



# 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc.

## Rocky Mountain Chapter

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Camp Hale, near Leadville, Colorado, is the historic training site for the World War II 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division ... our fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers. The training they received, the first of its kind in U.S. history, prepared volunteer soldiers from across our Nation to become the elite mountain warfare troops whose skill and bravery helped shorten the war in the spring of 1945. These legendary mountain troopers are now fading from this life.

We descendants continue to teach their example of honor, dedication, courage, sacrifice, and love of the outdoors. Their time at Camp Hale is a significant part of their legacy. That unique experience transformed young men (and the WACs who served at the camp), not into heroes, but into formidable, mountain fighters with unique skills and mind-set for the WWII mission to come. That mission accomplished, with bravery and sacrifice, their ski and mountaineering training transcended the War. What they learned at Cooper Hill and practiced in the surrounding mountains created a national sport. Their expertise and passion for the outdoors, with affordable surplus equipment, was the genesis of today's ski and outdoor recreation industry.

Now before you is the opportunity to use the tenets of the proposed CORE Act to not just protect, but also make available to the public this unique place and its history. The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Descendants, the Rocky Mountain Chapter in particular, believe your proclamation to designate Camp Hale and the surrounding area as the *Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument* will provide appropriate preservation of this historic site, educational interpretation of the Camp's history, and properly managed public access to the area's abundant recreational opportunities. In addition, the storied Camp Hale site is much revered by our modern-day 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI). Having been deployed all over the world, Camp Hale is the one place they can relate to the legends and share their own stories.

We encourage you to move forward with executive action to open the heritage of Camp Hale to the public and ensure the legacy of the men that Camp Hale trained to make a difference. They made a difference in WWII and their impact continues as founders in the outdoor recreation industry in Colorado and throughout the nation. Camp Hale is worthy of national recognition.

Sincerely,



Ellen McWade  
Director, Rocky Mountain Chapter  
10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Descendants

PO Box 393  
Rollinsville, CO 80474  
emcwade@gmail.com  
(703) 727-5743

cc:

The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado  
The Honorable Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator, State of Colorado  
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator, State of Colorado  
The Honorable Joseph Neguse, U.S. Congressman, State of Colorado



# Tenth Mountain Division Foundation, Inc.

133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 80228

September 12, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The Board of Directors of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Foundation (Foundation) extend its wholehearted support to establishment the *Camp Hale-Continental Divide Trail National Monument* (Monument) in the state of Colorado by virtue of Presidential Proclamation as allowed under the United States Antiquities ACT (ACT). This 28,000 plus acre landscape, which overlays the original historic training area of the World War II 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, including Colorado's majestic Ten Mile Range, exemplifies the true intent of the ACT; to preserve unique cultural heritage and natural resources for the purpose of public use, education and inspiration. Through your actions, this special place will allow all peoples to honor, collectively, rich native-ancestral heritage, compelling military history, high altitude landscapes and diverse natural resources. It will become the most diverse and unique in our American Collection of Monuments

As stewards of the story and legacy of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, the Foundation is committed to partner with its other dedicated regional and national Camp Hale stakeholders to establish robust management, educational and interpretive plans while working toward building resources to sustain long term viability of this new Monument for future generations.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division legacy began at Camp Hale, Colorado. Division soldier's tenacity and resulting success in training reflected their commitment to service to their country, at the same time, it revealed their love of the mountains and high level of aptitude for outdoor recreation skills. The true measure of their training culminated in their disruption of the Gothic Line, better known as "Forgotten Front" in the Apennines Mountains of Italy in the spring of 1945. After suffering the loss of nearly 1000 Killed in Action and 4,500 wounded, the Division returned home. Among the returning soldiers many put their personal and military skills to use to influence the emerging outdoor recreation industry in Colorado and throughout the country. This was evident by many veterans' postwar work to establish, manage or teach skiing at over 60 ski areas. Another group went on to create premier outdoor recreation brands such as NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), Skiing Magazine and NIKE while others showcased their leadership skills by advancing such outdoor organizations as the Sierra Club

In the past decade, an increasing number of 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI) serving soldiers travel from Fort Drum, New York to visit Camp Hale. To experience, in person, a sense of place; the landscape and legacy where their forebearers set standards in leadership, innovation in training skills and outdoor equipment development. These young soldiers, collectively, reflect the characteristics of the original division soldiers.

Preservationists have espoused...*our past should inform our present and future*. It is a certainty, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division soldiers have demonstrated this, exquisitely, through both their military and civilian service to this country over the past seven decades.

Mr. President, the designation of the *Camp Hale-Continental Divide Trail National Monument* will not just honor the people, heritage and landscape of this special place, the designation will ignite our ability to raise awareness of this lesser known military story of American courage. Furthermore, it will allow us to produce effective onsite interpretive programs and projects, investment in active service and veteran programs that inspire new careers and legacies in both the military and outdoor recreation industries. To this end, your action to establish the *Camp Hale-Continental Divide Trail National Monument* will leverage positive educational, cultural and economic impact within Colorado and throughout the Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Kramer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy B Kramer, President  
10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Foundation  
[www.10thmountainfoundation.org](http://www.10thmountainfoundation.org)

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado  
The Honorable Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator, State of Colorado  
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator, State of Colorado  
The Honorable Joseph Neguse, U.S. Congressman, State of Colorado



## The National Association of the 10th Mountain Division



September 12, 2022

**The Honorable Joseph R. Biden**  
**President**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, a Veteran's association dedicated to preserving and enhancing the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division for future generations, heartily supports the designation of Camp Hale, Colorado as the *Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument*. Camp Hale is the birthplace of the Army's 10th Mountain Division, where it was activated in 1943 and trained in the rugged Colorado wilderness in preparation for its World War II deployment and subsequent combat operations in Italy and Southern Europe. Instrumental in breaching the German defenses in the mountainous region of Northern Italy in 1945, the 10th Mountain Division spearheaded the Allied advance into Southern Europe, contributing to the defeat and surrender of Germany. It was the only Division in the U.S. Army that specifically trained for mountain warfare.

Importantly, the Soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who fought in World War II went on to establish this Nation's modern ski industry, widely expanding the ski experience for follow-on American generations and contributing to the outdoor recreation economy. The competitiveness and skill of our modern U.S. Olympic skiers can be traced directly to these founders.

The modern 10th Mountain Division, the most deployed Division in the U.S. Army, now operates from its home at Fort Drum, New York. But its heritage, legacy, and ethos springs from its beginnings at Camp Hale, and the unique skills its Soldiers honed in skiing, rock climbing, and cold weather and mountain operations. The spirit of all Soldiers in our Army stem, in part, from the history of their units. Our Soldiers follow in the footsteps of the Veterans who went before them and are inspired by their outstanding achievements and examples. Those in the 10th Mountain Division are no

exception. The various memorials and memorialized streets and buildings at Fort Drum bear witness to the rich history of the Division in World War II. Soldiers in 10th Mountain Division units who effectively operated in the mountains of Afghanistan and deserts of Iraq during the recent wars, proudly wore the Division's WWII patch on their shoulders.

We urge you to designate Camp Hale and the nearby Tenmile range as a National Monument to honor the World War II Veterans of the 10th Mountain Division, including its 5,000 casualties. It recognizes and enhances an important legacy that burns bright in our Soldiers today and preserves this important area for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. B. Jackman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Galen B. Jackman  
Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)  
Chairman of the Board  
National Association of the 10th Mountain Division

cc:

The Honorable Lloyd Austin III, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense  
The Honorable Christine Warmuth, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Army  
The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
The Honorable Thomas Villas, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado  
The Honorable Senator Michael Bennet  
The Honorable Senator John Hickenlooper  
The Honorable Congressman Joseph Neguse



SENATE  
STATE OF COLORADO  
DENVER

September 19, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President,

I write to urge you to use the authority granted to you by The Antiquities Act to protect the public lands proposed for permanent protection in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE Act). The Senate District I represent encompasses much of this land, including Camp Hale and its surrounding snow-crowned peaks, where my grandfather fell in love with Colorado while training for combat in World War Two.

With the war already raging, he had been called by the US Army to move his new wife and infant daughter, my mother, to a new training facility high in the Colorado mountains to join the 10th Mountain Division. Here, he was told, he would prepare the army for winter warfare. He would instruct other men in the art of wilderness survival and how to become one of the unique soldiers armed with a rifle, skis, and a suit of white to sail over the snow in silence.

Camp Hale is a wide flat valley nestled among the grand peaks of the Rockies. The valley floor provided the ground for the commissary and bunks but the mountains provided the raw material for turning young men into a battle unit. It is easy to understand how days and nights in the cool pine forest, wildflower meadows and snowy aspen stands invoked a love and level of commitment so deep that after the war so many soldiers got pulled back to Colorado. Like so many of his greatest generation, my grandfather started to devise how to protect the mountains and surrounding landscapes that helped him train men for war. He was soon a key player in the fight for The Wilderness Act, and spent summers hiking and wandering to draw the proposed boundaries for many of Colorado's now established Wilderness areas. Without Camp Hale, and its training missions to the high peaks and wilds beyond, the wilderness movement of the 1950's and 1960's looks much different.

My grandfather found solace and escape from the haunting memories of war on public lands. Decades later, with laws such as the Veterans COMPACT act, we are supporting what he experienced: that outdoor recreation can be an effective form of treatment and healing for veterans. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Center for PTSD, 30 percent of those who served in Vietnam will have PTSD in their lifetime.

You can protect these public lands that are authentically tied to the service of our nation while preserving a place to heal those that served us. There is no better way to honor the men of the 10th, and the women who supported them, than by safeguarding the mountains and landscapes that forged them.

I humbly ask you to use your power as president to protect these lands to ensure that future generations can fall in love with the outdoors that trained and supported some of America's finest soldiers. The birthplace of America's winter soldier deserves recognition as a place that inspires others to serve, or to simply pause and breathe in the deep peace of a mountain valley and experience the freedom of protected land that belongs to all.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Donovan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "K" being particularly large and stylized. The ink is black and the background is white.

Kerry Donovan  
President Pro Tempore  
Colorado State Senate





---

General Assembly  
State of Colorado  
Denver

September 15, 2022

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20500

Mr. President:

The undersigned Colorado state senators and representatives urge you to use the authority granted to you and your cabinet members to protect the public lands proposed for permanent protection in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE Act). As you are aware, this request was recently made by CORE Act sponsors Senator Michael Bennet, Senator John Hickenlooper, and Representative Joe Neguse, and Colorado Governor Jared Polis. The bill has enjoyed longstanding and widespread support by a wide array of our constituents and it is past time for these remarkable public lands to be protected.

In Colorado, we have a long history and commitment to public lands conservation. In January 2021, and for the first time in several years, we saw the Colorado public lands ethos shine through the priorities of the presidency when you committed the country to a first of its kind national conservation strategy. In a time when the impacts to public lands from climate change are rising and racial and economic inequities are expanding, the Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful conservation plan has never been needed more. By protecting the landscapes within the CORE Act through administrative action, you can secure progress towards the goals set forth in the American the Beautiful plan by taking action to protect Colorado's public lands.

Camp Hale and the surrounding Tenmile Range are incredibly deserving of permanent protection as a national monument under the Antiquities Act. The 10th Mountain Division trained across the landscape in preparation of high altitude warfare in the European Alps during World War II. The adjacent Tenmile Range was particularly integral to their training. Following the war, the soldiers who were lucky enough to have made their way home founded the US ski industry and the outdoor recreation economy that is now so vital to our state. There are few opportunities to experience and appreciate the history of World War II in our country and the sacrifices made by so many of its

citizens. However, Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range are living artifacts to that sacrifice and they also happen to be some of our nations' most beautiful public lands.

Further west lies the Thompson Divide; another mountainous landscape that local ranchers and outdoor recreationists have spent years advocating to be protected from oil and gas development. Because the legislation has stalled in Congress, its left local advocates living under the veil of uncertainty. We urge your administration to protect the Thompson Divide landscape through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. Finally, we request your administration provide protections for the exemplary public lands in southwestern Colorado's San Juan Mountains by working through the ongoing Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest Plan Revision.

These landscapes are simply too important for conservation and historic and cultural preservation to become the subject of ephemeral political whims. The CORE Act, which includes the areas mentioned previously and more, already passed the House of Representative five times, only to meet repeated partisan obstacles in the United States Senate over the last several Congresses. While our advocacy on behalf of the legislation and our constituents will continue, the protection of these landscapes requires your immediate action. By conserving these lands, you will preserve a rich part of this country's history through historic landmarks and objects of historic and scientific interest and we know it will provide a path for your administration to protect additional public lands in Colorado in the future.

Thank You,

Julie McCluskie  
State Representative, 61st District  
Chair of the Joint Budget Committee

Dylan Roberts  
State Representative, 26th District

Kerry Donovan  
State Senator, 5th District  
President Pro Tempore

Alec Garnett  
State Representative, 2nd District  
Speaker of the House

Steve Fenberg  
State Senator, 18th District  
President of the Senate

Daneya Esgar  
State Representative, 46th District  
Majority Leader

Dominick Moreno  
State Senator, 21st District  
Majority Leader

Adrienne Benavidez  
State Representative, 32nd District  
Speaker Pro Tempore

Julie Gonzales  
State Senator, 34th District  
Majority Caucus Chair

Meg Froelich  
State Representative, 3rd District  
Majority Caucus Co-Chair

Lisa Cutter  
State Representative, 25th District  
Majority Caucus Co-Chair

Brianna Titone  
State Representative, 27th District

Tracey Bernett  
State Representative, 12th District

Matt Gray  
State Representative, 33rd District

Steve Woodrow  
State Representative, 6th District

Karen McCormick  
State Representative, 11th District

Chris Kennedy  
State Representative, 23rd District

Rachel Zenzinger  
State Senator, 19th District

Mike Weissman  
State Representative, 36th District

Cathy Kipp  
State Representative, 52nd District

Chris Hansen  
State Senator, 31st District

Eddie Hooton  
State Representative, 10th District

Monica Duran  
State Representative, 24th District  
Majority Co-Whip

Judy Amabile  
State Representative, 13th District

Barbara McLachlan  
State Representative, 59th District

Shannon Bird  
State Representative, 35th District

David Ortiz  
State Representative, 38th District

Mary Young  
State Representative, 50th District

Andrew Boesenecker  
State Representative, 53rd District

Emily Sirota  
State Representative, 9th District

Dafna Michaelson Jenet  
State Representative, 30th District

Iman Jodeh  
State Representative, 41st District

Chris Kolker  
State Senator, 27th District

Faith Winter  
State Senator, 24th District



President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
Washington DC, 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Colorado is second to none when it comes to the great outdoors. We are privileged to do business and recreate in a state that has no rival when it comes to our iconic natural landscapes. From our 22 million acres of public land, 105,344 miles of rivers, 690 peaks over 13,000 feet, and expansive vistas of prairies, mountain valleys and desert canyons, these spaces are central to Colorado's lifestyle, heritage, identity, and economy.

A healthy environment and a healthy economy are inextricably linked. This is true for Colorado's outdoor recreation economy that generates \$37 billion in consumer spending annually, and contributes 511,000 direct jobs. Those who work in the industry have collectively earned over \$21 billion in wages and salaries, while those who support it have generated \$9 billion in state and local tax revenue. It is also true for the wide variety of other businesses located in communities near Colorado's public lands and rivers. From breweries to banks, our businesses thrive when we can recruit and retain employees because a community's quality of life is enhanced by nearby public and protected lands.

National Monument designations have not only successfully protected the ecological, cultural and historic values of landscapes across the country, but these designations have improved opportunities for recreation and helped grow the economies of nearby communities. An analysis of the 17 largest national monuments has confirmed that population, employment, personal income, and per-capita income increased in communities around each of the national monuments after they were created.

As Colorado businesses and representatives of the human-powered outdoor recreation community, we are writing in support of executive actions called for by Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Congressman Neguse, and Governor Polis in a letter they submitted to your administration on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Specifically, we urge immediate action to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument that includes the Tenmile Range, along with initiating processes to protect places such as the Thompson Divide from inappropriate energy development.

Swift action to protect places that helped shape our nation's history is critical. Doing so will also ensure a thriving and sustainable economy for our businesses while guaranteeing our shared public lands are protected for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Shoren Brown  
Interim Executive Director, The Conservation Alliance  
Bend, OR

Louis Geltman  
Policy Director, Outdoor Alliance  
Washington, DC

Richard W. Harper, Jr.  
Director of Government Affairs, Outdoor Industry  
Association  
Boulder, CO

Ben Dodge  
Executive Director, 10th Mountain Division Hut  
Association  
Aspen, CO

Nathan S. Dopp  
CEO Americas for Fjallraven and VP FENIX AG  
Boulder, CO

Julie Evans  
CEO, Verde Brand Communications  
Durango, CO

Bill Gamber  
President & Co-Founder, Big Agnes Inc.  
Steamboat Springs, CO

Brian Holcombe  
General Manager, rygr  
Carbondale/Denver, CO

Tim Koehler  
CFO, Backpacker's Pantry  
Boulder, CO

Jonathan Lantz  
President, La Sportiva N.A., Inc.  
Boulder, CO

Ryan Mayo  
Owner, Last Exit Goods  
Steamboat Springs, CO

Penn Newhard  
President, Backbone Media  
Carbondale/Denver, CO

Eric Raymond  
Director of Advocacy, The North Face  
Denver, CO

Russell Rowell  
EVP/GM Kelty and Sierra Designs  
Broomfield, CO

Vet Voice Foundation  
P.O. Box 11559  
Portland, OR 97211



September 12, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to use the powers granted to you under the Antiquities Act to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument in Colorado. As you know, this request was recently made by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, Governor Polis and Representative Neguse and is widely supported on the ground and by the signatories here.

We recognize and thank you for making the conservation of America's public lands and waters a priority by committing your administration to the important goal of conserving 30% of this nation's lands and waters by 2030. Your 'America the Beautiful' Initiative has made strides over the past 18 months, and designation of Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument will contribute to this goal.

The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument would be made up of two areas – Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range – that Colorado's congressional delegation has been working to protect for years. Camp Hale played a vital role in the training of the 10th Mountain Division for alpine warfare during WWII, as well as in the birth of the ski economy in Colorado. Tenmile Range was central to Camp Hale's training regiments. It also includes Quandary Peak, one of the most climbed of the famed "fourteeners" in Colorado, and a section of the Continental Divide, the geologic boundary along the Rocky Mountains separating the eastern and western watersheds of the United States.

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, which includes protections of these areas and more, has passed the House of Representatives five times but has unfortunately stalled in the Senate over several Congresses, despite the support of both of Colorado's Senators. While we continue to work with lead sponsors Senator Bennet and Representative Neguse to pass the entirety of the protections included in the bill, it is vital that you act to immediately protect the areas within the proposed Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument to honor the few surviving 10th Mountain Division veterans and to protect the area for future generations of Coloradans and Americans alike. We also ask for your leadership in protecting the Thompson Divide from development and securing protections for the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

As you move to implement your conservation goals, we ask that you designate Camp Hale-Continental Divide as a national monument through the Antiquities Act. This action will continue a longstanding tradition of bipartisan support for protecting our nation's most special places, historic landmarks, and objects of historic and scientific interest while responding to the community-led desires to protect our shared public lands. We also hope this action will pave the way for additional bold actions by your

administration to permanently protect our treasured lands. Thank you for your commitment to our public lands and to honoring our veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Vet Voice Foundation  
Access Fund  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Conservation Colorado  
Conservation Lands Foundation  
Conservation Society of California, Oakland Zoo  
Continental Divide Trail Coalition  
Dolores River Boating Advocates  
EcoFlight  
Environment America  
Environment Colorado  
Friends of Plumas Wilderness  
Grand Junction Area Chapter - Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
Hunters of Color  
Information Network for Responsible Mining  
League of Conservation Voters  
Mountain Mamas  
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)  
National Wildlife Federation  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative  
San Juan Citizens Alliance  
Sheep Mountain Alliance  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
The Mountain Pact  
The Wilderness Society  
Trust for Public Land  
Tuleyome  
Western Leaders Network  
Wilderness Workshop  
Wildlands Network



August 31, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Members of Colorado government, including ourselves, have made it a priority to advance legislation – known as the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act – to permanently protect over 400,000 acres of essential public lands in Colorado. Despite our efforts on a local level, the progress in Congress is at a standstill. We are asking for your help and support in these next steps to protect the native landscapes within the CORE Act.

The support that Colorado has received throughout the years from elected leaders, ranchers, heads of businesses and veterans shows the importance of conservation and preservation of these lands. Coloradans want the opportunity to pass on these lands, as they are naturally meant to be, to future generations. We strongly encourage you to use your Presidential authorities to protect Colorado's public lands within the CORE Act.

More importantly, we ask that your action under the Antiquities Act designate Colorado's Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range as the *Camp Hale – Continental Divide National Monument*. This area in particular holds history that dates back to World War II making it the perfect candidate for a national monument designation. To further the impact that Camp Hale has had on Colorado history, many of the veterans who prepared for the war in this area returned to Colorado to establish Colorado's famous outdoor recreation culture by starting ski areas. Colorado is known and loved for these ski areas on an international level.

In addition, local Colorado community members have come together to request the protection of Colorado's Thompson Divide through the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. This would protect the land from new oil and gas leasing as well as mining. Furthermore, we request that you use the upcoming U.S. Forest Service plan revisions or other administrative tools to add new protections to wilderness designations, mineral withdrawals, and





**TOWN OF BRECKENRIDGE**

---

special management areas proposed by the CORE Act on Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

By supporting our efforts and taking the next steps to preserve Colorado open spaces such as Camp Hale and Colorado's Thompson Divide, you will be ensuring a future of beautiful landscapes for generations to come. Our fight to pass the CORE Act will continue in the hopes to deliver permanent conservation for these areas, but we ask for your help to offer administrative protections modeled after the bill.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and look forward to your support of the conservation and preservation of our nation's finest public lands.

Sincerely,

Eric Mamula

Mayor of Breckenridge, CO

Cc:

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior

The Honorable Senator Bennett

The Honorable Senator Hickenlooper

The Honorable Governor Polis

The Honorable Congressman Joe Neguse

September 16, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Today, we write to thank Colorado leaders, including Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Representative Neguse, Governor Polis, and others, for their diligent work to protect some of Colorado's most iconic landscapes. The proposed Camp Hale – Continental Divide National Monument and additional protections for other landscapes identified in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act such as the Thompson Divide and Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, will help to preserve and enhance our way of life for the next generation. We are grateful that our leaders in Colorado are listening to stakeholders in our state, including business owners, recreationists, conservationists, and others, and taking bold action in proposing this National Monument, and we urge the Biden Administration to support this designation and other administrative actions.

As business owners along the Continental Divide and throughout Colorado, we see the impacts of these lands and waters every day on our communities, our business, and our way of life. We are a diverse group of businesses, ranging from the outdoor recreation industry and the service industry to mom-and-pop restaurants and grocers, and we embrace people exploring the great outdoors and enjoying the public lands in our communities. The Antiquities Act has been used over 150 times throughout the history of this nation to establish and expand national monuments, resulting in protected landscapes that have become universally revered symbols of America the Beautiful. This designation is just one of many advocated for by conservationists, recreationists, and local leaders who have identified community-led conservation efforts across the Nation that will help reach the goal of protecting 30% of our lands and waters, while supporting communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. These protected places enrich our culture, boost our local economies, and sustain healthy habitat for wildlife.

The Camp Hale area and the Ten Mile Range are some of the most essential lands in our state for outdoor recreation, wildlife corridors, and historical preservation. Our businesses and our communities rely on public lands and a protected Continental Divide landscape, including 28 miles of the 3,100 mile-long Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that would be protected in the designation, which both fuels the economy and keeps the rural West alive. A recent survey of businesses along the Continental Divide Trail showed that 90% of business owners surveyed believe protecting, promoting, and enhancing public lands is important to the well-being of businesses, jobs, and their community's economy. In a country often weighed down by division, our public lands bring us together.

This land is essential to our economy, our communities' wellbeing, and our future. We thank the diligent work of Colorado leaders over the past decade to protect these important landscapes as part of the CORE Act. And we urge President Biden and the Department of the Interior to recognize this community-led effort by utilizing your administration's powers to designate Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range as the Camp Hale – Continental Divide National Monument, and to protect the Thompson Divide and GMUG National Forests.

Sincerely,

7000 Feet Running Company, Salida  
Alpine Gift Shoppe, Leadville  
Aspen Traders, Leadville  
Blue Flower Candies & Provisions, Leadville  
Carboy Winery LLC, Littleton  
Corvus: Clothing and Curiosities, Salida  
Double Z Bar and BBQ, Steamboat Springs  
Elemente, Salida

Elevation Goods, Leadville  
Fay and Maye, Salida  
FREIGHT910, LLC, Leadville  
GRAND LAKE WINE & SPIRITS, GRAND LAKE  
Grand Pizza, Grand Lake  
Hala Gear / Twitch LLC, Steamboat Springs  
Harperrose Studios, Leadville  
Howl Mercantile and Coffee, Salida  
Integrity Tattoo & Piercing, Poncha Springs  
Kaleidoscope Toys, Salida  
Leadville Race Series, Leadville  
Lively Tours and Talks, Grand Lake  
Never Summer Mountain Products, Grand Lake  
Opal Boutique, Salida  
Point6, Steamboat Springs  
River City Sun Wear, Salida  
Rocky Mountain SUP, Grand Lake  
Ruby Blues, Salida  
Salida Bike Company, Salida  
Salida Mountain Sports, Salida  
Simple Lodge and Hostel, Salida  
Storm Peak Brewing Company, Steamboat Springs  
Su Casa Furniture and Sleep Shop, Salida  
The Cellar on Railroad, Buena Vista  
The Next Eddy, Salida  
Wood's High Mountain Distillery, Salida

cc: The Honorable Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator; The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator;  
The Honorable Joe Neguse, U.S. Representative; The Honorable Jared Polis, Colorado  
Governor; Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland; Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack



September 6, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) represents 41 municipalities and counties that drive the ski industry and mountain tourism economy in Colorado and other western states. We write to you to urge your use of your Presidential authorities, including the Antiquities Act, to protect many of the landscapes included in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act. In particular, we request that you designate Colorado's Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range as the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, that protection is offered on Colorado's Thompson Divide through a mineral withdrawal, and that protections are put in place on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests as identified in the CORE Act.

CAST has followed the CORE Act with great interest. CAST members that have formally supported the CORE Act include the municipalities of Ouray, Crested Butte, Glenwood Springs, Telluride, Basalt, Breckenridge, Mountain Village, Vail, Snowmass, Mt Crested Butte, Frisco, and Dillon along with the counties of Gunnison, Eagle, and Summit.

With strong bi-partisan support across local governments as well as a broad group of additional stakeholders, it is unfortunate that the Act has not found a path through the U.S. Senate. The economies of CAST communities are largely dependent on the adjacent public lands, and the protection of these natural places is key to maintaining our tourism-based economies. CAST respectfully asks for your attention to this request to bring permanent protection to over 400,000 acres of vital public lands in Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,

Dara MacDonald, President, CAST

CC: Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Congressman Joe Neguse  
Governor Jared Polis



**Board of County Commissioners**

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

[eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us](mailto:eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us)

[www.eaglecounty.us](http://www.eaglecounty.us)

September 19, 2022

President Joe Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We thank you for your consideration of the recent request from Colorado's leadership for the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument. Eagle County citizens and stakeholder groups strongly support this Monument designation. Camp Hale and the Continental Divide are a treasured part of our heritage and history. They are the ancestral home of the Ute Indians and later served as the training grounds for the Tenth Mountain Division during World War II. These lands and history became the incubator for many of the ski resorts in the west. Love of the mountains and outdoor recreation fuel our economy, and tie us to our roots.

Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Governor Polis, and Representative Neguse are leaders who work directly with local constituents and local governments to support the public lands that are crucial to Colorado's economy and environment. These lands provide awe-inspiring scenic vistas, opportunities for recreation, quiet solitude, and ecosystem services that benefit people from around the U.S. and across the world. Their request to you to use the Antiquities Act comes after more than a decade of community collaboration and broad stakeholder support for all the designations in the CORE Act, and specifically for Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range to become what will be a prized National Monument.

We also give our full support for the protection of Colorado's Thompson Divide through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. A mineral withdrawal for the Thompson Divide is another provision of the CORE Act that has broad stakeholder support based on years of community and statewide collaboration.

Finally, we ask that you support the remaining protections of the CORE Act that fall within the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests by using the upcoming U.S. Forest Service Forest Plan revision and other administrative tools. These designations include additions to the Mt. Sneffles and Lizard Head Wilderness Areas, Special Management Areas designed to protect Wilderness characteristics, and the Curecanti National Conservation Area.



EAGLE COUNTY

**Board of County Commissioners**

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

[eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us](mailto:eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us)

[www.eaglecounty.us](http://www.eaglecounty.us)

We deeply appreciate your bold actions to protect our public lands and national forests, and to address the climate crisis. We now ask for your swift action to take these steps to protect Colorado's highly valued public lands for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and we would welcome your visit to these special landscapes in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney  
Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Commissioner

Matt Scherr  
Commissioner



Post Office Box 975  
100 Mikaela Way  
Avon, CO 81620

---

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

September 13, 2022

RE: CORE Act

Dear President Biden,

I would like to express the Town of Avon's thoughts on the CORE Act. We write to you to urge your use of your Presidential authorities, including the Antiquities Act, to protect many of the landscapes included in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act. In particular, we request that you designate Colorado's Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range as the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, that protection is offered on Colorado's Thompson Divide through a mineral withdrawal, and that protections are put in place on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests as identified in the CORE Act.

With strong nonpartisan support across local governments as well as a broad group of additional stakeholders, it is unfortunate that the Act has not found a path through the U.S. Senate. The economy of our Town is largely dependent on the adjacent public lands, and the protection of these natural places is key to maintaining our tourism-based economy. The Town of Avon respectfully asks for your attention to this request to bring permanent protection to over 400,000 acres of vital public lands in Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration of the thoughts and suggestions shared in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Smith Hymes".

Sarah Smith Hymes  
Mayor, Town of Avon

Cc: Avon Town Council  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Congressman Joe Neguse  
Governor Jared Polis

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

GreenLatinos is an active *comunidad* of environmental, climate, and conservation leaders driven to secure our environmental liberation. We envision a healthy and equitable society where communities of color are liberated from disproportionate environmental burdens, free to breathe fresh air, drink pure water, access clean transportation and enjoy our majestic public lands, ocean, and waters. We write to express GreenLatinos' support for the *Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument* and to urge you and the Presidential Administration to take immediate action to protect this landscape in Colorado.

The importance of the national monument region to all Americans alongside the state of Colorado is significant. The landscape in its natural state is responsible for the clean air, water, and land that millions depend upon. The Continental Divide is the major watershed of the North American continent and provides water to over 60 million people in the region. The landscape is critical habitat for flora and fauna; it is an irreplaceable cultural landscape for Indigenous people who have stewarded the land for time immemorial; and it provides recreational opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors for people of all backgrounds and experiences.

This area has been at the center of a grassroots conservation effort for over ten years, has the support of Colorado leadership including Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Representative Neguse, and Governor Polis, and will advance reaching the goals set by the *America The Beautiful Initiative*. For this reason, GreenLatinos supports the designation of Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, and looks forward to a management plan, active stewardship, and interpretive education that speaks to the landscape's complex history and future opportunities.

The unique history of Camp Hale both as a precious ecological body and as a training camp for the U.S. military's 10th Mountain Division which broke a critical German defense line in the Italian Apennine Mountains during World War II is without question. But in the shadow of this area's history are stories of segregation and discrimination that we believe this national monument can address and remediate. Camp Hale was a segregated all-white and male division of U.S. forces. The segregation of the unit does not speak to the valuable contributions made by Black, Hispanic, and communities of color to our nation's military history. We also wish to highlight the history of Camp Hale as a training place for Tibetan freedom fighters from 1958-1964. The Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument offers the opportunity to explore and further understand these complex histories and help heal wounds of the past as we look toward a more inclusive future of our public lands. In recognizing the histories of diversity and





exclusion at Camp Hale, we as a nation may learn of the historical exclusion that occurred at this site and recognize the voices of today's communities reflected and shared so we move forward together. This approach, which embraces all stories of the site, will allow public land administrators to help position ethnically and racially diverse communities at the center of the creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of the region, and to influence the designation and maintenance of national monuments and protected cultural and historic places.

As you consider national monument designation, GreenLatinos urges the Administration and agencies to involve historically excluded groups in every step of the process. The monument management plan, stewardship partners, and stakeholder consultation for a Camp Hale – Continental Divide designation must be robust and inclusive of those people and perspectives that have been excluded from this landscape. This is crucial for interpretation that is developed for conservation areas such that they accurately reflect the history of Indigenous people and the many layered cultural histories and experiences associated with these public lands and waters.

The Antiquities Act has been used over 150 times in U.S. history to preserve landscapes that are integral to the natural environment, cultural recognition and heritage, and conservation of historic sites. Mr. President, we encourage you and the Presidential Administration, to not only take action on the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, but also take action on areas of importance to Indigenous communities, communities of color, and other historically marginalized communities across the country. Therefore, we also urge bold and urgent action on the designation of *Castner Range National Monument* in Texas and designation of *Avi Kwa Ame National Monument* in Nevada—landscapes which have widespread local support; leadership from peoples of historically underrepresented groups; and would further advance meeting the goals set by the *America The Beautiful Initiative*.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for the designation of Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument. We urge the Presidential Administration to take bold action to re-imagine a future of protection and stewardship that recognizes and empowers historically marginalized communities.

Thank you for your continued dedication to a community-led conservation agenda, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Administration for a more equitable and inclusive public land preservation system.

Respectfully,

Olivia E. Juarez  
Public Land Program Director  
GreenLatinos

CC:

Mark Magaña  
Founding President & CEO  
GreenLatinos

Ean Thomas Tafoya  
Colorado State Director  
GreenLatinos





**Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners**

Phone: (970) 641-0248 • Fax: (970) 641-3061

Email: [bocc@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:bocc@gunnisoncounty.org) • [www.GunnisonCounty.org](http://www.GunnisonCounty.org)

---

September 16, 2022

President Joe Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners writes to you to share our strong support for the recent request you received from Colorado's congressional leadership and the Governor of Colorado to find a path forward for the designation of the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument and for the protection of Colorado's Thompson Divide through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act administrative mineral withdrawal. Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Congressman Neguse and Governor Polis have listened to and continue to advocate for the overwhelming support that sensible and thoughtful public lands protections have for our communities, our economy and the natural landscapes of these truly iconic places. For more than a decade, Coloradans have worked to make these proposals find common ground among many interested parties and stakeholders.

Gunnison County has supported the CORE Act and all provisions contained in the proposed legislation. While we will continue to do everything within our ability to advance these balanced and reasonable protections we see the time has come to ask for your assistance to move as many of these measures forward today as possible. Specifically, we feel the Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range portion of the Continental Divide deserves a designation that will serve to protect the natural beauty and history of this area and is worthy of National Monument status.

The Thompson Divide is currently an incredibly productive landscape for ranching, sporting and recreation opportunities as well as having an incredible and intact ecological function. Gunnison County supports and requests a 20-year administrative withdrawal through the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of lands included in the Thompson Divide (Title III of the CORE Act, S.173). An administrative withdrawal would allow for additional time to pass the CORE Act and have it signed into law. An administrative mineral withdrawal will protect this area as well as the Mt. Emmons area that is so important to our community and the Town of Crested Butte, in northern Gunnison County. The citizens of Gunnison County have sought a permanent mineral withdrawal for the Mt Emmons area for decades.

We support any measures that can be taken to enshrine as many public lands protections as possible in support of the goals of the CORE Act that fall within the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison

National Forest by using the upcoming U.S. Forest Service Forest Plan revision and other administrative tools. We would also ask that this upcoming plan reflect our counties priorities on ensuring climate change is addressed in the final plan. Gunnison County's long-standing position regarding the Gunnison, Grand Mesa, and Uncompahgre National Forest is that the USFS should produce a final forest plan that reflects the consensus designations included in the CORE Act, in addition to the consensus designations we have long engaged with Sen. Bennet's office on through the Gunnison Public Lands Initiative. The preferred alternative in the final plan should include the proposed Wilderness additions, new Wilderness areas, and proposed special management areas.

Finally, immediate steps should be taken to ensure that the Bureau of Reclamation upholds its long-standing commitment to obtain 26 miles of class 1 public fishing easements on the Gunnison River above Blue Mesa Reservoir, which was lost when the Aspinnall Unit was created. Appropriate protections for lands identified in the CORE Act as part of the Curecanti National Recreation Area that will be managed in the interim by the U.S. Forest Service should be incorporated, where appropriate, into the GMUG Forest Plan Revision currently underway. This is a critical part of the CORE Act for our community and we ask that this measure be implemented as a priority by this administration in order to fulfill this long-standing commitment the federal government made to our community and sportsmen.

In closing, we wish to thank you for your leadership and action to protect our public lands. From those of us lucky enough to call these wild places home to the interest of every American who owns these public lands we know that protecting them for future generations is a goal we should all be able to agree on. We welcome you to come see these amazing landscapes full of natural wonders and amazing history in person-we would be honored to host you in Colorado.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Houck, Chairperson



Liz Smith, Commissioner



Roland Mason, Commissioner

cc:

The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior  
The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
The Honorable Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator for Colorado  
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator for Colorado  
The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado  
The Honorable Joe Neguse, U.S. Congressman for Colorado



September 15, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) is writing to urge you to protect the Mt. Emmons and Thompson Divide area in Gunnison County, Colorado through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal.

On August 25, 2022, Colorado Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, Colorado Governor Jared Polis, and Colorado Representative Joe Neguse made this request to you in order to advance several of the key provisions in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act. We are supportive of this effort to move these protections forward.

Mt. Emmons, overlooking Crested Butte, Colorado, is included within the Thompson Divide provision of the CORE Act, and its protection through a mineral withdrawal is a key objective of the Gunnison Valley community. Citizens formed HCCA in 1977 in order to prevent a large-scale mine on Mt. Emmons at the headwaters of the Town of Crested Butte's drinking water supply. For over four decades we have opposed this potential mine and the significant industrial impacts it would entail, seeking to prioritize our community's natural legacy. HCCA is currently working with Mt. Emmons Mining Company (MEMC), the current owner of the potential mine, toward a permanent solution that would prohibit mining on Mt. Emmons, while enabling the cleanup of historic mining on company-owned lands. As part of this solution, MEMC has agreed to support the withdrawal of lands surrounding Mt. Emmons, where they currently hold over 1,000 mining claims which they have agreed to relinquish as part of this effort.

HCCA urges you to similarly protect the greater Thompson Divide landscape that is included within the CORE Act. In addition to a mineral withdrawal on Mt. Emmons, included in the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Area are additional federal lands near Crested Butte. Conservation of this interconnected landscape is critical to the economic and environmental sustainability of our community, and we support protecting it through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. Crested Butte has a history in mining, but now has a vibrant local economy based on recreation, ranching, and tourism. The Thompson Divide's public lands support all three of these economic drivers. Mineral development in the withdrawal area is incompatible with our community's economic wellbeing and environmental values.

On January 27, 2021, you issued Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which committed your administration to the ambitious conservation goal of protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. Senator Bennet and Representative Neguse are original cosponsors of the 30x30 resolution in Congress. HCCA – and the community – are grateful for this effort. Protecting our nation’s resources – such as the wild public lands on Mt. Emmons and the Thompson Divide – for generations to come is a worthy legacy.

The CORE Act has passed the House of Representatives five times but has continuously stalled in the Senate. We will continue to work with lead sponsors Senator Bennet and Representative Neguse to pass the entirety of the protections included in the bill. However, by acting immediately to protect the Mt. Emmons and Thompson Divide area from mining development and new oil and gas leasing, you will help us secure the protections that our community has been pursuing for decades.

Thank you for your commitment to our public lands and for supporting our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brett Henderson  
Executive Director  
High Country Conservation Advocates

September 19, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear. President Biden:

The undersigned organizations represent millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts across the United States. Collectively we've advocated with local communities for more than a decade to secure stronger conservation protections to ensure the future of wild lands and waters in the state of Colorado that provide intact habitat for fish and wildlife. The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act is legislation that combines several provisions that have languished over the course of four different presidential administrations and multiple sessions of Congress. Diligent attempts by Colorado's congressional delegation to advance these community-driven conservation solutions have passed the House five times but continue to face barriers in the Senate. There is an urgency to act, fulfill promises, and utilize all the conservation tools at our nation's disposal. We write to ask for your leadership in utilizing the Antiquities Act and empowering your cabinet secretaries to prioritize other administrative solutions to achieve greater public access to and certainty for these public lands and waters.

The CORE Act would enhance public recreational access and protect critical landscapes for the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado, Curecanti National Recreation Area near Gunnison, Thompson Divide southwest of Glenwood Springs, and special areas along the Continental Divide including the Tenmile Range and WWII training grounds that established the U.S. Army's famed 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Camp Hale. The hunting and angling community remains committed to these places. With Congressional action stalled in the Senate, we urge you to consider the request recently made by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, Representative Neguse, and Governor Polis in their August 25, 2022 letter to you.

Your America the Beautiful Initiative and dedication to the conservation of U.S. lands and waters is a laudable goal. These Colorado lands and waters represent an important opportunity to contribute to your bold vision in an impactful way and sportsmen and women remain invested in working with you to enhance our country's unique outdoor legacy.

**Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument**

The lands and waters in the Tenmile range and along the Continental Divide surrounding Camp Hale served as the genesis of Colorado's robust outdoor recreation economy, not only through the legacy of skiers that that passed through the WWII alpine training grounds and returned to the region post-war, but also through word of the hunting and fishing opportunities the soldiers enjoyed. The landscape is rife with elk and mule deer habitat and migration corridors, including more than 10,000 acres of severe winter elk range that the animals depend upon for survival.

The 474 miles of stream there serve as headwaters to Gore Creek and the Eagle and Arkansas rivers, feeding clean, cold water into multiple Gold Medal fishing sections and supplying more than 11 miles of native cutthroat trout stream habitat along with half a dozen cutthroat trout lakes.

National Monument designations under the Antiquities Act not only enable long-term conservation of cultural sites and scientifically valuable resources - they also can conserve some of the best hunting and fishing in America. To accomplish this objective, however, designations must be pursued in a way that addresses important priorities and values. As you consider utilizing the Antiquities Act to designate new National Monuments for Camp Hale-Tenmile Range in Colorado and other special places across the country, we encourage you to consider the following tenets supported by hunters and anglers:

- The monument proposal must be developed through a public process – one that includes hunters and anglers, as well as appropriate state and local governments.
- The monument proclamation must clearly stipulate that management authority over fish and wildlife populations will be retained by state fish and wildlife agencies.
- Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands must remain under the authority of a multiple-use focused land management agency.
- Reasonable public access must be retained to enable continued hunting and fishing opportunities.
- The input and guidance of hunters and anglers must be included in management plans for national monuments.
- Important fish and wildlife habitat must be protected.
- The proposal must enjoy support from local sportsmen and women.
- Sporting opportunities must be upheld and the historical and cultural significance of hunting and fishing explicitly acknowledged in the monument proclamation.

### **Thompson Divide**

With its bounty of fish and wildlife habitat and rangelands supporting local communities, the Thompson Divide area remains critically important to local ranchers, hunters, and anglers in Colorado. We ask you to continue working with Congress to provide a permanent solution for the Thompson Divide but urge you to more immediately work with your Secretary of the Interior to implement a 20-year administrative Mineral Withdrawal process under the provisions afforded by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The three primary game management units that span the Thompson Divide and are among the most desirable to elk and mule deer hunters in the state. The largely roadless area serves as year-round habitat for those and other wildlife species, but notably supports more than 34,000 acres of elk migration corridors. In 2011, more than 5,000 deer and elk tags were available by draw to hunters within the Thompson Divide. Hunters are also able to purchase over-the-counter bull elk tags that keep public land hunting available to the average person - something increasingly important as access to quality opportunities becomes more scarce.

The Thompson Divide is a coldwater fisheries stronghold and contains several conservation populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout, considered critical to the recovery and maintenance of the species to its native range. Among the 1,550 miles of stream radiating in all directions off Thompson Divide, about 83 miles qualify as native cutthroat stream habitat along with nearly 12 acres of cutthroat lake habitat. Several of these waters are also designated as “outstanding natural waters” by the state of Colorado for their pristine water quality. The northern boundary of the withdrawal and protection area includes 4.4 miles of Gold Medal fishing water along the Roaring Fork River, and Thompson Divide’s headwater tributaries extend to additional high-quality fisheries in the North Fork of the Gunnison River, the Crystal River and the Colorado River, which sustain surrounding retailers, fishing guides and outfitters that help drive the local recreation economy.

Some places are appropriate for energy development and the Thompson Divide simply is not one of them. Local stakeholders have worked diligently to propose a management model that retains important uses like ranching, hunting, and fishing. We urge you to seek both immediate and long-term solutions for the Thompson Divide.

### **Curecanti National Recreation Area**

Established by MOU and not by act of Congress, Curecanti is the second-most visited unit of the National Park system in Colorado and offers incredible fishing opportunities. The CORE Act requires the Bureau of Reclamation to fulfill its promise to restore 26 miles of public fishing access for Curecanti within the Gunnison Basin after considerable river and stream access was lost during the construction of Blue Mesa Dam and the Aspinall Unit in 1966. We ask that interim management of this area be shifted to the U.S. Forest Service, where appropriate, while the GMUG Forest Plan revision process that is currently underway is finalized to provide long-term certainty for this area.

Outdoor recreation in Colorado is a robust and growing economic driver that can be sustained if we manage our natural resources carefully. Including hunting and fishing, outdoor recreation in the state is responsible for \$62.5 billion in economic output, supporting more than half a million jobs, and contributing \$9.4 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue. Particularly notable, wildlife-based recreation combining hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing represent \$5.7 billion and support nearly 40,000 of those jobs alone - a majority of which are outside metro areas. These jobs are an integral part of the Colorado economy. They will continue to support local communities if the habitat that supports fish and wildlife remains intact.

Colorado's hunting and angling heritage is rich, and our community is proud of the conservation achievements we've helped secure since statehood. We ask you to join us in making history again by writing the next great conservation success story. The time is right to exercise your executive authority, establish the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, and work with your cabinet secretaries to prioritize the use of administrative conservation tools that secure greater certainty for other Colorado landscapes. Together we can achieve the vision built at the grassroots level by local communities and articulated in the CORE Act for the future of our lands, waters, wildlife, and outdoor traditions.

Respectfully,

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Colorado Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Federation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited

Cc:

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack  
U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland  
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet  
U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper  
U.S. Representative Joe Neguse  
Colorado Governor Jared Polis





September 13, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

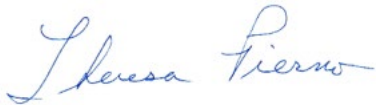
The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) applauds your commitment to protect America's culturally rich landscapes as national parks and forests. Telling our nation's diverse story by preserving key sites is an important way to educate and engage people for years to come. It is our hope that you will use the powers granted to you under the Antiquities Act to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument in Colorado, so its unique and little-known story is preserved and enhanced for present and future generations. We proudly join the bipartisan coalition of local governments, ranchers, conservation organizations, and business owners in calling for these protections.

NPCA is a nonpartisan, national nonprofit with nearly 1.6 million members and supporters and has over a century's history as the leading voice in safeguarding our national parks and surrounding cultural and natural landscapes. Our headquarters is in Washington, D.C. and we have 27 regional and field offices, including our Colorado office in Denver. As part of our mission, we work at the local, state, and national levels to ensure community voices are the real drivers of change.

We strongly support your administration's America the Beautiful initiative as a bold solution to the threat of climate change and biodiversity loss. The designation of Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range as the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument will contribute to this critical conservation goal by preserving tens of thousands of acres. It will also make accessible to new generations the story of the heroic 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's World War II alpine warfare training and later development of Colorado's vital ski industry, while also protecting its surrounding natural landscape, including a section of the Continental Divide.

Since its inception in 1906, U.S. Presidents have acted under the Antiquities Act to protect many public lands and cultural resources that are now the fabric of the American story and experience. The law has been used by 18 Presidents, nine of those were Democrats and nine were Republicans. These treasures are now America's most iconic parks and protected lands, like the Grand Canyon, the Great Sand Dunes, and Bears Ears. Your swift action to designate Camp Hale-Continental Divide as a national monument will further the Act's laudable bipartisan tradition. The few surviving 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division veterans and our culturally and naturally significant lands deserve this honor.

With gratitude,



Theresa Pierno  
President & CEO  
National Parks Conservation Association

cc: The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior; The Honorable Michael Bennet; The Honorable John Hickenlooper; The Honorable Joe Neguse



September 16, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

For over ten years, Pitkin County Commissioners, on behalf of the constituents of Pitkin County, have recognized the cultural, environmental, and economic values of the public lands in the Thompson Divide and have long sought protections for the area. The Thompson Divide title of the CORE Act is the result of years of stakeholder work that included western slope counties, conservation organizations, outdoor recreation groups, extractive industries, ranching, agricultural and wildlife organizations. This collaborative process resulted in the consensus that became the foundation of the desired protections within the CORE Act.

We support protecting lands within the CORE Act by both legislative and administrative actions. A 20-year mineral withdrawal by President Biden can provide interim protections from future oil and gas leasing while the legislative process for a permanent withdrawal is completed.

Administrative action by President Biden to protect Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range within the CORE Act, through the designation of a Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, would permanently protect the area while honoring Colorado's military legacy at the home of the 10th Mountain Division ski troops and the vast alpine terrain where they trained.

