



# Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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District 3

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District 1

**ARLETHE R. MORRISON**  
Clerk of the Board

August 27, 2019

Representative Ann Kirkpatrick  
77 Calle Portal  
Suite B160  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick,

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors is writing in support of legislation to designate Chiricahua National Monument as a National Park. We strongly believe such a designation would help to strengthen the local and regional economies through area tourism.

A National Park designation would significantly raise the profile of Cochise County, both nationally and internationally, drawing additional visitors to the region. In its recent report, "Economic Impacts of National Monuments Redesignated National Parks", the independent, non-profit research organization Headwater Economics found that eight National Monuments designated as National Parks experienced an average 21 percent increase in visitors in the five years after designation. Additionally, total recreation visits in National Parks grew by 49 percent between 2000 and 2016, compared to a decrease of 3 percent in National Monuments.

Tourism is Arizona's number one industry and plays a significant role in helping to sustain the economies of communities throughout rural Cochise County. The Cochise County Tourism Council works to attract new and repeat visitors to the region, and we believe this designation will make an important contribution to that ongoing goal.

Thanks to its unique geographical features and outstanding natural beauty, Cochise County believes Chiricahua National Monument has the necessary criteria to receive a National Park designation. We therefore respectfully request you introduce necessary legislation required to move this highly beneficial process forward.

Sincerely,

Peggy Judd  
Chairman (District 3)

Ann English  
Vice-Chair (District 2)

Tom Borer  
Supervisor (District 1)

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