

# **STATE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS**

November 18, 2025

Regular Agenda

## **Subject**

Reconsideration of disposition of 160 acres of rangeland near Driggs, Idaho

## **Question Presented**

Shall the Land Board reconsider the disposition of 160 acres of rangeland near Driggs (Driggs 160) through auction?

## **Background**

The State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) is constitutionally and statutorily charged with the management of state endowment lands for the maximum long-term financial return to endowment beneficiaries. A key component of this authority is the power to sell state endowment land, as outlined in Idaho Code, Title 58, specifically § 58-105.

During the July 15, 2025 regular Land Board meeting, the Land Board approved the Idaho Department of Lands' (Department) request to dispose of the Driggs 160 through public auction. Per Idaho Code § 58-313A, the Land Board "...shall first give notice in writing by certified mail to the commissioners of the county or counties in which said lands are located of their intention to direct such sale. If, within sixty (60) days of the receipt of such notice the county commissioners shall object to such sale, they shall file their objections in writing with the state board of land commissioners who shall thereupon at the next regular meeting reconsider the order directing such sale and if good cause appears therefor they shall rescind the order...."

## **Discussion**

Written notice was sent to the county commissioners via certified mail on July 17, 2025 and received on July 21, 2025 (Attachment 1). The county then had until September 19th to bring any objection to the attention of the Land Board, per statute.

On Monday, August 11, 2025, Department staff attended a County Board of Commissioners meeting in Teton County to discuss the sale, describe the process, and answer any questions. During this meeting the process for objection was discussed.

On September 12, 2025, the Department received a letter from Teton County Commissioners expressing opposition to the sale (Attachment 2). This letter was

signed by two of the three members of the commission. On September 15, 2025, the Department received a letter from the remaining commissioner explaining why he declined to sign the letter of opposition (Attachment 3). Since the August 11th Commissioners' meeting, the Department has received other correspondence expressing both support for and opposition to the sale (Attachment 4).

Per Idaho Code § 58-313A, the next step in the process is for the Land Board to reconsider the order directing the sale of the parcel.

### **Recommendation**

Proceed with the disposition of 160 acres of rangeland near Driggs (Driggs 160) through public auction.

### **Board Action**

### **Attachments**

1. July 17, 2025 letter to Teton County Commissioners
2. September 12, 2025 letter from Teton County Commissioners
3. September 15, 2025 letter from Commissioner James
4. Public Comments

**Idaho Department of  
Lands**

Director's Office  
300 N. 6th Street, Suite  
103  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0050  
Phone (208) 334-0200



Dustin T. Miller, Director  
Working Lands, Trusted  
Stewards  
Equal Opportunity Employer

**State Board of Land Commissioners**

Brad Little, Governor  
Phil McGrane, Secretary of State  
Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General  
Brandon D Woolf, State Controller  
Debbie Critchfield, Sup't Public  
Instruction

July 17, 2025

Brad Wolfe  
Chairman  
Teton County Commissioners  
150 Courthouse Drive  
Driggs, ID 83422

**Delivered By Certified Mail**

Re: Disposition of 160 acres of State Endowment land in Teton County

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The State of Idaho intends to dispose of approximately 160-acres of grazing land in Teton County.

The property is the "Driggs 160" property, which is located in Section 11, T6N, R45E, and consists of 160-acres of land. The Driggs 160 property is adjacent to the County Road North 500 W and is north of the town of Driggs, Idaho. Driggs 160 is within tax parcel that is identified as RP06N45E117200.

As required by Section 58-313A, Idaho Code, the State Board of Land Commissioners wishes to ascertain if Teton County has any objections to the disposition of this state endowment land.

