

Utah Sportsmen Oppose the Sale of Public Lands in the Budget Reconciliation

June 23, 2025

Senator Mike Lee

United States Senate
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Curtis

United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lee and Senator Curtis,

We, the undersigned Utah-based sportsmen's organizations and businesses in the hunting and angling industries, oppose the inclusion of federal public lands sales in the budget reconciliation bill. To preserve our hunting and angling heritage, we request that the authorization for sale of public lands be removed from the bill in its entirety.

Outdoor recreation (including hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting) is not only centric to Utah culture and our lifestyles, but also a major economic driver in our state. There are roughly one-quarter million hunting licenses and over 600,000 fishing licenses sold in Utah each year. According to a 2023 report by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, collectively, hunting, angling, and recreational shooting generate over \$1.6 billion in economic output within the State of Utah. With a vast majority of hunting and fishing occurring through public lands access, our proud Utah outdoor traditions are undoubtedly made possible through opportunities on public lands.

These lands are assets of the American people, including Utah hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters. While we understand and appreciate the desire to develop solutions for affordable housing and address federal land management challenges, the proposed sale of these assets through the budget reconciliation process is an inappropriate mechanism to address such issues and would establish a dangerous precedent that could further diminish our public lands and access in the future. The Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLPMA) already includes a process by which public lands can be divested for legitimate public purposes where sensible with a reasonable opportunity for public engagement. The inclusion of public lands sales in the budget reconciliation overrides this process and opens the door for additional public lands sales in the future, threatening our legacy as sportsmen.

Once these lands leave the public domain, the American people lose them forever. Sportsmen and women in Utah stand united in opposing the sale of public lands in the budget reconciliation process. We are ready and willing to work with you to ensure that public lands remain in public hands for Utahns to enjoy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Utah-based Sportsmen's Organizations:

Backcountry Horsemen of Utah
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers - Utah Chapter
Fish for Garbage
Cache Valley Pheasants Forever Chapter
Great Salt Lake Pheasants Forever Chapter
Green River Outfitters and Guides Association
Mountain West Muskie
Rocky Mountain Anglers Utah
Safari Club International - Utah Chapter
Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
Utah Anglers Coalition
Utah Archery Association
Utah Houndsmen Association
Utah Outfitter and Guide Association
Utah Stream Access Coalition
Utah Waterfowl Association
Utah Wildlife Federation
Utah Wild Sheep Foundation
Wasatch Mountain North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association Chapter
Wasatch Wigeons Association
Wasatch Women's Fly Fishing Club

Utah-based Hunting and Fishing Industry Businesses:

Backwater Performance	Epic Outdoors
Badlands Gear	Excel Boats
BAKCOU	Fern Creek Films and Consulting
BLK FLG	Fly Fish Food
BlackOvis	Final Rise
BPRO Kennels	Fish Tech Outfitters
Camofire	Fishwest
Concealment Solutions	Gear Fool
Crispi US	Grim Reaper Broadheads
DC Outfitters	GRITTY
Douglas Archery	Hatch Academy
Easton Archery	Horn Hunter Packs

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Hoyt Archery
Humphries Archery
Huntin' Fool
Huntin' Fool Adventures
Immerse Fly Fishing
Jay Beyer Imaging
Jordan River Boat Works
Karl Malone Powersports
MTN Physio
Mud Buddy Motors
Old Moe Guide Service
Ollin Inc.
On the Fly Utah
Outdoor Vitals
Park City Fly Fishing Guides
Strawberry Bay Marina
RakAdx
Rod & Gun Outfitters LLC
RoundRocks Flies
SEVR Broadheads
SheepFeet Outdoors
Spinner Fall Guide Service
The R&K Hunting Company
Trophy Room Taxidermy
Trout Creek Flies
The Grey Drake
Uncharted Supply Co.
Upland Fly Shop
Western Rivers Flyfisher
Western Rivers Flyfisher Guides
Wilde Arrow Archery
Wild Fly Productions