



Photo: Mason Cummings, The Wilderness Society

America's Public Land Act

Protecting our shared natural heritage



Public Lands Under Threat

The United States contains over 674 million acres of public lands, including parks, monuments and wildlife refuges found in all 50 states. They include iconic places like the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and Yellowstone National Park.

These places belong to all of us. They provide a shared heritage and a source of wonder for residents and visitors alike.

Public lands provide clean air and water to nearby communities, as well as habitat for native plants and wildlife. Public lands are also an important economic driver across the nation. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation economy supports 7.6 million American jobs, generates \$887 billion in annual consumer spending, and provides nearly \$125 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Despite the overwhelming popularity of protected public lands, some western lawmakers are pushing an extreme agenda to seize these irreplaceable places and hand them over to developers, mining and energy companies.

The America's Public Land Act would prevent these radical efforts to sell off or give away public land. The bill would ensure that America's public lands forever remain in public hands.

The America's Public Land Act will ensure that one of America's most important natural resources—our shared public lands—will remain forever in public hands for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

The America's Public Lands Act:

- Reaffirms the importance of America's public lands
- Proclaims that it is in the public interest to retain public lands
- Prohibits any Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture from selling, giving away, or handing over management of our public lands, unless authorized by an act of Congress

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Q: Would this legislation affect existing land disposal authorizations, like land exchanges under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, land sales under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, or Good Neighbor Agreements?

A: No. The proposed legislation makes clear that it does not affect authorities enacted by Congress to dispose, or share management of public lands. There would be no effect on these authorities and no additional approval would be needed to undertake transaction or agreements under these authorities.

Q: Are the President and the Administration able to dispose of public lands now? What about giving away management authority?

A: We believe the President and the Administration lack the legal authority to sell or give away public lands, or to transfer management authority over public lands. However, we have witnessed recent land management actions we consider illegal, leading to court battles. Legislation clarifying this crucial issue would ensure decisions are made in the best interests of the American people.



Photo: Bob Wick, BLM

Public Lands & the Outdoor Recreation Economy

- Each year, more than 500 million people visit our federal public lands — primarily for outdoor recreation.
- More Americans are directly employed by hunting and fishing than by oil and gas extraction.
- The outdoor recreation industry contributes \$887 billion in annual consumer spending to the economy.
- 7.6 million Americans depend on jobs in the outdoor recreation economy and public lands.

APLA Supporters Include

- *Keep it Public* • *First Lite Hunting* • *Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, and Arizona Wildlife Federations* • *Backcountry Horsemen* • *The American Alpine Club* • *The Access Fund*
- *Winter Wildlands Alliance* • *Argali*
- *Wild Turkey Sportsmens Association* • *From Lot to Spot* • *Amigos de Los Rios* • *Community Nature Connection* • *New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light* • *Climate Resolve*



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We urge all Members of Congress to defend our public lands from any actions, legislative and administrative, that seek to undermine public lands and their management and support the *America's Public Land Act*.