

MATT ROSENDALE – “PUBLIC LANDS” FACT CHECK

OVERVIEW

- Matt Rosendale is a multimillionaire East Coast developer and political opportunist who has pushed for the transfer of our public lands, which would make it easier for them to be sold off to developers like him.
- Jon Tester is a third-generation Montanan who understands how important public lands are to our way of life. Tester fights relentlessly against efforts to sell or transfer our public lands, and successfully killed a proposal that would have sold off 3.3 million acres of federal public land – including 100,000 in Montana.
- Matt Rosendale was the deciding vote against amending the Keogh Ranch Conservation easement, which would have protected more than 7,000 acres of land in Southwest Montana from encroaching residential development. Rosendale was also the deciding vote on the Land Board to obstruct the Horse Creek Conservation Easement, which would provide permanent public hunting access to 20,000 acres in Eastern Montana.
- Jon Tester has relentlessly fought to increase and protect public access to public lands in Montana – he has fought to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and dedicate funds to secure hunting access, pushed to expand recreation opportunities and protect public lands through the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, and successfully passed legislation to protect East Rosebud Creek from future development.

CLAIMS

ROSENDALE:
Glendive. It's a long way from anywhere

ROSENDALE:
But I made it home nearly 20 years ago

O/S: MATT'S HOUSE
GLENDDIVE, MT

ROSENDALE:
Montana has God's greatest gifts. They belong to all of us.

ROSENDALE:
That's why I fight for more access to public lands.

O/S: MORE ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS

FACTS

MATT ROSENDALE IS AN EAST COAST DEVELOPER WHO PUSHED TO TRANSFER PUBLIC LANDS, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO SELL THEM OFF TO DEVELOPERS LIKE HIM

MATT ROSENDALE IS AN EAST COAST REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER WHO MOVED TO MONTANA TO START HIS POLITICAL CAREER

Matt Rosendale: “I Develop Property, I’ve Said So.” [49:01, Missoula County Republican Primary Debate, [3/28/18](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Matt Rosendale: “As I’ve Told You, I Develop Property.”** [1:41:04, Primary Debate, Montana State University College Republicans, Bozeman, MT, [3/22/18](#)] (VIDEO)

MTN News: “Matt Rosendale: The State Auditor And Real-Estate Manager From Glendive Reported Assets Valued From \$7 Million To \$32 Million.” [MTN News, [2/15/18](#)]

- **Associated Press: Matt Rosendale Was Attacked By His Republican Primary Opponent As A “Political Opportunist Seeking His Fifth Elected Office In Eight Years.”** [Associated Press, [6/6/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS REPEATEDLY PUSHED TO TRANSFER PUBLIC LANDS

HEADLINE: “Rosendale Calls For Transferring Federal Lands To State.” [Billings Gazette, [4/18/14](#)]

Matt Rosendale: “I Have Long Been On The Record As An Advocate For The Transfer Of Federal Public Lands To The State.” [Billings Gazette, [5/7/14](#)]

- **Matt Rosendale: “There Is No Call In The Constitution For The Federal Government To Own National Forests Or BLM Land And Just To Manage Those Additional Lands.”** [Billings Gazette, [4/18/14](#); Matt Rosendale, Republican U.S. House Primary Debate, [3/24/14](#)] (VIDEO) 00:47:13
- **Matt Rosendale: “We've Got 35% Of Our State That's Tied Up In Federal Public Lands. And If We Had The Control And Management Of Those Lands, Then We'd Be Able To Generate Tremendous Economic Development Opportunity.”** [Matt Rosendale, AFP U.S. House Republican Primary Debate, [5/28/14](#)] (VIDEO) 00:29:37

Matt Rosendale Introduced Legislation To Transfer Management Of Some Federal Public Lands To The State And Restrict Future Federal Land Acquisitions In Montana. [Montana State Senate Journal, [2/11/11](#); Havre Daily News, [1/16/11](#)]

HEADLINE: “Committee Hears Bill To Create Land Transfer Task Force.” [Associated Press, [3/9/15](#)]

Matt Rosendale Voted To Create A Public Lands Task Force To Study Federal Public Lands Management, Including National Wildlife Refuges And Department Of Defense Lands Such As Malmstrom AFB, Blasted As “A Backdoor To Talks Of...Selling Off Public Lands.” [Vote 1728, HB 496, [4/20/15](#); 2015 Montana State Legislative Scorecard, Montana Conservation Voters, accessed [4/23/17](#)]

- **Public Lands Task Force Was Opposed By Groups Including The Montana Sportsmen Alliance, Montana Bow Hunters Association, And The Greater Yellowstone Coalition.** [2015 Montana State Legislative Scorecard, Montana Conservation Voters, accessed [4/23/17](#)]

TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO SELL OFF PUBLIC LANDS TO PRIVATE INTERESTS, INCLUDING DEVELOPERS

Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: “State Ownership Of Lands Presently Owned And Managed By The Federal Government Would Result In Only One Likely Outcome: The Sale Of Any Lands Not Producing Significant Quantities Of Timber, Minerals Or Energy To Private Interests.” [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, [6/18/15](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Developers Dreaming Of Federal Land Access.”** [Associated Press, [12/14/16](#)]

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Executive Director Land Tawney: “Look At History: States Have A Track Record Of Selling These Lands That Were Given To Them At Statehood.” [Energy & Environment News, [4/11/17](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Push To Transfer Federal Lands To States Has Sportsmen On Edge.”** [NPR, [1/5/17](#)]

Wilderness Society Review Found That Idaho Sold Off 41 Percent Of Its Original Federal Acreage To Cattle Ranchers, Timber Companies, And Private Homeowners. [Energy & Environment News, [4/11/17](#)]

- **Wilderness Society New Mexico State Director Michael Casusus: “It’s Basically A Forewarning That If Our Public Lands Were Under State Control, They Could Be Sold Off Anytime To Private Interests And Corporations For Profit.”** [Energy & Environment News, [4/11/17](#)]

Helena Independent Record Editorial: “The State Would Quickly Incur Massive Management Expense If Federal Lands Were Transferred To State Control...As The State’s Fiscal Hole Got Deeper And Deeper It Could And Very Likely Would Move To Change The Law To Allow Sales.” [Editorial, Helena Independent Record, [6/28/15](#)]

JON TESTER, A THIRD-GENERATION MONTANAN, HAS FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY AGAINST EFFORTS TO TRANSFER OR SELL OFF MONTANA’S PUBLIC LANDS

JON TESTER SUCCESSFULLY PUSHED TO KILL PROPOSAL TO SELL OFF 3.3 MILLION ACRES OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS, INCLUDING 100,000 ACRES IN MONTANA

HEADLINE: “Following Pressure From Sportsmen, Bad Public Lands Bill Abandoned.” [News Release, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, [2/2/17](#)]

January 2017: Helena Independent Record: Jon Tester “Promised To Oppose” Congressional Proposal To Sell 3.3 Million Acres Of Federal Public Land, Including 100,000 In Montana. [Helena Independent Record, [1/30/17](#)]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Tester: Proposal To Sell 3.3 Million Acres Of Federal Public Lands, Including 100,000 In Montana, “Ain’t Going To Happen On My Watch.” [Great Falls Tribune, 1/30/17] <p>February 2017: Rep. Jason Chaffetz Withdrew Proposal To Sell Or Dispose Of 3.3 Million Acres Of Federal Public Land After Protests And Outcry From Hunters, Anglers, And Outdoor Enthusiasts. [Idaho Statesman, 2/2/17]</p> <p><u>JON TESTER HAS CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT BACK AGAINST PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER</u></p> <p>November 2017: Jon Tester Urged Congressional Leadership To Change Language That Opened The Door To Selling Or Transferring Federal Public Lands To Balance The Budget. [Missoula Current, 11/2/17]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEADLINE: “Tester Joins Western Senators: Congress Can’t Balance Budget By Selling Public Lands.” [Missoula Current, 11/2/17] <p>January 2017: Jon Tester Blasted U.S. House-Approved Rule Change Making It Easier To Transfer Federal Public Lands As “An Underhanded Assault On Montana’s Outdoor Economy,” Arguing It “Clear[ed] The Way To Auction Them Off To The Highest Bidder.” [Helena Independent Record, 1/4/17]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEADLINE: “House Action Poses Threat To Public Lands.” [Editorial (Billings Gazette), Bismarck Tribune, 1/10/17] <p>2014: Jon Tester Spoke Out Against Ted Cruz Proposal To Sell Or Transfer Federal Public Lands, Arguing “We Can Not Let Those Treasured Places To Be Sold To The Highest Bidder.” [Helena Independent Record, 9/27/14]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2014: Ted Cruz Proposed Amendment Requiring Sale Or Transfer Of “Excess” Federal Public Land By 2020 In States Where More Than Half Of The Land Was Under Federal Control. [PolitiFact, 8/17/14]
<p>ROSENDALE: It’s who we are. On the Land Board, I opened up 45,000 acres of Montana public lands, for hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping, for the public.</p> <p>O/S: OPENED UP 45,000 ACRES OF LANDS</p> <p>ROSENDALE: I’m Matt Rosendale and I approve this message because Montana is our last best place. Let’s keep it that way.</p>	<p><u>MATT ROSENDALE REPEATEDLY VOTED AGAINST PROTECTING ACCESS ON THE STATE LAND BOARD AND DISMISSED HIS POSITION ON THE LAND BOARD</u></p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE ARGUED THAT HIS POSITION ON THE LAND BOARD DIDN’T MATTER</u></p> <p>Matt Rosendale: “It Does Not Matter And Should Not Matter Who Is Actually Sitting In The Auditor’s Seat.” [Missoulian, 3/22/18]</p> <p><u>MATT ROSENDALE TORPEDOED THE KEOGH RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO PROTECT MORE THAN 7,000 ACRES OF LAND FROM POSSIBLE SUBDIVISION</u></p> <p>HEADLINE: “Rosendale Thwarted Key Whitehall Area Land Easement.” [Tony Schoonen, Montana Standard, 10/24/17]</p> <p>Montana Standard: Matt Rosendale “Refus[ed] To Protect Elk Habitat” As The Deciding Vote Against Amending The 7,100 Acre Keogh Ranch Conservation Easement To Prohibit Subdivision “Despite Concerns Of Encroaching Development Near The Ranch.” [Montana Standard, 12/27/17]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks: “The [Keogh Ranch] Parcel Is In A Prime Residential Development Location With Residential Subdivision Occurring Less Than Two Miles Away At The Southern Boundary Of The Conservation Easement...The Potential Disturbance From Residential Development Is Substantial.” [Environmental Assessment Decision Notice for the Keogh Ranch Conservation Easement Addition, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 6/30/16] <p>Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks: Failure To Eliminate Keogh Ranch Easement Language Allowing Subdivision Could “Completely Disrupt” Public Access. [Draft Environmental</p>

Assessment – Keogh Ranch Conservation Easement Amendment, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, [5/2/17](#)

- **FWP Wildlife Biologist: “If This Land Was To Be Subdivided...Hunters Would Be Impacted; It Would Mean That Many More Owners To Get (Hunting) Permission From.”** [Montana Standard, [12/27/17](#)]

Public Lands/Public Access Association President Tony Schoonen: “It Appeared That Rosendale’s Priorities Cling To His Background As A Developer, As Is Sometimes All Too Typical Of A New-To-Montana Landowner.” [Tony Schoonen, Missoulian, [10/25/17](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE VOTED TO OBSTRUCT AN EASEMENT THAT WOULD PERMANENTLY PROTECT PUBLIC HUNTING ACCESS TO 20,000 ACRES OF LAND IN EASTERN MONTANA

HEADLINE: “Horse Creek Easement Offers Public Access Where It’s Needed Most.” [Justin Schaff & Matthew Rinella, Billings Gazette, [4/7/18](#)]

Matt Rosendale Was The Deciding Vote To Indefinitely Delay A Decision On The Horse Creek Conservation Easement, Which Would Provide Montana Hunters Permanent Public Access to 20,000 Acres In Eastern Montana. [Justin Schaaf & Matthew Rinella, Billings Gazette, [4/7/18](#)]

- **Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks: “The Proposed Conservation Easement Would Drastically Increase The Level Of Public Recreation...In The Absence Of The Conservation Easement, Hunting And Public Access On The Ranch Would Likely Continue To Be Minimal To Nonexistent. There Would Be No Guarantee Of Public Access To Or Across The Land.”** [Draft Environmental Assessment – Horse Creek Complex Conservation Easement, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 12/2017]

Montana Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Board Members Matthew Rinella And Justin Schaaf: “Rosendale Claims He Has And Will Continue Supporting Access To Public Lands But At The Same Time Seems Unwilling To Approve The Horse Creek Easement.” [Missoulian, Justin Schaaf and Matthew Rinella Guest Column, [4/9/18](#)]

