

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 01, 2023

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

**PLACE:** Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**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.

**Chairman Mendive** handed the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Shepherd** for consideration of the administrative rule.

**DOCKET NO. 20-0317-2201:** **Scott Phillips**, Policy and Communications Chief at the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), reminded the committee of the nature of the fee rule. The changes are streamlining of language and an increase in fees in order to cover the costs of the leases on state-owned navigable waterways program. The program does not receive any funding from the General Fund, and the current fee does not cover all of the expenses of the program.

In response to a question from the committee. **Mr. Phillips** described the public outreach during the rulemaking process, and noted the absence of any opposition.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 20-0317-2201. Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**Dustin Miller**, Director of IDL, gave a presentation on the Department's performance reports. He began by describing the agency's mission and programs. He walked the committee through the department's performance on goals it had been set on timber sales, fire control, Forest Practices Act inspections, and renewal of land leases.

In response to questions from the committee, **Director Miller** described discussions within the department about adding additional performance metrics specifically geared toward fire suppression in coming years, and noted there has been no final determination on adding more metrics at this time. He also described the department's funding structure, including the distribution of funds to Endowment Land beneficiaries. **Mr. Phillips** added to the description by describing several specific distribution vehicles those Endowment Lands use. He also promised to provide a chart to help visually demonstrate these processes.

In response to further questions from the committee, **Bill Hoganson**, Deputy Chief of Staff at IDL, described commercial assets, including land and buildings, owned by IDL. Most of those assets have been sold, but IDL retains some parcels of land that it plans to sell in the future. The assets have an income return of 3.1%, with appreciation as an additional percentage on top of that.

In response to questions from the committee about fires at mills causing delays in operation, **Director Miller** said IDL does have the opportunity to extend contracts with mill operators, and noted the scarcity of mills south of the Salmon River. **Mr. Hoganson** added other than interest on timber that remains uncut, there are no additional penalties for not cutting timber right away.

In response to questions from the committee, **Archie Gray**, chief of the Forestry Assistance Bureau at IDL, described the system of timber scaling and the associated licensure process. He noted the check scalers will check both state and private loads.

In response to a question from the committee, **Director Miller** gave a brief summary of the Rangeland Fire Protection Associations in southern Idaho.

**Director Miller** then briefly summarized the presentation given to the committee at the February 13, 2023 meeting about IDL's wildland fire program.

In response to questions from the committee, **Director Miller** defended the duplication of capabilities between IDL and the federal agencies, as the federal agencies primarily fight fires on federal land which leaves IDL as the primary firefighting force for state and private lands. He also noted IDL's more aggressive approach to putting out fires compared to the federal agencies.

In response to questions from the committee, **Director Miller** described the safety of firefighters as a key reason the department needs skilled, experienced fire captains and incident commanders.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 P.M.

---

Representative Mendive  
Chair

---

Cameron Douglas  
Secretary