

Western Lands

Key Strategies:

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

Without urgent action, habitat loss, increasing drought and rising temperatures will have profound effects on both communities and nature in the West. We must drive state policy to realize the change needed to create a more hopeful future. *For Home, For Nature* focuses on what we can do through 2025 to ensure our goals become a reality.

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 recreation. 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 critical habitat at an alarming pace. Ecologists say that we must protect at least 50% of land and water to prevent most species from extinction. This is our goal for the West, so reaching 30% protection by 2030 is the first step. While pursuing protection, we must also mindfully balance access to the outdoors, ensuring that all people have equal access to public lands for camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, and other outdoor 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 protect land, ensure development remains in areas that make environmental sense, improve the equity of public land access, and guarantee more inclusive governance.

Act Now

Join us in ensuring natural places are protected, healthy, and accessible. Be part of the solution by making a gift to WRA.

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To discuss how to leverage your philanthropic impact, complete the form at this QR code.



2024 Priorities

We seek to raise \$11 million in 2024 toward WRA's strategic plan *For Home, For Nature* and to achieve the following Western Lands outcomes. Your gift will support our critical work in 2024 to:

- Pass legislation in Colorado creating an impact fee on fossil fuels that provides a recurring new source of conservation funding — setting the state on a path to protect 30% of lands by 2030.
- Add at least an additional \$250 million to fully fund New Mexico's Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, the state's first dedicated funding stream for conservation and equitable outdoor access that WRA led the effort to create last year.
- Secure equitable access to over 9 million acres of state public lands where outdoor recreational access is currently privatized, which excludes access for local, diverse communities.
- Protect at least 6.5 million acres of the most valuable wildlife habitat, wetlands, and wildlife corridors from new development.
- Enact a clean-energy siting policy in Colorado to protect habitat while facilitating the development of renewable and clean energy resources to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals.