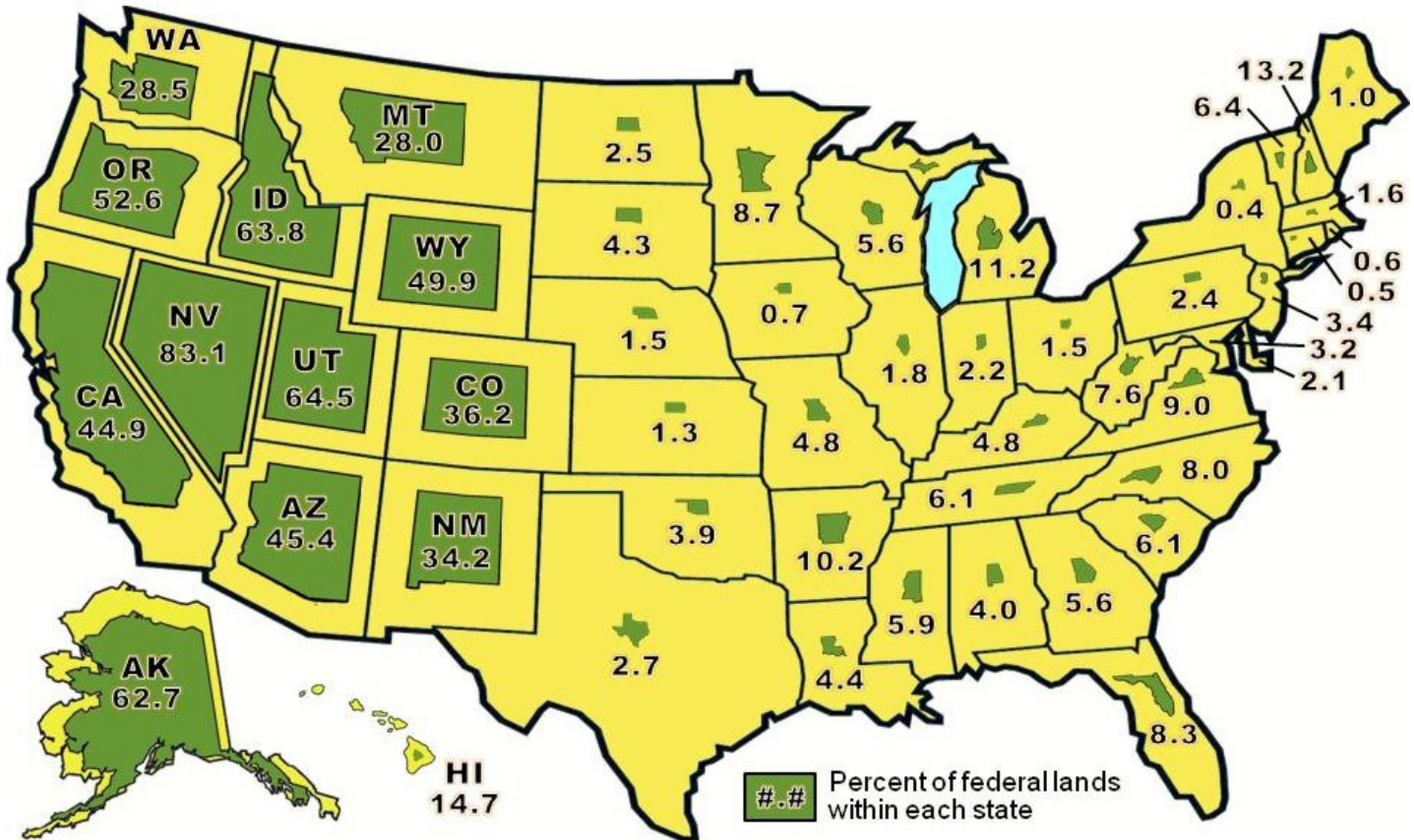


Fact Sheet #8

Federal Land as a Percentage of Total State Land Area

The government of the United States of America is directly responsible for managing 29 percent of the nation’s land area.^{1/} When asked which state has the most federal land, most people correctly say Alaska. Totalling 229 million acres,^{2/} just the federal lands in Alaska exceed by 36 percent the total land area of Texas, our second-largest state. Three other states have a higher percentage of federal land than Alaska: Nevada (83.1%), Utah (64.5%), and Idaho (63.8%).^{3/} The map below is a variant of similar maps published elsewhere,^{4/} and uses the most accurate data available.



^{1/} BLM (2011), *Public Land Statistics 2010*, Vol. 195, BLM/OC/ST-11/001+1165, Table 1-3. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior. http://www.blm.gov/public_land_statistics/pls10/pls10_combined.pdf; data for eastern states from *Public Land Statistics 1998*, Table 1-3: data for Alaska and Idaho from other sources in notes 2 & 3 below.

^{2/} APIIC (2007), “Alaska Land Ownership” fact sheet, Alaska Public Lands Information Centers, Juneau, AK. <http://www.alaskacenters.gov/upload/Land-Ownership-Alaska-7-11.pdf>

^{3/} O’Laughlin, J., Hundrup, W.R. & Cook, P.S. (1998), *History and Analysis of Federally Administered Lands in Idaho*, Policy Analysis Group Report No. 16, Appendix Table A-1. College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho. <http://www.cnrhome.uidaho.edu/documents/Appendices.pdf?pid=90763&doc=1>

^{4/} “Who owns the West? Federal land as a percentage of total state land area,” map from data in *Federal Real Property Profile 2004*, U.S. General Services Administration, in, D.M. Kennedy, “Can the West lead us to a better place?” *Stanford Magazine* (May/June 2008). <http://www.stanfordalumni.org/news/magazine/2008/mayjun/features/west.html>; “Public West, Private East,” map from unidentified BLM data source, p. 58, in, *Atlas of the New West*, Center of the American West, University of Colorado at Boulder. W.W. Norton & Co., New York, NY (1997).