

*Caitlin O'Brien-Feeney  
Coordinator, Idaho Outdoor Business Council*

**Idaho Outdoor Business Council, Idaho  
Conservation League, Idaho Rivers United, The  
Wilderness Society, Conservation Voters for  
Idaho, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Kootenai  
Environmental Alliance, Ada County Fish and  
Game League, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Great  
Old Broads for Wilderness**

**Save Our Public Lands Coalition**

*Principles*

Whereas, Idaho's public lands are a treasured natural resource for all Idahoans, and all Americans.

Whereas, Idaho's public lands provide critical habitat refuge for Idaho's wildlife and are critical to the quality of life of Idahoans and deserve to remain in public hands. For generations, Idahoans have fished, hunted, camped and recreated on these lands and they remain an important part of Idaho's outdoor legacy.

Whereas, according to recent data, Idaho's outdoor economy generates \$6.3 billion and 77,000 jobs each year<sup>1</sup>. These jobs generate \$1.8 billion in direct wages and salaries along with over \$461 million in state and local tax revenue. Many of these jobs and dollars are directly associated with the ability to access and enjoy federally administered public lands in Idaho.

Whereas, jobs associated with the management and stewardship of Idaho's 34 million acres of National Forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, National Monuments, Department of Defense lands, National Wildlife Refuges, Department of Energy and other federally-administered lands contribute hundreds of millions of dollars each year through wages, contracts, investments, revenue-sharing payments, and other outlays that benefit Idaho's economy.

Whereas, 97% of Idahoans agree that our public lands are essential to the quality of life in Idaho<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Outdoor Industry Association, 2012, [http://www.outdoorindustry.org/images/ore\\_reports/ID-idaho-outdoorrecreationconomy-oia.pdf](http://www.outdoorindustry.org/images/ore_reports/ID-idaho-outdoorrecreationconomy-oia.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Idaho Outdoor Business Council, Aug, 2012, conducted by Moore Information.

Whereas, the Idaho Legislature passed a resolution<sup>3</sup> demanding the federal government turn over title to all federally-administered public lands to the state. These demands contradict commitments in the Idaho Constitution, Idaho Admissions Act and have been previously dismissed by federal courts. The Idaho resolution also established a process to determine how to sell off our public lands.

Therefore, be it resolved that the undersigned organizations strongly oppose any efforts that would undermine Idaho's outdoor legacy. We oppose efforts that would cede control of any public lands, including but not limited to iconic landscapes like Idaho's Hells Canyon, Sawtooths, Selkirks, Clearwater. After all, these lands are part of what make Idaho Idaho.

Collectively, we represent thousands of Idahoans who feel strongly that Idaho's outdoor legacy must be carefully guarded to ensure that future Idahoans can access and enjoy public lands for generations to come.

---

<sup>3</sup> House Concurrent Resolutions 21 and 22.