

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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

**PLACE:** Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representatives Boyle, Blanksma, Manwaring, Mickelsen

**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 meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:** **Chairman Mendive** asked unanimous consent to rearrange the order of bills for consideration. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**H 119:** **Dan Steenson**, of Sawtooth Law in Boise representing Flood Control District 10, presented the bill. He described the flood control district system and explained the bill, which would allow commissioners to appoint or reappoint commissioners to fill vacancies, rather than requiring the Director of the Department of Water Resources to do so. Because commissioners recommend nominees to the Director already, this would increase efficiency. It would also allow the commission to nominate an at-large commissioner if no willing nominee from a certain district can be found, a rule which is already in effect for water and sewer districts and school district boards of trustees. Lastly, it allows bonds for commissioners to be filed with the secretary of the governing board, rather than with the court that initially authorized the board.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **H 119** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 103:** **Rep. Jordan Redman** District 3, described the bill, which defines the area of responsibility of the Department in terms of liability for loss, damage, or injury to visitors to Idaho parks. He explained a few of the frivolous cases brought against the Parks Department that this bill would aim to prevent.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **H 103** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**HCR 3:** **Rep. Raybould**, District 34, presented **HCR 3**, which authorizes the Resources interim committee.

In response to a question from the committee, **Rep. Raybould** clarified that she expects there would be minority representation on the interim committee.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to send **HCR 3** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Aaron Lieberman**, Executive Director of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA), delivered a top-level overview of the current priorities of the outfitters and guides in Idaho. He explained the services outfitters and guides offer, including opportunities for exploration, often being the first on site in rescue situations, and trail maintenance and other similar land stewardship activities. He stressed the contributions that outfitters and guides make to Idaho's rural economy, with 80 percent of outfitters living in communities with populations of 500 or fewer. He noted that Idaho is among the most strictly regulated states for outfitting and guiding in the country, a higher standard that IOGA supports.

**Mr. Lieberman** brought the committee's attention to several pending bills that IOGA is supporting, including **S 1051** to protect outfitters from frivolous litigation; and **S 1085**, which would move several well-established definitions from administrative rule into statute. He also noted concerns about illegal and unlicensed outfitting and guiding.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Lieberman** clarified that the responsibility for policing illegal guides is currently unclear. The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) currently only concerns itself with license holders, and does not do any boots-on-the-ground monitoring or enforcement. Fish and Game officers could also enforce, but that department does not currently have anyone dedicated to such enforcement. He also noted that there is an exemption to that rule for nonprofit groups such as churches that might offer trips for their members.

In response to further questions from the committee, **Mr. Lieberman** gave a brief history of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board, which before being integrated into DOPL was an independent agency with its own enforcement arm.

**Susan Buxton**, Director of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, gave an update on her department's mission and activities. She described the 30 state parks, boating program, and trail maintenance. She described the economic impact and the relatively low staffing per visitor that the Department maintains, and noted the 27 percent increase in park visitation since 2020.

**Director Buxton** then briefly summarized the department's budget, which is asking for additional full-time positions to stabilize staffing and upgrade part-time positions to full-time out on the ground in the parks. It also includes a one-time grant of \$100 million to address maintenance backlogs and expand capacity and access in Idaho's outdoors, increases to cover increasing park operations costs, a new maintenance shop on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, and promotion of responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) use.

**Director Buxton** then gave an overview of the Department's performance measures. The department exceeded goals of increasing park revenue and maintaining trail mileage, but came short of the goal numbers for increasing participants in rec programs, improving the customer satisfaction scores, and raising outside funds.

**Chairman Mendive** introduced the committee's two new pages, **Caitlin Yang** and **Emma Brulotte**.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 P.M.

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Representative Mendive  
Chair

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Cameron Douglas  
Secretary