



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

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Western Mayors and Public Officials on Trump's Proposed Gutting of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Coalition of Elected Officials from Western Towns Call Trump's Attack on Clean Water and Public Lands a Threat to the Economic, Cultural, and Environmental Wellbeing of Their Communities

WASHINGTON, DC -- Yesterday, the White House unveiled its proposed [budget](#) for Fiscal Year 2021. The budget proposes massive cuts to the Department of Interior, including cuts to the National Park Service and a [97% cut](#) to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

In reaction to the announcement, the following elected officials and advocates from Western communities, part of The Mountain Pact, issued the following statements:

"For 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a critical tool for protecting and preserving outdoor spaces for the enjoyment and benefit of communities in every corner of the country, including right here in Reno, Nevada," **explained Reno, Nevada Vice Mayor Devon Reese**. "We value our access to the outdoors and the vitality of our communities are linked to the health of our public lands. Shame on President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt for gutting the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

"This budget is an outrage and a slap in the face to the millions of people who live and work in small communities that depend on funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect our lands, our waterways, and our communities," **added Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact**. "This budget is a huge disappointment for communities across the country and has put our public lands and the economic vitality of western mountain communities at risk."

Sonja Macys, Steamboat Springs, Colorado City Council Member, said, "The Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported many attractions residents and visitors love like our iconic Ski Area, Howelsen Hill, and the Yampa River Core Trail. I am deeply disappointed to see the President's budget and its deep cuts to the LWCF. No surprise, though, when you see the continued emphasis Interior Secretary Bernhardt and Trump place on opening our public lands for their cronies to profiteer from. We deserve better."

"Mountain communities like Avon depend on public lands and water for our sustainable outdoor recreational economy," **said Avon, Colorado Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes**. "We are deeply disappointed that President Trump and Secretary Bernhardt have yet again gutted the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in their proposed budget and thereby putting the very land we depend on at risk."

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) is an organization that works with over fifty mountain communities in all eleven states 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