

Western Lands

Key Strategies:

- Establish State Goals & Plans
- Secure Conservation Financing & Legal Protections
- Create Equitable Access & Protect Habitat

Without urgent action, rising temperatures, drought, and habitat degradation will have profound effects on both people and nature. We must drive state policy to realize the change needed to create a more hopeful future.

As we find ourselves at this critical tipping point, we must accelerate land protection to safeguard natural landscapes, prevent biodiversity loss, and create equitable access to outdoor spaces and experiences. We must lock in these policy commitments today so there is time for them to be implemented and to achieve their full impact by 2030.

2030 Goal

30% of Western lands in each major ecoregion are protected.

The Interior West is losing nature at an alarming pace. Ecologists say that we must protect at least 50% of land and water for nature to prevent most species from going extinct. This is our goal for the West; reaching 30% protection by 2030 is the first step. At the same time, outdoor access has been privatized for millions of acres of public lands, creating an inequitable system for camping, fishing, hiking, and hunting opportunities.

States have powerful tools to protect habitat while expanding access to the outdoors. WRA is applying our unique strength of driving state policy to accelerate the protection of vital habitat and to safeguard biodiversity in a warming climate.

We advance proven measures with state and local governments to identify and protect wildlife corridors, dedicate state and federal dollars to land protection, ensure development remains in areas that make environmental sense, improve the equity of access to public land, and guarantee more inclusive governance.

These measures include securing conservation financing to protect and restore Western landscapes and enacting the Clean Water Act, which allows states to protect critical waterways.

Learn more about WRA's Western Lands solutions.

Join us in ensuring natural places are protected, healthy, and accessible.



2023 Priorities

- WRA has developed and built **support for policies to expand equitable outdoor access** to ten million acres of public lands in two states.
- Colorado and New Mexico have **new funding for the Forest Legacy Program** to protect important forest lands that are environmentally, economically, and socially critical.
- **\$500,000 is appropriated to Nevada's outdoor equity fund.**
- A **smart clean-energy siting policy** has been developed to protect habitat while facilitating the development of renewable and clean energy resources to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals.

