

Federal Lands Interim Committee
September 7, 2014

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I was born in Idaho and I have lived here for 64 years. I love to hunt, fish, camp, hike and ride horses on our public land trails. If this questionably legal transfer took place, Idaho State Lands would manage our public lands. They have previously and openly stated that they don't do trails or campgrounds; they focus on getting the cut out, maximizing the return as mandated by the State of Idaho. There would no longer be any priority for fish or game habitat. There would no longer be any management of trails or campgrounds. They would quite simply get the cut out---period. This is totally unacceptable and foolish on our much larger national forests.

It is foolish to think Idaho State can afford to even control the fires on our forests. Take for example the recent Big Cougar fire on Craig Mountain this summer. It is likely to remain the largest fire so far in Idaho this year. Although some of this fire was on BLM lands, most was on lands owned by agencies of the State of Idaho. Idaho would have been in big trouble without the help of the Forest Service and other federal agencies. Idaho can't afford the fire suppression costs involved much less the other recreational services mentioned above.

I would recommend Idaho stop this constitutionally questionable, financially bankrupting, anti-hunting, anti-fishing, and anti-recreation idea. Instead, consider collaborating with the National Forests on Forest plans such as the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest plan and the Clearwater Collaborative to improve elk habitat among other things. We need to increase logging by and through these methods of collaboration to cut down on the size of big crowning fires and create wildlife habitat. On our forests outside of wilderness, logging and fires can be a tool rather than a threat. Working together can create something we all can support.

As a citizen and taxpayer, I beg you to please stop this plan and consider other more sensible alternatives. Your favorable consideration would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully
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