

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 17

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-  
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE  
4 STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of  
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth  
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, federal wildlife corridors are intended to become a new fed-  
9 eral land designation, including in the State of Idaho, and the federal  
10 government has failed to meaningfully consult with cities, counties, local  
11 leaders, and Idaho citizens who would be impacted by such designations, in-  
12 cluding farmers and ranchers; and

13 WHEREAS, wildlife corridors may be used as justification for wildlife  
14 overpasses, underpasses, and tall fencing; and

15 WHEREAS, on an advisory ballot question presented during the Novem-  
16 ber 2018 general election, 78% of Fremont County residents participating  
17 voted against the option to install wildlife overpasses, underpasses, or  
18 other structures or fencing along that portion of U.S. 20 located in Fremont  
19 County; and

20 WHEREAS, the designation of wildlife corridors can and will lead to lim-  
21 itations on multiple use of our public lands and may severely limit access to  
22 public and private lands; and

23 WHEREAS, wildlife corridors will lead to limitations on, and closure  
24 of, rural roads and restrictions on public highways; and

25 WHEREAS, wildlife corridors will impact individual property rights,  
26 and potential unintended consequences of property damage are possible; and

27 WHEREAS, wildlife corridors will limit human activity in the vicinity  
28 of the designated areas and may lead to private land restrictions and public  
29 use restrictions; and

30 WHEREAS, hunting may be restricted or eliminated for miles in the area  
31 of wildlife corridors and access to fishing may be disrupted; and

32 WHEREAS, livestock grazing may be curtailed or eliminated in the vicin-  
33 ity of wildlife corridors and such corridors may lead to limitations on min-  
34 ing and logging; and

35 WHEREAS, the establishment of wildlife corridors will cause concentra-  
36 tion of wildlife and may lead to habitat destruction; and

37 WHEREAS, wildlife corridors will "funnel" wildlife to choke points  
38 where predators will establish kill zones and such corridors may invite dis-  
39 ease and increased predation and depredation due to concentration of wild  
40 ungulates; and

41 WHEREAS, human recreational activity, including but not limited to hik-  
42 ing, camping, trail riding, or any type of summer or winter recreation, may  
43 be curtailed or eliminated in wildlife corridors and such corridors may re-

1 sult in the closure of ATV trails, biking trails, hiking trails, and snowmo-  
2 bile trails in the vicinity; and

3 WHEREAS, wildlife corridors may lead to extensive litigation.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
5 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
6 the Senate concurring therein, that we oppose the designation of wildlife  
7 corridors along that portion of U.S. 20 located in Fremont County in the  
8 State of Idaho.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
10 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
11 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Repre-  
12 sentatives of Congress and to the congressional delegation representing the  
13 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.