



**Don't See Yourself as a Public
Lands Advocate? Think Again.**

Presented by
Randy Rasmussen

**Director, Public Lands &
Recreation**

**Back Country Horsemen of
America**





KEEPING TRAILS OPEN FOR YOU

bcha.org



Mission includes:

ENJOYMENT

Our purpose is to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.

PUBLIC LANDS

To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

bcha.org

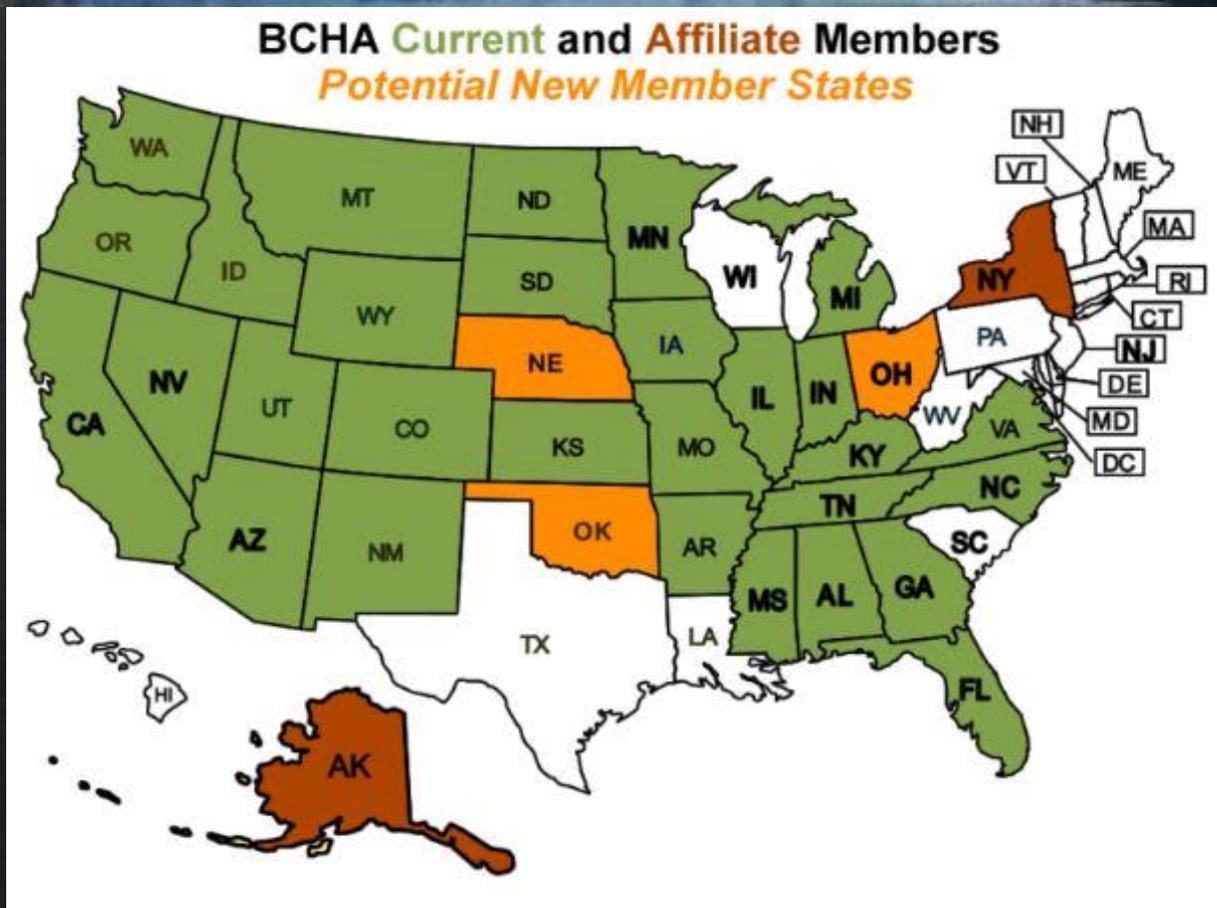


National non-profit

13,000 members

180+ chapters

32 states



Find a chapter near you at: bcha.org



- ◇ 2015 service hours total 304,344 (in-kind value of \$11.2 million)
- ◇ Service Agreements/MOUs:
 - ◇ US Forest Service
 - ◇ National Park Service
 - ◇ US Bureau of Land Management
- ◇ \$126.5 million in-kind contributions on public lands since 1995





Trail Maintenance, Wilderness Signage



BCH Idaho, Summer 2013

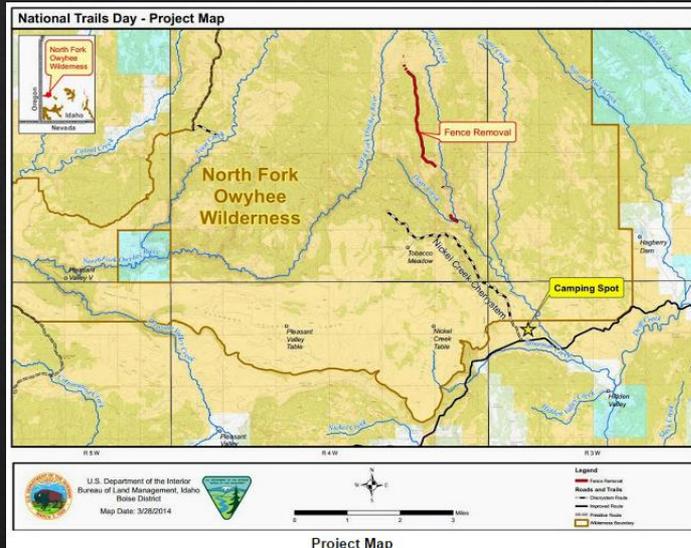


Wyoming BCH, October 2014

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Restoration, Fence Removal





Promoting a Leave No Trace[™] Ethic

- ◆ Back Country Horsemen is leading with its Masters' Leave No Trace (LNT) education program.
- ◆ In 2014, BCH California was awarded a 5-year contract to be “sole provider” of the Master Educator LNT Stock Use program for the US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region



bcha.org



As a citizen, you are a partial owner of this...



U.S Dept. of Interior Photo



Bob Wick, BLM



U.S. Constitution (Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2), the “Property Clause”

*The Congress shall have **power to dispose of** and **make all needful Rules and Regulations** respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.*





Why States Don't Have a Legal Right to Seize America's Public Lands

To enter the Union, Western states signed onto an enabling act, where each agreed that federal parks and forests belong to all Americans



Arizona Enabling Act

"That the people inhabiting said proposed State do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."



Colorado Enabling Act

"That the people inhabiting said Territory do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within said Territory, and that the same shall be and remain at the sole and entire disposition of the United States..."



Idaho Enabling Act

"And the people of the state of Idaho do agree and declare that we forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."



New Mexico Enabling Act

"That the people inhabiting said proposed state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."



Nevada Enabling Act

"That the people inhabiting said territory do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within said territory, and that the same shall be and remain at the sole and entire disposition of the United States..."



Montana Enabling Act

"That the people inhabiting said proposed States do agree and that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."



Utah Enabling Act

"That the people inhabiting said proposed State do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."



Wyoming Enabling Act

"The people inhabiting this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."



Center for
Western Priorities

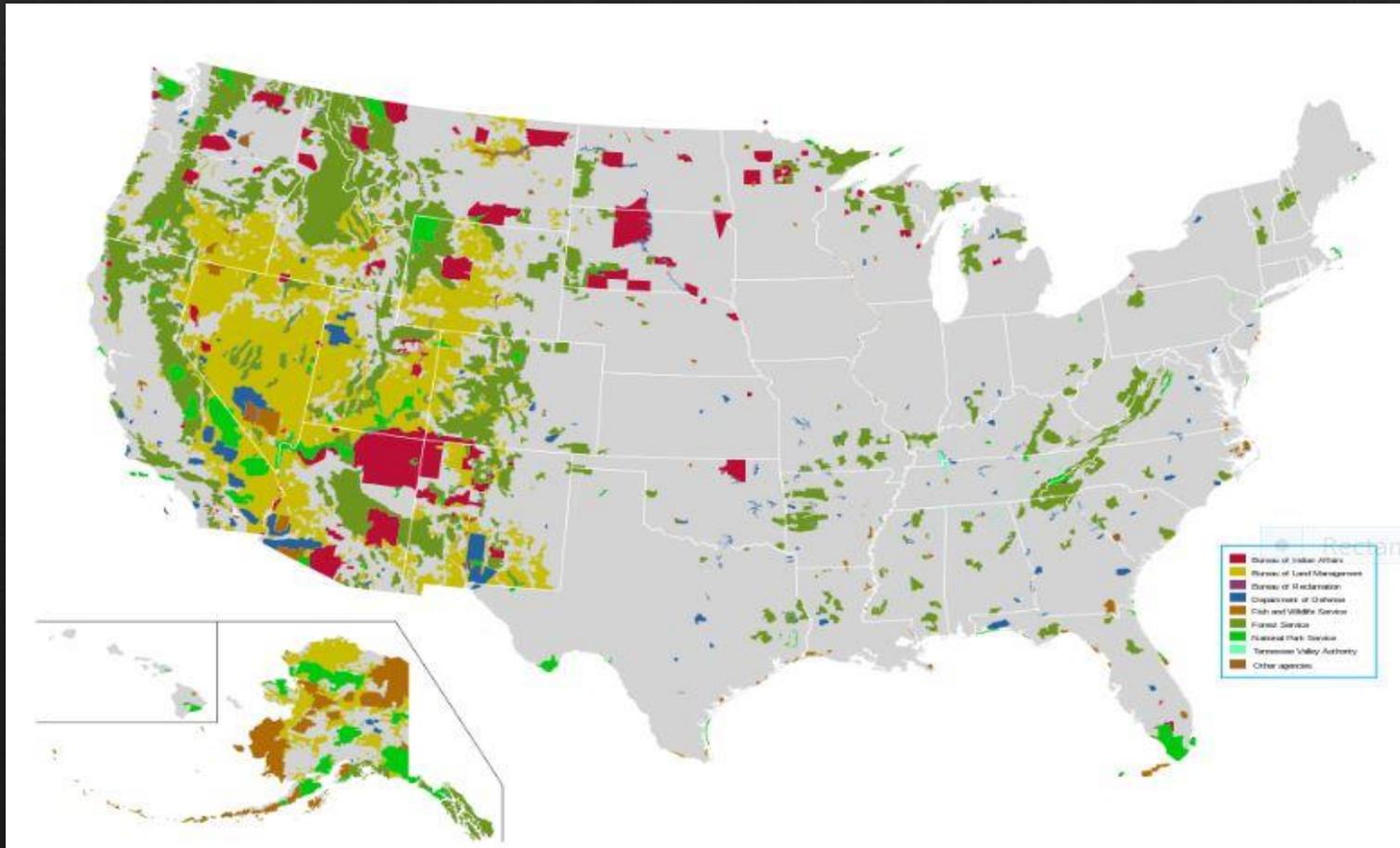


Public lands today total about 640 million acres (28% of the land in the entire U.S.)





U.S. public lands today





Benefits of Multiple-Use Public Lands

All activities on lands managed by
DOI were associated with about:

\$170 billion in value added,

\$300 billion in economic output,
and

An estimated 1.8 million jobs.

https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2015_doi_econ_report_2016-06-17.pdf



U.S. Department of the Interior

Economic Report

FY 2015

June 17, 2016





U.S. Forest Service Budget Overview FY 2017

<https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/fy-2017-fs-budget-overview.pdf>

USDA Forest Service Snapshot

- The Forest Service manages 193 million acres in 44 States and territories representing 30 percent of all federally owned lands.
- There are 154 national forests, 20 national grasslands, and eight national monuments managed by the Forest Service.
- Seven research units, including the Forest Products Laboratory and the International Institute for Tropical Forestry employ more than 500 scientists working at the forefront of natural resource and social science to improve the health and use of our Nation's forests and grasslands.
- Scientists, engineers and cartographers staff and operate two Technology and Development Centers, 80 Experimental Forests, and a Geospatial Service and Technology Center in support of scientific advances in resource management.
- The Forest Service manages 28 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers in 18 states with a capacity to house, educate, and train over 6,200 young Americans. Students can complete their GED or high school diploma, take college classes and get training in more than 30 occupations.
- The Forest Service manages 442 wilderness areas, encompassing more than 36 million acres of rare, wild lands for the American people, today and in the future.
- The Forest Service employs approximately 35,000 scientists, administrators, and land managers.
- Working with partners, Forest Service programs restored or enhanced more than 6.1 million acres of public and private forest lands in FY 2014, making them more resilient to the effects of wildfire.
- Various activities on Forest Service lands contribute more than \$36 billion to America's economy each year supporting nearly 450,000 jobs.



Outdoor Recreation Economy

Adventuring into the Great Outdoors Fuels the Economy

Outdoor Recreation Product Sales
\$120.7 Billion

APPAREL, FOOTWEAR, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, ACCESSORIES, SERVICES

Trips and Travel-Related Spending
\$524.8 Billion

FOOD/DRINK, TRANSPORTATION, ENTERTAINMENT/ACTIVITIES, LODGING, SOUVENIRS/GIFTS/MISC.



FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON GEAR AND VEHICLES, AN ESTIMATED FOUR DOLLARS IN SPENDING ON TRIPS AND TRAVEL RESULTS.

Recreation Spending is HUGE

An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Product, based on available 2010 data.

Outdoor Industry Association, 2012

<https://outdoorindustry.org/research-tools/outdoor-recreation-economy/>



Outdoor Recreation Employs America

Job Comparisons, by Industry¹



**MORE AMERICANS JOBS
DEPEND ON TRAIL SPORTS
(768,000) THAN THERE
ARE LAWYERS (728,200)
IN THE U.S.³**

Outdoor Industry Association,
2012

<https://outdoorindustry.org/research-tools/outdoor-recreation-economy/>



Federal Land Action Group

April 2015, Rep. Chris Stewart (UT-2) and Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-1) launched the Federal Land Action Group, a congressional team that will **develop a legislative framework for transferring public lands to local ownership and control.**

Rep. Bishop, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said, “This group will explore legal and historical background in order to determine the best congressional action needed to return these lands to the **rightful owners...**”

<http://stewart.house.gov/flag>

U.S. Representative Chris Stewart:

“Why are huge tracks of Utah owned by the federal government? Many of these public lands could be – and should be – administered by the state. **States should be allowed to sell these defederalized lands to private entities.**”

On The Issues (2012). “Chris Stewart on Energy & Oil.” Last accessed June 29, 2016:

http://www.ontheissues.org/House/Chris_Stewart_Energy_+_Oil.htm



www.outsideonline.com/2093281/great-public-land-heist-has-begun?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=...
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The Great Public Land Heist Has Begun

House bill to sell national forests passes committee

By: Wes Siler Jun 22, 2016



604K

This land is your land. Literally. The federal government holds it in trust for your use, and funds derived from it are spent on public projects. You can (and do) visit it to hike, climb, paddle, hike, hunt, fish, and

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3650

To authorize States to select and acquire certain National Forest System lands to be managed and operated by the State for timber production and other purposes under the laws of the State, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize States to select and acquire certain National Forest System lands to be managed and operated by the State for timber production and other purposes under the laws of the State, and for other purposes.



TREATMENT OF CONVEYANCES OF FEDERAL LAND.

—In the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, for all purposes in the House... requiring or authorizing a conveyance of Federal land to a State, local government, or tribal entity **shall not be considered as** providing new budget authority, **decreasing revenues**, increasing mandatory spending, or increasing outlays.



