

# Protecting New Mexico's Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage

The 30 x 30 Executive Order demonstrates New Mexico's commitment to conserving the Land of Enchantment as we build resilience to live with the impacts of a changing climate.

The goals of the executive order are consistent with the federal government's "America the Beautiful Initiative" that is based on the scientific consensus to keep average global temperature increases below 1.5 degree Celsius of warming. Protecting 30% of the world's lands, freshwater, and oceans by 2030 will help get us there. The executive order sets the goal of having at least 30% of all lands in New Mexico conserved by 2030. The executive order also calls for designating an additional 20 percent of lands as climate stabilization areas. These areas will not have designations as thorough as the formally conserved 30 percent but are important lands because they recognize the value of maintaining vegetative cover and prevent conversion with the goal of avoiding or reducing emissions.

## WHAT DOES THE EXECUTIVE ORDER ACCOMPLISH?

The executive order directs the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, New Mexico Environment Department, Office of the State Engineer, Indian Affairs Department, Department of Game and Fish, and the Economic Development Department's Outdoor Recreation Division to identify areas of protection throughout New Mexico to meet the goal of 30% of all lands protected by 2030.

This committee will:

- Maximize existing programs across all land types;
- Leverage state and federal funding to the fullest extent;
- Engage federal land management agencies in planning and wildlife habitat management; and
- Coordinate with stakeholders to ensure a locally led approach.

Using the best available science and taking equity and Tribal sovereignty into consideration at all times, the committee will produce:

- Recommendations for federal legislative and policy changes to establish or enhance federal protections and designations on federal lands, efforts that will be coordinated with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and relevant federal land management agencies;
- Recommendations for state legislative and policy changes to enhance the tools and programs available for state level conservation and outdoor recreation efforts;
- Ensure that New Mexico's efforts are formalized in the "American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas," as part of the American the Beautiful Initiative; and
- Annual Report submitted to the governor with progress updates.

