

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

More than 100 years ago, the National Park Service was founded as a program to protect 35 established national monuments including the very first national park. In the years to follow, America continued to build upon this conservation legacy—enacting laws on a bipartisan basis to ensure conservation and stewardship principles were the foundation of public land management. However, over the last two decades, litigation, preservationist ideology, bureaucratic processes, and executive actions have undermined multiple-use and sustained yield statutory mandates—particularly in the West. It is for this reason that we write to express our concern regarding the lack of information and ambiguous goals for the Biden Administration’s Executive Order establishing a directive to protect at least 30% of our lands and waters by 2030 (30 by 30).

The lack of detail accompanying this goal, the inability of your nominee for Secretary of the Interior – author of the mirroring legislation – to answer questions about this initiative, and the fact that this effort is spear-headed by an unconfirmed appointee housed in the National Climate Task Force has resulted in numerous concerns raised by those who live, work, and recreate on and near public lands. The federal government manages 640 million acres of land, over 90% of which is west of the Mississippi. Given our wide-open spaces, large-scale landscapes, and significant federal ownership, Western states will be disproportionately impacted by policies set in place to achieve the 30 by 30 goal, which we fear will impact revenues-derived and jobs that depend upon multiple-use public lands.

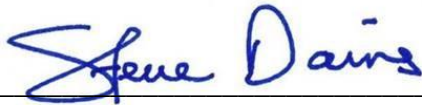
We urge you to remember that land management agencies are bound by a statutory-based multiple-use mandate. Our lands and our waters must remain open to activities that support our rural economies and help us to achieve our agriculture, timber, recreation, energy, and mineral needs. These multiple-uses are not only compatible with conservation ambitions, but they are an effective means to achieve these goals. Healthy lands and sustainable wildlife are inherent to our hunting, recreation, and sportsmen opportunities. Activities such as grazing and timber harvest are oftentimes the most effective tool to restore and sustain landscapes. Bonding requirements, reclamation standards, and mitigation directives ensure that extractive industries leave the land better than they found it—in addition, these activities fund several conservation programs. Each use goes through extensive environmental review and public comment.

The West is already paving the way on conservation. Stewardship of our lands is embedded in our Western values. Sustainable, healthy land is the lifeblood of our rural communities and our outdoor heritage and rural economies thrive when our lands are properly managed. While the

Administration has implied that multiple-use is not contrary to conservation, recent activities that attack key industries suggests otherwise. Multiple-use is compatible with conservation, and the United States Geological Survey has already illustrated 30% of our lands are in some degree of conservation status. Recently, the Administration has clarified that private lands are included in this initiative, setting the stage for potential egregious federal overreach. While these lands contribute to overall conservation, subjecting private landowners to this nebulous federal program is an extreme breach of private property rights. More clarity is desperately needed.

Therefore, we remain concerned that the 30 by 30 initiative will be used as a method to undermine private property rights, circumvent the multiple-use mandate, and lock up more land. Conservation remains a top priority for Western congressional members, and our constituents' lives and livelihoods rely upon a healthy, actively-managed landscape. However, the 30 by 30 initiative displays a dangerous thoughtlessness and far too many of our questions have been left unanswered. It is also our understanding that key constituencies have yet to be engaged on this initiative. As such, we respectfully urge you to provide state and local governments, the energy, minerals, and agriculture sectors, tribes, sportsmen, and recreationists an equitable and meaningful voice in the process. We also request a detailed briefing with the signers of this letter within 60 days of the Executive Order being signed.

Sincerely,




Steve Daines  
United States Senator



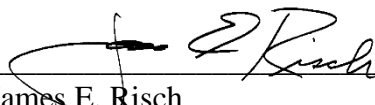
Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress



John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



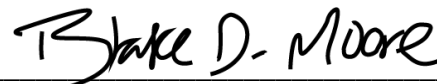
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



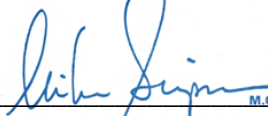
Michael S. Lee  
United States Senator



Blake Moore  
Member of Congress





Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



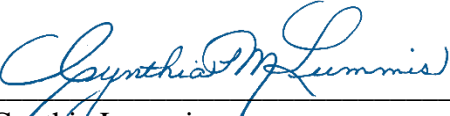
Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress


  
Kevin Cramer  
United States Senator

  
Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

  
Ben Sasse  
United States Senator

  
Mitt Romney  
United States Senator

  
Cynthia Lummis  
United States Senator

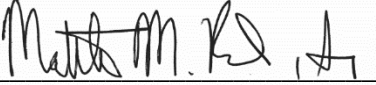
  
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator

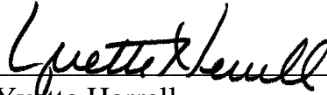
  
John Hoeven  
United States Senator

  
Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator


  
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress


  
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

  
Matthew Rosendale Sr.  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress

  
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress

  
Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

  
Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader

  
Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Ken Calvert  
Member of Congress



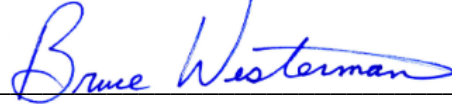
Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress



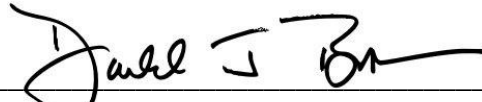
Liz Cheney  
House Conference Chair



Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



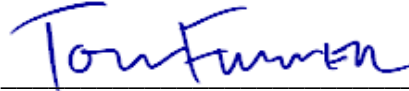
Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



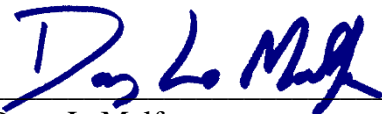
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



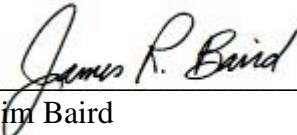
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress




Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



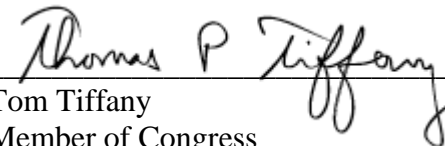
Jim Baird  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress



Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress




Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



James Comer  
Member of Congress



John Curtis  
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens  
Member of Congress



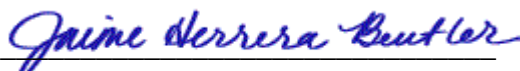
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress



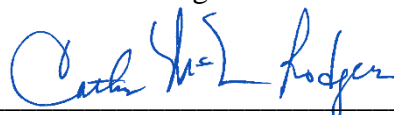
Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress



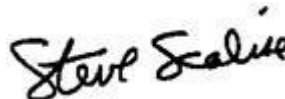
Ron Estes  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise  
House Republican Whip



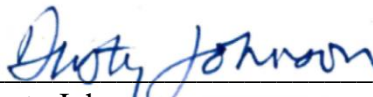
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



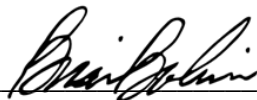
Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress