

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1134

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO A PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE; AMENDING TITLE 58, IDAHO CODE, BY THE AD-
2 DITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 10, TITLE 58, IDAHO CODE, TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF
3 PUBLIC LANDS, TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR AND TO PRO-
4 VIDE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE.
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6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Title 58, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended
8 by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-
9 ter 10, Title 58, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 10
11 PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

12 58-1001. COORDINATION OF POLICY AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO PUBLIC LANDS
13 IN IDAHO. (1) There is hereby created in the department of lands the "Office
14 of Public Lands." The administrator of the office of public lands shall be
15 the official in the state designated to oversee implementation of activities
16 regarding public lands in this state including, but not limited to, citi-
17 zen access to the public lands of this state, entering into pilot programs
18 or joint programs regarding joint management of state-federal and other pub-
19 lic lands, monitoring congressional and federal agency action regarding the
20 public lands and other duties pursuant to this section. The administrator
21 shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the public lands council
22 as appointed pursuant to this section and shall be subject to confirmation
23 by the state senate. The nine (9) members of the public lands council shall
24 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the presi-
25 dent pro tempore of the senate and shall consist of seven (7) members of the
26 legislature, with at least one (1) member of the legislature being from the
27 minority party, and two (2) citizen members who shall be stakeholders in the
28 issue of public lands in Idaho. Members shall serve a four (4) year term.
29 A vacancy occurring in a citizen member's term shall be filled for the re-
30 mainder of the member's term. Legislators shall be reimbursed for actual and
31 necessary expenses, subject to the limits provided in section 67-2008, Idaho
32 Code, and nonlegislative members shall be compensated as provided in section
33 59-509(n), Idaho Code. Annually, the members of the council shall by major-
34 ity vote elect one (1) of its members as chair of the council, who shall pre-
35 side over all meetings of the council.

36 (2) The duties of the office of public lands shall include:

37 (a) Coordinate all state departments and divisions with duties and re-
38 sponsibilities affecting the public lands in Idaho;

39 (b) Coordinate state implementation and response to federal plans, bi-
40 ological opinions, guidance and projects among all state and local gov-
41 ernments in the state of Idaho regarding the public lands in Idaho;

- 1 (c) Participate in regional efforts to cooperatively address issues
2 relating to the public lands in the west;
- 3 (d) Provide input and comment to federal agencies, state agencies, and
4 tribes on issues relating to the public lands;
- 5 (e) Cooperate and consult with the department of fish and game, the de-
6 partment of lands, the department of water resources, the department
7 of agriculture, and the department of parks and recreation regarding
8 agreements or potential agreements relating to pilot projects or joint
9 efforts between the state and federal government concerning the public
10 lands in Idaho;
- 11 (f) Negotiate agreements with federal agencies concerning pilot
12 projects or other joint endeavors involving the public lands in Idaho;
- 13 (g) Provide the people of the state of Idaho with an ombudsman who can
14 listen to citizens being harmed or hindered by the regulations of the
15 federal government regarding the public lands and direct them to the
16 appropriate state or federal agency and/or speak on their behalf, as
17 deemed appropriate by the ombudsman, to address issues or concerns re-
18 lating to the public lands in Idaho.
- 19 (3) The office of public lands shall prepare an annual report to the
20 legislature regarding its activities and its recommendations relating to
21 pilot projects or joint programs concerning the public lands and citizen
22 access to those lands and submit that report and recommendations to the leg-
23 islature.