

July 2, 1962

Mr. Max Tripp, President  
North Idaho Forestry Association  
Millwood, Washington

Mr. George W. Beardmore, Secretary  
North Idaho Forestry Association  
Lewiston, Idaho

Gentlemen:

Re: Idaho Special Commission on Natural Resources  
Organization and Administration

All members were believed to be present for the scheduled meeting on June 29 except representatives of the Idaho Drillers Association and the Phosphate Industry. Grundy M. Brown, a Canyon County legislator, is a new member and was present.

There appeared to be strong general feeling that Idaho is in need of either co-ordination of, or the establishment of a department for its natural resources.

The Timber and Timber Products Committee held meetings both in the forenoon and afternoon on June 28, with William Guernsey serving as proxy for member George Hjort of the Southern Idaho Forestry Association. Chairman Joe Williams, and State Auditor, requested the writer to make the committee report to the full commission on June 29. It was about as follows:

Preliminary remarks were made which indicated water appeared to be the matter of most vital concern as covered by the remarks of Chairman Theophilus and Governor Smylie in the minutes of the first commission meeting on April 26, 1962. The Chairman had said "---next to people, our greatest resource is water." The Governor said, "Water is our life blood," and "In the past Idaho has not done much in the field of planning for water." The report as made was:

1. More study, facts and research are needed in all fields of natural resources before arriving at recommendations. A clear-cut statement on all issues and alternatives is needed. Make haste slowly said one member (E. E. Day).

2. In view of the Constitutional authority of the Land Board, what suggestion or method is available for including State land or timberland in a State Department of Natural Resources?

- (a) There is no known evidence of any unsolved land or timber problems requiring attention beyond the authority of the State Board of Land Commissioners, other than legislative authorization for the State Board of Land Commissioners to exchange lands with the U. S. and presumably approved by a vote of the people in 1936.



(b) Wyoming Natural Resource Board law excludes any officer or agency when it is specifically empowered by law to act.

During the evening of June 28, there was discussion among a few of us that an enlarged State Cooperative Board of Forestry (Sections 38-101 and 38-102) might fill the need if some type of over-all authority appeared desirable. It was thought Joe Williams might carry the ball on the 29th if it appeared propitious, which he apparently did not think appropriate. The writer then egged George Hjort into teeing off on this approach. Later, and following Hjort, the writer expounded on this approach.

1. The agency has foresters who are qualified and trained in all aspects of natural resources and conservation.
2. It is an existing agency, so there would be no need for duplication or creating a new entity or agency.
3. There would be one place to go for natural resource information and this one place could be empowered to speak with one voice for the State (an objective of the incumbent Governor).
4. The membership on the Co-op Board could be enlarged by legislative action to provide for representation by those resource agencies and the public not presently represented.
5. Such a set-up would afford an opportunity on a trial basis to see if it would work and subsequent experience would develop the need for change, enlargement or a full-blown Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. I. H. Harris, chairman of the Recreation Committee and president of the Idaho State Chamber of Commerce, made a motion for approval of the State Co-op Board approach. The motion lost on a voice vote.

A reproduced copy of a news story is attached which highlights the proceedings. The motion, which carried 12 to 7, was made by Charles E. Schwab, president of Bunker Hill Company. It is believed that Schwab's motion included a personnel make-up patterned somewhat along the lines of Section 13 of HB 281 in the 1961 legislative Thirty-sixth Session. A reproduced copy of HB 281 is attached. The vote of your representative was cast with the seven vote minority.

The chairman and vice-chairman of the full commission plus the six group committee chairmen were empowered to act as a sifting committee to review other various proposals to determine whether further consideration should be given to any of them by the full commission at a later date. A date for a subsequent meeting was not set.

Your further advice or instructions are welcome.

Yours very truly,

*Cliff Hopkins*  
Member of Idaho Special Commission  
on Natural Resources Organization and  
Administration representing North Idaho  
Forestry Association

cc: Chairman D. R. Theophilus  
Hon. Joe Williams, Ch. of Timber &  
Timber Products  
E. E. Day            Chas. E. Schwab  
George Hjort        Dean Ernest Wohletz  
Max Yost            Frank Hendricksen  
I. H. Harris