

VALUING OUR WESTERN PUBLIC LANDS

Safeguarding Our Economy and Way of Life

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2013



Photo: Mark Tyra

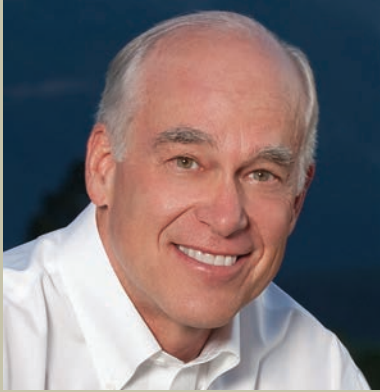


Report

Forward

by John Fielder

Mr. Fielder is an award-winning nature photographer who has promoted the protection of Colorado's open spaces, wildlands and ranches during his 30-year career and whose work is documented in more than 40 books. He lives in Summit County, Colorado.¹



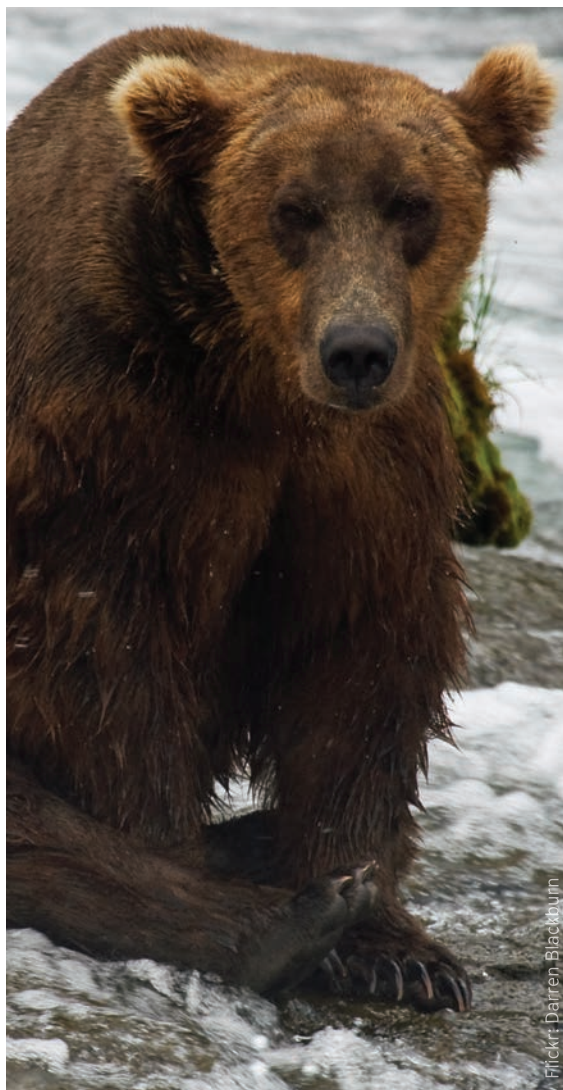
I have been photographing Colorado's rural and natural landscapes for 40 years. Our state is just like every other western state: it is a beautiful place challenged by increasing population, and a pervasive and ubiquitous natural resource development industry. My latest book project allowed me to photograph some of Colorado's protected lands. Colorado, home to extensive federal lands, is the only state in the country that spends its lottery profits, some \$100 million annually, to build parks and trails, and to protect open space, wildlife areas, and ranches. I drove 35,000 miles in 18 months to each of our 64 counties and almost every city and town, all of which are beneficiaries of our lottery. And I would often drive through national forests and BLM canyon lands to get from one place to another, and for a day hike as relief from all of the driving! Effectively, I saw all of Colorado's 65,000,000 acres in one fell swoop.

So, what did I see besides parks, trails, ranches and sublime landscapes? I saw clean air and blue skies, and the fresh chilled water we enjoy in the West. I saw beautiful people who care adamantly about protecting the land at the same time they make a living from it. People like ranchers, real estate developers, ski area employees, and motel and restaurant owners. Like-minded people who believe that Colorado's economic and environmental futures are intertwined, that tourism and recreation is one of our largest industries, and that well-educated people, high-paying jobs, and clean enterprise come to Colorado for our unique quality of life. I saw people like me who consider our precious natural resources of land, air, and water to be our *factory* — people who are resolute about maintaining and preserving our factory in order to generate the jobs and income we need and deserve.

Though industries like hard rock mining, logging, and now oil and gas extraction have provided states of the West and the rest of the U.S. with jobs and revenues, they are not sustainable industries. Hard rock mining made Colorado great for about 30 years, logging was good for 100 until we discovered that cutting old growth trees, suppressing forest fires, and drought was the recipe for disaster. When the oil and gas plays out — and it will — we must ask ourselves with what kind of landscape will we be left? Will it be the attractive place we see today that generates far more jobs and revenues than any of the extractive industries ever did or would hope to in the future? The answer is our economic and environmental future will be based on protecting the *attractive* not nurturing and subsidizing the *extractive*.

In 40 years exploring Colorado, I have learned much about ecology and the relationship of all living things, including us humans, with the natural environment. The integrity of biodiversity increases proportionally with the size of the land mass protected. When one studies societies that survive over time and those that do not, it's clear that those that protect their forests, water supplies, and, in general, the natural environment, last the longest. They also have the most robust and sustainable economies. By investing in the outdoors, states guarantee themselves a steady stream of well-educated residents, relatively high-paying jobs, and billions of dollars in annual tourism and recreation revenues. Costs like medical care go down, too. People who play outdoors are healthier physically and psychologically. In nature, we refer to creatures that depend upon one another, that gain a mutual benefit from one another, as symbiotic. It is clear that our economy and our ecology are symbiotic.

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Flickr: Darren Blackburn

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President Theodore Roosevelt

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INTRODUCTION

Public lands are one of the defining features of the American landscape.² Our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, wilderness areas, and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprise nearly one-third of the land base of the United States. These lands, owned by the public and overseen by the federal government on behalf of all citizens, are a cherished part of our national heritage and character. This report shows that protecting these lands is vital to safeguarding our economy and way of life.

Our public lands have shaped the character and economy of this country since the beginning of our history. These lands have served many purposes for many people, and continue to do so today. Historically, public lands were valued for the natural resources they produced. Early American settlers migrated west in search of gold, timber, or land to graze livestock.

In recent decades, the region has transitioned from a natural resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. Economic studies show public lands — mostly concentrated in the West — are magnets for

professionals, retirees, and businesses seeking a high quality of life.

Communities located near public lands experience relatively higher measures of economic growth. In addition, the tourism and outdoor recreation industries are thriving as visitors from around the world flock to the West to enjoy its untamed and picturesque landscapes. The outdoor recreation industry alone contributes nearly \$650 billion to the U.S. economy and supports more than 6 million jobs.³ Public lands also encompass crucial watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat, and undeveloped open spaces offering inspiration and renewal to the human

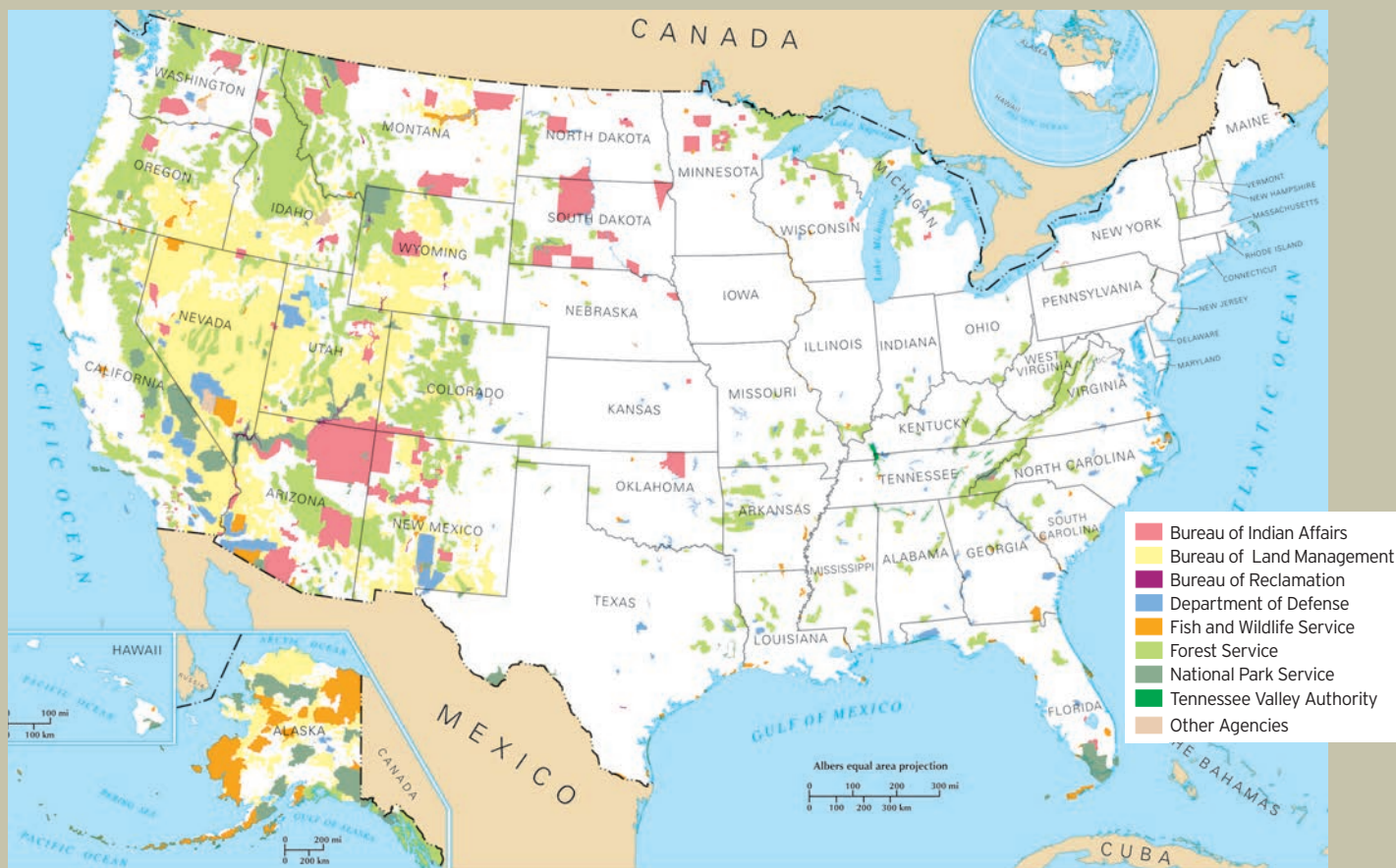
spirit. Westerners recognize and appreciate the economic opportunities and quality of life supported by the public lands near their communities.

It is clear that public lands contribute to the well-being of all Americans and make the United States unique among other industrialized nations. Recognizing the need to safeguard our heritage by conserving these lands and the natural environment they encompass, Americans invest \$38.8 billion annually in natural resource conservation.⁴ This investment results in over \$93 billion in direct economic benefits.⁵ More importantly, it protects and restores the lands and resources that support traditional American pastimes and the U.S. economy.

Despite widespread support for protecting our public lands, disputes over the use, management and ownership of these lands are a perpetual source of political tension in the West. These cherished places are threatened by those seeking to exploit them for private financial gain or



AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS



*Bureau of Indian Affairs lands are not public lands.

Source: nationalatlas.gov

barter them for political favor, and others who are opposed to the very concept of public land. Lawmakers, unaware of or out of touch with broader public values and needs, seek to weaken protective laws and transfer public lands out of public ownership. These schemes jeopardize the very idea of a public commons, held in trust for the permanent good of the people,

as well as the economic well-being of our communities and the integrity of the functioning natural systems upon which all life depends.

Citizen advocacy is critical to preserving our public lands heritage. Public lands belong to all Americans and we each have a responsibility to protect them for future generations. While elected officials have the power

to decide the fate of these lands, the American people have the power to influence those decisions with their voices and their votes.

In this report we explore the “value” of America’s public lands. As a noun, “value” refers to monetary worth. As a verb, “value” refers to the act of appreciating and treasuring something. A growing body of research shows that the American public values our public lands and that these lands are of great value to all Americans. The message that emerges from the facts and figures is clear: By conserving the cherished lands that drive economic growth, the American people and our national economy will be healthier and more sustainable for generations to come.

“Public land does not mean land that belongs to or is controlled by government. Public land is land we hold together, land that reflects and stands for the values we share: We, the People.”

William Cronon, “Saving the Land We Love: Land Conservation and American Values,” Keynote Address for the Land Trust Alliance Rally, Madison, Wisconsin, October 17, 2005

ASSESSING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS



America's public lands have a substantial impact on the U.S. economy. These lands support a wide variety of activities, from recreational pursuits such as camping, hunting, fishing, and hiking to natural resource development. They also serve important functions and provide resources — including clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat — that support environmental and human health.

The economic value of public lands is most obvious in the West, where these lands comprise a significant portion of the landscape. The role of public lands in the Western economy has changed significantly in the past several decades as the region has transitioned from a natural resource-based economy reliant on raw materials to a knowledge-based economy driven by service industries.⁶ Today, studies show that the most important economic contribution of public lands is their ability to attract innovative businesses, an educated workforce, and non-resident visitors who put new dollars into local economies.⁷ Communities across the West have realized that their best asset is the outdoor quality of life and recreation opportunities provided by public lands.

Public Lands Support a Booming Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Industry

Every year, hundreds of millions of people from around the world visit America's public lands. Some visitors come to hunt and fish. Others come to these areas to hike, camp, ski, or for sight-seeing and family gatherings.

America's public lands support a booming outdoor recreation industry. Outdoor recreation is not only an American tradition, it is a significant economic driver in the U.S., directly fueling major economic sectors such as manufacturing, accommodation and food services, and retail trade. The industry also provides employment to millions of Americans and plays an important role in sustaining a stable workforce.

Preserving access to outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands is necessary to protect our American heritage as well as the economic health of businesses, communities, and entire economic sectors that depend on this industry.

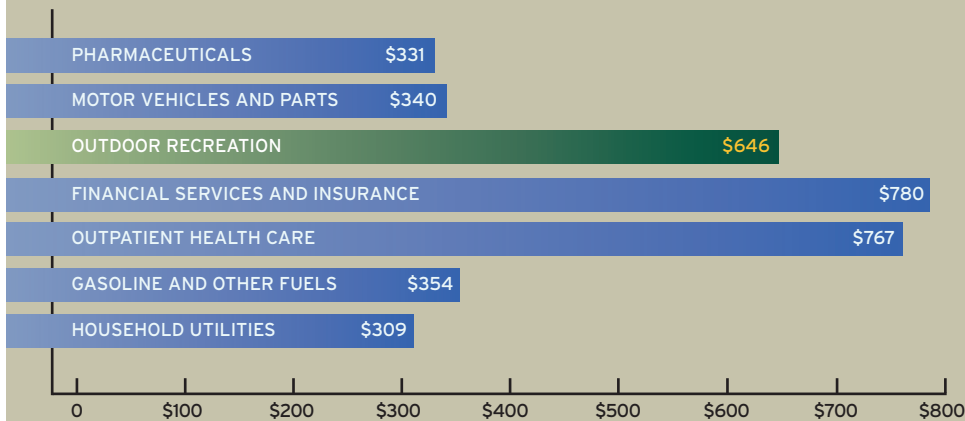
OUTDOOR RECREATION AND THE ECONOMY

- **Participants:** More than 140 million Americans participated in outdoor recreation in 2011.⁸ That's nearly half the U.S. population. A survey of voters in western states shows that a large majority (85 percent) engage regularly in outdoor recreation.⁹



ANNUAL CONSUMER SPENDING COMPARISONS

(IN BILLIONS)



Source: Outdoor Industry Association. *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*. 2012.

- Spending:** Every year, Americans spend \$646 billion on recreation — including such items as gear, equipment, travel, food, and lodging.¹⁰ When figuring the indirect, or ripple effect, of outdoor recreation, the total annual economic impact is \$1.6 trillion in spending.¹¹ In the West, outdoor recreation results in \$256 billion in direct spending.¹² Annual consumer spending on outdoor recreation is greater than that on motor vehicles (\$340 billion), pharmaceuticals (\$331 billion), and household utilities (\$309 billion).¹³

- Jobs:** Outdoor recreation directly supports 6.1 million U.S. jobs and indirectly supports twice that amount as money ripples through the economy.¹⁴ Nationally, the outdoor recreation industry supports more jobs than the oil and gas industry (2.1 million), finance and insurance (5.8 million), construction (5.5 million), and education (3.5 million).¹⁵ In the West, outdoor recreation supports 2.3 million jobs and \$110.3 billion in salaries, wages and business income.¹⁶

- Taxes:** Every year, spending on outdoor recreation contributes \$39.9 billion in federal tax revenue and \$39.7 billion in state/local tax revenue.¹⁷
- Growth:** The outdoor recreation economy grew approximately 5 percent annually between 2005 and 2011 — this during an economic recession when many industries contracted.¹⁸



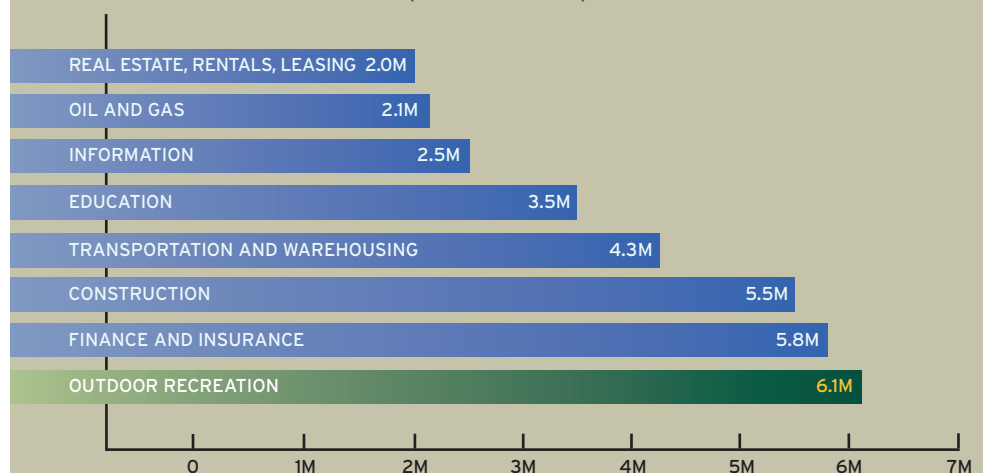
Flickr: Greg Younger

RECREATION, TOURISM, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Visits to public lands also make an important contribution to the economic vitality of rural communities. Visitors to public lands often spend money in nearby communities on items such as guiding services, supplies, gasoline, food, and lodging. These communities benefit directly from that spending. As visitor spending ripples through the economy, further economic activity is created. Public lands also help support a stable workforce that is important to the economic health of the communities and regions near public lands.¹⁹

EMPLOYMENT COMPARISONS

(BY INDUSTRY)



Source: Outdoor Industry Association. *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*. 2012.



Public lands provide the hook for New Mexico family's fly fishing business

Nick Streit believes his business — the Taos Fly Shop — and others like it likely couldn't exist in northern New Mexico without access to public lands. "Here in northern New Mexico we're kind of blessed because we have so much public land. That's what really supports my fly shop because the majority of things that I sell are sold to people who go fishing on their own. Stores like mine rely on people being able to go out and use national forest land and other public land."

Streit and his father, Taylor, have built a loyal clientele and solid reputation during years of selling gear and services to anglers who use the public waterways. Taylor Streit, well-known fly-fishing guide and author of acclaimed books on the sport, opened the shop in 1980. He closed it seven years later when pollution from molybdenum mining seriously impaired the fishery on the Red River and the Rio Grande.

The fishery rebounded after a change in the mine's ownership and restoration work. Nick and his wife, Chrissy, reopened the fly shop in 2004. His father has continued to guide, train other guides and write. "We've seen the Red River and Rio Grande come back as world-class fisheries," Streit said.

He expects the recent designation of El Rio Grande del Norte as a national monument to help maintain the rivers' integrity for generations to come. The Rio Grande cuts through the 236,000-acre area managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Continued public access to the area's rivers, streams, canyons and mountains should help maintain the businesses and jobs that depend on hunting, fishing and recreation for a long time, Streit said.



Public Lands Provide Opportunities to Hunt, Fish and Watch Wildlife

America's public lands contain some of the last remaining large-scale tracts of undisturbed wildlife habitat in the country. The vast size and undeveloped nature of these areas are essential for the health and survival of countless wildlife species, from endangered plants and animals to large herds of migrating game animals. Our public lands provide Americans from all walks of life with unrivaled opportunities to hunt, fish, and watch wildlife. Contrast other industrialized countries, and states with little or no public land, where hunters and anglers often have to ask permission and pay for what many Americans see as their birthright. This uniquely American experience is clearly valuable to the significant number of people who participate in wildlife-related recreation — fishing, hunting, and wildlife-watching — and to the businesses that serve them.

- **Participants:** In 2011, over 90 million Americans over the age of 16 participated in wildlife-related recreation. That's 38 percent of the U.S. population, equal to the population of California. Of these, 33.1 million fished, 13.7 million hunted, 9.4 million both fished and



Flickr: Shanthanu Bhardwaj

hunted, and 71.8 million participated in at least one type of wildlife-watching activity.²⁰

- **Spending:** Americans spend \$145 billion per year on wildlife-related recreation on items such as equipment, travel, licenses, tags, and permits. That amounts to 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product, or one out of every \$100 of all goods and services. Sportsmen and women spend nearly \$90 billion

— \$41.8 billion on fishing, \$33.7 billion on hunting, and \$14.3 billion on items used for both hunting and fishing — and wildlife watchers spend about \$55 billion.²¹

- **Jobs and Wages:** The money spent by hunters and anglers helps create thousands of jobs related to the manufacture, sale, or provision of products and services. The hunting industry supports more than 680,000 jobs and generates \$26.4 billion in salaries and wages.²² The fishing industry supports 828,000 jobs and generates \$35 billion in salaries and wages.²³
- **Use of public lands:** People who enjoy hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching rely on public lands. In a survey produced by a national hunting organization, more than two-thirds of hunters report that they have used public lands in the past five years.²⁴ And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that 82 percent of people who traveled to see wildlife in 2011 visited public areas.²⁵

“If you want to hunt in Italy, or most of Europe for that matter, you'd better belong to a private club, with access to a rich man's estate. It struck me then, in the kind of epiphany that takes living in another country to appreciate, that the public land endowment of the United States is one of the greatest perks of this democracy. Rich or poor, every citizen of the United States of America has title to an area almost the size of Italy.”

Timothy Egan, *The Geography of Nope*, *The New York Times*,
The Opinion Pages (September 27, 2012).

Colorado sportsman seeks to conserve public lands as a gift to our children

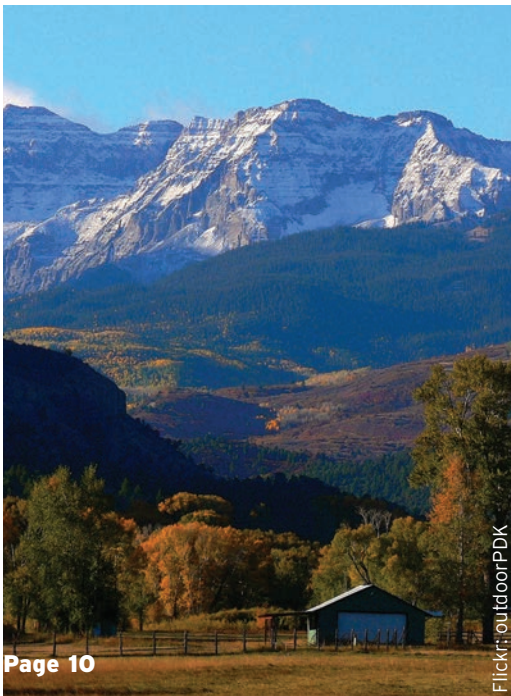
I am a sportsman, and I love our public lands, and the wildlife and fisheries therein. Sportsmen smile every day we have the opportunity to recreate in these public lands. We are watchable wildlife enthusiasts far more than what we catch or harvest. We enjoy watching crows play gracefully in aerial arrays, seeing the beauty of a fragile 8-inch brook trout released back into a backcountry stream, or viewing two fawns following their mother as they learn the lessons of life. The scenic beauty and wildlife we get to experience on public lands are priceless.

Colorado is so fortunate for the public lands we have. These public lands are in any measure one of the defining values for our state's citizens. From a sportsmen's perspective, public lands also are home base for our outdoors fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing activities which collectively add up to a \$3 billion industry for Colorado. These years all of my big game hunts are on public lands, which I dearly cherish. Colorado is blessed to have more elk than any other state, as well as being an epicenter for western states' deer herds. Public lands are where the majority of these animals live. These public lands, a national treasure, should never be privatized, and instead remain the one certain gift all of us can hand off to our children and, in turn, to their children.

Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation



Public Lands Influence the Economic Structure of Nearby Communities



A large and growing body of research shows that communities and counties near protected public lands outperform those without public lands in economic performance measures, including employment, income growth, and property values.²⁶ The reason is two-fold. First, as explained above, public lands draw visitors from around the world, driving a successful tourism and outdoor recreation industry. Second, the natural amenities and recreation opportunities offered by public lands attract innovative companies and an educated workforce, a phenomenon called "amenity migration." One study found that communities that serve as a gateway

to public lands had economic growth consistently higher (one percent larger compounded annually) during the past three decades than statewide rates, and that "the majority [of this growth] is driven by individuals and companies unrelated to the tourism sector that are likely drawn to the area because of its natural amenities."²⁷

- **Employment:** In the West, where most public lands are located, employment grew by 152 percent compared with 78 percent for the rest of the country from 1970 to 2010. Western non-metropolitan counties with more than 30 percent protected federal land saw a 345

percent increase in jobs from 1970 to 2010, compared to 83 percent in counties with no protected land.²⁸

- **Income:** From 1970 to 2010, real personal income in the West grew by 234 percent compared to 149 percent for the rest of the country. For every gain of 10,000 acres of protected public land in a county, per-capita income in 2010 was on average \$436 higher than in similar counties with no protected lands. Thus, the per-capita income was

\$2,180 higher in a county with 50,000 acres of protected public lands and \$4,360 higher in a county with 100,000 acres of protected public lands.²⁹

- **Property Values:** Public lands and the amenities they provide — such as pristine scenery and wildlife — help increase property values. Home owners near parks and other protected areas can have property values more than 20 percent higher than similar properties elsewhere.³⁰



Utah's public lands were magnet for businesswoman

Ty Markham's experiences and choices could be a case study in how the West's landscapes and lifestyle are critical to the region's economy by attracting professionals and entrepreneurs. The East Coast native fell in love with Utah's people and red-rock country while attending Brigham Young University. She married and moved to California, but returned to the state to work as a clinical psychologist at the University of Utah. She now owns and runs the Torrey Schoolhouse Bed & Breakfast in Torrey, gateway to Capitol Reef National Park in south-central Utah.

"The beauty of the land and the beauty of the people just charmed me beyond my comprehension," said Markham, who also taught in grade and high schools.

The roughly quarter-million-acre national park, the cliffs, canyons and domes and other public lands are the fuel for the economic engine driven by tourism. The area's beauty also attracts retirees and professionals, Markham said. "People want to live in places that are beautiful and have clean air and water. That attracts the best of talented, intelligent and accomplished people who have many gifts to bring, whether its money for investments or to open a business."



The effort by the state of Utah to take control of federal lands is a bad idea, she said. The state doesn't have the resources to do that, so the public's lands likely would end up drilled and mined or sold to private interests, Markham wrote in a newspaper column. She noted that a 2013 survey by Colorado College in Colorado Springs showed a majority of voters in the Intermountain West, including in Utah, oppose selling public lands.

Markham also disagrees with people who see the land's worth in the oil, gas, coal and other nonrenewable commodities that can be extracted. "Some are happy about the jobs that provides, but others recognize it's a boom-and-bust economy. They're going to have to brace themselves for what happens after the minerals are extracted. You can't destroy your environment and come out ahead. We really have to be smart and make the choices upfront."



Flickr: Jeff Gunn

Public Lands Produce Valuable Resources

Public lands contain large reserves of natural resources, including fossil fuels, minerals, forage, water, timber, and an enormous potential for renewable energy. Development of these commodity resources is authorized on most public lands. The fees, taxes, and royalties levied on this use and development generate revenue for the federal government, states, and local communities.³¹ These activities on public land also create jobs for rural populations. And the natural products produced by public lands are subsequently used throughout the economy to generate electricity, provide fuel for transportation, and provide raw materials used as inputs in a number of industries.

Americans need the energy and

materials provided by public lands and our economy continues to derive benefits from the responsible development of natural resources. However, studies indicate that this sector's economic impacts have not experienced the growth seen by the rest of the Western economy.³² Instead, the economic impacts of these industries operating on public lands have declined in recent years due to resource depletion, increasing foreign competition, mechanization, and a history of cyclical boom and bust periods.³³

The fiscal health of the West is increasingly reliant on the undeveloped, natural qualities of public lands: fish, wildlife, scenic beauty, and outdoor recreation opportunities. Responsible development can coexist with conservation. To ensure a strong economic future for the West, we must balance the needs and impacts of various land uses, placing priority on uses that will provide sustainable, long-term benefits for future generations.

Public lands feed body, soul, and bank account of Wyoming professional

Wyoming's public lands are integral to my livelihood and my way of life. I live in the Northern Rockies because I can hunt, fish, hike, horse pack and recreate pretty much right out my back door. I feed my body with fish and game taken on public lands. I feed my soul with the time spent pursuing it.

In addition to spending personal time out of doors, I'm also lucky to work professionally in outdoor education, utilizing our public lands as classrooms. My husband also makes his living on the land. For our family, these public assets are the ultimate job creators.

As a capable, well educated young woman, I could make a life where ever I chose. I wouldn't be where I am, or who I am, without public lands. As an American I am proud of our unique good fortune — public access to open landscapes and wild places.

Kary Sommers, Wyoming



Kary Sommers

AMERICANS VALUE OUR PUBLIC LANDS

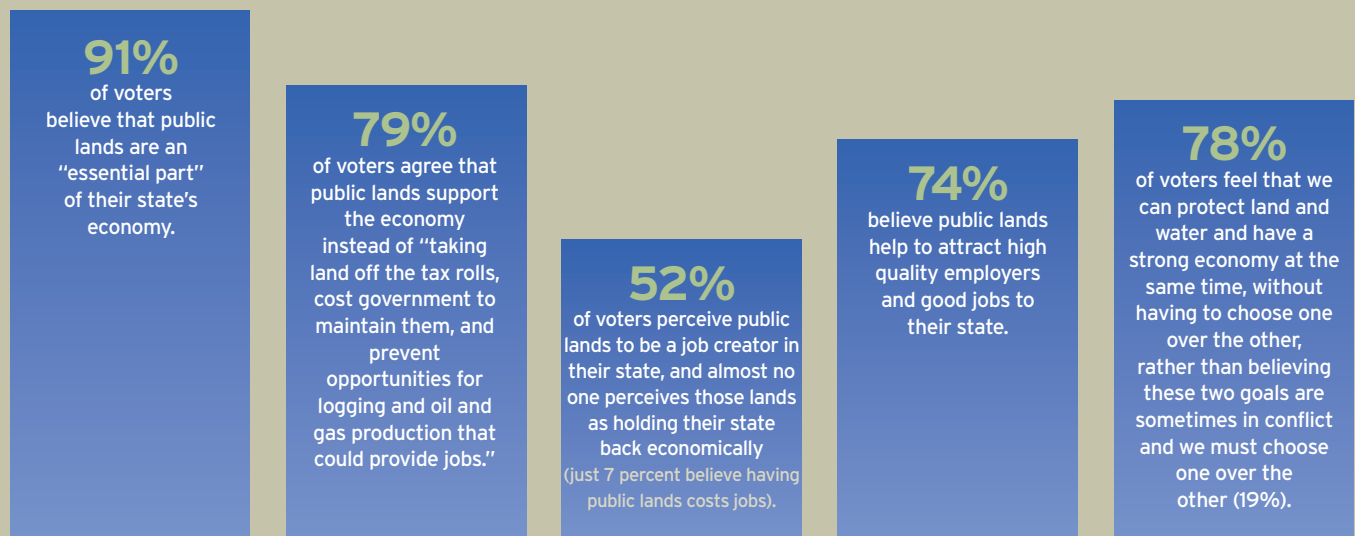
Several recent studies and surveys show overwhelming public support for national parks and monuments, refuges and open range, sagebrush steppe, and rugged canyon landscapes encompassed by public lands. Polls of voters in the Rocky Mountain West show that people recognize the benefits of public lands — from the money and jobs generated by tourism, hunting, fishing, and other recreation to the high quality of life that comes with living in scenic areas with clean air and easy access to vacation spots. Businesses surveyed recognize that proximity to open spaces, wildlife, and public parks gives them an advantage in attracting highly qualified employees looking for a desirable place to live and work. People also strongly identify with that most American of ideas — that public lands provide each of us a place where we are free to hike, cast a line, watch eagles soar, or track an elk through snowy woods.



Voters Recognize That Public Lands Support the Economy

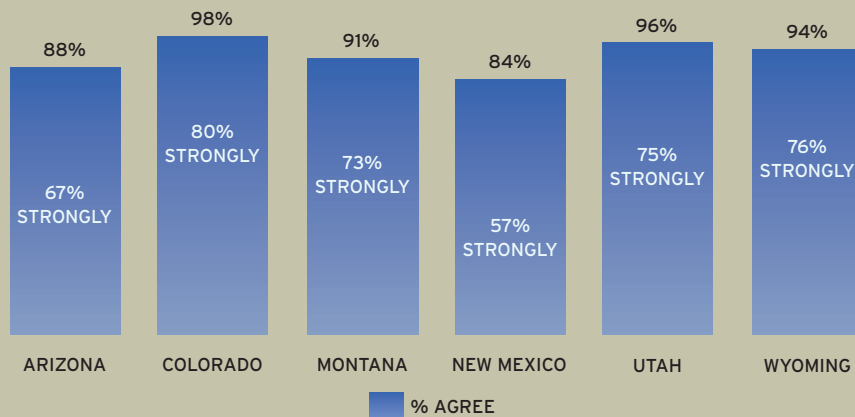
The fact that public lands help support local economies is echoed in public sentiment. Most Westerners believe that public lands are an essential part of their state's economy. They recognize that public lands create jobs and attract high quality employers.

A BIPARTISAN POLL OF VOTERS THROUGHOUT THE WEST FOUND THAT:



Source: Weigel, L. and Metz, D. *Conservation in the West Poll*. Sponsored by the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. 2013.

AGREEMENT THAT PUBLIC LANDS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THEIR STATE'S ECONOMY (RESPONSES FROM 6 STATES)



Source: Weigel, L. and Metz, D. *Conservation in the West Poll*. Sponsored by the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. 2013.

Sportsmen, who make up 39 percent of Western voters, are avid supporters of public land as an economic driver. Sportsmen are nearly unanimous that public lands are an essential part of their state's economy (94 percent agree) and seven-in-ten agree that the presence of these lands helps attract high quality employers and good jobs (72 percent).³⁴ Most sportsmen believe public lands in their state support the economy, provide recreation opportunities, and enhance the quality of life (77 percent), rather than being

a fiscal burden and preventing creation of jobs in traditional industries (16 percent).³⁵

Small business owners also recognize the value of public lands to the Western economy. Nearly half of small business owners say they choose to do business in their state because of opportunities tied to public lands, such as outdoor recreation.³⁶ A vast majority (90 percent) agree that local businesses benefit from public lands that draw visitors.³⁷



“The work of land conservation is not just about protecting material nature — plants, animals, and ecosystems — but also about protecting human values and cultural landscapes. Put simply: we protect nature because we love the land. We protect preserves and natural areas and open space because they stand for some of our dearly held values. ... History and the land are the core of our patriotism as a nation, and sustain our vision of what the United States is and should be as a nation: our best dream of what we aspire to become.”

William Cronon; “Saving the Land We Love: Land Conservation and American Values,” Keynote Address for the Land Trust Alliance Rally, Madison, Wisconsin, October 17, 2005



Adventures on public lands are the spice of life for Wyoming resident

Public lands are an important part of my life. They helped me decide where I live. I live in western Wyoming because a large portion of the land belongs to me. It is not mine exclusively and I would not want to be the sole owner.

Public lands are a buffet that offers me a variety of experiences. I can hike, fish, ski, hunt, climb, explore, walk my dogs, or observe wildlife. My adventure could be as short as an hour or over a week. On the rare day when I cannot take advantage of the public lands around me, I can look out my window and see where I would rather be.

Much of the public land that surrounds me is big country. A large portion of it is little changed from when the fur trappers first explored the area. Unlike many other parts of the U.S., it is still home to all the big animals that roamed the country when it was first settled.

They add spice to the buffet of activities available to me on public lands. I have great stories about encounters with bears, wolves and other wildlife. There are some places I go to learn about myself and to test myself. There are other places I go to learn about wildlife and the natural world. When I cannot get into the public places that are special to me, I can think about past adventures. The memories keep me going until the next adventure.

Public lands are not just where I recreate; they are also where I get my food. I hunt on National Forest, BLM lands, State and Federal Wildlife Refuges, and State Lands. Each year I hunt grouse, ducks, geese, deer, elk and perhaps antelope. In a few special years I have had the privilege to hunt bison and bighorn sheep. Public land helps me feed both my body and my soul. I cannot put a price on public land, but I know it is one of my most valued possessions. That is why I fight to preserve the public lands we all own.

Armond Acri, Wyoming Wildlife Federation



Voters Support Protections for Land, Water, Air and Wildlife

A number of surveys show that the American people — from sportsmen to business owners — believe that our public lands, clean water and air, and wildlife are fragile and need to be cared for and protected. The results of a national survey indicate that protecting air quality, water quality, wildlife habitat, unique wild plant and animal species, and being able to pass wilderness on to future generations are all consistently rated as the top five most important benefits of protected federal lands.³⁸ To safeguard these values for future generations, most Americans agree that we need to enforce strong environmental laws and set aside sensitive and critical areas.

PLAY BY THE RULES

Two-thirds of Western voters believe the current laws protecting land, air, and water should be strengthened, or at least better enforced.³⁹ Western voters are twice as likely to view environmental laws as “important safeguards” than to perceive them as costly and burdensome regulations.⁴⁰ More voters recognize that environmental laws have a positive impact rather than a negative impact on economic factors such as business opportunities and job growth.⁴¹ Even if there was an economic reason to scale

back environmental laws, three-quarters of voters say they prefer to maintain protections for land, air, and water rather than reduce those standards.⁴²

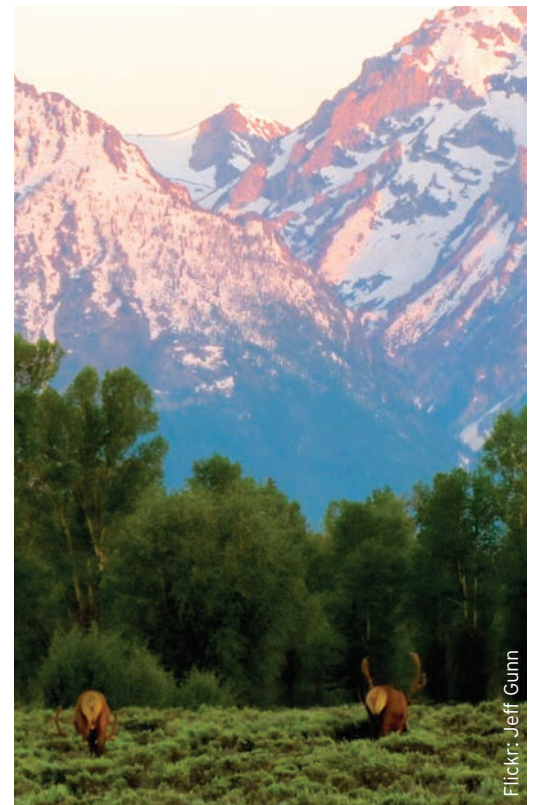
The desire to ensure enforcement of existing laws is even more strongly held when specifically applied to resource extraction industries. More than four-in-five voters across the West agree that “we need to do more to ensure oil, gas and mining companies follow laws protecting our land, air and water.” Fully 81 percent of voters agree with this view (56 percent strongly agree), while 17 percent disagree.⁴³ Only 21 percent of Western voters agree that “we can trust companies to act responsibly to protect your state’s land, water and wildlife on their own, without laws and regulations that require them to do so.” Fully 78 percent reject this idea.⁴⁴

PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT

Many Americans agree that some public lands should be permanently protected from development. Americans express widespread support for increasing or maintaining funding for environmental protection, according to results from a national poll.⁴⁵ In the West, a majority of small

business owners (75 percent) support permanent protections for public lands — such as national monument designations — because they believe protecting these lands would positively impact small business opportunities, local job growth, and state economies.⁴⁶ The desire to preserve public lands remains strong when measured against the need to ensure America’s energy independence. Fifty-six percent of Western voters say that environmentally sensitive public lands should be permanently protected from oil and gas drilling.⁴⁷ America’s sportsmen also recognize the need to develop our energy resources responsibly; 88 percent agree that fishing, hunting, protecting wildlife habitat, and keeping air and water clean should be considered prior to the federal government issuing a lease to develop oil and gas on public lands.⁴⁸ And given a choice between protecting America’s public lands and prioritizing the production of oil, gas, and coal, 49 percent of surveyed sportsmen and women want to protect public lands and just 35 percent would choose fossil fuel production.⁴⁹

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”



Public lands feed a lifetime of memories for Idaho fisherman

As a native Idahoan who has spent a lot of time enjoying the public lands in Idaho and the West, I have sometimes taken the use of public lands for granted. Going fishing and hunting every year since I can remember has made the outdoor experience as much a part of me as waking up each day and brewing a pot of coffee.

I remember times spent with my father, brother and friends "Leap-frog fishing" on small creeks when camping. We would each find a hole to fish for awhile and then move up or down stream past each other in leap-frog style and would fish for hours without saying much to each other than "Catch any? How big?" Time spent on public lands fishing, hunting and exploring has always been a spiritual journey for me whether I am alone, sitting around a campfire with friends and family or just driving down a back road looking to find what is around the next bend.

In my years wandering the National Forests and BLM lands, while fishing, hunting and sight-seeing I have witnessed many of nature's marvels. A wolverine, two buck deer fighting, osprey diving into Cascade Lake catching fish, six wolves running up hill, bull elk bugling in a misty morning rain, beavers swimming in Sage Hen lake, a cougar crossing the road, salmon spawning in a crystal clear stream and...much more.

As I now am enjoying more time camping and fishing with grand-kids the legacy of our public lands is becoming more important to me. It is my hope that our grandchildren will also have public lands so common to them that they take them for granted, and their parents have an "epiphany" moment when they become aware of the critical need to work and preserve the legacy of our national public lands.



Steve Gale



Flickr: USFWS Rich Keen

Steve Gale, Idaho



Anicka Olsen

Public lands inspire conservation ethic in Colorado native

I grew up in rural Colorado, between the small towns of Salida and Buena Vista. I was lucky enough to have the public lands around the Collegiate Peaks of the Rocky Mountains as my backyard, the Arkansas River as my front yard, and many acres of additional public lands nearby. As a child one doesn't realize that this is a fortunate blessing that not everyone experiences. I simply grew up under the assumption that most people went rafting, skiing, hiking, biking, hunting and fishing as we did.

In hindsight, this access to public lands deeply shaped my development. Thanks to my time spent

in the outdoors, I developed an awareness of the impact humans have on the environment and the need to minimize that in order to conserve these areas for myself and others. My conservation ethic guided my educational and career choices. On a deeper level, the time that I spend in our public lands serves as a way to remind me to focus on the present and to concern myself with only what is necessary in the moment. It gives me opportunities to share experiences with family, friends, and sometimes strangers that seem more meaningful given the setting and lack of routine distractions. It also allows me to remember that I am only a small part of a much bigger world.

In a way, public lands mean everything to me. I cannot imagine who I would be without the experiences I have had in them. Just as I cannot imagine many of those experiences would have been possible without public lands in which to have them. Most of all, I recognize the importance of having public lands around in the future so others may have the opportunity to have their own experiences in these places that will shape their perspectives.

Anicka Olsen, Colorado

“As economists and academics in related fields, we believe that federal protected public lands are essential to the West’s economic future. These public lands, including national parks, wilderness areas and national monuments, attract innovative companies and workers, and are an essential component of the region’s competitive advantage. . . . The U.S. is now predominantly a service-based economy, and the fastest-growing regions are those that have been able to attract talented workers, entrepreneurs, and investors across all sectors of the economy. In the West especially, public lands play a pivotal role in attracting and retaining people and businesses.”

Voters Oppose Proposals to Sell Off Public Lands

Recent polls show that Americans want public lands to remain in public ownership. Most people oppose the sale of public lands, even if selling these lands would reduce the nation's deficit or promote energy development. Many members of the public fear that allowing private companies to buy or develop public lands will limit public access to these lands and will threaten the many benefits provided by public lands.

