



## SIX MYTHS

### About the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Proposal

MYTH <sup>1</sup>	FACT <sup>2</sup>
It “would designate another 1.7 million acres of Arizona as federal land.” (PB p.1)	Lands proposed for monument are already under federal jurisdiction <sup>3</sup> and have been since before Arizona’s statehood in 1912. <sup>4</sup>
“The Department of Interior would obtain exclusive control of the area within the monument designation.” (PB p.4)	Management by the departments of Agriculture and Interior would not change. <sup>5</sup>
It “federalizes” land. (PB p.5)	Decisions would continue to be made in an open and public process and in cooperation with representatives from the Arizona Game & Fish Dept., tribes, recreational hunters, and other stakeholders. <sup>6</sup>
It “could impact the surface and groundwater rights in the monument area.” (PB p.5)	Proposed language explicitly protects existing state, tribal, and private water rights. <sup>7</sup>
It “could undermine the ability to effectively manage Arizona’s land” and increase “the likelihood that Arizona will experience catastrophic forest fires.” (PB p.6)	Proposal supports restoring “natural fire regimes” and “science-based ecological restoration projects” and allows for “cutting, sale, or removal of timber.... within the national monument.” <sup>8</sup>
It could restrict use by “Arizona’s cattlemen, sportsmen, and recreating public” and interfere with state authority to manage wildlife. (PB p.5)	Proclamation allows for grazing, recreation, hunting, fishing, and motorized access to continue under existing regulations. <sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Direct quotes are excerpted from “The Proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument: A Monumental Mistake?” A Policy Brief (PB) prepared by the Arizona Chamber and Prosper foundations.

<sup>2</sup> Proposed proclamation language as set forth in HR 3882, Introduced by Arizona Congressman Grijalva on Nov. 3, 2015 <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr3882>. The legislative language is being proposed for a presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act.

<sup>3</sup> Land to be designated “consists of Federal land.” H.R. 3822, page 5.

<sup>4</sup> The 1.7 million acres proposed for the new monument became federal land in 1848, when Mexico ceded it to the United States.

<sup>5</sup> “Establishment of the national monument shall not grant the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture any new authority not already provided by law or over non-Federal lands.” HR 3882, page 9.

<sup>6</sup> The advisory council shall be comprised of representatives from local, tribal, and state stakeholders. HR 3882, page 18-19.

<sup>7</sup> Nothing in the proclamation affects any “claims or rights to water not already asserted or finally determined.” HR 3882, pages 20-21.

<sup>8</sup> “Wildland fire operations” shall continue in the monument. HR 3882, pages 11, 15.

<sup>9</sup> Nothing in the proclamation “affects the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona with respect to the management of fish and wildlife.” HR 3882, page 14.