

Resolution No. 5

Series OF 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CARBONDALE, COLORADO SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROTECT 30 PERCENT OF U.S. LANDS, WATERS, AND OCEANS BY 2030

WHEREAS, the United States is facing a conservation and climate crisis as nature declines and greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, science shows us that worldwide biodiversity is deteriorating at a faster rate than at any time in human history; and

WHEREAS, from 2001 to 2017, more than 24 million acres of land were lost to human development in the lower 48 United States, which equals the loss of one football field-sized patch of land every 30 seconds; and

WHEREAS, scientists say that the loss of biodiversity, the increasing number of extreme weather events, and human encroachment upon wildlife habitat may increase the risk of the transmission of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and SARS.

WHEREAS, scientists warn we must conserve and restore at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030 if we hope to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the global 30x30 campaign is a science-based initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands, waters, and oceans by the year 2030 to address the twin threats of climate change and the rapid loss of biodiversity, waters, and natural places; and

WHEREAS, the 30x30 campaign will include locally led conservation efforts; work towards a more equitable and inclusive vision for nature conservation; honor the sovereignty of Tribal nations; support private conservation; and ensure the effort is guided by science; and

WHEREAS, the 30x30 campaign relies on efforts by federal, state, local, and Tribal governments; agricultural and forest landowners; fishermen, hunters, anglers, outdoor recreation users and many other key stakeholders to identify and implement collaborative strategies; and

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of race, background, or economic status, should have access to close-to-home opportunities to get outside in nature; and

WHEREAS, our natural places help to provide food security, clean air to breathe, and clean water to drink, while offering us a wide range of health benefits; and

WHEREAS, wilderness, wildlife refuges, national conservation lands, monuments, and other protected areas drive our local economies and conserved places provide access for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, and other outdoor recreation pursuits; and

WHEREAS, conserved private lands, including working forests, farms and ranches protect open spaces, preserve threatened wildlife, and help maintain our community's our way of life; and

WHEREAS, over 100 economists and scientists have found that the global economy would benefit from the creation of far more protected areas on land and at sea than we have today; and

WHEREAS, protected public lands are the backbone of our state's outdoor recreation industry, which generates \$788 billion in consumer spending nationally and supports 5.2 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, 77 percent of voters in the Rocky Mountain West support setting a national goal of conserving 30 percent of land and waters in the United States by 2030 and 61 percent of voters are concerned about the future of land, water, air, and wildlife.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Town of Carbondale, Colorado stand with President Biden, U.S. agencies, members of Congress, state and local officials, and other public, private and nonprofit partners in support of science-based, locally-led conservation efforts to protect at least 30 percent of lands, waters, and oceans by 2030; and

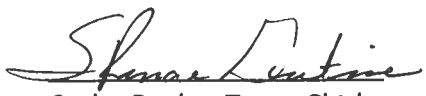
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the U.S. government, Congress, and state and local leaders to significantly increase the tools and resources available to achieve locally-driven conservation projects, and to facilitate collaboration and good-faith conversations among all people living in the United States as we work together to address our biodiversity and climate crises.



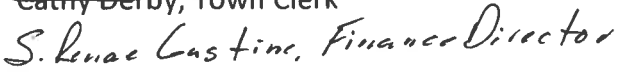
Dan Richardson, Mayor

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2021.

ATTEST:



Cathy Derby, Town Clerk



S. Renee Custine, Finance Director

STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF GARFIELD)

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for Garfield County, Colorado, held at the County Administration Building in Glenwood Springs on Tuesday, the 16th day of February, there were present:

Tom Jankovsky _____, Commissioner
Mike Samson _____, Commissioner
John Martin _____, Commissioner Chairman
Jean Alberico _____, Clerk to the Board
Kevin Batchelder _____, County Manager
Tari Williams _____, County Attorney

When the following proceedings, among others were had and done, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- ____

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

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

WHEREAS, Garfield County is one of the largest counties in Colorado, containing about 1,892,000 acres of land situated in northwestern Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is the largest landowner in Garfield County, owning approximately 62.3 percent of the land within the County, and two federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service, are responsible for managing over 1,100,000 acres (or 2,000 square miles) of these federal lands as illustrated in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, approximately 47,340 acres (nearly 7 percent) of privately owned land in Garfield County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements as illustrated in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Congress already designated 196,344 acres in the White River National Forest known as the Flat Tops Wilderness Area which falls predominantly in Garfield County and is approximately 38% of the lands held by the United States Forest Service in the County as illustrated in *Exhibit A*, attached hereto; 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 exacerbate greenhouse emissions which adversely impact global climate change; and

WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in Garfield 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 Garfield 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 Colorado economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of Garfield County and its citizens; 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 30 x 30 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of Garfield 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 some 680 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 Colorado, and in particular rural counties such as Garfield 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 Garfield County as expressed in “Garfield County Federal Lands Natural Resource Coordination Plan and Polices,” adopted September 2020 which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with Garfield County as also required by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA); and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at Sec. 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to “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.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County, Colorado, 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 Garfield 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 Garfield 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 Colorado’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 Colorado 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 the use of global climate change as an excuse 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 Garfield County, its businesses, and its citizens, and careful coordination with Garfield 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 Garfield County, its businesses, and its citizens.

9. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture and all other relevant Federal and State agencies; and

10. The Board, recognizing the President has directed the federal departments to work with local governments to implement the 30 x 30 program, will request a meeting with the Department of Interior to occur within the next 60 days and begin discussions of the Board's position on the 30 x 30 program.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
GARFIELD COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Jean Alberico
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
John Martin, Chairman

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

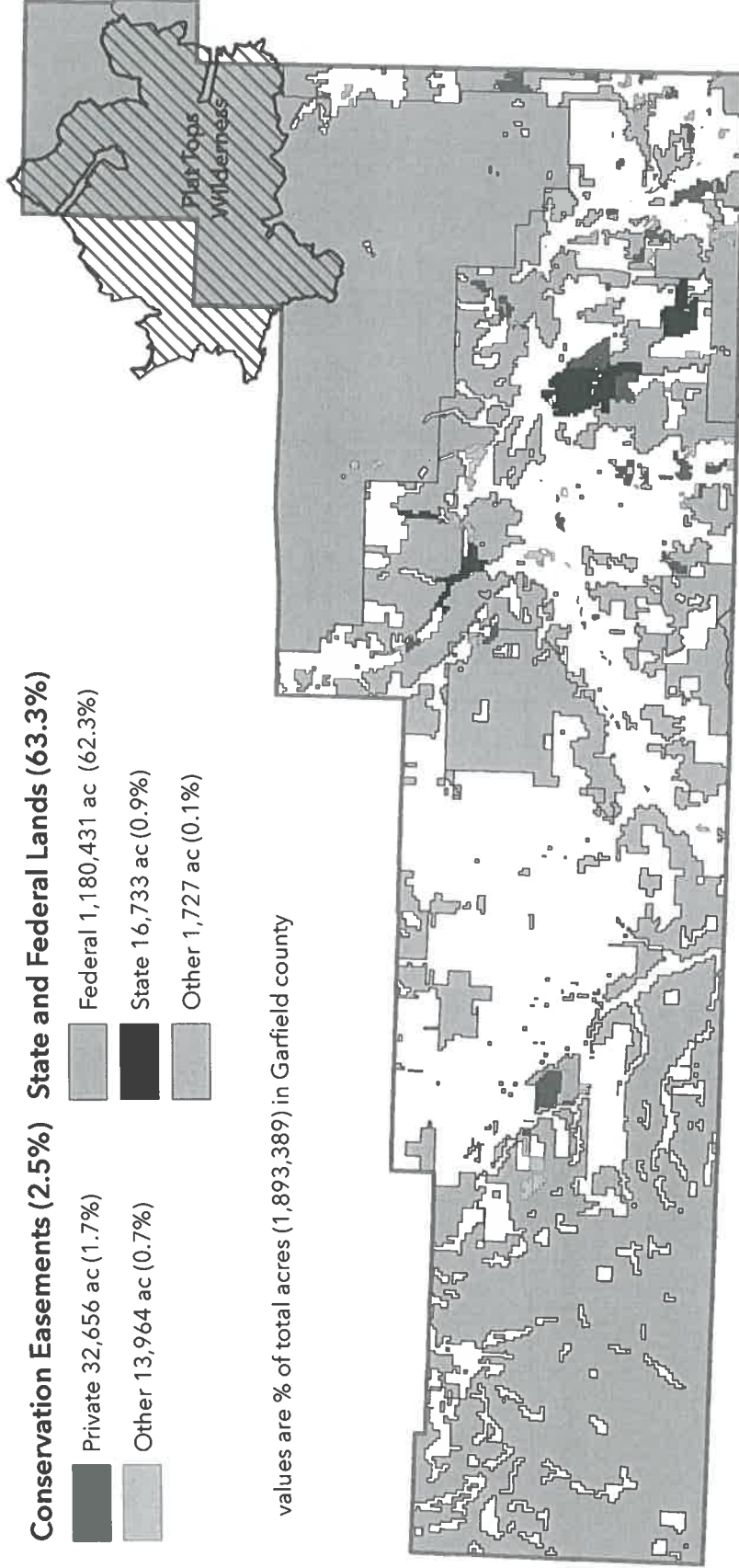
Commissioners:

