



The Mountain Pact

Public Lands Conservation in the Trump Era: How the Trump Administration's Policies are Hurting Western Mountain Communities

President Trump claimed in a [July 8, 2019 speech](#) that his administration is "being good stewards of our public land," reducing carbon emissions, and promoting the "cleanest air" and "crystal clean" water. These claims are simply false. Instead, President Trump has made rolling back critical environmental protections a focus of his presidency. By asserting "energy dominance" on America's public lands, appointing former extractive industry and anti-public lands leaders to head key environmental agencies, and refusing to adequately fund our public lands, this administration has made it clear that oil, gas, coal, and mining take precedence over outdoor recreation, wildlife conservation, clean air, and clean water.

There are currently [84 environmental rules](#) in varying stages of rollback or revision being carried out under President Trump -- all of which impact western mountain communities. Western mountain communities are inextricably linked to the national public lands that surround them and are thus faced with numerous challenges due to climate change and environmental rollbacks.

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Rather than work to reduce the impacts of climate change and manage our public lands in a manner that accounts for uses beyond extractive industries, the Trump administration has consistently put extraction above all other uses of public lands. From the national monuments review that resulted in the largest reduction in public land protection in history to the weakening of the Endangered Species Act, removal of public input from public lands management decisions, and massive budget cuts to all environmental and conservation agencies and programs, the Trump administration has consistently made moves that threaten America's conservation and public lands legacy.

The Mountain Pact has compiled a list of **some** of the main ways the Trump administration's agenda has harmed communities in the West. Each decision impacts people and places across state lines, but they also have specific, localized impacts. [This report](#) is in no way exhaustive as the list of anti-environmental decisions made by this administration is long. However, this report details a collection of anti-environmental and "energy dominance" decisions and their specific impacts to each of the eleven western states.

Next week, The Mountain Pact will be traveling to Washington, D.C. with five elected officials from mountain communities throughout the west. We will be sharing this report and community stories with members of Congress to urge better funding for, and management of, our national public lands.

Click [here](#) for the full report and contact us [here](#) if you are interested in partnering on an opinion-editorial regarding how the Trump administration's anti-environment agenda has impacted your community.

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