

MINUTES  
**SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 05, 2025

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Hart, Senators Guthrie, Harris, Okuniewicz, Cook, VanOrden, Kohl, and Taylor

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Burtenshaw passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Hart.

**RS 32230** **Relating to Leases on State Lands.** **Chairman Burtenshaw** explained this legislation clarified aspects of leases, permits, or other types of land use for commercial purposes. This legislation was intended to address problems with State lands that had been leased for recreation. It included three things:

- The State Land Board would provide notice to county commissioners when an agreement was executed involving State land in their respective communities.
- All leases, permits, and other types of land use authorizations for commercial purposes would include a provision that required compliance by the signatory with applicable county planning and zoning ordinances.
- Revenues generated from this agreement for commercial purposes were not exempt from public disclosure.

**MOTION:** **Senator Okuniewicz** moved that **RS 32230** be sent to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Hart passed the gavel to Chairman Burtenshaw.

**RS 32249** **Relating to the Distribution of Water.** **Senator Guthrie** explained this legislation provided that until both surface and groundwater districts in an individual tributary district were fully operational and administered in the same way and fairly, there could be no curtailment called for in this tributary district. This addressed some inequity in districts that were tributaries to the Snake River Plain, but not yet administratively part of the 2024 water agreement between surface water users and groundwater users.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved that **RS 32249** be sent to print. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 32269** **Relating to Water Rights.** **Senator VanOrden** explained this legislation addressed methodology for determining material injury under the rules of conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources. It also added a date certain of when that order should take effect, which would be December 1.

**MOTION:** **Senator Taylor** moved that **RS 32269** be sent to print. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Lonnie Allen of Ashton, Idaho to the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board** to serve a term commencing June 14, 2024 and expiring April 20, 2017. **Lonnie Allen** presented before the Committee and told them a bit about herself. She had been an outfitter since 1987. She was the mayor of her small community of Warm River. She owned and operated a fly-fishing guest ranch and several fly-fishing retail shops in Idaho. She had served on the Idaho State Tourism Board, the Henry's Fork Foundation, Idaho Nature Conservancy, and the Teton Land Trust.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked what the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (Board) did. **Ms. Allen** explained that unlike other states, Idaho had a certain number of outfitters and a certain number of guides and certain number of areas where they were allowed to go on the water. The Board oversaw and protected this balance between the interests of outfitters and guides, natural resources, and the guided public. **Senator Cook** asked what the process was to become a guide. **Ms. Allen** explained the process she followed for her business. This started with some training, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid. Then the potential guide floated three different times and was signed off by a senior guide for a section of river. Then they had to float a day trip of ten miles and show that they could balance and row a boat, that they were safe, and that they had all the equipment in their boat that the Board required them to have. Then they would float with her, and if she felt they were safe to go out with one of her clients, she would sign them off as a guide.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of James Keating of Hailey, Idaho to the Parks and Recreation Board** for a term commencing August 23, 2024 and expiring June 30, 2025. **James Keating** presented before the Committee and told them a bit about himself. He had been a resident of Idaho for about 17 years. He believed he was qualified for this appointment because he was a user of Idaho's recreation opportunities and recreation was important to his family, he had direct management experience running a recreation organization in the State of Idaho, and he had experience working in both the public and private sectors.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Taylor** asked what Mr. Keating's biggest accomplishment was while running the Blaine County Recreation District. **Mr. Keating** responded that he believed he built a better, more sustainable business model by increasing their earned income potential while keeping services affordable to the community. **Senator Cook** asked how Mr. Keating would improve park availability to Idahoans. **Mr. Keating** responded that managing demand in Idaho's park system was one of their greatest challenges. He did not think there was a perfect answer, but as a Parks and Recreation Board member, he would want to better understand possible federal constraints relative to funding that might limit certain actions at any particular park. He did not think there were allowances in their reservation system that prioritized residents of Idaho.

**DOCKET NO.  
24-3501-2401**

**Rules of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board - Pending Rule. John Price**, Bureau Chief, Division of Professional and Occupational Licenses (DOPL), and Executive Officer for the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board referred the Committee to the 2025 Senate Resources and Environment Pending Rules Review Book, starting on page 134. He explained DOPL initiated this rulemaking in compliance with Executive Order No. 2020-01, also known as Zero-Based Regulation. He reviewed their rulemaking process, which included participation from Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA), and members of the industry. He referred the Committee to a document listing rule changes by section number with rule text changes, actions taken or new wording text, and the rationale for the actions taken or wording changes. (Attachment 1) He reviewed the changes listed on this document.

**MOTION:**

**Senator VanOrden** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-3501-2401**. **Senator Okuniewicz** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
26-0137-2401**

**Rules Governing Test Procedures and Instruments for Noise Abatement of Off Highway Vehicles (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule. Seth Hobbs**, Rules Review Officer, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) explained this pending rule would repeal the chapter and provide a single location for testing instructions for Idaho law enforcement agencies. The Society of Automotive Engineer Testing standards were already in Idaho Code § 67-7125.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 26-0137-2401**. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:**

**Idaho Parks and Recreation Update. Susan Buxton**, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, provided a handout listing IDPR deferred maintenance projects (Attachment 2) and reviewed her presentation providing an update of IDPR (Attachment 3). She reviewed what IDPR did and the status of their deferred maintenance projects. She spoke about IDPR's new reservation and registration system that launched on January 6, 2025. She reviewed IDPR's fiscal year 2026 proposed budget, which included requests to fund additional park personnel, to fund a responsible off highway vehicle campaign, to fund a new day-use facility at the Bear Lake Fish Haven property to alleviate congestion at existing Bear Lake facilities, and to fund replacement of IDPR vehicles well beyond their average life cycle. She shared a federal grant would be used to fund repairs at Lake Cascade. She concluded with a review of goals for IDPR.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Chairman Burtenshaw** asked how Ms. Buxton would address the conflict between the equestrian community and the mountain biking community at Harriman State Park. **Ms. Buxton** responded that they added more signs and more staff to help monitor the trails. IDPR staff were also working with the Friends of Harriman to complete an analysis of Harriman's trails and what they might consider for non-motorized use. IDPR was also hoping for new legislation that would help fund more and better trail maintenance at all Idaho State parks.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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Senator Burtenshaw  
Chair

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Shelly Johnson  
Secretary