

# Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful

*A preliminary report to the National Climate Task Force recommending a ten-year, locally led campaign to conserve and restore the lands and waters upon which we all depend, and that bind us together as Americans.*



# Executive Order 14008

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## **Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation's Lands and Waters.**

(a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, 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.

(i) ... shall, as appropriate, solicit input from State, local, Tribal, and territorial officials, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders in identifying strategies that will encourage broad participation in the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

(ii) The report shall propose guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation, and it also shall establish mechanisms to measure progress toward the 30-percent goal. The Secretary of the Interior shall subsequently submit annual reports to the Task Force to monitor progress.

# Preliminary Engagement

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- DOI, NOAA, USDA, and CEQ conducted outreach, engaged in listening sessions, and received feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including:
  - Tribal leaders
  - Ranching and farming coalitions
  - Private landowners
  - State and local officials
  - Equity leaders
  - Commercial and recreational fishing representatives
  - Environmental NGOs
  - Outdoor recreation and industry representatives
  - Sportsmen/sportswomen organizations
  - Forest owners
  - Congressional staff
  - Governors offices and Governors' associations.
- This *preliminary* engagement helped inform report.

# Interagency Report & Campaign

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- Released on May 6, the report affirms the need to pursue a **first-ever national conservation goal** to combat key threats:
  - Loss of natural areas and resources
  - Climate change
  - Disparities in access to the outdoors
- Launches a 10-year, locally led, nationally scaled campaign
- Recognizes the need for a continuum of approaches



# 8 Core Principles

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- **Collaborative and inclusive**
- **Conserve for the benefit of all people**
- **Support locally led efforts**
- **Honor tribal sovereignty**
- **Pursue approaches that create jobs**
- **Honor private property rights & voluntary stewardship efforts**
- **Use science as a guide**
- **Build on existing tools and strategies**

# Baseline & Progress

- **American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas**

- Baseline Assessment
- Interagency Working Group
- Range of Contributions
  - Voluntary conservation measures
  - Conservation measures under statutory authorities
  - Existing efforts and designations



- ***America the Beautiful* Annual Reports**

- Progress updates
- Updates on land-cover changes
- Wildlife habitat and population condition



## 6 Areas of Focus

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- **Create more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities.**
- **Support tribally led conservation and restoration priorities**
- **Expand collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitat and corridors**
- **Increase access for outdoor recreation**
- **Incentivize and reward the voluntary conservation efforts of fishermen, ranchers, farmers, and forest owners**
- **Create jobs by investing in restoration and resilience**



# Next Steps

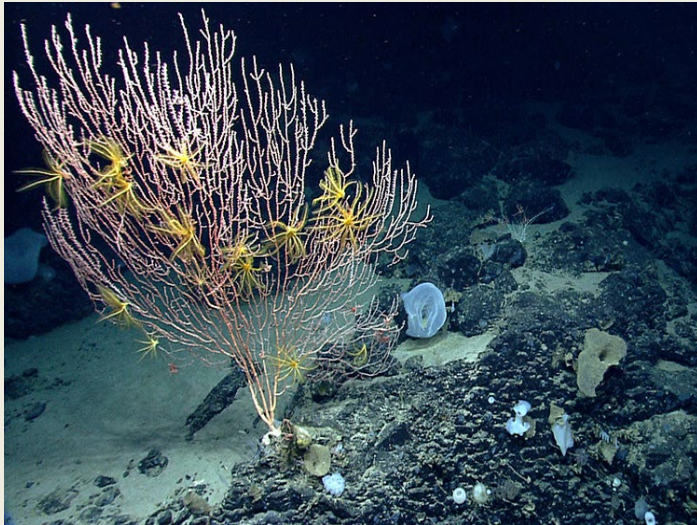
- Report is only a starting point
- Federal agencies will formally and informally engage Tribes, States, territories, stakeholders, and the American public, including through:
  - Tribal consultations
  - Public comment
  - Advisory councils
  - Federal-State and Federal-Tribal working groups





# NOAA Authorities

- **Examples include:**
  - National Marine Sanctuaries Act
  - Coastal Zone Management Act
  - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
  - Marine Mammal Protection Act
  - Endangered Species Act
  - Antiquities Act (if co-management prescribed by proclamation)



# For Input

- **Key questions for future engagement**

- What baseline conservation actions are currently effective?
- What criteria should we use to identify and select areas for additional conservation and restoration?
- Are there areas—new areas or enhancements of existing areas—that meet these criteria?
- How should we support and collaborate with stakeholders?





A split-level photograph showing a seal swimming underwater. The top half of the image shows the surface of the water and a dark, craggy rock formation on the left. The bottom half shows the seal swimming in clear, turquoise water, with sunlight filtering down from the surface. The seal is positioned in the lower center of the frame, moving towards the left. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural habitat of the seal.

# Questions and Discussion