



Spring/Summer 2010

Building Trust is an information clearinghouse designed to assist western state trust land managers in enhancing the value of the trust for its beneficiaries by broadening the range of land-use information, tools and policy options available to managers and diverse stakeholders for the long-term sustainable management of state trust lands. **Please forward to interested colleagues.**

Support Builds for More Disposal Options for Idaho State Land Board



State constitutional changes allowing the Idaho State Land Board to choose the land disposal method that best maximizes return to the trust were recommended by a citizen advisory committee last year and received support in the 2010 state legislature. The concurrent resolution ran out of time to clear the House this spring, but may be reintroduced in the 2011 session. If passed by the legislature, the bill would go to a public vote in 2012.

Twice a volunteer citizen committee has encouraged the land board to consider reforms that better serve the beneficiaries of state trust land sales, the first time in 2001. In 2009, the Endowment Land Transaction Advisory Committee also studied modern real estate tools before

Across the West

[Arizona:](#)



Two bills passed, one of them a voter referendum, would allow trust land sales and exchanges without public auction for land buffering development around military installations. [Read more.](#)

[Montana:](#)

The Montana State Land Board could receive \$41 million in back rent from PPL Montana. [Read more.](#)

[Utah:](#)

Three bills in the Utah Legislature move to exert Utah's

determining that the land board lacks the necessary flexibility to compete in the marketplace and, as a result, carry out its fiduciary duty. The suggested change would allow for a variety of disposal methods consistent with today's business practices. Because Idaho has a Land Bank Fund, proceeds from land sales are then reinvested in other lands to produce revenue for trust beneficiaries. Currently, the Idaho Constitution only allows public auction as a means of disposing land.

The proposed constitutional amendment, finalized by the land board in March 2010 and then introduced into the legislature, passed the Senate State Affairs committee before the session ended. Based on the education effort begun this legislative session, the board will continue to engage stakeholders and beneficiaries on the issue over the summer and may reintroduce the measure next year. The focus in the year leading up to the 2012 public vote will be building strong, vocal support among members of the beneficiary community.

For details about proposed constitutional changes recommended by the 2009 committee, visit <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/am/eltac.html>.

Western Lands and Communities Research Agenda

Western Lands and Communities (WLC) has renewed its commitment to state trust land research. Feedback from state trust land stakeholders from around the West informed the new three year research agenda drafted by WLC. Fiscal 2011 research priorities have been identified as: ecosystem services markets, economic analysis of contributory value, and land tenure adjustment. The agenda for the remaining two years has yet to be set and includes many research projects which, along with FY11 research, fall into the following four tracks:

- State Trust Lands Conservation Tool-Box
- Institutional Capacity Building for Trust Land Managers
- Planning for Sustainable Development on Trust Lands
- Renewable Energy Generation on State Trust Lands

[View](#) the draft three year research agenda. Your feedback and input on Western Lands and Communities research priorities on state trust lands continue to be welcome and helpful. Thank you for your suggestions over the past few months.

PHOTO CREDITS: Garro Building, Boise, ID showing a basement office renovation in an endowment commercial building courtesy Idaho

eminent domain over current federal lands.

[Read more.](#)

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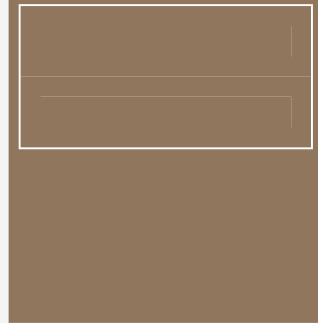
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Building Trust

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Department of Lands; Picacho Peak State Park, AZ courtesy Sonoran Institute.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD: If your office has trust land management information and tools in asset management, collaborative planning, real estate development, and/or conservation use which you would like to share, please [send us an email](#). Attach a news release, documents and photos.



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