



Via electronic delivery

March 10, 2021

Secretary Wade Crowfoot  
 California Natural Resources Agency  
 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1311  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California hunting & fishing community statement on the 30x30 stakeholder process

Dear Secretary Crowfoot,

On behalf of the undersigned members of the fishing and hunting community, we wish to share this joint statement expressing our interest and appreciation in participating in the CNRA led stakeholder engagement process called for in your 30 by 30 Executive Order, culminating with a report to you in February 2022.

California is blessed with abundant resources and unrivaled natural beauty. Our fish and wildlife resources have provided food for generations of our citizens, as well as ample opportunity to enjoy fishing and hunting with their families and friends.

These pastimes provide Californians with opportunities to connect with the land, water, fish and wildlife and develop a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the link between professional science-based land and water management actions that result in healthy habitats, abundant fish and wildlife, thriving sporting opportunities, and an increased gratitude for the resources that our ecosystems can provide.

These connections have also resulted in America's anglers and hunters emerging as the nation's most invested conservationists, contributing upwards of \$3 billion nationally directly to state-based conservation each year. The outdoor sporting community continues to support and invest in land and water protection through management efforts that acknowledge the necessity of conserving ecosystems alongside associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management models.

Fishing and hunting have historically facilitated the establishment of enduring conservation measures on lands and waters to ensure their natural character, resources, and functions are maintained for current and future generations to use and enjoy, including through participation in scientifically managed wildlife-dependent recreation, which is consistent with the 30 by 30 initiative's objective to protect biodiversity.

Sportsmen and women support conservation efforts that maintain or increase access for outdoor recreation, enhance fishing and hunting traditions, and contribute to management objectives for thriving biodiversity. Our community supports conservation goals that recognize and include lands and waters already conserved in public trust by state, federal, or local law or regulation, particularly those conserved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife through funds made available by sporting license fees in California and excise taxes provided to the state from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program.

The undersigned members of the fishing and hunting community support the principles outlined in your Executive Order on 30 by 30, including the goal of protecting and enhancing biodiversity in terrestrial, wetland, aquatic, and marine habitats by the year 2030. We also appreciate your inclusion of hunters and anglers in acknowledging the need for a collaborative stakeholder process.

However, the support of our community is dependent on and in accord with the development and implementation of 30 by 30 policy proposals that include:

- Recognition of the positive role that fishing and hunting play in conservation;
- Protected area definitions that allow for well-managed and sustainable wildlife-dependent activities;
- Consideration of existing protected areas in measuring progress toward stated goals;
- Targeted, science-based conservation measures developed through a stakeholder-driven process to address biodiversity threats;
- Lands and waters currently available for wildlife-dependent recreation, including fishing and hunting, should remain open and available for participation in these activities unless reduced

access is justified by science-based concerns for the conservation of species affected by the recreational activity

- Clearly defined roles and authorities for the entities charged with carrying out the 30 by 30 initiative proposal.

Connecting all individuals with our natural resources, primarily those who have historically lacked access and opportunities to experience the outdoors, is the most effective method to increase awareness of, and generate support for, effective conservation efforts.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our policy priorities and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, California  
Black Brant Group  
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association  
California Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation  
California Deer Association  
California Hawking Club  
California Houndsmen for Conservation  
Cal-Ore-Wetland and Waterfowl Council  
California Rifle and Pistol Association  
California Sportsman's Lobby (CSL)  
California Waterfowl Association  
Center for Sportfishing Policy  
Coastal Conservation Association, California Chapter  
Coastside Fishing Club  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Rifle Association  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
Northern California Guides and Sportsmen's Association  
Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California (OSCC)  
San Diego County Wildlife Federation  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of SCI  
SCI CA Coalition  
Sportfishing Association of California  
Suisun Resource Conservation District  
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

Cc: Chuck Bonham, Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Pete Silva, President, California Fish and Game Commission  
Members, California Fish and Game Commission