

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

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R, on February 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 422

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Steve Hinebauch, Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Fox, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

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:

SB 280 02/09/2023
SB 281 02/09/2023
SB 293 02/09/2023
SB 295 02/08/2023

Executive Action:

15:01:38 Sen. Noland has arrived

HEARING ON SB 295 - Revising laws to accommodate grizzly bear delisting

Opening Statement:

15:01:52 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 295, Revising laws to accommodate grizzly bear delisting.

Proponent Testimony:

10:25:25 Sen. John Fuller left the meeting.

15:05:00 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT\(230214FISa1\)](#)

15:08:02 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA)

[EXHIBIT\(230214FISa2\)](#)

15:10:33 Dave McEwen, self

[EXHIBIT\(230214FISa3\)](#)

15:13:11 Trina Jo Bradley, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Front Ranchlands Group (RMFRG)

15:16:04 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:17:10 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:18:40 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

15:19:08 Mac Minard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA)

15:19:48 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

15:21:06 Keith Kubista, self

15:22:27 Jeff Darrah, Executive Director, Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW)

15:23:30 Chris Hindoi, Mayor, City of Choteau

15:24:33 Tim Thier, Montana Sportsman Alliance

Opponent Testimony:

15:26:03 Nick Gevock, Endangered Species Coalition (ESC)
[EXHIBIT\(230214FISa4\)](#)

15:29:07 Chris Servheen, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
[EXHIBIT\(230214FISa5\)](#)

15:32:09 Gayle Joslin, Helena Hunters and Anglers Association

15:35:24 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

15:41:06 Derek Goldman, Field Director, Northern Rockies Representative,
Endangered Species Coalition

15:43:51 Caryn Miske, Chapter Director, Montana Sierra Club

15:47:57 Erin Edge, Defenders of Wildlife

15:50:03 KC York, self

15:51:45 Kris King, Explore Livingston Coalition (ELC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:55:00 Sen. Daniel Emrich

15:57:47 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:58:03 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:59:13 Quentin Kujala, FWP

15:59:52 Sen. Willis Curdy

16:00:17 Quentin Kujala, FWP

16:00:59 Sen. Willis Curdy

16:02:13 Chris Servheen, MWF

16:02:45 Sen. Willis Curdy

16:04:58 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:07:02 Sen. Bob Brown
16:07:33 Kris King, ELC
16:08:46 Sen. Bob Brown
16:11:07 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:11:37 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:12:24 Trina Jo Bradley, RMFRG
16:13:51 Sen. Pat Flowers
16:17:18 Quentin Kujala, FWP
16:17:34 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
16:18:02 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.
16:18:11 David McEwen, self

Closing Statement:

16:19:55 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SB 295.

Discussion:

16:21:17 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 281 - Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing

Opening Statement:

16:24:02 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 281, Revise laws related to nonresident hunting and fishing.

Proponent Testimony:

16:27:32 Mac Mernard, Executive Director, Montana Outfitter and Guides Association (MOGA)
16:30:46 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), Montana Citizens Elk Management Coalition (MCEMC)
16:34:48 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:36:34 Emily Cooper, Licensing Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:36:57 Sen. Bob Brown
16:37:39 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:37:50 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:38:08 Emily Cooper, FWP
16:38:29 Sen. Willis Curdy
16:39:06 Emily Cooper, FWP

Closing Statement:

16:39:24 Sen. Pat Flowers (D), SD 32, closed the hearing on SB 281.

HEARING ON SB 293 - Revise transportation laws related to invasive species

Opening Statement:

16:41:29 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 293, Revise transportation laws related to invasive species.

Proponent Testimony:

16:43:38 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU)
16:46:01 Liz Lodman, Administrator, Montana Invasive Species Council
16:47:47 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
16:48:28 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
16:49:22 Caryn Miske, Chair, Montana Chapter, Sierra Club
16:50:48 Rebecca Boslough-King, Executive Director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:52:39 Eileen Ryce, Fisheries Division Administrator, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

Questions from Committee:

16:53:06 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:54:06 Sen. Mark Noland
16:55:09 Clayton Elliott, MTU
16:56:21 Sen. Daniel Emrich
16:56:39 Clayton Elliott, MTU
16:57:25 Sen. Bob Brown
16:59:11 Clayton Elliot, MTU

Closing Statement:

16:59:51 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 293.

HEARING ON SB 280 - Revise bird dog training laws

Opening Statement:

17:01:02 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 280, Revise bird dog training laws.

Proponent Testimony:

17:05:50 Rebecca Boslough-King, Executive Director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)
17:07:11 Quentin Kujala, Chief of Staff, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)
[EXHIBIT\(230214FISa6\)](#)
17:07:53 Marcus Strange, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
17:08:43 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.
17:09:00 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
17:10:42 Alycia Nathe, Daniels County Conservation District

Opponent Testimony:

17:14:38 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (MT BHA)
17:16:43 Pat Howe, self
17:20:02 Justin Trout, self
17:22:32 Jeff Herbert, Montana Sportsman Alliance

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:27:21 Shawn Thomas, Forestry and Trust Lands Division Administrator,
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee:

17:27:46 Sen. Willis Curdy
17:28:39 Sen. Mike Lang-R
17:30:46 Sen. Daniel Emrich
17:36:02 Sen. Mike Lang-R
17:37:12 Sen. Steve Hinebauch
17:37:19 Sen. Mike Lang

Closing Statement:

17:37:35 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SB 280.

Discussion:

15:01:38 Sen. Noland has arrived

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:38:47

Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230214FISaad\)](#)