



# Policy Summary: State & Federal Lands

## **Ed Says:**

*"There are resources we need for national security. Idaho has them, but we are not allowed to touch them."*

*"We need to start wisely managing our forests rather than allowing them to burn because of federal mismanagement."*

## **The Problem**

We are not allowed to manage our own lands and use the resources that the good Lord gave us. The federal government controls over 61 percent of the lands in Idaho. Congressional power grabs [1973 Endangered Species Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976], along with layers of bureaucracy, and endless litigation from special interests, have made it next to impossible for Idahoans to benefit from our own state lands. This undermines our state sovereignty, economic potential, and harms our education funding. We must also preserve the lands for public use and recreation.

Federal land mismanagement costs the state of Idaho significantly. Idaho gets a measly \$1.06 for each acre of federal land in the form of payment in lieu of taxes (PILT). The state received \$34.5 million on almost 33 million acres of land from the feds, but our state endowment land alone paid out \$84.5 million on only 2.5 million acres. When the feds lease federal land, only a portion of those revenues go to the state. Whereas, when the state leases state land then all the revenues go to the betterment of the state. Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) study proves how federal land agencies earn 73 cents for every dollar spent managing the land while state land trusts earn \$14.51 for each dollar spent.

Idaho once had a vibrant timber industry that has now been decimated by poor management and environmentalist lawsuits. Large wildfires on federal lands have increased 75% over 30 years.

## **The Solution**

Make no mistake, the outcome of federal policies that stifle the use of our public lands means less jobs and more people who are on the dole of a socialist government. Idaho needs a governor who will PUSH BACK!

Federal land should be ceded to the state (with the exception of tribal lands, military installations, designated wilderness areas, and national parks). When federal lands become state lands, they will be put in permanent state land trusts and managed by the state.

Idaho has resources, such as cobalt and antimony, that are not found in any other state but are critical for national security. We must be allowed to harvest these resources. This will not only boost our state's economy but will reduce our dependence on countries like Russia and China.

We have new technology and environmentally friendly ways of harvesting our natural resources. It's time to wisely manage our forests instead of letting them burn up each year. Leftist activities have severely mistreated the logging industry. We must reject the "special interest science" used by environmentalist fear mongers and free up our natural resources for responsible use.

Idaho's lands must be preserved and protected for recreation and enjoyment by sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts. We will keep the lands in an iron-clad land trust and they will NOT be sold off.

**Bottom line:** We need our public lands to actually benefit the public!

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