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## **Western Local Elected Officials Celebrate the Designations of Avi Kwa Ame and Castner Range National Monuments**

**DURANGO, CO** -- In response to President Biden planning to designate [Avi Kwa Ame](#) and [Castner Range](#) national monuments today at the Conservation Summit, [The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with local elected officials in nearly 100 communities across the Western U.S., released the below statements from western local elected officials:

***Clark County, Nevada Commissioner Michael Naft said, "We are grateful President Biden has designated Avi Kwa Ame National Monument today. This area in Clark County is rich in both history, wildlife, and beauty. For years, Tribes, local elected officials, community leaders, and businesses have supported the creation of a national monument because protecting the area is both the right thing to do but also the economically beneficial approach. Nearby communities like Searchlight and Laughlin will benefit from the financial impact of achieving monument status."***

***Anna Peterson, Executive Director of [The Mountain Pact](#), said, "We are thrilled that President Biden will permanently protect both Avi Kwa Ame and Castner Ranges' landscapes' natural, cultural, and historic values by designating them national monuments. 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."***

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

### **More Information:**

- National monuments and their designations are incredibly bi-partisan. Congress passed the [Antiquities Act](#) in 1906 and since then, 18 presidents - nine Democratic and nine Republican - have established or expanded [159 national monuments](#).