The Case For Balanced Public Lands Use:
One Year Into the Trump Administration's Energy Dominance Agenda

Shortly after stepping into his role as Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke began dismantling environmental protections for public lands and calling for energy dominance. Much of this deregulation has disregarded voices from mountain communities that rely on a healthy, well-managed public lands systems for economic stability, outdoor recreation, and cultural vitality.

After one year as Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke has done little to support conservation of public lands, and even less to include the voices of mountain communities in future policy decisions. Secretary Zinke issued recommendations that led to a sweeping reduction in public lands, rolled back an Obama era coal moratorium, and encouraged a proposed fee increase for National Parks. Most recently the Secretary and President Trump have been focused on streamlining the oil and gas leasing process on public lands which further highlights the Administration's emphasis on energy dominance.

This focus on energy dominance accompanies out of date leasing and royalty rules on public lands that are shortchanging taxpayers approximately $90 million per year. These rules must be addressed to ensure taxpayers are getting their fair share, and to ensure that public lands are managed with multiple uses such as conservation and recreation in mind.

Today, on Secretary Zinke's one year in office, The Mountain Pact released a report detailing the Administration's continued attacks on public lands and how this is impacting mountain communities. This report discusses the need for updated royalty and leasing
rules on public lands to account for multiple uses such as conservation and outdoor recreation that support mountain town economies. Accompanying this report is an op-ed from the new Mountain Pact Executive Director Anna Peterson calling for balanced management of public lands that factors in the voices of mountain communities.