

*Ute Mountain Ute Tribe*  
*Office of the Chairman*

*Mr. Manuel Heart*  
*P.O. Box JJ*  
*Towaoc, CO 81334*

October 7, 2022

President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Support for a Camp Hale and Tenmile Range National Monument

Honorable President:

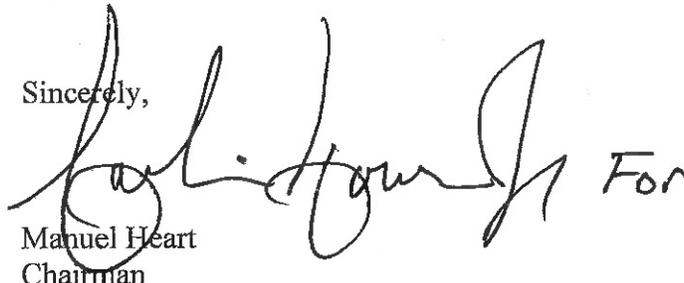
On October 5, I sent a letter to you informing you that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe supports the CORE Act, and I am writing to you now to inform you that the Tribe supports the spirit of the CORE Act and, therefore, also supports efforts to make Camp Hale and Tenmile Range a national monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act.

The Tribe believes it is very important to protect Colorado's cultural and natural resources, landscapes, watersheds, and numerous other environmental qualities, and national monuments are well-suited to provide such protections. Further, consistent with the model for monument management at the Bears Ears National Monument, the Tribe encourages you to mandate that Tribal representatives sit on advisory boards and other relevant, decision-making bodies.

Designating these valuable places as national monuments will not only preserve them for the enjoyment of future generations, but it will also allow a greater understanding of the history of these places and the value they have for Coloradans. The designation will serve the best interests of all citizens.

Please accept this letter in support of designating Camp Hale and Tenmile Range as a national monument.

Sincerely,



For

Manuel Heart  
Chairman



# SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

October 7, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe (“Tribe”), I am writing to show our strong support of the efforts being undertaken by Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, Rep. Joseph Neguse, and Gov. Jared Polis to declare the area around Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range in the State of Colorado a National Monument.

Camp Hale is well known for being a training ground for what became known as the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division of the United States Army, which served heroically during World War II. But long before its establishment as a military camp, the area now known as Camp Hale was home to the Núuchiu or Ute people. The Ute people are the oldest and longest continuous residents of what is now the State of Colorado, inhabiting the mountains and vast areas of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Eastern Kansas, Northern New Mexico, and Arizona. According to tribal history handed down from generation to generation, our people lived here since the beginning of time, including in the area today known as Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range. The Camp Hale and Tenmile Range area of the Rocky Mountains were described by the Ute peoples as Káava'avichí, meaning ‘mountains laying down.’ Moreover, Ute peoples traveled to the Pando Valley, where Camp Hale is currently situated, when winter snows melted as part of an annual circuit called the Míyatukhwatni – meaning “moving locations as the seasons change” – to hunt game and to gather plants and minerals for sustenance, medicine, and spiritual use. It remained home to the Ute people until pushed out of that area following the Treaty of 1868.

Despite being removed to a small portion of our original territory on a Reservation located hundreds of miles away, to this day the Camp Hale and Tenmile Range area remain culturally important to the Utes, who maintain the connection established centuries ago. It has been said that what a country saves is what a country chooses to say about itself. By preserving these areas of cultural importance to the Ute people, you are reflecting the significance of Native people and tribal nations to the history and progress of this country. In the days ahead, we look forward to consulting with your administration and federal agencies on the protection, preservation, and eventual co-management of these important cultural resources.

We are grateful for your attention to this request and look forward to working with you to take action to safeguard these key cultural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melvin J. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Melvin J. Baker, Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council

Copy:

Sen. Michael Bennet

Sen. John Hickenlooper

Rep. Joseph Neguse

Gov. Jared Polis

**September 16, 2022**

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

**Dear Mr. President,**

**We, the ranchers most directly involved in and affected by any actions for the Thompson Divide, write in support of our Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, Governor Polis, and Representative Neguse's effort to secure protections for public lands that are part of the CORE Act through executive action. For over a decade we, along with other members of the local ranching, farming, and agricultural community, have sought protection in the form a federal mineral withdrawal for the public lands of Thompson Divide. These lands provide the federal grazing allotments which are a vital component of our ranching operations and livelihoods. The permanent federal protections contained in the CORE Act for the Thompson Divide would provide important economic certainty for the continued operation of our ranches. The local ranching and agricultural community have been virtually unanimous in our desire to see the Thompson Divide protected.**

**The boundaries of and protections for the Thompson Divide contained in the CORE Act were crafted following years of community input with special attention given to members of the ranching community. This process resulted in widespread and bipartisan support from the communities in which we live, work, and provide food for. Despite strong and diverse support in Colorado, the CORE Act has still not passed through Congress, so we ask that you take executive action to protect our allotments from oil and gas leasing until this important piece of legislation is enacted.**

