

RECREATION and FLTFA

REAUTHORIZATION

February 2016



Please reauthorize FLTFA for the benefit of recreation & local economies in the West

The Western United States provides outstanding opportunities to hike, bike, paddle, climb, ski and explore at some of America's most adventurous lands. Over 165 groups support **reauthorizing the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)**, a fiscally responsible approach to funding conservation while providing opportunities for economic growth and recreation.

What is FLTFA? Originally enacted in 2000 (P.L. 106-248), FLTFA is a western Federal lands program that facilitates strategic Federal land sales by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in order to provide funding for high-priority land conservation within or adjacent to Federal lands in the eleven contiguous western states and Alaska, as well as funds costs associated with strategic BLM land sales. Without FLTFA, BLM has little capacity to sell land; the public-private "checkerboard" of lands in the West remains frozen; and counties, communities, ranchers, businesses, landowners and others are unable to buy BLM lands identified for disposal through an efficient mechanism. In addition, FLTFA provides funding for BLM, USFS, NPS, and USFWS land conservation projects that increase public access for outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing; conserve wildlife habitat; and preserve historic and cultural resources. FLTFA expired in 2011, and reauthorization will enhance western lands and the economy.



Thanks to FLTFA, hikers have increased access to a network of trails leading to the Wind River Range in Wyoming.

How does FLTFA work? Through a public process, BLM sells land that has been identified for disposal. The sales

proceeds are deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account, a separate account in the Treasury. Next, an interagency team from BLM, USFS, NPS, and USFWS within the western state where the land was sold meets to decide recommendations for priority conservation projects. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture authorize the funding.

What is the legislative status and what Members of Congress support FLTFA reauthorization?

U.S. Senate. Senators Heinrich (D-MN) and Heller (R-NV) introduced bipartisan legislation to permanently reauthorize FLTFA (S. 2189), cosponsored by Senators Bennet (D-CO), Gardner (R-CO), Crapo (R-ID), Risch (R-ID), Tester (D-MT), Daines (D-MT), Wyden (D-OR), and Udall (D-NM). The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 also includes permanent FLTFA reauthorization (S. 405, Sec. 203), and a subset package of bills from S. 405, known as S. 556, includes permanent FLTFA reauthorization in Sec. 203, and was marked up by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

U.S. House of Representatives. U.S. Representatives Newhouse (R-WA 4) and Lummis (R-WY) introduced a seven year bipartisan FLTFA reauthorization bill, cosponsored by Representatives Amodei (R-NV 2), Chaffetz (R-UT 3), Coffman (R-CO 6), DelBene (D-OR 1), Gosar (R-AZ 4), Grijalva (R-AZ 63), Huffman (D-CA 2), Labrador (R-ID 1), Lujan (D-NM 3), Love (R-UT 4), McMorris Rodgers (R-WA 5), Polis (D-CO 2), Rohrabacher (R-CA 48), Simpson (R-ID 2), and Stewart (R-UT 2). A seven year FLTFA reauthorization is also part of the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015 (H.R. 2406, Title IX), which has been marked up by the House Natural Resources Committee. A seven year reauthorization is also a part of the House Sportsmen's Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Act (H.R. 3173, Sec. 3).

What has FLTFA accomplished? Before FLTFA's authority expired in July 2011, the BLM completed hundreds of land sales, generating over \$115 million, which funded 39 conservation projects in western states. The BLM sales helped support economic development, consolidate land ownership, and create jobs. Completed FLTFA land conservation projects provided more access for recreation, like at City of Rocks National Reserve along the Oregon NHT in Idaho, four national trails along the North Platte River near Casper, Wyoming, and the Pony Express NHT at the Dagget Pass in Nevada. These new places help the local tourism economy through retail sales, hotels, restaurants, gas stations and more. If FLTFA is reauthorized, the agencies will be able to provide more public access for recreation.