

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8031

To establish the Chuckwalla National Monument and expand Joshua Tree National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2024

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Chuckwalla National Monument and expand Joshua Tree National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Chuckwalla National  
5 Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park  
6 Expansion Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

9 (1) the land designated as the Chuckwalla Na-  
10 tional Monument by this Act—

1 (A) is an area of national significance and  
2 historical and scientific interest requiring pro-  
3 tection;

4 (B)(i) is the ancestral homeland of the  
5 Iviatim, Kwatsáan, Maara'yam, Nüwü, Pipa  
6 Aha Macav, and other Tribal people, including  
7 the present-day Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mohave,  
8 Quechan, and Serrano Indian Tribes;

9 (ii) continues to be regularly accessed and  
10 used by the Indian Tribes referred to in clause  
11 (i); and

12 (iii) will continue to be used by the Indian  
13 Tribes referred to in clause (i) in the future;

14 (C) contains a complex trail system that—

15 (i) was established by Native Ameri-  
16 cans for various uses, including spiritual,  
17 travel, trade, and communication; and

18 (ii) connects to regions outside of the  
19 boundaries of the Monument, including Avi  
20 Kwa Ame;

21 (D) includes sacred sites, historic prop-  
22 erties, traditional cultural places and land-  
23 scapes, sacred items, objects of cultural pat-  
24 rimony, human remains, religious sites,  
25 geoglyphs, petroglyphs, and pictographs with

1 significant value to the survival and well-being  
2 of Tribal people and the knowledge systems of  
3 Tribal people;

4 (E) includes plants, wildlife, water sources,  
5 and minerals that are connected together as  
6 part of a greater cultural landscape;

7 (F) has nationally significant biodiversity,  
8 due to the location in the transitional zone  
9 where the Sonoran Desert and Mojave Desert  
10 come together;

11 (G) is home to a wide variety of topog-  
12 raphy and elevation, leading to distinct micro-  
13 climates and ecosystems;

14 (H) is largely intact, undeveloped, and ad-  
15 jacent to other federally protected areas, such  
16 as Joshua Tree National Park, the Indian Pass  
17 Wilderness, and the Palen/McCoy Wilderness;

18 (I) is a refuge for over 150 plant species,  
19 many of which cannot be found anywhere else,  
20 including—

21 (i) Munz’s cholla, the largest endemic  
22 cacti in the State, which is located on the  
23 Chuckwalla Bench;

24 (ii) the California fan palm, a plant  
25 managed and used extensively by Tribal

1 people for thousands of years, which is  
2 found in oases at Corn Springs, the Mecca  
3 Hills Wilderness, and other locations in  
4 which tectonic movements allow ground-  
5 water to seep up;

6 (iii) the triple-ribbed milk-vetch, which  
7 is listed as endangered under the Endan-  
8 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
9 1531 et seq.); and

10 (iv) other sensitive species, including  
11 Emory's crucifixion thorn and Mecca-aster;  
12 (J) hosts—

13 (i) some of the most extensive  
14 microphyll woodlands (which are small-leaf  
15 trees, such as ironwood and palo verde) in  
16 the State in places such as Milpitas Wash,  
17 a habitat critical to the survival of Tribal  
18 people; and

19 (ii) many wildlife species, including  
20 the burro deer and migrating birds;

21 (K) offers—

22 (i) core habitat and essential migra-  
23 tion pathways for wildlife, including over  
24 50 sensitive animal species, including—

1 (I) critical habitat for the  
2 Agassiz's desert tortoise, which is list-  
3 ed as threatened under the Endan-  
4 gered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.  
5 1531 et seq.); and

6 (II) critical habitat for the desert  
7 bighorn sheep, which is an iconic spe-  
8 cies with declining numbers;

9 (ii) habitat in microphyll woodlands  
10 for large numbers of resident and migra-  
11 tory birds, which is crucial amid the other-  
12 wise major decline in bird numbers re-  
13 corded in North America over the 50-year  
14 period preceding the date of enactment of  
15 this Act; and

16 (iii) former habitat for the endangered  
17 Sonoran pronghorn in the Chuckwalla  
18 Bench, the site of a multi-year reintroduc-  
19 tion effort that is already underway;

20 (L) offers important glimpses into key pe-  
21 riods in regional history, such as—

22 (i) the gold seekers who used an exist-  
23 ing Indigenous route to establish what is  
24 now the Bradshaw Trail in the 1870s; and

