

Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act

BLM Land Sales and Exchanges Fact Sheet

Summary: The purpose of this section of the legislation is to give Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks a stronger role in determining priorities for development and sale of federally owned and managed lands. The intent is to allow local governments to propose land to be developed in support of continued growth and need for housing, business and infrastructure development to support residents.

- Gives local entities a key role in nominating which federally managed lands should be available for sale or exchange within the identified disposal boundary.
- Lands eligible for sale or exchange would be those lands held by Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service identified in the disposal boundary and without any mapped federal constraint. The mapped federal constraints include; areas of critical environmental concern, Hungary Valley Special Recreation Management Area, environmentally sensitive land and tribal lands. Local governments have additional restrictions which include the Bidell Flats for infrastructure and open space use only as well as development code which will be included in the bill that land with greater than 30 degree slope cannot be developed.
- Annually the local entities may nominate to the federal land managers specific parcels, subject to valid and existing rights and authorized uses, for sale or exchange. The land will stay in control of the federal government until the land is sold, and they have final authority to determine if parcels can be sold.
- At the request of the local entities, the federal land managers shall postpone or exclude certain parcels from sale that are within the local entities boundaries. This allows the local governments and the federal land managers to stop a sale or exchange they feel is not in the best interest at that point in time or has conflicts that would not allow for the sale to go forward. Included in the process for determining if a parcel could be sold will be an environmental review by the federal agencies.
- Under this legislation, the proceeds from the sale or exchange would go to: 10% will go to local governments to be spent to help support the region, 5% the State of Nevada for education, and 85% would stay in Washoe County for the Department of Interior to use to pay for land actions, drought mitigation, wildlife prevention, parks and recreation, etc. (without legislation, the proceeds would go into the US General Treasury and would NOT stay within the County or the State).
- The land transfers that exist in the bill are for use by public agencies only and can only be used for a public purpose. Please see the “Land Transfer Request List” for details on each parcel being requested.
- If the land is not used for its intended purpose as outlined in the bill then the transfer would reverse and ownership would revert to the original Federal agency who previously managed the land.
- Many of these lands transfers are parcels where the requesting body currently has a lease from the federal government for the land. These transfers allow for that governing body to continue their current practices on the land without the oversight of the Federal Government.