



MONUMENTAL SHIFT CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

JUNE 15TH, 2022

Washington, DC - Monumental SHIFT joins the movement of voices elevating the anniversary of The Antiquities Act signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906. The Coalition's marking of this anniversary kicks off a month long campaign calling on President Biden to protect Castner Range and Avi Kwa Ame, as well as educate their communities with a "conservation dictionary" series on the coalition's social media channels.

The Antiquities Act established the first national historic preservation policy for the United States. This Act gives the President the authority to define and establish historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States. Protected lands and sites would then become "national monuments" and federal agencies were assigned to manage, and oversee the preservation and conservation of these historic sites.

Monumental SHIFT continues to be one of the strongest leaders in the movement to conserve sacred lands, and uphold the importance of the Antiquities Act. Monumental SHIFT calls on the Biden-Harris administration to protect both Avi Kwa Ame and Castner Range, and on the conservation movement to be aware and inclusive of conservation leadership. We also call on the administration to shift land conservation and management to the original stewards of the land.

"The anniversary of the Antiquities Act of 1906 is a reminder of the work our ancestors took to ensure the survival of the ancestral lands and the people that see many sacred sites as their home. Lands like Castner Ranger and Avi Kwa Ame are in dire need of preservation. By committing today to protect these sites, we are protecting a magnitude of wildlife, plants, and habitats for our communities that may disappear otherwise." - José González

On this day and every day, Monumental SHIFT urges President Biden to use the Antiquities Act to its full potential and preserve lands of immense value to our communities, wildlife, and our survival.

Monumental SHIFT is a coalition rooted in racially and ethnically diverse leadership transforming the traditional creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of national monuments in the United States in order to better represent and honor lands and places sacred to the communities which we belong to.