

Protect wonderful pieces of creation

LAST MONTH, WE saw the president designate a new national monument in Northern California. The Point Arena-Stornetta National Monument, along the coast, will provide protection for a wonderful piece of creation as well as for the creatures that reside there. People of faith should rejoice whenever stewardship of the land occurs, no matter where on God's Earth. We celebrate today with our brothers and sisters in California, and at the same time ask President Obama to look toward the Land of Enchantment.

New Mexicans were fortunate to have the President designate Rio Grande del Norte National Monument last year, and we have another opportunity to protect a beautiful piece of our state in the south. The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks area enjoys broad support from a number of constituencies, including the diverse faith communities. We see stewardship of the land as a calling from God, and by protecting the Organ Mountains, we are being stewards of God's great creation.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would highlight the unique history of southern New Mexico as well as preserve an area of spiritual significance for many native communities. As a sign of appreciation for the beauty and diversity of this area, I urge President Obama to designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks as the next national monument.

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Published April 29, 2014 in the Albuquerque Journal