

Montanans are against selling off or transferring their national public lands

IT'S UNPOPULAR

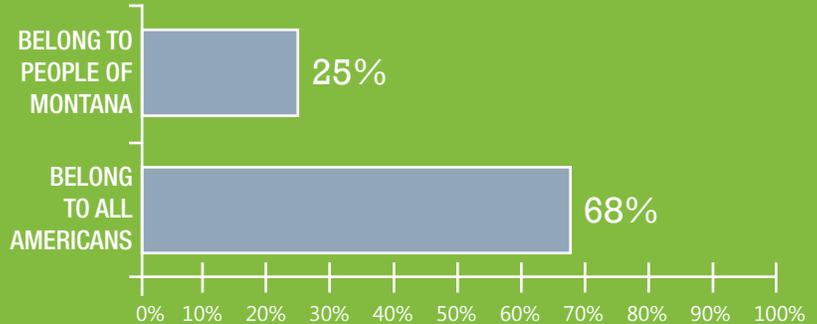
Montanans love their federally managed land – but a few politicians want to assume state control.

Federal agencies manage approximately:

27.0 or **29.0%**
million acres of Montana land

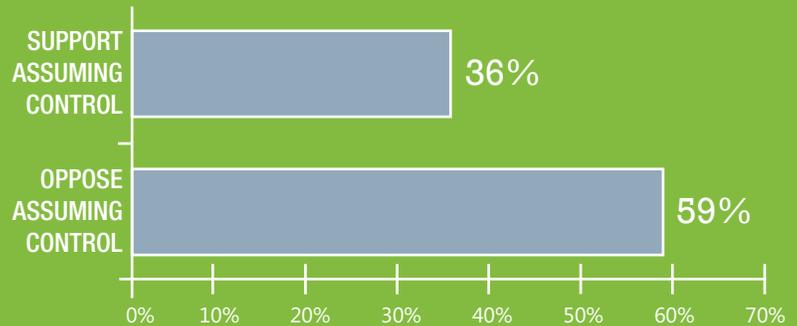
Montana voters agree: The national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands in Montana **belong to all Americans**.

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



Montanans **don't think it would be fiscally responsible** to force Montana 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.

Montanans recognize this—according to a 2013 poll:

91% of Montanans believe that public lands are essential to the Montana economy.

MT OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

\$5.8 billion in consumer spending

\$1.5 billion in wages and salaries

64,000 jobs

IT'S UNFAIR

Lori Erickson/USFS



Places like Montana's stunning

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

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 Montana 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 **\$47 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.”**

Montana's Enabling Act **states**:

“the people inhabiting said proposed States do agree and that they 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.”**

“Even if federal law were amended so that these lands (an estimated 25 million acres) could be handed over to the states, polling shows most Montanans—and most Americans (the collective owners of these lands)—oppose such a transfer. Outdoor businesses and sportsmen groups have spoken out loudly against this idea, knowing that state management of these public lands would fall far short of what the federal government is able to do.”

— *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*
Editorial
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