

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