

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 01, 2023
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Mendive, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Boyle, Vander Woude, Blanksma, Yamamoto, Raybould, Durrant, Hill, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Tanner, Burns, Necochea, Galaviz
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Manwaring
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 Mendive called the committee to order at 1:30 P.M.

Chairman Mendive announced that the committee would hear the presentations on the rules but not take any action. He then introduced **Ed Schriever**, Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, for a presentation.

Director Schriever began by updating the committee on wolf management. He described the department's efforts to determine where wolves are located, their abundance, and trends in their population numbers. He described the methods the department uses to collect the data, and the results, which show a relatively stable population though with a slight decline, in accordance with the department's wolf management plan.

Director Schriever also updated the committee on the department's testing efforts to monitor and mitigate chronic wasting disease in the state's ungulate population. He also described the department's efforts to reduce depredations and the resulting damage claims that would need to be paid out to farmers and other landowners, and explained the department's updates to rules for deer and elk hunting tags for nonresidents.

In response to questions from the committee, **Director Schriever** expanded upon the causes and process for depredation claims, addressed concerns about impact on private property from both depredation itself and the depredation mitigation efforts, and expanded on the nature of chronic wasting disease and possible tactics for eliminating the spread of the disease. He also briefly touched on performance objectives for elk population control and promised to return to the committee for a more thorough presentation on that subject.

Chairman Mendive turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Shepherd** for the consideration of rules.

Vice Chairman Shepherd introduced **Amber Worthington**, Deputy Director of the Department of Fish and Game. Deputy Director Worthington introduced **Tricia Hebdon**, Assistant Wildlife Chief at the Department of Fish and Game, for subject-matter expertise.

**DOCKET NO.
13-0102-2201:** **Deputy Director Worthington** explained the rule - a fee rule to allow the department to set fees for department-owned shooting ranges and mandatory tests for certain hunters. In response to a question from the committee, she clarified the process for collecting public comment on this and other rules.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Hebdon** explained further the procedure for the hunter mentor program covered by the rule.

DOCKET NO. 13-0104-2201: **Deputy Director Worthington** explained the rule, which originated as a petition. It governs nonresident and outfitter deer and elk tag distribution.

DOCKET NO. 13-0104-2202: **Deputy Director Worthington** explained the rule, which makes changes to rules to allow easier access for the visually impaired.

DOCKET NO. 13-0110-2201: **Deputy Director Worthington** explained the rule, which clarifies various rules related to captive wildlife.

DOCKET NO. 13-0114-2201: **Deputy Director Worthington** explained the rule, which clarifies the regulation of falconry to conform with US Fish and Wildlife Service regulations.

DOCKET NO. 13-0118-2201: **Deputy Director Worthington** explained the rule, which consolidates and edits rules governing the feeding of wild cervids.

Vice Chairman Shepherd turned the gavel back over to **Chairman Mendive**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

Representative Mendive
Chair

Cameron Douglas
Secretary