

Public Lands Committee

September 23, 2019 | 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Boise Center | Boise, ID | Room 100DE

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Butts called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Approval of the February & June 2019 Minutes (Action Item):

Washington County Commissioner Kirk Chandler moved to approve the February and June 2019 meeting minutes. Idaho County Commissioner Skip Brandt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PL-01 IDL Road Fees | *Jeff Connolly, Bonner County*

IDL stated that counties do not currently have a permanent easement on IDL lands and would like counties to purchase an easement. Bonner County has about 50 miles of roads crossing IDL land. The value of that land could be millions of dollars. This resolution points out that IDL receives a great benefit from having those roads on IDL land and looks for a way for counties to maintain the current road infrastructure without paying any additional fees to IDL.

Adams County Commissioner Mike Paradis moved to adopt PL-01 IDL Road Fees. Idaho County Commissioner Skip Brandt seconded the motion. The resolution passed.

PL-02 Commissioners Consent (State) | *Skip Brandt, Idaho County*

The intent of this resolution is to ask the Idaho Land Board and Idaho Fish & Game not to purchase private lands without first consulting with the county commissioners. This is a non-legislative resolution. This resolution does not give the Board of County Commissioners veto power, or require consent from the Board for agencies to purchase land.

Washington County Commissioner Kirk Chandler moved to adopt PL-02 Commissioners Consent (State). Adams County Commissioner Viki Purdy seconded the motion. The resolution passed.

PL-03 Commissioners Consent (Federal) | *Skip Brandt, Idaho County*

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The intent of this resolution is to ask federal agencies not to purchase private lands without first consulting with the county commissioners. This is a non-legislative resolution. This resolution does not give the Board of County Commissioners veto power, or require consent from the Board for agencies to purchase land.

Washington County Commissioner Kirk Chandler moved to adopt PL-03 Commissioners Consent (Federal). Clark County Commissioner Greg Shenton seconded the motion. The resolution passed.

Forest Service Update | *Andy Brunelle, Forest Service*

There are 4 items to discuss. 1. This year, the state of Idaho had roughly 17,000 acres involved in wildfire. This is the lowest number of acres since 2009. Over the last 25 years, 2019 was the 6th lowest. 2. Idaho was headed toward something over 200 million board feet. In recent weeks there were a fair number of sales with no bids. Litigation was an issue for some of those sales, including Hanna Flats. Lumber prices and appraisal issues also factored in. 3. Idaho forest restoration partnerships annual meeting will be on April 14th and 15th, 2020 in Coeur d'Alene, ID. 4. There are 6 Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) in Idaho that have Title II funds under the SRS rules that can be put toward projects. Four of those RACs cannot operate because they lack a quorum. The Forest Service is looking for applicants for these RACs. The Forest Service has the ability to seek a waiver to reduce the number of individuals on the RAC from 15 to 9 members. He asked for input on the waiver, and/or input on what the right number of individuals on a RAC should be.

Federal Payments Update | *Seth Grigg, IAC*

Senators Wyden and Crapo introduced a bipartisan bill to fully fund PILT for the next decade. There is reason to be optimistic something is going to be resolved on PILT. SRS has expired so there is no funding for the next fiscal year unless Congress acts to reauthorize funding of SRS. If nothing changes, counties are likely to receive a payment similar to what they received in 2016/2017 when SRS was not authorized. There is recognition in Congress that something needs to happen. There are a few proposals. One would extend SRS for another 2 years at the same level as the previous year. Senators Crapo and Wyden are exploring an option that would set up an SRS trust fund that would set aside 7 or 8 billion dollars into a trust account and use the proceeds of that account combined with the 25% funds that come in to provide a stable funding source for SRS. The bill has been introduced.

BLM Update | *John Ruhs, BLM*

The Recreation of Public Purposes Act (RPP) authorizes the sale and/or lease of public lands for recreation or public purposes to state and local governments as well as non-profit organizations. Special pricing is applied to that land for government purposes. Parks, education, public health, fire or law enforcement, court houses, administrative services, social services, etc., are all potential uses for these lands. Counties could benefit with the perpetual return on the investment if they follow the terms of the lease. There are some conditions including developing a plan of development with the BLM. If the land is used for other purposes than outlined in the lease the land would revert back to the U.S. Since 2009, BLM has issued 13 RPP leases in the state. If you are interested in an RPP lease contact John Sullivan at the BLM at 208-373-3863. The BLM has experienced just under 200 wildfires burning about 247,000 acres in Idaho. BLMs 10-year average is 417 wildfires, and about 372,000 acres.

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Rangeland Conservation Update | *Brenda Richards, IRCP*

Idaho is over 50% rangeland. It is very important to rural areas that conversations are had about how decisions are made across those rangelands which affect those communities, economic stability, wildlife and open space. There is a fine line between private and government organizations working together. The IRCP is 1-year-old. Its mission is to bring together stakeholders to conserve and enhance the value that rangelands provide through shared learning and action. Brenda would like to work with county commissioners to help them connect/network with conservation groups.

DEQ Prescribed Burns Rule Making | *Sally Hunter, DEQ*

DEQ started the rulemaking this year to update all applicable rules to prescribed fire. DEQ wants to ensure smoke is properly managed and public health is protected. DEQ wants to develop and maintain a robust smoke management program that provides smoke management training to burners, coordinates smoke in Idaho, protects the national ambient air quality standards, and protects public health. The air needs to be shared. Most of the major burners are already participating in the Idaho-Montana Airshed Program. There are a lot of smaller burners and a few larger ones that DEQ would like to get on board. DEQ is studying how to regulate small burns. DEQ regulates strictly on smoke, and if it will cause an air quality problem. They do not decide if fire is the best tool to use, or decide if there is a fire safety hazard. DEQ regulations do not supersede local regulations.

GNA and Shared Steward Program Panel | *Dustin Miller, IDL; Dave Rosenkrance, Forest Service*

Dustin Miller acknowledges county concerns about IDL acquiring private lands causing a tax shift in counties. IDL's sole focus is to maximize revenue on investments. The reinvestment subcommittee met once. Its purpose is to reevaluate its reinvestment strategy. About 20 million acres in Idaho are considered public lands. About 12.4 million acres are suitable for restoration work and active management. The GNA gave the Forest Service the authority to partner with states to increase the pace and scale of active forest restoration on those lands that are identified as at-risk for insect and disease infestation. Of the 12.4 million acres about 6.1 were identified as significantly at-risk for insect and disease infestation. About 1.8 million acres were identified as the top priority. Dave Rosenkrance: The GNA has proven to be an effective tool for the Forest Service to partner with the state to achieve outcomes. Right now the Forest Service is on pace to sell timber of 5,500 acres for 57.3 million board feet. There is a lot more work to be done. The Forest Service can now enter into GNA agreements with counties. The sticking point is the revenue retention is still held at the state level and the Forest Service can't get the revenues to the counties as part of that. The Forest Service looks for opportunities to work with state and local governments. The Forest service needs triple the number of acres it's treating in order to reduce catastrophic wildfire. The Forest Service does not currently have that capacity but they are building up to that number.

Idaho County Commissioner Skip Brandt moved to adjourn the committee meeting at 4:53 pm. Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

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MEMBERSHIP

Members Present:

Chair: Wayne Butts, Commissioner
Vice: Mark Bair, Commissioner
Adams: Mike Paradis, Commissioner
Adams: Viki Purdy, Commissioner
Blaine: Dick Fosbury, Commissioner
Blaine: John David Davidson, Treasurer
Bonner: Jeff Connolly, Commissioner
Boundary: Dan Dinning, Commissioner
Cassia: Dwight Davis, Assessor
Clark: Greg Shenton, Commissioner
Clearwater: Dawn Erlewine, Treasurer
Custer: Lura Baker, Clerk
Elmore: Josh Dison, Assessor

Fremont: Jordon Stoddard, Commissioner
Fremont: Lee Miller, Commissioner
Gooding: Ron Buhler, Commissioner
Idaho: Skip Brandt, Commissioner
Jefferson: Scott Hancock, Commissioner
Lincoln: Rebecca Wood, Commissioner
Lincoln: Ann Youts, Treasurer
Owyhee: Jerry Hoagland, Commissioner
Shoshone: Jerry White, Assessor
Teton: Bob Heneage, Commissioner
Teton: Cindy Riegel, Commissioner
Teton: Beverly Palm, Prosecutor
Washington: Kirk Chandler, Commissioner

Members Absent:

Benewah: Sara Sexton, Treasurer
Bonneville: Dave Radford, Commissioner
Caribou: Bryce Somsen, Commissioner
Clearwater: Rick Winkel, Commissioner
Lemhi: Brett Barsalou, Commissioner
Lemhi: Rick Snyder, Commissioner

Owyhee: Toni Gruenwald, Assessor
Owyhee: Joe Merrick, Commissioner
Owyhee: Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner
Shoshone: Ellen Masterson, Treasurer
Teton: Billie Jean Siddoway, Prosecutor
Twin Falls: Jack Johnson, Commissioner

Others Present:

Timothy Hibbard, IAC
Johanna Bell, AIC
Lisa Collini, Washington, Commissioner
Wally Cossairt, Boundary, Commissioner
Mike Ryan, Clearwater, Commissioner
Denis Duman, Idaho, Commissioner
Steve Bradshaw, Bonner, Commissioner
Phil Lampert, Benewah, Commissioner
Brent Mendenhall, Madison, Commissioner
Lon Colton, Oneida Clerk
Dave Bingham, Valley, Commissioner
Cammy Maughan, Lemhi, Treasurer
Bill Lewis, Oneida, Commissioner
Annette Dygert, Owyhee, Treasurer
Elt Hasbrouck, Valley, Commissioner
Jim Kaczmarek, Boise Sheriff

Lana Schwartz, Clark Treasurer
Blake Watson, Idaho Power
Mary Anderson, DEQ
Sally Hunter, DEQ
Joshua Uriarte, Species Conservation
Mitch Silvers, Crapo's Office
Clint Daniel, Fulcher's Office
Dave Rosenkrance, Forest Service
Andy Brunelle, Forest Service
Dustin Miller, IDL
Ken Frederick, BLM
John Ruhs, BLM
Brenda Richards, IRCP
Laurie Lickley, Idaho State Rep.
Judy Boyle, Idaho State Rep.
Dorothy Moon, Idaho State Rep.