**We strongly urge you to protect the Thompson Divide from new oil and gas leasing and mining through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. This administrative action would be a critical step in securing permanent protections and give economic certainty to those of us who have a direct stake in and connection to this landscape as we continue working to pass the CORE Act.**

**Sincerely,**

**Bill Fales and Marj Perry**  
**Cold Mountain Ranch**  
**Permittee on the North Thompson 4 Mile**  
**Allotment and the Coal Basin Allotment**

*William Fales*  
*Marj Perry*

**Tom Harrington**  
**Crystal River Ranch**  
**Permittee on the South Thompson**  
**Allotment**

*Tom Harrington*

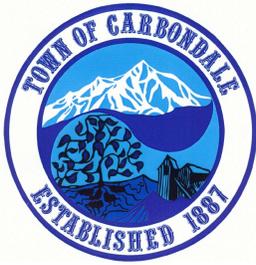
**Marty Nieslanik**  
**Nieslanik Beef**  
**Permittee on the Coal Basin Allotment**

*Marty Nieslanik*

**Ian Carney**  
**Two Shoes Ranch**  
**Permittee on the West Sopris Allotment**

*Ian Carney*

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



TOWN OF CARBONDALE  
511 COLORADO AVENUE  
CARBONDALE, CO 81623

September 20, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President,

For over a decade, the Town of Carbondale Trustees and citizens of Carbondale have consistently supported conservation of public lands in the Thompson Divide, a landscape that is critical to our local economy, home to valuable wildlife habitat and incredible recreational opportunities, and supports some of the oldest ranching operations in the region. We continue that support today and urge executive action to help protect this special place, and we specifically encourage you to implement a 20-year mineral withdrawal for the Thompson Divide under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. We additionally remain supportive of passage of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act.

In 2009, the Town of Carbondale resolved that community, environmental, and economic values in the Divide “deserve preservation and protection,” and supported “efforts of the Thompson Divide Coalition to explore legislative initiatives and other opportunities to protect these special areas from energy development.” See Exhibit 1.

In 2010, Trustees of the Town of Carbondale adopted Resolution No. 9 Series of 2010 reciting the unique existing values in the Thompson Divide, indicating that “energy development in the area would have a deleterious impact on the rural character, ranching heritage and agricultural heritage... and would forever ruin the wild character and exceptional wildlife habitat it now offers.” The resolution endorsed the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act and supported “immediate introduction of the Thompson Withdrawal and Protection Act legislation to secure permanent protection of the Thompson Divide...” See Exhibit 2.

Also in 2010, the Mayor of Carbondale sent a letter to Rep. John Salazar reciting the Town’s support of the Thompson Divide Coalition, reciting support for the aims of the Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act, and requesting introduction of the Act “during this session in order to move this effort forward.” See Exhibit 3.

In 2015, the Mayor of Carbondale joined leaders from other local communities in signing a letter to BLM reiterating “the need to conserve certain public lands in the Thompson Divide” and stating that: “our communities have long supported a legislative solution to address conflicts that exist in the Thompson Divide area.” See Exhibit 4.

In 2019, the Town of Carbondale sent a letter to Sen. Michael Bennet, Sen. Cory Gardner, Rep. Scott Tipton, and Rep. Joe Neguse declaring the town's support for "provisions of the CORE Act that will protect public lands in the Thompson Divide with a permanent withdrawal from availability for future leasing..." See Exhibit 5.

The Town of Carbondale remains a strong supporter of the CORE Act, and we hope that Congress can work together to ultimately pass this common-sense legislation. We join with members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation in requesting the use of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act to implement a 20-year administrative withdrawal for the Thompson Divide. This administrative action will give our community certainty while we await the passage of the CORE Act in Congress.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Bohmfalk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Bohmfalk,  
Mayor

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



75 South Frontage Road West  
Vail, Colorado 81657  
vailgov.com

September 6, 2022

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

Dear President Biden,

For more than a decade, Vail and communities across Colorado have worked to advance the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act – that will bring permanent protections to over 400,000 acres of vital public lands in Colorado. This legislation has been built from the ground up with years of dedicated stakeholder engagement and enjoys bipartisan support. Regrettably, progress in Congress has stalled despite strong support in Colorado.

Secretary Vilsack's recent visit to Colorado to tour Camp Hale emphasized the overwhelming support expressed at the meeting and throughout the years from local elected leaders, conservation stakeholders, sportsmen, ranchers, business leaders, veterans and the 10th Mountain Division Foundation it is clear that Coloradans across the state support the conservation and preservation of these landscapes for future generations.

On behalf of the Town of Vail Colorado, we urge you to utilize 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.

