

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE  
January 29, 1981

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Vice Chairman Devlin. All committee members were present.

This meeting was held in the conference room at the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (F, W, & P) Building.

HOUSE BILL 200 (Copy Attached)

Representative Orval Ellison, sponsor of HB 200, said he will support whatever decision is made on this bill by the Fish and Game Committee.

There were 22 proponents and 9 opponents who testified on HB 200.

Proponents

Jim Flynn, Director of F, W, & P, made a presentation on HB 200 (EXHIBITS 1 and 2).

Robert Van Der Vere, a concerned registered lobbyist, said he wants the deer and elk licenses raised only \$1 each. He offered some amendments on the bill to the committee (EXHIBIT 3). He said he would like to see the drawing fee lowered from \$5 to \$1.

Everett Miller testified in favor of HB 200 (EXHIBIT 4).

Wilbur Rehmann testified in favor of HB 200 (EXHIBIT 5).

Bill Long testified in favor of HB 200. He said as a sportsman he supports F, W, & P because he uses their resources.

Michael Larkin testified in support of HB 200 (EXHIBIT 6).

Jim Richard, President of the Prickly Pear Sportsmens' Association, testified in support of HB 200.

John Gilpatrick presented testimony in support of HB 200 (EXHIBIT 7).

Ralph Holman testified in support of HB 200 (EXHIBIT 8).

Gary Stuker testified in support of HB 200. He told the committee he thinks there should be more field personnel.

Paul Rosenthal, representing Trout Unlimited, told the committee he supports HB 200 which will increase fishing license fees to a reasonable level. He said the license increase will not affect the general public. He told the committee he thinks the one-day

nonresident fishing license fee should be \$10; the six-day nonresident fishing license fee should be \$25; and the season nonresident fishing license fee should be \$40.

John Gray told the committee he thinks there should be money to fund a special investigation force to roam around Montana to help take care of the poaching problem. He also said people who are trained as biologists should not be carrying guns.

Steve Wrye, a proponent of HB 200, said Montana has the lowest license fees in the west and if we want to keep the quality we now have, the license fees will have to be increased.

Gael Bissell, representing the Montana Audubon Council, read a statement to the committee (EXHIBIT 9).

Tag Rittel gave a prepared statement to committee members (EXHIBIT 10).

Mike Chandler, representing Western Montana Fish and Game Association, spoke in support of HB 200. He said he would like to see legislation that would enable F, W, & P to automatically raise the license fees in the future that would not require the approval of the legislature.

James Johnson, representing Western Montana Fish and Game Association and himself, spoke in favor of HB 200.

Frank Johnson, a licensed dealer, outfitter and a sportsman himself, told the committee he has fished from Texas to Alaska during the last year and some of the best fishing and hunting resources are located in Montana. He also said he would like to see the six-day nonresident fishing licenses reapplied. He said it would cost the state a lot more money in dealer fees by just having one or two-day nonresident fishing licenses.

Representative Mueller spoke on behalf of the Rod and Gun Club of Libby. He urged approval of HB 200.

Robert Foukal, Vice President of Trout Unlimited, told the committee Montana's fisheries resources are known internationally as some of the best in the world.

Chris Kronberg spoke in favor of HB 200 (EXHIBIT 11).

Representative Marjorie Hart also spoke in support of HB 200.

#### Opponents

Diane Wiesner, a houndsman, spoke in opposition to HB 200 (EXHIBIT 12).

Edd Nentwig, President of Montana Trappers Association, also spoke in opposition to HB 200. He said the 150% increase in fees is too high. He also said there is no provision for youth trappers in this bill.

Jerry Strong went over some figures he had concerning how the F, W, & P spends their money. He said he got his figures from the F, W, & P but yet his figures do not match those now being defended by the F, W, & P. He said he has no problem with raising the license fees but feels F, W, & P cannot manage the money they now have.

Bill Bolster, representing himself, told the committee there will be a huge number of people who will not buy licenses after the increase goes into effect. Those people will go out and get game without licenses.

Hank Taylor spoke in opposition to HB 200 (EXHIBIT 13).

Jerry Mattice, representing himself, told the committee if the license fees are raised, eventually hunting and fishing will be only a rich man's sport.

Ray Meyers also spoke in opposition to HB 200 (EXHIBIT 14).

Ed Shellman, a rancher, hunter, outfitter and trapper, told the committee he agreed with previous testimony that the trapping licenses were being raised too high. He said he is not opposed to the license fee increases but feels some are excessive. He feels the F, W, & P could do a better job of managing parks and land acquisitions. He feels F, W, & P is paying too much for land they should not even have.

The committee then asked questions concerning HB 200.

Representative Daily asked what the youth elk and deer licenses were. Gene Allen, F, W, & P, told him they are half-price licenses for children under 14.

Representative Daily said most of the opposition is from family people. He asked if the F, W, & P has considered some sort of family plan license. Larry Putnam, F, W, & P, said that has been considered but there are too many problems with such a plan. (i.e. how do you prove the "family" is truly a "family", what would be done in the case of divorce, etc.)

Representative Roush asked if F, W, & P could raise the out-of-state fees higher. Mr. Flynn told him the federal government could start intervening if F, W, & P charged quite a bit more money for out-of-state licenses than they charge for resident licenses.

The six-day fishing license was discussed. Representative Hart said if the six-day license is dropped, there would be problems if out-of-state guests go out fishing for a week and have to go get new licenses every two days.

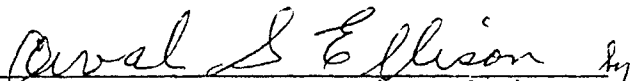
Representative Bennett asked what formula was used in establishing the fee increases. Larry Putnam, F, W, & P, said there was no across-the-board percentage. Mr. Flynn said F, W, & P considered inflation factors and what neighboring states are doing, along with other factors in determining the increases.

Representative Mueller asked why the priority status was eliminated. Mr. Flynn said the cost factor for the system was becoming more and more unmanageable.

Representative Ellison told the committee and witnesses for the hearing on HB 200 that he plans to put HB 200 into a subcommittee. The subcommittee will come back to the committee with a recommendation. Representative Ellison said he will support, on the floor of the House, whatever recommendation is made by the committee.

The hearing on HB 200 was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

  
MICHAEL G. DEVLIN, Vice Chairman

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1  
2 INTRODUCED BY HOUSE BILL NO. 261  
3 Edlman

4 BY REQUEST OF

5 THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO INCREASE FUNDS  
7 AVAILABLE FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE'S WILDLIFE RESOURCES  
8 BY INCREASING THE FEES FOR HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND  
9 RELATED LICENSES AND PERMITS; REMOVING THE 7-YEAR KILL  
10 LIMITATION ON CERTAIN GAME ANIMALS; AND REMOVING THE  
11 PRIORITY STATUS FOR UNSUCCESSFUL SPECIAL ELK AND ANTELOPE  
12 LICENSE APPLICANTS; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-104, 87-2-202,  
13 87-2-301, 87-2-302, 87-2-304, 87-2-401 THROUGH 87-2-403,  
14 87-2-501, 87-2-505, 87-2-507, 87-2-508, 87-2-601, 87-2-701,  
15 87-2-702, 87-2-705, 87-2-706, 87-2-711, 87-2-805, 87-2-903,  
16 AND 87-5-204, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 87-2-303, 87-2-703,  
17 AND 87-2-721, MCA; AND PROVIDING SEPARATE EFFECTIVE DATES."

18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

20 Section 1. Section 87-2-104, MCA, is amended to read:  
21 "87-2-104. Number of licenses allowed. Only one  
22 license of any one class, except Class B-3 and B-4 licenses,  
23 shall be issued to any one person. The department may  
24 prescribe rules and regulations for the issuance or sale of  
25 a replacement license of the same class in the event the

1 original license is lost, stolen, or destroyed upon payment  
2 of the sum of \$3--or--the cost--of--the--original--license  
3 ~~whichever is the smaller amount of the original price of the~~  
4 ~~lost, stolen, or destroyed license, not to exceed \$25."~~

5 Section 2. Section 87-2-202, MCA, is amended to read:

6 "87-2-202. Application -- stamp attachment -- fee --  
7 expiration. (1) A wildlife conservation license shall be  
8 sold upon written application. The application shall contain  
9 the applicant's name, age, occupation, place of residence,  
10 post-office address, and length of time in the state of  
11 Montana; state whether the applicant is a citizen of the  
12 United States or an alien; and be subscribed by the  
13 applicant. The applicant shall present a driver's license or  
14 other identification to substantiate the information.

15 (2) Hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses in the form  
16 of tags or stamps issued to a holder of a wildlife  
17 conservation license must be affixed to or recorded on the  
18 wildlife conservation license according to such rules as the  
19 department may prescribe.

20 (3) Resident and nonresident wildlife conservation  
21 licenses may be purchased for a fee of \$13.

22 (4) Licenses issued shall be void after April 30 next  
23 succeeding their issuance."

24 Section 3. Section 87-2-301, MCA, is amended to read:  
25 "87-2-301. Class A--resident fishing license. Any

1 resident, as defined by 87-2-102, upon payment of a fee of  
 2 ~~\$5 \$1.50 or, after April 30, 1983, a fee of \$10~~, shall  
 3 receive a Class A license which shall entitle the holder  
 4 thereof to fish with hook and line or rod as authorized by  
 5 regulations of the department."

6 Section 4. Section 87-2-302, MCA, is amended to read:  
 7 "87-2-302. Class B--nonresident fishing license. Any  
 8 person not a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, upon payment  
 9 of the sum of ~~\$20 \$40~~ to any agent of the department  
 10 authorized to issue fishing and hunting licenses, shall be  
 11 entitled to a Class B license which shall entitle the holder  
 12 thereof to fish with hook and line as authorized by the  
 13 rules and regulations of the department."

14 Section 5. Section 87-2-304, MCA, is amended to read:  
 15 "87-2-304. Class B-4--one-day ~~two-day~~ nonresident  
 16 fishing license. Any person not a resident, as defined in  
 17 87-2-102, who is a holder of a valid wildlife conservation  
 18 license, upon payment of the sum of ~~\$2 \$4~~ to any agent of  
 19 the department authorized to issue fishing and hunting  
 20 licenses, shall be entitled to a ~~1-day~~ 2-day nonresident  
 21 fishing license which shall authorize the holder to fish  
 22 with hook and line as prescribed by rules and regulations of  
 23 the department for ~~± 2~~ calendar ~~day~~ days as indicated on the  
 24 license."

25 ~~NEW SECTION~~ Section 6. Paddlefish tags. The

1 department may issue paddlefish tags to holders of valid  
 2 Class A, Class B, and Class B-4 fishing licenses for a fee  
 3 of \$5. Each tag authorizes the holder to fish with hook and  
 4 line for paddlefish as prescribed by rules of the  
 5 department."

6 Section 7. Section 87-2-401, MCA, is amended to read:  
 7 "87-2-401. Class A-1--resident game bird license.  
 8 Except as otherwise provided, a resident, as defined by  
 9 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or older may, upon payment  
 10 of a fee of ~~\$4 \$5 or, after April 30, 1983, a fee of \$6~~,  
 11 receive a Class A-1 license which will entitle the holder to  
 12 pursue, hunt, shoot, and kill game birds and possess the  
 13 carcasses of game birds as authorized by department rules."

14 Section 8. Section 87-2-402, MCA, is amended to read:  
 15 "87-2-402. Class B-1--nonresident game bird license.  
 16 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person not a  
 17 resident, as defined in 87-2-102, but who is 12 years of age  
 18 or older, upon payment of a fee of ~~\$30 \$40~~ may receive a  
 19 Class B-1 license which shall entitle the holder thereof to  
 20 pursue, hunt, shoot, and kill game birds and possess the  
 21 carcasses of game birds as authorized by department rules."

22 Section 9. Section 87-2-403, MCA, is amended to read:  
 23 "87-2-403. Wild turkey tags and fee. (1) The  
 24 department may issue wild turkey tags to the holder of a  
 25 valid Class A-1 or Class B-1 license. Each tag shall entitle

1 the holder to pursue, hunt, shoot, and kill one wild turkey  
2 and possess the carcass thereof, during such times and such  
3 places as the department shall authorize an open season on  
4 wild turkey.

5 (2) The fee for a wild turkey tag shall be \$2 ~~\$5~~.  
6 Turkey tags shall be issued either by a drawing system or in  
7 unlimited number as authorized by department rules."

8 Section 10. Section 87-2-501, MCA, is amended to read:  
9 "87-2-501. Class A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6--resident deer,  
10 elk, and bear licenses. Except as otherwise provided in this  
11 chapter, a resident, as defined by 87-2-102, who will be 12  
12 years of age or older prior to September 15 of the season  
13 for which the license is issued may, upon payment of the  
14 proper fee or fees, be entitled to purchase one each of the  
15 following licenses which will entitle the holder to pursue,  
16 hunt, shoot, and kill the game animal or animals authorized  
17 by the license held and to possess the carcasses of those  
18 game animals as authorized by department rules:

19 (1) Class A-3, deer A tag, \$7 ~~\$8~~ until April 30, 1983,  
20 then \$10;

21 (2) Class A-4, deer B tag, \$5;

22 (3) Class A-5, elk tag, \$8 ~~\$10~~ until April 30, 1983,  
23 then \$12;

24 (4) Class A-6, black or brown bear tag, \$6 ~~\$10~~."

25 Section 11. Section 87-2-505, MCA, is amended to read:

1 "87-2-505. Class B-10--nonresident big game  
2 combination license. Except as otherwise provided in this  
3 chapter, a person not a resident, as defined in 87-2-102,  
4 but who will be 12 years of age or older prior to September  
5 15 of the season for which the license is issued may, upon  
6 payment of the fee of \$225 ~~\$300~~ or, after April 30, 1983, a  
7 fee of \$125, and subject to the limitations prescribed by  
8 law and department regulation, apply to the fish and game  
9 office, Helena, Montana, to purchase a B-10 nonresident big  
10 game combination license which shall entitle the holder to  
11 all the privileges of Class B, Class B-1, Class B-7, and  
12 black bear licenses, and an elk tag. This license includes  
13 the nonresident conservation license as prescribed in  
14 87-2-202. Not more than 17,000 Class B-10 licenses may be  
15 sold in any one license year."

16 Section 12. Section 87-2-507, MCA, is amended to read:  
17 "87-2-507. Class D-1--nonresident mountain lion  
18 license. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a  
19 person not a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, but who is 12  
20 years of age or older, upon payment of a fee of \$100 ~~\$250~~  
21 may receive a Class D-1 license which shall entitle the  
22 holder thereof to pursue, hunt, shoot, and kill mountain  
23 lion and possess the carcass thereof as authorized by  
24 department rules."

25 Section 13. Section 87-2-508, MCA, is amended to read:

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1 "87-2-508. Class D-2--resident mountain lion license.  
 2 .Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person who  
 3 is a resident, as defined in 87-2-102, and who is 12 years  
 4 of age or older, upon payment of a fee of \$5 \$25 may receive  
 5 a Class D-2 license which shall entitle the holder thereof  
 6 to pursue, hunt, shoot, and kill mountain lion and possess  
 7 the carcass thereof as authorized by department rules."

8 Section 14. Section 87-2-601, MCA, is amended to read:  
 9 "87-2-601. Class C--trapper's license. Except as  
 10 otherwise provided in this chapter, a resident, as defined  
 11 in 87-2-102, upon making application and payment of a fee of  
 12 \$10 \$25 to the department, may receive a Class C license  
 13 which shall authorize the holder thereof to trap fur-bearing  
 14 animals and hunt bobcat, wolverine, and Canada lynx within  
 15 the state of Montana at such times and in such manner as may  
 16 be lawful so to do under the laws of the state and the  
 17 regulations of the department and at such places as may be  
 18 designated in said license."

19 Section 15. Section 87-2-701, MCA, is amended to read:  
 20 "87-2-701. Special licenses. (1) Any applicant who  
 21 will be 12 years of age or older prior to September 15 of  
 22 the season for which the license is issued and is the holder  
 23 of a resident wildlife conservation license or a nonresident  
 24 wildlife conservation license may apply for a special  
 25 license which, in the judgment of the department, is to be

1 issued and shall pay the following fees therefor:  
 2 (a) moose--resident, \$25 \$50; nonresident, \$150 \$250;  
 3 (b) mountain goat--resident, \$15 \$50; nonresident,  
 4 \$150 \$250;  
 5 (c) mountain sheep--resident, \$25 \$50; nonresident,  
 6 \$150 \$250;  
 7 (d) antelope--resident, \$5 \$10; nonresident, \$100;  
 8 (e) grizzly bear--resident, \$25 \$50; nonresident, \$150  
 9 \$250;  
 10 (f) black or brown bear--nonresident, \$100.  
 11 (2) In the event a holder of a valid special grizzly  
 12 bear license kills a grizzly bear, he must purchase a trophy  
 13 license for a fee of \$25 within 10 days after date of kill.  
 14 Such trophy license shall authorize the holder to possess  
 15 and transport said trophy.  
 16 (3) Special licenses shall be issued in a manner  
 17 prescribed by the department."

18 Section 16. Section 87-2-702, MCA, is amended to read:  
 19 "87-2-702. Restrictions on special licenses. (1)--A  
 20 person--who--has--obtained--a--grizzly-bear--moosey-mountain  
 21 goat--or--mountain-sheep--license--is--not--eligible--to--apply--for  
 22 another--such--license--for--the--next--succeeding--7--years--if--such  
 23 person--has--killed--or--taken--an--animal--of--the--species--for  
 24 which--the--special--license--was--issued--A--person--who--has  
 25 obtained--a--grizzly-bear--moosey-mountain-goat--or--mountain



1 ~~sheep--license--but--did--not--kill--or--take--an--animal--of--the~~  
 2 ~~species--for--which--the--special--license--was--issued--is--eligible~~  
 3 ~~to--apply--for--another--such--license--in--any--succeeding--year--if~~  
 4 ~~he--returns--his--unused--special--license--to--the--department~~  
 5 ~~before--or--at--the--time--application--is--made~~

6 ~~§2711~~ A person who has received a special permit for  
 7 elk is not eligible to receive a second special permit for  
 8 this species of game animal during any license year.  
 9 However, in the event the number of applications received is  
 10 not equal to the number of game animals desired to be killed  
 11 by the department, reapplication may be made by those valid  
 12 license holders of the current year who may fall within  
 13 these limitations.

14 ~~§2712~~ A person who has killed or taken any game  
 15 animal, except a deer or an antelope, during the current  
 16 license year is not permitted to receive a special license  
 17 under this chapter to hunt or kill a second game animal of  
 18 the same species."

19 Section 17. Section 87-2-705, MCA, is amended to read:  
 20 "87-2-705. Drawing for special elk permits. In the  
 21 event the number of valid applications for special elk  
 22 permits for a hunting district exceeds the quota set by the  
 23 department for the district, these permits shall be awarded  
 24 by a drawing. Persons making valid application who did not  
 25 receive a special elk permit during the season immediately

1 preceding the drawing shall receive first preference in this  
 2 drawing for first, second, and third choice hunting  
 3 districts. The department shall provide for those persons  
 4 making valid application for special elk permits a method of  
 5 selecting first, second, and third choice hunting districts  
 6 for any drawing held pursuant to this section. The  
 7 department may promulgate the rules necessary to implement  
 8 this section."

9 Section 18. Section 87-2-706, MCA, is amended to read:  
 10 "87-2-706. Drawing for special antelope licenses. In  
 11 the event the number of valid applications for special  
 12 antelope licenses for a hunting district exceeds the quota  
 13 set by the department for the district, such licenses shall  
 14 be awarded by a drawing. Persons making valid application  
 15 who did not receive an antelope license during the season  
 16 immediately preceding the drawing shall be given first  
 17 preference in such drawing for first, second, and third  
 18 choice hunting districts. The department shall provide for  
 19 those persons making valid application for special antelope  
 20 licenses a method of selecting first, second, and third  
 21 choice hunting districts for any drawing held pursuant to  
 22 this section. The department shall have the authority to  
 23 promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to  
 24 implement this section."

25 NEW SECTION. Section 19. Drawing fee. (1) When the

1 department determines a drawing is necessary prior to  
 2 issuance of hunting licenses for any game species during a  
 3 hunting season, it shall collect a \$5 drawing fee with each  
 4 application submitted.

5 (2) This fee must be deposited in the earmarked  
 6 revenue fund to the credit of the department as set forth in  
 7 87-1-601.

8 (3) The payment of a drawing fee confers no hunting  
 9 rights or privileges.

10 (4) The commission may waive the provisions of  
 11 subsection (1) when a drawing is required for a special  
 12 season under 87-1-304.

13 Section 20. Section 87-2-711, MCA, is amended to read:  
 14 "87-2-711. Class AAA--sportsman's license. Any  
 15 resident, as defined by 87-2-102, who will be 12 years of  
 16 age or older prior to September 15 of the season for which  
 17 the license is issued, upon payment of the sum of \$35 ~~\$40~~,  
 18 shall be entitled to a sportsman's license which shall  
 19 permit the holder to exercise all rights granted to holders  
 20 of Class A, A-1, A-3, A-5, A-6, and resident conservation  
 21 licenses as prescribed in 87-2-202. The department shall  
 22 furnish each holder of a sportsman's license an appropriate  
 23 decal."

24 Section 21. Section 87-2-805, MCA, is amended to read:  
 25 "87-2-805. Persons under fifteen years of age. (1)

1 Minors under 15 years of age may fish for and take fish  
 2 during the open season without a license. However, no  
 3 nonresident person under the age of 15 years may fish in or  
 4 on any Montana waters without first having obtained a Class  
 5 B, B-3, or B-4 fishing license unless the nonresident person  
 6 under the age of 15 years is in the company of an adult in  
 7 possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of  
 8 fish for the nonresident person and the accompanying adult  
 9 combined may not exceed the limit for one adult as  
 10 established by law or by rule of the department.

11 (2) Residents, as defined by 87-2-102, under the age  
 12 of 15 years may purchase Class A-1, A-3, and A-5 licenses at  
 13 \$2 ~~\$3~~ per license."

14 Section 22. Section 87-2-903, MCA, is amended to read:  
 15 "87-2-903. Compensation and duties of agents. (1)  
 16 License agents, except salaried employees of the department,  
 17 shall receive for all services rendered the sum of \$5 ~~\$10~~  
 18 cents for each license, permit, or certificate issued. On or  
 19 before the 10th day of each month each license agent shall  
 20 submit to the department all duplicates of each class of  
 21 licenses sold during the preceding month and shall accompany  
 22 the duplicate licenses with all moneys received for the sale  
 23 of the licenses less a fee of \$5 ~~\$10~~ cents for each license  
 24 sold. Each license agent shall keep his license account open  
 25 at all reasonable hours to inspection by the department, the

1 director, the wardens, or the legislative auditor.

2 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "license"  
3 includes any license, permit, and certificate prescribed by  
4 the department."

5 Section 23. Section 87-5-204, MCA, is amended to read:  
6 "87-5-204. License and rules for falconry. (1) The  
7 department may adopt specific rules for the keeping of  
8 records and for the trapping, taking, possession, or  
9 training of raptors used in the practice of falconry and may  
10 authorize the issuance of licenses to persons for the  
11 practice of falconry. It is unlawful for any person to  
12 possess a raptor or to train a raptor in the practice of  
13 falconry without a license.

14 (2) The fee for a falconry license is \$3 ~~125~~ a year or  
15 any part of a year. A license expires April 30 each year.

16 (3) A license may not be issued to a person under the  
17 age of 12 years.

18 (4) Licensees shall have in possession a valid  
19 falconer's license when engaged in the practice of falconry.  
20 In addition, falconers loosing raptors at game birds shall  
21 have in possession a valid resident or nonresident game bird  
22 license.

23 (5) Falconry licenses or permits are not transferable  
24 and may be revoked for due cause at any time by the  
25 department."

1 Section 24. Repealer. (1) Sections 87-2-703 and  
2 87-2-721, MCA, are repealed effective May 1, 1981.

3 (2) Section 87-2-303, MCA, is repealed effective May  
4 1, 1982.

5 Section 25. Codification instruction. (1) Section 6 is  
6 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87,  
7 chapter 2, part 3, and the provisions of Title 87 apply to  
8 section 6.

9 (2) Section 19 is intended to be codified as an  
10 integral part of Title 87, chapter 2, part 1, and the  
11 provisions of Title 87 apply to section 19.

12 Section 26. Effective date. This act is effective as  
13 follows:

14 (1) Sections 2 and 19 are effective May 1, 1981.

15 (2) Section 24 is effective as provided therein.

16 (3) Section 16 is effective July 1, 1980.

17 (4) Sections 17 and 18 are effective on passage and  
18 approval of this act.

19 (5) All other sections are effective May 1, 1982.

-End-

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## STATE OF MONTANA

REQUEST NO. 116-81

## FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request received January 16, 19 81, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Bill 200 pursuant to Title 5, Chapter 4, Part 2 of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

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 Proposed Legislation

An act to increase funds available for management of the state's wildlife resources by increasing the fees for hunting, fishing, trapping, and related licenses and permits; removing the 7-year kill limitation on certain game animals; and removing the priority status for unsuccessful special elk and antelope license applicants.

Assumptions

It is assumed the license dealer commission fee will be increased from 15¢ to 30¢ per license. It is assumed the price of some licenses will not change (bow and arrow, nonresident antelope, nonresident bear, resident and nonresident Deer B). It is assumed the proposed fee increases will occur in three separate waves spread over the next several years: May 1, 1981, May 1, 1982, and May 1, 1983. It is assumed several licenses and fees will be eliminated (nongame certificate, nonresident 6-day fishing license, special elk drawing fee, special deer drawing fee). A 10% drop in the total sales volume of licenses sold is assumed if hunting and fishing license fees are increased. Historically after a license fee increase sales volume has dropped 8-15%. No difference was assumed between annual revenue generated in a Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks license year (May 1 to April 30) and a state of Montana fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>FY 1982</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>
Hunting & Fishing License		
Earmarked Revenue:		
Current Law	\$8,112,197	\$8,112,197
Operating Expense	<u>47,000</u>	<u>47,000</u>
	\$8,065,197	\$8,065,197
Proposed Law	9,239,446	11,534,788
Operating Expense	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Estimated Revenue	\$1,174,249	\$3,469,591

Long Range Effects of Proposed Legislation

The fee increases scheduled for May 1, 1983 will have an additional annual revenue impact of \$802,231 in fiscal years subsequent to FY 1983. This revenue package was designed to carry the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks through the next four fiscal years without further major fee increases.

*David M. Lewis*  
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

Date: 1-21-81Technical or Mechanical Defects or Conflicts with Existing Legislation

Sec. 26, Subsec. (3) should read as follows: "(3) Section 16 is effective 7-1-81" Rather than July 1, 1980). There is a typographical error in drafting the bill

PRESENTED BY: JIM FLYNN  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

In regard to the department's proposed fee increases, I am presenting this information to help explain our current financial situation, how we arrived at this somewhat critical point in time, and where we hope to go in the future.

The ultimate end result of our overall department responsibilities is to benefit current and future generations of people through our mandates to protect, preserve, enhance and regulate the wise use of the fish and wildlife and other outdoor recreation and cultural resources.

All divisions, projects and "programs" are collectively working toward the department goal.

In our effort to benefit the people of Montana through wise management of the fish, wildlife, recreation and cultural resources - we must work within three major constraints:

- 1) limitations and needs of the resources.
- 2) recognition of present and future human needs and desires.
- 3) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment.

The major problems identified by the department for the 1980's are:

#### INCREASING DEMANDS FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS RECREATION RESOURCES

As Montana's population continues to grow - by the 1990's - the number of resident hunters could exceed current totals of both resident and nonresident hunters.

#### LIMITED "SUPPLIES" OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND DECREASING HABITAT

The land base that provides the habitat, space and other "ingredients" for these resources is constantly shrinking due to expanding and intensifying land and water uses. Increasing national demands for energy, food, fiber, living space and defense accelerate the process of habitat loss and subsequently limits supplies of fish and wildlife.

## DIMINISHING PUBLIC ACCESS FOR HUNTING, FISHING AND OTHER RECREATIONAL USES OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS

This challenge became significant in the early 1970's - the department has since increased emphasis on meeting this challenge. We feel the accelerated rate of land closing has tapered off - but trying to manage fish and wildlife within the constraints and needs of private landowners will continue as a serious challenge.

## GAINING PUBLIC CREDIBILITY

This agency will be called upon more and more to be the spokesman, in an emotional atmosphere for the resources we are charged to enhance.

It is imperative that we have the financial resources to accurately document and present that story. Only with adequate tools and tighter fiscal control can we maintain credibility.

For example, in the fee proposal you have before you, we have included two provisions in regard to the drawings for licenses which, if enacted, will save considerable money. The first proposal removes the provision whereby a person who has taken a grizzly bear, moose, mountain goat or mountain sheep must wait seven years before applying for another such license. The other proposal removes the provision whereby unsuccessful applicants for antelope and elk permits receive first consideration for one of these permits the following year. Removal of these provisions will simplify the drawings considerably, eliminate the need for year-to-year record keeping, and save the department about \$47,000 per year.

## INFLATION AND INCREASING MANAGEMENT COMPLEXITIES ARE INCREASING COSTS BEYOND TRADITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Inflation, of course, affects the entire economic system of the state and the nation - specifically, the reduction of "buying power" of this department's income to early 1970 levels means that we will be unable to maintain our current level of services. I want to emphasize at this point that our current level of services is based on substantial expenditure reductions in some areas over the last two years.

## INCREASING MANAGEMENT COMPLEXITIES

Some are a compounding of other major problems - more people, more pressure on habitat, less access to resources, more competition between resource users (for example - Madison float fishermen vs. shore fishermen) or trying to fairly allocate limited permits to increasing

demands, more federal intervention in our management decisions, etc.

The legislative mandate (1973) to manage nongame is an example where our responsibilities were increased, but without a supporting funding source.

#### GROWING COMPETITION FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Montana is blessed with an abundance of resources, both renewable and nonrenewable, and the growing demands for these resources make our job more difficult. We have to work cooperatively with other resource users to minimize the impacts of their activities on fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation.

With regard to agency expenditures as is seen here in Section 17-8-103 MCA it is unlawful to overspend an agency budget.

As we proceed through today's presentation, I assure you that our goal is to observe this section of Montana law.

Neither Gov. Schwinden nor myself as department director are inclined to either forsake our legal charge to Montana's fish, wildlife and parks or to act contrary to Section 17-8-103.

Department funding comes from a variety of sources and it is fairly complicated. However, nearly one-half of our funds come from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses (45.9% to be specific), and nonresident license buyers contribute 26.9% as compared to 19% for residents of total department funding. I want to talk today primarily about these license revenues, but will briefly explain our other funding sources as follows:

OTHER FEDERAL AND PRIVATE (9.3%) - This source refers to contract money we receive from federal agencies and private corporations, usually for work we do to provide technical data on the fish and wildlife resource in Montana.

PARKS (5.9%) - This is the parks earned revenue account which includes fees from camping, cabin sites and concessionaires (fees collected at the Lewis and Clark Caverns, etc.), motorboat and snowmobile fuel tax funds, motorboat registration fees, and coal tax interest as allocated by the Legislature.

MISCELLANEOUS (4.2%) - This is revenue from hay sales, timber leases, land leases, donations and the department print shop.

GENERAL FUND (2.9%) - This money is appropriated to the department, but administered by the parks division and used for state parks.

FINES (.9%) - penalties for fish, wildlife and parks violations which are earmarked for the warden retirement system.

MONTANA OUTDOORS (.8%) - This is the subscription income received for our magazine.

DINGELL - JOHNSON, OR "D-J" (3.0%) - This money comes from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 and consists of a 10% excise tax on fishing tackle. This money provides financial aid to state fishery management programs and states must provide \$1 to match each \$3 of D-J money. The funds are allocated by the federal government according to a formula which considers the land area and total fishing license sales of each state. Use of D-J monies is limited to fish management, including survey and inventory of the state's waters, creel census surveys, research and chemical control of rough fish populations.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE (11.9%) - This program is administered on the federal level by the Department of Interior and on the state level by our Parks Division. It can fund outdoor recreation area construction or acquisition on a 50/50 cost sharing basis for any political subdivision of the state. One-half of Montana's annual allocation is used to develop and acquire state parks, recreation areas and fishing access sites. The other half is passed on to cities and counties on a competitive basis.

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON OR "P-R" (15.2%) - This is money which comes from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. This act earmarks an 11 percent excise tax on sporting firearms, ammunition and archery equipment for wildlife restoration by the states. The allocation is usually at a ratio of three P-R dollars for each license dollar, and like the "D.J." funds, the money is allocated according to the land area and total hunting license sales of each state. Use of "P-R" funds are restricted to wildlife inventories, research, habitat acquisition and development, transplanting, and hunter education/safety programs.

The organization of the department and our funding is shown on this pie chart which is a facsimile of our last fiscal year just completed.

WILDLIFE DIVISION (15.5%)

This division is responsible for the department's wildlife surveys, inventory and research work. This work provides a biological basis for game and fur season recommendations to the Commission each year. The division also operates and maintains the department's wildlife management areas in the state.



FISHERIES DIVISION (13.7%)

This division manages Montana's fisheries resources to provide optimum sport fishing for resident and nonresident anglers. They also regulate commercial utilization of nongame fish and fishing areas where commercial operations are compatible with sport fishing.

CAPITAL (20.4%)

Costs attributable to the purchase and development of state parks, wildlife areas, recreation areas and fishing access sites are budgeted in this category. Improvements and heavy maintenance at department administrative sites are also budgeted here.

ADMINISTRATION (2.5%)

This includes executive leadership functions of the Fish and Game Commission, the Director's Office and associated staff services. The Commission sets department policies and priorities and regulates the harvest of fish, game and furbearers by setting regulations that establish the opening and closing of seasons and the bag limits.

GRANTS (1.4%)

These include grants and contracts we make from license dollars to agencies such as the Livestock Board for predator control and to the universities for management studies requested by the department.

REGIONAL OFFICES (3.1%)

The department maintains seven regional offices throughout the state and our field activities are supervised through these offices. They provide the very important function of service to the public at the local level.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES (4.1%)

This division provides technical data on the habitat needs of fish and wildlife. The purpose of this service is to ensure that fish and wildlife resources can be protected, preserved and enhanced. Its objective is, in fact, to obtain a balance between development and preservation.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (14.4%)

This division is responsible for protecting fish and wildlife and their habitat and for protecting recreation, historical and archaeological sites from willful or negligent destruction. The division coordinates training in the areas of hunter safety, boat safety and snowmobile safety. It also maintains field administration of all license agents and issues and administers the provisions of special purpose licenses.

I want to mention that many of the department's employees serve a dual role as ex officio game wardens in addition to their regular duties. This program was expanded several years ago in order to increase our field enforcement effort without hiring additional personnel.

