



Sunset Caucus

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Excess Federal Land

May 4, 2011

Program or Item Targeted: Excess federal land.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: In a 1997 report submitted to Congress by President Bill Clinton's Department of the Interior, the Department identified approximately 3.3 million acres of federal land as suitable for disposal. Unfortunately, nearly 14 years later, these lands remain in federal control today.

The federal government already owns an estimated 660 million acres of land, 90% of which is owned in the Western United States. Disposal of these lands would alleviate the burdens state and local governments experience because of this vast federal presence. Further, the Department estimated that by disposing these vacant federal lands, nearly \$1 billion of net revenue could be generated.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: The Clinton Administration submitted this study more than a decade ago (1997), yet the federal government still owns and manages the identified lands. It is important for the federal government to prudently manage lands deserving of federal protection (think National Parks). However, it is also important for the federal government to eliminate surplus lands from their control. Federal land agencies are wasting valuable resources by managing lands that a Democratic Administration determined held no "compelling federal need."

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Representative Jason Chaffetz (UT-03) has introduced H.R. 1126, the Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act. This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to sell the 3.3 million acres identified in the 1997 report. All proceeds would be directed toward deficit reduction. Members are encouraged to cosponsor this legislation by contacting Fred Ferguson at Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov in Rep. Chaffetz' office.

This legislation is identical to Rep. Chaffetz' H.R. 5339, in the 111th Congress, which was also highlighted through the [RSC Sunset Caucus](#).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus please e-mail Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov.
Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*

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