

# *Guide to Fight* **30 X 30** **LAND GRAB**

**AMERICAN STEWARDS!**  
*of Liberty*

*How to fight the radical environmental agenda  
from taking 30% of America's land by 2030.*

---

Spring 2022

---

How We Fight  
10 Key Points  
Q & A  
Opposition  
Stop 30 x 30 Summit

30 x 30  
Campaign Website

[Stop30x30.americanstewards.us](http://Stop30x30.americanstewards.us)

---

## **What is 30 x 30?**

The 30 x 30 program is an international agenda advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30 percent of the world's lands and oceans in their natural state by 2030. The program in America was initiated by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021.

Proponents argue climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30 percent of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

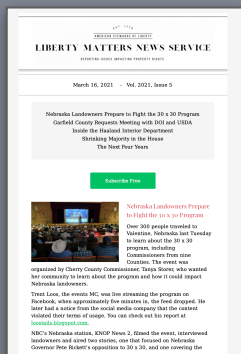
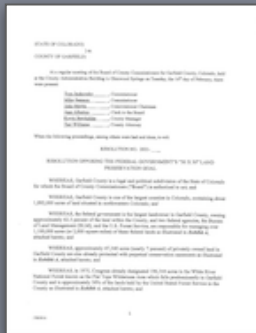
This is the largest unauthorized federal land grab our nation has ever faced.

# HOW WE FIGHT

*Protect your community by educating local elected leaders, citizens and associations, and helping them to officially opposing the agenda. Then add your voice to the national campaign to stop the land grab.*

Download the  
Model Resolution

[Stop30x30.americanstewards.us](http://Stop30x30.americanstewards.us)



1. Contact your County Commissioners and Special District Directors in your area and make sure they are aware of the international agenda.
2. Ask your local government boards to adopt a Resolution opposing the 30 x 30 agenda. Download the model resolution and instructions for passage from our website.
3. Send us a copy of the adopted resolutions and we will get your county on the national map of opposition.
4. Educate local associations, neighbors and other affected parties. Unite your community and stand together.
5. Watch the home-front. Be vigilant and discerning about conservation programs in your community and the federal nexus these create.
6. Give \$30 to help us stop this agenda by contributing at [americanstewards.us](http://americanstewards.us)
7. Subscribe free to our *Liberty Matters* news service to stay connected to the 30 x 30 fight and property rights issues across our nation.
8. Join us April 22, 2022 in Lincoln, Nebraska for the first national summit to stop 30 x 30.

# 10 KEY POINTS

*... to know about the 30 x 30 Program*

1. The 30 x 30 program is **advanced by radical environmental activists** calling for the permanent protection of 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030. It is an international agenda, not a locally driven initiative.
2. The plan is being aggressively **pushed by the Biden Administration** using the politically motivated climate crisis agenda to gain control of America's land. They have promised to use every tool in the toolbox, from conservation programs to federal land acquisitions and withdrawals.
3. There is **no credible scientific reasoning** or facts that support the need to preserve any specific amount of land to "cure" climate change.
4. If restricting land solves climate change and prevents species from going extinct, as they claim, we should not be in a climate crisis today because **one-third of the United States is already owned by Federal and State governments** and managed under restrictive land use protections.
5. **Their "crisis" math does not add up.** If we are losing a football field (1.32 acres) to development every 30 seconds, as they claim, this roughly totals 11 million acres in ten years. That is far short of the additional 400 million acres they say must be permanently protected by 2030 to avoid the forthcoming irreversible climate disaster.
6. There is **no constitutional or statutory authority** for the President, the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture, to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and oceans in the U.S., and no such authority is referenced in the Executive Order or the President's report.
7. Instead of working with States, local governments and stakeholders, the Biden Administration's first act to implement 30 x 30 was to **remove local governments' veto power over federal land acquisitions**, when they rescinded the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3388.
8. The advocates behind the program **do not have any "skin in the game,"** or property to conserve. They are seeking to place other people's land and property rights under the control of the administrative state.
9. Taking 30 percent of our lands and oceans is only the first step. Advocates are working towards the **international goal, known as the "Half-Earth" agenda**, to permanently conserve 50 percent of our lands and oceans by 2050. And, September 22, 2021, the IUCN Conservation Congress in France called for 70 percent of the world's lands and oceans to be protected.
10. If proponents were truly concerned about the welfare of species and habitat, they would oppose placing more land under the control of federal management or environmental elites and instead remove the regulatory restrictions on **America's landowners who are the best stewards of the land**, while producing the food, fiber, minerals, and energy we depend on to create wealth, defend our liberties, and live free.

*"This is the largest, unauthorized federal land grab our nation has ever faced."*

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## 1. What is the 30 x 30 program?

The 30 x 30 program is an international agenda advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30 percent of the world's land and oceans in their natural state by 2030. The program in America was initiated by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021.

Proponents argue climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30 percent of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

## 2. Who is behind 30 x 30?

In 2019, the progressive organization Center for American Progress (CAP) published the primary report supporting the 30 x 30 program in America, entitled "How Much Nature Should America Keep." This was followed by a Resolution calling for the 30 x 30 program to be introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. One of the 10 Senators that co-sponsored the Resolution was current Vice President, Kamala Harris. On the House side, one of the five cosponsors was Representative Debra Haaland, now the Secretary of the Department of Interior.

CAP was founded through funding from George Soros backed Foundations. It is supported by well-known progressive elites, and its board of directors includes John Podesta (Chair), Stacey Abrams, Julián Castro, and Senator Tom Daschle.

The author of the two CAP reports setting the 30 x 30 agenda is Matt Lee-Ashley. He currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality, which is leading the White House's Climate Crisis Task Force 30x30 workgroup.

The Defenders of Wildlife, League of Conservation Voters, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society Action Fund, Wildlands Network, Center for Biological Diversity, and other environmental organizations have also been actively promoting the agenda.

## 3. What law authorizes the program?

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, or in the 30 x 30 report published May 6, 2021, entitled "America the Beautiful."

## 4. What is the scientific basis?

There is no scientific reasoning cited in the Executive Order. The CAP report has numerous citations, but most of them are to press releases and opinion papers issued by like-minded advocacy groups and international reports. The same holds for the Administration's 30 x 30 May report. There are a few references to scientific papers relying on principles of conservation biology, none of which prove climate change theories or demonstrate that 30 percent of all land and oceans in the United States must be preserved to maintain biological diversity.

## QUESTION & ANSWER (CONTINUED)

---

### 5. How have they determined 30% must be conserved by 2030?

The Department of Interior (DOI) released a Fact Sheet in conjunction with the Executive Order providing the basis for 30 x 30 that mirrors the CAP report conclusions. DOI states:

“Approximately 60% of land in the continental U.S. is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds. The decline of nature threatens wildlife; across the globe, approximately one million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades, including one-third of U.S. wildlife.

The U.S. Geological Survey reports that only 12% of lands are permanently protected. Studies show that roughly 23% of America’s ocean is currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of ocean protections found in the western Pacific Ocean.” (See citation, page 9)

Norman James, a natural resource attorney with Fennemore Craig, ran the numbers to see if this theory is justified in his article “The 30 x 30 Land Grab” published in *Liberty Matters News Service*, February 16, 2021. Here is what he concluded:

- Proponents claim we are losing a football field of land every 30 seconds, or about 3,000 acres per day. That equals 1.1 million acres per year, or 11 million acres per decade.
- By contrast, 11 million acres is just 0.5% of all land in the U.S. (out of 2.27 billion acres), and only 1.7% of the land already owned by the federal government (640 million acres). That figure does not include Tribal land, which is likely to be unaffected by the 30 x 30 program due to the federal government’s trust responsibilities.

- Additionally, the U.S. Geological Survey reports that 12% of the land in the U.S. is already “permanently protected” — over 274 million acres of land. What is already protected is 25 times the amount of land that purportedly will be lost over the next 10 years.

If approximately 300 million acres of land are already permanently protected, and, according to the proponent’s numbers, only an estimated 11 million acres might be removed from its natural state by 2030, why must they add another 400 million acres in the next 9 years? The science does not justify this enormous taking.

Based on the numbers alone, it appears the program is being pushed not for scientific purposes, but rather to usher in a fundamental policy shift that erodes constitutional protections by placing vast tracts of land, both private and federal, off-limits to economic use and development.

### 6. Is the long-term agenda to take 50% of America’s land?

While 30 percent by 2030 is the current target proponents are aggressively pursuing, the CAP report sets a long-term goal of permanently preserving 50% of our lands and oceans by 2050. This is set forth as Principle number 8 in the report and has been promoted by other radical organizations that oppose land and resource development, such as the Center for Biological Diversity, the Wildlands Network and National Geographic.

