

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$1,310,459 of funding for the University of Idaho Rinker Rock Creek Ranch project in the FY22 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the University of Idaho and the project is located near Hailey, Idaho.

The funding is designated to establish University of Idaho education and research training at the Rinker Rock Creek Ranch field station by expanding curricula in rangeland management and animal science. Funding will result in a) hands-on learning for public, postsecondary and K-12 education groups; b) scientific equipment and space for research demonstrations on livestock grazing and sage grouse management, cattle management and wildlife friendly fencing, water quantity and quality conservation, and techniques to combat invasive annual grasses and associated wildfire; and c) upgraded telecommunications systems to facilitate classroom connectivity and research training.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and will enhance workforce training in Idaho by providing opportunities for high school and community college students to pursue postsecondary education. It would also provide demonstration of best practices for integrating working rangelands with conservation interests in the western United States. Few resources have been invested in comprehensive efforts supporting education and public demonstration at the nexus of working rangelands and conservation. Undertaking these efforts on lands adjacent to and managed in conjunction with USDI Bureau of Land Management grazing leases provides a particularly useful laboratory for learning, which at

the University of Idaho spans K-12 education, postsecondary training and adult public education through formal Extension activities.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson" followed by "M.C." in a smaller font.

Mike Simpson
April 22, 2021