

June 23, 2025

Western Governors Association
1700 Broadway, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80290

Dear Chairwoman Lujan Grisham, and Members of the Western Governors' Association,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the West, we urge you to reject any sale or disposal of public lands in your state and to publicly oppose the Senate budget reconciliation bill, which mandates the immediate disposal of 3 million acres of federal public lands and opens the door to privatizing more than 250 million acres. As you gather this week for the 2025 Western Governors Association annual meeting, we call on each of you to stand against what would be the largest public lands giveaway in U.S. history.

Language in the Senate bill puts over 250 million acres of public land across 11 Western states at risk, including treasured campgrounds, endangered species habitat, local recreation areas, roadless forests, wilderness study areas, hunting units, and big game migration corridors. This unprecedented proposal would strip public ownership from landscapes that Westerners rely on for recreation, cultural connection, wildlife conservation, and local economies.

The bill authorizes the permanent privatization of millions of acres of publicly owned Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land with no environmental review, Tribal consultation, or public input. It will take effect with lightning speed, forcing the immediate nomination of lands put up for auction within 30 days, all with no public process. There are no requirements or safeguards that sold land be used for affordable housing. It's an attack on the very values Westerners hold dear.

Polling underscores how out of touch this proposal is with Western values. A 2025 Colorado College "Conservation in the West" survey found that 82% of Western voters oppose selling public lands to address housing challenges in their state, while 83% of voters say the loss of natural areas is a serious problem.¹ The message is bipartisan and crystal clear: Westerners voters want protection—not a fire sale to fund billionaire tax breaks.

We urge each and every Western governor to publicly oppose the largest giveaway of public lands and national heritage in history, and we call on the Western Governors Association to formally oppose the sell off. The West is watching—and counting on your leadership to defend our cherished natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Center for Biological Diversity
[GROUPS]

¹ Colorado College State of the Rockies Project. *Conservation and Public Lands: Conservation in the West Poll*. Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado College, 2025.