



# Foundation Document Overview

## Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Arizona



### Contact Information

For more information about the *Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Foundation Document*, contact: [para\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:para_superintendent@nps.gov) or 435-688-3226 or write to: Superintendent, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790

## Purpose



*At GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service cooperatively protect undeveloped, wild, and remote northwestern Arizona landscapes and their resources, while providing opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, scientific research, and historic and traditional uses.*



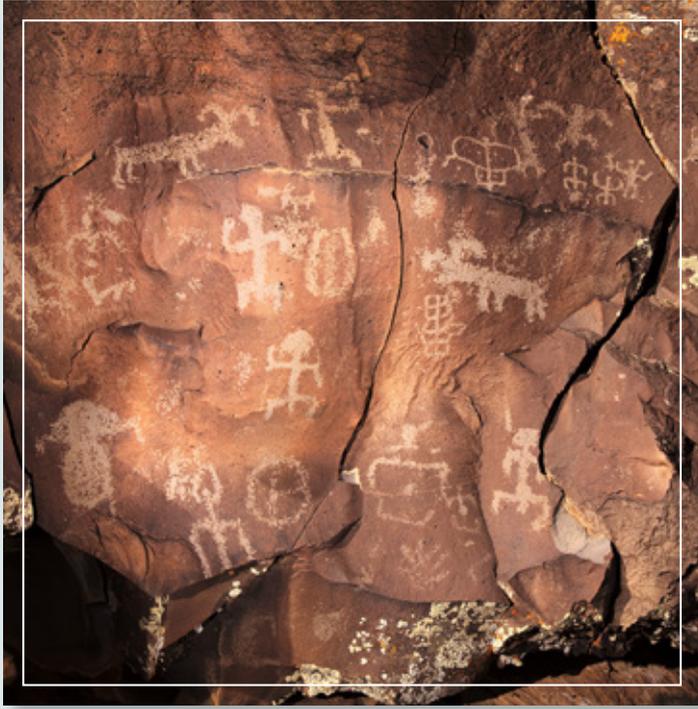
## Significance

Significance statements express why Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a national monument. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the monument and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in planning and management for the monument.

- Spanning 320 million years, the exposed rock layers at Parashant National Monument provide a distinctly identifiable view of the geologic boundaries of the Colorado Plateau and Basin and Range regions, including evidence of the interaction between volcanic processes and native cultural communities. The extensive natural history reveals a robust fossil record and preserves museum-quality marine and ice age fossils.
- Encompassing more than 1 million acres, a dramatic elevational gradient from 1,200 to 8,000 feet, and transitional zones of the Sonoran, Mojave, Great Basin, and Colorado Plateau ecoregions, Parashant National Monument protects a biologically rich system of plant and animal life.
- Parashant National Monument is one of the most rugged and remote landscapes remaining in the southwestern United States. The monument provides iconic western viewsheds in a setting known for its solitude, natural soundscapes, internationally recognized night skies, and wilderness values.



## Significance



- Parashant National Monument provides the opportunity to continue historic and traditional uses of the landscape, including ranching and hunting and American Indian practices. The monument also provides exemplary opportunities for diverse primitive recreation, including horseback riding, camping, internationally renowned mule deer trophy hunting, and more than 1,386 miles of off-highway vehicle routes.
- The large, contiguous, and undeveloped landmass of Parashant National Monument offers rare scientific opportunities for landscape-scale analysis of natural processes and related human influences.
- The abundant and unspoiled prehistoric resources of Parashant National Monument offer a unique laboratory for the study of human behavior and cultural interaction spanning at least 13,000 years.
- Parashant National Monument contains significant historic resources representative of the exploration and settling of the American West, including evidence of J. W. Powell's exploration of the Colorado River region, as well as homesteads, dairy farms, ranches, and logging and mining operations.

## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the monument and maintaining its significance.

- **Vast open undisturbed spaces**
- **Geological record**
- **Continuum of human use of the monument**
- **Ecological diversity**
- **Cooperative management of the monument**
- **Scientific research**

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the monument and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values”. These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the monument and warrant special consideration in park planning.

- **Rugged and remote recreation**
- **Soils**
- **Hydrology/springs/karst**



## Description

Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, a land area larger than the state of Rhode Island, epitomizes much of the “Wild West”—a vast, wild landscape of desert cactus and sheer canyon walls, soaring raptors and tall ponderosa pines, isolated cattle corrals and line shacks, lone cowboys, and rugged rock formations set against endless blue skies.

The monument is cooperatively managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service, as directed by presidential proclamation 7265 of January 11, 2000. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the NPS Organic Act both apply within the monument.

The monument is in Mohave County, Arizona, immediately north of Grand Canyon National Park and the Colorado River and east of the state of Nevada. Altogether, it encompasses 1,048,321 acres: 208,449 acres administered by the National Park Service; 812,581 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management; 23,206 acres administered by the Arizona State Trust; and 4,085 acres of private land. The federally administered lands lie within the Arizona Strip BLM District and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NPS), co-managed under a Service First agreement. These lands include the ponderosa pine forested areas of Mt. Trumbull, Mt. Logan, and Mt. Dellenbaugh; the Mojave Desert in the Grand Wash and Pakoon areas; Kelly and Twin Points overlooking the Grand Canyon; and the Shivwits and Uinkaret Plateaus. Nearly 300,000 acres of the monument are designated or eligible for designation as wilderness areas. Approximately 791,017 acres are allotted and/or leased for livestock grazing, and more than 14,000 head of cattle roam monument lands.

With the Grand Canyon plunging thousands of feet deep along the south perimeter and only rough, unpaved roads providing entry from the north, west, and northeast, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument is one of the most remote areas within the 48 contiguous states. No towns or communities lie within its boundaries. The nearest towns (Littlefield, Beaver Dam, Scenic, Fredonia, Colorado City, and Centennial, Arizona; Mesquite and Bunkerville, Nevada; and St. George, Utah) are all more than an hour’s drive from the monument boundaries. Travel anywhere in the monument, except its outermost edges, requires slow driving over rough terrain, often in a high-clearance, four-wheel-drive or off-highway vehicle (OHV).

The name “Parashant” (pronounced “Pair-a-SHAUNT”) derives from a Southern Paiute Indian family name, spelled “Parashonts” in early pioneer-era translations. One of the monument’s large canyons draining into the Colorado River was named for this family. The new monument was named Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument to incorporate both the historical reference to the Southern Paiutes and a geographical reference to the Grand Canyon watershed included in the designation.

Today, most visitors and monument staff refer to the monument as “Parashant National Monument,” dropping the Grand Canyon reference to avoid confusion.

