



FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIPⁱ

Total acres owned by the federal government in the United States: **653,299,090 acres**
 Total land base of United States: **2.27 billion acres**

29% of all U.S. land is owned by the federal government

Where federal land is located, by region:

West: 54.1%	South Central: 2.4%
Alaska & Hawaii: 38.8%	South Atlantic & DC: 1.7%
North Central: 2.8%	Northeast: 0.24%

In five states the federal government owns the majority of land within the state border. In these states, the federal government has control over more land than the Governor or the legislature of the state. These **“non-sovereign”** states include:

Nevada: 84.5%	Alaska: 69.1%
Utah: 57.5%	Oregon: 53.1%
Idaho: 50.2%	

In seven states the federal government owns more than one-fourth of all land within the state border. These **“semi-sovereign”** states include:

Arizona: 48.1%	California: 45.3%
Wyoming: 42.3%	New Mexico: 41.8%
Colorado: 36.6%	Washington: 30.3%
Montana: 29.9%	

By comparison, the District of Columbia, established by the Constitution as the federal city, has only **24.7%** of its total acreage owned by the federal government. **Twelve** states rank above DC in federal land ownership.

Report updated: May 18, 2009. For more information please contact Bruce with the RSC at bruce.miller@mailhouse.gov or Emy with the Congressional Western Caucus at emy.lesofski@mail.house.gov.

ⁱ Sources for this report include CRS Report R40225, *Federal Land Management Agencies: Background on Land Resources and Management*, by Ross W. Gorte, Carol Hardy Vincent, M. Lynne Corn, David L. Whiteman, Sandra L. Johnson, and the GSA’s “Overview of the United States Government’s Owned and Leased Real Property: Federal Real Property Profile as of September 30, 2004,” http://www.gsa.gov/gsa/cm_attachments/GSA_DOCUMENT/Annual%20Report%20%20FY2004%20Final_R2M-n11_0Z5RDZ-i34K-pR.pdf