

# FLTFA

## REAUTHORIZATION

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act



# Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization

In conjunction with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Congress authorized a conservation funding program in 2000 that helps federal agencies acquire critically important tracts of private land for fish and wildlife conservation, cultural and historic preservation, and outdoor recreation in the eleven Western states and Alaska.

Passed as part of the Baca Ranch legislation, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) of 2000 authorizes the Department of Interior (DOI) and the U.S. Forest Service to use the proceeds from sales of BLM lands to acquire inholdings in federally designated areas\*, such as BLM areas, national forests, national parks and national wildlife refuges. FLTFA provides federal agencies in the eleven Western states and Alaska with an important new funding source to complement the Land and Water Conservation Fund, land exchanges, other federal grant programs, and state and private funds.

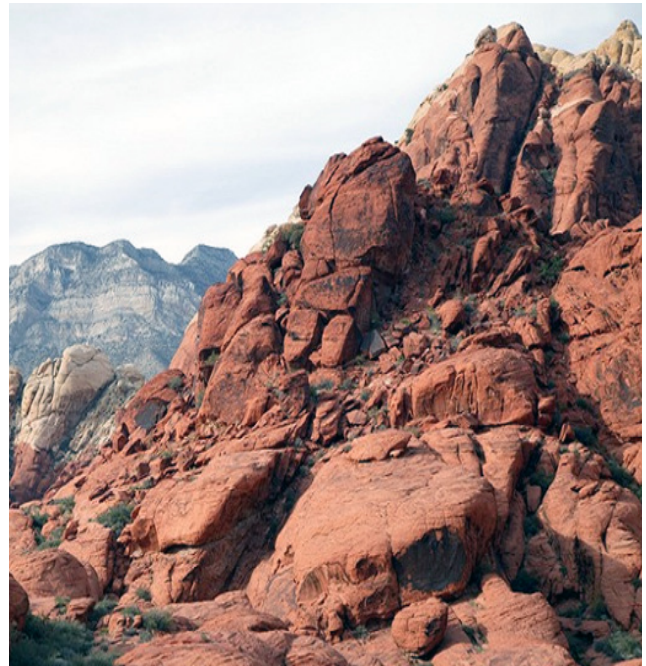
## Background

The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) requires the BLM to develop and revise land use plans, through a public process, to guide the management and disposal of public lands. FLPMA authorizes BLM to sell or exchange public lands that have been identified for disposal in an approved land use plan. In order to dispose of land, BLM must make certain determinations through its planning process. BLM must determine that the tract is difficult or uneconomic to manage as part of the public domain; that it is not suitable for management by another federal department; and that the disposal will serve important public objectives. For many years, BLM has utilized this disposal authority to conduct land exchanges that are determined to be in the public interest.

Our organizations strongly support the current FLTFA and its reauthorization, so that it may continue to fund agency land acquisition priorities. We support the following reauthorization principles:

1. Maintain the "land for land" principle that is in the current law.
2. Make the authorization permanent.
3. Allow for proceeds from the sale of lands identified in BLM land use plans that were completed after 2000 to be spent on land purchases and to allow the agencies to use FLTFA funds to acquire inholdings within any designated area, regardless of when the area was established.

In addition, we recommend that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture delegate the approval process.



5. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV  
Protection of unique Mojave Desert geologic formations

In 2000, Congress passed FLTFA to create a special account to receive the proceeds from the sales of certain public lands in Western states (not including Southern Nevada sales). FLTFA requires that these lands be "identified for disposal" in an approved land use plan that was completed as of the date of enactment (July 25, 2000). FLTFA funds can be used to acquire inholdings within areas designated as of July 2000 or tracts adjacent to designated areas.

Over the last several years, the disposal of excess public lands in the Western states has generated over \$100 million in the FLTFA account. These funds have allowed the BLM, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire key properties from willing sellers. FLTFA expires in 2010, and we support reauthorization in order to ensure that this program will continue to protect critical lands and provide public access.

\* Federally designated areas: Bureau of Land Management areas: national monuments, areas of critical environmental concern, national conservation areas, national riparian conservation areas, national recreation areas, national scenic areas, research natural areas, national outstanding natural areas, national natural landmarks; National Park System; National Wildlife Refuge System; areas of the National Forest System designated for special management by Congress, wilderness and wilderness study areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and National Trails System. 43 USC 2302.



# BLM, FWS, NPS & USFS Secretarial Approvals

(As of January 31, 2009)



**4. Rogue**  
National Wild & Scenic River, OR  
*Protection of historic Zane Grey fishing camp*

**5. Six Rivers**  
National Forest, CA  
*Protection of fisheries and endangered species habitat*



**9. Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard**  
Area of Critical Environmental Concern, CA  
*Protection of endangered species habitat*



**26. Red Rock Lakes**  
National Wildlife Refuge, MT  
*Protection of trumpeter swan breeding habitat*



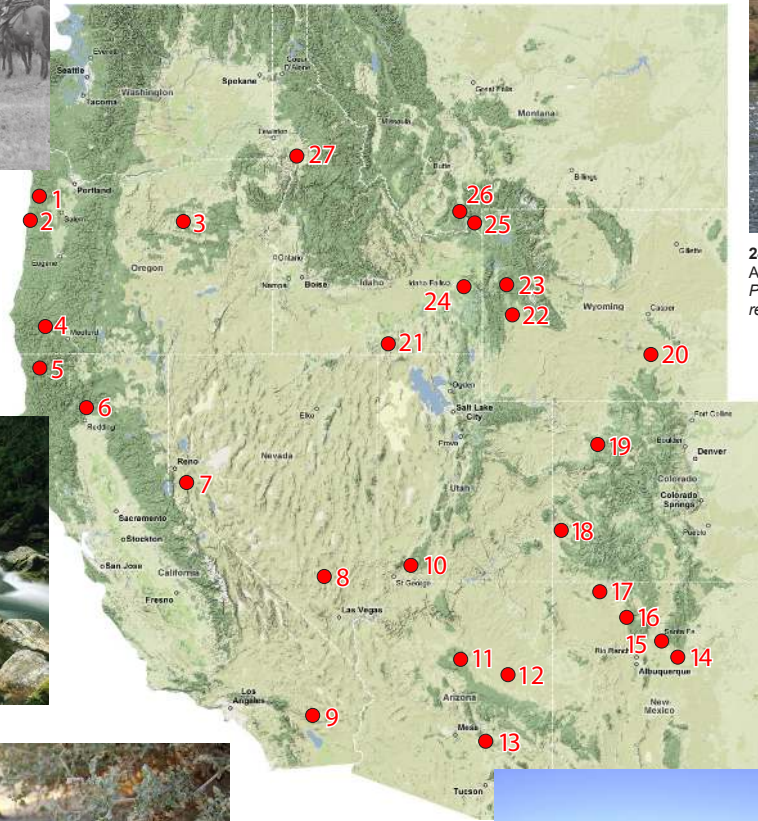
**24. Snake River**  
Area of Critical Environmental Concern, ID  
*Protection of crucial bird habitat and outstanding recreational opportunities*



**22. Grand Teton**  
National Park, WY  
*Protection of scenic and wildlife values threatened by development*



**14. La Cienega**  
Area of Critical Environmental Concern, NM  
*Protection of scenic viewshed along the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT*



## ● Bureau of Land Management

- 4. Rogue National Wild & Scenic River, OR
- 8. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV
- 9. Coachella Valley Fringe-Toed Lizard Area of Critical Environmental Concern, CA
- 11. Hells Canyon Wilderness, AZ
- 14. La Cienega Area of Critical Environmental Concern, NM
- 16. Elk Springs Area of Critical Environmental Concern, NM
- 18. Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, CO
- 20. California, Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails, WY
- 24. Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern, ID
- 25. Henrys Lake Area of Critical Environmental Concern, ID

## ● U.S. Forest Service

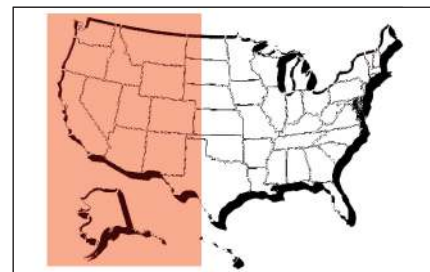
- 5. Six Rivers National Forest, CA
- 6. Shasta-Trinity National Forest, CA
- 7. Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, NV
- 12. Coconino National Forest, AZ
- 13. Tonto National Forest, AZ
- 15. Santa Fe National Forest, NM
- 19. White River National Forest, CO
- 23. Bridger-Teton National Forest, WY

## ● National Park Service

- 3. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, OR
- 10. Zion National Park, UT
- 17. Aztec Ruins National Monument, NM
- 21. City of Rocks National Reserve, ID
- 22. Grand Teton National Park, WY
- 27. Nez Perce National Historic Park, ID

## ● U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- 1. Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge, OR
- 2. Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, OR
- 26. Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, MT



## Key Reasons to Reauthorize FLTFA

[www.flfta.org](http://www.flfta.org)

- » Protects critically important tracts of land for fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, historic preservation, and public access
- » Balanced approach to land management, benefitting private land owners and the general public
- » Land for land principle: public lands sold generate funding for protecting other land
- » Dedicated funding source for land conservation
- » Complements Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

## How FLTFA Works:

- » BLM sells land identified for disposal prior to July 25, 2000.
- » BLM retains revenue from the sales as well as equalization payments from exchange proponents.
- » Revenue is divided between the state (4%) and the Federal Land Disposal Account (96%).
- » A minimum of 80% of the revenue deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account is for land acquisition.
- » A maximum of 20% of the revenue deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account is retained by BLM for administrative costs.
- » The land acquisition funds are further divided into 80% for "in state" acquisitions and 20% that can be used in any of the ten contiguous Western states or Alaska.
- » A 2003 Interagency MOU recommended the distribution of land acquisition funds as the following:

Bureau of Land Management	60%
US Forest Service	20%
Fish and Wildlife Service	10%
National Park Service	10%
- » Nominations for land acquisition projects are submitted to BLM.
- » Participating agencies assess the nominations for public benefit and rank them.
- » Approvals of the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are required.

## Organizations Supporting Permanent Reauthorization of FLTFA:

Access Fund	Friends of Ironwood Forest	Quail Forever
American Canoe Association	International Mountain Bicycling Association	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	Izaak Walton League of America	Sanctuary Forest
American Hiking Society	Japanese American Citizens League	Sierra Club
American Horse Council	Land Trust Alliance	Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
American Rivers	Mule Deer Foundation	Sonoran Institute
American Sportsfishing Association	National Audubon Society	Student Conservation Association
Arizona Trail Association	National Parks Conservation Association	Superstition Area Land Trust
Arizona Zoological Society	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Teton Regional Land Trust
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Natural Resources Defense Council	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Association of Partners for Public Lands	National Wildlife Federation	Tread Lightly!
Campaign for America's Wilderness	The Nature Conservancy	Trout Unlimited
Conservation Force	New Mexico Wildlife Federation	The Trust for Public Land
The Conservation Fund	Oregon-California Trail Association	Vital Ground
Conservation Lands Foundation	Outdoor Alliance	Wilderness Land Trust
Continental Divide Trail Alliance	Outdoor Industry Association	The Wilderness Society
The Corps Network	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Wildlife Management Institute
Defenders of Wildlife	Partnership for The National Trails System	Western Rivers Conservancy
Ducks Unlimited	Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Wild Sheep Foundation
Federation of Fly Fishers	Piedras Blancas Light Station Association	Winter Wildlands Alliance
Friends of Agua Fria		
Friends of the Desert Mountains		