

Joint Legislative Interim Committee on Federal Lands Transfer
October 10, 2014, Hailey Idaho
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Reasons to oppose public lands transfer:

the legal pretext is insufficient;

the state does not have the resources to manage these lands effectively, nor the management framework to manage them appropriately;

the state manages its public lands for income. the federal government manages public lands for multiple uses. comparisons illustrating the difference in management costs--suggesting the state does a better job--are therefore marginally relevant to irrelevant;

state lands are subject to no local land use codes, i.e. no zoning. this means any residential or commercial uses can be sited on state lands anywhere, as long as they generate revenues and pass muster with ideq. local land use planning processes and considerations do not apply. neighboring uses and service providers will be left in the cold and dark.

because the state does not have the resources to manage these lands effectively, they will be privatized at the earliest opportunity. the changes this will bring to the idaho way of life are many, deep and broad. idaho's public lands heritage, including public access, will be lost forever. in considering the transfer proposal, all idahoans should reflect on this carefully. *btw, access to public lands is affordable to all.*

wholesale transfer of all eligible federal lands in all public lands counties will affect each county differently, because the available resources and traditional uses in each county vary. thus, the ideas people have that transfer will solve all problems of management, use and income are absurd.

federal support payments will be lost. in most places this revenue will not be replaced soon or at all by any means. this loss of revenue will devastate local government budgets.

most people value our public lands primarily for their natural and environmental values and don't view them merely as resources to be developed or exploited. these values include habitat for wildlife and native vegetation, diverse, functioning natural ecosystems, scenic open space, watersheds, clean air sheds.

the federal government has systems in place for appropriate, responsible, accountable management of public lands resources. if this committee seeks to accomplish anything, it should identify and encourage ways and means to improve these management systems. it should identify and encourage ways and means to improve relationships, collaboration and cooperation among local, state and national level stakeholders. *accounting for the differences among counties*

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