

Great Bend of the Gila National Monument Establishment Act

Section-by-Section

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Establishment of National Monument. Establishes the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument, subject to valid and existing rights, for the purpose of protection and restoration of cultural, historical, archeological, and natural resources for present and future generations. The National Monument consists of approximately 376,963 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona.

Sec. 4. Management of National Monument. Directs the Secretary to manage the National Monument, in consultation with the Tribal Commission, as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of resources and the preservation and protection of sacred sites and traditional cultural properties. Furthermore, this section requires the Secretary, in consultation with applicable parties, to develop a comprehensive land management plan describing appropriate uses and management within the National Monument. In addition, this section includes stipulations on the inclusion of tribal expertise and traditional ecological knowledge, motorized and mechanized vehicles, 638 contracts with associated tribes, approval of funding agreements, and temporary closures for cultural activities by associated tribes.

Sec. 5. Administrative Provisions. Permanently withdraws the lands located within the National Monument boundaries from mineral extraction and authorizes the Secretary to acquire land within the boundaries of the National Monument, such lands will be incorporated into the National Monument and managed in accordance with this Act and any other applicable laws. In addition, if the Secretary determines that the lands withdrawn by Public Land Order 1015 and utilized by the Arizona Fish and Game Commission are no longer necessary for the purposes for which they were withdrawn, such lands will become part of the National Monument and managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Furthermore, this section clarifies that this Act will not affect existing grazing leases or permits; State jurisdiction over the management of fish and wildlife; any water rights; military overflights; utility and transmission facilities; adjacent management activities or uses outside of the boundary of the National Monument; or alter or diminish treaty rights of any tribe or the hunting, fishing, and gathering rights of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Sec. 6. Tribal Commission. Directs the Secretary to establish a Tribal Commission to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of the management plan for and policies of the National Monument. The Tribal Commission will consist of one representative from each of the interested tribes. Clarifies that the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the Tribal Commission.