

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21031

This legislation creates in statute the Rangeland Center at the University of Idaho for the purpose of creating a new model for interdisciplinary research, education, and outreach to fulfill the University's land grant mission. The modern challenges of rangeland management require integrative thinking and innovative practices to maintain and restore these lands and the human communities that rely on them. The Center shall be comprised of researchers and educators from the College of Natural Resources; the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences; the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension; other colleges or units in the University of Idaho; and other agencies or academic institutions that may contribute.

They should have an interest or expertise in grazing, rangeland ecology, entomology, soil science, economics, rural sociology, fish and wildlife management, invasive plant management, forage production, animal science, fire ecology, restoration and the use of spatial technologies to understand and manage rangelands.

FISCAL NOTE

The Rangeland Center is currently operating under existing University of Idaho funding authorizations from public and private funds, grants and contracts. The Center may in the future ask the Legislature for additional specific funding that would go through the normal JFAC appropriation process.

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S1291