



EXTENSION
College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources

PEER
REVIEWED

FS-21-107

Updated Aug 2024

State Comparison of Payments in Lieu of Taxes for 2024

This publication was produced in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno Extension, Nevada Economic Assessment Project (NEAP), which aims to provide county, state and federal agencies, and their partners, with quantitative and qualitative baseline data and analyses to better understand trends in each county's demographic, social, economic, fiscal and environmental characteristics.

Thomas R. Harris

Emeritus Professor, Department of Economics
State Extension Specialist
University of Nevada, Reno



More information on
NEAP can be found at:
Extension.unr.edu/NEAP

State Comparison of Payments in Lieu of Taxes for 2020 to 2024

Thomas R. Harris
Emeritus Professor of Department of Economics
State Extension Specialist
University of Nevada, Reno

This is an update of University of Nevada, Reno Extension Fact Sheet FS-21-107 covering PILT payments in the Western United States for 2020 (Chicola and Harris, 2021). This fact sheet will look at Western States PILT payments for 2024 and the trend in entitlement acreage, PILT payments, and PILT payments per entitlement acreage for Western U.S states from 2020 to 2024.

Almost one-third of total U.S. acreage is federal lands, with the largest percentage in the thirteen Western states¹. Approximately 93.28% of all federally administered acreage in 2024 was located within these states. Because of the vast quantities of public lands in the West, the management of these public lands impacts county economies and local government fiscal balances.

Since public lands are administered by the federal and/or state government, these lands are not subject to local government taxation. To compensate for this, Congress passed Public Law 94-565 in 1976, establishing the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The act has been revised several times. In 1982, it was amended and codified as Chapter 69, 31 U.S.C. In 1983, it was amended to clarify the definition of “unit of general local government” and authorized state governments to redistribute payments to smaller units of government through legislation. The most recent change came with a 1994 act that increased payments to each county. Due to its role as the largest federal land management agency, the Bureau of Land Management was chosen by the Secretary of the Interior to administer the PILT program.

PILT payments help local governments carry out vital services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. Local governments may use PILT payments for any governmental purpose as they wish.

Although all fifty states plus the District of Columbia, Guam, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are eligible to receive federal land-based payments, Western states receive the majority due to greater percentages of Federal land ownership. Table 1 shows the thirteen Western states received \$423,482,052 of the \$514,684,460 in PILT awarded, which accounts for 81.51% of total PILT payments made in 2024.

¹ The thirteen Western States are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Table 1 Payments in Lieu of Taxes by Thirteen Western States and the Rest of the U.S., 2024

State	Entitlement Acres	Total PILT	PILT per Entitlement Acre
Alaska	224,998,606	\$37,501,298	\$0.17
Arizona	28,135,461	\$42,883,373	\$1.52
California	43,729,925	\$64,301,408	\$1.47
Colorado	23,701,972	\$47,769,009	\$2.02
Hawaii	157,255	\$610,185	\$3.88
Idaho	32,638,881	\$41,152,787	\$1.26
Montana	27,483,836	\$43,301,694	\$1.58
Nevada	56,564,438	\$32,886,305	\$0.58
New Mexico	22,374,142	\$49,840,617	\$2.23
Oregon	31,326,859	\$30,115,454	\$0.96
Utah	32,972,568	\$49,485,303	\$1.50
Washington	11,991,097	\$29,673,237	\$2.47
Wyoming	29,847,922	\$36,879,126	\$1.24
Rest of U.S.	40,790,978	\$114,835,392	\$2.82
U.S. Total	606,713,940	\$621,235,188	\$1.02

Table 1 shows that the state of Nevada had the second largest amount of entitlement acreage with 56,564,438 acres. However, the state received only \$32,886,305 in PILT, which ranks Nevada 10th highest in the nation in PILT payments. Nevada PILT payments amounted to \$0.58 per entitled acre. Only Alaska had a smaller PILT payment per entitlement acre at \$0.17.

In 2024, the Western states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming received larger PILT payments than Nevada. Only the state of Alaska has a greater entitlement acreage than Nevada. Also, only the Western states of Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington had lower PILT payments than Nevada.

California received the largest Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) in 2024, totaling \$64.3 million, or \$1.47 per entitlement acre. Although California has approximately 12.8 million fewer entitlement acres than Nevada, it received about \$31.4 million more in PILT payments. The disparity in payments among states is due to differences in the number of counties; for instance, Nevada has only 17 counties, while California has 58. Since PILT payments are made to counties, states with more counties receive higher total payments (Zimmerman and Harris, 2000). While the new PILT formula has provided more overall revenue, it has caused little change in entitlement acreage, total payments, and payments per entitlement acre.

Table 2 shows the trend in PILT payments to the 13 Western states from 2020 to 2024.

Table 2. Payments in Lieu of Taxes for Thirteen Western States and Rest of U.S., 2020 to 2024

State	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Difference: 2020 to 2024
Alaska	\$31,683,971	\$32,219,322	\$33,486,098	\$35,448,677	\$37,501,208	\$5,817,237
Arizona	\$39,528,287	\$40,192,865	\$41,186,842	\$43,501,616	\$46,883,373	\$7,355,086
California	\$54,562,480	\$55,900,858	\$58,778,191	\$61,029,530	\$64,301,408	\$9,738,928
Colorado	\$41,738,943	\$43,113,164	\$44,194,569	\$45,524,696	\$47,769,009	\$6,030,066
Hawaii	\$410,562	\$415,612	\$425,275	\$590,840	\$610,185	\$199,623
Idaho	\$33,759,782	\$34,511,297	\$35,794,315	\$38,197,782	\$41,152,787	\$7,393,005
Montana	\$35,166,221	\$36,209,980	\$38,238,756	\$40,330,577	\$43,301,694	\$8,135,473
Nevada	\$27,868,890	\$28,450,646	\$29,146,696	\$31,196,044	\$32,996,305	\$5,127,415
New Mexico	\$41,357,054	\$42,139,967	\$43,629,683	\$46,699,761	\$49,840,617	\$8,483,563
Oregon	\$23,321,995	\$24,480,634	\$25,975,874	\$27,161,990	\$30,115,454	\$6,793,459
Utah	\$41,550,177	\$42,430,445	\$43,452,462	\$46,208,033	\$49,485,303	\$7,935,126
Washington	\$24,078,273	\$24,946,423	\$26,312,351	\$27,127,978	\$29,673,237	\$5,594,964
Wyoming	\$30,791,785	\$31,227,593	\$31,521,789	\$34,307,901	\$36,879,126	\$6,087,341
Rest of U.S.	\$91,202,408	\$93,047,048	\$97,273,689	\$101,424,752	\$110,725,482	\$19,523,074
U.S. Total	\$517,020,828	\$529,285,854	\$549,416,590	\$578,750,177	\$621,235,188	\$104,214,360

From Table 2, California realized the largest increase in PILT payments of \$9,738,928 while Nevada realized only a \$5,127,415 increase. Only Hawaii had a smaller increase in PILT payments than Nevada from 2020 to 2024.

Table 3 shows changes in entitlement acreage for the thirteen Western States from 2020 to 2024.

Table 3 Trends in PILT Entitlement Acreage, 2020 to 2024

State	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Difference: 2020 to 2024
Alaska	225,219,353	224,937,420	225,015,227	225,012,392	224,998,606	-220,747
Arizona	28,138,924	28,133,319	28,133,264	28,132,256	28,135,461	-3,463
California	43,648,366	43,701,194	43,710,094	43,713,191	43,729,925	81,559
Colorado	23,698,103	23,699,226	23,702,724	23,714,029	23,701,972	3,869
Hawaii	137,979	137,981	137,981	157,219	157,255	19,276
Idaho	32,626,094	32,637,604	32,641,103	32,634,637	32,638,881	12,787
Montana	27,412,972	27,442,050	27,465,901	27,467,353	27,483,836	70,864
Nevada	56,706,760	56,703,869	56,680,407	56,565,203	56,564,438	-142,322
New Mexico	22,369,531	22,369,666	22,369,297	22,369,507	22,374,142	4,611
Oregon	31,312,205	31,321,144	31,316,547	31,323,398	31,326,859	14,654
Utah	32,928,363	32,928,811	32,977,587	32,971,283	32,972,568	44,205
Washington	11,983,071	11,988,580	11,990,518	11,990,417	11,991,097	8,026
Wyoming	29,848,307	29,848,389	29,848,701	29,848,665	29,847,922	-385
Rest of U.S.	40,715,755	40,736,225	40,751,218	40,762,361	40,790,978	75,223
U.S. Total	606,745,783	606,585,478	606,740,569	606,661,911	606,713,940	-31,843

From Table 3, only Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, and Wyoming realized a decrease in entitlement acreage from 2020 to 2024. In Nevada, the loss of entitlement acreage resulted from land swaps and the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. Other Western states experienced increases in entitlement acreage, including California, which gained 81,559 acres during this period.

Table 4 shows the change in PILT payments per entitled acreage for each of the thirteen Western States.

Table 4. Change in PILT Payments per Entitlement Acreage for the Thirteen Western States, 2020 to 2024

State	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Difference: 2020 to 2024
Alaska	\$0.14	\$0.14	\$0.15	\$0.16	\$0.17	\$0.03
Arizona	\$1.40	\$1.43	\$1.46	\$1.55	\$1.67	\$0.26
California	\$1.25	\$1.28	\$1.34	\$1.40	\$1.47	\$0.22
Colorado	\$1.76	\$1.82	\$1.86	\$1.92	\$2.02	\$0.25
Hawaii	\$2.98	\$3.01	\$3.08	\$3.76	\$3.88	\$0.90
Idaho	\$1.03	\$1.06	\$1.10	\$1.17	\$1.26	\$0.23
Montana	\$1.28	\$1.32	\$1.39	\$1.47	\$1.58	\$0.29
Nevada	\$0.49	\$0.50	\$0.51	\$0.55	\$0.58	\$0.09
New Mexico	\$1.85	\$1.88	\$1.95	\$2.09	\$2.23	\$0.38
Oregon	\$0.74	\$0.78	\$0.83	\$0.87	\$0.96	\$0.22
Utah	\$1.26	\$1.29	\$1.32	\$1.40	\$1.50	\$0.24
Washington	\$2.01	\$2.08	\$2.19	\$2.26	\$2.47	\$0.47
Wyoming	\$1.03	\$1.05	\$1.06	\$1.15	\$1.24	\$0.20

From Table 4, only Alaska had a smaller increase in PILT payments per entitlement acreage from 2020 to 2024. Nevada realized an increase of \$0.09 in PILT per entitlement acreage while Alaska realized an increase of \$0.03. The state of Hawaii realized the largest per entitlement acreage increase of \$0.90 followed by the State of Washington realizing a \$0.47 per entitlement acreage increase. The formula used to derive PILT payments and number of counties within a state influence the amount of PILT received by a state.

REFERENCES

Chicola, Randall and Thomas Harris. "State Comparison of Payments in Lieu of Taxes for 2020." University of Nevada Fact Sheet, FS21-07, 2021.

Zimmerman, John and Thomas R. Harris. "An Update of Federal and State Land-Based Payments in Nevada." University Center for Economic Development Technical Report UCED 2000/01-06. Sep-

The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a place of work and learning free of discrimination on the basis of a person's age (40 or older), disability, whether actual or perceived by others (including service-connected disabilities), gender (including pregnancy related conditions), military status or military obligations, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, national origin, race (including hair texture and protected hairstyles such as natural hairstyles, afros, Bantu knots, curls, braids, locks and twists), color, or religion (protected classes). Where discrimination is found to have occurred, the University will act to stop the discrimination, to prevent its recurrence, to remedy its effects, and to discipline those responsible.

A partnership of Nevada counties; University of Nevada, Reno; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Copyright © 2024, University of Nevada, Reno Extension.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, modified, published, transmitted, used, displayed, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher and authoring agency.



EXTENSION

College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources