

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27788 / S1368

This bill amends Idaho Code § 67-826 which establishes the Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission (Commission). The amendments clarify the Commission's role as a partner with the U.S. Forest Service during the development of projects and policies related to Idaho's inventoried roadless areas. The bill also sets terms for Commission members and reduces the number of commissioners from 15 to a range of 9 to 12 commissioners, subject to the discretion of the Governor.

Roadless areas consist of nearly 9.3 million acres of national forest lands in Idaho, provide habitat for native wildlife, and 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.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no direct impact on the General Fund. Separate from this legislation, the Governor's budget recommendation included \$15,000 in General Funds for administrative costs and travel for the Idaho's Roadless Rule Implementation Commission within the Office of Species Conservation's budget.

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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).