

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 19, 2026

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Mendive, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Boyle, Vander Woude, Manwaring, Raybould, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Tanner(14), Miller, Dygert, Petzke, Sauter, Healey, Galaviz, Church

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Vander Woude

**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 1:00 p.m.

**H 895:** **Rep. Raybould** (D34) presented **H 895**, saying it deals with water usage at future data centers. It stipulates non-consumptive water cooling system designs, or the securing of water supply from a municipality or water district, to ensure centers are not pulling more water than can be sustained.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 895** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Mendive** put the committee at ease at 1:03 p.m. to solve a technical computer issue.

**Chairman Mendive** called the meeting back to order at 1:06 p.m.

**Chairman Mendive** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Shepherd** for consideration of Administrative Rules.

**DOCKET NO. 37-0307-2501:** **Vice Chairman Shepherd** and **Chairman Mendive** explained they met with **Mathew Weaver**, Director for the Dept. of Water Resources (IDWR), and relayed the committees concerns regarding language clarity in **Docket No. 37-0307-2501**. The resulting consensus is to reject the entire Rule and allow the IDWR an opportunity to address the confusing definitions and language.

**MOTION:** **Chairman Mendive** made a motion to **reject Docket No. 37-0307-2501** in its entirety. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 13-0108-2401:** **Ellary Tucker Williams**, Legislative Coordinator with Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game (IDFG), provided closing remarks carried over from the March 9, 2026 committee meeting specifically addressing section 410, subsections 04 (g) and (h). She described the Agency's extraordinary efforts and lengthy rule making process connected to the use of hunting technology, and she yielded final remarks to **Jim Fredericks**, IDFG Director.

**Jim Fredericks**, Director for Dept. of Fish and Game, admitted the Rule is contentious and he expected a large degree of committee concerns. He expressed willingness to repeat the Rule making process this year if that is the committee's will and stood for many committee questions.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to **approve Docket No. 13-0108-2401** with the exception of Section 410, subsections 04 (g) and (h). She explained these subsections appear to be in conflict with the Idaho Constitution, and sections of Idaho Code.

Considerable committee discussion followed. In summary, the use of new technology in hunting predators is supported, however, its use for hunting ungulates is not supported. The pending rule does not adequately address the needs surrounding each of these legitimate interests, both deserving to be accommodated despite the challenges posed to enforcement.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Nelson** made a substitute motion to **approve Docket No. 37-0307-2501** as written.

Considerable committee discussion followed. In summary: the new technology has become essential to those who hunt predators and limiting its use, even during certain seasons, is not supported. Allowing predators to prosper uncurtailed could inflict greater damage on ungulate herds than hunters using new technology. Additionally, surrounding states have passed rules controlling the use of new technology and leaving Idaho open to potential non-resident abuse.

**Rep. Petzke** declared a Rule 80, he works in the area of optics.

**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Church** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD Docket 37-0307-2501** to call of the chair, one week, or a couple of days, allowing time for an RS to come forward.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:** **Rep. Church** made a unanimous consent request to amend the amended substitute motion. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Church** made a motion amending the amended substitute motion to **HOLD Docket No. 13-0108-2401** to call of chair, to an odd number day next week.

**VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Shepherd** restated the amended substitute motion as such: we are voting to **HOLD Docket No. 13-0108-2401** to a time certain of an odd day next week.

**ROLE CALL VOTE:** The Vice Chairman was in doubt of the voice vote. Roll call vote requested. The **motion carried by a vote of 14 AYE, 3 NAY, 1 Absent and excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Boyle, Manwaring, Raybould, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Tanner (14), Dygert, Petzke, Sauter, Healey, Galaviz, Church. Voting in opposition to the motion: Vice Chairman Shepherd, Rep. Miller, Chairman Mendive. Absent and excused: Rep. Vander Woude.**

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

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:** **Chairman Mendive** made a unanimous consent request to **HOLD H 910** and **SCR 123** until next week. There being an objection to holding **H 910**, the request was partially granted.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:** **Chairman Mendive** made a unanimous consent request to move **H 910** to the top of the agenda. There being no objection the request was granted.

**H 910:** **Rep. Raymond** (D31) presented **H 910** saying it creates a statutory framework for the Dept.of Land (IDL) and the Dept.of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) to jointly create and manage recreational opportunities. Opening a managed way to accommodate existing requests for recreation opportunities on endowment lands.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 910** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Dustin Miller**, Director for the Dept. of Lands (IDL) and **Susan Buxton**, Director for the Dept. of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), were invited to comment and answer many specific committee questions.

**Rep. Raymond** closed saying the legislation creates a unique cooperation between the two agencies.

The committee discussion that followed was considerable. In summary: the current and traditional use of endowment land involves harvesting trees, ranging cattle, and mining, and these activities are incompatible with recreational use.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **The motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 6 NAY, 3 Absent and excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Raybould, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Petzke, Sauter, Galaviz, Church. Voting in opposition to the motion: Chairman Mendive, Reps. Boyle, Tanner (14), Miller, Healey, Vice Chairman Shepherd. Absent and excused: Rep. Vander Woude, Manwaring, Dygert.**

**S 1303:** **Rep. Bingham** (D32) presented **S 1303**, saying this legislation modernizes outdated language and allows recipients of federal land royalties to use funds for the purpose of advancing energy policies that reflect Idaho's values.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **S 1303** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Bingham** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**HJM 21:** **HJM 21** was not heard, the presenter was not present when called.

**H 878:** **Rep. Tanner (D14)** presented **H 878** saying, among other things, he wants to send this legislation to General Orders for amending.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 878** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Tanner (D14)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**SCR 124:** **Rep. Petzke** (D21) presented **SCR 124**, saying this legislation calls on Idaho leaders and agencies to support the development and implementation of wildlife crossings in an effort to improve public safety and conserve migration corridors.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **SCR 124** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**SJM 111:** **Rep. Raybould** (D34) presented **SJM 111** saying this legislation is a memorial addressing the importance of Idaho's public lands remaining public.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Petzke** made a motion to send **SJM 111** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

During committee discussion the issue was raised that existing within Idaho's public lands are fragmentations of lands that are inaccessible, and agencies have no way to manage or cultivate them. The public is paying for these lands, despite no access, and the land is not put to any good use. A thoughtful way of dealing with these lands is not addressed in the legislation.

**Michael Gibson**, representing Trout Unlimited, and **Nick Faciano**, representing Idaho Wildlife Federation, testified **in support of SJM 111**.

More committee concerns were raised about the language in the legislation failing to address the problem of inaccessible federal lands, and no language to convey Idaho's desire to assume management of portions of federal lands.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

The motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 6 NAY, 4 Absent and excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Raybould, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Raymond, Petzke, Sauter, Galaviz, Church. Voting in opposition to the motion: Chairman Mendive, Reps. Boyle, Pickett, Miller, Healey, Vice Chairman Shepherd. Absent and excused: Rep. Vander Woude, Manwaring, Tanner (14), Dygert.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

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Representative Mendive  
Chair

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Andrea Blades  
Secretary