

On April 11, 2023, tribal leaders of the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, joined by Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Senator Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.), launched an effort to call on President Joe Biden to use his authorities under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate the **Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument**. The proposal builds on the tribes' longstanding effort to permanently protect the region. Baaj Nwaavjo means "where tribes roam" for the Havasupai Tribe, and I'tah Kukveni means "our footprints" for the Hopi Tribe.

The proposed Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument would include 1,102,501 acres adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park. The national monument designation would honor the tribes' deep cultural ties to the Grand Canyon and protect the area by making the temporary 20-year mining moratorium permanent, while also enhancing the cultural, natural, recreational, and scientific resources of the region.

### WHY DO WE NEED TO PROTECT THIS AREA?

Uranium mining is a major threat to the Grand Canyon region. Past mining, processing, and transport of uranium in the area has already left a toxic legacy of health, safety, and environmental damage to tribes and other local communities in northern Arizona. Any new mining will put these communities and the area's unique resources at risk.

- **It is the ancestral homeland of multiple tribes.** The Grand Canyon region has been inhabited and visited by Native American tribes since time immemorial. Many natural and cultural resources that are significant and sacred to tribes remain in the area.
- **It is critical to the West's scarce water resources.** The Grand Canyon region is a significant watershed for the Colorado River, which provides water to 40 million Americans. Climate change and multi-decade drought have already caused these water resources to reach perilously low levels.
- **It is home to abundant biodiversity and unique ecology.** The Grand Canyon region provides important habitat for rare and endangered species, like the California condor. It is also a critical refuge and migratory corridor for hundreds of bird species and mammals.
- **It has unique proximity to Grand Canyon National Park.** An estimated 5.9 million people from around the world visit Grand Canyon National Park each year, making tourism, recreation, hunting, and angling essential to the region's economy.

In addition to the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition, which continues to grow, the national monument designation is supported by Grand Canyon Trust, The Wilderness Society, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthjustice, The Conservation Alliance, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter, National Parks Conservation Association, Pew Charitable Trust, Trout Unlimited, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Chispa Arizona, Hispanics Enjoying, Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors (HECHO), and more. [Two out of three Arizonans \(67 percent\) across the political spectrum support a permanent ban on uranium mining around the Grand Canyon.](#)

### THE GRAND CANYON TRIBAL COALITION INCLUDES:

LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HAVASUPAI TRIBE, HOPI TRIBE, HUALAPAI TRIBE, KAIBAB PAIUTE TRIBE, LAS VEGAS BAND OF PAIUTE TRIBE, MOAPA BAND OF PAIUTES, PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH, NAVAJO NATION, SAN JUAN SOUTHERN PAIUTE TRIBE, YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION, PUEBLO OF ZUNI, AND THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES