

The Business Case for Conservation



Making the Case: Why This, Why Now

Businesses for Conservation and Climate Action (BCCA), part of the American Sustainable Business Network (ASBN), has prepared this business case brief synthesizing key outcomes from global research on the topic of the value of conserving nature. This document presents a set of descriptive tools and meta-analyses that communities can use to establish the expected economic value from land and coastal/ocean conservation. The work highlights the benefits that derive from pursuing policies in the US driving equitable, inclusive, community-based, and resilient conservation & responsible resource access. The intent is to speak to the value created from policies such as the Biden-Harris administration goal of conserving at least 30% of lands and waters in the US by 2030. This policy was initially established in Executive Order 14008 on Tackling Climate Change at Home and Abroad, commonly referred to as 30×30 and known across the US federal government as America the Beautiful.

Under the America the Beautiful program, a challenge has been issued to communities and sustainability-focused resource dependent businesses to organize their advocacy for new and legacy conservation initiatives around community engagement, consultation with user groups, and most importantly, elevating the leadership of Indigenous people, whose stewardship of lands and waters & wise use ethics have been drowned in centuries of war, genocide, and expropriation by violent means. This political, ecological, and economic moment calls for conservation-focused businesses to raise their voices in support of conservation issues at the highest levels of power while consciously grounding their advocacy in the communities they serve, lifting up legitimate local voices of wisdom and experience with intention and deference.

This document highlights opportunities to characterize economic outputs and gains that can be generated through the long-term conservation of resources and natural space, which can be applied at the local level in any advocacy context. Organizers can quantify the enhancement of natural capital for production inputs. It supports communities and businesses interested in supporting sustainable tourism and recreation income as a supplement to their important sustainable natural resource-based economies. It provides examples of approaches to quantifying fire, flood, and desertification hazard mitigation associated with conservation action on the ground. And it points to resources for quantifying local community and business revenues, taxes, and health improvements, among other benefits, that can result from successful conservation and climate action. It also provides several examples of emerging and successful initiatives that fit into the America the Beautiful policy framework, highlighting Indigenous-led approaches and programs that will achieve environmental, social, and economic triple bottom line goals in both land and ocean management.

The Business Case for Conservation, Climate Action & a Just Economy

The conservation of lands and waters offers a key solution to the enhancement of biodiversity, the mitigation of natural hazards, and the reduction of carbon emissions. There is substantial universal and specific value in conserving ecosystems and their functional benefits, which can be derived from economic activity such as jobs and GDP growth, but also through inputs into resource-dependent sectors and benefits in terms of ecosystem services. Economies depend profoundly on the flow of goods and services they generate. These economies rely upon the natural capital of land and water ecosystems - such as food, water, and raw materials, pollination, water filtration, and climate regulation. Since economies are embedded in nature, policies to promote economic development should also be beneficial to sustaining nature and natural systems.

¹ The White House Briefing Room. (2021). Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Retrieved from: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

² Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and Council on Environmental Quality. (2021). Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful. Retrieved from: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/report-conserving-and-restoring-america-the-beautiful-2021.pdf>

³ Ibid

⁴ United Nations Environment Programme. (2020). Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/efb0/1f84/a892b-98d2982a829962b6371/wg2020-02-03-en.pdf>

⁵ Dinerstein, E., Vynne, C., Sala, E., et al. (2019). A Global Deal For Nature: Guiding principles, mile-stones, and targets. *Science Advances*, 5(4), 1-17. Doi: 10.1126/sciadv.aaw2869

⁶ Leahy, S. (2019). One million species at risk of extinction, UN report warns. *National Geographic*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/ipbes-un-biodiversity-report-warns-one-million-species-at-risk>

The US is currently conserving a significant portion of its marine Exclusive Economic Zone, largely through various approaches to fisheries restrictions; around 26 percent of these areas prohibit commercial extractive users, including sustainably managed fisheries using all gear types, while around 76 percent of the US EEZ has been designated as off-limits to bottom trawl gear under the US fishery management system.⁷ Conversely, the US only conserves about 12 percent of its land in a largely natural state, according to the US Geological Survey; 440 million acres of additional conservation designations will likely be required to meet a 30% target by the end of the decade.⁸ While the Federal government owns 28% of land (640 million acres), much of it is used for extractive purposes and accounts for major sources of carbon emissions (fossil fuels extracted from federal lands and US waters contribute to nearly a quarter of the country's carbon dioxide emissions).⁹ There are substantial opportunities to restore, protect, and conserve more federal and state lands through regenerative practices. Opportunity also lies in the nearly 70% of land owned privately by individuals and companies. It will require working across federal, state, corporate, and private parties to enhance the restoration and management of existing lands, freshwater, and ocean habitats. There must be aligned strategies to facilitate federal, state, tribal, and local efforts that are collaborative, connected, and interdependent. To support these strategies, investments in nature-based climate solutions and policies to reduce watershed, seascape, and landscape degradation will be crucial for the ultimate success of the America the Beautiful program.

