



THE FARMSTEAD

BENEWAH COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER

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DIRECTORS & RESOLUTIONS

Attendees of the Benewah County Farm Bureau® annual meeting elected the following to director positions Ken DeVries (representing Cherry Creek, Benewah, and Chatcolet areas), Karen Calisterio (representing Benewah County at large), John Ferris (representing Benewah County at large), and Russ Lowry (representing Plummer, Minneloos Valley, Lovell Valley and Rock Creek areas). Alice Leavitt was later appointed to represent the Emida, Fernwood, and Santa areas. Welcome new directors and thank you who have served.

Four of Benewah’s resolutions to amend policy passed through the Idaho House of Delegates to become published. First was to support the production of non-THC industrial hemp. The second supported passage of legislation to insist on the transfer of federally managed public lands within Idaho borders by a certain date. Third, as amended by other counties, opposed a state exchange for mandated federal health care. We also had a resolution pass the American Farm Bureau to become policy. It concerned opposing mandatory pre-harvest interventions (probiotics, vaccinations, etc.) by producers.

FB HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

On May 4th at 10AM FB members will be meeting at the intersection of highway 5 and Parkline Dr. to clean our section of the highway. Bring the kids and come join us.

MAC AT THE FAIR

During the fair, Maggie the cow will be available for kids to learn all about milking. Don’t forget to bring the kids by so they can try their hand at making their own butter from milking Maggie.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

We are pleased that five applicants responded to the postcards sent out to member families with high school seniors and college age students. The two selected from Benewah County to compete for the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation’s five \$750 scholarships were Tawnii Maughan (as the ag-related applicant) and Graydon Myhre (as the non-ag-related applicant). Thank you all of our applicants, please apply again next year for an ag-related or non-ag-related course of study.

IT IS TIME FOR PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER

We the people of the state of Idaho have been waiting since statehood, over 120 years of unfulfilled promises, for our federal government to release the public lands to us. We are not alone. When we study history we find that some states from the great plains east had to pressure the federal government to release public lands, so they could be taxed to help pay for services and infrastructure. In 1828, a coalition of states banded together and petitioned the government to release its public lands. They succeeded because they knew that the Enabling Acts of their constitutions contained language stating that the United States government is only meant to hold on to public lands “...until the title thereto shall have been extinguished...” They understood that the federal government’s trust duty from 1780 forward was to dispose of the public lands.

Meanwhile, the western states, including Idaho, struggle with a federal government claiming sole control over public lands. The federal managers have failed to exercise best management practices. The results have been wildfires that have destroyed not only timber but wildlife, wildlife habitat, watersheds, private property and local economies.

The Idaho Legislature passed companion bills to seek the transfer of those lands and to create an interim study committee to determine how to best complete it.

Follow this on www.americanlandscouncil.org

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Benewah County Board

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Area 1 - Alice Leavitt
Area 3 - Bud Steinebach/V.P.
Area 4 - Russell Lowry
Area 5 - Keith Daman
Area 6 - Ken DeVries
Area 7 - Karen Calisterio
Area 8 - John Ferris/Treasurer

Committee Leaders:

Woman's Committee Chair -
Brenda Steinebach
YF and R Chair -
Colin Longworth

Regional Manager:

Bob Smathers
bsmathers@idahofb.org

Contact any board member
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WHERE IS THE STATE/FEDERAL LINE? BY BOB SMATHERS

Ken Ivory, President of the American Lands Council and author of "Where's the Line?" spoke at the Idaho County Farm Bureau® annual meeting on October 27 in Grangeville on the topic of state versus federal jurisdiction. The question he presented is "where exactly is the line between the jurisdiction of the several states and that of the federal government?"

Mr. Ivory went on to say that "in addition to the internal check of the separation of powers among the three branches of the federal government, the states are by design the critical external check on federal government power. The Founders engineered the Constitution in this manner to create a double security to the rights of the people."

The topic of the federal lands transfer to the states was also discussed by Mr. Ivory and how the western states have been "short-changed". He argues that the federal government stole from the western states by not giving them the lands that were promised, but giving a "few" dollars back instead through PILT or "western welfare". Payments in Lieu of Taxes (or PILT) are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their boundaries.

The map below shows that the majority of the land within the western state boundaries is federally owned as shown in red. Notice the stark difference between the eastern and western states with regard to land ownership. The majority of land within the eastern state boundaries is under state and private ownership.

The state of Utah, with the blessing of Governor Herbert passed legislation demanding that the federal government honor promises made to Utah when it became a State in 1894 -- to hand over title to Utah's federally controlled public lands to the state of Utah. HB148, sponsored by Rep. Ken Ivory-R, West Jordan requires the feds to do so on or before December 31, 2014, and allows five percent of the proceeds to be retained by the state, and 95 percent of any proceeds be paid to the federal government. It also requires Utah to set up a public lands commission. HB91, sponsored by Utah Rep. Kenneth Sumsion-R, American Fork directs the Utah attorney general to file an action to enforce the Utah Enabling Act if the federal government does not comply with Utah's demands.

"The Feds promised multiple use/sustained yield on federal lands within western state borders, but the states can't touch it," says Ivory. In Utah, counties are working on natural resource plans to manage federal lands within their boundaries. Except for National Parks and wilderness, everything will be managed for production according to Ivory. Only public lands that are an island in the middle of private land could be sold and privatized, but Ivory does not envision the sale of much transferred federal land in Utah. A process will be in place to accommodate this if necessary.

The American Lands Council is asking western Governors to unite and push for similar legislation in their states. The federal government has not disposed of its lands as promised and this has hamstrung the western states with regard to taxes, jobs, education, agriculture, timber, and natural resources. Disposal of federal lands has occurred in the eastern states and this should be done in the west so these lands can be managed for the benefit of the people. "The western states have to exert their jurisdiction because it is their jurisdiction" says Ivory.

