

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 01, 2016

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:** Rep. Moyle

GUESTS: Tyler Mallard, Risch Pisca; Sharon Keifer, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Forrest Goodrum, Ada County Fish and Game League; Anita Hamann, DFM; Jane Wittmeyer, Wittmeyer & Associates; J. Jill Henggeler.

Chairman Raybould called the meeting to order at 1:31.p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2016 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 378: **Sharon Keifer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, presented **H 378** which specifically provides statutory authority to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to prescribe and administer a trapping education program by amending Idaho Code Section 36-412 so that it provides similar statutory provisions to those used for hunter education. Idaho Code Section 36-412(b) directs the Fish and Game Commission to recruit competent volunteer trapping instructors and provide for their training in a similar manner as hunter education, and Section (c) limits the fee for trapping education to \$8.00. This legislation also removes language from Idaho Code Section 36-412(c) to remove obsolete references to youth hunting licenses that are no longer issued. Ms. Keifer said the Idaho Trappers Association contacted her informing her it supports the trapping education, and their members are willing to participate as volunteer instructors.

In response to committee questions, **Sharon Keifer**, said the minimum age for a trapping license is not defined by statute. Ms. Keifer clarified that the estimated number of 3,500 trapper licenses issued in a year indicates a rise in trapper license sales since the mid 2000s from approximately 750 sales a year. When fur prices began rising and the economy took a downturn, sales of trapping licenses rose to 2,000 and 3,000 yearly. Wolf trapping was also initiated, with mandatory wolf trapping education, which also contributed to the increase in trapping license sales, especially in Northern Idaho where wolf trapping was used as a tool for wolf management.

Sharon Keifer, responded to questions about the Fish and Game Commission's plans for promulgating rules under the legislation being proposed in **H 378** by stating that the Senate has not heard the proposed rule regarding trapping education that proceeded this legislation, that it is the position of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission that it is authorized to make such a rule and the Senate will take that upon hearing, and that until they do, it is not appropriate for her to make a response.

Forrest Goodrum, Ada County Fish and Game League, appeared in support of **H 378**, and asked the Committee to send it to the floor with a Do Pass recommendation.

MOTION: **Rep. Youngblood** made a motion to send **H 378** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Youngblood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Lorrie Byerly
Secretary