

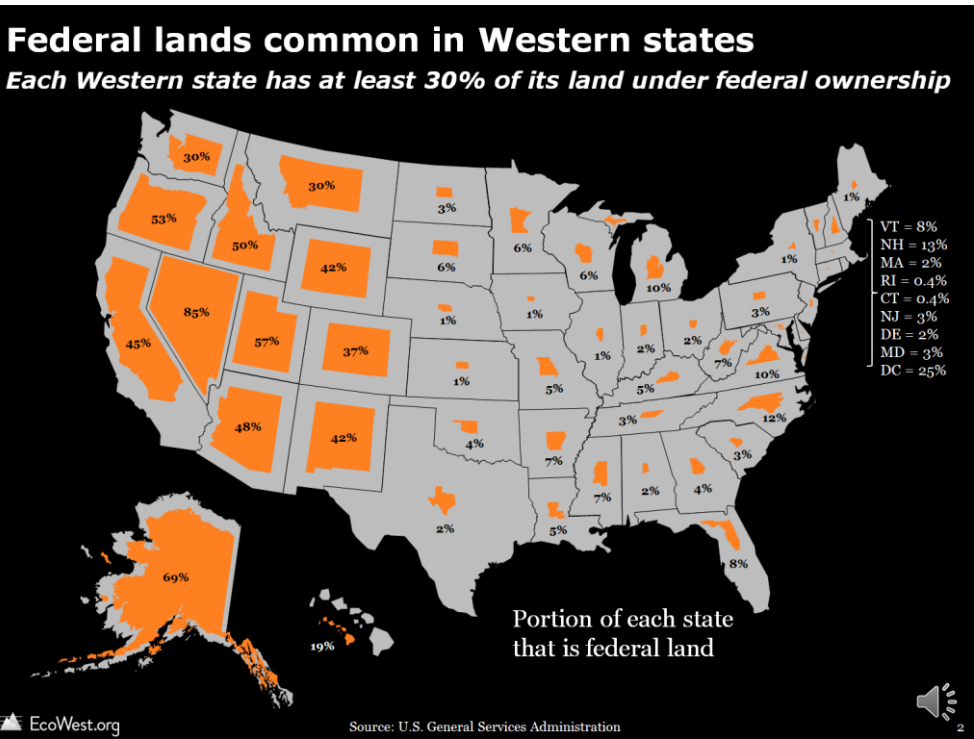
# Financing land conservation in the West



10/31/2013



In this EcoWest presentation, we explore trends to use public funding for conserving land and open spaces in the West.

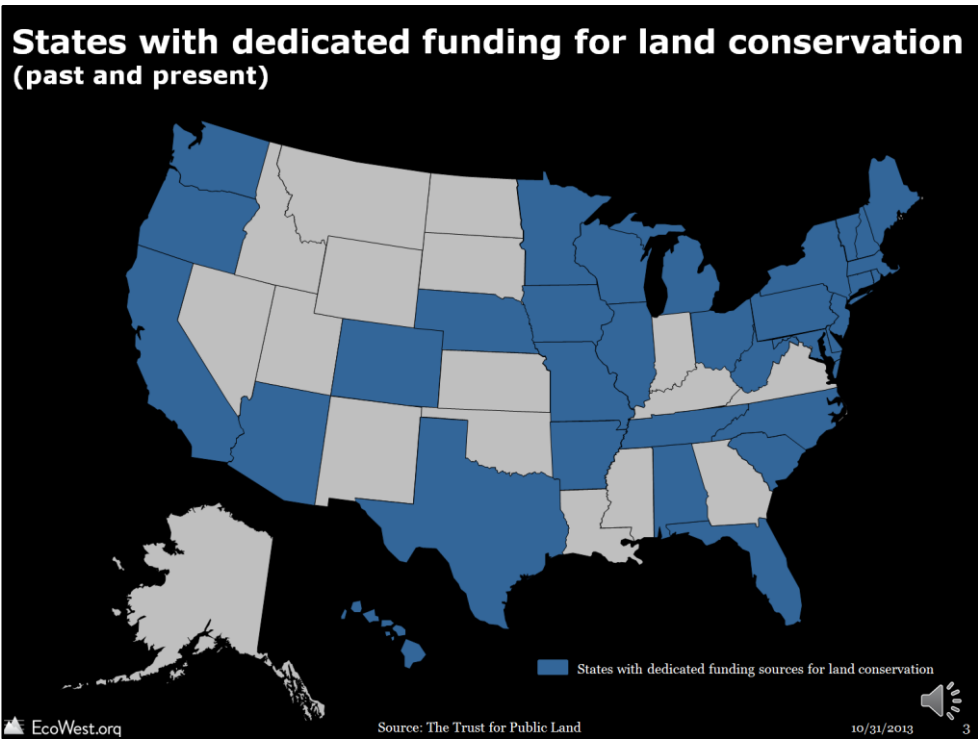


Narrative: As we explored in the EcoWest dashboard on land, one of the defining features of the West is the prevalence of public land. This map shows that all Western states have at least 30 percent of their land under federal ownership.

Conservation finance initiatives—the process of raising public funding through ballot or legislative measures—can provide a critical source of funding to protect land in areas not under federal ownership. These initiatives are used for a wide variety of purposes: to protect land adjacent to national parks that serve as key wildlife migration corridors, to safeguard land from encroaching human development, to place conservation easements on agricultural land, and even to maintain urban parks and trails.

Source: U.S. General Services Administration, Federal Real Property Profile 2004  
 URL: [http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/ogp/Annual\\_Report\\_\\_FY2004\\_Final\\_R2M-n11\\_0Z5RDZ-i34K-pR.pdf](http://www.gsa.gov/graphics/ogp/Annual_Report__FY2004_Final_R2M-n11_0Z5RDZ-i34K-pR.pdf)

Notes: Excludes trust properties. Adapted from map in Kennedy, Donald, “Can the West Lead Us to a Better Place?,” Stanford Magazine, May/June 2008.  
<http://www.stanfordalumni.org/news/magazine/2008/mayjun/features/west.html>

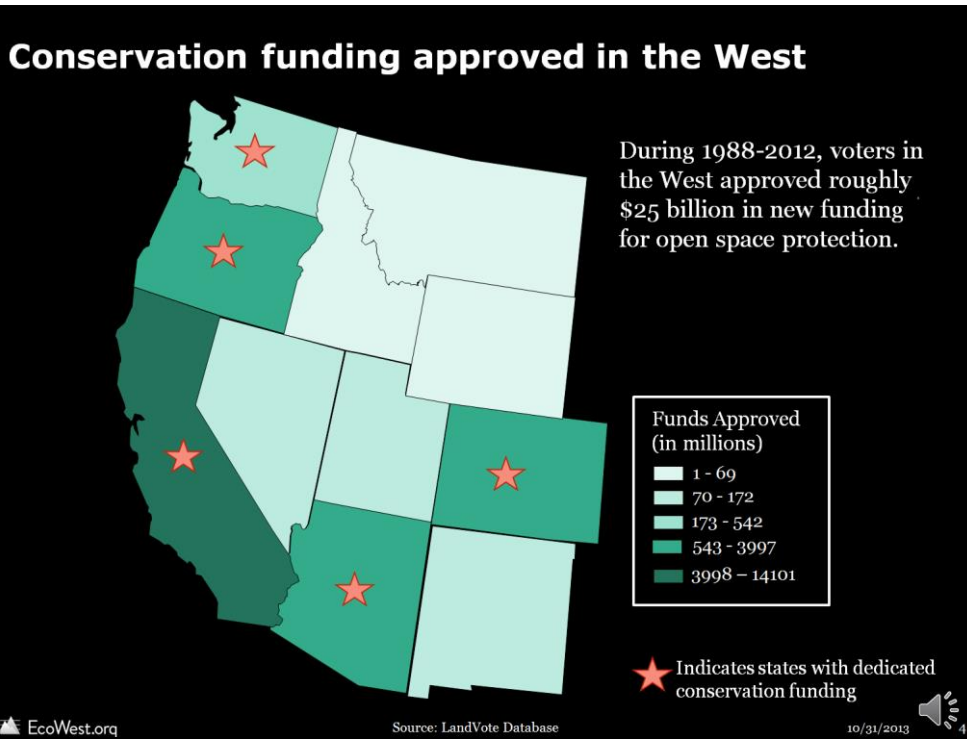


Narrative: Through conservation finance initiatives, states can create funding sources designated specifically for conservation purposes. These measures are approved directly by the public via ballot measures, or by legislatures that allocate funding via budget line items or general appropriations. Five states in the West (marked in blue on this map) have used dedicated funding sources for conservation, which can come from lottery proceeds, oil and gas royalties, real estate transfer taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes.

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO), for instance, is a funding program that the state's citizens approved in a 1992 ballot measure. GOCO has committed roughly \$775 million from lottery proceeds to fund 3,500 conservation projects in every county throughout the state. In 2010, the state of Oregon also approved a ballot measure that secures lottery funds in perpetuity for the Oregon State Parks Department.

