

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Mendive, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Boyle, Vander Woude, Blanksma, Yamamoto, Durrant, Hill, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Tanner, Burns, Necochea, Galaviz

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Manwaring, Raybould

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.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Mendive** called the meeting to order at 1:29 P.M.

Chairman Mendive asked unanimous consent to move the two RSs to the end of the meeting. There was no objection, and the schedule was adjusted.

Chairman Mendive introduced **Dustin Miller**, Director of the Idaho Department of Lands, for a presentation on modern firefighting forces.

Director Miller introduced **Craig Foss**, State Forester, and **Josh Harvey**, Fire Management Bureau Chief at the Idaho Department of Lands. He described the Department's role in managing endowment lands, which provide a great deal of timber to Idaho's economy and recreation opportunities for Idaho citizens and visitors, and the way in which the Department fights wildfire in those areas.

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the state's firefighting program, which protects over 6 million acres in the state. Because of extended drought and changes in weather patterns, the length of the fire season is increasing and fires are escaping initial attack more quickly. This strains resources and personnel and requires the use of additional state or national resources. Human-caused fires are also increasing in number and severity. In addition, many people moving into rural areas or the wilderness on the periphery of urban areas do not necessarily have the knowledge or experience to effectively carry out fire safety. The modernization effort to date has added several different types of full-time personnel, but the Department is requesting additional engines and associated personnel in multiple regions across the state, as well as additional technology for fire mapping and detection.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Harvey** expanded upon forestry efforts to reduce fuel load as a component of fire prevention, and possible updates to performance measures for the department.

Chairman Mendive introduced **Ron Raley**, Agency Liaison for Perimeter Solutions, for a presentation on fire prevention.

Mr. Raley presented about the use of long-term fire retardant to prevent human-caused fires, most of which occur near roads. Long-term fire retardant can last for days, weeks, or months, depending on precipitation. He provided examples of uses of the product, including by railroads and utility companies, and described the certification process by the US Forest Service that the product had gone through.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Raley** confirmed his company currently contracts with state agencies but is not making an ask budget-wise of the legislature. He also said the retardant does not have a long-term adverse effect on foliage.

RS 30322: **Rep. Judy Boyle**, District 9, described **RS 30322**, which adds a three-day fur buyers' license for non-resident fur buyers.

In response to a question from the committee, **Rep. Boyle** clarified the proposed three-day license would be different from the existing annual license.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 30322**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30325: **Rep. Judy Boyle**, District 9, described **RS 30325**, which allows for a lifetime trapping license for Idaho residents.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 30325**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 P.M.

Representative Mendive
Chair

Cameron Douglas
Secretary