

My Public Lands Plan for Utah

It's Time for Utah to Own and Locally
Manage its Public Lands

Utah Can Do It Better

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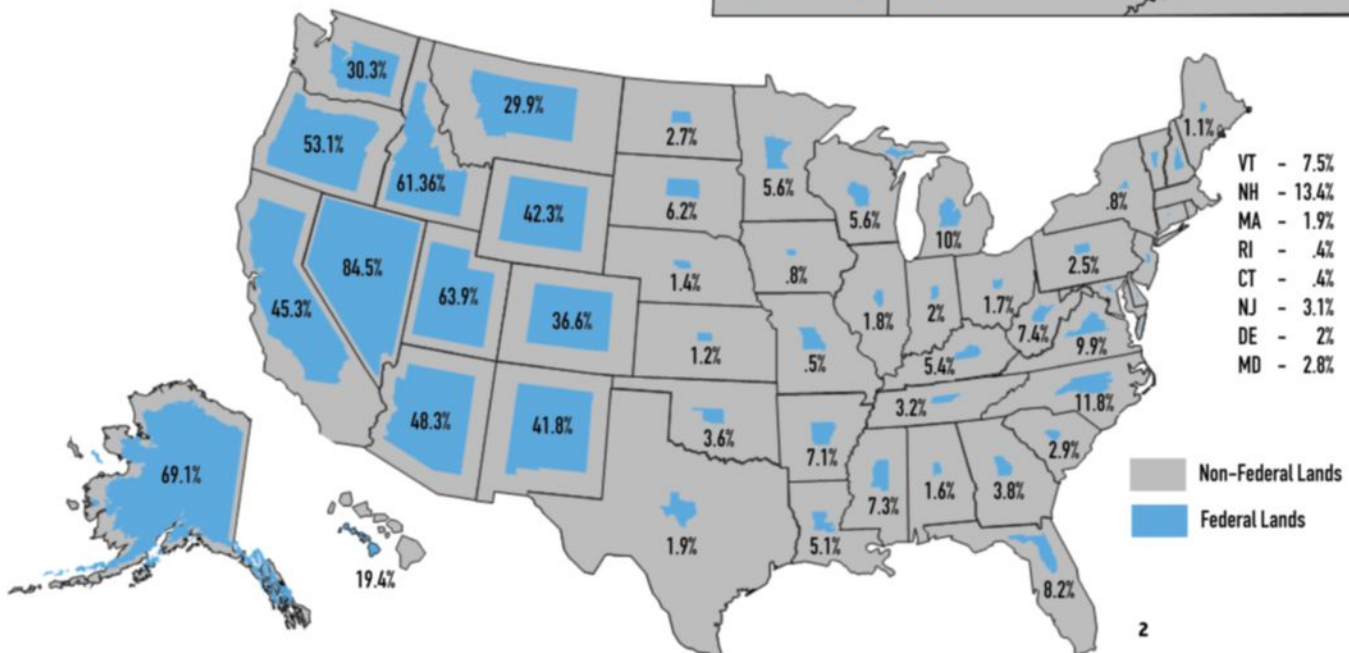
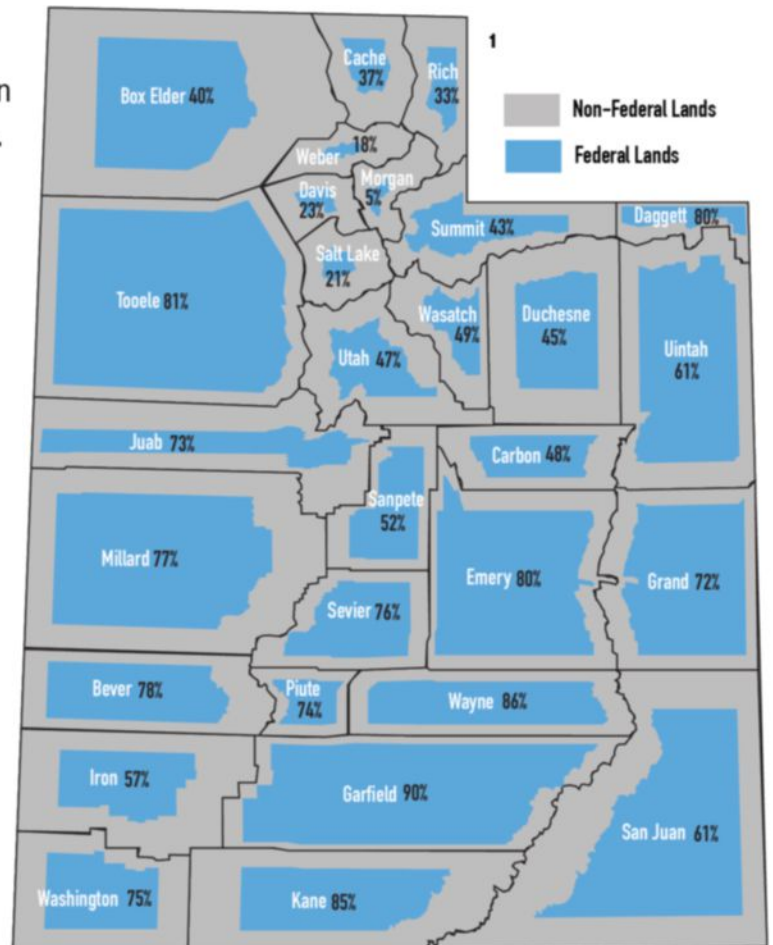


The Situation

The federal government owns nearly **2/3** of the land in Utah. Under federal mismanagement of these **30+ million acres:**

- Utah forests, watershed, wildlife and recreation areas have been destroyed or are at great risk.
- Utahns (and others) have decreasing access to these lands, often for political reasons.
- Rural Utahns are significantly restricted in their ability to earn a living.
- Utah's public education system realizes significantly less income from public lands.

Under state ownership and local management, Utah can better protect the health of its public lands and secure better access to them for current and future generations of Utahns. Utah can also increase economic activity in rural counties and provide more funds for education, roads and other services. When referring to public lands in Utah, I specifically mean the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service lands – not National Parks or military bases.



Groundwork Laid, but . . .

The Utah legislature has provided the governor with the necessary tools to take action, including:

→ March 2012

The Utah legislature enacted the Transfer of Public Lands Act³ calling for the transfer of public lands from the federal government to Utah by December 31, 2014.

That day came and went with no meaningful action from the governor.

November 2014

Three Utah universities issued a report entitled “An Analysis of a Transfer of Public Lands to the State of Utah”⁴ which stated “the state of Utah could take ownership of the lands and cover the costs to manage them.” **Again, no action by the governor.**

March 2015

The Property and Environmental Research Center issued a study entitled “Divided Lands: State vs. Federal Management in the West”⁵ which found that four western states “earn an average of \$14.51 for every dollar spent on state trust land management [while] the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management generate only 73 cents in return for every dollar spent on federal land management” in those states. **Still, no action by the governor.**

March 2015

The Utah legislature enacted the Catastrophic Public Nuisance Act⁶ letting the state abate a catastrophic nuisance on public lands. **No action whatsoever by the governor.**

December 2015

A team of constitutional experts presented a 146-page legal analysis⁷ and report to the Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands which set forth three unified legal paths for Utah to pursue against the federal government. **After reviewing this report,**

Governor Herbert said, “I don’t want to go to court.”⁸

The Utah state legislature has done its part.

It’s time for a governor who leads.

1 - <http://governor.utah.gov/DEA/Publications/070OtherPublications/Report.pdf>

2 - National Wilderness Institute

3 - <http://le.utah.gov/~2012/bills/hbillenr/hb0148.pdf>

4 - <http://publiclands.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/1.%20Land%20Transfer%20Analysis%20Final%20Report.pdf>

5 - http://www.perc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/150303_PERC_DividedLands.pdf

6 - <http://le.utah.gov/~2015/bills/static/HB0408.html>

7 - <http://le.utah.gov/interim/2015/pdf/00005590.pdf>

8 - <http://fox13now.com/2015/12/11/governor-herbert-weighs-in-on-lawsuit-for-control-of-all-federal-land-in-utah/>

My Plan

As a lawyer and business executive, I've been involved in many high stakes negotiations. When negotiating something as important as 30+ million acres of public lands, it is important to remember the end goal: the state's rightful ownership and local management of Utah's public lands.

As governor, I will get the federal government to transfer public lands to Utah by:

- > Leading out on this issue and enlisting the help of governors and local and federal officials.
- Acting quickly and decisively, not just giving lip service when among supportive groups.
- Bringing a lawsuit against the federal government.
- Doing more than sign laws others champion.
- Not bending in the face of adversity.

State ownership and local management means exercising proper stewardship. It does **not** mean:

- > Selling large portions of public lands to private parties.
- Lessening public access to public land.
- Exploiting the land in irresponsible ways.

It's time for Utah to own and manage its public lands.