IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS OF TIMBER AND GRAZING LANDS WITHIN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

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

WHEREAS, recreation is a key economic driver in the state of Idaho and is growing in popularity. The primary area for recreation for residents of the Treasure Valley is Central Idaho; and

WHEREAS, as the population of Idaho has increased, so too has the need for recreational opportunities within a reasonable distance; and

WHEREAS, with increased population and desire for recreational opportunities, the need for more areas to recreate has increased; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has become known as a uniquely scenic and beautiful recreational destination, and therefore large tracts of timber and grazing land within the boundaries of the Gem State are unquestionably worthy of protection; and

WHEREAS, when large tracts of land become available within the boundaries of the state of Idaho, they should be evaluated for acquisition to protect opportunities for timber, grazing management, and recreation, including hunting, fishing, and motorized and nonmotorized uses; and

WHEREAS, existing areas to recreate in Central Idaho and the Treasure Valley currently are limited in both number and capacity; and

WHEREAS, enhancing Idahoans' options for recreation would promote tourism and agribusiness, both of which are crucial to maintaining a healthy state economy; and

WHEREAS, an increase in managed timberland would have a positive impact on the state's revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature supports certain acquisitions of timber and grazing lands within the state of Idaho.