1           (ii) the invaluable training of more  
2           than 1,000,000 soldiers from across the  
3           United States during the period from  
4           1942–1944 in which the land was part of  
5           the Desert Training Center, which is also  
6           known as the “California-Arizona Maneu-  
7           ver Area”, including Patton’s Hill, which  
8           was used by General Patton for observing  
9           training maneuvers;

10          (M) provides outstanding outdoor recre-  
11          ation opportunities to local communities and  
12          visitors, including hiking, horseback riding, mo-  
13          torized vehicle use and mountain biking on des-  
14          ignated routes of travel, wildlife viewing, hunt-  
15          ing, climbing, rockhounding, picnicking, and  
16          camping;

17          (N) offers inexpensive access to public land  
18          for disadvantaged communities, including the  
19          farming and farm laboring communities of the  
20          eastern Coachella Valley and Blythe regions;  
21          and

22          (O) is near or adjacent to solar Develop-  
23          ment Focus Areas that have some of the best  
24          solar energy potential in the world, the develop-  
25          ment and operation of which is critical to meet-

1           ing the urgent need of the United States to de-  
2           crease greenhouse gas emissions; and

3           (2) the Indian Tribes referred to in paragraph  
4           (1)(B)(i) have a longstanding relationship to the  
5           land on which the Monument is located, acting as  
6           stewards of the land since time immemorial, with ob-  
7           ligations to care for the cultural, spiritual, and nat-  
8           ural resources provided to those Indian Tribes by  
9           the land, including sacred places, plants, wildlife,  
10          water sources, and minerals.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12          In this Act:

13           (1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory  
14           Council” means the Chuckwalla National Monument  
15           Advisory Council established under section 6(a).

16           (2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission”  
17           means the Chuckwalla National Monument Tribal  
18           Commission established under section 5(a).

19           (3) **CULTURALLY AFFILIATED INDIAN TRIBE.**—  
20           The term “culturally affiliated Indian Tribe” means  
21           an Indian Tribe that is determined by the Secretary  
22           to have a cultural connection to the Monument.

23           (4) **DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVA-**  
24           **TION AREA PLAN.**—The term “Desert Renewable  
25           Energy Conservation Area Plan” means the Record

1 of Decision for the Desert Renewable Energy Con-  
2 servation Plan Land Use Plan Amendment to the  
3 California Desert Conservation Area Plan, Bishop  
4 Resource Management Plan, and Bakersfield Re-  
5 source Management Plan by the Bureau of Land  
6 Management, dated September 2016.

7 (5) DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AREA.—The term  
8 “Development Focus Area” means a Development  
9 Focus Area designated in the Desert Renewable En-  
10 ergy Conservation Area Plan / Land Use Plan  
11 Amendment to the California Desert Conservation  
12 Area Plan, Bishop Resource Management Plan, and  
13 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan prepared by  
14 the Bureau of Land Management and dated Sep-  
15 tember 2016.

16 (6) ELECTRIC UTILITY FACILITY.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “electric util-  
18 ity facility” means any infrastructure associated  
19 with or necessary for the siting, construction, or  
20 operation and maintenance of electric trans-  
21 mission or distribution lines.

22 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “electric util-  
23 ity facility” includes an electric substation, a  
24 communication facility, a tower, a pole, a line,



1 a ground wire, a communications circuit, and  
2 any other similar or related infrastructure.

3 (7) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”  
4 means the governing body of any Indian Tribe,  
5 band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component  
6 band, or component reservation individually identi-  
7 fied (including parenthetically) on the most recent  
8 list published by the Secretary under section 104(a)  
9 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of  
10 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131(a)).

11 (8) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “manage-  
12 ment plan” means the management plan for the  
13 Monument developed under section 4(c)(17).

14 (9) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map en-  
15 titled “Proposed Chuckwalla National Monument  
16 and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion” and  
17 dated April 12, 2024.

18 (10) MONUMENT.—The term “Monument”  
19 means the Chuckwalla National Monument estab-  
20 lished by section 4(a).

21 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
22 means the Secretary of the Interior.

23 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means the  
24 State of California.

1 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONU-**  
2 **MENT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing  
4 rights, there is established the Chuckwalla National Monu-  
5 ment in the State, consisting of approximately 621,000  
6 acres of Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land  
7 Management, as generally depicted on the Map.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Monument is to  
9 conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoy-  
10 ment of present and future generations, through coopera-  
11 tive and collaborative management with culturally affili-  
12 ated Indian Tribes, the ecological, scenic, wildlife, rec-  
13 reational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and  
14 scientific resources of the Monument.

15 (c) MANAGEMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

17 (A) shall manage the Monument—

18 (i) in a manner that conserves, pro-  
19 tects, and enhances the resources of the  
20 Monument;

21 (ii) in accordance with—

22 (I) the Federal Land Policy and  
23 Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
24 1701 et seq.);

25 (II) this section; and

1 (III) any other applicable law (in-  
2 cluding regulations);

3 (iii) in cooperation and collaboration  
4 with culturally affiliated Indian Tribes;  
5 and

6 (iv) as a component of the National  
7 Landscape Conservation System; and

8 (B) shall only allow uses of the Monument  
9 that—

10 (i) are described in or otherwise con-  
11 sistent with this section; or

12 (ii) in the determination of the Sec-  
13 retary, would further the purpose described  
14 in subsection (b).

15 (2) AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS.—To the  
16 maximum extent practicable and in accordance with  
17 applicable laws, on request of a culturally affiliated  
18 Indian Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into agree-  
19 ments, contracts, and other cooperative and collabo-  
20 rative partnerships with the culturally affiliated In-  
21 dian Tribe with respect to management of the  
22 Monument under relevant Federal authority, includ-  
23 ing—

1 (A) the Indian Self-Determination and  
2 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et  
3 seq.);

4 (B) the Federal Land Policy and Manage-  
5 ment Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

6 (C) Executive Order 13175 (25 U.S.C.  
7 5301 note; relating to consultation and coordi-  
8 nation with Indian Tribal governments);

9 (D) Secretarial Order 3342, issued by the  
10 Secretary on October 21, 2016 (relating to  
11 identifying opportunities for cooperative and  
12 collaborative partnerships with Federally recog-  
13 nized Indian Tribes in the management of Fed-  
14 eral lands and resources); and

15 (E) Joint Secretarial Order 3403, issued  
16 by the Secretary and the Secretary of Agri-  
17 culture on November 15, 2021 (relating to ful-  
18 filling the trust responsibility to Indian Tribes  
19 in the stewardship of Federal lands and  
20 waters).

21 (3) NATIVE AMERICAN ACCESS AND USE.—

22 (A) ACCESS.—The Secretary shall ensure  
23 access to the Monument by members of a cul-  
24 turally affiliated Indian Tribe for traditional  
25 cultural purposes and activities.

1           (B) TEMPORARY CLOSURE.—In carrying  
2           out this paragraph, the Secretary, on the re-  
3           quest of a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe,  
4           may temporarily close to the general public use  
5           of 1 or more specific portions of the Monument  
6           to protect the privacy of traditional cultural ac-  
7           tivities in the temporarily closed portion by  
8           members of the culturally affiliated Indian  
9           Tribe.

10           (C) APPLICABLE LAW.—The access and  
11           use by members of a culturally affiliated Indian  
12           Tribe under this paragraph shall be consistent  
13           with the purpose and intent of Public Law 95-  
14           341 (commonly known as the “American Indian  
15           Religious Freedom Act”) (42 U.S.C. 1996 et  
16           seq.).

17           (4) RECREATION.—The Secretary shall con-  
18           tinue to authorize and enhance recreation in the  
19           Monument, including camping, hiking, backpacking,  
20           sightseeing, nature study, horseback riding, hunting,  
21           hang gliding, climbing, mountain biking and motor-  
22           ized recreation on authorized routes, and the non-  
23           commercial collecting of rocks, minerals, and semi-  
24           precious gemstones, if the recreational use is con-  
25           sistent with—

- 1 (A) the purpose described in subsection  
2 (b);  
3 (B) this section;  
4 (C) other applicable law (including regula-  
5 tions);  
6 (D) applicable management plans; and  
7 (E) input from the Commission regarding  
8 potential impacts to culturally sensitive sites  
9 and resources.

10 (5) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
12 subparagraph (B), the use of motorized vehicles  
13 within the Monument shall be permitted only on  
14 routes designated for the use of motorized vehi-  
15 cles by the transportation management plan  
16 prepared under paragraph (17)(D).

17 (B) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding sub-  
18 paragraph (A), the use of motorized vehicles  
19 within the Monument may be permitted if the  
20 use is necessary—

- 21 (i) for administrative purposes; and  
22 (ii) for constructing or servicing, con-  
23 sistent with paragraphs (1) and (7)—

1 (I) electric utility facilities (in-  
2 cluding electric transmission facilities  
3 and electric distribution facilities); or

4 (II) renewable energy projects  
5 near or adjacent to the Monument; or  
6 (iii) to respond to an emergency.

7 (C) INTERIM MANAGEMENT.—

8 (i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
9 in clause (ii), until the date on which the  
10 transportation management plan required  
11 under paragraph (17)(D) is completed, the  
12 use of motorized vehicles in the Monument  
13 shall be permitted only on—

14 (I) the routes that are legally  
15 designated for such use on the date of  
16 enactment of this Act; and

17 (II) any routes necessary for a  
18 purpose described in subparagraph  
19 (B), including the purposes described  
20 in clause (ii) of that subparagraph,  
21 subject to the requirements of that  
22 subparagraph.

23 (ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in clause  
24 (i) prevents the Secretary from closing

1 roads, trails, or areas to motorized vehi-  
2 cles—

3 (I) to protect natural or cultural  
4 resources; or

5 (II) for public safety.

6 (6) GRAZING.—The Secretary shall not estab-  
7 lish any new allotments for livestock grazing that in-  
8 clude any Monument land (whether leased or not  
9 leased for grazing on the date of enactment of this  
10 Act).

11 (7) EXISTING EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-  
12 WAY.—

13 (A) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act pre-  
14 cludes the renewal, assignment, or enlargement  
15 of, or interferes with the operation, mainte-  
16 nance, replacement, modification, upgrade, or  
17 access to, existing—

18 (i) flood control facilities, electric util-  
19 ity facilities (including electric trans-  
20 mission facilities and electric distribution  
21 facilities), pipeline facilities, and tele-  
22 communications facilities within the Monu-  
23 ment;

24 (ii) roads or highway corridors within  
25 the Monument;



1 (iii) seismic monitoring facilities with-  
2 in the Monument; or

3 (iv) other water infrastructure, includ-  
4 ing wildlife water developments or water  
5 district facilities, within or adjacent to an  
6 existing authorization boundary of the  
7 Monument.

8 (B) EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES;  
9 NEW FACILITIES.—To the extent consistent  
10 with the proper care and management of ob-  
11 jects of historical and scientific interest at the  
12 Monument and subject to the authorities of the  
13 Secretary and other applicable law—

14 (i) existing flood control facilities,  
15 electric utility facilities (including electric  
16 transmission facilities and electric distribu-  
17 tion facilities), pipeline facilities, tele-  
18 communications facilities, and seismic  
19 monitoring facilities and other water infra-  
20 structure, including wildlife water develop-  
21 ments or water district facilities, may be  
22 expanded within the Monument; and

23 (ii) new flood control facilities, electric  
24 utility facilities (including electric trans-  
25 mission facilities and electric distribution

1 facilities), pipeline facilities, and tele-  
2 communications facilities are permitted  
3 within the Monument.

4 (8) ACQUISITION OF VALID EXISTING  
5 RIGHTS.—The Secretary may acquire through ex-  
6 change, donation, or purchase from a willing seller  
7 valid mining claims or other valid existing rights  
8 within the Monument that the Secretary determines,  
9 after consultation with the Commission or a cul-  
10 turally affiliated Indian Tribe, threatens cultural re-  
11 sources within the Monument.

12 (9) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing  
13 rights, all Federal land located in the Monument is  
14 withdrawn from—

15 (A) all forms of entry, appropriation, and  
16 disposal under the public land laws;

17 (B) location, entry, and patent under the  
18 mining laws; and

19 (C) operation of the mineral leasing, min-  
20 eral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

21 (10) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act  
23 creates a protective perimeter or buffer zone  
24 around the Monument.

1 (B) ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE MONU-  
2 MENT.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—The fact that an  
4 activity or use on land outside the Monu-  
5 ment can be seen or heard within the  
6 Monument shall not preclude the activity  
7 or use outside the boundary of the Monu-  
8 ment.

9 (ii) DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AREAS.—  
10 The development and operation of renew-  
11 able energy facilities, related energy stor-  
12 age facilities, and associated infrastruc-  
13 ture, including electric utility facilities (in-  
14 cluding electric transmission facilities and  
15 electric distribution facilities), in Develop-  
16 ment Focus Areas near or adjacent to the  
17 Monument shall not be affected by the es-  
18 tablishment or management of the Monu-  
19 ment.

20 (C) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this  
21 section affects renewable energy development  
22 (including related energy storage or electric  
23 utility facilities, including electric transmission  
24 facilities and electric distribution facilities) on  
25 any land near or adjacent to the Monument.

1           (11) MILITARY ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this  
2 Act precludes—

3           (A) low-level overflights of military aircraft  
4 over the Monument;

5           (B) the landing and takeoff of military air-  
6 craft in designated landing zones in accordance  
7 with all aviation safety regulations;

8           (C) the designation of new units of special  
9 airspace over the Monument;

10          (D) the use or establishment of military  
11 flight training routes over the Monument; or

12          (E) the use of Federal land within the  
13 Monument for off-road or off-trail training pur-  
14 suant to agreements between the Secretary and  
15 the Secretary of Defense.

16          (12) TREATY RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act al-  
17 ters, modifies, enlarges, diminishes, or abrogates the  
18 treaty rights of any Indian Tribe, including off-res-  
19 ervation reserved rights.

20          (13) JURISDICTION OVER FISH AND WILD-  
21 LIFE.—

22           (A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section  
23 diminishes the jurisdiction of the State with re-  
24 spect to fish and wildlife management, includ-

1 ing the regulation of fishing and hunting within  
2 the Monument.

3 (B) LIMITATIONS.—

4 (i) REGULATIONS.—Subject to clause  
5 (ii), the Secretary may designate by regu-  
6 lation areas in which, and establish periods  
7 during which, for reasons of public safety,  
8 administration, or compliance with applica-  
9 ble laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping  
10 will be permitted in the Monument.

11 (ii) CONSULTATION.—Except in emer-  
12 gencies, the Secretary shall consult with  
13 the appropriate State agency before pro-  
14 mulgating regulations under clause (i) that  
15 close a portion of the Monument to hunt-  
16 ing, fishing, or trapping.

17 (C) FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
18 ACTIVITIES.—Management activities (including  
19 the use of motorized vehicles by appropriate  
20 State agencies, subject to applicable laws (in-  
21 cluding regulations) to maintain, enhance, or  
22 restore fish and wildlife populations and the  
23 habitats to support fish and wildlife populations  
24 may be carried out within the Monument.

1           (14) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT  
2 PROJECTS.—In accordance with applicable law (in-  
3 cluding regulations), the Secretary may authorize  
4 structures and facilities, including maintenance of  
5 existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water  
6 development projects, including guzzlers, in the  
7 Monument, if—

8           (A) the structures and facilities are nec-  
9 essary to fulfill the purpose described in sub-  
10 section (b);

11           (B) the structures and facilities would, as  
12 determined by the Secretary, promote healthy,  
13 viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife  
14 populations; and

15           (C) the visual impacts of the structures  
16 and facilities on the Monument can reasonably  
17 be minimized.

18           (15) MAP; LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

19           (A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable  
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
21 retary shall submit to the Committee on Energy  
22 and Natural Resources of the Senate and the  
23 Committee on Natural Resources of the House  
24 of Representatives a map and legal description  
25 of the Monument.

1 (B) CORRECTIONS.—The map and legal  
2 description submitted under subparagraph (A)  
3 shall have the same force and effect as if in-  
4 cluded in this Act, except that the Secretary  
5 may correct any clerical or typographical errors  
6 in the legal description and the map, including  
7 to ensure that there is no overlap between the  
8 Monument and Development Focus Areas.

9 (C) CONFLICT BETWEEN MAP AND LEGAL  
10 DESCRIPTION.—In the case of a conflict be-  
11 tween the map and the legal description sub-  
12 mitted under subparagraph (A), the map shall  
13 control.

14 (D) AVAILABILITY OF MAP AND LEGAL DE-  
15 SCRIPTION.—Copies of the map and legal de-  
16 scription submitted under subparagraph (A)  
17 shall be on file and available for public inspec-  
18 tion in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of  
19 Land Management.

20 (16) NEW RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Nothing in this  
21 Act prevents the Secretary from approving new  
22 rights-of-way within the Monument that the Sec-  
23 retary determines, in consultation with applicable  
24 State and local agencies and culturally affiliated In-  
25 dian Tribes, are consistent with—

- 1 (A) this Act;
- 2 (B) applicable laws (including regulations);
- 3 (C) the Desert Renewable Energy Con-
- 4 servation Area Plan;
- 5 (D) the purpose described in subsection
- 6 (b);
- 7 (E) the management plan; and
- 8 (F) the care and proper management of
- 9 objects of historical and scientific interest with-
- 10 in the Monument.

11 (17) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years

13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

14 retary shall develop a comprehensive plan for

15 the long-term management of the Monument.

16 (B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Sec-

17 retary shall—

18 (i) in developing the management

19 plan, consult with—

20 (I) culturally affiliated Indian

21 Tribes;

22 (II) appropriate State and local

23 governmental entities;

24 (III) the Advisory Council;

25 (IV) members of the public; and



1 (V) affected renewable energy de-  
2 velopers and local electric utility com-  
3 panies; and

4 (ii) in making management decisions  
5 relating to the Monument, consult with  
6 culturally affiliated Indian Tribes.

7 (C) REQUIREMENTS.—The management  
8 plan—

9 (i) shall—

10 (I) assess opportunities to im-  
11 prove recreational opportunities with-  
12 in, and access to, the Monument in a  
13 manner that—

14 (aa) conserves, protects, and  
15 enhances resources of the Monu-  
16 ment resources; and

17 (bb) furthers the purpose  
18 described in subsection (b);

19 (II) incorporate traditional eco-  
20 logical knowledge; and

21 (III) identify opportunities to in-  
22 terpret Monument resources for mem-  
23 bers of the public; and

24 (ii) shall not—

1 (I) impact renewable energy  
2 projects in Development Focus Areas  
3 near or adjacent to the Monument; or  
4 (II) interfere with the develop-  
5 ment of renewable energy (including  
6 related energy storage facilities or  
7 electric utility facilities, including elec-  
8 tric transmission facilities and electric  
9 distribution facilities) or colocated  
10 telecommunications facilities on land  
11 near or adjacent to the Monument.

12 (D) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT  
13 PLAN.—For the purposes of protecting and re-  
14 storing objects of historical and scientific inter-  
15 est within the Monument, as part of the man-  
16 agement plan, the Secretary shall include a  
17 transportation plan that—

18 (i) designates the routes and trails on  
19 which motorized vehicle use and non-  
20 motorized mechanized vehicle use will be  
21 allowed within the Monument;

22 (ii) provides that—

23 (I) except as provided in sub-  
24 clause (II) or for emergency or au-  
25 thorized administrative purposes, in-

1 including appropriate wildlife manage-  
2 ment, motorized vehicle use in the  
3 Monument shall be permitted only on  
4 routes and trails existing as of the  
5 date of enactment of this Act;

6 (II) notwithstanding subclause  
7 (I), the Secretary may designate addi-  
8 tional routes or trails for motorized  
9 vehicle use in the Monument after the  
10 date of enactment of this Act for the  
11 purposes of public safety needs, access  
12 to existing or new electric utility fa-  
13 cilities or infrastructure, or protection  
14 of objects of historical and scientific  
15 interest within the Monument; and

16 (III) the Secretary shall monitor  
17 motorized and non-motorized vehicle  
18 use and designated roads and trails to  
19 ensure proper care and management  
20 of objects of historical and scientific  
21 interest within the Monument.

22 (E) INCORPORATION OF PLANS.—In devel-  
23 oping the management plan, to the extent con-  
24 sistent with this section, the Secretary may in-

1 corporate any provision of an applicable land  
2 and resource management plan.

3 (F) EFFECT.—If there is a conflict be-  
4 tween this section and the Desert Renewable  
5 Energy Conservation Area Plan, the more re-  
6 strictive provision shall control.

7 (18) WILDFIRE.—In accordance with this Act  
8 and applicable law (including regulations), the Sec-  
9 retary may take any measures within the Monument  
10 that the Secretary determines to be necessary to  
11 control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the  
12 Secretary determines to be appropriate, the coordi-  
13 nation of the activities with a State or local agency.

14 (19) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND  
15 INTERESTS.—Any land or interest in land within the  
16 boundary of the Monument that is acquired by the  
17 United States after the date of enactment of this  
18 Act shall—

19 (A) become part of the Monument;

20 (B) be withdrawn in accordance with para-  
21 graph (9); and

22 (C) be managed in accordance with—

23 (i) the Federal Land Policy and Man-  
24 agement Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et  
25 seq.);

- 1 (ii) this section; and  
2 (iii) any other applicable law (includ-  
3 ing regulations).

4 **SEC. 5. CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT TRIBAL COM-**  
5 **MISSION.**

6 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
8 tablish a commission, to be known as the “Chuckwalla Na-  
9 tional Monument Tribal Commission”.

10 (b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

11 (1) **MAKEUP.**—The Commission shall include a  
12 representative from each culturally affiliated Indian  
13 Tribe.

14 (2) **PROCESS.**—The Secretary shall conduct  
15 government-to-government consultation with each  
16 culturally affiliated Indian Tribe to determine the  
17 membership of the Commission.

18 (c) **DUTIES.**—

19 (1) **DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**—The Com-  
20 mission shall inform, and provide input to, the devel-  
21 opment and implementation of the management  
22 plan.

