

The attached document was submitted to the
Washoe County Board of Commissioners during
the meeting held on May 12, 2015.
by Joe Dahl
for Agenda Item No. #9
and included here pursuant to NRS 241.020(7) as
amended by AB65 of the 2013 Legislative Session.



www.americanlandscouncil.org

AMERICAN LANDS COUNCIL

ACCESS - HEALTH - PRODUCTIVITY

Public Policy Statement

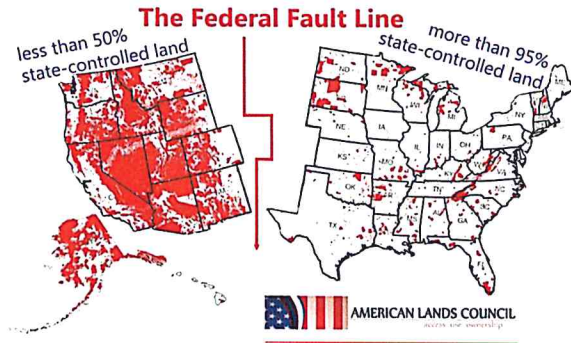
Ratified by unanimous consent Oct 9, 2014 at ALC Multi-State Workshop Salt Lake City, UT and Oct 20, 2014 by American Lands Council Board of Directors.

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:** Protect public access, rights of way, and multiple-uses on public lands for all people including sportsmen, tourists, recreational users, subsistence and sustenance activities, and emergency access; and
 - ii. **IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Reduce catastrophic wildfire fuel loads that threaten communities, infrastructure, watersheds, critical wildlife habitat, and our environment. Facilitate restoration of healthy forests, range lands, and waterways; and
 - iii. **IMPROVE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY:** Secure jobs and economic growth through responsible natural resource stewardship and use including tourism and recreational opportunities; and
 - iv. **RETAIN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS:** Federal public lands shall become state public lands to be managed in accordance with state and local plans; and
 - v. **IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF WILDFIRE CONTROL:** Provide state, local, and tribal government with adequate wildfire prevention and control resources and develop interstate/interagency cooperative agreements necessary to combat wildfires effectively; and
 - vi. **INCREASE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY:** Ensure state-based public land management activities are consistent with local government plans, policies, and objectives; and
 - vii. **PROTECT USE RIGHTS:** Protect all valid existing rights and multiple uses, and enhance the viability of compatible, land-based livelihoods; and
 - viii. **PRESERVE CUSTOMS & CULTURE:** Preserve and protect important wild, scenic, cultural and economic resources; and
 - ix. **INCORPORATE FEDERAL AGENCY EXPERTISE:** Seek to utilize federal expertise and research through employment and/or cooperative agreements; and
 - x. **GENERATE SELF-SUPPORTING FINANCE:** Foster compatible economic productivity to support essential government services such as local roads, utilities, emergency services, public health and safety, education, justice, and other civic functions while reducing tax burdens on citizens nationally and offsetting federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools funds.

- BCC 5-12-15 #9
Joe Dahl

The Land Was To Be Held in TRUST For Disposal

For nearly 200 years, Congress recognized its duty to dispose of the public lands, which it did in the states east of Colorado. In those States there is only about 4 %federal lands.



But Now

The Federal Government owns and controls more than half of the land in the Western United States. For instance, Nevada is more than 80% owned and controlled by the Federal Government and Idaho is 62%.

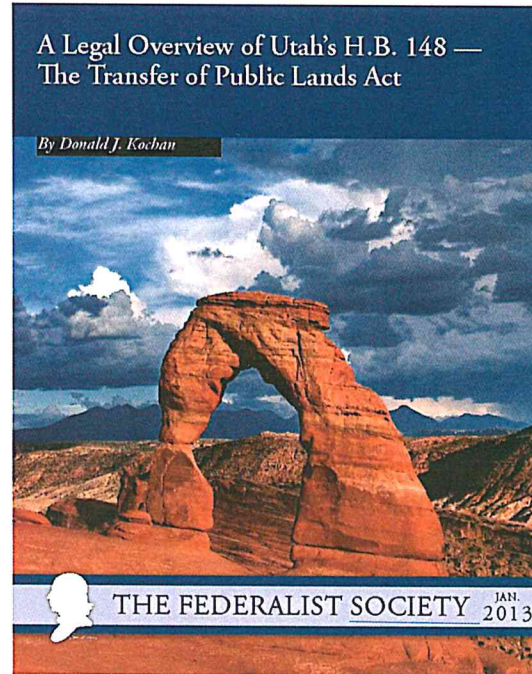
That means the rules that govern most of the surface of Western United States are made in Washington D.C.

Many of the rules that govern the West are not even made by Congress but by bureaucrats whose connection to the West is tentative at best.

This is a problem, not only for the people in the West who depend on the resources of the public lands for their economic wellbeing, but access is often restricted for visitors who enjoy our vast common heritage.

The TRUST has been broken

It wasn't until 1976 that Congress unilaterally declared that it was their new "policy to retain these lands in federal ownership." (FLPMA)



(The legal, constitutional, and historic foundation for the Transfer of Public Lands to the States is laid out in this Legal Overview available to read and share at www.AmericanLandsCouncil.org)

IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE

In 2009 the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declared that Congress does not have the authority to unilaterally change "the uniquely sovereign character" of a state's admission into the Union, particularly "where virtually all of a state's public lands are at stake."

Hawaii v. Office of Hawaiian Affairs

SO WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PUBLIC LAND IS TRANSFERRED TO THE STATES?

There are some who want you to believe the States will sell the public lands. But, in every state where legislation is being crafted or has been introduced, calling for the transfer, there is specific language to prevent the sale of our public lands.

The American Lands Council has set the standard for management after the transfer.

The multiple uses and valid existing rights will transfer with the land.

Anything you can do now on the land you will be able to do after the transfer.

Based on past history the environment will be better protected, management will be better and access will be more assured under the state



MANAGEMENT - STATE VS. FEDERAL

How does control of the public lands by the Federal Government compare with management by the States? In a study by Intertech Services it was found that management by the States is superior in every category.

Table 15. Distribution of State Trust Land New Revenue & Investment Income by Beneficiary—New Mexico; 2012

Beneficiaries	Total Receipts (\$\$\$)
Common Schools	544,244,931
Univ. of New Mexico	9,482,298
Saline Lands	81,470
New Mexico St. Univ.	2,955,919
Western New Mexico Univ.	263,391
NM Highlands Univ.	263,223
Northern New Mexico School	206,686
Eastern New Mexico Univ.	630,158
NM Institute of Mining & Tech	1,558,074
NM Military Institute	23,094,438
Children, Youth & Families Dept.	73,496
Miner's Hospital	7,401,699
Behavioral Health Institute	2,986,671
State Penitentiary	11,416,378
School for the Deaf	11,635,495
School for the Visually Impaired	11,613,393
Charitable, Penal and Reform	5,193,081
Water Reservoirs	7,278,813
Rio Grande Improvements	1,557,121
Public Buildings	6,495,934
Carrie Tingley Hospital	23,669

See ALC website: Library: Nevada Public Lands Task Force Report.

The Intertech Study further demonstrates that while the Federal Government manages their lands at a financial loss, the states, while still protecting the environment, manage their lands at a net profit which helps to fund education, grow community economies, and responsibly utilize abundant resources.

Be Part Of THE ONLY SOLUTION BIG ENOUGH

The Federal Government is:

Closing tens of thousands of roads which denies access for recreation, hunting, fishing, mining, grazing, fire breaks, etc.

Burning up our forests which destroys watersheds, property, production, sometimes life, killing millions of animals and polluting the air.

The States will:

Manage their own natural resources to fund schools, provide jobs, and broaden their tax base.

The system of management of public lands we now have is **BEYOND REPAIR**

Therefore:

THE ONLY SOLUTION BIG ENOUGH

Is to

TRANSFER THE PUBLIC LANDS TO THE STATES



AMERICAN LANDS COUNCIL
access use ownership

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www.AmericanLandsCouncil.org

America Lands Council is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

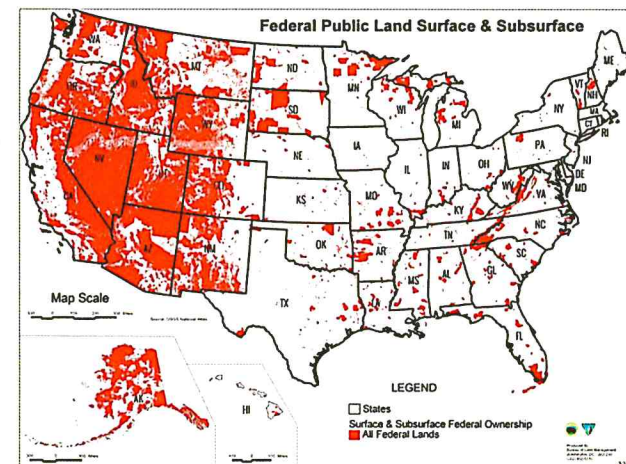


AMERICAN LANDS COUNCIL

ACCESS · HEALTH · PRODUCTIVITY

TO SECURE THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WILLING STATES OF THE WEST.

Federal control of public lands is destroying forests and watersheds, shutting off access, constricting economic opportunity, breaking state and local government budgets, and threatening our way of life!



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and become part of

THE ONLY SOLUTION BIG ENOUGH

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