

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 06, 2018

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Dayley, Representatives Bell, Miller, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Stevenson, Amador, Armstrong, Hanks, Zito, Erpelding, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle

GUESTS: Nic Zurfluh, ISDA; Lloyd Knight, ISDA; Brandy Kay, IWGA; Jeremey Varley, ISDA

Vice Chairman Dayley called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Lloyd McKnight, Administrator, Division of Plant Industry, explained prior to 2017, the Invasive Species program operated on funding through the Invasive Species Sticker. He said in 2017, through the Idaho Legislature, they received spending authority from the General Fund, a one time federal fund, their base fund and additional funding for Idaho State Police support. He said this additional funding has allowed for three new inspection stations, plus 24 hour operation at Cottrell and four new full-time positions.

Nic Zurfluh, ISDA Section Manager said they are concentrating on three area programs which are; Prevention, Early Detection Monitoring and Education and Outreach. He said this is the 9th year of the Inspection Program. They now have 18 inspection station through out the state. He said in 2017, they did 93,083 watercraft inspections, finding 31 mussel fouled vessels. Of the 31 found, 29 were non-viable mussels and 2 were viable mussels. He stated each of the inspection stations is unique and able to gather a great deal of information through the inspections to know what are peak months and also peak destinations flowing in and out of Idaho. He said all of this information helps them to know how to man the inspection stations.

In response to committee question **Mr. Zurfluh** said all watercraft has to be inspected including kayaks and inflatable rafts.

Mr. Zurfluh explained how the Roving Inspection crew is able to assist at busy stations over holiday week-ends, regatta events, and races. He explained the site improvements scheduled for 2018, which include adding internet service to certain stations, work shelters, solar panels and permanent signage. He stated networking between regional partners is improving and gave examples of the foul watercraft protocol explaining it must be followed exactly and passed on in real time.

Jeremey Varley, Section Manager, said his goal was to reach out to the regional specialist and be a resource for them. He said he encouraged them to continue their outreach efforts by visiting many of the local weed superintendents as well as the county cooperative weed managers to better facilitate noxious weed efforts through out the state. Mr. Varley reviewed the Cooperative Weed Management Area Cost Share grant (CWMA) from 2017, and said there were 29 CWMA's who participated with over 180,955 acres of noxious weeds treated along with 1,692 acres of site revegetation. Mr. Varley said this year, 30 CWMA's have been applied for and the recommendations have been passed to the Director for approval. He explained the federal funding this year is tied to the Sage Grouse habitat and the relationship to forest canopy cover. He reported on various Noxious Weed

projects from 2017, including Hydrilla, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Flowering Rush, and Phragmites Australis. He said each aquatic species comes with the challenge of selecting the best management practice to achieve control level goals.

H 407: **Brandy Kay**, Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, stating the purpose of this bill is to clarify the goat assessment. This will help the Sheep and Goat Health Board be better able to clarify the goat assessment rules in future negotiated rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **H 407** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erpelding** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Representative Dayley
Vice Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary