

MINUTES
Approved by the Committee
Committee on Federalism
Monday, September 28, 2026
9:00 A.M.
Idaho Falls
Boise, Idaho

Members in attendance: CONFIRM ATTENDANCE: Cochair Senator Burtenshaw and Senators Lakey (via Zoom), Harris , Carlson (via Zoom), and Ruchti ; Cochair Representative Boyle and Representatives, Shepherd (via Zoom), and Hawkins?, Mathias?; Legislative Services (LSO) staff: Alli Olson and Jennifer Kish.

Other in attendance (SIGN IN):

Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2026/interim/> and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office in the State Capitol. Recordings of the meeting may be available under the committee's listing on the website.

Cochair Burtenshaw called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Rural Health Care Funding

Julie VanOrden, Idaho State Senator, presented on rural health care funding. Receive funds from CMS...

- Sen. Ruchti asked about other rural areas..Sen. VO: like Alaska
- Cochair Burtenshaw asked about infrastructure..Sen. VO gave an example...
- Sen. Carlson asked for a list of how funds will be spent this year. Sen. VanOrden replied that she had a list of solicitations she could provide.

Grizzly Bear Rule

Karen Budd Falen, USFWS Deputy Director, began her discussion on...

- Cochair Boyle asked for clarification on a "grizzly bear management program"Ms. Falen answered ..noted that the state sued for delisting..
-
-

Grizzly Bear and Livestock Issues

Luke Davis, Idaho Farm Bureau, shared a brief professional background and...

- Sen. Harris...
- Cochair Burtenshaw on collars...
- Sen. Ruchti on cows being a "meal of opportunity..."
- Sen. Carlson commented...
- Rep. Shepherd...
- Cochair Boyle asked about lighted collars and wolves...

BREAK

Eastern Idaho Mining and Exploration Mineral Update

Claudio Berti, Director, Idaho Geological Survey, presented a ...

- Sen. Lakey inquired about priorities in improving the process in Idaho..
- question/comment - is it Hawkins?

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Update/Hanna Flats Lawsuit

Jon Songster, GNA Director, IDL, shared a PowerPoint...

- Sen. Harris on agreements...Mr. Songster said the more recent agreements are in the eastern part of the state...
- Sen. Carlson asked whether anyone was making headway for GNA projects to benefit schools and counties

At 11:53 p.m., the committee recessed for lunch; Cochair Boyle gavelled the committee back in at 1:31 p.m.

National Recreation Rule

Dan Wangh, Idaho Recreation Council,

- Cochair Burtenshaw asked - two-tracked ?roads...Mr. Wangh noted access needs, resource protection...
- Cochair Boyle asked about rule versus policy change (and EXPLORE Act as a follow up).. Mr. Wangh: The Access Rule

CWA Supplemental Rule

Alli Olson, Legislative Drafting Attorney, LSO, walked the committee through a presentation...

- Sen. Ruchti expounded on the new proposed rule
- Cochair Burtenshaw on interruption..
-

Bighorn Letter and Draft Memorial

Approval of Minutes/future meeting discussion

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.