

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

November 18, 2020

Sen. James Inhofe
Chair
Senate Armed Services Committee
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Adam Smith
Chair
House Armed Services Committee
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for public lands amendments to the NDAA

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry:

On behalf of the human-powered outdoor recreation community, we write to express our strong support for the public lands amendments in the H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, and our hope that you will do everything in your power to maintain these provisions through conference.

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.

Our community is incredibly enthused by the progress of the bills included in H.R. 6395. Our community, including OA and our member organizations, have worked on many of these bills for years. They are, without exception, the product of broad



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stakeholder engagement and painstaking collaboration and reflect thoughtful, community-drive conservation efforts. They protect superlative landscapes, support world-class outdoor recreation opportunities, and empower and support local communities. Each has been passed by the House prior to the NDAA with strong support.

Given the support these bills enjoy, the progress they have made through Congress, and the historical precedent for passing public lands protections through the NDAA (most recently in 2014), it is our great hope that they will be enacted into law this Congress.

Our previous support letters for the bills included in H.R. 6395 are attached. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do to be of assistance, and thank you again for your leadership.

Best regards,



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Executive Director, 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
Mitsu Iwasaki, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Sarah Bradham, Interim Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation



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February 10, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Outdoor recreation community support for H.R. 2546, Protecting America's Wilderness Act

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the human powered outdoor recreation community, we write to share our strong support for H.R. 2546, the Protecting America's Wilderness Act. Last year, Congress passed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, and we are immensely pleased to see the House of Representatives working to build on this bipartisan success.

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.

Outdoor recreation is the most common way in which Americans come to know their public lands and waters and develop a stewardship ethic, and the outdoor recreation economy drives \$887 billion in annual consumer spending and supports 7.6 million direct jobs. Outdoor recreation supports vibrant communities and provides personal, spiritual, and health benefits for millions of Americans, and all of these benefits depend on our country's system of protected and well managed public lands and waters. Protecting important landscapes also supports crucial



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conservation values and is a key way of reducing and mitigating the effects of climate change. We are grateful for the House's consideration of H.R. 2546, and strongly support the bill's passage.

Importantly, all of the protective designations comprised by the bill were crafted with robust engagement from local, regional, and national stakeholders. We are particularly pleased that Wilderness boundaries in component bills were drawn carefully to protect sustainable recreation opportunities like mountain biking and bolted climbing that are not necessarily compatible with Wilderness designations.

We greatly appreciate the House of Representatives' support for this package, and our previous support letters for five of the six component bills are attached as an appendix. We also strongly support the sixth bill, H.R. 1708, the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, and are pleased to see it included in the package.

Best regards,



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund
Beth Spilman, Interim 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
Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Mitsu Iwasaki, Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation





July 9, 2019

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Derek Kilmer
1410 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Dear Senator Murray and Representative Kilmer:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our strong support for the Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (S. 1382 and H.R. 2642).

The Wild Olympics legislation would protect 126,500 acres of Wilderness and 464 river miles as Wild and Scenic on the Olympic Peninsula and preserve salmon streams and wild lands adjacent to Olympic National Park. In addition to its conservation values, the bill protects hundreds of miles of trails, scores of climbing sites, dozens of whitewater paddling destinations, and valued backcountry ski terrain.

The Olympic Peninsula, with Olympic National Park and the adjacent Forest Service lands and rivers, is an important part of the outdoor recreation landscape in Washington, and preserving these iconic lands and rivers will benefit our growing outdoor recreation economy. Outdoor recreation in Washington generates \$26.2 billion in annual consumer spending and supports 201,600 direct jobs. Several of our member companies and partner groups have been deeply engaged in the Wild Olympics initiative, demonstrating the direct connection between protected federal lands and outdoor business. Your legislation is an investment in our economic future.



While most of the prime Olympic Peninsula mountaineering destinations are within the Olympic National Park, several summits and crags of interest lay outside of existing Park and Wilderness boundaries on the Olympic National Forest. The Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act promises to provide lasting protection to places valued by climbers, locally and around the world. Proposed additions to the Mount Skokomish Wilderness, for example, will protect scrambling and climbing objectives such as Mt. Washington, Mt. Pershing, Jefferson Peak, Mt. Ellinor, and the nearby Ellinor Towers. In the spring, Mt. Ellinor is known as a destination for backcountry skiers.

For whitewater paddlers, the region is unique because the watersheds that radiate out from the Olympic Mountains receive several feet of precipitation each year, providing an incredible number of river miles in a small geographic area. Dozens of whitewater runs pass through towering ancient forests and moss-covered gorges. The rivers also serve as a conveyor belt for sand that forms the beaches and surf breaks on the wild Washington Coast.

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 are particularly pleased to support legislation that designates Wilderness while also using other protective designations where appropriate. The mountain biking loop trail along the Dungeness River passes through ancient forests and along the banks of a wild river. By including the trail within the Wild and Scenic river corridor but outside of proposed Wilderness, a designation is applied that will protect and enhance the mountain biking experience alongside conservation values.

Special wild places form the bedrock of our outdoor economy, and we applaud your leadership in protecting the lands and rivers in your Wild Olympics proposal. We stand ready to help move this initiative across the finish line. Together, we can ensure that the outdoor recreation economy—and the companies that drive it—will continue to thrive in Washington.

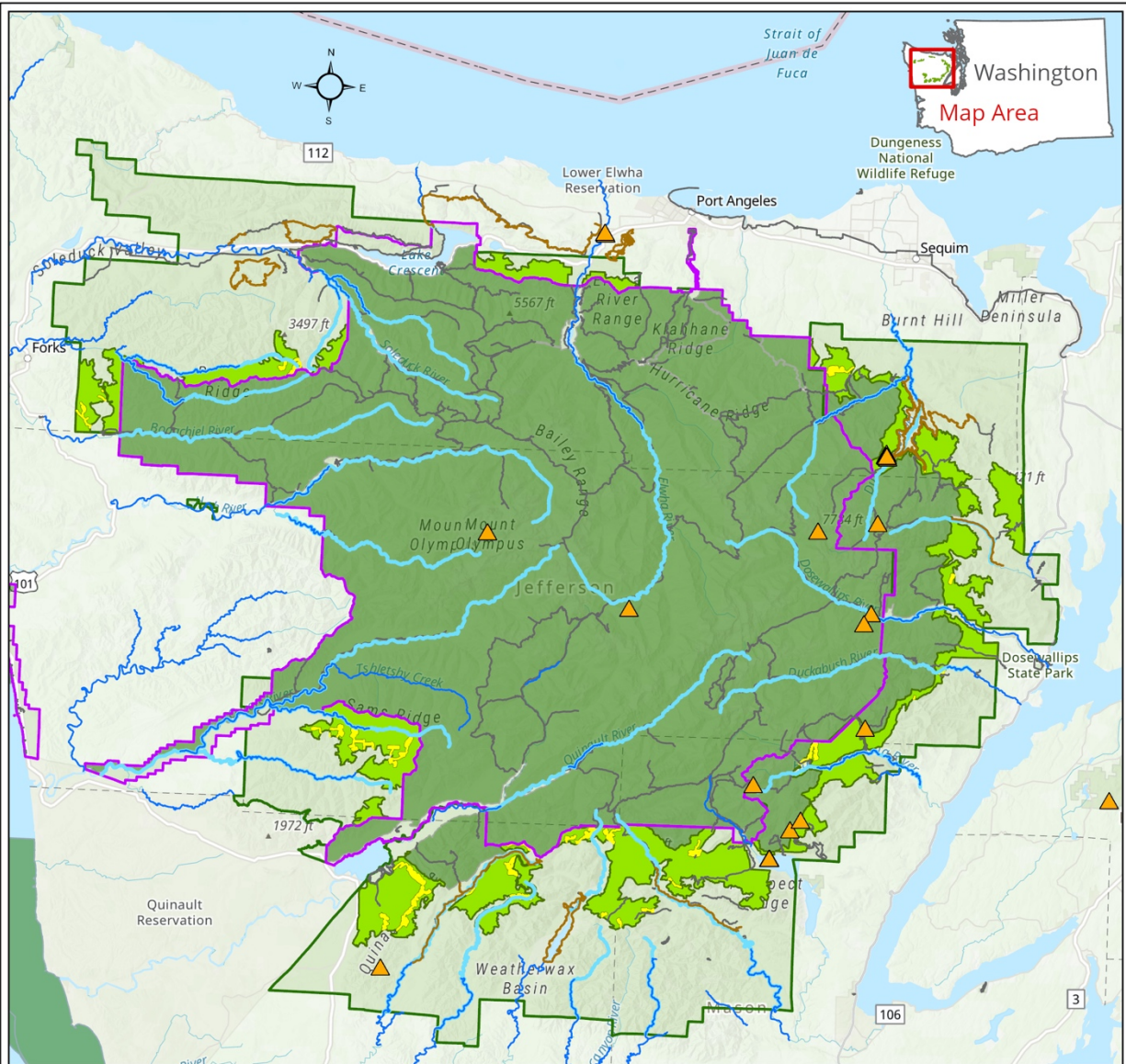


Best regards,

Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

Kirsten Blackburn
Advocacy Manager
The Conservation Alliance

Patricia Rojas-Ungar
Vice President, Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association



Wild Olympics Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Proposed Designations

- Proposed Wild and Scenic River
- Potential Wilderness Area
- Proposed Wilderness Area

Designated Areas

- Wilderness Area
- Olympic National Park
- Olympic National Forest

Recreation Resources

- ▲ Rock Climbing
- Mountain Biking
- Hiking
- Whitewater Paddling



July 9, 2019

Senator Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Jared Huffman
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (S. 1100 / H.R. 2250)

Dear Senator Harris and Representative Huffman,

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our thanks and strong support for the Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act (S. 1100 / H.R. 2250).

The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act was crafted after years of input from business leaders, conservationists, anglers, mountain bikers, fire management professionals, and more, and we appreciate your efforts to consider the needs of a broad array of regional stakeholders in developing this legislation. Because of it, the bill benefits the region's public lands, local communities, and the millions of visitors who come to experience northwest California's storied outdoor recreation. This bill secures a vision of well-balanced, landscape-scale conservation, promotes restoration of impacted watersheds, and improves fire management.

This bill will conserve approximately 262,000 acres of public land as Wilderness, designate 379 miles of new Wild and Scenic rivers, and create a special restoration area of more than 700,000 acres. From the fog-shrouded redwood forests of Humboldt County to the sunny oak woodlands and grasslands of Mendocino, and the soaring peaks of the Trinity Alps Wilderness to the turquoise waters of the Wild

and Scenic Smith River, this region is home to spectacular landscapes and world-renowned recreational opportunities.

In addition to protecting conservation values in the area, the bill would expand opportunities for sustainable recreation. With the establishment of the Elk Camp Ridge Recreation Trail, the bill would create a boon to northwest California by expanding mountain biking trails along the Elk Camp Ridge and in Del Norte County. It would permanently protect the South Fork Trinity River—a popular and valuable steelhead fishery—and study the feasibility of establishing the Bigfoot National Recreation Trail to highlight the botanical and biological diversity of the region. We greatly appreciate the bill's attention to ensuring the protection and sound management of Wilderness climbing opportunities, as well as the inclusion of Land of the Lost—the closest sport climbing to Arcata and Eureka—in a special management area.

In addition to the bill's new Wild & Scenic designations for whitewater resources on the East Fork North Fork Trinity and Canyon Creek, paddlers enthusiastically support the protection of more than 48,000 acres of public land within the proposed Wilderness areas surrounding already-designated Wild & Scenic watersheds on the Trinity, Eel, and Black Butte Rivers. Moreover, 25 whitewater river access points will be protected within proposed Wilderness and special restoration areas, and potential Wilderness areas will ensure boaters can continue to paddle along the banks of the lower portion of Redwood Creek surrounded by the tallest living trees in the world.

Adding lasting protections to our public land helps sustain the health of our environment and our outdoor recreation economy. In California, outdoor recreation generates \$92 billion in consumer spending and supports 691,000 jobs, \$30.4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act is an investment in our economic future.

We appreciate your leadership on behalf of Northwest California's wild places, and we look forward to working with you to move the bill across the finish line this Congress. Together, we can ensure the outdoor recreation economy and the wild places that sustain it continue to thrive in Northwest California for current and future generations.

Sincerely,



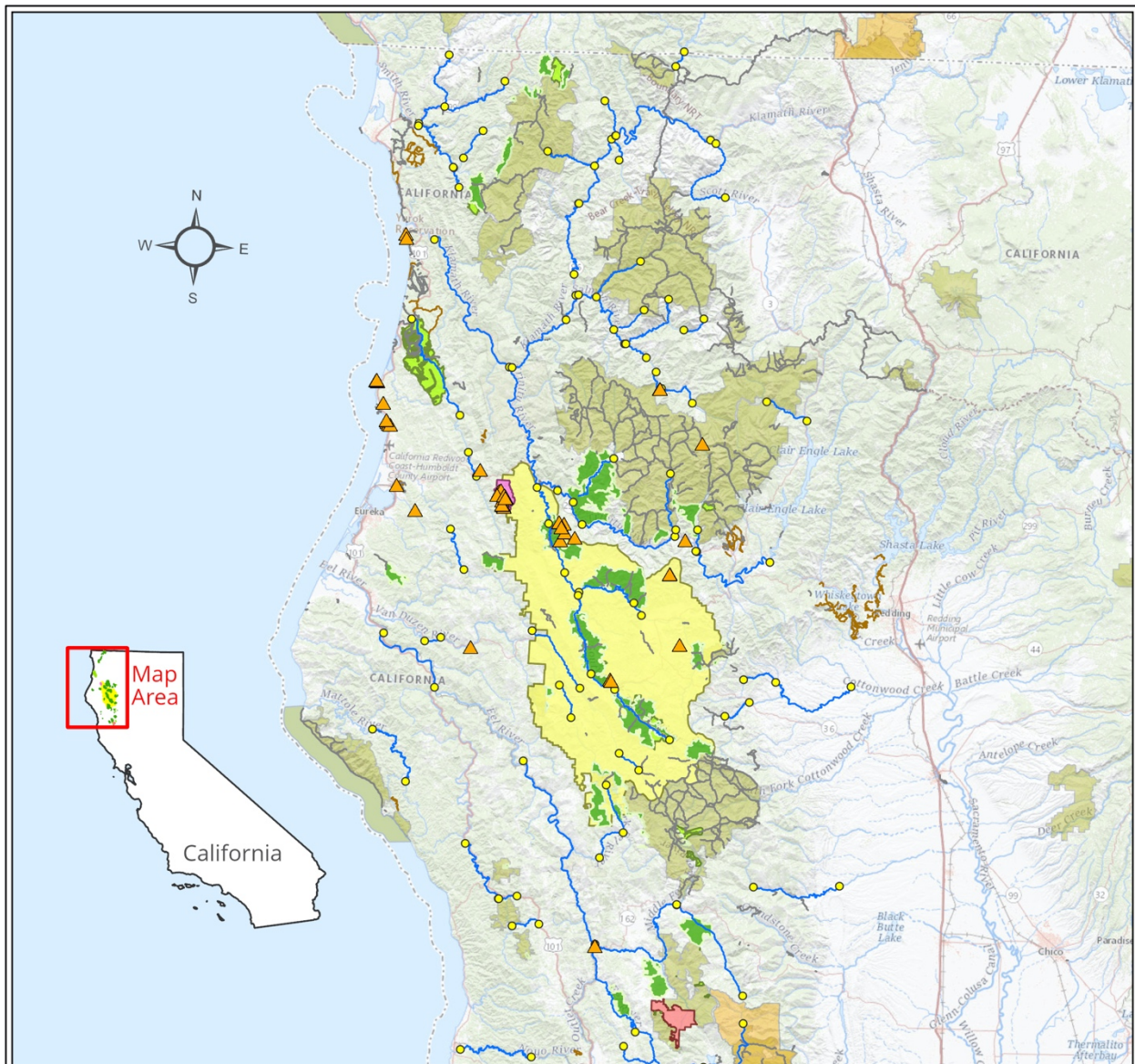
Kirsten Blackburn
Advocacy Manager
The Conservation Alliance



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance



Patricia Rojas-Ungar
Vice President, Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association



Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests Act

Proposed Designations

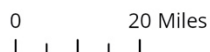
- Conservation Management Area
- Exclusion Area
- Potential Wilderness Area
- Proposed Wilderness Area
- Special Management Area
- Special Restoration Area

Designated Areas

- Wilderness Area
- National Monument

Recreation Resources

- Rock Climbing
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Trail





July 9, 2019

Senator Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Salud Carbajal
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (S. 1111 / H.R. 2199)

Dear Senator Harris and Representative Carbajal:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our thanks and strong support for the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (S. 1111 / H.R. 2199).

California's Los Padres National Forest is a popular destination for outdoor recreationists of all forms, from horseback riders, to mountain bikers, to wildlife viewers. Adding lasting protections to these areas will help sustain the health of our environment and our outdoor recreation economy. In California, outdoor recreation generates \$92 billion in consumer spending and supports 691,000 jobs, \$30.4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act is an investment in our economic future.

The bill would protect more than 262,000 acres of public land within the Los Padres Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument, designate 159 miles of river as Wild and Scenic, and create two new scenic areas, Black Mountain and Condor Ridge. Santa Barbara County's Condor Ridge is within the Santa Ynez Mountains, and its unique climate creates an area of high biodiversity and critical habitat for southern steelhead.

In addition to safeguarding clean air and water for Californians, the bill would create and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The bill designates a 400-mile-long Condor National Recreation Trail, supporting through-hiking and

backpacking opportunities across the entire length of the Los Padres National Forest, from Los Angeles to Monterey County. The bill would also protect important and threatened wilderness characteristics around popular rock climbing areas in the Sespe Gorge along Highway 33. Paddlers supports adding more miles to the Wild & Scenic Piru Creek, a waterway rare for the region that provides outstanding whitewater less than an hour drive from downtown Los Angeles.

Importantly, all proposed new wilderness boundaries were drawn in order to preserve existing mountain biking trails, and the bill would mandate that the Forest Service conduct future studies for improving mountain biking trail opportunities across the Los Padres National Forest. We greatly appreciate that the bill protects trail corridors for numerous high priority trails identified by local mountain bikers through the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers (CCCMB), an IMBA local group, and CCCMB and IMBA have worked as part of a coalition to adjust proposed boundaries in order to protect corridors for the Mono Alamar trail, the McPherson Peak Trail, and the Rinconada Creek/Mine trails, as well as make other priority trail adjustments.

The outdoor recreation community strongly supports the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, and we appreciate your leadership in ensuring that our special wild lands and rivers are protected for future generations. We look forward to working with both of you to ensure this important legislation crosses the finish line this congress.

Sincerely,



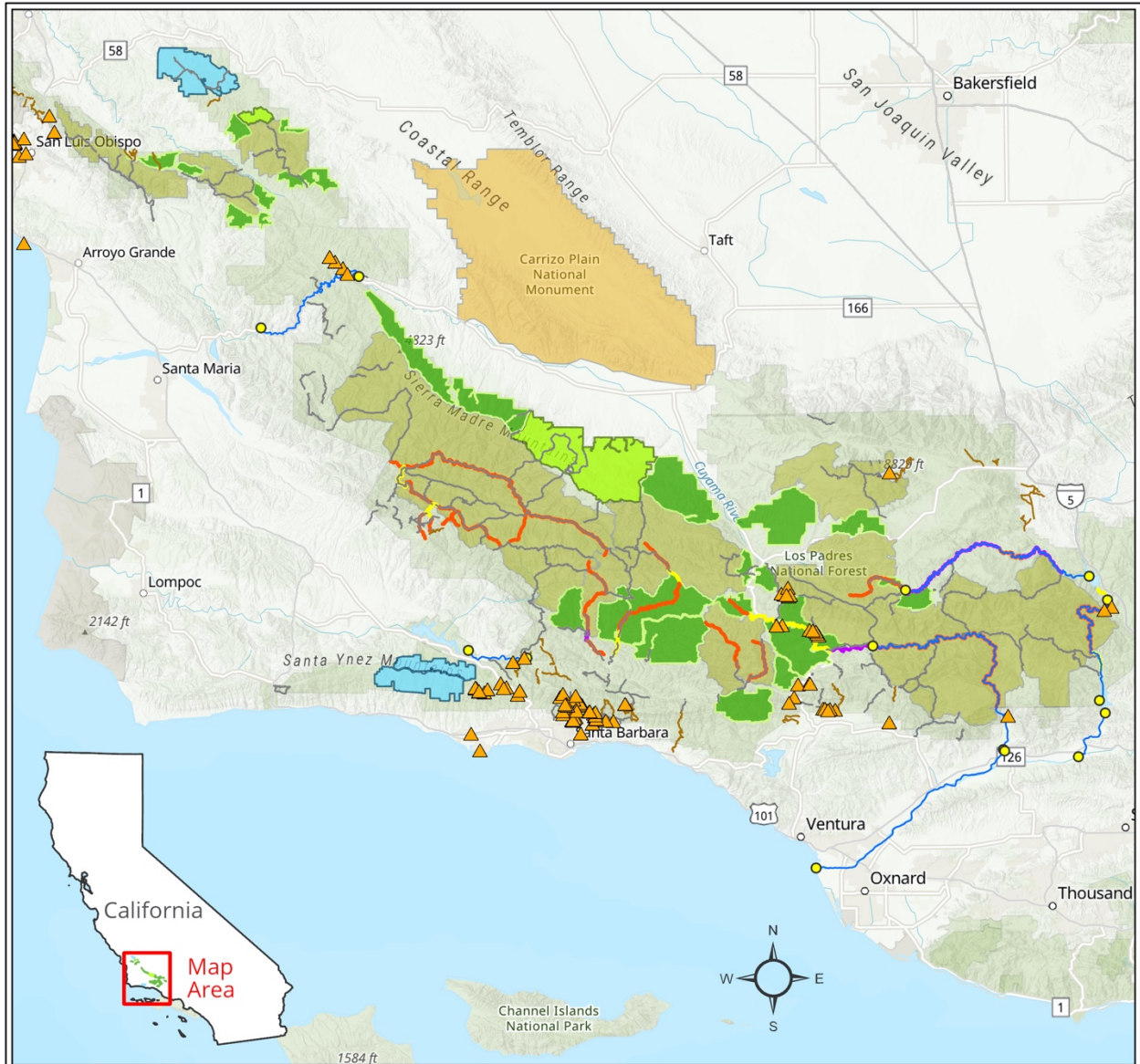
Kirsten Blackburn
Advocacy Manager
The Conservation Alliance



Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance



Patricia Rojas-Ungar
Vice President, Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association



Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

Proposed Designations

- Proposed Scenic Area
- Potential Wilderness Area
- Proposed Wilderness Area

Designated Areas

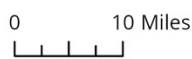
- Wilderness Area
- National Monument

Proposed Wild & Scenic River

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

Recreation

- ▲ Rock Climbing
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Trail



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July 9, 2019

Senator Kamala Harris
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Judy Chu
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (S.1109 / H.R. 2215)

Dear Senator Harris and Representative Chu,

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our support for increased land protections surrounding the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers.

Right on the edge of Los Angeles in the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument represents 70 percent of the open space in the Los Angeles metropolitan region and provides 30 percent of the region's drinking water. Adding lasting protections to the San Gabriel Mountains is important for the health and well-being of all Angelenos and can help sustain the health of local businesses and the broader outdoor recreation economy. In California, outdoor recreation generates \$92 billion in consumer spending and supports 691,000 jobs, \$30.4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act is an investment in our economic future.

We especially appreciate the various designations included in the bill that allow for multiple recreational uses. The San Gabriel foothills represent an important urban/wild buffer zone and are the gateway to the mountains for many millions of Angelenos who otherwise have limited access to open space and outdoor recreation. The establishment of a 51,000-acre National Recreation Area along the foothills and San Gabriel River corridor and Puente Hills will not only help improve

that access, but will also ensure that these highly-popular and heavily-impacted areas receive the resources they need to be managed and maintained in a sustainable manner for the safety and enjoyment of all.

The bill would increase opportunities for Angelenos to enjoy the outdoors by expanding the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by nearly 110,000 acres to include the western portions of the Angeles National Forest. The bill would establish an 8,417-acre Condor Peak Wilderness and a 6,774 acre Yerba Buena Wilderness. Additionally, the San Gabriel Wilderness would be expanded by 2,000 acres, and the Sheep Mountain by nearly 14,000 acres. The proposed Sheep Mountain Wilderness additions include a segment of the famous Pacific Crest Trail and the popular East Fork Trail. This area is famous for its rare mountain yellow-legged frog, the California spotted owl, and the many incredible trout streams perfect for fishing.

We believe that a small change to the bill to rectify an historic mapping error could further increase the efficacy of the bill for providing access to the outdoors.

When the Sheep Mountain Wilderness area was designated in 1984, a portion of its eastern boundary north of Mt. Baldy was set to follow the Mt. Baldy Trail. Unfortunately, due to inaccurate map data, the Wilderness boundary slightly overlaps the trail for a small segment as it follows the ridge line where the trail and boundary are co-located. Because Wilderness designations preclude bicycle access, this boundary issue effectively makes a significantly longer, potentially valuable mountain biking route unrideable.

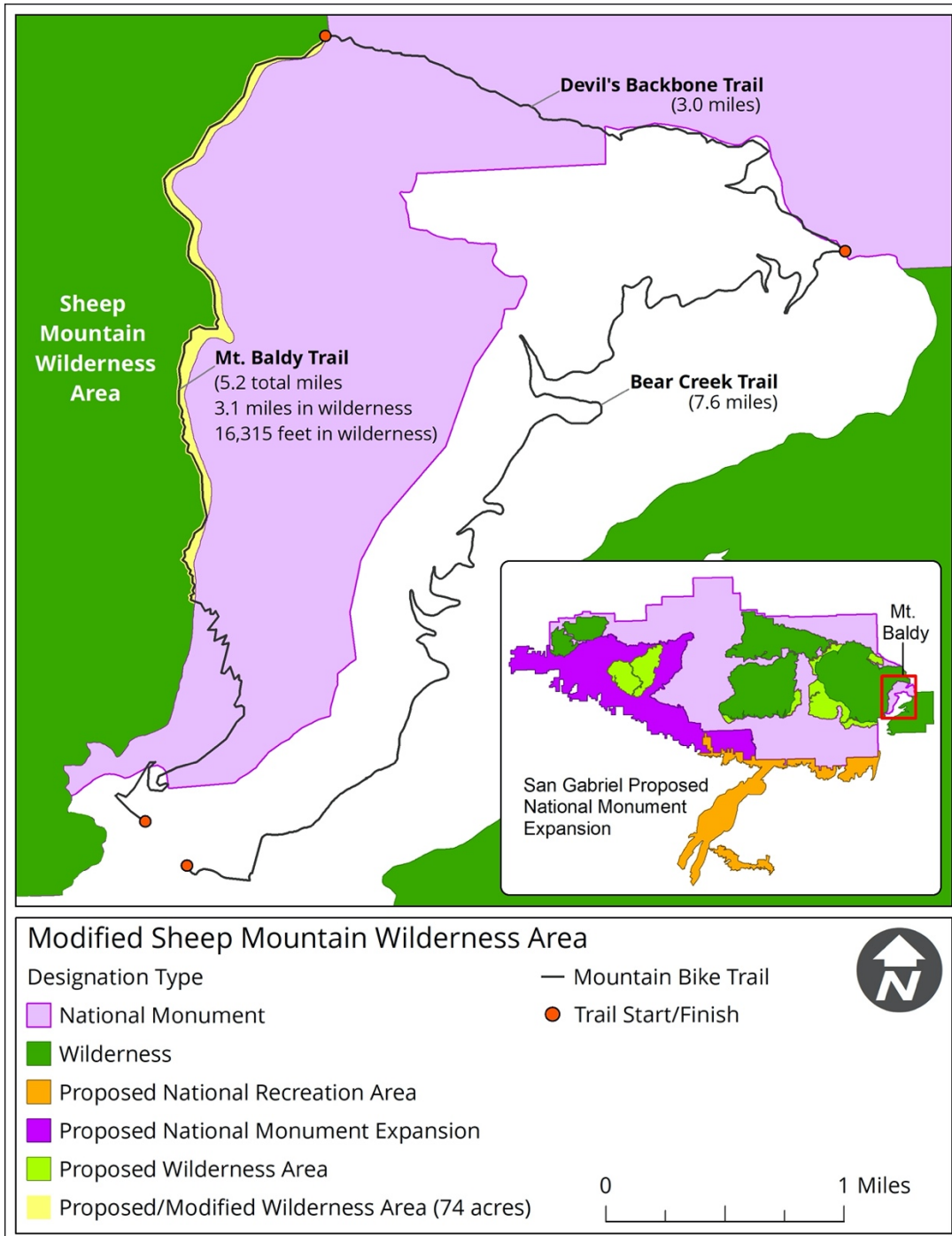
We respectfully request that the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act be amended to correct this boundary so that the Mt. Baldy trail forms the new Wilderness Boundary. With the addition of this correction, we are confident the bill can garner greater support from the recreation community and Congress and set the stage for future protections of adjacent lands.

To address this change, we recommend the following amendment text:

Sheep Mountain Wilderness Boundary Adjustment.—Section 101 (a) (29.) of the California Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-425; 98 Stat. 1619; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note) is amended as generally depicted on the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection map, by—

- (1) striking "forty-three thousand acres" and inserting "forty-three thousand three hundred and two acres"; and
- (2) striking ", dated July 1984" and inserting "and dated ___".

The map below indicates the location and the extent of the proposed adjustment.



Legislatively adjusting this boundary so that it follows the trail with a standard 50-foot buffer from centerline would result in 74 acres being removed from Wilderness. This is accounted for in the recommended legislative amendment language above by removing the 74 acres from the current and official acreage total of 41,376 (rather than the original estimated acreage of 43,000 acres) for a final total of 41,302.

