



**SIERRA CLUB**  
TOIYABE CHAPTER

Dear Mr. John Raby  
Bureau of Land Management State Director, Nevada

President Biden has made the 30x30 initiative the centerpiece of his conservation agenda. It is a wise, actually essential, move. 30x30 refers to the goal of protecting 30% of America's lands and waters by the year 2030. It is essential because it enables us to address the twin nature crises threatening our future: climate change and the collapse of nature.

Climate change is a familiar concept nowadays, the emission of greenhouse gasses into our atmosphere from our energy and industrial sector. If we do not stop such emissions we will eventually burn ourselves into catastrophe. The collapse of nature refers to the extinction crisis – the human-caused loss of species that has led to earth's 6<sup>th</sup> mass extinction, undermining the ecological supports humans rely on to thrive and survive. To address these two crises, in addition to ending the burning of carbon fuels, [scientists are telling us we need to attain the 30x30 goal](#).

To succeed we need to go big. As the largest land management entity in the United States, the Bureau of Land Management's role is crucial. There are two steps you can implement that will significantly advance the 30x30 objectives.

Resuming the designation of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) is a readily available tool. Of the many tools at the Interior Department's disposal to protect the Bureau of Land Management's wildest places, irreplaceable cultural resources, and native species, none has the sweeping potential and durability as designating new *FLPMA § 202 Wilderness Study Areas*. All Wilderness Study Areas are part of the Bureau's National Conservation Lands and have established, off-the-shelf management practices already in place. We ask that you move now to resume the use of this crucial tool.

The second step is to ban all new fossil fuel development – oil and gas drilling, oil shale development, and coal mining – on BLM lands. Right now, America's public lands are responsible for almost 26 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions. Our public lands need to be part of the solution to the climate crisis, not the problem. Banning new fossil fuel development would also protect species, habitats and lands we need to get to 30 percent by 2030. We hope the pending report on oil and gas drilling will include such a permanent drilling ban.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the Biden administration and the BLM to protect 30 percent of the United States by the year 2030.

Sincerely,

Tina Davis  
Chair, Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee