

Workshop: The Next Ten Years of Conservation

Carrie Bennett

1:25-4:00

Introduction: Vanessa Mazal, DNR



30x30 Targets: Planning for the Next Decade of Conservation

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30x30: “A Global Deal for Nature”



Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Global Deal for Nature)

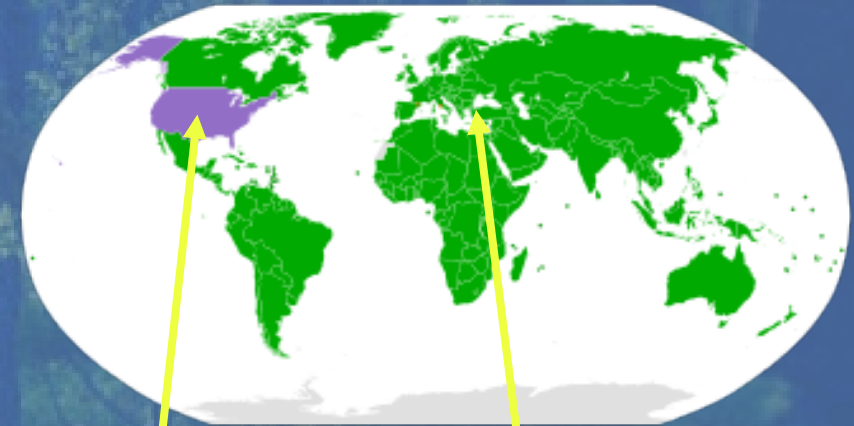
- Conserve 30% of the Earth’s Lands, Oceans and Inland Waters by 2030 (“30x30”)
- Key milestone toward 50% by 2050

Goals

1. Safeguard genetic diversity
2. Restore ecosystem functionality
3. Promote equitable benefits
4. Improve implementation capacity



Convention on
Biological Diversity



30x30: “A Global Deal for Nature”



2010-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (“Aichi Targets”)

Aichi Target 11: By 2020...

- 17% terrestrial and inland water areas
- 10% Coastal and Marine Areas
 - “Especially areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services conserved through effectively, equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into wider landscapes and seascapes.”

30x30: “A Global Deal for Nature”



Pitfalls of Area-based Conservation:

- **What counts?:** Divergent interpretations of which conservation tools and designations qualify as adding up to area-based target?
- **“Protected area bias”:** Tendency of governments to protect lands, resources with lower opportunity (notwithstanding conservation value)
- **Outcomes:** When/where can land area-based conservation targets (i.e. 30%) serve as appropriate proxies for climate, biodiversity and ecological system indicators?
- **Nested scales:** How should countries and jurisdictions tasked with implementation understand their “share” of a global target?

America the Beautiful (ATB) Initiative



January, 2021 - Biden E.O. 14008

Directs fed agencies to “**conserve or restore** 30% of the **nation’s** **lands and waters** by 2030”

- Aligns with global 30x30 commitments (92 countries)
- Supportive state, local initiatives (CA, NM, ME, HI)

May, 2021 - *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful Report*

- *American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas*
- Preliminary “opportunity areas”:
 - Reward voluntary conservation;
 - Expand outdoor access
 - Invest in restoration/resilience workforce
 - Create parks in underserved communities,
 - Supporting tribal efforts
 - Expanding collaborative F&W conservation

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- Called for creation of American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas
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 - rewarding voluntary conservation;
 - expanding outdoor access
 - investing in restoration and resilience workforce
 - creating parks in underserved communities,
 - supporting tribal efforts; expanding collaborative F&W conservation

American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas



1. ***Science and Data:*** Data sources, standards, technical approaches
2. ***Outcomes:*** How to capture contributions to biodiversity, climate change mitigation and resilience, and equitable access to nature and its benefits?
3. ***Conservation Continuum:*** How to reflect the meaningful conservation work already underway in America? (i.e., how/what to measure)
4. ***Collaboration:*** How to partner with Tribes, states, local governments?



USGS Gap Analysis Project (PAD-US)

- 1 - Most durable, natural processes dominate
 - Wilderness, National Parks, private “nature reserves”
- 2 - Less durable, managed for conservation
 - National monuments, local natural areas, cons. easements
- 3 - Less durable, multi-use
 - ACECs, Roadless Areas, WSAs, Open Space
- 4 - No known protections

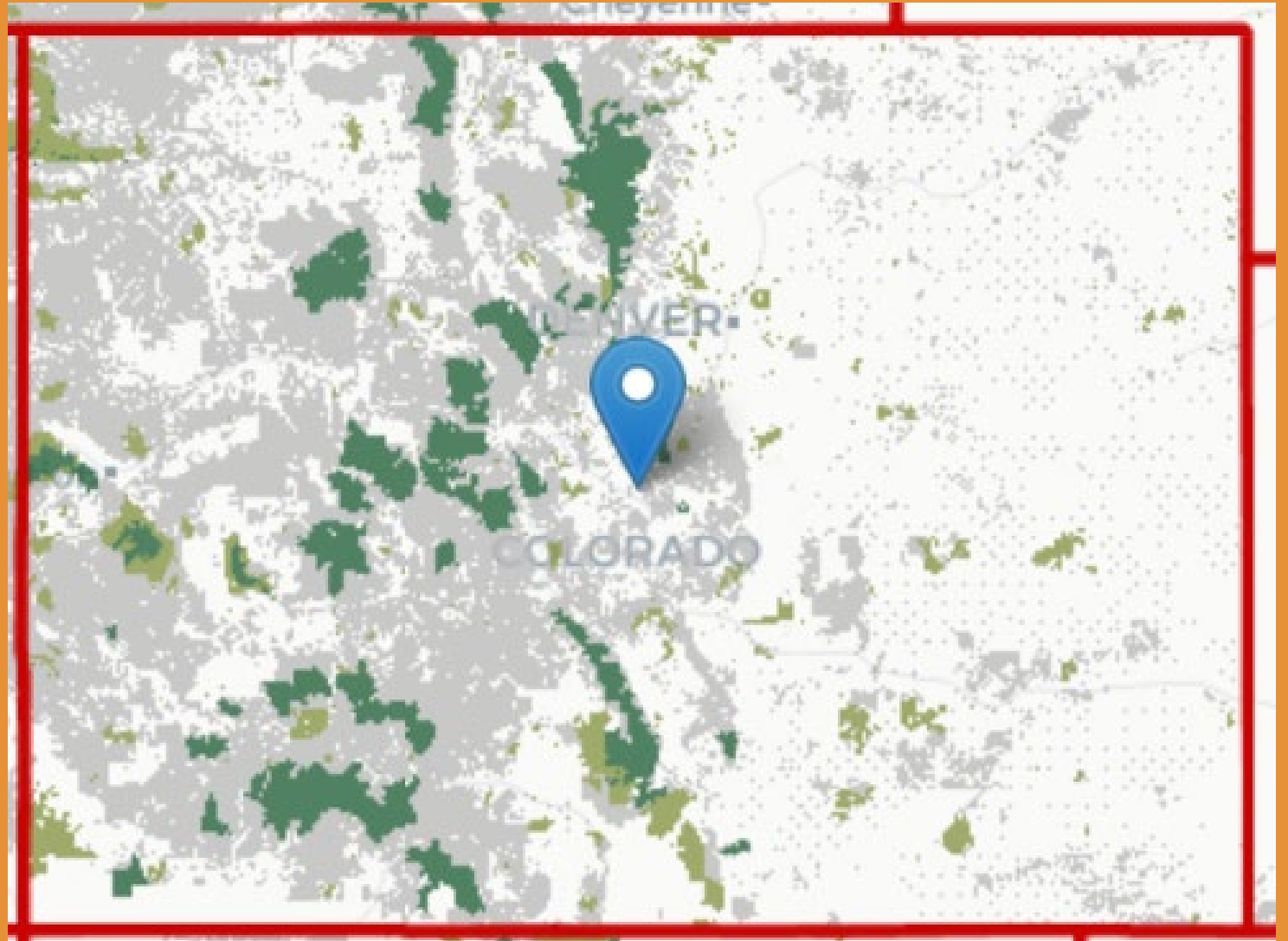
Science/Data: Protected Area Frameworks



GAP Lands in Colorado

- 1 - Biodiversity Protection (natural disturbance permitted)
- 2 - Biodiversity Protection (natural disturbance suppressed)
- 3 - Multiple Use (extraction permitted)
- 4 No Known Mandate for Protection

(~11% “Protected”)

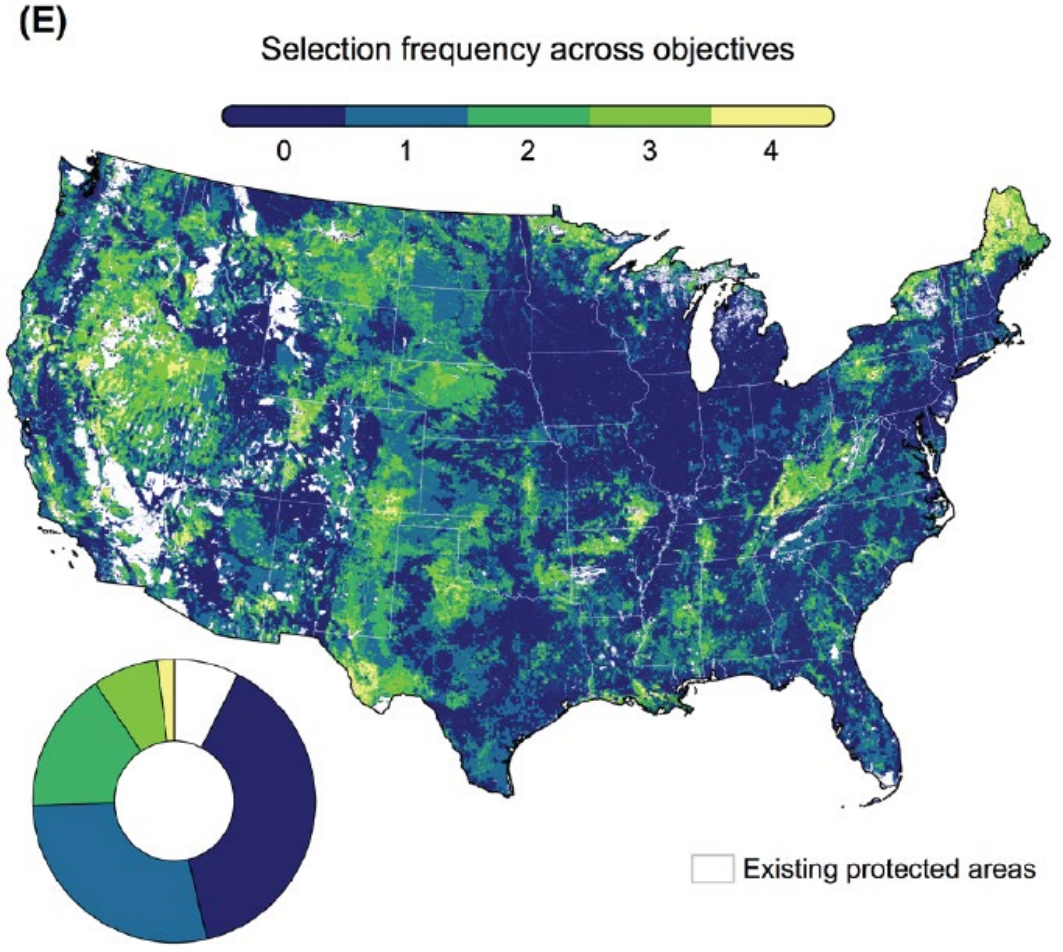
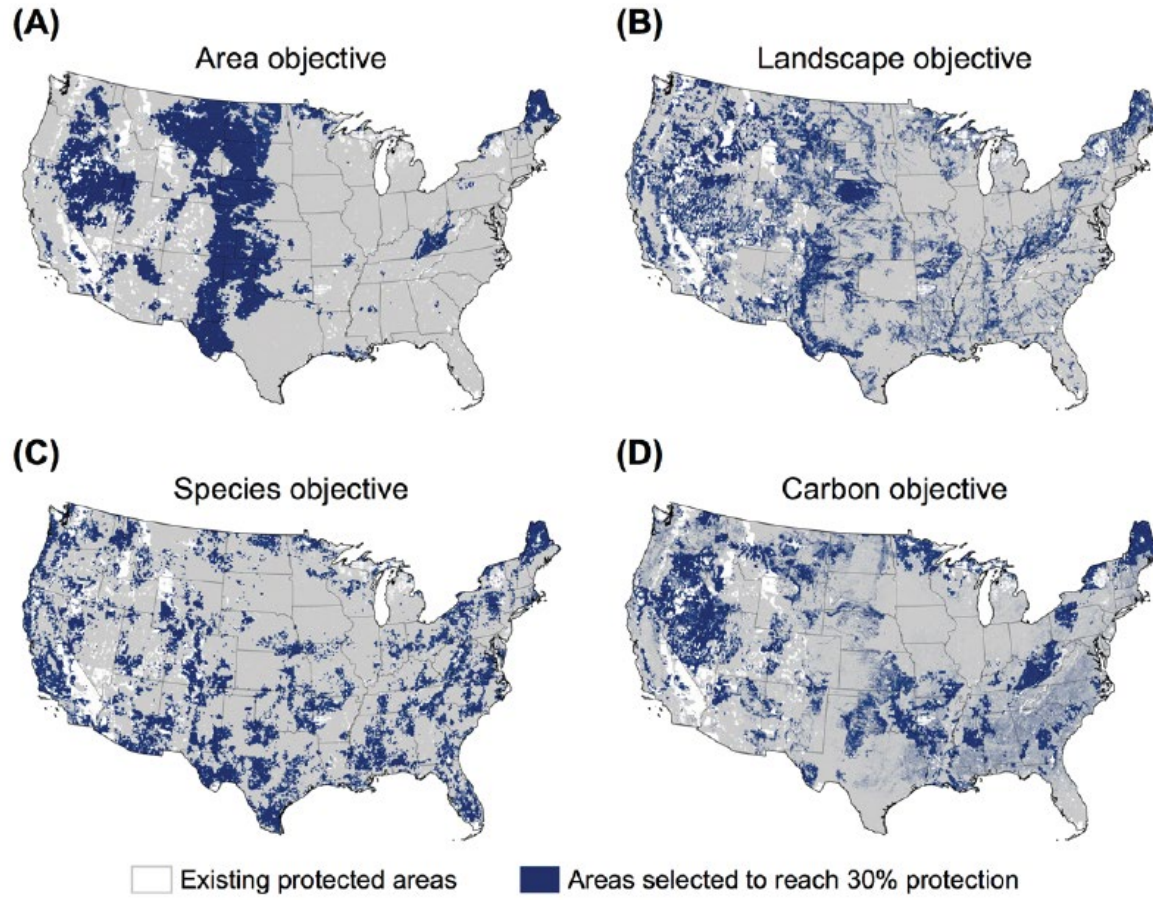




