



In the Gem State, 32.4 million acres of publicly owned national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands provide fish and wildlife with irreplaceable habitat.

72%
of Western sportsmen depend on public lands for hunting.

Despite the immense value of America's public lands, special interests are working hard to hand lands over to the state of Idaho. When it comes to land management decisions, the state wouldn't just swap in new players – it would change the whole game. In state hands, everything else would come second to generating income from these lands. Take a look at what state seizure of America's public lands would actually do.

1. State and local economies would take a serious hit.

The transfer of America's public lands to state hands would have a negative impact on local economies across the state.

Tax increases

A potential reality for one million taxpayers taking over the enormous costs of management.

\$169 million for fires

Idahoans would pay for wildfire suppression costs on an additional 32.4 million acres.

\$28.6 million lost

Idaho counties would lose millions federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes.

Outdoor recreation is more restricted on state lands than on America's public lands. For example, on Idaho Endowment Lands:



Land managers may restrict recreation when it interferes with the agency's mandate to generate income.



Roughly 30 percent of state endowment lands are closed to hunting and shooting.



Camping is restricted to a period no longer than 10 days without written permission.

2. It wouldn't take much to sell off our treasured public lands.

State endowment lands are constitutionally mandated to be managed for maximum profit. These lands are sold if they don't generate substantial revenue through resource development, or if they generate a substantial profit through sales. An independent body made up of just five state officials, known as the State Board of Land Commissions, makes decisions about state land sales.

1.5 million acres sold

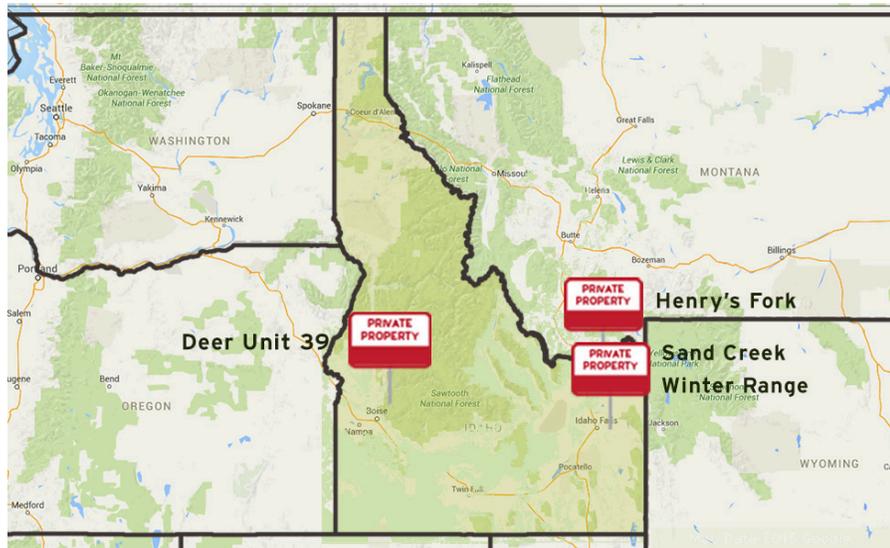
Idaho has already sold 36 percent of its 4.2-million-acre land grant.



If the state of Idaho were to seize 32.4 million acres of BLM and national forest lands, it is indisputable that important lands would be sold off and closed to hunting, fishing, and public access.

3. Public access would be at risk.

Without the resources or mandate to manage world-class hunting and fishing destinations for wildlife or recreational access, these areas important to sportsmen and the general public could be headed to the auction block:



Henry's Fork: According to data from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, this prominent fork of the Snake River generates \$40 million in recreational spending annually.

Sand Creek Winter Range: These BLM lands are the wintertime home of roughly 3,000 elk, 2,000 deer, and 500 moose.

Deer Unit 39: Located in southwest Idaho, 12,565 hunters harvested 2,284 deer during the 2014 general hunt, making it one of the state's most popular big game hunting areas.

4. Idaho long ago relinquished any claim to America's public lands

"The people of the state of Idaho do agree and declare that we forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."

-IDAHO CONSTITUTION



THERE IS A BETTER WAY

We live in a democracy where Americans have been rolling up their sleeves and solving problems for more than two centuries. Instead of considering the unworkable idea of land seizure, it is time for stakeholders to find common ground to improve the management of our treasured public lands.

Get involved today, and tell your state and federal lawmakers that America's public lands are not for sale. Urge them to reject any proposed seizure of these lands by signing the petition at sportsmensaccess.org.



photo: Dusan Smetana

For more information, contact Rob Thornberry, TRCP Idaho field representative, at rthornberry@trcp.org. For media inquiries, contact Kristyn Brady, TRCP director of communications, at kbrady@trcp.org. To learn more about the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, go to trcp.org. Works cited available at sportsmensaccess.org/workscited.