H. Res. 5

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

January 3, 2017.

Resolved, That the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constituted rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2, and with other orders as provided in sections 3, 4, and 5.



Committee on Natural Resources

Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2018

Rob Bishop, Chairman

March 2, 2017

<https://wilderness.org/sites/default/files/Republican%20Views%20and%20Estimates%20for%20FY2018.pdf>

- ❖ Chairman Bishop requests \$50M be spent on the immediate transfer of public lands to states' control.
- ❖ “Federal lands create a burden for surrounding states and communities.”
- ❖ The “solution is to convey certain lands to state, local, and tribal governments.”



Transfer or sell?

The two are really the same. Here's why:

- ❖ Most state trust lands are managed solely for maximum profit;
- ❖ Public access can be prohibited if it might interfere with the state's ability to generate maximum revenue;
- ❖ Camping, hunting, horseback riding are prohibited on many state lands across the West;
- ❖ *Continued...*



Transfer or sell?

The two are really the same. Here's why (*continued*):

- ◇ The costs of public land management would break most state budgets, including:
 - ◇ fighting wildland fires,
 - ◇ proactive management to reduce wildfire risk,
 - ◇ abandoned and toxic mine clean up,
 - ◇ maintaining roads and trails,
 - ◇ treating noxious weeds, etc.;
- ◇ The financial realities would force states to sell off public lands to generate revenue and pay the bills.



States Have a Poor Record

Many western states have sold off the vast majority of state-owned lands, granted by the federal government as a condition of statehood.

For example:

Of the 2.7 million acres granted Nevada, only 3,000 acres remain today in state ownership.

Utah sold over half of its original land grant.

Scrubbing out public land transfer myths

www.sportsmensaccess.org





- ❖ Billionaires and global corporations who may **neither understand nor value America's outdoor heritage** would be the ones to buy them.
- ❖ Once formerly public lands are privatized, the lands **usually become off-limits to the public.**
- ❖ The loss would be felt by all Americans who once had unfettered access to some of the world's finest landscapes.



Randal O'Toole, the Cato Institute (1997):

- ◇ “Transferring federal lands to the states...**does not automatically mean**, however, **that the lands will be managed with more fiscal responsibility**, with more environmental sensitivity, **or with less interference by politicians.**”
- ◇ “Land management by ballot measure is likely to be no better, **and could be far worse**, than land management by the federal courts.”

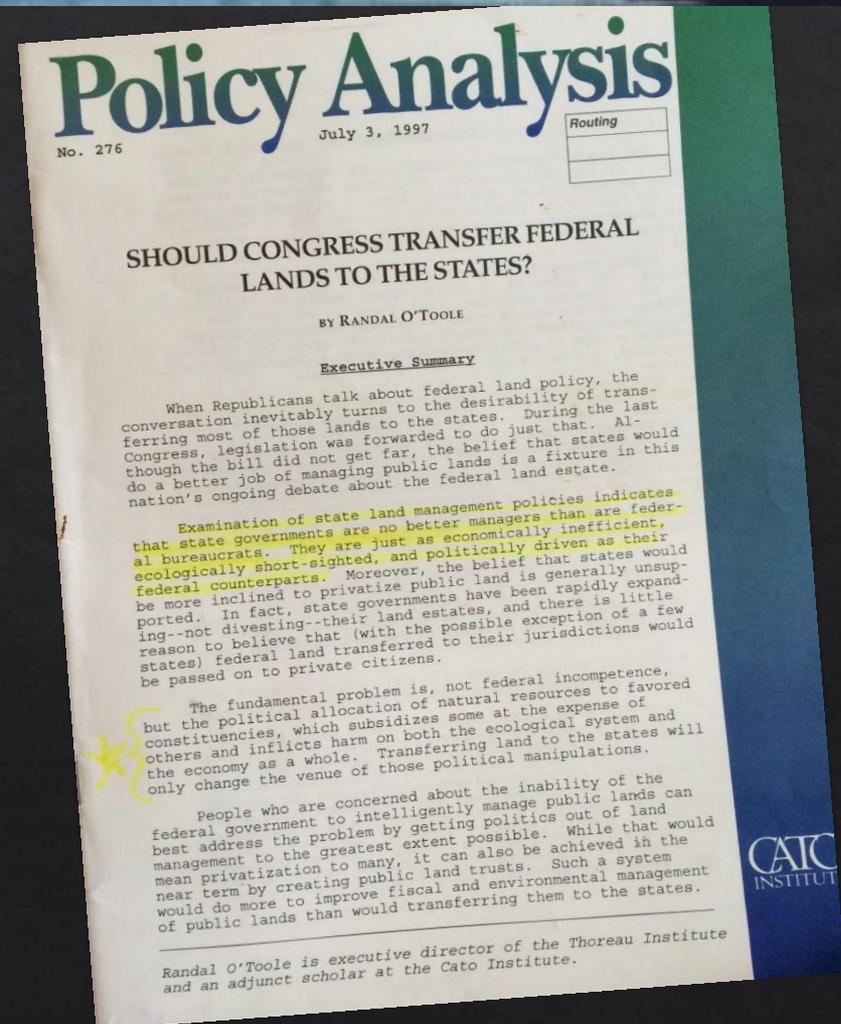




Photo: Ria Cabral





Photo: Jim Eaton





Photo: Josh Packer





Photo: Jessica Gottlieb





What Can *You* Do to “Keep Public Lands in Public Hands?”

Speak up. If enough of us rally together, we can put an end to these proposals and protect the incredible landscapes that we *love*.



Grassroots pressure works!

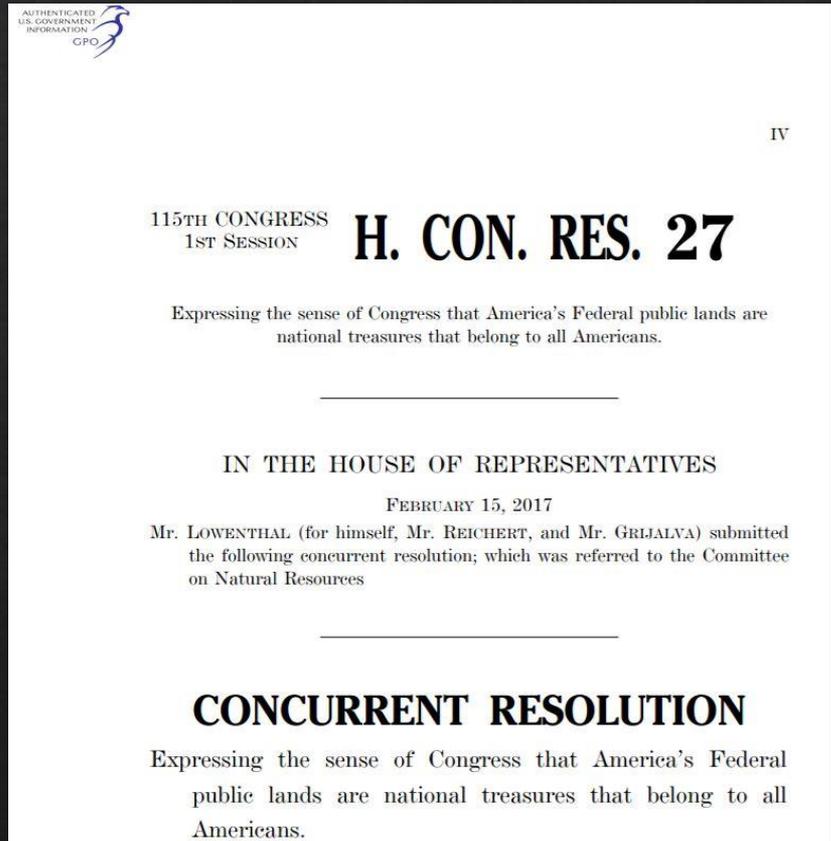
A flood of in-state constituents got this Utah congressman last month to withdraw a controversial bill that would have transferred over 3.3 million acres of BLM public land to several western states.