KEEP PUBLIC LANDS PUBLIC

A significant majority of Western voters (67 percent) oppose proposals to sell off public lands. In fact, 50 percent strongly oppose selling some public lands.⁵¹ Only 27 percent of voters support selling some public lands. Most people, including sportsmen, oppose selling some federal public lands as a way to reduce the nation's budget deficit.⁵² In fact, 71



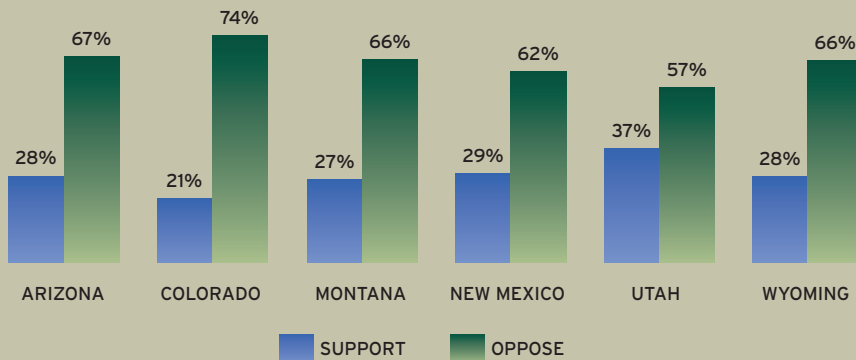
Flickr: christian_grimm

percent of voters surveyed believe selling off public lands to corporations for development will hurt their economy and quality of life.⁵³

PROTECT PUBLIC ACCESS

A national poll of sportsmen and women shows how much they value access to public lands: a huge majority (79 percent) support allowing hunters and anglers access to public lands that to date have been inaccessible.⁵⁴ And among Western voters, the opinion that commercial activities on public lands should not affect their access to or experience on public lands is strongly supported. Fully 69 percent of voters⁵⁵ and 63 percent of small business owners⁵⁶ agree that private companies should not be allowed to develop our public lands when their doing so would limit the public's enjoyment of or access to these lands.

OPPOSITION TO SELLING PUBLIC LANDS (RESPONSES FROM 6 STATES)



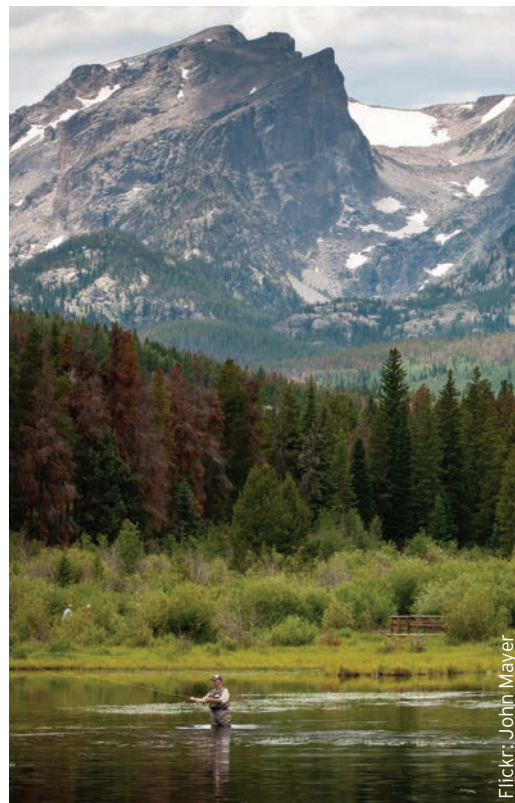
Source: Weigel, L. and Metz, D. *Conservation in the West Poll*. Sponsored by the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. 2013.



Flickr: USFWS Headquarters

ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE OUT OF TOUCH

Even though our national parks, national forests, and other public lands provide many benefits to the U.S. economy and are highly valued by the American public, far too many of these lands are under attack by Congress and Western legislatures. Throughout the 112th and 113th Congresses, our elected lawmakers introduced dozens of bills that sought to roll back protections for public lands. Recently, legislatures in several Western states have considered proposals asking for the federal government to give public lands to the states. This is not a new phenomenon. Conflicts over ownership and management of federal land have long been a feature of politics in the West. But broad public support for preserving this land has repeatedly overcome proposals that threaten public ownership and environmental protections.



Attempts to Transfer Public Land Out of Public Ownership

“As a sportsman who has taken his family on many fishing and backpacking trips on public lands and can’t wait to take my next trip out West, I can say that these proposals in Congress are bad for wildlife and for those of us that enjoy the outdoors. We need to stand up for the backcountry and make sure that we don’t lose our best places to hunt, fish, and camp.”

Ed Perry, Don’t give up your public lands to anyone or any agency, *The Pocono Record* (August 5, 2012)

Current attacks on our public lands include proposals to give away millions of acres of federally owned land. In the U.S. Congress, representatives from Western states have introduced legislation that would give federal land to the states or would require selling this land to private interests. State lawmakers, too, are demanding that the federal government give states control over federal lands within their borders. In just the past year, legislatures in seven Western states have passed, introduced, or explored legislation demanding that the federal government turn over millions of acres of federal public lands to the states.



FEDERAL PROPOSALS TO TURN OVER FEDERAL LANDS

- **American Land Act** (H.R. 1017, 113th Congress), by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX). This bill would force the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to sell 8 percent of their respective federal land to the highest bidder, annually until 2017. This year alone, the two agencies would be forced to sell off nearly 36 million acres of forest and public land to corporate interests.
- **Action Plan for Public Lands and Education Act** (H.R. 2852, 112th Congress), by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT). This bill would force the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to give away, free of charge, 5 percent of their lands to each Western state. This would leave 30 million acres in the West vulnerable to more resource extraction and development.

- **Disposal of Federal Lands Act** (H.R. 1126, 112th Congress), by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT). This bill would force the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming to sell off “excess” public lands to the highest bidder. This bill was also incorporated into the House budget bill in the 113th Congress.
- **Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act** a.k.a. “Resolution Copper” (H.R. 687 and S. 339, 113th Congress), by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) and Senator John McCain (R-AZ). This proposal would swap public land near Superior, AZ with land owned by Resolution Copper mining, which would allow a massive copper mine to move forward in Southeast Arizona. The impact to water, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources from a mine of this scale would be devastating.

STATE PROPOSALS TO TURN OVER FEDERAL LANDS

- **Arizona:** Senate Bill 1332, introduced in the spring of 2012 but vetoed by the governor, would have required Congress to turn over 25 million acres of public lands to the state by the end of 2014, or the state would have sued.⁵⁷ In addition, voters defeated a ballot measure — Proposition 120 — that would have amended the state’s constitution to “declare Arizona’s sovereignty and jurisdiction over the ‘air, water, public lands, minerals, wildlife and other natural resources within the state’s boundaries.’”⁵⁸
- **Colorado:** Senate Bill 13-142 would ask that the federal government turn over all “agricultural lands” to the state by December 31, 2014.⁵⁹ The bill was introduced in January 2013 and failed in committee in early February.⁶⁰ The idea was

reintroduced as Senate Joint Resolution 13-031 in April 2013 and failed to pass before the end of the legislative session.⁶¹

- **Idaho:** In March 2013, the Idaho Senate passed House Concurrent Resolution 22, which asks Congress to transfer title for federally owned lands within Idaho’s borders to the state government. The resolution, which would apply to about 16 million acres of public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, has no legal effect.⁶²
- **Nevada:** Two Assemblymen introduced a bill during the 2013 legislative session that would create a committee to conduct a study of the effects that a land transfer would have on the state “in contemplation of Congress turning over the management and control of those public lands to the State of Nevada on or before June 30, 2015.”⁶³
- **New Mexico:** The Transfer of Public Land Act, introduced in early 2013, calls on the federal government to turn 23 million acres of New Mexico’s public lands over to the state by the

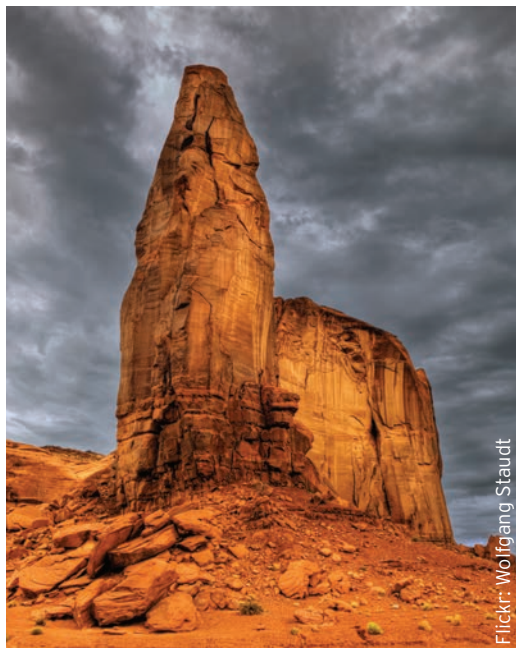
end of 2015 and creates a public lands transfer task force to study the process of taking ownership of these federal lands.⁶⁴

- **Utah:** The Transfer of Public Lands Act and Related Study, signed into law in March 2012, established a deadline of December 31, 2014, for the federal government to turn over Utah’s nearly 20 million acres of public lands to the state, or it will sue.⁶⁵
- **Wyoming:** The Transfer of Federal Lands Study, which passed the state legislature in early 2013, would require the state attorney general to study “possible legal recourses available to compel the federal government to relinquish ownership and management of specified federal lands in Wyoming,” and would establish a task force focused on the land transfer.⁶⁶

The sponsors of these bills claim that people living in Western states are upset about the way the federal government manages public lands and that federal management prevents resource development and limits economic benefits to the states.⁶⁷ If the



Flickr: Angell Williams



Flickr: Wolfgang Staudt

bills' sponsors succeed in their aims, these lands will be used in whatever way the new owner — state or private — wants to use them. This generally means maximizing private profits through resource extraction rather

than managing for the long-term benefit of the American public.

In truth, these proposals contradict the majority of public opinion in Western states, as well as economic realities. Americans support federal management of our public lands and value the economic benefits these lands provide. The American people do not want to see the land turned over to states or private interests. Furthermore, public lands already provide an extraordinary economic impact, both from traditional resource development and from outdoor recreation.

In addition, Western states would have difficulty managing millions of additional acres of land, especially given budgetary constraints. These states currently own and manage extensive holdings of state trust lands. State trust lands are lands granted by Congress to newly formed states to

support essential public institutions. Some western states have sold up to half of their original state trust lands — and the remainder is managed for the sale and lease of natural resources, including timber, oil, and gas. If this trend is any indication of how states would manage newly acquired public lands, it does not bode well for millions of hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreationists.

Finally, these state proposals are most likely unconstitutional. Under the U.S. constitution, the constitutions of most western states, and court decisions dating back to the 1800s, public lands are to be owned and managed by the federal government. This fact has been widely recognized by federal courts, state lawyers, and governors. Therefore, these misguided attempts will only serve to waste state and federal resources.

Attempts to Weaken Protection of Public Lands

For decades, cornerstone conservation laws like the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have protected public lands. These laws are intended to ensure public participation and to preserve clean air, clean water, treasured places, and plentiful wildlife for future generations and safeguard them from excessive exploitation. Recently, many members of Congress have been working to dismantle these vital protections and open public lands to increased resource exploitation and development. For example, in the first session of the 112th Congress, House Republicans voted 191 times to weaken environmental protections, halt wilderness designations, and remove protections for wildlife.⁶⁸ Examples of legislation that poses significant risks to our public lands includes:

- **Wilderness & Roadless Release Act** (H.R. 1581, 112th Congress), by Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA). This bill would open roadless areas in national forests and wilderness study areas on public lands to road building, development, and resource extraction. This would leave some of the most sensitive lands in the country vulnerable to habitat destruction and pollution.
- **Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act** (H.R. 1825, 113th Congress), by Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI). This bill would amend the Wilderness Act and could allow motorized vehicles, temporary road building, construction, and logging in pristine wilderness areas, as well as doing away with environmental review of federal management decisions for National Wildlife Refuges. Without the legal

protections that come with a Wilderness designation, pristine areas and the wildlife that depend on them could be lost forever to exploitation.

- **Conservation & Economic Growth Act** (H.R. 2578, 112th Congress), by Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA). This



Flickr: USFWS Headquarters

package of lands bills would allow a corporation to clearcut old growth in Alaska, allow motorized vehicles near turtle nesting areas on Cape Hatteras National Seashore (in North Carolina) and in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (in Minnesota), and waive 16 cornerstone environmental and public health laws within 100 miles of the Canadian and Mexican borders. The package would also gut conservation protections associated with grazing on federal lands to exclude the management of livestock grazing from environmental review.

- **National Security & Federal Lands Protection Act** (H.R. 1505, 112th Congress), by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT). This bill would exempt the Department of Homeland Security and the Border Patrol from 36 environmental and public health laws within 100 miles of the Canadian and Mexican borders, including the Safe Drinking Water Act and Endangered Species Act. This could open national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and public lands to road and fence building, motorized vehicle use, and tower and checkpoint construction without any notice to the public.
- **National Wildlife Refuge Review Act** (H.R. 638, 113th Congress), by Rep. John Fleming (R-LA). If passed, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) could no longer establish new refuges, which would lead to many worthy refuge proposals never receiving protection. It would also take away the flexibility to move quickly to conserve wildlife habitats that are threatened by development. This bill is unnecessary: the FWS has never created a refuge against the wishes of Congress and always partners with local shareholders.
- **Land Acquisition to cut National Debt (LAND) Act** (H.R. 1021, 113th Congress), by Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH). The LAND Act would prohibit any net increase in federal land



acreage unless the federal budget is balanced for the year of purchase. This would effectively put an end to a wide array of conservation projects that protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, and other federal areas through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). By holding LWCF expenditures hostage to balanced budget requirements, H.R. 1021 treats this program, which is already paid for, differently than any other federal program.

- **Anti-Antiquities Act Legislation** Preserve Land Freedom for Americans Act (H.R. 382), Bill to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Nevada except by express authorization of Congress (H.R. 432), Utah Land Sovereignty Act (H.R. 758, 113th Congress), New Mexico Land Sovereignty Act (H.R. 1512, 113th Congress), Montana Land Sovereignty Act (H.R. 1434), Idaho Land Sovereignty Act (H.R. 1439), Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act (H.R. 1459, 113th Congress). A host of legislation that attacks the Antiquities Act, which would

override the President's 100+ year authority to designate new national monuments. A non-partisan issue, each President since Theodore Roosevelt has used this authority to protect some of the most iconic places in the United States.

If the sponsors of these bills have their way, cornerstone protections that have safeguarded our public lands for decades will be undone, and the recreation industries and small town economies that depend on these natural settings will suffer. The proposed bills prove that many members of Congress are out of touch with the values of their constituents. As one congressman commented, the "anti-environment agenda is completely out-of-touch with what the American public wants."⁶⁹

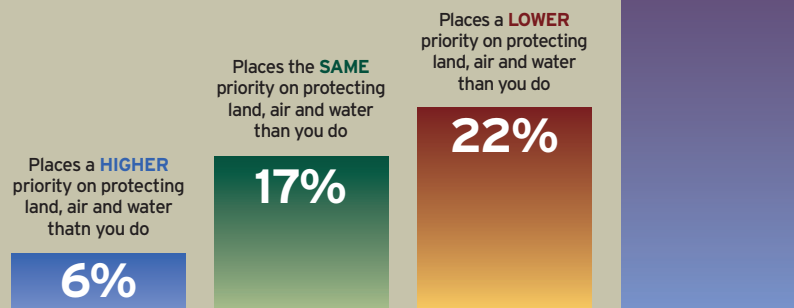
WHY THE DISCONNECT?

So why is there an ideological gap between the actions of our elected officials and the values of their constituents? Clearly the power and influence of industry lobbying and campaign contributions plays a role.⁷⁰ But, a recent poll offers an additional explanation: the majority of voters in

western states are not aware of their representatives' view on public lands issues.⁷¹ Indeed, survey data indicates that while most Westerners take a positive view of a candidate who supports protecting public lands and takes pro-conservation positions, they don't know their congressional representative's record on protecting land, air, and water.⁷² It's up to individual citizens to hold elected officials and decision makers accountable to the values that define our public lands heritage. We must ensure that our voices carry greater influence than the limitless bank accounts of the private interests that would sell off and degrade our children's inheritance.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR REPRESENTATIVE'S STANCE ON PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES?

"Would you say that your Member of Congress probably..."



Source: Weigel, L. and Metz, D. *Conservation in the West Poll*. Sponsored by the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. 2013.

“To the politicians who say they don’t know why we have public lands, or who are so constipated by ideology that they cannot see what every public lands hunter knows, I say: Join us.

Let’s go elk and antelope hunting on the BLM lands of the Fortification Creek in Wyoming, or drift into the Hole-in-the-Wall and walk the same trails as Butch Cassidy and his gang. Rock climbing and safe shooting on the vast federal estate of Nevada, fishing the high country of Colorado, riding horses to New Mexico’s Valle Vidal. We’ll run hogs in the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi, shoot ducks on the Cache River.

Join us, and see what free people do on the lands that visionaries set aside for us all, long ago, so that we would never lose the basic frontiersman’s

edge that made this country different from all the others, so that our children would grow up strong under heaven’s blue eye and learn the ways of wildlife and wild places, and learn what it is that we fight for, when we have to fight.

Join us. We’ll show you something that you’ll want to fight for, too.”

Hal Herring, *How Public Land Has Shaped and Defined My Entire Life*, *Field and Stream* (March 23, 2012).



MAKING THE CONNECTION

Recommendations

Public lands — from the forested peaks of the Appalachian Mountains to the great wonder of the Grand Canyon — are a uniquely American tradition. These lands have provided generations of Americans the opportunity to hunt, fish, hike, and explore the untamed backcountry. They provide us with clean air and water and sustain healthy populations of fish and wildlife. They contribute to nearly all sectors of the economy. Given the importance of public lands, both to the U.S. economy and to the American people, protecting these lands is essential.

Get Involved

You have the power to protect our public lands with your voice and your vote. In the words of Henry David Thoreau, “If we were left solely to the wordy wit of legislators in Congress for our guidance, uncorrected by the seasoned experience and the effectual complaints of the people, America would not long retain her rank among the nations.” Communicating with elected officials and other decision makers is vital to fend off the efforts of special interests who know how to play the political game. Citizens around the country have been successful in demonstrating that public lands are an important part of the American way of life that should be protected for generations. The most important thing you can do is let decision makers know that you are paying attention.

JOIN THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION IN CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS TO:

1. Keep public lands in public hands.

Our parks, forests, and other public lands were set aside for the common good of the American people. They should not be turned over to states or private interests.

