The Mountain Pact Brings Mountain Community Voices to Washington, D.C.

Last week, The Mountain Pact went to Washington D.C. to meet with Western Senators and Representatives, the USDA/Forest Service and Department of Interior leadership to discuss the importance of balanced public lands management to the economic and cultural well-being of our mountain communities. Executive Director Anna Peterson was joined by local elected officials from Bend, OR, Telluride, CO, Aspen, CO, Avon, CO, and Frisco, CO.

The Messages We Brought to Washington:

- **Balance Oil & Gas Leasing on Public Lands with Conservation and Recreation** – The Trump Administration must ensure that oil and gas leases on public lands include necessary environmental safeguards and opportunities for public input. Public lands need to be managed with the multiple use mandate in mind to support other uses of public lands such as outdoor recreation which supports mountain town economies.

- **Ensure Oil & Gas Royalties Rates on Public Lands Quit Shortchanging Taxpayers** – The Trump Administration should manage public lands in a way that supports multiple uses and ensures taxpayers are getting their fair share of revenue from energy development.

- **Implement the 2016 Methane Waste and Prevention Rule** – The 2016 BLM Methane Waste and Prevention Rule should be implemented as is. This rule has common sense environmental and economic safeguards that will put an end to shortchanging taxpayers and reduce emissions that have proven harmful to human and environmental health.

- **Put an End to the SECURE/ONSHORE Acts** – These pieces of legislation would largely
cut the public out of the oil and gas leasing review process by giving authority to the
states where development occurs. Congress should keep the management of oil and
gas on public lands at the federal level to ensure key environmental safeguards and
public comment are not ignored by the states who have no obligation to follow
federal review processes.

- **Reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – Congress should fund and
  reauthorize the LWCF at its full amount to ensure beneficial investment in management
  of America’s public lands.

A big thank you to council members Nathan Boddie (Bend, OR), Todd Brown (Telluride, CO
also representing Ridgway, CO and Ophir, CO), Ann Mullins (Aspen, CO), Sarah Smith Hymes
(Avon, CO), and Hunter Mortensen (Frisco, CO) for joining The Mountain Pact in DC last week.

National public lands and their balanced management is critical
to the economic and cultural well-being of western mountain communities. The recreation
opportunities provided by these lands draw visitors from all over the world
and contribute to a special quality of life for our residents. A
strict 'energy dominance' approach to public lands management is detrimental to

the recreational opportunities that could be provided by these lands as
well as the climate resiliency of our communities. We were so glad to be able to bring these
messages to Congressional and Agency leadership in Washington last week. Stay tuned for an
update on the next way that you can get involved with federal policies impacting mountain communities.

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