



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, November 15, 2021

## **The Mountain Pact Encouraged by the Proposed 20-year Drilling Ban Near Chaco Culture National Historical Park**

Today, during a White House Tribal-Nations Summit, the Biden administration [proposed](#) a 20-year ban on oil and gas leasing around Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

In response, **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:

*"The Mountain Pact is thrilled with the administration's action today to institute a 20-year ban on oil and gas leasing within a 10-mile radius around the Greater Chaco Landscape. Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a UNESCO world heritage site and the sacred ancestral homeland to many Indigenous communities. We are grateful to the Biden administration for working to protect the cultural and spiritual importance of this landscape from short-term extraction and development.*

*Through the [America the Beautiful initiative](#), the Biden administration promised to collaborate on locally-led projects to conserve America's lands and waters that honor Tribal sovereignty and support Tribal nations. Today's proposal does just that. We are encouraged by the administration's Tribal-Nations Summit and commitment to elevate Indigenous knowledge, as well as strengthen [Nation-to-Nation relationships](#), Tribal sovereignty, and co-stewardship of public lands and waters.*

*Addressing the climate and loss of biodiversity crises will require the administration to act quickly and use every possible tool at its disposal. Mineral withdrawals like the one proposed today are an important mechanism to protect local communities and safeguard irreplaceable resources. We look forward to working with the Biden administration to continue to protect more special places."*

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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.*



*Photo credit: Anna Peterson, The Mountain Pact*



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