2. Enhance the quality and quantity of outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands.

These lands are owned by the American people; we should all have an equal chance to enjoy them.

3. Provide robust conservation funding for our parks, forests,

refuges, and other public lands.

Investing in our public lands ensures that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to connect with the outdoors.

4. Protect wildlife habitat and create new conservation areas by establishing new and enlarging existing parks, monuments, preserves, recreation areas, and other protected landscapes.

5. Maintain bedrock conservation laws, which have protected and preserved our public lands and natural resources for decades. Also, close loopholes in existing laws that allow industry to pollute public land, air, and water and fragment wildlife habitat.



TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD AND DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING OUR PUBLIC LANDS:

1. **Take advantage of opportunities for citizen involvement** in decisions affecting our public lands: public meetings and hearings with decision makers, public comments periods, town hall meetings, and other forms of citizen engagement.
2. **Reach out directly to your elected officials** through letters, phone calls, or social media platforms. Tell them you value our public lands. Your representatives are duty-bound to listen.
3. **Inspire your children and grandchildren** to become the next generation of conservation leaders by taking them outside to hike, fish, hunt, and watch wildlife.
4. **Join local, regional, and national groups** like the National Wildlife Federation that fight for your conservation priorities.

**TO LEARN MORE AND TAKE ACTION, VISIT
WWW.OURPUBLICLANDS.ORG AND
WWW.NWF.ORG/SPORTSMEN.**

Endnotes

- ¹ John Fielder has worked tirelessly to promote the protection of Colorado's ranches, open spaces, and wildlands during his 30-year career as a nature photographer. His photography has influenced people and legislation, earning him recognition including the Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award in 1993 and, in 2011, the Aldo Leopold Foundation's first Achievement Award given to an individual. Over 40 books have been published depicting his Colorado photography. He lives in Summit County, Colorado, and operates a fine art gallery, John Fielder's Colorado, in Denver's Art District on Santa Fe. He teaches photography workshops to adults and children. Information about John and his work can be found at johnfielder.com.
- ² In this report, the terms "public land(s)" and "federal land(s)" are used interchangeably to refer to any land owned and managed by the federal government, regardless of its mode of acquisition or managing agency.
- ³ Outdoor Industry Association. *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*. 2012. http://www.outdoorindustry.org/pdf/OIA_OutdoorRecEconomyReport2012.pdf
- ⁴ Southwick Associates. *The Conservation Economy in America: Direct Investments and Economic Contributions*. Prepared for The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. February 18, 2013. <http://www.avcrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NFWF-Conservation-Economy-Rpt-Southwick-3-11-2013.pdf>. (This report defines "natural resource conservation" as steps intended to support the protection, restoration, or management of native fish and wildlife species and/or acquisitions to protect and enhance habitat).
- ⁵ *The Conservation Economy in America: Direct Investments and Economic Contributions*, *supra* note 4
- ⁶ Headwaters Economics. *West Is Best: How Public Lands in the West Create a Competitive Economic Advantage*. November 2012. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/west-is-best-value-of-public-lands/>; Southwick Associates. *Conserving Lands and Prosperity: Seeking a Proper Balance Between Conservation and Development in the Rocky Mountain West*. Produced for Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development. May 22, 2012. <http://www.sportsmen4responsibleenergy.org/special-reports/conserving-lands/introduction.html>
- ⁷ Headwaters Economics, *supra* note 6
- ⁸ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3; Outdoor Foundation. *Outdoor Recreation Participation Report 2012*. 2012. <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2012.pdf>
- ⁹ Weigel, L. and Metz, D. *Conservation in the West Poll*. Sponsored by the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. January 2013. <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/>
- ¹⁰ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3
- ¹¹ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3 (Ripple effects include the impacts of spending, jobs and wages as they circulate further throughout the economy).
- ¹² Western Governors' Association. *A Snapshot of the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation*. June 2012. <http://www.outdoorindustry.org/images/researchfiles/SnapshotEconomicImpact.pdf?160>

- ¹³ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3
- ¹⁴ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3
- ¹⁵ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3
- ¹⁶ Western Governors' Association, *supra* note 12
- ¹⁷ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3
- ¹⁸ Outdoor Industry Association, *supra* note 3
- ¹⁹ U.S. Department of the Interior: Office of Policy Analysis. *The Department of the Interior's Economic Contributions, Fiscal Year 2011*. July 9, 2012. <http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=308931>; National Park Service. *Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation, 2011*. Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/ARD/NRR-2013/632. February 2013. <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/docs/NPSSystemEstimates2011.pdf>; Headwaters Economics. *Economic Impact of National Parks*. 2011. <http://headwaterseconomics.org/headwaters/economic-impact-of-national-parks/>
- ²⁰ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. December 2012. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/fhw11-nat.pdf>; Southwick Associates. *Hunting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*. Produced for the National Shooting Sports Foundation in partnership with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 2012. http://www.nssf.org/PDF/research/HuntingInAmerica_EconomicForceForConservation.pdf; Southwick Associates. *Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*. Produced for the American Sportfishing Association. 2012. http://asafishing.org/uploads/2011_ASASportfishing_in_America_Report_January_2013.pdf
- ²¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *supra* note 20; *Hunting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, *supra* note 20; *Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, *supra* note 20.
- ²² *Hunting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, *supra* note 20
- ²³ *Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation*, *supra* note 20
- ²⁴ Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance. *Hunters see value in federal tracts, oppose selling them – poll*. March 26, 2013. <http://www.bullmoosesportsmen.org/hunters-see-value-in-federal-tracts-oppose-selling-them-poll>
- ²⁵ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *supra* note 20
- ²⁶ For resources on this topic see: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/reports/protected-lands-value/>.
- ²⁷ Hardner, J. and McKenney, B. *The U.S. National Park System: An Economic Asset at Risk*. Prepared for the National Park Conservation Association. May 30, 2006. http://www.npca.org/assets/pdf/NPCA_Economic_Significance_Report.pdf
- ²⁸ Headwaters Economics, *supra* note 6
- ²⁹ Headwaters Economics, *supra* note 6
- ³⁰ Southwick Associates. *The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation and Historic Preservation in the United States*. Produced for or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. October 10, 2011. http://www.trcp.org/assets/pdf/The_Economic_Value_of_Outdoor_Recreation.pdf; *Conserving Lands and Prosperity*, *supra* note 6; U.S. Department of the Interior: Office of Policy Analysis, *supra* note 19
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- ³² *Conserving Lands and Prosperity*, *supra* note 6
- ³³ *Conserving Lands and Prosperity*, *supra* note 6
- ³⁴ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9; Bullmoose Sportsmen's Alliance, *supra* note 24 (91 percent of hunters agreed that "public lands like our national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife areas are an essential part of our economy").
- ³⁵ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9; Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, *supra* note 24 ("80 percent of sportsmen agree more that public lands are an economic asset for hunters and other outdoor recreationists, compared to 17 percent who said they agreed more that public lands "take land off the tax rolls, cost government to maintain them, and prevent opportunities for logging and oil and gas production that could provide jobs.")
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³⁹ Weigel, L. and Metz, D. *Conservation in the West Poll*. Sponsored by the Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. January 2011. <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/stateoftherockies/conservationinthewest/2011/2011CWPReport.pdf>

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⁴¹ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2012, *supra* note 40

⁴² *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2012, *supra* note 40; *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2011, *supra* note 39

⁴³ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2011, *supra* note 39

⁴⁴ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2012, *supra* note 40

⁴⁵ Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. *As Sequester Deadline Looms, Little Support for Cutting Most Programs*. February 22, 2013. <http://www.people-press.org/2013/02/22/as-sequester-deadline-looms-little-support-for-cutting-most-programs/>

⁴⁶ Small Business Majority, *supra* note 36 (65 percent of business owners believe that designating new national parks and monuments would enhance local jobs and the economy, 57 percent say it would impact small business opportunities tied to public lands, and 52 percent agree it would help their state attract and retain new business and entrepreneurs).

⁴⁷ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9

⁴⁸ National Wildlife Federation. *National Survey of Hunters and Anglers*. 2012. <http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Wildlife/Sportsmen/2012PollSlides.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20130103T1341556196>

⁴⁹ National Wildlife Federation, *supra* note 48

⁵⁰ For a copy of the full letter to the President see: <http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/economists-president-public-lands/>.

⁵¹ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9

⁵² *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9 (31 percent support / 64 percent oppose); Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance, *supra* note 24 (73 percent of hunters reject the sale of public lands as a way to help reduce the budget deficit).

⁵³ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9

⁵⁴ National Wildlife Federation, *supra* note 48

⁵⁵ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2012, *supra* note 40

⁵⁶ Small Business Majority, *supra* note 36

⁵⁷ State of Arizona Senate Bill 1332. 2012. <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1332h.pdf>; Paul Davenport. "Ariz. gov. vetoes bill that demanded federal land." *The Guardian*. May 15, 2012. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/10242452>

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⁶⁴ State of New Mexico House Bill 292. 2013. <http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/13%20Regular/bills/house/HB0292.html>

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⁷⁰ See, e.g., OpenSecrets.org. Center for Responsive Politics. <http://www.opensecrets.org/>

⁷¹ *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9

⁷² *Conservation in the West Poll*, 2013, *supra* note 9



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The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization. We work with more than 4 million members, partners and supporters, including 48 state and territory affiliate organizations, to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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