We join members of the Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) that have formally supported the CORE Act, including 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. Our economies are dependent upon the adjacent public lands, and the protection of these natural places is key to maintaining our tourism-based economies. The Town of Vail respectfully asks for your attention to this request to bring permanent protection to over 400,000 acres of vital public lands in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Kim Langmaid, Mayor, on behalf of the Vail Town Council  
Vail, CO

September 29, 2022

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



RE: Request for Administrative Withdraw

Dear Mr. President,

The City of Glenwood Springs, a highly desired tourist destination, thus giving us vast influence throughout the Roaring Fork Valley and the Colorado River Valley, have been a proud supporter of the Thompson Divide Coalition since the passage of Resolution 2009-15. The Thompson Divide is a sublime area made up of 122,000 acres of natural public land that stretches from just South of the City of Glenwood Springs to well South of the Town of Carbondale, inhabited by diverse wildlife and ranchers.

This abundant amount of diverse wildlife in this public land brings in hikers, anglers, campers, and hunters. In hunting season, our communities are transformed to accommodate to their needs. These avid outdoorsmen and women are an important supplement to our economy and a vital part of our neighbor's economic welfare.

The ranchers who reside on the Thompson Divide are in a nostalgic condition that is dwindling throughout the Great American West. They have the ability to have their cattle roam on acres with very little disturbance. These ranches are generationally passed down and their work has changed very little throughout the years. It is important for our City, which is generally so focused on fast paced sales and lodging tax, to have this connection to our past. Our communities do not take it for granted; you will often find restaurants advertising that their beef is from one of these ranches.

In 2012, Glenwood Springs City Council passed Resolution 2012-21 supporting a bill drafted by Senator Bennett to provide a middle ground for the conflict; the draft bill presented an option that would have withdrawn unleased public minerals in the area from future oil and gas development while also preserving existing private property rights for current leaseholders. Unfortunately, after being referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, no further action was taken.

In 2015, the Mayor of Glenwood Springs, on behalf of the City Council, joined leaders from other local communities in signing a letter to BLM reiterating "the need to conserve certain public lands in the Thompson Divide" and stating that: "our communities have long supported a legislative solution to address conflicts that exist in the Thompson Divide area."

We continue that support today and urge executive action to help protect this special place, and we specifically encourage you to implement a 20-year mineral withdrawal for the Thompson Divide under the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. We additionally remain supportive of passage of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act.

The City of Glenwood Springs is a strong supporter of the CORE Act, and we hope that Congress can work together to ultimately pass this common-sense legislation. We join with members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation in requesting the use of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act to implement a 20-year administrative withdrawal for the Thompson Divide. This administrative action will give our community certainty while we await the passage of the CORE Act in Congress.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Godes  
Mayor



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.

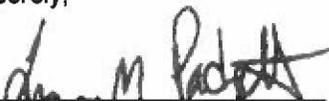
Many people across Colorado, including residents of Ouray County, support the protection of this important and historic region.

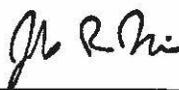
The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument would be made up of two areas – Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range – that Colorado's congressional delegation has been working to protect for years. Camp Hale played a vital role in the training of the 10th Mountain Division for alpine warfare during WWII, 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)



October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Dear President Biden,

Lake County is located in central Colorado, with a population of 7,436 people. We write today urging your use of the Antiquities Act to designate Colorado's Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range as the **Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument**. As a component of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy ([CORE](#)) Act, this National Monument effort stands alongside additional opportunities to protect our public lands within the Thompson Divide and the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

[With strong bi-partisan support](#) across local governments as well as a broad group of stakeholder groups, it is unfortunate that the CORE Act has not found a path through the U.S. Senate. The economy of Lake County and the surrounding communities are largely dependent on the adjacent public lands, and the protection of these natural places, such as the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, is key to maintaining our outdoor recreation and tourism economies. Lake County respectfully asks for your attention to this request in bringing permanent protections to Camp Hale and the surrounding landscapes.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Ducharme, Tourism Director

*Adam Ducharme*

Tim Bergman, County Manager  
Sarah Mudge, County Commissioner  
Jeff Fielder, County Commissioner

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

To: President Biden  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20050

September 22, 2022

Dear President Biden,

I am the founder and former Executive Director of Huts for Vets, a Colorado non-profit that for ten years has been providing wilderness therapy to help US military men and women veterans adjust to and enjoy civilian life by gaining tools for enhancing mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional health. To further our mission, I urge you to preserve and protect our public lands through the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act (CORE) Act.

Nature immersion on public lands and in wilderness areas is an important part of many veterans' recovery and return to civilian life. Huts for Vets operates exclusively on public lands, and participants tell us that the healing and restoration within these landscapes is unmatched, so there is no better reason to conserve them than for veterans who have given their all in service to our country.

An important component of the CORE Act is the designation of Camp Hale--the 10th Mountain Division's historic training site--as the nation's first-ever National Historic Landscape. Protecting Camp Hale is an important way to honor the contributions of veterans who served during World War II.

Please endorse the CORE Act and empower this important conservation measure. Our veterans will thank you with their support.

Paul Andersen, Huts For Vets, P.O. Box 2047, Basalt, Colorado 81621  
(970) 927 4018

October 6, 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. 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  
Absolute Bikes Inc., Salida  
Alpacka Raft, Manco  
Alpine Gift Shoppe, Leadville  
Aspen Traders, Leadville  
Basecamp Co-Pack, Denver  
Backbone Media, Carbondale  
Blue Flower Candies & Provisions, Leadville  
Carboy Winery LLC, Littleton  
Conatus Counsel, Fort Collins  
Corvus: Clothing and Curiosities, Salida

Double Z Bar and BBQ, Steamboat Springs  
Durango Outdoor Exchange, Durango  
Elemente, Salida  
Elevation Goods, Leadville  
Fay and Maye, Salida  
FREIGHT910, LLC, Leadville  
GRAND LAKE WINE & SPIRITS, GRAND LAKE  
Grand Pizza, Grand Lake  
Grappa Fine Wine & Spirits, Vail  
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  
Leadvelo Bicciasa, Leadville  
Lively Tours and Talks, Grand Lake  
Never Summer Mountain Products, Grand Lake  
Opal Boutique, Salida  
Pagosa Mountain Sports, Pagosa Springs  
Point6, Steamboat Springs  
Rabbit Ears Motel, Steamboat Springs  
River City Sun Wear, Salida  
Rocky Mountain Day Hikes, Estes Park  
Rocky Mountain SUP, Grand Lake  
Ruby Blues, Salida  
Sagebrush BBQ & Grill, Grand Lake  
Salida Bike Company, Salida  
Salida Mountain Sports, Salida  
Subculture Cyclery, Salida  
Simple Lodge and Hostel, Salida  
Singletrack Trails, Grand Junction  
SkyRidersRanchita, Buckhorn  
Storm Peak Brewing Company, Steamboat Springs  
Su Casa Furniture and Sleep Shop, Salida  
The Cellar on Railroad, Buena Vista  
The Next Eddy, Salida  
Trouts Fly Fishing, Frisco  
Two Dog Travel, Leadville  
Women's Empowerment Workshop, Eagle  
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 20, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing in strong support of Senator Bennet, Senator Hickenlooper, Governor Polis, and Representative Neguse's effort to secure protections for portions of the CORE Act through executive action, specifically their work to protect the Thompson Divide. Our board consists of ranchers, community leaders, small business owners, recreationists, mountain bikers and farmers with deep connections to the Thompson Divide area established over generations. Because we understand how important the Thompson Divide is for the families and community that live, work, and play here, we have spent over a decade seeking protection of public lands in the Thompson Divide in the form of a federal mineral withdrawal.

Protecting the Thompson Divide remains critical to sustaining livelihoods in our rural communities; hunting, fishing, ranching, and recreation in the Thompson Divide area support nearly 300 jobs and \$30 million in annual economic output for our communities.

We have long supported the CORE Act, which would provide permanent protections for the Thompson Divide and was built on over a decade of community and stakeholder collaboration. This process gave significant and thorough consideration to input from the ranching community and resulted in broad support for mineral withdrawal of the Thompson Divide, including formal support from all three counties where the Thompson Divide lands are located, eight local municipalities, and a wide array of local businesses and organizations. The CORE Act has passed the U.S. House of Representatives five times, though it has not yet passed the Senate despite widespread support across Colorado. With time running out to protect the Thompson Divide, we join with our elected leaders in asking you to take this important step to protect this treasured landscape.

We urge you to protect the Thompson Divide from new oil and gas leasing and mining through a Federal Lands Policy and Management Act mineral withdrawal. Doing so would finally provide meaningful protections to this important place and give certainty to our community as we continue working toward final passage of the CORE Act.

Sincerely,

Jason Sewell  
Present, Thompson Divide Coalition



On behalf of Thompson Divide Coalition Board of Directors:

Jason Sewell (President)  
Alex DeGolia (Vice President)  
Clare Bastable (Secretary)  
Mike Pritchard (Treasurer)  
Curtis Kaufman  
Ian Carney  
Chuck Ogilby

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



461 Railroad Ave, Unit C  
PO Box 1477  
Gypsum, Colorado 81637

970-827-5406  
info@erwc.org  
erwc.org



Protecting our rivers since 2004

October 6, 2022

Dear Senator Bennet,

Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) is writing in support of the designation of Camp Hale as a National Monument. Our mission is to advocate for the health of the Eagle River, and we believe that this is a tremendous step toward protecting the headwaters of such a critical and stunning river. We applaud your decision to protect the area's iconic landscape.

