



## **RESOLUTION NO. 2017-08**

### **A Resolution Affirming Support for the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument And Strongly Opposing Any Reduction of the Monument and Its Areas of Protection**

**Whereas**, Doña Ana County is part of a special region in the United States known for its vast pristine Chihuahuan Desert landscapes, and

**Whereas**, these special lands include nationally and internationally known natural treasures including the Organ Mountains, Kilbourne Hole, Broad Canyon, and the Potrillo volcanic field, and

**Whereas**, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument additionally protects invaluable American and pre-American historical sites including the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, Gadsden Purchase International Boundary, thousands of petroglyph and other archeological areas, portions of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, World War II Aerial Targets, and Geronimo's Cave, and

**Whereas**, the Town of Mesilla shares a special connection to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument possessing many historic sites that are also part of the Monument, including a jail that held Billy the Kid, a stagecoach stop for the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail, the plaza where the signing of the Gadsden Purchase was celebrated, and

**Whereas**, protection of these rich landscapes and history not only preserves these New Mexico and American treasures, but also local history important to preserving our rich multicultural traditions in the Mesilla and Rio Grande valleys, and

**Whereas**, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has had a positive influence economically on our region as the number of visitors to the Monument increased by 102 percent from 2015 (84,197 visitors) to 2016 (170,451 visitors), and

**Whereas**, new economic opportunities have emerged thanks to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument including the Monuments to Main Street Festival; helicopter, van, and recreation tours; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks branded products; community tourism and marketing collaborations; and attraction of conferences, retirees, and new businesses to Doña Ana County; and

**Whereas**, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has gained international travel media exposure for Doña Ana County through the Lonely Planet Guide, Trip Advisor, Los Angeles Times, Sunset Magazine, Readers Digest, and other outlets,

**Whereas**, the Town of Mesilla has benefited economically from our distinction of possessing a high quality of life, historic preservation and abundant stunning natural resources and vistas, and

**Whereas**, a diverse coalition of Doña Ana county leaders, citizens, and civic organizations came together

to work for and support designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and

**Whereas**, there has been continued and growing community support for protecting our unique landscapes and nationally significant historical and archeological sites, and

**Whereas**, the presidential proclamation establishing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument specifically recognized continuation of: existing valid grazing permits and leases, management of fish and wildlife by the State of New Mexico, tribal rights for access to religious and cultural sites, military overflights, private property rights, and other valid and existing uses, and

**Whereas**, the Town of Mesilla strongly supported the designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and worked as part of the effort that culminated in the monument's designation, and


**Whereas**, the establishment of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has been a significant enhancement to the cultural and economic foundation of the future prosperity of the Town of Mesilla,

**Therefore, be it resolved**, by the Town of Mesilla and its Trustees, that the Town of Mesilla is in full and enthusiastic support of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and

**May it further be resolved** that, the Town of Mesilla strongly opposes any efforts to rescind, minimize, or otherwise harm the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by Congress or the President of the United States.

**And may it further be resolved that**, the Town of Mesilla strongly opposes any efforts to rescind, weaken, or otherwise change the Antiquities Act of 1906, the law that has been used to establish the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and so many other of our nation's national monuments that protect and preserve our country's scientific and historic objects.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 8th day of May 2017.



Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

ATTEST:



Cynthia Stoehner-Hernandez  
Clerk/Treasurer

