

## Statement of Principles Supporting Public Lands

Preamble:

America's national public lands are the envy of the world, born in opposition to European models limiting land and resources to the wealthy, and to unchecked exploitation of limited natural resources; conceived by iconic American leaders like Presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt; and handed down with pride from generation to generation. Our network of public lands is quintessentially an American heritage that provides us all with abundant natural resources, unparalleled yet affordable recreation opportunities, large connected landscapes and habitats, and a chance to experience a semblance of the frontier that helped define us as a people. Public lands make tremendous contributions to local communities and the national economy.

America's system of public lands complements extensive private, state, and local government ownership of land and resources. Our laws and policies allow for transfers of parcels of national lands to state or local governments or to the private sector when it benefits the public and enhances resource management objectives.

There currently exist real challenges that must be addressed related to the national public land estate, despite the best efforts of many underfunded public land managers to balance diverse public interests. As a result, we must strive to improve how public lands are managed and funded, for the benefit of our natural resources and the public that owns and enjoys them. However, in order for this to occur, our nation needs a national land base to provide these values and benefits. Our public lands are a unique part of our nation's legacy which must persist long into the future of our great country.

Statement of Principles Supporting Public Lands:

1. I support keeping America's national public lands in public hands. I will oppose large-scale efforts to sell or transfer ownership or management of national lands to state or local governments or private interests.
2. I agree that wholesale transfer or sale of national public lands to state or private control will deprive current and future generations of Americans of lands and resources that we enjoy today and will eliminate forever a defining feature of our shared national identity.



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Signature