

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Ross Fitzgerald-R, on February 07, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 172

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Ross Fitzgerald, Chair (R)  
Rep. Tom France, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Denise Baum (D)  
Rep. Edward Butcher (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)  
Rep. Denley Loge (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)  
Rep. Tanner Smith (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

**Staff Present:** Toni Henneman, Research Analyst  
LJ Jennings, Secretary  
Rolf Johnson, Attorney

**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 331 01/30/2023

HB 333 01/30/2023

Executive Action:



15:03:41 Rep. Fitzgerald has left

15:03:54 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair

16:04:24 Chair Fitzgerald joined the meeting and did not assume position of the chair.

**HEARING ON HB 331 - Generally revise off-highway vehicle grant funding laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:04:20 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 331, Generally revise off-highway vehicle grant funding laws.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230207FIHa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:09:17 Roger Hagan, Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, (MTVRA)

15:10:40 Russ Ehnes, President, Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, (MTVRA)

15:19:23 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, (TSRA)

15:20:31 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:21:22 Hope Stockwell, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:21:54 Rep. Denise Baum

15:22:31 Rep. Greg Oblander-R

15:23:34 Rep. Denise Baum  
15:23:40 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:23:45 Rep. Tanner Smith  
15:24:13 Rep. Greg Oblander-R  
15:24:50 Rep. Bob Phalen left the meeting.  
15:25:16 Rep. Tanner Smith  
15:25:22 Rep. Greg Oblander-R  
15:26:16 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:26:19 Rep. Russel Miner  
15:26:38 Rep. Greg Oblander-R  
15:27:12 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:27:15 Rep. Edward Butcher  
15:27:46 Russ Ehnes, MTVRA  
15:28:22 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:28:25 Rep. Denley Loge  
15:28:55 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:29:27 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:30:06 Russ Ehnes, MTVRA  
15:31:21 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:31:53 Russ Ehnes, MTVRA  
15:33:14 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:33:17 Rep. Gary Parry  
15:33:53 Russ Ehnes, MTVRA  
15:34:22 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

**Closing Statement:**

15:34:31 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, closed the hearing on HB 331.

**HEARING ON HB 333 - Generally revise motorized recreation laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:37:58 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 333, Generally revise motorized recreation laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:46:04 Roger Hagan, Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, (MTVRA)

15:47:04 Russ Ehnes, President, Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association, (MTVRA)

15:48:08 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation, (MWF)

15:48:30 Fred Bailey, President, Montana Snowmobilers Association, (MSA)

15:50:31 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, (TSRA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:51:24 Hope Stockwell, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

15:51:45 Laurie Bakri, Motor Vehicle Division, (MVD)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:39:37 Rep. Duram has left

15:52:26 Rep. Denley Loge

15:52:34 Rep. Greg Oblander-R

15:52:40 Rep. Neil Duram joined the meeting.

15:53:17 Rep. Denley Loge

15:53:18 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

15:53:19	Rep. Denley Loge
15:53:27	Rep. Greg Oblander-R
15:53:39	Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:53:40	Rep. Gary Parry
15:54:02	Rep. Greg Oblander-R
15:54:25	Rep. Gary Parry
15:54:26	Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:54:27	Rep. Gary Parry
15:54:41	Rep. Greg Oblander-R
15:54:48	Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:54:56	Rep. Greg Oblander-R
15:55:22	Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:55:24	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:55:35	Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:55:49	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:56:10	Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:56:20	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:56:21	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:56:45	Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:56:57	Rep. Paul Fielder
15:57:05	Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:57:13	Rep. Jedediah Hinkle
15:57:14	Rep. Tom France
15:57:57	Hope Stockwell, FWP

15:59:06 Rep. Tom France  
15:59:22 Hope Stockwell, FWP  
15:59:49 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
15:59:54 Rep. Denise Baum  
16:01:04 Laurie Bakri, MVD  
16:01:14 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
16:01:23 Rep. Paul Fielder  
16:01:47 Laurie Bakri, MVD  
16:02:00 Rep. Paul Fielder  
16:02:09 Laurie Bakri, MVD

**Closing Statement:**

16:02:24 Rep. Greg Oblander (R), HD 40, closed the hearing on HB 333.

**Discussion:**

16:04:13 Rep. Jonathan Karlen joined the meeting.  
15:03:41 Rep. Fitzgerald has left  
15:03:54 Vice Chair J. Hinkle assumed position of the Chair  
16:04:24 Chair Fitzgerald joined the meeting and did not assume position of the chair.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:07:06

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LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230207FIHaad\)](#)