

The Big Federal Landlords in the Western States

Bureau of Land Management: 161.2 million acres

The BLM is responsible for a land mass equivalent to California and Oregon combined, mostly drier rangelands used for grazing, mineral and energy exploration, and recreation.

U.S. Forest Service: 140.9 million acres

The Forest Service manages an area of the West equivalent to the size of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York combined. Their responsibilities range from protecting wilderness areas to encouraging developments like ski areas and regulating oil and gas drilling.