



February 27, 2023

TO: Members of the Idaho House of Representatives Resources and Conservation Committee

S1049

The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) is the official voice for all segments of the beef industry in Idaho, from seedstock breeders to commercial operators to cattle feeders. ICA is unique in that the membership spans to every corner of Idaho. The ICA stands in **SUPPORT** of S1049.

S1049 gives the State Board of Land Commissioners' agents the ability to cite and fine those misusing Idaho's endowment lands. The legislation states that the State Board of Land Commissioners must provide notice to the public of any restrictions, closures, prohibitions, and regulations on State endowment land. Proper posting is required, and fines and restitution requirements are outlined. If a person is found guilty of violating the statute and subsequent rules that are promulgated, the person would get a warning ticket on the first violation. However, if the person causes damage to the land, then the violation would be treated as a criminal trespass.

While most recreational users behave responsibly, occasionally a few bad actors will cause substantial damage to gates, fences, timber, or areas unavailable for recreation use. Currently, those who damage endowment land may only face misdemeanor or felony charges. Because there is only one category of penalty in statute, prosecuting attorneys are reluctant to bring such heavy-handed charges forward for minor offenses. Consequently, in severe cases the only recourse available to Idaho Department of Lands is to close endowment land to public access.

Cattle ranchers and outdoor recreators are both users of Idaho's public lands. The ICA has a policy supporting collaborative work with other land users and recreational groups to develop solutions to the challenges presented by increased recreational pressures. S1049 assists in backfilling a hole in Idaho Code. The ICA urges your **YES** vote on S1049.

Sincerely,

Kim Burton Brackett
President
Idaho Cattle Association

