

Public Lands Report Spring 2013 State Board Meeting

Owyhee Initiative:

Meetings held every other month through the winter, except January due to heavy snow.

March meeting, continue progress on wilderness boundaries and work on state sections to be included in or out of the wilderness boundary. BIM reported on new restrictions for hunting, fishing, trapping and rafting inside the wilderness boundary, also new rulings as to cattle allotments, grazing and moving of cattle, specific times when water ponds can be worked with mechanized equipment.

None of the restrictions apply to recreational stock use and access to public lands.

Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council:

Meetings each month to discuss topics important to sportsmen here in Idaho and the legislative bills before the state Legislature that affect sportsmen.

HB145" This bill would mandate the Fish and Game Commission to implement a bonus point system for controlled hunts in Idaho. (Bill was tabled by the legislative sponsor)

HB146: This bill would make changes to the winter feeding program for big game animals. The proposal mandates the Fish and Game Department to "remove" wildlife from private property within 48 hours and establish a new winter feeding area anytime it is shown there are 10 Elk or 20 deer on the property, or the land owner has lost \$500 or more in livestock feed.

ISCAC had a position paper on the transfer of Federal Lands in Idaho for Management. The sportsmen's groups were against this because of the fear of losing access to land by the citizens of Idaho.

The Frank Church Memorial sent to the State Legislature.

The memorial was written by John Burns (Salmon Chapter) sponsored by Representative Marc Gibbs. I have sent an email of the bill to all board members and state officers and national director of BCHA. The memorial has passed the house Resource committee, the full House (vote 57 to 13) and been presented and testified to at the Senate Resource committee. It was presented to the senate resource committee on March 11th and passed to be sent to the full senate for a vote sometime this week or next. If passed the memorial will be sent on to the Dept. of Ag. And the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington DC. "that we urge the Secretary of the United State Department of Agriculture to declare the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness and Adjacent national forest lands to be a Natural Resources Disaster Area".