



Hypothetical Federal Land Transfer

Federal Lands Interim Committee
August 9, 2013





Utah House Bill 148



Requires in part that the United States government extinguish title to public lands in Utah and transfer title of those public lands to the State.



Legislative Action in 2013

*During the 2013 legislative session,
the Idaho Legislature passed two resolutions
pertaining to public lands.*

House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 21 –

Established a committee to study the process for Idaho to acquire title to and control of public lands in the state.

House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 22 –

Demanded that the federal government transfer title to all public lands in Idaho directly to the State.



IDL Information Provided to Committees

February 13, 2013 – IDL provided a rudimentary analysis to the chairmen of House and Senate Resources committees

This rudimentary analysis used information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service

The analysis used the active management model of 2.4 million acres of state endowment trust lands in Idaho to come up with the potential management costs and revenues associated with managing a portion of federal lands in Idaho



Federal Land in Idaho

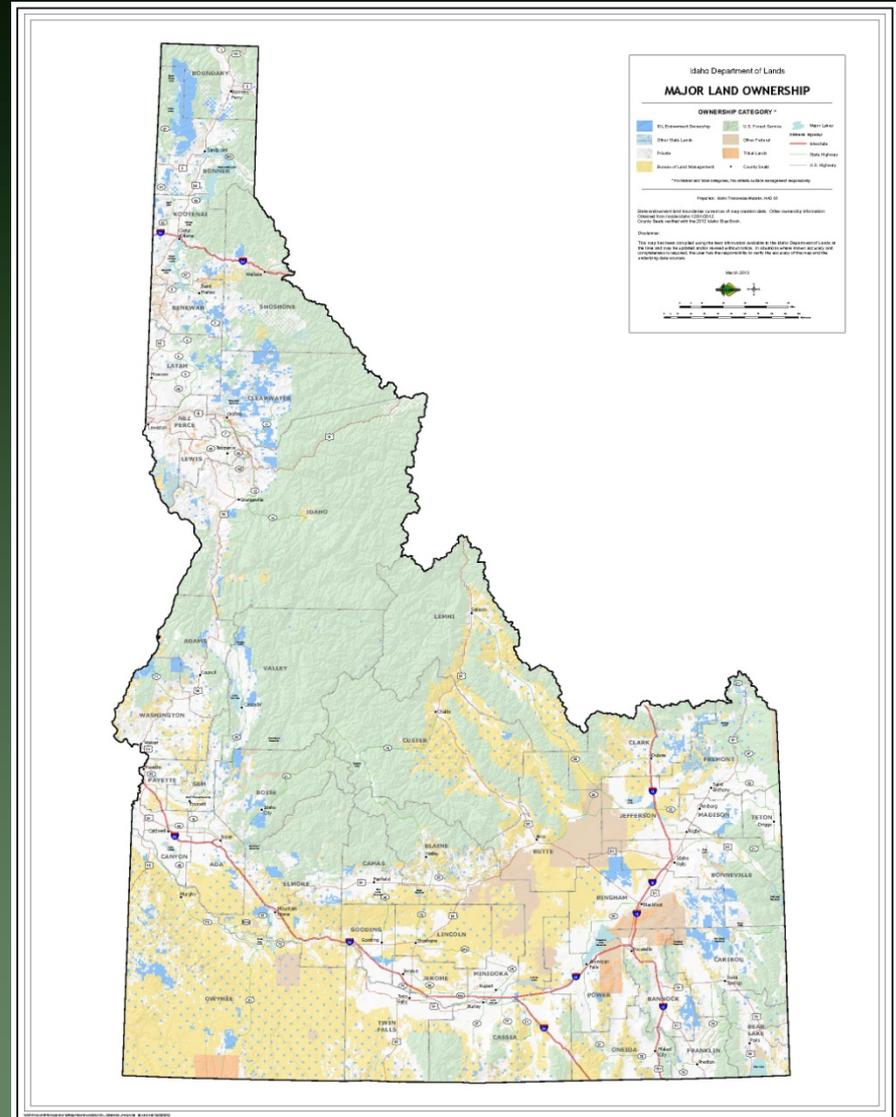
53,500,000 acres
= Idaho's total land size

34,500,000 acres
= Total managed by the federal government in Idaho

20,400,000 acres
= Total managed by the Forest Service in Idaho (the Forest Service is the largest landowner in Idaho)

11,700,000 acres
= Total managed by the BLM in Idaho

2,400,000 acres
= Other federal lands in Idaho





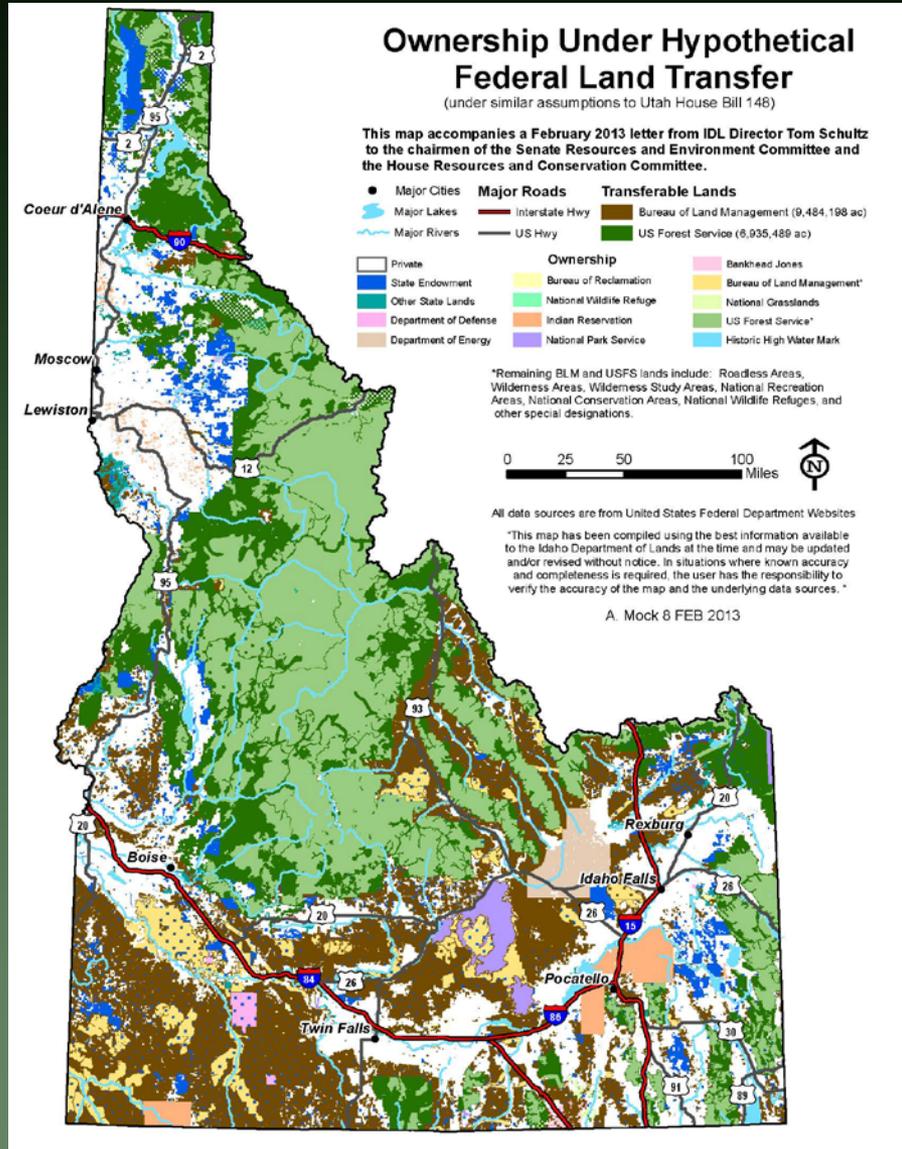
Lands Hypothetically Transferred to the State

What amount of federal lands in Idaho would be transferred to the State under assumptions similar to those of Utah HB 148?

