

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R, on January 17, 2023 at 2:30 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Mike Fox (D)

Staff Present: Casey Pallister, Research Analyst
Lynnette Sena, Secretary

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 73 01/10/2023
HB 86 01/10/2023
SB 139 01/10/2023
SB 85 01/12/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 85 - Require management of delisted grizzly bears at sustainable levels

Opening Statement:

14:31:24 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 85, Require management of delisted grizzly bears at sustainable levels.

Discussion:

14:31:25 Sen. Pat Flowers joined the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

14:33:07 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(230117FISa1\)](#)

14:34:10 Sen. Daniel Emrich joined the meeting.

14:35:21 John Brenden, self

14:37:07 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

14:37:49 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

14:39:16 Ed Hebbe IV, Communication Director, Montana Trapper's Association

14:39:41 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

14:40:48 Jeff Darrah, Executive Director, Montana Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife

14:41:48 Keith Kubista, self

Opponent Testimony:

14:43:20 Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition (ESC)

14:46:00 Marc Cooke, Wolves of the Rockies

14:48:25 Lisa Upson, Executive Director, People and Carnivores

14:53:30 Sen. Mike Fox joined the meeting.

14:53:37 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

14:57:48 Derek Goldman, Northern Rockies Regional Representative, Endangered Species Coalition (ESC)

14:58:11 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.

15:00:08 Kari Gunderson, self
15:01:57 Clinton Nagel, President, Gallatin Wildlife Association
15:04:02 Connie Poten, self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:05:41 Sen. John Fuller
15:06:10 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:06:29 Sen. John Fuller
15:06:43 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty
15:07:00 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.
15:07:08 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:07:34 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:07:50 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:08:18 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:08:42 Nick Gevock, ESC
15:09:27 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:09:47 Nick Gevock, ESC
15:11:16 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:11:43 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:13:33 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:14:07 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
15:14:16 Sen. Pat Flowers-D
15:14:42 Quentin Kujala, FWP
15:14:50 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

15:15:17 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:16:13 Sen. Bob Brown

15:16:45 Quentin Kujala, FWP

Closing Statement:

15:17:12 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 85.

HEARING ON HB 73 - Repeal surety bond requirements for FWP license agents

Opening Statement:

15:18:25 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 73, Repeal surety bond requirements for FWP license agents.

Proponent Testimony:

15:19:28 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

15:20:19 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.

15:20:26 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:21:35 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 73.

HEARING ON HB 86 - Remove sunset for the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program

Opening Statement:

15:22:11 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 86, Remove sunset for the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.

Proponent Testimony:

15:25:09 Ken McDonald, Wildlife Division Administrator, Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(230117FISa2\)](#)

15:29:08 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:30:07 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:30:41 Katjana Stutzer, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

15:31:18 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:31:54 Keni Reese, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:32:57 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:34:01 Sen. Daniel Emrich-R

15:34:23 Ken McDonald, FWP

15:35:16 Sen. Bob Brown

15:36:04 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.

15:36:07 Ken McDonald, FWP

15:36:55 Sen. Steve Hinebauch

Closing Statement:

15:37:14 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 86.

HEARING ON SB 139 - Revise non resident license laws related to harvesting mountain lions

Opening Statement:

15:39:18 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 139, Revise non resident license laws related to harvesting mountain lions.

Proponent Testimony:

15:43:27 Terry Zink, self

15:45:42 Mark Schwomeyer, self

15:46:52 Paul Fielder, Rep. for House District 13

15:48:28 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

Opponent Testimony:

15:49:06 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

15:52:27 Scott Boulanger, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:55:38 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

15:55:55 Sen. John Fuller

15:57:05 Sen. Tom McGillvray-R

15:57:15 Terry Zinc, self

15:57:38 Sen. John Fuller

15:57:55 Terry Zinc, self

15:58:30 Sen. Bob Brown

15:59:47 Terry Zinc, self

16:00:00 Sen. Bob Brown

16:02:44 Emily Cooper, FWP

16:02:55 Sen. Bob Brown

16:03:41 Mac Minard, MOGA
16:04:40 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:05:28 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:05:43 Dustin Temple, Deputy Director, FWP
16:06:48 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:07:15 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:07:39 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:08:06 Terry Zink, self
16:09:07 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:09:39 Dustin Temple, FWP
16:09:52 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:10:27 Sen. Pat Flowers-D
16:10:45 Mark Schwomeyer, self

Closing Statement:

16:11:45 Sen. Tom McGillvray (R), SD 23, closed the hearing on SB 139.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:13:55

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230117FISaad\)](#)