



Economics, Access, & Recreation

Matthew Anderson- Coalition for Self-Government in the West

DIVIDED LANDS: State vs. Federal Management in the West

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DIVIDED LANDS

STATE VS. FEDERAL MANAGEMENT IN THE WEST

BY HOLLY FRETWELL AND SHAWN REGAN



This study compares state and federal land management in the West. It examines the revenues and expenditures associated with federal land management and compares them with state trust land management in four western states: Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, and Arizona. The report explains why revenues and expenditures differ between state and federal land agencies and discusses several possible implications of transferring federal lands to the states.

“By nearly all accounts, our federal lands are in trouble, both in terms of fiscal performance and environmental stewardship”

- Divided Lands, p. 8



“Federal multiple-use lands have enormous potential to generate revenues for the public good. Yet federal land agencies lose taxpayers nearly \$2 billion per year, on average.”
-Divided Lands, p. 9

Table 1

The Cost of Land Management: Federal vs. State

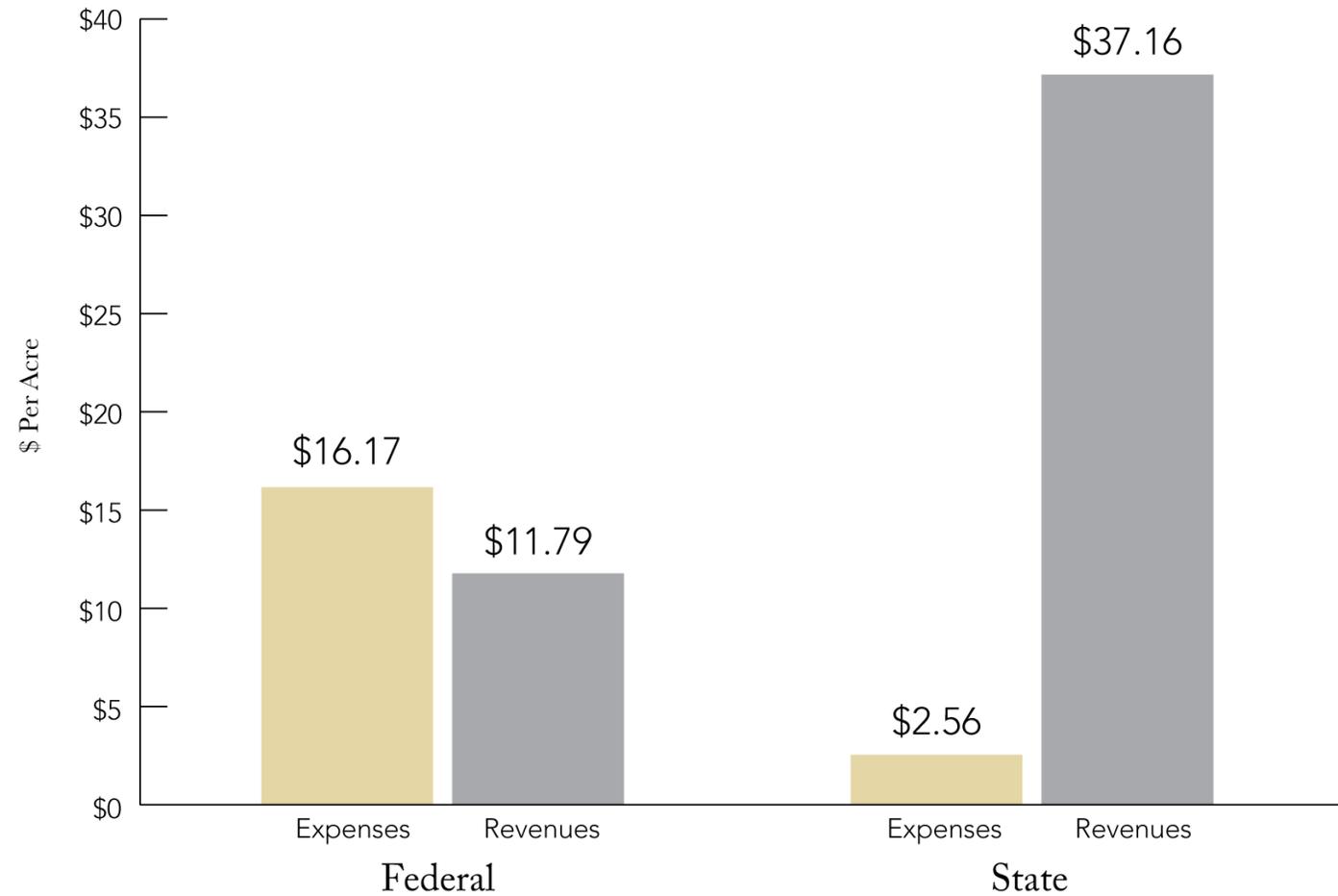
	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue per \$ Spent	Net Revenue
Federal Multiple-Use Lands	\$5,261,863,132	\$7,216,610,309	\$0.73	-\$1,954,747,177
State Trust Lands	\$239,921,512	\$16,540,387	\$14.51	\$223,281,126