Numerous federal ownerships and special designations of federal lands would be excluded under assumptions similar to Utah HB 148.



Lands Hypothetically Transferred to the State



16,400,000 acres
= Total number of acres transferred to the State under these assumptions

= 48 percent of the total 34,500,000 acres owned by the federal government in Idaho

Of this, 9,500,000 acres are owned by the BLM and 6,900,000 acres are owned by the Forest Service



Standing Timber Volume on Federal Lands



What is the amount of standing timber volume on all federal forested lands in Idaho?

167.6 billion board feet = Total volume of sawtimber on ALL federal forested lands in Idaho (17,200,000 acres), including the special designations

68 billion board feet = Amount one could assume is on the roughly 7,000,000 acres of Forest Service land transferred to the State under assumptions of Utah bill



Forest Service and BLM Management Costs

FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS: February 2013 estimates indicated the federal government paid approximately **\$195,000,000 to suppress wildfires in Idaho in 2012**

\$22,150,000 = BLM wildfire suppression costs

\$50,211,413 = Forest Service suppression costs in northern Idaho

\$122,522,475 = Forest Service suppression costs in southern Idaho

LAND MANAGEMENT COSTS: Outside of costs for fire suppression, the BLM and Forest Service spent approximately **\$275,000,000 to manage their lands in 2012**

\$117,000,000 = BLM management costs

\$158,000,000 = Forest Service management costs (R1 & 4)

These numbers do NOT include:

Forest Service costs associated with research (nearly 100 scientists and employees in Boise, Moscow, and other locations in Idaho)

Forest Service portion of the National Interagency Fire Center (nearly 100 full-time staff)

Other Forest Service regional office employees



Potential costs and revenues under State management

What are the potential costs and revenues associated with managing 16,400,000 acres of federal lands under existing State authorities?

Rudimentary analysis maintains many assumptions.

Forest lands: Bringing approximately 7,000,000 acres of transferred forestlands under State management would take 10-15 years.

Liabilities

Legal framework

Recreation

Fire protection



Potential Net profit under State management



Using these assumptions and the numbers presented earlier, if the State acquired 16,400,000 acres of federal land, it could generate a

Net Profit of \$51-75 million annually for public schools or other public institutions in Idaho

after the lands were brought fully under State management



How did IDL arrive at this estimate?



Fire Suppression

The IDL currently protects 6,000,000 acres and spends an average of \$15,000,000 annually for pre-suppression and suppression costs.

If the State had to provide fire protection on 16,400,000 additional acres, the State would have to spend an additional estimated \$45 million per year for pre-suppression and suppression costs.

Forest Management

Using a specific cost structure, the estimated range of net revenue the State could generate from timber sales is about \$96-120 million.



How did IDL arrive at this estimate?

Subtracting the \$45,000,000 the State would assume in additional fire costs from the amount that could be made from the sale of timber means the State could net about \$51-75 million per year.

These estimated revenues to the State do not factor in the rise in employment associated with increased economic activity on the lands.

It would take several years and investment in mill infrastructure before the wood processing facilities in Idaho could process this greater range of additional timber volume.



Analysis of Potential Impacts of Legislation Similar to Utah HB 148

Current Federal Ownership

53,500,000 acres	Idaho's total land size
34,500,000 acres	Federal land ownership in Idaho
20,400,000 acres	U.S. Forest Service (USFS) ownership
11,700,000 acres	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership

Lands Hypothetically Transferred to the State Under Similar Assumptions to Utah HB 148

16,400,000 acres	Lands transferred to the State
9,500,000 acres	Transferred lands currently owned by BLM
6,900,000 acres	Transferred lands currently owned by USFS

Assumptions

- ⇒ **Rangeland:** Managing approximately 9,500,000 acres of BLM land – mostly rangeland – would produce little to no net revenue to the State.
- ⇒ **Minerals:** It is unknown at this time what acquiring some or all of the federal mineral estate would generate in terms of revenue to the State. Unlike Utah, there is no oil and gas production in Idaho. However, permitting requirements are more streamlined under State regulations as opposed to federal regulations, creating savings for industry.
- ⇒ **Forest lands:** Bringing approximately 7,000,000 acres of transferred forestlands under State management would take 10-15 years in order to: allow for mill investments and mill capacity to increase in order to absorb the additional volume without significantly depressing markets; appropriate initial funding for hiring forest management and fire management staff and to cover additional operating expenses and capital outlay; and carry out the needed forest inventory and planning work.
- ⇒ Using information available from the Idaho Geological Survey, there could be thousands of **abandoned mines** on the lands eligible for transfer under legislation with as-

sumptions similar to Utah HB 148. This would probably include many sites with dangerous mine openings or soil and water contamination. The State's potential liability for these sites would increase significantly. **Therefore, the State would reserve the right to reject any lands eligible for transfer based on potential environmental hazards.** (Idaho Geological Survey, BLM Abandoned Mine Land Workplan, FY07-FY13, United States Government Accountability Office)

- ⇒ This analysis reflects management under the ***State's legal framework**. The State, like all landowners, must comply with the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and a host of other national environmental laws, but **the State is not required to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in its management.**
- ⇒ **The State would make the transferred lands accessible and open to recreationists.** However, IDL management does not include management for recreational trail construction and maintenance, camp sites, and other recreational opportunities, so a State agency would have to be delegated these responsibilities to maintain recreational expectations on the transferred lands.
- ⇒ **The federal government would still provide management and fire protection** on the remaining 18,100,000 acres of federal lands in Idaho that would not be transferred to the State.

Hypothetical Management Costs and Estimated Net Revenues Under State's Legal Framework* (and after lands transition fully to State management)

\$51-75 million Net revenue to public schools or other public institutions if the State managed the 16,400,000 acres of transferred land under the State's legal framework

BREAKDOWN

800 mmbf to 1 bbf	Additional timber harvested annually (consistent with USFS historic harvest levels)
\$160-200 million	Gross revenue from additional timber harvest
\$64-80 million	Management costs (40 percent of gross revenue)
\$96-120 million	Net revenue from harvest
\$45 million	Additional pre-suppression and suppression fire

Under similar assumptions to Utah HB 148, approximately 16,400,000 acres or 48 percent of the total 34,500,000 acres owned by the federal government in Idaho would be transferred to the State.

The following federal ownerships and special designations of federal lands were excluded to arrive at the total hypothetically transferred lands:

- ⇒ All roadless areas (the BLM owns 934 acres with roadless designations and the USFS owns approximately 8,500,000 acres with roadless designations)

- ⇒ Lands that are Bankhead Jones lands, managed by the BLM
- ⇒ Lands that are National Grasslands, managed by the USFS
- ⇒ National Monuments
- ⇒ National Conservation Areas
- ⇒ National Recreation Areas
- ⇒ Wilderness
- ⇒ Wilderness Study Areas
- ⇒ Uplands of Wild and Scenic Rivers
- ⇒ Historic and Scenic Trails
- ⇒ National Wildlife Refuges
- ⇒ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- ⇒ U.S. Corps of Engineers
- ⇒ U.S. Department of Defense
- ⇒ U.S. National Wildlife Service
- ⇒ U.S. National Park Service
- ⇒ U.S. Department of Energy
- ⇒ Indian Reservations managed by a Tribe

Ownership Under Hypothetical Federal Land Transfer

(under similar assumptions to Utah House Bill 148)

This map accompanies a February 2013 letter from IDL Director Tom Schultz to the chairmen of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee and the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

