

# New Mexicans are against selling off or transferring their national public lands

## IT'S UNPOPULAR

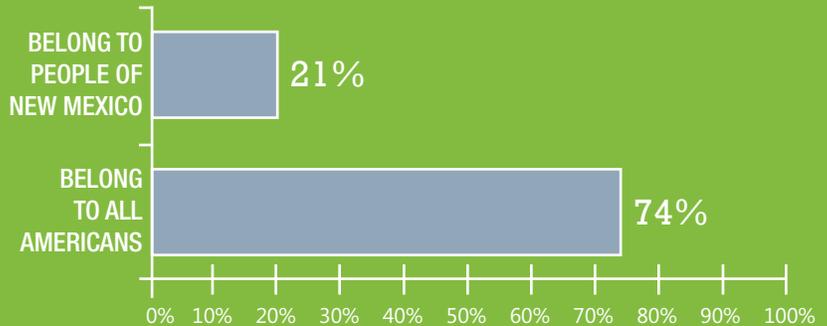
New Mexicans love their federally managed land – but a few politicians want to assume state control.

Federal agencies manage approximately:

**27.0** or **34.7%**  
million acres of New Mexico land

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

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



New Mexicans **don't think it would be fiscally responsible** to force New Mexico taxpayers to foot the bill for managing 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.

New Mexicans recognize this—according to a 2013 poll:

**84%** of New Mexicans believe that public lands are essential to the New Mexico economy.

## NM OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

**\$6.1 billion** in consumer spending

**\$1.7 billion** in wages and salaries

**68,000 jobs**

## IT'S UNFAIR



Places like New Mexico's

### CAPULIN VOLCANO NATIONAL MONUMENT

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 New Mexico 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 **\$114 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.”**

New Mexico's Enabling Act **states:**

“That the people inhabiting said proposed state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted 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 campaign to transfer to the states or even sell off our shared lands should not be mistaken for the mainstream values of Westerners whose way of life depends on the region's land and water....

America's forests, wildlife refuges and conservation lands are part of the fabric of our democracy.”

— *New York Times Op-ed*  
Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)  
12.16.2014