Note: Data are 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. Federal multiple-use lands include lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. BLM data includes Office of Natural Resource Revenues (ONRR) revenues. State trust land data includes Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, and Arizona.



Figure 1

Federal vs. State Land Management: Revenues and Expenses per Acre



Note: 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. Federal data includes U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. State data includes Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, and Arizona state trust lands.



Table 2

The Cost of Land Management: Federal vs. State

	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue per \$ Spent
U.S. Forest Service	\$571,781,109	\$5,708,126,237	\$0.10
Bureau of Land Management	\$4,690,082,024	\$1,508,484,072	\$3.11
Montana	\$107,610,838	\$12,443,132	\$8.65
Idaho	\$66,033,347	\$23,572,154	\$2.80
New Mexico	\$554,218,262	\$13,516,608	\$41.00
Arizona	\$231,823,603	\$16,629,652	\$13.94

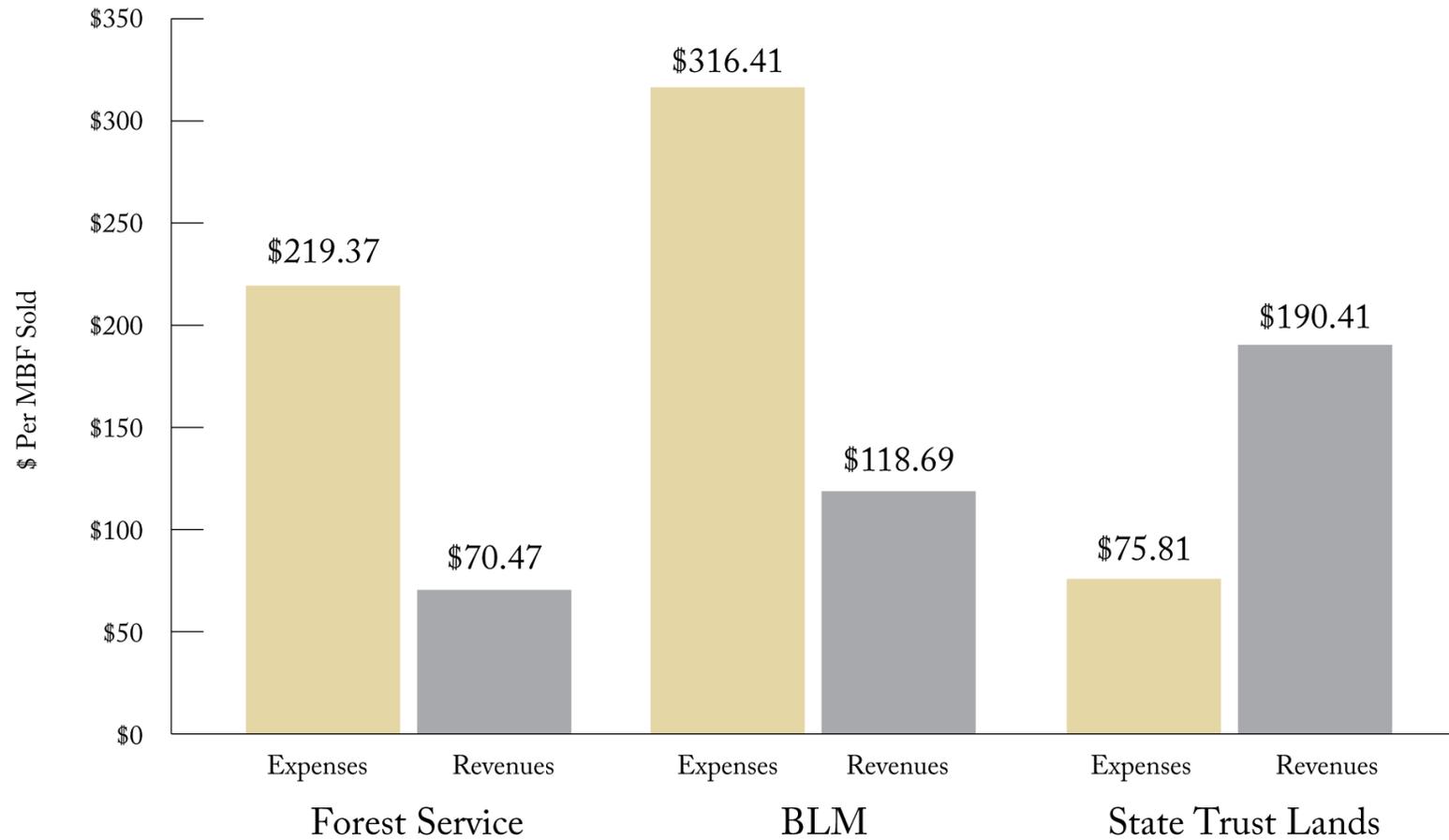
Note: 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. BLM data includes Office of Natural Resource Revenues (ONRR) onshore mineral revenues.



