



Protecting Island Park: Good for our health, our quality of life, and our economy. Protected public lands can serve as powerful engines for economic growth.

In addition to preserving land, water, and wildlife for conservation, outdoor recreation or historic preservation, protected public lands provide a competitive advantage to communities.

- Regions surrounding national monuments have seen continued growth or improvement in employment, personal income and increased per-capita income.
- Counties with protected public lands have been more successful at sustaining property values, attracting high-wage employers and securing entrepreneurial investment.
- Additional tourism revenue to communities also increases local, state and federal tax revenue.

Case Study: Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, New Mexico

In response to the local community and New Mexico's Senators, the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument was designated by President Obama in March 2013. The national monument permanently protects the area's heritage, wildlife habitat, and drinking water; provides continued access to hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation; as well as preserves Native American archeological sites.

Economic Benefits

- Taos County Commissioner Larry Sanchez stated, "The Monument is one more thing we turn to in promoting Taos and Northern New Mexico as a first-rate outdoors and tourism designation."
- An economic study prior to designation found that permanently protecting the area would fuel an estimated \$15 million in new economic benefits for Northern New Mexico. Since the designation, there has been a significant increase in tax revenues from the lodging and food services.

The designation occurred with considerable input from the community including Native American Tribes, local elected officials, businesses, sportsmen, and Latino organizations. Similar support exists for the permanent protection of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Protecting Island Park = Economic Growth

Improved visitor services provided by a national monument could increase this vital economic activity. Permanent protection of Island Park will bring national recognition that will have a positive economic impact through increased tourism spending, job creation, and improved property values for adjacent communities.

