

SENATOR TOM UDALL: A CONSERVATION CHAMPION

Tom Udall is one of our nation's leading conservation champions. He has successfully advanced a bold vision to safeguard our nation's proud conservation heritage and outdoor economy, and to save nature from the accelerating extinction and climate crises.

Udall has led the way to conserve America's natural heritage, creating jobs and boosting local economies with outdoor recreation and restoration efforts.

As the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that funds and oversees the Department of the Interior, and the vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Tom has been at the center of the national effort to protect our public lands and natural resources, and uphold our trust obligations to Native Americans.

A BOLD VISION FOR AMERICAN STEWARDSHIP OF THE NATURAL WORLD



“We must write an aggressive new playbook to confront the climate and nature crises head-on. And we need to act fast. That’s why I’ve introduced the Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature.”

– U.S. Senator Tom Udall

Tom is the lead author of the **Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature**—to set a national goal of protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 (30x30). This is the target that scientists tell us we need to save nature from the mass extinction crisis that currently threatens a million plant and animal species. Tom has worked tirelessly to build support for 30x30 in Congress and across the nation – and recent polling shows that wide, bipartisan majorities of Americans back the 30x30 goal.

Tom has a long, accomplished, and clear record and vision on conservation and responsible stewardship of our public lands and natural resources— including:

- More than 20 years of advocacy for legislation to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, culminating in the enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act of 2020.
- Authoring the bipartisan Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act and Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act to restore wildlife connectivity
- Leading the ANTIQUITIES Acts of 2018 and 2019, legislation to reverse the unprecedented Trump administration attacks on national monuments
- Working to dramatically re-invest in our national forests, including the bipartisan REPLANT Act to expand U.S. Forest Service funding to undertake reforestation projects that will improve ecosystems and increase carbon sequestration
- Writing legislation to reform the nation's antiquated hardrock mining laws, which would set royalties for mining previous minerals from public lands to fund the cleanup of thousands of abandoned toxic mines
- Fighting to undo widely unpopular Trump administration attacks on the Endangered Species Act
- Introducing new bipartisan legislation to reform royalty rates for oil and gas development on public lands



A TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS ON CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

In addition to articulating a bold vision for America's conservation future, Tom has a long track record of major victories protecting our public lands, outdoor economy, and natural resources.

Tom is the **Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**, where he has secured major funding increases for the Department of Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and many agencies – boosting the economy – while staving off steep cuts proposed by the Trump administration.



During Tom's tenure as Ranking Member, funding for the Interior Appropriations bill grew by 25 percent— providing double-digit increases for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service and securing billions in new funding for wildfire suppression in the process.

Tom successfully led the fight against more than 100 new anti-environmental riders that Republicans tried to attach to the Interior Appropriations bill during both the Obama-Biden administration and the Trump administration.

TOM UDALL 
SENATOR FOR NEW MEXICO

New National Monuments

Tom was instrumental in the designation of the **240,000-acre Rio Grande del Norte National Monument** in northern New Mexico and the designation of the nearly **500,000-acre Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument** in the south. Initially controversial, he successfully oversaw a grassroots process that resulted in widely popular results that benefit the economy. And he successfully opposed the Trump administration when it threatened to cut monument boundaries in New Mexico.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund

Tom has fought successfully for years to increase funding for the LWCF, our nation's most successful conservation program that was pioneered by Tom's father, Stewart Udall. Since becoming Ranking Member in 2015, annual LWCF funding increased by 42% under his leadership. Udall helped lead the charge for permanent reauthorization of the LWCF and spearheaded the enactment of the landmark Great American Outdoors Act, legislation to fully and permanently fund the LWCF and address the nation's park maintenance backlog.

Bureau of Land Management Permit Reforms

Tom worked with a bipartisan coalition to enact legislation in 2014 to ensure BLM offices in New Mexico and other states with high levels of activity had the resources to manage complex leasing and environmental compliance tasks.

21st Century Conservation Corps

Tom passed legislation with the late Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) to reinvigorate the nation's conservation service corps, bolstering public-private partnerships to engage youth and veterans in conservation-related civilian national service positions.

Wildland Firefighting

Tom established the long-sought **wildfire budget cap adjustment** authorizing additional funding for wildland firefighting, ending the destructive cycle of fire borrowing. Prior to this reform, agencies were forced to borrow from non-fire accounts to fight fires and cut other activities, including restoration efforts needed to reduce future fire risk.

Leading International Conservation

- Tom was an original co-founder of the **U.S. Congressional International Conservation Caucus (ICCF)**, now the second largest Congressional caucus, to advance conservation of natural resources across the globe.
- As co-chair of the ICCF, Tom worked on a bipartisan basis to fund U.S. international conservation efforts, including cracking down on poaching and wildlife trafficking by international criminal organizations, defending these programs from budget cuts.
- **Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)**: Tom secured the bipartisan reauthorization of TFCA for the first time in 8 years. This program has saved more than 67 million acres of tropical forests. To date, the TFCA program has sequestered 56 million metric tons of carbon dioxide.

Protecting public lands in New Mexico and nationwide

Tom's work has been critical in protecting public lands through:

- Leading 118 Members of Congress in filing a **bicameral Amicus Brief** to support restoring protection for **Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments**.
- Establishing the 45,000 acre **Columbine-Hondo Wilderness**
- Establishing **10 new Wilderness areas, totaling 500,000 acres, in Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks** and two new Wilderness areas of 240,000 acres in **Rio Grande del Norte**
- Creating the 90,000 acre **Valles Caldera National Preserve** in Northern NM and transferring the preserve to the National Park System
- Protecting the 100,000 acre **Valle Vidal** basin within the Carson National Forest from development
- Introduced Wild and Scenic legislation to protect the **Gila River**, one of the largest free flowing rivers in the West.
- Designating the 20,000 acre **Sabinoso Wilderness Area** in San Miguel County and securing public access to it.
- Expanding the **Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area** in San Juan County.
- Creating the 7,250 acre **Ah-shi-sle-pah Wilderness** near Chaco National Historical Park in Northeast New Mexico.
- Creating the **Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge**, the first urban wildlife refuge in New Mexico, and securing more than \$13 million in federal funding.
- Securing protection from federal leasing for a **10-mile buffer zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park** while a cultural resources study is ongoing.

