



RESOLUTION NO. 2023-22

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CALLING ON PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN TO CREATE BAAJ NWAAVJO I'TAH
KUKVENI GRAND CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT IN NORTHERN ARIZONA**

WHEREAS, Grand Canyon area has been a special spiritual and cultural place for 11 North American Indigenous Tribes from time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, the Las Vegas Band of Paiute Indians, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians, the Navajo Nation, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Yavapai-Apache Nation all have ancient ties to the Grand Canyon and the lands and waters around it; and

WHEREAS, the origin stories of these tribes go back directly to the Grand Canyon and for millennia their people have utilized and continue to access these lands for ongoing cultural and religious practices; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon, which President Theodore Roosevelt declared a National Game Preserve in 1906 and a National Monument in 1908, and which Congress made an 800,000-acre National Park in 1919, is a special place for people around the world, who visit it in throngs annually; and

WHEREAS, Grand Canyon National Park is a significant economic asset for Arizona and the Southwest since it is one of the most visited parks in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Kaibab Plateau that surrounds Grand Canyon also contains numerous sites sacred to Native American tribes; and

WHEREAS, the springs and seeps of the Kaibab Plateau watershed that feed Colorado River flows through the Grand Canyon are essential water sources for a plethora of unique and sensitive plants and animals of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Kaibab Plateau is habitat for iconic wildlife such as mountain lions and mule deer as well as critical for endangered species such as the California condor and desert tortoise; and

WHEREAS, critical habitat connections between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah are in the Kaibab Plateau; and

WHEREAS, the viability of the Kaibab Plateau watershed is under threat from uranium mining, logging, and other resource-extractive industries; and

WHEREAS, 1,102,501 acres of National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands around Grand Canyon National Park deserve and need protection from these threats; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution 2008-09 opposing uranium development on lands in proximity of the Grand Canyon National Park by requesting the withdrawal from mining, mineral exploration, and mineral entry on all Federal Lands in the Tusayan Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the House Rock Valley in addition to State Trust Lands within the Cataract Creek Drainage; and

WHEREAS, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors adopted resolution 2019-08 supporting and urging the passage of legislation, the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act, to permanently prohibit future mining and other forms of withdrawal and appropriation of public lands in the Grand Canyon National Park and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Canyon affiliated tribes have formed the Grand Canyon Tribal Coalition for a national campaign urging President Joe Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate these watershed lands around Grand Canyon National Park as the Baaj Nwaanjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Coconino County Board of Supervisors hereby resolves that it supports the calls for President Joe Biden to designate more than 1 million acres of federal land around Grand Canyon National Park as the Baaj Nwaanjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of May, 2023.

AYES: 4
NOS: 0
ABSENT: 1

COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(SEAL)


Patrice Horstman, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Monique Coady, Deputy County Attorney

ATTEST:


Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board