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## Idaho

# Bill sets out how Idaho would manage federal lands

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

BOISE — A bill introduced in the Idaho Legislature March 9 spells out how Idaho would manage any federal lands it receives in the future.

A separate bill introduced a day later would require the federal government to receive legislative approval before buying or acquiring any additional land in Idaho.

Both were introduced by Rep. Judy Boyle, a Republican rancher from Midvale who supports efforts by Utah and Idaho to compel the federal government to return control of most public lands to western states.

If that happens, House Bill 582 sets the parameters for how Idaho would manage those lands. Titled the "Idaho Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act," the bill requires the state to manage those lands for multiple uses.

The bill blunts criticism that Idaho would just sell those lands to the highest bidder, Boyle said.

"They are for true multiple use, so it's everything. We're talking about recreation, wildlife, the environment, grazing, mining, logging," she said. "That reassures people we're not going to sell all these lands... They're going to be managed for multiple use for the best of Idaho."

The bill says the transfer of federally held public lands to the state would fulfill the promise made in the U.S. and Idaho constitutions as well as the Idaho Admissions Act... "that any new state enter the union with all the same rights as the original 13 states."



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Idaho's Capitol is shown in this Feb. 24 photo. A bill introduced in the Idaho Legislature spells out how the state would manage any federal land it receives in the future.



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Water is stored in Lucky Peak Reservoir in October. A special court master has sided with Treasure Valley irrigators who say flood control releases from the reservoir should not count against their water storage rights.

## Special court master won't reverse his flood control ruling

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

BOISE — A special court master has again ruled on the side of Treasure Valley irrigators who oppose the state's counting of flood control releases against reservoir water storage rights.

Those irrigators, who called on the state to accept the ruling and stand down on the issue, say that water released from Boise River reservoirs to prevent flooding in Idaho's largest population center should not count against stored water rights.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources and the state's attorney general's office say it should.

In October, Theodore Booth, a special master of the Snake River Basin Adjudication court, issued a ruling siding with the irrigators and on Feb. 26 he denied a request by the state to reverse his ruling.

"We are very pleased and thankful for the special mas-

ter's decision because it reaffirms the long-standing agreement that flood control releases do not count against Treasure Valley storage rights," Treasure Valley Water Users Association Chairman Clinton Pline said in a news release.

He also requested the state back away "from its legal challenges, which threaten the Treasure Valley's storage rights at taxpayer expense, for no legitimate reason."

In a separate IDWR administrative hearing on the same issue, Director Gary Spackman issued an order in October that backs the department's position.

The state is expected to appeal Booth's district court ruling to Judge Eric Wildman, the presiding judge of the SRBA court.

Treasure Valley water users have already appealed the IDWR ruling to Wildman, so it's likely the judge will consider both appeals together, representatives of both sides say.

"I think people are assuming it will end up before the Ida-

ho Supreme Court," said Dan Steenson, a Boise water attorney representing Treasure Valley irrigators.

Irrigators claim the state's counting of flood control releases against reservoir storage rights is a new development and could lead to a catastrophic situation where irrigation water runs out in early summer.

IDWR officials say the department has counted flood control releases in Basin 63 — the Boise Valley Basin — as satisfied water rights since 1986, since the basin switched to a computerized accounting program.

There has been no catastrophic water shortage during that time, which disproves those claims, said IDWR Deputy Director Mathew Weaver.

"Anyone who says there has been a change in the way we administer water rights in Basin 63 ... does not have a good understanding of the code and our administration practices in (that basin)," Weaver said. "There has been no such change."

## New Southern Idaho economic director wants to build on success

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — With a streak of successes under its belt and the recent departure of the executive director who led that effort, Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization has hired Jeff Hough as its new executive director to continue the push forward.

Hough, director of workforce training at Idaho State University, has the combination of skills and experience

SIEDO was looking for to "keep our foot on the gas of economic development," said Mike Schutz, SIEDO chairman.

Much of SIEDO's more recent economic success has been in attracting and expanding food processing, reflected in last year's federal designation of southern Idaho as one of the country's top manufacturing communities.

Immediate past executive director Jan Rogers did an outstanding job and created the momentum that put south-

ern Idaho on the map, even at a national level, Schutz said. SIEDO needed someone who could continue that work of attracting new business, retaining and expanding existing businesses, developing workforce training and attracting new talent to the area.

Hough "brings an impressive set of skills to support economic growth in our region and is particularly experienced in digital media and marketing," he said.

"His current role in workforce development will offer a fresh perspective to the region in drawing talent to fill the many available jobs here while also supporting existing and new business opportunities," he said.

Hough said he is "truly humbled" to have been chosen for the position.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity and blessed to be associated with this area and all



Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press

Jeff Hough, left, new executive director of the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization, talks with Jeff Fox, president of the College of Southern Idaho, at SIEDO's quarterly meeting in Twin Falls on March 10.

of you people," he said to community leaders during SIEDO's quarterly meeting on March 10.

SIEDO's success reflects the enthusiasm of community leaders, cohesive efforts, the responsiveness of the College of Southern Idaho to workforce needs and strong community support, he said.

"Hats off to Jan for building that and to all of you," he said.

Southern Idaho is a "star on the map now. I want to come

and make that star bright," he said.

"I'm really excited to be a part of this great foundation that's already in place and excited to add onto that. You've already done something great; let's do something incredible," he said.

His first order of business is to build on community relationships and facilitate a strategic plan among those communities, he said.

With his extensive background and skills in digital marketing, Hough directed and grew ISU's online marketing efforts to increase website traffic and increase student enrollment. He also served as a business consultant at ISU in workforce training, designing and facilitating numerous training sessions for businesses, and pens a weekly business column carried in five Idaho newspapers.

He is certified in Inbound Marketing, which he said is vastly different than traditional "in-your-face" marketing.

"It's like leaving bread crumbs all over the Internet. My goal is to apply my skills to leave bread crumbs all over the world so people find their way back to the Magic Valley," he said.

Hough holds a bachelor's degree in finance from ISU, and the long-time high school coach is working on a master's degree in athletic administration. He is married with four children and two grandchildren and plans to relocate to Twin Falls from Pocatello.

His official start date is March 28.

## Five named to East Idaho Ag Hall of Fame

Capital Press

IDAHO FALLS — Five new agricultural leaders have been selected to join the Eastern Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Members to be sworn in during a planned March 18 recognition dinner at Shilo Inn include Garth Chivers, of Challis; Glenn Dalling, of Sugar City; Jerry Kress, of American Falls; E. Dale Jolley, of Salmon; and Terry Rindlisbaker, of Bancroft.

Tickets are \$25 and available through the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Chivers is a rancher known for raising horses and following good conservation practices. He's received several awards from the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District for his sustainable ranching methods. He and his wife, Glenis, have five children.

Dalling, a farmer, was

recognized in a press release from the Hall of Fame for his "contributions to the development of irrigation systems and grazing allotments in the Sugar, Salem, Hamer and Dubois areas. He served two terms as mayor of Sugar City and was also heavily involved in athletic groups at Ricks College, now Brigham Young University-Idaho. He and his wife, Dorothy, have nine children.

Kress was recognized for his contributions to Idaho's wheat industry. Kress was instrumental in the establishment of the Idaho Barley Commission in the 1980s and in the transition of the Idaho Wheat Growers Association to the Idaho Grain Producers Association, according to the press release. He and his wife, Gwen, have three children.

Jolley, who put money down on his first farm with funds raised from his FFA

hog project, was recognized for his willingness to experiment on his farm. He brought one of the first mechanical sugar beet thinners into his region, according to the press release.

He also helped establish some of the first water districts in Lemhi County, helped plan for Steele Memorial Hospital in Salmon and has been active in Farm Bureau. He and his wife, Millie, have five children.

Rindlisbaker, a potato farmer, has raised more than 20 varieties of seed potatoes through the years and was recognized for quickly adding the latest technology to his farm — most recently, a drone for crop and water surveillance. He's served on the North Gem School Board, the Caribou Memorial Hospital Board and is now on the Soda Springs Airport Board. He and his wife, Marjean, have three children.

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