

Public Land Ownership by State

The table below details state and federal government ownership of lands open to public access in the United States. This includes parks, forests and grasslands; it excludes land used for such purposes as office buildings, prisons, or B29irrigation projects. Military bases and tribal lands are included because both can represent a significant percentage of "non-private" land ownership in a state even though public access may be restricted. Note that neither military nor tribal lands are included in the columns totaling state and federal land ownership. Where possible, with the exception of land owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, acreage figures refer, only to land area and do not include water areas, leases or easements. In several cases, however, federal and state agencies were uncertain if the figures provided included the latter or were unable to provide differentiated figures.

This table is based on one produced in 1995 by National Wilderness Institute (<http://www.nwi.org/Maps/LandChart.html>). All data have been corroborated, expanded and, where necessary, corrected and updated, with the exception of that in column "Owned by State."

All values are in thousands (000's) of acres except %'s and ranks.

State	Total Area of State	Total Area Owned by State and Federal Gov'ts	% of State's Total Area	State Rank	Owned by Federal Gov't	% of State's Total Area	State Rank	Owned by State	% of State's Total Area	State Rank	BLM	USFS	NPS	NWR	Army Corps of Engineers	Military Bases	Tribal Lands
AK	365,039.40	325,700.00	89.22	1	219,900.00	60.24	2	105,800.00	28.98	2	69,711.00	22,219.00	52,709.00	75,261.00	19.00	2,100.00	86.80
AL	32,480.00	1,235.91	3.81	41	840.11	2.59	33	395.80	1.22	35	110.92	665.03	6.50	57.66	43.43	168.11	0.20
AR	33,328.00	3,949.90	11.85	22	3,297.40	9.89	17	652.50	1.96	30	291.17	2,586.07	101.40	318.76	518.44	93.32	0.00
AZ	72,730.90	38,978.89	53.59	6	29,894.99	41.10	6	9,083.90	12.49	6	14,249.14	11,254.99	2,672.60	1,718.26	98.79	1,590.16	19,866.20
CA	99,822.70	42,288.38	42.36	7	40,044.78	40.12	7	2,243.60	2.25	29	14,567.66	20,697.51	4,574.60	205.01	89.50	3,525.91	520.90
CO	66,387.20	26,458.89	39.86	9	23,541.19	35.46	8	2,917.70	4.39	24	8,354.66	14,509.18	596.70	80.65	37.00	477.45	795.20
CT	3,100.80	179.69	5.79	34	6.79	0.22	50	172.90	5.58	17	0.00	0.02	6.00	0.77	7.01	2.08	1.60
DE	1,251.20	88.18	7.05	30	27.28	2.18	34	60.90	4.87	21	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.28		3.88	0.00
FL	34,558.10	9,069.36	26.24	14	4,332.56	12.54	15	4,736.80	13.71	4	25.28	1,152.82	2,320.10	834.36	53.56	683.29	154.20
GA	37,068.20	1,734.59	4.68	40	1,384.89	3.74	29	349.70	0.94	40	0.00	865.08	40.80	479.01	336.30	568.09	0.00
HI	4,110.70	549.08	13.36	21	524.88	12.77	14	24.20	0.59	43	0.00	0.01	235.40	289.47		230.54	0.00
IA	35,760.00	370.74	1.04	49	104.34	0.29	47	266.40	0.74	41	0.39	0.00	1.70	102.25	141.64	19.36	3.60
ID	52,960.60	35,244.80	66.55	4	32,496.40	61.36	4	2,748.40	5.19	19	11,850.00	20,458.28	99.20	88.92	56.07	8.69	642.20
IL	35,579.50	836.78	2.35	44	430.88	1.21	40	405.90	1.14	37	0.23	292.73	0.01	137.91	217.52	43.35	0.00
IN	22,956.80	522.35	2.28	46	216.65	0.94	43	305.70	1.33	35	0.00	196.49	10.30	9.86	124.34	144.26	0.00
KS	52,366.70	479.50	0.92	50	167.20	0.32	46	312.30	0.60	42	0.00	108.18	0.70	58.32	338.38	134.34	7.20
KY	25,428.50	899.80	3.54	42	789.30	3.10	32	110.50	0.43	47	0.00	693.75	93.40	2.15	351.13	229.89	0.00
LA	27,882.20	2,131.70	7.65	28	1,387.10	4.97	26	744.60	2.67	27	309.61	604.21	10.10	463.18	35.80	241.38	0.40
MA	5,016.30	277.85	5.54	35	45.95	0.92	44	231.90	4.62	22	0.00	0.00	33.20	12.75	20.14	19.39	0.20
MD	6,256.00	428.98	6.86	32	84.58	1.35	38	344.40	5.51	18	0.00	0.00	41.70	42.88	7.96	102.56	0.00
ME	19,753.60	1,059.46	5.36	37	170.26	0.86	45	889.20	4.50	23	0.00	53.04	69.30	47.92		16.98	163.60
MI	36,357.80	8,168.77	22.47	15	3,679.97	10.12	16	4,488.80	12.35	7	74.85	2,857.66	632.10	115.36	0.49	4.28	5.10

MN	50,954.90	8,952.02	17.57	17	3,572.92	7.01	20	5,379.10	10.56	9	151.25	2,837.65	141.60	442.42	31.35	2.92	728.80
MO	44,094.70	2,655.01	6.02	33	1,625.41	3.69	30	1,029.60	2.33	28	2.26	1,492.92	63.40	66.83	497.84	73.05	0.00
MS	30,025.00	1,653.47	5.51	36	1,544.97	5.15	25	108.50	0.36	48	57.21	1,158.97	107.90	220.89	387.34	28.92	20.70
MT	93,155.80	32,473.22	34.86	12	27,276.82	29.28	10	5,196.40	5.58	16	8,036.01	16,893.50	1,221.30	1,126.01	390.17	3.75	2,683.20
NC	31,179.50	2,180.47	6.99	31	2,044.47	6.56	23	136.00	0.44	46	0.00	1,244.30	380.50	419.67	87.34	329.24	56.60
ND	44,156.20	2,187.41	4.95	39	1,375.31	3.11	31	812.10	1.84	31	59.72	1,105.77	71.60	138.22	470.19	11.66	214.60
NE	49,201.90	785.76	1.60	48	538.86	1.10	41	246.90	0.50	44	6.58	352.09	5.90	174.29	44.57	14.04	23.80
NH	5,740.20	908.41	15.83	19	744.21	12.96	13	164.20	2.86	26	0.00	728.15	10.20	5.86	18.82	6.61	0.00
NJ	4,748.20	840.98	17.71	16	101.08	2.13	35	739.90	15.58	3	0.00	0.00	35.20	65.88		62.71	0.00
NM	77,673.60	31,554.72	40.62	8	22,854.72	29.42	9	8,700.00	11.20	8	12,770.81	9,326.79	372.90	384.22	33.74	2,384.89	7,522.60
NV	70,275.80	56,972.28	81.07	2	56,846.08	80.89	1	126.20	0.18	50	47,854.50	5,832.77	777.00	2,381.81		282.67	1,152.00
NY	30,223.40	11,174.55	36.97	10	79.55	0.26	48	11,095.00	36.71	1	0.00	16.18	36.40	26.97	5.90	137.78	118.20
OH	26,209.90	678.66	2.59	43	256.96	0.98	42	421.70	1.61	32	0.00	229.84	18.80	8.32	96.49	34.39	0.00
OK	43,954.60	1,006.75	2.29	45	571.35	1.30	39	435.40	0.99	39	2.17	397.13	9.90	162.15	791.01	153.25	99.10
OR	61,441.90	19,403.60	31.58	13	16,407.70	26.70	12	2,995.90	4.88	20	16,222.82	15,657.82	194.90	554.98	114.68	21.05	660.70
PA	28,684.80	4,228.29	14.74	20	571.69	1.99	36	3,656.60	12.75	5	0.00	513.36	48.50	9.83	103.90	43.46	0.00
RI	668.80	61.16	9.14	26	1.66	0.25	49	59.50	8.90	12	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.66		1.68	1.80
SC	19,271.00	1,000.42	5.19	38	794.22	4.12	28	206.20	1.07	38	0.00	613.17	26.30	154.75	149.71	100.47	0.00
SD	48,574.70	3,659.78	7.53	29	3,569.88	7.35	19	89.90	0.19	49	279.67	2,012.43	263.60	1,014.18	614.49	6.44	2,401.10
TN	26,380.80	2,814.75	10.67	23	1,092.75	4.14	27	1,722.00	6.53	14	0.00	634.52	344.10	114.13	181.78	79.02	0.00
TX	167,625.00	3,216.40	1.92	47	2,391.40	1.43	37	825.00	0.49	45	0.00	755.10	1,172.60	463.70	945.87	1,484.60	4.60
UT	52,587.50	37,019.77	70.40	3	33,194.97	63.12	3	3,824.80	7.27	13	22,882.95	8,178.60	2,022.60	110.82		851.46	2,286.50
VA	25,342.70	2,449.87	9.67	25	2,102.97	8.30	18	346.90	1.37	34	0.00	1,660.43	319.20	123.34	132.83	273.99	0.00
VT	5,919.40	486.17	8.21	27	390.97	6.60	22	95.20	1.61	33	0.00	376.25	8.30	6.42	5.75	0.24	0.00
WA	42,612.50	15,513.50	36.41	11	11,648.40	27.34	11	3,865.10	9.07	11	372.45	9,214.45	1,932.40	129.10	78.39	499.82	2,101.00
WI	34,761.00	5,633.61	16.21	18	1,987.71	5.72	24	3,645.90	10.49	10	160.14	1,522.52	72.70	232.35	23.11	135.37	338.10
WV	15,415.70	1,530.00	9.92	24	1,080.80	7.01	21	449.20	2.91	25	0.00	1,032.74	46.30	1.76	139.74	0.69	0.00
WY	62,147.20	33,964.23	54.65	5	30,099.43	48.43	5	3,864.80	6.22	15	18,375.57	9,237.62	2,393.20	93.04		5.94	1,909.40
TOTALS:	2,263,221.90	785,658.86	34.71		588,134.76	25.99		197,524.10			246,779.02	192,239.12	174,101.32	88,987.33	7,841.51	17,437.42	44,570.20