Timber

Figure 2

Timber Management: States Show Profit



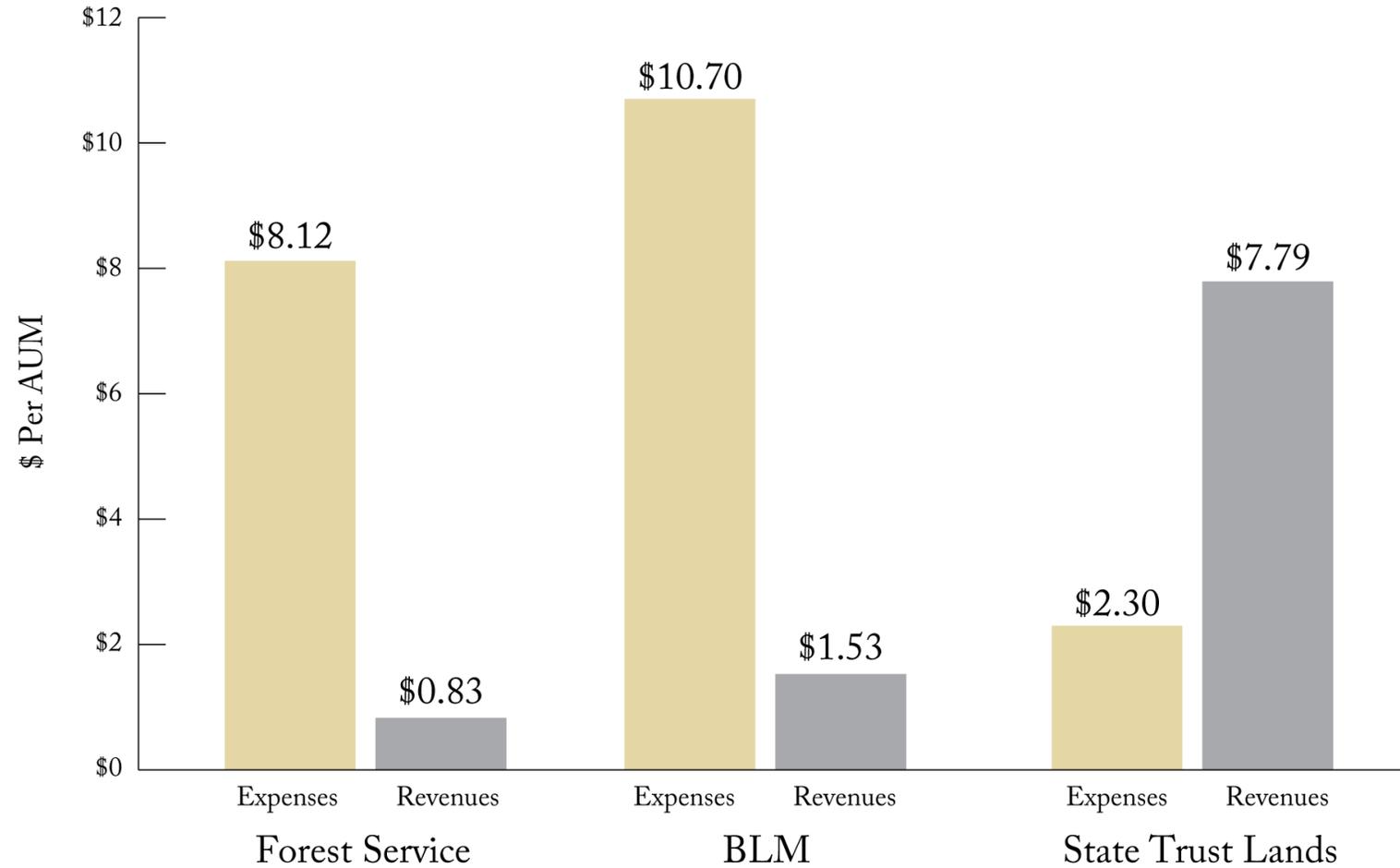
Note: 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. State trust lands data is averaged from Montana and Idaho.



Grazing

Figure 3

The Cost of Grazing: Federal Expenses High, Revenue Low



Note: 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. State trust lands data is from Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Minerals

Table 5

Minerals Management: Federal vs. State

	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue per \$ Spent
All Federal Lands	\$4,413,338,743	\$223,367,859	\$19.76
Montana	\$59,988,493	\$957,347	\$62.66
Idaho	\$3,479,576	\$501,570	\$6.94
New Mexico	\$533,447,123	\$2,592,115	\$205.80
Arizona	\$25,852,473	\$459,012	\$56.32
State Trust Lands (averaged)	\$155,691,916	\$1,127,511	\$138.08

Note: 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. Federal land revenue data include all onshore federal mineral receipts reported by the Office of Natural Resource Revenues, Forest Service, and BLM. Federal land expenditure data includes all Forest Service and BLM mineral expenses.

Recreation

Table 6

Recreation: Federal vs. State

	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue per \$ Spent
U.S. Forest Service	\$130,086,271	\$465,984,985	\$0.28
Bureau of Land Management	\$17,900,454	\$87,370,266	\$0.20
Montana	\$1,119,052	\$177,294	\$6.31
Idaho	\$348,006	\$36,584	\$9.51
State Trust Lands (averaged)	\$733,529	\$106,939	\$6.86

Note: 5-year annual averages from 2009-2013, adjusted to 2013 dollars. Recreation revenue and expenditure data are not available from New Mexico and Arizona.



