

WHY IS UTAH USING NATIONAL SECURITY AS AN EXCUSE TO STEAL PUBLIC LANDS?



Recently, Utah politicians began advancing a proposal that would increase the footprint of Utah's Test and Training Range in the West Desert of Utah by 40 percent over publicly-held Bureau of Land Management Lands. They claim this proposal is needed to accommodate the Air Force's new F-35 stealth fighter planes.

But while the expansion proposal may have begun for national defense reasons, Utah politicians have turned it into a grab bag for the state's well-connected. Now they are loading their proposal with goodies that have nothing to do with national defense — including trading public lands to Canadian mining interests and giving local counties a blank check to turn unneeded dirt tracks into highways that would criss-cross the wilderness-quality lands that belong to all Americans.

Utah politicians know they could never get such anti-environment ideas legitimately through Congress. That's why they're trying to sneak these bad ideas through under the guise of national security — even though none of these add-ons will do anything to benefit the military.

That's not the American way. It's a cynical special interest handout at the expense of the environment, plain and simple.

Providing for the common defense and promoting the general welfare — including protecting wilderness on America's public lands — can and should go hand in hand.

**Don't let Utah politicians use national defense
as an excuse to steal our public lands.**

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