*** § 49-0113. Thirty by thirty conservation goal.**

1. It shall be the goal of the state to support and contribute to national efforts to conserve at least thirty percent of United States lands and inland waters and at least thirty percent of United States ocean areas by the year two thousand thirty.

2. The department in consultation with the commissioner of the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, shall develop strategies and a methodology to achieve the goal, including but not limited to:

(a) coordination with the state land acquisition plan;

(b) prioritizing protections for water sources and sole source aquifers, including wetlands protections;

(c) protections and restoration projects for preserving and increasing biodiversity, including habitat restoration, with a focus on habitats of endangered and threatened species including resilient and connected lands and corridors providing means for wildlife migration and habitation;

(d) expanding access to nature and nature's benefits and equitable outdoor access in communities in every region;

(e) consideration of a broad range of landscapes including urban, suburban and rural natural areas, wetlands, forests, and watersheds;

(f) consideration of the state's economic sustainability, including preservation of food security and consultation with the department of agriculture and markets on issues related to farmland preservation of working lands;

(g) increasing climate resilience, including reducing risk from extreme weather events including cooling urban landscapes and natural solutions to prevent erosion and flooding;

(h) collaboration with federal and state research institutions to utilize innovative scientific observation technology to better understand the state's conservation needs and biodiversity and threats thereto;

(i) implementing actions in a manner that includes consideration of the urgency of meeting the goal while still preserving public input and involvement;

(j) collaboration with tribal partners to incorporate tribal expertise

and traditional ecological knowledge to better understand the state's conservation needs and biodiversity and threats thereto; and

(k) participating in regional, national, and international efforts to advance biodiversity protection, including preventing extinctions.

3. Conservation measures shall be undertaken in ways that serve all communities, including low-income, disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, including by ensuring meaningful opportunities for public input and involvement.

4. The department shall post the draft strategies and methodology developed to meet the goal no later than July first, two thousand twenty-four and hold at least one public hearing thereon. The department shall post the final goal strategies and methodology on its website.

5. The department shall maintain and, at least annually, update its website to provide information with regard to the implementation and status of the goal.

* NB Repealed January 1, 2031