

April 14, 2015

Dear State and National Decision Makers:

America is known for its wide open spaces, seemingly endless mountain ranges, famous rivers and abundant fish and wildlife. Fundamental to this celebrated legacy is our national system of public lands, which is available to all Americans for hunting, fishing, camping and other forms of recreation.

As sportsmen-based organizations, we are alarmed that some decision makers are promoting the idea that federal public lands should be transferred to individual states or sold to private interests. We write to you today to strongly oppose this misguided approach.

America's public lands – managed by agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management – provide important fish and wildlife habitat and public access for hunting and fishing. Millions of American sportsmen use these lands each year to spend time with their families, challenge themselves physically and put food on their tables. Public lands and the activities they support benefit local businesses and contribute to America's \$646 billion annual outdoor recreation economy.

Sportsmen know firsthand that criticizing the management of federal public lands is easy, but the transfer of these lands to individual states is not a legitimate option for addressing management challenges. States are simply not equipped to support the enormous costs associated with fighting wildfires, maintaining roads and trails, treating noxious weeds and conducting habitat restoration. The likely result of state ownership would be the sale of public lands to private interests, where millions of acres would be closed to public access and an American birthright would be lost.

We ask that you take steps to voice your support for America's public lands legacy and reject efforts to dispose of, sell or transfer federal public lands.

Sincerely,

Regional and National Organizations

American Fly Fishing Trade Association

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Bear Trust International

Berkley Conservation Institute/Pure Fishing

Dallas Safari Club

International Federation of Fly Fishers

International Women Fly Fishers

Izaak Walton League of America

Muley Fanatic Foundation

National Wildlife Federation

National Wild Turkey Federation

Native Fish Society

North American Grouse Partnership

Northwest Guides and Anglers Association

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

Orion the Hunters Institute

Pheasants Forever

Pope & Young Club

Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Wildlife Management Institute
Wild Sheep Foundation

Arizona

Anglers United
Arizona Antelope Foundation
Arizona Big Game Super Raffle
Arizona Bowhunters Association
Arizona Chapter Safari Club International
Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited
Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
Arizona Elk Society
Arizona Flycasters Club
Arizona Houndsmen
Arizona Outdoor Sports
Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Coconino Sportsmen
Mohave Sportsman Club
Outdoor Experience 4 All
Xtreme Predator Callers
1.2.3. Go...

California

California Deer Association
California Waterfowl Association

Colorado

Colorado Bowhunters Association
Colorado Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Colorado Council of Trout Unlimited
Colorado Wildlife Federation
Muley Fanatic Foundation of Colorado
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society

Idaho

Ada County Fish & Game League
Blackfoot River Bowmen
Idaho Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Idaho Chapter of Safari Club International
Idaho Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation
Idaho Chukar Foundation
Idaho Conservation Officers Association

Idaho Council of Trout Unlimited
Idaho Poachers Club
Idaho State Bowhunters
Idaho Traditional Bowhunters
Idaho Wildlife Federation

Montana

Anaconda Sportsmen Club
Big Sky Upland Bird Association
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Helena Hunters and Anglers
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
Laurel Rod and Gun Club
Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Montana Bowhunters Association
Montana Sportsmen Alliance
Montana Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation
Montana Wildlife Federation
Park County Rod and Gun Club
Public Land/Water Access Association
Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Association
Traditional Bowhunters of Montana

Nevada

Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

New Mexico

Dona Ana Consolidated Sportsmen
Enchanted Circle Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Gila-Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Bosque Chapter of Trout Unlimited
New Mexico Chapter of Trout Unlimited
New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Oregon

Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Central Oregon Flyfishers
Clackamas River Basin Council
Izaak Walton League, Oregon Division
Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Oregon Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Oregon Chapter Mule Deer Foundation
Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
Oregon Hunters Association
Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation

Steamboaters
Traditional Archers of Oregon

Utah

United Wildlife Cooperative
Utah Airboat Association
Utah Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation
Utah Waterfowl Association

Washington

Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
Washington Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation
Washington Council of Trout Unlimited
Wild Steelhead Coalition

Wyoming

Bowhunters of Wyoming
Wyoming Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Wyoming Federation of Union Sportsmen
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
Yellowstone Country Bear Hunters Association