

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich

Proposal to Promote Bandelier National Monument to National Park & Preserve

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich is introducing the ***Bandelier National Park and Preserve Act*** to permanently protect and promote Bandelier National Monument to a national park.

Bandelier National Monument, best known for ancient pueblo dwellings found along the cliff faces of Frijoles Canyon, also features incredible recreational, historical, and natural resources. It is a place essential to the physical, spiritual and cultural identity of a number of Native American Pueblos in New Mexico and deserves the highest level of protection the US government affords.

Northern New Mexico is a world-class tourist destination because of its abundant cultural and natural resources but it lacks a full-fledged national park. This bill will promote Bandelier to a national park and draw increased attention to northern New Mexico's rich cultural and outdoor recreation opportunities.

What is the difference between a National Park & National Monument?

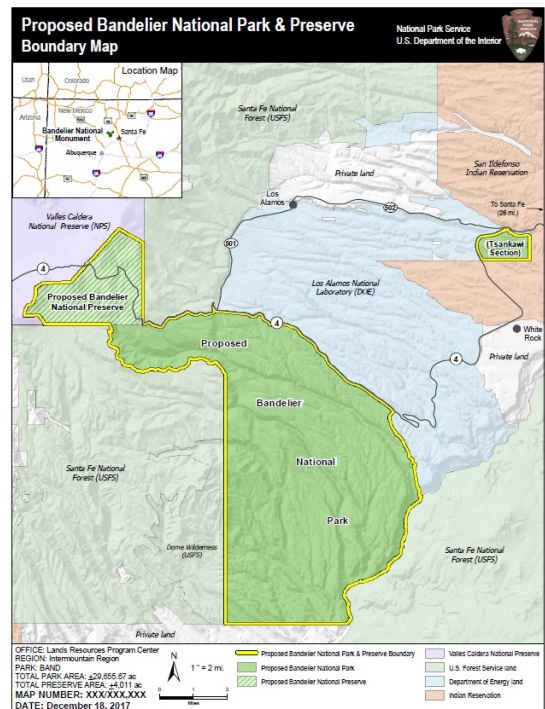
The National Park System has more than 20 designations for the lands and sites they manage. In New Mexico, the NPS manages ten national monuments but only one national park, Carlsbad Caverns.

National parks are often referred to as the “crown jewels” of the NPS, the 59 national parks contain some of the country's best-known natural attractions such as Yosemite and Yellowstone. Congress alone has the authority to designate a national park.

National monuments are the only units in the National Park System that may be established by the President. Many national parks, such as Grand Canyon and Carlsbad Caverns, started as national monuments but were re-designated as national parks by Congress.

Economic Impact

A [recent study](#) by the Headwaters Institute estimates that promoting Bandelier could result in \$1.9-\$2.3 million in new spending, 26-33 new jobs and \$840,000-\$1 million in new labor income. Communities surrounding Bandelier may benefit from an increase in overnight stays and foreign tourists that is more common with National Parks.



Permanent Protection for Bandelier

With promotion to a national park, President Trump and future presidents will be unable to alter the boundaries or management of Bandelier with unilateral action. Only Congress can create a national park and provide the highest level of protection for cultural resources.

Provisions for Native American Tribes

The bill expands provisions for Bandelier's affiliated pueblos to collect plants and minerals; articulates provisions of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act to ensure traditional cultural uses; and establishes a Tribal Commission to ensure park management reflects tribal expertise as well as traditional and historical knowledge.

Ban on Geothermal & Other Extractive Industries

In 2016, the US Forest Service evaluated whether 136,650 acres adjacent to Bandelier were suitable for geothermal energy exploration and development.

Senator Heinrich's legislation protects Bandelier from extractive industries by specifically removing fracking, mineral and geothermal leases within the boundaries of Bandelier National Park and Preserve.

Creation of a National Preserve

This legislation also designates approximately 4,000 acres inside the historic Baca Location No. 1 as Bandelier National Preserve where all cultural and non-game natural resources will be managed consistent with Bandelier National Park with the exception of wild game which will be managed under the existing hunting program at Valles Caldera National Preserve.



SUPPORTERS

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Pueblo of Santo Domingo
Pueblo of Zuni

SLC Stephanie Garcia-Richard
State Rep. Susan Herrera
Santa Fe City Council
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Jemez Springs Mayor Roger Sweet
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Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce
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NM Wilderness Alliance
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SF Green Chamber of Commerce
Sierra Club – Rio Grande Chapter
Partnership for Responsible Business
NM Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

If you are interested in joining the growing list of supporters for creating Bandelier National Park and Preserve, please contact Senator Heinrich's office at (505) 346-6601.