



## **Instructions for Adopting Resolution Opposing the 30 x 30 Agenda**

### **1. Select the Appropriate Resolution**

Two model resolutions have been prepared: (1) the first is designed for counties with significant areas of federal land ownership (basically all Western states); and (2) the second is designed for counties where the land is primarily privately owned (for example, States like Texas and Nebraska or "Eastern" states). These Resolutions provide language for opposing the 30 x 30 agenda and are intended to be modified, as appropriate, by the approving entity. Both resolutions can also be used by a special district, or even a State.

### **2. Modify the Resolution Language to Reflect the Unique Characteristics of the Community**

Local priorities and characteristics should be incorporated into the Resolution as appropriate. Additionally, if your state has specific statutory provisions that protect private property rights, include these in your resolution. For example, the State of Nebraska allows counties to approve or deny special use permits for conservation easements if they are inconsistent with local plans and priorities. Nebraska counties should add a provision to their resolution noting this authority.

### **3. Adopt the Resolution**

Resolutions are adopted by local governmental entities such as counties, water and special-use districts, and can even be by state legislatures. However, the most common are adopted by county governments. The procedure can be as follows:

- a) A single person or a local group who wishes to have their county oppose 30 x 30, should contact their county commissioners (or for Special Districts contact your locally elected District Directors) to adopt the 30 x 30 resolution.
- b) Either contact a commissioner's office if you have an established relationship or call your commissioner's office who represents the precinct in which you live (look on your local county map to locate your precinct and call

that commissioner's office). Being one of his "constituents" will be key to getting his support.

PO Box 801 . Georgetown, Texas 78627 . 512-591-7843 . [www.americanstewards.us](http://www.americanstewards.us)

c) Once you make the contact, politely ask if he knows of or has a position on 30 x 30. You may have to briefly "educate" him as to what 30 x 30 is. Use our **Guide to Fight the 30 x 30 Land Grab** found on our website at [Stop30x30.americanstewards.us](http://Stop30x30.americanstewards.us) to help you explain what it is and why your county should oppose it.

d) Take a copy of the **Guide** and **resolution** to your commissioner when you meet. Take extra copies of each so he can then provide them to the other commissioners for their review and ask that they support and adopt the resolution.

e) Should the Commissioner's Court decide to take up and discuss the resolution, you and your neighbors should attend the meeting to express your support of its passage.

f ) Should they adopt the resolution, request that they (and you can do this as well) mail or email a copy to American Stewards (see below).

#### **4. Notify Relevant State and Federal Entities**

Send copies of the Resolution to your State and Federal Representatives who represent your county, as well as to the Department of Interior, who is tasked with organizing the implementation of 30 x 30. The current contact and address for DOI is:

Secretary Debra Haaland  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

#### **5. Send Copy to ASL**

Send a copy of the Resolution and key contact information to American Stewards of Liberty to be added to the national list of local governments opposing the 30 x 30 program.

American Stewards of Liberty  
[asl@americanstewards.us](mailto:asl@americanstewards.us)  
PO Box 801  
Georgetown, Texas 78627

512-591-7843

**(Private Land County - Model resolution opposing the 30 x 30 program)**

STATE OF [Name]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- \_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL**

WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [Name] for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, [County] contains [number] acres of land in the State of [Name]; and

WHEREAS, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

WHEREAS, many of [Name] County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including [ Insert active industries in your area]. (i.e. forest product's industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation); and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, governments are instituted among people, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed to secure their inherent and inalienable rights, and for the protection of their property; and

WHEREAS, private property rights are guaranteed full protection under the Constitution of [State], as well as, the Constitution of the United States, which prohibit the erosion of these rights for a public purpose; and

*[Insert the following provision if the federal government owns land in the County, insert the following]*

WHEREAS, the federal government currently owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing approximately [number] acres of these federal lands as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

*[Insert the following provision if the State owns land in the County]*

WHEREAS, within [Name] County, the State of \_\_\_\_\_ owns and manages [Describe prominent protected state land designations within the County such as Parks, school trust lands, etc.] Include map if have available] as illustrated in **Exhibit A**; and

*[Insert the following provision if there are permanent Conservation Easements on lands in the County]*

WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are protected with perpetual conservation easements as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008, entitled “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality, and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least thirty (30) percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, an estimated 700 million acres of our Nation’s lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state by 2030, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and water in the United States is a public purpose, not voted on or consented to by the people, Congress, or the [State] Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program seeks to replace the decision-making of independent Landowners who have been caring for these lands for generations without federal mandates and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has stated they will be using all the tools in existing law to reach their 30 percent target by 2030, including conservation easements in perpetuity, federal conservation programs, National Heritage Areas, Wildlife Corridors, Endangered Species listings and critical habitat designations, and all other similar programs; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economy of [State], and counties, such as [Name] whose citizens depend on private lands for their security and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, lands placed under permanent conservation easements reduce the value of that parcel of land while increasing the tax burden on other private landowners and industries to make up the property valuation difference; and

WHEREAS, federal conservation programs artificially drive up the cost of, and directly compete with, the working landowners who depend on the ability to lease or purchase those lands for the production of the food, fiber, energy and minerals our nation requires; and

*[Insert the following provision if County has a land-use, natural resource, comprehensive plan, or other similar planning vehicle]*

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies, and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of County Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal and state government to coordinate its policy development with [Name].; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of [Name] County, [State] as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving at least 30 percent of the Nation's lands and waters in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of lands within our jurisdiction.
2. The Board further opposes the designation and use of lands in [Name] County to be included as a part of the "30 x 30" program, whether these be through conservation programs, easements, national heritage areas, wildlife preserves, wildlife corridors, open space, or other federal designations preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the County, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of [Name] laws governing water rights and water use and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] law.

