



MEDIA STATEMENT

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CONTACT: Gwen Lachelt | Executive Director
gwen@westernleaders.org | 505-469-0380

President Biden designates the nation's newest national monuments in Nevada and Texas

Washington, DC – President Biden signed a proclamation designating the nation's newest national monuments in today's Department of the Interior ceremony. The designation of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in southern Nevada is a significant victory for regional tribes, communities, wildlife, and all Americans who benefit from and enjoy our nation's public lands. The President's action will safeguard countless cultural sites, desert habitats, and natural resources in southern Nevada. Avi Kwa Ame, or "Spirit Mountain," is a peak sacred to the Fort Mojave Tribe, and the area is the ancestral homeland of ten Yuman-speaking tribes and the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. This new federal protection honors cultural heritage, protects rare and threatened wildlife species, and helps combat climate change by preserving public lands. Mr. Biden also designated the Castner Range National Monument in Texas, protecting hundreds of desert plant species and other wildlife.

"My hat is off to the tribes, elected officials, local governments, state legislatures, conservation groups, and other stakeholders who worked tirelessly for decades to make these national monuments a reality. On behalf of our 450 local, tribal and state elected officials, Western Leaders Network thanks President Biden for his leadership in protecting Avi Kwa Ame and the Castner Range for current and future generations through the Antiquities Act."

- **Gwen Lachelt, Executive Director, Western Leaders Network**

*Western Leaders Network is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization.
WLN harnesses the power of local, tribal and state elected officials to
advance conservation initiatives, address the climate crisis, and protect democracy.*