

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 103

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE
4 STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives
6 of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the
7 Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, the Antiquities Act was passed by the United States Congress
9 and signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906. The law
10 gives the President of the United States the authority to, by presidential
11 proclamation, create national monuments from federal lands to protect sig-
12 nificant natural, cultural or scientific features. The law has been used
13 more than one hundred times since its passage; and

14 WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964 and, since that time, the
15 United States Congress has designated nearly 110 million acres of federal
16 wildlands as official wilderness, which has the highest form of protection
17 of any federal wildland; and

18 WHEREAS, almost sixty-two percent of land in Idaho is federal land; and

19 WHEREAS, residents of the State of Idaho support multiple use of public
20 land. Current multiple use and private land protection policies governing
21 the management of public land in Idaho have generally served and sustained
22 the interests of Idaho residents; and

23 WHEREAS, ranching and agriculture play a substantial role in the
24 state's heritage and identity and should be preserved; and

25 WHEREAS, ranching, agriculture, mining, the forestry industry and
26 recreation are primary economic drivers in the state, with agribusiness and
27 recreation each contributing an estimated \$7.6 billion, the mining industry
28 contributing \$1.3 billion and the forestry industry contributing \$2 billion
29 to the economy annually in recent years, all of which would be substantially
30 impacted by any land management changes; and

31 WHEREAS, Idaho residents, families and visitors currently enjoy multi-
32 ple use on federal lands and have generations of family traditions. Changing
33 federal land designations would impact local wildlife management as well as
34 opportunities to hunt and fish; and

35 WHEREAS, changes in federal land designations or classifications would
36 affect land use by imposing restrictions on development, resource extrac-
37 tion, recreation and land exchanges that would result in diminished economic
38 opportunities and restrictions on access and multiple use; and

39 WHEREAS, the people of the State of Idaho value abundant water resources
40 and water rights and have concern that new national monument designations or
41 further designation of wilderness by Congress could affect those resources
42 and rights; and

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Roadless Rule is Idaho's 2006 plan that provides a
2 framework for use and protection of more than nine million acres of federal
3 public backcountry. The rule is viewed as a nationwide model of collabora-
4 tion among groups and individuals with diverse interests and concerns; and

5 WHEREAS, the Roadless Rule specifically prescribes protective manage-
6 ment under the wildland recreation theme, and it is feared that utilization
7 of the Antiquities Act for new national monument designations or further
8 designation of wilderness by Congress would overturn the agreement reached
9 in the formulation of the Idaho Roadless Rule, with no effort to reach con-
10 sensus through coordination as required by federal law; and

11 WHEREAS, several years ago, advisory votes relating to a suggested new
12 national monument designation and a wilderness designation in Idaho were
13 held in a number of potentially affected counties in central and eastern
14 Idaho, both showing over ninety percent opposition to such designations.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
16 Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
17 Representatives concurring therein, that we oppose any new federal national
18 monument designations or further designations of wilderness in the State
19 of Idaho without the approval of the United States Congress and the Idaho
20 Legislature.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho congressional delegation is urged
22 to introduce and support legislation to oppose any new federal national
23 monument designations or further designations of wilderness in the State
24 of Idaho without the approval of the United States Congress and the Idaho
25 Legislature.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any efforts to reach decisions regarding
27 lands and resources of the State of Idaho administered by federal agencies
28 or their designees be made through the lawful coordination process as re-
29 quired by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and
30 Management Act, the National Forest Management Act, the 1982 Forest Service
31 Planning Rule and other federal acts requiring coordination, rather than by
32 unilateral administrative processes that exclude the residents of the State
33 of Idaho.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
35 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the
36 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of
37 Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of
38 Idaho in the Congress of the United States.