

The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary

Monument Review, MS-1530

U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20240June 17, 2017

**RE: Scientific Support for Expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument**

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As professional scientists with extensive experience in ecology, natural resource management and other related disciplines, we write to express our strong support for maintaining the recent expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (hereafter Monument) in southwest Oregon and adjacent California, as enacted by presidential proclamation in January 2017.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, originally established as 52,947 acres in June 2000, is unique among the BLM's National Conservation Lands in that it was designated specifically to preserve an area of "remarkable biological diversity." Sitting at the crossroads of four distinct ecoregions and encompassing a wide range of topography, climate and geology, the greater Cascade-Siskiyou landscape is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse places in North America. [[1]](#endnote-1) The original Monument proclamation describes it as an "ecological wonder" that is "home to a spectacular variety of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose survival in this region depends upon its continued ecological integrity".[[2]](#endnote-2)

Over a decade after the Monument was initially established, mounting scientific evidence and professional opinion indicated that the original boundaries were too small to ensure persistence of the many biological "Objects of Scientific Interest" that the Monument was originally established to protect. As summarized in a 2011 interdisciplinary report, [[3]](#endnote-3) there are several reasons why previous boundaries were unlikely to sustain the ecological integrity of the Monument over the long term:

* Many special-status plant and animal populations, as well as high quality examples of the area's biotic communities identified as Objects of Interest in Monument's proclamation, remained outside existing boundaries, where they were vulnerable to incompatible management;
* Some boundaries were based solely on administrative rather than ecological criteria (e.g., the Oregon-California state line), which over time, would likely compromise the integrity of the Monument's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;
* Climate change in the region is altering the distributions of plants and animals that are the focal points for conservation, in some cases likely pushing them outside of original Monument boundaries, and;
* The population of southwest Oregon is growing rapidly. As a result, more areas immediately adjacent to the Monument are facing increased development or intensive land use pressures (e.g., logging, residential expansion, water diversions) that are likely to undermine long-term persistence of the Monument’s biological resources.

Without Monument expansion, the bulk of scientific evidence strongly suggested that some of the area's important biological values were at high risk of irreversible degradation and loss.[[4]](#endnote-4)

After considering these issues within the context of a much broader public review process, President Obama expanded the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument by 47,660 acres, including BLM lands in both southwest Oregon and adjacent California.[[5]](#endnote-5) It is important to note that this boundary enlargement was considerably smaller than what had previously been recommended by an interdisciplinary group of scientists.[[6]](#endnote-6) Nevertheless, the end result is that revised Monument boundaries are now better aligned with what is necessary to likely sustain the area's critically important Objects of Interest. We specifically endorse and applaud expansion of this Monument because it:

* Generally includes those areas identified by scientific assessments as being most essential to sustain the area's outstanding biodiversity; [[7]](#endnote-7)

* Contains many biological "Objects of Interest" that were highlighted in the original proclamation but under-represented within previous Monument boundaries; [[8]](#endnote-8)
* Is likely to play a vital role in maintaining ecological integrity of the landscape the Monument was established to protect, and;
* Improves landscape and watershed connectivity with nearby federal lands, a factor that is crucial for sustaining populations of wide-ranging species and creating greater resilience in the face of climate change.[[9]](#endnote-9)

On April 26, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13792 requesting you to review many national monuments designated or expanded by previous presidents under the Antiquities Act, including Cascade-Siskiyou.[[10]](#endnote-10) As part of this review process now underway, we write to share with you our professional judgement that the recent expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is scientifically well-supported. The expansion contains an outstanding diversity of plants, animals and natural communities that clearly qualify as "Objects of Scientific Interest" under the Antiquities Act, and represents a necessary step to safeguard the numerous biological and other values for which this landscape has been widely recognized.

We believe that reducing the boundaries or diminishing any aspect of the expansion would greatly reduce the likelihood of achieving the conservation goals for which the Monument was originally established.[[11]](#footnote-1) Therefore, as natural resource scientists who recognize the importance of conserving our nation's biological treasures for the benefit of present and future generations, we urge you to maintain the current Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in all respects.

Sincerely yours,

**A. Scientists that Contributed to the 2011 Cascade-Siskiyou Monument Boundary Study\***

\*affiliations for identification purposes only

Brian Barr, M.Sc., Fisheries Biologist and Executive Director

Rogue River Watershed Council, Central Point, OR

Scott Hoffman Black, M.Sc., Executive Director

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Portland, OR

and Chair, IUCN Butterfly Specialist Group

Richard Brock, M.Sc., Senior Botanist and Manager

Siskiyou BioSurvey LLC, Ashland, OR

Dominick DellaSala, Ph.D., Chief Scientist

Geos Institute, Ashland, OR

Evan Frost, M.Sc., Conservation Biologist

Wildwood Consulting, Ashland, OR

Paul Hosten, Ph.D., Terrestrial Ecologist

Talent, OR

Steve Jessup, Ph.D., Botanist

Paradise Cryptobiota Biodiversity LLC, Ashland, OR

Frank Lang, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus), Department of Biology

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Michael Parker, Ph.D., Aquatic Ecologist, Department of Biology

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Dennis Odion, Ph.D., Vegetation Ecologist

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Jeannine Rossa, M.Sc., Aquatic Ecologist

Ecolink Consulting, Talent, OR

Darlene Southworth, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus), Department of Biology

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Pepper Trail, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist

Ashland, OR

Jack Williams, Ph.D., Chief Scientist

Trout Unlimited, Medford, OR

**B. Additional Scientists in Support of Existing Cascade-Siskiyou Monument Expansion**

Paul J. Ferraro, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Environmental Economics & Policy

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

Matthew J. Rubino, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Applied Ecology

North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

William Bridgeland, Ph.D., Wildlife Biologist

Bandon, OR

Rachel Golden Kroner, Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Alan R.P. Journet, Ph.D.

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

Ashland, OR

David W. Inouye, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Biology  
University of Maryland, College Park, MD

James R. Strittholt, Ph.D.

Conservation Biologist and Executive Director

Conservation Biology Institute, Corvallis, OR

Susan Harrison, Ph.D., Professor

Dept. of Environmental Science and Policy

University of California-Davis, Davis, CA

Bart Johnson, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Landscape Architecture

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Malcolm Cleaveland, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Geosciences  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

Jessica Dawn Pratt, Ph.D., Professor

Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology                 University of California, Irvine, CA

Erik Asphaug, Ph.D., Chair

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Gregory H. Aplet, Ph.D., Senior Science Director

The Wilderness Society, Denver, CO

William D. Anderson, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Biology

College of Charleston, Charleston, SC

Gregory F. Grether, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Robert M. Pyle, Ph.D., Lepidopterist and Founder  
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation Portland, OR

Paula Schiffman, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Biology

California State University, Northridge, CA

Thomas W. Sherry, Professor and Acting Chair

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Stephen M. Born, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Environmental Studies

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Javier A. Rodríguez, Ph.D., Professor

School of Life Sciences  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

D. Scott Samuels, Ph.D., Professor

Division of Biological Sciences  
University of Montana, Missoula MT

Mike Napolitano, M.Sc., Geologist

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Board

San Francisco, CA

Edward Huang, Ph.D., Principal Researcher

California Institute of Environmental Design and Management, Arcadia, CA

Roger A Powell, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Applied Ecology  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

David A. Perry, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Forest Sciences

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Mark Egger, Ph.D., Research Associate

Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Shaye Wolf, Ph.D., Climate Science Director

Center for Biological Diversity, Oakland, CA

Craig Benkman, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Zoology and Physiology

University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

Amy L. Denton, Ph.D., Professor and Chair

Department of Biology  
California State University, Camarillo, CA

Stuart Pimm, Ph.D., Professor

Nicholas School of the Environment

Duke University, Durham, NC

Thomas M. Power, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Economics

University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Gary M. Tabor, MES VMD, Executive Director

Center for Large Landscape Conservation Bozeman, MT

Glenn E. Walsberg, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

School of Life Sciences

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

E. Charles Meslow, Ph.D.,  Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Jon Grinnell, Ph.D.

Francis M. Uhler Chair in Biology

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Tina Rhea, M.Sc., Wildlife Biologist

Greenbelt, MD

Daniel C. Fisher, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Rick Steiner, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK

Susan M. Witherup, Ph.D., Professor

Biology Department

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

Michael Rentz, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist

Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Stefan Sommer, Ph.D., Director

Colorado Plateau Biodiversity Center

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Fred M. Rhoades, Ph.D., Research Associate

Department of Biology

Western Washington University Bellingham WA

Barbara ("Bitty") Roy, Ph.D., Professor

Biology Department

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Jesse R. Barber, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Department of Biological Sciences  
Boise State University, Boise, ID

Melissa Savage, Ph.D., Professor (Emerita)

Department of Geography

University of California, Los Angeles, CA

David Karowe, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Biological Sciences

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Kim McCreery, Ph.D., Carnivore Biologist

Silver City, NM

Cynthia Hart, M.Sc., Research Associate

Department of Research Computing

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Gary Roemer, Ph.D., Professor

Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Ecology

New Mexico State University Las Cruces, NM

Karen Holl, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Environmental Studies

University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

Bruce G. Baldwin, Ph.D., Professor and Curator The Jepson Herbarium

University of California, Berkeley, CA

Mitchell M. Johns, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Soil and Plant Science  
California State University, Chico, CA

Christopher Still, Ph.D., Associate Professor

College of Forestry

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Nora Carlson, Ph.D., School of Biology  
University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK

George Wuerthner, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist

Public Lands Media, Bend OR

Richard Bradley, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Biology

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Peter C. Schulze, Ph.D., Professor and Director

Center for Environmental Studies

Austin College, Sherman, TX

Stephen W. Fuller, Ph. D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Biology

Univ. of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

Lee E. Frelich, Ph.D., Professor and Director

Center for Forest Ecology

University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Sarah E. Ratay, Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

UCLA, Lompoc, CA

Gina K. Himes Boor, Ph.D., Research Professor

Ecology Department

Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

Stephen T. Tettelbach, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Biology

Long Island University, Brookville, NY

Douglas A. Miller, Ph.D., Professor and Director

Department of Ecosystem Science and Management

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

G.R. Matlack, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Department of Environmental and Plant Biology

Ohio University, Athens, OH

Dennis Paulson, Ph.D., Director (Emeritus)

Slater Museum of Natural History

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

Kerry Griffis-Kyle, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Department of Natural Resource Management

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Rick Van de Poll, Ph.D., ​Conservation Biologist​

Ecosystem Management Consultants of New England LLC, Center Sandwich, NH

Justine Whitaker, Ph.D., Research Associate

Biology Department

University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL

Crysta Gantz, M.Sc., PhD Candidate

School of the Environment

Portland State University, Portland, OR

Peter H. Raven, Ph.D., President (Emeritus)

Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO

Jonathan Thayn, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Department of Geography and the Environment Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Michael Marsh, Ph.D., Former Chair

Conservation Committee

Washington Native Plant Society, Seattle, WA

Beverly Law, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Robin Bjork, Ph.D., Data Specialist

Trout Unlimited, Boise, ID

Steven Green, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Biology  
University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Bruce P. Finney, Ph.D., Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences   
Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID

Gary Garrett, Ph.D., Research Biologist

University of Texas, Mountain Home, TX

Charles R. Neal, Ecologist (Retired)

U.S. Department of Interior, Cody, WY

Janet Franklin, Ph.D., Regents' Professor

School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Kai M. A. Chan, Ph.D., Professor

Institute for Resources, Environment & Sustainability

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Jim Boone, Ph.D., Senior Scientist

Desert Wildlife Consultants LLC

Las Vegas, NV

Kurt Fesenmyer, M.Sc.,

Conservation Planning Director

Trout Unlimited, Boise, ID

Seth Wenger, Ph.D., Director of Science

River Basin Center

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Ken Vance-Borland, M.Sc., Executive Director

The Conservation Planning Institute, Corvallis, OR

Karen Stone, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Biology

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Keith Gido, Ph.D., Professor

Division of Biology

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Michael Hadjiargyrou, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Life Sciences

NY Institute of Technology, Old Westbury, NY

Judith Li, Ph.D, Associate Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Andrew Wilcox, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Department of Geosciences

University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Kristi Mergenthaler, M.Sc., President

Native Plant Society of Oregon, Siskiyou Chapter

Talent, OR

Jonathan B. Armstrong, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Jeff Werner, Ph.D., Wildlife Ecologist

Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Omineca, British Columbia, Canada

Craig C. Downer, Ph.D., Wildlife Ecologist

Andean Tapir Fund, Minden, NV

Phil Myers, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Peter Moyle, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Dept. of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology

University of California, Davis CA

Scott A. Bonar, Ph.D., Unit Leader and Professor

Arizona Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

David L. Propst, Ph.D., Adjunct Faculty

Museum of Southwestern Biology

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Jay A. Nelson, Ph.D., Professor

Department of Biological Sciences

Towson University, Towson, MD

Gordon Reeves, Ph.D., Fisheries Research Scientist

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Sean Schoville, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Department of Entomology

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Greg Carey, Senior Biologist and Ecologist

Siskiyou BioSurvey LLC, Ashland, OR

Barrie Gilbert, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist  
Department of Wildland Resources

Utah State University, Logan, UT

Vicki Tripoli, Ph.D., Environmental Scientist

Moorpark, CA

Robert Hughes, Ph.D., Regional Aquatic Ecologist

Amnis Opes Institute, Corvallis, OR

Greg Linder, Ph.D., Research Scientist (Emeritus)

U.S. Geological Survey

Columbia Envtl. Research Center, Brooks, OR

Dominic A. DiPaolo, Researcher

Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

Meg Krawchuk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society  
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Eugene Wier, M.Sc., Restoration Project Manager

The Freshwater Trust, Ashland OR

Julia Brough Hull, Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Biological Sciences

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ

Benjamin Clemens, Ph.D., Past President

Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society

Corvallis, OR

Marlene A. Wagner, Ph.D. Candidate  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC

 Timothy A. Pearce, Ph.D., Curator of Collections

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Pittsburgh, PA

Kelly M. Burnett, Ph.D., Aquatic Ecologist

Corvallis, OR

Alan Dickman, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus)

Environmental Studies and Biology Program

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

ENDNOTES

1. USDI BLM. 2008. Resource Management Plan for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. BLM/OR/WA/PT-

   08/018+1792. Medford District BLM, Medford, OR; see also DellaSala, D. A., et al. 1999. A global perspective on

   the biodiversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion. Natural Areas Journal 19:300–319. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. US Dept. of Interior. 2000. Presidential proclamation 7318 establishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument,

   Oregon. June 9, 2000. Washington, D.C. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Frost, E., D. Odion, P. Trail, J. Williams, J. Alexander, B. Barr, R. Brock, D. DellaSala, P. Hosten, S. Jessup, F. Lang,

   M. Parker, J. Rossa, D. Sarr and D. Southworth. 2011. Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument boundary study:

   Identification of priority areas for Monument expansion. Unpublished report, 14 pp. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Open letter from scientists, 2015. Recommended expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, signed by

   85 natural resource scientists and submitted to Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell. May 28, 2015. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Presidential proclamation 9564 -- Boundary enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. January 12,

   2017. Washington, D.C. Available online at: https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/12/

   presidential-proclamation-boundary-enlargement-cascade-siskiyou-national [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Frost, E., P. Trail and D. Odion. 2016. The ecological need to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument:

   Evidence from landscape-scale conservation assessments. Unpublished report, 12 pp. + maps. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Ibid, endnote ii; see also Frost, E. and P. Trail. 2016. Objects of Interest in areas proposed for expansion of the

   Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Unpublished report, 81 pp. and; Alexander, J. D. et al. 2017. Using regional

   bird density distribution models to evaluate protected area networks and inform conservation planning. Ecosphere

   *8*(*5*):e01799. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Frost, E. and P. Trail. 2016. Objects of Interest in areas proposed for expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National

   Monument. Unpublished report, 81 pp. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Trail, P. and E. Frost. 2015. Protecting the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument from climate change: The

   ecological need for Monument expansion. Unpublished report, 14 pp. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act. April 26, 2017. Available

    online at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/26/presidential-executive-order-review-designations-

    under-antiquities-act; See also FR Doc. [2017-09490](https://www.federalregister.gov/a/2017-09490) Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996;

    Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment. Filed 5-10-17. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Moreover, reducing this Monument's boundaries would potentially run contrary to the Antiquity Act's specific requirement that reserved areas "be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." [↑](#footnote-ref-1)