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## **Rep. Bishop Selfishly Trying to Cause a False Kerfuffle for Bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act**

**Durango, CO** -- In response to the Representative Bishop stirring up misguided trouble around the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), bipartisan legislation that will fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and provide much needed funding for the crippling \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog at our national parks, **Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact**, gave this statement:

“Representative Bishop is being disingenuous and trying to cause a false kerfuffle by misdirecting the issue not for the benefit of Easterners, but for the benefit of his anti-public lands agenda. He has always been opposed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund even though it has been one of America’s best conservation programs bringing together both sides of the aisle with five decades of bi-partisan support and thousands of local parks, trails, and ballparks to show for it. LWCF funds have even helped fund the Brigham City Swimming Pool, Constitution Park, and John Adams Park City Park - all right in his community.

“The Great American Outdoors Act, which passed the Senate by an overwhelming 73-25 vote, would remove the 85/15 provision, a requirement for National Forest Lands based on an artificial and arbitrary geographic line. Disposing of the 85/15 provision in the Great American Outdoors Act, simply codifies what every Republican and Democratic Congress and administration has carried out for over 50 years. Since creating LWCF, Congress has responded to community and landowner input, balancing appropriation needs by allocating funds in response to the best and most needed projects across the country.

“This hasn’t been and isn’t an issue. By Representative Bishop stirring up a last ditch attempt to spread misinformation, he’s once again going against what the majority of Americans and Congress wants – passage of one of the best pieces of conservation legislation in our lifetime. We look forward to the House vote and passage at the end of this month and having the bill be signed by the president.”

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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*