



Colorado Mountain Club · 710 10th St, Suite 200 · Golden, CO 80401 · 303.279.3080 · www.cmc.org

August 22, 2018

COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB CONSERVATION DIRECTOR LENDS VOICE TO CONTINENTAL DIVIDE RECREATION, WILDERNESS, AND CAMP HALE LEGACY ACT WITH CONGRESSMAN JARED POLIS

GOLDEN, CO — On Thursday, August 9, Julie Mach, Colorado Mountain Club's Director of Conservation, joined Representative Jared Polis and other stakeholders in Vail to discuss the importance of passing the Continental Divide Recreation, Wilderness, and Camp Hale Legacy Act, which was introduced in January 2018.

In her speech, Ms. Mach emphasizes that this bill is important not just for the environment, but also for the state's economy. She says, "Our federal public lands support much of the state's outdoor recreational use. The proposed designations in the Continental Divide Bill ensure that we can continue to visit these landscapes in a sustainable way that supports the surrounding natural resources and supports the local economies that rely on these places." According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation economy supports approximately 229,000 direct jobs and brings in \$28 billion in consumer spending annually in Colorado.

The bill, introduced in partnership with Senator Bennet, will designate three new wilderness areas and expand three more in the state of Colorado. Additionally, it will put in permanent protections for approximately 100,000 acres of land in the White River National Forest. The bill will also establish Camp Hale, birth place of the 10th Mountain Division, as the first-ever National Historic Landscape.

For Ms. Mach, the collaborative nature of the protections with both recreational and wilderness management means that we can "protect the land while still allowing recreation, like mountain biking and backcountry skiing, to continue"

The Colorado Mountain Club is very excited to see more of Colorado's wild lands, culture, and history protected through the new Continental Divide Legislation. It strongly supports Julie Mach as she continues to work, on behalf of the Club, with Representative Polis and other stakeholders to make this bill become a reality.

###

About CMC: *The Colorado Mountain Club is the state's leading organization dedicated to adventure, recreation, conservation, and education. Founded in 1912, the CMC acts as a gateway to the mountains for novices and experts alike, offering an array of year-round activities, events, and schools centered on outdoor recreation.*