



City of Las Cruces®

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 7 Ordinance/Resolution# 13-008

For Meeting of _____
(Ordinance First Reading Date)

For Meeting of July 16, 2012
(Adoption Date)

Please check box that applies to this item:

QUASI JUDICIAL LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING THE ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:

Support the concept of a new National Monument.

COUNCIL DISTRICT: ALL		
Drafter/Staff Contact: Monica Campbell	Department/Section: Legal/City Attorney	Phone: 541-2128
City Manager Signature:		

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Dona Ana County, New Mexico is a special region in the United States known for its unique Chihuahuan Desert landscapes which include nationally and internationally known natural treasures including the Organ Mountains, Kilbourne Hole, Broad Canyon, and the Potrillo volcanic field.

These lands also possess nationally significant American and pre-American historical sites including the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, Gadsden Purchase International Boundary, thousands of petroglyph and other archeological areas, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, World War II Aerial Targets, and Geronimo's Cave.

Since 2006, the City of Las Cruces has been involved in supporting the federal protection of the landscapes initially contained in the "Citizens Wilderness and National Conservation Area Proposal" and subsequently in two pieces of federal legislation introduced by Senators Bingaman and Udall.

There has been continued and growing community support for protecting Dona Ana County's unique landscapes and nationally significant historical and archeological sites and a diverse coalition of community leaders, citizens, and civic organizations have coalesced around an exciting new proposal to protect these and other important lands as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would protect important ecological resources and areas including the Organ Mountains, the Potrillo volcanic field, the Dona Ana, Robledo, and Sierra de las Uvas Mountains, and will secure the quality of life and recreational opportunities directly related to public lands in Dona Ana County.

The National Monument would also place a special emphasis on protecting and promoting the nationally significant historical, archeological, and cultural resources within its boundaries. The protection of the rich landscapes and history will not only preserve these New Mexico and American treasures, but also local history important to preserving the multicultural traditions and heritage in the Mesilla Valley, and shall allow for the continuation of ranching and hunting in important lands throughout Dona Ana County.

The establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would have a significant potential economic benefit to the City of Las Cruces through tourism, recreation, opportunities related to research, business recruitment, and people choosing to life in the City and the neighboring community. In addition, multiple studies have shown that the creation of a National Monument creates jobs and very positive economic development for nearby communities.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

1. Resolution.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Is this action already budgeted? N/A	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>	See fund summary below	
	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	If No, then check one below:	
	<i>Budget Adjustment Attached</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Expense reallocated from: _____
				<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from a new revenue source (i.e. grant; see details below)
			<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from fund balance in the _____ Fund.	
Does this action create any revenue?	Yes		<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds will be deposited into this fund: _____ in the amount of \$___ for FY__.	
	No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no new revenue generated by this action.	

BUDGET NARRATIVE

N/A

FUND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

Fund Name(s)	Account Number(s)	Expenditure Proposed	Available Budgeted Funds in Current FY	Remaining Funds	Purpose for Remaining Funds
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

1. Vote "Yes"; this will support the concept of establishing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.
2. Vote "No"; this will indicate no support of the concept of establishing the National Monument.
3. Vote to "Amend"; this could modify the intent of the resolution.
4. Vote to "Table"; this will delay any indication of support or nonsupport of the concept of establishing the National Monument.

REFERENCE INFORMATION:

N/A

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

RESOLUTION NO. 13-008**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING THE ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT.**

The City Council is informed that:

WHEREAS, Dona Ana County, New Mexico is a special region in the United States known for its unique Chihuahuan Desert landscapes; and

WHEREAS, these unique lands include nationally and internationally known natural treasures including the Organ Mountains, Kilbourne Hole, Broad Canyon, and the Potrillo volcanic field; and

WHEREAS, these lands also possess nationally significant American and pre-American historical sites including the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, Gadsden Purchase International Boundary, thousands of petroglyph and other archeological areas, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, World War II Aerial Targets, and Geronimo's Cave; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Cruces has been involved since 2006 in supporting the federal protection of the landscapes initially contained in the "Citizens Wilderness and National Conservation Area Proposal" and subsequently in two pieces of federal legislation introduced by Senators Bingaman and Udall; and

WHEREAS, there has been continued and growing community support for protecting Dona Ana County's unique landscapes and nationally significant historical and archeological sites; and

WHEREAS, a diverse coalition of community leaders, citizens, and civic organizations have coalesced around an exciting new proposal to protect these and other important lands as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would protect important ecological resources and areas including the Organ Mountains, the Potrillo volcanic field, the Dona Ana, Robledo, and Sierra de las Uvas Mountains, and lands of particular importance to the sportsperson community which include the Sierra de las Uvas and Potrillo Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would place a special emphasis on protecting and promoting the nationally significant historical, archeological, and cultural resources within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, protection of the rich landscapes and history will not only preserve these New Mexico and American treasures, but also local history important to preserving the multicultural traditions and heritage in the Mesilla Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument shall allow for the continuation of ranching and hunting in important lands throughout Dona Ana County; and

WHEREAS, protection of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument will secure the quality of life and recreational opportunities directly related to public lands in Dona Ana County; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies have shown that the creation of a National Monument creates jobs and very positive economic development for communities near it; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would have a significant potential economic benefit to the City of Las Cruces

through tourism, recreation, opportunities related to research, business recruitment, and people choosing to live in the City and the neighboring community; and

WHEREAS, regarding potential future land acquisitions, parcels of state or private land that are in-holdings within the National Monument shall only be available for sale or trade with the federal government with the willing consent of the landowner. Additionally, eminent domain shall not be used to acquire state or private lands within the National Monument.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

(I)

THAT the governing body of the City of Las Cruces is in full and enthusiastic support of the concept of the creation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

(II)

THAT the governing body of the City of Las Cruces encourages members of the community and organizations to learn more about the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by utilizing the website at www.OrganMountains.org.

(III)

THAT the governing body of the City of Las Cruces requests that the President of the United States use his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to expeditiously protect and establish the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in 2012.

(IV)

THAT City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds necessary in the accomplishment of the herein above.

DONE AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 2012.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima:	_____
Councillor Silva:	_____
Councillor Smith:	_____
Councillor Pedroza:	_____
Councillor Small:	_____
Councillor Sorg:	_____
Councillor Thomas:	_____

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ray A. (City) Connolly

City Attorney