

# FEDERALLY CONTROLLED PUBLIC LANDS



INSTEAD OF CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES,  
POLLUTED WATER AND DECIMATED WILDLIFE —

# THERE'S A BETTER PATH

AMERICANLANDSCOUNCIL.ORG



**AMERICAN  
LANDS COUNCIL**

ACCESS • HEALTH • PRODUCTIVITY





## BE A PART OF THE ONLY SOLUTION BIG ENOUGH...

The American Lands Council is a nationwide network of people who love our public lands, but know there is a better way to ensure greater accessibility, healthier conditions, and sustainable economic solutions.

The federal government controls over half of all land in the western United States, and unfortunately, in all too many cases this hasn't been working out very well. In fact, over the past several decades, Washington DC's out-of-touch policies have:

- Destroyed millions of acres of forests and grasslands
- Obliterated thousands of miles of access roads and trails
- Created multimillion dollar disasters that pollute our air and water
- Negatively impacted our economy, communities, and quality of life

It's time to bring land management decisions home — where they belong — because no group of people understands and cares for our lands more than the ones who live nearest to them. ALC is leading the charge to reduce inefficient federal bureaucracy and allow willing States to responsibly take over management of the public lands within their borders. In order to be successful, we need YOU to help!

**Go to [AmericanLandsCouncil.org](https://AmericanLandsCouncil.org) and click on the TAKE ACTION button.**

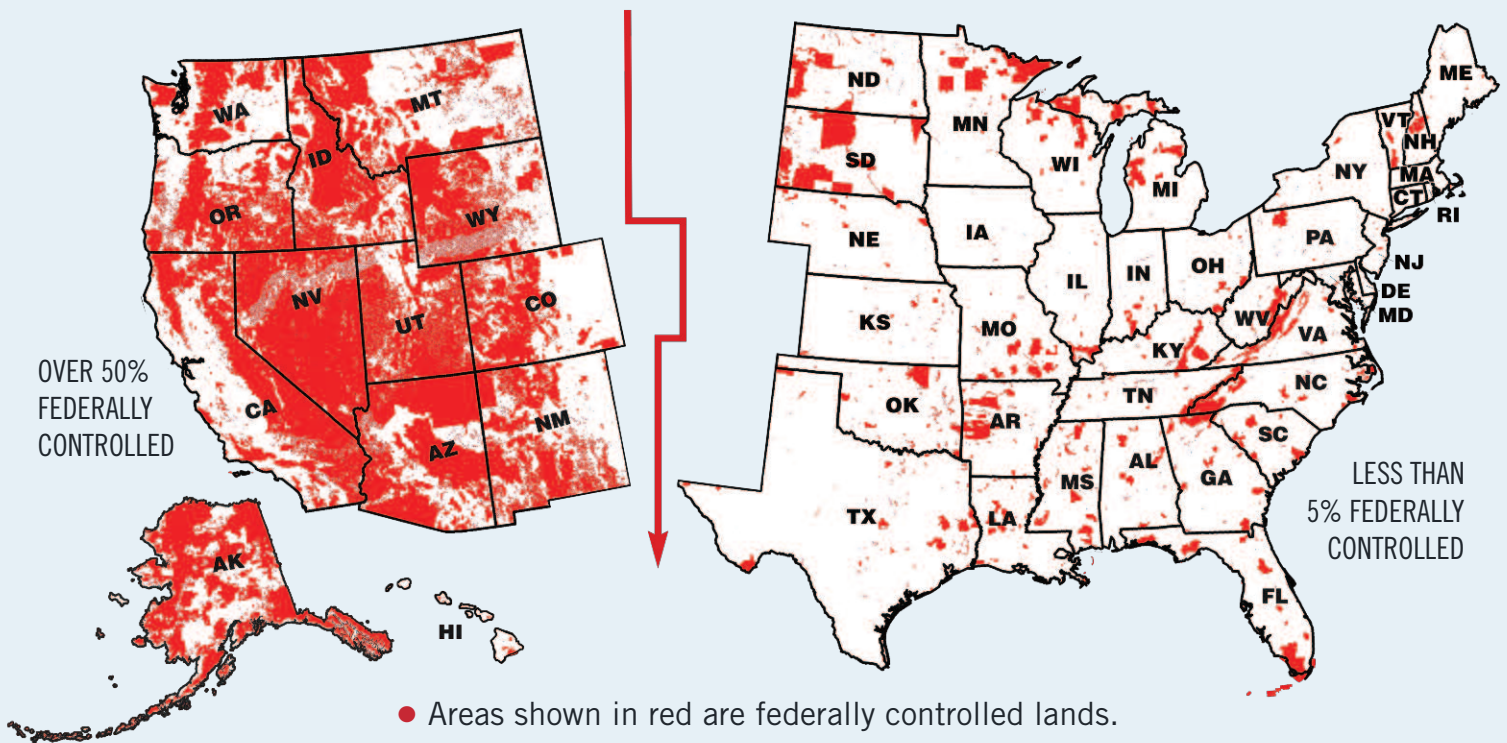


# PEOPLE ARE LISTENING, PEOPLE ARE ACTING

By working, speaking, and acting together, we can achieve what we all want...  
a healthy environment, abundant outdoor recreation, and safe, vibrant communities.

## THE FEDERAL FAULT LINE

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



To help bring land management decisions home, where they belong,  
go to [AmericanLandsCouncil.org](https://AmericanLandsCouncil.org) and click on the TAKE ACTION button.



# HERE ARE THE PATHWAYS FORWARD

**ALC is pursuing constitutionally-sound solutions for our public lands through all three branches of government ...**

## **THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: Immediate Relief is Possible Now**

ALC is working with President Trump's administration to eliminate unnecessary regulations, return power to the States, and bring much needed reform to the governance of our public lands and resources. Great progress is being made, but we must remember that Washington DC has its limits and executive actions are subject to reversal by future administrations—making the lasting solutions described below critical for long-term stability.

