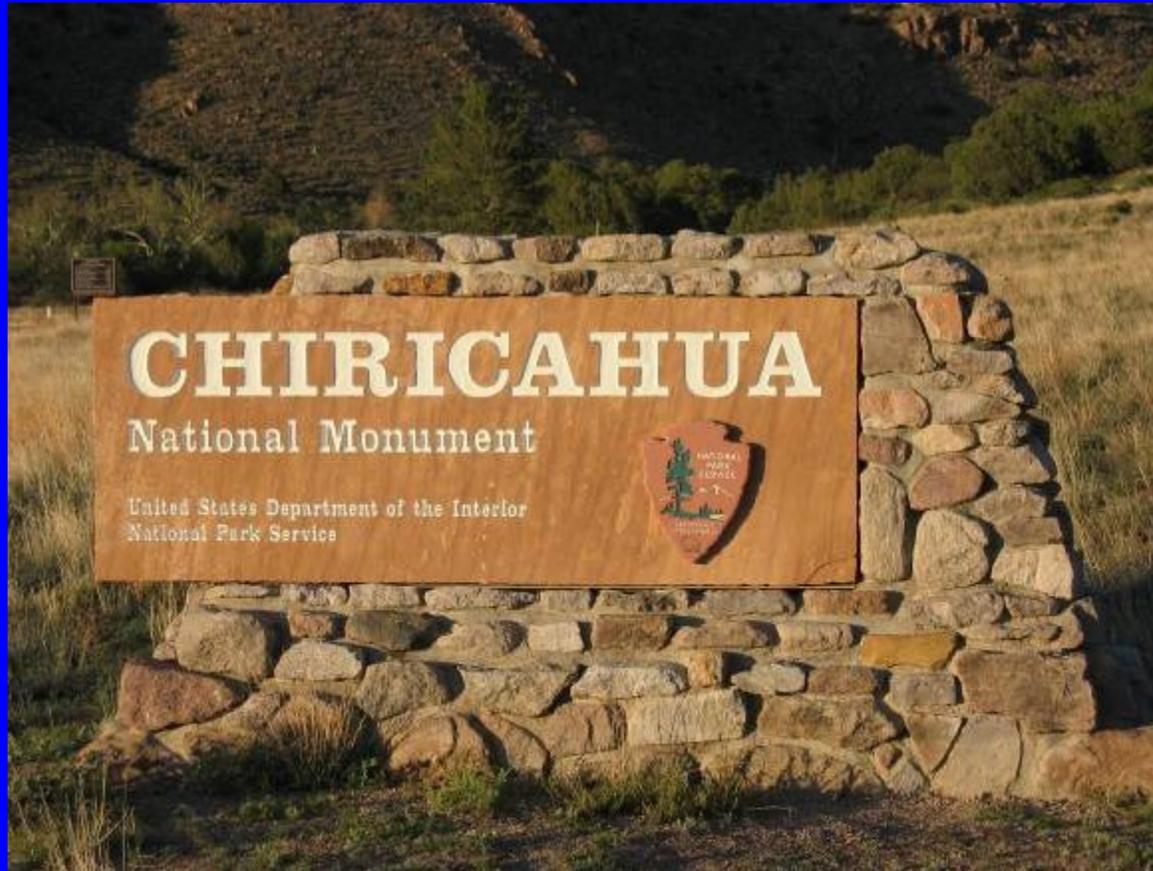


A New National Park?

June 9, 2015

Bob Gent, Lt Col, USAF, Ret.

Member, Sierra Vista Tourism Commission



Beautiful in the Night



And in the Day!



Historic Fire Lookout



Why Do this?

- **Chiricahua National Monument is a natural wonder of the world.**
- **It deserves National Park status**
- **No changes to boundary, use, staffing, or budget.**
- **Possible increase in visitors and tourism**
- **Other possible benefits to the region?**

How to do this?

- **National Monuments can be authorized by the US President – relatively easy.**
- **National Parks must be approved by the US Congress – more challenging.**
- **Need legislation enacted.**
- **Letter writing and contacting members of Congress is essential.**

Background

- **Grand Canyon, Saguaro, Grand Tetons, and many others started as National Monuments before gaining National Park status.**
- **Arizona Trail became Arizona National Scenic Trail through an act of Congress.**
- **It has been done before – let's make it happen!**

Support

- **On March 19, 2015, the Sierra Vista Tourism Commission unanimous support.**
- **SV Mayor and Council unanimous support on May 26**
- **Sierra Vista and other Chambers support it.**
- **Cochise County Tourism Council likes it.**



What Next?

- **Letters to Congresswoman McSally and Senators Flake and McCain**
- **Meetings with Congressional staffers**
- **Ask Silver City, NM and others for support**
- **Barrage of letters from Mayors, Commissions, Councils, and Chambers**



Recommendation

- **Board of Supervisors should send letters to Senators McCain and Flake and Congresswoman McSally**
- **Thank you!**