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State of Montana
Office of the Governor



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OF MONTANA

Executive Order No. 2-97

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EXECUTIVE ORDER AUTHORIZING INCIDENT RESPONSE
AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

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WHEREAS, record winter snowfall and related record snow water content have combined with above average temperatures to create above average stream flows of the tributaries to the Yellowstone River; and

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WHEREAS, these increased stream flows have caused the Yellowstone River to rise rapidly and break up existing ice cover resulting in substantial ice jams; and

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WHEREAS, the Yellowstone River is currently near or above flood stage, low land flooding has occurred and is currently occurring along many portions of the Yellowstone River Valley in Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Dawson and Richland Counties because of the ice jams; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Miles City and Custer County have individually signed Disaster Declarations due to the flooding; and

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WHEREAS, these severe flood conditions and ice jams have caused life threatening situations and substantial threat to

1 life and property; and

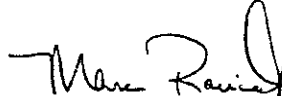
2 WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary
3 state government services, equipment and supplies under this
4 executive order will further the efforts to protect health and
5 safety and to preserve the lives, property and resources of the
6 people of the State of Montana; and

7 WHEREAS, an "incident", as that term is defined in Section
8 10-3-310, MCA, authorizes the Governor to expend funds from the
9 general fund to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to
10 property or natural resources.

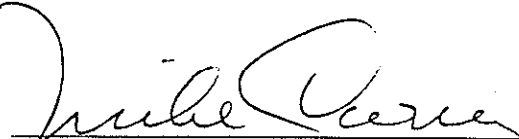
11 NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of
12 Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor
13 under the Constitution of the State of Montana, Title 10,
14 Chapter 3, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby
15 declare that an incident exists in the State of Montana due to
16 flooding and ice jams.

17 This Order is effective immediately.

18
19 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT
20 SEAL of the State of Montana,
21 this 21st day of February, 1997.

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23 _____
24 MARC RACICOT, Governor

24 ATTEST:

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26 _____
27 MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State