## **THE JUDICIAL BRANCH: States Have a Right to Be Equal**

The State of Utah is moving forward with a landmark lawsuit in favor of each State's constitutional right to govern the lands and resources within its own borders. The case has been carefully developed with assistance from ALC. When it is finally decided, the court is not likely to tell Congress how to divest title to the land, only that it must. This heightens the need for a federal bill providing for the orderly transfer of public lands to willing States, while reflecting state and local objectives.

## **THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: Incremental Transfer of Public Land to States**

ALC is working for passage of a federal bill allowing States to incrementally acquire specific areas of federally controlled public lands at their own pace. Safeguards are proposed to ensure that valid existing rights and uses are protected, local voices are strengthened, promises to keep the lands public are upheld, natural resource revenues remain in-state to pay for land management costs—including wildlife habitat, recreation access and wildfire control—and that local governments receive a large share of excess revenues to support schools, roads, and public safety.



ALC members, headed by CEO Jennifer Fielder, are working tirelessly at the national, state, and local levels to improve management of public lands.



The State of Utah's team of renowned scholars and litigators has developed the legal basis to compel the federal government to loosen its grip on lands within States.



The U.S. Congress already has the constitutional power to transfer public lands to States. ALC is working to ensure that state and local priorities are carefully addressed.





# IT'S TIME TO BRING LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS HOME — WHERE THEY BELONG

The timely and orderly transfer of federally controlled public lands to willing States has gained support from over 1,000 elected officials... and counting!

## TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS ACT

### Highlights of ALC's proposed federal bill

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- **STATES CAN GO AT THEIR OWN PACE:** Through optional, incremental land transfers, States can acquire specific pieces of federally controlled public land whenever they are ready to manage new areas responsibly.
- **MINERAL, GRAZING & WATER RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED:** States must honor all existing valid rights and uses, as well as contracts that were in place prior to the transfer. Safeguards against fee increases are built in to provide certainty.
- **LOCAL VOICES ARE STRENGTHENED:** States must coordinate with affected counties to ensure that management plans for the newly acquired public lands are consistent with local plans and priorities.
- **PROMISES TO KEEP IT PUBLIC MUST BE UPHELD:** States must administer each piece of public land as described in the legislature's application for conveyance. If the application says it will be public land, the State must keep it public.
- **RESOURCE REVENUES PAY FOR MANAGEMENT:** Income derived from resource royalties will pay for ongoing maintenance, management, and wildfire control — making state ownership of the public lands economically sustainable.
- **STATE & LOCAL BUDGETS GET A BOOST:** After land management costs are covered, excess revenues from natural resource production may be divided between state and local governments to support schools, roads, and public safety.

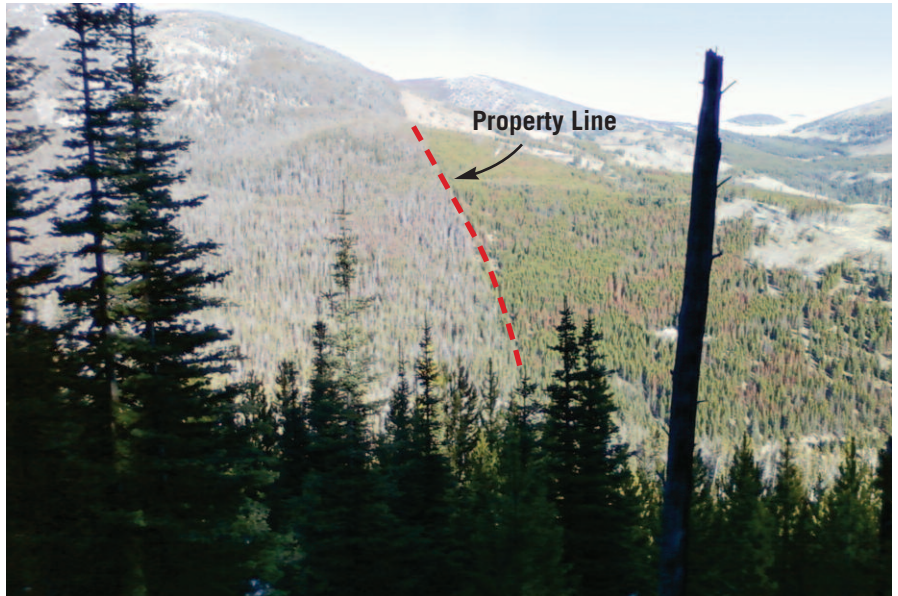


# BRING LAND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS HOME, WHERE THEY BELONG...

**DID YOU KNOW?** State land managers satisfy all environmental laws, *and* economically out-perform federal land managers — often by a ratio of \$10 to \$1 or better!

## GUESS WHICH HALF OF THIS FOREST IS MANAGED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?

— Sad but true: The left, mostly dead half is under control of Washington, DC. The green half has been locally managed and periodically harvested, something the federal government is often unable to do as a result of political gridlock and nonsensical policies.



**“WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE BY PEOPLE CLOSER TO THE SUBJECT MATTER, YOU TEND TO GET BETTER DECISIONS.”**

— Martin Goldney, Deputy Minister of Justice for the Northwest Territories, commenting on why Canada transferred control of all its public lands from the federal government to its more nimble provincial and territorial governments.



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RESOURCE EXPERTS, PUBLIC LAND USERS & CITIZENS

PO Box 100794, Alton, UT 84710 • (801) 252-6622 OFFICE  
info@americanlandscouncil.org • [AMERICANLANDSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://AMERICANLANDSCOUNCIL.ORG)