



Governor Brad Little

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720
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April 6, 2021

The Honorable John Neguse
Chair, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, & Public Lands
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neguse,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your subcommittee to discuss the future of our public lands.

Members of the subcommittee submitted follow-up questions for my response to be included in the official hearing record. Attached, please find my responses to the members' questions.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your committee. Please do not hesitate to reach out as you and your colleagues address some of the challenges and opportunities related to our public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", is written in a cursive style.

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho



Questions from Representative Grijalva

1. Do you agree with the Majority positions expressed in these polls?

I do not have any reason to disagree or agree with the content of the poll conducted by Colorado College.

2. Would you agree that wilderness is considered a strong federal conservation protection?

I would consider wilderness designations as a federal preservation tool. Wilderness designations can preclude better management options.

3. Do you consider Idaho's wilderness lands to be locked up?

I consider Idaho's wilderness lands "as undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...." 15 U.S.C. 1131(c).

4. Would you support repealing any Idaho wilderness designations, subjecting these lands to mining, timber and other extractive uses?

I would be supportive of analyzing each wilderness designation on a case-by-case basis to determine whether a different designation would be better for the long-term conservation of the federal public land. There may be other potential circumstances where there are strategic minerals that are critical for our nation's defense or for affordable, low carbon development.

5. Would you support a full Idaho roadless exemption, similar to the full exemption provided by the recently finalized Alaska Roadless Rule?

Idaho already has its own unique Idaho Roadless Rule, 36 CFR § 294.20 *et seq.*, which is separate and distinct from the 2001 Clinton Roadless Rule.

6. Would you agree opportunities exist within Idaho to manage more public lands for their climate and conservation values?

Over 60% of Idaho's lands are already under federal management. I support multiple uses of our public lands, which includes conservation, recreation, timber harvest, mining, and others.



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- 7. In the context of climate change, do you think that it is possible for Idaho and other western states to work with the Biden administration towards 30x30 and expanding public lands restoration?**

For decades, Idaho has worked collaboratively with our federal partners, particularly at the local level, to ensure our public lands are conserved and utilized responsibly for future generations.

Question from Representative Rosendale

- 1. In Montana, Outdoor Recreation is one of the largest economic drivers in the state. The Majority and the Biden Administration have already shown they are willing to lock up millions of acres of land that eliminate recreation, resource development, and destroy industry. The Biden Administrations 30x30 initiative is representative of a massive land grab that leads to a slippery slope in land management. Governor Little, can expand upon the importance of increased access to public lands for states like Montana and Idaho?**

Like Montana, Idaho is heavily dependent on federal lands. They are a huge economic driver for the state, including recreation, conservation, resource use and development and others. I generally believe that multiple uses and conservation of our public lands can coexist in most areas. In Idaho, we already have nearly 4.8 million acres dedicated as wilderness and 9.3 million acres of roadless areas which equates to 26 percent of our total state and 43 percent of our federal public lands. On top of that, there are numerous other federal designations.

With such large federal ownership, including millions of acres of existing wilderness and roadless areas, I believe the focus in Idaho should be on the active management of public lands where we can make a difference in forest and range health. This includes measures such as prescribed fire, thinning, and targeted grazing. Removing access threatens our ability to maintain a healthy and resilient ecosystem.