

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

TRANSFER OF FEDERAL LANDS STUDY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Meeting
October 20, 2015
10:00 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 109**

Members Present:

Senator Gail Griffin
Amanda Reeve

Representative Brenda Barton, Chairman
Representative Darin Mitchell

Members Absent:

Senator Sylvia Allen, Vice-chair

Staff:

Brandi Lease, Senate Research Analyst
Tom Savage, House Research Analyst

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. and attendance was noted.

PRESENTATION

Role of Federal Lands in the Watershed and Forest Management

Megan Martin, Government Relations Representative, Salt River Project, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "The Role of Federal Lands in Watershed and Forest Management" (Attachment A).

Bruce Hallin, Director of Water Rights and Contracts, Salt River Project, further explained the PowerPoint presentation (Attachment A) and answered questions posed by the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brad Powell, President, Arizona Wildlife Federation, testified about his concerns regarding the state's financial capability to manage federal public lands and ability to sell them once transferred, resulting in loss of public access.

Joseph Trudeau, representing himself, testified in opposition to the state having jurisdiction of public lands and requested his written statement (Attachment B) be a part of the meeting's permanent record.

Amber Fields, representing herself, testified that it is unconstitutional for the state to take control of federal public lands and requested her written statement (Attachment C) be a part of the meeting's permanent record.

Sandy Bahr, Chapter Director, Grand Canyon Chapter, Sierra Club, testified that it is unconstitutional for the state to take control of federal public lands.

Cyndi Tuell, attorney, representing herself, testified in opposition to the transfer of public lands to the State of Arizona and stated that it is unconstitutional.

Jim Vaaler, representing himself, testified in opposition to the transfer of public lands to the State of Arizona, stating his concern that the state cannot properly manage the lands.

Mike Quigley, Arizona State Director, Wilderness Society, testified in opposition to the transfer of public lands to the State of Arizona, citing previous attempts to do so that failed.

Nancy Buell, representing herself, testified concerning her doubts about the state's ability to manage public lands.

Alec Robinson, representing himself, gave an overview of the reasons he believes the state should not take over management of public lands.

Larry Audsley, representing himself, testified in opposition to the transfer of public lands to the State of Arizona.

Mike Franklin, representing himself, testified in opposition to the transfer of public lands to the State of Arizona, citing financial, safety and accessibility concerns.

Rudi Lambrechtse, representing himself, testified in opposition to the transfer of public lands to the State of Arizona.

Shirley Dye, representing herself, requested additional information from Salt River Project and testified in support of the transfer of federal public lands to the State of Arizona.

Gary Finch, Citizens for Multiple Land Use and Access, distributed pictures of public lands (Attachment D) and gave an overview of problems with the federal government managing public lands.

John Bennett, President, Citizens for Multiple Land Use and Access, clarified the general approach to logging, testified in support of the State of Arizona taking control of public lands and cited accessibility concerns as currently managed.

John Tate, representing himself, testified in support of the transfer of public lands and gave a brief overview of poor management by the federal government.

James Candlend, Eastern Counties Lands Council, testified in support of the transfer of public lands, pointed out mismanagement by the federal government in relation to fires and referred to the Apache Tribe as an example of good lands management.

The Committee discussed subjects for future meetings.

Senator Griffin distributed a brochure from the American Lands Council Foundation (Attachment E), spoke of the expenses and revenues of state versus federal land management and distributed a map entitled "Federal Public Land Surface & Subsurface" (Attachment F). Senator Griffin commented on the effects of fires and the Committee's comprehensive study of state management.

Mr. Bennett submitted constituent letters to the Committee (Attachment G).

Attached is a list noting the individuals who registered their position on the presentation (Attachment H).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
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>)