



In the Land of Enchantment, 22.9 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 New Mexico. 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 1.2 million taxpayers taking over the enormous costs of management.

### \$86 million for fires

New Mexicans would pay for wildfire suppression costs on an additional 22.9 million acres.

### \$37.4 million lost

New Mexico counties would lose millions in federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes.

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

New Mexico State Trust Lands are constitutionally mandated to be managed for maximum profit. These lands are managed by a Commissioner of Public Lands and a State Land Trusts Advisory Board. These people have considerable power over the sale and use of state lands, while the sale of large parcels of BLM or national forest lands requires an act of Congress.

### 4 million acres

New Mexico has already sold 31 percent of its original land grant.

**Outdoor recreation is more restricted on state lands than on America's public lands. For example, on New Mexico State Trust Lands:**



Recreational access must be purchased at a cost of \$25.00/year. Access to most national lands is free.



Recreational shooting is prohibited.



Camping is only allowed with the written permission of the surface lessee.



Campfires are prohibited.



Off-road vehicle use is prohibited.

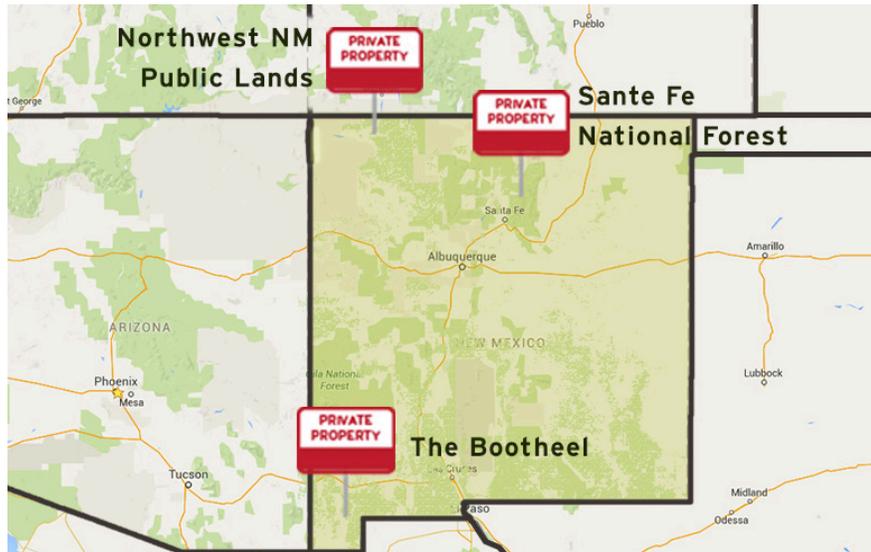


The New Mexico Game and Fish Department pays the state \$200,000 each month to allow public hunting on state lands.

**If the state of New Mexico were to seize 22.9 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:



**Santa Fe National Forest:** According to *Field & Stream* magazine, this area rates as one of the best in the nation for hunting big bull elk.

**Northwest New Mexico:** Public lands in this region of the state offer opportunities to target big bucks migrating down from Colorado late in the hunting season.

**The Bootheel:** Located deep in southwestern New Mexico, this area is the answer to a lot of hunters' winter prayers.

### 4. New Mexico 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 and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof..." –ENABLING ACT, June 20, 1910



## 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](http://sportsmensaccess.org).



photo: Dusan Smetana

For more information, contact Joel Webster, TRCP Western lands director, at [jwebster@trcp.org](mailto:jwebster@trcp.org). For media inquiries, contact Kristyn Brady, TRCP director of communications at [kbrady@trcp.org](mailto:kbrady@trcp.org). To learn more about the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, go to [trcp.org](http://trcp.org). Works cited available at [sportsmensaccess.org/workscited](http://sportsmensaccess.org/workscited).