



Tenth Mountain Division Foundation, Inc.

133 South Van Gordon Street, Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 80228

September 12, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The Board of Directors of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation (Foundation) extend its wholehearted support to establishment the *Camp Hale-Continental Divide Trail National Monument* (Monument) in the state of Colorado by virtue of Presidential Proclamation as allowed under the United States Antiquities ACT (ACT). This 28,000 plus acre landscape, which overlays the original historic training area of the World War II 10th Mountain Division, including Colorado's majestic Ten Mile Range, exemplifies the true intent of the ACT; to preserve unique cultural heritage and natural resources for the purpose of public use, education and inspiration. Through your actions, this special place will allow all peoples to honor, collectively, rich native-ancestral heritage, compelling military history, high altitude landscapes and diverse natural resources. It will become the most diverse and unique in our American Collection of Monuments

As stewards of the story and legacy of the 10th Mountain Division, the Foundation is committed to partner with its other dedicated regional and national Camp Hale stakeholders to establish robust management, educational and interpretive plans while working toward building resources to sustain long term viability of this new Monument for future generations.

The 10th Mountain Division legacy began at Camp Hale, Colorado. Division soldier's tenacity and resulting success in training reflected their commitment to service to their country, at the same time, it revealed their love of the mountains and high level of aptitude for outdoor recreation skills. The true measure of their training culminated in their disruption of the Gothic Line, better known as "Forgotten Front" in the Apennines Mountains of Italy in the spring of 1945. After suffering the loss of nearly 1000 Killed in Action and 4,500 wounded, the Division returned home. Among the returning soldiers many put their personal and military skills to use to influence the emerging outdoor recreation industry in Colorado and throughout the country. This was evident by many veterans' postwar work to establish, manage or teach skiing at over 60 ski areas. Another group went on to create premier outdoor recreation brands such as NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), Skiing Magazine and NIKE while others showcased their leadership skills by advancing such outdoor organizations as the Sierra Club

In the past decade, an increasing number of 10th Mountain Division (LI) serving soldiers travel from Fort Drum, New York to visit Camp Hale. To experience, in person, a sense of place; the landscape and legacy where their forebearers set standards in leadership, innovation in training skills and outdoor equipment development. These young soldiers, collectively, reflect the characteristics of the original division soldiers.

Preservationists have espoused....*our past should inform our present and future*. It is a certainty, 10th Mountain Division soldiers have demonstrated this, exquisitely, through both their military and civilian service to this country over the past seven decades.

Mr. President, the designation of the *Camp Hale-Continental Divide Trail National Monument* will not just honor the people, heritage and landscape of this special place, the designation will ignite our ability to raise awareness of this lesser known military story of American courage. Furthermore, it will allow us to produce effective onsite interpretive programs and projects, investment in active service and veteran programs that inspire new careers and legacies in both the military and outdoor recreation industries. To this end, your action to establish the *Camp Hale-Continental Divide Trail National Monument* will leverage positive educational, cultural and economic impact within Colorado and throughout the Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Kramer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nancy B Kramer, President
10th Mountain Division Foundation
www.10thmountainfoundation.org

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado
The Honorable Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator, State of Colorado
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator, State of Colorado
The Honorable Joseph Neguse, U.S. Congressman, State of Colorado