

The Ten Commandments of Public Lands Resistance

1. You shall not sell what was never yours.

Public land is not inventory. It is not surplus. It is not disposable. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. No backroom deals. No buried riders. No quiet carve-outs. If a politician tries to sell what belongs to all of us, we call it what it is – theft. *We vote accordingly.*

2. You shall not manage a legacy for profit.

These lands were not set aside to balance budgets or to be sacrificed to quarterly gains. They exist to endure. Their worth is measured in what they protect – not what they produce. Public lands are for the public, for the planet, and for the generations not yet born.

3. You shall not starve what you're sworn to protect.

Chronic underfunding is sabotage. It is a betrayal of our national duty to care for these lands. Public lands return 10 to 1 on investment but even if they didn't, protection isn't a business model. It's a responsibility.

4. You shall not abandon public servants.

Rangers. Fire crews. Biologists. Trail workers. They are defenders of the republic. Honor them. Fund them. Protect them. Their work is not overhead. It is the foundation.

5. You shall not privatize the core functions of public lands management.

Private companies answer to shareholders. Public servants answer to the public. The moment a third party controls access, it ceases to be public. If you need a smartphone, an app, or a premium pass to enter, the gate has already closed. Campgrounds, lodges, shuttles, permits, and reservation systems are not side services, they are the operating system of public lands. And that system must remain public.

6. You shall not extract without paying the price.

Extraction on public land is a privilege – not a right. No lease shall be granted that degrades our land or waters. A public need must be proven. No more sweetheart leases. No more subsidized destruction. If you drill, mine, graze, log, siphon water, or extract in any way on public land, you pay full freight and you restore what you break. Anything else is theft dressed as policy. We export oil and gas. Until we stop, there is no justification for drilling on our public lands.

7. You shall not reduce national monuments.

The Antiquities Act protects. It does not erase. No president has the authority to shrink what the people have declared worth preserving. Boundaries are not suggestions. They are promises.

8. You shall leave the land better than you found it.

These places are not ours – they are on loan from the future. We inherited a rare and staggering trust: wild land, open skies, silence that still holds. Our charge is not to use it up, but to pass it forward – intact or improved. Every decision must answer to the generations who haven't arrived yet. The measure is not what we take. It's what we leave behind.

9. You shall not weaken the laws that protect public lands.

NEPA, ESA, FLPMA, NFMA, the Clean Water Act – these are not formalities. They are the last legal line between wild land and permanent damage. They must be fully enforced, fully funded, and fully out of reach of political whim. What protects our ecosystems must be written into law, and the law must hold.

10. You shall defend this land like it's yours – because it is.

This is your land. Your legacy. Your fight. Speak for it. Stand for it. Protect it like your life depends on it – because someone's will. The line has been drawn. Hold it.