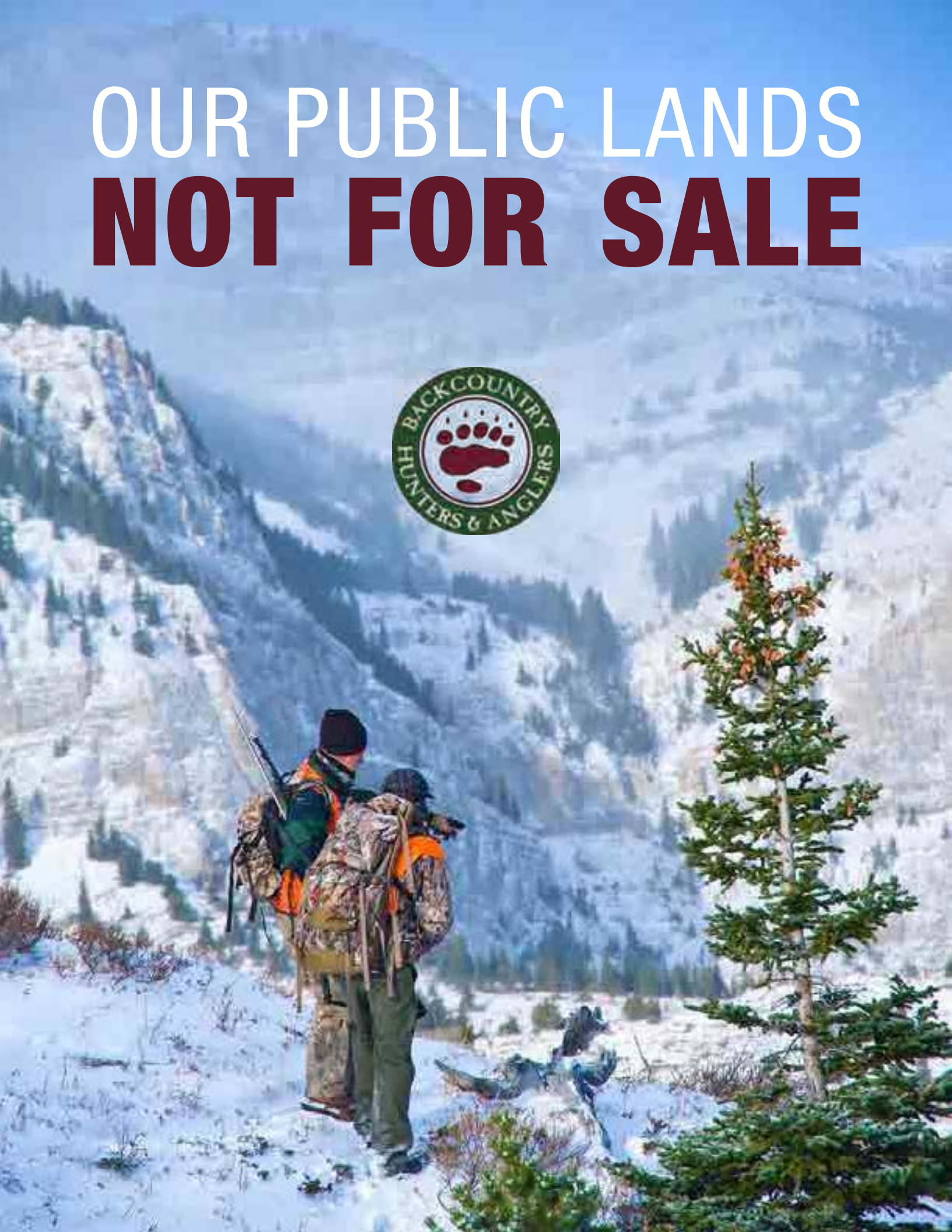


OUR PUBLIC LANDS **NOT FOR SALE**




YOUR LANDS, YOUR FUTURE

YOUR PUBLIC LANDS YOUR FUTURE

As a citizen of the United States, you are part owner of the largest piece of public real estate in the world: California's Sierra Nevada; redrock canyons and arid basins of Utah and Nevada; the Cascades of Oregon and Washington; the Rockies of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana; the tundra and rainforests of Alaska; vast stretches of the Appalachians and the North Woods of the Midwest and New England.

They belong to you.



White River National Forest, Colorado.
Jodi Stemler

When you and your family grow weary of your job or urban living, you are free to pack up your gear and wander in a way that is utterly unique in the modern world.

Relying on public lands and waters, you may catch big bass in Florida, hunt elk in Idaho, call for wild turkeys in Tennessee or chase ruffed grouse in Maine. Not everyone in the United States can afford to own a private ranch or a membership in an exclusive hunt club. But we ALL share the legacy of public land.

Our public lands are essential for hunters and anglers. Not just today, but for the future. Across America, the top reason that hunters and anglers give up these activities is because of loss of access to quality habitat.

As access to private lands declines and farms are being converted to strip malls and subdivisions, more and more sportsmen are looking to public lands for their outdoor experience.

This is particularly true out West:

More than two-thirds of hunters in the 11 western states depend on public lands for all or part of their hunting. This includes both resident and non-resident hunters.

In addition, many of our most highly prized big game species, such as elk, bighorn sheep and mule deer, as well as some of our finest fisheries, depend primarily on public lands.

Today's outdoor families stand on the shoulders of giants like Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and George Bird Grinnell who had the vision to protect our public land legacy more than a century ago.

Yet today, forces are at work to dismantle this legacy. In doing so, they would also undermine the very foundation of America's outdoor heritage.

We cannot let that happen.

Without public land we would be out of business, in fact, we would have never gotten into business because there would be no reason to make hunting clothes if only a select few could participate. The opportunity for individuals to access beautiful and wild places in an equitable manner is one of the core American values that enriches the quality of life for all.

Kenton Carruth
Founder, First Lite. Ketchum, Idaho



Pack string crossing John's Creek in Idaho's NezPerce/Clearwater National Forest
Mike Hanna

WHERE WE HUNT AND FISH



69% of hunters hunt
on public lands
in the West



Outdoor Recreation Supports:

\$646 Billion in Revenues

6.1 Million Jobs

THE THREAT TO OUR PUBLIC LANDS

For fiscal year 2013, the budget developed by Congressman Paul Ryan, Chairman of the Budget Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, proposed selling “millions of acres of unneeded federal land” for deficit reduction. This concept was carried forward in the Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act of 2013 that “directs the Secretary of the Interior to offer for disposal by competitive sale certain federal lands in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming,” and requires “the net proceeds from the sale to be deposited directly into the Treasury for reduction of the public debt.”



While so many sportsmen value our public land legacy, some politicians and special interests are working to dismantle it.

Resolution approved by the Republican National Party on January 24, 2014

“RESOLVED, That the Republican National Committee calls upon all national and state leaders and representatives to exert their utmost power and influence to urge the imminent transfer of public lands to all willing western states for the benefit of these western states and for the nation as a whole.”

In Congress, some representatives have proposed selling off federal lands under the auspices of paying down the federal deficit. Some ideologically driven attorneys argue that it is unconstitutional for the federal government to hold land, other than in Washington, D.C. and military bases. Other local politicians are exploiting grievances over federal management, saying that the Forest Service is a failure and pushing to have federal lands turned over to the states.

There is nothing new about this. Some of the same economic forces and special interests vigorously protested Theodore Roosevelt when he established the public estate a century ago.

Specific proposals about “transferring” or privatizing public land vary in details.

But they share a common feature: They would wrest the public estate from its owners, the American people. They leave no guarantees that our access to hunting and fishing would be maintained in either the short or long term.

Let’s be clear: Public land management does face serious challenges. It is easy to be frustrated with federal land management decisions, in particular because our passions over public lands run so high. Americans agree that local experts and scientific management, not Beltway politicians, should set the future of our public lands.

We can do better. But wholesale transfer and liquidation of the public estate is not the answer.

Federal Land Transfer - Not Much of a Bargain

Proponents of a federal land transfer are pushing for management under the direction of state trust land boards. While state trust lands serve an important role throughout the West, state lands are not always open for public recreation or managed for multiple-use as federal public lands are. In addition, without federal support, states would not be able to handle the costs of managing the lands transferred to them.

As a result, many acres would be sold – a one-time boon to the budget, but the long-term economic benefits of recreation and the environmental values of water quality and quantity would be lost.

State Held Public Lands

States were granted trust lands at statehood with the mandate that, first and foremost, they generate revenue. Millions of acres of original state lands were sold off. On remaining lands, recreational access isn't a priority or guaranteed. Where public access is allowed, users generally pay for the privilege to use the land. In addition, while grazing on federal lands costs \$1.35 per animal unit per animal unit month (AUM), grazing leases on state and private lands are significantly more expensive.

Federal Funds for Public Lands

The federal government dedicates significant funding to states with federal public lands. States receive payments in lieu of the property taxes if those lands were privately owned, not to mention forest fire suppression, road maintenance and other costs. If lands were transferred to state control, this funding would disappear and state natural resource budgets simply couldn't handle the extra expenses.

Sportsmen Need Public Lands

Most sportsmen in the West depend on public lands. Without public land for hunting and fishing, these sportsmen would have nowhere to go and our state economies would lose the hundreds of millions of dollars that sportsmen spend every year.

Colorado

Idaho

Montana

Nevada

New Mexico

Oregon

Utah

Wyoming

	Original Land Grant (acres)	Current Land Holdings	Public Access to State Lands	Grazing Fees on State Lands 2013	Grazing Fees on Private Lands 2013	Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Federal Lands FY 2014	Federal Costs of Fire Suppression in State FY 2012	State Natural Resource Department Budget	Number of Hunters and Anglers	Percent of Hunters who Hunt on Public Land	Spending in State by Sportsmen
Colorado	4.5 million	2.9 million acres	Most state trust lands are leased for agriculture, energy or commercial use. Colorado Parks & Wildlife leases approximately 20 percent for wildlife-related recreation. State trust lands are generally not open for other forms of recreation.	\$10.85/AUM	\$17.50/AUM	\$34.5 million	\$92 million	\$262.6 million for Department of Natural Resources, FY 2012	919,000	54%	\$1.3 billion
Idaho	3.6 million	2.4 million acres	State trust land in Idaho is open to the public at no charge. The State Land Board continues to auction land in popular recreation areas.	\$6.36/AUM	\$15.50/AUM	\$28.6 million	\$169 million	\$237.2 million for Natural Resources, FY 2013	534,000	66%	\$1.02 billion
Montana	5.9 million	5.1 million acres	The two-thirds of state trust lands that have legal public access are open to recreation through a fee added to all hunting and fishing licenses that pays the State Land Board for access. A state recreational access license is required for all other forms of recreation.	\$9.94/AUM	\$21.00/AUM	\$28.8 million	\$103 million	\$126.5 million for Departments of Natural Resources & Conservation and Fish, Wildlife & Parks, FY 2013	335,000	81%	\$983 million
Nevada	2.7 million	3,000 acres	Nevada has sold the vast majority of state trust lands and the remainder is used solely to generate revenue.	None due to limited state trust acres.	\$15.00/AUM	\$25.4 million	\$33 million	\$146.3 million for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Wildlife, FY 2013-2014	163,000	79%	\$409 million
New Mexico	13 million	9 million acres	The New Mexico Game and Fish Department has purchased easements from the State Land Board for recreation on state trust lands where recreation is compatible with other, higher-priority uses.	\$3.21/AUM	\$13.00/AUM	\$37.7 million	\$86 million	\$109.1 million for the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and Department of Game & Fish, FY 2013	304,000	88%	\$579 million
Oregon	3.4 million	776,000 acres	Oregon's state trust lands are all open for public recreational use unless otherwise posted.	\$8.48/AUM (2012)	\$15.00/AUM	\$17.7 million	\$94.5 million	\$1.76 billion for all Natural Resource Programs, FY 2011-2013	703,000	67%	\$929 million
Utah	7.5 million	3.4 million acres	The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources pays the Trust Lands Administration each year to allow public hunting access on trust lands.	\$4.35/AUM	\$14.50/AUM	\$37.9 million	\$58 million	\$328.8 million for Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environmental Quality, FY 2013	493,000	83%	\$1.04 billion
Wyoming	4.2 million	3.5 million acres	The Wyoming State Land Board allows public hunting on all state trust land at no charge to the user. Public access is described "as a privilege and not a right." Other recreational uses such as camping, biking or motorized use are prohibited.	\$4.80/AUM	\$18.70/AUM	\$27.1 million	\$55 million	\$517 million for Natural Resources, Environment and Recreation programs, FY 2013-2014	390,000	83%	\$778 million

The Fight to Keep Public Lands Public



As someone who has spent his life enjoying the public lands of the West, I consider this land a birthright and a heritage to be passed on to future generations. The State's Rights arguments forwarded by those advocating turning federal lands over to individual states are thinly veiled mouth pieces for private interests seeking to purchase and exploit our public lands to the exclusion of the common American.

Tim Note
Washington

While maintaining our public land legacy has never been easy, the legal basis for public lands is clear – as a condition for statehood, western territories ceded ownership of unclaimed lands within their boundaries to the federal government. However, American public lands have long been opposed in concept or rabidly coveted.

During Theodore Roosevelt's presidency, TR was wildly popular with the people of the West. Yet many powerful Western industrialists scorned his new "forest reserves." The Gilded Age robber baron William A. Clark, who built his fortune on Montana's timber and copper, was allied with Idaho's Senator Weldon B. Heyburn and Colorado Representative and mining magnate Herschel M. Hogg to block every attempt at creating public lands or conserving natural resources. Clark liked to say: "Those who succeed us can well take care of themselves."

Political and private interests have tried to undermine our public lands ever since.

Historian Bernard De Voto described these efforts in his 1947 article "The West Against Itself" in Harper's magazine, writing: "the ultimate objective is to liquidate all public ownership of grazing and forest land in

the United States... the plan is to get rid of public lands altogether, turning them over to the states, which can be coerced as the federal government cannot be, and eventually into private ownership."

In the 1980s Interior Secretary James Watt was figurehead for the "Sagebrush Rebellion," which advocated proposals to sell federal lands under the auspices of balancing the budget.

In 1999, Terry Anderson of the Political Economy Research Center wrote an influential study called "How and Why to Privatize Federal Lands," outlining the benefits of selling off public land.

Time and again, American sportsmen have come to the defense of our public estate. Yes, public land management can be messy and controversial, but no wise person gives away a mansion because of disputes over the bathroom fixtures or where or how to build a new staircase. As the population of America and the world grows larger, our public lands and waters grow more valuable.

There is no room for ignorance on the part of the American people regarding the value of the public lands and the role they play supporting our freedom and way of life. Nor can we blissfully ignore the goals of those who want to take them away.

YOUR LANDS, YOUR FUTURE

YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

There are roughly 640 million acres of public lands in the United States (about 29 percent of the total land area). Nearly all of that (95 percent) is managed by four agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The majority of public lands are in the arid or mountainous West. About a third of the public estate – 220 million acres – is in Alaska. Most every state has at least some public land.



245
MILLION ACRES

**Bureau of Land
Management**



193
MILLION ACRES

**U.S. Forest
Service**



89
MILLION ACRES

**U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service**



84
MILLION ACRES

**National Park
Service**

HISTORY OF PUBLIC LANDS

America has grown since 1776, mostly in leaps and bounds. In 1803, America acquired the massive Missouri River drainage and laid claim to the Pacific Northwest via the Louisiana Purchase. We expanded over the southwest in the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and we acquired Alaska in "Seward's Folly" in 1867.

Much of that federal land, of course, became American cities, farms and ranches. Over a billion acres were given

to homesteaders, timber and mining interests, and the railroads, or were granted to new states as they joined the union.

In general, lands that remained to become the public estate were too rugged, remote or arid to be homesteaded or otherwise developed. But during the nation's Industrial Revolution, the resource values of these remaining public lands were coveted resulting in years of unmanaged logging,

grazing, mining, market hunting, and other ventures.

By the late 1800s, Americans began to see some of the costs of industrialization: Rivers were polluted, public rangelands were barren, forests were overharvested, and wildlife like bison and passenger pigeons careened toward extinction.



Chukar hunting in Nevada's East Range
David Bobzien

PUBLIC LAND CONSERVATION

At the turn of the 20th Century, America moved from a policy of divesting federal lands to “reserving” or conserving these lands. Special places like Yosemite and Yellowstone were protected for their unique beauty as national parks; U.S. Presidents from Benjamin Harrison through Theodore Roosevelt created “forest reserves” across the Western states, primarily aimed at protecting watersheds.

Roosevelt, the hunter, conservationist and soldier who loved the West, had witnessed the loss of the bison, the destruction of the North Dakota rangelands, and the logging of the eastern forests – and he saw in the wanton waste of such resources a betrayal of the American promise.

Looking to visionary outdoorsmen like George Bird Grinnell and Gifford Pinchot for policy advice, Roosevelt boldly expanded both the extent and the missions of the “forest reserves.” Between 1901 and 1909, the Roosevelt administration designated roughly 150 million acres as reserves, the vast majority of today’s national forest system, and an additional 80 million acres as parks and wildlife refuges.

Meanwhile, the federal government scrambled to repair damage done to

America’s heartland. The Weeks Act of 1911 allowed the federal government to purchase logged-over and eroded lands in the eastern and southern states to restore forests and critical watersheds. This resulted, for example, in the Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina. Out West, Congress created the Bureau of Land Management to oversee millions of acres degraded by earlier grazing, mining, logging and failed farms.

The new system worked. Denuded eastern mountains are forested again. The western public rangelands abandoned as useless during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s have mostly been restored. The headwaters of great and small rivers, so critical for human welfare in the West, tend to be found on public land.

What’s more, public lands were often where wildlife species were first allowed to recover following the near-extinctions of the 1800s. Beaver, deer, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep and others were nearly wiped out, but gradually recovered on public lands, thanks to conservation efforts spearheaded by hunters and anglers.

Public lands have always been seen as pragmatic solutions for multiple concerns. They are part of the unique

American ideal of balancing individual liberty with the common good, in embracing development while trying to hold in check its most destructive impulses, and in managing in trust for the people, especially in more fragile parts of the country, a portion of the most basic resources that underpin every other facet of the economy – water, soil, timber, and forage for livestock.



Library of Congress

I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.

President Theodore Roosevelt

BHA AT WORK

Sportsmen deserve a strong voice speaking up for public lands and Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) is that voice.

Through our boots-on-the-ground membership, BHA is working closely with federal land management agencies and other sportsmen's organizations to identify place-based, scientific approaches to management. We believe in the multiple-use mandate of national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands, even though finding that balance can be controversial and challenging. We need to have firm benchmarks for success and hold land managers accountable to meet them.

We have found when we work together, we can balance timber harvest, off-road vehicle use, and energy development while still protecting and enhancing some of the best hunting and fishing opportunities on the planet.

That's why BHA's boots-on-the-ground members continue to engage with land managers on agency Resource and Travel Management Plans that set the course for how our public lands are utilized. At the same time BHA is engaged in efforts across the country like the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) in Idaho. The CBC pulls together hunters, anglers, timber companies, ATV users, and county commissioners to work at a landscape

level to conserve 500,000 acres of wilderness, 200 miles of wild and scenic river, increase timber harvest in the front country, and maintain 200 miles of one of the longest continuous ATV routes in the West.

These collaborative approaches work, not throwing up our hands and walking away from our treasured public land resource. Together, we need to stand strong with the lawmakers on both sides of the aisle that are opposed to the transfer or sale of our public lands.

In the simplest terms, without suitable habitat we will have no game; without game, we will have no hunting; without hunting, a precious heritage of our past will be lost forever.

Bill Sustrich
Colorado

Tony Bynum



WHAT HUNTERS AND ANGLERS CAN DO TO HELP



Today, the opponents of public land are well funded and better organized than ever. Hunters and anglers must stand up together to defend our rights. What can you do?

1

Join BHA

Join BHA so we can push back against the special interests that want to sell your lands.

2

Sign the Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Sportsman's Pledge.

Join with your fellow public land sportsmen to tell elected officials that our public lands are to be treasured, not transferred.

3

Submit letters to the editor to your local newspapers.

Elected officials look to their local papers every day. Show them how important public lands are to you.

4

Call or email your federal and local elected officials.

Our elected officials work for us, so they need to hear from you. The U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

5

Meet your federal and local officials in person.

Elected officials love their time back home amongst their constituents. Ask your elected representative: "What are you doing to keep public lands in public hands?"

6

Tell your friends

Spread the word in a duck blind, around the campfire, in a drift boat or on an Internet chat room.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Sportsman's Pledge

As a North American hunter and angler, I pledge to speak up on behalf of conservation of the clean water, wildlife habitat, sportsman access and public lands that belong to all of us. I will defend these values against those individuals, organizations and corporations who would sell or transfer our public lands and erode our habitat, opportunity and freedoms. I welcome new sportsmen and women, young and old, and will lead by example. I pledge to leave our wild public lands in better condition than I found them so that future generations can enjoy the benefits we are blessed to have today.

Sign the pledge at
www.backcountryhunters.org



Public lands
belong to you.



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Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

PO Box 9257

Missoula, MT 59807

(406) 370-4325

www.backcountryhunters.org

Report writing, editing and production managed by Jodi Stemler Consulting, LLC – jodi@stemlerconsulting.com

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