 Press Release:

U.S. Senator Dean Heller

U.S. Representative Paul Gosar

 U.S. Representative Steve Daines

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November 13, 2013 202-224-6244

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**Heller, Gosar, Daines Press Jewell for Answers about Plan to Designate National Monuments without Congressional Approval**

**(Washington, D.C.)** – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ), and U.S. Representative Steve Daines (R-MT), along with 31 of their colleagues, today sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell regarding plans to designate national monuments on public lands without congressional approval. The letter requests the list of “important places” the U.S. Department of the Interior has deemed necessary for conservation and protection with the establishment of a monument.

Jewell referenced the Administration’s intention to unilaterally designate national monuments in a speech at the National Press Club on October 31, 2013.

A PDF of the letter is attached with this release.

**Full text of letter:**

November 13, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell

Secretary

Department of the Interior

1849 C St, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Like you, we are committed to appropriate conservation and multiple-use management of our public lands.  As elected officials, we are working closely with our constituents on efforts to improve public land management—which often include conservation designations.  Given the gravity and permanence of national monuments, we believe that should these decisions be necessary, they should be made by Congress in an open, transparent, and public manner using extraordinary caution.

On October 31, 2013, during remarks at the National Press Club  regarding the Antiquities Act, you said, "if Congress doesn't step up to act to protect some of these important places that have been identified by communities and people throughout the country, then the president will take action…there's no question that if Congress doesn't act, we will."

In light of this statement, we are requesting a comprehensive list of the “important places” you reference in your comments that the administration is considering for national monument designations, along with a proposed timeline.  Additionally, we are seeking clarification of whether designations are being considered only for proposed national monuments or whether there are other land-use proposals the administration would consider making monuments absent Congressional action. We also request that the administration notify all members of a state’s congressional delegation at least 90-days in advance of designating a monument within that particular state.

 We believe that these requests are consistent with your repeated commitment to openness, transparency, and cooperation with local and state officials in the context of land management decisions. Especially in consideration of past controversial usage of the Antiquities Act, your statements at the National Press Club have the potential to unravel the good work done by many to develop bottom-up land management solutions. Clarification of those statements is therefore critical to the continued success of these grassroots initiatives.

We want to reaffirm our belief that public lands designations should originate in local communities where the concept enjoys broad support from elected officials, stakeholders, and other impacted individuals.  Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward receiving your response in the near future.

Sincerely,

Senator Dean Heller

Representative Paul Gosar

Representative Steve Daines

Senator Mike Enzi

Senator Jeff Flake

Representative Rob Bishop

Senator Mike Crapo

Representative Joe Heck

Senator John Barrasso

Representative Mark Amodei

Senator James Risch

Representative Jason Chaffetz

Senator Mike Johanns

Representative Kevin Cramer

Senator Mike Lee

Representative Steve Pearce

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Representative Trent Franks

Senator Orrin Hatch

Representative Don Young

Senator John Thune

Representative Mike Coffman

Senator Tom Coburn

Representative Kevin McCarthy

Representative Cynthia Lummis

Representative Chris Stewart

Representative Raúl Labrador

Representative Doug LaMalfa

Representative Louie Gohmert

Representative Lynn Westmoreland

Representative Greg Walden

Representative David Schweikert

Senator David Vitter

Senator Tim Scott

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