

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 15, 2018

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, Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Vacant - Dist. 5

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Burtenshaw, Youngblood, Rubel, Vacant - Dist. 5

GUESTS: Forrest Goodrum, Ada County Fish and Game League Inc.; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Burk Mantel, self; Benjamin Kelly, Teri Murrison, Rhonda Yadon, and Mike Somerville, Idaho Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League

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

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2018 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Gibbs thanked Committee Page, **Alex Fesperman**, for her work this session.

H 549: **Rep. Moyle**, District 14, stated currently it is against the law for anyone other than an officer to dispatch wildlife unintentionally hit and injured by a vehicle strike. This bill will allow for the driver of the vehicle, or a passerby, to dispatch the injured animal so it will not suffer. Additionally, this bill allows for salvage of that animal with reporting requirements.

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this bill will allow any person who hits an animal classified as big game, upland game, upland game bird, furbearer, predatory wildlife, or unprotected wildlife to dispatch that animal in a safe and humane manner when the collision severely injures the animal. She explained this is a permissive bill which does not mandate an individual to dispatch an injured animal. Ms. Kiefer further explained if anyone pursues either salvage or humane dispatch and salvage must, within 24 hours, report to the Department, and within 72 hours obtain a salvage permit from the Department. Mandatory reporting requirements must be upheld for moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, wolf, bobcat, and river otter pursuant to Department rules. Ms. Kiefer stated provisions of this bill would not apply to other classes of wildlife such as protected nongame wildlife, threatened or endangered species, migratory birds and any other wildlife species not lawfully hunted or trapped.

Ms. Kiefer stated this bill does not override other statutes, meaning that any individual considering dispatch would still need to follow laws that says a person cannot discharge any firearm from or across a public highway, trespass laws, other general firearms statutes, transportation laws, or other provisions such as a city ordinance prohibiting discharge within city limits. Finally, although the bill is technically correct, they have not had the opportunity to discuss this bill with the Fish and Game Commission, so offer no policy position.

Forrest Goodrum, representing Ada County Fish and Game League, stated they are **in support** of this bill.

Burk Mantel, representing self, stated he is **in support** of this bill.

Jonathan Oppenheimer, representing Idaho Conservation League, stated they are **in support** of this bill.

Brian Brooks, representing Idaho Wildlife Federation, stated they are **in support** of this bill. He stated nobody should be made a criminal for doing the right thing.

In response to a question regarding shooting from a roadway, **Rep. Moyle** stated this would not create any conflict with the law prohibiting shooting from or across a roadway because this bill authorizes dispatching an injured animal on the side of a roadway. He further stated dispatching is not limited to shooting, it could also mean dispatching the injured animal with a knife.

MOTION:

Rep. Wood made a motion to send **H 549** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Moyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Teri Murrison, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and **Mike Somerville**, Association of Soil Conservation Districts, presented to the committee information on the background, goals, core functions, and current issues of the Commission and the Districts. The Commission's goal is to take care of and improve Idaho's natural resources for future generations while maximizing their benefits to all Idahoans. Their efforts lead to better water quality and water savings, less soil erosion and fuel for wildfires, improved habitat for wildlife, and more. The Districts, which are distinct units of local government, request technical assistance from the Commission as well as identify needs for specific project funding.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:27pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary