

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE
4 STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 23, of the Constitution of the State of
9 Idaho provides in part that: "The rights to hunt, fish and trap, including by
10 the use of traditional methods, are a valued part of the heritage of the State
11 of Idaho and shall forever be preserved for the people and managed through
12 the laws, rules and proclamations that preserve the future of hunting, fish-
13 ing and trapping. Public hunting, fishing and trapping of wildlife shall be
14 a preferred means of managing wildlife."; and

15 WHEREAS, Section 36-103, Idaho Code, provides that: "All wildlife, in-
16 cluding all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is
17 hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be pre-
18 served, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or
19 taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or
20 in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and
21 provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others,
22 continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping."; and

23 WHEREAS, Idaho is responsible for managing all wildlife wherever it
24 is located within the borders of the State of Idaho, drawing upon the best
25 available science to monitor the size and health of wildlife populations
26 throughout the state; and

27 WHEREAS, In May of 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted
28 gray wolves in the Northern Rockies and Western Great Lakes and Idaho re-
29 sumed management of gray wolves within the state's boundaries with continued
30 monitoring and reporting requirements. Based on the delisting, the Idaho
31 Fish and Game Commission directed the Fish and Game Department to: (1)
32 Manage wolves in a manner that will ensure wolves remain under responsible
33 state management in conjunction with the rest of Idaho's wildlife; (2) Man-
34 age wolves as big game animals consistent with the goals and objectives of
35 the 2002 Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan approved by the Idaho
36 Legislature and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep wolves off the
37 Endangered Species List; (3) Control wolves where they depredate on live-
38 stock and other domestic animals or threaten human safety; (4) Control the
39 population of wolves and other predators as needed to address areas where
40 elk or other prey populations are below management objectives; (5) Develop
41 wolf hunting season recommendations for consideration by the commission and
42 develop trapping recommendations; and (6) Conduct additional species man-
43 agement planning as appropriate; and

1 WHEREAS, given the state's wildlife management responsibilities, agen-
2 cies of the state and their designees should be afforded full access to all
3 state and federal lands within the state, as well as all means of wilderness
4 entry and animal tracking, for these management purposes. Furthermore, man-
5 dating the destruction of data acquired from tracking wildlife by entry on
6 federal lands is a heavy-handed interference with the possession of chattels
7 that by right belong to the State of Idaho, contrary to the best science prac-
8 tices for wildlife management, and needlessly hostile to the spirit of coop-
9 eration needed to properly steward the wildlife resources with which Idaho
10 has been blessed.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
12 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
13 the Senate concurring therein, that we urge Idaho's congressional delega-
14 tion and all members of the United States Congress to take necessary action
15 to authorize the State of Idaho, its agencies and designees, full access to
16 all state and federal lands within the state, as well as all means of wilder-
17 ness entry and animal tracking, to fulfill wildlife management responsibil-
18 ities of the State of Idaho.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Represen-
20 tatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of
21 this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the
22 Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the President of the Senate and the
23 Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congres-
24 sional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
25 United States.