



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

The Mountain Pact Applauds Movement on Potential Chuckwalla National Monument

DURANGO, CO - In response to a proposed Chuckwalla national monument bill being [introduced](#) this morning by Senator Alex Padilla and Representative Raul Ruiz, M.D., Anna Peterson, Executive Director of [The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with local elected officials in 100 communities across the Western U.S., released the below statement:

“We are excited about the movement on some possible new national monuments and we support the designation of a [Chuckwalla National Monument](#) in the California desert. The proposed monument would preserve this cultural landscape by providing protections to important heritage values tied to the land such as multi-use trail systems established by Indigenous peoples, sacred sites and objects, traditional cultural places, geoglyphs, petroglyphs, pictographs, plants, and wildlife.

Permanently protecting these lands as a Chuckwalla National Monument would also help protect vast desert ecosystems and habitat for species like the chuckwalla lizard and desert tortoise, and migration corridors for desert bighorn sheep.

We urge the President to add a Chuckwalla National Monument to the list of five national monuments he has designated through the use of the Antiquities Act. Upcoming national monuments he could designate include those that will honor the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in Illinois and the Historic Greenwood District/Black Wall Street in Tulsa; along with Bahsahwahbee in Nevada; the Great Bend of the Gila in Arizona; Dolores Canyons in Colorado; Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon; and expand the San Gabriel Mountains and Berryessa national monuments as well as to designate Chuckwalla, Kw’tsán, and Sáttítla - Medicine Lake Highlands - all in California.”

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Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](#) mobilizes local elected officials in over 100 Western mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies to speak with a collective voice on federal climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation policy.