DIVIDED LANDS
State vs. Federal Management in the West

By Holly Fretwell and Shawn Regan
356 million acres of the West (47%)
582 mil including Alaska (52%)
46.9 million acres of the East (4%)
628.8 million acres of federal land (27.7%)
The Key Question:
Why do we have federal lands?

What are the desired outcomes?
Federal Land Management
Legislative rule, political appropriations, judicial rule, & public input

• Scientific management
• Layers of regulation
• Appropriated budgets
• Public input
• Excessive planning

The system is perfectly designed for the results!
- Fiduciary goal
- Support state institutions (public schools)
- Perpetual
- Revenues distributed to beneficiaries
Why Does Ownership Matter?
(It’s the rules that change behavior)

There must be some form of allocation to resolve conflicting demands on resources

• State Trust Land fiduciary requirements use markets
  • Competitive leasing forces stakeholders to bear the costs of land uses foregone

• Federal land laws rely on political determination
  • Lacking clarity of purpose on the federal lands, stakeholders lobby for desired end use
Why federal public lands?

• To generate state revenues?
• To provide commodities
  • (timber, forage, minerals)?
• To conserve landscapes?
• To provide ecosystem services?
  • (wildlife habitat, clean water, biodiversity . . .)

Before we can design a better managing agency, we need to know what we are managing for!
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