The idea of 30 x 30 comes from the “Half Earth” philosophy, where it is advocated that 50 percent of earth must be returned to wilderness. This is an international goal that is being pushed for adoption by every nation. It is not a local initiative.

Additionally, September 22, 2021, the IUCN World Conservation Congress passed resolution number 101, which calls on all nations to work towards protecting 70 percent of the world’s lands and oceans.

## QUESTION & ANSWER (CONTINUED)

### 7. What qualifies as “permanently protected in its natural state?”

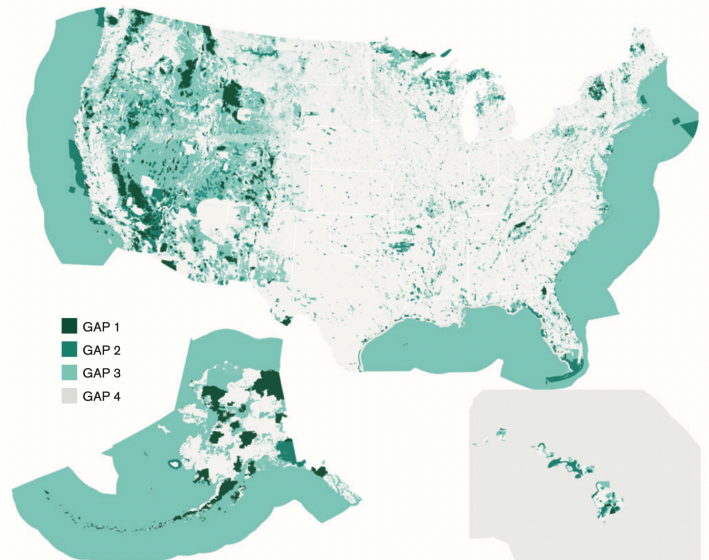
The Executive Order is not clear on what land is being targeted for the program or how it would be managed. But, it appears that this land would be set aside permanently and be off-limits to most human use. For example, the lands included in the 12% permanently protected figure cited in the DOI Fact Sheet is comprised of national parks, wilderness areas, private lands with permanent conservation easements, state parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, or other protected areas. These are some of the most restricted lands in America.

### 8. Will private land be targeted?

The Biden Administration has not released specific targets it is considering for the program. However, the CAP report states that 60% of land in the contiguous 48 States is privately owned, but only 1% is permanently protected. They also conclude that “more than three-quarters of the natural area that the United States lost in the contiguous 48 states from 2001 to 2017 was on private lands.” (Page 11). This suggests programs to permanently protect lands that are currently privately owned, will be pursued.

Private lands are the most productive, ecologically diverse areas in the nation, and therefore a major target. Proponents have stated protecting these areas will be necessary to reverse their theory that over one million species will go extinct in the coming decades. This should alarm every landowner.

Additionally, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies are to prioritize projects and acquisitions near or adjacent to existing protected areas. That means those areas that already have large protected federal land holdings, or private lands with conservation easements, are also primary target areas for LWCF monies.



USGS Gap Map: Gap 1 & 2 total the 12% of lands DOI considers protected.  
Published by Defenders of Wildlife

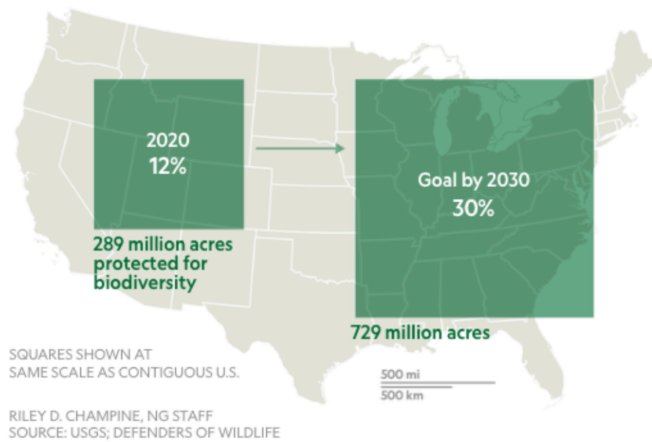
### 9. Will restrictions increase on federal lands under the program?

It is likely that a substantial portion of the land and water to be preserved will come from the land owned by the federal government in the 11 contiguous western states and Alaska. Specifically, the lands near or adjacent to areas already under permanent protection are vulnerable for inclusion in the program as they help create the core reserves and connected corridors environmental activists have long been advocating. Landowners should expect a push to increase restrictions on federal lands such as reducing roads, eliminating grazing, mining and oil and gas development, creating wildlife corridors, and designating critical habitat for endangered species across large regions.

The House of Representatives’ Select Committee on Climate Crisis produced a report in June of 2020, entitled “*Solving the Climate Crisis*,” where they set forth policy changes necessary to implement the 30 x 30 agenda. These

## QUESTION & ANSWER (CONTINUED)

**Protecting 30 percent of the U.S. by 2030 would require 440 million more acres to be set aside.**



Representation of how much land is already protected and how much more is required to achieve 30%.  
Published by National Geographic (2019)

include expanding the boundaries of national parks, monuments, and wildlife refuges, and converting more lands into restrictive wilderness areas where the land must be managed in its natural state with no roads or motorized vehicles, and where wildfires are allowed to burn.

The Select Committee report also calls for the revision of federal land management laws (i.e. the Federal Land Management Act and the National Forest Management Act) they view as archaic because these prioritize multiple-use and sustained yield, instead of the “climate crisis.”

### 10. How will the program be funded?

Environmental advocacy groups are pressing Congress to incorporate the 30 x 30 agenda into bills related to land and ocean management, and appropriation bills such as the Farm Bill. The President’s proposed \$6 Trillion budget identifies “America the Beautiful” (i.e. 30 x 30) as one of the programs the budget will fund. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2022 Budget identifies 37 appropriations for 30x30.

It is expected that initially, the Administration will use existing programs to reach the 30 percent target. These programs will include monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which receives \$900 million annually for land acquisition and conservation projects. Additionally, the Administration is increasing funding for many of the conservation programs through the U.S. Department of Agriculture such as the Conservation Reserve Program, and conservation easements, both permanent and term.

### 11. Are Traditional Conservation Programs Part of 30 x 30?

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack has been actively encouraging landowners to sign up for conservation programs as a way to help achieve 30 x 30. However, what is not often publicized is that programs that use federal funds to pay landowners for conservation activities create a federal nexus to the property, giving the Administration an avenue to control the use of private lands they otherwise would not have. Landowners are already seeing contracts under the Biden Administration that contain new restrictions for lands to be re-enrolled into these conservation program.

Regardless of whether a contract lists a specific issue that may trigger more federal oversight of the property, the fact that federal funds are used for the program can trigger potential restrictions. For instance, critical habitat for endangered species does not affect private property “unless” there is a federal nexus. The federal nexus is created when a landowner enrolls the private property into a program that is “authorized, funded, or carried out” by a federal agency. The Endangered Species Act requires “all” federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when there are potential species’ impacts or modification of the habitat through a federal program. This would include the programs administered through the Department of Agriculture. (16 U.S.C.A. § 1536(2)(a), Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act)

## QUESTION & ANSWER (CONTINUED)

---

This was not a major concern for landowners under the previous Trump Administration, which worked to reduce federal restrictions on landowners. However, our current President waited only six days after his inauguration to sign an Executive Order that initiated a new policy to conserve 30 percent of America's lands, for which substantive details have yet to be shared with the public. Landowners should be cautious and diligent in understanding the potential federal control these programs can place on private property.

### **12. Are Conservation Easements a part of 30 x 30?**

The Department of Interior includes conservation easements (CE) in perpetuity on private lands as a part of the 12 percent of lands in America that are currently "permanently protected." When a landowner places their land in a CE, they are selling more than just the development rights. They are transferring control of the property to the land trust or federal government who will now ensure the land is managed for the priority of the conservation purpose. The landowner may still hold the title, but they no longer have the functional control of the property. While some agriculture activities may continue, these are limited to the existing activities and levels of these activities specified when the contract is finalized. This prevents the agriculture operation from adapting to natural changes, changing times and changing technology as they normally would to ensure sound land management practices, and a profitable business.

### **13. Does the Administration's Report answer landowner's questions?**

The Administration's first report on 30 x 30, released May 6, 2021 entitled "America the Beautiful," was intended to be an implementation plan, as called for in the Executive Order. Instead, it is a carefully packaged message with lofty sounding goals that resonate with the urban public, such as "locally-led," "stakeholder collaboration," and "working lands conservation." But their principles and goals are empty ideals with very few details of how they are to be achieved.

Although the Administration states we must "conserve" and "restore" our lands, it does not define what this means nor how this will be achieved. It does not even define what lands or land use designations qualify. The Department of Interior seemed certain only 12 percent of the nation was "permanently protected" when the Executive Order was released, but now the Administration will not confirm that these highly restricted areas are a part of the 30 x 30 plan.

The few specifics that are listed in the Report focus on enticements for urban and suburban communities who know little about the federal restrictions currently placed on our rural lands inhibiting good resource management. The Administration is marketing this program to these target audiences, counting on their buy-in and support.

For instance, they emphasize the need for more parks in urban areas, so people have access to open space within 10 miles of their homes. They advocate for unlocking access to landlocked public lands for hunters and recreationists, which require public access across private lands. Further, they offer funding to tribal communities. The Administration needs these three constituencies to support the more aggressive land restrictions required to reach the 30x30 goal.

None of these small-sized actions will get them to a 30 percent goal alone. There must be more – a lot more – and although they are not telling us directly, they have been revealing what these are since taking office.

### **14. Has the Administration Taken Steps to Implement the Program?**

Yes. February 11, 2021, the Acting Secretary of DOI rescinded an important policy that protected communities from federal land acquisitions. Former Secretary of Interior, David Bernhardt, under President Trump, had issued Secretarial Order 3388, which allowed local governments and the States to veto a federal land acquisition proposed through the LWCF. Through Secretarial Order 3396, the Acting Secretary revoked this protection, clearing a critical hurdle that would have



## QUESTION & ANSWER (CONTINUED)

protected private lands from being acquired by the federal government.

February 26, 2021, a massive wilderness bill (H.R. 803) passed the House with the White House's endorsement, stating the bill would help the administration accomplish its 30 x 30 goal. This bill creates 1.5 million acres of new wilderness, permanently withdraws 1.2 million acres of mineral reserves holding the rare earth minerals we now import from China and Europe, designates 1,200 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers, expands 110,000 acres of National Monument Lands, and makes other restrictive land use designations.

Additionally, the Administration has increased the monies being paid to set aside lands for conservation. They are directly competing with, and out-ricing, the working landowner with tax-payer money. The Federal government is attempting to convert land use from being based on private property rights, to a socialistic system. They are making it harder for landowners to stay in business, pushing them into the conservation programs where they must cede control of their lands to the environmental agenda.

### 15. Will the Administration work with landowners?

While there is language in the Executive Order stating the intent is to work with landowners and local representatives, there is no direction on how this will be carried out. Section 216 of the Executive Order simply states the intent as follows:

"... and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving **at least** 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."

The EO and the 30 x 30 report state they intend to work with landowners, that the conservation efforts will be locally driven, that they want to help agriculture keep

working lands working. Yet, they fail to define what they mean by "conserve," are pushing for more restrictive land designations, and have revoked States and local governments' ability to object to federal land acquisitions. Further, they expect landowners to believe 30 x 30, an international agenda, will be locally driven.

The Administration's actions do not match the rhetoric. Local governments directly impacted have been asking to meet with the Administration since early February 2021. Instead, the Administration has conducted "listening sessions" with environmental and stakeholder groups that support the program and promote conservation easements. Additionally, 15 Governors sent the President a letter with specific questions on how the Administration would implement the program, which has gone unanswered.

The Administration has failed to provide the public with the most fundamental details about the program. Yet, they are actively pressing landowners to "voluntarily" sign up for federal conservation programs to reach their 30 x 30 goal.

#### Key Documents Cited:

Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021

Department of Interior, Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future, January 27, 2021

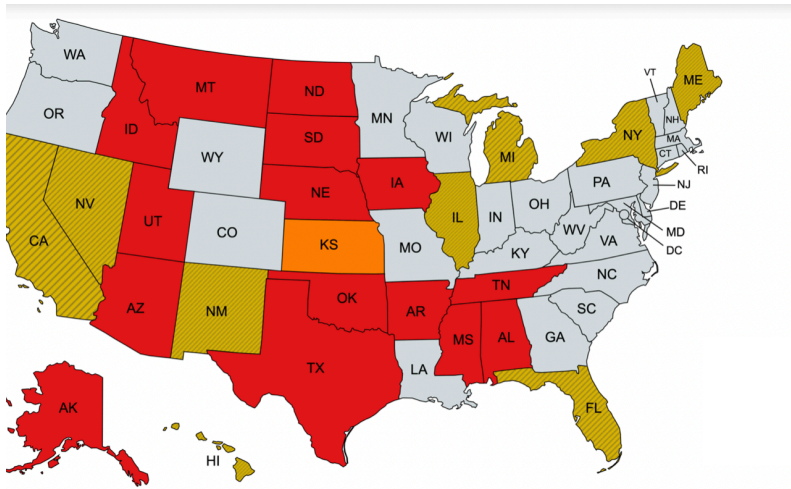
"How Much Nature Should America Keep," Center for American Progress, August 2019

