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CONTACT: Anna Peterson, Anna@TheMountainPact.Org

Major Public Lands Bills Pass House of Representatives

The Mountain Pact Overjoyed With So Many Important Pieces of Public Lands Legislation Passing the U.S. House of Representatives

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the [Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act](#) which designates approximately 1.49 million acres of public land as wilderness and incorporates more than 1,000 river miles into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In response, **The Mountain Pact** network released these statements specific to the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act and Grand Canyon Protection Act pieces of the bill which have lands in and near Mountain Pact network communities:

Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact, an organization that works with local elected officials across the West on federal climate and public lands policies, said: "Our mountain communities rely on protected public lands for recreation, rejuvenation, and recuperation. These lands help support our outdoor recreation economy and provide solace to residents and visitors as we deal with the impacts of COVID-19. These important and forward-looking pieces of legislation that have passed through the House today will help us protect 30% of our lands and waters by 2030. We look forward to seeing these bills finally pass through the senate thanks to leadership from Colorado Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper as well as Arizona Senators Kelly and Sinema."

Grand Canyon Protection Act

City of Flagstaff, Arizona Mayor Paul Deasy said, "I am so pleased that the House of Representatives has passed the Grand Canyon Protection Act. Thank you to Arizona Representative Grijalva for his strong leadership on this legislation and Representatives O'Halleran, Stanton, Gallego, and Kirkpatrick for their support for permanently protecting one of the seven natural wonders of the world from further mining pollution. I thank Senators Sinema and Kelly for their leadership in introducing the bill in the Senate this week and look forward to them leading the effort to pass the bill this year."

Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act

Summit County, Colorado Commissioner Tamara Pogue said, "Public lands are the backbone of our mountain communities. The CORE Act will protect our public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities to boost the economy as we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Colorado local elected officials thank Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper for reintroducing this bill in the Senate, and Congressman Joe Neguse for reintroducing this bill in the House. We are celebrating the passage of the CORE Act this week through the US House of Representatives, and we thank Colorado Representatives Ed Perlmutter, Diana DeGette, and Jason Crow for cosponsoring and voting for this important piece of legislation. Now, it's time for the Senate to pass this important bill for Colorado this year. We look forward to continuing to support Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper's leadership and passing this bill through the Senate."

Pitkin County, Colorado Commissioner Greg Poschman said, "Pitkin County residents and elected officials have been strongly supportive of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Economy (CORE) Act and the public lands protections it creates for more than a decade. We have publicly advocated for the passage of this Act on repeated

instances over the years. As local elected officials, residents, and constituents in Colorado's Third District, we are thankful the CORE Act has passed the House and look forward to it passing in the Senate."

The Board of Eagle County, Colorado Commissioners said, "Eagle County's numerous user groups have worked tirelessly on the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act for many years. Diverse constituents including snowmobilers, hunters, anglers, mountain bike riders, wilderness advocates, wildlife supporters, and hikers have engaged in collaborative work to draw the boundaries and create the management plans for these important areas. The CORE Act also includes the designation of Camp Hale as the first-ever National Historic Landscape. Camp Hale is important to the Tenth Mountain Division of our armed forces, serving as a training ground for snow forces critical to success in World War II. Camp Hale was also the launching grounds for Colorado's Ski Industry. Our economy in Eagle County is powered in large part by the outdoor recreation industry. The CORE Act is vital to our environment, our wildlife, and our economy. As Colorado District Three local elected officials and constituents we are thrilled the CORE Act has passed the House of Representatives and look forward to it passing in the Senate."

San Miguel County, Colorado Commissioner Hilary Cooper said, "San Miguel County stakeholders have diligently negotiated the designations in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act for over a decade. The CORE Act has the support of elected officials, landowners, recreationalists, ranchers, sportsmen/women, veterans, miners, oil & gas producers, and many more stakeholder groups. We worked hard to gather the facts, negotiate, and compromise. As local elected officials, representing our constituents in Colorado's 3rd Congressional District, we look forward to the passage of the CORE Act."

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 80 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.