Source: Trust for Public Land

URL: [http://www.conservationmanac.org/National\\_Overview/NM\\_Handout.pdf](http://www.conservationmanac.org/National_Overview/NM_Handout.pdf)



Narrative: During 1988-2012, voters in the 12 Western states approved roughly 300 out of 460 ballot measures to provide funding for open space protection. These measures have provided nearly \$25 billion in new funding to conserve open spaces. The amount of public conservation funding generated in the West during the past decade (2002-2012) was roughly double that generated during the previous decade.

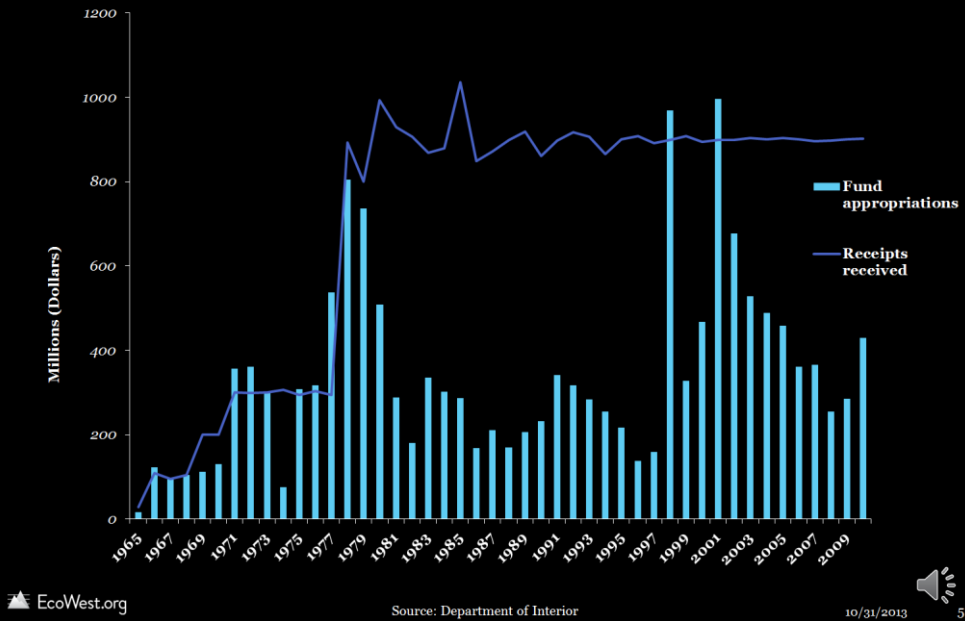
It's also worth noting that the amount of approved conservation funding varies widely by state across the West. During 1988-2012, California approved more conservation funding than all other Western states combined.

Source: LandVote Database

URL: <https://tpl.quickbase.com/db/bbqna2qct?a=dbpage&pageID=10>

## Land and Water Conservation Fund

Since 1965, over \$15.5 billion has been appropriated from LWCF, with roughly 63% appropriated for federal land acquisition.



Narrative: Federal funding has played an important role in making conservation finance activities possible, since they can provide an important base to leverage state- and local-level funding. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, established by Congress in 1965, allocates a portion of oil and gas revenues for conservation purposes. Throughout the history of the program, \$15.5 billion has been appropriated, which has been allocated among federal land acquisition (63%), state grant programs (26%), and other programs (11%).

In the West, funding from LWCF has been used to protect iconic areas such as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in Montana, Big Sur in Central California, and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The LWCF was originally designed as a 50-year dedicated funding source. It is scheduled to end in 2015, which has prompted environmental organizations to advocate for its renewal or the creation of a fund that supplants it.

Source: Congressional Research Service, "Land and Water Conservation Fund: Overview, Funding History, and Issues"

URL: <http://cnie.org/NLE/CRSreports/10Sep/RL33531.pdf>

Note: This graph does not reflect \$76 million provided for the transition quarter between July 1, 1976 to September 30, 1976.

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The screenshot displays the EcoWest.org website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with categories: ABOUT, BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, FIRES, LAND, POLITICS, and WATER. The main content area features a large article titled "2012 was hottest year on record for U.S." with a sub-headline "No doubt about it: 2012 was toasty. Today, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that 2012 was not only the warmest on record for the lower 48 since 1895 but also the second warmest on a measure known as the Climate Extremes Index, which includes factors such as temperature anomalies, drought patterns, and the [1]". Below this, there are four smaller article thumbnails: "Hawaii, West and South have most at-risk species", "Ebb and flow of snow, fuels, and fire", "2012 was hottest year on record for U.S.", and "Which states have the most federal land?". The website also includes a search bar and social media icons.

Please visit EcoWest.org to download slides and find other resources related to environmental trends in the West.