

2020 The Mountain Pact Recap

2020 has been quite a year! Even through a global pandemic and tumultuous political scene, The Mountain Pact accomplished a lot of great work to protect our public lands and waters, reduce climate impacts, and highlight the importance of the recreation economy to our Western mountain communities.

We are pleased to announce that we have grown and now have a network of local elected officials from over 80 mountain communities across the West. Below are some highlights from our work in 2020.

Make sure to check-out our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) pages for regular updates and to read more about our work. Plus, [sign up HERE](#) to get monthly [Conservation Updates](#) detailing how current federal policies impact mountain communities across the west.

We thank you for your participation in the network and look forward to working with you in 2021!

Anna Peterson, Executive Director

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FUNDING PUBLIC LANDS

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

One of the highlights of this year was the passage of the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), bi-partisan 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. We have been advocating for full funding and permanent reauthorization of the LWCF for years. Here are some of the key activities we participated in this year:

- **Opinion Editorials**
 - Reno, Nevada Vice Mayor Devon Reese had a piece in the [Reno Daily Gazette](#) with Senator Rosen of Nevada [praising](#) his op-ed in a [Letter to the Editor](#).
 - Salida, Colorado Mayor P.T. Wood's op-ed in the [Colorado Sun](#).
 - Flagstaff, Arizona former Vice Mayor Celia Bartoz had an op-ed in the [Arizona Daily Sun](#).
 - Town of Frisco, Colorado Council Member Melissa Sherburne had an op-ed in the [Colorado Sun](#) and the [Montrose Daily Press](#).
 - Steamboat Springs Council Member Sonja Macy had both a column in the [Steamboat Pilot](#) and a [Letter to the Editor in the Steamboat Pilot](#).
 - Truckee, California Mayor Dave Polivy along with Mammoth Lakes Council Member John Wentworth, and South Lake Tahoe Council Member Devin Middlebrook had an op-ed in [The Tahoe Daily](#), [Sierra Sun](#), [My Shot](#), and [South Lake Tahoe Now](#).
 - 40 western Colorado mountain community local elected officials had an op-ed in the [Aspen Times](#) and the [Vail Daily](#).
- **Media Coverage:** [Colorado Politics](#), [The Mountain Mail](#), [Durango Herald](#), [The Pine River Times](#), [Teton Valley News](#), [Cortez Journal](#), [The Denver Post](#), [Sterling Journal-Advocate](#), [Fox 31](#), [Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#), [E&E News](#), [Politico](#), [KUNR](#), [Colorado Politics](#), [Cowboy State Daily](#), [Arizona Daily Sun](#) online, [Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#), [Idaho Mountain Express](#), [Durango Herald](#), [Colorado Business Journal](#), [Revitalization](#), [Cortez Journal](#), [Snowmass Sun](#), [Real Vail](#), [Estes Park Trail Gazette](#), [Common Dreams](#), [Alternet](#), [E&E News](#), [The Santa Fe New Mexican](#), [Taos News](#), [High Country News](#), [The Missoula Current](#), [Grist](#), [The Missoulian](#), & [The Billings Gazette](#).

- 20 local elected officials gave these statements which were covered by [Ark Valley News](#), [Co Politics](#), [South Lake Tahoe News](#), [Colorado Springs Gazette](#), [Denver Post](#), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#), [Missoula Current](#), [Oregon NPR](#), [Teton Valley News](#), [Longmont Times Call](#), [CAP Radio](#), [KALW](#), and [The Bozeman Chronicle](#).
- **Media telepress call** with Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon, CO; Mayor P.T. Wood, Town of Salida, CO; Kathy Chandler-Henry, Chair, Eagle County Commissioners; and Anna Peterson, Executive Director of the Mountain Pact. You can listen to the call [here](#).
- We sent letters!
 - Over 100 local elected officials from all 11 Western states [sent a letter](#) to Congress asking them to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
 - These communities sent an individual letter to their congressional delegation - [City of Big Bear Lake](#), [Eagle County](#), [San Miguel County](#), [City of Boulder](#), [City of Aspen](#), [City of Longmont](#), [Town of Avon](#), [Town of Frisco](#), [Town of Ophir](#), [Town of Ridgway](#), [Town of Basalt](#), [Eagle County](#), [Mountain Village](#), [Town of Telluride](#), [City of Aspen](#), [Town of Carbondale](#), [Breckenridge](#), [Mammoth Lakes](#), [South Lake Tahoe](#).



Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Gateway Community Dividend

We also encouraged Congress to add a Gateway Community Dividend to the PILT program to support our public lands and rural communities when they need it the most. We did this through:

- An [op-ed published in the Colorado Sun](#) by Chaffee County, Colorado Commissioner Keith Baker.
- [Sending a letter to their congressional offices](#) signed by [nearly 70 county commissioners, mayors, and council members from public land gateway communities in 11 western states](#). This was covered by [Buckrail News](#) and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#).

Department of Interior

Amidst many scandals, the Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt reappointed William Pendley as Acting Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director and re-appointed him five times before he was “indefinitely” put in the “Acting” Director role last June. Trump then officially nominated Pendley to be Director of the BLM, but then quickly withdrew the nomination. Pendley has been serving, [illegally](#), in the Acting Director role since July 2019. These appointments generated a lot of controversy because they circumvented the Senate's constitutional "advice and consent" role in

confirming high-level nominees. Our work to bring light to these issues as well as others within the Department of Interior were highlighted through:

- **Media coverage:** [Indian Country Today](#), [Indian Country Today](#) and the [Ark Valley Voice](#), [Durango Herald Gallup Sun](#), [Arkansas Valley News](#)
 - **Opinion Editorials:**
 - Mountain Pact Executive Director in [The Gallup Sun](#)
 - Telluride [Mayor Pro Tem Todd Brown wrote and op-ed urging the firing of William Perry Pendley](#)
 - **Letters:** Mountain Pact local Elected officials signed onto a [letter to Congress](#) asking them to oppose William Perry Pendley's role as Acting Director and push for an official nomination of someone who has a history of supporting the continued conservation and preservation of America's public lands.
 - In November, the Department of Interior (DOI) issued a Secretarial Order regarding the implementation of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and [The Great American Outdoors Act](#). The Order adds a litany of new arbitrary provisions. In response, we issued [this statement](#) which was covered by [Common Dreams](#), [Alternet](#), [E&E News](#), [The Santa Fe New Mexican](#), [Taos News](#), [High Country News](#), [The Missoula Current](#), [Grist](#), [The Missoulian](#), and [The Billings Gazette](#). Mono County Supervisor Jennifer Kreitz was also interviewed by NPR's [Morning Edition](#).
 - In December, New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland became President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Mountain Pact is thrilled to have an Indigenous woman and public lands champion in this role. Our statement on her nomination was covered in the [Las Cruces Bulletin](#), [Desert Exposure](#), [Common Dreams](#), [Meteor](#), [Alternet](#), and [Good](#).
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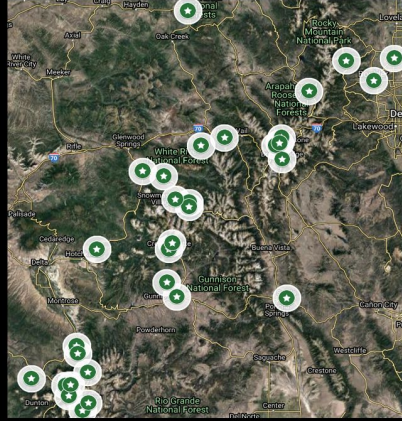
CORE Act

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act will protect 400,000 acres of Colorado public land and designate nearly 80,000 acres as new recreation and conservation management areas that preserve existing outdoor uses such as hiking and mountain biking. It is the most significant and broadly-supported effort to protect Colorado's most cherished lands, waters, and forests in a generation. We worked with Colorado local elected officials to help promote passage of this bill through:

- **Opinion Editorials:**
 - The Mayor of Avon, Colorado wrote an [op-ed in the Colorado Sun](#)
 - Eagle and Summit County Commissioners in the [Summit Daily News](#).
 - [Basalt Local elected officials wrote an op-ed](#).
- **Letters:** [111 Colorado local elected officials signed onto a Mountain Pact Letter](#) urging Senator Gardner to pass the CORE Act before the 116th Congress adjourns.
- **Ads:** We ran ads in a few local news papers.
- We [held a telepress call](#) with Mayor Richardson from Carbondale, Mayor Gelwicks from Gunnison, Commissioner Sherr from Eagle County, Commissioner Steigelmeier from Summit County, and Commissioner Waring from San Miguel County.
- **Media coverage:** [Ark Valley Voice](#), [Montrose Daily](#) and [E&E News](#)

111 Colorado Local Elected Officials
from 30+ Colorado communities to

Senator Gardner:



"Pass the CORE Act this year!"

Virtual Lobby Meetings

Instead of our yearly DC fly-in this year, we held ten virtual lobby meetings with congressional offices from Montana, California, and Colorado. It was great to see so many of you!



Support The Mountain Pact

Please consider making a contribution to support The Mountain Pact.

Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](http://www.themountainpact.org) 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.

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