



# Guide to Fight the **30 x 30 Land Grab**

March 30, 2021

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## Model Resolutions

(Available for download at: <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>)

How to fight the radical environmental agenda from taking 30% of America's land by 2030.

## **What Is 30 x 30?**

The 30 x 30 program is a plan advanced by radical environmental activists to permanently protect 30% of America's land and oceans by 2030. The program was adopted by the Biden Administration through Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021.

Proponents argue that climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30% of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

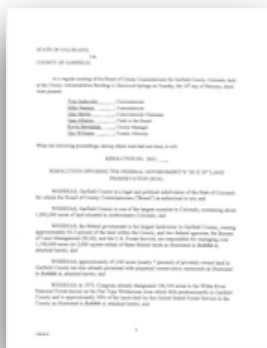
30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

## Action Items:

To fight this agenda we need your help educating leaders at the local, State and Federal level. Organize your community, pass the local government resolutions opposing 30 x 30, and join the national effort to prevent federal authorization.

1. Contact your County Commissioners and Special District Directors in your area and make sure they are aware of the 30 x 30 agenda.

2.



Ask your local government boards to adopt a Resolution opposing the 30 x 30 agenda. Model Resolutions are available as word document files that can be modified to fit the priorities of your area.

(To download, go to: <https://fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download>)

3.

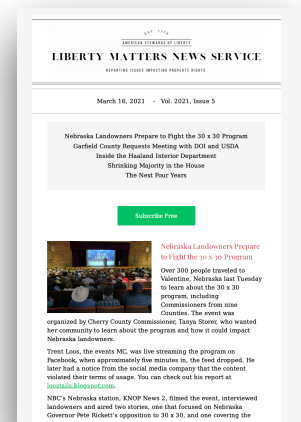
Educate local organizations, neighbors and other affected parties and ask them to support your elected representatives as they take a stand against the program. Unite your community and stand together.

4.

Send us a copy of the adopted resolutions and we will get it into the hands of those in Washington D.C. leading the fight against this agenda. Email this to [asl@americanstewards.us](mailto:asl@americanstewards.us).

5.

Join American Stewards of Liberty. Stand with us and help fund the fight. We will keep you abreast of what is happening across the nation and in Washington D.C. through our *Liberty Matters News Service*. (Go to [www.americanstewards.us](http://www.americanstewards.us) to get on the list).



# 10 Key Points

## ... to know about the 30 x 30 Program

1. The 30 x 30 program is a plan advanced by radical environmental activists calling for the permanent protection of 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030.
2. The plan is being aggressively pushed by the Biden Administration as essential to reversing climate change by preventing land from being developed or productively used by man.
3. There is no scientific reasoning cited in the Executive Order that supports the need to preserve any specific amount of land to "cure" climate change.
4. If restricting land solves climate change and prevents species from going extinct as they claim, we would not be in a climate crisis today. One-third of the United States is already owned by Federal and State governments and managed under restrictive land use protections.
5. Their "crisis" math does not add up. If we are losing a football field (1.32 acres) to development every 30 seconds, as they claim, this would roughly total 11 million acres by 2030. That is far short of the 681 million acres they say must be permanently protected to avoid the forthcoming irreversible climate disaster.
6. There is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture, to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the U.S., and no such authority is referenced in the Executive Order.
7. Instead of working with States, local governments and stakeholders, the Biden Administration's first act towards implementing 30 x 30 was to revoke the policy that gave local governments veto power over land acquisitions, when they rescinded the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3388.
8. The advocates behind the program do not have any "skin in the game," or property to conserve. Many live in cities fully developed with nothing to offer the program except rallying behind the effort to place other people's land and property rights under the control of the administrative state.
9. Taking 30 percent of our lands and oceans is only the first step. Advocates are working towards the international goal, known as the "Half-Earth" agenda, to permanently conserve 50 percent of our lands and oceans by 2050.
10. If proponents were truly concerned about the welfare of species and habitat, they would oppose placing more land under federal management or environmental elites and instead defend America's landowners who provide the best habitat for species and wildlife, while producing the necessary food, fiber, minerals, and energy we depend on to create wealth, defend our liberties, and live free.

# Fact Sheet

## The 30 x 30 Program

### 1. What is the 30 x 30 program?

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Proponents argue that climate impacts are human-caused, and permanently preserving 30% of America's land and oceans is necessary to reverse climate change. This action must be taken immediately, they claim, to avoid impacts on the ecosystem and wildlife. However, the science and data do not justify these extreme policy measures.

30 x 30 is an unconstitutional policy shift, moving us from a nation founded on private property principles to one controlled by the administrative state.

### 2. Who is behind the 30 x 30 program?

In 2019, the progressive organization Center for American Progress (CAP) published the primary report supporting the 30 x 30 program, entitled "How Much Nature Should America Keep." This was followed by a Resolution calling for the 30 x 30 program to be introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. One of the Senate co-sponsors was current Vice President, Kamala Harris. On the House side, one of the key co-sponsors was

Representative Debra Haaland, President Biden's nominee for Secretary of the Department of Interior.

Not surprisingly, President Biden has also nominated Neera Tanden, the current CEO and President of CAP to direct the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which oversees the implementation of the President's vision across all executive departments and agencies.

CAP was founded through funding from George Soros backed Foundations. It is supported by well-known progressive elites, including Michael Bloomberg. Its board of directors includes Ms. Tanden, John Podesta (Chair), Stacey Abrams, Julián Castro, and Senator Tom Daschle.

The League of Conservation Voters, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society Action Fund, The Wildlands Network, Center for Biological Diversity, and other environmental organizations have also been actively promoting the agenda.

### 3. Under what law is the 30 x 30 program authorized?

There is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 % of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008.

## Fact Sheet (continued)

### 4. What is the scientific basis for the program?

There is no scientific reasoning cited in the Executive Order. The CAP report has numerous citations, but most of them are to press releases and opinion papers issued by like-minded advocacy groups and international reports. There are a few references to scientific papers relying on principles of conservation biology, none of which prove climate change theories or demonstrates that 30% of all land and water in the United States must be preserved to maintain biological diversity.

### 5. How have they determined 30% of land must be set aside by 2030?

As stated above, 30 x 30 proponents have not cited any hard scientific evidence that supports taking 30% of our land and water. However, they do claim that because they believe we are losing a football field worth of land every 30 seconds to development, it is urgent that they permanently protect 30% of the land in its natural state by 2030.

Norm James, a natural resource attorney with Fennemore Craig, ran the numbers to see if this theory is justified in his article “The 30 x 30 Land Grab.” Here is what he concluded:

- Proponents claim we are losing a football field of land every 30 seconds, which amounts to losing roughly 2 acres per minute, or about 3,000 acres per day. That equals 1.1 million acres per year, or 11 million acres per decade (by 2030) that they claim will be lost.

- By contrast, 11 million acres is just 0.5% of all land in the U.S. (out of 2.27 billion acres),

and only 1.7% of the land already owned by the federal government (640 million acres). That figure does not include Tribal land, which is likely to be unaffected by the 30x30 program due to the federal government’s trust responsibilities.

- Proponents state that 12% of the land in the U.S. is already “permanently protected” — over 274 million acres of land. What is already protected is 25 times the amount of land that purportedly will be lost over the next 10 years.

If 274 million acres of land are already permanently protected, and according to the proponents numbers, only an estimated 11 million acres might be removed from its natural state by 2030, why must they have 681,000 acres in the next 9 years? The science does not justify this enormous taking.

Additionally, it insinuates that rural landowners are incapable of properly caring for the land, which is why the administrative state must assume control of these decisions.

Based on the numbers alone, it appears the program is being pushed not for scientific purposes, but rather to usher in a fundamental policy shift that erodes constitutional protections by placing vast tracts of land, both private and federal, off-limits to economic use and development.

### 6. Is the long-term agenda to take 50% of America’s land and oceans?

While 30% by 2030 is the target proponents are aggressively pursuing today, the CAP report sets a long-term goal of permanently preserving 50% of our lands and oceans by 2050. This is set forth as Principle number 8 in the CAP report, and has been

## Fact Sheet (continued)

stated by other radical organizations that oppose land and resource development, such as the Center for Biological Diversity and the Wildlands Network.

### 7. What qualifies as land “permanently protected in its natural state?”

The EO is not clear on what land is being targeted for the program or how it would be managed. But it appears that this land would be set aside permanently and be off-limits to most human use. For example, in asserting that only 12% of America’s land is permanently protected in its natural state, the CAP report included national parks, wilderness areas, permanent conservation easements, state parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, or other protected areas.

### 8. How will they pay for the program?

The EO does not address what funding mechanism will be used. However, one likely vehicle will be through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which receives \$900,000 million annually for land acquisition and conservation projects. Former Secretary of Interior, David Bernhardt, under President Trump, had issued a Secretarial Order that allowed local governments and the States to veto a land acquisition project proposed through the LWCF. However, on February 11, 2021, the Acting Secretary appointed by President Biden revoked that order. Now, land acquisitions can be aggressively pursued without interference from the State or local communities directly impacted.

E&E News reported this policy shift as follows:

*"Finally, the Biden administration today repealed Bernhardt's controversial secretarial order from last November that made far-reaching changes to how LWCF-funded federal land acquisitions could be accomplished, specifically by giving governors and local officials veto power over pending deals ([Greenwire](#), Nov. 13, 2020)."*

*Critics said this move [the Bernhardt Order] would have prevented conservation efforts in states where more **conservative leaders are sensitive about losing too much private land** — and suggested that catering to conservatives was exactly the intention." ("Biden dumps Trump's LWCF changes, revives urban grants," February 11, 2021) (Emphasis added)*

Many States in the U.S. are comprised predominantly of private land and, as a result, have some of the most productive, ecologically diverse areas in the nation, which proponents of 30 x 30 would arguably like to have. That the critics were concerned Bernhardt’s Order would have prevented them from acquiring these lands where presumably private property rights are protected, should alarm every landowner.

Additionally, LWCF monies are to prioritize projects and acquisitions near or adjacent to existing protected areas. That means those areas that already have large protected federal land holdings, or private lands with conservation easements, are primary target areas through the use of LWCF monies.



## Fact Sheet (continued)

### 9. Will private land be targeted for the program?

The Biden Administration has not released specific targets it is considering for the program. However, the CAP report states that 60% of land in the contiguous 48 States is privately owned, but only 1% is permanently protected. They also conclude that “more than three-quarters of the natural area that the United States lost in the contiguous 48 states from 2001 to 2017 was on private lands.” (Page 11). This suggests programs to permanently protect lands that are currently privately owned, will be pursued.

Again, they reiterate the call to work with private landowners to conserve the land. But now that they have denied States and local governments the ability to oppose land acquisitions under LWCF, it is foreseeable that regulatory pressures will be placed on landowners to comply.

### 10. Are federal lands a primary target for the program?

It is likely that a substantial portion of the land and water that will be preserved will come from the land owned by the federal government in the 11 contiguous western states and Alaska.

As stated earlier, the LWCF seeks to acquire lands that are near or adjacent to areas already under permanent protection, creating the core reserves and connected corridors environmental activists have long been advocating for. This makes the federal lands bordering areas such as national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas, and refuges a likely candidate. Additionally, private lands that border protected areas, such as inholdings, are also on the table.

### 11. Is there legislation to authorize the 30 x 30 program?

Environmental advocacy groups are pressing Congress to incorporate the 30 x 30 agenda into bills related to land and ocean management, as well as appropriations. E & E News reported on this effort:

*“Advocates involved in advancing the 30x30 effort cautioned behind the scenes again and again that the end result will not be a single, sprawling piece of legislation.*

*‘It may in some ways be akin to taking action on climate change,’ said [Alex] Taurel [conservation program manager at the League of Conservation Voters.]. ‘There’s not one law that will exactly tackle that crisis or get us to 100% clean energy. It’s going to be a mix of things.’*

*In addition to the farm bill, appropriations measures and infrastructure and stimulus packages, individual bills being eyed for 30x30 contributions include the ‘Recovering America’s Wildlife Act,’ which would authorize new funding to protect endangered habitats.” (“Biden embraces ambitious conservation plan. Will Congress?” E & E Daily, January 28, 2021)*

### 12. Will the Administration work with landowners to implement the program?

While there is language in the CAP report, the House and Senate Resolutions, and the Executive Order stating the intent is to work with landowners

## Fact Sheet (continued)

and local representatives, there is no direction on how this will be carried out. Section 216 of the Executive Order simply states the intent as follows:

*“Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation’s Lands and Waters. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.”*

Although this language sounds promising, the first action taken to implement the program has been to prevent State and local governments from opposing

the federal acquisition of land by revoking the Bernhardt Secretarial Order. States, local governments, and stakeholders should hold the President to his word and insist on having a significant say in the design and management of the program.

### **13. What is the next step in implementing the program?**

The EO directs the Department of Interior to lead the other relevant federal departments to provide a report within 90 days of the signing of the Order that sets forth the steps necessary to achieve the objective. However, it is clear from the new LWCF Secretarial Order that the agencies are already taking aggressive steps to remove barriers that might prevent them from successfully achieving their agenda.

#### **Key Documents:**

Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619), signed January 27, 2021

Department of Interior, Fact Sheet: President Biden to Take Action to Uphold Commitment to Restore Balance on Public Lands and Waters, Invest in Clean Energy Future, January 27, 2021

“How Much Nature Should America Keep,” Center for American Progress, August 2019



# LIBERTY MATTERS NEWS SERVICE

REPORTING ISSUES IMPACTING PROPERTY RIGHTS

## Sixty-two U.S. Congressional Members Send Letter to President Biden Opposing 30 x 30

(LMNS March 30, 2021) On March 16, 2021, 12 U.S. Senators and 50 Congressmen issued a letter opposing President Biden's 30 x 30 program, noting the lack of congressional authorization to pursue the transformative land use agenda. President Biden made the goal of conserving 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030, a key component of his climate-crisis agenda, set forth in Executive Order 14008.

Members point out that the West is already disproportionately home to over 90% of the federal lands, which Congress has mandated be managed for multiple-use and sustained yield. Reduction in the productive uses of these lands under a conservation goal of preserving 30 percent of the nation's land base, would further harm local and State economies in the West.

The letter states:

*"We urge you to remember that land management agencies are bound by a statutory-based multiple-use mandate. Our lands and our waters must remain open to activities that support our rural economies and help us to achieve our agriculture, timber, recreation, energy, and mineral needs. These multiple-uses are not only compatible with conservation ambitions, but they are an effective means to achieve these goals."*

Although the Biden Administration has not released any substantive details of how they intend to implement the program, they have confirmed that private property will be a key target of the conservation program.

*"Recently, the Administration has clarified that private lands are included in this initiative, setting the stage for potential egregious federal overreach. While these lands contribute to overall conservation, subjecting private landowners to this nebulous federal program is an extreme breach of private property rights. More clarity is desperately needed."*

President Biden's Executive Order directs the Department of Interior to produce an implementation plan for 30 x 30 and deliver it to the National Climate Task Force by April 27th. They are to prepare this report with the input from States, local governments, and stakeholders. The Western Caucus letter notes, however, that key stakeholders, States and local governments, primarily those whose lands would be directly impacted, have been entirely left out of the process.

The Western Caucus also calls on the Administration to meet with the members and address the ambiguities of their proposed agenda within 60 days.

# LIBERTY MATTERS NEWS SERVICE

REPORTING ISSUES IMPACTING PROPERTY RIGHTS

## Garfield County, Colorado Leads Campaign to Pass Resolution Opposing 30 x 30

*(LMNS February 16, 2021)* The Board of Commissioners for Garfield County, Colorado unanimously passed a resolution opposing the 30 x 30 program included in the Climate Crisis Executive Order (EO) signed by President Biden, January 27th. The 30 x 30 agenda has been advanced by the Center for American Progress, which seeks to permanently preserve 30 % of America's land and oceans by the year 2030.

The County resolution sets forth the reasons for their opposition, primarily the social and economic harm that will occur if more land in the County is permanently set aside. The federal government is already the largest landowner in the County, holding 62.3% of the land base, or 1,100,000 acres.

Concerning to the County is the new administration's emphasis on permanently protecting land in its natural state instead of following the policies established by Congress, which include principles of multiple-use and sustained yield. "The 30 x 30 program is a significant ideological shift with real impacts to Counties like ours that depend on the use of natural resources to support our economy," commented Commissioner Tom Jankovsky.

The Resolution notes there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President to set aside and permanently preserve 30 % of America's land. Additionally, the policy is in direct conflict with Garfield County's Natural Resource Coordination Plan.

DOI is tasked with leading the federal departments to prepare a report on how the 30 x 30 program will be implemented. The report is due within 90 days of the EO's signing. The EO specifically directs the federal departments to work with local governments on the program. The County Board is requesting a meeting with the Department of Interior (DOI) in the next 60 days.

"It is critical that the new administration and agency personnel hear directly from Counties like ours on the impact of this program to our communities, while they are preparing their action plans," noted Jankovsky. "Here we go again with top-down policies from Washington D.C. that have direct and adverse effects on local communities. We are the people directly impacted by this EO and these policies."

# Resources



a 501(c)(3) non profit  
organization dedicated to  
protecting property rights.

PO Box 801  
Georgetown, TX 78627  
512-591-7843  
[asl@americanstewards.us](mailto:asl@americanstewards.us)

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## How do we fight the 30 x 30 program?

- **We educate:** Elected leaders, our friends and neighbors. Share this Guide and the Resolution Appendix with your elected officials and make sure they know where you stand. It is vital that you support their efforts to oppose the program on your behalf.
- **We speak out:** In public meetings and in the press. Send letters to the editor of your local and regional papers. Support the positive articles and challenge the ideas of those who are pushing the 30 x 30 agenda.
- **We prepare:** Review the existing land use policies of your counties and special district, and, if necessary update plans with policies that protect property rights and the productive uses of land.
- **We coordinate:** Help your local governments implement coordination with the federal agencies, which gives your local bodies a seat at the table and path to require conflicts with local policies be resolved. (Go to <https://americanstewards.us/coordination/> for more information)
- **We stand together.** When programs are pushed to restrict lands in your area, stand with your neighbors in opposition. When programs are pushed at the national level, answer the calls to action to stop authorization of the program. Join American Stewards and sign up for the Liberty Matters News Service to stay informed and ready to mobilize.

*Please join our membership.*

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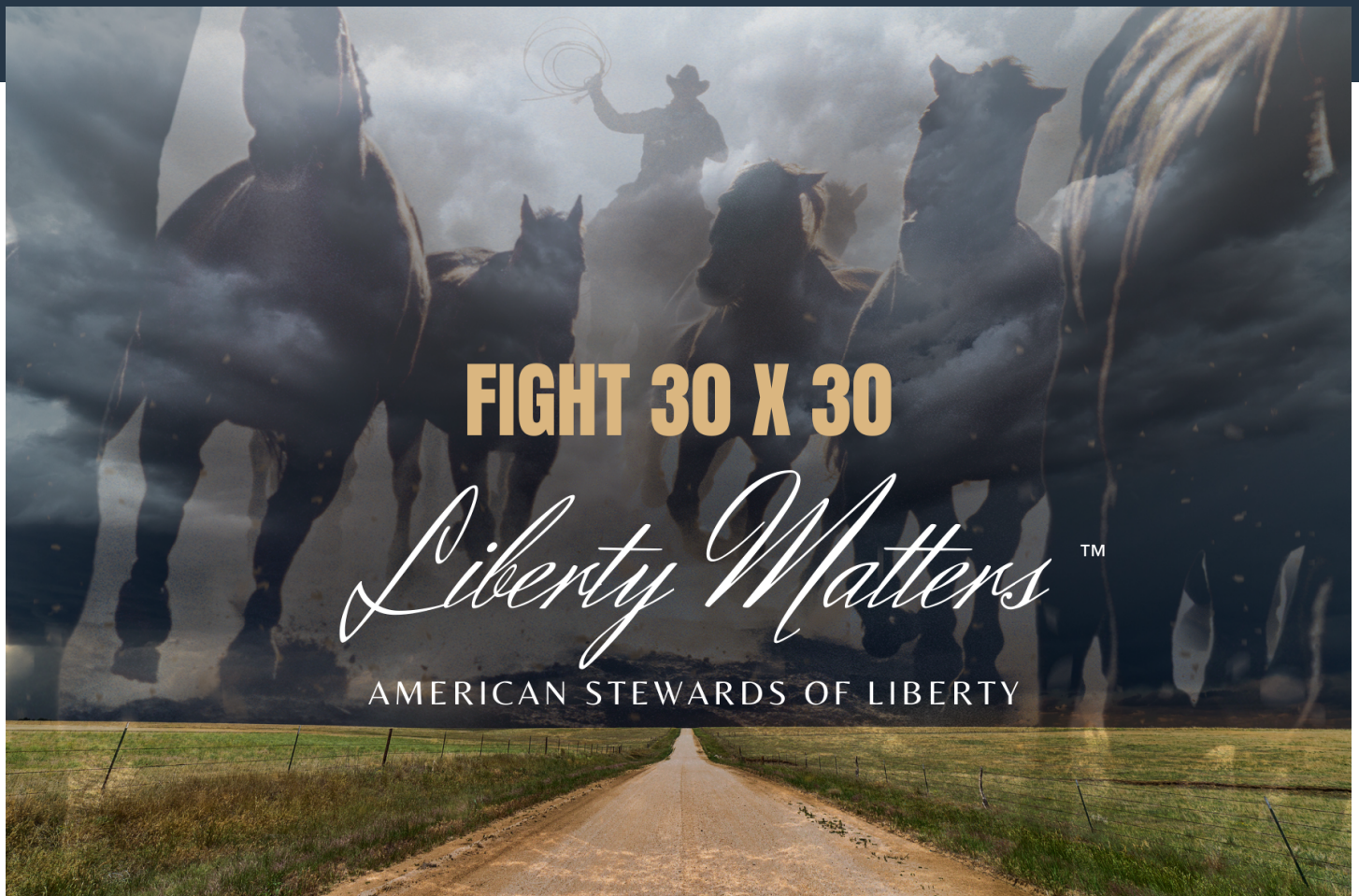
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