but not limited to—animals, plants, and entire  
3 landscapes. The result: The only thing preventing the Biden Administration from  
4 declaring all federal land a national monument is its discretion.

5 6. This case illustrates the point—and the reason for judicial intervention to stop  
6 this unlawful land grab. On August 8, 2023, President Biden created the Baaj Nwaavjo  
7 I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument (the  
8 “Ancestral Footprints Monument”), Proclamation 10606 of August 8, 2023, 88 Fed. Reg.  
9 55,331 (Aug. 15, 2023) (the “Proclamation”), which comprises over 900,000 acres of land  
10 in Mohave County and Coconino County in Northern Arizona.

11 7. The Proclamation essentially prohibits further use and development of the  
12 land, despite the fact those lands are available for the mining of important natural resources,  
13 such as uranium, that financially benefit Arizona’s state and local governments and  
14 schools.

15 8. The Proclamation ignores all that. It also ignores numerous congressional  
16 laws relating to federal land use and conservation—and the fact that Congress has expressly  
17 declined to do exactly what the Biden Administration did here and cut off the Ancestral  
18 Footprints Monument land from further development.

19 9. That land grab is unlawful. Congress passed the Antiquities Act to protect  
20 just that: antiquities. It did not pass the law to allow the Biden Administration to declare  
21 every inch of federal land a federal forest, cut off from all but those it selects.

## 22 **PARTIES**

23 10. Plaintiff Arizona State Legislature is the elected representative portion of the  
24 legislative authority of the State of Arizona. Ariz. Const. art. IV, pt. 1 § 1. The Legislature  
25 consists of the 30-member State Senate and the 60-member House of Representatives. The  
26 Legislature is directly elected by the People of Arizona. The Arizona State Legislature has  
27 exclusive authority over legislative functions. *See* Ariz. Const. art. III; *State ex rel.*  
28 *Woods v. Block*, 942 P.2d 428, 434 (Ariz. 1997).

1           11. By rule, each house of the Arizona State Legislature has delegated to its  
2 presiding officers, President Warren Petersen and Speaker Ben Toma, the authority to raise  
3 and defend in any forum “any claim or right arising out of any injury to the [chamber]’s  
4 powers or duties under the constitution or laws of this state.” *See* Ariz. Senate Rule 2(N);  
5 Ariz. House of Reps. Rule 4(K). President Petersen and Speaker Toma have exercised this  
6 authority and bring this lawsuit on behalf of the Arizona Senate and the Arizona House of  
7 Representatives.

8           12. Plaintiff Arizona State Treasurer Kimberly Yee is the elected treasurer of  
9 Arizona. Ariz. Const. art. V, § 1(A). Treasurer Yee is responsible for the receipt and  
10 investment of all revenue from Arizona State Trust Land. Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 7(A), (C);  
11 ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 41-172(A)(2), (6). Treasurer Yee is the chair of the State Board of  
12 Investment, which is a trustee of the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund that receives  
13 all revenue from State Trust Land. Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 7(A), (D); ARIZ. REV. STAT.  
14 § 35-311(A), (B). Treasurer Yee also serves as the surveyor-general with respect to the  
15 selection of lands and a member of the Selection Board, which assigned beneficiaries for  
16 all State Trust Lands and approves all annexations of state land. ARIZ. REV. STAT. §§ 37-  
17 202, 41-172(A)(10).

18           13. State policy, as embodied in its Constitution, is “[t]o protect the people’s  
19 freedom and to preserve the checks and balances of the United States Constitution,”  
20 including by restricting “the actions of its personnel and the use of its financial resources  
21 to purposes that are consistent with the constitution . . . .” Ariz. Const. art. 2, § 3(B). That  
22 includes “[p]ursuing” legal remedies and refusing to “enforce, administer or cooperate”  
23 with unlawful federal actions or programs. § 3(B)(3), (C). Because the Proclamation is  
24 unlawful, the Legislature and the Treasurer are thus constitutionally authorized and  
25 required to challenge the Proclamation and prevent State resources from being used to  
26 effectuate it.

27           14. Plaintiff Mohave County is a county in northwest Arizona. On September  
28 18, 2023, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors passed a motion to lend its support and

1 become involved in the lawsuit against the designation of the Ancestral Footprints  
2 Monument. On February 5, 2024, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors passed  
3 Resolution No. 2024-054, challenging President Biden's actions.

4 15. Plaintiff Town of Colorado City is a town in Mohave County, Arizona, in the  
5 Arizona Strip. On January 8, 2024, the Colorado City Town Council passed a resolution  
6 authorizing Colorado City to challenge the Proclamation.

7 16. Plaintiff Town of Fredonia is a town in Coconino County, Arizona, known  
8 as the gateway to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. On January 23, 2024, the Fredonia  
9 Town Council passed a resolution authorizing Fredonia to challenge the Proclamation.

10 17. Defendant Joseph R. Biden, Jr., is the President of the United States and is  
11 sued in his official capacity. President Biden issued the Proclamation establishing the  
12 Ancestral Footprints Monument.

13 18. Defendant Deb Haaland is the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.  
14 She is sued in her official capacity.

15 19. Defendant U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is a federal cabinet agency  
16 and a department of the Executive Branch. It is responsible for implementing the  
17 Proclamation and enforcing, implementing, or administering a subset of statutes,  
18 regulations, and other executive-branch actions relating to the Ancestral Footprints  
19 Monument.

20 20. Defendant Tracy Stone-Manning is the Director of the Bureau of Land  
21 Management. She is sued in her official capacity.

22 21. Defendant Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is an agency within the U.S.  
23 Department of the Interior. It is responsible for implementing the Proclamation and  
24 enforcing, implementing, or administering a subset of statutes, regulations, and other  
25 executive-branch actions relating to the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

26 22. Defendant Tom Vilsack is the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.  
27 He is sued in his official capacity.

28 23. Defendant U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is a federal cabinet

1 agency and a department of the Executive Branch. It is responsible for implementing the  
2 Proclamation and enforcing, implementing, or administering a subset of statutes,  
3 regulations, and other executive-branch actions relating to the Ancestral Footprints  
4 Monument.

5 24. Together, Haaland, DOI, Stone-Manning, BLM, Vilsack, and USDA are the  
6 “Agency Defendants.”

7 25. Defendants are not entitled to sovereign immunity.

### 8 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9 26. This action arises under the Constitution of the United States, the Antiquities  
10 Act of 1906, 54 U.S.C. § 320301, the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act, the Arizona  
11 Wilderness Act of 1984, and the court’s equitable powers.

12 27. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because  
13 the federal claims arise under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

14 28. Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201,  
15 2202, and the Court’s inherent equitable authority.

16 29. This Court can award costs and attorneys’ fees under 28 U.S.C. § 2412.

17 30. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e)(1) because  
18 Defendants are United States agencies or officers sued in their official capacities, a  
19 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this District,  
20 and a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated in this District.

### 21 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

#### 22 I. Congress has protected vast swaths of federal land in Arizona, especially 23 around the Grand Canyon.

24 31. Arizona is a state filled with natural beauty.

25 32. People from around the world journey to Arizona to experience the  
26 breathtaking majesty of Arizona’s natural wonders.

27 33. The State of Arizona totals 73 million acres. *Public Land Statistics 2022*,  
28 U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Table 1-3 (2022) (last visited

1 Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>1</sup>

2 34. The federal government controls more than 30 million acres of Arizona—  
3 about 42% of the State. *Id.*

4 35. Since the federal government controls more than four-tenths of the State, it  
5 is vitally important to Arizonans how the federal government allows its property to be used.

6 36. Relevant to this case is how the federal government allows land to be used  
7 around the Grand Canyon.

8 **A. Congress protected the Grand Canyon National Park.**

9 37. The Grand Canyon is the most prominent of Arizona’s many natural  
10 wonders.

11 38. Grand Canyon National Park spans 1,218,375 acres. National Park Service,  
12 *Park Statistics* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>2</sup>

13 39. The Grand Canyon has been protected as a national park since 1919.  
14 16 U.S.C. § 221.

15 40. Only Congress can create national parks. *See* U.S.C. Title 16.

16 41. Mining is prohibited in Grand Canyon National Park. When Congress  
17 created it, mining was limited in the Grand Canyon National Park to valid claims existing  
18 prior to February 26, 1919. 16 U.S.C. § 224; *see also* 54 U.S.C. § 100732. No legal mining  
19 is now conducted or allowed in Grand Canyon National Park.

20 42. Thus, for more than 100 years, the Grand Canyon has been preserved for  
21 future generations—but preserved by congressional decree. When Congress declared the  
22 Grand Canyon a national park, it revoked President Theodore Roosevelt’s declaration,  
23 issued before Arizona became a state, that the Grand Canyon was a national monument.  
24 44 Stat. 1175, 1178 (1919).

25 **B. Congress protected the Kaibab National Forest adjacent to Grand**

26  
27 <sup>1</sup> Available at [https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2023-07/Public\\_Lands\\_Statistics\\_2022.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2023-07/Public_Lands_Statistics_2022.pdf).

28 <sup>2</sup> Available at <https://home.nps.gov/grca/learn/management/statistics.htm>.

1 **Canyon National Park.**

2 43. The Kaibab National Forest is adjacent to the north and the south of Grand  
3 Canyon National Park.

4 44. The Kaibab National Forest spans 1,542,791 acres divided into three  
5 districts: North Kaibab Ranger District, 655,248 acres; Tusayan Ranger District, 327,250  
6 acres; and Williams Ranger District, 560,293 acres. U.S. Forest Serv., *Kaibab National*  
7 *Forest – About the Forest* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>3</sup>

8 45. Areas within the Kaibab National Forest first received protection as a forest  
9 reserve in 1893. *Id.*

10 46. Additional forests were protected around the Grand Canyon in 1908, 1910,  
11 and 1924. *Id.*

12 47. The Kaibab National Forest was fully established and protected in 1934. *Id.*

13 48. Only Congress can create national forests.

14 49. According to the United States Geological Service, mining is no longer  
15 permitted within protected areas of Kaibab National Forest on the North Rim of the Grand  
16 Canyon. U.S. Geological Serv., *Hydrological, Geological, and Biological Site*  
17 *characterization of Breccia Pipe Uranium Deposits in Northern Arizona: Scientific*  
18 *Investigations Report 2010-5025*, at 13 (2010) (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>4</sup>

19 50. Prior to the Obama Administration’s mining moratorium actions that began  
20 in 2009, mining was allowed in the Kaibab National Forest, subject to claim and patent  
21 requirements and other conditions imposed by federal statute and regulations. *See, e.g.*, 16  
22 U.S.C. § 482o.

23 51. “[E]ffective October 1, 1994, Congress imposed a moratorium on spending  
24 appropriated funds for the acceptance or processing of mineral patent applications that had  
25 not yet reached a defined point in the patent review process before a certain cut-off date.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>3</sup> Available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/kaibab/about-forest/?cid=STELPRDB5227350>.

28 <sup>4</sup> Available at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2010/5025/pdf/sir2010-5025.pdf>.



1 Until the moratorium is lifted or otherwise expires, the [Bureau of Land Management] will  
2 not accept any new patent applications.” BLM, *Patents* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>5</sup>

3 **C. Congress protected the wilderness areas adjacent to Grand Canyon**  
4 **National Park.**

5 52. The Kanab Creek Wilderness and the Saddle Mountain Wilderness are  
6 adjacent to the north of Grand Canyon National Park.

7 53. The Kanab Creek Wilderness consists of 70,460 acres. Bureau of Land  
8 Management, *Kanab Creek Wilderness* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024)<sup>6</sup>; *see also* Pub. L. No.  
9 98-406, 98 Stat. 1492, § 301(a)(3) (reserving 77,100 acres as the “Kanab Creek  
10 Wilderness—Proposed”).

11 54. The Kanab Creek Wilderness has been protected since 1984 as wilderness  
12 under the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. *Id.*; Pub. L. No. 98-406, 98 Stat. 1492,  
13 § 301(a)(3).

14 55. The Saddle Mountain Wilderness consists of 40,600 acres. § 301(a)(8).

15 56. The Saddle Mountain Wilderness has been protected since 1984 as  
16 wilderness under the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. *Id.*

17 57. Only Congress can create wilderness areas. 16 U.S.C. § 1131.

18 58. New mining claims have been prohibited in federal wilderness areas since  
19 January 1, 1984. 16 U.S.C. § 1133(d)(3).

20 **D. Congress has the sole power to declare most federal land designations.**

21 59. As previously mentioned, only Congress can declare National Parks,  
22 National Forests, and Wilderness Areas. *See* U.S.C. Title 16; 16 U.S.C. § 1131.

23 60. Only Congress can declare National Historical Parks. *See* U.S.C. Title 16.

24 61. Only Congress can declare National Conservation Areas. *See id.*

25 62. Only Congress can declare National Military Parks. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 422 *et*

26  
27 <sup>5</sup> Available at <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/mining-and-minerals/locatable-minerals/patents>.

28 <sup>6</sup> Available at <https://www.blm.gov/visit/kanab-creek-wilderness>.

1 *seq.*

2 63. Only Congress can declare National Seashore Recreational Areas. *See* 16  
3 U.S.C. § 459 *et seq.*

4 64. Only Congress can declare National Scenic Riverways. *See* 16 U.S.C.  
5 § 460m *et seq.*

6 65. Only Congress can declare National Rivers. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 460m-8 *et seq.*

7 66. Only Congress can declare National Recreation Areas. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 460n  
8 *et seq.*

9 67. Only Congress can declare National Lakeshores. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 460s *et*  
10 *seq.*

11 68. Subject to obtaining claims, patents, and complying with other federal laws,  
12 regulations, and requirements, mining is allowed on federal land that is not designated as  
13 a federal national park or a federal wilderness area.

14 69. Congress’s power over federal land is derived from the Property Clause of  
15 the U.S. Constitution, Art. IV, § 3, cl. 2, and must be exercised consistent with principles  
16 of federalism and respect for the “balance of federal and state powers” as a matter of  
17 constitutional design. *Bond v. United States*, 572 U.S. 844, 858 (2014) (quotations  
18 omitted).

19 **II. Arizona State Trust Land, including near the Grand Canyon, funds schools**  
20 **in Arizona.**

21 70. In addition to the federal land around the Grand Canyon, Arizona possesses  
22 State Trust Land in the area near the Grand Canyon.

23 71. State Trust Land has been part of the fabric of Arizona since its creation as a  
24 Territory.

25 72. President Lincoln and Congress established the Territory of Arizona during  
26 the middle of the Civil War. 12 Stat. 664, 664–65 (1863).

27 73. At the time it established the Territory of Arizona, the federal government  
28 granted sections 16 and 36 of each township to Arizona as public lands for the benefit of

1 “Common Schools.” Ariz. State Land Dep’t, *History of Arizona State Trust Land* (last  
2 visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>7</sup>

3 74. Nearly 50 years later, after 200,000 people had moved to the Territory,  
4 Arizona prepared to enter the union as a State in 1910. See 2 Dep’t of Commerce,  
5 *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910*, at 66 (1910).

6 75. The Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act of 1910 provided the process for  
7 Arizona to become the 48th state.

8 76. The Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act set aside additional public lands—  
9 sections 2 and 32 in every township not otherwise appropriated—to the new State of  
10 Arizona for the benefit of common schools. 36 Stat. 557, 572 (1910).

11 77. Together, sections 2, 16, 32, and 36 granted to the State of Arizona are “State  
12 Trust Land.”

13 78. As required in the Enabling Act, which is incorporated into Arizona’s  
14 Constitution, Arizona holds “those granted lands in trust” for the purposes set out in those  
15 laws. *ASARCO, Inc. v. Kadish*, 490 U.S. 605, 626 (1989).

16 79. In total, the United States granted 10,790,000 acres—about 15 percent of the  
17 land in the State—to Arizona as State Trust Land. *Lassen v. Arizona ex rel. Arizona*  
18 *Highway Dep’t*, 385 U.S. 458, 460 (1967).

19 80. The Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act allowed State Trust Land to return  
20 to the federal government in two situations.

21 81. First, at the request of the United States Secretary of the Interior, the State  
22 shall relinquish State Trust Land “needed for irrigation works in connection with any  
23 government project.” 36 Stat. at 574-75; see also Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 5.

24 82. Second, the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act reserved to the United States  
25 and excepted from the grant of State Trust Land “all land actually or prospectively valuable  
26 for the development of water powers or power for hydro-electric use or transmission.” *Id.*  
27 This land had to be ascertained and designated by the Secretary of the Interior within five

28 <sup>7</sup> Available at <https://land.az.gov/our-agency-mission/history-trust-land>.

1 years of when the President declared Arizona admitted as a state. 36 Stat. at 575; *see also*  
2 Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 6.

3 83. President Taft declared Arizona a state on February 14, 1912, meaning the  
4 hydro-electric power reservation expired on February 14, 1917. *See* 37 Stat. 1728, 1729  
5 (1912).

6 84. The Arizona Constitution allows all State Trust Land to be sold or leased in  
7 the manner allowed by the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act, the Arizona Constitution,  
8 and the laws of the State of Arizona. Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 9.

9 85. The Arizona Constitution empowers the Arizona State Legislature to provide  
10 laws for the sale or lease of all State Trust Land: “The legislature shall provide by proper  
11 laws for the sale of all state lands or the lease of such lands, and shall further provide by  
12 said laws for the protection of the actual bona fide residents and lessees of said lands,  
13 whereby such residents and lessees of said lands shall be protected in their rights to their  
14 improvements (including water rights) in such manner that in case of lease to other parties  
15 the former lessee shall be paid by the succeeding lessee the value of such improvements  
16 and rights and actual bona fide residents and lessees shall have preference to a renewal of  
17 their leases at a reassessed rental to be fixed as provided by law.” Ariz. Const. art. 10,  
18 § 10.

19 86. The Arizona Constitution requires the Arizona State Legislature to provide a  
20 process by law for exchanging State Trust Land. Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 12.

21 87. The Arizona Constitution requires the Treasurer to deposit money “derived  
22 from any” State Trust Land into a “permanent fund corresponding to the grant under which  
23 the particular land producing such monies was, by the enabling act, conveyed or  
24 confirmed.” Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 7(A).

25 **III. Interest groups compromised on the use of federal land around the Grand**  
26 **Canyon in the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984.**

27 88. Congress enacted the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate certain  
28 national forest lands in Arizona as wilderness and to remove certain areas from federal

1 requirements for wilderness study area management. Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984,  
2 Pub. L. No. 98-406, 98 Stat. 1485.

3 89. The bipartisanship and industry cooperation resulting in the Arizona  
4 Wilderness Act of 1984 was lauded by the bill's sponsor, former Arizona Representative  
5 Mo Udall: "If there is a better example of a wilderness bill which is the product of  
6 bipartisan cooperation, and which has been built from the bottom up by those citizens most  
7 directly affected by its provisions, then I don't know what that bill is. ... Arizonans  
8 throughout the State, of widely differing political views and economic interests, rallied to  
9 work out their differences to produce a bill that is in everybody's interests." 130 Cong.  
10 Rec. 23,935 (Aug. 10, 1984) (Statement of Rep. Udall). Other members of Congress  
11 echoed Congressman Udall's sentiments. *See* 130 Cong. Rec. 7,299 (Apr. 2, 1984)  
12 (Statement of Rep. McNulty) ("Out of that I think has come a bill which represents, to the  
13 highest degree possible, a fairly decent consensus. If politics is as I believe to be the art of  
14 compromise and the science of the achievable, then I think H.R. 4704 richly deserves your  
15 consideration and your approbation."); 130 Cong. Rec. 7,300 (Statement of Rep.  
16 Seiberling) ("[T]he bill contains many wilderness proposals that, by virtue of careful  
17 negotiation and compromise on the part of the major interest groups involved, have been  
18 crafted to eliminate resource conflicts or other potential problems. As such, the bill appears  
19 to enjoy a broad degree of support.").

20 90. The goal was to allow Arizonans to set the important policy of how federal  
21 land in Arizona would be used, not impose it on them from Washington:

22 [W]e have been in almost constant discussion and negotiation with  
23 environmentalists, miners, timber people, cattlemen, and many, many others  
24 in trying to hammer out an acceptable proposal. We made every effort to  
25 have this built from the bottom up in Arizona, not imposed on Arizona from  
26 Washington. A lot of voices in Arizona said it could never be done. But I  
27 think this bill before the House today, while it does not completely satisfy  
28 the interest of any group, fairly and adequately addresses the interest of all

1 groups in our State.

2 130 Cong. Rec. 7,304 (Apr. 2, 1984) (Statement of Rep. Udall).

3 91. The compromises that became the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984  
4 specifically focused on the area known as the “Arizona Strip,” which consists of land north  
5 of the Grand Canyon. Forty years ago, the compromises reached on the Arizona Strip  
6 provisions of the bill resulted in “a plan with which everyone can live”:

7 The introduction of [the Arizona Strip Wilderness Act], as a separate piece  
8 of legislation, represents many long months of intense negotiation and the  
9 result is a proposal which enjoys unanimous support. The appeal and success  
10 of the strip bill is that it is a product of those who have a direct interest and  
11 use of the land in the strip, rather than a congressional mandate. The diversity  
12 of interests among ranchers, miners, timber companies, environmentalists,  
13 local governments, and Federal agencies normally would not lend itself to  
14 successfully dealing with the wilderness question. Yet in this case, those  
15 same diverse interests proved that with the give and take on the part of all  
16 parties involved, a strong consensus resolving the question can be reached.  
17 The result of the actions on the strip will be a plan with which everyone can  
18 live, strongly facilitating the implementation of land use management.

19 130 Cong. Rec. 7302 (Apr. 2, 1984) (Statement of Rep. Stump).

20 92. Mining was a specific area that was the subject of negotiation and  
21 compromise. According to then-Arizona Representative John McCain, “Two other major  
22 concerns have been the Arizona Mining Association and the Arizona Cattlegrowers. The  
23 chairman has made numerous boundary modifications and excluded a number of areas of  
24 importance to these groups.” 130 Cong Rec. 7,303 (Apr. 2, 1984) (Statement of Rep.  
25 McCain).

26 93. The goal was to provide certainty for Arizonans about land use moving  
27 forward: Representative Udall said he was “[p]roud of a bill that settles the land  
28 management question on nearly 3 million acres of public lands for the foreseeable future

1 so that ranchers, miners, timber people, and other users of the land can get on with  
2 intelligent planning for their business.” 130 Cong. Rec. 7,304-05 (Apr. 2, 1984) (Statement  
3 of Rep. Udall).

4 **IV. Congressional failures to change land use laws lead to temporary**  
5 **administrative actions.**

6 94. For about 20 years, the compromise reached in the Arizona Wilderness Act  
7 of 1984 remained acceptable to the interest groups that had negotiated it.

8 95. Satisfaction with the 1984 compromise began to erode when the price of  
9 uranium began to change.

10 96. Between 1984 and 2003, the price of uranium stayed below \$20 per pound.  
11 St. Louis Federal Reserve, *Global Price of Uranium* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024) (using IMF  
12 data);<sup>8</sup> Grand Canyon Trust, *Global Price of Uranium, 1980–2020* (Apr. 2, 2021).<sup>9</sup>

13 97. Between 2004 and 2007, uranium prices spiked, reaching a peak of \$136 per  
14 pound in June 2007. *Id.*

15 98. The surging price for uranium led to surging interest in mining uranium.

16 99. Northern Arizona is estimated to have at least 2.6 billion pounds of uranium.  
17 U.S. Geological Serv., *supra*, at 36.

18 100. The developed uranium deposits elsewhere in the United States total 890  
19 million pounds. *Id.* at 23.

20 101. According to the United States Geological Survey, “some of the highest  
21 grade uranium ore in this country is believed to be located in the many mineralized breccia  
22 pipes scattered across the Grand Canyon region.” *Id.* at 5.

23 102. But for reasons such as the prohibition of mining in Grand Canyon National  
24 Park and the adjacent Wilderness Areas, an estimated 933.6 million pounds of uranium is  
25 in areas around the Grand Canyon where mining was prohibited before 2009. *Id.*

26 103. Instead, the United States imports most of its uranium from foreign countries,

27 <sup>8</sup> Available at <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PURANUSDM>.

28 <sup>9</sup> Available at <https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/global-price-uranium-1980-2020>.

1 including hostile powers like Russia and areas of significant unrest, like Niger. *See* U.S.  
 2 Energy Info. Admin., *Nuclear Explained: Where Our Uranium Comes From* (last updated  
 3 Aug. 23, 2023).<sup>10</sup>

4 104. Reliance on foreign imports of uranium is especially pronounced in the utility  
 5 sector. For example, “[i]n 2018, U.S. nuclear utility operators relied on foreign suppliers  
 6 for 93.3 percent of their uranium concentrate requirements, 85.5 percent of their uranium  
 7 hexafluoride requirements, and 97.6 percent of their enriched uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>)  
 8 requirements.” Publication of a Report on the Effect of Imports of Uranium on the National  
 9 Security, 86 Fed. Reg. 41,540, 41,568 (Aug. 2, 2021).

10 105. Yet large amounts of uranium on federal land outside Grand Canyon  
 11 National Park still could be mined. When the price of uranium surged, 326 million pounds  
 12 of uranium sat underneath federal land near the Grand Canyon on property that could be  
 13 claimed, patented, and mined because it was not within Grand Canyon National Park, a  
 14 Wilderness Area adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park, or other federal property on  
 15 which mining was prohibited. U.S. Geological Serv., *supra*, at 36.

16 106. One report found that 320 uranium mining claims were staked near the Grand  
 17 Canyon in 2004. Between 2006 and 2007, 6,100 uranium mining claims were staked. Pew  
 18 Found., *Ten Treasures at Stake: New Mining Claims Plus an Old Law Put National Parks*  
 19 *and Forests at Risk* 7 (2011).<sup>11</sup>

20 107. By 2009, more than 10,000 mining claims had been staked outside Grand  
 21 Canyon National Park. DOI, *Record of Decision Northern Arizona Withdrawal* 3 (2012).<sup>12</sup>

22 108. The increased interest in mining led to a change in heart about the  
 23 compromises reached in the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. From the perspective of

24 <sup>10</sup> Available at [https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/nuclear/where-our-uranium-comes-](https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/nuclear/where-our-uranium-comes-from.php)  
 25 [from.php](https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/nuclear/where-our-uranium-comes-from.php).

26 <sup>11</sup> Available at [https://www.pewtrusts.org/-](https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/peg/publications/report/1020treasurespdf.pdf)  
 27 [/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/peg/publications/report/1020treasurespdf.pdf](https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/legacy/uploadedfiles/peg/publications/report/1020treasurespdf.pdf).

28 <sup>12</sup> Available at [https://webapps.usgs.gov/uraniummine/documents/DOI%20\(2012\)%20ROD%20Northern%20Arizona%20Withdrawal.pdf](https://webapps.usgs.gov/uraniummine/documents/DOI%20(2012)%20ROD%20Northern%20Arizona%20Withdrawal.pdf).

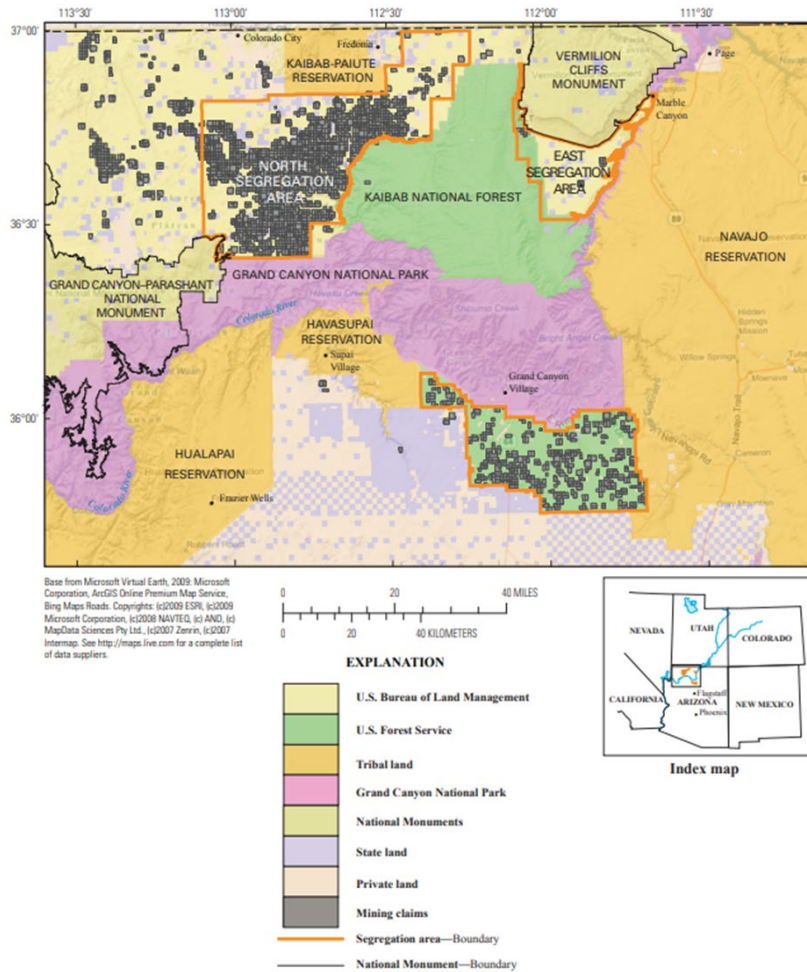


1 some opposed to mining, mining now needed to be banned in areas that had been  
 2 specifically negotiated to allow it in 1984.

3 109. Members of Congress proposed the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection  
 4 Act of 2008 (H.R. 5583), Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009 (H.R. 644),  
 5 and the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 855). None of these bills  
 6 passed Congress, a chamber of Congress, or even a committee of a chamber of Congress.

7 110. Because Congress could not pass legislation to change the land designation  
 8 around the Grand Canyon, in 2009, the Secretary of the Interior unilaterally issued a two-  
 9 year ban on location and entry on 993,569 acres. 74 Fed. Reg. 35,887 (July 21, 2009).

10 111. The area covered by the Secretary's ban closely coincided with the highest  
 11 concentration of mining claims. U.S. Geological Serv., *supra*, at 25 fig.2 (reproduced  
 12 below).



1           112. In 2011, the Secretary of the Interior exercised his emergency authority to  
2 withdraw 1,010,776 acres from location and entry under the 1872 Mining Law for six  
3 months. 76 Fed. Reg. 37,826 (June 28, 2011).

4           113. In 2012, the Secretary of the Interior withdrew 1,006,545 acres from location  
5 and entry under the General Mining Law for 20 years—the maximum period allowed by  
6 law—subject to valid existing rights. 77 Fed. Reg. 2,317 (Jan. 17, 2012); 77 Fed. Reg.  
7 2,563 (Jan. 18, 2012).

8           114. As a result of the Secretary of the Interior’s decision, no new action on  
9 mining claims could begin until 2032.

10           115. But the Secretary of the Interior’s decision was not permanent. Members of  
11 Congress thus continued trying to pass legislation that would permanently change the land  
12 designation around the Grand Canyon. *See* The Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act  
13 of 2013 (H.R. 1350); The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act of 2015  
14 (H.R. 3882); The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act of 2017 (H.R.  
15 360); The Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act of 2019 (H.R. 1373, S. 3127); The  
16 Grand Canyon Protection Act in 2021 (H.R. 1052, S. 387).

17           116. Despite repeated attempts, none of the numerous Grand Canyon bills became  
18 law. Only one bill even passed a committee vote.

19           117. As the expiration date for the Secretary of the Interior’s 2012 mining pause  
20 drew nearer, exasperated advocates sought to circumvent Congress. They called for use of  
21 the Antiquities Act.

## 22           **V. The Antiquities Act of 1906**

23           118. The Antiquities Act of 1906 provides the President with limited authority to  
24 protect specific objects of historic or scientific interest: “The President may, in the  
25 President’s discretion, declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and  
26 prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on  
27 land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments.” 54  
28 U.S.C. § 320301(a).

1           119. The President must confine the monument to the “smallest area compatible”:  
2 “The President may reserve parcels of land as a part of the national monuments. The limits  
3 of the parcels shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and  
4 management of the objects to be protected.” 54 U.S.C. § 320301(b).

5           120. Congress understood the Act was narrow and limited. “Most commentators  
6 who have considered the Act and its legislative history have concluded that it was designed  
7 to protect only very small tracts of land around archaeological sites.” Mark Squillace, *The*  
8 *Monumental Legacy of the Antiquities Act of 1906*, 37 GA. L. REV. 473, 477 (2003).

9           121. In the House report to a bill identical to the Antiquities Act, the House  
10 described the bill’s scope as “small” and targeted to “interesting relics of prehistoric times”:

11           There are scattered throughout the Southwest quite a large number of very  
12 interesting ruins. Many of these ruins are upon the public lands, and the most  
13 of them are upon lands of but little present value. **The bill proposes to**  
14 **create small reservations reserving only so much land as may be**  
15 **absolutely necessary for the preservation of these interesting relics of**  
16 **prehistoric times.**

17 H.R. Rep. No. 59-2224, at 1 (1906) (emphasis added).

18           122. The House report relied heavily on an archeologist’s memorandum on the  
19 historic ruins in the southwestern United States.

20           123. The archeologist’s memorandum focused on specific objects: “Every cliff  
21 dwelling, every prehistoric tower, communal house, shrine, and burial mound is an object  
22 which can contribute something to the advancement of knowledge, and hence is worthy of  
23 preservation.” *Id.* at 2 (quoting the memorandum). The archeologist distinguished  
24 between areas of scenic beauty, which could be “organiz[ed] into permanent national  
25 parks,” and areas where property is “temporarily withdrawn and allowed to revert to the  
26 public domain after the ruins thereon have been examined.” *Id.* at 3. Permanent  
27 withdrawal of public land would be reserved for national parks: “That the permanent  
28 withdrawal of tracts of land from the public domain for the purpose of protecting ruins

1 thereon would seem to be unnecessary except where the ruins are of such character and  
2 extent as to warrant the creation of permanent national parks.” *Id.* at 7–8.

3 124. On the day the House passed the Antiquities Act, the sponsor of the identical  
4 House bill explained the Antiquities Act would make “small reservations” and “not very  
5 much” land would be taken off the market in the Western States.

6 Mr. STEPHENS of Texas. I think the bill would be preferable if it covered  
7 a particular spot and did cover the entire public domain.

8 Mr. LACEY. There has been an effort made to have national parks in some  
9 of these regions, but **this will merely make small reservations where the**  
10 **objects are of sufficient interest to preserve them.**

11 Mr. STEPHENS of Texas. Will that take this land off the market, or can they  
12 still be settled on as part of the public domain?

13 Mr. LACEY. It will take that portion of the reservation out of the market. **It**  
14 **is meant to cover the cave dwellers and cliff dwellers.**

15 Mr. STEPHENS of Texas. **How much land will be taken off the market**  
16 **in the Western States by the passage of the bill?**

17 Mr. LACEY. **Not very much. The bill provides that it shall be the**  
18 **smallest area necessary for the care and maintenance of the objects to**  
19 **be preserved.**

20 Mr. STEPHENS of Texas. **Would it be anything like the forest-reserve**  
21 **bill, by which seventy or eighty million acres of land in the United States**  
22 **have been tied up?**

23 Mr. LACEY. **Certainly not. The object is entirely different. It is to**  
24 **preserve these old objects of special interest and the Indian remains in**  
25 **the pueblos in the Southwest, whilst the other reserves the forests and**  
26 **the water courses.**

27 40 Cong. Rec. 7888 (June 5, 1906) (emphasis added).

28 125. “The colloquy shows that Congress enacted the Antiquities Act with the

1 understanding that it would not allow million-acre reservations of the sort that had occurred  
2 under the 1891 [forest reserve] law.” Richard Henry Seamon, *Dismantling Monuments*,  
3 70 FLA. L. REV. 553, 566-67 (2018).

4 126. There were failed attempts to expand the objects the President could declare  
5 a monument. For example, the Commissioner of the General Land Office proposed adding  
6 “‘or natural wonder or curiosity’” to the legislation’s protection. Robert Claus, *Reference*  
7 *Service Report: Information about the Background of the Antiquities Act of 1906*, at 12  
8 (1945) (quotations omitted).

9 127. DOI shared the understanding that the Antiquities Act was narrow and  
10 designed to preserve historic objects, not landscapes. In its annual report published the  
11 year Congress passed the Antiquities Act, the DOI explained: “After a long and only partly  
12 successful struggle to stem the tide of vandalism, **which was gradually destroying the**  
13 **most interesting relics of ancient art and architecture in this country**, effective Federal  
14 legislation has been procured ‘For the preservation of American antiquities. . . . Before the  
15 passage of this act the Office had kept up an earnest effort to prevent, by such means as lay  
16 within its reach, **the despoliation of relics on Indian reservations.**” DOI, *Annual Reports*  
17 *of the Department of the Interior 1906, Indian Affairs* 35–36 (1906) (emphasis added).

18 128. In contrast to the limited scope of the Antiquities Act, that same report  
19 discussed a separate bill creating the Mesa Verde National Park to protect its beautiful  
20 scenery: “This covers the cliff dwellings in the Southern Ute Reservation, in many respects  
21 the most extensive, characteristic, and beautiful in the whole country.” *Id.* at 38.

22 129. In 1911, the Chief Clerk of the General Land Office confirmed that scenery  
23 could not be protected by the Antiquities Act: “I have at times been somewhat embarrassed  
24 by requests of patriotic and public-spirited citizens who have strongly supported  
25 applications to create national monuments out of scenery alone. In many persons the  
26 artistic and scientific powers are happily blended, **but the terms of the monument act do**  
27 **not specify scenery, nor remotely refer to scenery, as a possible raison d’être for a**  
28 **public reservation. Reserves of this character may be created by special acts of**

1 **Congress.**” Frank Bond, *The Administration of National Monuments* (1911), in DOI,  
2 *Proceedings of the National Park Service Conference*, 81 (1911) (emphasis added).

3 130. The United States continued with the view that the Antiquities Act protected  
4 historic objects, not scenery, in an internal report in 1945 on the law’s background: “[T]he  
5 Department urged that the law be broad enough to include natural wonders or curiosities,  
6 springs of medicinal or other value, and areas of scenic interest as well as aboriginal ruins  
7 and relics. **That the bill as finally passed covered only ‘historic landmarks, historic  
8 and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest’ was  
9 probably a concession to political expediency.**” Claus, *supra*, at 1 (emphasis added).

10 131. This legislative history and these contemporaneous sources clearly  
11 demonstrate that the Antiquities Act was designed to protect landmarks, structures, and  
12 objects, not scenery.

13 132. It also establishes that “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures,  
14 and other objects of historic and scientific interest” have fixed, objective meanings that the  
15 President cannot change.

16 133. Those facts, as well as numerous other canons of statutory construction, show  
17 that “Congress did not have in mind authorizing withdrawals of vast areas for designation  
18 as national monuments when it passed the Antiquities Act. The purpose was to set aside  
19 minimal areas to protect ruins of archaeological interest in the American Southwest.”  
20 David H. Getches, *Managing the Public Lands: The Authority of the Executive to Withdraw  
21 Lands*, 22 NAT. RES. J. 279, 301-02 (1982).

## 22 VI. President Biden’s Proclamation Establishing the Ancestral Footprints 23 Monument

24 134. On August 8, 2023, President Biden established the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah  
25 Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument (the “Ancestral  
26 Footprints Monument”). Proclamation 10606 of August 8, 2023, 88 Fed. Reg. 55,331  
27 (Aug. 15, 2023) (the “Proclamation”). The Proclamation is incorporated into this  
28 complaint by reference.



1           137. The Ancestral Footprints Monument is comparable to the size of the State of  
2 Rhode Island.

3           138. The Ancestral Footprints Monument is larger than all but 13 national parks.  
4 It is 150,000 acres larger than Yosemite National Park. It is also more than 75,000 acres  
5 larger than the Great Smoky Mountains and Grand Teton National Parks—combined.

6           139. Central Park in New York City would fit inside the Ancestral Footprints  
7 Monument almost 1,100 times. Britannica, *Central Park* (Nov. 30, 2023).<sup>13</sup>

8           140. For perspective, the National Park Service has identified 28 monument  
9 designations in Arizona in the 1900s that together totaled 867,709.90 acres (the sizes of  
10 four monument designations were not calculated). Nat'l Park Serv., *National Monument*  
11 *Facts and Figures* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>14</sup>

12           **B. The Items the Biden Administration Said Could be Declared to Be**  
13           **National Monuments.**

14           141. The Antiquities Act says only certain items can be declared to be national  
15 monuments: historic landmarks, historic or prehistoric structures, or “other objects of  
16 historic or scientific interest.” 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a).

17           142. The Proclamation relies on the last category—“objects of historic or  
18 scientific interest.” *See* 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,338 (“whereas” clauses).

19           143. The Proclamation says that the “entire landscapes within the boundaries of  
20 each area reserved by this proclamation are themselves objects of historic and scientific  
21 interest in need of protection” and so can be monuments. *Id.* at 55,338; *see id.* at 55,332  
22 (“While the greater Grand Canyon region is indisputably a cultural resource in its entirety,  
23 the landscapes in these three discrete areas are themselves historically and scientifically  
24 significant.”).

25           144. Besides landscapes, the Proclamation identified certain other objects within  
26

27 <sup>13</sup> Available at <https://www.britannica.com/place/Central-Park-New-York-City>.

28 <sup>14</sup> Available at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/archeology/national-monument-facts-and-figures.htm>.



1 the landscape as “objects of historic or scientific interest.” These include:

- 2 a. Hydrologic features, especially groundwater dynamics. *See id.* at 55,334–  
3 35. This appears to include potentially one aquifer, *see id.* at 55,335, the  
4 groundwater itself, *see id.* at 55,334, and other objects that are related to the  
5 flow of water such as caves, cliffs, and other formations, *see id.* at 55,335.
- 6 b. Geological features, such as the House Rock Valley and Coconino Plateau.  
7 *Id.* at 55,335.
- 8 c. Ecological transitions, “ranging from the Mojave Desert and riparian habitats  
9 at low elevations; to Great Basin grassland, Great Basin woodland, and Great  
10 Basin desert scrubland at intermediate elevations; to Rocky Mountain  
11 subalpine conifer forests, subalpine grasslands, and montane conifer forests  
12 at higher elevations. Ponderosa pine stands, some with old growth  
13 characteristics, can also be found at higher elevations.” *Id.* at 55,335.
- 14 d. Animals, plants, habitats, ecosystems, and migration trails. The  
15 Proclamation, for example, references roughly sixty different plant and  
16 animal species.
- 17 e. Broadly defined study areas that include, not just archeological research, but  
18 “the relationship between historic climate change and human occupation,  
19 including how climate changes affected construction techniques by the  
20 Indigenous peoples in the region, the viability of farming, the use of fire, and  
21 available resources.” *Id.* at 55,334.

22 145. That is not an exhaustive list. The Biden Administration’s intent was to  
23 include objects “regardless of whether they are expressly identified as objects of historic  
24 or scientific interest in the text of this proclamation.” *Id.* at 55,338.

25 146. Indeed, the Proclamation says that the monument is the landscape and  
26 everything in them: “I find that the unique historic and scientific characteristics of the  
27 landscapes, and the collection of objects and resources therein, make the landscapes more  
28 than the mere sum of their parts, and thus the entire landscapes within the boundaries of

1 each area reserved by this proclamation are themselves objects of historic and scientific  
2 interest in need of protection under section 320301 of title 54, United States Code.” *Id.*

3 147. It is not even possible to determine what, or how many, objects besides the  
4 landscapes are monuments. As noted, the Proclamation says it includes objects “regardless  
5 of whether they are expressly identified as objects of historic or scientific interest in the  
6 text of this proclamation.” *Id.* at 55,338.

7 148. The Proclamation also claims that “[s]ome of the objects in these areas are  
8 sacred to Tribal Nations; are sensitive, rare, or vulnerable to vandalism and theft; or are  
9 unsafe to visit. Therefore, revealing their specific names or locations could pose a danger  
10 to the objects or to the public.” *Id.* at 55,332. And it later directs Secretary of the Interior  
11 and Secretary of Agriculture to protect “Indigenous Knowledge or other information  
12 relating to the nature and specific location of cultural resources within the monument and,  
13 to the extent practicable,” limit disclosure of information about “nature and specific  
14 location of cultural resources within the monument.” *Id.* at 55,341. Because the  
15 Proclamation’s intent is to include objects “regardless of whether they are expressly  
16 identified as objects of historic or scientific interest in the text of this proclamation,” *id.* at  
17 55,338, it includes “objects” unidentified by the Defendants.

## 18 **VII. The Proclamation Serves Purposes Beyond Preserving Antiquities.**

19 149. The Proclamation, and statements by government officials—including  
20 President Biden—indicate that the goal in creating the Ancestral Footprints Monument  
21 went far beyond preserving Antiquities.

22 150. First, on information and belief, the Proclamation was intended to address  
23 historical federal actions toward Native Americans and to preserve the land for their use.

24 151. The Proclamation’s introduction says that “[t]he history of the lands and  
25 resources in the Grand Canyon region also tells a painful story about the forced removal  
26 and dispossession of Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples.” 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,331. And  
27 in a press release announcing the designation, the White House said the Proclamation  
28 “recognizes and is a step toward addressing the history of dispossession and exclusion of

1 Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples in the area.” Ex. 1, at 3.

2 152. Indeed, the Proclamation indicates that Native American’s cultural and  
3 religious value of the land is an object that could be designated as a monument. *See, e.g.*,  
4 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,332 (“The landscapes are also integrally connected to the Indigenous  
5 Knowledge amassed by the Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples in the area over  
6 countless generations.”). It references “areas [that] lie within the homelands of numerous  
7 Tribal Nations . . . who describe the lands here as a cultural landscape to which their  
8 ancestors belong. The surrounding plateaus, canyons, and tributaries of the Colorado River  
9 are central and sacred components of the origin and history of multiple Tribal Nations . . . .  
10 Many Tribes note that their ancestors are buried here and refer to these areas as their eternal  
11 home, a place of healing, and a source of spiritual sustenance. Like their ancestors,  
12 Indigenous peoples continue to use these areas for religious ceremonies; hunting; and  
13 gathering of plants, medicines, and other materials, including some found nowhere else on  
14 Earth.” *Id.* at 55,333.

15 153. On information and belief, this purpose extends to giving local Native  
16 American tribes a role in managing the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

17 154. In its press release announcing the Proclamation, the Administration said that  
18 the monument would incorporate “Indigenous Knowledge and robust Tribal consultation  
19 into planning and decision-making.” Ex. 1, at 2. It went on to say the Proclamation “directs  
20 the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture to engage with Tribes . . . to  
21 ensure that the management of the monument occurs in collaboration with Tribes and  
22 reflects the Indigenous Knowledge and special expertise Tribes have amassed over  
23 countless generations.” *Id.* at 4.

24 155. The Proclamation achieves that by saying Haaland and Vilsack, who manage  
25 the Ancestral Footprints Monument via BLM and the Forest Service, “shall, to the  
26 maximum extent practicable, carefully incorporate the Indigenous Knowledge or special  
27 expertise offered by Tribal Nations and work with Tribal Nations to appropriately protect  
28 that knowledge.” 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,340.

1           156. The Secretaries are also directed to “explore opportunities for Tribal Nations  
2 to participate in co-stewardship of the monument . . . . The Secretaries shall further explore  
3 opportunities for funding agreements with Tribal Nations relating to the management and  
4 protection of traditional cultural properties and other culturally significant programming  
5 associated with the monument.” *Id.*

6           157. The Proclamation creates the Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni—Ancestral  
7 Footprints of the Grand Canyon Commission. The Commission consists “of one elected  
8 officer each from any Tribal Nation with ancestral ties to the area that has entered a  
9 cooperative agreement or similar arrangement with the Secretaries, through the BLM or  
10 Forest Service, in which the Tribal Nation and the Secretaries agree to co-stewardship of  
11 the monument through shared responsibilities or administration,” and is directed “to  
12 provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of the  
13 management plan and on the management of the monument.” *Id.*

14           158. Moreover, Haaland and Vilsack are directed to “meaningfully engage the  
15 Commission”—or, if the Commission does not exist, “the relevant Tribal Nations”—“in  
16 the development of the management plan and to inform the subsequent management of the  
17 monument. To that end, the Secretaries shall, in developing, revising, or amending the  
18 management plan, carefully and fully consider integrating the Indigenous Knowledge and  
19 special expertise of the members of the Commission or comparable entity. The  
20 management plan for the monument shall also set forth parameters for continued  
21 meaningful engagement with the Commission or comparable entity in the implementation  
22 of the management plan.” *Id.* at 55,340–41.

23           159. Second, on information and belief, the Proclamation was to prevent mining  
24 in the area.

25           160. That conclusion is consistent with public reporting on the monument. *See,*  
26 *e.g.,* Coral Davenport and Lisa Friedman, *Biden Is Expected to Permanently Block Grand*  
27 *Canyon Mining*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Aug. 4, 2023 (“President Biden is likely to  
28 announce the creation of a new national monument to protect about a million acres of land

1 around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining as soon as next week, according to three  
 2 people familiar with the matter.”);<sup>15</sup> Timothy Puko, *Biden expected to create Grand*  
 3 *Canyon national monument to block new mining, sources say*, THE WASHINGTON POST,  
 4 Aug. 4, 2023 (“President Biden is leaning toward designating a vast area near the Grand  
 5 Canyon as a national monument to safeguard it from uranium mining, according to five  
 6 people familiar with the plans.”);<sup>16</sup> *see also Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition Celebrates*  
 7 *Baaj Nwaavjo I’tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National*  
 8 *Monument Designation*, Aug. 8, 2023, \*2 (“Many of us have worked for decades to  
 9 safeguard our Grand Canyon homelands from desecration at the hands of extractive,  
 10 harmful operations like uranium mining, and today, with the designation of Baaj Nwaavjo  
 11 I’tah Kukveni - Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, we see  
 12 these lands permanently protected at last.”).<sup>17</sup>

13 161. The Proclamation contrasts the Federal Government’s prior permission and  
 14 encouragement of “intensive resource exploration and extraction to meet the needs of the  
 15 nuclear age” and the work of “Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples ... to protect the  
 16 health and wellness of their people and the lands, waters, and cultural resources of the  
 17 region from the effects of this development, including by cleaning up the abandoned mines  
 18 and related pollution that has been left behind.” 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,331–32. The inference  
 19 is that the Proclamation is intended to protect Tribal lands in response to historical federal  
 20 actions rather than protect specific historical monuments of scientific interest.

21 162. Further supporting that inference is the long history of failed congressional  
 22 actions to end or limit mining in lands within Ancestral Footprints Monument. *See* Nat.  
 23 Res. Comm. Democrats, *History of Efforts to Protect the Grand Canyon* (last visited Feb.

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
 25 <sup>15</sup> Available at [https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/04/climate/biden-grand-canyon-](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/04/climate/biden-grand-canyon-mining-monument.html)  
 26 [mining-monument.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/04/climate/biden-grand-canyon-mining-monument.html).

27 <sup>16</sup> Available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/04/arizona-national-monument-uranium-mining/)  
 28 [environment/2023/08/04/arizona-national-monument-uranium-mining/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/04/arizona-national-monument-uranium-mining/).

<sup>17</sup> Available at [https://keepitgrandaz.org/wp-](https://keepitgrandaz.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/GrandCanyonTribalCoalition_PR.pdf)  
 content/uploads/2023/08/GrandCanyonTribalCoalition\_PR.pdf.

1 12, 2024).<sup>18</sup>

2 163. Indeed, many advocates of congressional action to stop mining praised the  
 3 Ancestral Footprints Monument, and indicated that it accomplished what they wished to  
 4 do through the failed legislation. *See, e.g.*, Press Release, Rep. Raul Grijalva, Ranking  
 5 Member Grijalva Hails New Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the  
 6 Grand Canyon National Monument, Thanks Tribes for Tireless Efforts (Aug. 8, 2023);<sup>19</sup>  
 7 Press Release, Sen. Mark Kelly, Sen. Kelly Statement on National Monument Designation  
 8 Near Grand Canyon (Aug. 8, 2023);<sup>20</sup> Press Release, Rep. Reuben Gallego, Gallego  
 9 Applauds Biden for Establishing the Baaj Nwaavjo I'Tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints  
 10 of the Grand Canyon National Monument (Aug. 8, 2023);<sup>21</sup> Rep. Greg Stanton  
 11 (@RepGregStanton), Twitter (Aug. 8, 2023, 2:13 PM).<sup>22</sup>

## 12 **VIII. The Harms the Proclamation Inflicts on Plaintiffs**

13 164. The Ancestral Footprints Monument has inflicted, and continues to inflict,  
 14 specifically identifiable harm on Plaintiffs.

### 15 **A. The Harmful Effects of the Proclamation on State Trust Land**

16 165. Arizona statute “directs that proceeds from trust lands and the sale of natural  
 17 products from such lands, such as timber, minerals, or gravel, shall be deposited into the  
 18 permanent state school fund.” *Rumery v. Baier*, 294 P.3d 113, 115 (Ariz. 2013) (citing  
 19 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 37–521(A)); *see also id.* at 114 (“Arizona’s Constitution directs that  
 20 ‘whenever any monies shall be in any manner derived from’ state trust lands, the monies

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
 22 <sup>18</sup> Available at [https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/history\\_of\\_efforts\\_to\\_protect\\_the\\_grand\\_canyon.pdf](https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/history_of_efforts_to_protect_the_grand_canyon.pdf).

23 <sup>19</sup> Available at <https://grijalva.house.gov/ranking-member-grijalva-hails-new-baaj-nwaavjo-itah-kukveni-ancestral-footprints-of-the-grand-canyon-national-monument-thanks-tribes-for-tireless-efforts/>.

24 <sup>20</sup> Available at <https://www.kelly.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sen-kelly-statement-on-national-monument-designation-near-grand-canyon/>.

25 <sup>21</sup> Available at <https://rubengallego.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/gallego-applauds-biden-establishing-baaj-nwaavjo-itah-kukveni-ancestral>.

26 <sup>22</sup> Available at <https://twitter.com/RepGregStanton/status/1689006968399335424>.

1 ‘shall be deposited’ into a permanent fund to serve the purpose for which the land was  
2 granted.”) (quoting Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 7(A)).

3 166. The Arizona State Treasurer is responsible for all investment activities of the  
4 Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund. Ariz. Const. art. 10, § 7(C).

5 167. The Proclamation establishing the Ancestral Footprints Monument does not  
6 specifically address State Trust Land, but it nevertheless has a significant impact on it.

7 168. Parcels of State Trust Land are surrounded by the Ancestral Footprints  
8 Monument.

9 169. The Proclamation isolates that land by preventing “entry” into the Ancestral  
10 Footprints Monument, *see* 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,339, and so reduces their value. For example,  
11 the Proclamation includes a strict prohibition on motor vehicle use unless on an existing  
12 road or trail and air travel over the withdrawn lands. *See id.* at 55,341.

13 170. On information and belief, there will be additional restrictions on entry.

14 171. The Proclamation prohibits development and construction in the Ancestral  
15 Footprints Monument, including areas surrounding State Trust Land. *See id.* Any  
16 additional construction must be “consistent with the proper care and management of the  
17 objects identified” in the Proclamation. *Id.* at 55,341. That also reduces the value of State  
18 Trust lands and impacts the beneficiaries, including Arizona’s schools.

19 172. The Proclamation’s severe limitations on entry onto the land will affect  
20 Arizona’s ability to maintain State Trust Lands. At a minimum, it will make it more  
21 expensive.

22 173. The Proclamation also gives warning “to all unauthorized persons not to  
23 appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove *any feature of the monument* and not to locate or  
24 settle upon any of the lands thereof.” *Id.* at 55,342 (emphasis added).

25 174. Indeed, the creation of the Ancestral Footprints Monument automatically  
26 imposes criminal liability on individuals who violate certain existing regulations applicable  
27 to monument land, 54 U.S.C. § 320105, or “injures[] or destroys any . . . monument,” 18  
28 U.S.C. § 1866(b). The threat of such penalties further deters individuals from attempting

1 to access or develop State Trust Lands, thus decreasing their value.

2 175. Those are just some examples. The Ancestral Footprints Monument will  
3 restrict and prohibit uses on State Trust Land by making State Trust Land inaccessible,  
4 impacting water rights, prohibiting new mining claims, prohibiting new grazing leases,  
5 limiting new construction of infrastructure and other property improvements, and affecting  
6 other uses of State Trust Land that had previously been allowed.

7 176. In short, the Ancestral Footprints Monument will significantly reduce the  
8 value of surrounding land, including State Trust Land.

9 **B. The Proclamation's Interference with Mining Interests**

10 177. In 2012, the Secretary of the Interior withdrew the area encompassed by the  
11 Ancestral Footprints Monument, plus a little more—1,006,545 acres in all—from location  
12 and entry under the General Mining Law for 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. 77  
13 Fed. Reg. 2,317 (Jan. 17, 2012).

14 178. As a result of the Secretary of the Interior's decision, no new action on  
15 mining claims could begin until 2032.

16 179. The Ancestral Footprints Monument makes permanent the ban on new  
17 mining within the monument. *See* 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,339 (“All Federal lands and interests  
18 in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and  
19 withdrawn ... from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and from disposition  
20 under all laws relating to mining and geothermal leasing.”).

21 180. Mining generates fees and tax revenue for the State of Arizona and Mohave  
22 County. For example, mining companies contribute taxes to the state, county, and local  
23 governments. Based on the location of the mine, additional taxes may be imposed on  
24 mining companies to support fire districts, flood control districts, K-12 schools and  
25 community colleges. Because taxes are often distributed equally among all parties to fund  
26 specific government functions, diminishing the tax contribution from the mining  
27 operations will simply shift the tax burden to other parties or require governments to cut  
28 necessary services.



1           181. Uranium mining is also economically beneficial to the local community. For  
2 example, a 2009 study indicated that uranium mining would provide a \$29 billion benefit  
3 to local economies in Northern Arizona and Southern Utah, like Mohave County, over 42  
4 years.

5           182. Uranium mining is also critical for ensuring power provision for the State.

6           183. A significant portion of energy produced and consumed in Arizona comes  
7 from nuclear power. In 2022, for example, 29 percent of Arizona’s total electricity net  
8 generation came from nuclear power. U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Arizona: State Profile*  
9 *and Energy Estimates* (last visited Feb. 12, 2024).<sup>23</sup> Nuclear electric power was the second  
10 largest source of energy consumed in 2021, at 329.9 trillion Btu. *Id.*

11           184. But as noted above, domestic nuclear energy production is dependent on  
12 foreign importation of uranium.

13           185. That puts this important power supply at risk: “U.S. nuclear electric power  
14 generators would not be able to operate at full capacity and would not be able to support  
15 critical infrastructure electric power needs if foreign nations, particularly Russia and other  
16 former Soviet states, chose to suspend or otherwise end uranium exports to the United  
17 States.” 86 Fed. Reg. at 41,542.

18           186. There is every reason to believe such a risk exists. Many uranium imports  
19 come from companies owned by nations, like Russia, with interests adverse to the interests  
20 of the United States and who “leverage” their control over those companies “to further  
21 geopolitical ambitions.” *Id.* at 41,563. Other risks include foreign nations blocking access  
22 to uranium imports. For example, “Russia ... possesses the military means to deny U.S.  
23 and U.S.-aligned countries access to Kazakh and Uzbek uranium exported through Russian  
24 ports, principally on the Baltic Sea.” *Id.* at 41,598.

25           187. It logically follows that the Proclamation exacerbates that risk by  
26 permanently barring mining from land within the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

### 27           **C. Other Natural Resource Impacts**

28 <sup>23</sup> Available at <https://www.eia.gov/state/index.php?sid=AZ#tabs-1>.

1           188. While the Proclamation preserves Arizona’s authority over the Ancestral  
2 Footprints monument for purposes of fish and wildlife management, *see* 88 Fed. Reg. at  
3 55,342, it does not preserve the State’s authority in any other context, including water  
4 rights.

5           189. The Proclamation thus negatively affects water rights in the region. While  
6 the Proclamation claims not to affect “valid existing water rights of any part,” *id.* at 55,339,  
7 its designation of the “groundwater dynamics of the region” and the “hydrologic features”  
8 of the Monument, including features dependent on groundwater flow as monuments, *see*  
9 *id.* at 55,334, suggests that the groundwater, or at least essential features of the  
10 groundwater, are part of the monument. That creates ambiguity about water rights in the  
11 region, including but not limited to the existence of a federal-reserved water right.

12           **D. Harms to the Plaintiffs**

13           190. Taken together, the Proclamation and the limitations it imposes, and its effect  
14 on State Trust Land, on mining interests, and on natural resource ownership inflict a  
15 plethora of cognizable harms on the Plaintiffs.

16           191. The Legislature has and will suffer harm, which rises to an injury-in-fact, as  
17 a result of the Proclamation.

- 18           a. As a result of the Proclamation, the Legislature will have to divert resources  
19 to deal with the effects the Proclamation will have on the State of Arizona.
- 20           b. As noted above, the Proclamation will affect the State budget in numerous  
21 ways. For example, the natural, logical result of the Proclamation is an  
22 increase in the cost of maintaining State Trust Land and a decrease in specific  
23 revenue—the revenue Arizona receives from State Trust Lands and the  
24 revenue Arizona could receive from mining on the land.
- 25           c. Changes in costs and revenue are likely to affect budgeting in other areas.  
26 For example, the Legislature can respond to a drop in revenue or an increase  
27 in costs by cutting other State services or increasing revenue—a result the  
28 Legislature strongly disfavors and that requires significant time and effort to

1 effect. Moreover, the loss of State Trust Land revenue will likely result in  
2 pressure from other constituencies for the Legislature to provide  
3 appropriations to fill in funding gaps. That will similarly divert important  
4 resources from other priorities.

5 d. Other costs and diversions will likely arise from the effect the Proclamation  
6 has on energy. As noted above, Arizona relies heavily on nuclear power to  
7 meet its energy needs. And as also discussed above, the Proclamation  
8 impairs domestic mining of uranium and so increases and reinforces reliance  
9 on foreign imports—which increases the risks and instability of nuclear  
10 power as a source of energy. That harms the Legislature as a consumer of  
11 energy by subjecting it to the risk of disruption and subsequent higher prices  
12 for alternative power needs. It harms the Legislature’s interest in ensuring  
13 the welfare of Arizonans—specifically their welfare in having a consistent,  
14 stable supply of energy. And it will cause the Legislature to divert time and  
15 resources to addressing that risk.

16 e. The Proclamation will also divert Legislative time and efforts to focus on  
17 issues created by the Proclamation. As an example: With regards to water  
18 rights, the Legislature will be forced to act in response to ambiguity about  
19 water rights the Proclamation creates. That includes, but is not limited to,  
20 providing funds to vindicate the State’s interest in groundwater rights,  
21 investigating and holding hearings on the loss of water resources, and  
22 otherwise diverting resources to address this issue because of its importance.  
23 In this session, for example, “[w]ater will ... be a focus for the Legislature  
24 amid a severe, long-term drought in the arid southwestern state.” *Arizona*  
25 *Faces a \$1 Billion Deficit as the State Legislature Opens the 2024 Session*,  
26 AP (Jan. 8, 2024).<sup>24</sup>

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27 <sup>24</sup> Available at [https://www.abc15.com/news/state/arizona-faces-a-1-billion-deficit-as-the-](https://www.abc15.com/news/state/arizona-faces-a-1-billion-deficit-as-the-state-legislature-opens-the-2024-session)  
28 [state-legislature-opens-the-2024-session](https://www.abc15.com/news/state/arizona-faces-a-1-billion-deficit-as-the-state-legislature-opens-the-2024-session).

- 1 f. A similar diversion arises from the fact the Legislature also has an interest in  
2 the management of the Ancestral Footprints Monument. That interest  
3 includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that Arizona fulfills its duty as trustee  
4 of State Trust Lands. Thus, the Legislature will have to divert resources to  
5 protect that interest by monitoring the effect the Proclamation will have on  
6 State Trust Lands. That includes devoting resources to publicly commenting  
7 on the management plan, seeking information about Monument management  
8 from state or federal entities, and passing laws and regulations to address the  
9 new legal framework governing the Ancestral Footprints Monument. The  
10 Proclamation will thus result in a significant diversion of resources from  
11 other activities.
- 12 g. Moreover, “Arizona holds state trust land in a fiduciary capacity.” *Silver v.*  
13 *Babbitt*, 166 F.R.D. 418, 430 (D. Ariz. 1994). The purpose of the trust is to  
14 ensure the “beneficiaries derive the full benefit of the” trust lands. *Lassen v.*  
15 *Arizona ex rel. Ariz. Highway Dep’t*, 385 U.S. 458, 468 (1967). The  
16 Proclamation, however, unlawfully reduces the value of those lands and so  
17 deprives the beneficiaries of that benefit. Because Arizona’s trustee status  
18 derives from federal law and the State Constitution, *see, e.g., Deer Valley*  
19 *Unified School District No. 97 v. Superior Court*, 760 P.2d 537, 538–40  
20 (Ariz. 1988), the Legislature has a duty to sue to protect the State Trust  
21 Lands, *see, e.g., Ariz. Const., art. 2, § 3(B); Ariz. Senate Rule 2(N); Ariz.*  
22 *House of Reps. Rule 4(K)*.
- 23 h. While “[t]he administration, charge, and control of state land is vested in the  
24 state land department,” *Berry v. Arizona State Land Department*, 651 P.2d  
25 853, 855 (Ariz. 1982), there is much reason to believe that the Department  
26 will not seek to stop the unlawful Proclamation. The head of the Department  
27 is, by law, “appointed by the governor . . . and shall serve at the pleasure of  
28 the governor,” Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 37-131(B), though currently the position is

1 not filled by an individual appointed by the governor and confirmed by the  
2 Arizona Senate. And Governor Hobbs publicly urged President Biden to  
3 issue the Proclamation, *see Gov. Hobbs Letter to President Biden Supporting*  
4 *Grand Canyon Monument*, Grand Canyon Trust (May 30, 2023),<sup>25</sup> and  
5 praised him when he did, *see News Release, Governor Katie Hobbs*  
6 *Celebrates Grand Canyon National Monument Designation, Meets with*  
7 *Tribal Leaders* (Aug. 8, 2023).<sup>26</sup>

- 8 i. The Legislature has a duty and authority to protect the Trust Lands. *See* Ariz.  
9 Const., art. 2, § 3(B); Ariz. Senate Rule 2(N); Ariz. House of Reps. Rule  
10 4(K).
- 11 j. The Legislature also has an interest in not seeing an outlay from the State’s  
12 general fund. *Cf. Lassen*, 385 U.S. at 469 (“Arizona must actually  
13 compensate the trust in money for the full appraised value of any material  
14 sites or rights of way which it obtains on or over trust lands.”) (footnote  
15 omitted); *Murphy v. Arizona*, 181 P.2d 336, 357 (Ariz. 1947) (noting the  
16 legislature appropriated funds to compensate the permanent fund for the loss  
17 it incurred on a loan).
- 18 k. The Legislature also has an interest in vindicating its constitutionally-  
19 provided role in management and disposition of State Trust Lands—a role  
20 that includes setting up the legal structure for the management and  
21 disposition of the lands. *See* Ariz. Const. art. 10, §§ 3, 7, 9, 10, 12. Unlawful  
22 federal action cutting off State Trust Lands—which the Proclamation does—  
23 threatens that legislative scheme by undermining the carefully reticulated  
24 scheme the Legislature crafted to ensure the State receives the highest value  
25 for the State Trust Land.

26 <sup>25</sup> Available at [https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/gov-hobbs-letter-president-biden-](https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/gov-hobbs-letter-president-biden-supporting-grand-canyon-monument)  
27 [supporting-grand-canyon-monument](https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/gov-hobbs-letter-president-biden-supporting-grand-canyon-monument).

28 <sup>26</sup> Available at [https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2023/08/governor-](https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2023/08/governor-katie-hobbs-celebrates-grand-canyon-national-monument)  
[katie-hobbs-celebrates-grand-canyon-national-monument](https://azgovernor.gov/office-arizona-governor/news/2023/08/governor-katie-hobbs-celebrates-grand-canyon-national-monument).

1           1. The Legislature also has a cognizable interest in the federal government  
2           removing or encumbering State Trust Land only through congressional  
3           action as opposed to unilateral executive action. That ensures the Legislature  
4           can exercise its right to speak and to lobby Congress to leave State Trust  
5           Lands untouched, thus protecting its underlying rights in those lands.

6           192. The Arizona State Treasurer has and will suffer harm, which rises to an  
7           injury-in-fact, as a result of the Proclamation.

8           a. Treasurer Yee has an interest in vindicating her constitutional and statutory  
9           role in ensuring that Arizona receives the highest and best value for its State  
10          Trust Lands.

11          b. As a result of the Proclamation, Treasurer Yee will have to divert resources  
12          to deal with the effects the Proclamation will have on the State of Arizona.

13          c. As noted above, the Proclamation will affect funds managed by the Treasurer  
14          in numerous ways. For example, the natural, logical result of the  
15          Proclamation is an increase in the cost of maintaining State Trust Land and  
16          a decrease in specific revenue—the revenue Arizona receives from State  
17          Trust Lands.

18          d. The Proclamation will also divert the Treasurer’s time and efforts to focus  
19          on issues created by the Proclamation. As an example: The Treasurer will  
20          need to account for increased maintenance costs and decreased revenue from  
21          State Trust Land when giving information in writing as to the condition of  
22          the state treasury. ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 41-172(A)(6).

23          e. A similar diversion arises from the fact the Treasurer also has an interest in  
24          the management of the Ancestral Footprints Monument. That interest  
25          includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that Arizona fulfills its duty as trustee  
26          of State Trust Land. Thus, the Treasurer will have to divert resources to  
27          analyzing the effect of the Proclamation on State Trust Lands. That includes  
28          publicly commenting on the management plan, seeking information about

1 Monument management from state or federal resources, and carrying out  
2 duties as Treasurer, as chair of the Board of Investment, and as a member of  
3 the Selection Board to address the new legal framework governing the  
4 Ancestral Footprints Monument. The Proclamation will thus result in a  
5 significant diversion of resources from other activities.

6 f. Moreover, “Arizona holds state trust land in a fiduciary capacity.” *Silver*,  
7 166 F.R.D. at 430. The purpose of the trust is to ensure the “beneficiaries  
8 derive the full benefit of the” trust lands. *Lassen*, 385 U.S. at 468. The  
9 Proclamation, however, unlawfully reduces the value of those lands and so  
10 deprives the beneficiaries of that benefit. Because Arizona’s trustee status  
11 derives from its Constitution, *see, e.g., Deer Valley Unified School District*  
12 *No. 97*, 760 P.2d at 538–40, the Treasurer has a duty to sue to protect the  
13 State Trust Lands.

14 g. Treasurer Yee is a consumer of energy for buildings, structures, and more  
15 under her purview. Thus, she is subject to the same risks of power disruption  
16 that the Legislature is from the natural consequence of the Proclamation:  
17 further degradation of supply of domestic uranium and thus reinforced  
18 reliance on foreign imports of uranium by domestic nuclear electricity  
19 suppliers.

20 193. Mohave County has and will suffer harm, which rises to an injury-in-fact, as  
21 a result of the Proclamation.

22 a. The Proclamation affects more than 400,000 acres of land in Mohave  
23 County.

24 b. In particular, the Proclamation will result in a loss of tax revenue to Mohave  
25 County from reduced mining activities and reduced economic development  
26 resulting from the reduced mining activities.

27 c. Moreover, the Proclamation inflicts costs on Mohave County. The reduced  
28 job opportunities from reduced mining activities and reduced economic

1 development resulting from the reduced mining activities will make it harder  
2 to reduce the poverty rate in Mohave County. Mohave County residents in  
3 poverty rely on County services.

4 d. Arizona counties are restricted in their ability to take-on debt in the absence  
5 of a local election.

6 e. The loss of money and increased costs will thus force Mohave County either  
7 to cut services or increase revenue, thus using up some of its indebtedness  
8 cap or to hold an election. In either situation, Mohave County must expend  
9 resources—either in the form of lost borrowing capacity or expending  
10 resources to hold an election, with the attendant risk the measure to increase  
11 debt does not pass.

12 f. Like the Legislature, Mohave County will have to divert resources to  
13 addressing the effects of the Proclamation and management of the Ancestral  
14 Footprints Monument. That includes, but is not limited to, diverting  
15 resources to publicly comment on any Monument management plan, seeking  
16 information about Monument management from state or federal resources,  
17 and passing ordinances and resolutions to address the new legal framework  
18 governing the Ancestral Footprints Monument. The Proclamation will thus  
19 result in a significant diversion of resources from other activities.

20 g. Mohave County is a consumer of energy for its buildings, structures, and  
21 more. Thus, it is subject to the same risks of power disruption that the  
22 Legislature is from the natural consequence of the Proclamation: further  
23 degradation of supply of domestic uranium and thus reinforced reliance on  
24 foreign imports of uranium by domestic nuclear electricity suppliers.  
25 Mohave County also has an interest in ensuring that residents of the County  
26 receive a stable energy supply—which reliance on foreign uranium imports  
27 impairs.

28 194. Colorado City has and will suffer harm, which rises to an injury-in-fact, as a



1 result of the Proclamation.

2 a. The Proclamation will result in a loss of tax revenue from reduced mining  
3 activities and reduced economic development resulting from the reduced  
4 mining activities.

5 b. Moreover, the Proclamation inflicts costs on Colorado City. For example,  
6 upon information and belief, Colorado City’s water supply comes from the  
7 aquifer that runs beneath the Monument. The Monument raises concerns  
8 about Colorado City’s water supply and will require Colorado City to begin  
9 investigating other water supply options in the event that decisions by the  
10 Defendants or other federal government actors reduce Colorado City’s water  
11 supply.

12 c. Like the Legislature, Colorado City will have to divert resources to  
13 addressing the effects of the Proclamation and management of the Ancestral  
14 Footprints Monument. That includes, but is not limited to, diverting  
15 resources to publicly comment on any Monument management plan, seeking  
16 information about Monument management from state or federal resources,  
17 and passing ordinances and resolutions to address the new legal framework  
18 governing the Ancestral Footprints Monument. The Proclamation will thus  
19 result in a significant diversion of resources from other activities.

20 d. Colorado City is a consumer of energy for its buildings, structures, and more.  
21 Thus, it is subject to the same risks of power disruption that the Legislature  
22 is from the natural consequence of the Proclamation: further degradation of  
23 supply of domestic uranium and thus reinforced reliance on foreign imports  
24 of uranium by domestic nuclear electricity suppliers. Colorado City also has  
25 an interest in ensuring its residents of the City receive a stable energy  
26 supply—which reliance on foreign uranium imports impairs.

27 195. Fredonia has and will suffer harm, which rises to an injury-in-fact, as a result  
28 of the Proclamation.

