

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By Chairperson Connelly, on February 9, 1989, at
8:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Five members present

Members Excused: Rep. Thoft

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Claudia Montagne, Secretary; Carroll South, Staff
Researcher, Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Office

Announcements/Discussion: None

RRD AND R & D GRANT PROGRAMS

Tape 38

REP. CONNELLY announced that the committee was taking testimony on projects from individuals who had been unable to attend the scheduled hearings due to bad weather.

TOOLE COUNTY, RANKING 29, RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, North Toole County Reclamation Project, (38:A:010).

ED VANDER PAS represented the project. He stated that a couple of years ago, the Toole County Commissioners asked five citizens from the oil and gas industry and agriculture to form a board to start this project. He said that in the 1920's, when oil was discovered, oil wells were drilled in the rim northwest of Kevin. By 1929, there were in excess of 500 wells drilled in the area. They were drilled with a standard rig, and built with plank, and each lease property had camps associated with the site. With no formal regulations other than a gentleman's agreement, these sites were left when the oil production ended. MR. VANDER PAS said the end result today was a large amount of debris scattered around this oil field, as well as a number of spills. This project would locate these dumps and clean them up.

REP. BARDANOUVE (38:A:069) asked how large the area was. MR. VANDER PAS said the area was the old Kevin-Sunburst field, approximately 13,000 acres. He said the worst sites were the state leases. REP. BARDANOUVE asked how many years would be required for the project. MR. VANDER PAS said the money in this grant was for 10 to 13 different spots, and another 25 to 30 sites needed attention too.

REP. BARDANOUE asked who owned the rest of the land. MR. VANDER PAS said much of it was owned or leased by new operators. He said he personally had 11 leases, all small leases. In taking these over, he had assumed responsibility for cleaning the property within his lease lines, and hoped to continue doing that. In every case where the responsible party could be found for previous messes, he/she was asked to clean up. However, he said that party could not be forced, and not all complied. The new operators did not always take on the responsibility. MR. VANDER PAS said the RIT Fund had been created for just this type of project and he added that Toole County had contributed \$1,600,000 to the RIT Fund. REP. BARDANOUE asked how many producing wells were in the area. MR. VANDER PAS said 2,000 to 3,000 wells were producing.

REP. GARY AKLESTAD, House District 6, (38:A:146), Toole County, stood in support of the project. He said he had personally reviewed the area and the project, and it was working.

EAST GLACIER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, RANKING 16, RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, Midvale Creek Diversion, (37:A:165).

BILL GRANT represented the Water and Sewer District, and had with him Lenny Lowry, Larry Bullard, and Steven Sherburne. All were directors of the East Glacier Water and Sewer District board. He said the diversion would divert water around the dam during cleaning operations. He described the history of the project. The dam had been moved three times within the past 60 years, and in the present position, created a reservoir of water sufficient to provide water to the community in summer and winter. He said it collected sediment after spring runoff. It had to be cleaned by the county, an expensive, dangerous process. For a day or two during this process, the community was without water.

MR. GRANT (37:A:208) said the Blackfeet were now enforcing their Water Quality Plan, saying that a D-8 cat could no longer be in the creek bed to clean it out. This proposal dealt with this situation in creating a diversion on this dam to be used during the fall, when the dam was being cleaned. This solution would allow clear water to flow down the stream during the cleaning operations and also permit continued water supply to the community during that period.

SEN. MANNING asked if they had consulted with engineers regarding the workability of the diversion. MR. GRANT said yes. REP. BARDANOUE asked how much the water rates were. MR. GRANT said the residential rate was \$20, and the commercial rate, \$23. REP. BARDANOUE commented that the community was putting up \$780, and asked if that was the most they could put up. MR. GRANT said the district was operating at a deficit now. He explained the community's history with a recently installed well system, which they had paid for, and which had failed.

REP. BARDANOUE (38:A:286) asked if any government facilities were served by the system, and what their rates were. MR. GRANT said Glacier Park and the state Highway Dept. was served by this system. He said the commercial rate depended upon the size of the business. He added that the commercial rate for Glacier Park Inc. in the summer months would be \$2,500 per month, but couldn't be charged because it was their water.

STEVEN SHERBURNE, President of the water district, testified on the immediate necessity of the project and said there were no alternatives.

REP. BOB GERVAIS, House District 9, spoke in support of the project, and said others from the Blackfoot Tribe were there in support of it as well.

SEN. MANNING (38:A:366) asked if the district had the tribe's approval for the diversion, and MR. SHERBURNE said yes. He added that it was not a large project, the diversion being a few hundred feet in length. SEN. HIMSL asked if the district had the authority to divert a river. MR. SHERBURNE said the project had been approved by DNRC as a diversion around a man-made instream reservoir, and had not encountered any opposition from any state agency.

REP. BARDANOUE (37:A:405) asked if the sediment would come into the diversion. MR. SHERBURNE said they would divert the stream in the fall of the year when the sediment would be virtually nonexistent. During the rest of the year, the diversion would not be used.

STEPHEN POLLOCK, Blackfoot Tribe Water Management, stood in support of the project, as did CHARLES FARMER for the tribe and HERB GILHAM, for the Blackfoot Utility Commission.

STEVE POLLOCK (37:A:442) said the tribe had worked with the water and sewer district to find an effective way of carrying out the dredging operations. He said the plan had the tribe's support and was in the best interest of the environment and the watershed. Regarding the permitting authority for the diversion, the Corps of Engineers had been involved as well as other pertinent agencies.

CASCADE COUNTY PARK BOARD, RANKING 24, RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area, (37:A:485).

KAREN KOHUT, representing the Cascade County Park Board and the Great Falls Cross Country Club, testified as set forth in EXHIBIT 1.

REP. BARDANOUE (37:A:628) asked if Montana had a program funded through Highway monies for this sort of project. MS KOHUT said the snowmobile gasoline tax was only for snowmobile grooming programs for snowmobile trails. The Snowmobile Association was

the only group that could get that money. REP. BARDANOUE commented that it would be contrary to the Constitution for one private organization to benefit from a law passed by the legislature. He said the committee would look into that. SEN. HIMSL asked if grooming trails for snowmobiles was the same as for skiing. MS KOHUT said their machinery was different, but could be adapted for cross country ski trails.

REP. BARDANOUE (38:A:697) asked how the organization raised revenue. MS KOHUT said the area was on Forest Service land, so they could not charge a daily user fee without a special use permit. They had a donation tube at the trail head, and sold pins. She said they had a club, open to anyone, that had budgeted 40% of its dues to go towards trail maintenance and equipment. REP. BARDANOUE (38:A:747) asked what the advantage of the special use permit would be. MS KOHUT said the advantage would be the ability to charge a fee, but the disadvantage would be the payment of a percentage of the fees to the Forest Service, and the requirement of liability insurance.

VICTOR TACK (37:B:010) said he was a club member and involved with the flagging of the trails. He urged the support of the committee, saying they needed a larger machine. He also mentioned the use of volunteer labor which was a large part of their activities. He spoke of their long range plan, and said they planned to expand the amount of trail miles, which existing machinery would not allow.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY PLANT AND SOILS SCIENCE DEPARTMENT,
RANKING 19, RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM,
Predicting the Movement of Pesticides Through Montana Soils to
Groundwater: An On-Farm Management Tool, (38:B:060).

WILLIAM INSKEEP, Soil Chemist at Montana State University and lead investigator on this project, testified for the multi-departmental and multi-institutional project. He said the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Extension Service at MSU and the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) in Butte would be participating. He described the main issues of the project by going through the handout, EXHIBIT 2. He said MSU would contribute salaries, equipment and computer modelling.

MR. INSKEEP spoke of the support of the Montana Department of Agriculture, and said the agency had no way to predict which soils would be most susceptible to pesticide leaching.

REP. BARDANOUE (38:B:178) asked where the information would be applied. MR. INSKEEP said it would be made available to producers and extension service agents in order to better predict appropriate concentrations and types of pesticides to apply, as well as rates of application. The information would also enable the same people to better target sensitive areas. He said the information would be a management tool for groundwater resources.

MARVIN MILLER, MBMG, urged the committee to support the project even though MBMG's involvement was small. He said this approach would get the information out to the producers. He said another important aspect of the project was the on-farm application. There were field by field variations in soil types and absorption rates, as well as varying depths of groundwater and leaching potentials of the chemicals. These would be demonstrated during the demonstration field days on site, working with the producer.

FLATHEAD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT, RANKING 26, RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, Flathead County Groundwater Study, (38:B:259).

ROBIN STREET, Chairman of the Flathead Conservation District handed out the revised edition of their grant application, EXHIBIT 3, which represented a reduction in grant money of 47%. He said the district felt it could effectively use existing wells to cut expenses. He continued through the exhibit, which outlined the nature and extent of the project.

SEN. HIMSL (38:B:424) asked if, in using the existing wells, they would select both deep and shallow wells, and what information would be generated by these wells. MR. STREET said both types of wells would be selected with the actual sites determined by a committee, composed of the Water Rights Bureau, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and three other entities. He said the information generated would be the depth of the aquifer and the changes in the depth over a season. He explained the instrumentation. SEN. HIMSL asked what purpose the information would serve. MR. STREET said the information would be used by the Water Rights Bureau, and would aid in the determination of what a problem actually was with a groundwater source. He said that water quality information could be generated as well, especially with regards to pesticides.

SEN. HIMSL (38:B:553) expressed concern regarding grant money being spent to put herbicides and pesticides on the land, and additional money being spent to take it off or monitor it. MR. STREET said there was more awareness now with regards to the use of these chemicals. SEN. HIMSL said it was his understanding that there was a tremendous amount of water at deeper depths than they were talking about in this application, and MR. STREET said yes, in some areas. SEN. HIMSL asked if this project concerned itself with just shallow wells. MR. MILLER said there was the old Flathead River system that flowed through the area. He said deeper aquifers were almost all artesian, rising above the aquifer. Therefore the danger of pesticides in the deep systems would be due to the process of chemigation and chemical injection. It was the well head that needed to be examined. He spoke of the need to use one way valves to prevent the chemicals from going down into the hole and thus into the aquifer. MR. MILLER said shallow groundwater problems with chemical contamination occurred from spills, poor application, and ignorance.

UPPER MUSSELHELL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, RANKING 22, RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, Musselshell River Stream Corridor Project, (38:B:657).

JOHN LAMMERS, Upper Musselshell Conservation District, spoke for the project. He said the late Milwaukee Road had put its roadbed straight up the Musselshell Valley, cutting off meanders and destabilizing the river. Today, he said, the railroad was gone, and was not defending their roadway. Consequently, the river in times of high water will cut through the old roadbed and start to take highways. An ongoing problem with serious potential for more severe problems existed, he said. MR. LAMMERS said they proposed to develop ten demonstration sites for stabilization of the river through vegetative processes, exclusion of livestock, and revetments. He said the project covered the river from Martinsdale through Roundup to the juncture with the Fort Peck Reservoir.

SEN. HIMSL (39:A:010) commented on the objections to riprap costs and asked what the word revetment meant. MR. LAMMERS said revetment referred to the process of placing logs along the edge of the river and cabling them in to the bank. When the water would come, it would pull against the cable and pull the log into the bank. He said it was a cost effective method, and had been shown to be as effective as riprap. REP. BARDANOUE commented that the life of a cottonwood was not very long, and that their revetment would decay quickly. MR. LAMMERS said they hoped the bank would stabilize behind the cottonwoods and revegetate before that happened. He mentioned that they may have to fence some of these areas off in order to manage the livestock.

SEN. HIMSL asked who owned the right of way at the present time, and MR. LAMMERS said the Milwaukee sold the right of way to a salvage company, L.B. Foster. They sold it to the landowners where L.B. Foster had clear title, or allowed it to revert to the original landowners where L.B. Foster had an easement. He said that the better decision would have been to force the Milwaukee through the courts to clean up its own mess.

REP. BARDANOUE commented that nature had more of a say than man has, and has a design on the river. Nature said it wanted a meander, and in the long run, nature won more than it lost. He warned the people from Musselshell County that they may be fighting a losing battle. REP. BARDANOUE said he feared that channelization, which made a river run more rapidly, would cause more damage in the long run. He said if the river were allowed to seek its natural desires, it would slow down, and not carry near the sediment nor cause near the damage as in its altered state. MR. LAMMERS agreed.

BOB WILLEMS, Upper Musselshell Conservation District, said part of the funding would be used to slow down the flow, using drop structures. He said they were planning on working with Mother Nature. REP. BARDANOUE commented that she was "awful crabby" at times.

CHERYL MILLER, Secretary for the district, said the project would focus on education. She said many farmers and landowners cut off oxbows, thus creating more problems in addition to the railroad. She said they would like to stabilize the river, and also demonstrate alternative measures on how to stabilize the river.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 10:05 a.m.

M. E. Connelly

REP. CONNELLY, Chairperson

MEC/cm

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Cross
Country
Club

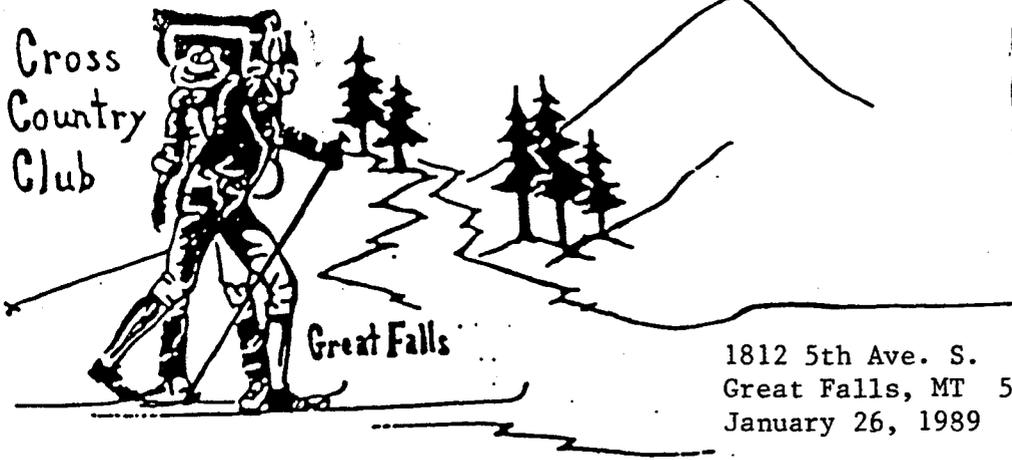


EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2-9-89
HB RD v RDSP
guts

1812 5th Ave. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
January 26, 1989

Honorable Mary Ellen Connelly, Chairperson
Longe Range Planning Subcommittee
Capital Station
Helena, MT 59620

RE: DNRC Grant Proposal-Renewable Resource Development Program
Project: Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area Improvements and Expansion
Requested Amount-\$74,100
Project Sponsor: Cascade County Park Board

Dear Representative Connelly:

The Cascade County Park Board, on behalf of the Great Falls Cross Country Club, has made a grant application through the DNRC-Renewable Resource Development Program for purchase of a snow grooming machine to be used for trail grooming at the Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area near Neihart, Montana. The Great Falls Cross Country Club is responsible for the maintenance and grooming of the Silver Crest Trails, in cooperation with the Lewis & Clark National Forest. As the enclosed information sheet outlines, Silver Crest was developed in 1982 and began with two loops, 3.2 km. and 4.8 km. Previously awarded a \$10,000 DNRC Grant for FY'86-'86 and FY '86-'87, the Great Falls Cross Country Club logged about 1000 volunteer hours to expand Silver Crest to its present 3 loops totaling 18 km., complete with trail location markers, a trailhead registration board, location maps along the trails, as well as publications at the trailhead for skiers' use. The previous grant also enabled the purchase of a used '79 snowmobile and materials to build a trail-packing attachment, funds for contracting with a groomer during the ski season, and materials to build 3 three-sided adirondack shelters.

Since that project's completion, the Great Falls Cross Country Club has continued its involvement in trail maintenance and grooming at Silver Crest. Since the trails are on Forest Service land, no user fee is allowed at this point. However, a donation tube is placed at the trailhead and the Club is in its third season selling a Silver Crest commemorative pin, both projects designed to encourage support from all skiers using Silver Crest, not just members of the Cross Country Club. The long range plans for Silver Crest involve expansion of the existing system, possibly double the amount of kilometers. However, the present grooming snowmobile would be inadequate to groom any expansion as grooming time is limited by available funds each year. A larger grooming machine (similar to those used at downhill ski areas) was the choice for the grant proposal as more trails could be groomed in less time, but yet the maintenance and cost of running the machine would still be within the Club's budget for these expenses. The Great Falls Cross Country Club does not have the finances for a purchase such as this, but could continue to budget for maintenance and groomer's fees. Currently, serious mechanical breakdowns on the '79 snowmobile indicate a need for a new snowmachine is

imminent. The original request of \$74,100 included \$60,100 for a large groomer with attachments and \$14,000 for construction of a garage in which to store the groomer. Since the grant application, the Forest Service has offered to find alternatives to finance the construction of the garage. The DNRC recommendation for funding this project is "50% of the cost for a suitable machine, up to a maximum of \$30,000." This limits the type of machine we could purchase new and used machines of the size and type requested in the grant are hard to come by. However, if we can be creative with the funding recommended, we would be able to at least purchase a new snowmobile to replace the '79 snowmobile, which at this time may not be repairable.

We urge you to support the funding of the Renewable Resource Program which will be discussed at your Long Range Planning Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1, in Room 317 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Even though our grant was ranked below expected revenues in this program, we urge consideration of funding our project, even at the recommended DNRC level. Thank you for your attention in this matter, and if you need additional information regarding our grant proposal, please feel free to contact me or Club President, Craig Nowak, at the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,



Karen Kohut, Trails Development Coordinator
761-2100 (daytime) 727-3675 (evenings)



Craig Nowak, Club President
452-1412 (evenings)

The Great Falls Cross Country Club, inc., a group promoting non-motorized outdoor recreation, has been active in cross country ski trails development in the Kings Hill area near Neihart, Mt. since 1977. The early years were spent flagging trails that were potential trail systems; however, serious development did not take place until the early 1980's. In 1982, a tracked, groomed trail system, Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area, was developed at the Snowmobile Parking Lot off U.S. Highway 89, 7 miles south of Neihart. This original trail system included two loops, measuring 3.2 km. and 4.8 km. In 1984, the Cross Country Club, with the help of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Sports and Recreation Committee, hired a ski trails developer/consultant to design a trail expansion at Silver Crest Trails, hoping this proposed expansion would double the kilometers of trails at Silver Crest. In 1983, the Cross Country Club, along with the Cascade County Park Board as sponsor, applied for and was awarded a renewable resources grant from the Montana State Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation to be funded from coal severance tax money which would provide the funds necessary for the development of ski trails in the Kings Hill area. The money did not become available until fiscal year '85-'86, but since that time the Silver Crest Trails expansion has become a reality and the Cross Country Club, with the cooperation of the White Sulphur Springs Forest Service Office, has completed the extensive trails expansion as outlined in the grant plans.

Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area now has three loops which total 18 km. (10.8 mi.) of trails when taken separately. These trails have been groomed and tracked once a week from December to March and provide skiable terrain for any experience of skier. Registration surveys at Silver Crest from the 1983 ski season to the 1988 season indicate dramatic increases in trail use there as in the following data:

<u>SEASON</u>	<u>SKIERS REGISTERED</u>	<u>DAYS OF USE</u>	<u>PEAK USE DAY</u>
'83-'84	288	46	12/11
'84-'85	395	64	12/19
'85-'86	496	65	1/4
'86-'87	827	78	2/1
'87-'88	1181	85	1/16

Also included in the ski trails project are three other trails in the area that are marked, but not groomed or tracked, to offer backcountry skiing opportunities. All these trails begin from the Kings Hill Pass area and offer varying distances and degrees of difficulty. The Porphyry Peak to Ranch Creek Trail is 10 miles long and one of the most difficult trails, with the Deadman Ridge Trail 7 miles and a more difficult rating also, and the O'Brien Creek Trail, also rated more difficult with much downhill skiing, 7 miles. This past '86-'87 ski season, registration boxes were placed at these trailheads also and figures indicate a usage of 88 skiers for the Porphyry Peak/O'Brien Creek Trailhead and a peak use day of 1/30 and a usage of 36 skiers for the Deadman Trailhead with a peak use day being 1/25.

The Cross Country Club sponsors an annual citizen's ski race at the Silver Crest Trails and skiers from around the state have attended and been pleased with the skiing opportunities afforded there. Comments have been positive and many skiers feel the consistent snow conditions and trail design rank Silver Crest with other popular ski trail systems around the State, such as West Yellowstone, Whitefish, Missoula, and Bozeman. However, the disadvantage in the Kings Hill area is no overnight lodging. For the "Klister Klassic" citizen's ski race, participants must stay in Great Falls, Helena, Bozeman, or White Sulphur Springs to be near the race course. At one time, plans were in the making in Great Falls to host international nordic ski teams, as well as the U.S. nordic team, for pre-Olympic training before the '88 Calgary Olympics, but the logistics of transporting teams from the nearest city with lodging to the Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area made the plan unfeasible.

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 2-9-89
HB ARD: ROG
grats



Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area

Welcome to the Silver Crest Cross Country Ski Area. The three trail loops are designed to accommodate skiers of all experience and age levels.

HOW LONG ARE THE TRAILS?

Three loop trails offer a total of 12 kilometers.

WHERE DO THEY START & END?

All trails create a loop that begins and ends at the snowmobile parking lot off Highway 89, southeast of Great Falls.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

Drive Highway 89 southeast of Great Falls for 6.1 miles to the snowmobile parking lot turnoff. Parking lot is located 1/4 mile from the highway.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The trail terrain is gently rolling with several moderately steep pitches. Three loop options are available. The outer loop is a total of 8 Km and the inner loops are 3.5 and 6.5 Km. Trails are groomed and tracked weekly. Dogs and sleds are not permitted. Snow depths above nearby Poplar Peak average 50-70 inches (1.2-1.8 meters) annually.

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 2-9-89
HB RD/RDP

DATE 2-9-89
HB RD v RDP

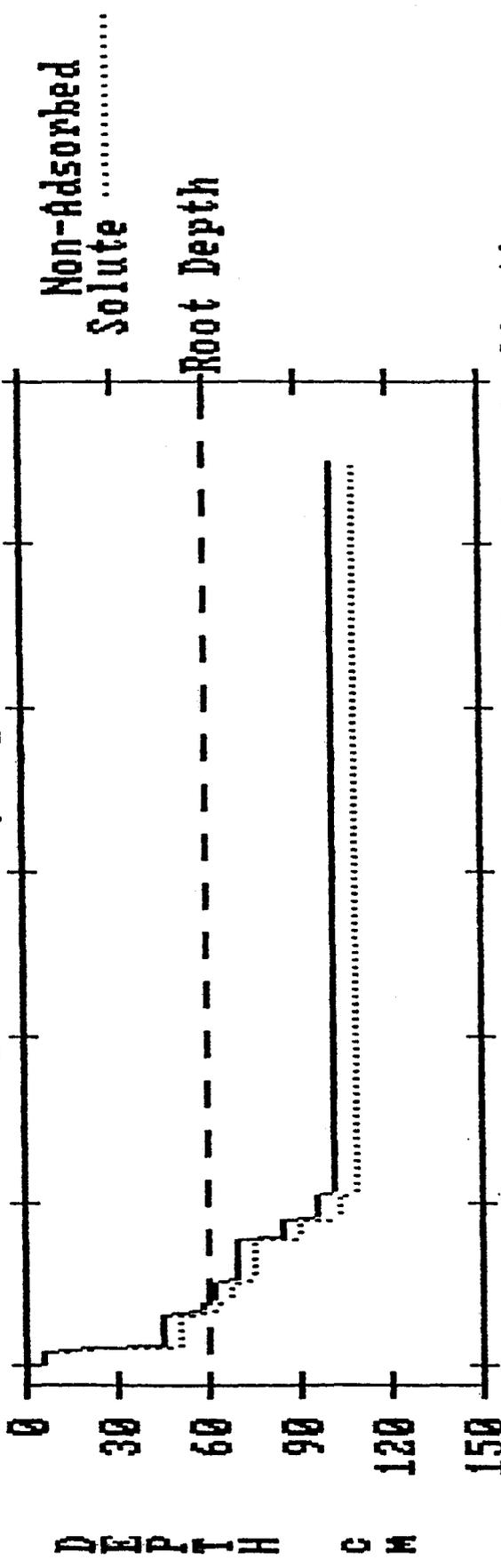
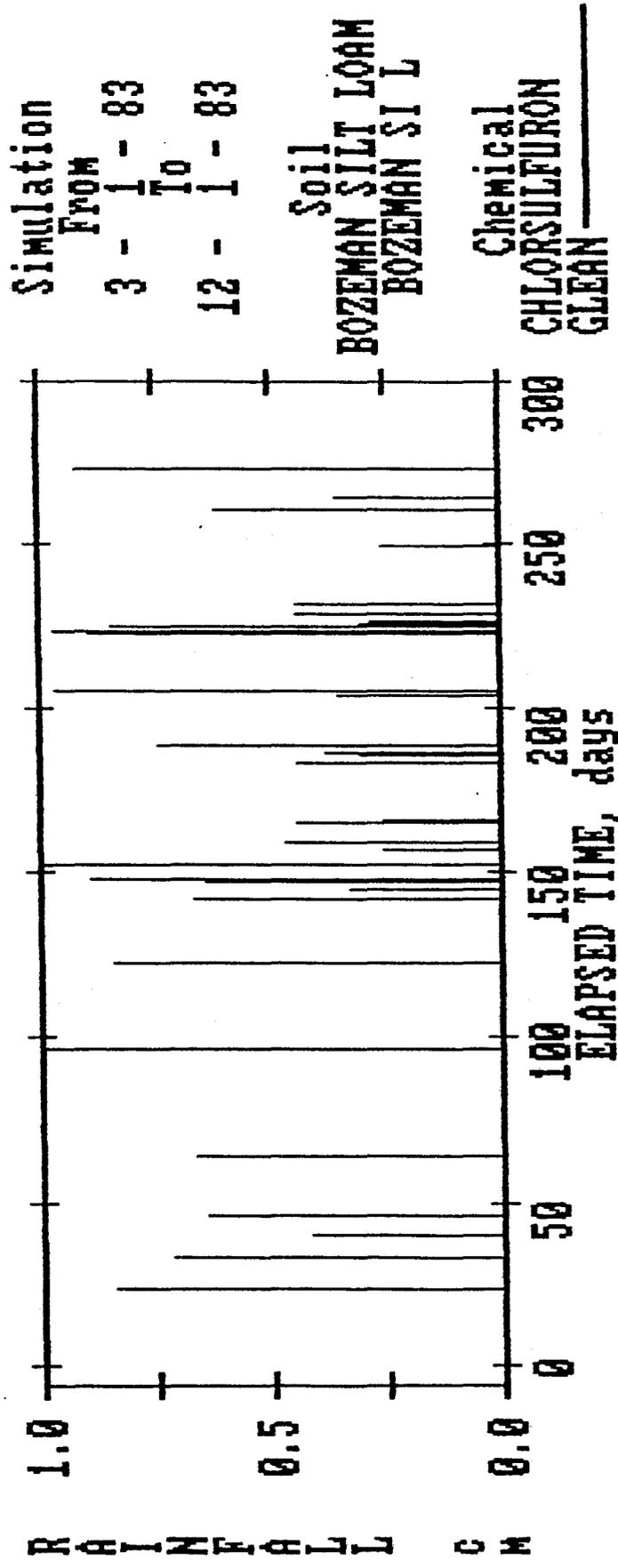
MOVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS INTO GROUNDWATER

A. NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- NO₃⁻
- METALS
- PESTICIDES

B. RECENT MEASUREMENTS IN MONTANA WELLS

- 2,4-D
- MCPA
- DICAMBA
- PICLORAM
- ALDICARB SULFOXIDE
- ALDICARB SULFONE

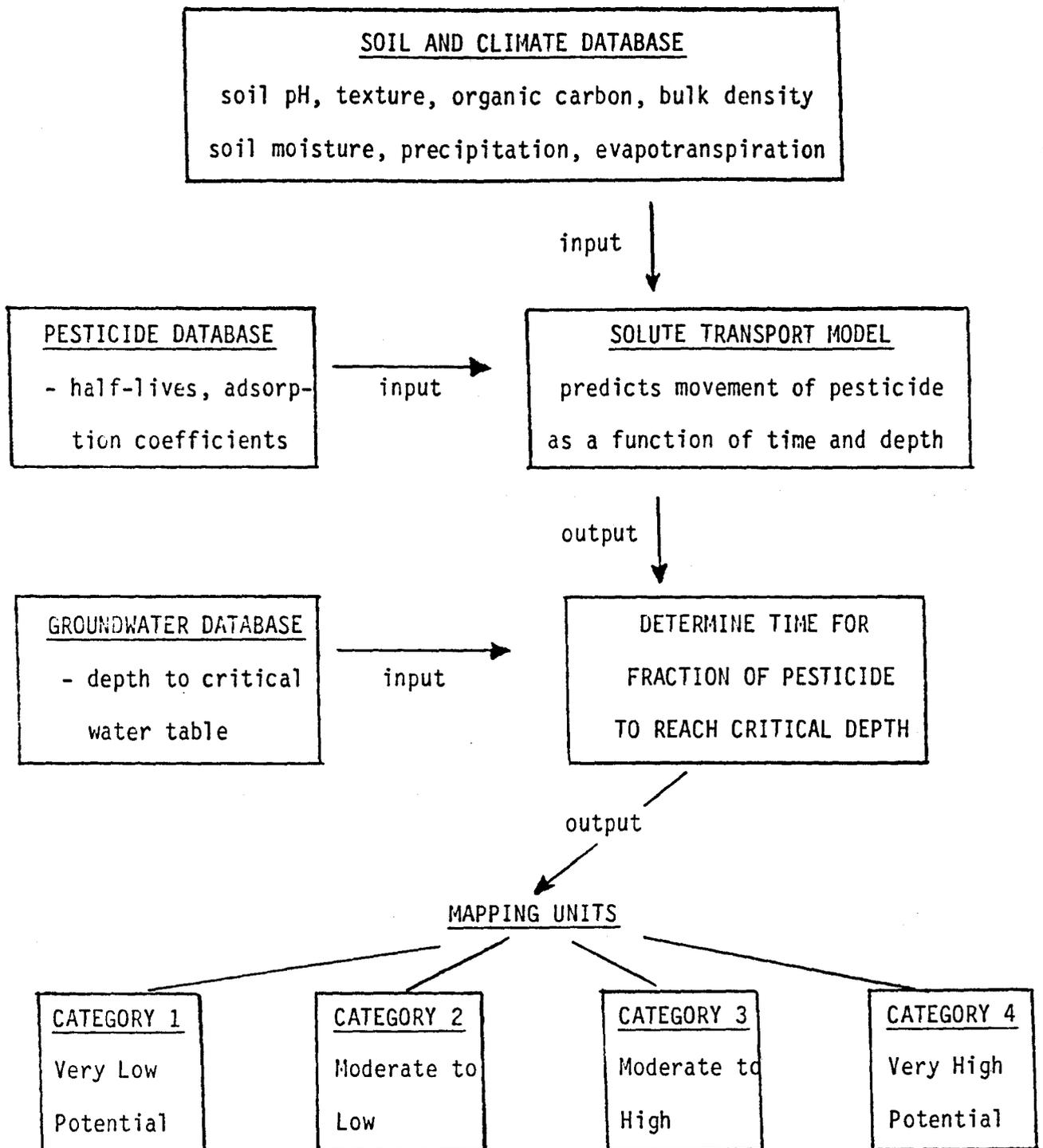


Rainfall and Depth of Chemical as a Function of Time After Application.

EVALUATING POTENTIAL FOR PESTICIDE MOVEMENT THROUGH SOILS TO GROUNDWATER

-GIS / Maps Approach

1. Minimize pesticide movement to groundwater: domestic water supply and water resources.
2. Efficient use of pesticides on a farm-scale.



POTENTIALS FOR PESTICIDE TO REACH CRITICAL DEPTH

Fig. 1. Flowchart for developing mapping units corresponding to different potentials for pesticides to reach a critical depth.

RESULTS AND FINAL PRODUCTS

1. A method for categorizing and mapping sites in Montana according to their susceptibility to pesticide leaching.

2. An educational and management tool will:
 - minimize risks of pesticide movement to groundwater on sensitive sites
 - improve public and producer awareness about factors contributing to pesticide movement
 - improve the ability of state agencies to locate geographical areas most sensitive to pesticide leaching to groundwater

Flathead Conservation District
35 West Reserve Drive - Kalispell, Montana 59901 - Phone (406) 752-4242

EXHIBIT 3DATE 2-9-89HB ORA / RDBP

January 30, 1989

TO: FLATHEAD LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

FROM: ROBIN STREET, CHAIRMAN RS

RE: LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING - Thursday, Feb. 2nd

The Long Range Planning Committee will review our proposal for a Renewable Resource Development Grant on Thursday, Feb. 2nd, @ 8 AM in Room 317 of the State Capitol Building.

As the initial review of our project by the DNRC did not receive a funding recommendation, we revised the proposal and are seeking separate funding from various sources for specific portions of the project. You will recall we asked for your support for the Ag Energy Conservation Grant for which we received \$12,265. We are now requesting \$51,155. and will seek the remainder from other sources.

We will be in Helena to testify before the committee and ask you to join us. If time constraints make it impossible for you to attend, will you please call the following Long Range Planning Committee members to offer your support of our proposal?

Mary Ellen Connelly, Chairman
Francis Bardanouve
Harry McLane

Matt Himsl, Vice Chairman
Dick Manning
Bob Thoft

As you are aware, there is a tremendous need for this baseline information on our groundwater in the Flathead Valley. We are currently correlating this study with other agencies in the valley. If you have any questions, please contact me or Cathy Jones at 752-4242. Please review the attached information regarding the revision.

Thank you for your support.

Flathead Conservation District
35 West Reserve Drive - Kalispell, Montana 59901 - Phone (406) 752-4242

FLATHEAD GROUNDWATER STUDY

SPONSOR: Flathead Conservation District

PROJECT ENDORSEMENTS: Montana Department of Agriculture
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife
and Parks
Montana Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation, Water Rights Bureau

All reviewers of the proposed project agree that it needs to be done.

PROJECT GOAL: Establish a permanent groundwater level monitoring network for the major developed aquifers in Flathead County.

PROJECT MOTIVATION:

- * Groundwater use is increasing, nearly all of the 50,000 residents of Flathead County depend on groundwater for their drinking water supply.
- * During the recent drought, many wells in the County have gone dry or experienced significantly diminished supply.
- * Recent court decisions renew the potential for instream appropriations which will increase groundwater appropriations since over 60% of stream flow in the County is groundwater.
- * A coordinated groundwater monitoring program doesn't exist in the County.
- * Over six hazardous waste sites are being investigated in the County which require groundwater modeling but no data base exists to calibrate the models.
- * During the past 5 years, groundwater mining has been seriously considered by water resource management professionals. No data base exists to determine if such over appropriation or utilization is occurring.

A record of groundwater level fluctuations is needed to assure present and future users of adequate water supplies.

PROJECT PRODUCTS:

- * Daily records of water level fluctuations in the major aquifers in Flathead County.
- * Demonstration of reliable, low maintenance monitoring equipment that could be used State-wide.
- * Installation of data handling software on existing Water Rights Bureau computer system and implementation of State-wide access to water level records. Well and water level records will be formatted according to USGS requirements.

WHO BENEFITS?:

- * 50,000 residents of Flathead County dependant on groundwater for their drinking water supply.
- * Present and future water rights holders in the County and downstream.
- * State and Federal water management agencies.

REVISED BUDGET:

Initial RRF request	\$97,077.	
Revised Budget (1/27/89)	\$69,738.	
From DNRC oil overcharge funds	\$12,265.	
From Flathead Conservation Dist.	\$ 6,318.	
REVISED REQUEST FROM RRF	\$51,155.	47% reduction

ADDITIONAL EFFORTS:

- * DNRC Water Rights Bureau will provide staff and computer facilities for data collection, compilation and archiving.
- * Pesticide study funding being sought from private corporate sources.
- * Groundwater mining potential is being persued with several agencies including the USFS.



TED SCHWINDEN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION
AGRICULTURE/LIVESTOCK BLDG.
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0205

KEITH KELLY
DIRECTOR
(406) 444-3144

GARY GINGERY
ADMINISTRATOR
(406) 444-2944

May 16, 1988

Marc Spratt
Spratt and Associates
P.O. Box 1579
Kalispell, MT 59903

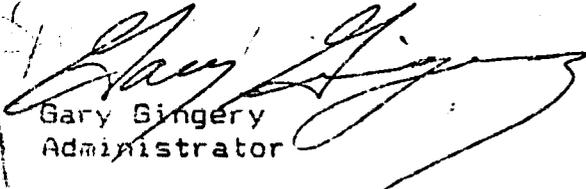
Dear Mr. Spratt:

The department supports and encourages efforts to monitor potential pesticide contamination of groundwater in Flathead County. Your proposal will supplement our previous groundwater survey and provide more complete baseline information about pesticides in different Flathead County aquifers. This information may prove especially valuable in areas where subdivisions may be located near existing agricultural areas.

Based on pesticide use information listed in Table 1 of the proposal, we would suggest a scan for phenoxy herbicides, dicamba, and picloram; a scan for carbamate insecticides including aldicarb and its metabolites; and an analysis for pentachlorophenol. We don't know whether any of these pesticides will be detected, but we have detected aldicarb residues and picloram in wells elsewhere in the state where the sources of contamination cannot be readily identified.

The development of groundwater maps and the identification of long-term monitoring wells also fits in with EPA's proposed groundwater strategy for pesticides. This strategy requires mapping of groundwater vulnerability and monitoring for leachable pesticides to prevent contamination of aquifers and to maintain the use of certain pesticides including aldicarb, which is commonly used by seed potato growers in Flathead County. By establishing long-term monitoring wells in unconfined aquifers, your proposed project should help protect groundwater resources while allowing continued use of important pesticide products.

Sincerely,



Gary Singery
Administrator

nj/jl/spratt

cc: Caralee Cheney, DNRC

An Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

February 9, 1989

Mr. Robin Street
Vice Chairman
Flathead Conservation District
1414 Rose Crossing
Kalispell, MT 59901

Dear Robin,

In my opinion, use of established irrigation wells in the proposed Flathead groundwater study has a great deal of merit. Established wells that have a good record of construction details would be fully developed because of history of use. Selective wells, some constructed with screens--others developed by casing perforations, could be compared to determine differences in well efficiencies. Maximum yield and gallons per foot of drawdown could be established by step drawdown tests. This data could be repeated at selective time intervals to determine if any changes are occurring in the producing aquifer. Water samples would monitor any changes in water quality.

Use of established wells would insure collection of data over long periods of time as the wells would no doubt be used during every irrigation season. Use of these wells would also be very cost efficient. Data obtained would help the producer as well as establishing base data on water quality and monitoring any changes in aquifer characteristics.

A few small diameter observation wells drilled to a depth of 10 to 15 feet below static water levels may be needed to monitor year-round static water levels in the area. These wells could be installed at relatively small cost.

Data obtained from the study would be most beneficial to State and Federal agencies and private individuals. Because of this, I would strongly support the Proposed Flathead County groundwater study.

Sincerely,



EDDIE JUVAN
Groundwater Geologist
Bozeman, MT

VISITOR'S REGISTER

Long Range Planning

SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY (S) _____

DATE 2-9-89

DEPARTMENT WD, RDP

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP-PORT	OP-POSE
Karen Kohut	Mt. Falls Cross Country Club/Cascade Co. Park Board		
Vactor Tack	Et. Falls Cross Country Club		
Ed Vander Pas	North Toole County Reclamation Dist	X	
Bob Bowman	House Dist # 9	X	
Bill Grant	East Glacier	X	
Lenny Lowry	East Glacier Pk.	X	
William F. Big Springs	" " "	X	
Larry Bullard	East Glacier Pk		
Mervin R. Miller	MT. Bur. of Mines & Geology	X	
William P. Inskoop	Plant and Soil Science Montana State University	X	
Stephen W. Pollak	Blackfeet Tribe	X	
H.C. Gilhaue	Blackfeet Tribe	X	
Steven P. Sherburne	E. GLACIER CO. WATER DIST	X	
Charles R. Framee	BLACKFEET TRIBE	X	
Francis Van Remon	Flathead Cons Dist	X	
Robert Street	Flathead Conservation Dist	X	
Bill Hedstrom Jr.	Flathead Conservation Dist	X	
Cheryl Miller	Upper Musselshell Con. Dist	X	
Arnold Samiras	" " " "	X	
Robert E. Williams	" " " "	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT.
IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY.