5. The Board opposes and disagrees with using any public purpose, including global climate change, to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing sellers/landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.

7. The Board requires that any proposed federal land acquisitions within their jurisdiction have the consent of the Board of Commissioners. This includes any transfer of conservation easements from land trusts to the federal government.

8. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the [State] Department of Agriculture, [State] Attorney General, Governor [Name] and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 202\_.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_[Name of Clerk]  
Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: \_\_\_\_\_[Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]

**(Federal Land County – Model Resolution Opposing the 30 x 30 Program)**

STATE OF [Insert State]

COUNTY OF [Name]

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for [County], [State], held at the [Location] on [Date], there were present:

[List Participants]

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, [County] is a legal and political subdivision of the State of [State] for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, [County] containing about [number] acres of land situated in [area of state]; and

WHEREAS, the federal government owns [%] of the land within the County, and the [insert primary federal land management agencies] are responsible for managing over [number] acres of these federal lands as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, approximately [number] acres (nearly [%] percent) of privately owned land in [Name] County are also already protected with perpetual conservation easements as illustrated in **Exhibit A**, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, [Describe prominent protected federal and state land designations within the county such as Parks, Wilderness and Refuges. Include map if have available]; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrades the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in [Name] County, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used and access to these lands; and

WHEREAS, many of [Name] County's businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize federal lands and their resources, including the forest products industry, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the [State] economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of [Name] County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, governments are instituted among people, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed to secure their inherent and inalienable rights, and for the protection of their property; and

WHEREAS, private property rights are guaranteed full protection under the Constitution of [State], as well as, the Constitution of the United States, which prohibit the erosion of these rights for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called the “30 x 30” program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 700 million acres of our Nation’s lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and

WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

WHEREAS, the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and water in the United States is a public purpose, not voted on or consented to by the people, Congress, or the [State] Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program seeks to replace the decision-making of independent Landowners who have been caring for these lands for generations with federal mandates and restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has stated they will be using all the tools in existing law to reach their 30 percent target by 2030, including conservation easements in perpetuity, federal conservation programs, National Heritage Areas, Wildlife Corridors, Endangered Species listings and critical habitat designations, and all other similar programs; and

WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economy of [State], and counties, such as [Name] whose citizens depend on private lands for their security and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, lands placed under permanent conservation easements reduce the value of that parcel of land while increasing the tax burden on other private landowners and industries to make up the property valuation difference; and

WHEREAS, federal conservation programs artificially drive up the cost of, and directly compete with, the working landowners who depend on the ability to lease or purchase those lands for the production of the food, fiber, energy and minerals our nation requires; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, is likely to cause significant harm to the economy of [Name] County, and injure the County’s businesses and its citizens by depriving



them of access to public lands and national forest system lands and preventing the productive use of these lands' resources; and

WHEREAS, the withdrawal of approximately 700 million acres of federal lands from multiple use and placement of such lands in permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many western states, including [State], and in particular rural counties such as [Name] County whose citizens depend on access to federal lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of [Name] County as expressed in [Name of Planning Document], adopted [Date] which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with [Name] as also required by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of [Name] County, [State], as follows:

1. The Board opposes the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of public lands and national forests in [Name] County as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued management of the public lands and the national forests under principles of multiple use and sustained yield, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber, and in careful coordination with [Name] County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies, as required by law.
4. The Board supports maintaining and enhancing public access to public lands and national forests and opposes road closures, road decommissioning, moratoria on road construction, and other limitations on public access for the purpose of fulfilling the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
5. The Board recognizes and supports the State of [State's] water rights system, including the doctrine of prior appropriation and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the County that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under [State] law.
6. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes using any public purpose, including global climate change, to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.

7. The Board maintains that the designation of public lands and national forest lands as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives may lawfully occur, if at all, only through the planning process mandated by the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (for public lands) or the National Forest Management Act (for national forest lands), including public notice and an opportunity to comment, analysis and disclosure of the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens, and careful coordination with [Name] County to ensure consistency with County land use plans and land management policies.

8. The Board also maintains that any non-federal lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of [Name] County, its businesses, and its citizens.

9. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, the [State] Department of Agriculture, [State] Attorney General, Governor [Name] and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Clerk]

Clerk of the Board

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF [Name] COUNTY, STATE OF [State]

By: \_\_\_\_\_ [Name], Chairman

Upon motion duly made and seconded the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

[List Commissioners and vote]