

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 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:** Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Barrett, Moyle, Bedke, Boyle, Vander Woude and Higgins.

GUESTS: None.

A quorum being present, **Chairman Stevenson** called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Lacey** made a motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, March 15, 2012.
Motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION: **Rep. Lacey** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, March 19, 2012.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Stevenson thanked **Aubrienne Christensen** for her work as a page during the second part of the Session. He also thanked the Secretary, **Susan Werlinger**.

Wally Butler, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, said he does a great deal of range monitoring with his job at Farm Bureau. He said they look at grazing prior to livestock going on the area and they also look at the area after grazing. He said they monitor predominantly on public land but occasionally on private land. They do monitoring every year, whether the result is good or bad. He said this shows the adaptations shown in the grazing stations.

Mr. Butler said they do short term and long term monitoring. He reviewed what is looked at during the short and long term monitoring. He said during short-term monitoring they take before and after photos, review the written record of grazing events, and check stubble height. He said during long term monitoring they review a periodic record of 3-5 years, and take a photographic record of composition and trend data.

Mr. Butler reviewed the concerns with ranchers doing the monitoring. He said there are issues of credibility, acceptance and commitment of the rancher. He said there is a fear of change and skepticism. He said most of the time the ranchers don't know how to do the monitoring.

Mr. Butler said when establishing a monitoring plan they review the rancher and permittee agreement, and review any current or historical monitoring data which is written or photographic. He said they also obtain or develop resource maps, tour the resource area, select and install monitoring sites, and collect data and take photos.

Mr. Butler said during selection of monitoring sites they determine key areas which are representative of large portions of grazing allotments or pasture. He said they consider topography and distance from water and fence locations. He said when determining critical areas, they look at areas that require special management consideration. Mr. Butler gave one example of viewing sights and what he looks at on the sight. He also reviewed comparative photos of several monitored sights.

Chairman Stevenson introduced the President of Farm Bureau, **Frank Priestley**, and welcomed him to the Committee.

Norm Semanko, Idaho Water Users, gave an update on a **S 1383**, saying it was heard in Senate State Affairs and will be considered by the Senate tomorrow. He said it will hopefully be referred to this Committee by tomorrow. He said the changes to the bill are cosmetic and it is no longer opposed by the Trial Lawyers.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Representative Stevenson
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary