



**AMERICAN
LANDS COUNCIL
FOUNDATION**

**PUBLIC LANDS
BETTER ACCESS
BETTER HEALTH
BETTER PRODUCTIVITY**

GOAL: We want a healthy environment, abundant recreation, & safe, vibrant communities. But 'one-size-fails-all' federal bureaucracy is giving us just the opposite:

- Forests are overgrown and going up in smoke in record numbers, killing wildlife, destroying habitat, choking off water supplies, spewing carcinogenic pollutants, and threatening the health, safety and welfare of western communities.
- Tens of thousands of roads and trails are being blocked off by federal agencies all over the west, restricting recreation access, delaying emergency crews, & contributing to catastrophic wildfires.
- Western States are held hostage -- denied the ability to care for our own lands, protect our communities, and determine our own destiny on terms of equality and fairness with States east of the Rocky Mountains.

SOLUTION: It's time to #FreeTheLands from federal bureaucracy so we can tend them with local care, more like a park, or a garden, and less like a "hands-off, don't-touch" museum.

LEGAL CASE: In 2015, Utah commissioned a team of nationally renowned constitutional law experts to conduct an exhaustive legal analysis (http://www.americanlandscouncil.org/ut_tpl_legal_analysis). Their official report confirmed the federal government has no lawful authority to permanently retain control of so much land within a state or to treat western states unequally, like second class citizens. The constitutional obligations of the federal government and the terms of the statehood enabling acts are the same for all states east and west of the Rocky Mountains, yet the federal government still controls over half of all land in the western United States. (Video Summary here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-h16B6_Me80)

ECONOMIC CASE: The Property and Environment Research Center reports that **for every dollar federal bureaucrats spend managing public lands they lose 27 cents, while western States generate more than \$14 on average for every dollar they spend managing comparable state-owned public lands.** See <http://www.perc.org/articles/divided-lands-state-vs-federal-management-west>. Another economic study found that for every \$1 invested in proper vegetation management, up to \$500 could be saved in total economic losses and fire suppression costs. --"The Total Costs of Wildfires" Mowery & Gray, 2014.

INFO BOOKLET: Get the whole story at http://www.americanlandscouncil.org/get_the_facts. The truth is #FreeTheLands is about fundamental fairness and statehood equality, so we can better care for our unique lands, enhance recreation access, protect valid existing rights, and foster safe and thriving western communities for the wellbeing of each state, and the entire nation.

**Who knows and cares about western lands more than westerners do?
Learn More & Take Action TODAY at: www.AmericanLandsCouncil.org**

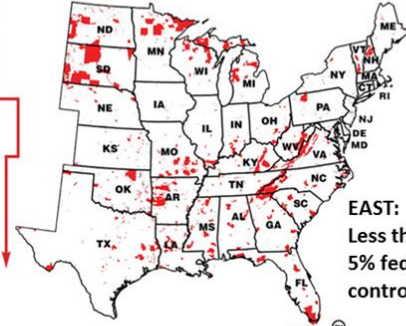
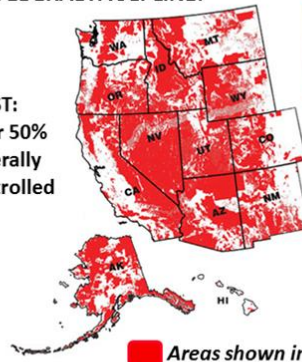
Here in the west, we want a healthy environment, abundant outdoor recreation, & safe, vibrant communities. But 'one-size-fails-all' federal bureaucracy is giving us just the opposite. It's time to restore balance so willing states can tend our unique public lands more like a park, or a garden, and less like a "hands-off, don't-touch" museum!

Unlock Our Lands!



THE FEDERAL FAULT LINE:

WEST:
Over 50%
federally
controlled



EAST:
Less than
5% federally
controlled

Areas shown in red are federally controlled lands.

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This great imbalance is not only unfair, it's not working!

Discover the lawful, peaceful path to the Only Solution Big Enough at:

www.AmericanLandsCouncil.org

#FreeTheLands #UnlockOurLands #TransferPublicLands #HonorThePromise #RestoreBalance

Official Public Policy of ALC

1. WE URGE THE TIMELY AND ORDERLY TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS TO WILLING STATES FOR LOCAL CONTROL THAT WILL PROVIDE BETTER PUBLIC ACCESS, BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, AND BETTER ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY;
2. WE SUPPORT EXCLUDING EXISTING NATIONAL PARKS, CONGRESSIONALLY DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS, INDIAN RESERVATIONS, AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS FROM THE TRANSFER; AND
3. WE SUPPORT EQUIPPING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES WITH RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PLAN FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO STATE-BASED OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSFERRED PUBLIC LANDS; AND
4. WE URGE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR THESE LANDS THAT WILL:
 - i. IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS
 - ii. IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
 - iii. IMPROVE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY
 - iv. RETAIN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS
 - v. IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF WILDFIRE CONTROL
 - vi. INCREASE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY
 - vii. PROTECT USE RIGHTS
 - viii. PRESERVE CUSTOMS & CULTURE
 - ix. INCORPORATE FEDERAL AGENCY EXPERTISE
 - x. GENERATE SELF-SUPPORTING FINANCE

#FreeTheLands is NOT about selling off public lands and it's NOT about transferring national parks, wilderness, or Indian reservations; it's about ordinary federal *public lands* becoming state *public lands* for multiple use in accordance with state and local plans. In fact, when our advocates introduced legislation to keep public lands public, it was the very groups who claim we would sell them that opposed the bill! See for yourself here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jK4KPJcHyo . The entire public policy statement can be viewed at: http://www.americanlandscouncil.org/policy_statements

The American Lands Council™

An Association of Elected Officials, Resource Experts, Public Land Users & Citizens

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