

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 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:** Representatives Boyle, Vander Woude, Manwaring, Hill, Mickelsen, Pickett, Tanner, Burns

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 1:33 P.M.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Mendive** thanked **Reps. Galaviz and Durrant** for their work as minutes proofreaders during the session.

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director of the Department of Fish and Game, gave a presentation on the Department's performance measures. After an overview of the Department's core functions, revenue, and expenditures, she described the performance measures the Department has set. For sustaining Idaho's fish and wildlife, the Department has met its compliance with regulation goals, but come slightly short of the target for elk and deer populations and game fish. She then described meeting or nearing objectives in public lands access, and improving public understanding of fish and game wildlife management. Finally, she described the Department's struggles in retaining highly qualified personnel.

In response to questions from the committee, **Tricia Hebdon**, Assistant Chief of Wildlife for the Department of Fish and Game, explained the decline in deer and elk populations is due to the differences in habitat and climate needs of white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk, and particular losses among the white-tailed deer population in the last year. She also noted breaking out the data for all three species might cause an overload of data that might hurt the general public's comprehension of the data. **Ms. Worthington** noted the further limitation of only ten performance reports per department. **Rep. Blanksma** added the legislature has the statutory authority to allow the Department to include additional performance measures.

Chairman Mendive recognized **Caitlyn Yang** and **Emma Brulotte**, the committee's pages, and **Cameron Douglas**, the committee secretary, for their help during the session. **Ms. Yang**, **Ms. Brulotte**, and **Mr. Douglas** thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 P.M.

Representative Mendive
Chair

Cameron Douglas
Secretary