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Alaska is key to achieving President Biden's 30x30 goal

Washington — Today President Biden laid out his ten-year goal of conserving 30% of the U.S. by 2030 to safeguard America's lands, water and wildlife. The "America the Beautiful" initiative is an ambitious plan that will help slow the loss of nature and the impacts of climate change and move us closer to the goal of all Americans — regardless of their economic status, race or ethnicity — having access to the natural world.

Statement by Kristen Miller, Conservation Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"We applaud President Biden's swift and historic action to establish a national goal to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, our nation's first-ever national conservation goal. As the administration forges a path toward achieving these needed protections, it must look to the frontlines of the climate crisis and Alaska, a state warming twice as fast as the rest of the country.

"Alaska offers opportunities not available elsewhere in the U.S. to protect resources at the landscape level. It provides the opportunity to simultaneously protect natural habitat at scale, preserve wildlife found nowhere else in the country, and safeguard the subsistence needs, sacred lands and cultural traditions of Alaska's Indigenous peoples.

"Americans know that we cannot continue to burn fossil fuels at our current rate if we are going to effectively act on climate change. They know that public lands and waters provide for a higher quality of life, support diverse cultural traditions, and can serve as the backbone for a sustainable economy. Preserving them must be a top priority.

"We look forward to working with the administration toward achieving this bold and ambitious goal."

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Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state's land, waters, and wildlife. We believe that Alaska's long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans' quality of life.

