

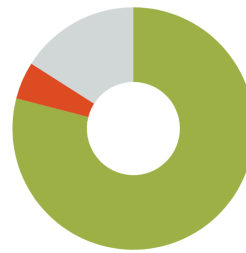
Our nation’s federal public lands system of national parks, national monuments, national forests, historic landmarks, rivers, coasts, and marine protected areas are a part of our shared heritage.

Latino communities utilize these public spaces as places to reconnect with nature, culture, history, identity, and connect as communities. We must work to ensure that Latino people see themselves represented in the histories and places protected, as well as have access to the recreational and economic benefits.

Latino Support Wildlife Protections

Our nation’s public lands, rivers, forest, and ocean are home to ecosystems unlike anywhere else in the world. Our communities benefit from the ecosystem services of well balanced and protected natural landscapes.

Latino communities understand the need to protect our wildlife, public lands, ocean and endangered species.



79% of Latinos believe it is extremely or very important to protect our nation's wildlife, public lands, and endangered species.

■ Extremely or very important.
 ■ Not that or not at all important.
 ■ Don't know.

2015 Earthjustice & GreenLatinos Latino Decision Poll

Improving Access to the Outdoors

Multiple barriers exist preventing Latino communities from enjoying the benefits of our public lands system and coast lines. For example, Latino people disproportionately live in areas that offer fewer park acres per person. Other barriers include access to transportation, cost of entry, cost of equipment, and unwelcoming social interactions.

We must continue to advance efforts that improve community access, including but not limited to:

- Designate local, state, and federal public lands and marine protected areas in or near urban communities.
- Improve public transportation options to local, state, and federal public lands.
- Increase number public lands sites with free or low-cost entry.



CASTNER RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The proposed Castner Range National Monument brings protected wide open spaces closer to the growing city of El Paso, home to one of the nation's oldest and largest Latino populations. Congress and the Biden administration have an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to more equitable access to nature for all by declaring this 7,000 acre swath of Chihuahuan desert a national monument.

Caster has all the hallmarks of a 21st Century conservation movement centered on justice and equity.

GILA RIVER - WILD & SCENIC RIVER

The Gila River is the life-blood of Southwest New Mexico: the last free-flowing river that contains an abundance and diversity of fish and wildlife unparalleled anywhere in the region. The Gila has been the backdrop for memories and adventures to so many of the traditional Hispano and Latino families in the area.

We support the community request to designate Gila & San Francisco Rivers and tributaries as Wild and Scenic.

TRANSIT TO TRAILS ACT

The Transit to Trails Act establishes a grant program under the Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide opportunities for critically underserved communities with direct access to visit parks, public lands and waters, and green spaces through public transit options.

We endorse this legislation.

AMERICA'S RED ROCK WILDERNESS ACT

America's Red Rock Wilderness Act would protect iconic western landscapes with evocative names like Cedar Mesa, the Escalante Canyons, and the Kaiparowits Plateau. This visionary legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives since 1989 and now has the opportunity to take the needed steps forward.

We support this legislation.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS & PUBLIC LANDS ACT

These landscapes connect communities with public lands, ensure clean and safe drinking water and promote the outdoor recreation economy. As a package, enacting the bills will also advance the goal of conserving 30 percent of the nation's land and waters by 2030

We endorse this legislation.