

Idahoans are against selling off or transferring their national public lands

IT'S UNPOPULAR

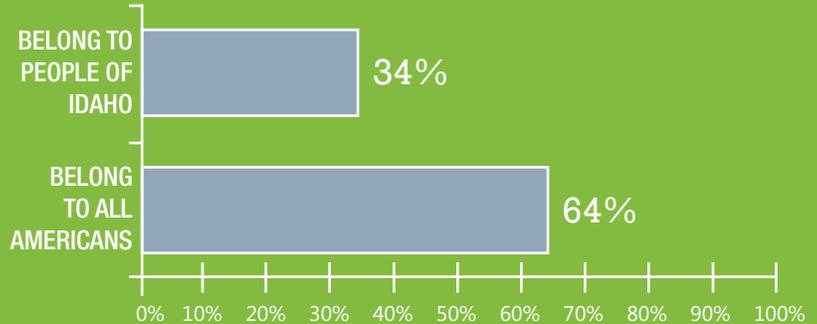
Idahoans love their federally managed land – but a few politicians want to assume state control.

Federal agencies manage approximately:

32.6 or **61.6%**
million acres of Idaho land

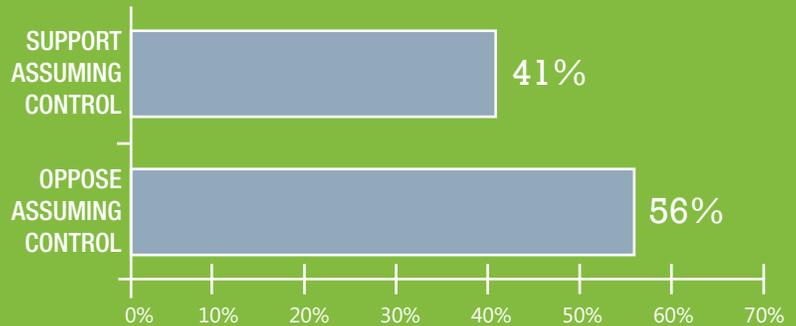
Idaho voters agree: The national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands in Idaho **belong to all Americans**.

“Do you think of these public lands more as American places that belong to everyone in our country, or Idaho places that belong more to the people of Idaho?”



Idahoans **don't think it would be fiscally responsible** to force Idaho 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.

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

SAWTOOTH WILDERNESS 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 Idaho 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 **\$51 million**.

State	FY14 USFS Suppression Costs	FY13 USFS Suppression Costs	FY13 State Law Enforcement Spending
ID	\$61 million	\$156 million	\$51 million
MT	\$26 million	\$83 million	\$47 million
NM	\$33 million	\$74 million	\$114 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.**”

Idaho's Enabling Act **states:**

“And 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...”

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.**”

“The recommendation (to further study land transfer) came despite testimony gathered in statewide hearings that showed Idahoans dead set against the takeover because of fears the state would be forced to sell some lands in order to afford to care for the remainder. It came despite the fact that the state can't afford the estimated \$111 million a year to care for the lands. And the capper? It's unconstitutional.”

— *Idaho Mountain Express*
Editorial
2.11.2015