



## **The Case for Balanced Public Lands Use:**

Recommendations From Western Communities One Year Into The Trump Administration

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Durango, Colorado (March 1, 2018) - On the one-year anniversary of Ryan Zinke stepping into his role as Secretary of the Interior, The Mountain Pact, [released a report](#) detailing “The Case for Balanced Public Lands Use: Recommendations From Western Communities After One Year Into The Trump Administration.”

The following statement is from Anna Peterson, Executive Director, The Mountain Pact:

“Over the past year, the Trump Administration, Secretary Zinke, and many in Congress have made it clear that their top priority for America’s public lands is to use them for mining and fossil fuel drilling. Much of this deregulation not only disregards common sense environmental safeguards, but also disrespects voices from mountain communities that rely on healthy, well-managed public lands for economic stability, outdoor recreation, and cultural vitality.

National public lands are meant to be open to all Americans, not just the oil and gas industry, and they must be managed in a way that supports multiple uses while ensuring taxpayers are getting a fair deal from energy development.

When our public lands are managed with only energy dominance in mind, the way of life that I and my neighbors know and love is in peril. Some places are appropriate to develop fossil fuels, but others need to be left as they are. Many of us in mountain towns are concerned that Secretary Zinke’s energy dominance will tilt the scales too heavily toward exploitation, and away from the fresh air, open spaces, and clean water that make living where we do so special.”

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*[The Mountain Pact](#) is an organization that works with mountain communities across the American West to empower them to build resilience in the face of economic and environmental stresses through a shared voice on federal policy related to climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation.*

## **Mountain Communities for Environmental & Economic Resilience**

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# **The Mountain Pact**



Photo: Anna Peterson

*Angel Peak Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Scenic Area, New Mexico (Anna Peterson)*

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