

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Call to Order: Chair Ross H. Fitzgerald, on March 11, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Ross H. Fitzgerald, Chair (R)
Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Seth Berglee (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Denley M. Loge (R)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Brian Putnam (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Neil Duram, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Rep. Tyson T. Running Wolf (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Joanne Kauzlarich, Committee Secretary
Joe Koleman, Legislative Branch
Katherine Anderson, 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: SB 306, 3/9/2021; SB 327, 3/9/2021; SB 337, 3/9/2021;
SB 360, 3/9/2021; SJ 18, 3/9/2021

HEARING ON SB 306**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:53:37 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 306, Revise structure of fish and game commission.

15:54:09 Rep. Berglee left the meeting.

15:54:56 Rep. Running Wolf joined the meeting.

15:56:31 Rep. France joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:56:46 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:58:37 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:59:58 Clayton Elliot, Trout Unlimited (TU)

16:02:14 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

EXHIBIT(fih49a01)

16:04:08 Dale Tribby, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)

16:05:49 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony: None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:09:06 Rep. R. Knudsen

16:09:35 Sen. Lang

16:09:42 Rep. R. Knudsen

16:09:58 Sen. Lang

16:10:19 Rep. France

16:10:38 Rep. Fielder

16:12:13 Sen. Lang

16:14:59 Rep. Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.

16:16:06 Rep. Marler joined the meeting.

16:16:29 Rep. Running Wolf

16:18:57 Sen. Lang

16:19:00 Rep. Running Wolf

Closing by Sponsor:

16:19:16 Sen. Lang

HEARING ON SB 337**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:20:45 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 337, Revising laws related to grizzly bear relocation.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:22:22 Quentin Kujula, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

EXHIBIT(fih49a02)

16:24:31 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

16:25:17 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:26:37 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

16:28:02 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

EXHIBIT(fih49a03)

16:29:40 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

16:31:12 Jocelyn Leroux, Western Watersheds Project (WWP)

16:32:24 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition (ESC)

EXHIBIT(fih49a04)**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:33:32 Rep. Fielder

16:36:08 Quentin Kujula, FWP

16:36:46 Rep. Loge, Rep. Mitchell, and Rep. Putnam left the meeting.

16:37:54 Rep. France

16:38:27 Quentin Kujula, FWP

16:38:36 Rep. France

16:40:25 Quentin Kujula, FWP

16:40:59 Rep. Phalen

16:42:18 Vice Chair Duram joined the meeting.

16:42:57 Quentin Kujula, FWP

16:43:28 Chair Fitzgerald

16:43:32 Quentin Kujula, FWP

16:43:50 Rep. Reksten

16:44:12 Quentin Kujula, FWP

16:44:38 Rep. Reksten

16:45:05 Quentin Kujula, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

16:46:34 Sen. Lang

HEARING ON SB 360**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:49:10 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 360, Generally revising laws related to fisheries management.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:51:03 Clayton Elliot, Trout Unlimited (TU)

16:53:55 Bob Gilbert, self

16:57:49 Mike Bias, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM)
16:59:49 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony:

17:01:06 Dale Tribby, Montana Sportsmen Alliance (MSA)

Informational Testimony:

17:03:32 Quentin Kujula, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:03:55 Rep. Reksten
17:04:20 Sen. Lang
17:05:17 Rep. France
17:05:41 Rep. Putnam and Rep. Loge joined the meeting.
17:06:05 Clayton Elliot, TU
17:06:23 Rep. Mitchell joined the meeting.
17:07:47 Vice Chair Duram
17:08:27 Bob Gilbert, self
17:09:05 Vice Chair Duram
17:09:14 Clayton Elliot, TU
17:10:28 Vice Chair Duram
17:11:12 Quentin Kujula, FWP
17:11:34 Vice Chair Duram
17:12:04 Quentin Kujula, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

17:12:54 Sen. Lang

HEARING ON SB 327

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:13:54 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 327, Revise waste of game law.

17:14:42 Rep. Putnam left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:15:39 Kenton Hicketier, self

Opponents' Testimony:

17:17:52 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Informational Testimony:

17:19:14 Ron Gendro, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:19:37 Rep. Fielder
17:19:56 Sen. Ellsworth
17:20:09 Chair Fitzgerald
17:20:17 Joe Koleman, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

17:20:43 Sen. Ellsworth
17:21:41 Rep. Fielder
17:22:15 Rep. Reksten
17:22:44 Sen. Ellsworth

Closing by Sponsor:

17:24:29 Sen. Ellsworth

17:25:45 Rep. Loge
17:25:53 Joe Koleman, LSD
17:26:00 Chair Fitzgerald

HEARING ON SJ 18**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:26:27 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SJ 18, Resolution on state management of grizzly bears.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:30:51 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA); Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:32:19 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife
17:33:13 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
17:36:12 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition (ESC)

Informational Testimony:

17:38:18 Quentin Kujula, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:38:47 Rep. Fielder
17:39:20 Sen. Gillespie
17:39:56 Chair Fitzgerald
17:40:04 Rep. Fielder
17:41:08 Sen. Gillespie
17:41:15 Rep. Putnam
17:41:52 Sen. Gillespie
17:42:36 Rep. Loge
17:42:51 Chair Fitzgerald
17:43:03 Rep. Fielder
17:44:12 Sen. Gillespie
17:44:43 Rep. France

Closing by Sponsor:

17:45:02 Sen. Gillespie

17:45:30 Chair Fitzgerald
17:46:11 Rep. Putnam
17:46:21 Chair Fitzgerald

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:46:33

Joanne Kauzlarich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fih49aad.pdf](#))