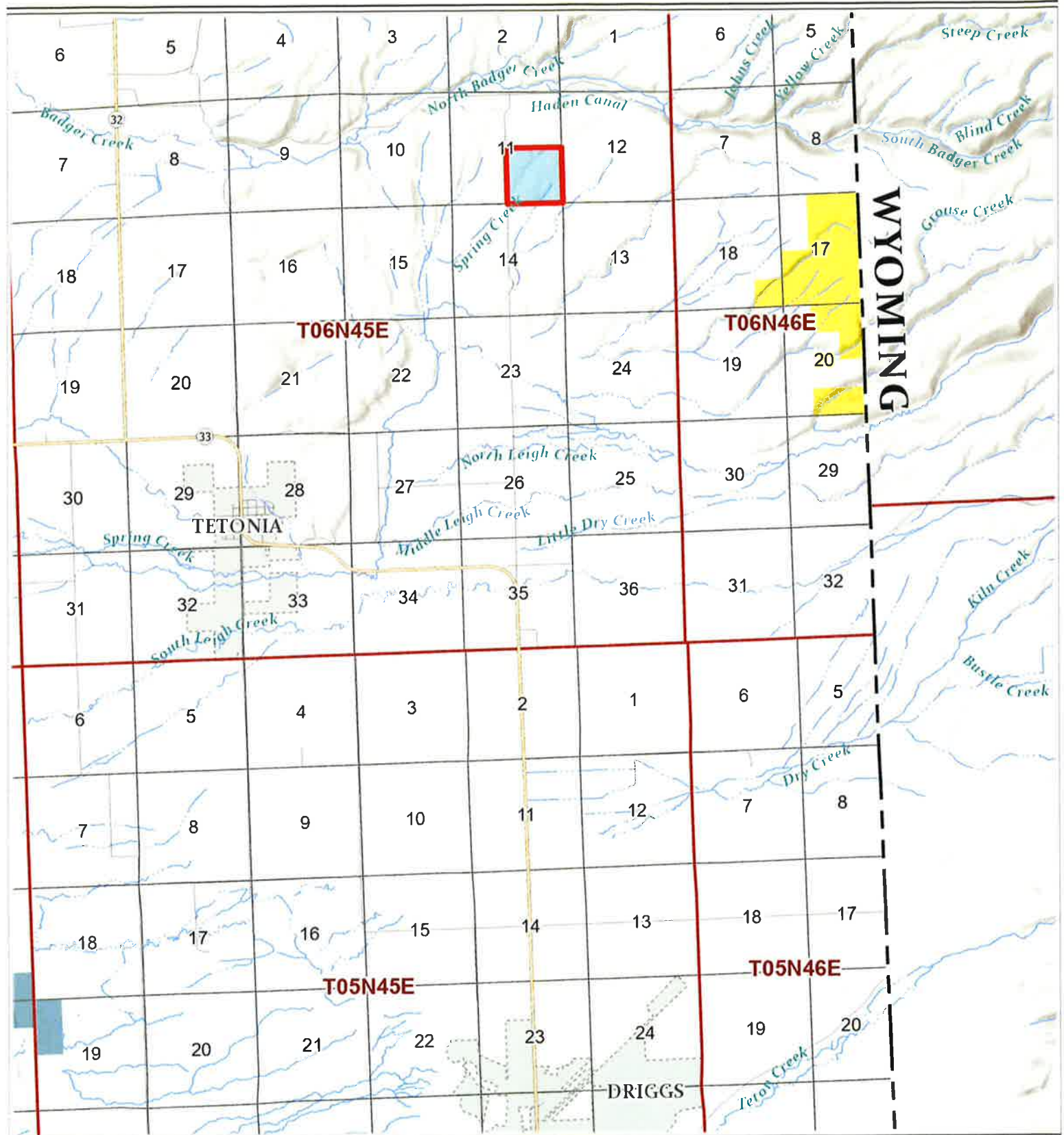
If Teton County wishes to object to the land sale as described, then a written statement must be received by the state within 60 days of your receipt of this letter. If we do not receive a reply to this letter, we will assume that Teton County has no objection to the disposition.

Respectfully,

Zane Lathim  
Section Manager

Enc. \Map

Sent Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested – 7022 1670 0001 2356 4725



- To be Disposed
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- Other State

**Driggs 160 Parcel**  
 SE1/4 of Sec. 11, T06N R45E  
 Teton County, Idaho  
 7/7/2025

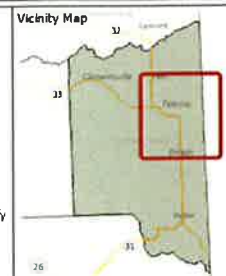


0 1 2 Miles

**Map Notes**

Projections: Idaho Transverse Mercator, NAD 83  
 Map Notes and Data Sources

**Disclaimer:**  
 This map has been compiled using the best information available to the Idaho Department of Lands at the time and may be updated and/or revised without notice. In situations where known accuracy and completeness is required, the user has the responsibility to verify the accuracy of the map and the underlying data sources.





(208)776-8254

[bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov](mailto:bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov)

**Teton County Commissioners**

150 Courthouse Drive

Driggs Idaho 83422

September 12, 2025

To: Governor Little, Director Dustin Miller and The State Board of Land Commissioners  
Idaho Department of Lands  
300 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Suite 103  
Boise, Idaho 83720

RE: Driggs-160 Public Lands Sale

Dear Governor Little, Director Dustin Miller and the State Board of Land Commissioners,

We, the Board of County Commissioners are wiring you in regards to the proposed sale of the endowment land located at 500 West in Teton, Idaho, commonly referred to as the Driggs 160.

We have intensely debated this issue, have had several public meetings with an abnormally large amount of interest and interaction and, additionally, received hundreds of emails where the public has voiced their opinion. We have taken every minute of the time allowed to us to consider these responses so that we might give you our best understanding of what our county desires.

We understand there is a current lease on the property that, if sold, will greatly impact the financial well-being of the family involved. Terminating this lease mid-stream is definitely not in their best interest and hundreds have spoken in opposition to the sale in their defense as well as to the loss of agricultural land available for public use in a highly agricultural county. Our Comprehensive plan (p1-8) states "We will strive to ... Maintain, nurture and enhance the rural character and heritage of Teton Valley". It's hard to picture a more striking depiction of this mandate than the Beard family ranching on this property.

At the same time we also understand the reasons endowment lands were introduced over 150 years ago. It does seem however, that the timing of the sale at this time is not in the best interest of County. We would receive little or no tax benefit to our tax rolls and the help to schools, youth and health care would be small and would not be realized during the next

**ATTACHMENT 2**





(208)776-8254

[bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov](mailto:bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov)

**Teton County Commissioners**

150 Courthouse Drive

Driggs Idaho 83422

five years or not at all if the land were traded.

With the overwhelmingly strong opposition we have received from the public, we as the commissioners of Teton County and representing our constituents, have unitedly come to the decision they we respectfully request that the "Driggs 160" not be considered for sale at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

(Signature Page Follows)

Teton County Board of County Commissioners

Brad Wolfe (Chair)

Ron James

Dan Powers

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My letter as a Commissioner on the sale of the 160 acres

Subject: My Position on Signing the Opposition Letter Regarding the Driggs-160 Public Lands Sale

Dear Fellow Teton County Board of County Commissioners and Relevant Parties,  
I am writing to formally explain my position regarding the proposed opposition letters to Governor Little and Director Dustin Miller of the Idaho Department of Lands, dated August 25, 2025, concerning the sale of the "Driggs-160" public land parcel. As you know, these letters express strong opposition to the sale on behalf of the Teton County Board of County Commissioners. While I respect the concerns raised by our community and the intent behind these letters, I must respectfully decline to sign them.

My decision is based on my belief that this matter has been appropriately decided at the state level by the Governor, the Attorney General, and the State Board of Land Commissioners. These officials, acting within their authority under Idaho law, have reviewed the proposal and authorized the sale after due consideration. It is my view that intervening or expressing opposition from the local county level would be inappropriate, as it could undermine the state's decision-making process and overstep the boundaries of our local jurisdiction. The management and disposal of state-owned endowment lands, including decisions related to sales for the benefit of Idaho's charitable institutions, are fundamentally state responsibilities, and I believe it is not our place as county commissioners to challenge or second-guess those determinations.

I understand the passion surrounding this issue, including the value of public lands for agriculture, wildlife, and community heritage, as highlighted in the numerous public comments we have received. However, I remain convinced that respecting the state's authority in this instance is the proper course of action. If there are opportunities for local input through established channels, such as public hearings or formal comment periods, I would support encouraging community participation in those forums.

Thank you for understanding my position. I am committed to working collaboratively with you on other matters that directly fall within our local purview to serve the best interests of Teton County residents.

Sincerely,  
Ron James  
Teton County Commissioner  
(208) 776-8254 mailto:[rjames@tetoncountyidaho.com](mailto:rjames@tetoncountyidaho.com)  
150 Courthouse Drive Driggs, Idaho 83422

**From:** [Carol Riley](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Teton County Auction  
**Date:** Saturday, September 6, 2025 8:21:12 AM

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Hello:

I am asking you to vote NO to the 160 acres of public land which is going to auction. Please do NOT allow this to happen to allow a local rancher who has been in the Driggs area for 5 generations to continue to lease it. Please do NOT allow a wealthy individual to purchase it so he can up his land portfolio. This gentleman is not even a local where as the rancher has been here for many years and uses this land as part of his living.

Please have some decency and preserve this land and allow the rancher to continue to lease it.

Thank you,  
Carol Riley  
Driggs, ID



**From:** [Jen Werlin](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov](mailto:bocc@tetoncountyidaho.gov)  
**Subject:** Teton County Auction Driggs 160  
**Date:** Sunday, September 7, 2025 9:48:59 AM

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I am writing in opposition to the sale of Driggs 160, the parcel of state land located off of 500 west in Tetonia. There is overwhelming opposition to selling this parcel from locals of Teton Valley, Idaho. As an agricultural educator with over 20 years of experience working to support community food systems, I support keeping this land open to agriculture and public access. It should be available to future generations, as well as agricultural producers who responsibly steward the land.

The Beard family are longtime lessees of this parcel and have responsibly leased it for ranching uses, helping to contribute to our rich agricultural heritage in Teton County, ID. This land is also important for migratory wildlife habitat. The sale of this land would not directly benefit the people of Teton County, ID and is shortsighted. It's also shameful that the Beards had to learn about the potential sale indirectly over social media.

Furthermore, it is interesting that discussion of selling this parcel came up after the billionaire neighbor Tull expressed interest in buying this land. The state of Idaho and our board of county commissioners should work for the interests of all constituents, not just those who have deep pocket books.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Werlin  
Victor, Idaho

**From:** [Contact Us Form](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, September 7, 2025 8:13:22 PM

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Full Name: Christina Heilman  
Email: [chris.heilman77@gmail.com](mailto:chris.heilman77@gmail.com)  
Phone Number: 208-534-8099  
Mailing Address: 545 Booshway St  
City: Driggs  
State: ID  
Zip Code: 83422  
Your Comment: Dear Idaho Land Board,

I am writing as a concerned Idaho parent and citizen urging you to stop the proposed auction of the 160-acre parcel known as Driggs 160 in Teton County, ID.

This parcel was set aside to serve the public good. Selling it off permanently strips away a resource that supports our institutions and our communities. Once public land is gone, it is gone forever.

As a fundraiser for public education, Idaho already ranks last in the nation for education funding. In 2023, the state spent just over \$10,200 per student, compared to a national average of \$16,500. This shortfall is not just a number on a spreadsheet—it shows up every day in our classrooms, with larger class sizes, outdated materials, and fewer supports for kids who need them most. Selling trust land only deepens these inequities.

Here in Teton County, the education impacts are clear:

- Math proficiency: ~35% of students, compared to ~41% statewide.
- Reading proficiency: ~47%, compared to ~52–55% statewide.
- Graduation rate: Strong at 95%, but too many students graduate without reaching benchmarks in core subjects.

If the Driggs 160 sale moves forward:

- Teton County gains nothing—not a single dollar returns to our community.
- A longtime leaseholder loses part of their livelihood, weakening local agriculture.
- A dangerous precedent is set for privatizing Idaho trust lands.

Idaho's trust lands are a shared inheritance. They should generate long-term value for schools and state institutions—not be sold off in short-sighted deals.

I respectfully urge you to halt this sale and protect Driggs 160 for the benefit of Idaho's people, public lands, and children's future.

Sincerely,  
Christina Heilman, PhD

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Date: September 7, 2025

Time: 8:13 pm

Page URL: [https://www.idl.idaho.gov/contact-us/#elementor-toc\\_\\_heading-anchor-5](https://www.idl.idaho.gov/contact-us/#elementor-toc__heading-anchor-5)

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_15\_7) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/18.3 Safari/605.1.15 Ddg/17.7

Remote IP: 164.165.66.134

Powered by: Elementor

**From:** [Burt Smith](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Teton County Auction  
**Date:** Sunday, September 14, 2025 3:41:28 PM

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Dear Governor Little and Commissioners:

Please register this comment as **OPPOSITION** to the proposed auction and sale of the 160-acre parcel of state trust land east of Tetonia to any private entity. Among other things, the proposed sale damages Teton County by reducing the amount of open land in the county and by interfering with wildlife migration in the county. Additionally, please ask "What is the direct benefit to the citizens of Teton County?" I suggest that there is none. Indeed, how can any short-term monetary gain by the State outweigh the loss of the public's permanent ownership and control of this parcel?

Please make your decision based on the long-term interests of the citizens of Teton County and not upon some fleeting sale proceeds.

