

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33178 / HJR008

The purpose of this Joint Resolution is to amend Article IX, Section 8 of the Idaho Constitution to establish an updated framework for managing state endowment and public lands. The amendment replaces the "maximum long-term financial return" mandate with expanded land management practices that prioritize ongoing revenue generation, followed by public access for recreation, hunting, fishing, and trapping. The amendment continues to allow the sale or exchange of these lands, but reduces pressure on the state to sell them solely because of their high value. The amendment also includes language for adopting similar land management practices if the federal government transfers new public lands to Idaho. Such transfers would be subject to valid and existing rights and obligations. The amendment also supports the recognition of future rights and obligations as identified by state law. This resolution preserves all existing options for timber, mining, and grazing, and remains fully compliant with the Idaho Admissions Act without altering the Land Board's structure or its beneficiaries.

FISCAL NOTE

The amendment calls for the legislature to create a new dedicated fund to hold any revenues generated from new public lands for the purpose of maintaining and operating these public lands. There is an estimated cost of up to \$300,000 for the Secretary of State to publish proposed constitutional amendments and arguments in a voter's pamphlet as required by law. However, this cost is already accounted for by at least two constitutional amendments (HJR4 and HJR6) that previously qualified for the November 2026 general election ballot.

Contact:

Representative Britt Raybould
(208) 332-1000

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).