

# **ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE**

## **TRANSFER OF FEDERAL LANDS STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**September 15, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 109**

### **Members Present:**

Senator Sylvia Allen, Vice-Chair  
Amanda Reeve

Representative Brenda Barton, Chairman  
Representative Darin Mitchell

### **Members Absent:**

Senator Gail Griffin

### **Staff:**

Sharon Carpenter, Senate Research Analyst  
Tom Savage, House Research Analyst

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and attendance was noted.

### **Presentation on Economics of Public Lands**

**Doyel Shamley, Veritas Research Consulting**, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Federal Lands Study Committee" (Attachment A) and gave background information of the statistical data regarding public lands. Mr. Shamley answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Presentation on Historical and Legal Precedence of Disposal of Public Lands**

**Lana Marcussen, Attorney**, continued the PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A) and gave an overview regarding the history and background of the public lands issue. Ms. Marcussen answered questions posed by the Committee.

### **Presentation on County Engagement in the Public Land Disposal Process**

**James Chmelik, Idaho County Commissioner and President of Western Landmark Foundation**, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Arizona Transfer of Federal Lands Study Committee" (Attachment B).

## **Public Comment**

**Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director, Sierra Club - Grand Canyon Chapter**, testified in opposition to the transfer of federal public lands. Ms. Bahr encouraged the Committee to invite some perspective from people who believe in federal public lands and quoted a veto message from former Governor Brewer on a bill that sought to assert sovereignty on federal public lands. Ms. Bahr answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Marcussen answered additional questions posed by the Committee.

**Thomas Hulen, Arizona Wildlife Federation**, testified in opposition to the transfer of federal public lands and answered questions posed by the Committee.

**John Hamill, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**, testified in opposition to the transfer of federal public lands and gave a short overview of the sportsmen organization. Mr. Hamill distributed a letter dated March 24, 2015 (Attachment C).

**Jon Hanna, representing himself**, explained his concerns on the transfer of federal public lands.

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the agenda items (Attachment D).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Imee L. Andrew  
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)