

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 21, 2013

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

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Denney, Vice Chairman Gibbs, Representatives Wood (Hall)(35), Barrett, Moyle, Eskridge, Raybould, Andrus, Shepherd, Wood(27), Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Miller, Anderson(1), Pence, Erpelding, Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Anderson(1)

**GUESTS:** Andrew Waldera, Moffit Thomas; Terry Jones, Rimfire Ranch; Marc Landblom, Salmon Idaho Mt. Bike Assoc.; Max Lohmeyer, Youth Employment Program; Phil Ryan, Back Country Horsemen; Jim Unsworth, Idaho Fish and Game; Andy Brunelle, U.S. Forest Service; Gary Spackman, Idaho Dept. of Water Resources; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Kent Lauer, Idaho Farm Bureau; Tyler Mallard, Risch Pisca; Dr. I Bill Barton, ISDA; John Burns, BCH; Grant Simonds, Idaho Outfitters and Guide Association; Wyatt Prescott, Idaho Cattlemans Association; John Foltz, UoI College of Ag. & Life Science; Wally Butler, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, Dan Olberding, IGPA; Elizabeth Criner, NNFFPA

**Chairman Denney** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**H 131:** **Rep. Barrett** introduced **Andrew J. Waldera**, Moffit Thomas, to speak on this legislation. He stated they would like to work together with water agencies and others for improved legislation. He said larger water rights take longer to develop and a one time five-year extension will not allow enough time for development.

In answer to questions from the committee, **Mr. Waldera** clarified a large water right as 2 cfs or larger.

**Mr. Gary Spackman**, Director of Idaho Department of Water Resources, spoke in support for the statutory language of this bill. He said the amendment allows the opportunity to clean up and clarify some language.

**Mr. Kent Lauer**, Government Affairs Office, spoke for Idaho Farm Bureau Federation and Idaho Farm Bureau in support of this legislation. He stated this legislation will help people facing unforeseen delays.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Ward-Engelking** made a motion to send **H 131** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Barrett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**HJM 1:** **Rep. Gibbs** stated as a result of fires, portions of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness trail system have been closed. This legislation will request Congress to urge the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the United States Forest Service to reopen the Frank Church Wilderness trail system.

**Mr. John Burns**, Back Country Horsemen, and for **Val Johnson**, stated this resolution urges agencies to put a priority on natural resources. He said they urge compliance with section 5b of the Central Wilderness Act of 1980, but there is concern about the Forest Service being constrained with the wording. He stated there are approximately 2 1/2 million acres and about 2,500 miles of wilderness trails that need attention in order for people to enjoy them. He said there are too many restrictions for volunteers to get work done. He said they would like a proper priority and emphasis on the wilderness.

**Mr. Mark Landblom**, Salmon Idaho Mt. Bike Association, stated his organization volunteers time in order to keep trails open. He said they use their own funds to clear trails that have been neglected. He said they promote multi-use trail recreation and support community events. Other recreationists have expressed appreciation for the work they have done on the trails.

**Mr. Max Lohmeyer**, Coordinator for the Youth Employment Program, said their program has provided youth the opportunity to work on enhancement and maintenance projects. He said they would ask the leaders of the state to look at the funding mechanisms the state and federal agencies are using to fund trails and public lands access projects.

**Mr. Phil Ryan**, Back Country Horsemen, stated this legislation is supported by many recreation groups. He said for the past two summers volunteers have worked the West Side of the Frank Church trails and Marble Creeks. He said it took weeks to clear trails and repair the tread. The Frank Church does not have one summer Forest Service Trail Crew working inside the wilderness and volunteers can't do it alone.

**Mr. Andrew Brunelle**, United States Forest Service, stated there is a lot of cooperation on this project. He said with the cooperation of volunteers, they were able to get into many miles of trails.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Brunelle** stated that funds coming from the federal government are being reduced at the local level due to U. S. Congress appropriations.

**Mr. Grant Simonds**, Idaho Outfitters & Guide Associations, stated this memorial addresses the growing backlog on some trail maintenance despite the annual trail work of agency trail crews and volunteers. He said the trail system as is, compromises the safety and health of humans as well as livestock. He stated he thought a trail maintenance effort similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s is needed.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Barrett**, made a motion to send **HJM 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gibbs** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 146:** **Rep. Boyle** requested that this legislation be removed from the agenda due to the need for additional information.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

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Representative Denney  
Chair

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Rosee Winder  
Secretary