

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING

**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015

**TIME:** 1:30 pm or upon adjournment

**PLACE:** Lincoln Auditorium WW02

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

Chairman Bair, Vice Chairman Vick, Senators Cameron, Siddoway, Brackett, Heider, Stennett, Lacey

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle, Vander Woude, Youngblood, Senator Nuxoll

**GUESTS:** Norm Semanko, Idaho Water Users Association; Mike Mulberry; Mitch Royer; Dave Shenk; and Albert Barker.

**Senator Bair** called the joint meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

**Nora Rasure**, regional forester for the USDA Forest Service, provided the USDA Forest Service's annual report to the House and Senate Joint Committee regarding their responsibilities in the United States and Idaho. Ms. Rasure was accompanied by **Andy Brunelle** with the USDA Forest Service. Ms. Rasure stated the USDA Forest Service employs over 2,000 employees and over 400 seasonal workers in Idaho.

**Ms. Rasure** provided details on the USDA Forest Service projects such as hazardous fuels reduction, landscape restoration, fire management, range management, conservation, and recreation. Ms. Rasure praised the collaborative efforts of partnerships with other organizations and individuals in obtaining collaboration for achievement of the projects. Some of the local and state partnerships in Idaho include the Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, outfitters, private landowners, tribes, and many stakeholders in the forestry area.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the joint committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

**Chairman Raybould** called the House Resources and Conservation Committee meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2015 and February 25, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1059 aa:** **Norm Semanko**, Idaho Water Users Association, stated the water users from around the state use a flat fee assessment for their members. Mr. Semanko said the water district is responsible for the delivery of water to its users and any damages to equipment or facilities can hinder their ability to deliver water. Mr. Semanko stated the current policy is for all water users in a water district to share in the costs incurred for damages to equipment, facilities and in its ability to deliver water in its operation.

**Mr. Semanko** stated **S 1059aa** provides protection of the water districts' facilities and equipment in its ability to assess irrigation run-off damages caused by an individual or individuals to the water delivery system. He stated a landowner causing damage to the water district's facilities, equipment, or the hindrance for the delivery of water would receive notification prior to an assessment for damages. Mr. Semanko encourages water users and the water district to work together to resolve issues and assessing damages would be a last resort.

**Al Barker**, Southwest Board of Control, indicated a water user can protest or appeal an inappropriate assessment.

**Dave Shenk**, Southwest Board of Control, gave an example of a water user flowing silt into an irrigation ditch from flood irrigation. Mr. Shenk indicated the water district had discussions with the particular water user, but the problem was not corrected. The silt flowing into the irrigation ditch can cause damage to irrigation pumps and equipment. He further explained the water users downstream are irrigating their crops with dirty water. Mr. Shenk stated the utilization of sprinklers is not necessary as there are other means to control silt from flood irrigation.

**Al Barker**, Southwest Board of Control, stated the Southwest Board of Control held meetings with the Idaho Association of Cities and they voiced no objection to this recommended approach. Mr. Barker encouraged cooperative efforts by water users and the water districts, but believes in discouraging behavior through assessments rather than have all water users pay for damages of the actions by a single or few water users.

**Norm Semanko**, Idaho Water Users Association, stated the Senate amended the wording of this bill to pertain to irrigation run-off only, and not to include run-off from rain or natural water flow. Mr. Semanko reiterated the penalty of assessments would be on a case-by-case basis.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **S 1059aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erpelding** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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Representative Raybould  
Chair

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Jennifer Smith  
Secretary