

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RESOLVING THAT THE STATE OF IDAHO
RECOGNIZES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION ACT
AND CELEBRATES THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT IDAHOANS HAVE MADE TO PROTECT AND
APPRECIATE THIS ICONIC LANDSCAPE IN IDAHO.

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

WHEREAS, Congress approved the Sawtooth National Recreation Act on August 22, 1972, to preserve its natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to enhance recreation activities on the land within; and

WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area was dedicated to the people of Idaho and the United States on September 1, 1972; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's former U.S. senators Frank Church and Len Jordan served as the authors and sponsors and shepherded the bill through the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's former U.S. representatives Orval Hansen and James McClure supported the House of Representatives' version of the bill; and

WHEREAS, the Sawtooth Primitive Area was designated as the Sawtooth Wilderness Area with the passage of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area Act; and

WHEREAS, the Hemingway-Boulders, Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds, and Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness areas were designated pursuant to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area consists of 756,000 acres, including more than 700 miles of hiking trails, and more than 300 high-elevation alpine lakes, providing recreational opportunities for hiking, backpacking, fishing, boating, canoeing, rafting, wildlife watching, OHV riding, snowmobiling, photography, hunting, and bicycling to Idahoans and visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the protections established by Congress have permitted millions of Americans to enjoy the natural beauty of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and have resulted in additional visitation and tourism that contribute significantly to Idaho's economy; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's river outfitters and guides rely on the intact habitats and clean water within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, which contribute significantly toward the economy of rural communities in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area includes the Sawtooth, White Cloud, Boulder, Pioneer, and Smoky mountain ranges, providing vital habitat, seasonal ranges, and migration corridors for ungulates, as well as ample hunting opportunities; and

1 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area provides important
2 habitat for steelhead, Snake River sockeye salmon, Chinook salmon, and
3 multiple species of trout, including bull trout, which are important for
4 recreational and tribal fisheries alike; and

5 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area is home to the headwa-
6 ters of the Big Wood, Salmon, Boise, and Payette rivers; and

7 WHEREAS, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have developed the Pettit Lake
8 Weir facility to promote recovery of sockeye salmon; and

9 WHEREAS, sockeye salmon are tied to the history of the Shoshone-Bannock
10 Tribes and are an integral part of their history and culture; and

11 WHEREAS, sockeye salmon migrate more than 900 miles from the Pacific
12 Ocean to the headwaters of the Sawtooth Basin, marking one of the longest
13 fish migrations in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and related wilderness
15 areas provide significant economic benefits to local communities, many of
16 which are almost solely dependent on visitors to these designated lands; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho recognizes the dedicated effort of the U.S.
18 Forest Service and countless volunteers for 50 years of work to maintain the
19 integrity and preservation of the land, water, and wildlife in the Sawtooth
20 National Recreation Area and related wilderness areas; and

21 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho encourages the federal government to work
22 with state partners and stakeholders to resolve potential disputes associ-
23 ated with the management of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in a trans-
24 parent and collaborative manner.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
26 Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
27 Representatives concurring therein, that the State of Idaho recognizes the
28 50th anniversary of the Sawtooth National Recreation Act and celebrates the
29 contributions that Idahoans have made to protect and appreciate this iconic
30 landscape in Idaho.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as land management agencies consider
32 changes to future public land designations, those changes should be consid-
33 ered only through a transparent process that includes input from Idahoans,
34 including those most impacted by new designations.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal land management agencies with
36 responsibility over Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area direct ade-
37 quate financial resources and expertise to ensure the ongoing protection,
38 management, utilization, and enjoyment of this designated national recre-
39 ation area in Idaho.