

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 02, 2020

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Brackett, Senators Bair, Johnson, Mortimer, Patrick, Guthrie, Stennett, and Jordan

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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: **Chairman Heider** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:32 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Jordan** moved to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2020. **Senator Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Mortimer moved to approve the Minutes of February 19, 2020. **Senator Jordan** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Patrick moved to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2020. **Vice Chairman Brackett** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Mortimer** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Brian Beckley to the Idaho Parks and Recreation Board to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Patrick moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Cally Roach to the Idaho Parks and Recreation Board to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Brackett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1368 Relating to the Idaho Roadless Rule, to revise provisions regarding the implementation commission.

Senator Johnson, from District 6, stated this bill amends Idaho Code § 67-826 establishing the Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission (Commission), a 15-person commission appointed by the Governor, which reviews and evaluates proposed projects occurring within Idaho roadless areas on United States Forest Service (Forest Service) lands. He explained these changes would make the Commission more responsive to the state, and in particular to the House and Senate resources committees. It also edits language regarding what the Commission's roles are. He commented on bill specifics and how the Commission's members would be appointed and their terms. The Commission would need to submit an annual report to the Committee and the House Resources and Conservation Committee reflecting the activities of the Commission and setting forth the membership thereof.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** and **Senator Johnson** discussed the policies on how the Commission shall coordinate and develop policies related to the implementation and interpretation of the Idaho Roadless Rule versus compelling the Forest Service into action; how the Commission and Forest Service are working together; and the number of appointed commissioners.

TESTIMONY: **Sam Eaton**, Director of Policy and Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor, stated he had worked with the Commission. He explained the intent of this legislation was to model changes from successes the Governor's office has already seen in Idaho, and to treat the Commission as partners versus stakeholders. He detailed the meaningful coordination already had with the Commission, that it was a collaborative effort from the outset, and the Commission's work with 9.3 million acres of Forest Service land developing policies and projects in roadless areas. He clarified that federal code guides the roadless rules. He confirmed that the Commission's membership of 15 would be brought down to 9 to 12 members, one reason being because it is difficult to find commissioners to serve on the Commission. He clarified there are one to two vacancies most of the time, therefore they felt it was an appropriate number and close to the number that currently operates the Commission. The Governor's office supports this legislation being sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** and **Mr. Eaton** discussed the details regarding appointment of officials, and the reasons for the need for this legislation.

Senator Johnson asserted how this bill not only improves the process of appointing Commission members, it also furthers communication; it being important for the Legislature to be apprised on how Idaho roadless lands are being managed.

MOTION: **Senator Mortimer** moved to send **S 1368** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Johnson will carry the bill on the floor.

RS 27898 Unanimous Consent for Referral to a Privileged Committee for printing; a concurrent resolution to develop a settlement to resolve competing water supply demands in the Lemhi River Basin.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Brackett** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 27898** to a privileged committee for a print hearing. There were no objections.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Stennett** moved to approve the Minutes of February 17, 2020. **Senator Bair** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Erin Miller
Secretary