

Members of the Federal Lands Interim Committee:

My name is Carol Wiens. I am a resident of Idaho.

I am opposed to the transference of Federal Lands to the State of Idaho for many reasons but I will speak of just three.

1. Federal lands belong to every citizen of this entire country. They should not be administered by any state.

2. The State of Idaho does not appear have the funds to administer Federal lands.

When our schools are ranked 48th in the nation (or is it 49th?), shouldn't we be focused on improving the education of our children rather than wasting time and money on this effort to administer Federal lands? Our school budgets are shamefully inadequate. *That's* where our money should go.

3. Public lands are something that has made the United States of America special.

We in the western states forget how lucky we are! To have miles and miles of Federal land. *Our* land! We can camp, hike, ski, hunt and fish on our land.

When I lived in Kentucky we searched everywhere for places to hike, fish, and picnic. We found that everything is privately owned.

Have you ever driven through Texas? That state has no recreational BLM land and just a speck of National Forest. It has endless miles of tall and tight barbwire fences, with No Trespassing signs and locked gates. Because the land is all privately owned.

Idaho has a long tradition as a state with prime hunting and fishing. The habitats that make these activities possible are largely on Federal lands. Hunters, fishermen, hikers and bikers should all strongly oppose the transference of Federal lands to the State of Idaho. They will inevitably end up in private ownership. No Idahoan wants to encounter those No Trespassing signs and locked gates on *their* land.