

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

TIME: 1:30pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representative(s) Moyle, Raybould, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Miller, Burtenshaw, Mendive, Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Jordan

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle, Boyle, Rubel

GUESTS: Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Tyler Murgoitio, Idaho Water Users Association

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2017 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Gibbs announced the sponsor of **HJM 5** requested the bill not be heard and be held by the committee. It will remain in the committee office for the remainder of this Legislative Session.

Chairman Gibbs announced he is aware of one, maybe two more bills to come before the committee, and advised he will do a Call of the Chair for any more meetings for the remainder of the Legislative Session.

S 1118: **Senator Siddoway**, District 35, stated this bill permits the Director of the Department of Fish and Game, or his designee, to issue a kill permit authorizing a landowner to keep an animal for personal use. This bill also allows, under those same provisions, for a subsequent kill permit to be issued authorizing a second animal to be kept for use by the landowner if the depredation problem persists.

In response to questions, **Senator Siddoway** stated there isn't a timeframe for when kill permits are issued, but rather it's dependant on the time of year associated with a particular species. Once a complaint is received by the Department, they have 72 hours to investigate the damages reported and how many animals are involved on the landowner's property. Based on that investigation, kill permits are issued identifying the appropriate number of animals authorized to be taken.

Dennis Tanikuni, representing Idaho Farm Bureau, stated they are **in support** of this bill as it is consistent with their polices, specifically policy number 84. He stated wildlife may not live on Bureau members' property, but they do eat there. He stated this is a fair way to deal with this depredation issue by providing some benefit to the landowner.

Sharon Kiefer, representing Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated the Fish and Game Commission is **in support** of this bill because it provides additional direction under the Director's authority to allow possession of wildlife taken through a controlled action such as a depredation permit. She stated it does not create any conflict with other statutes, the Director's duties, or other legislation already considered.

In response to questions, **Ms. Kiefer** stated that because kill permits are a control method used to address depredation, hunt tags are not required as the kill permit authorizes the landowner to harvest animals outside of a hunting season. She stated the landowner is still required to immediately field dress all animals taken so the Department can pick up the meat, except for the animal(s) the landowner is authorized to keep, to be processed and donated per established guidance.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to send **S 1118** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Miller** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary