



The Frontera Land Alliance Resolution to Support Castner Range as a National Monument.

This Resolution would urge the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to designate the area known as "Castner Range" as the **Castner Range National Monument**. WHEREAS, Castner Range encompasses more than 11 square miles—7,081 acres exactly—and runs from the eastern boundary of the Franklin Mountains State Park to the western edge of the US 54 North-South Patriot Freeway and is surrounded on three sides by the City of El Paso;

WHEREAS, Castner Range is rich in biodiversity, open-air space and dozens of natural canyons, arroyos, and—in particular—alluvial fans which efficiently transport run-off from the Franklin Mountains' heights to the City-owned channels that lead to large retention ponds which effectively store the run-off;

WHEREAS, the greatest concentration of natural springs in the Franklin Mountains is on Castner Range, and some of the most geologically complex and visually striking parts of the Franklins are found there;

WHEREAS, Castner Range is rich in wildlife, including 62 bird species, 20 types of lizards (among them the Chihuahuan spotted whiptail) and 29 types of snakes (e.g., the endangered Texas lyre);

WHEREAS, Castner Range has a combination of unique natural native plant and animal habitats, spectacular scenery and rich cultural features unequaled anywhere else in the Franklins;

WHEREAS, Castner Range is home to 27 wildlife or plant species listed as "threatened or endangered" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the ferruginous hawk, the Texas horned lizard, the Franklin Mountains talus snail and the desert night-blooming cereus;

WHEREAS, As an active artillery range, Castner was a pivotal military training site from 1926-1966;

WHEREAS, As an active artillery range from 1926-1966, Castner played a pivotal historical role in preparing our soldiers for military service;

WHEREAS, Castner Range lies on TX Loop 375 and is thus easily reached by millions of individuals residing in or visiting the El Paso area and the U.S.-Mexico border region;

WHEREAS, Castner Range abuts the Franklin Mountains State Park and a designation would provide unique complementary educational and recreational opportunities and quality of life opportunities for Texans, for service members stationed at Fort Bliss, and other residents of southern New Mexico and northern Chihuahua;

WHEREAS, The Castner Range lands could provide unique recreational opportunities and quality of life opportunities for El Paso residents, service members stationed at Fort Bliss, and other residents of far west Texas, southern New Mexico and northern Chihuahua;

WHEREAS, El Paso benefits by fostering tourism, strengthening the outdoor recreation economy, and preserving the qualities that make this area a desirable location for families, retirees and businesses;

WHEREAS, the greater El Paso business community would benefit from a national monument designation as would nationally-recognized recreation and sports/athletic groups;

WHEREAS, A Castner Range National Monument would protect historic sites including petroglyphs and pictographs dating back 14,000 years to the Paleo-Indian, Archaic and historic Indian eras,

WHEREAS, A Castner Range National Monument recognizes a 21st Century conservation effort centered around justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion and protects frontline communities and other marginalized communities who disproportionately bear the brunt of climate impacts;

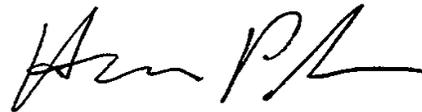
WHEREAS, the people and the governments of the El Paso area have repeatedly and consistently demonstrated their support for preservation of Castner Range as natural open space.

Now therefore be it resolved by the El Paso County Commissioners:

That the County Commissioners are proud to call for the establishment of a Castner Range National Monument in order to preserve one highly-important area within our region of environmental, historic, scientific, and scenic value for current and future generations, and that the County Commissioners requests that the President of United States use his authority under the 1906 Antiquities Act to establish a Castner Range National Monument.



Tina Crosby, President , March 16, 2021



Harrison Pluorde, Secretary, March 16, 2021