

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-third Legislature First Regular Session - 2015

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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 CONTROLLED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

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

WHEREAS, accurate information is needed by the Idaho Legislature before
it can properly address the issue of the management and control of public
lands, now controlled by the federal government in Idaho, should title to
those public lands be transferred to the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, a process for the State of Idaho to receive title to public
lands from the United States and a process of how the state may transfer title
to any public lands that it receives need to be developed; and

WHEREAS, management priorities on public lands need to be developed for
both the State of Idaho and local entities; and

WHEREAS, legislation may need to be drafted to accomplish the above pur-
poses; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Lands Interim Committee met during calendar years
2013 and 2014 and reported as an outcome: its findings and recommendations
that the state continue in its process of studying to take back federally
owned public lands and continue to increase state management of federal
lands through trusts, projects and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the following Western states: Arizona, Colorado, Montana,
Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming are also reviewing
federal lands transfer in more depth; and

WHEREAS, the issue warrants further study as a recently released report
from the Property and Environment Research Center demonstrates that state-
held trust lands produce greater income with lower per-acre expenses than
federal lands for recreation, timber and grazing. This study suggests that
state management of federal lands would not be a net cost to the State of
Idaho.

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:

1 1. Measures or factors that could improve operating cost efficiencies
2 after federal public lands are transferred to state control.

3 2. Options for funding land management activities, including control
4 of forest fires and wildland fires.

5 3. Estimated asset value and sustained yield capacity associated with
6 existing resources appurtenant to the land.

7 4. The degree to which federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Se-
8 cure Rural Schools (SRS) payments to counties may be continued, replicated
9 or replaced.

10 5. Projected management costs and revenues under current and improved
11 conditions.

12 6. A formula for distribution of revenues if revenues exceed operating
13 costs.

14 7. A process to identify safeguards to protect or enhance public owner-
15 ship, access, use, valid existing rights, land-based livelihoods, conserva-
16 tion and economic production.

17 8. A process to identify criteria for priorities to determine which
18 lands should, if any, be sought and in what sequence and time frame, includ-
19 ing options for incremental acquisition.

20 9. A process to identify prospective pilot projects.

21 10. A process to identify entities that may be best suited to carry out
22 pertinent management functions.

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

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