

For Immediate Release: Friday, May 21, 2020

Contact: Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact: Anna@TheMountainPact.org

## **Could the Land and Water Conservation Fund Finally Get Full Funding?**

Congress needs to finally deliver this critical investment in jobs, the economy, and our public lands for mountain communities

**Durango, CO** -- In response to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's <u>statement</u> that the Senate would take up the Great American Outdoors Act when it returns in June, The Mountain Pact, gave these statements:

Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact: "After pushing for years for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding, we are overjoyed to see that full and permanent funding for America's best conservation program might actually become a reality. Our parks, trails, and green spaces are absolutely essential to restoring our country's health and way of life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We've been close to full LWCF funding before and we know that the victory will really be when The Great American Outdoors Act is passed by congress and signed by the president."

**City of Reno, Nevada Councilmember Devon Reese,** said, "America's public lands bring us peace of mind and generate economic revenue - both will be critically needed to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. This legislation will help sustain the outdoor recreation that helps so many of our small towns and businesses thrive, it's time for Congress to get this done."

**County Commissioner of Missoula County, Montana, Juanita Vero,** said, "Land and Water Conservation Fund projects don't just build community in our state, they bolster the economy as well. We are excited that LWCF might finally be fully and permanently funded - it's time to get this bi-partisan legislation over the finish line."

###

Founded in 2014, <u>The Mountain Pact</u> 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