



**The Mountain Pact on the Government Shutdown and  
Acting Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt**  
*America's Public Lands Are Being Destroyed*

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Durango, Colorado (January 2, 2019) – *The following statement is from Anna Peterson, Executive Director, The Mountain Pact:*

Anna Peterson, Executive Director for The Mountain Pact, said, “The Trump Administration and the Department of Interior are dismantling America’s public lands legacy. The government shutdown is negatively impacting our national parks and public lands with the detrimental consequences increasing daily. Add now acting Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt to the mix, and we are deeply concerned that our irreplaceable American public lands heritage is being destroyed.

“We urge the Administration to stop holding the American people hostage and end the shutdown. We also urgently request that in his new role, Secretary Bernhardt stop rolling back common-sense environmental safeguards, and start to listen to, and respect, the ignored voices from mountain communities. Our communities rely on healthy, well-managed public lands for economic stability, outdoor recreation, and cultural vitality. Secretary Bernhardt should be a good neighbor to Western communities — to steer away from an “energy dominance” at all costs mindset, and to minimize threats to clean air, water, natural areas, wildlife, and wild places that make our communities so special. The future of our families, communities, and our public lands depend on it.”

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*[The Mountain Pact](#) is an effort to educate, mobilize, and empower mountain towns with outdoor recreation-based economies in the American West around federal policy. We work with local elected officials in nearly 50 mountain communities from all 11 western states to build resilience in the face of environmental stresses and their economic impacts through a shared voice on policies related to climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation.*