

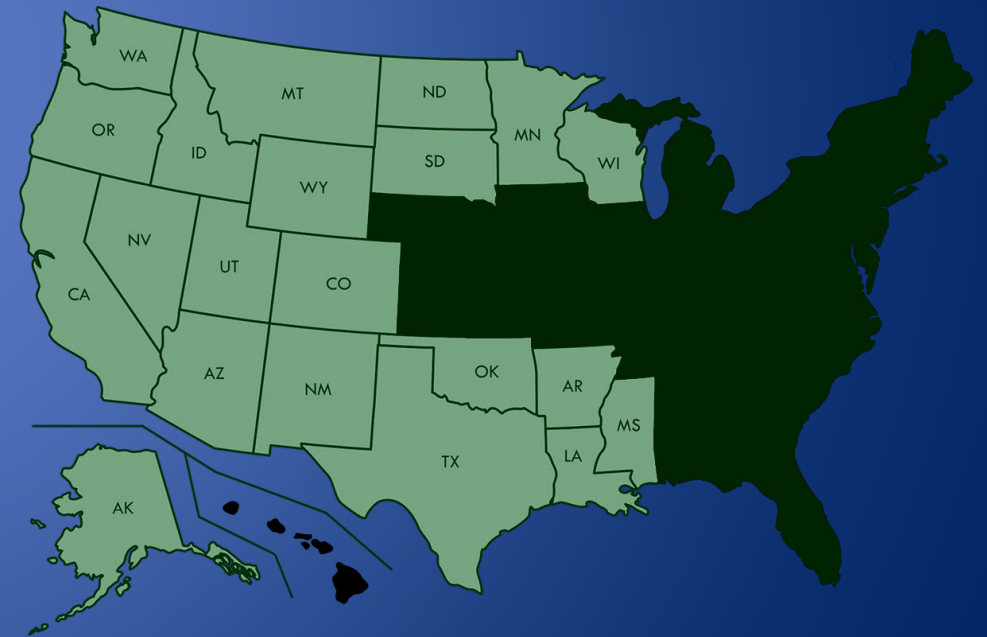


State Trust Lands and Cooperative Federalism

Western States Land Commissioners Association



- As the United States expanded west of the Mississippi River, each new state was granted land in every township to manage and earn funds for the benefit of public education
- Each State Enabling Act, enacted by the Congress, imposed requirements for Statehood, and mirror promises were made by the States in their respective state Constitution





- School Trust Lands are unique in origin, and standing
- Both State and Federal Courts have affirmed that the States have “sacred trust” and solemn obligation to fulfill the purposes of the land grants



