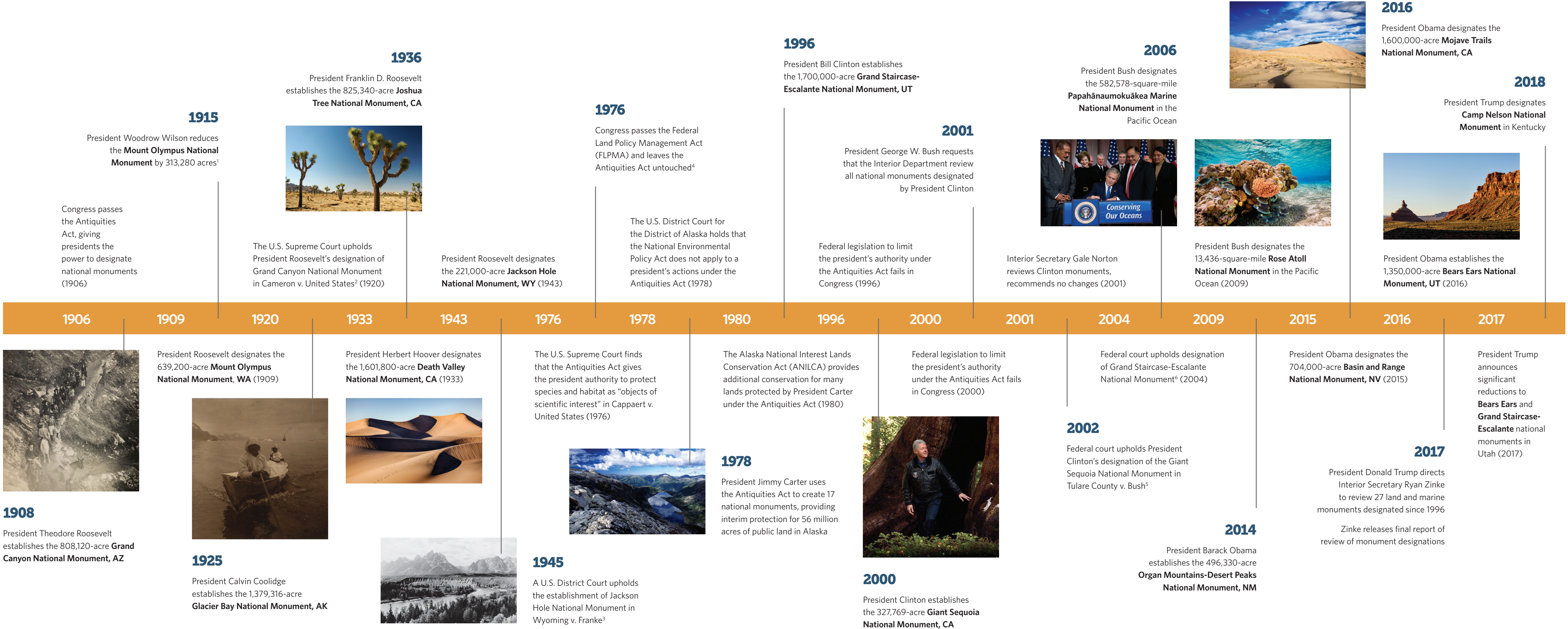


# The Antiquities Act and America's National Monuments

A timeline of milestones

## Overview

The Antiquities Act, which became law in 1906 after years of debate, has played a rich and enduring role in protecting our nation's history and heritage. In 1976, Congress reaffirmed its intention to provide the president with land protection authority when it passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The Antiquities Act has been used by 17 presidents from both parties and, more than 100 years after it was created, continues to be a landmark law to safeguard special places for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.



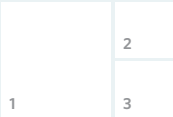
# Endnotes

- 1 The courts were never asked to rule on the president’s authority to reduce the national monument.
- 2 The decision established that the Grand Canyon is an object of scientific interest and confirmed the use of executive authority to protect it.
- 3 The Supreme Court upheld President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s designation of Jackson Hole National Monument and found that courts have “limited jurisdiction to investigate and determine” whether a presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act is unreasonable.
- 4 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) repealed the executive branch’s public lands withdrawal authority in 29 statutes. Congress also prohibited the secretary of the interior from modifying or revoking any monuments created by executive action under the Antiquities Act.
- 5 The federal court held that the protection of ecosystems and scenic vistas is an appropriate use of the president’s Antiquities Act authority, which “is not limited to protecting only archeological sites.”
- 6 The federal court rejected claims that the monument was too large and that the Antiquities Act was intended to be limited to protecting man-made objects.

# Photo credits

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