Thank you,  
s/ Carol Smith

s/ Burt Smith

**From:** [Burt Smith](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#); [brad.little@gmail.com](mailto:brad.little@gmail.com); [Roger Hall](#); [ag@idaho.gov](mailto:ag@idaho.gov); [gov@idaho.com](mailto:gov@idaho.com); [sco@idaho.com](mailto:sco@idaho.com); [sde@idaho.com](mailto:sde@idaho.com); [sos@idaho.com](mailto:sos@idaho.com)  
**Subject:** Teton County Auction  
**Date:** Sunday, September 14, 2025 3:35:23 PM

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**Date:** Sunday, September 14, 2025

**To:** Idaho Board of Land Commissioners and its Members [[comments@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:comments@idl.idaho.gov)]:

Governor Brad Little [via email to [brad.little@gmail.com](mailto:brad.little@gmail.com) and [gov.idaho.gov](mailto:gov.idaho.gov)]

State Controller Brandon Woolf [via email to [sco.idaho.gov](mailto:sco.idaho.gov)]

Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield [via email to [sde@idaho.gov](mailto:sde@idaho.gov)]

Secretary of State Phil McGrane [via email to [sos@gmail.com](mailto:sos@gmail.com)]

Attorney General Raul R. Labrador [via email to [ag.idaho.gov](mailto:ag.idaho.gov)]

IDL Director Dustin Miller [c/o Roger Hall via email to [rhall@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:rhall@idl.idaho.gov)]

**From:** Burt Smith, 351 Palisade Trail, Driggs, ID 83422

**Re:** Teton County Auction

Dear Governor Little and Commissioners:

Please register this comment as **OPPOSITION** to the proposed auction and sale of the 160-acre parcel of state trust land east of Tetonia to any private entity. Among other things, the proposed sale damages Teton County by reducing the amount of open land in the county and by interfering with wildlife migration in the county. Additionally, please ask "What is the direct benefit to the citizens of Teton County?" I suggest that there is none. Indeed, how can any short-term monetary gain by the State outweigh the loss of the public's permanent ownership and control of this parcel?

Please make your decision based on the long-term interests of the citizens of Teton County and not upon some fleeting sale proceeds.

Thank you,  
s/ Burt Smith

**From:** [Olerud Family](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Our public lands  
**Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 9:13:26 AM

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Hello,

I just wanted to voice my opposition to selling the 160 acre parcel of state land in Teton County.

These lands are owned and can be enjoyed by every citizen of Idaho, as well as people from all over the country. Selling this parcel to the highest bidder takes this amazing resource away from the public and endangers access to other publicly owned land.

In addition, this land is currently leased by a rancher who agreed to a legal document allowing them to graze on this land. Selling this parcel would be a violation of this contract.

Our public lands are threatened every day. Please do your part to protect our national heritage and say no to this sale.

Thank you,

Andy Olerud



**From:** [tsbalben@silverstar.com](mailto:tsbalben@silverstar.com)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** teton county 160 acre potential land auction  
**Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 10:07:54 AM

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We very much oppose the termination of the grazing lease on the 160 acre parcel in Teton County ID. Locally sold beef from the Beard family has been on our table for many years. Our county has lost so many farms and ranches over the past 20 + years. All I know about this is what I read in the newspapers. We have been here in Teton valley 35 years..raised children here.. and worked locally..now retired and really trying to adapt to all the growth and changes happening. We are being swallowed up by wealthy investors who care nothing about our county..just amassing and developing land in any way possible. An auction and terminating a grazing lease seems both legal and unethical. Please continue the grazing lease issued to the Beard family for the period agreed upon when this lease was signed. Support our farms and the hard working farmers and ranchers. Please and thank you ..I have been curious about legal access to this said property also. and how it could be "land-locked" as described in the newspaper? Sarah and Tom Balben..concerned locals in Teton Valley ID

**From:** [djknb@silverstar.com](mailto:djknb@silverstar.com)  
**To:** [Comments: Roger Hall](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Land Sale Teton County 160 Acres  
**Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 2:58:49 PM

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Hello,

My husband and I would like to express our opposition to the proposed auction of state public land in Teton County, specifically the 160 acres of grazing land currently leased by Nick Beard's family historically since the 1990's and contracted to by the state until 2032.

Mr. Beard is a fifth generation Teton County rancher who would like to continue the tradition his family has worked for more than a hundred years. This should mean something, even at the state level, in an agricultural, conservative state that supposedly values these traditions.

