

HOUSE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

February 15, 1979

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Staigmilller at 11:30 a.m. with all members present.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON FAGG, introduced the bill. He stated that he does a lot of mountain climbing and there is a need for wilderness areas. It is really quite difficult to create a wilderness area. There is the concept of the Forest Service the Fish and Game, the mineral wealth and timber wealth of the wilderness, etc. This resolution urges the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1965 calling for consultation with local officials to be fully utilized while recognizing the national significance of wilderness, requesting that the federal land management agencies adopt flexible guidelines for wilderness management, especially to insure that livestock permittees are not economically harmed by wilderness designation.

PROPOSERS:

ROBERT F. WAMBACH, Director, Department of Fish and Game, explained how the state was involved in wilderness areas. "We hold meetings to get input from the public, state, and local governments. Six department heads work together, they look at all areas for timber, wildlife, and mineral wealth. We come up with five or six alternatives and refer them to the Governor and to the Forest Service. The Governor evaluates them, individually, and makes his recommendations."

DON MERRITT, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, stated that this bill is a much more realistic approach to the matter of wilderness than HJR 6. It recognizes that we already have a proper process for determining whether land should be wilderness, logged, or mined. Provisions are made all along the route for local input, community involvement, industry participation, Forest Service and official positions at all levels. "I urge your favorable consideration of this bill."

BILL CUNNINGHAM, The Wilderness Society, stated that HJR 27 correctly recognizes that wilderness is a form of multiple use. It recognizes that over 2/3 of the national forest land in Montana is already opened to intensive uses, such as logging and developed recreation, and that the remaining 1/3 generally has a low potential for resource development. It recognizes the inherent flexibility in the Wilderness Act to allow for a variety of reasonable human uses while still protecting wildland values. (testimony attached)

HUGH ZACKHEIM, Montana Wildlife Federation, stated that many of the sportsmen want these lands to be unspoiled and free from roads. Wilderness has its place for wildlife.

C. A. (BILL) BISHOP, Montana Wilderness Association, stated that this bill was not a pro-wilderness bill but appeared to be a straight forward approach to the designation of wilderness areas.

WILLA HALL, League of Women Voters, stated that the League of Women Voters of Montana supports this resolution as addressing the use of federal lands in a factual and reasonable manner. (attached testimony)

JAY TIEGER, Helena Chapter, Montana Small Business Association, stated that this requires an economic approach that recognizes not only profits and growth but economic stability and independence as well. (attached testimony)

LENARD SARGENT, Corwin Springs, stated that he owned a ranch that is near an area that is not officially wilderness, but he would like to see it determined wilderness. "This would give me better protection against intruders, because of the lack of roads."

RALPH HOLMAN, C.C.P.A., stated he supported the bill because it is an attempt at moderation, a realistic and compromising approach. (attached testimony)

MIKE COMOLA, representing himself, stated that HJR 6 was a self interest bill. HJR 27 realistically addresses the development of wilderness areas. He recommended the following amendment:

1. Page 4, line 3.

Following: "that"

Insert: "present roadless"

3. Page 4, line 3.

Following: "taxpayer"

Insert: "or that wilderness classification will not adversely effect dependent communities"

ROBERT OSET, representing himself, stated that wilderness designation had increased about 8% during the past year. "Wilderness is a valuable resource in my mind."

NOEL ROSETTA, representing self, explained the timber and commodity uses in the wilderness areas and how this resolution would allow for that.

BOB DECKER, County Commission, commented on Rare 2. He stated that HJR 6 was not a good resolution but HJR 27 was, because it asked for local, state, and county input, which is a much more appropriate way to address the situation.

OPPONENTS:

BOB HELDING, Montana Wood Products Association, stated that there should not be anymore areas put into general planning. All these areas are under management. Up to 75% of our timber is imported from Canada. Designating more areas would increase the Canadian importation. 85% of the people want these areas put back to multiple use. There has been a 17% decrease in timber production. "We have to look at the economic impact

from these designations. 43% of the public base is in wood industry."
(attached are articles of information he submitted)

GERALD NEILS, Montana Logging Association, stated that they objected to putting the wilderness designations into the hands of Congress, which it already is. He stated that he lived in the northeast corner of the state all his life. There are wilderness areas near me with many mineral deposits within that land. "There was a good many times when our logging trucks made the way for the deer to get food. The snow was so deep that they jumped right out on the road. If we were not up there the deer would not have made it through the winter."

GENE SPILDE, S.B.P.A., rose in opposition to the bill and stated that he concurred with the other opponents comments.

PETER JACKSON, W.E.T.A., commented on cattle in wilderness areas. "Although we are permitted to run cattle on these lands, without roads and fences in these areas it makes it very difficult to care for cattle. You would have to go in and rope them to administer medication. If you had to return a second day for further application your chances of catching that cow are slim. Having to carry medication in by packhorse could become quite difficult."

ALICE FRYSLIE, Montana Cattlemen's Association, rose in opposition to the bill.

REPRESENTATIVE FAGG closed by stating that this resolution allows for public input. As far as the cattle on the land and not being able to administer medication, it does not say anywhere that a corral could not be built. In conclusion he stated that even the opponents said this resolution was a fair approach, so I am sure that it is. He urged the committees support.

Questions were asked by the committee and the hearing on HJR 27 was closed.

HOUSE BILL NO. 663

REPRESENTATIVE BRAND, Chief Sponsor, introduced the bill on behalf of the Department of Fish and Game. "They had requested an increase of \$4 for motorboat license decals, I recommended a \$1 increase. This bill will increase the decal from \$1 to \$2. The registrar receives \$1, if the amount is not increased the Fish and Game Department will not receive any. I feel this will help the boaters and they will be able to use the \$1 for boater facilities." Additional money is also received from the law enforcement officers for improvements.

PROPOSERS:

ROBERT M. MILLER, Fish and Game Department, explained that the increase

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in the boat decal fee would not increase the money received by the Department of Fish and Game. The additional dollar will go to the Department of Justice, Registrar's Bureau for the administration of decal licensing. (attached testimony)

HUGH ZACKHEIM, Montana Wildlife Federation, rose in support of the bill. (attached testimony)

Questions were asked by the committee and the hearing on HB 663 was closed.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

REPRESENTATIVE LES HIRSCH, Chief Sponsor, introduced the bill by stating that this resolution was a request from the Montana Cattlemen's Association. This resolution will commend the Department of Fish and Game and the Governor for establishing the Landowner Relations/Sportsmen Access Advisory Council and urges continued support. He stated that the following are some of the things that the council is trying to do: 1) there be an enforcement by the department employees carried out by the council, 2) a toll free reporting service, 3) the need for policies by the sportsmen, and 4) recommend that we consider a property damage reimbursement program.

PROPOSERS:

DON MERRITT, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, rose in support of the resolution.

RALPH HOLMAN, representing himself and the Montana Outfitters Council, rose in full support of the resolution.

BOB BIGGERSTAFF, Montana Association of State Grazing Districts and Montana Association of Conservation Districts, stated that he wished to express their appreciation to the council and their understanding within the Department of Fish and Game as being a great help. The opportunity for the landowner to input their problems is a valuable asset.

ALICE FRYSLIE, Montana Cattlemen's Association, Montana Farm Bureau, WIFE, Montana Wool Growers, and Montana Stockgrowers, stated that they feel that good relationships have developed from the communication between the members of this council and their respective counterparts in their various home locales. They have, in their few sessions, made many workable and realistic recommendations to the Fish and Game Commission, which have effectively played a significant role in relaxing conflicts of viewpoints between sportsmen and landowners.

HUGH ZACKHEIM, Montana Wildlife Federation, stated that he had sat in on council meetings and had been very impressed. As a result more and more land is being opened to hunting and to the Montana Sportsmen.

ROBERT VANDERVERE, representating himself, stated that he thought that the Council was the best thing that came out of the Fish and Game in years.

ROBERT WAMBACH, Director, Department of Fish and Game, stated that this council has been very successful and gives the citizens an opportunity to input their feelings. In return the council makes recommendations to the Fish and Game Commission.

Questions were asked by the committee and the hearing on HJR 22 was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Representative Johnston moved, DO PASS.

Representative Johnson moved, TO AMEND, by adding the Fish and Game Commission to those commended. After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Representative Johnston's motion to DO PASS was carried with Representative Conroy opposed.

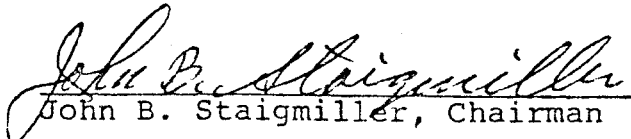
HOUSE BILL NO. 663

Representative Johnson moved, DO PASS. The motion was carried.
Opposed: Conroy, Curtiss, Marks, Manuel

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27 AND NO. 6

These resolutions were put into a subcommittee. The following Representatives were appointed to make a workable resolution: Conroy, Chairman, Marks, Daily.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.


John B. Staigsmiller, Chairman

Judy J. Mook, Secretary