



**Board of County Commissioners**

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

[eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us](mailto:eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us)

[www.eaglecounty.us](http://www.eaglecounty.us)

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

We continue our strong support for the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act, and we appreciate your leadership to protect public lands in Colorado. Our Eagle County economy is based on sustainable outdoor recreation, and a major component of our residents' quality of life is our public lands.

We appreciate your ongoing work making requested revisions to the bill. The new boundaries and designation of the Spraddle Creek Wilderness Conservation Area (WCA) allows the Forest Service to take any steps necessary to fight fire and reduce fuel loads, including the construction of temporary roads. This revision of CORE Act boundaries supports fire suppression efforts by local fire authorities.

The CORE Act carries forward protections that balance conservation and recreation. The bill would establish the Camp Hale National Historic Landscape in Eagle County, recognizing the Army's 10th Mountain Division which fought valiantly in World War II and was pivotal to the founding of the modern ski industry and the outdoor recreation industry. The CORE Act also includes all the areas of the Continental Divide Act, including the revised Spraddle Creek WCA and No Name addition to the Holy Cross Wilderness.

The CORE Act is reflective of and accountable to the needs and interests of diverse stakeholders, with carefully drawn boundaries and thoughtful designations. These proposed designations were locally developed to address existing and future recreation, wildlife habitat, wildfire management, agricultural and water supply needs.

Millions of people visit Western Colorado each year, and our federal public lands contribute immeasurably to our economy and quality of life. But we must have the vision to protect what is wilderness, create ongoing opportunities for sustainable recreation, and conserve wildlife habitat. We believe that the CORE Act strikes that balance.

We encourage passage of the CORE Act through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Please let us know how we can be of assistance. And thank you for your support of Eagle County's public lands.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney  
Chair

Matt Scherr  
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Commissioner