

# HISTORY OF EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE GRAND CANYON



Congress establishes Grand Canyon National Park.

**February 26, 1919**

In the 110th Congress, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) introduces the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2008 (H.R. 5583) to withdraw approximately one million acres near the Grand Canyon from mineral exploration.

**March 17, 2008**

1919

2008

The Southern Nevada Water Authority sends a letter to Interior Secretary Kempthorne expressing concerns about uranium mining around the Grand Canyon.

**June 16, 2008**

Rep. Grijalva holds a field hearing at the Grand Canyon on "Community Impacts of Proposed Uranium Mining near Grand Canyon National Park."

**March 28, 2008**

The House Committee on Natural Resources votes in favor of a resolution requiring the Interior Secretary to withdraw public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining.

**June 25, 2008**

In the 111th Congress, Rep. Grijalva introduces the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009 (H.R. 644) to withdraw approximately one million acres near the Grand Canyon from mining.

**January 22, 2009**

2009

Rep. Grijalva sends a letter to President Obama calling upon the administration to protect the Grand Canyon from future mining.

**August 12, 2009**

Interior Secretary Salazar visits the Grand Canyon and announces a two-year "time-out" from new mining in watersheds surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

**July 20, 2009**

President Obama and family visit the Grand Canyon.

**August 14, 2009**

The U.S. Geological Survey releases a report detailing the potential effects of uranium mining in the Grand Canyon region.

**February 18, 2010**

2010

In the 112th Congress, Rep. Grijalva introduces the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2011 (H.R. 855) to withdraw approximately one million acres near the Grand Canyon from mining.

**March 1, 2011**

Rep. Grijalva holds a field hearing at the Grand Canyon entitled "On the Edge: Challenges Facing Grand Canyon National Park."

**April 8, 2010**

2011

Interior Secretary Salazar issues a 20-year moratorium on new mining claims for approximately one million acres of public land surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.

**January 9, 2012**

In the 113th Congress, Rep. Grijalva introduces the Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2013 (H.R. 1350) to withdraw ~one million acres near the Grand Canyon mining.

**March 21, 2013**

2012

2013

In the 115th Congress, Rep. Grijalva reintroduces the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act (H.R. 360), which would establish a national monument and make permanent the 20-year ban on new uranium claims.

**January 6, 2017**

In the 114th Congress, Rep. Grijalva introduces the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act (H.R. 3882), which would establish a national monument and make permanent the 20-year ban on new uranium claims.

**October 12, 2015**

2017

2015

**Nov. 1,  
2017**

Under the Trump administration, the U.S. Forest Service takes the first step to lift the Grand Canyon uranium ban, following an executive order recommending revision of the Grand Canyon mineral withdrawal.

On the Centennial anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park, Rep. Grijalva introduces the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act (H.R. 1373) in the 116th Congress to permanently withdraw one million acres of public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon from new mining claims.

**February 26, 2019**

2019

In the 117th Congress, Rep. Grijalva introduces the Grand Canyon Protection Act (H.R. 1052) to permanently protect the Grand Canyon from new uranium mining.

**February 15, 2021**

2021

**February 26, 2021**

The Grand Canyon Protection Act passes the House as part of H.R. 803, Protecting America's Wilderness Act, on a bipartisan vote.

The Grand Canyon Protection Act passes the House for the second time on a bipartisan vote.

**September 21, 2021**

The Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition calls on President Biden to designate the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument

**April 11, 2023**

The Grand Canyon Protection Act passes the House for the third time on yet another bipartisan vote.

**July 14, 2022**

2023

2022

In support of Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition monument request, Reps. Grijalva and Gallego introduce Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument Act (H.R. 4580).

**July 12, 2023**



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