

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 23, 2017

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Raybould, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Miller, Burtenshaw, Mendive (Mendive), Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Jordan

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Lori Thomason, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board; Ed Schriever, Jeff Gould, and Scott Reinecker, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Eric Wilson and Mike Murphy, Idaho Department of Lands; Jerome Hausen, IDFA; Wyatt Prescott, ICA; Greg Casey, Veritas Advisors; Tyler Murgoitio, Idaho Water Users; Kathleen Trever, Idaho Attorney General's Office; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Chairman Gibbs announced the Rules for Selling Forest Products on State-Owned Endowment Lands, **Docket No. 20-0214-1601** will not be heard today and will be held over until next week.

Ed Schriever, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game introduced himself and provided an update on Winter Feeding to the committee. He provided a background on the legal authority, department policy, and the current status of emergency winter feeding of deer, elk, and pronghorn in Idaho. The authorizing statute, **36-111(1)**, establishes a dedicated feeding account and specifies how the money is to be expended. From each deer, elk, and pronghorn tag, \$0.75 is dedicated to winter feeding and winter range rehabilitation, and \$0.75 is dedicated for depredation prevention or predator control. There is a 5-member Winter Feeding Advisory Committee which serves as a liaison between the Commission, the Department, interest groups, and the public on winter feeding issues. The criteria that must be met to initiate feeding includes 1) actual or imminent threat of depredation to private property, 2) threat to public safety, including traffic hazards, or 3) limited or unavailable winter forage caused by fire or unusual weather.

This year, depredation statewide is higher than compared to last year. To date, there have been 340 depredation complaints with 281 elk and 54 deer. The Department is currently monitoring survival of approximately 700 deer and 800 elk across Idaho. Generally speaking, big game came off of a very good summer range and were in good condition. Past survival has been above average over the last 4-5 years, but conditions this year could indicate above average winter mortality for deer, especially fawns. There is a reduction in winter range due to the 50,000 acre Henry's Creek fire near Tex Creek WMA in Eastern Idaho, which triggered an emergency declaration. The Pioneer fire also impacted portions of winter range in the Southwest region. The Tex Creek WMA winters approximately 4,000 elk and 4,000 mule deer; as a result of the fire significant winter feeding has been occurring long before the first snowfall. The Director also declared winter feeding emergencies in the Southwest, Magic Valley, Southeast, and Upper Snake regions.

RS 24835: **Lori Thomason**, Executive Director, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board stated the purpose of this proposed change is to clarify the license year between Statutes **36-2102(g)** and **36-2109** to make the statute years consistent with each other. There will be no fiscal impact with this change.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to introduce **RS 24835**. **Rep. Erpelding** declared Rule 38. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 24864: **Eric Wilson**, Resource Protection Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Lands stated the purpose of this proposed legislation is to ratify, approve, and adopt the Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas, and allow Idaho to become a full member of the Interstate Oil and Gas Commission. Idaho is currently an Associate Member, which does not allow for full participation and voting. Full membership will allow Idaho to weigh in on national oil and gas issues that affect the state's ability to administer the oil and gas conservation programs. There is no General Fund impact. The current Associate membership is \$1,500 annually and the Full membership is \$7,500 annually. An additional \$6,000 would be required to join as a full member. The additional expense will be covered by existing appropriation and cash in the Lands Dedicated Fund.

MOTION: **Rep. Youngblood** made a motion to introduce **RS 24864**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 24832: **Mike Murphy**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Lands stated this legislation will allow the State Board of Land Commissioners, through the Department of Lands, to issue oil and gas leases for terms "up to" 10 years. **Idaho Statute 47-801** currently limits the lease terms to exactly 10 years and this proposed legislation will allow the Director of the Department of Lands the discretion to issue leases of shorter than 10 years when in the best interest of the endowed beneficiary.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to introduce **RS 24832**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1601: **Sharon Kiefer**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. There was a good discussion of this proposed rule at the January 19, 2017 meeting, but before making any motion to approve, the committee wanted to review the Tristate MOU as well as the Commission adopted proclamation. Neither document delists the grizzly bear or opens a hunt season. The goal of the Department is to be responsive to circumstances on the ground to ensure their management objectives and conservation are upheld.

MOTION: **Rep. Burtenshaw** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1601**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Erpelding, Rubel, and Jordan** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

DOCKET NO. 20-0214-1601: **Chairman Gibbs** announced this proposed rule would be held over until next week.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary