



Guide to Fight the
30 x 30 Land Grab

July 15, 2021

How We Fight
10 Key Points
Fact Sheet
Latest Action
Resources
Map of Opposition

Model Resolutions

(Available for download at: <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>)

How to fight the radical environmental agenda from taking 30% of America's land by 2030.

What is 30 x 30?

The 30 x 30 program is a plan advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30% of America's land and oceans by 2030. The program was adopted by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021.

Proponents argue climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30 percent of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

How We Fight 30 x 30

To fight this agenda we need your help educating leaders at the local, State and Federal level. Organize your community, pass the local government resolutions opposing 30 x 30, and join the national effort to stop 30 x 30.

1. Contact your County Commissioners and Special District Directors in your area and make sure they are aware of the 30 x 30 agenda.

2. Ask your local government boards to adopt a Resolution opposing the 30 x 30 agenda. You can download a word file with the Model Resolution from our website and modify this for your area: (<https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>)

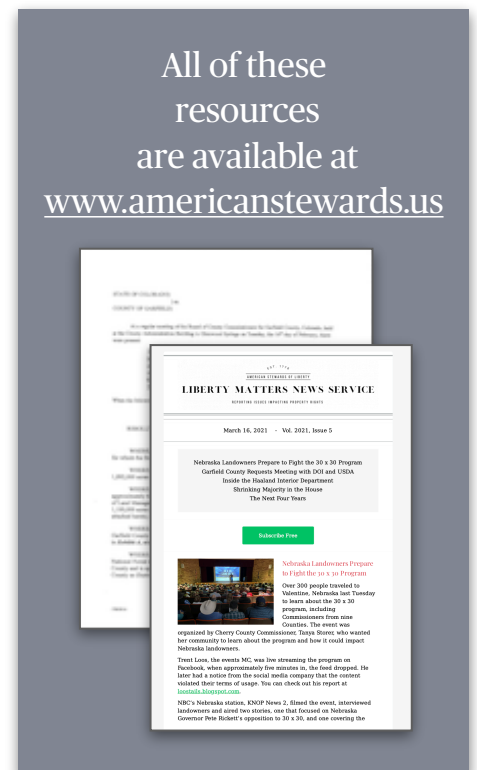
3. Send us a copy of the adopted resolutions and we will get this on the national map of opposition. See who is on the map: (<https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/passed-resolutions>)

4. Educate local associations, neighbors and other affected parties. Unite your community and stand together.

5. Watch the Homefront. Be vigilant and discerning about of the conservation programs being pushed in your community and the federal nexus that comes with these.

6. Join *American Stewards of Liberty*. We are a non profit organization funded through the contributions of those we fight for. Go to www.americanstewards.us/donate.

7. Subscribe free to our *Liberty Matters News Service* to stay connected to the 30 x 30 fight and property rights issues across our nation: <https://libertymatters.americanstewards.us/subscribe>



10 Key Points

... to know about the 30 x 30 Program

1. The 30 x 30 program is a plan **advanced by radical environmental activists** calling for the permanent protection of 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030. It is an international agenda, not a locally driven initiative.
2. The plan is being aggressively **pushed by the Biden Administration** using the politically motivated climate crisis agenda to gain control of American's land. They have promised to use every tool in the toolbox, from conservation programs to federal land acquisitions and withdrawals.
3. There is **no credible scientific reasoning** or facts that support the need to preserve any specific amount of land to "cure" climate change.
4. If restricting land solves climate change and prevents species from going extinct, as they claim, we would not be in a climate crisis today, because **one-third of the United States is already owned by Federal and State governments** and managed under restrictive land use protections.
5. **Their "crisis" math does not add up.** If we are losing a football field (1.32 acres) to development every 30 seconds, as they claim, this roughly totals 11 million acres by 2030. That is far short of the 681 million acres they say must be permanently protected to avoid the forthcoming irreversible climate disaster.
6. There is **no constitutional or statutory authority** for the President, the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture, to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and oceans in the U.S., and no such authority is referenced in the Executive Order or the President's 30 x 30 report.
7. Instead of working with States, local governments and stakeholders, the Biden Administration's first act to implement 30 x 30 was to **remove local governments veto power over federal land acquisitions**, when they rescinded the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3388.
8. The advocates behind the program **do not have any "skin in the game,"** or property to conserve. They are seeking to place other people's land and property rights under the control of the administrative state.
9. Taking 30 percent of our lands and oceans is only the first step. Advocates are working towards the **international goal, known as the "Half-Earth" agenda**, to permanently conserve 50 percent of our lands and oceans by 2050.
10. If proponents were truly concerned about the welfare of species and habitat, they would oppose placing more land under the control of federal management or environmental elites and instead remove the regulatory restrictions on **America's landowners who provide the best habitat**, while producing the food, fiber, minerals, and energy we depend on to create wealth, defend our liberties, and live free.

Fact Sheet

The 30 x 30 Program

1. What is the 30 x 30 program?

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Proponents argue climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30 percent of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

2. Who is behind 30 x 30?

In 2019, the progressive organization Center for American Progress (CAP) published the primary report supporting the 30 x 30 program in America, entitled "How Much Nature Should America Keep." This was followed by a Resolution calling for the 30 x 30 program to be introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. One of the 10 Senators that co-sponsored the Resolution was current Vice President, Kamala Harris. On the House side, one of the five cosponsors was Representative Debra Haaland, now the Secretary of the Department of Interior.

CAP was founded through funding from George Soros backed Foundations. It is supported by well-known

progressive elites, and its board of directors includes John Podesta (Chair), Stacey Abrams, Julián Castro, and Senator Tom Daschle.

The Defenders of Wildlife, League of Conservation Voters, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society Action Fund, The Wildlands Network, Center for Biological Diversity, and other environmental organizations have also been actively promoting the agenda.

3. What law authorizes the program?

There is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008, or in the 30 x 30 report published May 6, 2021, entitled "America the Beautiful."

4. What is the scientific basis?

There is no scientific reasoning cited in the Executive Order. The CAP report has numerous citations, but most of them are to press releases and opinion papers issued by like-minded advocacy groups and international reports. The same holds for the Administration's 30 x 30 May report. There are a few references to scientific papers relying on principles of conservation biology, none of which prove climate change theories or demonstrates that 30 percent of all land and oceans in the United States must be preserved to maintain biological diversity.

Fact Sheet (continued)

5. How have they determined 30% must be conserved by 2030?

As stated above, 30 x 30 proponents have not cited any hard scientific evidence that supports controlling 30 percent of our land and oceans. However, the Department of Interior (DOI) released a Fact Sheet in conjunction with the Executive Order providing the basis for 30 x 30 that mirrors the CAP report conclusions. DOI states:

“Approximately 60% of land in the continental U.S. is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds. The decline of nature threatens wildlife; across the globe, approximately one million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades, including one-third of U.S. wildlife.

The U.S. Geological Survey reports that only 12% of lands are permanently protected. Studies show that roughly 23% of America’s ocean is currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of ocean protections found in the western Pacific Ocean.” (*FACT SHEET: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future,*” Department of Interior, January 27, 2021)

Norm James, a natural resource attorney with Fennemore Craig, ran the numbers to see if this theory is justified in his article “The 30 x 30 Land Grab” published in *Liberty Matters News Service*, February 16, 2021. Here is what he concluded:

- Proponents claim we are losing a football field of land every 30 seconds, or about 3,000 acres per

day. That equals 1.1 million acres per year, or 11 million acres per decade.

- By contrast, 11 million acres is just 0.5% of all land in the U.S. (out of 2.27 billion acres), and only 1.7% of the land already owned by the federal government (640 million acres). That figure does not include Tribal land, which is likely to be unaffected by the 30 x 30 program due to the federal government’s trust responsibilities.
- Additionally, the U.S. Geological Survey reports that 12% of the land in the U.S. is already “permanently protected” – over 274 million acres of land. What is already protected is 25 times the amount of land that purportedly will be lost over the next 10 years.

If 274 million acres of land are already permanently protected, and, according to the proponents’ numbers, only an estimated 11 million acres might be removed from its natural state by 2030, why must they have 681 million acres in the next 9 years? The science does not justify this enormous taking.

Based on the numbers alone, it appears the program is being pushed not for scientific purposes, but rather to usher in a fundamental policy shift that erodes constitutional protections by placing vast tracts of land, both private and federal, off-limits to economic use and development.

6. Is the long-term agenda to take 50% of America’s land?

While 30 percent by 2030 is the current target proponents are aggressively pursuing, the CAP report sets a long-term goal of permanently preserving 50% of our lands and oceans by 2050. This is set forth as Principle number 8 in the report and has been

Fact Sheet (continued)

promoted by other radical organizations that oppose land and resource development, such as the Center for Biological Diversity, the Wildlands Network and National Geographic.

The idea of 30 x 30 comes from the “Half Earth” philosophy, where it is advocated that 50 percent of earth must be returned to its natural state and permanently protected. This is an international goal that is being pushed for adoption by every nation. It is not a local initiative.

7. What qualifies as “permanently protected in its natural state?”

The Executive Order is not clear on what land is being targeted for the program or how it would be managed. But, it appears that this land would be set aside permanently and be off-limits to most human use. For example, the lands included in the 12% permanently protected figure cited in the DOI Fact Sheet is comprised of national parks, wilderness areas, private lands with permanent conservation easements, state parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, or other protected areas. These are some of the most restricted lands in America.

8. Will private land be targeted ?

The Biden Administration has not released specific targets it is considering for the program. However, the CAP report states that 60% of land in the contiguous 48 States is privately owned, but only 1% is permanently protected. They also conclude that “more than three-quarters of the natural area that the United States lost in the contiguous 48 states from 2001 to 2017 was on private lands.” (Page 11). This suggests programs to permanently protect lands that are currently privately owned, will be pursued.

Private lands are the most productive, ecologically diverse areas in the nation, and therefore a major target of the 30 x 30 proponents who have stated protecting these areas will be necessary to reverse their belief that over one million species will go extinct in the coming decades. This should alarm every landowner.

Additionally, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies are to prioritize projects and acquisitions near or adjacent to existing protected areas. That means those areas that already have large protected federal land holdings, or private lands with conservation easements, are also primary target areas for LWCF monies.

9. Will restrictions increase on federal lands under the program?

It is likely that a substantial portion of the land and water that will be preserved will come from the land owned by the federal government in the 11 contiguous western states and Alaska. Specifically, the lands near or adjacent to areas already under permanent protection are vulnerable for inclusion in the program as they help create the core reserves and connected corridors environmental activists have long been advocating. Landowners should expect a push to increase restrictions on federal lands such as reducing roads, eliminating grazing, mining and oil and gas development, so these lands can be converted into parks, monuments and wilderness.

The House of Representatives’ Select Committee on Climate Crisis produced a report in June of 2020, entitled “*Solving the Climate Crisis*,” where they set forth policy changes necessary to implement the 30 x 30 agenda. These include expanding the boundaries of national parks, monuments, and wildlife refuges, and converting more lands into restrictive wilderness areas where the land must be managed in its natural state

Fact Sheet (continued)

with no roads or motorized vehicles, and where wildfires are allowed to burn.

The Select Committee report also calls for the revision of federal land management laws they view as archaic because these prioritize multiple-use and sustained yield, instead of their “man-made” climate crisis.

10. How will the program be funded?

Environmental advocacy groups are pressing Congress to incorporate the 30 x 30 agenda into bills related to land and ocean management, and appropriation bills such as the Farm Bill. The President’s proposed \$6 Trillion budget identifies “America the Beautiful” as one of the programs the budget will fund, however the specific amounts allocated to this program are not clearly identified in the budget.

It is expected that initially, the Administration will use existing programs to reach the 30 percent target. These programs will include monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which receives \$900 million annually for land acquisition and conservation projects. Additionally, the Administration is increasing funding for many of the conservation programs through the U.S. Department of Agriculture such as the Conservation Reserve Program, and conservation easements, both permanent and term.

11. Are Traditional Conservation Programs Part of 30 x 30?

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack has been actively encouraging landowners to sign up for conservation programs as a way to help achieve 30 x 30. However, what is not often publicized is that programs that use federal funds to pay landowners for conservation activities create a federal nexus to the property, giving the Administration an avenue to

control the use of private lands they otherwise would not have. Landowners are already seeing contracts under the Biden Administration that contain new restrictions for lands to be re-enrolled into these conservation program.

Regardless of whether a contract lists a specific issue that may trigger more federal oversight of the property, the fact that federal funds are used for the program can trigger potential restrictions. For instance, critical habitat for endangered species does not affect private property “unless” there is a federal nexus. The federal nexus is created when a landowner enrolls the private property into a program that is “authorized, funded, or carried out” by a federal agency. The Endangered Species Act requires “all” federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when there are potential species’ impacts or modification of the habitat through a federal program. This would include the programs administered through the Department of Agriculture. (See [ESA USDA Directives](#))

This was not a major concern for landowners under the previous Trump Administration, which worked to reduce federal restrictions on landowners. However, our current President waited only six days after his inauguration to sign an Executive Order that initiated a new policy to conserve 30 percent of America’s lands, for which substantive details have yet to be shared with the public. Landowners should be cautious and diligent in understanding the potential federal control these programs can place on private property.

12. Are Conservation Easements in Perpetuity a part of 30 x 30?

The Department of Interior includes conservation easements (CE) in perpetuity on private lands as a part of the 12 percent of lands in America that are currently “permanently protected.” When a landowner places

Fact Sheet (continued)

their land in a CE, they are selling more than just the development rights. They are transferring control of the property to the land trust or federal government who will now ensure the land is managed for the priority of the conservation purpose. The landowner may still hold the title, but they no longer have the functional control of the property. While some agriculture activities may continue, these are limited to the existing activities and levels of these activities specified when the contract is finalized. This prevents the agriculture operation from adapting to natural changes, changing times and changing technology as they normally would to ensure sound land management practices, and a profitable business.

13. Does the Administration's Report answer landowner's questions?

The Administration's new report on 30 x 30, released May 6, 2021, was intended to provide the President with an implementation plan, as called for in the Executive Order. Instead, it is a carefully packaged message with lofty sounding goals that resonate with the urban public, such as "locally-led," "stakeholder collaboration," and "working lands conservation." But their principles and goals are empty ideals with very few details of how they are to be achieved.

Although the Administration states we must "conserve" and "restore" our lands, it does not define what this means nor how this will be achieved. It does not even define what lands or land use designations qualify. The Department of Interior seemed certain only 12 percent of the nation was "permanently protected" when the Executive Order was released, but now the Administration will not confirm that these highly restricted areas are a part of the 30 x 30 plan.

The few specifics that are listed in the Report focus on priorities of urban and suburban areas who know little,

if anything about the federal restrictions currently placed on our rural lands inhibiting good resource management. The Administration is selling this audience more of the same, in greater doses, and counting on their buy-in and support.

For instance, they emphasize the need for more parks in urban areas, so people have access to open space within 10 miles of their homes. They advocate for unlocking access to landlocked public lands for America's hunters and recreationists, which require securing public access across private lands. Further, they offer more funding to tribal communities. The Administration needs these three constituencies to support the more aggressive land restrictions that will be required to reach the 30x30 goal.

None of these small-sized actions will get them to a 30 percent conservation goal alone. There must be more - a lot more - and although they are not telling us directly, they have been revealing what these are since taking office.

14. Has the Administration Taken Steps to Implement the Program?

Yes. February 11, 2021, the Acting Secretary of DOI rescinded an important policy that protected communities from federal land acquisitions. Former Secretary of Interior, David Bernhardt, under President Trump, had issued Secretarial Order 3388, which allowed local governments and the States to veto a federal land acquisition proposed through the LWCF. Through Secretarial Order 3396, the Acting Secretary revoked this protection, clearing a critical hurdle that would have protected private lands from being acquired by the federal government.

February 26, 2021, a massive wilderness bill (H.R. 803) passed the House with the White House's endorsement,

Fact Sheet (continued)

stating the bill would help the administration accomplish its 30 x 30 goal. This bill creates 1.5 million acres of new wilderness, permanently withdraws 1.2 million acres of mineral reserves holding the rare earth minerals we now import from China and Europe, designates 1,200 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, expands 110,000 acres of National Monument Lands, and makes other restrictive land use designations.

Although the Administration states in their “America the Beautiful” report that they are unable to define what they mean by “conserve,” and cannot identify what lands qualify, they have been actively taking steps to permanently protect American’s land.

15. Will the Administration work with landowners?

While there is language in the Executive Order stating the intent is to work with landowners and local representatives, there is no direction on how this will be carried out. Section 216 of the Executive Order simply states the intent as follows:

“Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation’s Lands and Waters. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving **at least** 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.”

The EO and the 30 x 30 report state they intend to work with landowners, that the conservation efforts will be locally driven, that they want to help agriculture

keep working lands working. Yet, they fail to define what they mean by “conserve,” are pushing for more restrictive land designations through Congress, and have revoked States and local governments’ ability to object to federal land acquisitions. Further, they are expecting landowners to believe 30 x 30, an international agenda, will be locally driven.

The Administration’s actions do not match the rhetoric. Numerous local governments have been asking to meet with the Administration since early February to learn more about the program and voice their concerns. The Administration has not even provided a courtesy response. Instead, they have conducted listening sessions with environmental groups advocating for 30 x 30, and stakeholder groups that promote conservation easement programs. But those directly impacted have been ignored. Additionally, 15 Governors sent the President a letter with specific questions on how the Administration would implement the program, which has also been ignored.

The Administration has failed to provide the public with the most fundamental details about the program. Yet, they are actively pressing landowners to “voluntarily” sign up for federal conservation programs to reach their 30 x 30 goal.

Key Documents Cited:

Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021

Department of Interior, Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future, January 27, 2021

“How Much Nature Should America Keep,” Center for American Progress, August 2019

“Solving the Climate Crisis,” Majority Staff Report, US House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, June 2020

LIBERTY MATTERS

REPORTING ISSUES IMPACTING PROPERTY RIGHTS



NE Agriculture Director Steve Wellman, NE Farm Bureau VP Sherry Vinton, ASL Exec. Director Margaret Byfield, Governor Pete Ricketts, Cherry County Commissioner Tanya Storer, NE Farm Bureau President Mark McHargue.

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts Issues Executive Order to Stop 30 x 30

Governor Pete Ricketts took unprecedented action and signed the “Stop 30 x 30 - Protect our Land and Water,” Executive Order 21-08 on June 24, 2021.

The order directs Nebraska state agencies to take specific steps to prevent the implementation of President Biden’s 30 x 30 initiative launched January 27th, through the federal climate crisis executive order, 14008. Nebraska is the first state to issue such an order, sending a clear message to the Biden Administration that Nebraskans will continue to manage their land without federal intrusion.

Bills Filed in House and Senate to Terminate 30 x 30.



Representative Lauren Boebert and 25 of her Colleagues have filed the “30 x 30 Termination Act,” H.R. 3014. This bill prohibits federal funds from being spent to carry out the program, ensures no net-loss of non-federal land in

counties and states that already have a significant federal presence, ensures no net-loss of multiple-use activities without Congressional approval, and prohibits unilateral mineral withdrawals without Congressional approval. The companion bill, S. 1673, was filed by Senators Marshall (R-KS) and Cramer (R-ND).



Fox News Story: “Critics Call Biden’s Conservation Plan a Land Grab”

May 6th, Fox News reporter, Douglas Kennedy, aired a report on President Biden’s 30 x 30 program, interviewing Georgia Fisherman Greg Hildreth, National Geographic’s Enric Sala, and American Steward’s Margaret Byfield. Sala makes clear the long-term agenda is not 30 but 50 percent of America’s lands and oceans permanently protected.



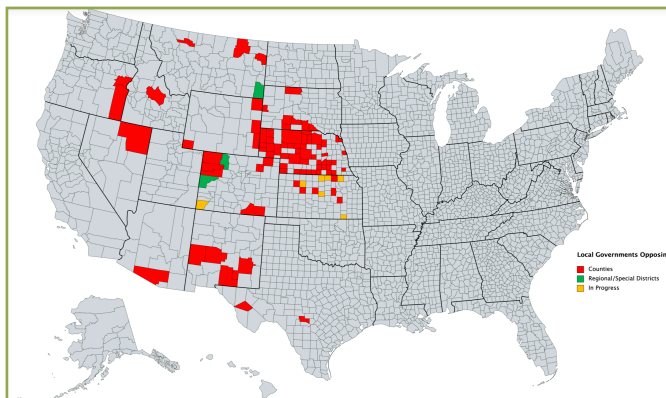
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See Who is Opposed



Led by Garfield County, Colorado, which passed the first Resolution on February 16, 2021, counties, soil and water conservation districts and regional government associations in 12 states have now adopted policies opposing the 30 x 30 program. Fifteen Governors have also formally opposed the program as well as several U.S. House Representatives and Senators.

To see who is on the map, go to <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/passed-resolutions>.

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We rely on contributions from Americans like you for our support.

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- \$250 \$500 \$1000
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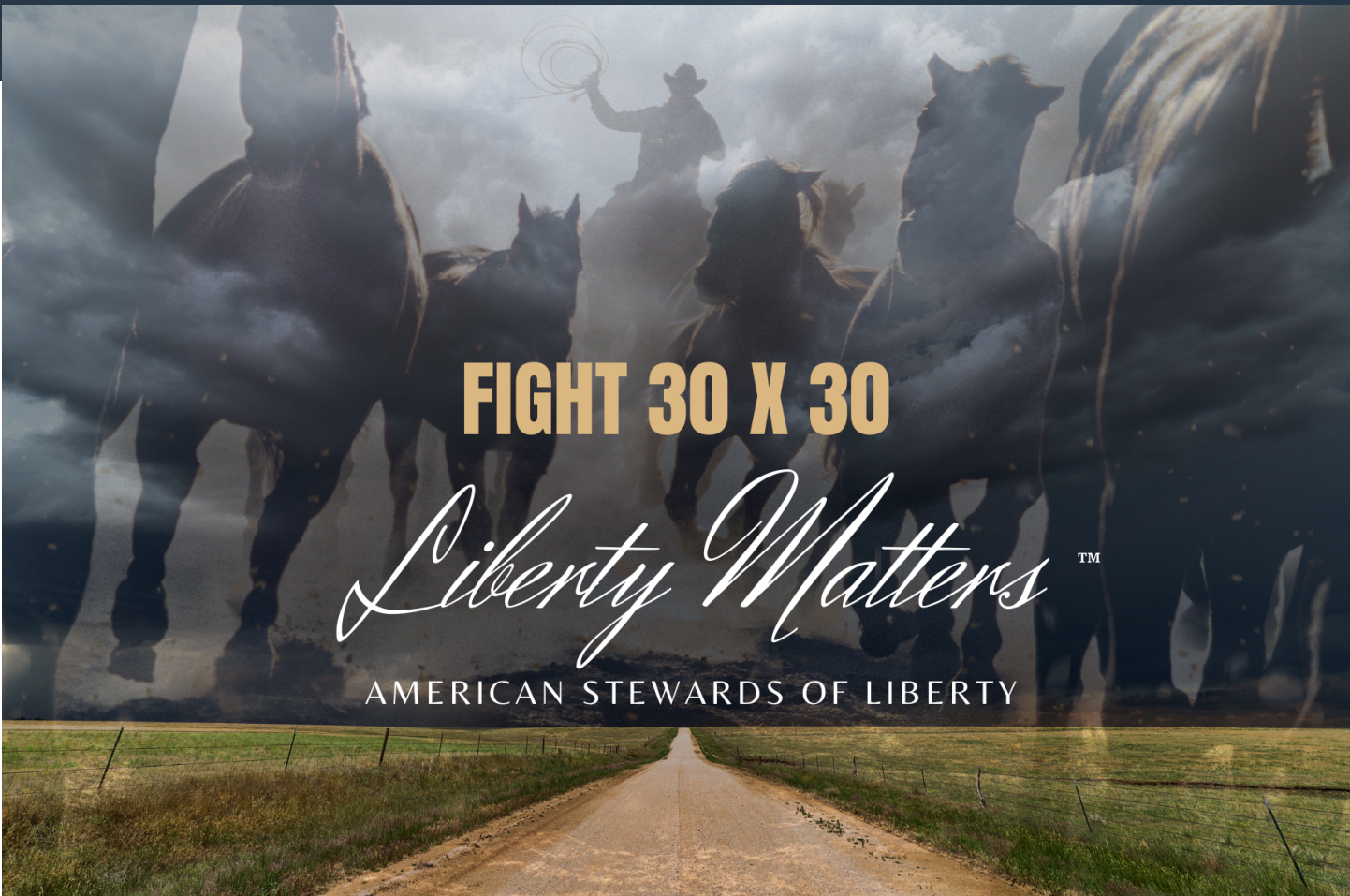
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Download Model Resolution
Opposing 30 x 30



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(Federal Land County – Model Resolution Opposing the 30 x 30 Program)

STATE OF [Insert State]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- _____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [State] for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, [County] containing about [number] acres of land situated in [area of state]; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing over [number] acres of these federal lands as illustrated in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements as illustrated in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, [Describe prominent protected federal and state land designations within the county such as Parks, Wilderness and Refuges. Include map if have available]; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in [Name] County, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used and access to these lands; and

WHEREAS, many of [Name] County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the forest

products industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, governments are instituted among people, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed to secure their inherent and inalienable rights, and for the protection of their property; and

WHEREAS, private property rights are guaranteed full protection under the Constitution of [State], as well as, the Constitution of the United States, which prohibit the erosion of these rights for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation’s lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and water in the United States is a public purpose, not voted on or consented to by the people, Congress, or the [State] Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program seeks to replace the decision-making of independent Landowners who have been caring for these lands for generations with federal mandates and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has stated they will be using all the tools in existing law to reach their 30 percent target by 2030, including conservation easements in perpetuity, federal conservation programs, National Heritage Areas, Wildlife Corridors, Endangered Species listings and critical habitat designations, and all other similar programs; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economy of [State], and counties, such as [Name] whose citizens depend on private lands for their security and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, lands placed under permanent conservation easements reduce the value of that parcel of land while increasing the tax burden on other private landowners and industries to make up the property valuation difference; and

WHEREAS, federal conservation programs artificially drive up the cost of, and directly compete with, the working landowners who depend on the ability to lease or purchase those lands for the production of the food, fiber, energy and minerals our nation requires; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of [Name] County, and injure the County's businesses and its citizens by depriving them of access to public lands and national forest system lands and preventing the productive use of these lands' resources; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of approximately 700 million acres of federal lands from multiple use and placement of such lands in permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many western states, including [State], and in particular rural counties such as [Name] County whose citizens depend on access to federal lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with [Name] as also required by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of [Name] County, [State], as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of public lands and national forests in [Name] County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued management of the public lands and the national forests under principles of multiple use and sustained yield, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber, and in careful coordination with [Name] County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies, as required by law.
4. The Board supports maintaining and enhancing public access to public lands and national forests and opposes road closures, road decommissioning, moratoria on road construction, and other limitations on public access for the purpose of fulfilling the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

5. The Board recognizes and supports the State of [State's] water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] law.

6. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes using any public purpose, including global climate change, to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

7. The Board maintains that the designation of public lands and national forest lands as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives may lawfully occur, if at all, only through the planning process mandated by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (for public lands) or the National Forest Management Act (for national forest lands), including public notice and an opportunity to comment, analysis and disclosure of the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens, and careful coordination with [Name] County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies.

8. The Board also maintains that any non-federal lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.

9. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the [State] Department of Agriculture, [State] Attorney General, Governor [Name] and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

_____[Name of Clerk]
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: _____[Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]

(Model resolution opposing the 30 x 30 program for States primarily comprised of private lands)

STATE OF [Name]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- ____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S “30 X 30” LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [Name] for which the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, [County] contains [number] acres of land in the State of [Name]; and

WHEREAS, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of [Name] County’s businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including [Insert active industries in your area]. (i.e. forest product’s industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation); and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, governments are instituted among people, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed to secure their inherent and inalienable rights, and for the protection of their property; and

WHEREAS, private property rights are guaranteed full protection under the Constitution of [State], as well as, the Constitution of the United States, which prohibit the erosion of these rights for a public purpose; and

[Insert the following provision if the federal government owns land in the County, insert the following]

WHEREAS, the federal government currently owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing approximately [number] acres of these federal lands as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

[Insert the following provision if the State owns land in the County]

WHEREAS, within [Name] County, the State of _____ owns and manages [Describe prominent protected state land designations within the County such as Parks, school trust lands, etc.) Include map if have available] as illustrated in **Exhibit A**; and

[Insert the following provision if there are permanent Conservation Easements on lands in the County]

WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are protected with perpetual conservation easements as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008, entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality, and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least thirty (30) percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, an estimated 700 million acres of our Nation’s lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state by 2030, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and water in the United States is a public purpose, not voted on or consented to by the people, Congress, or the [State] Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program seeks to replace the decision-making of independent Landowners who have been caring for these lands for generations with federal mandates and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has stated they will be using all the tools in existing law to reach their 30 percent target by 2030, including conservation easements in perpetuity, federal conservation programs, National Heritage Areas, Wildlife Corridors, Endangered Species listings and critical habitat designations, and all other similar programs; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economy of [State], and counties, such as [Name] whose citizens depend on private lands for their security and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, lands placed under permanent conservation easements reduce the value of that parcel of land while increasing the tax burden on other private landowners and industries to make up the property valuation difference; and

WHEREAS, federal conservation programs artificially drive up the cost of, and directly compete with, the working landowners who depend on the ability to lease or purchase those lands for the production of the food, fiber, energy and minerals our nation requires; and

[Insert the following provision if County has a land-use, natural resource, comprehensive plan, or other similar planning vehicle]

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies, and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of County Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal and state government to coordinate its policy development with [Name].; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of [Name] County, [State] as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of lands within our jurisdiction.
2. The Board further opposes the designation and use of lands in [Name] County to be included as a part of the "30 x 30" program, whether these be through conservation programs, easements, national heritage areas, wildlife preserves, wildlife corridors, open space, or other federal designations preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of [Name] laws governing water rights and water use and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] law.

5. The Board opposes and disagrees with using any public purpose, including global climate change, to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing sellers/landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.

7. The Board requires that any proposed federal land acquisitions within their jurisdiction have the consent of the Board of Commissioners. This includes any transfer of conservation easements from land trusts to the federal government.

8. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the [State] Department of Agriculture, [State] Attorney General, Governor [Name] and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 202_.

ATTEST:

_____[Name of Clerk]
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: _____[Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]