



The Mountain Pact

Diana Madson
Founder & Executive Director

Colorado Association of Ski Towns Quarterly Meeting
August 26, 2016
Fraser, CO

| AGENDA FOR TODAY



1. INTRODUCTION TO THE MOUNTAIN PACT



2. A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT:
CITY OF DURANGO & TOWN OF TELLURIDE



3. Q&A



The Mountain Pact informs, empowers and mobilizes mountain towns across the West around federal climate and public lands policies affecting their communities and recreation-based economies.

Mountain Communities for Environmental & Economic Resilience

- Over the last few years, the federal government – under the leadership of the Obama Administration – has started to look at the issue of climate change impacts at the local level, considering both the costs of mitigation impacts and the investment needed to build resilience.
- The Mountain Pact was created to get mountain communities a seat at the table. Be heard at a time when economies are suffering and urban and coastal communities are dominating the conversations.
- It's a nonprofit effort to inform, empower and mobilize mountain communities with outdoor recreation based economies throughout the Intermountain West.
- Considering the economic impacts facing mountain towns coupled with the high profile nature and influential tourist population – we can be a pretty power voice in certain policy discussions.

THE NEED FOR GREATER INVESTMENT IN MOUNTAIN TOWNS & SURROUNDING PUBLIC LANDS

☀️ WARMING TEMPERATURES

🔥 DROUGHT

🔥 WILDFIRES

🐛 PINE BEETLE EPIDEMIC

❄️ INCONSISTENT SNOWPACK

☁️ FLOODING



- At high elevations and with economies closely tied to the natural landscapes, mountain communities are among the first to feel the effects of warming temperatures and more frequent and extreme weather events. We're seeing extreme drought and with it more frequent and catastrophic wildfire, spread of the pine beetle epidemic, and inconsistent snowpack. On the other end, we're seeing more extreme flood events.
- Positioned in rural areas and often surrounded by large scale public lands, mountain communities are feeling these environmental impacts and the local economies that thrive off of outdoor recreation tourism, are increasingly impacted. These are real costs affecting local business and tax base – towns are overwhelmingly having to shoulder this burden.
- We're working for policies that proactively address the environmental, economic and social consequences.

PARTICIPATING MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES



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- These are some of the communities that have worked with us, including many of you in the room

TACTICS



Letters
(Joint & Individual)



Media Attention



Public Testimony



In Person Meetings



Op-Eds



Education
(Policy Webinars,
Reports & Memos)

We pursue these policy goals through a variety of strategies and tactics...



POLICY PRIORITIES

Turn it over to Maddie Rehn for a brief overview on our policy efforts over the last year. Maddie is the Mountain Pact's Program Director and a Colorado native.

PUBLIC LANDS & WILDFIRE FUNDING REFORM



The Mountain Pact is working with a national coalition to pass legislation that will:

- 1) Minimize the transfer of funds to pay for ever increasing costs of fighting wildfires,
- 2) Allow access to disaster funding outside the agencies discretionary funds
- 3) Address how the increasing ten-year average cuts into the USFS and DOI budgets

Maddie

- Currently, land management agencies like the FS are responsible for paying for wildfire suppression based on their existing budget. They may have – say – 20% of their annual budget carved out for wildfire suppression and the other 80% devoted to the rest of their land management responsibilities. As wildfires are becoming more frequent and more catastrophic, FS is having to borrow funding from other programs. Thus, what's ended up happening is that other land management activities are routinely cut. Already this year, FS has spent 90% of its suppression funds (almost a billion), spending \$150 million per week with no end in sight. They'll have to borrow from other programs.
- This is a major issue for mountain communities with neighboring public lands managed by the federal government because it means that activities such as managing recreation infrastructure, conservation, wildfire prevention, etc. are not happening.
- To build support for wildfire funding reform, over the last year The Mountain Pact has worked with 7 communities across 6 states to (Park

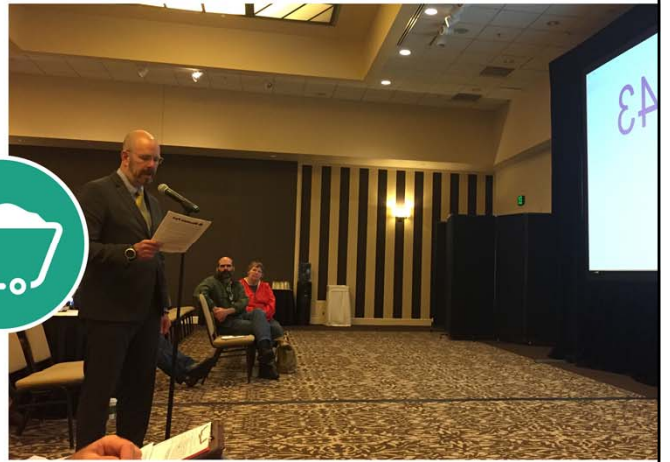
City, Tahoe, Aspen, Durango, Vail, Ketchum, Bend) to send letters and meet with Congressional reps, house and senate leadership and the White House.

- We'll be organizing a sign on letter this fall in preparation for the budget negotiations in Congress.

COAL ROYALTY REFORM

Before end of Obama Administration, the DOI is conducting a comprehensive review of the federal coal program to assess the environmental and public health impacts of federal coal production and whether the American taxpayers are earning a fair return for the use of their public resources. There is a moratorium on all new coal leases while the review is taking place.

The Mountain Pact seeks a reformed policy that accounts for the costs of climate change from federal coal and provides a fair return to taxpayers.



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Maddie

- The Interior Department is conducting a comprehensive review of the federal coal program and we're urging them to take into account the social cost of carbon (i.e. climate change costs) in the program and invest a portion of the new revenues into local climate resilience projects.



ACTION: COAL ROYALTY REFORM

2015

- 10 cities/towns submitted written comment to Interior Secretary Jewell on July 27, 2016.
- 11 cities/towns submitted written comment to the BLM on September 17, 2015.
- Representatives from Telluride, Taos Ski Valley, Buena Vista and Alta testified before BLM and DOI leadership.
- Published op-eds:
 - Park City Mayor Jack Thomas, Salt Lake Tribune
 - Telluride Mayor Stu Fraser
 - Leadville Mayor Jamie Stuever
 - Mountain Pact Executive Director Diana Madson, Albuquerque Journal



2016

- 10 cities/towns submitted written comment to Interior Secretary Jewell on July 27, 2016.
- Representatives from Alta, Bend, Hood River, and Telluride, testified at the DOI's second round of listening sessions
- Published report *How Federal Coal Reform Could Help Mountain Communities Mitigate the Costs of Climate Change*.
- In partnership with Sustainable Development Strategies Group, published *Planning for the Economic Future of Colorado's Coal Communities*.
- Published op-eds:
 - Taos Ski Valley Mayor Neal King, Albuquerque Journal

Bend Council Member Nathan Boddie, *The Oregonian*

Maddie

- As part of this effort, we've submitted three letters to DOI and BLM over the last year, each with 10 or more mountain communities signed on.
- We organized multiple opportunities for mountain town representatives to provide public testimony to top brass at DOI and BLM, sharing the impacts that climate change is having on their communities and the need to account for that in the federal coal program. Todd Brown will be sharing more later
- We've also supported opeds and reports.
- We'll know the full success of our efforts later this year when the DOI releases its coal reform scoping plan. But in the year and a half we've worked on this, DOI has gone from touching solely on the royalty rate issue to incorporating language on climate change and the social, economic and environmental costs

VALUING THE OUTDOOR ECONOMY

In April 2016 Secretary Jewell announced an initiative to measure and quantify the outdoor industry's impact on the U.S. economy. With Jewell's announcement a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Commerce to create a national Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA) and a commitment of funding year one of four for this work.

The Mountain Pact is building a coalition to push for federal recognition and formal measurement of the economic benefits of outdoor recreation as a means of gaining leverage for greater investment in the public land and water on which the outdoor industry relies.



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Maddie

- We're currently exploring the launch of a major campaign to build federal recognition and formal measurement of the economic benefits of outdoor recreation, which in turn would create leverage for greater investment in the lands and water on which the outdoor industry relies.
- The outdoor economy encompasses not only the spending and jobs that result from tourism and outdoor recreation, but also the quality of life benefits that attract workers and businesses to communities with outdoor amenities, the health benefits associated with outdoor activities, and a range of other outputs.
- First and foremost, our goal is to ensure that Congress or DOI pay for the completion of a BEA study that measures the outdoor economy's contribution to GDP (initial estimates that this could be up to 4%)
- As/once that's achieved, we're pushing for an assessment of climate impacts on the industry, investment in gateway communities, promoting outdoor recreation across federal programs, etc.
- We'll be working on this campaign strategy and seeking funding to

support the work this fall.



FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT: PARTICIPATING IN THE MOUNTAIN PACT

Invite Dean and Todd up



Todd Brown
Council Member
Town of Telluride



Dean Brookie
Council Member
City of Durango

WORKING WITH THE MOUNTAIN PACT

Why are we involved?

- Alignment with local values
- Doesn't duplicate other efforts
- Professional leadership and coordination

What have we done?

- Letters of support
- DOI Public Testimony on federal goal program
Farmington, NM, & Grand Junction, CO

Take-away impressions

- Officials want to hear from us ... our opinions matter
- We're on the "same side," trying to accomplish change
- We're not the pitchfork and torch-bearing mob ... on either side





Q & A

GET INVOLVED

JOIN YOUR PEERS, HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD &
CALL FOR FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY



GET ON OUR CONTACT LIST

Stay informed on Mountain Pact efforts.



OPT-IN POLICY

Engage where and when you want to engage.



JOIN A POLICY CAMPAIGN

Sign onto a joint letter, author an op-ed, participate in media events, etc.



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- I encourage you to be a part of The Mountain Pact to add your voice to your peers in calling for federal action on climate impacts and investment in climate resilience.
- We are your opportunity to bring the mountain town perspective to this federal conversation dominated by urban and coastal areas – and we're gaining traction. BLM anecdote.
- To get involved, it's quite simple and informal.
- First off, financial contributions are not required to participate. I do not want funding to be an obstacle to communities engaging.
- To get involved, I'll add you to our contact list to keep you up to date on our work.
- All Mountain Pact policy efforts are entirely opt-in, that is, no community is obliged to participate in every single policy campaign. Instead, you can pick and choose based on the unique circumstances of your community.
- Join a policy campaign – I'll reach out to you to sign onto our joint letters, collaborate on an oped, organize a meeting with your representative, etc.



THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

Diana Madson | Executive Director | The Mountain Pact



Phone

(530) 539-4071



Email

diana@themountainpact.org



Website

themountainpact.org