

## What is 30x30?

30x30 is a global conservation vision aimed at preventing ecological collapse and mitigating the worst effects of climate change. It is part of a larger, science-based international goal that humanity should strive to conserve half of the lands, waters, and oceans of Earth by 2050 to address the climate and nature crises, slow the rate of extinction, and avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

To deliver on this goal, scientists and leaders from around the globe have said we must accelerate the pace and scale of conservation by protecting at least 30% of the planet by 2030.

## Why do we need 30x30?

Humans have altered entire landscapes to produce everything that fuels our lives - from food, clothing and paper to literal fuel. When we cut down forests, degrade our watersheds, or mine the land, we release heat-trapping carbon dioxide that plants, trees, and soil once captured and stored safely in the ground.

Conserving and restoring more lands and waters will help protect our communities from floods, fires, storms, and other impacts of climate change, safeguarding the natural resources we rely on for food, jobs, and recreation. Conservation and restoration of our lands and watersheds will be critical not just to addressing the destruction caused by mega-drought and our current devastating wildfires but also the years - if not generations - of remediation work that will need to be done, and the proactive steps that must be taken, to reduce fire danger and safeguard our communities.

The 30x30 effort is widely supported across New Mexico, with nearly 80% of state residents supporting conserving 30% of land and waters by 2030. Keeping these natural storage systems intact - and restoring those that have been degraded - can help us prevent global temperatures from increasing more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above historical levels, per the Paris Climate Agreement.

# How does 30x30 apply to New Mexico?

In August 2021, Governor Lujan Grisham signed an Executive Order to protect New Mexico's Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage. The uniquely New Mexican EO (also known as Enchantment 2030) commits New Mexico to conserving 30% of New Mexico lands and waters by 2030, in keeping with national and global goals. Gov. Lujan Grisham's 30x30 goal provides the framework to address the biodiversity and extinction crisis while also supporting the need for climate adaptation and resiliency efforts in our state. The EO is a critical step to conserving the state's treasured landscapes and cultural heritage while bolstering our economy, expanding access to the outdoors, and increasing opportunities for traditional activities including hunting and fishing.

Following the passage of a suite of landmark state legislation including the Energy Transition Act, Wildlife Corridors Act, Outdoor Recreation Division, and Outdoor Equity Fund - existing statewide policies grounded in environmental justice and equity - New Mexico is uniquely positioned to implement a 30x30 plan that is tailored to protect our treasured landscape and honor New Mexico's traditional cultural land uses.

The human impact on land and the human impact on climate are one and the same. New Mexico's legislature has already committed the state to 100% carbon-free electricity; now increased land and water conservation needs to be brought into the state's climate plans, because we need every tool available to protect a changing planet.

## What has to happen for New Mexico to reach a 30x30 goal?

- Expand state conservation funding for lands, water, wildlife, and equitable access - including leveraging the recent fourfold increase in Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars available to the state.
- Implementation of the state's Wildlife Corridors Action Plan.
- Enact policies to promote carbon sequestration in natural and working lands, including forests, rangelands and cultivated lands.
- Approve land acquisitions for new state parks and wildlife management areas via the legislature.
- Modernize and fund existing conservation for restoration projects, conservation easements, and acquisitions, like the Natural Heritage Conservation Act.
- Pass legislation to update statutes governing state park and wildlife management areas in a manner that maximizes biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- Pass legislation to create new types of land and water protection designations.
- Increase restoration on state trust lands by increasing the cap on the Restoration and Remediation Fund.