

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 07, 2022

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Lickley (Schutte), Representatives Moyle, Wood (Critchfield), Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Moon, Manwaring, Okuniewicz, Yamamoto, Rubel, Mathias, Burns

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Rubel

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Gibbs** called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2022 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29386C1:** **Rep. Blanksma**, District 23, stated this proposed legislation further clarifies the procedure to be used by the State of Idaho, prior to an order, declaring certain stockwater rights to be forfeited under **Idaho Code, Section 42-222**, for failure to put the rights to beneficial use for a term of five years or more.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to introduce **RS 29386C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29419:** **Bob Naerebout**, representing the Idaho Dairymen's Association, stated **RS 29419** is replacing **H 466** that was before the committee on January 31, 2022. He remarked, after listening to the committee's discussion and concerns with **H 466**, the Association realized more work was needed. The Association addressed those concerns in **RS 29419**, and vetted them with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Governor's Office. Changes include adjusting the Fiscal Note to "subject to appropriations," and a clearer description of the application process and the roles and responsibilities of the committee.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Burns** made a motion to introduce **RS 29419**.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Vander Woude** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 29419** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Lickley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 507:** **Rep. Mitchell**, District 5, explained this legislation will make lighted nocks and mechanical broad heads available and legal for use in Idaho; this legislation does not make their use required. Currently, Idaho is the last state in the country that does not allow their use, yet they have been available to archery hunters since the early 2000's. He explained, lighted nocks make it easier for hunters to recover lost arrows, which will be more environmentally safe and protect unsuspecting game and people from stepping on them out in the woods. He continued, mechanical broad heads create a higher accuracy as well as a more humane kill, decreasing the waste of game from injuries and lost kills.

**Rep. Mitchell** remarked, there have been many discussions between the Fish and Game Commission and archery hunters and groups over the last 15+ years, including several petitions for lighted nocks dating back to 2014. After studies and discussions, in May 2020, the Commission denied a petition requesting negotiated rulemaking for lighted nocks stating in part, it was important to maintain existing rules regarding primitive weapons for hunting, such as archery and muzzleloaders, and that their position to limit technological advances for that type of weapon remained unchanged.

**Brian Brooks**, Idaho Wildlife Federation; **Tad Sherman**, Idaho State Bowhunters; **Josh Hanson**, self; and **Alex Wagner**, self, all spoke **in opposition** to **H 507**. The common theme was that the Legislature shouldn't be involved in the Commission's business of setting hunting regulations. Sportsmen are passionate about participating in the hunting regulations process and this legislation will take away that process.

**Jim Fredericks**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, representing the Fish and Game Commission stated, the Commission agrees that advances in equipment technology improve hunter effectiveness and they have been sensitive to concerns that increased success rates in big game seasons, limited to archery or muzzleloaders, may lead to less opportunity requiring shorter seasons, caps on tags, or increased use of controlled hunts. He continued, Idaho hunters have consistently indicated support for maximizing opportunities, preferring longer seasons and general hunts, and the Commission continually tries to find the balance between allowing increasingly effective equipment while preserving liberal hunting opportunities. Since 2006, the Commission has regularly reviewed advances in technology and their implications, and the attempt to balance technology with hunter preferences for opportunities, led to the Commission's denial in 2020 of lighted nocks. With the heightened interest in **H 507**, the Commission is now in agreement that negotiated rulemaking involving hunters interests and input is a better forum than a legislative outcome, and so is **in opposition** to **H 507**.

**Dan Schoenberg**, self, spoke **in support** of **H 507**, stating allowing choices of tools available for hunters to be better hunters is a good thing.

**Benn Brocksome**, Idaho Sportsmen Association, spoke **in support** of **H 507**, stating the ability for season setting and methods of take is sacred to the sportsmen in Idaho and that the Commission needs to be a little more pragmatic in dealing with these types of issues so sportsmen don't end up circumventing the process by going to their legislators to fix the problem.

**Rep. Mitchell** stood and closed. He stated with regard to lighted nocks, the ultimate goal is to find the animal after it is hit, and with mechanical broad heads, the goal is a faster kill. He remarked, people will not be forced to use these items, this legislation will only make it available for use if an archery hunter chooses to use them.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Moyle** made a motion to send **H 507** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

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Representative Gibbs  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary