



SIERRA
CLUB

30x30
CONSERVE 30% OF NATURE BY 2030

30x30 CONSERVATION AGENDA

Conserving Public Lands

Flourishing natural areas and parks are indispensable to our health, prosperity, cultural traditions, and enjoyment. In addition, they play a critical role in combating the climate and extinction crises.

One million acres of nature is lost to development in the U.S. each year, and more than one million animal and plant species are now at risk of extinction worldwide.

It's clear that we need to do more to combat the unprecedented threats ahead. We need to move quickly and decisively to conserve our existing protected areas and expand them in the U.S. to 30 percent by the year 2030.

Positive impacts would include:

- Offsetting 21 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.
- Allowing millions of tons of carbon to remain sequestered.
- Decarbonizing our economy by keeping all fossil fuels on public lands in the ground.
- Expanding and connecting wildlife habitats.

Protecting more of our wild places will continue to remove existing pollution and prevent drilling and logging from dumping new pollution into the environment. It will also provide greater protection from extreme weather, homes for wildlife, and more opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors.

Path to Conservation

Leading conservation scientists, Indigenous leaders, and international organizations, like the UN International Convention on Biodiversity, are in agreement that to stop the dual extinction and climate crises and preserve clean water, clean air, and a stable climate, we need to conserve 50 percent of the planet by 2050, with each country doing its part to achieve this global goal.

In the U.S., that means we need to conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. It's an ambitious goal, but one that's achievable if we all work together to:

- Conserve and restore large, intact landscapes and wildlife corridors.
- Implement land conservation strategies that contribute to climate solutions.
- Support the conservation and stewardship vision and priorities of Tribal Nations.
- Conserve more open lands and parks near communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities.

Right now, the public lands and forests that should be our best natural defense against the climate crisis by storing and offsetting CO₂ emissions are being "harvested" and developed by extraction industries into dirty energy sources that accelerate the crisis. By one estimate, nearly a quarter of all U.S. climate emissions begin with extractive industries taking place on our public lands and waters.