

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 01, 2022

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Lickley, Representative(s) Moyle, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Moon, Manwaring, Okuniewicz, Yamamoto, Rubel, Mathias, Burns

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle, Kauffman, Blanksma, Burns

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Gibbs** called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

**RS 29301:** **Aaron Lieberman**, Executive Director, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, stated this proposed legislation amends **Idaho Code, Section 36-2120** of the Outfitters and Guides Act, to clarify the calculation the Outfitters and Guides Board uses to designate deer and elk hunting tags that are allocated for the use of outfitted hunters by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. These changes specify that the two years of prior use that form the basis for the calculation are the two calendar years preceding the date of allocation. He commented, this change is necessary to ensure the Board will use the same years of use to designate tags as the Commission uses to allocate tags. It will also ensure the Board can designate tags to individuals in a timely manner, which will be beneficial to the outfitter's businesses.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 29301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29126:** **Susan Buxton**, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, stated this proposed legislation is an effort to streamline rules in IDAPA into Idaho state statute, which will simplify enforcement by county marine deputies. The rules are being migrated into statute verbatim with one exception; the U.S. Coast Guard recently changed labels on new life jackets. As a result, the existing language in rules referring to life jackets has been replaced with the new U.S. Coast Guard verbiage.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Addis** made a motion to introduce **RS 29126. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Alex Adams**, Administrator, Department of Financial Management, provided an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding as it relates to the Resources and Conservation committee. He remarked, of the \$1.89B Idaho received in discretionary funds, \$250M was for recharge and water storage, \$70M was for water quality and remediation projects, \$300M was for local drinking and wastewater projects, and \$45M was for outdoor recreation. This funding must be spent by December 2024. He explained, the Governor's Office received clarification that ARPA funds can be used for Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) approved water storage projects, so for instance, the project to raise the Anderson Ranch Dam can now be paid for with ARPA funds, freeing up the \$20M that was set aside from the General Fund for this project. Those general funds can now be used on other priority water projects. With a surge in public use of state parks due to the pandemic, the ARPA outdoor recreation funding can address the substantial

list of Parks and Recreation's deferred maintenance backlog projects as well as increase capacity of campsites and day use areas statewide.

**Chairman Gibbs** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair Lickley**.

**Susan Buxton**, Director, Idaho Department Parks and Recreation, provided an update on the Department's budget and plans for use of the \$45M in ARPA funding. She stated 93% of the budget is from fees collected, \$3M is from the General Fund, and the remaining is through grants to manage 30 state parks and over 18,000 miles of multi-use trails. She remarked, staffing levels have remained the same over the last 14 years, which is creating a strain on the Department, especially over the last two years where they saw a 29% increase in visitation. Currently, for every one full-time employee, that employee serves over 46,000 visitors. With parks open all year, increased visitation, and lack of adequate staffing levels, the Department is requesting an increase of 11.58 FTEs statewide.

**Director Buxton** stated, the Governor's Office recommended to the Department \$20M in ARPA funding in fiscal year 2023, \$10M each in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and \$5M in 2026. With the funding, the Department will construct 250 new campsites, 25 new day use areas, and 150 new and upgraded boat slips. Additionally, the ARPA funds will help reduce the Department's deferred maintenance backlog. None of the ARPA funds will be spent on Department personnel.

**DOCKET NO.  
26-0000-2100:**

**Susan Buxton**, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, stated the primary changes within this omnibus pending rule docket follow the Governor's Executive Order to reduce and eliminate unnecessary, redundant, and outdated words. She noted, the Department modified the Waterways Improvement Fund grant limits where individuals apply for dock and ramp projects across the state. For over 20 years, there has been a cap on any one county receiving more than 30% of the overall fund. There was a proposal to remove the cap, but most counties wanted to retain it. The Board did decide to retain the cap, but increased it to 50% in order to help counties with more expensive projects while keeping the remaining 50% of the funds available for the other counties.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 26-0000-2100. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
26-0000-2100F:**

**Susan Buxton**, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, stated this omnibus pending fee rule docket as written was before the committee during the 2021 Session. She indicated no fees were changed, and no other changes were made from what the committee reviewed and approved last Session. The Department did discover one clerical error on page 252, under Definitions; the definition of Director is incomplete. As a result, Director Buxton requested the committee's approval of this docket with the exception of **Subsection 26.01.33.10.07.**

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Okuniewicz** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 26-0000-2100F**, with the exception of **Subsection 26.01.33.10.07. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm.

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Representative Lickley  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary