



Council of Border Conservation Districts
Southwestern New Mexico

c/o Deming SWCD, 405 E. Florida, Deming, NM 88030 (575) 546-9692

November 27, 2012

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument by Executive Order

Dear Mr. President:

The Council of Border Conservation Districts represents seven soil and water conservation districts in southwest New Mexico. The member districts are Caballo, Deming, Dona Ana, Hidalgo, Otero, San Francisco and Sierra.

As elected officials with state authority and responsibility to manage the natural resources of our respective watersheds, which are dominated by federal land, the Council of Border Conservation Districts must stand in opposition to any and all designated restrictive land classifications on our federal lands that would restrict access and our ability to design, develop and manage flood control measures in our respective watersheds. The danger to public life, welfare, and safety must have clear cut allowances and protocol before any additional lands are so named.

Your declaration of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument will have huge consequences not only in Dona Ana County and the Lower Rio Grande Watershed, but could have far-reaching implications affecting other watersheds dominated by federal land in New Mexico.

We respectfully request you consider alternative methods to protecting these lands and allow Congress to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Walt Anderson, Vice-Chair
Council of Border Conservation Districts

cc:

Secretary Ken Salazar
Senator Jeff Bingaman
Senator Tom Udall
Representative Steve Pearce
Senator-elect Martin Heinrich