

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 21, 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. Boyle; Rep. Vander Woude

GUESTS: Jake Howard, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board; Lori Thomason, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board; Wayne Hunsucker, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board; Jess Taylor, Federal Bureau of Land Management

Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Chairman Raybould announced that there would be a change in the Agenda order, and that **Docket No. 25-0101-1501** would be heard first with Pacific North West Economic Region's presentation being heard second.

**DOCKET NO.
25-0101-1501:** **Jake Howard**, Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, outlined the specific area that would be impacted by the proposed Docket. The proposed rules were the result of collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Land Management and the U. S. Forest Service, who conducted visitor capacity studies in 2008-2013, and with public focus groups and meetings with outfitters. The proposed rule changes were propounded to address the biggest concern of congestion on the South Fork of the Snake River.

Jake Howard, in response to committee questions, stated that Idaho outfitters were extensively involved in planning, and the proposed Teton River rules were initiated by outfitters. Proposed rules impacting the South Fork of the Snake River were also industry initiated. He further stated that nothing restricts the use of a 500 horsepower craft, but it cannot be used to haul clients and can only be used for moving up and down the river to haul equipment, all of which would be limited during various parts of the year.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 25-0101-1501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Mike Cuff, Montana Representative, Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) introduced himself and spoke on preventing the spread of invasive mussels under WRRDA. He stated that Idaho has been the leader in working toward healthy aquatic habitats, with **Eric Anderson** leading the way. He further said that without Idaho Congressman **Mike Simpson**, they would not have WRRDA funding. He reviewed how tiny invasive muscles from the Black Sea have spread all over the United States except for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, the four PNWER states. Plus, he believes Wyoming is still free of mussels. Rep. Cuff provided information on how they spread and provide a danger to our water. They received \$4 million in federal money under WRRDA to assist in water craft inspection. He said these funds can increase enforcement coverage hours and state programs as long as states do not cut their state programs in half. The funds are matching money, so, at the least, state programs need to continue the programs that they are doing. Mr. Cuff said that PNWER is having a summer summit in Calgary Canada, and in November 2016, Idaho will be sponsoring their winter summit

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Lorrie Byerly
Secretary