

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (“BOCC”) OF
PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO, ENDORSING THE 30X30 CAMPAIGN TO
PROTECT 30 PERCENT OF U.S. LANDS AND INLAND WATERS AND 30 PERCENT
OF U.S. OCEAN BY 2030**

RESOLUTION NO. 027-2021

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 2.8.4 (Actions) of the Pitkin County Home Rule Charter (“HRC”), all matters not required to be acted upon by ordinance or formal resolution may be acted upon by informal resolution, and;

WHEREAS, the 30x30 campaign is a science-based initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and inland waters and 30 percent of U.S. ocean by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, this campaign was launched to address our climate crisis and reverse the destruction of our wildlife, waters and natural places; and

WHEREAS, 30x30 is an inclusive vision for safeguarding America’s lands, water, and wildlife that will support the efforts of people across the country, including rural communities, Tribal Nations, private landowners, and many others on the frontlines of conserving, stewarding, restoring, using and enjoying nature; and

WHEREAS, the 30x30 campaign is an ambitious effort to accelerate conservation, which will rely on efforts by federal, state, local, and Tribal governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, hunters, anglers, recreation users and other key stakeholders to identify and implement collaborative strategies; and

WHEREAS, scientists warn that conserving and restoring at least 30 percent of lands and waters is the bare minimum we must achieve if we hope to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, biodiversity loss and human encroachment upon wildlife habitat is increasing the risk of infectious diseases such as COVID-19, Lyme disease and SARS; and

WHEREAS, our natural places provide us with food supplies and clean drinking water, boost our economies, and offer us a wide range of health benefits; and

WHEREAS, wilderness, wildlife refuges, national conservation lands, monuments and other conserved places provide access for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping and other outdoor recreation pursuits; and

WHEREAS, conserved private lands, including working forests, farms, and ranches, protect open spaces, preserve threatened wildlife and help maintain our [state's] way of life; and

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of race, background or economic status, should have access to close-to-home opportunities to get outside in nature; and

WHEREAS, protected public lands are the backbone of the outdoor recreation industry which contributes \$12.2 billion dollars to Colorado's economy and supports close to 150,000 jobs;

WHEREAS, Pitkin County landmass encompasses approximately 83 percent, or 808 square miles of federal lands;

WHEREAS, Pitkin County's long standing commitments to land and water preservation can help to balance out communities which are built out and do not have the opportunity to reach 30 percent protection;

WHEREAS, Pitkin County's support for campaigns such as the CORE Act, protections for Thompson Divide, Wild and Scenic designation for the Crystal River, and the Watershed Biodiversity Initiative are direct actions to further the goals of 30x30;

WHEREAS, Pitkin County taxpayers have articulated support for land and water preservation through the creation of, and dedication of taxes for, the Open Space and Trails program and the Healthy Rivers and Streams program;

WHEREAS, The BOCC finds that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Pitkin County to approve this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County, Colorado that it hereby adopts a Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners ("BOCC") of Pitkin County, Colorado Endorsing the 30x30 Campaign to Protect 30 Percent of U.S. Lands and Inland Waters and 30 percent of U.S. Ocean by 2030 and authorizes the Chair to sign the Resolution and upon the satisfaction of the County Attorney as to form, execute any other associated documents necessary to complete this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support a national goal to conserve 30x30 and stand with President Biden, U.S. agencies, Members of Congress, state and local governments and other public, private and nonprofit partners in their efforts to reach that goal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on the U.S. government, Congress, and state and local leaders to significantly increase the tools and resources available to achieve locally-driven conservation, and to facilitate collaboration and good-faith conversations among all Americans as we work together to achieve 30x30 and solve our nature and climate crises.

INTRODUCED, READ, AND ADOPTED ON THE 28TH DAY OF APRIL, 2021.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By Jeanette Jones
Jeanette Jones
Deputy County Clerk

By: Kelly McNicholas Kury
Kelly McNicholas Kury, Chair

Date: Apr-29-2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

MANAGER APPROVAL

Laura C. Makar
Laura C. Makar
Assistant County Attorney

Phylis Mattice
Phylis Mattice for Jon Peacock, County Manager