

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING FEDERAL LANDS REQUESTING THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS TO PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERN-
MENT REGARDING FEDERAL LANDS AND TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC REPORTS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the First Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature adopted House Concurrent Resolutions 21 and 22, which authorized the formation of an interim study committee to study the feasibility of the transfer of certain federal lands within the State of Idaho to the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the interim study committee met frequently in 2013 and 2014 and heard testimony throughout the state on this topic; and

WHEREAS, the committee prepared and approved a committee report on this topic incorporating various ideas and testimony; and

WHEREAS, that committee report includes various recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature recommends the following:

The Legislature seeks the assistance of Idaho's congressional delegation in asking the federal government to develop a model to sustain and increase funding for the management of federal lands within Idaho to adequately support current uses and the best interests of Idaho;

That in the event of a transfer or land exchange, such land parcels specifically exclude national parks, national monuments, federally designated recreational areas, wilderness and roadless areas, federal electric power generation facilities, national wildlife refuges, and Department of Energy, Department of Defense, Indian reservations and Indian trust lands;

That public access be maintained and, where possible, expanded on lands managed by the state under any state-federal cooperative land management agreement;

That the State of Idaho, through the Department of Lands, develop agreements with federal agencies based on the Good Neighbor Authority, as authorized by Section 8206 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, to carry out forest, rangeland and watershed restoration services on appropriate federal lands within Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Lands is requested to establish an internal working group to meet with federal land management agencies and to identify specific parcels of federal lands suitable for use of the Good Neighbor Authority.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in considering parcels for possible use of the Good Neighbor Authority, the working group shall consider such factors

1 as proximity to communities, natural resources production, economic viability,
2 minimization of environmental impact and other factors.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parcels agreed upon for use of the Good
4 Neighbor Authority shall, to the extent practical, maximize benefits to local
5 communities.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Lands shall report to the
7 Legislature and to the federal agencies, as appropriate, at least annually,
8 as to the status and performance of any proposed or executed agreements under
9 the Good Neighbor Authority.