There has already been recent success in the Biden-Harris Administration's effort to drive conservation - the US Department of Agriculture recently announced plan to restore and expand protections for Southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest is a prim example. Their plan will help to reverse the Trump-era action that exempted 9.3 million acres of the Tongass from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The USDA seeks to end large-scale, old growth logging in the Tongass, which will help in the journey to deal with climate change. It will also help to create a more sustainable environment and protect the Tongass from further damage. Additionally, President Biden restored full protections to three national monuments that had been slashed in size by former president Trump, including Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah. Biden used an executive order in October 2021 to protect 1.36 million acres in Bears Ears – slightly larger than the original boundary that President Barack Obama established in 2016 – while also restoring the 1.87-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante monument. Biden administration officials described the monument restoration as part of a larger effort to protect ecosystems as a way to fight climate change and the impacts of extreme weather.

There is much more to be done, and well-crafted economic arguments for conservation are likely to make all the difference.

Opportunities for Growth Through Conservation: Adopting a Stakeholder Perspective

Companies' actions play a crucial role in the quest for sustainable development, not just because of their social and environmental impacts but also because of their transformative and financial power. Half of the CEOs of the world's largest companies consider business as the single most important actor in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Gupta, Raghunath, Gula, Rheinbay, & Hart, 2019). At the COP26 UN Climate Conference, banks, insurers, and investors with \$130 trillion at their disposal, representing 40% of the world's capital committed, pledged to fund the transition to a net zero carbon economy (named the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero). This funding will expedite decarbonization, but while climate change has been a comparatively prominent topic for some time, issues around biodiversity protection and nature conservation need attention from the global business and investment community as well. There is some movement from the private sector; however, more needs to be done given the financial risks we face and the substantial benefits that come with conservation. Economists, scientists, and technical experts have produced a large body of research to the support these concepts.

⁷ Hathaway, Jessica. "What You Need to Know about 30X30." National Fisherman, 28 Jan. 2021, <https://www.nationalfisherman.com/national-international/what-you-need-to-know-about-30x30>

⁸ Department of the Interior. (2021). Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future. Retrieved from: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/fact-sheet-president-biden-take-action-uphold-commitment-restore-balance-public-lands>

⁹ United States Geological Survey. (2010). Federal Lands Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sequestration in the United States: Estimates for 2005-14. Retrieved from: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2018/5131/sir20185131.pdf>

The Economic Case for Investing in Nature: By the Numbers

Conservation can drive economic output through the long term protection of resources by producing more of, and creating a long-term sustainable supply of natural capital for production inputs (providing critical services such as soil formation, water cycles, crop pollination, and marine fisheries ecosystem services production); driving eco-tourism, recreation, enhancing property values, expanding and securing local businesses; increasing tax revenues, and decreasing the cost of local, state and federal government expenditures by protection from hazards such as fire, floods, and desertification; mitigating economic loss through biodiversity loss; and for addressing the climate crisis through the natural provision of ecosystem services. From a community economic outcomes perspective, local business and community-based conservation can drive healthier communities,¹⁰ higher revenues to local communities,¹¹ and higher levels of civic engagement and superior civic infrastructure amenities.¹² A few key highlights summarizing recent studies:

- * In a 2020 global research study from the Campaign for Nature, one of most comprehensive reports to date on the economic implications of protecting nature, over 100 economists and scientists find that the global economy would benefit from the establishment of far more protected areas on land and at sea than exist today.¹³
 - The report considers various scenarios of protecting at least 30% of the world's land and ocean to find that the benefits outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least 5-to-1.
 - The analysis provides evidence that the nature conservation sector drives economic growth, delivers key non-monetary benefits and is a contributor to a resilient global economy
 - A financial analysis showed that expanding protected areas to 30% would generate highly overall output (revenues) than non-expansion (an extra \$64 billion-\$454 billion per year by 2050)
 - The economic analysis, a partial analysis focused on forests and mangroves; for those biomes alone, the 30% target had an avoided-loss value of \$170-\$534 billion per year by 2050, largely reflecting the benefit of avoiding the flooding, climate change, soil loss, and coastal storm surge damage that occur when natural vegetation is removed. The value for all biomes would be higher.
- * A 2021 World Bank report: “The Economic Case for Nature” is part of a series of reports that lays out the economic rationale for investing in nature.¹⁴
 - This report presents a first-of-its kind global integrated modeling exercise that demonstrates the economic importance of nature
 - The study links biodiversity to economic risk and loss and depicts scenarios with up to 80% biodiversity loss (critical point of ecosystem service reduction)
 - A collapse of ecosystem services would cost 2.3% of global GDP (-\$2.7 trillion) annually by 2030
 - Collapse causes decline in US GDP - in agriculture, livestock, forestry production, and fisheries sectors - of \$41 Billion annually (3rd greatest decline of countries globally)
- * A 2020 McKinsey Report – “Valuing Nature Conservation,” provides a process and calculation of costs and benefits of conservation.¹⁵
 - This report describes a methodology of valuing nature conservation and assesses the impact of expanded conservation on climate change, jobs, GDP, zoonotic disease risk, and biodiversity and calculated the additional costs of conservation that may be required.
 - In more than half of the conservation areas identified, the economic benefits from ecotourism and

¹⁰ Baylor University Publications. (2012). US counties with thriving small businesses have healthier residents. Retrieved from: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/02/120202201511.htm>

¹¹ Institute for Local Self-Reliance. (2012). Independent Businesses Deliver Bigger Economic Benefit, Study Finds. Retrieved from: <https://ilsr.org/independent-business-deliver-bigger-economic-benefit/>

¹² Mitchell, S. (2013). Locally owned businesses can help communities thrive — and survive climate change. Retrieved from: <https://grist.org/cities/locally-owned-businesses-can-help-communities-thrive-and-survive-climate-change/>

¹³ Wyss Campaign for Nature (2020). Protecting 30% of the planet for nature: costs, benefits and economic implications. Retrieved from: <https://www.campaignfornature.org/protecting-30-of-the-planet-for-nature-economic-analysis>

¹⁴ The World Bank. (2021). The Economic Case for Nature: A Global Earth-Economy Model to Assess Development Policy Pathways. Retrieved from: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35882>

¹⁵ McKinsey & Company. (2020). Valuing nature conservation. Retrieved from: <https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability/Our%20Insights/Valuing%20nature%20conservation/Valuing-nature-conservation.pdf>

sustainable fishing alone could outweigh costs of conservation by at least three times (\$1 spent yields \$3 in return).

- Economists have valued the ecological services the environment provides to the global economy at some \$70 trillion to \$125 trillion—several times greater than the economy of the United States.¹⁶
 - A seminal report by the Trust for Public Lands shows how a strategy of land conservation is integral to local economic health.¹⁷
 - The report identifies that parks and open space increase property tax revenue and yield a better return on investment than development, as well as how forest cover decreases the cost of treating drinking water, depicts the value of urban trees, and examines the role of parks and open space in attracting businesses and affluent retirees to a community.
- * One analysis found that every \$1 spent to acquire or improve public lands returned almost \$4 in economic value in an analysis of the return on the investment of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars for federal land acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service (for a sample of 16 federal units that received LWCF funding between 1998 and 2009).¹⁸
- Similarly, each tax dollar invested in the National Park Service effectively returns \$10 to the US economy thanks to visitor spending.¹⁹
- * A UN-backed report presents a number of facts that frame the imperative for US leadership:²⁰
- Land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23% of the global land surface; up to US\$577 billion in global crops are at risk from pollinator loss annually; and 100-300 million people are at increased risk of floods and hurricanes because of loss of coastal habitats and protection.
 - In 2015, 33% of global marine fish stocks were being harvested at unsustainable levels.
 - 75% of the land-based environment and about 66% of the marine environment have been significantly altered by human actions. On average these trends have been less severe or avoided in areas held or managed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
- * A comprehensive global academic study explored community-based conservation (CBC) - the idea that long-term conservation success requires engaging with and providing benefits for local communities.²¹ The study conducted a global literature review and a multivariate statistical analysis to examine whether and to what extent CBC interventions can be effective tools for conservation.
- The evaluation of empirical studies and theoretical papers suggest that projects that balance economic incentives, community empowerment, and secure rights can succeed in conservation.
 - Quality project design that emphasizes capacity building, participation, the importance of social capital, and engagement with local traditions and institutions drive the greatest outcomes.
- * Outdoor recreation contributes an estimated \$460 billion annually to the US economy, where parks, beaches, and open spaces are indispensable infrastructure for livable and prosperous communities, for purifying air and drinking water, and in defending against the impacts of climate change.²²

¹⁶ Duckett, M. (2020). The business of nature. National Geographic. Retrieved from: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/partner-content-business-of-nature>

¹⁷ The Trust for Public Land. (2007). The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation. https://conservationtools-production.s3.amazonaws.com/library_item_files/195/234/The_Economic_Benefits_of_Land_Conservation.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIQFJLJLYGVDR4AMQ&Expires=1637181869&Signature=YSkSk91ddXapaD1roocckq1Uyk%3D

¹⁸ The Trust for Public Land. (2010). Return on Investment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Retrieved from: <https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits-LWCF-ROI%20Report-11-2010.pdf>

¹⁹ National Park Service. (2020). Visitor Spending Effects - Economic Contributions of National Park Visitor Spending. Retrieved from: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

²⁰ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. (2021). Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented' Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'. Retrieved from: <https://ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>

²¹ Brooks, J., Waylen, K.A., Borgerhoff-Mulder, M. (2013). Assessing community-based conservation projects: A systematic review and multilevel analysis of attitudinal, behavioral, ecological, and economic outcomes. *Environmental Evidence*, 2(2). <https://doi.org/10.1186/2047-2382-2-2>

²² Bureau of Economic Analysis. (2020). Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, US and States, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/outdoor-recreation>

Examples of Conservation & Just Economy in Action

Underscoring the critical importance that Indigenous People play in conservation decisions, a recent UN-backed report says at least a quarter of our planet's land is owned, used, occupied or managed by Indigenous Peoples.²³ This figure includes 35 percent of terrestrial areas with very low human impacts, as well as approximately 35 percent of lands under formal protection. The report found that Indigenous and local communities contribute in many significant ways to enhancing biodiversity through more diverse and species-rich farming practices than typical agricultural methods, as well as playing an important role in long-term monitoring of ecosystems. Experts say Indigenous and local knowledge is a critical part of protecting ecosystem health and biodiversity. This means governments and scientists need to be allies with these communities by amplifying their voices, including them in scientific assessments, recognizing territorial rights and creating partnerships between scientists and indigenous and local communities. A recent report by the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) makes the point that land is a fundamental asset for sustainable economic development for Indigenous Peoples, and land rights are critical for self-determination.²⁴ Another recent OECD report suggests one key element in reaching the UN Sustainable Development Goals' targets is for improved land-tenure rights, and to implement agreements that support the inclusion and leadership of Indigenous Peoples in conservation and natural resource management, and give opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to generate economic development opportunities from them (e.g., land stewardship, ecosystem services, and cultural and tourism activities).²⁵

Pribilof Islands Marine Ecosystem (PRIME) Initiative:

The Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government is developing a marine management initiative to meet the shared conservation, protection, and economic resilience goals of the Pribilof Islands Indigenous communities, including prioritization on recovery and protection of laaquadan, or northern fur seals (*Callorhinus ursinus*). The initiative focuses on this critical region and the ecosystems within it, using approaches based on substantial western scientific data and traditional/local Indigenous knowledge. Conservation actions promoting PRIME will establish an Indigenous-led co-management framework that will strengthen reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of the Pribilof Islands and streamline management to accomplish timely and meaningful regulations and policies that achieve environmental, social, and economic triple bottom line goals of both the Pribilofs, the State of Alaska, and the Nation.



Tongass National Forest Inventoried Roadless Areas & Southeast Alaska Trawl Closure:



The Roadless Rule and ban on trawling off Southeast Alaska create a 30x30 conservation area that meets all the principles of the America the Beautiful Initiative. These actions are necessary to address climate change, maintain biodiversity, protect Indigenous Peoples and maintain community-based, sustainable commercial fishing practices. Taken together, protections for these two areas directly address

²³ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. (2021). Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented' Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'. Retrieved from: <https://ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>

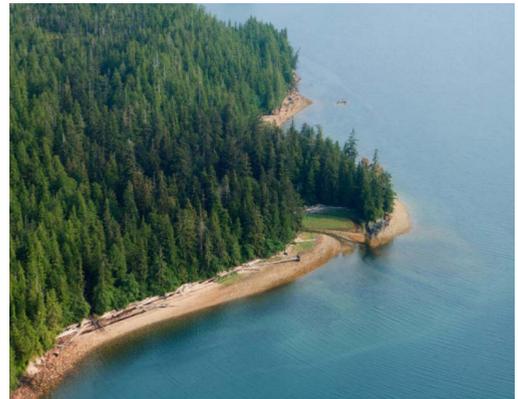
²⁴ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2020). Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development in Canada. Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/fc2b28b3-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/fc2b28b3-en>

²⁵ Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2020). Linking Indigenous Communities with Regional Development. Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/3203c082-en/1/1/5/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/3203c082-en&csp=95b401cc2d7b94a992c55fbab53cd13d&itemIGO=oecd&itemContentType=book>

ess impacts from industrial logging and unsustainable bottom trawl fisheries that are major drivers of global biodiversity loss.²⁶

The Southeast Alaska Trawl Closure Area prohibits all trawling in a total area of 52,600 square nautical miles and includes continental shelf, slope and basin areas. Trawling is one of the most widespread anthropogenic activities affecting marine ecosystems and is a non-selective, destructive fishing gear that substantially reduces biodiversity and is a major threat to seafloor ecosystems on a global scale.²⁷ Trawling has had devastating impacts on indigenous peoples in other parts of Alaska who have lost culturally valuable commercial and subsistence fisheries. Because of the Southeast Alaska Trawl Closure Area, communities have maintained a level of access to ocean fishery resources.

Industrial logging is the leading cause of global forest loss and has an outsized impact on biodiversity.²⁸ The Roadless Rule if reinstated would prohibit timber harvest and road construction or reconstruction within nine million acres of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska.²⁹ High rates of global forest loss heighten the importance of this rainforest – one of the few remaining relatively intact rain forests in the world. Land use change, including logging, accounts for roughly a quarter of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Southeast Alaska's old-growth forests are irreplaceable as a carbon sinks and store disproportionately high carbon stocks, making them individually and cumulatively critical to climate regulation.



Conserving forests is one of the most robust and by far one of the most cost-effective options for climate mitigation.³⁰ Intact forests have high value for the ecosystem services they provide, including biodiversity, recreation, fisheries and enhanced resilience in a changing climate.³¹ The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska represent one of the largest indigenous societies in North America and depend on Roadless Rule protections for access to clean water, native foods and traditional hunting, fishing and gathering practices require the protection of areas previously un-impacted by logging and other large-scale industrial development.³²

Wolakota Buffalo Range:



Located on tribal trust land on the Rosebud Reservation, the Wolakota Buffalo Range is a community-driven bison restoration project that sits at the intersection of conservation, social justice, economic development, and climate change. Led by the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), Wolakota is a 28,000-acre bison range that blends Western science and traditional ecological knowledge to deliver social returns while meeting conservation

26 World Economic Forum. 2020. New Nature Economy Report II: The Future of Nature and Business. Available at: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf

27 Eigaard, O.R. et al. 2017. The footprint of bottom trawling in European waters: distribution, intensity and seabed integrity. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* (2017), 74(3), 847-865. Pusceddo, A. et al. 2014. Chronic and intensive bottom trawling impairs deep-sea biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

28 World Economic Forum. 2020. New Nature Economy Report II: The Future of Nature and Business. Available at:

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Future_Of_Nature_And_Business_2020.pdf Nature. 2017. Pristine forests are shrinking fast. *Nature*, 541, 263. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1038/541263d>.

29 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Special Areas, Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska. Notice of proposed rulemaking, request for comment. 86 Fed. Reg. No. 223 at 66498-99, 66501 (Tuesday, November 23, 2021).

30 Griscom, B.W. et al 2017. Natural climate solutions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* Oct 2017, 114 (44) 11645-11650; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1710465114. Available at: <https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645>; Smith, P. et al., 2019. Interlinkages between desertification, land degradation, food security and greenhouse gas fluxes: synergies, trade-offs and integrated response options. In: *Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*. Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/2h-Chapter-6_Final.pdf

31 Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust. 2021. SeaBank Annual Report 2020. Available at: <https://seabank.org/>; U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Special Areas, Roadless Area Conservation; National Forest System Lands in Alaska. Notice of proposed rulemaking, request for comment. 86 Fed. Reg. No. 223 at 66498, 66502 (Tuesday, November 23, 2021).

Gibson, L. et al. 2011. Primary forests are irreplaceable for sustaining tropical biodiversity. *Nature* 478, 378-381.

32 Organized Village of Kasaan, Organized Village of Kake, Klawock Cooperative Association, Hoonah Indian Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Skagway Traditional Council, Organized Village of Saxman, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. 2020. Petition for USDA Rulemaking to Create a Traditional Homelands Conservation Rule for the Long-Term Management and Protection of Traditional and Customary Use Areas in the Tongass National Forest.

targets. Additionally, the project is financially self-sustaining over the long term and strengthens food sovereignty for the Rosebud nation.

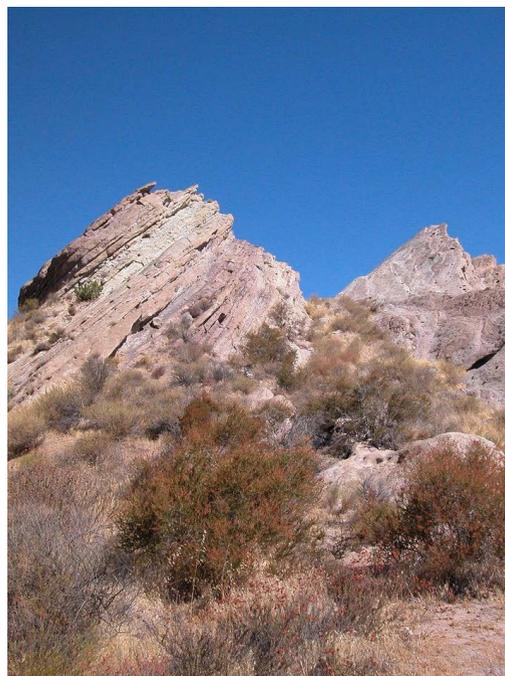
Native Conservancy Mariculture Initiative:



The Native Conservancy is investing in Indigenous, community driven mariculture farming in coastal Alaskan waters. Through nurturing millennia-long ties between kelp and Indigenous communities and igniting new relationships through mariculture farming practices, this initiative seeks to restore crucial healthy ocean habitat for biodiversity, increase access to an Indigenous food source for sovereignty and security, and establish a just and equitable thriving coastal economy. What happens in the ocean impacts entire watersheds. Since kelp can sequester up to twenty times more carbon than land-based forests, for every kelp harvested, one will be kept in the water nurturing and nourishing anadromous fish species which communities rely on.

Castner Range & Avi Kwa Ame National Monuments:

Years of experience have shown that the establishment of terrestrial National Monuments under the US Antiquities Act can provide significant economic enfranchisement to local communities, while supporting new and existing commercial enterprise, and of course delivering on critical conservation & climate resilience objectives. National Monuments sited in Indigenous ancestral lands and with community engagement and co-management at their core represent the best of land conservation and enable local communities to conserve areas of tremendous cultural importance in enhanced ways. The time is now to build on this track record of success and designate two new National Monuments on Indigenous ancestral territory in the US Southwest. Castner Range National Monument will enable the conservation of important and valuable desert mountain landscapes on a 7,000-acre parcel of federal land near El Paso; Avi Kwa Ame, in southern Nevada, will conserve over 300,000 acres of lands sacred to a dozen Tribes while serving as a wildlife and outdoor recreation hub. Both of these monument designations will drive new sustainable growth in their communities for all Americans.



This document was produced by Business for Conservation and Climate Action.

Lead author: Eric Bill, MA Econ., MBA
Chief Economist, Autocase

To learn more about our new business-led conservation movement, visit www.asbnetwork.org.



About Business for Conservation and Climate Action

[Businesses for Conservation and Climate Action](#) (BCCA) is a coalition of Indigenous and non-Indigenous community-based business leaders creating voice and power together to advance conservation, climate solutions, and just economic initiatives and policy. Our work is grounded in traditional wisdom and knowledge for just and sustainable triple-bottom-line solutions. BCCA combines grassroots legitimacy with high-level policy engagement to deliver meaningful messages and innovative solutions.

About the American Sustainable Business Network

[The American Sustainable Business Network](#) (ASBN) is a movement builder in partnership with the business and investor community. ASBN develops and advocates solutions for policymakers, business leaders, and investors that support an equitable, regenerative, and just economy that benefits all - people and planet. As a multi-issue, membership organization advocating on behalf of every business sector, size, and geography, ASBN and its association members collectively represent over 250,000 businesses across its networks.