Unquestionably, Camp Hale's rich history as the 10th Mountain Division's training site makes it worthy of National Monument recognition; however, we invite you today to experience the place as an incredible natural resource and seminal location in the Eagle River Watershed. Camp Hale and the surrounding areas are the headwaters of the Eagle River, which flows 77 miles entirely through Eagle County before its confluence with the Colorado River in Dotsero.

As you know, rivers in the West are under immense pressure. The Colorado River, including tributaries like the Eagle, provides \$19 Billion in economic value to communities in Colorado alone through tourism and recreation. Locally, our economy - and very way of life - is inextricably tied to the health of our river, which provides around 3.5% of the total Colorado River flows.

As the Eagle River continues to face threats, every measure must be taken to ensure the highest water quality and quantity. Our request is that the Camp Hale area is recognized not only for its historical value, but also for the continued protection of the clean and flowing Eagle River and its headwaters through designation as a National Monument.

Respectfully,

James Dilzell  
Executive Director  
dilzell@erwc.org

Tom Allender  
Board President  
board@erwc.org



[www.monumentalshift.org](http://www.monumentalshift.org)  
[info@monumentalshift.org](mailto:info@monumentalshift.org)

September 15, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

The Monumental SHIFT Coalition is writing in support of Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument designations submitted by Congressional Leadership and the Governor of the State of Colorado. Monumental SHIFT is a coalition rooted in ethnically and racially diverse leadership transforming the traditional creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of national monuments in the United States in order to better represent and honor lands and places sacred to the communities which we represent. The support demonstrated in communities across Colorado and the urgency by which Colorado leaders are advocating for this designation are clear examples of the urgent action needed at this moment. We would like to add our voice to encourage the Biden Administration to support this designation of what we hope will be many National Monuments to be established and continue the pursuit of a more inclusive, equitable outdoors for all.

Through community-led advocacy, organizing, and storytelling, the Monumental SHIFT Coalition supports and furthers the creation of new national monuments, particularly for Indigenous communities, Black, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latino communities. As such, we believe the designation of National Monuments can be the stepping stones to the ambitious goals of the America of the Beautiful initiative and are essential to imagining future stewardship of our lands and waters that is inclusive and representative of all people.

The importance of this landscape for the state of Colorado is clear - this is a place that provides recreation access for visitors and adjacent local communities, maintains a home and migratory corridor for plants and wildlife, and supports the clean air, water, and land that people of the region depend upon. In addition to its ecological importance, Camp Hale has a unique history. As a training camp for the U.S. military's 10th Mountain Division, it supported the future development of the ski industry in Colorado, and it also housed an all-white male unit of soldiers. The bravery and 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 without question. However, the segregation of the unit does not speak to the valuable contributions made by Black, Hispanic and other communities of color to our nation's military history. A National Monument at Camp Hale provides an opportunity to explore and further understand this complex history and help heal wounds of the past as we look toward a more inclusive future of our special places. In recognizing the complex history of Camp Hale, we, as a nation, create space to 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 the full

story of the site, will help to shift the traditional designation and maintenance of national monuments and protected cultural and historic places, while at the same time position ethnically and racially diverse communities at the center of the creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of these places.

Monument SHIFT hopes to see the voices of communities who have been excluded in the past be elevated in every effort to identify, designate, and steward national monuments like the Camp Hale-Continental Divide Landscape. This work does not stop at designation; historically excluded groups should be involved in every step of the process. For this reason, we believe that the management plan, stewardship partners, and stakeholder consultation for a Camp Hale designation must be robust and inclusive of those people and perspectives that have been excluded from this landscape. As a practice we firmly believe that all communities should be involved and invested from the very conception of a designation to management planning and active stewardship. This is particularly critical for the interpretation that is developed for designated sites so that they appropriately reflect the history of Indigenous people and the many layered cultural histories and experiences associated with our Nation's lands and waters.

Monumental SHIFT looks forward to further discussions to explore the complex history associated with Camp Hale and the Ten Mile Range. We encourage the administration to continue to support community-led efforts to designate National Monuments that are centered in voices of the communities and specifically those from communities that we represent, who are so often excluded from these efforts, including the Caster Range in West Texas and Avi Kwa Ame in Nevada. And, we urge you to support the designation of Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument and look forward to the opportunities it will create for people of all backgrounds and experiences to enjoy the benefits these beautiful places have to offer.

Sincerely,

Monumental Shift Coalition

Bennae Calac

Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC)

Hispanic Access Foundation (HAF)

Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors (HECHO)

Jose' G. Gonzalez

National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE)

Nuestra Tierra Conservation project



September 15, 2022

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

Dear Mr. President:

The Next 100 Coalition is writing today to share our support for Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument and to urge President Biden and his administration to take immediate action to protect this Colorado landscape. 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 support progress toward the ambitious goals of the 30 x 30 and America the Beautiful initiatives.

