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OF MONTANA



Executive Order No. 8-99

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE
GOVERNOR'S UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER TASK FORCE**

12 WHEREAS, the upper Yellowstone River and its tributaries,
13 herein defined as that reach of the river (including
14 tributaries) beginning at the Yellowstone Park boundary and
15 extending downstream to the bridge crossing the river at
16 Springdale, is a national treasure; and

17 WHEREAS, the recreational opportunities provided by the
18 river provide significant contributions to Montana's economy;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the river is essential to Montanans who live along
21 it, providing water for agricultural, domestic and commercial
22 purposes; and

23 WHEREAS, the extreme floods of 1996 and 1997 created
24 hardships for communities and Montana citizens who live adjacent
25 to the river, causing damage to property and stream banks, as
26 well as some nationally-renowned spring creeks in Paradise
27 Valley; and

28 WHEREAS, previous decades of work done along the river for

1 purposes of flood control, construction of transportation
2 corridors and other purposes have altered the natural flood
3 plain of the river, with the potential to exacerbate damage to
4 private and public property and fish habitat; and

5 WHEREAS, there is a need for a more comprehensive planning
6 effort involving citizens, communities, and government agencies
7 that have an interest in the upper Yellowstone River to ensure
8 that future projects that affect the river are planned and
9 conducted in a manner that will preserve the integrity, beauty,
10 values, and function of the upper Yellowstone River for
11 Montanans now and in the future.

12 NOW THEREFORE, I, MARC RACICOT, Governor of the State of
13 Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby
14 continue the Upper Yellowstone River Task Force.

15
16 I. PURPOSE

17 A. The Upper Yellowstone River Task Force shall:

18 1. Provide a forum for the discussion of issues that
19 effect the Upper Yellowstone River basin,
20 particularly, to bring together landowners, sportsmen
21 and sportswomen, and community leaders to develop a
22 shared understanding of the issues and competing
23 values and uses that impact the Upper Yellowstone
24 River;

25 2. meet on a regular basis, the frequency to be
26 determined by Task Force members, for the purpose of
27

1 encouraging a comprehensive approach to action taken
2 along the Yellowstone River to ensure that its
3 integrity remains intact while balancing the needs of
4 communities and landowners to protect property;

5 3. seek or encourage others to seek grants, funds or
6 other cooperative arrangements to implement
7 recommendations of the Task Force; and

8 4. prepare an annual report to the Governor on the
9 progress of the task force.

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11 II. COMPOSITION

12 The Upper Yellowstone River Task Force shall be
13 composed of no more than 12 voting members including
14 representatives of the following: local businesses,
15 property owners, farmers and ranchers who live along the
16 river, the angling community, a conservation group or
17 groups, Park County, the City of Livingston and the local
18 Conservation District. Representatives of the Army Corps
19 of Engineers, Departments of Natural Resources and
20 Conservation, Environmental Quality, Fish, Wildlife &
21 Parks, and Transportation shall serve as ex-officio
22 members.

23
24 III. DURATION

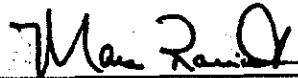
25 This Task Force shall remain in existence for two
26 years from the date of effect unless extended or terminated.

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by subsequent Executive Order.

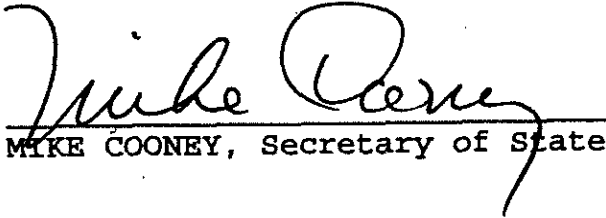
This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT
SEAL of the State of Montana,
this 26th day of June, 1999.



MARC RACICOT, Governor

ATTEST:


MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State