

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 25, 2012

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Stevenson, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representative(s) Wood(35), Barrett, Moyle, Eskridge, Raybould, Bedke, Andrus, Wood(27), Boyle, Hagedorn (Tucker), Harwood, Vander Woude, Gibbs, Pence, Higgins, Lacey

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None.

GUESTS: Jim Unsworth, Virgil Moore, Tony McDermott, Ken Anderson, Fred Trevey, Wayne Wright, Gary Power, Randy Budge, Bob Borowsky, Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game; Courtney Washburn, ICL; John Williams, BPA; John Robinson, ICL; Brad Hunt, O.A.R.C.; Martin Banes, US Forest Service; Andy Brunelle, US Forest Service; Kent Lauer, Idaho Farm Bureau; Bonnie Butler, Governor's Office; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Jack Oyler, SFW

Chairman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Harwood** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, January 23, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.
20-0315-1102:** Rules Governing the Issuance of Geothermal Leases (Fee Rule).

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Stevenson** made a unanimous consent request to **HOLD Docket No. 20-0315-1101**. There being no objection the request was granted.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Gibbs Subcommittee for Monday, January 23, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Tony McDermott, Chairman, Fish and Game Commission introduced a new Commissioner, **Ken Anderson**, Idaho Falls, Commissioner for Region 6.

Commissioner McDermott said they have always had a positive relationship with the legislators and this comes from transparency, honesty and good relationships. He said they will briefly cover two subjects of interest and then open up the Commission to questions.

Commissioner McDermott covered the wolf issue and gave a brief history of delisting. He said after the most resent delisting the Commission expanded the wolf management program and he explained the four legs of the program. He said the total year-to-date mortality for wolves is 310 and gave an estimate of 1,200 wolves in Idaho. He said they need 22% mortality to stabilized the population and given the current program, they will be able to keep the population stabilized.

Virgil Moore, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said it was an honor to be here and reviewed the history of how he became director. He said he would speak briefly on the status of the Fish and Game budget. He said they have had an increase of 5% in revenue due to an increase in fishing licenses and wolf tag sales. He said they have also been able to market and sell Super Hunt tags electronically over the internet. He said as a resulted there has been a 30% increase in revenue for the sale of the Super Hunt tags. Director Moore also said non resident license and tag sales have had a decline. He said this was due to the economy, wolves and a reduction in elk herds because of wolves. He said on a positive note,

the Department is fiscally sound. He said they have replenished their rainy day account and are in good shape, even though they have seen a decline in the number of resident and non resident tag sales. Director Moore said they have seen an increase in the lower cost tags, which are the disabled tags and senior resident tags. Director Moore also said they have called for a Wildlife Summit, August 24, 2012 at the Riverside Hotel. He said they would like to work with sportsmen groups and others, and put together a steering group for discussion on wildlife issues in the state.

Director Moore responded to questions from the Committee regarding legislation in the Senate establishing a constitutional amendment for the right to hunt and fish, saying this legislation will need to be reviewed by the Commission. He also answered questions regarding concern from sportsmen over the Wildlife Summit, saying the sportsmen are concerned that some environmental groups are trying to get control of the summit to change the mission of the Department. He said this is not the intent of the summit and the summit's focus would be on the foundation of hunters, anglers and trappers in Idaho. He said the Department's mission statement cannot be changed and is still relevant today.

In response to further Committee questions, **Director Moore** explained some details of the Department's land acquisition policies and explained where operating cost money comes from for various types of land acquisition. Director Moore was also asked about a new line item in their budget for wolf control.

Randy Budge, Commissioner, Fish and Game Commission, gave a brief update on the motorized hunting rule. He said they have worked closely with the task force and they have done some revisions which will come before the Committee in the Rules review next year.

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Representative Stevenson
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary