



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 80 Colorado Outdoor Businesses Urge Support for America's Public Land Act

Durango, CO (February 14, 2019) - U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-C.O.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), as well as Representatives Lowenthal (D-C.A), and Perlmutter (D-C.O.) have just [introduced legislation](#) seeking to reaffirm the importance of America's public lands and protect against efforts to sell off federally-controlled lands without an act of Congress. Eighty Colorado businesses have signed a letter supporting the bill and encouraging Colorado's congressional delegation to back the America's Public Land Act.

Public lands are owned by all Americans and are an important source of clean air, water, and habitat for native plants and wildlife. They also provide a significant source of energy to power the nation and they are an important economic driver. The outdoor recreation economy provides 6.1 million jobs, \$80 billion in federal and local tax revenue, and \$646 billion in direct consumer spending annually. In Colorado alone, the outdoor recreation industry supports 229,000 jobs, \$9.7 billion in wages and salaries, \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue, and \$28 billion in consumer spending. Many small business owners across the country depend on tourist dollars that come from having beautiful, protected public lands nearby.

Diane Wren, Owner of Osprey Packs in Cortez, Colorado said, "As a Colorado business owner, with employees and customers who depend on public lands for backpacking, fishing, camping, hiking, biking and other activities, I understand these lands are part of our heritage and important to the health of local communities, our state and country. Passage of the America's Public Land Act would ensure that all Americans continue to have to access to and enjoy public lands for generations to come."

"As Americans and Coloradoans, we are all public land owners and have a vested interest in their management. The America's Public Land Act makes it clear that public lands are to remain in public hands, for the benefit of all Americans. Supporting this piece of legislation is one of the most patriotic things our congressional delegation can do. We call on Congress to protect the great public lands legacy of our country," said Henry Wood Director of Sales and Marketing for Colorado-based Upslope Brewing Company.

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### ***About America's Public Land Act:***

Over the past several years, there have been many efforts to sell off large amounts of public land and to give federal public lands to states either through transfer of ownership, or by giving states decision-making authority over uses on public lands. The America's Public Land Act would eliminate attempts to sell-off public land or cede decision making authority over public lands to a non-public land management agency.

## **Additional Information:**

- [Bill Language via Senator Heinrich](#)
- [America's Public Land Act Blog Post from The Wilderness Society](#) - New legislation would stop public land sell-offs
- [Media Resources Page – Downloadable b-roll and high resolution photos](#)
- [The Wilderness Society's America's Public Land Act Fact Sheet](#)

## **Current List of Sponsors:**

### ***Senate***

- Senator Martin Heinrich\*
- Senator Tom Udall
- Senator Michael Bennet
- Senator Jon Tester
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- Senator Richard Blumenthal
- Senator Brian Schatz
- Senator Jeff Merkley

### ***House***

- Rep. Alan Lowenthal\*
- Rep. Jared Huffman
- Rep. Ed Perlmutter
- Rep. Harley Rouda
- Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi
- Rep. Mike Quigley
- Rep. Jimmy Gomez
- Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
- Rep. Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr.
- Rep. Grace Napolitano
- Rep. Jerry McNerney
- Rep. Deb Haaland
- Rep. Judy Chu