



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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A Weekly Legislative Report

Vol. 25 No. 8

3/7/2025

We want to apologize for not sending out an update last week. There was a large amount of legislation that was in flux or moving across the rotunda. This was coupled with several meetings outside the valley & personal commitments at the end of the week.

[DR. DON MILLER HONORED](#)

Idaho Hay & Forage Association recently honored **Dr. Donald Miller**, Technical Forage Advisor for Mountain View Seeds in Nampa with the **Don Hale Hall of Fame Award**. Dr. Miller holds a BS in Biology, MS in Agronomy & a Ph.D. in agronomy/plant breeding from New Mexico State University. Dr. Miller has worked in Idaho most of his career & knows the problems producers face in growing alfalfa & other forages. That knowledge allows him to advise Mountain View Seeds on what alfalfa varieties & traits are needed by Idaho growers to be productive & profitable forage producers. Don started his career in 1984 with Agri-Pro Seeds & has worked for a variety of companies dealing with seeds & product development throughout his career. Several of the varieties Miller has developed or cooperated with include some of the best grazing & traffic resistant, salt tolerant, disease & pest resistant, & varieties with improved forage digestibility. The award is presented by IHFA in honor of Don Hale, founding member & leader in the Idaho hay & forage industry.

[USDA FOREST SERVICE APPOINTMENT](#)

Tom Schultz, of Idaho, has been appointed **chief of the U.S. Forest Service**. Schultz previously served as vice president of resources & **government affairs at Coeur d'Alene based Idaho Forest Group**, where he led timber procurement operations & managed relationships with government officials at all levels. He also has served as Idaho Department of Lands director, overseeing management of several million surface acres of endowment lands & minerals. A former U.S. Air Force officer, he also held leadership roles in the

Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, where he managed trust lands & water resources divisions. He holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in political science from the University of Wyoming & a master's in forestry from the University of Montana.

[GLYPHOSATE IN IDAHO](#)

Recently a presentation by the Bayer Company helped inform those attending the meeting on the importance of **Glyphosate** to Idaho agriculture. Glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide in the US, has enabled conservation practices, including cover cropping, double cropping & reduced soil tillage on millions of acres year after year in the US. Bayer located in Soda Springs, Idaho with the mine & the production facilities provide **\$110 million** in payroll, & employee **200 people in the mine & 600 plant employees**. Recently several discussions have been held related to the chemical & its value to Idaho agriculture as well as to the economy of our state. Southeast Idaho is one of the key phosphate producing regions of the US. Without a domestic supply like that available in Idaho, US Agriculture could face an increase reliance on China, Russia & the Middle East for production. It is estimated that in **Idaho Glyphosate is used on 43%** of all commodity acres.

[DEPREDEATION UPDATE](#)

The legislature passed H592 during the 2024 session that provided a framework for depredation payments for validated & probable **livestock losses from wolves & grizzly bears**. Additionally, it provided funding for nonlethal measures that operators could use to protect their livestock. H82 simply clarifies that possible claims from livestock producers can receive compensation for animals that have been lost to wolves & grizzly bears. For wolves, the category of possible was the largest possible for livestock depredations. On the flip side, grizzly bears had the most confirmed kills fall into that category followed by possible losses.

There is another rung on the ladder below possible & that is unknown. Unknown results could be deaths from pneumonia, bloat or poisonous plants. However, if it falls in the possible category there is a likelihood more than not that the animal was taken by a predator based on the investigation. During this past year, there was a high volume of investigations that resulted in possible determinations. H82 would allow those producers to have an opportunity **to receive funding for their losses after payments are made for confirmed & probable**. H82 passed the House of Representatives & was heard in the Senate Resources & Environment Committee. H82 passed out of committee & is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor by the whole body. On the flip side of the rotunda S1012 just passed out of the House Resources & Conservation Committee. S1012 deals with establishing a depredation appeals board that would allow a producer to challenge a decision from Wildlife Services if they thought the decision was incorrect. Currently, when an individual suffers loss, they must call APHIS-Wildlife Services & have an investigator come inspect the injured or dead animal to determine if predators are involved. An individual can only receive compensation from federal government grants if the depredation is confirmed & state funding from wolf & grizzly bear loss when the depredation is confirmed or probable. Confirmed depredation is also a statistic to determine whether Idaho Fish & Game is able to control of wildlife throughout the state through authorized kill permits. In its current form, once this single federal investigator makes a determination, that is the final determination & end of the process. S1012 would create an appeals board where three experts look at all the evidence & reconsider the determination of the initial federal investigator. This reconsideration would also assist the state in determining where control efforts should be prioritized.

IDAHO'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Idaho enjoys a great infrastructure of moving water for the highest & most beneficial use. The 2025 Idaho Legislature is considering S1128 which directs an addition of **\$30,000,000**, continuously funded out of the general fund, to the water management account, The water management account is managed by the Idaho Water Resource Board. The funds shall be used for planning, constructing, rehabilitating, reconstructing, & improving water infrastructure throughout the state. Projects include but are not limited to:

- (a)** Aquifer recharge, ground water management, & other projects aimed at sustaining aquifer health & long-term water availability.
- (b)** Development & rehabilitation of water storage & conveyance systems, including reservoirs, diversion structures, pipelines, & canals.
- (c)** Water supply & delivery improvements that enhance efficiency & conservation.

(d) Emergency water infrastructure repairs & upgrades to ensure the resilience of vital water systems. No more than fifty percent (50%) of the funds appropriated may be used within a single board district, unless there are no competing funding applications for water infrastructure projects in other districts for the current fiscal year. S1128 passed the Idaho Senate 24-10-1 & is now in the House Resource & Conservation Committee.

CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT

On March 2, 2025, the US Department of the Treasury issued a press release expanding on a previous announcement from the Financial Services Branch. The Treasury release states that even "after the forthcoming rule changes take effect the Treasury **will not enforce fines & penalties under the CTA against domestic Reporting Companies**, beneficial owners of domestic Reporting Companies or US citizens. The release also outlines Treasury's intention to propose additional rulemaking that would limit CTA reporting obligations solely to foreign Reporting Companies. Under the CTA, a foreign Reporting Company is defined as any entity that is formed under the laws of a foreign country & registered to do business in the United States by filing a document with a secretary of state or a similar office under the laws of a State or Indian tribe. As a result, the proposed rulemaking would significantly narrow the CTA's application.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

H104 provides a singular & uniform definition for **"agricultural buildings"** across all local jurisdictions. The definition of agricultural buildings includes livestock shelters or buildings, barns, storage & maintenance structures for equipment & machinery, horticulture structures, grain silos & more. Essentially it includes **any structure designed, constructed, & intended to house, accommodate, or store farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock, or other horticultural products**. The legislation outlines what the definition of "agricultural buildings" does not include such as places of habitation, processing facilities, & a place used by the public. H104 also restricts counties from changing or restricting the exemption by imposing size limits on agricultural buildings, setting maximum exit distances & requiring automatic sprinkler systems. H104 has passed the House & is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor. It passed out of committee with no votes against it.

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