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## **BREAKING: Department of Interior Messing with Bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act**

**Durango, CO** -- Today, the [Department of Interior \(DOI\)](#) issued a [Secretarial Order](#) regarding the implementation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and [The Great American Outdoors Act](#). The Order adds a litany of new arbitrary provisions including:

- Allowing state veto of federal public land protection projects;
- Eliminating funding for Bureau of Land Management land acquisition; and
- Restricting future LWCF funds from helping to create new units of public land.

In response, **Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact**, issued the following statement:

“The process and expectations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund that Congress set forth in the Great American Outdoors Act were simple and clear. In this landmark legislation, Congress asked only one thing of this administration on LWCF: Meet the deadline for submitting a specific FY2021 program allocations and project lists, which they did not do. Now the Department of Interior (DOI) has decided instead to rewrite the law on LWCF in ways that exceed its authority and defy Congress.

“Congress has repeatedly voted down arbitrary restrictions like those in the Interior Department’s new orders by passing the Dingell Act and the Great American Outdoors Act by overwhelming bipartisan margins. Point blank: the majority of Americans and Congress want the full and legal implementation of one of the best pieces of conservation legislation in our lifetime. That means keeping existing LWCF frameworks in place, guaranteeing it the full and permanent \$900M intended for it by law.

“DOI has effectively ignored the intent of the Great American Outdoors Act, which passed the Senate by an overwhelming 73-25 vote, even though it has been one of America’s best conservation programs bringing together both sides of the aisle with five decades of bi-partisan support and thousands of local parks, trails, and ballparks to show for it.

“This Secretarial Order is an intentional violation of Congress, in a last-minute effort to block the successful implementation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and cement the anti-LWCF views we’ve seen from this administration for the past four years.”

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*Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 75 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.*