

July 9, 2014

Mr. Chairman and members of EQC:

Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about this issue that is so very important to my family, my community, and the people of Montana.

My name is Terry Caldwell. I am the Democrat nominee for House District 14 and a Precinct Committee Man for the Sanders County Democrat Central Committee.

I am the single father of 3 children who are here with me today – Shaira, Terrence, and Jolena .

We live in Paradise, Montana where we ranch, farm, and run a small excavation business.

I was elected by people who live in a county that consistently has the highest unemployment and poverty rates in our state. It is really sad. But it doesn't have to be this way. That is why we travelled 400 miles to talk to you today.

Agriculture is hard work, but it isn't rocket science. You can grow a real nice garden if you take good care of it. On my plot of land, I can grow a lot more than I'll ever need. I can share with neighbors, take my produce to market, support my family, and even share my fields with wildlife. Best of all there's clean air and room for my kids to roam.

Our national forests and range lands are not really that different. If the land is properly managed, it can be a great asset to the people and environment.

My ranch is surrounded by the Lolo National Forest. Paradise Montana is a beautiful place to live, work, and raise a family. But it could be a whole lot better if our national forests were managed with more common sense. Under the United States Department of Agriculture, that garden isn't being tended so well.

The federal government isn't logging anywhere near the sustained yield rates. So the forest is overgrown, fire hazards are really dangerous, and a whole lot of good jobs have disappeared.

The federal government keeps removing more and more public access so people can't get in to hike, hunt, fight fires, or get firewood. Public access is really important to people in my county.

We have a world class silver deposit in Sanders County, and a good company that has the technology to mine it in a way that protects the environment. Even the Wilderness and Sierra Club people support it. That mine would provide good jobs for a whole lot of local families that badly need the work. But after 29 years of permitting, the federal government is still holding it up.

I wonder how many local families have been living in poverty that could have had a better life if the state of Montana had been in charge of these decisions rather than Washington DC? How many lives, communities, ecosystems and watersheds have to be destroyed before we get serious about reducing the fire hazard on the federal lands in our state?

I am so very glad to see this committee's bi-partisan effort aimed at taking better care of our public lands. The health, beauty, and productivity of our public land affects us all so much.

I know there are some concerns about this idea of Montana doing more to take charge of federal lands in our state. But I read the Republican Party resolution and I think they have an idea we should all really take a serious look at. That resolution makes some really good points. It is not about selling off the land. It is about the need to take better care of it, harvest resources responsibly, provide job opportunities, protect public access, and prevent massive wildfires.

Just because the Republicans got out in front on this doesn't mean we should make it a partisan issue. Solving the problems with federal land management is something we should all work on. The people of Montana need you to keep putting your best foot forward on this, because as much as we hope and try, Washington DC isn't doing a good job.

The big question is, can we as a state afford to manage the lands? We really need to look into this. For example:

Mineral Royalties controlled by the federal government in Montana generated over \$95 million dollars last year. Only \$36 million of it came back in to Montana. Where

did the other \$59 million go? Don't you think the state and tribes could take care of our own lands and benefit a lot of people if that whole \$95 million of mineral royalties stayed in Montana every year? We should definitely be looking at that.

The Montana DNRC manages our state trust lands that help fund our schools, universities, school for deaf and blind, veterans homes, and other important institutions. If we can manage our state public lands so well, and still meet all the environmental regulations, *perhaps we should support transferring the federal land to the state*. At least then we would be relying on decision makers in Montana instead of Washington DC.

I have attached a table that shows the western states bring in nearly \$10 for every dollar we spend managing our public trust lands. But the U.S. forest service loses nearly \$2 for every dollar they spend managing federal public lands.

After a big beetle kill or wildfire the state can salvage timber while it still has value. The feds face so many regulations and lawsuits, they rarely salvage timber in time. It just becomes a big hazard.

But if we really work at managing these lands right, the jobs and revenues will help so many people.

It is so important that we continue to work toward real solutions. I applaud this committee's efforts and whether you pursue the transfer of lands or other solutions, I think you are on the right track. Please keep working toward better public land management on behalf of Montana.

Thank you,

Terry Caldwell, Democrat nominee
House District 14
Paradise, Montana

ONRR Statistical Information Site

<http://statistics.onrr.gov/>

(U.S. Office of Natural Resources Revenues)

The data displayed on this website represent key components used in ONRR's mission, to ensure the full and fair return to the American people of Federal and Indian royalties and other monies owed for the utilization of public resources in the production of conventional and renewable energy and mineral resources.

MONTANA: 1 YEAR

2013: Federal Revenue from mineral royalties taken from Montana = \$95.4 million

Represent royalties, rents, bonuses, and other revenues that mineral royalty payors report to ONRR. The royalty transactions include sales volumes, sales values, and royalties. Reported revenue data can be summarized by Accounting Date or Sales Date; please see the [FAQ](#) for an explanation of these data sets and their intended uses.

2013 Federal Disbursement back to Montana: \$36.2 million

Feds kept \$59.2 million above and beyond what was disbursed to: American Indian Tribes and Allottees; States and their Counties, Parishes, and Boroughs; Federal agencies; various special purpose funds; and the U.S. Treasury.

MONTANA: 10 YEAR

2003-2013 Montana Reported Federal Revenue Data: \$1.065 billion

– Represent royalties, rents, bonuses, and other revenues that mineral royalty payors report to ONRR. The royalty transactions include sales volumes, sales values, and royalties. Reported revenue data can be summarized by Accounting Date or Sales Date; please see the [FAQ](#) for an explanation of these data sets and their intended uses.

2003-2013 Federal Disbursement - Montana : \$434.4 million

Feds kept \$630 million above and beyond what was disbursed to: American Indian Tribes and Allottees; States and their Counties, Parishes, and Boroughs; Federal agencies; various special purpose funds; and the U.S. Treasury.



Table 2.1. Land Management: Federal vs. State

	<i>Revenues</i> (\$ Million)	<i>Expenses</i> (\$ Million)	<i>Revenue/Dollar Spent</i>
Forest Service	767.8	3,384.1	0.23
BLM	1,680.5	1,781.5	0.94
NPS	226.3	1,925.2	0.12
Average State Trust Lands	68.9	9.5	9.32

Note: 1998–2001 average, in 2000 dollars. State Trust Figures are based on the average for state-managed lands, including Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Sources: BLMD, FSD, and NPSD as cited in note 1; STLD as cited in note 3.

From the book "Who is Minding the Federal Estate?" by Holly Fretwell