Tom Jankovsky (Aye)
Mike Samson (Aye)
John Martin (Aye)



Exhibit A

Garfield County Land Ownership



Garfield County Enterprise GIS
 Prepared: February 9, 2021
 Calculations based on GIS Conservation Easements, State and Federal Ownership, and County Boundary layers





30 x 30

Efforts To Protect 30 Percent of U.S. Lands and Waters by 2030

WHAT IS THIS EFFORT?

The global [30x30 campaign](#) is a science-based initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands, waters, and oceans by the year 2030 to address the twin threats of climate change and the rapid loss of biodiversity, waters, and natural places.

The foundation of the 30x30 campaign includes locally-driven conservation efforts that work towards a more equitable and inclusive vision for nature conservation; honors the sovereignty of Tribal nations; support private land conservation efforts; and will ensure that the processes are guided by science. The intent is for federal, state, local, and Tribal governments; agricultural and forest landowners; fishermen, hunters, anglers, outdoor recreation users, and many other key stakeholders to identify and implement collaborative conservation strategies.

On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed three [executive orders](#) that will help tackle climate change by pausing oil and gas leasing on public lands and [conserving 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030](#). These orders will help boost the economy as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and move us towards a more sustainable future. In mid-January, the Mountain Pact released a [report](#) and [over 120 Western local elected officials](#) signed a [letter](#) asking the new Biden administration to take many of these steps.

This ten-year goal of conserving 30% of the U.S. by 2030, an inclusive and bold vision for fighting climate change and safeguarding America's lands, waters, and wildlife that will include the efforts of people across the country on the frontlines of conserving, using, and enjoying nature. You can read more details in the [Department of Interior Fact Sheet](#) and more behind [Biden's '30 by 30' U.S. lands and oceans climate goal](#).

Over the coming months, the Department of Interior will evaluate how to best measure and assess the country's progress toward the 30x30 goal, to properly account for the many innovative and effective ways that communities are conserving their lands and waters for current and future generations.

WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

- [Scientists](#) warn [we must conserve and restore at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030 if we hope to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change.](#)
- The United States is facing a conservation and climate crisis as nature declines and [greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase.](#)
- [Science shows us that worldwide biodiversity is deteriorating at a faster rate than at any time in human history.](#)
- [From 2001 to 2017, more than 24 million acres of land were lost to human development in the lower 48 United States,](#) which equals the loss of one football field-sized patch of land every 30 seconds.
- [77 percent of voters in the Rocky Mountain West](#) support setting a national goal of conserving 30 percent of land and waters in the United States by 2030 and [61 percent](#) of voters are concerned about the future of land, water, air, and wildlife.

PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS

- Scientists say that the loss of biodiversity, the increasing number of extreme weather events, and human encroachment upon wildlife habitat may [increase the risk of the transmission of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and SARS.](#)
- Our natural places help to provide food security, clean air to breathe, and clean water to drink, while offering us a wide range of health benefits; and every person, regardless of race, background, or economic status, should have access to close-to-home opportunities to get outside in nature.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Wilderness, wildlife refuges, national conservation lands, monuments, and other protected areas drive our local economies and conserved places provide access for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, and other outdoor recreation pursuits.
- Conserved private lands, including working forests, farms and ranches protect open spaces, preserve threatened wildlife, and help maintain our community's way of life.
- [100 economists and scientists have found that the global economy would benefit from the creation of far more protected areas on land and at sea than we have today.](#)
- Protected public lands are the backbone of our states' outdoor recreation industries, which generates [\\$788 billion in consumer spending nationally and support 5.2 million](#) jobs.

30x30 MESSAGING

What 30x30 is:

The 30x30 initiative outlines a broad conservation goal. It's a framework or umbrella for all of the local, state, and national land and water conservation efforts underway across the country.

The Biden Administration has stated that it will work to achieve this 30x30 goal by supporting local, state, private, and tribally led nature conservation and restoration efforts that are underway across America. It will respect private property rights and support the voluntary conservation efforts of private land-owners, water users, working waterfronts, and the private sector.

Many conservation groups, local land owners, and local governments have been and will continue to work on land preservation efforts. This work is being done from the ground up.

What 30x30 will not do:

- 30x30 will not force 'states to hand over land to the federal government.'
- 30x30 does not confer any authority to the federal government to take land.
- It is not a 'massive federal land grab'.

HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THIS GOAL?

The support of, and coordination among federal, state, and local land management agencies will be critical to achieving the 30x30 goal. Likewise, the use of conservation easements and restoration programs will be instrumental in helping to protect private lands.

State, County, and Local-Level Protection Strategies

- Create more local parks and open spaces
- Create more state wildlife areas, state parks
- Secure more conservation easements
- Use more conservation leases for state trust lands
- Create more preservation designations - e.g a wildlife corridor designation similar to the Outstanding Natural Resource Waters designation
- Require state land managers to comment on federal land management plans to protect for biodiversity and increase carbon sequestration
- Focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in land protection efforts
- Take lands off the table for development
- Fund more local conservation efforts
- Rewilding areas

Federal-Level Protection Strategies

- State land manager, working with their congressional delegation, identify lands and waters in need of federal protection
- Review long-term public land management documents, like forest plans and other agency plans that guide management of public lands, to find opportunities of how and where land protections could be strengthened.

Create New Federal Executive and Legislative Protections

- National parks
- National monuments
- Wilderness areas
- Wilderness Study Areas in Resource Management Plans.
- National Wildlife Refuges

Expand Federal Working Lands Programs to Increase Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health

Protect Private lands:

- Expand state and federal restoration programs
- Create more conservation easements on private lands
- Offer additional technical assistance for private landowners to protect habitat
- Keep working ranches as ranches rather than being sold for subdivisions.

Tribal lands and sovereign nations

Department of Defense Lands

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

1. **Watch the Mountain Pact April webinar about 30x30:** The Mountain Pact will be hosted a [webinar](#) with the U.S. Director of the [Campaign For Nature](#) about President Biden's 30x30 conservation goal of protecting 30% of land and water by 2030 and how we can work to implement this goal in our communities. Did you miss the event but want to see the recording? Reach out to Anna: Anna@TheMountainPact.org
2. **Ask your Town/City/County governing body to adopt a resolution in support of the 30x30 goal:** Have your community sign onto [this resolution](#) or a revised version of it that expresses support for 30x30. You can find more background [here](#) (this document link).
 - a. Make sure to adjust the resolution as needed to reflect your community's needs
 - b. If you adopt a resolution, please let us know - Anna@TheMountainPact.org
 - c. Send the resolution to local media, the Biden Administration and your congressional offices

Scott de la Vega, Acting Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

3. **Complete a survey about the 30x30 goal:** You can [fill out this survey](#) so your voice is reflected in the 30x30 planning effort.
4. Consider **authoring an opinion editorial** to show your support for the 30x30 initiative.