The outdoor economy is one of the top economic drivers for Colorado, bringing in [\\$9.6 billion](#) annually. We offer our support for administrative protections of lands within the CORE Act as it reflects community desires for common sense protections for Colorado's public lands, history, and outdoor recreation that is so important to our local communities. Protecting this place would be a unique and powerful tribute to those who served our country in World War II, then came home to build our skiing and outdoor recreation economy.

We know that when communities collaborate and compromise through hard work, vigorous debate, and meaningful discussion, they have the ability to create durable protections rooted in vision and care for future generations. Pitkin County requests that President Biden use his authority to protect public lands critical to our local economy.

We look forward to continuing to work with our Congressional delegation toward the passage of the full CORE Act. Protecting some of the special areas in Pitkin County and across the state is an opportunity for both locals and visitors to continue to have access to these areas while still seeing the immense benefits protections will bring for recreation, ranching, and sporting for future generations. For all Coloradans, these areas are the source of our clean air and water and the wellspring of our identity and history and in such, worthy of our steadfast commitment to protect.

We thank you for your leadership and urge President Biden to take administrative action through the designation of the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument and administratively withdrawing land from new oil and gas leasing and mining through a Thompson Divide Mineral Withdrawal.

Sincerely,

Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners



Patti Clapper, Chair



Francie Jacober, Vice-Chair



Greg Poschman



Steven F. Child



Kelly McNicholas-Kury

CC:

Vice-President Kamala Harris  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Congressman Joe Neguse  
Governor Jared Polis

SAN JUAN COUNTY  
COLORADO

**Commissioner Pete McKay**  
Retired



1557 GREENE STREET, P.O. BOX 466  
SILVERTON, COLORADO 81433  
PHONE/Text (970) 708 0209 [commckay@hotmail.com](mailto:commckay@hotmail.com)

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing today to urge you to pursue every opportunity both legislative and administrative to secure protections for very special open spaces included in the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act (S. 173).

Passage of the CORE Act will ensure that current and future generations can enjoy these wonderful areas indefinitely. Additionally, this will guarantee continued economic benefits through our state's outdoor recreation economy.

I served for 20 years (2001-2021) as a San Juan County, Colorado Commissioner. Much of my time was spent protecting Public Lands and specifically working on evolving components of the proposed CORE Act.

I know we are closer than ever to passing the CORE Act but feel we need your help in the interim through the administrative process until passage is achieved.

I ask for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter C McKay



# SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

1557 GREENE STREET  
P.O. BOX 466  
SILVERTON, COLORADO 81433  
PHONE/FAX 970-387-5766 [sanjuancounty@frontier.net](mailto:sanjuancounty@frontier.net)

September 16, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We are writing to respectfully request that you designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument, utilizing your powers under the Antiquities Act. Many people across Colorado, including residents of San Juan County, support the protection of this important and historic region. As you are aware, Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, along with Congressman Joe Neguse, recently made the same request. Designating the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument will contribute to your Administration's goal of protecting 30% of our nation's lands and waters through the America the Beautiful Initiative.

The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument would be made up of two areas – Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range – that Colorado's congressional delegation has been working to protect for years. Camp Hale played a vital role in the training of the 10th Mountain Division for alpine warfare during WWII, as well as in the birth of the ski economy in Colorado. Tenmile Range was central to Camp Hale's training regimens. It also includes Quandary Peak, one of the most climbed of the famed "fourteeners" in Colorado, and a section of the Continental Divide, the geologic boundary along the Rocky Mountains separating the eastern and western watersheds of the United States.

Both areas are included in the pending Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, sponsored by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper in the Senate, and Congressman Joe Neguse in the House. The CORE Act has passed the House five times to date, but has stalled in the Senate despite the support of both Senators. The urgency for designating the national monument is to honor the few remaining members of the 10th Mountain Division while preserving this important slice of Colorado's military history and beginnings of our State's modern ski industry.

Additionally, we ask for help in protecting the superlative landscape of the Thompson Divide from development, and protecting critical portions of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests.

Again, we urge you to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument along with the actions described above, as part of Colorado's contribution to your commendable America the Beautiful Initiative. Public land users and historians alike will welcome and applaud these actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fetchenhier', written in a cursive style.

Scott Fetchenhier, Chairman  
San Juan County Commissioners

CC: Secretary Deb Haaland  
Secretary Tom Vilsack  
Senator Micheal Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Governor Jared Polis  
Representative Joe Neguse



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

---

HILARY COOPER KRIS HOLSTROM LANCE WARING

---

September 13, 2022

President Joe Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We are writing to you to express our strong support for the recent request from Colorado's leadership for the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument. Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Governor Polis and Representative Neguse are leaders who work directly with local constituents and local governments to support the public lands that are crucial to Colorado's economy and environment while also providing awe-inspiring scenic vistas, opportunities for recreation, quiet solitude and ecosystem services that benefit people from around the U.S and across the world. Their request to use the Antiquities Act comes after more than a decade of community collaboration and broad stakeholder support for all the designations in the CORE Act, specifically for Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range to become what will be a prized National Monument.

In addition, we would like to express our full support for the protection of Colorado's Thompson Divide through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. A mineral withdrawal for the Thompson Divide is another provision of the CORE Act that has broad stakeholder support from around Colorado after years of community and statewide collaboration.

Finally and closer to home for us, we ask that you support the remaining protections of the CORE Act that fall within the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests by using the upcoming U.S. Forest Service Forest Plan revision and other administrative tools. Specifically, in San Miguel and Ouray counties, these designations include additions to the Mt. Sneffles and Lizard Head Wilderness Areas, the designation of "Special Management Areas" designed to protect identified Wilderness characteristics while allowing long-time uses to continue and a small mineral withdrawal. Specifically the Sheep Mountain and Liberty Bell East "Special Management Areas" in the San Juan Mountains Title of the CORE Act were carefully designed to protect these highly valued landscapes, while allowing existing non-conforming uses such as heliskiing, a competitive long distance running race and mountainbiking to continue in specific areas and we would like this intent included in the GMUG Forest Plan. In Gunnison County, we support the inclusion of the Curecanti National Conservation Area.

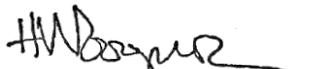
We deeply appreciate your bold actions to protect our public lands, national forests and address climate change throughout your leadership career and especially since you became President. We now ask for your swift action to take these steps to protect Colorado's highly valued public lands for generations to come.



Thank you for your consideration and we would welcome your visit to these special landscapes in Colorado.

Sincerely,  
San Miguel County  
Board of Commissioners

  
Chair

  
Vice Chair

  
Commissioner

CC: Secretary Deb Haaland  
Secretary Tom Vilsack  
Senator Micheal Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Governor Jared Polis  
Representative Joe Neguse



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ph 970.453.3402 | fax 970.453.3535  
summitcountyco.gov

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68  
Breckenridge, CO 80424

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Summit County is a county rich in historical, cultural, and natural resources in the heart of the White River National Forest—the most visited national forest in the United States. Our early mining days put us on the map and today, thanks to the popularity of recreational opportunities like skiing at our four ski resorts, Summit County alone contributes over \$1 billion annually to Colorado's economy. We owe much of that to Camp Hale.

It's widely known that Camp Hale and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division play an important role in the history of our nation's victory in World War II. Camp Hale's use as the main training ground for thousands of troops in winter warfare also fostered the development of the world-renown skiing that underpins our economy. In fact, it was skiers who were initially sought to join the Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. One of its volunteers, Pete Seibert, would use his training and knowledge of the surrounding terrain to manage ski areas around Colorado and eventually develop Vail ski resort—just a few valleys away from his station at Camp Hale. He's memorialized today in the Skiing Hall of Fame.

In Summit County, we have benefited from the pioneers of the sport—many of whom trained at Camp Hale and experienced the brutal challenge of winter battle. Their efforts continue to inspire Americans who understand the importance of Camp Hale to the successful battles in the Italian Alps.

We believe there is enormous opportunity to tell not just the story of our nation's heroes but share its connection to skiing and our cherished outdoors. Plus, as the Tenmile Range sits within the most visited district in the nation's most popular national forest, protecting these resources today ensures they can be enjoyed for generations to come.

It's an honor to join our colleagues from counties and municipalities throughout this region in support of this designation. We're also grateful for Senator Bennet and the Colorado delegation's work to preserve this national treasure and the stunning beauty of the Tenmile Range.

We urge you to designate them as Camp Hale and Continental Divide National Monument.

Sincerely,

The Summit County Board of Commissioners

  
Commissioner Josh Blanchard

  
Commissioner Tamara Pogue

  
Commissioner Elisabeth Lawrence



# The Mountain Pact

September 16, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

[The Mountain Pact](#), an organization that works with hundreds of local elected officials in nearly 100 communities across the Western U.S., urges you to designate Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument to protect Camp Hale and its rich history. We also urge you to administratively withdraw land from new oil and gas leasing and mining through a Thompson Divide Mineral Withdrawal.

Taking these administrative actions will honor history while helping our communities that depend on outdoor recreation and sustainable public lands to succeed. The changing climate impacts our daily lives through wildfires, drought, flooding, and intense weather. We face serious challenges as we deal with the effects that our changing climate has on our communities. The time to invest further in enhancing our public lands is now.

The Mountain Pact was formed in 2014 to bring people like us together. We are local elected officials and other leaders dedicated to seeing our western mountain communities thrive. One of our primary goals is to assist in creating and advocating for cohesive and effective federal policies around public lands, climate issues, and outdoor recreation. Preserving and enhancing these lands and historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest through a national monument designation will do just that.

Camp Hale has a rich history that celebrates mountain communities' role in helping the entire nation. In World War II, the Army found its soldiers were not adequately trained in mountain warfare and sought to address that problem. Camp Hale was formed to equip soldiers for high-altitude, low temperature operations, and those who trained there helped improve outcomes later in the war. It was at Camp Hale that the famed 10th Mountain Division was founded. Additionally, the Tenmile Range is a scientific and geographically interesting and beautiful area for outdoor recreation. The most hiked peak above 14,000 feet in Colorado, Quandary Peak, is located in the Tenmile Range.

Camp Hale provides a unique piece of mountain history that will bring awareness to thousands of visitors about the societal contributions that mountain communities provide. Bringing additional resources to the Tenmile Range will help preserve the scientific importance of the area and make it more resilient so that future generations can enjoy it as much as those of today. Establishing these areas as a Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument will bring great benefits to our Western mountain communities and will be a great step forward to providing our western communities with a bright future while honoring the past.



Anna Peterson, Executive Director  
The Mountain Pact

CC: Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior  
Senator Michael Bennet  
Senator John Hickenlooper  
Congressman Joe Neguse  
Governor Jared Polis



## THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

---

September 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As an alliance of major faith institutions and organizations in the United States, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE) has worked for numerous decades to protect lands and waters as part of our call for environmental stewardship. Our work on land conservation has intersected with our work towards justice and equity.

A Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument designation offers an opportunity to protect an ecologically important area and wildlife corridor that provides recreational access for visitors and nearby communities. Camp Hale also tells a story on the land that includes both triumph, bravery and pain. As a training camp for the U.S. military's 10th Mountain Division, it helped seed Colorado's ski industry and it also housed an all-white male unit of soldiers commended for their bravery. The determination of the soldiers trained at Camp Hale, as evidenced by their ability to break a critical Germany defensive line in the Italian Apennine Mountains during World War II, is to be lauded. However, the segregation aspect of Camp Hale's history should not be ignored.

A national monument at Camp Hale provides an opportunity to explore and further understand the history of segregation in the U.S. military and offer an opportunity to highlight the contributions of women, Hispanic, Black and other non-white soldiers including those in the more contemporary non-segregation 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. Any national monument at Camp Hale that embraces an honest and full history of this place can help heal wounds of the past as we work towards more equitable and inclusive public lands.

As people of faith, we have a Scriptural tradition that teaches us how God cares deeply about how we treat the earth, urging us to ensure that some portions of God's creation must be left intact for the sake of God's glory. This stewardship mandate is coupled with a desire to understand and commune with God through

creation. And, inherent in our call to protect God's creation is the understanding that our stories are told through the land.

The Camp Hale – Continental Divide site holds intrinsic value as part of God's creation and helps visitors and nearby communities connect to God's creation. A Camp Hale – Continental Divide national monument would offer a unique opportunity to tell an important story in our nation's history and preserve a valuable part of God's earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassandra Carmichael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Cassandra Carmichael  
Executive Director  
National Religious Partnership for the Environment



# TOWN of FRISCO

P.O. Box 4100 • Frisco, Colorado 80443

---

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The greatest honor of my elected career is being the mayor of the town I was born and raised in. My town, Frisco, Colorado is nestled in some of the Rocky Mountains' most beautiful, historic, and visited public lands. As Mayor, and a native son of these mountains and lands, I have spent my life advocating for their value as a critical part of our way of life. As a local volunteer for our search and rescue team, I have dedicated my time as a steward to keep those who use our public lands safe when tragedy befalls them. To say that the mountains between the historic Camp Hale and the peaks of the Ten Mile mountain range have influenced who I am is an understatement; they are a vital part of my being. It is for all of these reasons, Mr. President, that I am saddened that the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Act, (CORE) has fallen into a stalemate in moving forward to protect these lands. That is why, as Mayor of the town of Frisco, I am asking that you use your ability under the Antiquities Act to declare the areas in the CORE act as *Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument*.

The town of Frisco exists today because of the history of Camp Hale and the mountains of the Ten Mile Range. We started as a small mining town, whose future would not be found within the mountains, but on them. As mining fizzled out, our future was realized by the visionary soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division who brought recreational skiing to our slopes after their return home from WWII. We are now the heart of the most visited national forest in the United States. Every year, millions of Americans, and people from all over the world come to the Ten Mile Range and its peaks to ski, fish, hike, and enjoy the natural splendor that sits at the doorstep of my town. The adventurous spirit of the brave men who fought for our freedom unexpectedly also created one of Colorado's most sustainable economic drivers.

Declaring the *Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument* will help ensure that all people, from all walks of life and parts of this nation and beyond will know that this area will be protected to continue as a vital part of the American West. The ethos of having wild places in which to lose oneself celebrates the quintessential American spirit of being part of the land as it has always been, and knowing that it will always remain to ski, to adventure, and to be a part of a proud history.

Thank you Mr. President for your consideration for this request and the timeless impact you would have on our community and our surrounding public lands.

Mayor Hunter Mortensen

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hunter Mortensen", written over a light blue horizontal line.

(970) 668-5276 • Fax: (970) 668-0677 • [www.frisco.gov](http://www.frisco.gov)



LYNN PADGETT  
JAKE NIECE  
BEN TISDEL

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

541 4<sup>th</sup> Street • P.O. Box C • Ouray, Colorado 81427 • 970-325-7320 • FAX 970-325-0452

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

The Ouray County Board of County Commissioners, along with other similar counties in Colorado, requests that you use your powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument. As you are aware, Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, along with Congressman Joe Neguse, recently made the same request.

Many people across Colorado, including residents of Ouray County, support the protection of this important and historic region.

The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument would be made up of two areas – Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range – that Colorado's congressional delegation has been working to protect for years. Camp Hale played a vital role in the training of the 10th Mountain Division for alpine warfare during WWII, as well as in the birth of the ski economy in Colorado. Tenmile Range was central to Camp Hale's training regimens. It also includes Quandary Peak, one of the most climbed of the famed "fourteeners" in Colorado, and a section of the Continental Divide, the geologic boundary along the Rocky Mountains separating the eastern and western watersheds of the United States.

Both areas are included in the current Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act (S.173/H.R.577), sponsored by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper in the Senate, and Congressman Joe Neguse in the House. The CORE Act has already passed the House five times, but has stalled in the Senate despite the support of both Senators. It is urgent to protect these areas to honor the few surviving members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division while preserving this important slice of Colorado's military history and beginnings of our State's modern ski industry. The CORE Act enjoys the support of eight county and 18 municipal governments, in addition to hundreds of private businesses.

Additionally, we ask for help in ensuring that the Forest Plan Revision for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest, include in its final form the appropriate administrative protections and recognitions identified within the CORE Act. The GMUG National Forest is the largest carbon-retaining natural feature in the State of Colorado, and is a prime landscape in which to study and monitor climate change effects.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn M. Padgett, Chair

  
Jake Niece, Vice-Chair

  
Ben Tisdell, Member

CC: John Whitney, Western Slope Regional Director, U.S. Senator Michael F. Bennet; [John\\_Whitney@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:John_Whitney@bennet.senate.gov)  
Helen Katich, Regional Representative, Southwest, U.S. Senator Hickenlooper; [helen\\_katich@hickenlooper.senate.gov](mailto:helen_katich@hickenlooper.senate.gov)  
Bernadette Lake, Western Colorado Field Representative, U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; [Bernadette.lake@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bernadette.lake@mail.house.gov)