"Solving the Climate Crisis," Majority Staff Report, US House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, June 2020

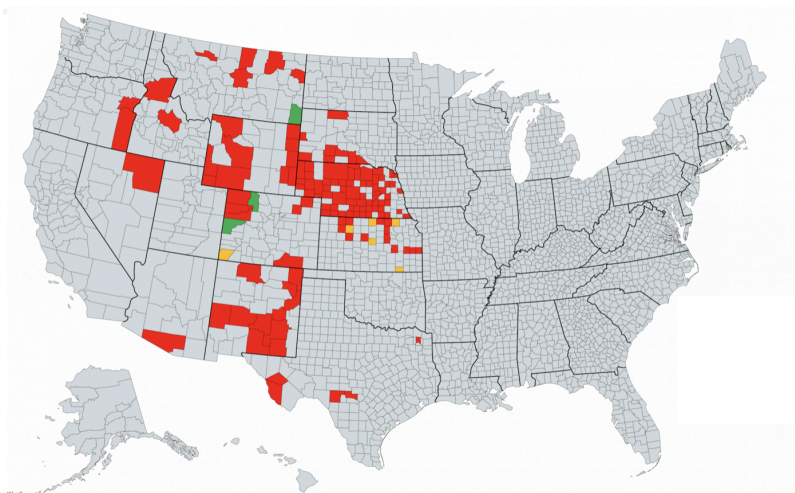
# OPPOSITION

## Timeline 2021

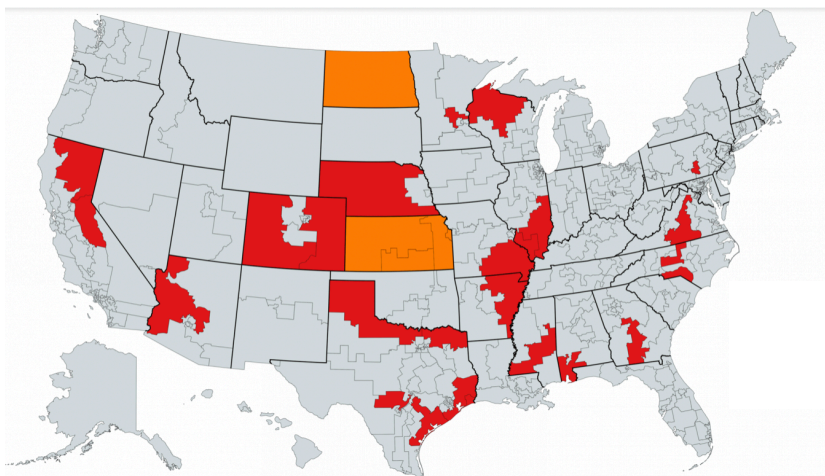




Governors Opposed (Red)  
Governors Supporting (Yellow)



Counties Opposed



U.S. Congressional Leaders Co-Sponsoring  
Termination Act

# AMERICAN STEWARDS

*of Liberty*

We are a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, supported through tax-deductible contributions.

Our address is:  
PO Box 801  
Georgetown, TX 78627  
512-591-7843  
[asl@americanstewards.us](mailto:asl@americanstewards.us)  
[www.americanstewards.us](http://www.americanstewards.us)

To receive updates  
subscribe to  
Liberty Matters

To learn more about 30 x 30, go  
to the campaign website:  
[stop30x30.americanstewards.us](http://stop30x30.americanstewards.us)

Our mission is to protect  
property rights and the  
liberties they secure.

You can join our membership  
with a contribution of \$35 or  
higher.

Members receive the members  
only quarterly report, *Standing  
Ground*, and other benefits.

Lincoln, Nebraska

April 22, 2022

Presented by American Stewards of Liberty

# Stop 30x30 SUMMIT

Register ★ [americanstewards.us](http://americanstewards.us) ★ Sponsor

*Experts across the nation are gathering together to fight the largest federal land grab America has ever faced.*

Hosted by  
Nebraska Governor  
Pete Ricketts

David Bernhardt  
Former Secretary of the  
Department of the Interior

Lauren Boebert  
U.S. Representative  
Colorado Third District



*Stop the Land Grab.*