



In the Beehive State, 41.1 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 Utah. 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 1.75 million taxpayers taking over the enormous costs of management.

\$58 million for fires

Utah taxpayers would pay for wildfire suppression on an additional 41 million acres.

\$37.6 million lost

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

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

State trust lands are sold off if they don't generate substantial revenue through resource development, or if they can generate a substantial profit through sales. An independent body of just seven people, known as the School and Institutional Trust Land Administration, makes decisions about land sales.

4.1 million acres sold

Utah has already sold off more than half of its original land grant.

The public would get a raw deal, while private interests would benefit:

BLM and national forest lands are managed under a multiple-use mandate, meaning federal land managers are required by law to balance the needs of wildlife, recreational users, and resource extractors.

Utah's state trust lands are managed for maximum profit. This often benefits private interests, rather than the hunters, anglers, and families who spend time together on public lands.

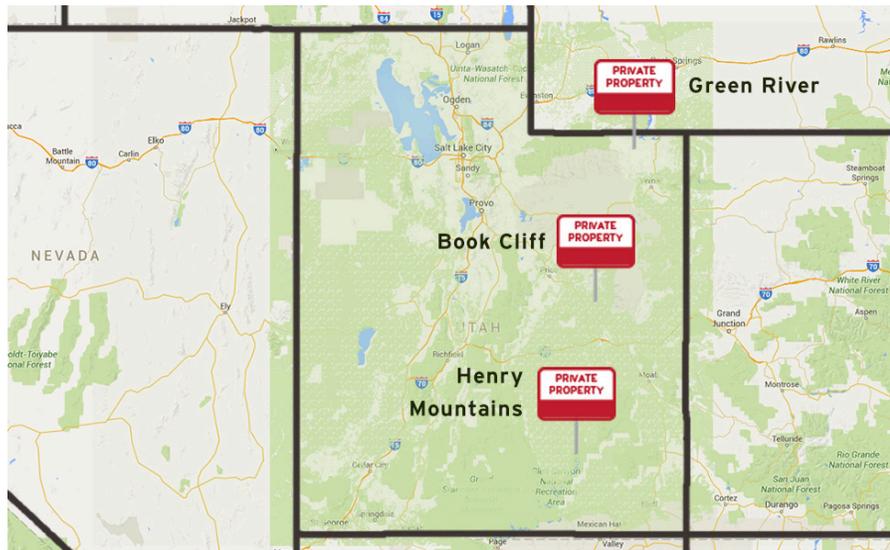
Public access to trust lands can be withdrawn at any time to allow Utah to meet its legislative mandate to generate revenue and support trust land beneficiaries.



If the state of Utah were to seize 41.1 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:



Book Cliffs: This landscape is well known for its trophy mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and bison.

Green River: As it flows through the Ashley National Forest, this great river is a cherished trout fishery, and it boosts local economies thanks to outdoor recreation.

Henry Mountains: Quite possibly the best trophy mule deer hunting unit on earth.

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

"That the people inhabiting said proposed State do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..."

—ENABLING ACT of 1894



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

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