
MANDATORY DISPOSAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND AND NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND FOR HOUSING

Background: There is a nationwide shortage of 4.5 million houses and a shortage of 7.1 million affordable and available homes. The Federal government owns nearly a third of the country with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owning over 245 million acres and the Forest Service (FS) owning 193 million acres. Effectively, none of this land can be used for housing. In the West, this means that the federal government is depriving our communities of needed land for housing and inhibiting growth. President Trump recognized the connection between federal land ownership and the housing crisis, which is why he pledged to “open up portions of federal land for large-scale housing construction.” Also looking to tackle this problem, Secretaries Burgum and Turner created the Joint Task Force on Federal Land for Housing. This proposal allows a fraction of 1% of federal land to be used to build houses. In doing so, it will create thousands of jobs, allow millions of Americans to realize the American dream, and reduce the deficit and fund our public lands.

Summary of Proposal:

- Requires BLM and FS to sell a minimum of 0.5% and a maximum of 0.75% of their estates for housing and associated community needs. This will increase the supply of housing and decrease costs for millions of Americans.
- Creates a process for interested parties, including States and units of local governments, to nominate land for disposal to meet housing and community needs. This process includes consultation with Governors and Indian Tribes and allows States or units of local government to have a right of first refusal to purchase land.
- Prohibits the sale of lands with special designations, such as National Parks, National Monuments, wilderness areas, or national recreation areas. Prohibits the sale of any land where there is a valid existing right, including mining claims, grazing permits, mineral leases, or rights of ways.
- Requires receipts from sales to go the Treasury, other than
 - 5% which will go to the unit of local government where the parcel is sold for essential infrastructure directly supporting housing development or other associated community needs; and
 - 5% which will go to deferred maintenance of BLM and FS lands in the state where the lands are sold.
 - Any funds that States are owed under existing law.
- Requires all conveyances to be completed within five years of enactment and appropriates \$5,000,000 to BLM and \$5,000,000 to FS to ensure that all sales and conveyances occur in a timely manner.

This proposal is estimated to generate \$5 to \$10 billion during the 2025-2034 period. This proposal is central to relieving the housing crisis, fulfilling President Trump’s housing and public lands agenda, and creating jobs and strong economic growth in the West.