

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 13, 2020

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Lickley, Moon, Raybould, Rubel, Toone, Mason, Necochea

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Addis

GUESTS: Ed Schriever, Toby Boudreau, Scott Reinecker, Michael Pearson, Greg Wooten, Martha Wackenhut, Paul Kline, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Owen Moroney, OAG-IDFG; Benn Brocksome, ISA; Colby Cameron, DFM; Hollie Lawrence, LSO; Jon Oppenheimer, ICL

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

DOCKET NO. 13-0000-1900: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated the Department's approach to the omnibus actions was consistent with **Governor Brad Little's** Red Tape Reduction Act to identify and eliminate text that was obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary. The Department's efforts to eliminate restrictions focused on words and phrases including shall, must, may not, prohibited, and required. Sections of rules were consolidated to improve organization. Additionally, any duplication from statute was removed. Any changes made were non-substantive in nature and did not alter the meaning of the rules.

Mr. Kline stated there are 17 rule chapters in **Docket No. 13-0000-1900**, all previously reviewed and approved by the Legislature. The Department was able to eliminate three chapters, approximately 50 pages of text, and hundreds of restrictions making it better organized and easier to navigate. No public comments were received. The Department held one public hearing and only received one testimony in support of all the actions.

Benn Brocksome, Idaho Sportmen's Alliance, stated they are **in support** of all of the efforts of the Department.

Chairman Gibbs requested the record reflect there were no questions from the committee and no public testimony.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0000-1900. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0000-1900F: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated there are five rule chapters in **Docket No. 13-0000-1900F**, all previously reviewed and approved by the Legislature. He stated only major sections of chapters with fee references have been published, for example, fees charged for hunter, archery, and trapper education programs, and processing fees for issuing refunds and bonding fees for large commercial wildlife facilities and vendors. No fee amounts were changed during this effort. Mr. Kline stated fees for licenses, permits, and tags are in statute and not repeated in this rule.

Chairman Gibbs requested the record reflect there were no questions from the committee and no public testimony.

MOTION: **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0000-1900F. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1903: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated **Docket No. 13-0108-1903** came to the Commissioners from constituents concerned about the need to better balance the supply and demand for oversubscribed capped zone hunt tags. He explained capped zone hunts differ from controlled hunts because sales occur on a first-come-first-served basis rather than a random draw. If this rule is approved, the Commission may establish a waiting period of no more than five days at the beginning of capped zone sales periods where any applicant for a controlled hunt, in the same calendar year and for the same species, is not eligible to buy a tag for that limited hunt.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1903. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0108-1904: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated **Docket No. 13-0108-1904** came to the Commissioners from constituents concerned about the need to address hunter congestion and hunt quality, specifically the crowding caused by growing numbers of nonresidents hunters in the general season over the counter hunts. He stated the Commission currently manages the total number of tags available to nonresident hunters by quota and also has authority to manage nonresident participation in controlled hunts and capped zone general hunts. If this rule is approved for over the counter general season hunts, the Commission may limit, by proclamation, the number of tags available for nonresident hunters in a zone or big game unit to no less than ten percent of the average hunter participation estimated for that zone or unit during the previous five year period.

In response to a question regarding the typical distribution between resident and nonresident hunters, **Mr. Kline** stated the Department has collected trend information which identified a steady increase in nonresident participation over the years. He stated in some of the more popular hunts nonresident participation has increased as much as 50% and in many of the popular elk zones, the increase has been as high as 35%. In general hunts, there is no limit to resident hunters but they have requested the Department try and even the playing field to control the nonresident participation.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0108-1904. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1902: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated **Docket No. 13-0109-1902** came to the Commission from hunters and supporters of youth opportunities; specifically to allow hunters eight and nine years of age who participate in the Hunting Passport Program, to participate in general season hunts, youth-only general hunts, landowner permission hunts, and depredation hunts for turkeys. Currently, eight and nine year old Hunting Passport Program holders are eligible to hunt everything except turkey and big game.

Mr. Kline stated additionally, hunters and supporters of pheasant hunting have asked the Commission to expand the pheasant stocking program to include new properties in addition to the nine WMAs where farm-raised pheasants are currently stocked. He explained to hunt stocked pheasants on WMAs, an upland game permit is required. If this rule is approved, the Commission may include turkey in the suite of wildlife eight and nine year olds may hunt under the Hunting Passport Program and provide the Commission the flexibility to require an upland game bird permit to hunt stocked pheasants on new properties (in addition to WMAs) if they choose to expand the program.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0109-1902. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0110-1901: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated **Docket No. 13-0110-1901** addresses a Commission priority to provide the Department with tools needed to minimize the risk of introducing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Idaho. If this rule is approved, the Commission would have the authority to not issue any permits for the import of any live cervidae into Idaho not regulated as a domestic cervidae by the Idaho Department of Agriculture, including mule deer, white-tailed deer, and wild-origin elk.

In response to questions regarding captive deer, **Toby Boudreau**, Chief of Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, explained there are non-commercial outfits that possess mule deer and/or white-tailed deer, and that this rule would stop the issuance of any future permits. He explained, CWD is in 26 states and is being transported mostly through the captive white-tailed deer industry.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0110-1901**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 13-0117-1901: **Paul Kline**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, stated **Docket No. 13-0117-1901** came to the Commissioners from the trapping community to address concerns about inconsistencies in the Department's trapping rules and to reform trapping requirements for wolves to increase wolf trapping effectiveness. He stated currently trapping requirements for ground set snares are inconsistent in rule for predatory wildlife, unprotected wildlife, furbearers, other small game, and wolves. This rule addresses those inconsistencies. Additionally, this rule would remove the requirement that wolf ground set snares include a diverter device, but continue to require they include either a breakaway device or a loop stop. He explained, if approved, the Commission may reinstate a diverter requirement in specific hunt areas if and when the unintended catch of non-target species exceeds specified criteria.

In response to questions regarding diverters, **Toby Boudreau**, Chief of Wildlife, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, explained currently wolf snares are the only snares requiring diverters in Idaho. They were originally developed in Alaska and work well there, but in Idaho, the snow conditions are wetter resulting in snow sticking to the diverter wires weighing them down into the snow making the snares less effective for snaring wolves. The idea to remove diverters came from the Trappers Association because they believe without diverters, the success rate of catching wolves will increase.

MOTION: **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 13-0117-1901**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary