

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Anderson(1)

GUESTS: Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Fish and Game; Makenzie Herrick, Veritas Advisors; W. Dallas Burkhalter, Idaho Fish and Game; David Groeschl, Idaho Department of Lands; Terry Cundy, Potlach; Archie Gray, Idaho Department of Lands; Raeleen Welton, ICOA; Ed Hawley, Administrative Rules; Russ Hendricks, Farm Bureau; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League; Parker Papworth, Lobby Idaho; and Julie Hart, Westerberg & Associates.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014, January 15, 2014 and January 17, 2014 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22354: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke regarding **RS 22354**. Ms. Kiefer said **RS 22354** expands the current authority by extending to multiple years (up to three years), and discounting licenses, permits, and tags for sportsmen purchasing these items on a consistent basis. Ms. Kiefer said most license buyers do not purchase a license, permit or tag every year. Ms. Kiefer stated the Department of Fish and Game has proposed this change to assist with intermittent purchases by sportsmen through rewarding and encouraging the purchase of licenses on a consistent basis and as a result, avoiding possible cost increases and to assist with multiple permits. Ms. Kiefer further explained that Idaho sportsmen support a combination license that is heavily discounted. Ms. Kiefer identified that sportsmen are able to pick items per hunting or fishing preferences. The license would be valid for the life of the license even if the individual's circumstances change (i.e.; move out-of-state or turn of age (junior license).

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(27)** made a motion to introduce **RS 22354**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22359: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke regarding **RS 22359**. Ms. Kiefer stated **RS 22359** lowers the age to hunt big game to ten years of age from twelve years of age and must be accompanied by an adult (if under twelve years of age). Ms. Kiefer explained safety issues have been addressed concerning ten year olds through their mentoring program. Ms. Kiefer said the mentoring program requires a mentor for one year in order to be eligible for the license. Ms. Kiefer explained this RS includes a technical correction for individuals purchasing a three year hunting license to include three days of fishing each year.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 22359**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 20-0201-1301: **David Groeschl**, Idaho Department of Lands, discussed the Tree Shade Rule, **Docket No. 20-0201-1301**. Mr. Groeschl explained streamside tree retention provides shade to keep waters cool for fish and prevents sediment from going into the body of water. Mr. Groeschl stated DEQ has concerns with the current shade rule as there is no minimal level of shade, no measure of trees to be retained, and it is not based on scientific merit. Mr. Groeschl asserted the new shade rule proposed in **Docket No, 20-0201-1301** is based on the best available science in Idaho, easily implemented by forest stewards, and provides landowners with options. Mr. Groeschl said final approval was received by the Land Board in November of 2013 although a willingness remains to review and evaluate the program once implemented.

Terry Cundy, Potlatch, provided testimony in support of aforementioned statements asserted by the Idaho Department of Lands in **Docket No. 20-0201-1301**. Mr. Cundy has been a member of the forest advisory committee for nineteen years and in the position of chairman. Mr. Cundy expressed the magnitude of efforts for this rule. Mr. Cundy stated stakeholders have been working on this rule for fourteen years including the IDEQ and its representatives.

Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League, provided testimony to **Docket No. 20-0201-1301** asserting this rule falls short of expectations, but is an improvement to existing rules. Mr. Oppenheimer expressed concerns over this rule addressing streams that do not meet water quality standards, skidding near water ways, the protection of large trees, and reduction in streamside shade.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(27)** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 20-0201-1301**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1302: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke regarding **Docket No. 13-0108-1302**. Ms. Kiefer stated this rule amends the nonresident junior mentor tag rule for the mentor accompanying youth. This rule states the mentor must have a tag for the same species but removes the requirement for valid within the same area.

MOTION: **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1302**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1303: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke regarding **Docket No. 13-0108-1303** indicating a word change in response to a request by the Legislative Services Office. Ms. Kiefer stated the word change is from a minor child or grandchild to his or her minor child or grandchild to be designated a controlled hunt tag if the child is qualified to participate in the big game hunt.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1303**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1301: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke regarding **Docket No. 13-0109-1301** indicating a word change. Ms. Kiefer stated the word change is from a minor child or grandchild to his or her minor child or grandchild to be designated a controlled hunt tag if the child is qualified to participate in the game bird hunt.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1301**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0111-1301: **Sharon Kiefer** Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke regarding **Docket No. 13-0111-1301** to clarify the definitions of (1) single point hook and, (2) watercraft.

MOTION: Rep. Wood(27) made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0111-1301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0111-1302: Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, spoke on **Docket No. 13-0111-1302**, minimizing the risk to injury to sturgeon when landed by anglers through requiring anglers to release sturgeon at the same time and landing place, and the sturgeon cannot be removed from the water. The rule was inadvertently removed from policy and the Department of Fish and Game would like to reinsert this rule.

MOTION: Vice Chairman Gibbs made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0111-1302. Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

Representative Denney
Chair

Jennifer Smith
Secretary