

Ala Kahakai Trail Association, American Hiking Society, American Whitewater, Arizona Conservation Partners, Arizona Trail Association, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Association of Northwest Steelheaders, Back Country Horsemen of California - Mother Lode Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Californians for Western Wilderness, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Colorado Mountain Club, Columbia Land Trust, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Defenders of Wildlife, Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen, Ducks Unlimited, Endangered Habitats League, Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center, Friends of Gold Butte, Friends of Ironwood Forest, Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument, Friends of the Sonoran Desert, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners, Great Old Broads for Wilderness Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Hancock Timber Resource Group, Henry's Fork Foundation, Houston Safari Club, Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Klamath Forest Alliance, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Land Trust Alliance, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nevada Land Trust, Nevada Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, North American Grouse Partnership, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon-California Trails Association, Outdoor Alliance, Outdoor Industry Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Partnership for the National Trails System, Public Lands Foundation, Quality Deer Management Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Sierra Club, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen, The Conservation Fund, The Corps Network, The Nature Conservancy, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, The Trust for Public Land, The Wilderness Land Trust, The Wilderness Society, Trout Unlimited, Tuleyome, Western Rivers Conservancy, Wild Turkey Sportsman's Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of our respective organizations, we write to urge you to permanently reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) as soon as possible, in order to reinstate a critical western lands bill that facilitates strategic federal land sales and supports protecting our nation's special places. FLTFA reauthorization is included in the Murkowski-Heinrich Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 (S. 405), and Senators Heinrich and Heller recently introduced standalone FLTFA reauthorization legislation (S. 2189). We appreciate the Committee's leadership to advance FLTFA and urge the Senate to swiftly pass permanent FLTFA reauthorization on any legislative vehicle opportunities.

FLTFA is a common-sense lands tool that achieves economic and conservation goals. 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. 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 often

unable to buy BLM lands identified for disposal through an efficient mechanism. Without FLTFA, BLM has very limited funding to conduct sales and other administrative real estate work, but if FLTFA is reauthorized, a portion of FLTFA proceeds will fund these costs and increase BLM staff capacity.

The sales revenue generated is deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account, which provides funding for BLM, USFS, NPS, and USFWS land conservation projects that increase public access for outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing; conserve wildlife habitat; protect water quality; and preserve historic and cultural resources. The purchases often enhance the tourism and recreation economies of local communities through retail sales, hotels, restaurants, gas stations and more. Without FLTFA, revenue from sales of BLM lands goes directly to the U.S. Treasury and not to conservation. These FLTFA land sales and acquisitions provide a critical tool for consolidating private and public land ownership, which allows for more efficient land management and expanded business operations.

Please reauthorize FLTFA as soon as possible, to provide benefits for local economies, communities, agencies, conservation and the West. As FLTFA reauthorization moves forward, we look forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Ala Kahakai Trail Association	Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
American Hiking Society	Great Old Broads for Wilderness
American Whitewater	Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Arizona Conservation Partners	Hancock Timber Resource Group
Arizona Trail Association	Henry's Fork Foundation
Arizona Wildlife Federation	Houston Safari Club
Association of Northwest Steelheaders	Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts
Back Country Horsemen of California - Mother Lode Chapter	Idaho Conservation League
Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Idaho Wildlife Federation
Californians for Western Wilderness	Klamath Forest Alliance
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts	Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Colorado Mountain Club	Land Trust Alliance
Columbia Land Trust.	National Trust for Historic Preservation
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship.	National Wild Turkey Federation
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center	National Wildlife Federation
Defenders of Wildlife.	Natural Resources Defense Council
Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen	Nevada Land Trust
Ducks Unlimited	Nevada Wildlife Federation
Endangered Habitats League	New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Epic-Environmental Protection Information Center	North American Grouse Partnership
Friends of Gold Butte	Oregon Natural Desert Association
Friends of Ironwood Forest	Oregon-California Trails Association
Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks	Outdoor Alliance
Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument	Outdoor Industry Association
Friends of the Sonoran Desert	Pacific Crest Trail Association
	Partnership for the National Trails System
	Public Lands Foundation.

Quality Deer Management Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative
San Juan Citizens Alliance
Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
The Conservation Fund
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy

The Trust for Public Land
The Wilderness Land Trust
The Wilderness Society
Trout Unlimited
Tuleyome
Western Rivers Conservancy
Wild Turkey Sportsman's Association
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Wyoming Wildlife Federation

cc:

Senator Al Franken
Senator Angus King
Senator Bernard Sanders
Senator Bill Cassidy
Senator Cory Gardner
Senator Dean Heller
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Elizabeth Warren
Senator Jeff Flake
Senator James Risch
Senator Joe Manchin III
Senator John Barrasso
Senator John Hoeven

Senator Jon Tester
Senator Lamar Alexander
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Mazie Hirono
Senator Michael Bennet
Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Mike Lee
Senator Rob Portman
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Senator Steve Daines
Senator Tom Udall