

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80
 2 INTRODUCED BY Mular Sully
 3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE
 6 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION TO STUDY
 7 THE FEASIBILITY OF OFF-STREAM STORAGE ON THE UPPER BIG HOLE
 8 RIVER.
 9

10 WHEREAS, the need for watershed and irrigation
 11 development is critical for the continued growth of
 12 agriculture in Montana and has been revealed by severe
 13 summer droughts; and

14 WHEREAS, the climatic and soil conditions of
 15 Broadwater, Jefferson, and Madison Counties are such that
 16 irrigated land produces a high proportion of the total value
 17 of the crops; and

18 WHEREAS, the economy of Montana is enhanced by a more
 19 stable farm income, and a stable farm income is in part
 20 related to a reliable water supply; and

21 WHEREAS, the Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers are
 22 considered by many people to be among the finest fishing
 23 streams in Montana, and in many years very low flows during
 24 late summer months and high turbid flows during spring
 25 months have limited fishing on both streams; and

INTRODUCED BILL

1 WHEREAS, the need exists for increased control of river
 2 flows during periods of heavy spring runoff which flood the
 3 Jefferson River and its tributaries and have frequently
 4 caused damage to farmland, irrigation, communication and
 5 transportation facilities, and other improvements along the
 6 streams; and

7 WHEREAS, the potential for control of the destructive
 8 spring flows and for enhancing late summer flows exists in
 9 off-stream storage of the upper Big Hole; and

10 WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent that if Montanans do
 11 not plan to use Montana water for their own benefit, they
 12 will lose the water rights to the demands of downstream
 13 users in other states where water is appropriated to a
 14 beneficial use, prior in time.

15
 16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 17 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

18 That the Senate and the House of Representatives of the
 19 State of Montana request the Department of Natural Resources
 20 and Conservation to study the feasibility of off-stream
 21 storage on the upper Big Hole River and report to the 45th
 22 Legislature on the results of that study including therein:

- 23 (1) a description of each unit considered;
- 24 (2) the benefits and costs associated with each unit;
- 25 and

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1 (3) a recommendation as to the best practical unit to
2 construct and the potential sources of funding for the
3 construction of that unit.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this project be funded
5 through the water works project feasibility study program.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 589-77

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received February 24, 19 77, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Joint Resolution 80 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly.

Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF RESOLUTION:

House Joint Resolution 80 requests the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to study the feasibility of off-stream storage on the upper Big Hole River.

ASSUMPTION:

The study would take approximately two (2) years to complete.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY 78</u>	<u>FY 79</u>
Personal services	\$38,356	\$39,265
Operating expenses	10,000	12,000
Capital outlay	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>\$50,356</u>	<u>\$51,265</u>

NOTE: House Bill 811 provides the funding for this study.

Richard L. Drury
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 2-24-77

Approved by Committee on Judiciary

House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80

INTRODUCED BY Mulder Swaby

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WHEREAS, the need for watershed and irrigation development is critical for the continued growth of agriculture in Montana and has been revealed by severe summer droughts; and

WHEREAS, the climatic and soil conditions of Broadwater, Jefferson, and Madison Counties are such that irrigated land produces a high proportion of the total value of the crops; and

WHEREAS, the economy of Montana is enhanced by a more stable farm income, and a stable farm income is in part related to a reliable water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Big Hole and Jefferson Rivers are considered by many people to be among the finest fishing streams in Montana, and in many years very low flows during late summer months and high turbid flows during spring months have limited fishing on both streams; and

WHEREAS, the need exists for increased control of river flows during periods of heavy spring runoff which flood the Jefferson River and its tributaries and have frequently caused damage to farmland, irrigation, communication and transportation facilities, and other improvements along the streams; and

WHEREAS, the potential for control of the destructive spring flows and for enhancing late summer flows exists in off-stream storage of the upper Big Hole; and

WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent that if Montanans do not plan to use Montana water for their own benefit, they will lose the water rights to the demands of downstream users in other states where water is appropriated to a beneficial use, prior in time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana request the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to study the feasibility of off-stream storage on the upper Big Hole River and report to the 46th Legislature on the results of that study including therein:

- (1) a description of each unit considered;
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REFERENCE BILL

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