

**My name is Gerhardt Morrison. I live and vote in Blaine County, Idaho. My home is bounded on two sides by Federal Land managed by BLM. Throughout each year there are deer, coyotes, foxes, grouse, and many other birds and animals that come and go from our property.**

**But I wish to speak of the idea that the State of Idaho can demand transfer of Federal Lands in general to it without consideration. This idea is fraught with problems.**

**First, federal lands are owned and enjoyed by all citizens of the United States not just Idahoans. Second, they are controlled by Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled on numerous occasions that States have no rights to demand return or control of federal lands to themselves.**

**Third, the State of Idaho could neither afford to buy the lands nor manage them. For example it currently ranks 49<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> in funding for its public schools. Where would funds come from to buy or manage federal lands?**

**You know, of course, that the State would solve that problem by selling portions of the lands, permit fracking, oil drilling or mining on them or sell other uses for dollars.**

**I'd hate to think that one day I would look up and see real estate developments on the lands surrounding my home. Nor would John Peavy and other sheep ranchers in this valley like to think that there will come a day when they could not run their sheep across that land to their summer range or return in the fall to their winter homes, as they are doing while we speak,.**

**50 years ago, I worked for the U.S. Forest Service in the Snoqualmie National Forest as a summer fire lookout. I have appreciated that opportunity ever since. While the Forest Service may not always be perfect, I cannot imagine the State of Idaho doing a better job.**

**The federal lands in Idaho and the west are important in every way to we the people of Idaho and the United States. Let's keep them sacred.**

**Thank you**