

Transferring federal lands to the State of Idaho will not result in long-term economic and ecological viability. However, I do agree that changes need to be made to allow local communities and state government to have a say in how federal lands are managed.

Most of our significant environmental laws were written 40 plus years ago, and were geared to manage single species, or single projects. We now know that we should manage for healthy and productive forests, healthy and productive rangelands, and healthy and productive river systems. And we need to consider economic health of local communities, along with ecological health of our watersheds. We need a watershed law that encourages collaboration, rather than the court battles that our present laws encourage.

There are numerous examples of successful management of common property resources in Idaho, around the U.S. and around the world. In fact, the only long-term successful management of common property resources like forests, rangelands, or fisheries, has been cooperative groups, where all interested players have a seat at the table.

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