



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. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Surplus Federal Lands

May 26, 2010

Program or Item Targeted: Surplus Federal Lands

Cost of Program or Item: \$1 billion in one time net revenues forgone

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. 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 a Democratic Administration determined held no "compelling federal need."

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Representative Jason Chaffetz (UT-03) introduced H.R. 5339, the Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act of 2010. This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to offer surplus federal lands for competitive sale in the open market. The bill then directs all proceeds from the sale to the U.S. Treasury to pay down the public debt. Members are encouraged to cosponsor H.R. 5339 by contacting Fred Ferguson at Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov in Rep. Chaffetz's office.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Brad.Watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact Kimberly.Ellis@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."*

RSC 
Republican Study Committee