

IDAHO OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES BOARD

McCall, Idaho

December 16 & 17, 1970

The meeting was called at 9:20 a.m. at Shore Lodge with the following members present: James F. Baughman, Vice Chairman, R. J. Holmes, Jim Renshaw, and H. W. Guth.

Miss Gertrude Maxwell appeared to inquire if there were any way she could sell her outfitting business as she is anxious to retire if she can sell her livestock and equipment. She was told that the Board will consider any qualified applicant; if she can find an experienced outfitter with good recommendations, he probably would be granted a license.

Mr. Ray Higgins of Indian Lake Outfitters appeared to discuss a complaint received from Dennis K. Jason and Paul R. Huber, both of Milwaukee. He did not feel the complaint was justified as a number of things beyond his control may have contributed to their dissatisfaction: they changed their booking from the second hunt to the third; they arrived 1 day sooner than expected; when the rest of the party was delayed by an airline strike it was necessary to postpone the departure for the hunting camp from 4 a.m. until about noon, a fact which was not known until 11 p.m. and Mr. Jason was not informed of the change, which made him very angry. He complained that they were not consulted about the manner of hunting, but Mr. Higgins said that each evening at supper they made plans for the next day's hunt--they had an opportunity to object if they wished to hunt in a different manner. On the trip out they did not arrive at the place where the cars were left until after dark because they chose to stay in bed that morning and did not leave camp with the rest of the party. This first group out had taken the only truck that would start readily.

Mr. Higgins was told that the Board did not approve of his bringing in another Mantana outfitter, Francis Kapphan, to outfit in his area with an Idaho guide license.

Mr. Fred Lenz appeared to find out what would happen to the joint use areas in Eastern Idaho if the original licensee should sell his business. The Board told him the joint use license holders would not be jeopardized.

Cliff Neumann appeared to complain about the activities of an unlicensed outfitter operating in his area, one Cliff Daniels of Idaho Falls. He left two bear hunters who came to Cliff Neumann for help in getting their game out. Mr. Neumann's own hunters were unhappy over the situation. He had called the office but not until after Mr. Daniels had left the area so Mr. Wilkins was not called to investigate.

Rick Hussey appeared to answer to a complaint from R. S. Knapp concerning the lack of horses and the fact that the guide, Neut. Kilpatrick, wouldn't allow them to hunt deer even though they had been sold deer tags. Mr. Hussey said Mr. Knapp was extremely deaf and he apparently didn't understand the plans as they were made. He said the horses were there but Mr. Knapp expected them to remain tied up on the trail where he left them each day; they were actually grazing a short distance away. He said he didn't know what he meant about hunting for deer because Mr. Knapp was one who didn't get an elk so he was hunting elk for the entire hunt.

Recessed for lunch until 1:30 p.m.

Colin Rhoades appeared to see about getting part of the Slate Creek area which he applied for last June. He was told to make application for what he could use to advantage in conjunction with his present area.

Mrs. Gladys Phelps appeared to apply for the outfitter license which was formerly in her name. She said she and Mr. Phelps are getting a divorce and she desired to keep on with the outfitting business. She was told that it might depend upon the property settlement.

Mr. Frank Geurin from Big Creek Store appeared to request an outfitter license and hunting area.

Leo Crane appeared to request part of the St. Joe Lodge area which adjoins him, which he claims they do not use. He was told to get recommendations from the Fish and Game Dept. and Forest Service that there should be a greater harvest in the area.

Homer Rhett and Lester West appeared concerning the trespass by Ted Howell, a licensed boatman who was transporting hunters into various areas along the Salmon River. Mr Howell has been convicted of a game law violation and will not be able to get a 1971 license in Idaho.

Mr. Rhett said Ray Tarbox also moved into his area.

The Board meeting recessed at 3:30 p.m. in order to meet with representatives of the various National Forests and the regional offices as follows: Ed Slusser, Northern Region, Henry Ketchie, Intermountain Region, Tom Coston, Boise N.F., Bill Sendt, Payette N.F., Jack Shumate, Special Use Permits, Intermountain Region, Bob Newcomber, Payette N.F., and Jim Moorehead, Challis N.F.

The meeting was arranged to work out mutual problems involving the Forest Service and the outfitting industry and to further discuss the Memorandum of Understanding which had been in preparation, off and on, for a number of years. The concensus of those present was that if we would continue having two or more meetings a year, more could be accomplished than through any memorandum and that a working relationship has now been established which does not require a written memorandum. Mr. Slusser has been designated as liaison for Region I and the Boise N.F. for Region IV.

Mr. Slusser said the ultimate goal of the Forest Service is to have the public lands for the use of the underprivileged rather than make hunting a rich man's pasttime.

There was a discussion of boating on the Middle Fork of the Salmon and Mr. Ketchie gave a report on the meeting attended by several agencies involved in an attempt to establish a system of warning the public of hazardous water conditions during the highwater period. The weather bureau now makes 3 day forecasts but they will be able to increase this to 7 days, which would be sufficient to make the Middle Fork trip. Mr. Shumate said that the river could be closed for a period if deemed necessary--the Forest Service has the power. They could also inspect equipment and set standards.

The Board said they are contemplating imposing a moratorium on new outfitter licenses. Mr. Coston said the Forest Service will soon be formulating a management plan but they do not contemplate placing restrictions for the coming year. They will know by the end of this season if restrictions will be necessary. However, he thought it would be a good idea for the outfitters to restrict the commercial operators. Garbage is the big problem and not all the outfitters are cooperating. The last 20 miles is a bottleneck with few locations suitable for campsites.

The Board should request information from the licensed boatmen regarding their use of each river.

There was a discussion of the Wyoming guide law which limits the out of state hunters, at least in theory, according to Mr. Shumate. No one can get a permit in successive years. Eventually everyone will be regulated on public lands.

The Board brought up the matter of having the Forest Ranger sign outfitter applications. This requirement had been removed from the applications because some District Rangers in Region I objected; however, others had objected to the removal. Mr. Slusser was reluctant to commit the Forest Service to sign the applications.

The Board asked that the Forest Service cooperate with the state board and discontinue their practice of granting campsite permits for commercial outfitting to persons who do not have an outfitter license. There have been a number of such instances recently.

The Forest Service would like to know the area licensed to each outfitter and asked that maps be sent to them. The Board said it would probably be possible to provide description but making maps would involve more work than we would have time for.

Mr. Newcomer said that, to their knowledge, George Dovel did not operate during the 1970 season--he did not apply for a campsite permit.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

December 17, 1970

The meeting reconvened at 9 a.m. on the morning of the 17th with the same members present.

Mr. Joe Peck appeared to answer to two complaints--a written complaint from W. W. Clarke and party and a verbal complaint from Fred Weinkauff and five others who came to the office and made a complaint. The latter party was so dissatisfied with the trip into camp and the condition of the camp that they came back out the next day. The complaints were about the food, sanitation, lack of wood, sleeping bags on ice in the tents, and the attitude of Mr. Peck.

Mr. Peck was placed on probation for a year and severely censured.

Dave Giles came in to see about an overlap with Sandy Brooks. He had heard that Mr. Brooks was intending to sell his business and he would like the overlap taken care of before a transfer is made. He also wanted to know if every thing had been done to have the Scoble area transferred to him.

Wayland Heaton appeared to ask that his licensed area be transferred to John Crump and Roger Wright with Mr. Crump as the managing agent of the Bitterroot Wilderness Outfitters

The Board requested Miss Maxwell to come in again to discuss the area of Nitz Brothers. She says that she doesn't use Vermillion Creek after October and that Nitz Brothers are welcome to use it after that month.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

James G. Baughman
Vice Board Chairman

Lois Merritt
Secretary