USGS Gap Analysis Project (PAD-US): Concerns

- **Overly general - does not capture nuance**
- **Misclassification - Conservation tools not accurately assigned**
- **Restrictive categories**
- **Unreliable assumptions about tools:resource conditions/outcomes**

Science/Data: Protected Area Frameworks



Outcomes-based Analysis



Area-based targets alone don't capture conservation objectives: what, where and how also matter

- **Analyze outcomes-based sub-targets that contribute to 30%**
 - **Climate/Carbon Sequestration, Biodiversity, Connectivity**
- **Assign “weight” to priority areas**
- **Overlay Outcomes-based data with area-based data**
 - **CNHP**
 - **TNC RCL**

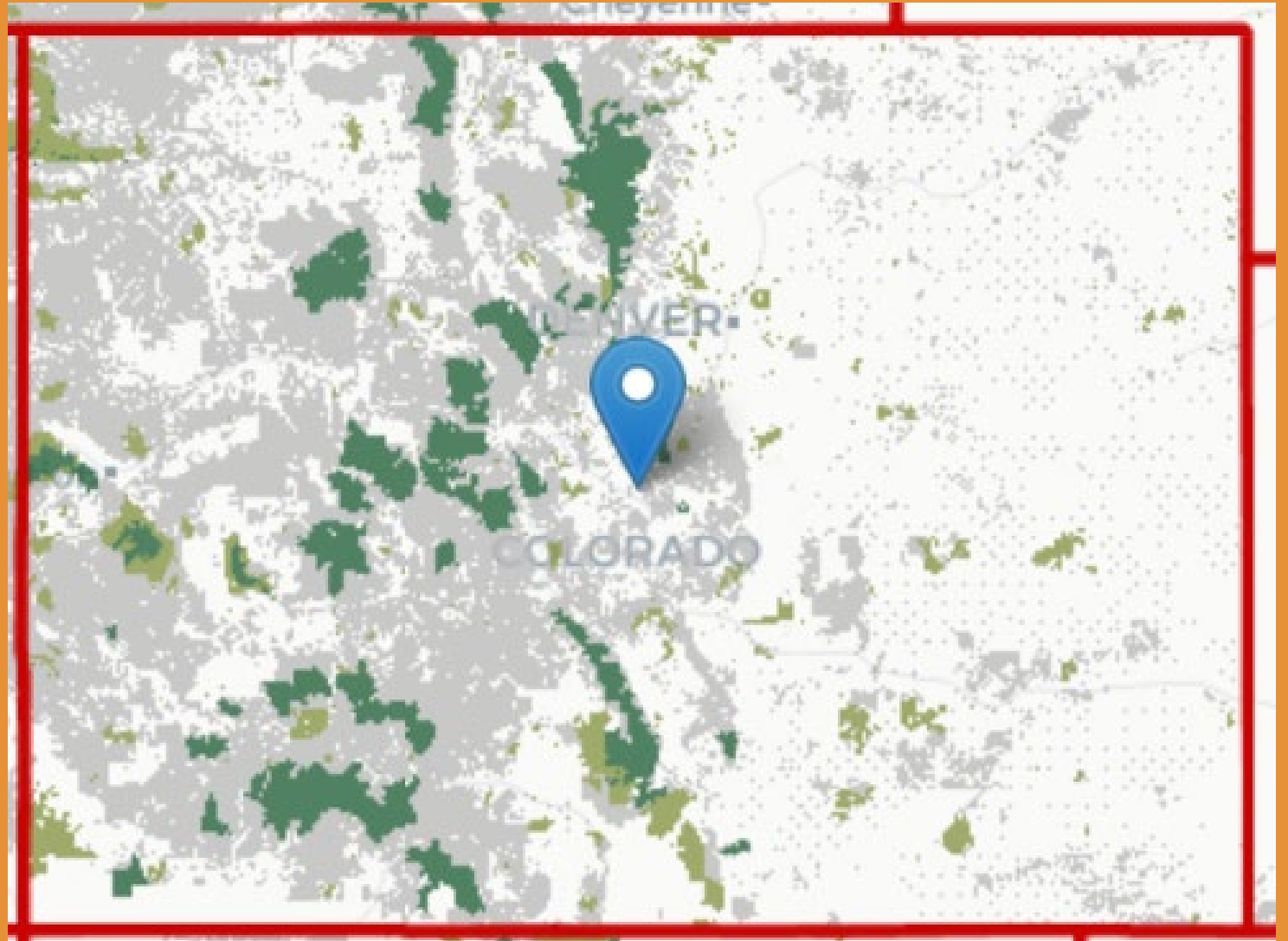
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Conservation Continuum (What Counts)



1. Revisit “durability” metric

2. Establish outcomes-based targets

- Carbon Sequestration
- Biodiversity/Ecosystem Health
- Connectivity

3. Weighted protected area classifications - data overlay

4. Expand inclusion of effective conservation tools

- Administrative designations
- State designations (SWAs)
- Agricultural easements
- OECMs

Collaboration



1. Understand state priorities
2. Integrate with state planning initiatives
3. Collaborate with NHPs and conservation data centers
4. Expand capacity

Questions



1. Classification - how to better tie management classifications/codes to outcomes?

- **CoMAP management codes**
- **PCAs**

2. Western water - How to reflect “inland water” in context of Western water governace

- **Water quality classifications**
- **Water quantity**
- **Land-based protections**