



The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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NPRI study exposes abusive federal land policy

The Nevada Policy Research Institute today announced the release of a new study on the economic harm inflicted upon Silver State workers, renters, developers and prospective homeowners by the federal government's control over the majority of the state's land.

The study, titled *The Federal Land Stranglehold – and What Nevada Can Do About It*, was authored by Charles F. Barr, who examines both the historic developments that led to today's land crunch as well as the resulting damage to the quality of life in Nevada. The study is available at <http://npri.org/mgraphs/FedLandReport.pdf>.

An astounding 86 percent of Nevada's land – and 89 percent of Clark County's – is under the control of the federal government, which consistently has refused to meet its obligation to release more land to the state for development. The consequences of this artificial scarcity of land are widespread and serious and, absent drastic policy changes, will become even more so as population growth remains rapid, particularly in the south.

“During the past few years, federal land policy has begun to impose significant economic costs on a majority of the population of Southern Nevada, and this situation continues to worsen,” the study finds, adding that the land shortage produces a sharp rise in housing costs, resulting in unmanageable mortgage payments for some families, and an inability of others even to buy a home. In addition, increases in the cost of living discourage many prospective new workers – including teachers – from moving to the area. The study does note, however, that recent political developments have increased Nevada's significance on the national stage, better positioning the Silver State to begin to remedy the problem.

To receive a hard copy of the study, or to receive additional information or comment on it or its findings, please contact NPRI.

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