

Wyomingites are against selling off or transferring their national public lands

IT'S UNPOPULAR

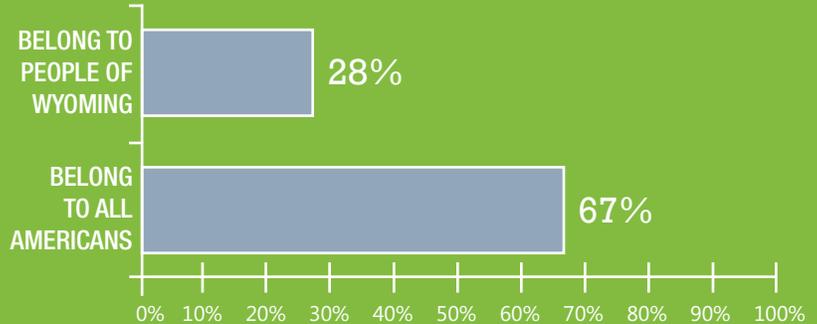
Wyomingites love their federally managed land – but a few politicians want to assume state control.

Federal agencies manage approximately:

30.0 million acres or **48.1%** of Wyoming land

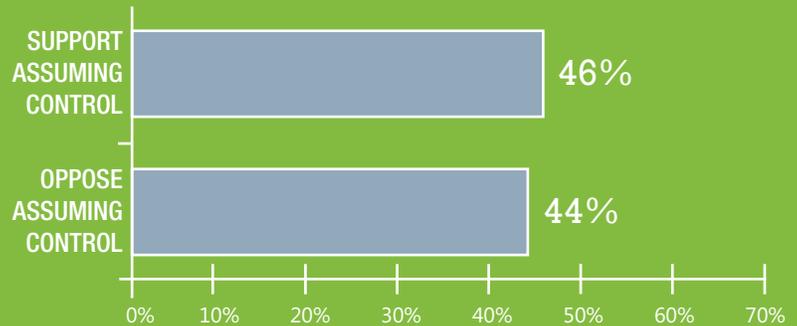
Wyoming voters agree: The national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands in Wyoming **belong to all Americans**.

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



Wyomingites are **skeptical of efforts to force Wyoming 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.

Wyoming recognize this—according to a 2013 poll:

94% of Wyoming believe that public lands are essential to the Wyoming economy.

WY OUTDOOR RECREATION GENERATES:

\$4.5 billion in consumer spending

\$1.4 billion in wages and salaries

50,000 jobs

IT'S UNFAIR



Places like Wyoming's stunning

GROS VENTRE 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 Wyoming 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
OR	\$218 million	\$128 million	\$176 million
WY	\$3 million	\$11 million	\$51 million

IT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL

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

Wyoming's Enabling Act **states**:

“The people inhabiting this state do agree and declare 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.”**

“Managing federal lands could be expensive, with demands ranging from fire suppression costs and liability to invasive species control.

The federal government is the steward of public lands and should be in the business of maintaining those lands in a way that benefits all users. Federal lands belong to everyone, and the state has no claim on them.”

—*Jackson Hole News & Guide*
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