

# 2015 Legislative Session in Review - Environment and Natural Resources



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# Overview

- **GMO Labeling / Regulation**
- **Dredge Mining**
- **Oil & Gas**
- **Trespass**
- **Public Lands**
- **Bike Paths / Trails**
- **Memorials / Monuments**
- **Parks & Recreation funding**
- **Future Developments?**

# GMO Labeling and Regulation



- **HJM 6: Calls upon Congress to preempt state GMO labeling requirements:**
  - WHEREAS, foods produced with GE ingredients are as safe to eat and grow *as foods produced without GE ingredients . . .*
  - WHEREAS, GE technology adds desirable traits from nature, establishing the potential for nutritional, health, agronomic and environmental benefits;*
    - **Result - transmitted**
- **HB 114: Barring local government from passing ordinances prohibiting cultivation of GMO seeds**
  - **Result - enacted**

# Dredge mining



- **HB 51 - Exempting suction dredge mining from Clean Water Act**
  - **Result – passed to House floor, returned to Committee**
- **HB 255 - Exempting suction dredge mining from state water quality regulations; Criminalizing “interference with mining activities”**
  - **Result – passed to House floor, returned to Committee**

# Oil and Gas



- Many new regulations addressing definitions, contested cases, fees
- HB 50 - Owners of 55% of unit production can unitize, commence drilling
  - Result - enacted
- HB 124 – Oil & Gas Commission can declare BLM to be outside unit so consent not required
  - Result - enacted

# Trespass

- **HB 94 - Exempts canal operators from treble damages for tortious tree removal**
- **Originally exempted anyone with land adjacent to a stream from all trespass laws – opposed by ITLA**
  - **Result - enacted**



# Public Lands



- **HB 265 – Created an interstate compact with Western states to pursue the transfer of federal lands**
  - **Power to levy and assess fees on member states**
  - **Could withdraw from compact 6 months after enactment of withdrawal legislation**
  - **Utah is spending \$12M on attempt to take federal land**
  - **Strong opposition from enviros**
  - **Result – passed House, died in Senate**

# Bike Paths / Trails



- **SB 1044 - Strips power of eminent domain for development of trails, paths & greenways**
  - Only used twice in Idaho history
  - Strongly opposed by Association of Cities, Enviros, other groups
  - Pushed by Farm Bureau
  - Result - enacted



# Memorials / Monuments



- HJM 5 – declaring that any decisions regarding national monument designation of the Boulder-White Clouds should be made with local collaboration rather than by unilateral federal administrative processes
  - Result – transmitted
- HJM 2 - opposing any national monument designation in the Caldera area of the Island Park region in eastern Idaho
  - Result – transmitted

# Parks & Recreation



- **SB 1098:**

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) has been directed to find new sources of revenue in order to be more self-sufficient and reduce reliance on the General Fund. Sponsorships and partnerships are a potential revenue source for the Department. The proposed legislation clarifies that the Park and Recreation Board and IDPR staff have the authority to engage in sponsorship and partnership opportunities with private businesses and other organizations.

- **Funding for Parks & Rec dropped from \$16.1M in 2009 to \$3.5M in 2015**
- **Result - enacted**

# Future Developments?

- **More public land takeover efforts?**
- **More attempts to exempt dredge mining?**
- **Bans on consideration of climate change?**
- **Ban on local fracking restrictions?**
- **Evasion of EPA Clean Power Plan?**
- **Thoughts / Questions?**