

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 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.

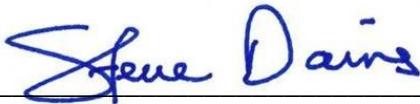
We urge you to remember that land management agencies are bound by a statutory-based multiple-use mandate. Our lands and our waters must remain open to activities that support our rural economies and help us to achieve our agriculture, timber, recreation, energy, and mineral needs. These multiple-uses 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
Chairman, Senate Western Caucus



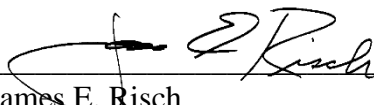
Dan Newhouse
Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus



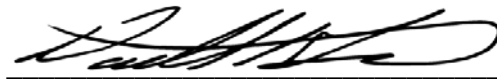
John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



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



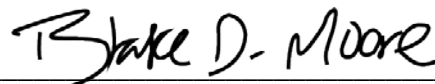
James E. Risch
United States Senator



Darrel Issa
Member of Congress



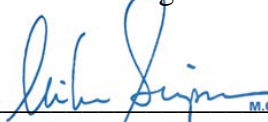
Michael S. Lee
United States Senator



Blake Moore
Member of Congress





Mike Crapo
United States Senator



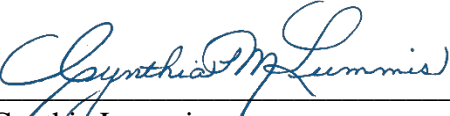
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



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

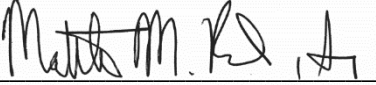

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

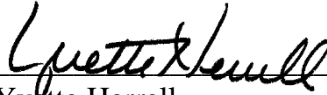

John Hoeven
United States Senator


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



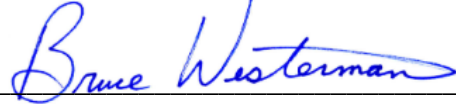
Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



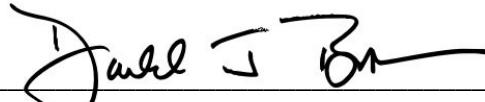
Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



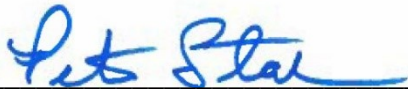
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



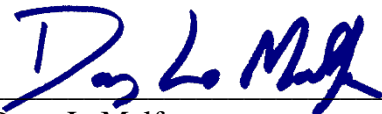
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



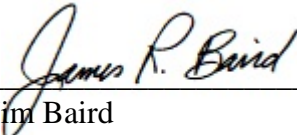
Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



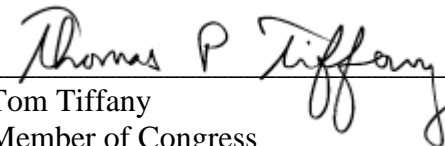
Jim Baird
Member of Congress



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



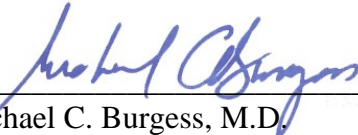
John Curtis
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



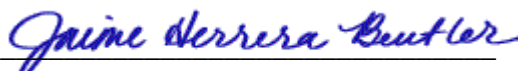
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



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



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



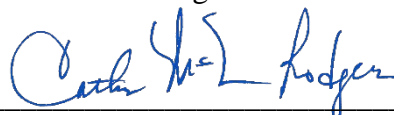
Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



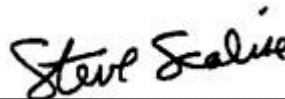
Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress




Steve Scalise
House Republican Whip



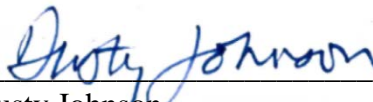
Jim Banks
Member of Congress



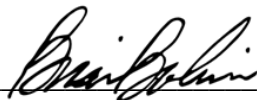
Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress