

# IDAHOANS ARE AGAINST SELLING OFF OR SEIZING THEIR NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS

## IT'S UNPOPULAR

Idahoans love their national public land— but a few politicians want to assume state control.



In Idaho, U.S. public land makes up:

**32.6** million acres or

**61.6%** of Idaho land

According to a **2012 poll from the Idaho Outdoor Business Council**, Idahoans approve of the work done by federal land management agencies to protect and preserve public land.



“One of the things our federal government does well is protect and preserve our national heritage through the management of forests, national parks and other public lands.”

DISAGREE



**24%**

AGREE



**73%**

In 2016, Idaho's U.S. Representative Mike Simpson summed up the crux of the issue when he **explained** what happens when the state has control of public lands:



“Let me tell you why people live in Idaho, they live in Idaho because they love their public lands.... Let me tell you what happens when you sell those public lands. We just sold 30,000 acres in Idaho to a couple of Texans. That was a lot of fun. All of a sudden they denied access. So, **all of a sudden people can't access their favorite fishing hole or their hunting grounds...** And that's a problem.”

## WHAT STANDS TO BE LOST

Land seizure is impractical economically. What's at stake?

Over the last 40 years, counties with at least 30% protected national land saw **job growth 4X faster** than counties with no protected land.

Idahoans know this—according to a **2012 Idaho Outdoor Business Council poll**: **92%** of Idahoans believe that recreation on public lands is essential to the economy.

## ID OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:



**\$6.3** billion in consumer spending



**\$1.8** billion in wages and salaries



**77,000** jobs

## IT'S UNFAIR



Places like Idaho's stunning

### JIM MCCLURE - JERRY PEAK WILDERNESS AREA

belong to every American,  
including future generations,  
to someday visit and enjoy.

"The pointless crusade to illegally seize federal lands has ground on for years. It's an expensive farce, one that will go nowhere and serves only to keep hardliners well fed. Too much has already been spent on second legal opinions, useless meetings and general griping."

### — EDITORIAL

*Twin Falls Times-News*  
4.1.2015

## IT'S EXPENSIVE

In 2015, U.S. land management agencies spent **\$2.1 billion** on fire suppression and prevention.

If Idaho managed all of its public lands, it would have to cover this cost—to put it into perspective, the state's law enforcement budget in 2014 was **\$55 million**.

### FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS V. STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT SPENDING

STATE	FY15 USFS & BLM SUPPRESSION COSTS	FY14 USFS & BLM SUPPRESSION COSTS	FY14 STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT SPENDING
<b>ID</b>	\$167 million	\$79 million	\$55 million
<b>OR</b>	\$178 million	\$218 million	\$180 million
<b>MT</b>	\$80 million	\$30 million	\$49 million

## IT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Article 4, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress exclusive authority over federal property, "**without limitation.**"

- Idaho's Enabling Act **states:**



"... 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..."

In 2016, Western Attorneys General voted 11-1 to approve a report casting **significant doubts** on the land seizure's legal arguments.

When the Idaho legislature was considering a 2016 bill claiming that the total transfer of U.S. public lands was guaranteed at statehood, Idaho's own Attorney General Lawrence Wasden issued a legal opinion concluding that "**this premise has no support in the law.**"

Despite its questionable legality, states have spent massive sums of taxpayer money studying land seizure.

- Utah spent **\$450,000** on a study which concluded that a transfer would cost the state **\$280 million** annually. Despite that, Utah established a funding source for what is expected to be a **\$14 million lawsuit** to seize national lands.