

Payette Land Trust

Conserving the rural landscape of West Central Idaho
a nonprofit 501 (c)3 Conservation Organization

Payette Land Trust Board Resolution

Date:11/14/20

Topic: November 2020 -IDL Payette Endowment Lands Strategy

Whereas, Payette Land Trust's (PLT) mission is to protect for future generations the scenic, agricultural, ranch, recreational, historic, and wildlife values of the region; and

Whereas, PLT released the Payette River Basin Initiative (Initiative) in June of 2019 as a guiding document relating to PLT actions and projects in the Basin; and

Whereas, the Initiative prioritizes and defines three project areas, one being the Payette Lake Conservation Project; and

Whereas, the Initiative defines an area of concern within one half mile of the high-water mark around the Big Payette Lake (Lake) which significantly overlaps with the City of McCall's Area of Impact, constituting an area of concern of approximately 5,500 acres surrounding the Lake; and

Whereas, PLT believes the entire Lake shore, including lands outside of the area of concern is significantly developed and increased private development within the area of concern will accelerate the degradation of the remaining conservation values, especially along the East Side drive corridor; and

Whereas, PLT recognizes the unique nature of the environmental biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and water quality inherent in these lands will be significantly impacted by private development; and

Whereas, PLT recognizes the traditional land uses such as, but not limited to, timber production, hiking, biking, hunting, grazing, low impact commercial leases and public access will also be significantly impacted by private development; and

Whereas, the November 2020 Idaho Department of Lands Payette Endowment Lands Strategy presentation suggests reclassification and disposal of lands for future private development within PLT's area of concern; now therefore be it

Resolved, That Payette Land Trust cannot wholly support the Land Strategy as presented before the Idaho State Land Board on November 17th, 2020;

Resolved, That Payette Land Trust will work with State Land Board Members and staff to promote the use of permanent non-development conservation easements as an alternative to land trades and sales as a tool to generate the funds needed to meet the State Land Boards requirements under the State Constitution.