PARKS DIVISION (10.6%)

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is directed by law to conserve and make available to the public scenic, historic, archeological, scientific and recreational resources of the state. The parks division fulfills a great deal of this role by managing state parks, recreation areas and fishing access sites. The division also administers the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund for state and local government use and administers a rather intense snowmobile program.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION (9.1%)

This division is an administrative and service unit that provides supervision over budgeting, accounting, cashiering, claims, purchasing, personnel, payroll and property. In addition all license consignments, direct license sales and special drawings are supervised through this division.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION (5.2%)

This division assists the department in reaching its overall goals through public information and education programs. The division informs the public about fish and wildlife laws, administrative rules and policies that are designed to regulate outdoor recreation activities, and it creates a public awareness of the responsibilities of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The impact of rising prices and the decreasing value of the dollar are familiar to everyone who needs to maintain a balance between their income and expenditures. The department is subject to the same inflationary trends that influence individual citizens and this chart shows department income from license sales (top line in red) and the buying power of these license funds (bottom line in blue). The value of the dollar according to the Consumer Price Index, is illustrated on the bottom of the chart. These values are based on the assumption that the dollar was worth a dollar in 1967, but the value had decreased to 84¢ by 1971, 46¢ by 1979 and 27¢ by 1985 with the calculations for 1981, 1983 and 1985 based on a 10% inflation rate.

As an example of what this has meant to the department, we paid \$17.80 for insulated hip boots in 1969 - these same boots cost us \$27.95 in 1980, binoculars were \$57.24 in 1969 - \$140.00 in 1980; floating gill nets (125' x 6') were worth \$64.65 in 1969, but we paid \$112.00 last year.

This chart also shows a steady increase in license sales through the 1970's, but a "leveling off" beginning in 1980. This is the reason we did not feel the full impact of inflation until recently; i.e. during the 70's the volume of sales increased in many license categories, and there were some fee increases. The result was an increasing trend in total license revenue which paralleled the CPI increase until we experienced sustained double digit inflation and other factors which affected license sales which I will explain later.

This department, due to the nature of its activities which require a great deal of travel, feels very acutely the problems with energy supplies and costs. This chart shows what has happened with our vehicle fleet in the last five years. Note in particular that we have driven fewer miles in 1980 than in 1976, and we used about 100,000 fewer gallons of fuel in 1980 than in 1976, but we are paying nearly twice as much for each gallon of gas, not to mention the substantial cost of new vehicles now as compared to 1976. To help offset this, the department has converted much of its fleet to more fuel efficient vehicles. We are also taking other steps to offset high energy costs (fewer meetings, car pooling and use of commercial transportation such as buses when possible).

In addition to the erosion in buying power of our revenues due to energy supplies and costs, our license income will "level off," as I said earlier, and we do not have the ability to increase the volume of license sales. I mentioned that nonresident license sales account for 26.9 percent of the department's total income. This is our single most important revenue source and we sold all 17,000 licenses for the first time in 1979 and again last year.

My point here, and the intent of this chart, is to show that any further growth in nonresident big game license sales is impossible because we have reached the 17,000 limit, as shown by the red line. The blue line shows the corresponding revenue generated by this non-resident license which has also leveled off. Again, we do not propose any change in the 17,000 limit. This was mandated by the 1975 Legislature and we can and will live with it.

This next chart shows the department's budget, by division, and what we face without a license fee increase. We call this the "base budget," and the bottom line is a 21.5 percent decrease in expenditures in the 82-83 biennium and a 19 percent decrease in FTE's, or full time equivalent employees. As you can see, we are looking at drastic cutbacks and the various division administrators are here today to explain these cutbacks in detail if you desire. Without the license fee increase, the department will continue to exist, but our programs and personnel will have to be cut back considerably in order for us to comply with 17-8-103 which states that we cannot overspend our budget.

In comparison, this chart shows our budget with the proposed license fee increases. We refer to this as the "Fee Increase Budget," but the important point here is that even with the increased revenue, our budget in the 82-83 biennium will be 15.3% less than in 80-81 and total department personnel will be reduced by 9.2%. Most of the divisions in the department have made use of the financial situation by taking a hard look at their various programs and restructuring their priorities. Again, the division administrators can provide you with the details, but the end result, even with fee increases, is a reduced budget and fewer personnel.

This next chart graphically displays the department's cash flow revenue projections based on hunting and fishing license sales. An important point on this chart concerns the shaded area on the lower portion of the chart. You will note that the upper limit in the shaded area is placed at approximately, \$750,000. A "cushion" of about this much is necessary due to the complexity of the different types of funding the department receives, a circumstance unique to this department. In order to actually receive these PR and DJ funds I mentioned earlier, we must spend the matching state dollars first before we can bill the federal government and receive these dollars. For this reason, we need about \$750,000 "in the bank" at all times. Fiscal responsibility requires this minimum figure.

Another important point on this chart concerns the severe peaks and valleys from month to month. This situation occurs because fishing and hunting license sales are seasonal; i.e., most of the licenses are sold in the spring and early fall. But our programs are year round, and during the remainder of the year, we must live on the remaining cash balance. Our cash balance right now, today, is impressive, but by next spring it will be reduced considerably before people begin to buy their new fishing licenses.

The bottom line on the chart (in red) projects our cash balance without any fee increases, and the top line (in green) shows the balance with fee increases. As I mentioned earlier, the bottom line would never be allowed to fall below the \$0 level because this is illegal. Before it reached this point, we would severely cut department programs, services and personnel. But as you can see, without the license fee increases, this agency faces critical financial problems.

Finally, this chart shows the actual fee increases we are requesting. This is a "phased" increase, with a few increases taking effect in 1981, most occurring in 1982 and a few more in 1983. We are proposing this phased approach for two reasons, i.e., to offset the erosion in purchasing power I discussed earlier and to keep from requesting additional license fee increases in the next Legislative Session. Refer to page 12 in the packet for a comparison of current and recommended license fees.

Also included in the packet is an explanation of the amount of revenue the recommended fees will generate (pg. 13), when our current fees were established (pg. 14) and a comparison of Montana's fees with other western states (pg. 15).

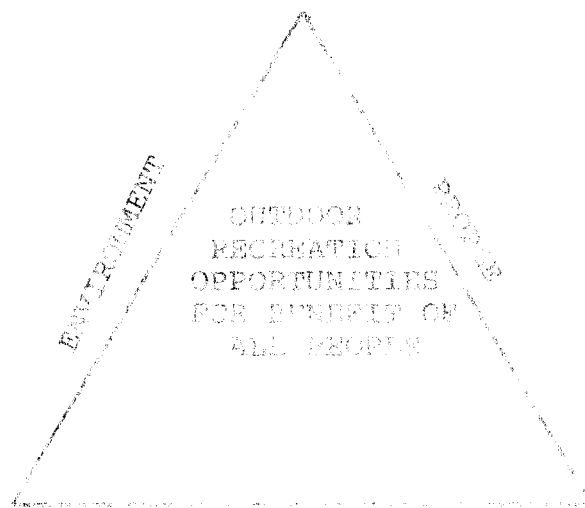
One last point I want to make concerns the "Unknowns" we face in future license sales--things which could reduce license revenues even with a license fee increase. For example, I mentioned a "tapering off" in sales of some licenses and the fact that we have reached the 17,000 limit in nonresident combination license sales. Increases in fees in the past have usually been accompanied by decreases in sales --"buyer resistance." In the case of nonresident combination licenses, this could happen. The sale of 15,000 of these licenses rather than 17,000 would mean a loss in revenue of \$600,000 in 1982.

Another "unknown" concerns our economy, the price and availability of gasoline, other costs associated with hunting and fishing, and the availability of money to spend. Recent figures from the Montana Highway Department show a decline in nonresident visitors to our state of 17% between 1977 and 1979, and a corresponding loss of nonresident visitor expenditures of \$100,700,000. Nonresident sportsmen provide our major source of income and as they increased in number during the 1970's we received additional revenue. But those days are gone, due to a variety of factors I've already mentioned, and our only recourse now is to request an increase in fees.

And finally we face a host of other "unknowns" as well -- opportunities to hunt and fish could be reduced due to conservative regulations resulting from cutbacks in department field operations, access to private land could become more difficult for this same reason and federal intervention in state wildlife management decisions could affect hunting and fishing opportunities.

To put it bluntly, we do not know what may happen in the future, but we do request your careful consideration of our proposal which is based on the best information we have available at this time.

DEPARTMENT GOAL



VALUES

THROUGH PROTECTION, ASSISTING  
ENHANCING AND REGULATING THE  
WISE USE OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND  
OTHER NATURAL AND CULTURAL RE-  
SOURCES

WELCOME TO THE 1980's !  
We can look forward to:

GREATER DEMANDS FOR  
RECREATION

LIMITED SUPPLIES OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE

DECREASING HABITAT

PROBLEMS OF ACCESS  
TO PUBLIC RESOURCES  
ON PRIVATE LAND

GAINING PUBLIC  
CREDIBILITY

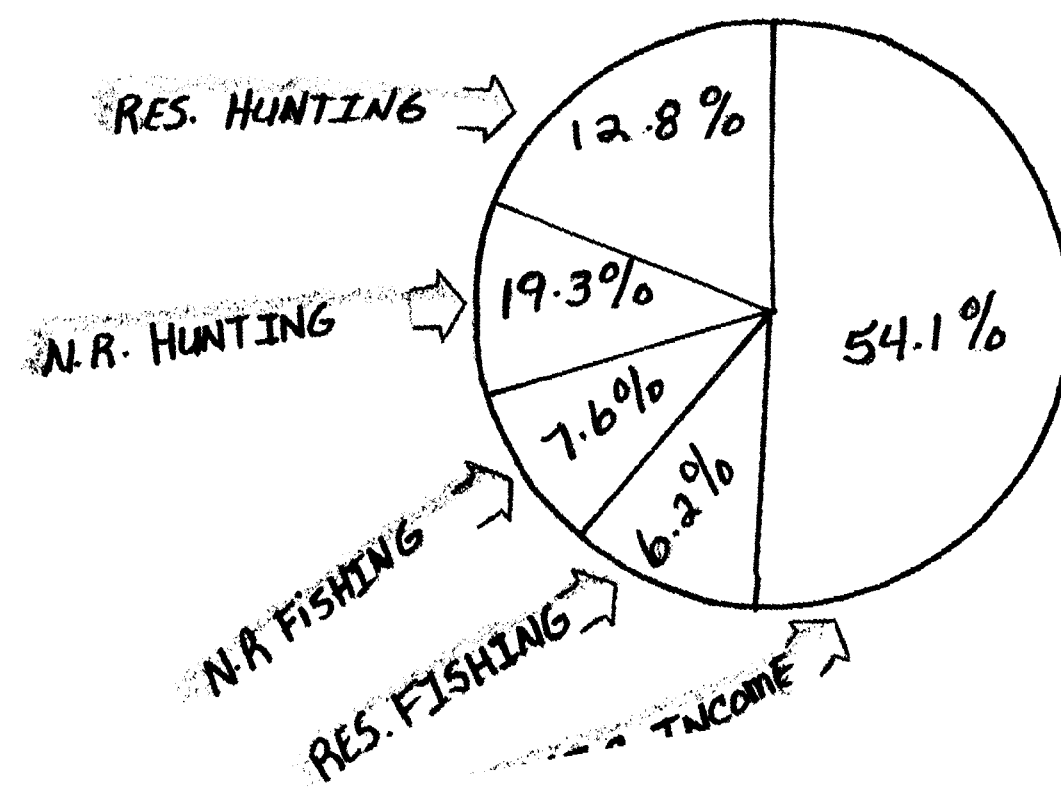
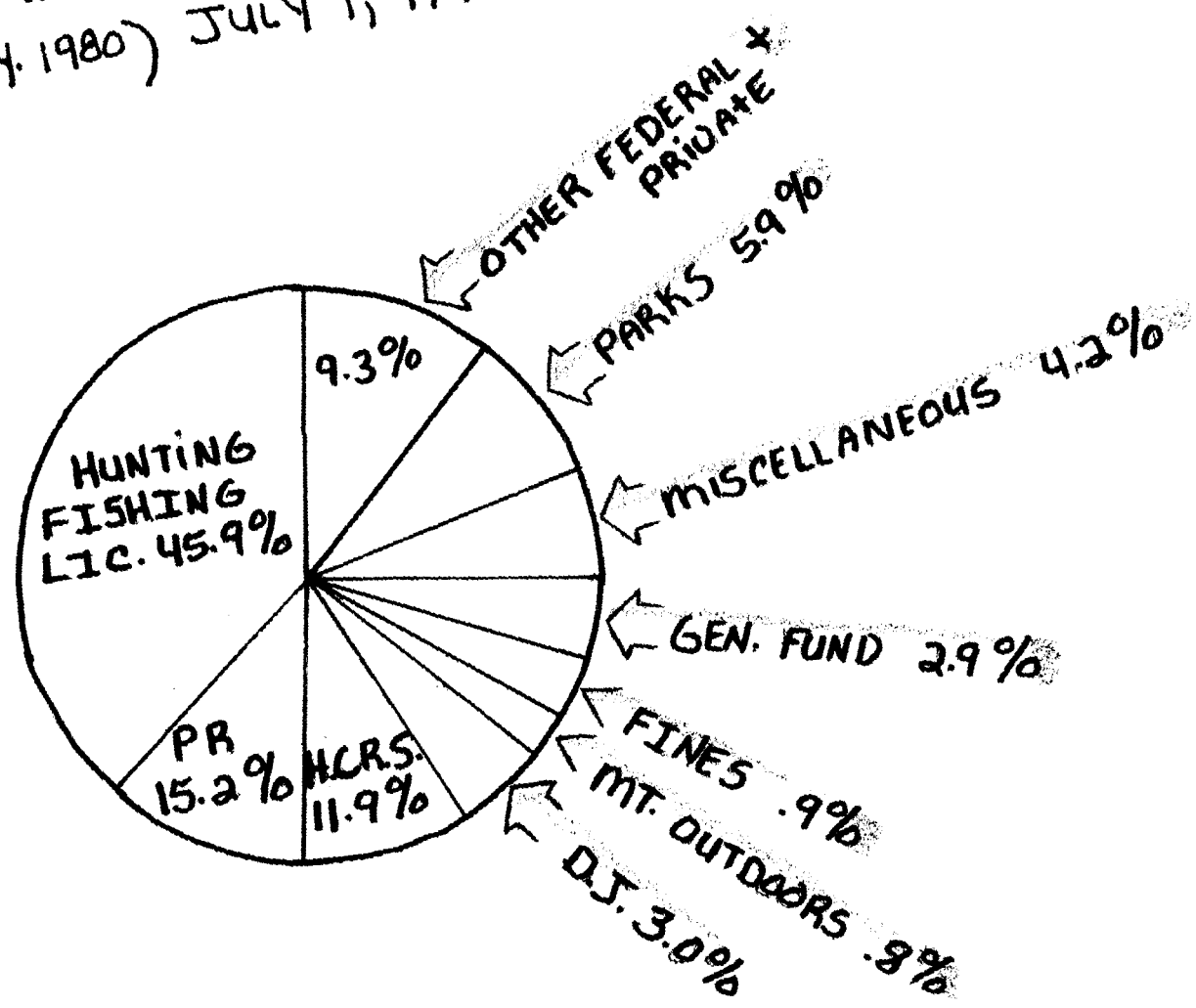
INFLATION-GROWING MANAGEMENT  
COMPLEXITY-GREATER COMPETITION  
FOR NATURAL RESOURCES.....



SECTION 17-8-103 M.C.A.

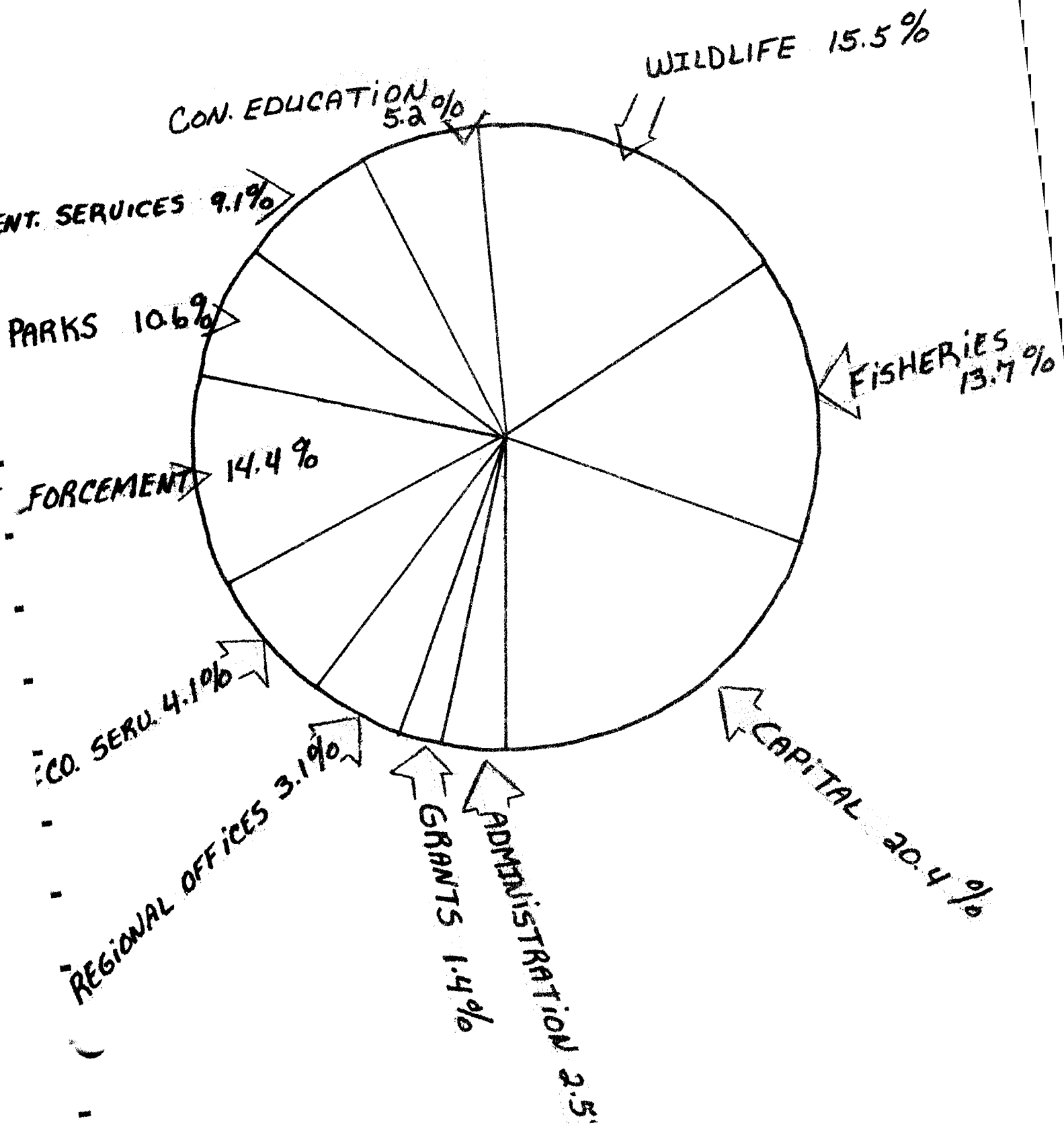
"IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ...  
ANY OFFICER, DEPARTMENT, ...  
HAVING CHARGE OF THE DISBURSE-  
MENT OR EXPENDITURE OF THE IN-  
COME PROVIDED BY LEGISLATIVE  
APPROPRIATION OR OTHERWISE TO  
INCUR OR PERMIT THE INCURRING OF  
ANY OBLIGATION IN ONE YEAR, IN  
EXCESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE APPRO-  
PRIATION OR AUTHORIZED BUDGET  
AMENDMENT PROVIDED FOR SUCH  
YEAR."

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM  
 (FY. 1980) JULY 1, 1979 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1980

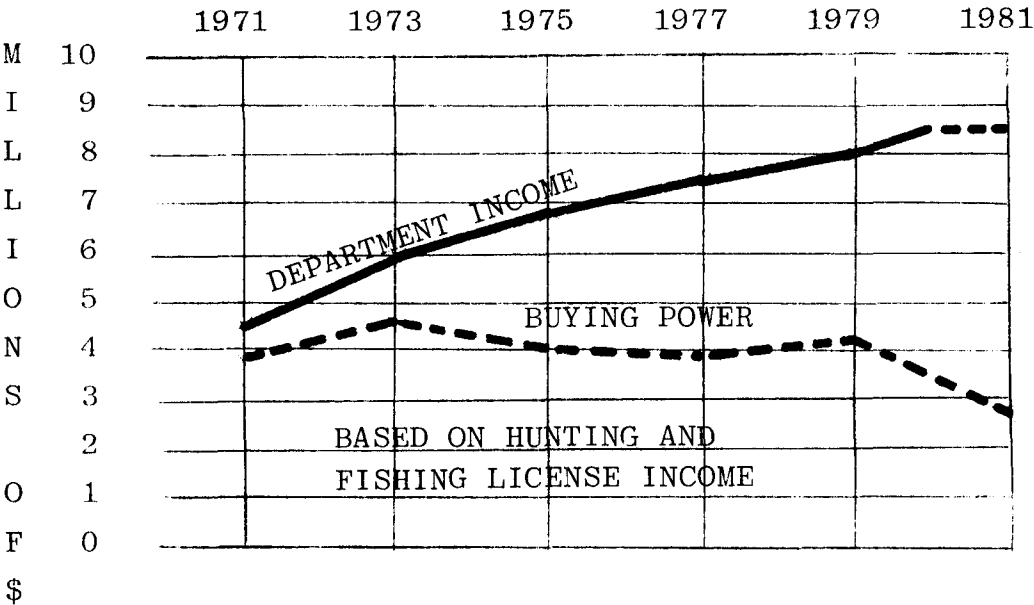


# WHERE THE MONEY GOES

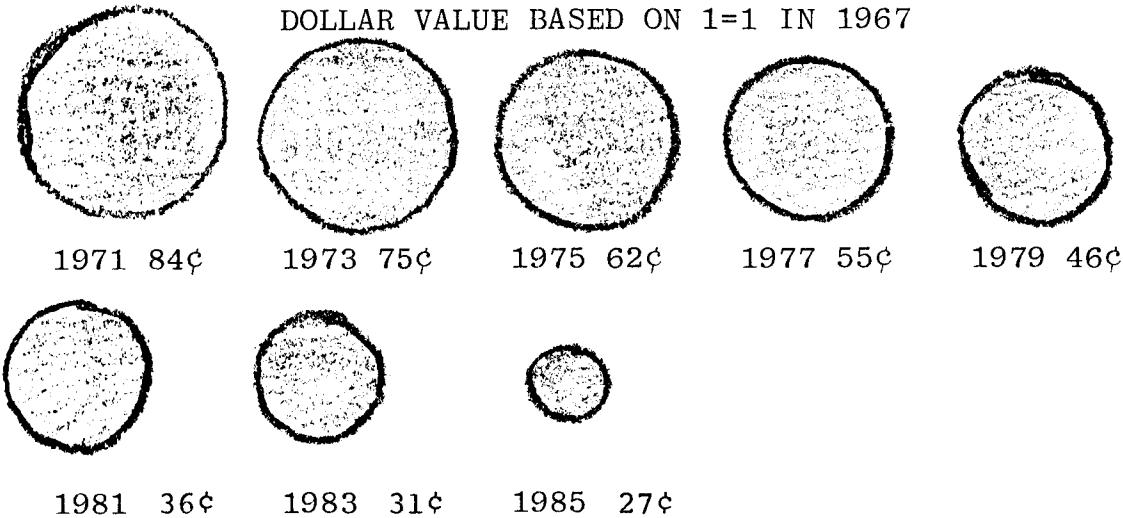
(F.Y. 1980) JULY 1, 1979 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1980



EROSION OF BUYING POWER



DOLLAR VALUE BASED ON 1=1 IN 1967

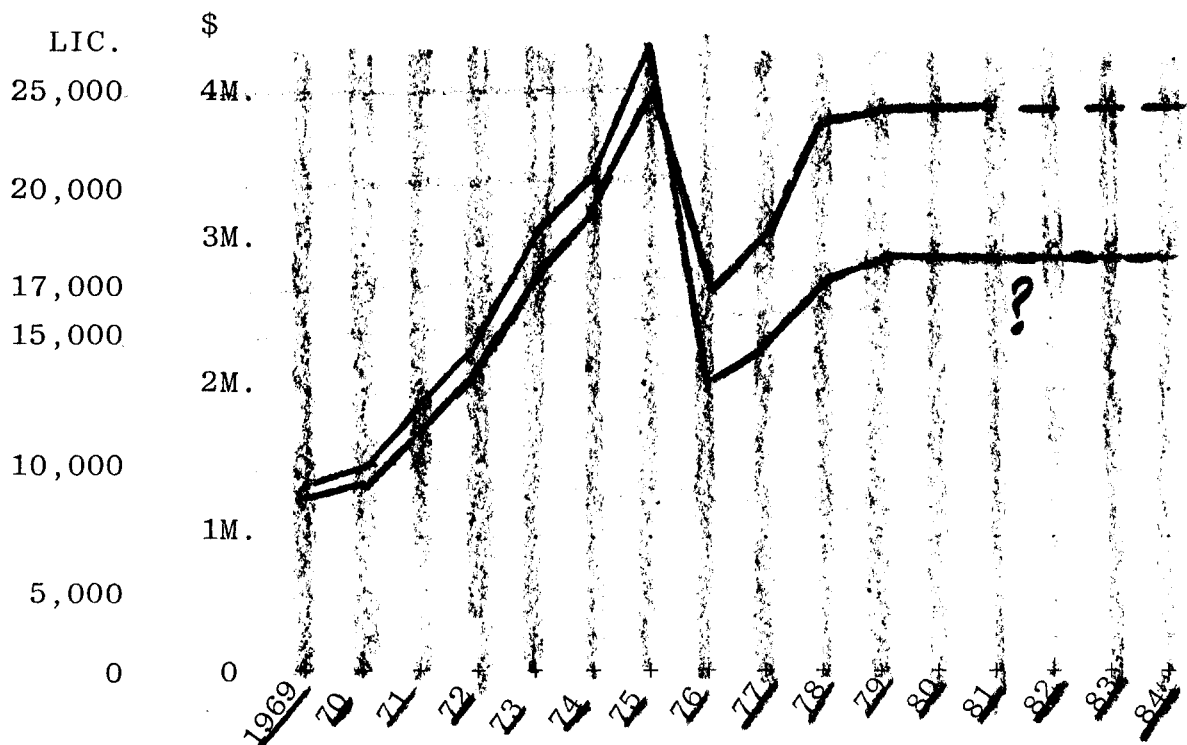


## VEHICLE FLEET

F.Y.	MILES	GALLONS	COST	AV. COST PER GAL.	FUEL PER MILE	ORIG COST 4 W.D. PICKUP
80	3,283,29	276,544	\$276,500	98¢	082¢	\$7,600
79	4,455,569	397,955	398,000	64¢	056¢	6,300
78	3,741,688	343,977	256,000	58¢	051¢	5,800
77	4,173,033*	385,751*	272,000*	56¢	049¢	5,500
76	3,857,281	372,975	265,000	52¢	050¢	5,200

\*13 MONTH FISCAL YEAR TO CATCH-  
UP COMPLETION OF FISCAL YEAR  
ACCOUNTING.

NONRESIDENT COMBINATION LICENSES  
15YR. PERIOD, 1969 TO 1984



## BASE BUDGET

F.T.E.'s

	BIENNIAL 80-81	BIENNIAL 82-83	INCREASE OR DECREASE	PERCENT + or -	BIENNIAL 80-81	BIENNIAL 82-83	PERCENT DECREASE
CENTRALIZED S.	7,068,547*	5,799,789*	1,268,758	- 17.9	141.76	107.30	- 24.3
ECOLOGICAL S.	1,716,433	1,815,461	99,028	+ 5.8	76.70	58.32	- 24.0
FISHERIES	4,615,051	3,978,644	636,407	- 13.8	185.05	144.34	- 22.0
LAW ENF.	5,199,160	5,129,273	69,887	- 1.3	185.98	156.00	- 16.1
WILDLIFE	5,519,782	5,179,368	340,414	- 6.2	177.69	149.06	- 16.1
REC. & PARKS	6,367,326	5,935,429	431,897	- 6.8	161.43	145.84	- 9.7
CAPITAL	10,811,104	4,170,500	6,640,604	- 61.4			
CONS. EDUCATION	1,945,924	1,933,860	12,064	- 0.6	58.42	43.64	- 25.3
ADMINISTRATION	925,210	720,671	204,539	- 22.1	28.38	17.50	- 38.3
TOTAL	44,168,537	34,662,995	9,505,542	- 21.5	1,015.41/2	822.00/2	- 19.0%

\*INCLUDES VEHICLE AND  
WAREHOUSE REVOLVING  
ACCOUNT.

TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICE
F.Y. 80-81 \$18,125,168/2
F.Y. 82-83 \$16,103,051/2
-11.2%

FEE INCREASE BUDGET

F.T.E.'s

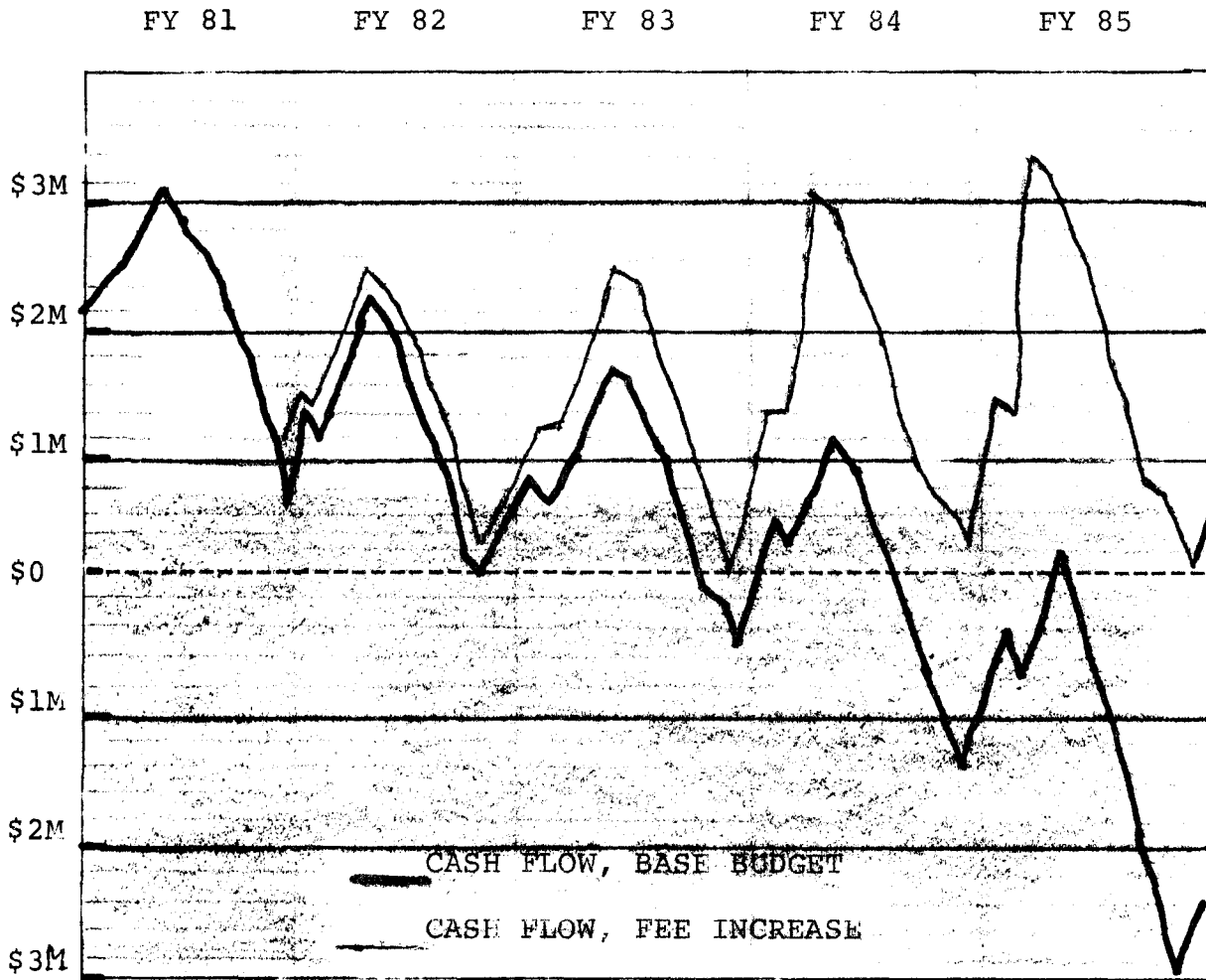
	BIENNIAL 80-81	BIENNIAL 82-83	INCREASE OR DECREASE	PERCENT + or -	BIENNIAL 80-81	BIENNIAL 82-83	PERCENT DECREASE
CENTRALIZED S.	7,068,547*	6,102,537	966,010	- 13.7	141.76	125.30	- 11.6
ECOLOGICAL S.	1,716,433	1,997,596	281,163	+ 16.4	76.70	61.70	- 19.6
FISHERIES	4,615,051	4,445,494	169,557	- 3.7	185.05	164.30	- 11.2
LAW ENF.	5,199,160	5,659,163	460,003	+ 8.8	185.98	176.98	- 4.8
WILDLIFE	5,519,782	5,663,218	143,436	+ 2.6	177.69	160.89	- 9.5
REC. & Parks	6,367,326	6,364,267	3,059	- .05	161.43	159.92	- .9
CAPITAL	10,811,104	4,170,500	6,640,604	- 61.4			
CONS. EDUCATION	1,945,924	2,161,862	215,938	+ 11.1	58.42	50.12	- 14.2
ADMINISTRATION	925,210	857,015	68,195	- 7.4	28.38	23.00	- 19.0
TOTAL	44,168,537	37,421,652	6,746,885	- 15.3	1015.41/2	922.21/2	- 9.2

\*INCLUDES VEHICLE AND  
WAREHOUSE REVOLVING  
ACCOUNT.

TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES  
F.Y. 80-81 \$18,125,168/2  
F.Y. 80-83 \$17,710,970/2  
-2.3%



## PROJECTED CASH BALANCE - 02131



BASE BUDGET CASH FLOW LINE  
DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY HUNTING  
OR FISHING LICENSE FEE INCREASES

FEE INCREASE CASH FLOW LINE  
REQUIRES HUNTING & FISHING LI-  
CENSE FEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONTAINED IN CHART 12

CHART 12  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FY 82/83 BIENNIAL

LICENSE	PRESENT FEE	RECOMMENDED FEES MAY 1, 1981	RECOMMENDED FEES MAY 1, 1982	RECOMMENDED FEES MAY 1, 1983
License Dealer Fee	.15¢	.15¢	.30¢*	.30¢
Resident Wildlife Conservation License	1.00	3.00*	3.00	3.00
Resident Fishing	5.00	5.00	7.50*	10.00*
Nonresident Wildlife Conservation License	1.00	3.00*	3.00	3.00
Nonresident 6-Day Fishing	10.00	10.00	Eliminate	Eliminate
Nonresident Season Fishing	20.00	20.00	40.00*	40.00
Nonresident 2 Day Fishing (a)	2.00	2.00	4.00*	4.00
Paddlefish (b)	-0-	-0-	5.00*	5.00
Resident Bird	4.00	4.00	5.00*	6.00*
Nonresident Bird	30.00	30.00	40.00*	40.00
Turkey (c)	2.00	2.00	5.00*	5.00
Duplicate	3.00	3.00	Max. of 25.00* (d)	Max. of 25.00 (d)
Resident Deer	7.00	7.00	8.00*	10.00*
Resident Elk	8.00	8.00	10.00*	12.00*
Youth Bird	2.00	2.00	3.00*	3.00
Youth Elk	2.00	2.00	3.00*	3.00
Youth Deer	2.00	2.00	3.00*	3.00
Sportsman's License	35.00	35.00	40.00*	40.00
Nonresident Big Game License	225.00	225.00	300.00*	325.00*
Nongame Certificate	5.00	Eliminate	Eliminate	Eliminate
Resident Antelope	5.00	5.00	10.00*	10.00
Resident Moose	25.00	25.00	50.00*	50.00
Resident Sheep	25.00	25.00	50.00*	50.00
Resident Goat	15.00	15.00	25.00*	25.00
Nonresident Moose	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Nonresident Sheep	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Nonresident Goat	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Nonresident Bear	6.00	6.00	10.00*	10.00
Resident Grizzly	25.00	25.00	50.00*	50.00
Nonresident Grizzly	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Resident Mountain Lion	5.00	5.00	25.00*	25.00
Nonresident Mountain Lion	100.00	100.00	250.00*	250.00
Trappers	10.00	10.00	25.00*	25.00
Falcons License	3.00	3.00	25.00*	25.00
Special Deer Fee	1.00	Eliminate	Eliminate	Eliminate
Special Elk Fee	1.00	Eliminate	Eliminate	Eliminate
Drawing Fee (b)	-0-	5.00*	5.00	5.00

Notes:

- \* Price of license has changed from previous year.
- (a). Currently there is a Nonresident 1 Day Fishing license. The Department would recommend changing this to two days.
- (b). New license or fee.
- (c). Resident and nonresident license.
- (d). The Department recommends that duplicate licenses be purchased for the original price of the license up to a maximum of \$25.00.

**CHART 3**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, & PARKS**  
**HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES**  
**REVENUE IMPACT OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

License	Quantity Sold (a) Last License Yr.	May 1, 1981 Change	Annual Revenue Impact	May 1, 1982 Change	Annual Revenue Impact	May 1, 1983 Change	Annual Rev. Impact
License Dealer Fee	843,649 (b)			15¢ increase	(126,546)		
Res. W.L. Cons. Lic.	282,615	* \$2	\$565,230	+ \$2.50	431,635	+ \$2.50	\$431,635
Resident Fish	172,654						
Unres. W.L. Cons. Lic.	97,795	+ \$2	\$391,180				
Unres. 6-Day Fish	23,427			Eliminate	(\$234,270)		
Unres. Season Fish	14,396			+ \$20.00	287,920		
Unres. 2-Day Fish	127,469			+ \$2.00	254,938		
Paddlefish(c)	4,000 (d)			+ \$5.00	20,000		
Resident Bird	60,996			+ \$1.00	60,996	+ \$1.00	60,996
Unres. Bird	2,480			+ \$10.00	24,800		
Turkey	3,900			+ \$3.00	11,700		
Duplicate	2,293			+ \$22.00 (e)	22,930 (e)		
Resident Deer	119,260			+ \$1.00	119,260	+ \$2.00	238,520
Resident Elk	80,108			+ \$2.00	160,216	+ \$2.00	160,216
Unres. Bird	4,082			+ \$1.00	4,082		
Unres. Elk	4,903			+ \$1.00	4,903		
Unres. Deer	8,439			+ \$1.00	8,439		
Sportsman License	2,330			+ \$5.00	11,650		
Unres. Big Game	17,000 (f)			+ \$75.00	1,275,000		
Unres. Game Certificate	120	Eliminate	(600)				
Resident Antelope	15,855			+ \$5.00	79,275		
Resident Moose	563			+ \$25.00	14,075		
Unres. Bighorn Sheep	809			+ \$25.00	20,225		
Resident Mountain Goat	401			+ \$35.00	14,035		
Unres. Moose	12			+ \$100.00	1,200		
Unres. Bighorn Sheep	176			+ \$100.00	17,600		
Unres. Goat	22			+ \$100.00	2,200		
Resident Bear	9,694			+ \$4.00	38,776		
Resident Grizzly	472			+ \$25.00	11,800		
Unres. Grizzly	112			+ \$100.00	11,200		
Unres. Mountain Lion	614			+ \$20.00	12,280		
Unres. Mountain Lion	111			+ \$150.00	16,650		
Trappers	4,503			+ \$15.00	67,545		
Unres. Trappers	62			+ \$22.00	1,364		
Special Deer & Elk Fees	53,312	Eliminate	(\$53,312)				
Drawing Fee(c)	70,000 (g)	+ \$5.00	\$350,000				
GROSS ANNUAL REVENUE INCREASE					\$2,550,380		\$891,367
Anticipated Drop in Quantity Sold (10%)			\$1,252,498		(255,038)		(89,136)
NET ANNUAL REVENUE INCREASE			\$1,127,249		\$2,295,342		\$802,231

(b). May 1, 1979, to April 30, 1980

(c). Number of licenses sold statewide at license dealers.

(d). New license or fee

(e). It is estimated there are about 4,000 anglers fishing for paddlefish each year in Montana.

(f). The license would apply to both residents and nonresidents.

(g). Price of each duplicate sold will vary, depending on cost of original license. Most lost licenses

should cost about \$10 under new proposed fees. \$10 per license was used to calculate annual revenue

impact.

(h). Limited by law to 17,000.

(i). Approximate number of drawing applications in 1980

LAST YEAR LICENSE FEE WAS INCREASEDLICENSEYEAR

Resident Wildlife Conservation License	1976
Resident Fishing	1974
Nonresident Wildlife Conservation License	1976
Nonresident 6-Day Fishing	1974
Nonresident Season Fishing	1974
Nonresident 1-Day Fishing	1974
Paddlefish	New License
Resident Bird	1976
Nonresident Bird	1976
Turkey	1959
Duplicate	1979
Resident Deer	1976
Resident Elk	1976
Youth Bird	1976
Youth Elk	1976
Youth Deer	1976
Sportsman License	1976
Nonresident Big Game	1976 (\$225), 1968 (\$150), 1948 (\$100)
Nongame	1976
Resident Antelope	1976
Resident Moose	1966
Resident Sheep	1966
Resident Mountain Goat	1966
Nonresident Moose	1980
Nonresident Sheep	1980
Nonresident Mountain Goat	1980
Resident Bear	1976
Resident Grizzly	1976
Nonresident Grizzly	1980
Resident Mountain Lion	1972
Nonresident Mountain Lion	1980
Trappers	1946
Falconers	1971
Drawing Fee	New

COMPARISON OF SELECTED MONTANA HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES  
WITH THE AVERAGE FEES FOR 12 WESTERN STATES

<u>License</u>	<u>Montana's Present Fee</u>	<u>Montana's Proposed Fee (1982)</u>	<u>Average Fee 12 Western States</u>
Nonresident Big Game	\$225.	\$300.	\$335.50
Resident Deer	\$ 7.	\$ 8.	\$ 8.10
Resident Elk	\$ 8.	\$ 10.	\$ 19.50
Resident Antelope	\$ 5.	\$ 10.	\$ 17.10
Resident Fishing	\$ 5.	\$ 7.50	\$ 8.46
Nonresident 2-Day Fishing	\$ 2.	\$ 4.	\$ 5.03
Resident Bird	\$ 4.	\$ 5.	\$ 6.59
Resident Moose	\$ 25.	\$ 50.	\$ 47.33

STATEMENT OF INTENT  
TO ACCOMPANY HOUSE BILL 200

The amendments found in subsection (4) of section 87-2-202, MCA, (Section 2 of HB 200) are specifically designed to prevent the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks from issuing a two-part conservation license as has been done in the prior two years. It is the intent of the Legislature tht the Department issue a wildlife conservation license annually. The Department may not charge more than a year's annual fee at one time to an applicant.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
HOUSE BILL 200

1. Amend Title, line 9.  
Following: "PERMITS;"  
Insert: "clarifying the details concerning issuance of a  
wildlife conservation license;"
2. Amend page 2, line 23.  
Following: "issuance."  
Insert: "A license may only be issued for one year at a  
time, and the department may not require an applicant for a  
license to purchase a license or licenses for a period  
greater than one year."

PROPOSER

HB. 200 -

HON. CHAIRMAN & COMMITTEE -

I EVERETT W. MILLER OF PHILIPSBURG - MONT  
A OUTFITTER & TAX PAYER OF GRANIT COUNTY  
SUPPORT THIS BILL.

WE KNOW THAT NO BUSINESS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
CAN SURVIVE IN THIS TIME OF DOUBLE DIGIT  
INFLATION, WITH OUT INCREASED INCOME.

I HAVE IN MY BUSINESS INCREASED MY  
FEES AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 12% EACH YEAR  
BUT ALSO HAD TO CUT MY OVERHEAD TO  
STAY EVEN,

THE FISH & GAME MUST DO THE SAME BUT  
THESE CUTS MUST BE MADE WHERE THE EFFECTIVENESS  
OF DEPT. IS NOT CRIPPLED. IN FACT THE ENFORCEMENT  
MUST BE INCREASED. AT ALL COST. WHAT IS THE  
USE OF HAVING MOVE GAME IF WE CANNOT PROTECT  
IT FROM THE POACHERS AND ILLEGAL HUNTERS, THIS  
BILL WILL INCREASE THE NUMBER ILLEGAL HUNTERS

IN STUDYING THE DEPT. SUMMARY OF BUDGETS  
FOR FY 82 & 83 AND EXECUTIVE BUDGET + L.F.A. RECOMM-  
ENDATION THAT ENFORCEMENT IS RECOMMENDED  
TO BE REDUCED IN SIZE AND SCOPE.

ON THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET PAGE 11 IT IS  
STATED THAT THE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION,  
IS THE DEPARTMENT'S LARGEST USER OF LICENSE  
INCOME. BUT LET US REMEMBER THAT A GREAT  
DEAL OF MONEY COMES TO THE DEPT. BECAUSE  
OF THE LICENSE THAT ARE SOLD. LICENSE SALES  
FOR 79 TOTALLED \$8,467,278,

HOW ENFORCEMENT IS BUDGETED FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 1981 AT \$2,688,719 FISCAL 1982- \$2,948,553  
FISCAL 1983 \$3,164,872

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE DEPT. PROPOSED  
ARE FISCAL YEAR 1981 \$16,461,372 FISCAL 82 \$17,050,860  
FISCAL YEAR 83 \$18,188,226



I ASK YOU GIVE THIS BILL H2200 A due  
PASS RECOMMEDATION BUT PLEASE SEE  
THAT THIS MONEY'S IS SPENT TO PROTECT  
PRESERVE, AND IMPROVE, THE WILDLIFE,  
FISH IN THE STATE OF MONTANA.

THE PURCHASERS OF LICENSE WANT TO  
SEE THIS MONEY AT WORK IN THE FIELD'S  
NOT SPENT IN PROPAGANDA TELLING US WHAT  
A GOOD JOB THE DEPT. IS DOING.

THE PUBLIC FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS  
HAS ASK FOR MORE WARDENS IN THE FIELD  
THEY HAVE RECEIVED ONLY NIPP SERVICE  
EVERY YEAR, NOW YOU HAVE THE CHANCE  
TO GIVE TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS WHAT THEY  
WANT.

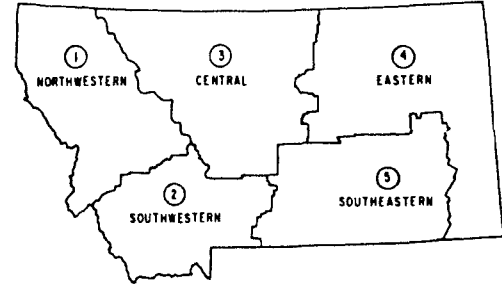
THANK YOU  
Everett L Miller

EDUCATION - CONSERVATION

# Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

January 29, 1981



Good Afternoon. My name is Wilbur Rehmann, Executive Director of the Montana Wildlife Federation. I appear before you on behalf of our approximately 2000 members and on behalf of our twelve affiliated sportsmens clubs scattered across the state.

The Montana Wildlife Federation and its sportsmen members support HB 200, the license fee increase for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Why are the sportsmen and women of Montana willing to rais our fees? Is it because we are starry-eyed idealists who care nothing about finances?

The answer is no, we are family people, working people who know the value of a dollar used wisely, even stretched as far as possible. We have been forced to live within our means and to tighten our family budgets.

We have said the same thing to the Department - tighten your belt and tighten up your budget. Sportsmen clubs have been discussing this budget for the last few months. We have worked with the Director to find ways to utilize personnel more efficiently, we have suggested many cuts.

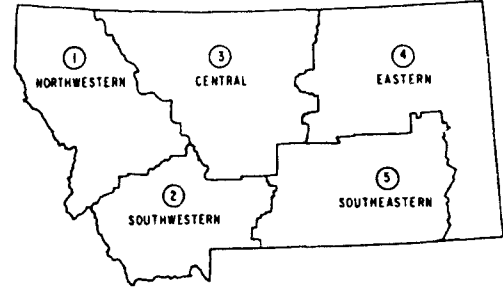
This bill, HB 200, is a result of those discussions. Director Flynn has made many cuts and tightened where ever possible. This fee increase is already a bare bones budget. Land acquisition is severely restricted, something that sportsmen hate to see but realize is necessary. There will be personnel cuts even with this budget. And there will be changes in our opportunities to hunt and fish.

Sportsmen are not happy about any of those changes. But, we are realists and we realize that the Department like our families has to live within a balanced budget.



# Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



HB 200

page 2

Wildlife is a valuable asset to the states economy. Montana residents and out-of-state sportsmen paid over \$128 million into this state's economy in 1978. Hunters and fisherman traveling across the state to their favorite fishing and hunting haunts increase the local prosperity of each town they come to. Wildlife and recreation pursuit translates into paychecks for Montanans supplying service like restaurants, motels, retail outlets, meat processing, equipment rental, dude ranching, gasoline and transportation.

Over 1,000 resident outfitters and guides earned \$13.5 million in 1979, mostly from non-residents seeking elk in high country, deer on the plains, or trout in a quiet stream. A financial multiplier effect causes these dollars to double their value as they move through the economy and spread their wealth across the state.

Even though the states general economy benefits from people coming here to see, photograph and pursue wildlife, no Montana state general tax dollars pay for any fish or wildlife management work. Sportsmen, the users, pay.

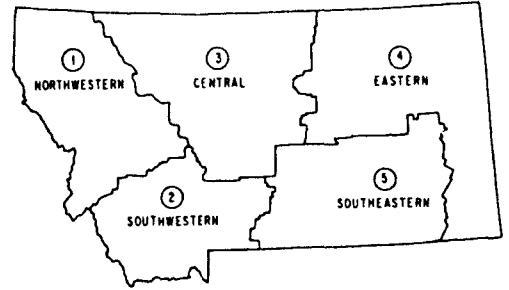
Hunting license dollars pay for the state hunting program including management as well as free services like hunter safety training for Montana's young hunters.

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is responsible for providing much of what we as sportsmen and the recreation industry in general rely on; observable and huntable wildlife populations, and natural resources attractively managed. The Department's problem today is money. Without a license increase, and with continued services at present or slightly reduced levels in the face of present inflation, the Department will be \$3 million in the red by June 30, 1982.



# Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



HB 200

page 3.

Sportsmen and their families believe in a balanced budget and we want to see a continuing effort to maintain quality recreation in Montana.

The Board of Directors unanimously supports the license fee increase and respectfully requests you pass HB 200. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wilbur W. Rehmann", is written over a horizontal line.

Wilbur W. Rehmann

Executive Director

Montana Wildlife Federation



Chairman Ellison and Committee Members:

My name is Michael Larkin. I am a student of wildlife biology at the University of Montana and chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Wildlife Club.

A recent survey by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research states that in 1979 35% of Montanans hunted, 58% fished, and 75% of all Montanans participated in outdoor recreation activities.

Montana's rich endowments of natural resources and beauty provide constant enjoyment for Montanans of all ages--to say nothing of the millions of non-residents who travel, fish, hunt, and vacation in Montana yearly. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is entrusted with the responsibility of managing and maintaining Montana's resources "in a manner that will benefit current and future generations of Montanans." In order to fulfill their obligation the Department must be adequately funded. With the immediate threats imposed by rampant inflation and increased demands on our natural resources, any delinquency in funding necessary to ensure proper protection of these resources will surely result in the loss of many of the habitats and animals which make Montana uniquely beautiful among the states.

Currently, the Department's major sources of funding are revenues from hunting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. It is important to note that the federal money cannot be fully utilized without sufficient "matching" state money. License fee revenues are by far the greatest source of state income for the Department.

The last major change in resident fees was in 1976. Since that time, the Department has been able to maintain its level of buying power by increasing license sales. However, future license sales are not expected to provide the funding necessary for maintaining current management and educational efforts.

Montana's present license fees are low compared to other Western States. Even the proposed increases--to be implemented gradually over a three year period--fall below the average license fees of the Western States in a number of areas. The proposed Montana increases were developed by competent and responsible public administrators without incentive for personal gain. The increases represent a minimum requirement for perpetuating the Department's present programs.

As a young student currently investing in my own future, I ask you to carefully consider the future consequences of reduced buying power:

- reduced hunting and fishing opportunities.
- a smaller capability to manage fish, wildlife and cultural resources against intensifying land uses.

- inadequate care of state-owned wildlife lands and fishing access sites.
- a reduced capability to acquire additional wildlife lands desperately needed to offset continued habitat losses.
- possible curtailment of the Montana nongame management program.

Clearly, if we hope to continue enjoying the benefits of our natural resources, and if we care about the quality of the world into which we bring our children, we must act now to ensure the survival of our wildlife resources. The U. of M. wildlife members have signed a petition to you voicing their concern, and have asked me to present it to you. Therefore, I would ask that this committee consider their concern, and I personally ask you to look favorably upon the license fee increases proposed by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in House Bill #200. Please support the passage of this important document into Montana Law.

