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Executive Order No. 19-97

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EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE
GOVERNOR'S UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER TASK FORCE

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

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, previous decades of work done along the river for
purposes of flood control, construction of transportation

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

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

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

14 I. PURPOSE

15 A. The Upper Yellowstone River Task Force shall:

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

23 2. meet on a regular basis, the frequency to be
24 determined by Task Force members, for the purpose of
25 encouraging a comprehensive approach to action taken
26 along the Yellowstone River to ensure that its
27 integrity remains intact while balancing the needs of
28 communities and landowners to protect property;

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

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

6 II. COMPOSITION

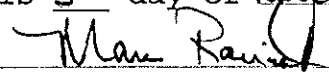
7 The Upper Yellowstone River Task Force shall be
8 composed of no more than 12 voting members including
9 representatives of the following: local businesses,
10 property owners, farmers and ranchers who live along the
11 river, the angling community, a conservation group or
12 groups, Park County, the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

18 III. DURATION

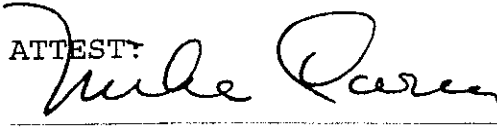
19 This Task Force shall remain in existence until July
20 1, 1999 unless extended or terminated by subsequent
21 Executive Order.

22 This Order is effective immediately.

23 GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT
24 SEAL of the State of Montana,
this 5th day of November, 1997.

25 
MARC RACICOT, Governor

26 ATTEST:

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MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State