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IDAHO

PROPOSAL WOULD CHANGE MANAGEMENT OF STATE LANDS



PAT SUTPHIN, TIMES-NEWS FILE PHOTO

Cattle graze in 2017 on endowment land owned by the Idaho Department of Lands along the north rim of the Snake River Canyon. The purpose of such endowment land is to bring in funds for public education.

Plan looks to reduce stress with sale or exchange of property

CLARK CORBIN
Idaho Capital Sun

A new proposed amendment to the Idaho Constitution would remove the requirement that state-owned endowment lands be managed for the maximum financial return for beneficiaries.

Rep. Britt Raybould, R-Rexburg, who is sponsoring the proposed constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 8, said the proposal would change how Idaho approaches managing state endowment lands and state-owned public lands.

Raybould said the requirement to manage state lands for the maximum financial benefit of beneficiaries places pressure on the Idaho State Board of Land commissioners to sell such lands. In place of that requirement, the proposed amendment would prioritize ongoing revenue generation through things

like timber harvest, mining or grazing leases, followed by preserving public access for recreation, hunting, trapping and fishing.

"The proposal before you is fairly straightforward from the standpoint of it essentially takes existing practices and reduces the stress on the state when it comes to having to do with the sale or exchange of these endowment or public lands," Raybould told the House State Affairs Committee. "It prioritizes ongoing revenue generation, which can take the form as it has in the past of timber sales, mining, grazing and other activities that have been leased previously on state land."

Raybould's proposal is the second major public lands-related amendment to the Idaho Constitution introduced this year in the Idaho Legislature. Sen. Ben Adams, R-Nampa, is proposing a different

amendment to the Idaho Constitution that is designed to protect any new land acquired by Idaho from the federal government from being sold. On Wednesday morning, Adams unveiled a new version of his proposal, which will be given a number and posted to the Idaho Legislature's website after it is read across the desk on the floor of the Idaho Senate.

How does the proposed constitutional amendment on state endowment land work?

Raybould's proposal would remove the requirement to manage state endowment lands for the maximum financial return and replace it with new language, which reads,

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CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING PACKAGE

Homeland Security shutdown more likely

Senate Republican leader calls Democrats' demands 'unrealistic'

MARY CLARE JALONICK AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Thursday that demands by Democrats for new restrictions on federal immigration officers are "unrealistic" and warned the Department of Homeland Security will shut down next week if they do not work with Republicans and the White House.

Democrats say they will not vote for a DHS spending bill when funding runs out

unless there are changes at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and other federal law enforcement agencies after federal agents shot and killed two protesters in Minneapolis last month.

The Democratic leaders, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, released an expanded list of 10 detailed proposals Wednesday night for restraining President Donald Trump's aggressive campaign of immigration enforcement. Among the demands are a requirement for judicial warrants, better identification of DHS officers, new use of force standards and a stop to racial profiling.

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RYAN MURPHY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents walk through a gas station Thursday in Minneapolis.