

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 468

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO RANGELAND; AMENDING TITLE 58, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A  
2 NEW CHAPTER 15, TITLE 58, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A SHORT TITLE, TO DEFINE  
3 TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR OVERSIGHT BY THE GRAZING BOARD CENTRAL COMMITTEE,  
4 TO PROVIDE FOR THE RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR DIS-  
5 TRIBUTIONS FROM THE RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR AU-  
6 DITS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS,  
7 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROMOTION OF MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT OF RANGE-  
8 LAND RESOURCES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
9 DATE.  
10

11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

12 SECTION 1. That Title 58, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended  
13 by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-  
14 ter 15, Title 58, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

15 CHAPTER 15  
16 RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACT

17 58-1501. SHORT TITLE. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as  
18 the "Rangeland Improvement Act."

19 58-1502. DEFINITIONS. (1) "Cooperative weed management area" means a  
20 multi-governmental association cooperating to control noxious weeds in a  
21 geographic area that includes some portion of Idaho.

22 (2) "Department" means the Idaho state department of agriculture.

23 (3) "Fees" means the revenue collected by the United States secretary  
24 of the interior from assessments on livestock using public lands.

25 (4) "Grazing district" means an administrative unit of land:

26 (a) Designated by the director of the department as valuable for graz-  
27 ing and for raising forage crops; and

28 (b) That consists of any combination of the following:

29 (i) Public lands;

30 (ii) Private land;

31 (iii) State land; and

32 (iv) Endowment land.

33 (5) "Public lands" means vacant, unappropriated, reserved, and unre-  
34 served federal lands.

35 (6) "Rangeland improvement account" means the account created in sec-  
36 tion 58-1504, Idaho Code.

37 (7) "Sales" or "leases" means the sale or lease, respectively, of iso-  
38 lated or disconnected tracts of public lands by the United States secretary  
39 of the interior.

1           58-1503. GRAZING BOARD CENTRAL COMMITTEE -- OVERSIGHT. (1) The Idaho  
2 state department of agriculture shall carry out the provisions of this chap-  
3 ter. The department is authorized to seek appropriation and to receive con-  
4 tributions, gifts, and grants for the purpose of carrying out the provisions  
5 of this chapter. The grazing board central committee provided for in section  
6 57-1205, Idaho Code, shall make recommendations to the department.

7           (2) In addition to those members serving on the grazing board central  
8 committee, the governor shall appoint two (2) additional members who are  
9 livestock producers from nominations made by the Idaho cattle association  
10 and the Idaho wool growers association. The two (2) additional members  
11 shall serve at large on the board and their terms shall be for two (2) years.  
12 The two (2) livestock producer members shall serve at the pleasure of the  
13 governor. If any livestock producer member's seat is vacated, the governor  
14 shall appoint a replacement to serve out the vacated term from nominations  
15 received from the Idaho cattle association and the Idaho wool growers asso-  
16 ciation.

17           (3) Regional boards as provided for in section 57-1204, Idaho Code,  
18 shall provide advice and recommendations to the grazing board central com-  
19 mittee.

20           58-1504. RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT -- ADMINISTERED BY DEPART-  
21 MENT. (1) There is hereby established in the state treasury an account to be  
22 known as the rangeland improvement account.

23           (2) The account shall consist of moneys received by the state from  
24 sales, leases, fees, grants, or appropriations from the state or federal  
25 government, and grants from private foundations. Interest earned on moneys  
26 in the account shall be retained in the account.

27           (3) The department shall administer the account and distribute account  
28 moneys in accordance with section 58-1505, Idaho Code.

29           58-1505. RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS. (1) The de-  
30 partment shall distribute rangeland improvement account moneys as provided  
31 in this section.

32           (a) After the director of the department approves a request from the  
33 grazing board central committee, the department shall distribute mon-  
34 eys received by the state under section 58-1504, Idaho Code, from fees  
35 based on the amount of revenue generated from the imposition of fees.  
36 The grazing board central committee shall expend moneys received in ac-  
37 cordance with subsection (2) of this section.

38           (b) The department shall distribute or expend moneys received by the  
39 state under section 58-1504, Idaho Code, from grants or appropriations  
40 from the state or federal government and grants from private founda-  
41 tions for the purposes outlined in subsection (2) of this section. The  
42 department may require entities seeking funding from grants or appro-  
43 priations from the state or federal government and grants from private  
44 foundations to provide matching funds.

45           (2) The department shall ensure that account distributions or expendi-  
46 tures under subsection (1) of this section are used for:

47           (a) Rangeland improvement and maintenance;

48           (b) The control of predatory and depredating animals;

1 (c) The control, management, or extermination of invading species,  
2 rangeland damaging organisms, and poisonous or noxious weeds;

3 (d) Any other management tool that benefits a grazing district;

4 (e) Watershed protection, development, distribution, and improvement;

5 (f) The general welfare of livestock grazing within a grazing district;  
6 and

7 (g) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, costs to monitor range-  
8 land improvement projects.

9 (3) Annual account distributions or expenditures for costs to monitor  
10 rangeland improvement projects may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the an-  
11 nual receipts of the account.

12 58-1506. AUDIT OF GRAZING DISTRICTS. The legislative services office  
13 audits division is authorized to coordinate with the department of the inte-  
14 rior in auditing the books of the advisory boards.

15 58-1507. DISTRIBUTION OF UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS. If the United States  
16 alters or discontinues funding under the Taylor grazing act, or the opera-  
17 tion of advisory boards, leaving funds or other resources undistributed or  
18 otherwise without means for continuation, the director of the department  
19 shall supervise and control the distribution of such undistributed funds or  
20 other resources.

21 58-1508. PROMOTION OF MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT OF RANGELAND RE-  
22 SOURCES. (1) The department shall work cooperatively to promote efficient  
23 multiple-use management of the rangeland resources of the lands adminis-  
24 tered by the federal bureau of land management, the United States forest  
25 service, and other lands to benefit the overall public interest.

26 (2) The department may serve as an independent resource for mediating  
27 disputes concerning permit issues within the scope of subsection (1) of this  
28 section.

29 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
30 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
31 July 1, 2024.