

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 29, 2015

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

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Andrus, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Gibbs, Miller, Bateman, Burtenshaw, Mendive, VanOrden, Youngblood, Pence, Erpelding, Rubel (Green)

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.

**GUESTS:** Jeff Gould, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Michael Pearson, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Gregg Servheen, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Virgil Moore, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Michael Gibson, Idaho Wildlife Federation; Forrest Goodrum, Ada County Fish and Game; Tyler Mallard, IOGA; Teddy Stronks, Mayor of Ashton; Brett Peacock, Ashton City Council; Teresa Hansen, Ashton City; Jim Nunley, Idaho Wildlife Federation; Bryan Moore; Judy Thueson; Neils Thueson, City of St. Anthony; Tom Jewell, Mayor of Island Park; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; and Mitch Silvers, US Senator Mike Crapo.

**Chairman Raybould** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Youngblood** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 23373:** **Rep. Romrell** stated the purpose of this proposed legislation is to inform the president and other Federal officials that local voters and the Idaho State Legislature are opposed to further National Monument designations in Fremont County.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 23373**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Jack Gould**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game gave a review of the Rock Creek Ranch acquisition for the restoration and protection of game, fish and animals. Mr. Gould stated the Idaho Department of Fish and Game has the appropriate resources and expertise to own and manage the property as a wildlife management area for conservation of the property with multiple uses and benefits for the people and wildlife. He said the operating costs for Rock Creek Ranch will amount to approximately \$150,000 per year.

**H 31:** **Sharon Kiefer**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this legislation will amend the reimbursement penalty for the illegal kill, possession, or waste of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat, pronghorn antelope and caribou that meet the statutory trophy definition, along with chinook salmon and wild steelhead.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **H 31** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erpelding** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 32:**

**Sharon Kiefer**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated wildlife is the property of the state of Idaho and the department is tasked with raising fish and game revenues with licenses, tags and permits as the primary source of funds. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game's overall costs have increased by 22% and the department cannot spend in excess of funds. She said the Price Lock program rewards Idahoans who consistently buy annual hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses as they will not pay increased license fees as long as an annual valid license is maintained.

**Virgil Moore**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated the commission is developing innovative programs to encourage hunters and anglers to purchase licenses on a regular basis, such as the Price Lock program, which provides a discount to annual license purchasers. Mr. Moore stated the Price Lock program is unique to Idaho and other states are observing this innovation.

**Michael Gibson**, sportsman and Executive Director of the Wildlife Federation, spoke **in support** of this bill as the Idaho Department of Fish and Game needs adequate funding and he doesn't want to see a reduction in staff.

**Forrest Goodrum**, Ada County Fish and Game, said he has reviewed the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's financial information available to him and he feels the department is frugal and manages their money wisely. He said he likes the Price Lock program.

**Tyler Mallard**, Idaho Outfitters and Guides, spoke **in support** of **H 32** as it provides funding for game management. Mr. Mallard stated the Price Lock program will benefit 85% of its members.

**Jim Nunley**, past President of the Wildlife Federation, supports license fee increases. Mr. Nunley said he feels the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is doing a great job of managing wildlife and their last fee increase was 10 years ago.

**Bryan Moore** lives in Boise County, is a sportsman, and commercial banker. He stated other sports require that to play you have to pay.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Moyle** made a motion to **HOLD H 32** subject to call of the chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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Representative Raybould  
Chair

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Jennifer Smith  
Secretary