

AGENDA

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

UTAH LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, September 17, 2003 • 2:00 p.m. • Room 303 State Capitol

1. Committee Business

- Call to order
- Approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2003 meeting

2. Circle Four Farms

Presentation of environmental management system ISO 14001 certification to Circle Four Farms, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods.

- Representative Styler

3. Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Committee will discuss ways local governments and other interested parties can influence Wild and Scenic Rivers designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

- Ron Thompson, District Manager - Washington County Water Conservancy District
- Sally Wisely, Utah State Director - Bureau of Land Management
- Tom Tidwell, Forest Supervisor - Wasatch/Cache National Forest and
Randy Welsh, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic River Specialist - Intermountain Region, United States Forest Service
- Representatives of Utah's Congressional Delegation Invited to Participate in the Discussion
 - Bruce Richeson - Special Assistant to Senator Bennett
 - Ron Dean - Public Lands & Natural Resources Counsel to Senator Hatch
 - Peter Jenks - District Director, Congressman Bishop
 - Peggy Harrison - Field Coordinator, Congressman Cannon
 - J.D. Kesler - Policy Advisor, Congressman Matheson

4. State Engineer - Ground Water Management

The State Engineer has reported that significantly more water than the safe annual yield of the aquifer could be withdrawn from the Salt Lake Valley ground water system based on existing water rights--many of which are undeveloped. By some estimates, water rights have been issued to as much as three times the aquifer's safe annual yield. There are several ground water basins in the state that have experienced substantial declines in water levels, because the annual quantity of water pumped far exceeds the recharge. The State Engineer's authority to regulate perfected ground water right holders is not clearly defined in Section 73-5-1(5), nor does the statute specify how to divide a ground water supply among claimants where the supply is inadequate. The State Engineer seeks legislative direction on the proper management of ground water under the statute.

- Jerry Olds, State Engineer

5. Chronic Wasting Disease Report

The State Veterinarian will update the Committee on Chronic Wasting Disease.

- Dr. Mike Marshall, State Veterinarian

6. Other Items / Adjourn