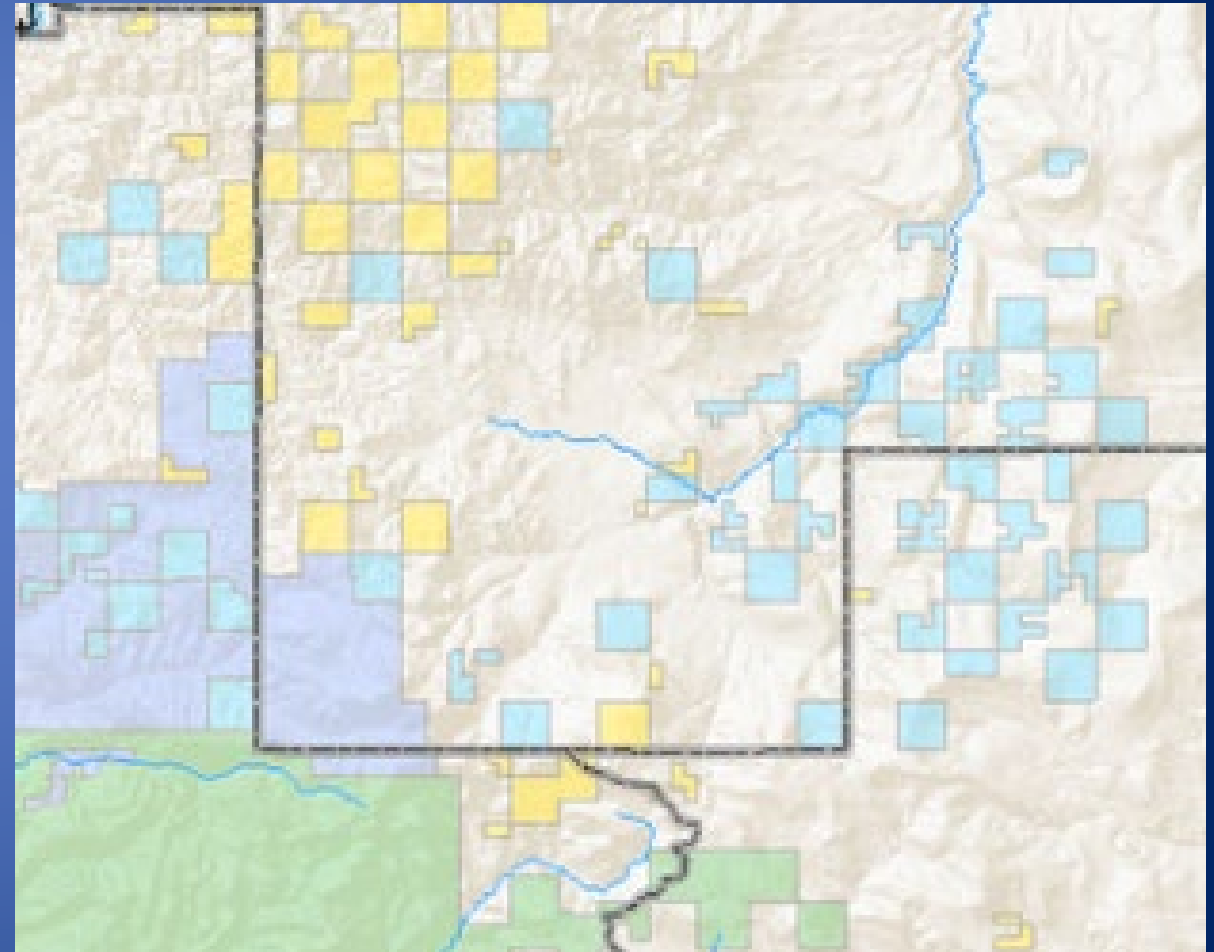
- Most of the western states continue to maintain and manage a large amount of their historic federal land grants.
- These lands provide perpetual funding for public education benefiting current and future generations.





Impacts of State Trust Lands

- Member states manage more than 515 million acres of surface lands, minerals and waterways
- WSLCA members constitute the second largest land ownership group in the United States
- \$140 billion invested in permanent trusts





Impact of State Trust Lands

- From leased lands, timber harvested, petroleum production, mining, and investments, nearly \$3 billion was distributed to public education in FY2017
- More than 22 million students in K-12 public schools in the Western States are the beneficiaries of School Trust Lands





WSLCA Input Matters

- State Land offices should have significant input in Federal agency regulation and rulemaking that impacts School Trust Lands
- Our Federal and State Constitutional standing and mandates are unique
- “Meaningful Consultation” should be required





Why WSLCA Input Matters

- The economic impact of Federal rule making and regulation on states and state trust lands is significant
- States are often the only other sovereign, co-regulators involved
- To be treated like any other “interest group” ignores the standing, constitutional authority and responsibilities of the respective states



How Can Meaningful Consultation Occur?

- Federal Agencies should automatically invite and provide affected land authorities “Cooperating Agency Status”
- Require NEPA process to provide “Meaningful Consultation” by requiring consideration of direct and cumulative impacts on State Trust Lands and Assets
- Establish a State-Federal Task force to develop real impact formulas and models to “score” economic impacts on State Trust Lands

