

# California's Pathway to 30x30



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California is leading the nation as the first state committed to protecting 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030. In April, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) [released the final “Pathways to 30x30” report](#), setting out its plan for achieving this ambitious milestone.

The state’s 30x30 initiative is a major opportunity to uplift local and regional conservation priorities, invest in communities to improve access to

nature, and harness the power of conservation strategies to achieve greater climate resilience across the state’s landscapes.

In February, Sierra Club California [submitted comments](#) on CNRA’s draft Pathways report following many months of participating in public workshops and drafting comments for scoping efforts. While the draft report set out a strong framework of priorities, we urged CNRA to strengthen conservation efforts, align State programs to prioritize 30x30 goals, add long-term funding commitments, and include a specific implementation strategy in the final plan.

Released on April 22, the final Pathways report will guide California’s conservation efforts for the next eight years. The report unveiled a new “30x30 Partnership,” which will serve as a coordinating body between stakeholders across CA and be responsible for implementing 30x30 and working with partners to advance 30x30 goals. We anticipate this Partnership will be an opportunity for grassroots stakeholders to engage with the State and ensure implementation of the 30x30 Pathways report achieves its ambitious goals. We look forward to working with CNRA and our partners to make sure these goals become reality.

But to ensure that 30x30 provides a meaningful paradigm shift in the way that we practice conservation, many key details will need to be worked out during implementation.

30x30 implementation must include a concrete strategy to stop ongoing harms that undermine 30x30 goals. OHV use, logging, fossil fuel extraction, and urban sprawl are just a few of the issues that must be addressed.

As CNRA works to advance 30x30 priorities and goals, it must also ensure that its other programs, including the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and Outdoors for All initiative build up and contribute to 30x30 priorities for conservation, biodiversity, and equity.

Finally, restoration, acquisition, management, and stewardship of 30x30 areas will require significant investments. A more detailed plan to secure long-term funding commitments is necessary to ensure 30x30 will be achieved in the next 8 years, and conserved lands, watersheds, and seascapes will be maintained for future generations. We are tracking the budget process to ensure that the Newsom administration's investment priorities elevate 30x30 and provide the resources required for the initiative's success.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of conservation in California for our lands, waters, wildlife, and communities. The final Pathways report is a strong start to this effort, but it must be built upon and invested in if California is going to achieve its goals – the Sierra Club intends to be a committed partner throughout to see this important plan through.

For more information, see our [coalition press release](#) and [10 priorities for a successful 30x30](#).