- 1 a. The Proclamation will result in a loss of tax revenue from reduced mining  
2 activities and reduced economic development resulting from the reduced  
3 mining activities.
- 4 b. Like the Legislature, Fredonia will have to divert resources to addressing the  
5 effects of the Proclamation and management of the Ancestral Footprints  
6 Monument. That includes, but is not limited to, diverting resources to  
7 publicly comment on any Monument management plan, seeking information  
8 about Monument management from state or federal resources, and passing  
9 ordinances and resolutions to address the new legal framework governing the  
10 Ancestral Footprints Monument. The Proclamation will thus result in a  
11 significant diversion of resources from other activities.
- 12 c. Fredonia is a consumer of energy for its buildings, structures, and more.  
13 Thus, it is subject to the same risks of power disruption that the Legislature  
14 is from the natural consequence of the Proclamation: further degradation of  
15 supply of domestic uranium and thus reinforced reliance on foreign imports  
16 of uranium by domestic nuclear electricity suppliers. Fredonia also has an  
17 interest in ensuring its residents receive a stable energy supply—which  
18 reliance on foreign uranium imports impairs.

19 196. The Proclamation caused those harms and an order declaring it void and  
20 barring enforcement of it would redress them. Even an order nullifying part of the  
21 Proclamation and barring enforcement of part of it would redress some of these harms.

22 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

23 **COUNT ONE – Lack of Statutory Authority Under the Antiquities Act – All**

24 **Defendants**

25 197. The foregoing Paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully  
26 herein.

27 198. The size and scope of the Ancestral Footprints Monument is a major action  
28 that could not lawfully be conducted without proper legal authority.

1           199. The U.S. Constitution creates a federal government of limited and  
2 enumerated powers, and this limitation applies to the Executive Branch.

3           200. Any action of the Executive Branch must come from one of two sources of  
4 authority: (1) a valid delegation of authority from a statute enacted by Congress, or (2) a  
5 direct exercise of one of the President’s enumerated powers in Article II. *See Youngstown*  
6 *Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579, 585 (1952).

7           201. A proclamation under the Antiquities Act (1) must be limited to “historic  
8 landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific  
9 interest” and (2) a reservation of land must be limited to those “parcels of land” that are  
10 “confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the  
11 objects to be protected.” 54 U.S.C. § 320301(a)–(b). The Proclamation fails both  
12 requirements.

13           202. First, the Antiquities Act does not give Defendants discretion to define what  
14 constitutes a historic landmark, historic or prehistoric structure, or other object of historic  
15 or scientific interest that can be declared a monument.

16           203. In declaring the Ancestral Footprints Monument, Defendants relied solely on  
17 the claim that certain items are “objects of historic or scientific interest”:

- 18           a. “[T]hat the unique historic and scientific characteristics of the landscapes,  
19 and the collection of objects and resources therein, make the landscapes more  
20 than the mere sum of their parts, and thus the entire landscapes within the  
21 boundaries of each area reserved by this proclamation are themselves *objects*  
22 *of historic and scientific interest* in need of protection under section 320301  
23 of title 54, United States Code.” 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,338 (emphasis added).
- 24           b. “[T]hat all the objects identified above *are objects of historic or scientific*  
25 *interest* in need of protection under section 320301 of title 54, United States  
26 Code, regardless of whether they are expressly identified as objects of  
27 historic or scientific interest in the text of this proclamation.” *Id.* (emphasis  
28 added).

1 c. “[T]hat the boundaries of the monument reserved by this proclamation  
2 represent the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management  
3 of the *objects of scientific or historic interest identified* above, as required by  
4 the Antiquities Act, including the landscapes within the boundaries of the  
5 three areas reserved and, independently, the collection of objects within those  
6 landscapes.” *Id.* (emphasis added).

7 204. Defendants’ proclamation establishing the Ancestral Footprints Monument  
8 exceeds their authority under the Antiquities Act because it is not limited to historic  
9 landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of historic or scientific  
10 interest. That is, what Defendants declared to be monuments in the Proclamation cannot  
11 be monuments because they are not protectable within the meaning of the Act. 54 U.S.C.  
12 § 320301(a).

13 205. The Proclamation thus violates the major questions doctrine.

14 206. In the alternative, if the Antiquities Act gives Defendants unreviewable,  
15 unlimited discretion to declare that a particular object is a “historic landmark, historic and  
16 prehistoric structure, [or] other object[] of historic or scientific interest,” *id.*, it is  
17 unconstitutional as an improper delegation of legislative power, *see* U.S. Const. art. I, § 1.  
18 The Proclamation thus violates the nondelegation doctrine.

19 207. Moreover, given the criminal penalties that attach after such a declaration,  
20 *see* 18 U.S.C. § 1866(b); 54 U.S.C. § 320105, there are real due process concerns in giving  
21 the President unbridled discretion to declare an entire landscape a protected monument.  
22 That permits, for example, the President to declare objects protected monuments  
23 “regardless of whether they are expressly identified as objects of historic or scientific  
24 interest in the text of this proclamation.” 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,338. The better reading is that  
25 the President does not have unbridled discretion to determine whether something fits the  
26 monument criteria.

27 208. Exacerbating that due process concern is that this Proclamation keeps some  
28 objects and their locations a secret, *see* 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,332, and directs the Secretaries

1 of the Interior and Agriculture to do the same, *see id.* at 55,341.

2 209. Second, the Proclamation exceeds Defendants’ authority under the  
3 Antiquities Act because it is not confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper  
4 care and management of the objects to be protected.

5 210. Indeed, Defendants’ failure to properly identify objects that could be  
6 designated monuments, and especially his designation of an entire landscape, makes it  
7 impossible to determine what is actually “the smallest area compatible with the proper care  
8 and management of the objects to be protected.” § 320301(b). That justifies striking the  
9 entire Proclamation.

10 211. The Proclamation exceeds Defendants’ authority because the Antiquities Act  
11 does not authorize Defendants to grant Native Americans a role in managing Monument  
12 land.

13 212. Alternatively, if the Antiquities Act permits such delegations, it is  
14 unconstitutional.

15 213. To the extent that any item identified in the Proclamation is a valid historic  
16 landmark, historic and prehistoric structure, or other object of historic or scientific interest,  
17 it was not the motivating factor for the Proclamation, the Proclamation would not have  
18 been issued just to protect that object, and so it cannot be severed from the rest of the  
19 Proclamation. The Proclamation is void *in toto* notwithstanding its severability clause. *See*  
20 88 Fed. Reg. at 55,342-43.

21 **COUNT TWO – Violation of the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act – All**  
22 **Defendants**

23 214. The foregoing Paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully  
24 herein.

25 215. The Ancestral Footprints Monument encompasses State Trust Land.

26 216. The Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act allowed the United States Secretary  
27 of Interior to request State Trust Land for irrigation works projects by February 14, 1917.

28 217. The Ancestral Footprints Monument was not a request to the State of Arizona

1 by the Secretary of the Interior, it did not concern property for irrigation works projects,  
2 and it was not requested on or before February 14, 1917.

3 218. The Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act reserved State Trust Land for  
4 hydroelectric power use or transmission projects.

5 219. The Ancestral Footprints Monument is not related to hydroelectric power use  
6 or transmission projects.

7 220. The Ancestral Footprints Monument restricts and prohibits State Trust Land  
8 outside of what is permitted by the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act.

9 221. The Ancestral Footprints Monument will restrict and prohibit uses on State  
10 Trust Land by making State Trust Land inaccessible, impacting water rights, prohibiting  
11 new mining claims, prohibiting new grazing leases, limiting new construction of  
12 infrastructure and other property improvements, and affecting other uses of State Trust  
13 Land that had previously been allowed.

14 222. State Trust Land with restricted and prohibited uses is less valuable to the  
15 State of Arizona.

16 223. The State of Arizona will have more difficulty leasing State Trust Land, and  
17 receive less revenue, as a result of the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

18 224. The Arizona State Treasurer will have less State Trust Land revenue to  
19 deposit in the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund as a result of the Ancestral  
20 Footprints Monument.

21 225. The Arizona State Legislature's statutory scheme for State Trust Land has  
22 not been followed by the restrictions and prohibitions of the Ancestral Footprints  
23 Monument.

24 226. The Arizona State Legislature's future decisions for statutes concerning State  
25 Trust Land has been impacted by the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

26 227. The Arizona State Legislature's budget decisions will be affected as a result  
27 of the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

28 228. Defendants lack the power to restrict or prohibit use on State Trust Land

1 outside of the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act. Only Congress may alter the terms of  
2 the trust the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act imposes on the State.

3 **COUNT THREE – Violation of the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 – All**  
4 **Defendants**

5 229. The foregoing Paragraphs are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully  
6 herein.

7 230. In the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984, Congress expressly declared that  
8 certain lands in the Arizona Strip District should be designated as wilderness and therefore,  
9 as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

10 231. Land designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness  
11 Preservation System by Congress in 1984, including the Kanab Creek Wilderness, is  
12 included within the Ancestral Footprints Monument.

13 232. In the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984, Congress expressly declared that any  
14 land in the Arizona Strip District of the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona that was  
15 “not designated as wilderness by [the] Act have been adequately studied for wilderness  
16 designation pursuant to section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
17 (Public Law 94-579), and are no longer subject to the requirement of section 603(c) of the  
18 Federal Land Policy and Management Act pertaining to the management of wilderness  
19 study areas in a manner that does not impair the suitability of such areas for preservation  
20 as wilderness.” Public Law 98-406, 98 Stat. 1494, at § 304.

21 233. Land designated by Congress as not subject to the requirement of section  
22 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act is included within the Ancestral  
23 Footprints Monument.

24 234. When they established the Ancestral Footprints Monument, Defendants  
25 changed the designated use for land in conflict with the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984.

26 235. Defendants lack the power to change the designated use for land governed  
27 by the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984.

28

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiffs respectfully ask this Court to:

A. Issue an order and judgment declaring that the Ancestral Footprints Monument violates the separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution, is unlawful, *ultra vires*, contrary to law, and exceeds Defendants’ authority under the Antiquities Act;<sup>27</sup>

B. In the alternative, declare the Antiquities Act unconstitutional;

C. Issue an order and judgment declaring that the Ancestral Footprints Monument violates the Arizona-New Mexico Enabling Act;

D. Issue an order and judgment declaring that the Ancestral Footprints Monument violates the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984;

E. Issue an order and judgment declaring that the Ancestral Footprints Monument is unconstitutional;

F. Permanently enjoin implementation and enforcement of the Ancestral Footprints Monument;

G. Set aside the Ancestral Footprints Monument;

H. Award Plaintiffs costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees under 28 U.S.C. § 2412; and

I. Grant any other relief the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: February 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>27</sup> Plaintiffs do not seek declaratory or injunctive relief against President Biden. *See Hawaii v. Trump*, 859 F.3d 741, 788 (9th Cir.), *vacated and remanded*, 583 U.S. 941 (2017).



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