

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2020

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representative(s) Moyle, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Lickley, Moon, Raybould, Rubel, Toone, Mason, Necochea

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle, Blanksma

GUESTS: Paul Kline, Scott Reinecker, Michael Pearson, Nathan Berg, Toby Boudreau, and Ed Schriever, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Mark Dietrich, John Tippets, and Jess Byrne, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Russell Westerberg, RMP; Paul Arrington, IWUA; Benn Brocksome, ISA; Angela Grimm and Gary Spackman, Idaho Department of Water Resources

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

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27284C1: **Senator Harris**, District 32, stated this legislation authorizes the initiation of general water rights adjudication for the Bear River Basin. He explained the Bear River Commission governs the allocation of water to the three states (Idaho, Utah and Wyoming) through which the Bear River flows. The Commission is granted authority through the 1958 Bear River Compact, as amended in 1980, and indicated much has occurred since that amendment. The Bear River Adjudication will accurately record all existing water rights to resolve uncertainty and help to ensure fair and accurate water administration.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to introduce **RS 27284C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 330: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this bill would revise **Section 36-416, Idaho Code**, to increase most license, tag, and permit fees for nonresidents, and would become effective December 1, 2020. He explained the proposed nonresident fee increase includes a general ten percent increase for most nonresident fees with larger increases for big game tags and related items such as archery and muzzleloader permits. He indicated the price of nonresident wolf tags and Disabled American Veteran tags will remain unchanged. Additionally, resident license, tag, and permit fees will remain unchanged. He stated data shows nonresident game tags are in high demand, have sold out for the last three years, and are progressively selling out at earlier dates each year. Mr. Kline explained the Commission heard from residents that overcrowding, caused by increased numbers of nonresident hunters participating in popular general season, over-the-counter hunts, has reduced hunt quality to the point where providing relief is one of their highest priorities.

Mr. Kline explained the Commission currently may limit nonresident participation in controlled hunts and in capped or restricted hunts, but may not manage nonresident participation in unrestricted general over-the-counter hunts where any number of nonresident tags may be purchased as long as the annual quotas for nonresidents are not exceeded. Nonresident general season tag holders are able to select where they hunt and currently represent 30-50% of total hunter participation in many popular hunts. This legislation will grant the Commission authority to manage nonresident hunter participation in the general season, over-the-counter hunts to no less than ten percent of the average hunter participation estimated for each hunting unit or zone for the previous five year period. He noted this is companion legislation to **Docket No. 13-0108-1904**, which was approved this Legislative Session. He concluded to offset the anticipated loss in revenue from the reduction in nonresident participation, the increased nonresident fee schedule will only fill in the gap in revenue.

Benn Brocksome, Idaho Sportsmen's Alliance, stated the Alliance is **in support of H 330**.

MOTION: **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to send **H 330** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1217: **Mark Dietrich**, Technical Services Administrator, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, stated this legislation would provide an exemption from the requirement to obtain a temporary water right permit for removal of contaminated water during an emergency response. He explained this exemption is similar to **Section 42.201, Idaho Code**, where water is withdrawn to fight wildfires. He stated the concern is, granting a temporary water right can potentially take days. With this delay, the current process impacts the state's ability to work with the regional hazmat teams and emergency response cleanup contractors to remove contaminated water from a body of water in a timely manner to minimize the potential impacts on human health and the environment. He concluded by stating this exemption would alleviate any delays.

Paul Arrington, Idaho Water Users Association stated the Association is **in support of S 1217**.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to send **S 1217** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Mason** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary