

# Coloradans are against selling off or transferring their national public lands

## IT'S UNPOPULAR

Coloradans love their federally managed land – but a few politicians want to assume state control.

Federal agencies manage approximately:

**23.9** million acres or **35.9%** of Colorado land

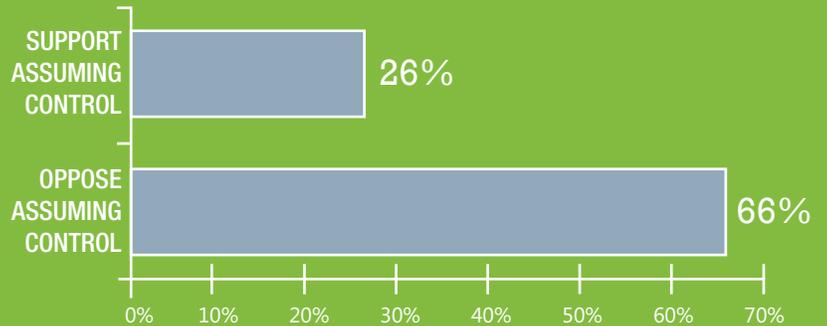
Colorado voters agree: The national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands in Colorado **belong to all Americans**.

“Should these public lands belong to everyone in our country, or belong to the people of Colorado?”



Coloradans **don't think it would be fiscally responsible** to force Colorado taxpayers to foot the bill for managing America's public lands.

“Please listen to two different viewpoints and tell me which one comes closer to your own even if neither matches what you think exactly.”



## WHAT STANDS TO BE LOST

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

From 2001-2013, counties with at least 30% protected national land saw **job growth 4X faster** than counties with no protected land.

Coloradans recognize this—according to a 2013 poll:

**98%** of Coloradans believe that public lands are essential to the Colorado economy.

## CO OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

**\$34.5** billion in annual economic activity

**\$4.2** billion in wages and salaries

**313,000** jobs

## IT'S UNFAIR



Places like Colorado's stunning

### MAROON BELLS SCENIC AREA

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

## IT'S EXPENSIVE

In 2014, the federal government spent **\$3.9 billion** on fire suppression and prevention.

If Colorado managed all of its public lands, it would have to cover this cost – to put it into perspective, the law enforcement budget for the entire state in 2013 was **\$155 million**.

State	FY14 USFS Suppression Costs	FY13 USFS Suppression Costs	FY13 State Law Enforcement Spending
CO	\$7 million	\$72 million	\$155 million
ID	\$61 million	\$156 million	\$51 million
MT	\$26 million	\$83 million	\$47 million
OR	\$218 million	\$128 million	\$176 million

## IT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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

Colorado's Enabling Act **states:**

“that the people inhabiting said Territory do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within said Territory...”

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

- Utah spent **\$450,000** on a study which concluded that a transfer would cost the state **\$280 million** annually.
- An Idaho legislative committee: **“Pursuing any type of litigation at this time would not be beneficial.”**
- University of Utah's Wallace Stegner Center: **“If states take over land management, fiscal realities will force more development.”**

“Even if Colorado intended to maintain [national public lands] now in their present state, it hasn't the resources or manpower to acquire and manage them.

To suggest otherwise is naive.”

— *Denver Post Editorial*  
10.24.2014