Last week, The Mountain Pact went to Washington D.C. to meet with Western Senators, the USDA/Forest Service and the new Interior Department to discuss the importance of public lands to the well-being of our communities. Executive Director Diana Madson was joined by local elected officials from Bend, OR, Telluride, CO, Alta, UT, and Aspen, CO.

**The Messages We Brought to Washington:**

- **Implement the Outdoor REC Act** – Ensure a speedy completion of the Bureau of Economic Analysis study mandated by the Outdoor REC Act so that the contribution of...
the outdoor recreation economy can be officially recognized as the economic powerhouse that it is.

- **Protect the Antiquities Act** – Maintain the integrity of the Antiquities Act; keep all current monument boundaries and designations, and continue to protect and enhance the American public land system.

On Thursday, The Mountain Pact released a new report detailing the importance of conservation tools such as the Antiquities Act to the continued success of our mountain communities. This report discusses what might happen to our communities and public lands if the Antiquities Act were to be eroded through diminished protections of current national monuments. Learn more about the possible implications of diminished public lands protections [here](#).

- **Address Public Lands in the (TBD) Infrastructure Bill** – Any new infrastructure bill must also invest in America’s public lands – on which the outdoor recreation economy relies – through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other funding to address infrastructure needs, maintenance backlogs at our nation’s parks, wildlife refuges, forest, and other public lands.

- **Stop the Rollback of the Rule to Ensure Americans Receive a Fair Share of Coal Extracted from Public Lands** – The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) must maintain the finalized Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform as it is currently written. The final rule closed a regulatory loophole that would stop the exploitation of taxpayer-owned federal lands. The rule would generate increased revenue for states in which the coal is mined and help level the playing field in other U.S. coal markets by ensuring that everyone is playing by the rules.

- **Create a Budget Fix for Wildfire Spending** – Congress needs to pass a budget fix for the Forest Service and Interior Department that would not only provide emergency relief funding to protect mountain communities from more frequent and severe wildfires, but also provide urgently needed resources for other USFS and DOI responsibilities like wildfire prevention, conservation and restoration initiatives, and recreation infrastructure – responsibilities that are too often cut to pay for wildfire suppression.

A big thank you to council members Ann Mullins (Aspen, CO), Nathan Boddie (Bend, OR), Todd Brown, (Telluride, CO), Peterson (Telluride, CO), Ann Mullins (Aspen, CO), Diana Madson, Harris Sondak (Alta, UT), and Nathan Boddie (Bend, OR).
From left: Harris Sondak (Alta, UT), Todd Brown, (Telluride, CO), Ann Mullins (Aspen, CO), Jenny Peterson (Telluride, CO), Nathan Boddie (Bend, OR), and Diana Madson.

Jenny Peterson (Telluride, CO), and Harris Sondak (Alta, UT) who joined Mountain Pact in Washington D.C. last week.

National public lands are the fabric that holds the West together and the basic infrastructure that supports our communities. Here at The Mountain Pact we will keep fighting for protection of and investment in these important places. Stay tuned for policy updates and opportunities to get involved.

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