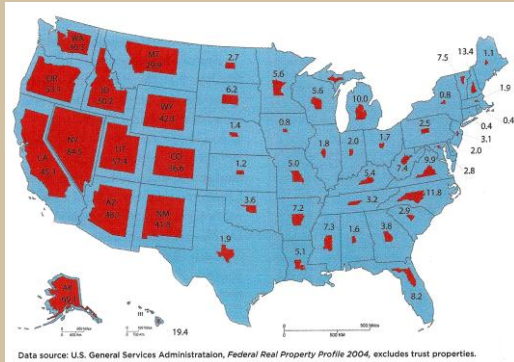


# Public Lands 101

## Did you know..?

- The federal government owns roughly 650 million acres in the U.S.
- Nearly 1 out of every 3 acres in the U.S. (29%) is owned and controlled by the federal government
- In the West, 1 out of every 2 acres is owned by the federal government.
- Over 90% of all federal land is located in the West.

## How much land does the federal government own in each state?



If we reversed the percentage of public land ownership in the East and West, the country would look like this:



The federal government is the largest landowner in the United States, controlling almost 1/3 of the entire land in the United States—an area more than six times the size of California, over 90 percent of which is located in Western states. The vast majority of these federal lands were set aside with the understanding that they would be open for multiple use, including recreation, conservation, and sensible natural resource development. However, that is not the reality for public lands in the West today.

Once land is taken by the federal government, it is often locked away forever from economic production. The majority of the federal government's 650 million acres of land is locked up for conservation purposes, either as national parks, wilderness areas, national forests or some other protective designation.

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Local governments in the West miss out on substantial tax revenues from potential energy extraction, mining, timber harvesting and other forms of economic development. The lack of revenue often leads to a decrease in the quality of public services available in these communities, especially in rural areas where access to government resources is already more difficult than in large cities.

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Federal lands contain 46% of the proven crude reserves in the United States. The amount of public acreage made available for oil and gas drilling has also steadily declined over the past few years, and the wait time for a permit has spiraled out of control. Below is a chart of the proposed wells that have been delayed by the government for over 3 years versus the total number of wells approved for drilling in Fiscal Year 2012:

