

REFERENCE TITLE: federal lands; supporting disposal

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SCR 1018

Introduced by
Senator Finchem

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE DISPOSAL OF FEDERALLY HELD LANDS BY THE BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT AND OPPOSING THE FEDERAL 30X30 INITIATIVE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, the federal government is the largest landowner in the
2 United States, controlling almost one-third of the entire land in the
3 country, over 90% of which is located in Western States; and

4 Whereas, once land is taken by the federal government, it is often
5 squandered, locked away forever from economic production; and

6 Whereas, the State of Arizona is composed of 113,417 square miles of
7 land, of which 42% is federally possessed, unappropriated and nontribal
8 land that is unavailable for economic development and not part of the
9 property tax base; and

10 Whereas, the United States Congress has provided various statutory
11 authorities to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to dispose of federal
12 lands through conveyance to another party. BLM may sell lands to or
13 exchange lands with any party or may sell or lease land to states and
14 other governmental agencies for various public purposes, such as to
15 establish parks, schools and public works; and

16 Whereas, in 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 that
17 establishes a national goal to acquire and conserve at least 30% of
18 America's land and water resources by 2030, commonly referred to as the
19 30x30 initiative; and

20 Whereas, seeking to take 30% of all land in the United States,
21 including land in Arizona, out of economic production is an abuse of power
22 that will have sweeping impacts on Arizonans; and

23 Whereas, the governors of 15 states have expressed that the 30x30
24 initiative will harm local economies, reduce school funding and infringe
25 on private property rights; and

26 Whereas, federal ownership of vast amounts of lands eliminates or
27 restricts reasonable and thoughtful use of these natural resources for
28 multiple purposes, such as recreation, grazing, mining, energy development
29 and forestry. The great strength of Arizona lies in the value of its
30 lands and the ability for the public to access those lands for a variety
31 of uses; and

32 Whereas, the low percentage of private and state lands in the West
33 already places these states at a significant economic disadvantage and
34 restricts their ability to adequately provide for the future; and

35 Whereas, the federal government has done an exceedingly poor job of
36 administering these resources as a result of decades of dysfunctional
37 federal bureaucracy. The federal government has mismanaged public lands
38 economically and ecologically, while handcuffing local control; and

39 Whereas, state stewardship of public lands is more efficient,
40 thoughtful, accountable and locally driven, which improves public access,
41 environmental health and economic productivity.

1 Therefore

2 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
3 Representatives concurring:

4 1. That the Members of the Legislature support the disposal of
5 federally held unappropriated lands by the Bureau of Land Management, as
6 it was originally instructed to do.

7 2. That the Members of the Legislature oppose the federal
8 initiative, 30x30, which seeks to remove more land from state and private
9 ownership.