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The team at the Center for Western Priorities, a Denver-based nonpartisan conservation and advocacy organization, is hitting the road to defend our national monuments. This Monday marked the launch of our summer Monuments to America tour at the Western Governors' Association meeting in Whitefish, MT.

At the [press briefing](#), CWP's executive director was joined by sportsmen and outdoor advocates from Montana to urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to protect America's national monuments. **Their message: eliminating or shrinking national monuments is a dangerous path that is both unprecedented and illegal.**

In July, CWP will embark on a six-state RV tour highlighting national monuments across the West that are threatened by President Trump's executive order reviewing more than 20 years of monument protections. Along the way we'll be visiting Grand Junction, CO, Albuquerque, NM, Flagstaff, AZ, Palm Springs, CA, Las Vegas, NV, and Salt Lake City, UT.

"We are here in Whitefish to call on [Secretary Zinke] to protect the Upper Missouri River Breaks, along with all monuments in the West, and recognize the economic value these monuments have to all Americans."

— [Jennifer Rokala, Center for Western Priorities](#)
[Executive Director](#)

Westerners of all stripes stand behind the region's national monuments. A [2017 poll conducted by Colorado College](#) found that 80% of Western voters supported keeping protections for existing monuments. This resounding endorsement is no surprise, public lands and national monuments make up the backbone of the West's thriving outdoor economy. A threat to national monuments is a threat to Western communities that rely on these economic benefits.

Already, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended [eliminating vast portions of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument](#)—a move that would be both unprecedented and illegal. These are monuments to America, to our land, to our courage and sacrifice, and to our history. An attack on even one national monument is an attack on them all.

"It doesn't matter where you come from or what you earn, national monuments and parks are open and accessible to all. Anyone can hunt or fish on America's public lands—it's what makes the West the best place in the world for sportsmen."

— [Ryan Busse, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers](#)

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MONUMENTS**

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Center for Western Priorities

820 16th Street

Suite 450

Denver, CO 80202

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