

# *30x30 Goal -by Dick Mylius*

## *SRES 3.29.21*

**Goal: Conserve 30% of our (nation's) land and waters by 2030**

International effort to address loss of habitat, species extinction, climate change

President Biden committed US to this goal in his January 27, 2021 Executive Order

Considers all lands, not just federal lands

Also applies to protection of waters

Congressional Resolutions introduced in US Senate (Sen Res 372) and US House (House Res 835) – sets goal

## *30x30 Goal*

Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, and Chair of Council on Environmental Quality are to submit a report by April 27 outlining next steps to be taken

Department of Interior – nationwide 12% of land “permanently protected”

Neither the Biden Administration, Congress nor Federal land and water managers have defined what constitutes conserved or protected lands or waters

Advocacy groups of all types are applying the terms differently – ranging from multiple use lands (such as most US Forest Service and BLM land) to only Congressionally designated Wilderness

## *30x30 Goal - Alaska's current land protection\**

More than 40% of Alaska's 365 million acres are protected\*

- Alaska National Wildlife Refuges: 77 million acres
- Alaska National Parks: 54 million acres
- Tongass Forest Wilderness: 6 million acres
- Chugach Wilderness Study Area 2 million acres
- BLM National Conservation

System lands & White Mts NRA: 3 million acres

- State Parks: 3.4 million acres
- State Wildlife Areas: 3.4 million acres

**TOTAL: 149 million acres**

**149 million acres out of 365 million acres = 40.8%**

\*Protected as defined by Department of Interior based on USGS GAP Analysis Report

## *30x30 Goal - Alaska's current waters protection*

Total area of Alaska state waters: 60-65 million acres

Federal Waters extend from 3 miles to 200 miles offshore

Sample Existing State designations:

- 17 Critical Habitat Areas established in AS 16.20, examples – 1.5 million acres (land and water):
  - Copper River Delta (550,000 acres)
  - Kachemak Bay (229,620 acres)
- Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (497,698 acres)
- State Marine Parks (34 areas, 77,000 acres)
- Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve

Additional protection of State tidelands and submerged lands must be established by State of Alaska

## *30x30 National Issues*

What constitutes “protected” or “conserved” lands?

Department of Interior refers to 2016 USGS report:  
“Completing America’s Inventory of Public Park and Protected Areas” – data base recently updated

Emphasis on acreage versus high value lands – emphasis on acreage has a greater impact federal lands in West

Executive order and Congressional resolutions direct federal agencies to work with state, local, private landowners to voluntarily conserve and protect lands

Examples of actions state and private owners could take:

- sell land to federal government for Conservation
- establish conservation easements
- sell carbon credits

## *30x30 Alaska Issues*

Some NGOs (non-governmental organizations) are already advocating for more protected lands in Alaska

Many NGOs lack awareness of amount of federal and state lands already protected

Many NGO's and Federal officials in DC lack knowledge about balance and compromises in Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)

ANILCA includes unique Alaska specific provisions – e.g. access rights, exceptions to Wilderness Act

ANILCA'S 5,000-acre restriction in Section 1326 (a) – limits administrative authority but does not constrain Congress (limits size of Antiquities Act withdrawals)

ANILCA's restriction on agencies studies to establish new conservation areas – ANILCA 1326 (b)