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The Mountain Pact Thanks BLM and USDA for Hosting a Public Meeting on the Effort to Expand Berryessa National Monument to Include Molok Luyuk

DURANGO, CO - In response to the [community listening session](#) for the Berryessa National Monument and the potential expansion area Molok Luyuk that took place tonight in California, Anna Peterson, Executive Director of [The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with local elected officials in over 100 communities across the Western U.S., released this statement,

“We thank BLM Principal Deputy Director Culver, California Director Mouritsen, and Mendocino National Forest Supervisor McMaster, for visiting with community members and leaders today to discuss the expansion of the Berryessa National Monument and the potential expansion area Molok Luyuk - lands that are sacred to the [Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation](#).

We join Northern California Tribes; local, statewide, and federal leaders; businesses; neighboring landowners; and over 300 scientists; Senator Padilla; the late Senator Dianne Feinstein; Representative Garamendi; Representative Thompson; and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation in supporting the locally-led effort to urge President Biden to expand the National Monument.

The expansion of the Monument would safeguard public lands that serve as a critical wildlife corridor between the existing monument and other protected areas for imperiled wildlife and over 30 species of rare plants.

We are supportive of the many locally-led efforts to urge President Biden to expand national monuments across the country. We urge the President to add to the list of national monuments he has designated through the use of the Antiquities Act. Upcoming nation monuments he could designate include Chuckwalla and Sáttítla - Medicine Lake Highlands in California; Dolores Canyons in Colorado; the Great Bend of the Gila in Arizona; Mimbres Peak in New Mexico; Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon; expansion of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in California; as well as to designate monuments that will honor the 1908 Springfield Race Riot in Illinois and the Historic Greenwood District/Black Wall Street in Tulsa.”

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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.

More Information

The Antiquities Act

Congress passed the [Antiquities Act](#) in 1906 and since then, 18 presidents - nine Democratic and nine Republican - have established or expanded over [160 national monuments](#).

Berryessa National Monument Expansion to Include Molok Luyuk

- Molok Luyuk is Patwin for “Condor Ridge” and is a name provided by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Molok Luyuk is pronounced "Ma.lok Lue.yoke." Currently the area is referred to as “Walker Ridge.”
- The proposed expansion area - Molok Luyuk - is located on the eastern edge of the existing Berryessa National Monument. These BLM managed lands include oak woodlands, rocky outcroppings, meadows of wildflowers, forests of pine, and the world’s largest stand of McNab cypress.
- Molok Luyuk serves as a critical wildlife corridor between the existing monument and other protected areas for species such as tule elk, mountain lions, and black bears. It is also home to imperiled wildlife including bald and golden eagles, badgers, peregrine falcons and over 30 species of rare plants.