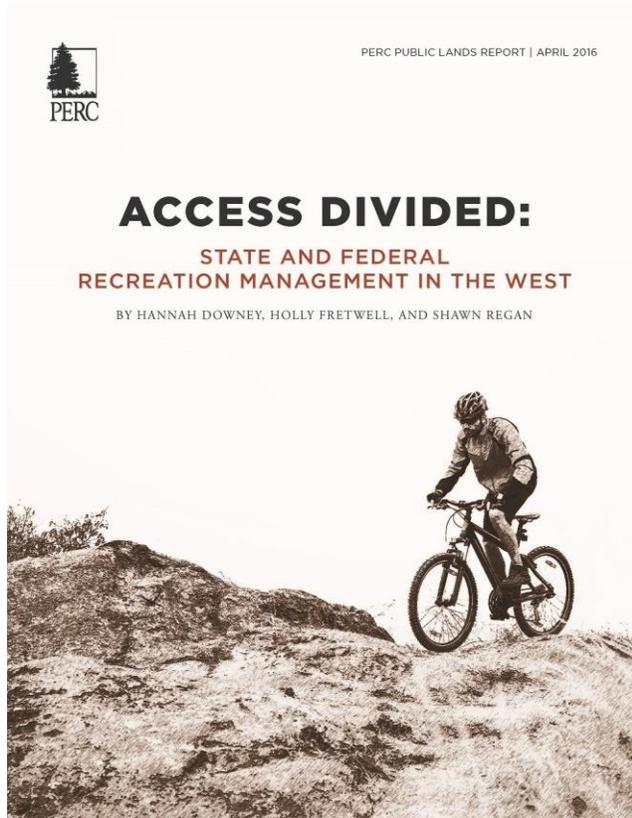
Key Takeaways

- \$14.51 vs. losing \$.27 for every dollar spent on land management.
- Low financial returns on federal lands translate into low amounts of revenue sharing with counties and states.
- States would likely earn much greater revenues than the federal government if lands were transferred.

“States have clearly demonstrated their ability to generate greater returns from land management than the federal government- a fact that is even more remarkable considering how scattered state trust lands are across the West.”

- Divided Lands, p. 30

ACCESS DIVIDED: State and Federal Recreation Management in the West



This report explores how federal and state land agencies manage recreation demands. It focuses on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, state trust agencies, and state park agencies in the 11 westernmost states in the contiguous United States. It compares various types of public land recreation management and explores how different agencies resolve conflicts between competing land uses.

“While the role of federal land agencies in supplying recreational opportunities in the West is widely known, state-owned lands also play an important role- one that is not as widely recognized or understood.”

- Access Divided, p. 32

Federal Lands and Recreation

FIGURE 1:
FEDERAL AND STATE LANDS IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES



■ Bureau of Land Management
■ U.S. Forest Service
■ National Park Service
■ State Trust Lands
■ State Parks and Other State Lands

- A wide range of recreational opportunities are available on federal lands, but federal agencies often have no clear method of prioritizing competing uses.
- Federal land agencies often struggle to meet or even establish recreation management goals.

“The total deferred maintenance backlog for the U.S. Forest Service and BLM is nearly \$6 billion- much of it associated with recreational quality and access.”

- Access Divided, p. 12

State Trust Lands and Recreation

- Each state allows for some form of recreation on state trust lands, often with user fees or recreational leasing.
- Each state varies in how it manages recreation on state trust lands.
- In some cases, state trust agencies lease lands for specific recreational purposes.
- State trust agencies have often found innovative ways to accommodate recreational demands while meeting their fiduciary responsibilities.

“The ability of state trust agencies to accommodate recreational demands demonstrates an element of flexibility inherent in the trust management model.”