The Mt. Baldy trail is part of a 16-mile trail loop made up of three trails (Mt. Baldy Trail (5.2 miles), Devil's Backbone Trail (3 miles) and Bear Creek Trail (7.6 miles)). Technically, with the exception of a 3-mile section of trail that dips into and enters Wilderness along the eastern boundary of the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area, the entire loop is open to bikes. Legislatively adjusting this boundary so that it follows the trail with a standard 50-foot buffer from centerline would restore a 16-mile loop ride. That adjustment would bring a valuable benefit to the mountain biking community and help build substantial enthusiasm for the bill in the mountain biking and recreation community.

The 74 acres of adjustment to the Sheep Mtn. Wilderness area (represented by the sliver of yellow shown on the main map image) would be offset by the San Gabriel bill adding 31,069 acres of new Wilderness (light green), 109,503 acres of expanded National Monument (dark pink), and 49,200 acres of new National Recreation Area (Orange). The map inset above provides a perspective of how the adjustment (yellow) fits into the bigger picture of the bill.

* * *

The outdoor recreation community greatly appreciates your attention to conservation and recreation values in the greater Los Angeles area, and we appreciate your consideration of the boundary adjustment issue raised above. We look forward to working with you in support of the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Act, and thank you for your leadership in ensuring our special wild lands and rivers remain protected for future generations.

Sincerely,



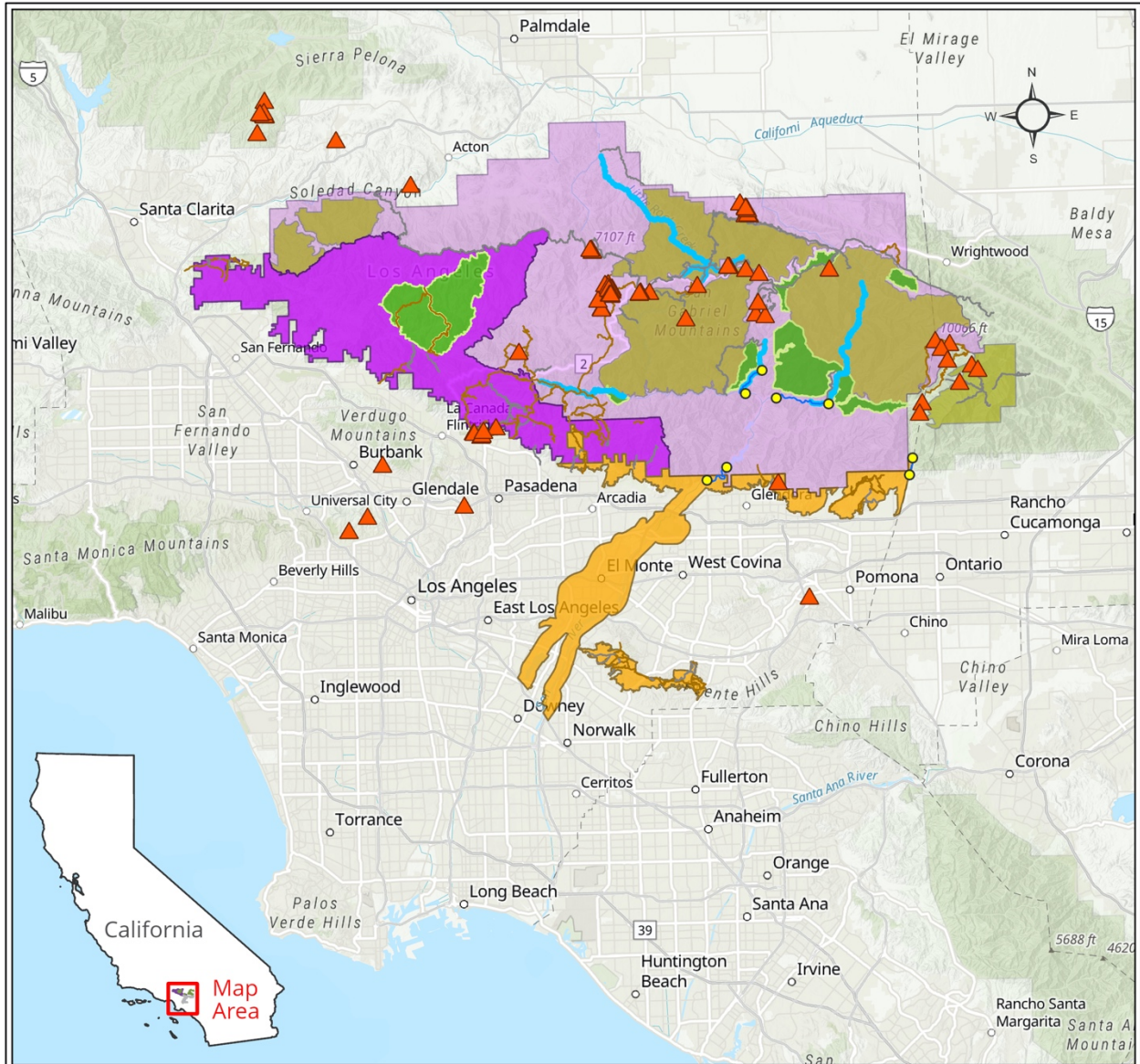
Kirsten Blackburn
Advocacy Manager
The Conservation Alliance



Louis Geltman
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Outdoor Alliance



Patricia Rojas-Ungar
Vice President, Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association



San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills, and Rivers Protection Act

Proposed Designations

- Proposed Wild & Scenic River
- National Monument Expansion
- National Recreation Area
- Proposed Wilderness

Designated Areas

- National Monument
- Wilderness Area

Recreation Resources

- ▲ Rock Climbing
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Trail



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November 19, 2019

Rep. Dianna DeGette
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Outdoor recreation community support for the Colorado Wilderness Act

Dear Representative DeGette:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community and the outdoor industry, Outdoor Alliance, The Conservation Alliance, and the Outdoor Industry Association write to express our appreciation for your work with the outdoor recreation community and to endorse H.R. 2546, the Colorado Wilderness Act.

The Colorado Wilderness Act protects important landscapes in Colorado for their conservation and recreation values. The bill protects Handies Peak and Redcloud Peak, two 14ers with spectacular view of the San Juan Mountains. The Norwood Canyon area includes protections for paddlers on the San Miguel River, as well as the area's unique geology, and the bill provides important protections for paddlers through the Dolores River. The bill supports conservation values and many forms of human powered outdoor recreation to the benefit of the environment and Colorado's quality of life and outdoor recreation economy, which supports 229,000 direct jobs, \$28 billion in annual consumer spending, and \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue.

Importantly, our community supports this bill because of the efforts you have made to ensure that protection of conservation and recreation values move forward in harmony. Because some forms of sustainable outdoor recreation—including mountain biking and bolt-intensive climbing—are not compatible with a Wilderness designation, it is essential that Wilderness bills move forward with careful regard for important existing and prospective recreational values. We greatly appreciate your careful efforts to ensure the bill does not close or impair access for valued areas. We strongly support and appreciate, as well, your inclusion of language to ensure that fixed anchors for climbing are managed appropriately within Wilderness areas. Without these considerations we would not be able to offer our endorsement.

Through the process of vetting the proposed designations, we commend your efforts to consult with the outdoor recreation community, both local and national. We appreciated the opportunity to work with you to share GIS data concerning important recreational features of the landscape and to ground truth those concerns with a wide array of outdoor recreation stakeholders in Colorado and nationally. We believe these steps are essential to building widely-supported proposals that work to the benefit of conservation and recreation, now and into the future, and we hope that outreach to local stakeholders in Colorado will continue as the bill makes its way through Congress.

In general, we strongly prefer that important areas for activities like mountain biking be protected, including for their conservation value, through non-Wilderness designations rather than being left in multiple-use management. In light of the careful attention you have given, however, to avoiding undue impacts to recreation access—as well as the important conservation values and recreation opportunities supported by the proposed designations—we support the bill with the proposed amendments and look forward to seeing it advance. We hope to find opportunities to work with you in the future to develop appropriate recreation and conservation-focused solutions to protect landscapes where Wilderness designation is not a viable approach.

Thank you again for your ongoing efforts to support recreation and conservation values in Colorado.

Best regards,



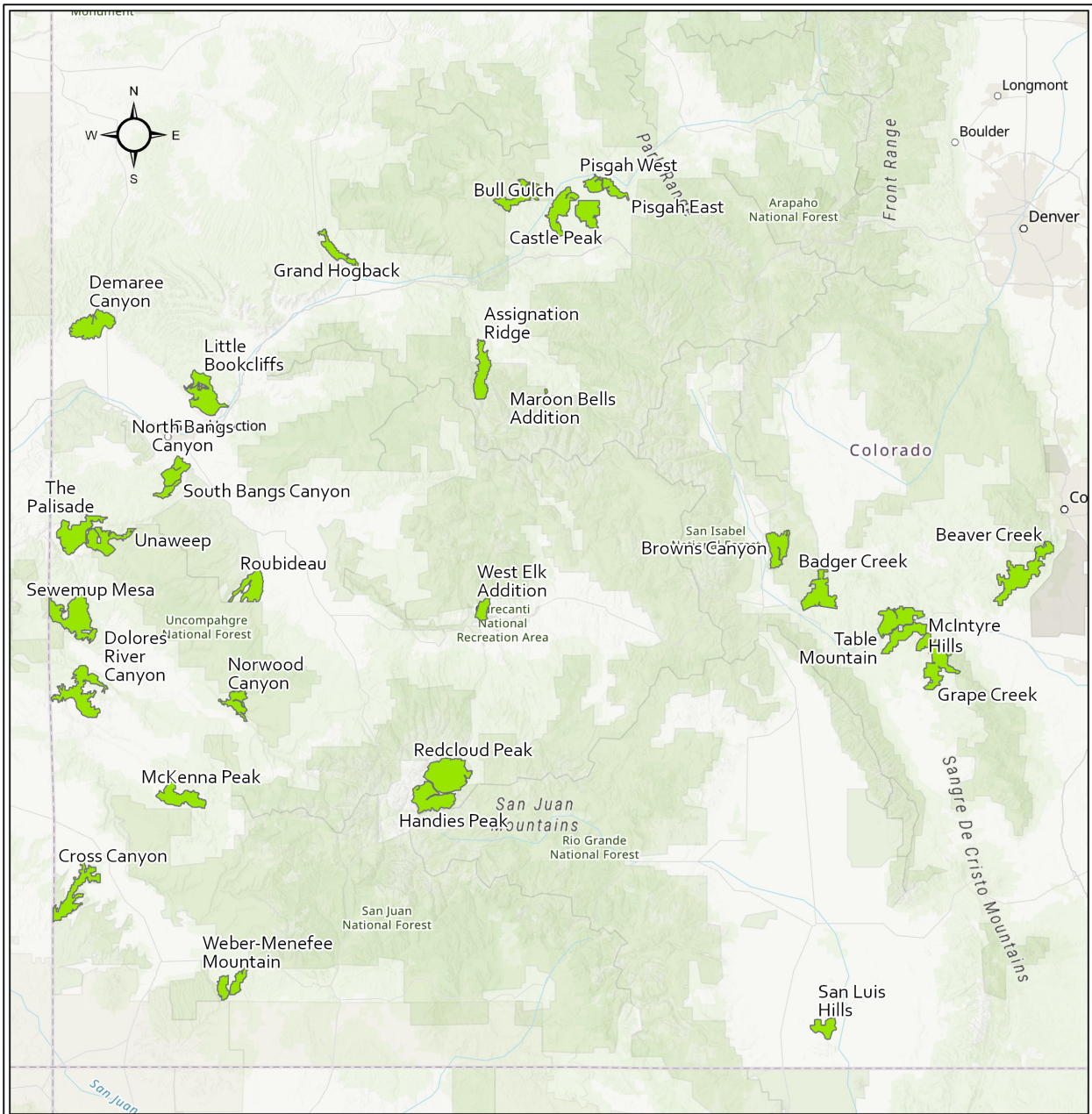
Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance



Kirsten Blackburn
Advocacy Manager
The Conservation Alliance



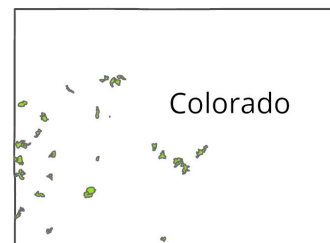
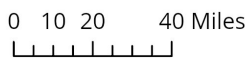
Patricia Rojas-Ungar
Vice President, Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association



Colorado Wilderness Act - Overview Map

Colorado Wilderness Act (HR 2546)

 Proposed Wilderness Area



Our Organizations

Outdoor Alliance

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.

The Conservation Alliance

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands and climbing areas. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than \$21 million, helped to protect more than 51 million acres of wildlands; protect 3,107 miles of rivers; stop or remove 34 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 14 climbing areas. For complete information on The Conservation Alliance, see www.conservationalliance.com.

Outdoor Industry Association

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for the outdoor industry and is the title sponsor of Outdoor Retailer, the largest outdoor products tradeshow in North America. OIA serves over 1,300 manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers through a focus on international trade and public lands and recreation policy, sustainable business innovation and outdoor participation.

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

April 2, 2019

Rep. Deb Haaland

Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Don Young

Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Legislative hearing on H.R. 823, the “Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act”

Dear Chair Haaland and Ranking Member Young:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our strong support for H.R. 823, the “Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act.”

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.

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 San Juans, the Sheep Mountain Special Management Area protects backcountry ski terrain near Lizard Head Pass and creates management for the Ophir Valley area for new mountain biking trails near the town of Ophir. The Liberty Bell and Whitehouse Wilderness additions protect world-class hiking and climbing opportunities in the iconic Mt. Sneffels range while allowing for a trail corridor for the iconic Liberty Bell/Hardrock 100 trail. In the Continental Divide bill, 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



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Vail Trail viable. These designations allow for a new Wilderness-urban interface which provides a unique opportunity to experience and protect these important landscapes.

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 this bill further preserve the scenic and natural qualities of these landscapes.

We are 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. This approach—embracing alternative designations where appropriate to protect both existing and prospective mountain biking opportunities—should be considered a model for other protective designation efforts around the country.

Thank you for holding a hearing to discuss this thoughtful and beneficial bill, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee in support of the CORE Act.

Best regards,



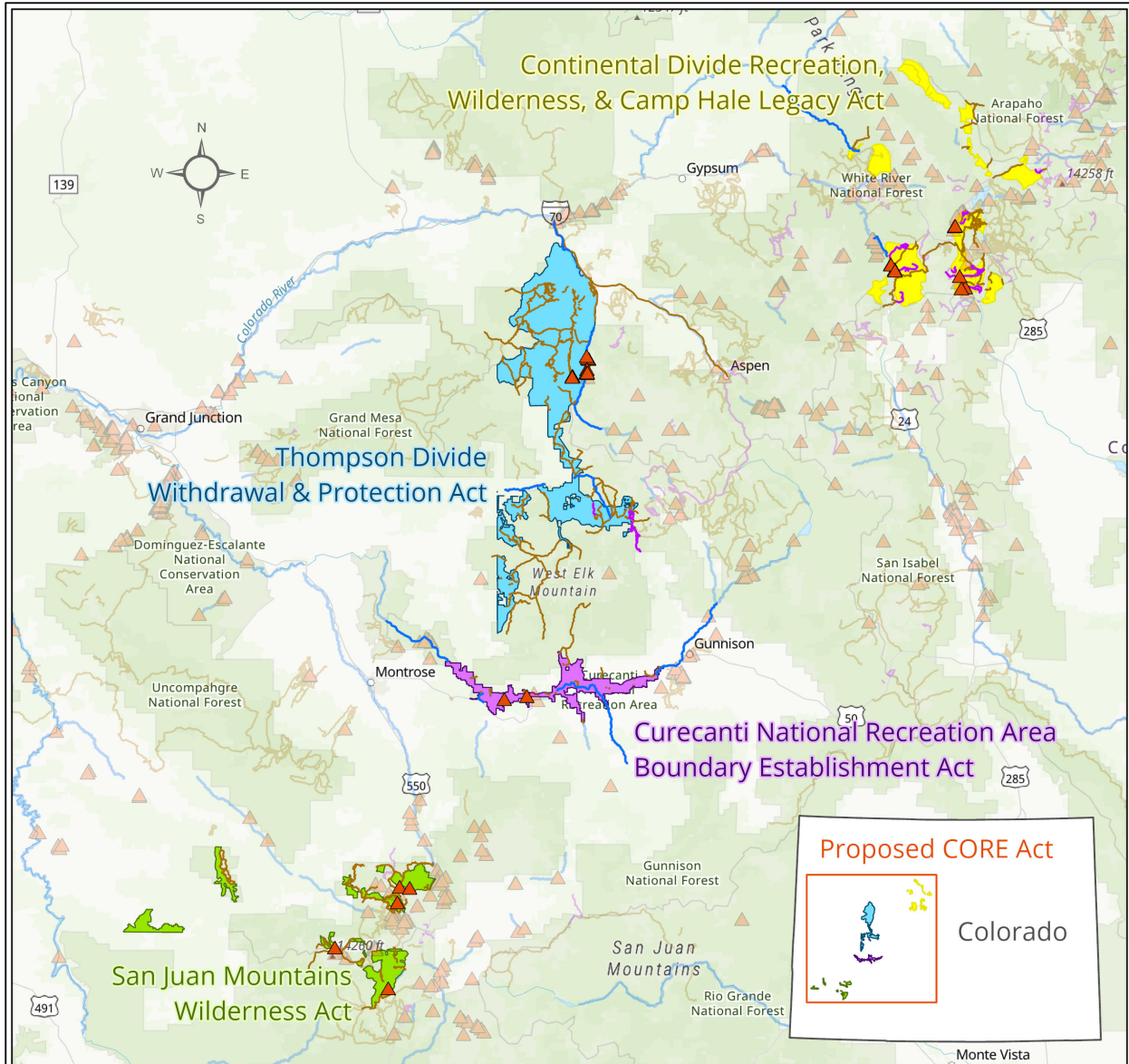
Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Rep. Joe Neguse

Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund
Wade Blackwood, Executive Director, American Canoe Association
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater
Dave Wiens, Executive Director, International Mountain Bicycling Association
David Page, Interim Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers
Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club
Sarah Bradham, Acting Executive Director, the Mazamas
Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club
Chad Nelson, CEO, Surfrider Foundation



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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



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