

A “Uniquely NM” 30 by 30

Presentation to the Water & Natural Resources Interim Committee -
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Committee Membership & Staff

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Department of Agriculture

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Environment Department

Rebecca Roose, Designee for:

James Kenney, Secretary

Office of the State Engineer

Julie Valdez, Designee

Indian Affairs Department

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Department of Game and Fish

Michael B. Sloane, Director

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Stephanie Garcia Richard,
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New Mexico Executive Order 2021-052

Benefits Identified

- supporting the economy
- sustaining traditional ways of life
- providing drinking water
- ensuring food security
- preserving biodiversity
- providing recreation opportunities that promote human health and well being



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-052

PROTECTING NEW MEXICO'S LANDS, WATERSHEDS, WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL HERITAGE

New Mexicans rely on the State's lands and watersheds to support our economy, sustain traditional ways of life, provide our drinking water, ensure food security, preserve biodiversity, and provide recreation opportunities that promote the health and wellbeing of all who call New Mexico home. Loss of these natural resources threatens each of these values. Therefore, the protection and restoration of the state's natural environment is of interest to all New Mexicans.

WHEREAS, access to nature and open spaces benefits the health and livelihoods of all New Mexicans;

WHEREAS, local water utilities and acequia irrigators rely on natural resource protections in source water areas to maintain critical infrastructure and deliver safe, reliable, clean, and affordable drinking and agricultural water to communities;¹

WHEREAS, climate change and the loss and degradation of natural resources caused by increasing temperatures threaten those values and the traditional ways of life in all communities, with disproportionate negative impacts on Indigenous communities, acequias, other communities of color, and surface water irrigated agriculture resulting in loss of precious cultural and historical landscapes and values;

¹ Water Research Foundation, *Asset Management Framework for Forested and Natural Assets*, Project Number 4727 (2020).

New Mexico's 30 by 30 Process: Role of the 30 by 30 Committee

- The 30 by 30 Committee is an advisory group responsible for providing advice and recommendations to the Governor on issues raised in the 30 by 30 Executive Order (E.O.) and the Federal Government's America the Beautiful Initiative.
- Coordination between agencies and programs, including
 - Use of best available science,
 - A commitment to equity,
 - Robust stakeholder engagement,
 - Timely recommendations on state and federal policies, and
 - Ensuring the State's efforts are accurately reflected in the "American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas."



New Mexico's 30 by 30 Process: Core Principles

1. Respect for tribal sovereignty.

- Tribes and pueblos are not bound by the E.O.
- The Committee shall work with them to determine if/how tribe/pueblo conservation designations for sovereign lands should be included.



New Mexico's 30 by 30 Process Core Principles

2. Respect for private property rights.

- The Committee may use existing programs and authorities;
- None of these grant powers of eminent domain.
- All conservation activity on private land will continue to occur on a strictly voluntary basis by willing participants.
- The Committee's focus will be to develop incentives that expand options available to landowners and ensure the good work they do is recognized as contributing to the 30 by 30 goals.



New Mexico's 30 by 30 Process Core Principles

3. Maintaining adaptability in a changing climate.

- The best science tells us that active land management plays an essential role in mitigating and adapting to climate-related risks like drought and wildfire.



New Mexico's 30 by 30 Process Core Principles

4. A role for natural working lands.

- Active management of farms, ranches, and forests promotes several of the conservation values specified in the E.O.
- Therefore, the contribution of these lands must be accounted for when defining what conservation means in New Mexico.



Background on the federal America the Beautiful and 30 by 30



CONSERVING AND RESTORING AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

2021

*A preliminary report to the National Climate Task Force
recommending a ten-year, locally led campaign to conserve and
restore the lands and waters upon which we all depend, and
that bind us together as Americans.*

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

EIGHT CORE PRINCIPLES

1. Pursue a Collaborative and Inclusive Approach to Conservation
2. Conserve America's Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People
3. Support Locally Led and Locally Designed Conservation Efforts
4. Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations
5. Pursue Conservation and Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities
6. Honor Private Property Rights and Support the Voluntary Stewardship Efforts of Private Landowners and Fishers
7. Use Science as a Guide
8. Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL FOCUS AREAS

- A. Create More Parks and Safe Outdoor Opportunities in Nature-Deprived Communities
- B. Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities
- C. Expand Collaborative Conservation of Fish and Wildlife Habitats and Corridors
- D. Increase Access for Outdoor Recreation
- E. Incentivize and Reward the Voluntary Conservation Efforts of Fishers, Ranchers, Farmers, and Forest Owners
- F. Create Jobs by Investing in Restoration and Resilience



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30”

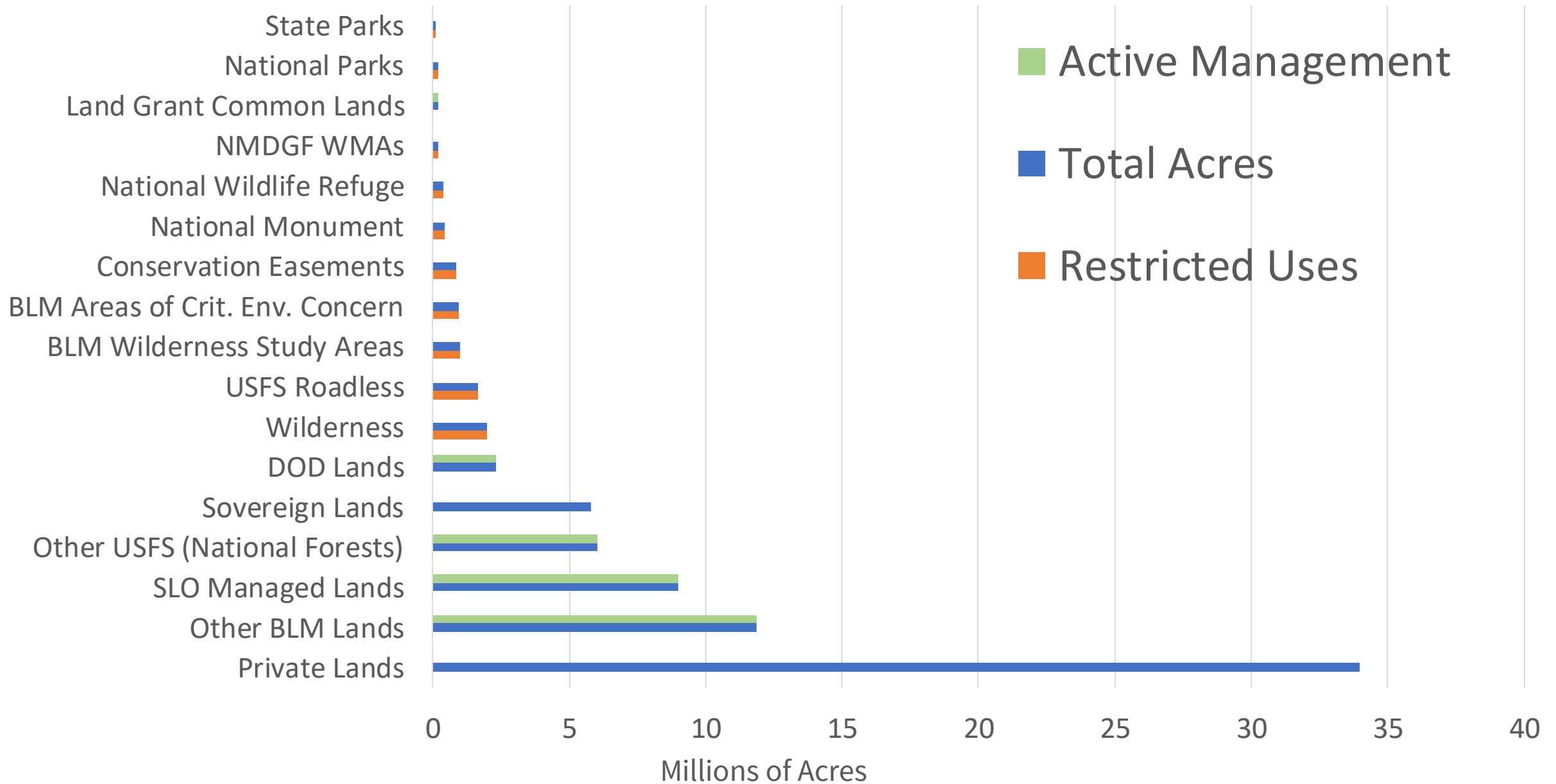
Key Concepts:

The E.O. sets a goal of having at least **30 percent** of all lands in New Mexico conserved by 2030, with an additional **20 percent** designated as climate stabilization areas.

But what do these terms mean? How do we know what lands count toward these goals?



NM 30 by 30 Tracker: Landownership and Use Types



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30”

Key Concepts:

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines a protected area as:

“a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30”

Key Concepts: Climate Stabilization Areas

Dinerstein et. al (2020) first suggested the term “**Climate Stabilization Areas**” to describe intact and semi-intact lands that store a relatively large amount of carbon.

E. Dinerstein, A. R. Joshi, C. Vynne, A. T. L. Lee, F. Pharand-Deschênes, M. França, S. Fernando, T. Birch, K. Burkart, G. P. Asner, and D. Olson. (2020). A “Global Safety Net” to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth’s climate. *Sci. Adv.* 6, eabb2824.



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30”

Next Steps:

1. Robust public engagement (ongoing)
2. Review existing programs to identify opportunities and barriers in addressing New Mexico’s expressed conservation needs
3. Propose formal definitions to the Governor
4. Baseline assessment of progress toward 30 by 30 goals based on new definitions.



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30” Existing Programs to reach 30 by 30 goals

Several existing programs and authorities across multiple state agencies currently are positioned to contribute toward 30 by 30 goals, driven by the values defined in the Order and the “Uniquely-New Mexico” outreach process.

- All programs contribute in some way to the preservation or enhancement of conservation values on lands across the State, including but not limited to acquisition of land or conservation easements.
- Several programs offer grant opportunities that allow stakeholders, including private landowners, to submit project proposals for activities that will count toward the 30 by 30 goals.



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30”

Existing Programs to reach 30 by 30 goals

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Natural Heritage Conservation Act

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act

Department of Agriculture

Soil and Water Conservation District Programs

Healthy Soil Program

State Land Office

Conservation leasing compatible with grazing leases

Land exchanges

Environment Department

River Stewardship Program



Defining Conservation: A “Uniquely-New Mexico 30 by 30”

Existing Programs to reach 30 by 30 goals

Department of Cultural Affairs

New Mexico Prehistoric and Historic Sites
Preservation Act

Department of Game and Fish

Habitat Management Fund
Share with Wildlife Program

Outdoor Recreation Division

Outdoor Trails + Grants
Outdoor Equity Fund



30 by 30 Requests for Information (RFI)

- RFI 1 (live: <https://arcg.is/1Ki0rj>) asking the public about conservation activities occurring in their communities, how they feel about conservation, how they would personally define conservation, and how state agencies can improve conservation programs and efforts.
 - 270+ responses so far
- RFI 2 (planned for October) informed by RFI 1; presenting draft definitions of Conserved Lands and Climate Stabilization Areas and asking for public feedback



WORKING 2022 TIMELINE

January - March 2022

- ✓ Development of the 30 by 30 Framework
- ✓ Launch of the 30 by 30 webpage:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/framework-for-a-uniquely-new-mexico-30-x-30/>
- ✓ Agency-level discussions with stakeholders related to individual programs
- ✓ Coordination with the Indian Affairs Department on tribal outreach and engagement
- ✓ Virtual information and listening session
- ✓ Response to the Department of the Interior's request for input on the conservation atlas

April – September 2022

Development of draft definitions for **Conserved Lands** and **Climate Stabilization Lands**

- ✓ Public Request for Information (RFI) to seek feedback on 30 by 30 (Currently live: <https://arcg.is/1Ki0rj>)
- ✓ Continuing Tribal Consultation

October 2022

- Release second RFI on draft definitions (release pending)
- Host and/or attend additional meetings and/or workshops
- Identify gaps in state programs
- Continue Tribal consultation

November-December 2022

- Review, organize, and summarize public input from the RFIs
- Begin drafting the 2023 Annual Report, covering:
 - All options for proposed definitions for the Governor's consideration
 - A barriers and opportunities analysis to implementing the goals of EO 2021-052
 - A summary of Committee engagement with the federal America the Beautiful Initiative
 - A review of all next steps discussed for 30 by 30 conservation