

# 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



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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.



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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,

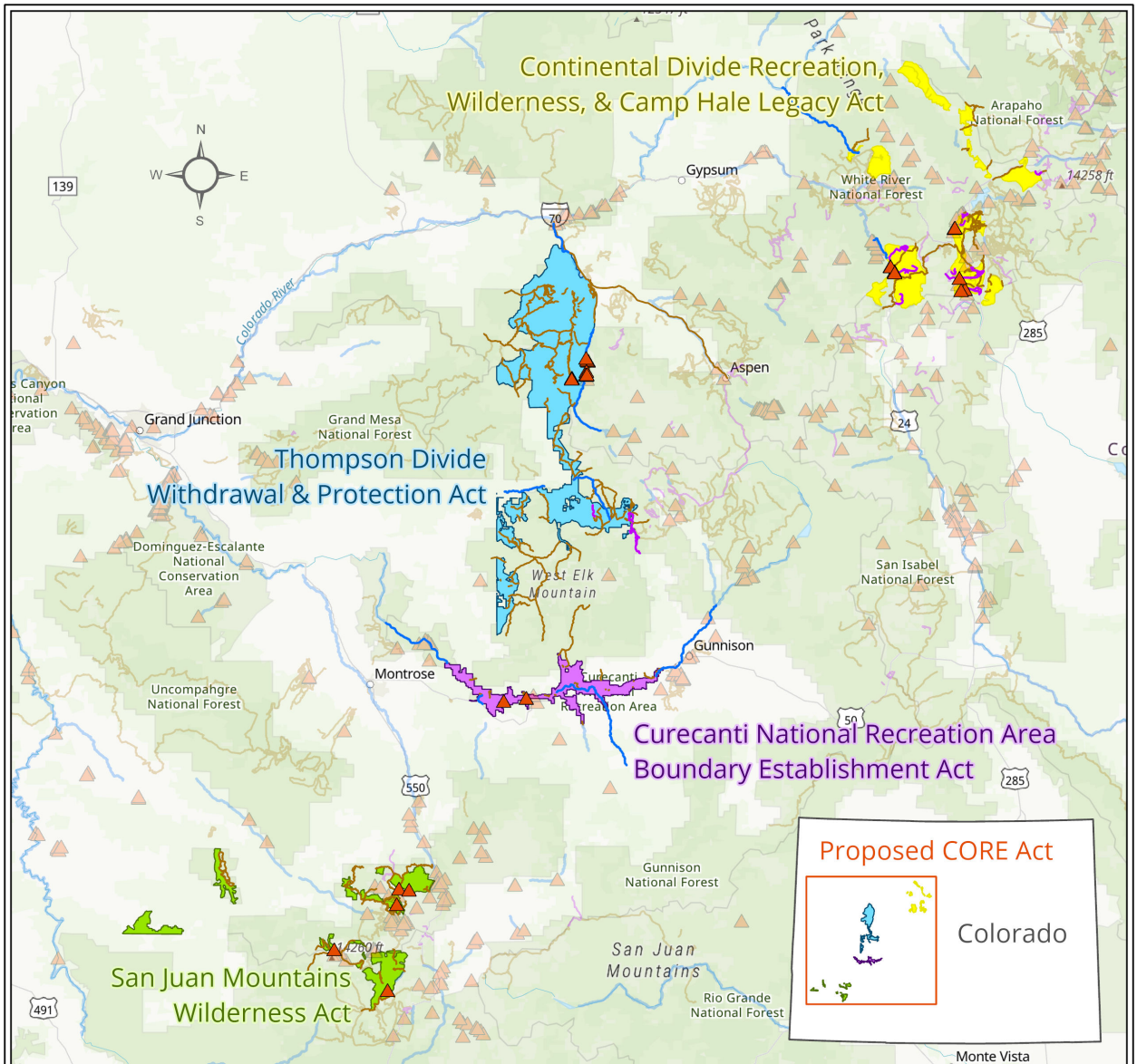


Louis Geltman  
Policy Director  
Outdoor Alliance

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



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## Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act | <span style="color: red;">▲</span> Rock Climbing              |
| <span style="color: purple;">■</span> Curecanti National Recreation Area Boundary Establishment Act       | <span style="color: blue;">—</span> Whitewater Paddling River |
| <span style="color: green;">■</span> San Juan Mountains Wilderness Act                                    | <span style="color: magenta;">—</span> Backcountry Ski Trail  |
| <span style="color: blue;">■</span> Thompson Divide Withdrawal and Protection Act                         | <span style="color: brown;">—</span> Trail                    |
- 0 20 Miles

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## 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

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