



OFFICE OF THE  
**ARIZONA STATE TREASURER**

**KIMBERLY YEE**  
TREASURER



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CONTACT: [PIO@aztreasury.gov](mailto:PIO@aztreasury.gov)

(602) 542-7843

## **Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee as State Land Surveyor-General Joins Lawsuit Against the Biden Administration for Unlawful Land Grab**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** – Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee is suing the Biden Administration for violation of the Antiquities Act, with the creation of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni-Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

President Biden created the new monument last year, which comprises over 900,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land in Mohave County and Coconino County in Northern Arizona. In doing so, he isolated tens of thousands of acres of state trust lands, causing economic harm to the beneficiaries, primarily K-12 education in Arizona.

“We must protect the value of state trust lands for the future of Arizona. This unlawful land grab by the Biden Administration will directly affect Arizona's economy and the livelihoods of our citizens,” said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. “The Federal Government needs to compensate the permanent school fund for the tens of thousands of trust land parcels left economically isolated by the stroke of the pen by President Biden. This big hand of government will hurt our K-12 education beneficiaries the most.”

The monument designation prohibits further use and development of the BLM land which surrounds the state trust land, even though those lands are available for the mining of important natural resources, such as uranium, that financially benefit Arizona's state and local governments and schools.

The complaint, which was filed today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, demands judicial intervention to stop this unlawful land grab.

"The suit affirms that Congress passed the Antiquities Act to protect just that: antiquities. It did not pass the law to allow the Biden Administration to declare every inch of federal land a monument," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee.

Treasurer Yee joined the suit as she is responsible for the receipt and investment of all revenue from Arizona state trust land. Treasurer Yee also serves as the Surveyor-General for the selection of lands and a member of the State Land Selection Board, which assigns beneficiaries for all state trust lands and approves all annexations of state land. Treasurer Yee has joined the lawsuit alongside the Arizona State Legislature, Mohave County and the towns of Colorado City and Fredonia.

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