

## FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

February 3, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m., with all members present except Reps. Ellis and Ellison, who were excused.

House Bill 510 was discussed. Rep. Barrett explained the bill because the chief sponsor, Rep. Ellis, was excused. The bill allows bow and arrow hunting of game animals rather than just deer, antelope and elk. The bill allows the Commission to set the season and limits just as they now do for other seasons.

Bob Savage, Jerry Karsky, Bill Asher, Wes Woodgerd, R. M. Burger and Jennifer Cote testified in support of the bill. Tag Rittel and Ralph Holman testified in opposition. Their statements are attached.

Rep. Barrett closed by saying he has no objection to putting in a provision to guarantee that 12-year-olds have some kind of competency certificate. After some discussion, John Hollow was asked to check on the law regarding crossbow hunting.

House Bill 568 was discussed next. Rep. Waldron, chief sponsor, said a migratory waterfowl stamp would be issued for game birds. The change is shown in the bill on page 13, starting with line 19. The purpose is to purchase wetlands and manage them with the fees from this stamp.

Jennifer Cote submitted prepared testimony in support of the bill and suggested an amendment to say the license is for persons over the age of 16. Wes Woodgerd and F. M. Burger testified in support of the bill. Mr. Woodgerd said he had no objection to adding leasing as well as buying the lands.

Senate Bill 47 was discussed. The sponsor, Senator Roberts, was not present. Mr. Wes Woodgerd said this bill would classify the bobcat as a fur-bearing animal. The bobcat is in trouble all over the west because of the high price of his fur. It is the only spotted cat fur in world trade and the prices are very high--almost \$500 a pelt. This cat is not hard to trap and kill. The pressure is great and they should be protected. The bill was supported in the Senate by the Montana Houndsmen and the Montana Trappers Associations. Ralph Holman and F. M. Burger testified in support of the bill.

The Committee went into executive session. The Chairman appointed a subcommittee on House Bill 181. The Chairman is Rep. Conroy, Reps. Ellison and Baeth are members.

Rep. Baeth moved to adopt the attached amendments to House Bill 299. The motion passed unanimously (2 absent). Rep. Barrett then moved that the bill DO PASS AS AMENDED. The motion passed 8-1 (Manuel voted no, Ellis and Ellison were absent).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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JOHN B. STAIGMILLER, Chairman

## FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

February 8, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m., with all members present except Rep. Conroy, who was excused.

House Bill 621 was discussed first. Rep. Cox, chief sponsor, submitted the attached amendments. She said the bill was requested by the sheriff in Livingston. It is designed to provide financial reimbursement to sheriff's departments engaged in search and rescue for lost hunters and fishermen.

Proponents were: Wes Woodgerd, Carl Smith, Ralph Holman and A. E. Bonnarens. Their testimony is attached.

In closing, Rep. Cox said she had no objections to amending the bill. The intent was that the money should come from all conservation licenses and apply to all hunters and fishermen.

The Chairman appointed Reps. Tropila, Ellis and Courtney as a subcommittee to prepare amendments to the bill.

Senate Bill 148 was discussed next. Senator Warden, chief sponsor, said the bill would prohibit harassing wildlife with vehicles. Proponents were Ralph Holman and Wes Woodgerd. Mr. Woodgerd's testimony is attached.

The Chairman appointed Reps. Johnston, Ellison and Seifert to combine this bill with House Bill 299, which deals with the same subject.

The Committee went into executive session.

Rep. Barrett moved that Senate Bill 47 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion passed with 9 voting yes, Rep. Tropila voting no, and Rep. Conroy excused.

Rep. Baeth moved that House Bill 339 DO PASS. Rep. Ellison asked for more time to prepare amendments, and Rep. Baeth withdrew his motion and made another motion to pass this bill for the day. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Ellis moved that House Bill 510 DO PASS. Rep. Barrett said there should be an amendment to page 4, line 22 "or bow and arrow if applicable." Rep. Baeth made a substitute motion that the bill DO NOT PASS. The motion failed 5-5 (Yes - Reps. Staigmiller, Baeth, Johnston, Manuel, Ellison; No - Reps. Courtney, Tropila, Barrett, Ellis, Seifert). After discussion, the committee decided to hold this bill until Thursday.

The Chairman submitted a resolution to prevent the federal government from making a grizzly bear range. Rep. Baeth moved to adopt it as a committee resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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JOHN B. STAIGMILLER, Chairman