

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)*

The Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT) supports reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) by the United States Congress.

Background

FLTFA is a conservation funding program that helps federal agencies acquire critically important tracts of private land for fish and wildlife conservation, cultural and historic preservation, and outdoor recreation in the eleven Western states and Alaska.

Congress first enacted FLTFA in 2000 with an expiration date of July 2010. SALT has joined a coalition of organizations that is supporting the reauthorization of FLTFA.

How Does FLTFA Work?

The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) authorizes the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell or exchange public lands that have been identified for disposal in an approved land use plan. In order to dispose of land, BLM must determine that the tract is difficult or uneconomic to manage as part of the public domain; that it is not suitable for management by another federal department; and that the disposal will serve important public objectives.

FLTFA created a special account to receive the proceeds from the sale of the designated BLM lands. The funds in the FLTFA account can then be used by the BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire lands from willing sellers that are critically important for fish and wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, historic preservation, and public access.

How Are Land Trusts Involved in FLTFA Purchases?

Land trusts are not direct participants in these transactions between the government agency and private sellers. However, land trusts have been involved in a number of these transactions by identifying potential sellers, bringing the parties together, and facilitating the completion of the transaction.

Facilitating a land transfer using FLTFA funds could be a tool for SALT to utilize in projects that support our primary mission of assuring the long-term conservation, preservation, and management of the natural open spaces surrounding the Superstition Wilderness Area.

What Can You Do to Support the Reauthorization of FLTFA?

- Visit the website www.FLTFA.org for more information
- Send letters urging support for the reauthorization to Senators McClain and Kyl and to Arizona's delegation to the House of Representatives.

Other Information

What is the likely timetable for moving the proposed bills through the House and Senate?

The current status is that the both H.R. 3339 and companion bill S. 1787 have been introduced and have had Subcommittee hearings. The next step will be a markup of each bill in full Committee (i.e. the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee). FLTFA expires July 2010, so it is hoped that the program will be reauthorized before then.

Where do the Arizona senators and representatives stand on the reauthorization?

Senators Kyl and McCain have not co-sponsored S. 1787, yet. Senator McCain is on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which is the Committee that works on this bill. On the House side, Rep. Grijalva is a co-sponsor of H.R. 3339, along with 22 co-sponsors in a bipartisan list. Rep. Grijalva is the Chairman of the Subcommittee that works on this bill.

Coalition of Organizations Supporting Reauthorization

Access Fund	National Trust for Historic Preservation
American Canoe Association	Natural Resources Defense Council
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	National Wildlife Federation
American Hiking Society	The Nature Conservancy
American Rivers	New Mexico Wildlife Federation
American Sports Fishing Association	Oregon-California Trail Association
Arizona Trail Association	Outdoor Alliance
Arizona Zoological Society	Outdoor Industry Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies	Partnership For The National Trails Sys
Association of Partners for Public Lands	Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Campaign for America's Wilderness	Quail Forever
Conservation Force	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
The Conservation Fund	Sierra Club
Continental Divide Trail Alliance	Sonoran Institute
The Corps Network	Student Conservation Association
Defenders of Wildlife	Superstition Area Land Trust
Ducks Unlimited	
Federation of Fly Fishers	Teton Regional Land Trust
Friends of Agua Fria	
Friends of Ironwood Forest	Theodore Roosevelt
International Mountain Bicycling Assn	Conservation Partnership
Izaak Walton League of America	Trout Unlimited
Land Trust Alliance	The Trust for Public Land
Mule Deer Foundation	Vital Ground
National Audubon Society	Wilderness Land Trust
National Conservation System	The Wilderness Society
Foundation	Wildlife Management Institute
National Parks Conservation Association	Western Rivers Conservancy
	Wild Sheep Foundation
	Winter Wildlands Alliance

*Information excerpted from FLTFA Brochure prepared by The Conservation Fund