STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29069C1 / H0468

This legislation establishes infraction-level charges for violating restrictions on the use of endowment land, as long as the public is given appropriate notice of the restrictions.

The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners endeavors to keep endowment land open for recreational use by the public when such use does not impede the Board's constitutional mandate to maximize long-term returns for the beneficiaries, or otherwise adversely impact the Board's fiduciary obligations to the beneficiaries. While most recreational users behave responsibly, occasionally a user causes substantial damage to gates, fences, timber, roads, trails or areas closed to motorized vehicles. Currently, those who damage endowment land may face misdemeanor or felony charges, but prosecuting attorneys are reluctant to bring such significant charges for minor offenses

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will have no impact on the state's General fund or any dedicated fund or federal fund because the department has already entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for the benefit of public access, including enforcement of the terms of that memorandum of understanding, or any other MOU between the Land Board and a government entity with law enforcement authority. Additionally, fines levied under this legislation are remitted to local courts.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).