

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING FEDERAL LANDS, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS TO PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING FEDERAL LANDS AND TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC REPORTS.

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

WHEREAS, the First Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature adopted House Concurrent Resolutions 21 and 22, which authorized the formation of an interim study committee to study the feasibility of the transfer of certain federal lands within the State of Idaho to the State of Idaho;

WHEREAS, the interim study committee met frequently in 2013 and 2014 and heard testimony throughout the state on this topic;

WHEREAS, the committee prepared and approved a committee report on this topic incorporating various ideas and testimony;

WHEREAS, that committee report includes various recommendations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature recommends the following:

The Legislature seek the assistance of Idaho's congressional delegation in asking the federal government to develop an economic model that allows the federal lands in Idaho to be self-sustaining economically in order to provide acceptable standards and management practices on a consistent basis;

That in the event there is transfer of all or any part of federal lands that such title transfers specifically exclude national parks, national monuments, federally designated recreational areas, federal electric power generation facilities, and the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Indian reservations and Indian trust lands;

That any lands transferred or managed under this resolution not be sold by the state, except as specifically provided for in Section 8, Article IX, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho;

That public access be maintained and, where possible, expanded on lands managed by the state under any state-federal cooperative land management agreement;

That the State of Idaho, through the Department of Lands, develop a "trust model" management plan by which the state would enter into long-term trust agreements with federal agencies for the management of appropriate federal lands within Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Lands is requested to establish an internal working group to meet with federal land management agencies and to identify specific parcels of federal lands suitable for long-term lease management arrangements by the state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in considering parcels for possible state
2 management, the working group shall consider such factors as proximity, nat-
3 ural resources production, economic viability, minimization of environmen-
4 tal impact and other factors.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parcels agreed upon for trust manage-
6 ment by the state shall be considered under the "maximum long-term financial
7 return" standard, and that the economic return objectives outlined in any
8 trust agreements be specifically identified, project by project.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Lands shall report to the
10 Legislature and to the federal agencies, as appropriate, at least annu-
11 ally, as to the lease arrangements arrived at and under consideration, the
12 progress of the lease management and the revenue generated therefrom.