

Arizona Daily Sun – Public lands not for highest bidder – April 24, 2016

http://azdailysun.com/news/opinion/mailbag/public-lands-not-for-highest-bidder/article_232146a3-31d3-528a-9e31-5d97e21dcd08.html

To the editor:

In spite of the \$646 billion annual outdoor industry, much of which is dependent on our vast public lands, a small but vocal minority of political “representatives” continue to push for a transfer of current public lands into the hands of the States. This ill-conceived effort, backed in many cases by those few who might benefit from such a transfer, often overlooks the staggering costs that few states could possibly afford.

A look at current state budgets for roads, education, health care, prisons and other line items makes it readily apparent that there would not be any dollars left for such things as firefighting, road maintenance, compliance with mandates for protection of endangered species, forest watershed protection and other tasks currently handled by the feds.

As a resident of Northern Arizona for over 30 years, I, Like many others, haven enjoyed countless hours of camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and many other outdoor opportunities that the current multiple use management of public lands affords to all who care to partake. I applaud efforts by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors to adopt a formal resolution opposing the transfer of public lands to the state. Please take the time to let our elected officials know that our public lands are for all and not only for the highest bidder.

Tom Mackin
Flagstaff

Note: Tom Mackin is the AWF Region 2 Director and Immediate Past President