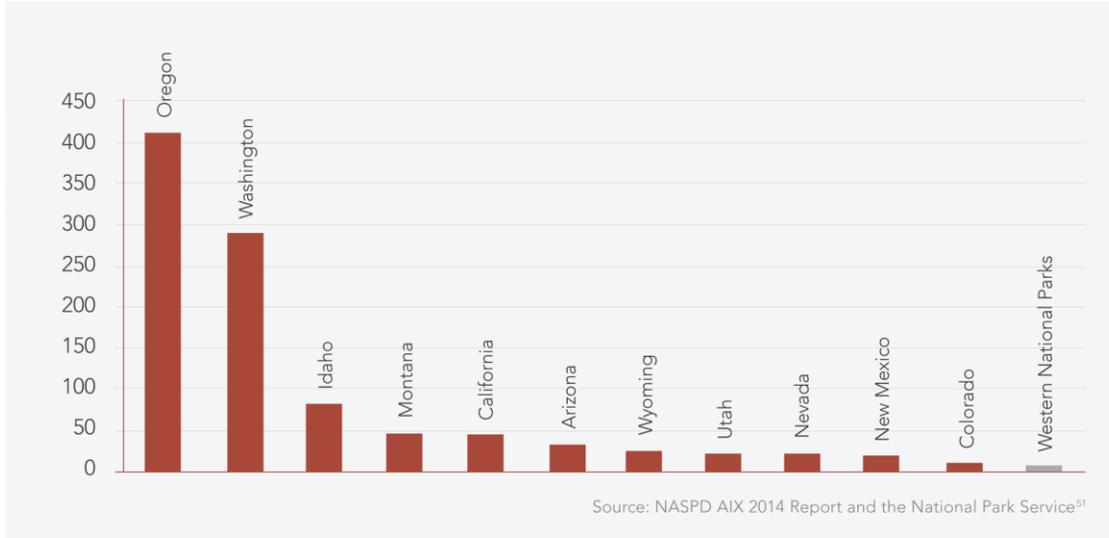
- Access Divided, p. 20



State Parks and Recreation

Figure 2:

State Park Visits Per Acre

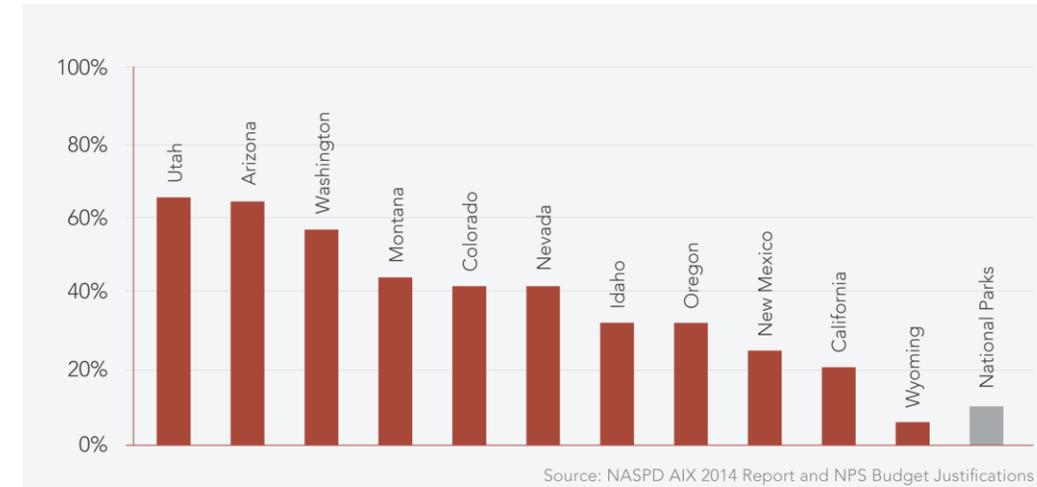


“State parks are incredibly popular. In fact, state parks receive more recreation visits per acre than any of the federal land agencies including the National Park Service.”

- Access Divided

Figure 3:

State Park Expenditures Covered By Visitor Fees (2013)



Key Takeaways

- The demand for recreation on public lands is growing, both in terms of the number of people and the diversity of recreational activities.
- Federal land agencies often have no clear method of prioritizing competing uses and struggle to meet or even establish recreation management goals.
- Each state allows for some form of recreation on their trust lands and have found innovative ways to accommodate recreational demands.
- State parks are more popular than Western national parks and generally cover more of their expenditures through visitor fees than national parks do.





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