

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2016

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Andrus, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Gibbs, Miller, Bateman, Burtenshaw, Mendive, VanOrden, Youngblood, Pence, Erpelding, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Moyle

GUESTS: Bob Boeh, Idaho Forest Group; Tom Schultz, Idaho Department of Lands; Nora Rasure, USDA Forest Service; Leanne Martea, USDA Forest Service; Marla Toller, USDA Forest Service; Andy Brunelle, USDA Forest Service; Norman Semanko, IWUA; Andy Boineer, IWUA; Jonathan Oppenheimer, ICL; Suzanne Budge, SBS Association/IPC

Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Raybould gave a special welcome to students from the BYU Agricultural Department. He also announced that **H 509** will follow **SJM104** on the agenda.

SJM 104: **Sen. Lee Heider** presented **SJM 104** stating he and **Senator McKenzie** went to Washington DC in the fall and procured \$4 million for invasive species prevention for the Northwest, in the Columbia River Basin. The Northwest is the only place in the United States that does not have quagga and zebra mussels. The joint memorial basically says thank you for the \$4 million and asks for a continuation of funds because preventing quagga mussels improves the health of drinking water and has many other beneficial uses.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to send **SJM 104** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to committee questions stating the funds benefit only the Columbia River Basin and not all of Idaho's rivers, **Sen. Heider** stated that inspection stations are include on all of Idaho's rivers, and even though the Bear River doesn't flow in the Columbia River Basin, it is protected by the stations.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Wood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 509: **Rep. Boyle** introduced **Michael "Ed" Ratchford**, Ph.D, Director, Idaho Geological Survey (IGS), who stated his qualifications and presented **H 509**, saying IGS is a non-regulatory survey. He said Idaho Code specifies IGS is the lead agency for collection, analysis, and dissemination of geological and mineral information, but there is a problem getting the oil and gas data because it is exempt from disclosure for a year under the Idaho Public Records Act, and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) cannot share the oil and gas data. **H 509** is an agreement between IDL, OGC and IGS for the sharing of oil, gas, geological and mineral records between the three agencies in order for IGS to fulfill its statutory survey duties. All other record requirements and confidentiality remain the same.

Tom Schultz, Director, Idaho Department of Lands and member of Idaho Geological Survey Advisory Board, **in support of H 509**, informed the committee the IGS Advisory Board voted to support **H 509**. Not just oil and gas data but mineral data is protected as well. **H 509** allows greater flexibility to share information and provides better coordinate between sister agencies.

MOTION:

Rep. VanOrden made a motion to send **H 509** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Andy Brunelle, Idaho Capital City Coordinator, USDA Forest Service (USFS), introduced **David Groeschl**, Idaho State Forester and Deputy Director of Forestry and Fire, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), who gave an overview of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and its integration with the Healthy Forest Reformation Act. He stated the goal in Idaho in implementing GNA is to help increase the pace and scale of forest restoration work in Idaho, and he presented the history of the GNA. Federal forests cover more than 20 million acres in Idaho, about 75% of Idaho's forested landscape, with approximately 12.6 million acres being suitable for management. Seventy percent of the land base suitable for management is at high risk from insect, disease and fire. IDL worked with collaboratives and the USFS to identify proposed treatment areas across the state. **Governor Otter** designated 50 areas for treatment, and the USFS Chief accepted them. Mr. Groeschl said that **SCR 126**, passed by the 2015 Legislature, directed IDL to form an internal working group committee to explore GNA and where it might be applied. The committee looked at stewardship contracting using federal contracting provisions but preferred the GNA's allowance letting states use their own contracting process. The committee determined that IDL would work with the USFS to identify projects that have cleared the environmental analysis phase and would assist implementing the process on the ground. **SCR 126** also directed IDL to: explore the development of a Master Good Neighbor Authority Agreement and how it would work in Idaho; to identify where GNA would make sense on the ground; and to report annually to the Legislature on their progress. Mr. Groeschl discussed revenue generating projects and funds under the developing Master Good Neighbor Authority Agreement. Mr. Groeschl stated the Master Good Neighbor Authority Agreement should be in place in the next two months and by July or August, the first 2 GNA projects should be identified, with evaluation of the projects' effectiveness done by the end of the year.

Mr. Groeschl introduced **Nora Rasure**, Regional Forester, Intermountain Region USFS, Ogden, UT, and **Leanne Marten**, Regional Forester, Norther Region USFS, Missoula, Montana, who each spoke to their commitment to implementing GNA in Idaho.

Tom Schultz, Director, Idaho Department of Lands, said he sees GNA as a positive effort to work collaboratively with the USFS across the state on Idaho forests in need of management and it is in **Governor Otter's** budget recommendations.

Bob Boeh, Vice President of Government Affairs, Idaho Forest Group, indicated they are a funding industry participant. He said that GNA will increase the pace and scale of reforestation, helping to prevent fires.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Lorrie Byerly
Secretary