

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 17, 2022

TIME: 1:30pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Lickley, Representative(s) Moyle, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Moon, Manwaring, Okuniewicz, Yamamoto, Rubel, Mathias, Burns

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle, Boyle, Vander Woude, Blanksma, Moon, Manwaring, Okuniewicz

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Burns** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2022 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**SCR 122:
SCR 123:** **Rep. Lickley**, District 25, stated **SCR 122** addresses the non-fee administrative rules for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Forest Products Commission, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Idaho Department of Water Resources. She stated both the Senate Resources and Environment Committee and the House Resources and Conservation Committee approved the non-fee administrative rules with the exception that the Senate Committee rejected the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Section 26.01.31.010.06, Definition of the Director. She continued, **SCR 123** addresses the fee administrative rules for the same agencies, and the Senate Resources and Environment Committee and the House Resources and Conservation Committee approved the fee administrative rules, with both Committees rejecting the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Section 26.01.33.010.07, Definition of the Director.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Rep. Lickley** made a unanimous consent request to concur with the findings in **SCR 122 and SCR 123** and send them to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, the request was granted. **Rep. Lickley** will sponsor the bills on the floor.

Dr. Travis Whitney, Ph.D. Ruminant Nutrition and co-owner of Redeemer Ag, presented Western Juniper: the Next Feed Ingredient to the committee. He remarked, the primary goal is to provide the livestock feed industry with an all natural, wholesome, cost-effective roughage product (ground juniper), while at the same time, enhance natural resources, rangeland health and sustainability, and rural economics. He explained, the problem is western juniper encroachment is destroying rangelands and ecosystems, it is increasing at an alarming rate, is expensive to remove and impossible to eliminate, and is reducing rancher profits and land value. Removing the western juniper increases available water, forage production, and land value while reducing wildfires and allergens. Because it would be available at a stable price year-around, it would significantly reduce feed costs while providing a 100% all natural ingredient.

Dr. Whitney explained, Redeemer Ag has already started this process in Texas and believes they have the expertise and knowledge to take western juniper in Idaho through the approval process. He indicated Owyhee County shows great opportunities. There are four phases to approval that would take approximately 3-5 years to complete. Phase 1 is where they would submit the proposal for the animal trials and study the product (lab trials), Phase 2 is the livestock feeding trials, Phase 3 is where they would submit the main proposal, then Phase 4 would address any issues and receive approval. Obstacles they face include adequate funding, the logistics of moving the product from the field to feed, and industry acceptance. He remarked, they are guided by strict standard operating procedures, and it is critical the data is analyzed, evaluated, and reported with zero errors. He stated, they have begun engaging with relevant organizations and industries in Idaho, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the University of Idaho, as well as tree harvesters, and cattle, feed, and transportation industries.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary