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OUR VIEW: Fed bashing an 'Olympic' sport for Idaho lawmakers

By Murf Raquet, for the editorial board

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It's like they have nothing better to do.

Idaho legislators have got things under so much control they have time to throw a federal government-bashing festival in Boise to impress the states-righters throughout the Gem State.

Those Idahoans who favor less government are howling like wolves with approval for legislators who they believe, are looking out for their interests.

The latest lets-get-the-feds measures call for suing the federal government over gun rights, control of federal land and replacing U.S. currency with gold and silver.

Seriously? Do they think these things through?

Rep. Dick Harwood, R-St. Maries, the go-to guy when it comes to getting your whacky idea in front of the Legislature, wants a bill that would exempt guns made and sold in Idaho from federal regulations - including background checks.

Gosh, that would make a great postcard.

Maybe Harwood can have some printed with a \$20 dollar gold piece he has in his pocket.

Rep. Eric Anderson, R-Priest Lake, wants the state to take possession of all the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land in Idaho.

He claims the federal government has been negligent in its stewardship of the land.

The federal government controls 61 percent of Idaho territory and has done a respectable job managing the land. We'd like to ask Anderson how he proposes the land be managed and where he plans to get the money.

Fighting several forest fires can cost tens of millions of dollars. A bad season, and the bill could approach \$100 million.

We're sorry, but Idaho taxpayers just don't have that kind of spare change - even for schools.

Maybe lawmakers could shift highway funds to fight forest fires.

Taxpayers from throughout the country support federal lands in Idaho, and that includes New Yorkers, Floridians and Californians. There is no sane reason why Idaho taxpayers should be saddled with maintaining millions of additional acres of land.

We hope Harwood and friends have had fun with their fed bashing, but they must stop there. To continue is pure folly and only feeds the perception Idaho is populated with only wing nuts.