The mission of the Next 100 Coalition is to connect, amplify, and support the leadership of historically marginalized communities in the administration and stewardship of waterways, lands, oceans, and coasts to advance community prosperity. We have seen the commitment to this shared work within this administration and support ongoing efforts to ensure that public lands and waters are protected, accessible, and cooperatively managed in partnership with stakeholders, including historically marginalized communities. For this reason, we support the designation of Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, and look forward to a management plan, active stewardship, and interpretive education that speaks to the landscape's complex history and future opportunity.

The importance of this landscape for the State of Colorado is clear - this is a place that provides recreation access for visitors and adjacent local communities and supports the clean air, water, and land that people of the region 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 serves as critical habitat for flora and fauna and is an important cultural landscape for Indigenous people who have stewarded the land for time immemorial, and provides many opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors for people of all backgrounds and experiences.

In addition to its ecological importance, Camp Hale has a unique history. As a training camp for the U.S. military's 10th Mountain Division, it supported the future development of the ski industry in Colorado, and it also housed an all-white male unit of soldiers. The bravery and 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 without question. However, the segregation of the unit does not speak to the valuable contributions made by Black, Hispanic and other communities of color to our

Next 100 Coalition: 100 Maryland Ave. NE Suite 203, Washington DC 20002  
[www.next100coalition.org](http://www.next100coalition.org)  
[admin@next100coalition.org](mailto:admin@next100coalition.org)

nation's military history. A National Monument at Camp Hale provides an opportunity to explore and further understand this complex history and help heal wounds of the past as we look toward a more inclusive future of our special places. In recognizing the complex history of Camp Hale, we, as a nation, create space to 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 the full story of the site, will help to shift the traditional designation and maintenance of national monuments and protected cultural and historic places, while at the same time position ethnically and racially diverse communities firmly in the creation, conception, funding, and stewardship of these places.

The Antiquities Act has been used over 150 times throughout our history to preserve landscapes that are integral to the natural environment, cultural storylines and heritage, and preservation of historic sites. We hope that the Biden Administration not only takes action on the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, but also takes action on areas of importance to Indigenous communities, communities of color, and other historically marginalized communities across the country. Therefore, we also encourage the Biden Administration to act boldly and urgently to protect the lands, waters, and stories of communities that have historically been excluded from the benefits of protected lands and waters. This includes landscapes like the Castner Range in Western Texas and Avi Kwa Ame in Nevada which also have widespread local support, engagement from leaders of historically underrepresented groups, and would additionally support meeting the goals of 30 x 30 and America the Beautiful.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our support for the designation of the Camp Hale - Continental Divide National Monument, and urge the administration to continue 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 you administration to foster a more equitable, inclusive future in the outdoors.

Sincerely,



Teresa Ana Martinez

Chair  
Board of Directors  
The Next 100 Coalition

# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

October 5, 2022

Sen. Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Joe Neguse  
1419 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. John Hickenlooper  
374 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Gov. Jared Polis  
State Capitol Building  
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 136  
Denver, CO 80203

## **Re: Support administrative action to advance the CORE Act**

Dear Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper, Rep. Neguse, and Gov. Polis:

On behalf of the human-powered outdoor recreation community, thank you for your ongoing support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act and your advocacy with President Biden in support of advancing protections administratively.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes. Many of our members are based in Colorado and have a direct and personal stake in the protection of the superlative landscapes embraced by the CORE Act.

The outdoor recreation community has worked for years to develop and advance the CORE Act's vision and to support its enactment through the CORE Act and Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act. We support your efforts and agree that Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range are entirely appropriate for protection as a national monument. We further support efforts to protect the Thompson Divide through a mineral withdrawal and advance the vision of the



# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

CORE Act through the Grand Mesa-Uncomphagre-Gunnison forest planning process.

As outdoor recreationists passionate about the protection of the natural landscapes where we enjoy our varied pursuits, we strongly support the thoughtful protections embodied in the CORE Act. In addition to its essential protections for conservation values, the bill also protects hundreds of miles of trails, scores of climbing sites, more than 20 miles of whitewater paddling opportunities, and valued backcountry ski terrain.

In the Continental Divide portion of the CORE Act, the Tenmile Wilderness and Recreation Management Areas provide opportunities for long ridgeline technical traverses, challenging backcountry ski terrain, and world class mountain biking, and the Spraddle Creek Wilderness addition provides a primitive backcountry area in close proximity to downtown Vail while keeping the future mountain bike extension of the North Vail Trail viable. These designations support a new Wilderness-urban interface that would provide a unique opportunity to experience and protect these important landscapes. We have been particularly pleased to support legislation that designates Wilderness while also using other protective designations where more appropriate. This approach is essential, in particular, for protecting and enhancing mountain biking opportunities. Because of the collaborative approach employed in the bill's development, embracing input from local and national mountain biking stakeholders among others, the legislation enjoys broad support from the mountain biking community. We hope that you will continue working to advance this vision through legislation, support for appropriate monument proclamation language, and subsequent planning efforts.

All of the proposed designations in the CORE Act have been carefully vetted by recreation groups, and designations protect and enhance recreational opportunities like hiking, climbing, skiing, and mountain biking. The mineral withdrawals and resource protections in the CORE Act further preserve the scenic and natural qualities of these landscapes.

Through this process, we ask that you support the largest possible area of protection compatible with the requirements of the Antiquities Act and support the vision for sustainable recreation embraced by the CORE Act through proclamation language and subsequent planning.



# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Biden administration in support of these protections. Thank you again for your leadership.

Best regards,

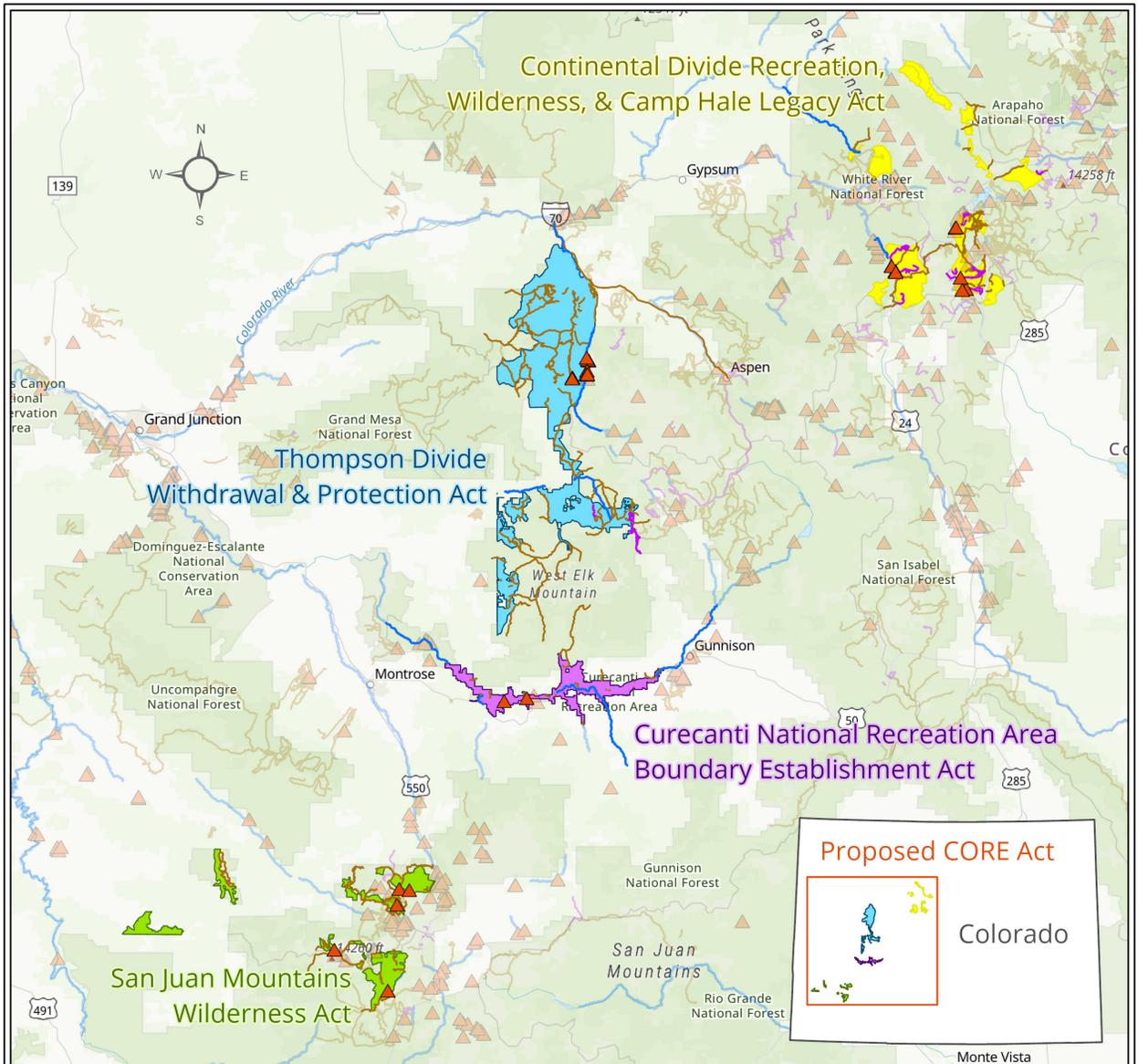


Louis Geltman  
Policy Director  
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Chief Executive Officer, Outdoor Alliance  
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund  
Beth Spilman, Executive Director, American Canoe Association  
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater  
Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Todd Walton, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance  
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers  
Jamie Logan, Interim Director, American Alpine Club  
Kaleen Deatherage, Interim Executive Director, the Mazamas  
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club  
Chad Nelsen, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation



# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE



## Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act

- Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act
  - Curecanti National Recreation Area Boundary Establishment Act
  - San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act
  - Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act
  - Rock Climbing
  - Whitewater Paddling River
  - Backcountry Ski Trail
  - Trail
- 0 20 Miles

POWERED BY OUTDOOR  ALLIANCE GIS LAB

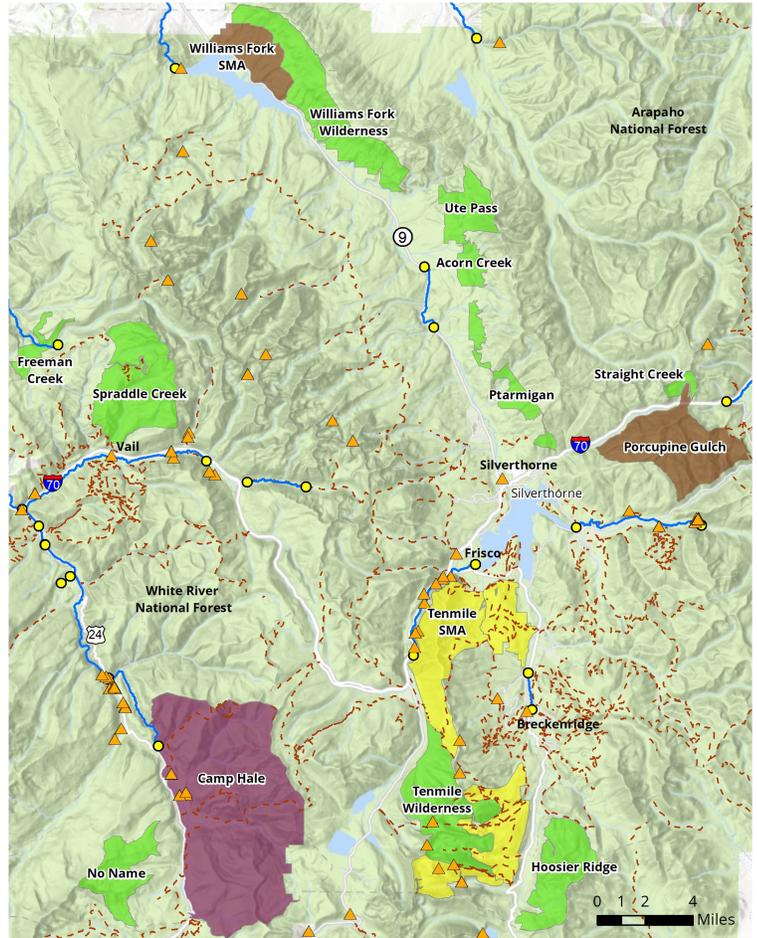
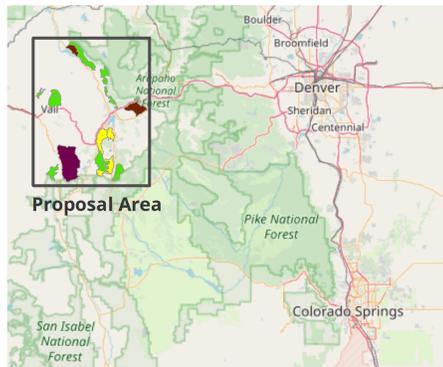


# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

## Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness and Camp Hale Legacy Act

- Wilderness Area
- Wildlife Conservation Area
- National Historic Landscape
- Recreation Management Area
- ▲ Rock Climbing Site
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling Run
- - Trail

POWERED BY OUTDOOR ALLIANCE GIS LAB





October 3, 2022

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

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our millions of members and supporters, I am writing to urge you to use the powers granted under the Antiquities Act to designate the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument in Colorado. This designation would safeguard some of the state's most iconic, historic, and ecologically significant public lands while bolstering the region's ample outdoor recreation opportunities and local economies and contribute to your administration's goal to protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030.

The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument consists of two areas – Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range – that Colorado's congressional delegation has been working to protect for years. Protecting Camp Hale as a National Monument will honor the legacy of the Army's famed 10th Mountain Division, ensuring these storied lands—the birthplace of the modern outdoor industry—are preserved and stewarded for future generations. The Tenmile Range was central to Camp Hale's training regimens and, once designated, will protect recreation and conservation areas within the White River National Forest in Colorado's beloved Continental Divide.

Camp Hale is historically significant to the Sierra Club. Our first executive director, David Brower, was trained there during World War II. Additionally, Brower stated that Richard Leonard, our former president and Sierra Club volunteer, developed much of the climbing equipment and techniques used by the men of the 10th Mountain Division during the war. Designating the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument will honor the few surviving 10th Mountain Division veterans and protect the area for future generations of Coloradans and Americans alike.

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, however, the protection of these landscapes requires your immediate action. 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.

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 the future.

Sincerely,

Loren Blackford  
Acting Executive Director  
Sierra Club