

## **Community Support for White Sands National Park Establishment Act**

**Ron Griggs, State Senator  
District 34**

“I often heard ‘I thought White Sands was a national park.’ I guess I won't hear that anymore. Congratulations White Sands National Park! A special place finally gets its special recognition.”

**Richard Boss, Mayor  
City of Alamogordo**

“Alamogordo has been experiencing an increase in economic growth in the last few years. We are seeing new businesses open up and some old businesses renovating or expanding. I believe, changing the designation of White Sands National Monument to a national park will be a significant factor in adding to our community's economic growth, and, also, give Alamogordo the opportunity to become more diverse regarding our economic development in the future.”

**Ken Miyagishima, Mayor  
City of Las Cruces**

“The City Council and I commend Congress for passing the White Sands National Park Establishment Act because it will improve the economy of not only Las Cruces but the entire region, help our military do its important job, and highlight our incredible public land resources.”

**Jake Redfearn, Chair  
Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce**

“The Greater Las Cruces Chamber has proudly supported the change of designation of White Sands Monument to White Sands National Park. The newly designated White Sands National Park will provide a tremendous economic catalyst for our region. Becoming a National Park will be a true asset to our area while enhancing the military mission. This is truly a win-win.”

**Joe Bullington, Chairman  
Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee**

“The establishment of White Sands National Park is great news for the State of New Mexico and the nation. This designation provides major support and visibility for a true national treasure. In addition, the related land exchanges will be a great benefit to White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base, and other important regional partners. We appreciate the major, long-term efforts by Senator Heinrich and his local staff, working with all stakeholders, to reach agreements that will benefit all of them, as well as our state, region, and nation.”

**Carrie Hamblen, CEO/President  
Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce**

“It is a great time for southern New Mexico with the passage of the White Sands National Park Establishment Act. We know that communities benefit from protected public lands and that local businesses have become ‘thoughtful stewards’ of those places by cross-branding those experiences in their products and services. Now, with the White Sands National Park designation, the town of Alamogordo and surrounding communities will see increased visitation through tourism, opportunities to create new products that reflect the beauty of the National Park and area, and increase state pride for our public lands. We are very lucky to have such a champion in Senator Heinrich for our public lands.”

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**Curtis Rosemond, President and CEO  
Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

"The long awaited news of White Sands National Monument being designated as White Sands National Park is truly an exciting time for New Mexico. Being designated as a national park would allow us to promote White Sands and all of its recreational benefits to the world. This change will have a great impact on tourism in Southern New Mexico and throughout the region. It will increase the amount of visitors to Southern New Mexico, and will have a direct positive impact on our economy. Las Cruces and the surrounding communities will see a tremendous lift in tourism dollars. The Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and its business members, applaud Senator Heinrich's hard work and dedication to our state's newest national park."

**Ernie Atencio, Regional Director  
National Parks Conservation Association**

"As the largest and most visited national park site in New Mexico, it is absolutely fitting that White Sands become the state's second full-fledged national park. White Sands is a beautiful, unique, world-class natural and cultural landscape important to local communities and to visitors from around the globe, worthy of the highest level of protection available. This new status will also benefit the public with additional acreage and visitation opportunities, as well as significant benefits for the local economy. This important legislation shows how monuments designated by presidents under the Antiquities Act can become so cherished by the public that they are elevated to national park status."

**Jeff Swanson, Chairperson  
Southern New Mexico Public Lands Alliance**

"Southern New Mexico Public Lands Alliance Members are extremely grateful for Sen Heinrich, Sen Udall, Rep Xochitl Torres Small, local and regional civic and elected officials, and all citizens who labored to upgrade White Sands National Monument to National Park status. We the People have spoken to enhance and preserve our White Sands treasure! Park status will enhance the local economies, welcome more tourists, and deepen the connection between citizens and this unique environment. Thank you to all who labored in this stewardship venture!"

**Patrick Nolan, Executive Director  
Friends of the OMDP**

"Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks is excited to see White Sands National Monument become a National Park. It is a unique and special place worthy of this recognition. White Sands is always a favorite and memorable field trip with area youth. We look forward to more trips there to celebrate this southern New Mexico public lands treasure."