



**For Immediate Release**  
**February 28, 2019**

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## **House Republicans Look To Help Idaho Deal With Federal Lands Issues**

**BOISE, Idaho** – New legislation would create a legislative council to help Idaho deal with federal lands issues. The Idaho Council on Federal Lands would be comprised of four members from the House and four from the Senate.

“The Federal Government manages 63% of the land in our beautiful state, so the creation of this committee is well past due,” said co-sponsor Rep. Judy Boyle. “The group will focus on working with federal and state agencies to solve problems we see every day involving Idaho citizens.”

The committee will work in cooperation with the Governor and will report regularly to the Legislature. It would build on the successful state and federal collaboration seen in the Good Neighbor Authority. The GNA allows the Forest Service to partner with the Idaho Department of Lands on management goals for federal land in Idaho.

“We’ve already seen how the GNA reduces fuels, keeps communities safer from wildfires, improves watersheds, creates jobs, and preserves more Idaho timber,” said Sen. Chuck Winder. “This Council will continue that success in improving Idaho’s economy, our natural resources, and our breathtaking wild spaces.”

On February 26, HB 162 passed the House with a vote of 55-15. It is now before the Senate for consideration.

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