30x30

A BOLD VISION TO CONSERVE AMERICA'S LANDS AND WATERS

WHAT IS 30X30?

We need a visionary goal to protect 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030 in order to prevent the collapse of the planet's natural systems while creating economic opportunities and preserving biodiversity.

Currently, only 12 percent of U.S. lands and 26 percent of U.S. oceans are protected.[1] The goal has the support of scientists, national and state leaders, community organizations, and outdoor businesses and recreationalists. Success will require diverse conservation efforts while also increasing protections for local, state, and federal public lands.

WHY 30X30?

Within the United States, about a football field worth of natural area is converted to human development every 30 seconds.[1] Globally, human activity has altered three-quarters of the Earth's lands. Hundreds of scientists have warned that this rapid loss of natural space is resulting in a mass extinction, exacerbated by climate change.

Scientists have shown that protecting and restoring natural areas is the most effective way to slow extinctions and retain resilient ecosystems. Protected natural areas are also critical to stabilizing the climate and reducing the risk of the most severe impacts of climate change.

Protecting our parks and public lands also creates jobs and benefits local economies, while at the same time providing fresh drinking water, increasing access to natural spaces, and improving human health.

"We must set a national goal of protecting and restoring 30 percent of our lands and ocean by 2030... This is the mass mobilization we need—the collective action that will save the planet."

— U.S. Senator Tom Udall, New Mexico
30x30 Congressional Leader

FAQ

WHY THE U.S.?

Nearly 60 percent of lands in the continental U.S. are still in a mostly natural condition or could be restored, making the U.S. one of the top five countries for retaining lands in their natural state.[2]

AREN'T PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTED?

Not all public lands are protected from resource extraction and human development. Landscapes, both public and private, can have differing levels of protection.

ROAD TO 30 VIRTUAL TOUR

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[1] Lee-Ashley, Matt. (August 6, 2019). Center for American Progress: "How Much Nature Should America Keep?"
[2] Lee-Ashley, Matt et al. (October 22, 2019). Center for American Progress: "The Green Squeeze"