

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2012

TIME: 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Chairman Stevenson, Representatives Barrett, Moyle, Bedke and Higgins.

GUESTS: Sharon Kiefer, Dept. of Fish and Game

Vice Chairman Shepherd called the meeting to order at 2:51 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, February 13, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, February 13, 2012, Joint Meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Shepherd introduced the new page for the second half of the Session, **Aubrienne Christensen** from Bancroft. **Rep. Gibbs** said he is Aubrienne's sponsor and she comes highly recommended by her school and parents.

Rep. Wood(35) introduce the Montessori School students from her district, and their teacher and director of the school.

H 457: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said this bill would implement an idea presented to the Commission by sportsmen. She said the idea is to allow parents or grandparents to redesignate a controlled hunt tag to a child or grandchild of minor age. She said the minor child or grandchild must either have a valid hunting license or be participating in the mentored hunting program. She said the bill would not override the current law and rule regarding possession of more than one control hunt tag. Ms. Kiefer also said the sale of the designated control hunt tag would not be allowed. She said they believe this would enhance the hunting experience for the child. She said it would also be most efficient for a resident to only designate to a resident child or grandchild and a nonresident to designate only to a nonresident child or grandchild. She said the Department asks for support of **H 457**.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to send **H 457** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wood(35)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 459: **Sharon Kiefer** said this bill proposes to integrate a three day fishing license into the adult nonresident hunting license, with no change in the license fee. She said they believed this would enhance the nonresident hunting experience. She said there is no specific reason for choosing three days over five days or any other number of days other than they already have a type of three day nonresident fishing license. She said they felt the three day amount was valid and would keep consistency. She said additional consecutive day fishing licenses can still be purchased. Ms. Kiefer said there is also a fiscal benefit, this would increase the allocation of the federal Dingell-Johnson funds which provide benefits for Idaho fisheries and anglers. She asked for support of **H 459**.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **H 459** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Harwood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 543:** **Rep. Gibbs** said this bill is exactly like **H 456**, which is a Department bill, but for the change in age from 12 years to 10 years. Rep. Gibbs yielded to **Sharon Kiefer** for the presentation of **H 543**.
- Sharon Kiefer** said this bill would make it lawful for children under the age of ten to have possession of a firearm while hunting as long as they have a valid hunting license and if accompanied by an adult licensed to hunt in Idaho or if the child is participating in the mentored hunting program. She said the legislation is consistent with legislative guidance and requested support of **H 543**.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Lacey** made a motion to send **H 543** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Gibbs** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 461:** **Rep. Hagedorn** filled in for **Rep. Patrick** to present the bill. He said this bill is straight forward in that it will include 501 (c) (19) organizations to help disabled nonresident vets to apply for reduced fees for hunting licenses and tags as it currently does for 501 (c) (3) organizations.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to send **H 461** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Patrick** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 525:** **Rep. Eskridge** said he requested the Fish and Game Commission create rules for assisting disabled hunters in a hunt. He gave an example of an experience in his district, saying this example is why the bill was brought forward.
- Sharon Kiefer**, Department of Fish and Game said as **Rep. Eskridge** described, there are certain allowances for disabled hunters such as hunting aids, and the use of vehicles, but someone else cannot take wildlife without the appropriate tag and cannot tag an animal that someone else has killed. She said this bill directs the Fish and Game Commission to create a mechanism via rule to allow a companion to a disabled hunter to kill an animal that has been wounded by the disabled hunter and place the disabled hunter's tag on the animal. She said this would enhance the tools available to the disabled hunter to participate in a legal and ethical hunt.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to send **H 525** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Eskridge** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Representative Shepherd
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary