



MEDIA RELEASE

WESTERN LEADERS NETWORK APPLAUDS PRESIDENT BIDEN'S 30X30 GOAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 6, 2021

CONTACT: Gwen Lachelt, WLN Executive Director, gwen@westernleaders.org

Western Leaders Network, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of 450 local and tribal elected officials across the Interior West, applauds President Biden's goal of conserving 30% of the United States by 2030. Scientists say 30x30 is a necessary goal and the [minimum requirement](#) needed to combat the worst impacts of climate change and thwart the [loss](#) of America's lands and waters.

Today, President Biden laid out his inclusive and bold [vision](#) for safeguarding America's lands, water, and wildlife. By marshaling federal resources and relying on local experts, from tribal councils to city halls to county and state leaders and from farmers, ranchers, hunters, anglers, and all other Americans who use and love our public lands and oceans, 30x30 can help address the climate crisis.

For more than a century, the United States has risen to meet major environmental challenges facing our nation. **"Today is a critical first step toward meeting 30x30 and effectively addressing climate change. President Biden is re-establishing the U.S. as a leader in conserving our nation's lands and restoring pride in America's outdoor spaces,"** stated Gwen Lachelt, WLN Executive Director. A growing number of [elected bodies](#) in the Interior West have passed resolutions supporting the 30x30 goal.

Today, about 12 percent of U.S. lands and 23 percent of oceans are protected. **"Western Leaders Network believes elected officials have no choice but to rapidly scale up the pace of conservation if we're going to safeguard our lands and build sustainable and resilient local economies. I'm confident we will succeed by working alongside private landowners, municipal and state governments, Tribal Nations, and our federal partners to drive locally-supported conservation action,"** stated Lachelt.

Last year, Congress passed into law a powerful tool to help local governments and communities meet 30x30 goals. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program with broad bipartisan support, helps provide critical conservation funding to every state and county across the country.

[86 percent of voters](#) in the U.S. support a national 30x30 goal and [95 percent of people](#) in the U.S. support establishing marine protected areas.

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