

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 01, 2018

TIME: 1:30pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representative(s) Moyle, Raybould, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Miller, Burtenshaw, Mendive, Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Gannon(5)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representative(s) Moyle, Vander Woude

GUESTS: Braden Jensen and Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Russell Westerberg, Rocky Mountain Power; Honorable Mike Wetherell; Brian Brooks, Idaho Wildlife Federation; Dustin Ahern, Idaho River Adventures/Middle Fork Outfitters Association; Shelly Davis, Barker Rosholt & Simpson; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League; Paul Arrington, Idaho Water Users Association; Grant Simonds, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 2:51pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2018 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1275: **Rep. Kerby**, District 9, stated this bill puts into statute the current practice of collaring wolves as part of the Wolf Management Plan to reduce livestock depredation in Idaho, with the expectation this practice will continue as a proactive management tool for certain wolf packs.

Wyatt Prescott, representing the Idaho Cattle Association, stated this bill puts into statute that wolf collaring will continue as a proactive management tool for packs that are predisposed to depredation on domestic livestock. He stated this is important because collaring will enable the precise identification of the depredating packs for efficient control of those animals in response to that depredation.

In response to a question regarding funding for this program, **Mr. Prescott** stated this is a common practice of the Department of Fish and Game and simply solidifies in statute what they are already doing. The expectation is that this practice will continue with the possibility of enhancing the program. As for funding, Mr. Prescott stated he believes this program is paid for out of the depredation control account and that it would continue.

In response to the question regarding funding for this program, **Rep. Kerby** stated the Department of Fish and Game supports this program. He stated some of the collaring is accomplished with Department staff, while some work is contracted out to the USDA Fish and Wildlife Services and to contractors from Alaska. There is no request for additional funding.

There was much discussion regarding the Department of Fish and Game's wolf depredation program, but without any representation from the Department present, concern was raised if the discussion should continue.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Gibbs** made a unanimous consent request to **HOLD S 1275** until the next scheduled committee meeting, Monday, March 5, 2018. There being no objection, the request was granted.

S 1306: **Rep. Kauffman**, District 25, stated this bill amends **Idaho Code 67-6519**, to require planning and zoning authorities to notify water delivery entities, in writing, of any proposed rezoning, subdivision, or any other site-specific land development proposals. Notification shall be provided at least 15 days prior to the public hearing date concerning the development proposal.

Rep. Kauffman explained an omission was discovered in the bill, so he is requesting the bill be sent to General Orders with the following committee amendments. On page 2 of the printed bill, in line 11, following "districts," insert: "ground water districts,"; and in line 14, following "districts," insert: "ground water districts,".

Braden Jensen, representing the Idaho Farm Bureau, stated they are **in support** of this bill with the amendments **Rep. Kauffman** outlined. He stated any time there is rezoning, subdividing, or new developments proposed, this required notification will allow the various water delivery entities to be present at public meetings so they can raise any concerns and their easements and infrastructure are protected.

Lynn Tominaga, representing Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, stated the reason for the amendment is that ground water districts have to provide mitigation for any new water rights, so notification of proposed new wells being drilled for subdivisions, whether in a county or a city, is critical.

Shelly Davis, Attorney with Barker Rosholt & Simpson Law Firm, stated this bill is helpful and a very simple way to take care of the notification issue. She stated it is clear much of the farmland is growing houses these days, so this bill is helpful to eliminate this piecemeal type of development by requiring planning and zoning entities to provide notification to the water delivery entities in a timely manner.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **S 1306** to General Orders with committee amendments attached. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1268: **Paul Arrington**, Idaho Water Users Association, stated this bill has to do with drainage districts, a system that drains lands upon being saturated by water after irrigation. There are fewer drainage districts than irrigation districts, most being located in the Treasure Valley. There are three proposed changes to drainage district statutes in this bill. The first change has to do with the \$50.00 compensation to Directors for travel to meetings, by allowing the Board to set travel compensation for their Directors. The second change clarifies language concerning setting assessments for drainage districts' operations and maintenance of drains. And, the third change adds a new section regarding the sale and exchange of personal property. Similar language changes were made to the irrigation district statutes in 2014. Mr. Arrington stated since irrigation and drainage districts are similar organizations, statutory language should mirror one another. He also stated drainage district statutes haven't been updated since 1941.

Chairman Gibbs requested the record reflect nobody came forward to testify.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **S 1268** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Youngblood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

SCR 132: **Rep. Miller**, District 26, stated the purpose of this Resolution is to recognize the 50th anniversary of the **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act** and the contributions Idahoans have made, to the state of Idaho and the nation, in the recognition and protection of America's premier rivers and streams.

Honorable Mike Wetherell, retired Judge and former Administrative Assistant to **Senator Frank Church**, spoke **in support** of this Resolution. He stated work on this legislation began in 1959, and was designed to protect wild and free-flowing scenic rivers. The work began as an Idaho initiative and was adopted across the country. Thanks are in order to the people for their foresight in crafting this bill.

Dustin Ahern, representing Idaho River Adventures/Middle Fork Outfitters spoke **in support** of this Resolution.

Grant Simonds, representing Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association also spoke **in support** of this Resolution. He stated Idaho's wild and scenic rivers are important to the river outfitters. Roughly 100,000 people enjoy floating, jet boating, or drifting opportunities every year. He estimated these river trips generate \$80 million annually to Idaho's economy.

MOTION: **Rep. Youngblood** made a motion to send **SCR 132** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Miller** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary