

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 16, 2017

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bair, Vice Chairman Vick, Senators Brackett, Heider, Bayer, Johnson, Stennett, and Jordan

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Siddoway

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Vice Chairman Vick** called the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and explained that Chairman Bair was in attendance at another meeting and would join the Committee later.

WELCOME: **Vice Chairman Vick** welcomed the new Committee members, Senators Johnson and Jordan, and former member, Senator Brackett. He also welcomed the returning Committee members.

The Committee's page, **Bryon Beams**, was introduced and was asked to share his background with the Committee. Bryon is a senior student at Caldwell High School. He was previously involved in sports, music, and drama but now is concentrating on student government and technology. Bryon plans to attend Boise State University after graduation.

Vice Chairman Vick stated that he would not conduct a review of the rules as indicated on the agenda, as all Committee members are familiar with the process.

IDAHO DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME RULES: **Vice Chairman Vick** welcomed Ms. Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) who will present the rules. **Ms. Kiefer** introduced Mr. Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General, IDFG, who will assist her, if needed.

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1601 **Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals in the State of Idaho. Ms. Kiefer** stated the proposed rules administer grizzly bear hunting should the Idaho Fish and Game Commission authorize hunting after grizzly bear in the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are taken off the federal endangered species list. The proposed rules do not make any decision to delist grizzly bears and do not propose to open any hunting season for grizzly bear in Idaho.

Ms. Kiefer said that should hunting become available for grizzly bear, rules would be very similar to those for bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose. However, this would not apply to a depredation kill, only to controlled hunting. Fish and Wildlife Services received 650,000 comments regarding the issue of grizzly bear.

Senator Brackett inquired as to what approach other states are taking. **Ms. Kiefer** replied that she could provide that information for Montana and Wyoming. **Senator Brackett** made a request for that information.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1601**. **Chairman Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Stennett** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1601 **Rules Governing the Taking of Game Birds in the State of Idaho. Ms. Kiefer** said this rule modifies the current boundary of the Hagerman goose hunting closure area to remove certain private property and allow hunting to reduce goose depredation on crops.

MOTION: **Senator Johnson** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1601**. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1602 **Rules Governing the Taking of Game Birds in the State of Idaho. Ms. Kiefer** explained the rule simplifies the age and mentor requirements for youth-only hunts to make them more consistent and updates the rule to be consistent with legislative revision of Idaho Code § 36-409(i), in 2016.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1602**. **Senator Brackett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0111-1601 **Rules Governing Fish. Ms. Kiefer** said this rule provides opportunity to harvest unclipped summer Chinook salmon in the Clearwater River in 2016. There are no changes to the pending rule and it is being adopted as originally proposed.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0111-1601**. **Chairman Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0117-1601 **Rules Governing the Use of Bait and Trapping for Taking Big Game Animals. Ms. Kiefer** explained that this rule revises the distance from road and trails for placing bear baits in the Panhandle and Clearwater regions because hilly terrain and an extensive road network make the current standard infeasible in many areas of these regions.

MOTION: **Senator Johnson** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0117-1601**. **Senator Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0102-1601 **Rules Governing Hunter Education and Mentored Hunting. Ms. Kiefer** said the rules implement a mandatory trapping education program for trappers who purchased their first trapping license on or after July 1, 2011. The rule broadens the description of mandatory education; establishes fees for mandatory hunter, archery, and trapping education; integrates reference to existing archery education pursuant to Idaho Code §§ 36-411 and 36-412; and deletes an obsolete rule about practical handling and shooting of firearms requirement for hunter education certification.

Senator Heider inquired whether archery would be a separate class from the hunter education course, where the young people are trained using rifles, and if they have to be enrolled in both courses. **Ms. Kiefer** stated that the classes are "rolled" together.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0102-1601**. **Chairman Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Vick passed the gavel to Chairman Bair.

Chairman Bair thanked Vice Chairman Vick for his good work. He said that he, too, wanted to welcome the new and returning Committee members, and also Bryon, the Committee's page.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Bair** adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Senator Bair
Chair

Juanita Budell
Secretary