**Prevents Interior from protecting the monument and opens the door to mining and development**

* Gosar Amendment 63 would tie the hands of the Interior Department and prevent them from managing the lands within Ironwood Forest National Monument in Arizona to protect the objects the monument was designated to protect.
* Ironwood Forest National Monument is home to rare desert bighorn sheep, ironwoods nearly 800 years old, archaeological sites and rock art that are thousands of years old and many other resources found nowhere else. Gosar Amendment 63 risks these treasures by removing management protections for them.
* The amendment also goes further and potentially opens the door to mining and development, the ultimate goal for Rep. Gosar who has spent years opposing public lands protections nationwide.

**Part of agenda to sell out public lands to mining and drilling**

* Last year, Rep. Gosar led two letters calling for outright revoking monument designations for dozens of national monuments including Ironwood Forest National Monument.
* Rep. Gosar, was joined in his call to eliminate protections for Ironwood Forest National Monument by Asarco, a subsidiary of foreign mining company Grupo Mexico and other mining interests.
* This builds on Rep. Gosar’s years of anti-public land protection efforts including undermining the Antiquities Act, selling off or transferring public lands, and gutting regulations to protect taxpayers and public health on public lands.

**Against wishes of local stakeholders and public opinion**

* Removing protections for Ironwood Forest National Monument flies in the face of local and national public opinion.
  + Nearly 3 million comments were received by DOI during the monument “review” and over 99% opposed changes to any monument. Over 99% of comments mentioning Ironwood opposed changes including 93% of AZ residents.
  + Pima County Council passed a resolution of support for Ironwood Forest National Monument.
  + Organizations representing sportsmen, wildlife, conservation, archaeologists, local businesses, and others all support the monument.
* Rep. Gosar doesn’t represent the area and Rep. Grijalva who does, supports the monument unequivocally. Rep. McSally who’s district borders the area has been on record in support of national monuments in Arizona during the review with a [press release](https://mcsally.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/us-rep-mcsally-urges-secretary-interior-consider-importance-arizona-s) and [letter to the Secretary.](https://mcsally.house.gov/sites/mcsally.house.gov/files/Letter%20to%20Zinke%20-%20National%20Monument%20Designations.pdf)

**Bad deal for the public on public lands**

* If mining did move forward within the monument, it would be governed under the General Mining Act of 1872 which do not include any royalties for hardrock minerals extracted from federal lands owned by all Americans. This means the public would see no profits from development by a foreign mining company that jeopardizes a national treasure like Ironwood Forest National Monument.
* LWCF funds have been used for conservation acquisitions within the monument, this amendment would put those federal investments at risk, robbing the public.