Teton County has been discovered, and we try to maintain the resources and community that brought all of us here and continues attract more and wealthier people.

We are sure if the Land Board looks beyond this certain windfall auction, it has other parcels in other places, if a public land sale is deemed essential for raising money to put in the endowment to sit for the next five years.

Perhaps better use of the state's tax revenues might help with state shortfalls, especially in education, which seem to have recently come to light. Perhaps not using our tax money to fund private and charter schools would be a place to start.

This issue has brought our community together like few issues have in the past decade or longer. Even our divided Board of County Commissioners decided they would represent the will of the citizens of Teton County and come out against this land auction. We need to protect our natural resources, especially as part of the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Please reconsider this Land Auction. It is not necessary. Just because you can do something, does not mean you should.

Thank you,

Jan & Don Betts

Residents of Teton County, Idaho since 1985

**From:** [Chris Larson](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Teton County auction  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 12:51:58 PM

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Board of Land Commissioners,

I'm writing with respect to the land auction you're proposing in Teton County. I'm opposed to the state selling this 160 acre parcel at auction. This parcel of land has been grazed by a legacy ranch family for many years.

As a member of the Teton Count Historic Preservation Commission, I work to preserve the historic legacy of Teton Valley. This is a part of that. Selling this parcel to someone like Thomas Tull does nothing to preserve our past.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Larson

**From:** [penny vasquez](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** teton county auction  
**Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 5:06:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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### Driggs 160

This is Commission Brad Wolfe letter who doesn't mention the fact that he has ignored those in favor of the land being sold. (My corrections are in red)

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed sale of public land located on 500 W in Teton, referred to as the "Driggs-160", which is currently leased for cattle grazing purposes. The longtime leaseholder has responsibly managed this land in partnership with local and federal agencies, maintaining its ecological (buzz/trigger word, where is the data showing how) health while supporting their family's livelihood (most of the land sold to Mr. Tull has been by the Beard Family, Mr Beard has worked for Silverstar Communications in Driggs for the last 17 years, it will not jeopardize his livelihood and contributing to the local agricultural economy. (He does not contribute to the local community, unlike Crowfoot Meats, the Beards do not sell their product at the Farmers Market, no data) The sale of this land would not only jeopardize their ability to continue this work, (he is a hobby farmer at best) it also set a concerning precedent for the loss of public (STATE) land that supports sustainable (buzz / trigger word) agriculture and rural communities. Under Idaho law, the "best interests of the State" standard governs the disposal of state lands that are not specifically designated as school endowment lands. (We do benefit from deaf & blind school, which I told Brad Wolfe but he chose to ignore my comment) Idaho Code 58 313 broadly states that the state board of land commissioners may sell state lands as they deem are in "the best interests of the state. (It is a mandate and all of Idaho benefits from these sales) This broad language is not specific to endowment lands and grants the Land Board discretion to consider a range of public benefits and policy objectives beyond mere financial return.(State) Public lands are a shared resource, vital to both environmental stewardship and economic viability in our region. Privatizing this land would eliminate (a few of Mr Beard's friends use it for hunting, most people on the petition hadn't even seen it) access for multiple users, reduce local grazing capacity, and potentially lead to land uses that are inconsistent with the community's values and long-term interests. Our Comprehensive plan (p1-8) states "We will strive to ... Maintain, nurture and enhance the rural character and heritage of Teton Valley". (At best Brad Wolfe is cherry picking the Comp Plan. He doesn't even realize that according to the Givens Pursley Land Use book, the comprehensive plan is a "Vision and a Framework"...in fact if Brad Wolfe had any inkling about our comp plan, he would know that in 2019 after seven years we accomplished one thing. The short plat, which was to help the farmer divide his land easily. Yet the ex commissioner Cindy Riegel and Shawn Hill from the toxic group VARD voted against it. For the most part this community has never helped the farmer/ rancher. Mark Harris knows about the problems here and has tried desperately to help us. Even going to the AG's office over this hot mic video of the last commissioners claiming how they skirted the Opening Mtg. law rules. I have written the AG's office but I am told to go to my prosecutor. She has a violation from November from me that she has yet to answer. It's hard to picture a more striking depiction of this mandate than the Beard family ranching on this property. We respectfully

urge the commission to consider the broader implications of this sale and to prioritize the continued stewardship of public lands through existing lease agreements. Thank you for your time and consideration. Teton County Board of County Commissioners Page  
[Here are the broader implications, if your board cow-tows to this group you are opening your board to this being a trend for the liberal progressives.](#)



**Cynthia Riegel**

**Ida Hansen** For someone who claims to be a rancher in this valley, I am surprised you want to see another long time ranching family go under due to this sale. Or maybe the rumors are true that you moved to St. George and are now just a puppet for out-of-state developers. The fact is the Land Board had no intention of selling this land until at least 2032 when the lease with the Beards expired, until they were approached by someone whom the Governor owes a favor. The

[Ex-commissioner Riegel takes a stab at Gov. Little I told Mr. Wolfe that it was a FB petition, here are the % Outside ID: 427 or 29.72%](#)

Idaho outside Teton County: 388 or 26.47%

Teton County: 651 or 44.40%

[Mr Wolfe stated while those who are outside of the county probably have property here. Not True. I told him on the 3rd page Jan Betts, our Democratic Party Head, stated she lives in Koorlong Australia, this alone should invalidate that petition. The petition isn't even done right. We have a population of 15k, take of 4k for kids....1400 is not 60%....in fact Mr. Wolfe \(he hasn't earned my respect to call him commissioner\) thinks if he sides with the Democrats they will re-elect him. I am frustrated by the lies, the tactics and the media half-truths. Mr Beard is a grown man, he signed the lease, Kim Keeley our County Clerk is the one who put it on FB and all because the losing opposition stated in the Hot Mic video, they knew how to put a "wedge" in these commissioners tenure and were leaving things in a F-word mess. \[video.isilive.ca/play/tetoncounty/2024-11-13\\\_16\\\_39\\\_20.mp4\]\(https://video.isilive.ca/play/tetoncounty/2024-11-13\_16\_39\_20.mp4\)](#)

It is 34 minutes, please listen too....A young man died the other day, he stood up for doing what was right. This group has tried to squash the truth from being told. Please go forward and sell the Driggs 160 (excuse any and all mistakes, as I said I am frustrated)

Penny NM Vasquez

2725 E 250 N Driggs ID 83422

208-351-0029



Note from IDL staff: Redactions were made to certain portions of this document, marked with asterisk (\*), to remove profane and obscene language not relevant to the topic.

**From:** [penny vasquez](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Read  
**Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 6:03:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
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[image.png](#)

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Meant how the Beards have gouge Mr Tull when selling their grazing land..

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** penny vasquez <[pennynmv@gmail.com](mailto:pennynmv@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Mon, Sep 15, 2025, 5:14 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Read  
**To:** Comments <[comments@idl.idaho.gov](mailto:comments@idl.idaho.gov)>

I fully support Commissioner James' letter. I believe that the Driggs 160 should be sold. The facts have been ignored and the news media is biased. I have sent several letters with data. Thank you for listening to me. This is the FB post and the attack on Mr. Tull. Anyone of my clients from Jackson Hole could buy this land, but the way that those who oppose this sale has been disgusting. The Beard's are not a Heritage Farm, the land is scrub grass to me. And with the money that the Beards made from gouging Mr. Beard when they sold to him.....they could buy the land.

Penny NM Vasquez  
2725 N 250 N Driggs ID 83422  
208-351-0029

**Nick Beard** is with **Rikki Beard** and

**10 others**

.

[July 20](#) ·


## Idaho Public Lands Are Not for Sale


### Our Public Lands Are Under Attack — And Ranching Families Are Paying the Price


Right now, the State of Idaho is moving to sell off public lands, specifically the "Driggs-160"—lands that have been grazed, stewarded, and cared for by multi-generational ranchers for decades.


These aren't just open spaces on a map. They are the lifeblood of our rural communities—where cattle graze, wildlife thrives, and hardworking families make a living.


But the state wants to auction them off, not to locals, but to millionaires looking for trophy properties. With little warning or transparency, ranchers are being pushed off the land they've invested in—fencing, water systems, weed control—all gone in the blink of an eye.

 What happens next?


 "No Trespassing" signs


 Locked gates


 Private compounds


 Public access GONE


This is not just a local issue—it's a warning shot for every state that values public land, rural livelihoods, and honest stewardship.

 Help us raise the alarm:

 SHARE this post

 TAG your local news outlets

 CALL your elected officials

 TELL the story

We must stand up for those who feed us, care for the land, and hold Idaho's heritage in their hands.




See comments for petition link and other information regarding the potential sale of the "Driggs-160"



[#SaveIdahoLands](#) [#PublicLandNotPrivateProfit](#) [#RanchersMatter](#) [#KeepIdahoFree](#) [#IdahoNews](#) [#StopTheSellOff](#)

[Dustin Hulme](#)

"So it's not like there's only the potential of one buyer for the property..."

"No Governor, there's potential for multiple buyers."

HA!!!   

Good luck outbidding Terrible Tull!!  . \* He's already lined the pockets of someone at the state level to put this piece up for auction.

I'm sorry you guys are losing this. I can't stand Teton Ridge and what they've done to Tetonia.

Last week my friends were up near the ranch on Pinochle Loop riding bikes and 3 security guards from TR chased them down and pointed AK47's right in their face and told them they were "too close" to private ground, and they needed to leave. It obviously created a heated argument and the security guards told them if they didn't leave they'd be forced to use lethal action.

Like what the [REDACTED]!!\* Is that how they roll up there at TR? They have the authority to just shoot people for trespassing?? Last I checked that's not how the law works. If someone trespasses on your land, you call the police and report it.

Well not at TR! They just SSS!!

What a bunch of [REDACTED] [REDACTED].\*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: penny vasquez <[pennynmv@gmail.com](mailto:pennynmv@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Sep 12, 2025 at 3:39 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Read  
To: Mark Harris <[mharris@senate.idaho.gov](mailto:mharris@senate.idaho.gov)>

Commissioner James told me he sent this to you.....He didn't realize it should have gone to the land board.....Did you forward it to them?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: penny vasquez <[pennynmv@gmail.com](mailto:pennynmv@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 7:07 AM  
Subject: Read  
To: penny vasquez <[pennynmv@gmail.com](mailto:pennynmv@gmail.com)>

My letter

Subject: My Position on Signing the Opposition Letter Regarding the Driggs-160 Public Lands Sale

Dear Fellow Teton County Board of County Commissioners and Relevant Parties,  
I am writing to formally explain my position regarding the proposed opposition letters to Governor Little and Director Dustin Miller of the Idaho Department of Lands, dated August 25, 2025, concerning the sale of the "Driggs-160" public land parcel. As you know, these letters express strong opposition to the sale on behalf of the Teton County Board of County Commissioners. While I respect the concerns raised by our community and the intent behind these letters, I must respectfully decline to sign them.

My decision is based on my belief that this matter has been appropriately decided at the state level by the Governor, the Attorney General, and the State Board of Land Commissioners. These officials, acting within their authority under Idaho law, have reviewed the proposal and authorized the sale after due consideration. It is my view that intervening or expressing opposition from the local county level would be inappropriate, as it could undermine the state's decision-making process and overstep the boundaries of our local jurisdiction. The management and disposal of state-owned endowment lands, including decisions related to sales for the benefit of Idaho's charitable institutions, are fundamentally state responsibilities,

and I believe it is not our place as county commissioners to challenge or second-guess those determinations.

I understand the passion surrounding this issue, including the value of public lands for agriculture, wildlife, and community heritage, as highlighted in the numerous public comments we have received. However, I remain convinced that respecting the state's authority in this instance is the proper course of action. If there are opportunities for local input through established channels, such as public hearings or formal comment periods, I would support encouraging community participation in those forums.

Thank you for understanding my position. I am committed to working collaboratively with you on other matters that directly fall within our local purview to serve the best interests of Teton County residents.

Sincerely,  
Ron James  
Teton County Commissioner  
(208) 776-8254 mailto:[rjames@tetoncountyidaho.com](mailto:rjames@tetoncountyidaho.com)  
150 Courthouse Drive Driggs, Idaho 83422

**From:** [Gordon Hansen](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Driggs 160 acres  
**Date:** Monday, September 15, 2025 7:58:46 PM

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I believe this is a sad day when a county can cause State agencies not to follow the State constitution. I think selling endowment land benefits all counties. I don't believe that a few people should stop our elected officials from doing their jobs.

It was a great mistake to give county commissioners more power than the State. Land Development Codes and Comprehensive plans are out of control in several counties. The State should be the driving force, not county commissioners who lean left or right.

Please do your job and auction off this land as the State has done for several years. Don't be bullied by county commissioners.

Thanks,

Ida Hansen

Sent from my iPad