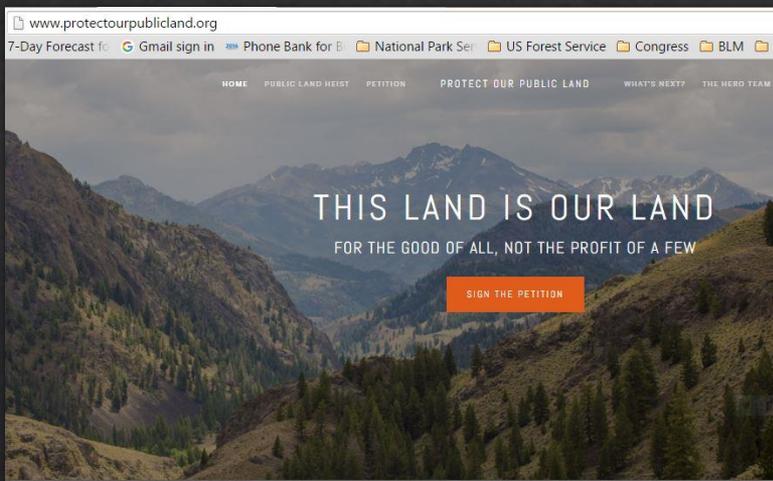
Show support for a positive development

- ◆ Ask your member(s) of Congress to co-sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 27
- ◆ Introduced 3 weeks ago
- ◆ Only 3 sponsors to date





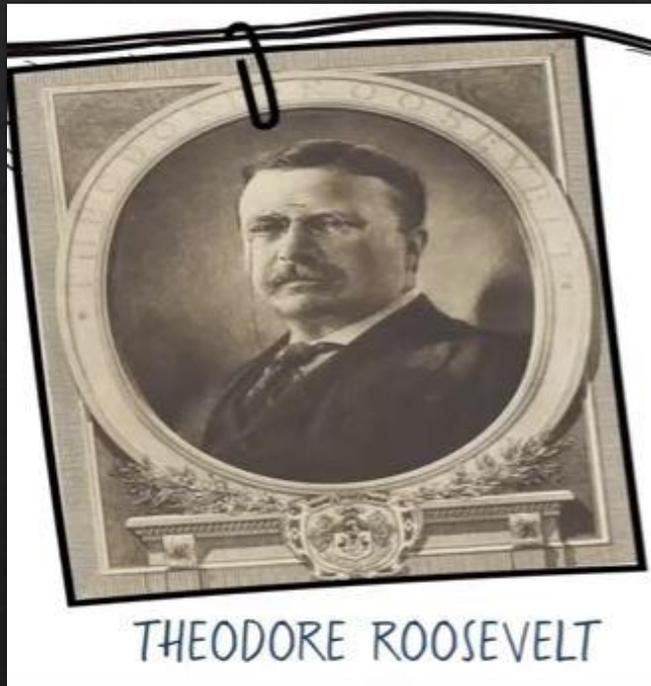
protectourpublicland.org



Outdoor businesses
and recreation groups



OUTDOOR  ALLIANCE



From his 1st Address to Congress (1901):

“The forest reserves should be **set apart forever** for the **use and benefit of our people as a whole** and not sacrificed to the short-sighted greed of the few.”



Questions?

Contact:

Randy Rasmussen

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Wallace Stegner Center White Papers at:

- ◇ A Legal Analysis of the Transfer of Public Lands Movement
- ◇ The Transfer of Public Lands Movement: Taking the 'Public' Out of Public Lands
- ◇ When Winning Means Losing: Why a State Takeover of Public Lands May Leave the States Without the Minerals They Covet
- ◇ Alternatives to the Transfer of Public Lands Act

<http://law.utah.edu/projects/stegner-research-fellows-program/>