

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016  
**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room C310  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senators Co-chairman Keough, Bair, Mortimer, Brackett, Nuxoll, Johnson, Guthrie, Schmidt, Lacey  
Representatives Co-chairman Bell, Gibbs, Miller, Youngblood, Burtenshaw, Horman, Malek, Monks, King, Gannon  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Senator Thyne  
**CONVENED:** **Chairman Bell** called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**PRESENTER:** **David Langhorst, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation**  
**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Director Langhorst** presented to the Budget Committee a high-level overview of the accomplishments and requests of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The Mission Statement of the department vows to “Improve the quality of life in the State of Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship”. Director Langhorst spoke on specific line items regarding new positions needed in the department, facility repair, and equipment necessary to meet the demand for rentals and recreation. Naming rights on some of the park properties is of some concern to members of the committee, there is legislation to dictate how parks are named and proponents inside a park to follow accordingly. Director Langhorst then stood for questions regarding the FY 2017 Budget Recommendation. [Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

**PRESENTER:** **Teri Murrison, Administrator, Idaho Department of Agriculture**  
**Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

**Administrator Murrison** brought before the Budget Committee a high-level overview of the FY 2017 Governor’s Budget Recommendation for the Soil and Water Commission in the Department of Agriculture. Recommended Budget line items are prioritized as follows: Personnel, Operating, Capital, Trustee/Benefit Costs, for a total request of \$3,058,500.00 and capped at 17.75 Full-Time Positions. Core functions of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission include Technical/Other Support Services, Conservation Programs, and Administration/Operations. The Conservation Programs are responsible for Incentive Programs including: The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP), The State Revolving Fund, Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA), and Conservation Improvement Grants. Conservation Programs also include Comprehensive Programs that are responsible for: the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the Idaho Groundwater Quality Plan, the Idaho OnePlan, and the Carbon Sequestration.

In response to concerns about the wildfires in northern Idaho specifically, the Cleawater fire this year, Director Murrison introduced **Steve Becker**, to speak on a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Plan for the recovery of the lands devastated by the fires. As of now, there are other funding sources to consult. **Director Murrison** added that this collaborative effort was put together after the initial Budget Recommendation was in place, assessments of the damages are ongoing. [Soil and Water Conservation Commission](#)

**PRESENTER: Dustin Miller, Administrator, Office of the Governor**  
**Office Species Conservation**

**Administrator Miller** presented to the committee a high-level overview of the accomplishments and requests of the Office of Species Conservation and the FY 2017 Governor's Budget Recommendation. Importance of the Governor's Sage Grouse Initiative illustrated how the Governor's task force helped develop a sage-grouse conservation plan for federal lands, struck a balance between conservation and maintaining land use activities, and the lawsuit filed from **Governor Otter** against the federal government over the final land use plans.

Current activities under the protection of the Office of Species Conservation include: salmon and steelhead recovery, sage-grouse conservation and litigation, Yellowstone grizzly-bear de-listing efforts, chinook and caribou recovery, wolverine litigation, and the Wolf Depredation Compensation. **Administrator Miller** then stood for questions regarding the Governor's Budget Recommendation. [Office of Species Conservation](#)

**PRESENTER: Virgil Moore, Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game**  
**Department of Fish and Game**

**Director Moore** presented to the Budget Committee a high-level overview of the FY 2017 Budget Recommendation for the Department of Fish and Game. Accomplishments from the FY 2016 appropriations include: The Wildlife Health and Forensic Lab, Castle Rock State Park, and Shooting Range Improvements. Director Moore enthusiastically endorsed the Governor's recommendation for a 3% CEC increase. Improvements are requested for Idaho Shooting Ranges, Fish Screening & Access programs, Game Management, Resident Hatchery Production, Hunter Education & Outreach, Wildlife Monitoring & Habitat, and Fish Tagging.

**Director Moore** further explained budget requests for the Dingle-Johnson Trust Fund Revenue Decline. This is based primary on the sales of fish and tackle, and boat motor fuel. Since the decline of the Trust, the Department of Fish and Game has been seeking other funding sources. The remaining line items include the Clagstone Conservation Easement, Snake River Sockeye Salmon Trap, Salmon & Steelhead Habitat Projects, and the Sage Grouse Lek Projects. The total request in an increase of 7.6% from last year. Director Moore is confident that license revenue increases this year will make up for any further funding discrepancies. Director Moore then stood for questions regarding the Governor's Budget Recommendation. [Department of Fish and Game](#)

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Bell** adjourned the committee at 10:15 AM.

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Representative Bell  
Chair

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Christi Cox  
Secretary