

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 25, 2021

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Vick, Vice Chairman Johnson, Senators Bair, Heider, Patrick, Guthrie, Burtenshaw, Stennett, and Rabe

**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 Vick** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Vick** welcomed Dr. Dennis Becker, Ph.D., Dean and Professor of Natural Resource Policy, University of Idaho (U of I). **Dr. Becker** then introduced David New, Chairperson, Chapter of Snake River Society of American Foresters (SAF). **Mr. New** said SAF was founded over 100 years ago and has partnered with Forestry Day at the Legislature for over 20 years. They presented the Committee with items made from wood. **Mr. New** said the presentation will be about the importance of mass timber and mass timber manufacturing and construction to Idaho. He then introduced Heather Strong, Professional Engineer and Senior Director, WoodWorks, who gave a slide presentation.

Ms. Strong said WoodWorks is a nonprofit organization made up of architects and engineers who educate the design and construction community on utilizing wood for commercial and multifamily construction. WoodWorks performs this service free of charge due to their funding partners. Some of the major funding partners are: Softwood Lumber Board, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Innovation Investment, and other wood manufacturers.

Ms. Strong's presentation was "The Mass Timber Revolution, Modern Products, and Systems." She described each process which included:

- glue-laminated timber;
- cross-laminated timber;
- veneer-based, cross-laminated timber;
- dowel-laminated timber; and
- nail-laminated timber

Ms. Strong showed slides of several buildings constructed with mass timber. As of September 2020, there were 445 built or projects under construction using mass timber. Adding that number of projects to the current number of projects under design, the total is 979. **Ms. Strong** stated that mass timber can help alleviate housing demands caused by Idaho's growing population with urban infill projects. A feasibility study was done on a 12-story tower in Seattle, Washington, and a side-by-side comparison of mass timber versus post-tension concrete. It was found there would be a five-month savings in the schedule of construction.

Mr. Becker continued the presentation showing the progress on the Idaho Central Credit Union Arena at the U of I. The building was made possible by generous contributions of donors, student activity fees, as well as the forest products industry in Idaho. Douglas fir was harvested from the surrounding land, working with student logging crews in Orofino, Idaho, to transport the logs to the Idaho Forest Group's Lewiston Mill and Bennett Lumber Products Inc. in Princeton. The logs were then processed and sent to Salmon and Homedale for lamination. Glue-laminated beams were constructed in British Columbia and assembled on site by Structure Craft and Hoffman Construction employees, many of whom are Idaho residents.

Mr. Becker said the ICCU Arena is an Idaho product made by Idahoans with sustainable, harvested wood by the U of I. He indicated that for every 1 million board feet of timber harvested in Idaho, 24 direct and indirect jobs are created. **Mr. Becker** said the more Idahoans can do to promote mass timber construction, the more it will help Idaho's economy. **Mr. Becker** indicated the College of Natural Resources at the U of I is working with the sustainable forest industry to tell its story and promote the benefits of mass timber.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Bair inquired as to how wood compares on a cost-per-square-foot basis with metal or concrete. Mr. Becker yielded that inquiry to Ms. Strong. **Ms. Strong** replied that sometimes a construction company doesn't have the extra cost of finishes with wood, depending on the application. **Senator Bair** then asked how fire protection compared with concrete or steel buildings. **Ms. Strong** said there is no extra cost.

Senator Guthrie noted his involvement in building over 45 years and said the industry has made remarkable advancements. He applauded the technology and the commitment to making products better.

Senator Patrick asked about roofs and ceilings, and if other materials are used rather than wood. **Ms. Strong** said WoodWorks encourages businesses using a mass timber product to contact heating, ventilating, air conditioning and plumbing trades early, so if the design leaves the ceiling exposed, it is well thought out.

Senator Patrick inquired about the exterior of roofs. **Ms. Strong** said the wood has to be protected and that is done through waterproofing.

Senator Stennett asked whether manufacturers can keep continuity of a uniformed pattern or if they must deal with what Mother Nature gave them. **Ms. Strong** replied WoodWorks embraces the nature of the wood and also, when choosing a mass timber manufacturer, explores what type of wood the manufacturer has.

John Riling, Chair, Intermountain SAF, said in conclusion, he sees a lot of challenges in the future, but also a lot of opportunities. Projects like those taking place at the U of I demonstrate the benefits of Idahoans working together and utilizing Idaho's resources. Embracing the use of sustainable harvested timber is healthy for Idaho and our planet, **Mr. Riling** said.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Vick passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Johnson.

**DOCKET NO.
13-0000-2000F**

Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking – Adoption of Pending Fee Rule. **Vice Chairman Johnson** called on Paul Kline, Deputy Director, Programs and Policy, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), to present this docket.

PRESENTATION: **Mr. Kline** said there are five rule chapters in this omnibus action. Examples of fees charged include fees for hunter, archery, and trapper education classes; and bonding fees for large commercial wildlife facilities. He reminded the Committee that IDFG fees for sport licenses, game tags, and sport permits are set by the Legislature in statute and are not in these rules. Omnibus fee rule language before the Committee is unchanged from language previously reviewed by the Legislature. No changes to text or fee amounts were made.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0000-2000F**. **Senator Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0104-2002 **Rules Governing Licensing.** **Mr. Kline** stated this rulemaking addresses moving controlled hunt tagging application periods for the Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) to an earlier time in the year (May 15 versus June 15) to provide landowners with adequate notification of draw results for hunts beginning in August. It will also provide the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (Commission) the authority to limit the number of deer and elk tags made available annually to nonresident Disabled Veterans (DAV) at nonresident DAV prices. This rulemaking is an integral part of the Commission's strategy to manage nonresident hunter numbers to address hunter congestion. The Commission adopted temporary language to limit the number of nonresident DAV deer and elk tags to 500 and 300 at its July 23, 2020, meeting.

During the 21-day comment period, the IDFG received 482 responses regarding the proposal to change the application period for the LAP-controlled hunt tags and 1,121 responses regarding the proposal to provide IDFG the authority to limit the number of deer and elk tags made available annually to nonresident DAVs.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** asked what kinds of constraints and time limitations the landowners are facing that having an additional month would help. **Mr. Kline** responded that staff needed time to verify information on the application. **Senator Stennett** then inquired about the general theme of the comments received. **Mr. Kline** indicated that 87 percent supported the rulemaking, while 13 percent opposed it. Those opposing the rulemaking said they didn't like the LAP for the most part and may not be eligible for the program. **Senator Stennett** asked about the respondents for nonresident DAVs. **Mr. Kline** said over 1,000 responded. Sixty-eight percent supported the rulemaking and 34 percent of DAVs said they opposed it. Of the 1,000 respondents, 764 were residents of Idaho. The nature of the comments concerned overcrowding and hunt congestion.

Senator Patrick said he had written the legislation allowing DAVs to have hunting rights that don't conflict with the code passed a few years ago. **Mr. Kline** deferred the question to **Mr. Schriever**, the IDFG Director. **Mr. Schriever** responded by saying it does nothing to change the previous legislation that was passed but limits the number of tags. Idaho is one of the two Western states that offers discounted deer and elk tags.

TESTIMONY: **Benn Brocksome**, Idaho Sportsmen, said they support **Docket No. 13-0104-2002** and appreciated the time and attention given to them.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0104-2002**. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Johnson passed the gavel to Chairman Vick.

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-2001 **Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals.** **Mr. Kline** said this rulemaking establishes a one-year waiting period for controlled pronghorn hunters whose applications are approved to be consistent with current rule language that requires a one-year waiting period for antlered deer and elk controlled hunt applicants.

During the 21-day comment period, the IDFG received 849 responses regarding the proposal via online submission. An in-person comment period was provided at the quarterly meeting of the Commission.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** asked for an example of a controlled hunt that has an unlimited number of tags. **Mr. Kline** said that in the Proclamation Pamphlet, controlled hunts are listed with 27 hunts with any weapon, 11 that are limited to archery and 8 that are short range, such as muzzleloaders. Of the archery-controlled hunts, four of those are unlimited. **Senator Stennett** inquired as to how many pronghorns an individual can harvest in the unlimited controlled hunt. **Mr. Kline** replied that one tag can allow a hunter to harvest one pronghorn.

Senator Patrick inquired as to why some people cannot get permits to hunt in an archery controlled hunt. **Mr. Kline** said the application was possibly filled out incorrectly, but he would look into it.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-2001**. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 13-0109-2002 **Rules Governing the Taking of Game Birds.** **Mr. Kline** said this rulemaking establishes consistent requirements for the use of game bird tags authorized by code, and establishes mandatory check and reporting requirements for swan. Game bird tags are currently authorized for turkey, crane, swan, and could encompass grouse or other species if game bird tags are authorized in the future. This rulemaking will authorize the Commission to designate two special waterfowl hunting days for veterans and active military personnel. It will also authorize the Commission to delay the opening date for pheasant season for all nonresident license holders. This was a citizen petition request by residents of Franklin and Oneida Counties.

During the 21-day public comment period, of the 365 responses received regarding the proposal to establish consistent requirements for the use of game bird tags and for the mandatory check requirements for swan, 87 percent supported that particular rulemaking. There were 485 responses regarding the proposal to designate the special two-day waterfowl hunting opportunity for veterans and active military personnel. Eighty-one percent of respondents supported that rule. Responses numbered 480 regarding the proposal to delay the opening date for pheasant season for all nonresident license holders, and 440 respondents weighed in regarding the proposal to simplify the IDFG game tag framework for hunting turkey.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Vick** asked how many of the respondents who commented on the delaying of the opening date of pheasant season were Idaho residents. **Mr. Kline** reported that the majority were Idaho residents. **Chairman Vick** then asked if there were other staggered opening dates besides the ones for pheasant hunting. **Mr. Kline** said he did not think there were any others.

Senator Heider inquired as to how long IDFG has been having special waterfowl hunting days for military members and veterans. **Mr. Kline** said this is the first implementation of this program but the IDFG has held such special hunting for many years for youth hunters.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-2002**. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
13-0116-2002**

The Trapping of Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife and the Taking of Furbearing Animals. **Mr. Kline** said this rulemaking will establish additional restrictions on the use of body-grip traps. It will also simplify language associated with the use of bait for trapping furbearing, predatory, and unprotected animals, and make allowances for wolf trapping consistent. Proposed rulemaking language acknowledges statutory restrictions related to the use of game parts for trapping furbearing animals.

During the 21-day comment period, the IDFG received via online submission 539 responses regarding the proposal to establish additional restrictions on use of body-grip traps, and 393 responses regarding the proposal to simplify rules associated with use of bait for trapping furbearing predatory and unprotected animals.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Stennett asked how a body-grip trap that is only 7 inches wide actually works and if that is prohibited now or just specifies a size of gap in the trap. **Mr. Kline** said traps with larger openings trap larger animals, such as wolves, and traps with smaller openings trap smaller furbearing animals.

Senator Stennett said no bait or lures are to be placed within 30 feet of a trap and inquired if there were any changes to related rules. **Mr. Kline** indicated that the trapping language will be reviewed and perhaps consolidated for consistency purposes.

Chairman Vick announced that due to time constraints, the discussion of **Docket No. 13-0116-2002** will continue at the next meeting.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Vick** adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

Senator Vick
Chair

Juanita Budell
Secretary