

**SENATOR STEVE PIERCE**  
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE S  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844  
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 926-5584  
CAPITOL FAX: (602) 417-3101  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404  
spierce@azleg.gov



**SENATE PRESIDENT 2012**

**COMMITTEES:**

NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION

JUDICIARY

## Arizona State Senate

DISTRICT 1

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
United States Senator  
368 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake:

This letter expresses my opposition to the proposed creation of the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument (GCWNM) within Arizona and joins others including: the Arizona Legislature, U.S. Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and its commission and multiple local public officials. Without the necessary support from Arizona stakeholders this proposal for unilateral executive action should not advance.

The GCWNM would designate 1.7 million acres, making it the second largest national monument in the country and almost doubling the amount of national monument acreage in the state. Designating such a vast area – larger than the state of Delaware – requires a narrow management regime that could negatively affect the area's resources and the state as a whole.

The multiple-use policy currently managing this area was developed with public input and based on resource management plans that allows for reasonable use of the area for purposes such as recreation, grazing, mining, energy development and hunting and fishing access. Such uses provide an economic and intrinsic benefit to Arizona and a national monument designation would eliminate this benefit for a nonexistent threat.

Potentially more damaging are the consequences to the states' forests and water resources at a time when the Southwest is experiencing a 15-year drought. A national monument designation would lock away this area from crucial wildfire management and hinder water resource management practices without providing any tangible advantage.

Although it is unquestionable the Grand Canyon is a national treasure that is worth protecting, a national monument designation serves no purpose other than to harm the state of Arizona and its resources. In light of these facts, I respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed GCWNM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Pierce".

Senator Steve Pierce  
Arizona State Senate  
Legislative District 1

SENATOR STEVE PIERCE  
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE S  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844  
CAPITOL PHONE: (602) 928-5584  
CAPITOL FAX: (602) 417-3101  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404  
spierce@azleg.gov



SENATE PRESIDENT 2012

COMMITTEES:

NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION

JUDICIARY

## Arizona State Senate

DISTRICT 1

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Flake  
United States Senator  
368 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Flake,

This letter expresses my opposition to the proposed executive designation of the Sedona Verde Valley Red Rock National Monument.

A subjective organization is bringing this proposal that lacks the necessary support from state leaders, Arizona's congressional delegation and the local community. In fact, the Arizona State Legislature passed S.C.M. 1001 in March of this year expressing the state's opposition to the unilateral creation of new national monuments and earlier that same month U.S. Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake outlined their opposition in a letter to the President.

The need for any national monument designation is unclear. The area is not under threat of widespread destruction; only high use and vandalism. While it is important to address these issues the most prudent way to do so is under the current multiple-use policy; not through a national monument designation.

The effects of such a designation create many uncertainties. There are serious questions concerning land use, visitation, effects on private lands and the potential for decreased local control. Perhaps the most important consequence concerns the water rights of the Sedona Verde Valley which are being adjudicated in court. Water is a vital resource to the area's economy, community and environment and a monument designation will complicate an already complex process. Responsible use of the area and its resources provide a substantial benefit and there is no need to endanger this benefit for an already manageable and relatively minor threat.

This issue is multifaceted, nuanced and will have a direct and permanent effect on the city of Sedona and its residents. For these reasons a thorough and objective process is necessary before any designation should be considered by the President. Instead the proposal has been fast-tracked, questions remain unanswered and the amount of public input the issue deserves is lacking.

The national monument proposal is ill-timed, unnecessary and would have potentially deleterious consequences. I respectfully urge you to oppose it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Pierce".

Senator Steve Pierce  
Legislative District 1