

The Board of Trustees

of the

School and Institutional Trust lands Administration

New Policy Amends Policy No. _____ Repeals Policy No. _____

Policy Statement No. 2010-02

Subject: County Land
Legislation

The Board of Trustees of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration met in open, public session on May 13, 2010, and by majority vote declared the following to be an official policy of the Board:

1. At the current time, various Utah counties, the Utah congressional delegation, federal land management agencies, and other interested parties are engaged in negotiations to craft federal legislation seeking, on a county-by-county basis, to resolve issues that include the appropriate level of federal wilderness designations, national conservation areas, and other public land uses. The Board supports efforts to resolve management issues involving federal public lands through collaborative local involvement.
2. Because of the checkerboard nature of school and institutional trust land ownership in Utah, federal decisions to manage federal lands for conservation purposes instead of for multiple use have a direct and negative impact on the value of inheld school trust lands, due to limitations on access and the unavailability of an economic land base to support development.
3. The Board does not express an opinion on the appropriate size of wilderness and other conservation designation on federal public lands in Utah, although it is concerned that substantial wilderness designations may act to diminish local economic activity in rural communities that are dependent upon multiple use of public lands. However, whatever the ultimate size of such designations, a cardinal principle of any administrative or legislative decision involving federal lands management should be that the beneficiaries of Utah's school and institutional trust land grants be held harmless, in keeping with the purposes for which congress made those land grants.

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4. Past federal legislation creating federal conservation designations has trapped hundreds of thousands of acres of school and institutional trust land in national parks, monuments, wilderness study areas, and national conservation areas. While land exchanges have been partially successful in resolving this problem, it has been the experience of the Board that, once such designations are put in place, there is little motivation for federal land managers to complete necessary land exchanges. For this reason, specific and mandatory legislative provisions for the purchase, exchange, or relinquishment and selection of inheld trust lands, with a firm enforceable deadline for completion, should be made concurrently with any new conservation designations.
5. The Board, as the independent fiduciary entity responsible for management of Utah's school and institutional trust lands, cannot support any county land legislation that does not expressly provide for the mandatory purchase, exchange, or relinquishment and selection of inheld school and institutional trust lands located within any new federal conservation designation created by such legislation.
6. The Director is instructed to send a copy of this policy declaration to Utah's Congressional delegation, Governor Herbert, the chairs of the House and Senate Natural Resources committees of the Utah legislature, the Director of the U. S. Bureau of Land Management, appropriate county commissions and councils, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, and appropriate school community councils and other public education constituencies.

DATED this 13th day of May, 2010.

BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JOHN Y. FERRY, CHAIRMAN