

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 14, 2022

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

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, McCann, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep.(s) Mathias, Giddings, Nichols, Boyle, Moon

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

**Chairman Kauffman** called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m.

**Gretchen Hyde**, Executive Director of Idaho Rangelands and Resources Commission (IRRC), stated the commission is led by five board members appointed by the Governor and each serves a five-year term. The advisory members include members from several state agencies. Ms. Hyde discussed the budget and revenues for 2022. The assessment fee was set in 1997 and is paid by ranchers and landowners and can be refunded upon request. She explained the IRRC also receives funds from the sale of specialty license plates, trespass fees, and workshops. In 2021, IRRC conducted virtual and interactive workshops and was able to successfully share them with children in the classroom across the state.

Open range means "All unenclosed lands outside of cities, villages, and herd districts, upon which cattle, by custom, license, lease, or permit, are grazed or permitted to roam." Many of Idaho's roads and highways are in open range areas. Drivers are responsible for their own safety. Obeying the laws and being aware of animals (wild or domestic) is very important in all western states. Nearly half of Idaho is classified as rangeland, and eighty percent of rangelands are managed by either a federal or state agency. It is essential for the citizens of Idaho to have a good understanding of the ecology and management of these lands. The IRRC works to ensure the public understands the value of public lands grazing. Utilizing research-based grazing management practices creates healthy lands, healthy livestock, and abundant wildlife.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

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Representative Kauffman  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary