

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019
- TIME:** 2:00pm or Upon Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW40
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representative(s) Moyle, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Lickley, Moon, Raybould, Erpelding, Rubel, Toone, Mason
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Moyle, Shepherd
- GUESTS:** Brian Patton, Idaho Department of Water Resources; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Benn Brocksome, Idaho Sportsmen's Alliance; Morgan Howard and Paul Arrington, Idaho Water Users Association; Marv Patten, Milk Producers of Idaho; Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Ground Water Appropriators; Braden Jensen, Idaho Farm Bureau; Bill Mulder, Tree Top Ranches
- Chairman Gibbs** called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1087:** **Senator Brackett**, District 23, stated **S 1087** replaces **S 1001**. He explained **42-1607, Idaho Code** states owners of flowing artesian wells that waste water without beneficial use are responsible to prevent the waste of water through repair or, if necessary, by plugging the wells. He stated **S 1087** and **S 1001** both removed outdated and confusing language, but only **S 1087** retained the option for the Idaho Department of Water Resources to implement a cost-share program to assist owners with repairs. He reiterated **S 1087** does not eliminate the requirement that owners of the flowing artesian wells are ultimately responsible for repairing or plugging the wells.
- Paul Arrington**, Idaho Water Users Association; **Lynn Tominaga**, Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, and **Braden Jensen**, Idaho Farm Bureau, stated this is a good bill, a lot of hard work by many people resulted in these updates, and they are **in support** of **S 1087**.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **S 1087** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1050:** **Senator Brackett**, District 23, stated **S 1050** allows for ground water, in addition to a natural watercourse, to be diverted and used at any time with or without a water right for the purpose of fire suppression on private or public lands.
- Paul Arrington**, Executive Director, Idaho Water Users Association, stated they are **in support** of **S 1050** because this is a common sense bill adding the use of ground water to fight fires.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **S 1050** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Toone** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1088aa:** **Senator Brackett**, District 23, stated the purpose of **S 1088aa** is to direct the Idaho Division of Veteran's Services (IDVS) to screen applicants for the five big game tags allocated to disabled veterans to ensure the most deserving are prioritized for those tags. He explained two of the tags will be allocated to a hunt designated by IDVS while the remaining three tags will be designated by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Addis** made a motion to send **S 1088aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Ben Brocksome**, Idaho Sportsmen's Alliance, stated they are **in support** of **S 1088aa** because it is a good bill.

**Sharon Kiefer**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated this bill deals with provisions of the Department's special big game tag program for Disabled American Veterans (DAV). She explained these tags are free, no license is required, and only qualified organizations can apply on behalf of a resident or nonresident DAV. She explained currently, qualified organizations who wish to sponsor an application make their own decision about eligible disability criteria, but **S 1088aa** shifts this responsibility to the IDVS to certify an applicant. Ms. Kiefer pointed out the amendment to this bill preserves the Fish and Game Commission's authority to adopt rules governing the manner and conditions of using the tags, meaning the Commission continues to determine elements such as which species and hunts are eligible for tags. She stated the Commission's position is to monitor the bill and would revise their existing rules that prescribe issuance should this become law.

**Marv Hagedorn**, Chief Administrator, Idaho Division of Veteran's Services, stated he was not planning on testifying today, but rather just came in to listen. He stated they have a good process in place to screen applicants to select the most deserving Disabled American Veterans should this bill pass.

**Bill Mulder**, Tree Top Ranches, spoke **in support** of **S 1088aa** because it is an excellent and proven way to handle disabled veteran applicant selection.

**Senator Brackett** returned to the podium to close the discussion by stating this is a good bill and is a small way to honor our veterans and show our appreciation for their sacrifice and service.

In response to a question regarding whether a veteran can be considered for additional tags, **Ms. Kiefer** explained under Commission authority, it's a once in a lifetime draw because that tag can be used for any type of open hunt. She stated they can go through the normal process that the general public follows to obtain a tag in the future.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Gibbs** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1088aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31pm.

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Representative Gibbs  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary