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**MINUTES OF THE
FIELD TRIP OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
April 29, 1981**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources had as its meeting for this day a field trip to state wildlife facilities, University of Nevada-Reno agricultural facilities and state forestry operations, in the Reno and Washoe areas.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Norman Glaser, Chairman
Senator James H. Bilbray
Senator Lawrence E. Jacobsen
Senator Joe Neal

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Wilbur Faiss
Senator Floyd R. Lamb

GUEST LEGISLATOR:

Senator Virgil Getto

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert E. Erickson, Senior Research Analyst
Carolyn L. Freeland, Committee Secretary
Carol Smith, Secretary to Senator Jacobsen

ATTENDANCE ROSTER:

Mr. Joseph Greenley, Director, Department of Wildlife
Mr. A. J. Dieringer, Wildlife Department
Mr. Sam Millazzo, Wildlife Department
Mr. Lowell V. Smith, Director, Department of Forestry
Mr. John Sweetland, Wildlife Commissioner
Dr. Dale Bohmont, Dean, College of Agriculture,
University of Nevada-Reno
Mr. Jac Shaw, Director, Department of State Lands
Mr. David Drew, Nevada State Fairgrounds

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Legislators and staff convened at the rear of the Legislative Building on Wednesday, April 29, 1981, at 1:45 P. M. to commence the field trip. Others in attendance proceeded according to their particular arrangements.

The first stop was at the Washoe Ponds Station of the Department of Wildlife. This facility covers about 18 acres. Mr. Dieringer, Department of Wildlife, described the various aspects of this operation, which is a rearing station for various types of trout to be placed in streams, reservoirs and lakes throughout the state. Mr. Dieringer said about 60,000 pounds of trout a year, primarily rainbow, are raised here. He also said the station meets the water quality standards of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The group then proceeded to the Main Station, University of Nevada-Reno School of Agriculture. Dean Bohmont conducted a tour through the facilities, and explained the various functions of each. He said research is ongoing in developing cattle bloodlines and quality of beef, and various experiments are conducted to this end.

The Renewable Resources Center of the College of Agriculture was visited next. Members of the tour inspected the facilities and spent considerable time viewing the laboratory where slides are made from aerial photographs to indicate land conditions throughout the state. Ground data is obtained from intricate slide development; this data aids in measuring land and soil conditions upon which projections for land use are based, dealing with erosion, water sheds, water quality and wildlife habitat. It was noted that such data will be of great assistance in determining management of lands hoped to be obtained from the "Sagebrush Rebellion."

Mr. Greenley conducted the field trip members through the Department of Wildlife Building; the Department has total personnel of one hundred forty-seven, serving statewide. He explained the communication network which links the parks, forestry services and wildlife services throughout the state.

The group then travelled to the Nevada State Fairgrounds for a tour of its livestock arena facility, which covers about 12,000 feet. Mr. Bill Behrens, arena staff member, presented facts on uses, in addition to livestock shows, of the arena, noting it needs to be enlarged due to the large number of people in attendance at the various functions.

The Verdi Fish Hatchery, a Department of Wildlife operation, was next on the itinerary. It covers approximately 37 acres, contains its

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own sewer installation to handle fish residue in compliance with the Environmental Agency, has a standby generator, an ultra violet mechanism, an incubator room, and is one of the first hatcheries for the department. The water flow is 5sf as compared to 9sf for the Washoe Pond Station. Due to a poor water supply, it is hoped to sell this facility and move it to the Mason Valley area where water is more plentiful. Rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout are raised in this facility for statewide distribution.

The Department of Wildlife station in East Washoe Valley proved to be of interest to members of the tour. Mr. Lowell Smith, Director, explained, with the aid of his staff, the centralized dispatch unit used for fire control and how a fire situation is handled. He said it is invaluable as a central control point with which to handle emergencies throughout the state. With this unit, all emergency units, not just Wildlife units, are linked on the same frequency, facilitating vital communication as needed.

Also located in this station is the vehicle garage/shop building and maintenance facility. Mr. Smith said the department has 150 vehicles in use in the state, and explained fire vehicles are actually built in the shop; the department receives a vehicle without any fittings or equipment, and does that work, thereby saving a great deal of money each year.

The group then proceeded to drive by the Washoe State Park on its return trip to Carson City, where there are entirely new accommodations, such as a boat launch, a water system, housing for permanent staff, and a day use center, allowing for expanded demand on the part of the public.

The tour concluded at 6:30 P. M. in the parking lot of the Legislative Building.

Respectfully submitted by:


Carolyn L. Freeland, Secretary

APPROVED:


Senator Norman Glaser, Chairman

DATE: May 5, 1981