

OP-EDS AND SPEECHES

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Antiquities Act Abuse Heads East

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OP-ED: Antiquities Act Abuse Heads East

By Rep. Rob Bishop

Some say cultural trends start on the West Coast and make their way East, but one trend moving eastward is bad news for New E

In my home state of Utah, the federal government owns 65 percent of the land. That is a problem. In the waning days of his adm Clinton compounded the problem by mandating the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. With virtually no local supp million acres of Utah, an area larger than some states.

This monument designation was an abuse of the Antiquities Act. Passed in 1906, the Antiquities Act was originally intended for prevent looting of archaeological sites. The executive power exercised under the Antiquities Act has grown far beyond the original

I'm not against national monuments. In fact, I'm trying to create a national monument in Utah but in the right way — legislativel The problem today is that the president can create monuments without any local input.

After the designation of the Grand Staircase Monument in Utah, the local economy took a major blow. Public education suffere idea that thousands of acres of Utah land, set aside to support schools, were locked up in the designation. Two decades later, that be fully resolved. Ranching families suffered as fewer livestock were allowed to graze on the monument land.

The same story threads throughout the West, most recently in February when President Obama — who has designated the national monument land and water of any U.S. president — designated three different national monuments in the California deser has his sights set on New England fisheries off the coast of Cape Cod.

Earlier this month I traveled to New Bedford, the highest-grossing commercial fishing port in our country. I spoke with local seaf potential marine monument designation off the coast. Such a designation would override the current public process of management and could be catastrophic to the 1.8 million-plus jobs that fishing creates.

Fishing leaders expressed concern over restricted access, potential job loss, and the damage to the local fishing industry that wou marine monument designation. Instead, they want a better public process created under the House-passed Magnusson-Steve renewal in the Senate.