- **Montana Backcountry Hunters & Anglers’ John Sullivan: “Rosendale...You Can’t Tell Us You Support Conservation, Public Lands And Expanding Access For Montana Hunters While Voting Against Even Considering One Of The Great Conservation And Public Land Opportunities In A Generation.”** [John Sullivan, Missoulian, [6/18/18](#)]

Stetson Family Behind The Horse Creek Conservation Easement Criticized “Anti-Access Politicians Like Rosendale” For Obstructing The Easement Proposal. [Stetson Family, Missoulian, [7/11/18](#)]

- **Billings Gazette Editorial: “The Horse Creek Conservation Easement Is A Good Deal That Shouldn’t Be Politicized By The State’s Top Elected Officials.”** [Billings Gazette, Editorial, [3/2/18](#)]

JON TESTER HAS RELENTLESSLY PUSHED TO PROTECT AND EXPAND PUBLIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS IN MONTANA

JON TESTER HAS BEEN A LONGTIME PROPONENT OF REAUTHORIZING THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND EXPANDING PUBLIC ACCESS

HEADLINE: “Tester Champions LWCF For Montanans.” [Bill Berg, Billings Gazette, [3/6/15](#)]

Jon Tester Has Consistently Fought To Permanently Reauthorize The Land And Water Conservation Fund. [Missoula Current, [6/20/18](#); Flathead Beacon, [8/30/15](#)]

- **Jon Tester Cosponsored Measures To Permanently Authorize The Land And Water Conservation Fund And Ensure At Least 1.5 Percent Of Its Annual Authorized Funding Went To Projects To Secure Recreational Public Access.** [S. 569, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [3/8/17](#); S. 1265, Cosponsors, Library of Congress, [6/23/11](#)]

Jon Tester Twice Introduced The Making Public Land Public Access Act. [S. 390, Congress.Gov, [2/5/15](#); S. 901, Congress.Gov, [5/5/11](#)]

- **National Shooting Sports Foundation Endorsed As A “Top Legislative Priority” Jon Tester’s Making Public Lands Public Act Requiring LWCF Be Made Available To Secure Recreational Public Access To Federal Lands For Hunting, Fishing, And Other Purposes.** [Fast Facts, Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2015, National Shooting Sports Foundation, accessed 3/28/17]
- **Boone And Crockett Club Endorsed Jon Tester’s Making Public Lands Public Act, Recognizing Him For His “Leadership In Improving Access For Hunters Nationwide.”** [Boone And Crockett Club, [9/2/11](#)]

JON TESTER INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO PRESERVE MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS AND EXPAND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BLACKFOOT CLEARWATER

HEADLINE: “‘Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act’ Would Protect 79,000 Acres Of Public Lands.” [KWYB, [2/23/17](#)]

March 2017: Jon Tester Announced His Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, Which Would Expand Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex By 79,000 Acres While Accommodating Recreational And Commercial Uses Like Sustainable Logging. [High Country News, [3/13/17](#)]

- **Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act Would Designate Two Recreation Management Areas In The Lolo National Forest: A 2,200-Acre Winter Area Open To Snowmobiling And A 3,800-Acre Summer Area Open To Mountain Biking.** [High Country News, [3/13/17](#)]
- **Daily Inter Lake: Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act “Open[ed] Up Timber Harvest And Recreational Use” In The Region Surrounding The Bob Marshall Wilderness.** [Daily Inter Lake, [2/28/17](#)]
- **Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act Would Develop A Comprehensive Trail Plan To Provide Recreationists With Access To The Lolo National Forest.** [MTPR, [2/23/17](#)]

HEADLINE: “Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act An Opportunity To Support Outdoors Economy.” [Missoulian, Editorial, [8/20/17](#)]

JON TESTER SUCCESSFULLY PASSED LEGISLATION TO PROTECT EAST ROSEBUD CREEK FROM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

HEADLINE: “Wild And Scenic Victory For Montana.” [Editorial, Billings Gazette, [7/29/18](#)]

2018: Jon Tester Legislation To Protect 20 Miles Of East Rosebud Creek From Development By Designating It Part Of The National Wild And Scenic Rivers System Was Signed Into Law By President Trump. [Great Falls Tribune, [8/3/18](#); S. 501, Library of Congress, [3/2/17](#)]

- **American Rivers: East Rosebud Wild & Scenic River Designation Bill “Has Received Robust Local Support From Area Ranchers, Business Owners, Sportsman, And Conservationists.”** [American Rivers, Press Release, [12/14/17](#)]