

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Mendive, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Boyle, Vander Woude, Blanksma, Manwaring, Yamamoto, Raybould, Durrant, Hill, Mickelsen, Nelsen, Pickett, Raymond, Tanner, Burns, Necochea, Galaviz

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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

Chairman Mendive called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Durrant** made a motion to approved the meeting minutes from the February 5, 2024 meeting as submitted. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Pickett being held up in another committee **Chairman Mendive** moved **H 614** to the top of the agenda.

H 614: **Rep. Boyle**, District 9, presented **H 614** explaining that it deals with Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), authorizing Idaho Dept, of Lands (IDL) to enhance what they are doing and implement their projects at a faster rate by creating a certain account in the State Treasury. Yielding her time to **Tom Schoultz**, Vice President of Resources at the Idaho Forest Group, who elaborated further on the GNA program, its activities, and how this legislation supports the good work it does.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 614** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Peter Stegner with Riley Stegner and Associates, and Shawn Keough with Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho, spoke **in support** of **H 614**.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Mendive moved **HJM 6** to the top of the agenda.

HJM 6: **Rep. Durrant**, District 23, presented **HJM 6** saying it addresses the new BLM Rules concerning conservation and expresses the fact that Idaho does not agree with the those rules. It is important for all legislators to put forth strong opposition to these changes. She yielded her remaining time to **Rep. Blanksma**, District 8, who explained the new BLM Rules circumvent Congressional authority and she emphasized the importance of maintaining multiple use leasing practices on federal lands rather than elevating conservation above all other uses.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **HJM 006** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rod Mason, Director of The Wilderness Society and **Jon Oppenheimer**, Government Relations Director for the Idaho Conservation League, spoke **in opposition** of **HJM 006** saying the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is following Congressional directives to balance conservation, grazing, extraction etc. equally when considering federal land uses. Idaho's cooperation with the federal government in this area is in everyone's best interest.

In closing **Rep. Blanksma** said that conservation does not supersede all other kinds of public land use and override long-standing multiuse policies.

Committee members made comments **in support** of **HJM 006**, one referring to the Lava Ridge Wind project.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Burns and Necochea requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Durrant** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Mendive moved **H 586** to the top of the agenda.

H 586:

Rep. Moyle, District 10, presented **H 586** saying that many people are coming into the state to collect antler sheds and this is resulting in trespassing and herd harassment issues. This legislation requires people to obtain a hunting license to collect antler sheds in Idaho.

MOTION:

Rep. Burns made a motion to send **H 586** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Moyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Mendive put the committee at ease at 3:22 p.m.

Chairman Mendive called the meeting back to order at 3:34 p.m.

Rep. Manwaring to present **S 1243** in **Rep. Pickett's** absence.

S 1243:

Rep. Manwaring, District 29, presented **S 1243** saying this legislation ensures that preexisting grazing rights are not extinguished in new land exchanges between Idaho and the federal government. The preexisting incumbrances, which are recognized by congress and constitute property rights, are to be protected and existing permits are not to be changed into leases during land exchanges. He yielded to **Norm Semanko** with Parsons, Behle, and Latimer to address any concerns of the constitutionality of this legislation. He explained some specifics about state lands, leases, permits, land management, public auctions and through a long reasoning process he concluded that only specific endowment land has a public auction requirement - otherwise state land exchanges do not require an auction.

MOTION:

Rep. Raybould made a motion to send **S 1243** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Jon Oppenheimer, Director of the Idaho Conservation League testified **in opposition** to **S 1243** saying the Idaho Constitution already speaks to land use and he believes what is laid out there will prevent Idaho Dept. of Lands from implementing this legislation.

Russ Hendricks, Idaho Farm Bureau, spoke **in support** of **S 1243**.

Rep. Pickett, District 27, closed the presentation by assuring the committee there are private land interests on public lands that need to be protected and he yielded to **Norm Semanko** with Parsons, Behle, and Latimer who pointed out more specific details in the state constitution to support the legislation.

Rep. Pickett declared a Rule 80.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Burns and Necochea requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Representative Mendive
Chair

Andrea Blades
Secretary