

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25726

This bill would codify the existing Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission that has been operating pursuant to executive order for the last decade. See Exec. Order 2014-5. Idaho's inventoried roadless areas ("IRAs") consist of nearly 9.3 million acres of national forest lands. These roadless areas provide pristine habitat for native wildlife and also provide a significant benefit to Idaho's economy. In 2008, Idaho successfully petitioned the federal government to adopt an Idaho-specific roadless rule, which was distinct from the Clinton administration's one-size-fits-all rule, known as the 2001 Roadless Rule. The Idaho Roadless Rule was developed collaboratively and relied heavily on the local expertise and knowledge at the county level. The rule withstood several legal challenges since its promulgation and was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2013. *Jayne v. Sherman*, 706 F.3d 994 (9th Cir. 2013). The Idaho Roadless Rule contemplates the existence of a state-based commission that reviews U.S. Forest Service projects proposed within inventoried roadless areas. Pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Forest Service and the State, the national forests in Idaho are required to consult with the commission prior to implementing a project within a roadless area. Because of the breadth of knowledge and expertise on the commission, the Forest Service follows the commission's guidance.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no impact on the General Fund. The Roadless Commission is funded through a grant agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, which pays for commissioners' travel, per diem, and training.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).