



In the Beaver State, 31.4 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 Oregon. 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 2.5 million taxpayers taking over the enormous costs of management.

\$75 million for fires

Oregonians would pay for wildfire suppression costs on an additional 31.4 million acres.

\$17.7 million lost

Oregon 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 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 three individuals, known as the Oregon State Land Department Board of Appeals, makes decisions about state land sales.

776,000 acres sold

Oregon has already sold over 776,000 acres of its original land grant.

The state of Oregon is proposing to sell the 84,000-acre Elliott State Forest near Coos Bay, because the state is not generating a profit from these lands. A haven for Oregon families and outdoorsmen, this property will likely be privatized in 2017.

Once state lands are sold, valuable recreation areas will be closed to the public. That means:



No hunting



No fishing



No shooting



No camping

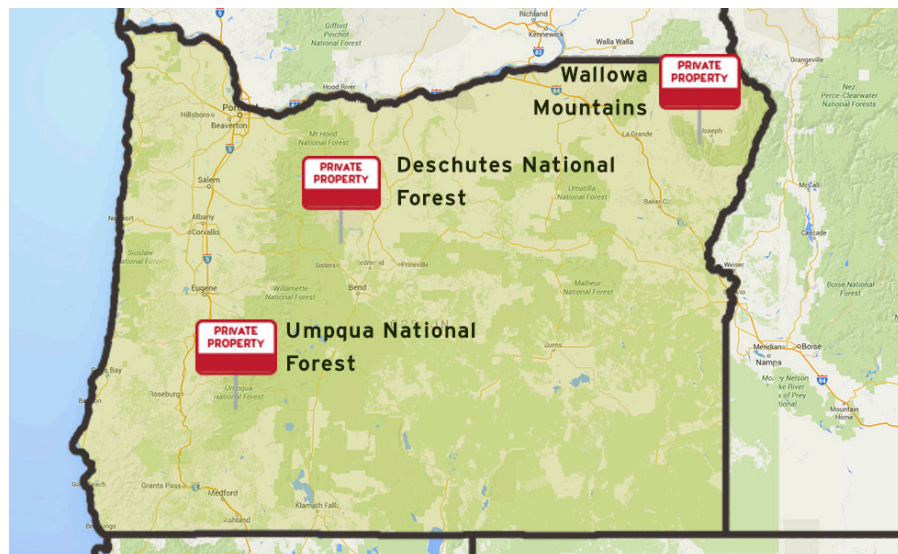


No off-road vehicles

If the state of Oregon were to take over 31.4 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:



Umpqua National Forest: With nearly one million acres, this forest offers prime hunting for wild turkeys, Roosevelt elk, and blacktail deer, plus great fishing for steelhead.

Deschutes National Forest: This 1.6-million-acre forest in central Oregon offers world-class fishing for trout and prime hunting for mule deer and elk.

Wallowa Mountains: A rugged and beautiful mountain range in the northeast corner of the state, the Wallows offer the best backcountry elk and deer hunting in Oregon.



photo: Marty Sheppard



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.

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