

November 13, 2019

Mr. Ryan Montoya
Real Estate Bureau Chief
State of Idaho

Dear Mr. Montoya:

I recently read with great interest in the public record a letter from a large corporation to the Idaho Land Board Members dated April 10, 2019. The corporation objects to the State's timberland acquisition program. As a private Idaho land owner I thought you might find a different perspective useful for consideration as well.

My family has lived in Idaho for generations and has owned Idaho farm and timberlands for an equally long period. My own parents bought timberlands over 50 years ago in Idaho of which I am now a part owner. As you can appreciate, private land owners are faced with a variety of challenges and opportunities.

One of the challenges/opportunities that I find the most difficult as a land owner is succession planning and trying to determine the best use of our land holdings for the future. Not just 10 years down the road, but 100 years down the road and beyond. I want to know that our land is serving a purpose that I would agree with and make me proud. I have always been encouraged by previous family generations to do whatever small part I can to improve Idaho and leave the State and its citizens in better shape than I found it.

That's why I personally was excited to learn about the State of Idaho's reinvestment of funds and the timberland acquisition program. For the first time in many years private landowners had an additional option for directing the future of their land holdings. Selling acres back to the State ensures they will not be resold and developed into something I wouldn't agree with. The lands will be wisely managed as a working forest with timber sale proceeds going to benefit Idaho schools and universities; the same educational institutions I and many of my family members are products of. And the land remains largely open to public access for recreation and hunting.

Those are the things I want for my land. It is a potential win-win for myself, the State of Idaho, and its citizen's. As an Idaho land owner I care about the future - not some corporation's profit driven strategy. Frankly I resent any corporation trying to dictate who I choose to sell my land to and taking away options. These corporations are not interested in buying smaller land parcels like the State of Idaho is.

Is the Idaho land buying program a fit for every land owner in every situation? No it isn't. Is it a strategic and sensible option for some land owners? Yes it is. Don't deny private land owners the option to sell their timberlands to the State of Idaho if they want to. Let the free market work and let the State of Idaho be a participant in it. Keep the timberland acquisition program going and give Idaho land owners a choice.

Sincerely,



Joe R. Deyo

Proud Private Idaho Land Owner