

MINUTES  
**HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 11, 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:** Representative(s) Durrant

**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 2:56 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to approve the March 5, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Mendive** introduced the new committee page, **Jonathan Stillman** and asked him to say a few words about himself.

**Chairman Mendive** introduced **Rep. McKnight** who is substituting for **Rep. Hill** this week and asked him to say a few words about himself.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to place **S 1322** at the bottom of the agenda as **Rep. Blanksma** is held up in another committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1279:** **Senator Herndon**, District 1, presented **S 1279** saying it bridges some interpretation issues that have surfaced between present day and the enactment of the 1975 Lake Protection Act pertaining to navigational and non-navigational encroachments on a body of water. It defines the phrase "has not been modified" to mean specifically that it has not been expanded in dimension or height or changed in orientation or location. There have been some situations in his district involving the permitting process with the Idaho Dept. of Lands (IDL) and due to confusion on this point people have been unnecessarily paying for permits to repair and maintain docks that existed prior to 1975. The legislation clarifies that if you can prove the dock existed prior to 1975, and it is not expanding its footprint, or in other words its encroachment, you can qualify for a free IDL permit to repair and maintain the dock.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **S 1279** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1337aa:** **Rep. Mickelsen**, District 32, presented **S 1337aa** saying it returns tax overpayments collected under a lean to the land owner, and it gives water districts other opportunities, like continuing to lean the land, instead of taking the property or the water.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **S 1337aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Paul Arrington** representing the Idaho Water Users Association yielded his testimony **in support** of the motion.

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

**H 696:** **Rep. Petske**, District 21, presented **H 696** saying it deals with how tags for deer, Elk and Pronghorn are sold to non-residents. On and after November 15, 2026, all the non-resident deer tag sales would be conducted by a draw system in place of the current first come first serve process. This new method supports a more equal distribution of tag sales. This is a complicated change, it touches code and administrative rules. To bring this about, the legislation calls for the creation of a new committee comprised of members from the legislature, Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, the public, a sportsman association, and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association.

The committee had questions about the implementation committee, if the committee will be dissolved following implementation or if the committee will remain intact to make adjustments if needed? And if the legislature rejects the committee's recommendations would the committee continue to lobby for their plan or make adjustments according to legislative recommendations? **Rep. Petske** said these details are not spelled out in the legislation but offered some potential scenarios. Also the committee asked if stakeholders like the Dept. of Fish and Game and Idaho Outfitters & Guides support the legislation? **Rep. Petske** yielded that they should be allowed to speak for themselves on that point.

**Aaron Lieberman**, Ex. Director of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association spoke **in support** of **H 696** saying he supports the idea of system improvements, and with industry representation on the implementation committee he feels any concerns about language and process could be worked out.

Committee members had specific questions about whether or not Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association (IOGA) supports the end goal of moving to a draw system for issuing deer tags? **Mr. Lieberman** explained how issuing tags over the counter or by a draw system is not as important to the industry as the rules and process surrounding the use of either method. The committee asked if the method described in the legislation to select industry representation for the implementation committee is acceptable? **Mr. Lieberman** explained that the legislation is new to him and he has not had time to poll the IOGA membership, but he is grateful to have a IOGA representative on the committee if a draw system turns out to be the way this goes.

**Travis Bullark** representing Mile High Outfitters in Challis and who is also a member of Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, spoke **in support** of **H 696** saying this bill should have been adopted 20 years ago.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raybould** made a motion to send **H 696** to General Orders. In speaking to the motion, she said the committee discussion brought out the need for some clarifying language and a sunset date for the implementation committee.

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

**S 1322:** **Rep. Blanksma**, District 8, presented **S 1322** saying this legislation is in response to the quagga mussels crises experienced last year involving an invasive species in our waterways and requiring parts of the Snake River to undergo special treatment to prevent significant economic damage. **S 1322** clarifies what has to be done when entering Idaho waterways, it defines a conveyance, stipulates what has to be removed and what has to be drained. It also speaks to the invasive species fund, and allows for 20% of the fund to be granted out to counties or local entities who want to establish their own check stations.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Burns** made a motion to send **S 1322** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Paul Arrington** representing Idaho Water Users Association and **Braden Jensen** representing the Idaho Farm Bureau yielded their testimony **in support** of the motion.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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Representative Mendive  
Chair

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Andrea Blades  
Secretary