

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
3 CLEARWATER COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS FOR THE COUNTY'S CENTENNIAL AN-
4 NIVERSARY.

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

6 WHEREAS, Clearwater County was established February 27, 1911, by the
7 state of Idaho under the provisions of House Bill No. 2 of the Eleventh Ses-
8 sion of the Idaho Legislature; and

9 WHEREAS, Clearwater County was named for the Clearwater River whose
10 name was translated from the Nez Perce term Koos-Koos-Kai-Kai, describing
11 clear water; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1805 Lewis and Clark followed an old Indian trail between
13 the north and middle forks of the Clearwater River and met the Nez Perce near
14 the present site of Weippe, Idaho; and

15 WHEREAS, gold was first discovered by E.D. Pierce in 1860, and Pierce
16 City, the oldest mining town in Idaho, came into existence and was home to the
17 first courthouse in Idaho; and

18 WHEREAS, Clearwater County was formed from Nez Perce County which was a
19 part of Shoshone County from 1864 until 1904, when it then became established
20 as a part of Nez Perce County from 1904 until 1911; and

21 WHEREAS, February 27, 2011, marks the 100th anniversary of the creation
22 of Clearwater County, as authorized by the Idaho Legislature; and

23 WHEREAS, Clearwater County has four incorporated cities within its
24 boundaries: Elk River, Orofino, Pierce and Weippe. Orofino, established
25 as the county seat pursuant to the authority of the Idaho Legislature, is
26 the largest with a population of 3,247. Orofino is home to the supervisor of
27 the Clearwater National Forest and several state of Idaho offices including
28 the Idaho Correction Institution-Orofino, the Idaho Department of Lands
29 Clearwater Supervisory Area Office and State Hospital North. The Clearwater
30 County Courthouse as well as the Orofino City Hall and the Clearwater Pot-
31 latch Timber Protective Association are located in Orofino; and

32 WHEREAS, Pierce, with a population of 617 lies some 20 miles east of
33 Orofino and is named for E.D. Pierce who discovered the first gold in Clear-
34 water County. Weippe lies about 10 miles southwest of Pierce and 18 miles
35 southeast of Orofino and has a population of 416. Elk River is almost 23
36 miles due north of Orofino. Born of logging, Elk River boasted the largest
37 sawmill in the area at one time. The mill closed many years ago and the
38 population has dwindled to around 156. These areas boast a wealth of recre-
39 ational opportunities; and

40 WHEREAS, Clearwater County is a vast area covering 2,488 square miles,
41 ranking the county as the 10th largest of Idaho's 44 counties. Elevation
42 ranges from approximately 1,000 feet above sea level at Orofino, Ahsahka and
43 Greer to peaks of nearly 8,000 feet above sea level located within the Clear-

1 water National Forest. Most of the land in Clearwater County averages be-
2 tween 2,000 to 3,000 feet in elevation; and

3 WHEREAS, Clearwater County contains within its boundaries a large por-
4 tion of the Clearwater National Forest. The Clearwater National Forest cov-
5 ers 800,000 acres from the jagged peaks of the Bitterroot Mountains in the
6 east to the river canyons and the rolling hills of the Palouse Prairie in the
7 west. The Clearwater National Forest is a recreational haven in Clearwater
8 County. The recreational uses are plentiful and recreational information
9 can be obtained from the Clearwater National Forest Supervisor's Office lo-
10 cated in Orofino, Idaho; and

11 WHEREAS, the Clearwater River is the main river of Clearwater County,
12 its tributaries include the Lochsa River, the Selway River and the South
13 Fork, North Fork and Middle Fork of the Clearwater River. The Clearwater
14 River empties into the Snake River at Lewiston, Idaho; and

15 WHEREAS, Dworshak Dam, located on the North Fork of the Clearwater
16 River, provides flood control, recreation and electric power generation.
17 Dworshak Dam creates the 53 mile long, 19,824 acre Dworshak Reservoir and has
18 made recreational uses, including boating, camping, fishing, hunting and
19 swimming, more plentiful; and

20 WHEREAS, Dworshak State Park is located among trees and meadows on the
21 western shores of Dworshak Reservoir. The park is comprised of three units,
22 Freeman Creek, Three Meadows Group Camp and Big Eddy Marina. This park is a
23 valued recreational asset in Clearwater County; and

24 WHEREAS, Clearwater County is rich in Idaho and local history and houses
25 several museums in the county including: the Clearwater Historical Museum
26 located in Orofino; the J. Howard Bradbury Memorial Logging Museum and the
27 Old Shoshone County Courthouse, the first government building in Idaho, lo-
28 cated in Pierce; the Idaho Weippe Discovery Center and the Hilltop Heritage
29 Museum located in Weippe; and Elk River Museum located in Elk River; and

30 WHEREAS, the Board of Clearwater County Commissioners will open this
31 year of centennial celebration for Clearwater County, honoring its founders
32 and congratulating its citizens on this anniversary; and

33 WHEREAS, Clearwater County has created a centennial coin to commemorate
34 its centennial celebration and will be celebrating its centennial through-
35 out the entire year of 2011, including hosting several events to celebrate
36 this monumental occasion.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
38 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
39 resentatives concurring therein, that we hereby recognize and congratulate
40 Clearwater County and its residents for Clearwater County's Centennial An-
41 niversary on February 27, 2011.