



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

July 21, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to inform you that I strongly oppose and will do whatever I can to resist creation of a Boulder-White Clouds National Monument in Idaho.

While we can all agree that preserving natural wonders is important, using the Antiquities Act to designate a new national monument is not the way to accomplish that goal.

A national monument will provide little if any additional protection for the Boulder-White Clouds area, which already is preserved under the Idaho Roadless Rule that was drafted as part of a collaborative effort between the State of Idaho, the federal government and other stakeholders. Indeed, designating this area a national monument will render useless much of that process and discourage future collaborative efforts to protect other special areas in our state.

In addition to its inclusion under the Idaho Roadless Rule, much of The Boulder-White Clouds area proposed for national monument status is within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). Any development in the SNRA is strictly prohibited by Congress, providing significant additional protection for the Boulder-White Clouds while still enabling the public to use and enjoy it.

The proposed monument also would have a substantial impact on state endowment lands. Thousands of acres of endowment lands would be completely encompassed by the proposed monument. I have an obligation under the Idaho Constitution to manage these state lands for the benefit of public education and other important state programs, and a new monument designation could seriously impede that important state obligation.

Any proposed changes to the regulation or management of the Boulder-White Clouds must involve extensive engagement with local leaders and residents before they are enacted.

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Numerous protections for the area have been implemented over the years through bipartisan efforts that included outreach and collaboration. Any future decisions about the use of this area must be accomplished in the same manner.

Making decisions by executive fiat without first consulting Idahoans would only serve to marginalize the opinions of those who will be most impacted by any changes and who have the greatest interest in the area's future.

We can protect the beauty of Idaho's outdoors for future generations while enabling responsible use and respecting state and local interests.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is stylized and cursive.

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho