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(Wyo.) - Western governors discussing public lands

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/27/2012 03:38 PM

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Utah Gov. Gary Herbert says a gathering of Republican governors in Salt Lake City is an important first step in developing a unified voice on issues such as public lands and immigration.

Governors from Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada are participating in the Rocky Mountain Roundtable on Friday.

Herbert says during an afternoon news conference that a specific area of concern for all of the states is federal control of public lands and its impact on energy development. Other topics with a regional focus are water use and the management of endangered species.

Herbert signed a law last month authorizing the state to seize federal lands in 2014 unless the federal government relinquishes ownership.

A similar bill passed the Arizona Legislature. It next goes to the Gov. Jan Brewer for a signature or veto.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and Idaho Gov. Butch Otter both say there are legal and economic questions that would have to be addressed before they would sign such a law in their states.

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