



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

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Colorado and Western Local Elected Officials Celebrate the Designation of a Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument

DURANGO, CO -- Today President Biden [designated](#) Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument in Colorado - his first monument. [The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with hundreds of local elected officials in nearly 100 communities across the Western U.S., released the below statements from area local elected officials in response to the designation.

Kathy Chandler-Henry, Eagle County, Colorado Commissioner said, *“We are thrilled with the new monument designation for Camp Hale-Continental Divide in Eagle County. This monument will honor the service of our veterans from the 10th Mountain Division who trained at Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range, served our nation with distinction in World War II and returned home to help found Colorado’s outdoor recreation economy. This national historic landscape will receive the protections it deserves through this monument designation, assuring it will be enjoyed and serve as a place of respect for generations to come.”*

Summit County, Colorado Commissioner Elisabeth Lawrence said: *“The designation of a Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument is an important tribute that celebrates mountain communities’ role in helping the entire nation through World War II with the help of the 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops that trained at Camp Hale and the surrounding Ten Mile Range. Establishing these areas as a National Monument will bring great benefits to our Western mountain communities and is an important step towards providing our Western communities with a bright future while honoring the past.”*

Mayor of Vail, Colorado, Kim Langmaid said, *“The Vail community is very excited about this designation. Camp Hale is a prominent cultural landscape that connects with our ski history. We also appreciate the President’s recognition of the diverse local stakeholders who support the designation, and the ecological restoration of the Eagle River headwaters and surrounding mountain wetlands.”*

Mayor of Frisco, Colorado, Hunter Mortensen said, *“The mountains between the historic Camp Hale and the peaks of the Tenmile Mountain Range are a vital part of our community. The creation of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument shows a commitment to protect our public lands. This designation not only shows our commitment to our rich history and the lands that have lasting impact on our collective story, but also to all of the groups that came together to make a public lands plan that gave everyone a voice. Today is a day to celebrate our lands, our history, and our future.”*

Mayor of Breckenridge, Colorado, Eric Mamula said, *“With the designation of Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, President Biden has protected the Tenmile Range - a scientific and geographically interesting and beautiful area our visitors and community members love. In fact, the most hiked peak above 14,000 feet in Colorado, Quandary Peak, is located in the Tenmile Range. Bringing additional resources to the Tenmile Range will help preserve the scientific importance of the area and make it more resilient so that future generations can enjoy it as much as those of today.”*

Mayor of Avon, Colorado, Sarah Smith-Hymes said, “Camp Hale has long been a touchstone for veterans and the surrounding mountain communities, a stirring reminder of the contribution our local landscape made to the battle for freedom in World War II. Future generations will thank all who worked so hard to preserve this unique public asset. This designation honors the legacy of the Tenth Mountain Division, protects the headwaters and wetlands that feed the Eagle River – the primary water supply for Eagle County and a tributary of the Colorado River - and recognizes the value of outdoor recreation to our local and state economy. It’s a great day for all of us!”

Greg Poschman, Pitkin County Commissioner and 10th Mountain Division descendant said, “President Biden’s designation of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide is a unique and powerful tribute to those who served our country in World War II, then came home to lead our outdoor preservation ethic, and to build America’s skiing and outdoor recreation economy. For Coloradans and for all Americans, these are the sources of our clean air and pure water, and they are the wellspring of our inspiration, identity and history. These iconic areas are most worthy of conservation. We thank President Biden for taking action to protect this important place. We also ask President Biden to go “all in” for all the public lands designations in The CORE Act on which we have all worked so hard for the past decade. This would send a strong message that our President is “all in” to support Colorado!”

Clark County, Nevada Commissioner Justin Jones said, “Having Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument designated today is exciting and encouraging. Our community is happy to see President Biden start to designate national monuments and encourage him to use his authority again, soon, to designate an Avi Kwa Ame a national monument. Public lands are more vital to our health and well-being than we ever thought. [The full Clark County Commission has passed a supportive resolution](#) and joined the overwhelming local support for the establishment of [Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument.](#)”

Anna Peterson, Executive Director of [The Mountain Pact](#), and granddaughter-in-law of a 10th Mountain Division Trainee, said, “We are beyond thrilled that President Biden has designated the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument! This designation honors Colorado’s military legacy and the history of Colorado’s 10th Mountain Division, a unique and powerful tribute to those who have served our country. The Antiquities Act conserves vital places so our stories can be told and experiences can be shared for generations to come. We celebrate today and tomorrow we will continue to urge President Biden to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect more places with cultural and scientific significance as national monuments. Places like Avi Kwa Ame in Nevada and Castner Range in Texas have overwhelming local support; we need more protected public lands, including national monuments that build upon ongoing and often-untold stories of the true history of the United States.”

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in nearly 100 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.

Background:

There is [Overwhelming support across Colorado](#) for this designation -

- For years, local business leaders, [veterans and military families](#), [elected officials](#), hunters and anglers, and [other community members](#) have supported protecting the places within the CORE Act.
- 86 percent of Coloradans – including overwhelming majorities of Democrats (92%), Independents (83%), and Republicans (84%) – [support the President taking executive action](#) by designating new national monuments to protect the lands in the CORE Act.
- Further, the 2022 Colorado College State of the Rockies poll found 86% of Coloradans [supported](#) new protections for public lands, including national monuments.

Boosting Colorado's Rural Economies -

- Protected public lands are an important part of Colorado's identity and a driver of the state's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.
- The Bureau of Economic Analysis [found](#) that in 2020, outdoor recreation contributed \$9.6 billion to Colorado's economy. Additionally, the ski industry alone generates \$4.8 billion in annual economic output and supports more than 46,000 jobs.

The Antiquities Act-

- In 1906, Congress passed the [Antiquities Act](#), which created the [first national historic preservation policy](#) for the United States and ensured that the president can [designate national monuments](#) to protect natural, cultural, and historic sites, as well as waters and lands of great scientific value. Historically, presidents from both parties have used the Antiquities Act to designate national monuments an equal number of times.
- Since the act was passed, 18 presidents - nine Democratic and nine Republican - have designated [158 national monuments across the country](#). Presidents have exercised their authority under the Antiquities Act to create many iconic monuments including the [Statue of Liberty](#), [Bears Ears](#), [Grand Canyon](#), [Giant Sequoia](#), [Muir Woods](#), [Great Sand Dunes](#), [Chimney Rock](#), among others.
- The Biden administration can achieve its goal of protecting more nature by using the Antiquities Act to create new national monuments. Community-led solutions, like locally-led national monument efforts, can protect archeological, historical, and cultural resources; ensure more equitable access to nature; address the climate crisis; restore America's biodiversity and wildlife; and begin to reckon with historic and present injustices. With an evenly split Senate, Congress is unlikely to move on its own to protect public lands so we are counting on the administration to move swiftly to use its authority to conserve vital places for our communities.

More From The Mountain Pact on National Monuments -

- Mountain Pact [letter from 115 western local elected officials](#) urging the president to use the Antiquities Act to designate more national monuments and our [media release](#).
- [Mountain Pact Fact Sheets](#) highlighting the nearly 100 national monuments in ten Western states that were designated by an equal number of Republican and Democratic presidents through the use of the Antiquities Act and our [media release](#). [Colorado fact sheet](#)
- The Mountain Pact letter from [over 120 Western Local Officials Call for More Protections for Bureau of Land Management Lands \(including national monuments\)](#) and our [media release](#).
- The Mountain Pact [America the Beautiful Report](#) which discusses national monuments and [media release](#).
- Mountain Pact statement on [Secretary Haaland's recent visit to Avi Kwa Ame](#).
- Mountain Pact statement on [Secretary Haaland's visit to Castner Range](#).