23 (2) **DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**—The Sec-  
24 retary shall—

25 (A) consult with the Commission on—

1 (i) the development of the manage-  
2 ment plan; and

3 (ii) providing guidance and rec-  
4 ommendations to the Secretary on manage-  
5 ment decisions relating to the Monument;

6 (B) ensure that the management plan sets  
7 forth parameters for the continued meaningful  
8 engagement by the Commission in the imple-  
9 mentation of the management plan; and

10 (C) incorporate into the management  
11 plan—

12 (i) the traditional and historical  
13 knowledge and special expertise of the  
14 Commission;

15 (ii) public education and interpreta-  
16 tion for traditional place names and the  
17 cultural significance of land within the  
18 Monument, as the Secretary and the Com-  
19 mission determine to be appropriate; and

20 (iii) address funding, capacity build-  
21 ing, and infrastructure for culturally affili-  
22 ated Indian Tribes.

23 (d) PROCEDURES.—The Commission shall establish  
24 any rules and procedures for the Commission that the  
25 Commission determines to be necessary.

1 **SEC. 6. CHUCKWALLA NATIONAL MONUMENT ADVISORY**  
2 **COUNCIL.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
5 tablish an advisory council, to be known as the  
6 “Chuckwalla National Monument Advisory Council”.

7 (b) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall advise the  
8 Secretary with respect to the development of the manage-  
9 ment plan.

10 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Advisory Council shall  
11 be subject to—

12 (1) chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code  
13 (commonly known as the “Federal Advisory Com-  
14 mittee Act”);

15 (2) the Federal Land Policy and Management  
16 Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

17 (3) any other applicable laws.

18 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Council shall con-  
19 sist of 19 members, to be appointed by the Secretary, of  
20 whom, to the extent practicable—

21 (1) 1 member shall be appointed after consid-  
22 ering the recommendations of the Riverside County  
23 Board of Supervisors;

24 (2) 1 member shall be appointed after consid-  
25 ering the recommendations of the Imperial County  
26 Board of Supervisors;

1           (3) 1 member shall be appointed after consid-  
2           ering the recommendations of the Secretary for Nat-  
3           ural Resources of the State;

4           (4) 1 member shall be appointed to represent  
5           the Department of Defense; and

6           (5) 8 members shall—

7           (A) reside in, or within reasonable prox-  
8           imity to, Riverside or Imperial County in the  
9           State; and

10          (B) have backgrounds that reflect—

11           (i) the purpose described in section  
12           4(b); and

13           (ii) the interests of persons affected  
14           by the planning and management of the  
15           Monument, including representatives of—

16           (I) the renewable energy indus-  
17           try;

18           (II) electric utilities;

19           (III) private land owners;

20           (IV) nongovernmental organiza-  
21           tions managing land for conservation  
22           purposes; and

23           (V) environmental, recreational,  
24           tourism, or other non-Federal land in-  
25           terests.



1 (e) REPRESENTATION.—The Secretary shall ensure  
2 that the membership of the Advisory Council is fairly bal-  
3 anced in terms of—

4 (1) the points of view represented by the Advi-  
5 sory Council; and

6 (2) the functions to be performed by the Advi-  
7 sory Council.

8 (f) TERMS.—

9 (1) STAGGERED TERMS.—A member of the Ad-  
10 visory Council shall be appointed for a term of 3  
11 years, except that, of the members first appointed—

12 (A) 5 shall be appointed for a term of 1  
13 year; and

14 (B) 5 shall be appointed for a term of 2  
15 years.

16 (2) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member may be re-  
17 appointed to serve on the Advisory Council on the  
18 expiration of the term of the member.

19 (3) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Advisory  
20 Council shall be filled in the same manner in which  
21 the original appointment was made.

22 (g) QUORUM.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—8 members of the Advisory  
24 Council shall constitute a quorum.

1           (2) NO EFFECT ON OPERATIONS.—The oper-  
2           ations of the Advisory Council shall not be impaired  
3           by the fact that a member has not yet been ap-  
4           pointed if a quorum has been attained under para-  
5           graph (1).

6           (h) CHAIRPERSON AND PROCEDURES.—The Advisory  
7           Council shall—

8           (1) elect a chairperson from among the mem-  
9           bers of the Advisory Council; and

10          (2) establish any rules and procedures for the  
11          Advisory Council that the Advisory Council deter-  
12          mines to be necessary.

13          (i) NO COMPENSATION.—A member of the Advisory  
14          Council shall serve without pay.

