

America the Beautiful at a Glance

The Truth About Biden's 30x30 Plan

When President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, he directed the Department of the Interior to create a report that would begin to lay out a plan to conserve 30 percent of our water and land by 2030. The Department of the Interior recently released a 24-page preliminary report on the America the Beautiful Plan.

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

"This report is only the starting point on the path to fulfilling the conservation vision that President Biden has outlined. Where this path leads over the next decade will be determined not by our agencies, but by the ideas and leadership of local communities. It is our job to listen, learn, and provide support along the way to help strengthen economies and pass on healthy lands, waters, and wildlife for generations to come."

The report details three problems that threaten our land, water, and wildlife.

- **The disappearance of nature:** "Scientists are sounding the alarm about a catastrophic extinction crisis that threatens the biodiversity of our planet and the health of the natural systems that supply our food, water, and other resources... The disappearance of bees and other pollinators is reducing crop yields and threatens food security."
- **Climate change:** "Climate change is contributing to historic droughts and floods... and the spread of invasive species."
- **Inequitable access to the outdoors:** "An estimated 100 million Americans do not have a park within a ten-minute walk of their home."

After input from numerous groups the DOI has settled on eight principles:

1. **Pursue a Collaborative and Inclusive Approach to Conservation:** "The U.S. should seek to build upon the myriad examples where collaboration and consensus-building have led to significant conservation outcomes."
2. **Conserve America's Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People:** "Centering this effort on people also means recognizing the oversized contributions that farmers, ranchers, forest owners, fishers, hunters, rural communities, and Tribal Nations already make in safeguarding wildlife and open spaces for the benefit of the rest of the country, and therefore recognizing and encouraging these remarkable efforts."
3. **Support Locally Led and Locally Designed Conservation Efforts:** "The Federal Government should do all it can to help local communities achieve their own conservation priorities and vision."
4. **Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations:** "Efforts to conserve and restore America's lands and waters must involve regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations."
5. **Pursue Conservation and Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities:** "Conserving water and restoring ecosystems supports the reliability of the water supply, resiliency to drought, and resistance to flooding. Conserving fish and wildlife habitat and improving access for hunting and fishing spurs the sale of gear, boats, travel, and outfitting."
6. **Honor Private Property Rights and Support the Voluntary Stewardship Efforts of Private Landowners and Fishers:** "Efforts to conserve and restore America's lands and waters must respect the rights of private property owners. Such efforts must also build trust among all communities and stakeholders, including by recognizing and rewarding the voluntary conservation efforts of private



landowners ... President Biden has recognized and honored the leadership role that farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and fishers already play in the conservation of the nation's lands, waters, and wildlife, and has made clear that his administration will support voluntary stewardship efforts that are already underway across the country's lands and waters. This commitment includes a clear recognition that maintaining ranching in the West—on both public lands and private lands—is essential to maintaining the health of wildlife, the prosperity of local economies, and an important and proud way of life.”

7. **Use Science as a Guide:** “Conservation efforts are more successful and effective when rooted in the best available science and informed by the recommendations of top scientists and subject matter experts. Transparent and accessible information will increase shared understanding and help build trust among stakeholders and the public. The use of Indigenous and Traditional Ecological Knowledge can complement and integrate these efforts.”
8. **Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches:** “These tools range from grant programs for local parks and coastal restoration projects, to conservation programs on working lands, to the designation of locally crafted recreation and conservation areas on public lands and waters, to using the stakeholder-driven processes for marine fisheries management and sanctuary designations, among other examples.”

Recommendations for Early Focus

- **Create More Parks and Safe Outdoor Opportunities in Nature-Deprived Communities.**
- **Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities.**
- **Expand Collaborative Conservation of Fish and Wildlife Habitats and Corridors.** “The Trump administration launched a promising effort to enhance the winter range and migration corridor habitat of elk, deer, and pronghorn on DOI-managed lands. This initiative could be expanded to include other land managers, to build partnerships with working ranches and other landowners, and to conserve corridors and seasonal ranges for other species.”
- **Increase Access for Outdoor Recreation.** “Improved access to public lands and waters—in an equitable, well-managed and sustainable manner— can broaden and deepen connections to nature and its benefits, and encourage the next generation of outdoor stewards. Hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts have not only played a positive role in stewarding our nation's lands, waters, and wildlife, but they also generate significant economic benefits to local communities.”
- **Federal land and coastal management agencies should expand support for voluntary programs that unlock access to the millions of acres of public lands that are currently inaccessible to the public.**
- **Incentivize and Reward the Voluntary Conservation Efforts of Fishers, Ranchers, Farmers, and Forest Owners:** “Federal agencies can and should advance conservation by supporting programs that incentivize voluntary conservation efforts and provide new sources of income for American farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards. Healthy rural economies are a key component of keeping working lands healthy, productive, and whole.”
- **Create Jobs by Investing in Restoration and Resilience:** “The proposal includes putting a new, diverse generation of Americans to work through a Civilian Climate Corps that can help conserve and restore public lands and waters.”

You can see our blog on the topic here: <http://bit.ly/30x30Facts>

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