

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

August 18, 2020

Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Outdoor recreation community support for AB 3030

Dear Chairman Portantino:

On behalf of the human powered outdoor recreation community, we write to express our support for AB 3030.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

In California, Outdoor Alliance serves as a platform for outdoor recreationists to coordinate their efforts to protect public lands, waters, snowscapes, and coastal areas and to ensure these places can be experienced in a meaningful and sustainable manner.

Our planet is facing an ongoing and worsening crisis caused by mankind's effects on the environment. This crisis includes, but is not limited to, climate change and biodiversity loss. As outdoor recreationists and avid students of conditions in the outdoors—from changing river flow patterns, to changes in snowpacks and glaciers—outdoor recreationists often have a unique view into the shifts occurring on our public lands and waters, and the changes our community is seeing are not heartening. We strongly support the State of California's efforts to take urgent action to address these unfolding crises.



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While addressing climate change will require action in virtually every sphere of our economy, with regard to land and water management, we believe it is imperative that governments work to:

1. Aggressively ramp down fossil fuel development on public lands and waters;
2. Plan for smart renewable energy development, while being mindful of other resource values; and
3. Conserve public lands and waters, both because of the added stresses they face from a changing climate, and because of their benefits in carbon sequestration.

Additionally, we believe that the outdoor recreation economy—and the ability of outdoor amenities to attract businesses and workers in a range of fields—has an important role to play in helping communities navigate a changing economy. Further, land management changes have the potential to expand and enhance urban and suburban greenspace corridors and connectivity to improve equitable access to wildlands, as well as wildlife migration between discrete public landscapes. AB 3030 is an important step in advancing the goal of conserving public lands and waters, and, if implemented correctly, will also help communities manage economic transitions while supporting public health and quality-of-life benefits.

In the land management context, it is imminently possible to address the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss through policy changes that will produce not just benefits in the long run, but immediate quality-of-life and economic benefits. We strongly commend the recognition in AB 3030 that conservation of lands and waters in the state must occur in concert with efforts to make public lands and waters and the outdoor recreation opportunities they support accessible to more Californians, including those who historically have been excluded from these opportunities. Beyond the justness of this approach, making public lands and waters relevant to all Californians (and all Americans) is essential for building and maintaining the public support necessary to reach AB 3030's ambitious goals.

In support of this essential attribute of the 30 by 30 vision, we appreciate the bill's thoughtful integration of the varied ways in which communities connect with the



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outdoors, as well as the recognition that too many communities have been excluded from these opportunities. It is particularly meaningful and appropriate that the first sentence of the bill is the recognition that:

Access to public land, nature, and a healthy environment should be a right for all people, including those who lack equitable access to these resources, as that access is essential to the health, well-being, identity, culture, and economic prosperity of California.

To further reinforce the centrality of this integrated approach, we suggest an adjustment § 9001.6(e)(8), which currently reads:

(8) Considering how existing processes to evaluate or strengthen environmental conservation in California can contribute to the goals described in subdivisions (b) and (c) and leveraging those processes to identify, evaluate, and implement measures to meet the goals described in subdivisions (b) and (c).

We believe this section could be strengthened by including the goals of subdivision (d)¹ in addition to those of (b) and (c). This change will help to reinforce the importance of pursuing access to nature and conservation synergistically.

Additionally, given the importance of addressing access to outdoor recreation and green space in tandem with conservation objectives, we support the definition of “protection” in the legislation, defining it as:

[T]he establishment of enduring measures on land, water, and oceans that support thriving biodiversity, contribute to climate resilience, and provide ecosystem services, such that their natural character,

¹ “(d) It is further the goal of the state to improve access to nature for all people in the state and to provide for recreational and educational opportunities, including wildlife-dependent recreational activities, as defined in Section 1571 of the Fish and Game Code, with a specific emphasis on increasing access for communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities. Opportunities for improved access include existing and new opportunities.”



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resources, and functions are conserved, protected, restored, and enhanced for current and future generations.

This functional approach is key. To achieve the 30 by 30 vision, policy makers and land managers will need to employ a broad range of approaches to protection, from conservation-focused designations to easements with willing private landowners. Protective designations like federally designated Wilderness areas are an important part of landscape conservation, but they will not, alone, allow the state to meet conservation and outdoor access objectives. We support the 30 by 30 goal because of its recognition that a wide array of conservation and outdoor access approaches is essential.

AB 3030 embraces the understanding that land managers, policy makers, private land owners, and others will have to think creatively to reach its goals. Because some types of sustainable recreational pursuits are not allowed under certain conservation designations, it is essential that policymakers look to implement protections that achieve conservation results without negatively affecting opportunities for access any more than is dictated by science and supported through public process. We believe the bill, given its emphasis on equitable access, supports this approach. Successfully implementing the 30 by 30 vision—and retaining the broad support necessary for success—will require significant care in defining what “counts” as protected and maintaining a focus on the scientifically supported, functional aspects of protection so that access or particular recreational activities are not limited needlessly.

Outdoor Alliance, our member organizations, and partners look forward to working with the state to implement the AB 3030 vision in a way that fulfills the legislation’s promise to aggressively advance conservation and environmental objectives while simultaneously improving access to the outdoor recreation experiences by which so many people come to know the natural environment and develop a stewardship and conservation ethic.

We look forward to working with the state to implement the 30 by 30 vision, and we appreciate the legislature’s attention to these important issues.



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Best regards,



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Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Adam Cramer, Executive Director, Outdoor Alliance
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund
Beth Spilman, Interim Executive Director, American Canoe Association
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Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association
Todd Walton, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance
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