15          (j) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Council shall ter-  
16          minate on—

17          (1) the date on which the management plan is  
18          officially adopted by the Secretary; or

19          (2) such later date as the Secretary determines  
20          to be appropriate.

21 **SEC. 7. ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY AND CULTURAL RE-**  
22 **SOURCES SURVEY.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
24          date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary—

1           (1) after consultation with the culturally affili-  
2           ated Indian Tribes, shall conduct, or enter into a  
3           contract with a third party to conduct, an ethno-  
4           graphic study of land within the Monument and  
5           public land adjacent to the Monument that is not  
6           within a Development Focus Area to assess the im-  
7           portance of the land studied to the culturally affili-  
8           ated Indian Tribes and the religious, spiritual, and  
9           cultural practices of the culturally affiliated Indian  
10          Tribes; and

11          (2) after consultation with the culturally affili-  
12          ated Indian Tribes and a review of any applicable  
13          data, studies, and reports in the possession of the  
14          culturally affiliated Indian Tribes, shall conduct, or  
15          enter into a contract with a third party to conduct,  
16          a cultural resources survey of the land within the  
17          Monument and public land adjacent to the Monu-  
18          ment that is not within a Development Focus Area  
19          to identify specific sites that contain cultural, reli-  
20          gious, spiritual, and archaeological resources of im-  
21          portance to the culturally affiliated Indian Tribes.

22          (b) PARTICIPATION OF CULTURALLY AFFILIATED IN-  
23          DIAN TRIBES.—In conducting an ethnographic study or  
24          cultural resources survey under subsection (a), the Sec-  
25          retary shall coordinate with, and provide for the participa-

1 tion of, each culturally affiliated Indian Tribe, including  
2 through the conduct of interviews with members of each  
3 culturally affiliated Indian Tribe.

4 (c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The Native American Graves  
5 Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.)  
6 shall apply to burial sites identified under subsection (a).

7 (d) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS TO CULTURALLY AF-  
8 FILLATED INDIAN TRIBES.—Not later than 1 year after  
9 the date on which the ethnographic study and the cultural  
10 resources survey are completed under subsection (a), the  
11 Secretary shall submit to culturally affiliated Indian  
12 Tribes the results of the ethnographic study and the cul-  
13 tural resources survey for review and comment.

14 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
15 on which the ethnographic study and the cultural re-  
16 sources survey are completed under subsection (a), the  
17 Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of  
18 Congress a report describing the results of the ethno-  
19 graphic study and the cultural resources survey completed  
20 under that subsection.

21 (f) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
23 graph (2), information relating to the nature and  
24 specific location of a cultural resource located on  
25 land adjacent to the Monument that is obtained

1 from an ethnographic study or cultural resources  
2 survey conducted under subsection (a) shall be ex-  
3 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5,  
4 United States Code (commonly known as the “Free-  
5 dom of Information Act”) and any other applicable  
6 law.

7 (2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph  
8 (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the culturally  
9 affiliated Indian Tribes, may disclose information  
10 described in that paragraph if the Secretary deter-  
11 mines that the disclosure—

12 (A) would—

13 (i) further the protection of the cul-  
14 tural resource; and

15 (ii) be in accordance with other appli-  
16 cable laws; and

17 (B) would not create a risk of harm to, or  
18 theft or destruction of, the cultural resource or  
19 the site at which the cultural resource is lo-  
20 cated.

21 (g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section, in-  
22 cluding the ethnographic study or the cultural resources  
23 survey conducted under subsection (a), affects—

24 (1) the development of renewable energy  
25 projects in a Development Focus Area;

1           (2) any requirements for that development that  
2           may be imposed based on the findings of any study  
3           required under other law prior to that development;

4           (3) existing requirements for that development  
5           under section 306108 of title 54, United States  
6           Code (formerly section 106 of the National Historic  
7           Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f)) or any other ap-  
8           plicable law; or

9           (4) any existing responsibility of the Bureau of  
10          Land Management or any renewable energy com-  
11          pany to conduct ethnographic studies prior to devel-  
12          opment in a Development Focus Area.

13 **SEC. 8. EXPANSION OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK.**

14          Section 402 of the California Desert Protection Act  
15          of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa–22) is amended, in the first  
16          sentence, by inserting after “October 1991 or prior,” the  
17          following: “and including the approximately 17,842 acres  
18          of land depicted on the map entitled ‘Proposed Chuckwalla  
19          National Monument and Joshua Tree National Park Ex-  
20          pansion’ and dated April 12, 2024,”.

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