

# FAQ

**This FAQ page addresses questions from SRM members regarding the highly-publicized and reported sale of public lands across the U.S.**

*Answers are based on the June 11 bill text that came from the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee - Subtitle C.*



## ARE NATIONAL PARKS LANDS FOR SALE?

No, there are 15 exclusionary lines that define “federally protected land” to keep national parks safe from sale under this bill. Other types of federally protected land include national recreation and conservation areas.

## WHAT STATES ARE INCLUDED IN THIS BILL THAT MAY FACE FEDERAL LAND SALES?

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Montana was exempt from this language due to the hard-fought battle by MT constituents and legislators. Other western states could see this similar success.

## ARE 250 MILLION ACRES OF WESTERN LAND FOR SALE?

No, language allows for the mandatory disposal of 0.50-0.75% of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Forest System (NFS) land for housing and development. This totals to just over 3.3 million acres. 250 million acres is the pool of land eligible to be nominated for sale in order to meet the mandatory disposal criteria.

## WHO GETS TO DECIDE WHICH LANDS GO FOR SALE?

Forest Service land: Secretary of Agriculture and Chief of Forest Service.

BLM land: Secretary of the Interior and Director of BLM.

## WHAT ARE THESE DECIDERS ABLE TO DO?

They are able to sell all rights, title, and interest of the US.

## CAN THE SECRETARIES MAKE THESE DECISIONS EXECUTIVELY?

Not necessarily, language says the Secretaries shall consult with a state’s governor, the disposal area’s local government, and each applicable Indian Tribe.

## WILL THIS LAND SALE LAST FOREVER?

Not as the bill stands written today. Language says these disposals must be completed in five years. However, as we have seen in the past Farm Bill extensions, once something is codified into law, it is as easy to add an extension as it is to let the language meet its original expiration date.

## CAN ELIGIBLE LAND FOR SALE BE BOUGHT BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS?

To be determined - language says sales will go to local and state governments first before private developers, it does not explicitly exclude foreign investors and governments.

## WILL EXISTING GRAZING LEASES ON FEDERAL LAND BE TERMINATED AUTOMATICALLY WHEN LAND IS SOLD?

Language in the published June 11 bill text excludes any land with valid existing rights, including current grazing permits, from disposal/sale eligibility.

However, there was bill text leaked on 6/14 that did not include any mention to this exclusion. It was later confirmed by ENR Committee Democrats. Following the 6/16 leaked text, PLC announced they received verbal commitments that any updated text will protect grazing allotments. SRM is currently in communication with Hill offices for specific confirmation on this point.