IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
3	TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF THE PROCESS
4	FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO TO ACQUIRE TITLE TO AND CONTROL OF PUBLIC LANDS
5	NOW CONTROLLED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
6	Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:
7	WHEREAS, accurate information is needed by the Idaho Legislature before
8	it can properly address the issue of the management and control of public
9	lands, now controlled by the federal government in Idaho, should title to
10	those public lands be transferred to the State of Idaho; and
11	WHEREAS, a process for the State of Idaho to receive title to public
12	lands from the United States and a process of how the state may transfer title
13	to any public lands that it receives need to be developed; and
14	WHEREAS, management priorities on public lands need to be developed for
15	both the State of Idaho and local entities; and
16	WHEREAS, legislation may need to be drafted to accomplish the above pur-
17	<pre>poses; and</pre>
18	WHEREAS, the Federal Lands Interim Committee met during calendar years
19	2013 and 2014 and reported as an outcome: its findings and recommendations
20	that the state continue in its process of studying to take back federally
21	owned public lands and continue to increase state management of federal
22	lands through trusts, projects and collaboration; and
23	WHEREAS, the following Western states: Arizona, Colorado, Montana,
24	Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming are also reviewing
25	federal lands transfer in more depth; and
26	WHEREAS, the issue warrants further study as a recently released report
27	from the Property and Environment Research Center demonstrates that state-
28	held trust lands produce greater income with lower per-acre expenses than
29	federal lands for recreation, timber and grazing. This study suggests that
30	state management of federal lands would not be a net cost to the State of
31	Idaho.
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses- sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep- resentatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of the process for the State of Idaho to acquire title to and control of public lands now con- trolled by the federal government. The Legislative Council shall determine the number of legislators and membership from each house appointed to the committee and shall authorize the committee to receive input, advice and as- sistance from interested and affected parties who are not members of the Leg- islature. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the analysis shall include:

after federal public lands are transferred to state control. 2. Options for funding land management activities, including control of forest fires and wildland fires. 3. Estimated asset value and sustained yield capacity associated with existing resources appurtenant to the land. 4. The degree to which federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) payments to counties may be continued, replicated or replaced. 5. Projected management costs and revenues under current and improved 10 11 conditions. 6. A formula for distribution of revenues if revenues exceed operating 12 13 costs. 7. A process to identify safeguards to protect or enhance public owner-14 ship, access, use, valid existing rights, land-based livelihoods, conserva-15 16 tion and economic production. 8. A process to identify criteria for priorities to determine which 17 lands should, if any, be sought and in what sequence and time frame, includ-18 ing options for incremental acquisition. 19 9. A process to identify prospective pilot projects. 20 21 10. A process to identify entities that may be best suited to carry out pertinent management functions. 22

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee may 23 be appointed by the cochairs of the committee who are appointed by the Leq-24 islative Council. Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall 25 not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage or other ex-26 penses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recom-27 mendations or proposed legislation. 28

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall issue a progress report 29 to the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature and shall 30 report its findings, recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to 31 the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature. 32

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1. Measures or factors that could improve operating cost efficiencies

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