



## **“Conserving & Restoring America the Beautiful” Report Summary & Excerpts**

*Below are excerpts from the “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful” Report*

This report is the first step on fulfilling President Biden’s [Executive Order 14008](#), Section 216 with the ultimate “goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030”.

Executive Order Directives (page 11):

1. Develop & Pursue *strategies* that reflect our nation’s perspectives & priorities  
“The most effective and enduring conservation strategies are those that reflect the priorities, needs and perspectives of the families and communities that know, live, work and care for the lands and waters...data alone should not be the sole guide or measure of success” (page 13).
2. “The President’s challenge specifically emphasizes the notion of ‘conservation’ of the nation’s natural resources (rather than the related but different concept of ‘protection’ or ‘preservation’) recognizing that many uses of our lands and waters, including working lands, can be consistent with the long-term health and sustainability of natural systems” (page 10).
3. Establishes the need for clear and transparent *principles* to steer the work (listed here)
  - i. Pursue a Collaborative & Inclusive Approach to Conservation
  - ii. Conserve America’s Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People
  - iii. Support Locally Led & Locally Designed Conservation Efforts
  - iv. Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations
  - v. Pursue Conservation & Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities
  - vi. Honor Private Property Rights & Support the Voluntary Stewardship Efforts of Private Landowners & Fishers
  - vii. Use Science as a Guide
  - viii. Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches

“The 30 percent goal also reflects the need to support conservation and restoration efforts across all lands and waters, not solely on public lands, including by incentivizing voluntary stewardship efforts on private (and working) lands and by supporting the efforts and visions of States and Tribal Nations” (page 10, 11).

“Because Federal agencies manage significant expanses of public lands in the West, the Federal Government’s conservation efforts and resources have, historically, been more focused on that region... [the stakeholder comments calls for] a need to recognize the unique blend of priorities, threats, conservation tools, and opportunities across regions and ecosystem types” (page 12).

“U.S. working lands and waters give our nation food and fiber and keep rural and coastal communities healthy and prosperous. They are also integral to conserving functioning habitats and connecting lands and waters across the country. Efforts to conserve and restore America’s lands and waters must respect the rights of private property owners...administration will support voluntary stewardship efforts that are already underway across the country’s lands and waters” (page 15).

“[The goal] can be achieved using the wide array of existing tools and strategies that Tribal Nations, territories, State and local governments, private landowners, non-profit organizations, fishing communities, Congress, and Federal agencies have already developed and deployed effectively” (page 16).

*continued*

Report Deliverables (page 17):

“...to measure and report upon conservation progress in the United States: the creation of an American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas that collects baseline information on the amount and types of lands and waters that are being managed for conservation and restoration purposes, and the publication of annual America the Beautiful updates on the health of nature in America and on the Federal Government’s efforts to support locally led conservation and restoration efforts” (page 17).

Recommendations for Early Focus & Progress (page 18-21):

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