Over the past year, The Mountain Pact has been hard at work highlighting the voices of western mountain communities on federal policies related to public lands, climate, wildfire, outdoor recreation, and other conservation issues. It is a historical time in American politics as we continue to see attacks on the values of public land conservation, wildlife, cultural heritage, and public health and safety.

We thank you for your passion, dedication, and continued support of The Mountain Pact. Your partnerships make this work possible. What a year 2018 has been and we are excited to share with you some highlights that made this year special!

**New Executive Director**
The Mountain Pact warmly welcomed superstar Anna Peterson to take the reins as the new Executive Director (ED). This was a bittersweet moment in the organization’s history as founder and previous ED, Diana Madson took on new and exciting work to promote federal and state climate and clean energy policies throughout the West. Anna has enjoyed meeting and working with many Mountain Pact community members and is looking forward to a productive and impactful 2019.

**3rd Annual Visit to Washington, D.C**
*Western mountain voices head to the Nation’s Capital*

The Mountain Pact, along with five local elected officials, went to Washington, D.C. for the third annual trek 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.
**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

*Fully funding and permanently reauthorizing the LWCF is critical to the continuation of one of our nation’s most successful public land and water conservation programs.*

For over 50 years, the LWCF has helped create an extensive network of public lands and waterways in every state and nearly every county in the United States. Funding from the bipartisan supported LWCF supports outdoor recreation that enhances the economic and cultural vitality of mountain communities. The LWCF expired on September 30, 2018. We are disappointed that Congress failed to pass legislation that would permanently authorize and fully fund the LWCF this year, but we look forward to continuing to put pressure on Congress in 2019 to ensure our public lands receive the funding they deserve.

**Balanced Public Lands Management**

*Healthy, well-managed public lands systems are critical to the cultural and economic vitality of western mountain communities.*

The Department of Interior (DOI) and the Trump Administration have made it clear that they do not plan to manage our public lands under a true multiple-use mandate. Instead, DOI and the President call for ‘energy dominance’ through the destructive expansion of oil, natural gas, and mineral development on our public lands which is exacerbating the climate impacts mountain communities are dealing with like health impacts from pollution, wildfire, and drought. They have also reversed the Methane Waste Prevention Rule, CAFE Standards, and greater sage-grouse protections.

Your involvement over the past year has helped bring needed attention to ensure that public lands are managed with multiple uses such as conservation and recreation in mind.

**Antiquities Act**

*The Antiquities Act is fundamental to our American natural heritage and public lands legacy.*

The Administration’s willingness to remove protections for vast swaths of land in the name of
potential development puts these areas and all public lands at risk as well as the economies that rely on them. The outdoor recreation economy depends on public lands and they are the main economic drivers for many of our towns. We will continue to be a voice for protecting our natural heritage and the economic foundation of our communities.

Outdoor Recreation
The outdoor industry’s economic importance can help give our mountain communities a greater voice when advocating for public land and climate protections.

On February 14, 2018, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released a prototype report detailing the contribution of the outdoor recreation industry to the overall United States Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This report has been nearly two years in the making since the passage of the Outdoor REC (Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact) Act in 2016. In 2017, The Mountain Pact led a large effort to ensure that this report was completed in a timely manner so that numbers could be used to further support mountain communities. Thanks to the many towns and chambers of commerce who helped with this campaign. We are thankful to see the hard work pay off with the release of the BEA report.

Wildfire Funding Reform
Ensuring adequate resources for wildland fire is critical to the health and safety of mountain communities.

In 2018, we saw a step in the right direction with Congress addressing wildfire emergency relief funding and sustainable forest restoration investments. Congress added and passed a bipartisan funding fix to the omnibus spending package that will free up urgently needed resources for catastrophic wildfires while keeping necessary funds for public lands conservation and recreation programs intact.

Thank you for your partnership, hard work, and interest in The Mountain Pact. A special thanks to everyone who provided feedback on our 2019 planning survey. We look forward to incorporating your feedback so that we can better support your communities and make a greater impact next year. We are excited to continue working with you and moving the needle.
on the above issues and more in 2019 - stay tuned for what's next. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season!

The Mountain Pact strives to keep you informed on all policies relevant to your communities. Stay tuned for more information, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for quick daily updates. If you would like to help us continue to work on important conservation efforts, please consider supporting our work.

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