

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
2 LEWIS COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS FOR LEWIS COUNTY'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVER-
3 SARY ON MARCH 3, 2011.
4

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, on March 3, 2011, Lewis County will celebrate its Centennial
7 Anniversary as an Idaho County; and

8 WHEREAS, Lewis County is bounded on the north by Nez Perce and Clearwa-
9 ter Counties, on the east by Clearwater and Idaho Counties, on the south by
10 Idaho County and on the west by Nez Perce County. The Clearwater River flows
11 along its eastern boundary and the Salmon River touches its southwest cor-
12 ner; and

13 WHEREAS, Lewis County is named in honor of Captain Meriwether Lewis, one
14 of the first white men to visit what is now Lewis County. In May of 1806, the
15 Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery spent a month in the Kamiah Valley near
16 the town of Kamiah, waiting for the snow to melt so they could cross the Bit-
17 terroot Mountains on their return to the east. During that time, Captain
18 William Clark wrote that the Nez Perce Tribe showed much greater acts of hos-
19 pitality than he had witnessed from any other tribe since the Corps passed
20 the Rocky Mountains; and

21 WHEREAS, in the early 1870s, missionaries Kate and Sue McBeth came to
22 the Kamiah Valley to teach Christianity and Euro-American ways to the Nez
23 Perce. The McBeth sisters inspired the construction of the First Presbyte-
24 rian Church, which stands today in East Kamiah as the oldest church in Idaho
25 still conducting weekly services; and

26 WHEREAS, the act that created Lewis County in 1911, located the county
27 seat temporarily at Nezperce. Nezperce became the county's permanent county
28 seat following the general election of 1912. Nezperce now has a population
29 of 523; and

30 WHEREAS, Kamiah is Lewis County's largest city, with a population of
31 1,160. The Kamiah Valley Museum is located in Kamiah. The museum has many
32 interesting exhibits including remains of an ancient mammoth that was ex-
33 cavated at Kamiah, local farming implements used from the late 1800s to
34 the 1950s, instruments used by the first doctor and dentist in the area and
35 crafts made by early Nez Perce tribal members; and

36 WHEREAS, with a size of 480 square miles and a current population of
37 3,645, Lewis County is a largely rural county. Fifty-eight percent of its
38 land is devoted to agriculture, with 21% devoted to rangeland and 20% being
39 forest; and

40 WHEREAS, Lewis County is an outdoor paradise. Elk, deer, bear, game
41 birds, wild turkeys, steelhead, rainbow trout, bass and kokanee are game
42 animals and fish. Snowmobiling and four-wheeling are popular activities.
43 Ospreys soar and swoop over the Clearwater River from their nests high on

1 the great yellow pine. Bald eagles wait on the winter ice floes to snag a
2 steelhead for dinner. Many small birds flit through the riverside greenery
3 and high in the surrounding mountains. Birders delight in a visit here. In a
4 recent May excursion, 56 species were sighted on a one day bird count in the
5 Clearwater River area.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
7 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
8 resentatives concurring therein, that we hereby recognize and congratulate
9 Lewis County and its residents for Lewis County's Centennial Anniversary on
10 March 3, 2011.