General Notes:

¹ The Federal Government owns a total of 654,885,389 acres of land in the United States. Of that, 605,232,690 acres are administered by the four land agencies noted above.

² Federal land ownership is volatile; land is acquired and disposed of, transferred between agencies and reclassified frequently. The federal data in this table are changing continually and it should be assumed that the state data are as well.

Notes (National Wilderness Institute):

- 1 Figures for total areas of states reflect land acreage only and are from the US Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1991 (11th ed.) Washington, DC, 1991, p.201.
- 2 Figures in Federal & State owned column: In most cases it was not possible to separate the figures when agencies overlapped.
- 3 Figures in State Owned column: Where possible figures are limited to land acreage only. The Idaho and Wisconsin figures also include land owned by lesser government entities. The New York figure includes an extensive amount of private lands of inholders in state parks.
- 4 Figures in NPS column are from National Park Service, Land Resources Division, Master Deed Listing: Listing of Acreages by State as of 9/30/94, US Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC, 1994.
- 5 Figures in Tribal Lands column are from Acreages of Indian Lands by Area and State, US Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, 1990.

Notes (Natural Resources Council of Maine):

- 1 BLM data are from US Bureau of Land Management, *Public Land Statistics*: 1998 (vol. 183) US Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC, 1999.
- 2 Forest Service data are from the US Forest Service, Lands and Realty Management, US Department of Agriculture. (<http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/LandAreasReport>, September 30, 1999, Table 4 -- Areas by State (accessed May 2000)). Note that the data in this column are of the acreages actually owned by the USFS. The gross acreages of many National Forests are larger due to other land owners (including private inholdings) within the Forests' boundaries.
- 3 National Wildlife Refuge data are from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Realty (<http://realty.fws.gov/nwrs.htm#state> (accessed 3/28/00)).
- 4 Military Base Data are from the Department of Defense 1999 Almanac. (<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/installations/> (accessed 3/28/00)). This land is not included in either the "Total Area Owned by State and Federal Gov'ts" and "Owned by Federal Gov't" columns.
- 5 The Army Corps of Engineers data includes only the 456 lakes on or around which there is some recreational activity. This data includes both the land and water area. The Corps owns other lands which do not have any designated recreational activity. Data from: US Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Projects. Fee Ownership and Acres for Intensive Recreation Report. 1999.
- 6 Tribal Lands are held in trust but not owned by nor administered by the federal government. These lands are not included in either the "Total Area Owned by State and Federal Gov'ts" or "Owned by Federal Gov't" columns.
- 7 The Federal and State acreages for the State of Alaska are given as they will be when all lands due to the State and to the Native Corporations as per the terms of the Alaska Statehood, Alaska Native Claims Settlement and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Acts are conveyed.
- 8 With the exception of one reservation on Metlakatla Island, there are no tribal lands per se in Alaska. Instead, Native villages and regions were incorporated and a total of 44 million acres of land is being conveyed to the Corporations from the Federal Government. This land is now privately owned by the Native Corporations.