



## Trout Unlimited and the 30X30 Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the 30X30 Initiative?

- 30X30 is shorthand for a goal to permanently protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which would protect habitat for at-risk species, sequester and store significant amounts of carbon, and help ensure that global temperatures do not reach higher than 2.7°F (or 1.5°C) above pre-industrial temperature levels.
- On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed an executive order called *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*. It recognizes the importance of collaboration, directing several cabinet Secretaries and agency leaders to “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.”
- Watersheds with high biodiversity, such as those that sustain native trout and salmon, are most effective at carbon storage and are resilient to impacts from climate change (i.e., fires, floods, and drought) because these watersheds contain high-quality habitat and support functioning hydrologic processes.
- [Scientists tell us](#) that if we do not begin to turn around habitat conversion by 2030, and also address emissions, then it will be impossible to remain below the targeted maximum temperature increase. This maximum is viewed as a tipping point that, once exceeded, would cause ecosystems to begin to unravel, and would lead to even more extreme events like fires, floods, and drought.
- Protecting 30 percent of land and waters would be a significant milestone, but it would not be enough. To stay below 2.7°F, another 20 percent of U.S. lands and waters would need to be restored so they are both resilient to climate change and can store carbon efficiently.

### What does the 30X30 Initiative mean for TU’s mission to protect and restore trout and salmon habitat?

- Trout and salmon are on the front lines of climate change and habitat degradation.
- [Scientists](#) tell us we could lose 47 percent of all trout habitat by 2080, and predict further declines in already threatened salmon and steelhead populations.
- Native cutthroat trout are expected to lose 58% of their remaining habitat by 2080, due to increases in temperature.
- Advancing TU’s mission can help the United States make significant progress towards achieving its carbon sequestration goals. Doing this will keep us below the tipping point of 2.7°F and reduce the ill effects of climate change on fish and people.
- [Natural climate solutions](#), exemplified by stream and river protection and restoration, are at the core of TU’s mission. We have hundreds of collaborative restoration projects with ranch, farm, and other landowners underway across the country. For example, as part of our [Salmon SuperHwy](#) project in Oregon, we have removed 35 barriers (e.g., culverts that are impassable by trout, salmon, and steelhead) since 2014. Trout Unlimited’s long-standing effort with farmers in the [Driftless Area](#) of southern Wisconsin and Minnesota has repaired eroding stream banks and invested over \$20 million in Farm Bill funding into improving water quality on Midwestern farms, like [this project](#) on Wisconsin’s Citron Creek. Last, we are leading [anglers and hunters](#) in Colorado to protect the Thompson Divide and San Juan Mountain landscapes, and expanding fishing opportunity in the Curecanti National Recreation Area, while maintaining traditional uses (e.g., grazing).

### What is Trout Unlimited’s position on the 30X30 Initiative?

- We support the 30X30 goal, and view President Biden’s recent executive order as a positive step toward mitigating climate change and making our lands and waters, our communities, and our trout and salmon populations more resilient to the wildfires, droughts and floods amplified by climate change.

- The scale and timeframe associated with the 30X30 Initiative are new, but at TU we have been protecting and restoring watersheds for over 60 years in collaboration with landowners, state and federal agency staff, and local communities.
- Trout Unlimited will work with a diverse coalition of supporters (i.e., anglers, hunters, Tribal Nations, States, rural communities, and farmers and ranchers) to help meet the 30X30 goal. Meaningful engagement with all of these stakeholders is critical to advancing our work. Trout Unlimited will be a strong advocate for thorough stakeholder engagement in all aspects of the 30X30 Initiative.
- In addition to protecting 30 percent of lands and waters in the United States, TU is also helping restore an additional 20 percent through our on-the-ground efforts across the country.
- In addition to advancing natural climate solutions (e.g., protecting and restoring watersheds), we need to reduce emissions. To this end, TU is working to advance regulatory and market-based solutions to this issue through federal legislation.

#### **How can I help spread the word about Trout Unlimited and the 30X30 Initiative?**

- Trout Unlimited wants to have a consistent approach and message around the 30X30 Initiative. If asked to formally support the 30X30 Initiative through, for example, a sign-on letter or quote in a local paper, please contact one of the following staff: Steve Kandell at [steve.kandell@tu.org](mailto:steve.kandell@tu.org); Corey Fisher at [corey.fisher@tu.org](mailto:corey.fisher@tu.org); Helen Neville at [helen.neville@tu.org](mailto:helen.neville@tu.org); or Steve Moyer at [steve.moyer@tu.org](mailto:steve.moyer@tu.org).