

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on January 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald, Chair (R)
Rep. Neil Duram, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch
Jesse Tack, Remote Meeting Coordinator

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 225, 1/25/2021; SB 61, 1/25/2021; SB 62, 1/25/2021

HEARING ON SB 61

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

14:34:44 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 61, Allow free fishing on Mother's Day.

14:35:07 Rep. Mitchell joined the meeting.

14:36:17 Jesse Tack, Remote Meeting Coordinator (RMC)

14:36:22 Sen. Flowers

14:36:27 Chair Fitzgerald

14:36:50 Sen. Flowers

14:37:02 Rep. Fitzgerald

14:37:13 Sen. Flowers

14:37:25 Jesse Tack, RMC

Proponents' Testimony:

14:37:38 Colin Cooney, Trout Unlimited (TU)

14:38:14 Nick Gevok, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

14:39:03 Emily Cooper, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

14:41:20 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

14:42:03 Emily Cooper, FWP

14:42:33 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

14:42:50 Emily Cooper, FWP

14:43:09 Rep. J. Hinkle joined the meeting.

Closing by Sponsor:

14:43:38 Sen. Flowers

HEARING ON SB 62

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

14:44:28 Sen. Bob Brown (R), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 62, Revise unlawful possession laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

14:47:47 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

14:48:49 Dave Loewen, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

14:51:14 Vice Chair Duram
 14:51:50 Dave Loewen, FWP
 14:52:53 Vice Chair Duram
 14:53:15 Dave Loewen, FWP
 14:53:50 Rep. France
 14:54:42 Dave Loewen, FWP
 14:55:35 Rep. France
 14:55:59 Chair Fitzgerald
 14:56:28 Dave Loewen, FWP
 14:56:55 Chair Fitzgerald
 14:57:09 Sen. Brown
 14:58:46 Chair Fitzgerald
 14:58:54 Rep. Brown

Closing by Sponsor:

14:59:06 Sen. Brown

 15:00:36 Rep. R. Knudsen left the meeting.
 15:00:41 Chair Fitzgerald

HEARING ON HB 225**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:00:57 Rep. Paul Fielder (R), opened the hearing on HB 225, Establish wolf trapping season dates.

[EXHIBIT\(fih19a01\)](#)**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:10:53 Garret Bacon, self
 15:12:25 Jim Buell, Montana Trappers Association (MTA)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:14:24 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

[EXHIBIT\(fih19a02\)](#)

15:18:33 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana

[EXHIBIT\(fih19a03\)](#)

15:22:41 Nancy Ostlie, self
 15:25:18 Chair Fitzgerald
 15:26:10 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
 15:29:39 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife
 15:31:31 Jocelyn Leroux, Western Watersheds Project (WWP)
 15:34:27 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
 15:37:06 Debra Taylor, self
 15:40:30 Chair Fitzgerald
 15:41:03 Chester Watson, self
 15:42:14 Chair Fitzgerald

15:42:26 Chester Watson, self
15:46:14 Chair Fitzgerald
15:46:45 Fred de Lepper, self
15:48:15 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition (ESC)
15:51:09 Margareta Marro, self
15:54:02 Rep. Berglee
15:54:11 Margareta Marro, self
15:54:59 Inga Gibson, self
15:57:53 Mica Costerousse, self
16:00:56 Jennifer Sherry, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
16:02:11 Susan Kronenberger, self
16:05:00 Karin Mahuna, self
16:06:45 Chair Fitzgerald
16:06:53 Karin Mahuna, self
16:07:35 Rep. Berglee
16:07:41 Chair Fitzgerald
16:08:16 KC York, Trap Free Montana

Informational Testimony:

16:11:35 Quentin Kujala, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:12:06 Rep. Loge
16:12:39 Susan Kronenberger, self
16:12:55 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:15:00 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:15:36 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:16:42 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana
16:17:01 Rep. J. Hinkle
16:17:11 Rep. France
16:18:26 Chair Fitzgerald
16:18:31 Rep. France
16:18:40 Rep. Putnam
16:19:05 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:19:19 Rep. Novak
16:19:50 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:20:03 Rep. Reksten
16:20:57 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:21:21 Rep. Berglee
16:21:59 Stephen Capra, Footloose Montana
16:22:25 Rep. Running Wolf
16:22:59 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:23:06 Rep. Running Wolf
16:23:38 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:25:54 Rep. Marler
16:26:11 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:26:22 Rep. France
16:27:20 Rep. Fielder

16:28:54 Rep. Loge
16:29:19 Rep. Fielder
16:30:43 Rep. Phalen
16:31:02 Rep. Fielder

Closing by Sponsor:

16:31:35 Rep. Fielder

Committee Business:

16:34:43 Chair Fitzgerald

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
16:35:06

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fih19aad.pdf](#))