Thank you,



Michael Larkin

6

Chairman Ellison + Committee Members of the  
House Fish + Game Committee:

We, the under-signed, representing the University of Montana Wildlife Club, support the license fee increases proposed by the Department of Fish, Wildlife + Parks in House Bill 200. We recognize that the Department cannot properly manage Montana's precious natural resources without proper funding. Inflating costs of resource management and increasing pressures on our natural resources demand that we invest continuously to ensure their preservation. The increases the Department is proposing are minimum increases aimed at maintaining current management efforts. Therefore, we ask that you support the passage of House Bill 200 for our benefit and that of future Montanans.

Thank you.

Michael Lytle

Matthew Dunsen

Randall W. Atkins

David D. Decker

Debbie Applegate

Couglas H. Drake

Jerry J. Wane

Nancy Fleming

Anthony S. Coe

Kevin C. Coyle

Anson Lucachick

Peter O. Metzger

Inn Humphrey

Allen E. Hill

Kathy Swift

Greg Risdahl

John Brown

Scott Ravell

Lori Campbell

Barb McLean

B. M. McLean

Charles R. Weidner

Sam M. Helanko

Cindy Osmundson

Chadwick Gilles

Scott Zimmerman

Dean Marsh

Dennis Riley

Greg F. Potter

Peter W. Leach

Nancy K. Winsten

Chris Hill

1/28/81

In Response to House Bill 200:

An increase in state hunting and fishing license fees is essential for the continued efficient operation of our state and federal fish and wildlife services. Any additional funds made available for enhancement of non-game bird and mammal species is especially important for the preservation of these non-featured species.

Although hunters and fishermen are expected to carry the bulk for <sup>the</sup> funding of fish and wildlife projects, a proportionally higher increase in out-of-state license fees would stimulate more revenue, while at the same time, easing the economic burden placed on in-state sportsmen.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Gates

Senior, Wildlife Biology

University of Montana, Missoula.



PRESENTED BY JOHN GILPATRICK  
HILGER, MONTANA

For the past three years it has been my privilege to serve on the Landowner Relations/Sportsmen Access Advisory Council to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I speak today on behalf of that group of 13 Montana men who are interested in the future of our wildlife resources and who shared a particular concern about the decline in respect and understanding between sportsmen and landowners.

I would describe our group as a study group with the ability to make suggestions to the Commission and the Department as well as interested sportsmen and landowners.

It appears quite evident that the combination of inflation and additional work dictates a sizeable fee increase for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. As a group we delved deeply into the operation of the Department and I have seen nothing that indicates lack of concern for economics or duty from the professionals in the Department.

One of the first things that our group discussed was the need for additional law enforcement. We made two recommendations as a result of this. The first resulted in the toll free violation report line. This was a small step to make it easier for citizens to aid law enforcement and fulfill their obligation and duty of self policing.

I would like to note here that this line is manned 24 hours a day and that the Helena office staff takes turns answering the phone on the off duty hours at absolutely no additional pay. The second result was what we refer to as the ex officio program whereby those Department employees outside the warden staff were allowed to take law enforcement training and then carry a badge. The results of this were astounding. Well over 100 people volunteered and took the training. Of these 75 - 80 are actually in the field. All are capable of making arrests and are doing so when needed. These are excellent examples of Department cooperation and are programs that deserve support and money.

The Department stepped up and pinpointed its conservation education efforts toward hunter ethics, hunter conduct and landowner cooperation. Radio ads and reports, TV spots and the free hunting signs and permission booklets furnished to landowners by the Department are excellent examples of work well done. We need it to continue.

These are just a couple of examples. In a time of rising costs, and particularly fuel costs, to an agency that must travel to plant fish, supervise wildlife and sportsmen, manage fish and game and their habitat, manage and protect parks and camping areas it is imperative they receive proper funding.

The increasing pressures of coal development, for example, require additional wildlife management options and law enforcement if our Montana wildlife heritage is to be properly maintained. The exploding deer populations in Montana will require extra attention if landowners, sportsmen and wildlife are to be properly served. These services require manpower and money.

It is also a self help program where hunters, fishermen and campers pay their own way. Let's let them do it right.

House of Representatives  
Fish and Game Committee  
Helena, Montana  
Representative Orville Ellison; Chairman

Re: House Bill 200

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Ralph Holman, McLeod, Montana. As a business man I am well aware of the run away inflation we have been subjected to over the last several years. It has been necessary for me to increase fees charged clients by 10 per cent annually for several years in order to keep my Outfitter operation barely in the black. I feel that inflation must be recognized in giving consideration to the increase in license fees requested by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. License fees charged by most other like states are far above Montana fees.

While reduced spending in some areas of management may be possible, law enforcement personnel and funding for the law enforcement division have been limited or reduced to the point that currently only minimal effective law enforcement exists. This summer my Wilderness camp was occupied in July and August and in September and October for early season hunting. A Game Warden visited camp in October, to inspect camp, on his way through the area and on one occasion we met a Warden up on top of a mountain ridge in September. There was no early season checking station set up on the Boulder and none during the regular season that I know of. This is not good!

We desperately need additional Game Wardens throughout Montana including the back country, both summer and fall. Our guides frequently see violations from a distance however a guide is committed to serve clients, has no authority and it would take a day's ride on horseback out to get a Warden. I have on many occasion heard hunters brag of breaking and defying the law, that they have nothing to fear as Game Wardens, the few we have, are so restricted on mileage, time etc. they only occasionally leave town. We have good efficient and capable law enforcement personnel who will act diligently. We only have half the number we need in the field and those we have desperately need more funding. There are 66 full time Game Wardens. This means each Warden has to provide law enforcement for approximately one and one half million acres of Montana. There are also 12 Sergeants and Captains in the field part time.

Law enforcement in my opinion is not supportive and should not be considered as back up. It is a highly critical and necessary function of the Department that should receive the highest priority in order to


protect and conserve our invaluable Game and Fish resource.

Game Wardens should also act as public relations officers to establish better relations between landowners and the Department. Landowners harassed by trespass and Game damage problems like to know the Warden personally and have him stop in to see if assistance is needed. I know from experience the frustrations of gates left open and fences torn down, of spending days locating stock that left through opened gates, of locks shot off locked and private gates. Thousands of sportsmen obtain permission however we do have some bad apples that need to be stopped. Trained Wardens can successfully coordinate rancher related programs designed to protect landowners and stop game violations and property vandalism.

The majority of Outfitters who are in the field throughout the season with fishing and hunting parties, support an increase in license fees for the purpose of substantially increasing law enforcement and related programs.

Other recommendations are as follows:

- 1- Check effectiveness and cost of Ex-officio program. If program has only minimal effectiveness it should be discontinued.
- 2- Check cost of computer operation. Other systems may be substantially less costly and result in far less confusion.
- 3- The Department is occasionally plagued by delays in delivery of printed maps, forms or other material ordered from printing firms, causing disruption of Department schedules and frustrated license applicants. Penalty clauses, with teeth, should be a subject of every order to assure timely delivery of printed or other contract work.
- 4- Provide more Non-Resident deer only and antelope only licenses in Eastern Montana.
- 5- Encourage tax incentives for landowners in return for maintaining wildlife habitat, especially winter game range.
- 6- Classify late season elk hunts as special Trophy hunts.
  - Non-Resident bull elk Trophy license \$150.00 minimum.
  - Resident bull elk Trophy license 25.00
  - Cow license one half of above.

  
Ralph Holman

NAME Ralph HOLMAN BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS M<sup>C</sup>LEOD, Mont DATE Jan. 29, 81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT SELF  
SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐ AMEND ☐

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

*attached*

MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL  
Box 1184 Helena 59624

EXHIBIT 9  
1/29/81

Jan. 29, 1981

Testimony Before the House Fish and Game Committee on HB 200

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

My name is Gael Bissell and I am speaking on behalf of the Montana Audubon Council. The Council represents over 1800 National Audubon members living in Montana. Our membership is closely tied to the wildlife resources of Montana and we have many hunting and fishing people amongst our members.

In view of increasing demands upon our wildlife resources by people themselves, by urban and suburban sprawl and by resource development and in light of the harmful effects of inflation on the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks programs, we feel the moderate increases the Department is seeking are fully justified. The Montana Audubon Council, therefore, supports HB 200.

NAME TAL RITTEC House BILL No. 300  
ADDRESS WOLF CREEK DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT MONTANA OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOC  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

~~ATTACHED~~

WE GO ALONG SUPPORTING H. B. 200  
AS LONG AS IT IS UNDERSTOOD WE SEE  
MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIELD WORK.

HOUSE BILL 200

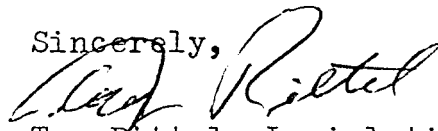
Mr. Chairman--Committee Members,

The Montana Outfitters and Guides Association would like to back the amendment of splitting the B-10 license for non-residents into individual tags for elk, deer, bear, bird and fishing. We feel the limitation of 17,000 should be placed on elk as that is what is the biggest concern of the citizens and sportsman of Montana.

We feel this would work as a management tool to keep non-resident hunters from flooding into areas of concern by residents. It would also discourage the non-resident hunter from feeling he had to make a quick western hunt for elk just because he had a elk tag. It would keep him from driving blindly from place to place or crowding into one area to conflict with resident hunters. This split of the B--10 license would give the hunter a choice and not a opening to try to kill everything on his tag.

~~We also would back a amendment to permit hunting black bear with the use of dogs and bait. Most of Montana's sister states allow this type of bear hunting now.~~

Sincerely,



Tag Pittel, Legislative Chairman

MONTANA OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES ASSO



NAME CHRIS KRONBERG BILL No. HB200  
ADDRESS 202 S. FIFTA W. DATE 29 JAN 1981  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT SELF  
SUPPORT ✓ OPPOSE        AMEND       

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

FIRST, AS A BIOLOGIST, I AM PROUD OF THE JOB THAT THE BIOLOGISTS OF THE FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS DIVISION ARE DOING IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MONTANA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. OUR FISHERIES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY AND WILL REMAIN SO AS LONG AS MONTANA HAS THE BEST FISHING IN THE LOWER FORTY-EIGHT STATES. TO CONSERVE THIS RESOURCE, F., W. AND PARKS MUST HAVE THE FINANCES TO DO THEIR JOB RIGHT.

MONTANA'S LICENSE FEES ARE RIDICULOUSLY LOW. EVEN THE PROPOSED 1983 FISHING LICENSE IS ONLY \$<sup>8</sup>10; TEN DOLLARS WILL ONLY BUY TWO MOVIE TICKETS OR THREE SIX PACKS OF BEER. CONSIDERING THE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE, THE \$<sup>8</sup>10 LICENSE IS A STEAL. THANK YOU.

## MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

The MTA recognizes the current situation in which the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks finds itself. The last three years the MTA has requested site specific/species specific management... placing more strain upon the existing status of Departmental management criteria.

The Department request for a 150% license increase to be levied upon Class C trappers of this state has gained some support under the political emphasis upon decreasing enforcement ability and decreasing ability to move on requested management proposals. However, the MTA in opposition to Section 14 of HB 200's 150% increase would ask you to consider these facts:

1. The bobcat became classified as a furbearer in 1977 at our request (trappers and houndsman were now required to buy licenses to trap this former non furbearer).
2. The lynx and wolverine were added to the furbearer list in 1979.
3. In 1977 there were approximately 1200 licenses sold and there were over 5200 licenses sold during the last trapping season.

The above action and license purchases have increased the Department's revenue from over \$12,000 to more than \$52,000 (trapping licenses priced at \$10.00). This brief account of trapping license funds for the Department illustrates that revenues from trapping have continued to increase while furbearers have remained a low priority in the overall management program. And after a period of approximately four years, as testified by the Department, an overall lack of legitimate furbearer data exists.

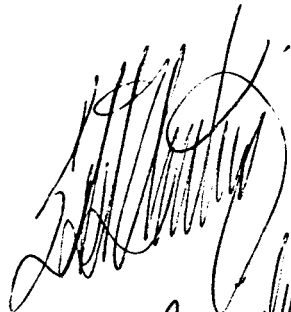
The problems the MTA sees with HB 200's proposed trapping license increase is how can the Department legitimately request such with:

1. No youth provision
2. No guarantees that the proposed license increase will bring about a better future in the management of the furbearing population of this state.

The attached newsletter is to illustrate why we have this concern about the future of furbearer management. The MTA has worked closely with the Department as this newsletter will attest. There is no other group of individuals in this state that have their fingers on the pulse of the welfare of the furbearer as does the Montana Trappers Association.

The problem as we see it is that until the Department of FWP can create a program of site specific/species specific management thereby illustrating that trapper license fee increases will be used for furbearer management the proposed license fee increase in HB 200,

Section 14 is totally unacceptable. The MTA does not entertain the thought that an increase in money will solve a very apparent problem the Department suffers in attaining a comprehensive list of priorities of its obligation to manage the furbearer populations of Montana.

  
President MTA.

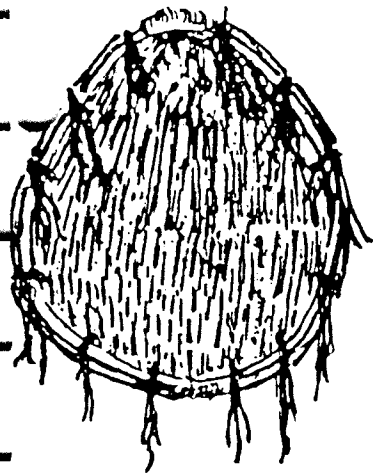
# MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

BOX 29

SEELEY LAKE , MT. 59868

Working today for a tomorrow in trapping.  
Furbearers are a RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCE.

December 19, 1980



Dear MTA Member:

Now that I've about gotten the rust knocked off from the end of my writing tool, I'll give it a warming up and do a little catching up since we last had contact. We've a lot to talk over, so grab yourself a cup or whatever and take a minute from your busy schedules. It's always been a sort of question of mine as to how many of our 600 take the time to read these newspieces from front to back. I am hoping that all 600 take the time to read this one, as it probably will be one of the most important that has ever hit your mailbox.

We have as an organization reached one of those crucial periods in which a decision or two could make a large change in determining our futures as trappers. Ahead by some trying times, but I feel the task will be bearable, mainly because we believe in what we are doing.

The problem that we now face is a fairly complicated one and will require a bit of history to clarify the magnitude of the situation as well as the cruciality of the solution. We will write this out in detail and end up with a sizable manuscript, however I think in the end "we'll shoot for the heart."

Since its founding, the MTA has worked very sincerely to provide a positive future for its members' livelihoods and the fur resources of this state. Wherever the place, whenever the time and whomever the group, MTA has provided its members representation. We have made some fine steps forward out from those windfalls we've often sought to stay behind. But along with those forward steps go a few times when our well intended efforts and cooperation haven't produced any positive outcome.

For the last three years the MTA has tried very hard to work cooperatively with our state Fish and Game (now Fish, Wildlife and Parks). We have spent our time and money to secure a united effort in obtaining the best possible management program for the furbearing populations the Department manages, and from which we harvest the surplus. Our years of invaluable knowledge and field observation provide the MTA with a credible testimony of the harvest side of managing our fur resources.

We found within the Department a few allies, men and women who firmly believe in and stand for well balanced management and perpetuation of our fur resources. But the bulk of what we run into in our association with the Department of FWP can be summed up in the description of a sprawling, overweight, floundering dinosaur, a bureaucracy so involved in politics and money that the management of our wildlife has definitely taken back row seat.

In the days of its founding, the foresightedness of a few extremely dedicated men was very prevalent. The idea, that the general public would need an overseer, a department with personnel to help the public manage, protect and most important to perpetuate

our state's wildlife for future generations was a truly fine thought.

Down through the years as the job of managing our wildlife resources became more complicated, the Department also grew with the same intensity. Political savvy became a requirement, money an ever increasing top priority, and management started to run along behind, getting dustier and dustier.

Now the politics were essential to a point, and so was the money, just like a body needs to eat three "squares" a day and make regular runs to the outhouse. But when one becomes so involved with these three "squares" a day and spends more and more time in the outhouse, one soon notes a drastic change in appearance, ability to function, and the field of action becomes narrowed down to a path between the fridge, table, and toilet.

One of the biggest problems that the MTA found within the Department of FWP concerning the management of furbearers, was that for the last 15 or 20 years not a heck of a lot of time or effort had been spent on furbearers. They had kind of been swept under the rug as a low priority subject. After all, one has to take into consideration the fact that furbearers do not generate a large source of revenue for the Department, nor have they been much of a subject for general public interest.

Until the recent rising pressure from the federal level of the Wildlife Division and the anti-harvest groups, not too many questions had to be answered in the way of furbearing population and perpetuation. All of a sudden the question was posed as to what kind of a population stability-management program was the Montana Department of FWP instituting to insure the positive perpetuation of those species it was responsible for.

This intense federal level and anti-harvest group line of questioning pertained directly to the fact that our state Department of FWP obtains a large portion of its annual budget from the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1964. These people sought to see if our state Department was properly using those funds for the management of all species of wildlife, which accounts for approximately 75% of their total budget.

In order to answer these growing questions and in order to obtain a comprehensive study of our state's present situation, the Department hired our first ever fur biologist, Mr. Howard Hash. Mr. Hash was to work under the direction of Mr. Gene Allen (head of the Wildlife Division) and upon the Department's request, work jointly with the MTA. The MTA saw this as a positive step in the right direction, and proceeded to begin a cooperative effort for the future.

Now the stage was fairly well set for the trapper of this state to get in on the ground floor of the decision making concerning our livelihoods. MTA felt that it might be possible to work with the Department, have our input discussed, and be instrumental in shaping up our state's furbearer management plan.

In the fall of 1978, MTA was invited to attend the annual Fish and Game Commission's dates and seasons setting meeting in Helena, Montana. The MTA was introduced, allowed to comment on the Department and Commission's decisions, and asked to work cooperatively. We drove home with high hopes and began to lay plans for obtaining a few proposals to be handed in from our side.

The fall of 1979 found MTA again at the Commission meeting offering its proposals, allowed to comment on the Department and Commission's decisions, and again asked to work cooperatively. The Commission, Department, Mr. Hash, and Mr. Allen pronounced that the trapper, harvester input was, indeed, a very valuable asset and would greatly enhance the possibility of obtaining a well rounded management program for our fur resources. But apparently, it was pointed out, we had not been instructed on how decisions were made in the Department. Mr. Hash took the time after the Commission meeting to outline procedures for the MTA to follow, so that our input could be utilized in the upcoming proposals for

So, again we drove home with high hopes, a little pounding on the dash board with resolutions to make 1980 the "year of the trapper." After all, we had the instructions right from the top on how, when, where, and with whom we were to work cooperatively. Our hopes were high and a positive future seemed firmly in hand.

Following the August Commission meeting of 1979, the MTA in cooperation with the Department of FWP (Mr. Hash) began to work intensely on coming up with a well balanced, well correlated list of management proposals. On May 9, 1980, a list of possible topics was finalized. It was labeled Bilateral Topics for Discussion, the 1980-1981 trapping regulations, a list of topics Mr. Hash and myself agreed upon that would generate a true consensus of discussion, that would encourage input to determine the upcoming management proposals. The MTA moved to district level meetings for site specific, species specific harvester discussion and input. Trappers showed an intense interest, attending in strong numbers. You offered your knowledge and judgments based upon field observation and past experiences. Mr. Hash, with a copy of the Bilateral Topics of Discussion, attended a meeting in the Beartooth Mountains with all Department of FWP regional game managers and heads of staff, in order that he might raise discussion and input from the Department's regional level personnel.

Upon the completion of this regional-district level input by both the FWP game managers and the MTA district officers, it was agreed that they were to meet to discuss and complete the possibilities at hand. The MTA prepared to comply and began to request appointments with the regional game managers of their respective MTA districts. A few problems arose. Due to the recent financial cutbacks, some FWP regions did not hold meetings and some FWP regional personnel apparently were constantly on leave of their duties.

During the meetings that were held, MTA officers found that the Beartooth meeting had produced a rather interesting outcome. At the Beartooth meeting, the FWP regional level personnel had not arrived prepared for much discussion on furbearers. Mainly because they had never been required to do so before. Faced with Mr. Hash, the newly acquired state fur biologist, and a lengthy discussion upon a topic most were a bit unfamiliar with, they simply went along with what their leadership proposed. After all, here was the new fur biologist and he seemed to have everything under control.

Some definite discrepancies arose from that Beartooth (Department of FWP) meeting. Although Mr. Hash attended with a copy of the Bilateral Topics of Discussion upon which he and I had cooperatively agreed on, the Department came away with a couple of completely rearranged proposals. It seemed that the Department had moved to take a rather hard-line, conservative, restrictive approach in dealing with a couple of situations.

The MTA moved to finalize its district level input. At a July Board of Directors meeting, a final draft of the MTA proposals for the 1980-81 season was adopted. The final result of our district level input had produced a well-balanced management program, based upon the site specific, species specific data its members had discussed and approved.

Copies of this MTA final draft were mailed to all the proper Department of FWP personnel and the FWP Commission in order to allow them time for discussion. It was apparent at this time that three major discrepancies had arisen between the MTA and the Department's proposals for the 1980-81 season.

1. The Montana Trappers Association proposed to move to reinstitute a beaver belt tagging program west of the Continental Divide. Seasons: November 1-March 31, west of the Continental Divide; November 1-April 20, east of the Continental Divide. This recommendation was based upon motions by the members in support of obtaining information on beaver population status in an area under quota restriction, in the belief that a large portion of the population in western Montana has a definite negative fluctuation

problem. It is also felt that a pelt tagging situation in a quota area would better enable the Department to enforce the quota situation and keep the possibility of illegalities from occurring on a large scale.

The Montana Department of FWP moved to adopt a statewide beaver pelt tagging program, with the reasoning that it would be difficult to topographically enforce a pelt tagging program west of the Divide while no pelt tagging situation was instituted east. (When one cuts his finger, he should wrap his entire body in a bandage.) The Department also wished to obtain data on beaver populations on a statewide basis. (One notes the Department is able to manage a very topographically complicated big game program, but seemed reluctant to attempt the same where furbearers were concerned.)

2. The MTA moved that the marten season, limit, and regulations remain the same in Regions 1, 2, and 3. It was felt that the marten population of our state was at a stable level and continuance of the present regulations would not be detrimental to the species.

The Department of FWP moved for a restriction from an eight week season to a six week season in Region 1. Mr. Dick Weckwerth, game manager for Region 1, at the meeting with MTA district officer, Mr. Wayne Harmon, as Mr. Harmon's report validates, indicated no change in the marten season; however, upon his proposal submitted to his superiors had changed his indication to a two week reduction for the Region.

In a series of contacts and correspondence with Mr. Hash regarding this matter, Mr. Weckwerth's motion was labeled as a typographical error. Upon investigation, it was covered Mr. Weckwerth had indeed moved for a two week reduction. Mr. Harmon was rather upset and asked me to investigate.

My investigation found Mr. Weckwerth had based his proposal on the assumption that the Region 1 marten harvest had risen dramatically and that the trapping license sales increase had induced a much greater amount of trapping pressure upon the Region's marten resources. Mr. Weckwerth had moved to restrict the season in 1979 to correct a problem in the Libby area. The restriction, according to Mr. Weckwerth, had still produced an increase of 251 marten for the Region. He felt a further restriction was needed, and provided past histories of other periods of restriction to curb harvest numbers.

Upon obtaining the harvest per trapper data from 1974-1980, MTA found:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Marten Tagged</u>	<u>Number of Trappers</u>	<u>Average Marten per Trapper</u>
1974-75	266	28	9.4
1976-77	768	53	14.5
1977-78	678	48	14.1
1978-79	428	43	9.5
1979-80	589	54	10.9
Total	2,729	226	11.7 per trapper

If one takes the marten tagged in year 1978-79 and subtracts that from marten tagged 1979-80, one finds Mr. Weckwerth has made a very grave mathematical error. If one looks the number of trappers per year, one can see the years 1976-80 did not show much of a drastic fluctuation in either direction, and finally, if one looks at the averages of marten per trapper the years 1974-80, one will see that they do not show any significant changes. Mr. Weckwerth commented that if any increase in marten or licensed trappers occur during the 1980-81 season, he will again move for a shorter, restrictive season.

One wonders how a man in charge of game management undertakes to regulate a FWP region from behind a 2' x 4' desk based upon the figures on paper that pass before his eyes and has an apparently serious problem with mathematical solutions can accurately and responsibly carry out his duties. And if such a problem does exist, why haven't his superiors made any effort to correct the situation? Instead, the trapper again bears the brunt of a management mistake and by incurring a much shorter season, faces the loss of being able to attempt any serious long-line harvest efforts of marten; he is reduced to a sport type situation only.

3. The bobcat-lynx situation: the international interest that has recently raised the bobcat and lynx to a very controversial status has indeed reflected upon Montana. From some of the earliest meetings with Mr. Hash and other officials of the Department of FWP, it was apparent that the federal level of questioning was rather intense pertaining to the population status of our state's spotted cat populations. The Department feared that the increased pelt value situation and its continuance were leading our state into a serious situation. Upon discussion with the Department (Mr. Hash), I agreed to inquire heavily as to population findings statewide from the data MTA members could supply.

In 1972, upon banning the use of the predatory control agent 1080, our state saw a rapid increase in the populations of certain predatory species, mainly the coyote. Along about this time the bobcat population was at a fairly stable level. It has been proven that infant mortality and predation upon young, coupled with availability of food, are the primary factors attributed to fluctuations in cat populations. With the ban of 1080, the rapid rise of coyote populations produced predation of young and extreme competition for food forcing the bobcat and lynx to suffer a significant population fluctuation. And as this was progressing, the market value of the two cats' pelts gained new high levels, creating an added population fluctuation factor. With the sudden, high interest on coyote pelts that developed, there came a sort of heaven-sent relief for one of the major problems the cats had been faced with. Aerial hunting, trapping, and general all out harvesting of coyotes resulted in a drastic reduction of their population densities to a more moderate level.

The western one-third of Montana represented a different problem for the bobcat and lynx. Large losses of prime habitat due to logging and growing land development had directly reflected heavily upon the cat populations. It was agreed by most that the western third of our state was not prime bobcat habitat but contained a habitat more suitable for the bobcat's long-legged, big-footed cousin.

As we drew close to the year of 1980, a couple of major facts increased the controversy surrounding the cats. A nationwide Defenders of Wildlife trade export embargo upon the pelts of bobcat and lynx threw a sharp curve into harvest data for the 1979-80 season. Trappers faced with a very uncertain market, high cost of trapline expenditure, and a possibility of unmarketable merchandise in the end curtailed harvest activities sharply. The year 1978-79 also produced a severe weather situation, further offsetting accurate harvest ability assessment figures. After a careful evaluation of all the facts and evidence, the MTA moved to maintain a two cat/90 day season in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. In Region 1, three cats; Region 7, five cats, and Region 8, five cats were the recommended limits. We supported mandatory carcass turn-in in order to assist the Department in its request for more study information.

The Department of FWP proposed a statewide one cat/60 day season for the 1980-81 trapping year. The Department based its proposal on the following: during the fall of 1979, Mr. Steve Albert, with the assistance of the Department of FWP (Mr. Hash) was doing a graduate study concerning the bobcat population of the Rock Creek drainage approximately 25 miles southeast of Missoula. Mr. Albert had no previous trapping



experience; he was having a heck of a time obtaining any subjects to collar, gather field data, and begin his study. Mr. Hash requested aid from MTA, Mr. Howard Kirk and Mr. Steve Coale, both residents of the nearby area and familiar with the local cat populations. After a lengthy effort, two cats were collared and released for the study. A concern was voiced by Mr. Hash, Mr. Kirk, and Mr. Coale over the low cat population of the area.

Mr. Hash, noting the study area population combined with a low recording of pelt tagging the previous season, decided that a reduction in the western half of Montana might be needed. Upon the Beartooth meeting, FWP Regions 6 and 7 game managers moved to close both of their regions to bobcat harvest due to the increase in harvest numbers and an apparent landowner harvest problem. The mediation of FWP differences: 1 cat/60 days.

If one takes the state of Montana and splits it into thirds, correlates the pelt tag data of those thirds, one soon sees a direct reflection and corroboration with what the MTA testified to. The eastern third based upon coyote population decline and the 1979-80 season's weather allowing accessibility into back areas, harvest numbers rose significantly, a reflection upon a strong, rising cat population. The middle third of the state, based upon coyote population decline and the 1979-80 season's weather allowing accessibility to back areas, harvest numbers rose moderately, a stable and rising population of bobcats. The western third of the state, based upon habitat type, habitat loss, and decline in harvest numbers, recommended as follows: District 1 of the MTA moved for a three cat/90 day season based upon testimony from local trappers that the lynx were on the increase and bobcats seemed stable. Also, large areas of habitat were not being trapped very extensively due to Indian reservations and wilderness areas within the District. District 2 moved for either one bobcat or one lynx/90 day season and District 3, two cats/90 day season based upon harvest numbers.

The Department of FWP testimony on the status of the bobcat in Montana by these three sections of the state was rather interesting. Mr. Martin, FWP game manager for Region 7 out of Miles City, after standing up at the 1980 Commission meeting and agreeing with everything Mr. Hank Fisher (Defenders of Wildlife) had to say, pronounced that it was felt the increase shown by the pelt tag harvest data was directly attributable to the fact that trappers from North Dakota, while under the Defenders of Wildlife cat pelt export embargo, were illegally selling cat pelts in Montana. Mr. Trueblood, Region 6 FWP game manager, after conferring with Mr. Willis Kent about his assessment of the bobcat population, agreed with Mr. Kent that two cats/90 day could find support. FWP game managers from Region 4 conveyed to Mr. Craig Swick that they had been instructed from the "top" to support a one cat/60 day proposal. The western third of the state seemingly supported a one cat/60 day proposal.

During the 1980 FWP Commission meeting to set the furbearing regulations for the 1980-81 season, the MTA rose to the occasion. First the Department read its proposals and recommendations, then the MTA presented its final draft for the Commission's consideration. As you have previously read and as I stood to comment there seemed to be three points of discrepancy and so I requested that the points be aired for the Commission to consider before making its final decision.

A heated debate ensued concerning the bobcat-lynx regulation. Again and again when questioned, Mr. Gene Allen commented the Department had no data to support any increases nor did they apparently, as Mr. Allen commented, have any data to support any restriction. It seemed that the move for a reduction in harvest was needed to solve evident enforcement problems, solve a seeming bobcat population problem shown by a 25-mile radius study in western Montana, get a handle on this marketability trends depletion of the species and as Mr. Martin commented, to agree with everything Mr. Hank Fisher of Defenders of Wildlife said, as far as he was concerned.

Finally Mr. Hagensted moved that the Commission adopt the Department's recommendations. Chairman Klabunde ordered no further comments from the floor. The Commission voted and moved on to discuss the regulations for the upcoming duck season. The opportunity to discuss beaver pelt tagging and marten curtailment was never provided. The MTA Board of Directors held a meeting within an hour after the Commission voted not to accept the Department's recommendations for the 1980-81 trapping season. It was agreed that we would request a rehearing. A newsletter was mailed to you and your letters granted the MTA an appointment to meet with the Commission again, this time at Fairmont Hot Springs.

Upon arriving in Fairmont Hot Springs, where the Commission had rented a \$1200.00 a day room for its meeting, the MTA found that the Commission had voted not to reopen the hearing concerning the 1980-81 furbearing regulations. An ensuing argument occurred between the Commission, the Department, and the MTA. It seemed that while the Commission realized a mistake might have been made, the Department didn't see it as any mistake and the MTA was told that no rehearing could occur because things just weren't done that way.

Upon an assessment of all the evidence, the who said whats and did whats, it was appallingly apparent that the Department of FWP recommended its proposals, the FWP Commission rubberstamped the Department's proposals, and the trappers were damn lucky that there were only three points we disagreed upon. Now the question MTA saw was how can a decision be handed down based upon no evidence or incorrect evidence and be rammed down the throats of the citizens who will be asked to abide by those decisions? What alternative do we have?

After a lengthy look at the evidence as it was, the MTA decided to attempt legal action, political pressure, and to back up both with a legislative effort to correct this problem of "forced feeding." The MTA has hired two attorneys to do a legal investigation of just how the MTA might go about handling the Department of FWP's seeming untouchability or answerability. An injunction was discussed and pursued, only to find that all an injunction would gain would be a show of force by trappers in detaining the Department of FWP motion for a one cat/60 day season, nullification of a beaver tagging situation, and an investigation of the marten season curtailment. The major problem with any legal action against the Department is that the Department under the direction of its staff is given the right to manage the wildlife of the state at its DISCRETION. This means by law the Department can do whatever it chooses and do so without having to offer any evidence or reason why. Most of the time, as we found out, the various organizations of Montana deal with the Department of FWP through politics and related funding pressures either on Legislative fronts or organizational opportunities.

After a thorough look at this situation and after an intensive investigative effort, I think MTA has obtained the key. The MTA proposes to change the very law that grants the Department of FWP the power of DISCRETION it is allowed while managing the wildlife of this state, supposedly for the people as well as the wildlife itself.

We propose to change the law that allows the Department to dictate its wills and wants upon the citizens of this state without sufficient reason, fact or public input, to strike at the very heart of the matter; to bring back a once fine ideal of a Department managing the wildlife of this state for the benefit of the wildlife and the harvester; to put back into the field the warden who by requirement must have a four-year college education in wildlife biology but is now forced to spend 80% of his time enforcing the code; to bring out from behind those stacks of forms and piles of red tape the regional game managers, so that once again his shoes leave tracks upon the land of which he oversees. I think a bit of mud tracked in and out of the office would be a welcome change.

We need to put our Department of FWP on a strict diet; let us harvesters whose licenses and taxes support that Department become "conservative." Let's ask for management, then let's support it. We need to put things back in their proper perspective and order. Presently the Department of FWP is proposing to legislate massive increases in license fees, 150% for trappers. Your representatives, senators, and governor will discuss and decide the merits of such increases. I ask you, can you support a dinosaur that no longer functions in the realms it was designated? The MTA will need your support, your input, and your continued effort to secure a tomorrow for trapping in Montana.

Now, you probably about have your "fill" of facts, site specific/species specific and finding out just how, when, who, and what you got a sort of raw deal from. And I suppose some will throw up their hands and say holy smoke, how in the heck can I keep looking ahead; she looks pretty dim for a long ways off. I'm not going to give you any puffy promises and rightfully so nor am I going to throw up my hands. I think we've built what it's going to take to do the job and we've done so because we know it is right.

In summary, I would like to add some food for thought pertaining to the decision that you should make as a member of the MTA. If tomorrow all trapping, hunting, and fishing were to stop, no one on the payrolls of this state's Department of FWP will lose their job or their paycheck. Someone will still have to attend to "baby sitting" our state's wildlife populations.

Remember, no one but you as a trapper, member of the MTA, will stand up and fight for your rights as a trapper. If we as an organized voice of the responsible trapping body of this state wish to truly work for a tomorrow in trapping, we must take our stand today for what we as an organization have adopted as our purpose.

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Rocky Mountain Fur Exchange is again offering the trappers of this state, as well as one of its neighbors, the opportunity to sell their furs on a well organized, highly competitive, sealed bid auction. Last year the trapper of Montana who sold fur through RMFE and indicated the 1% of the 4% commission to go to the MTA raised \$1600.00 for the MTA. We sincerely wish to again thank all who attended and helped our state trapping association's treasury.

Be sure to note the dates of the fur auctions on the flier enclosed.

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Fur trade bulletin -- Mr. Bob Young and Mr. Donnie Judkins of Pacific Hide and Fur of Great Falls, Montana, have asked the MTA to expose a couple of their comments to its membership. This year's market will find well cared for, properly handled, prime fur bringing good sound prices. Poorly handled, unprime goods will find a very low, if any, market value. The difference between a healthy fur check and a poor one will be your ability to make that journey from trapline to fur shed to market and produce quality merchandise.

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Coyote -- good market for quality fur, price about the level found last year.  
 Fox -- strong market, a lot of 70-75.00 fox pelts, if prime and well handled.  
 Beaver -- good demand for top skins; unprime, poorly handled, low market value.  
 Muskrat -- strong demand, good color, good average size, 6-7.50.  
 Coon -- well handled, dark, prime coon are moving.

Badger -- market somewhat off from last year, only top quality moving.

Skunk -- fairly good market.

Marten -- indications of a poor market.

Bobcat -- strong market, quality merchandise, bring good prices.

Wolverine -- good market indication.

Weasel -- good.

Lynx -- strong market for quality work; market somewhat sluggish.

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Mr. Willis Kent recently accepted a job in the state of Wyoming doing predator control for a county department. Upon his leaving, we've appointed Mr. Harley Hankins of Opheim, Montana, as the MTA director for District 6. Mr. Kent also was Montana's National Trapper Association director. Upon his leaving, we appointed Mr. Craig Swick, Lewistown, Montana, to take over the job, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

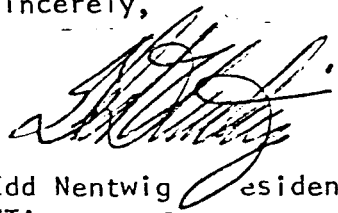
Willis Kent is one of the finest men I've ever been able to call a friend. His efforts, contributions, and friendship will always be a vital part of why the MTA has flourished. I'm sure, come rendezvous, we'll see the Kent family's familiar faces again. Like Willis commented on his leaving, six or seven hundred miles isn't far for friendship to stretch.

Before I close, I'd like to take a minute and thank all those individuals and companies who contributed to the MTA this Fall Rendezvous. They support our states' trapping organization with donations, time, and much personal effort. They include:

Fuller and Ruth Laugeman -- Big Sky Lures  
 Keith and Lois Gregerson -- Gregerson Manufacturing  
 Craig and Dana O'Gorman -- O'Gorman Lures  
 Jim and Toni Cochran -- Duece Creek Fur Farm  
 Mr. Lee Draeger -- Woodaire Stoves, Condon, Montana  
 Mr. Jerry Lee -- President of Woodaire Stoves  
 Mr. Wayne "Butch" Harmon -- Swan Valley Cutlery  
 Mr. Jerry Malson -- Trout Creek Fur Farms  
 Mr. Craig Swick -- Rocky Mountain Fur Exchange  
 Mr. Bob Young and Mr. Donnie Judkins -- Pacific Hide and Fur of Great Falls  
 Mr. Dave Hanson -- Harmon Hide and Fur of South Dakota

From all the officers, directors, and people who make this outfit tick, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,



Edd Nentwig President  
 MTA

NAME HENRY D. TAYLOR BILL No. H.B. 200  
ADDRESS 6231 Ninny 12 West DATE Jan. 29, 1981  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT SELF  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE X AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

I feel that this bill is inflationary,  
and not in the best interest of the  
residents of the State of Montana.

There are seriously economic problems  
in our entire state, not only with our  
Fish, Wildlife and Parks department, but  
in the private sector as well. It seems  
that increasing our hunting and fishing fees  
by as much as 200% in some cases,  
and following this bill with one calling  
to reduce our non-resident license quota  
will hurt our private economy, decrease  
fish and game income, and promote a  
rash of poaching which our state's  
wildlife can only suffer from.  
I agree with raising the fees on

trophy species, but my family is not  
in a situation to afford such.  
outrageously inflationary license fee  
increases for a job that is done  
quite often by ranchers and landowners  
across our State, and not our  
extravagant ideas imagined by  
the Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

I am here to address H B 200 on the license increase. I believe that the Fish & Game Department has to shift their priorities on how they spend the sportsman money. ~~There are~~ <sup>There are</sup> items that I think should be ~~considered~~ <sup>considered</sup> for the maps. They are too big to hand to read and cost too much to print, the cost of printing as stated on the map is \$14,266 and ~~Postage~~ Distribution is \$9,915, this is only a small part because the drawing of the map must be ~~the same~~ <sup>the same</sup> and it takes a good lawyer to read them.

Another area that I think of is the cost of late seasons like the one in the Gallatin. I am told by ~~Dept~~ <sup>Dept</sup> personnel that the season in the Gallatin cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000 dollars. If that is right then using the \$40,000 dollar figure it cost \$152 for a elk killed. As their count was 134 in the late season and 128 in the regular season for a total of 262 head. This is worth for operating a checking station and enforcement.

another area that I think should be ~~considered~~ considered is When the Biologist come up with a new management plan. the cost of the enforcement should be considered before these plans are enforced or put in effect.

The Reason I am bring this up is to point that the enforcement has a set budget and these plans if put more strain on their money.

When a sportsman buy a license there is 25% of the money already ear marked for the Biologist. It has to go for matching funds of federal money.

I also think that the fishing access sites should be more self supporting as to fees I don't think that the fees could even pay for the pickup of the Garbage. let alone the enforcement that it takes.

I feel that the warden should be the job that they were hired for the enforcement.



grounds so this is some of the reasons  
that I think need to be answered before  
any increase of license should be made.

Thank the committee and the Chairman for  
the time.

Sincerely B P Wright

Bozeman, Mont

NAME Frank E. Johnson BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS 1109 W Broadway, MISSOULA DATE 1-29-81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT T.U. SELF (License Dealer)  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

~~A~~ CONSERVATION PROPOSAL  
TO SAY THE LEAST,

INCLUDE A 6 DAY  
NON RES. FISH LICENSE

---

GOOD BILL DO PASS.

NAME Bru Long BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS 1012 Peosta Helena DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT SELF  
SUPPORT YES OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Stephen Wrye BILL No. HB200  
ADDRESS 118 N. F St. Livingston DATE 1/28/80  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT myself  
SUPPORT ✓ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME TIM RICHARD BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS EAST HELENA DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT PRICKLY PEAR SPIRITSMEN ASS'N  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Bob Foukal BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS 2020 A-1 So. Rose DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Trust Unlimited  
SUPPORT ✓ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Ross Bruner BILL No. 200  
ADDRESS 19 Gardner Park Dr. DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Trent Unlimited  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

License fees are user fees. I'm a user  
I am willing to pay higher fees for  
maintenance of services.

NAME Margaret Thompson BILL No. 260  
ADDRESS <sup>Box 260</sup> Condon West DATE 1, 29, 81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT MTA  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE X AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:



NAME M. W. GUARICKSON BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS 323 So 6th DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT MYSELF  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE X AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Bernard Black BILL No. HF 200  
ADDRESS 300 N 7th St. Milwaukee DATE 1-29-81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT myself  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE / AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME

Ken C. Chiles

BILL No.

200

ADDRESS

Leeward - Miami

DATE

Jan 29

WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT

Harold L. McCall Leg. Comm.

SUPPORT

X

OPPOSE

AMEND

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

not full support

NAME Robert Van Cuylen BILL No. 200  
ADDRESS 2300 Wilkey DATE 1-29-81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Self  
SUPPORT X With Reser OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Bill Dunham BILL No. 200  
ADDRESS 342 Clarke DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT a fisherman, private citizen  
SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

Fish + Game must have increased revenues in order to continue important fisheries studies and programs. The impact of inflation has already had a severe effect on the Dept. This proposed license increase is badly needed.

NAME Smoke Elsev BILL No. 200 House  
ADDRESS 3800 Rattlesnake Dr. DATE 1/29 81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT self  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

*Support - To maintain guilty Hunting in Mont.*

NAME MICHAEL CHANDLER BILL No. 200  
ADDRESS 4401 SOUTH AVE. W. DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT WEST. MONT. FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

Our sportsman's organization after careful consideration and having listened to consultations on Fish & Game Dept. budget problems have voted unanimously to support this bill as we feel increased funding is absolutely necessary to maintain a viable department.

It is our understanding that the department, even with receiving increased funds as provided for in this bill will have to cut spending by 5-10% and become more efficient to provide adequate management for one of our great state's most valuable resources.

NAME R. P. Myers Jr BILL No. #13 200  
ADDRESS 3460 Connelough Rd DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Self  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:



NAME Bill Belster BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS Box 384 Elliston DATE 1-24-81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Citizens  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE ☒ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME JOHN GRAY BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS Pine, MT. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT myself and wife  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Diana C. Wilmer BILL No. 200  
ADDRESS Box 579 Bonner, mt DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT no organization -- a concerned sportsman  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND ✓

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME John Gikpatricic BILL No. H 3200  
ADDRESS Belgar Mt. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Londoners - Relations / Sportsmans Across Adm. Council  
SUPPORT ✓ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME Gael Bissell BILL No. HB 200  
ADDRESS Box 184 Helena DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Montana Audubon Council  
SUPPORT ✓ OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME EDD NEWTWO 16 BILL No. 200 HB  
ADDRESS Box 29 Seeley Lake MT 59868 DATE 1-29-81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT PRESIDENT MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION  
SUPPORT \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE X AMEND X

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

NAME GARY STUKER BILL No. HB200  
ADDRESS Box 282 DATE 1-29-81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Hill County Wildlife Assoc  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments: None written

NAME Wilbur Rehmann BILL No. HB 20  
ADDRESS Box 901 Helena DATE 1/29  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Montana Wildlife Federation  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE          AMEND         

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:



NAME Everett L Miller BILL No. HS 200  
ADDRESS Philipsburg DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Self -  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments:

February 2, 1981

Dear Vickie:

I am sorry I have not been able to reach you by phone. Enclosed is a typed version of my testimony in Helena on January 29, 1981 in the Fish and Game Committee hearing on license fee increases. Please see that Chairman Ellison receives a copy and preferably all the committee members.

The mountain lion/houndsman is a very specific area unfamiliar to most so I feel any information we can provide will be helpful to the legislators.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diann E. Wiesner".

Diann E. Wiesner  
Box 579  
Bonner, Mt. 59823

## Regarding Mountain Lion License Fees

The mountain lion hunters are a small group of sportsman in Montana, approximately 800. These proposed fee increases will total \$50 for the houndsman to be legally in the field, \$25 for a mountain lion license and \$25 for a trappers license to run bobcats. This is an extremely unfair burden to place on one segment of sportsmen in Montana, referring to the small increases for other big game animals.

### Points to consider:

1. Houndsman have worked closely and cooperately with the Department. The vast majority of the data the Department has is provided by the houndsman.
2. Mountain lion populations are stable and increasing.
3. There is no great influx of houndsman.
4. Few<sup>er</sup> licenses will be sold, if this fee increase is approved.
5. Houndsman rarely kill a mountain lion after it is treed, only the occasional trophy.
6. The Department is asking a very small segment of the hunting population to bear an unfair load of their financial difficulty.

We are asking that you review this license fee increase with the realization that financial times are tight for everyone. Many of the problems within the Department are not going to be solved by increasing license fees. With the inflationary economy we are experiencing there is no better time for the Department to reevaluate their priorities and for this Legislature to live up to the campaign promises of tightening up on State expenditures.

If any committee member would be willing to learn more about the mountain lions of this state and thereby have the best basis for evaluating the need for this excessive license fee increase, I can be reached by leaving a message at 243-2053 during the day or at home most evenings at 2585210.

Thank for the time and concern you are giving this matter.

Sincerely,



Diann E. Wiesner  
Box 579  
Bonner, Mt. 59823

House Bill 200

Chairman Devlin:

We feel the present non-resident big game license is unconstitutional. Hunters should not be forced to buy elk and bear tags they cannot use to hunt Eastern Montana.

We support separate licenses for deer; elk and bear with a small increase in fee for each.

Thank you,

Claude and Darlene Sayler

NAME James F. Johnson BILL No. 200  
ADDRESS 2150 S 13th Missoula Mont DATE 1/29/81  
WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT Western Mont Fish & Game Ass.  
SUPPORT X OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AMEND \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

Comments: We Support HB 200. We feel that  
the License Fee Increase is essential in order  
to preserve + foster the Resource, (our fish +  
game).

Gentlemen

I would to go on record as supporting the Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks request for a license increase.

I have a family budget as I'm sure you all do too. Inflation has made everything more expensive. I have received pay raises to help compensate for this, FW&P has not. A few extra dollars for a fishing or hunting license is not going to ruin my budget.

(over)

I think this state needs  
a top quality F W + P department.  
as a sportsman I don't mind  
paying for it.

Sincerely

John Greene

307 S. 10th. Livingston  
Montana 59047

January 29, 1931

House Bill 200 - Fishing and Hunting License Fee Increase

Personal testimony of: Harold R. Stevenson  
914 W Clark  
Livingston, Mt.  
59047

I am a proponent of House Bill 200. I have been a resident of Montana for 37 years. I was fortunate to grow up in Montana and have the opportunity to enjoy our unmatched fish and wildlife resources.

To preserve these resources for future generations, we as Montanans are mandated to provide a sound fish and wildlife management program.

We all have felt the economic pressures that have surfaced during the past few years. These pressures have been a reality for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks as well.

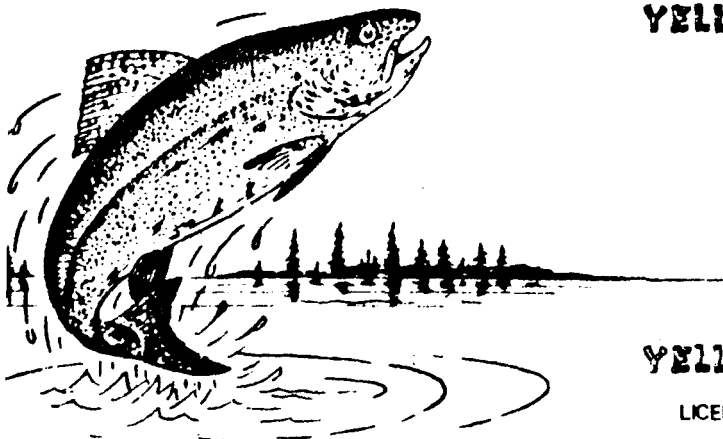
It is apparent that we cannot maintain existing programs without the fee increases.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold R. Stevenson".

Harold R, Stevenson





## YELLOWSTONE CUSTOM FLIES & TACKLE SERVICE

*Fish &  
Game.*

THOMAS M. TRAVIS  
P. O. Box 1320  
Livingston, Montana 59047  
Phone 406 - 222 - 0783



## YELLOWSTONE GUIDE SERVICE

LICENSED HUNTING AND FISHING GUIDE

January 27, 1981

Dan Yardley  
Pete Story  
Orval Ellison

In view of the fact that I own my own small business which takes up a great deal of my time during the winter months, I am not able to attend as many of the Senate and House hearing as I would like, but I would greatly appreciate seeing my comments are passed on to those people who would be handling these hearings.

### 1. FISH & GAME BUDGET

I have received a copy of the Fish & Game proposed budget and the license increase proposed therein. I feel that these increases are needed and in line with the rising cost of running the Fish & Game Department. It has been since 1975 that the Fish & Game has asked for an increase, and all of us know how much the cost of living has risen since then. I feel, after giving the proposed budget careful study, that this budget must be approved if the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is going to operate with continued excellence in managing Montana's Natural wildlife resources.

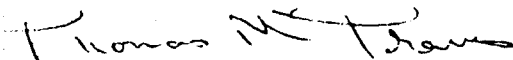
A number of years ago I moved to Montana after much careful study. First, Montana offered some of the finest hunting and fishing found in the world. Since I moved here, I have been able to start a guide service, (outfitter). I also own and operate a mail order retail and wholesale fishing tackle business. In dealing with the public everyday, I am well aware of how most Montanans view their wildlife resources. I am also well aware of the part that the outfitting industry plays in the State's economy. With tourism being a large part of our State's economy, we cannot afford to have a Fish & Game Dept. that has been financially gutted by a legislative body that is not thinking of what is best for all of Montana but are out to represent their own best interests and not the best interests of the people of Montana.

Montana has not developed problems with her Natural Wildlife Resources which have ruined segments of it, as have other states. This is largely due to the fact that in the past the Montana Fish & Game Dept. has been given enough funds to operate efficiently. Sure, the Fish & Game Dept. has made a few errors, but remember, to err is human. Don't tell me that none of our present lawmakers have never been in error. With more tourists visiting Montana each year, and the State's population continuing to expand, this is not the time to hamstring your Fish & Game Department. This would only cause suffering and hardship to both Montana's resources and people. Remember you are elected to help all the people, as fairly as possible.

2. It is my understanding, that House Bill 251 would limit Fish & Game Dept. to buying only lands with values of \$10,000 or less. All other purchases having to be approved by the legislative body, which is only in session every 2 years. I believe a more just compromise could be worked out. The limit of this bill would curtail the buying of sportsman access sites and game ranges on a yearly basis.
3. It is also my understanding that House Bill 323 would lower the quota of non resident big game licenses from 17,000 to 10,000. This would clearly injure the Fish & Game budget plus cause hardship to the State tourism economy. I believe that the present quota of 17,000 is fair and is doing nothing to injure the State's Wildlife Resources.

It is my hope that these matters will be handled in such a way that will benefit Montana and her resources and will reflect the integrity and intelligence of Montana's legislative body. If I can be of further assistance, I will be in Helena on Saturday, January 31, 1981 at Fish & Game for the meeting of the State Boat Regulations Study Committee of which I am a member.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Travis



JOE BROOKS CHAPTER

P.O. Box 1378

Livingston, Montana 59047

January 29, 1981

Chairman Orville Ellison,

The Joe Brooks Chapter of Trout Unlimited urges your committee to give H.B. 200 a do pass.

In order to protect and maintain our fishing and hunting, we need to maintain a strong Fish & game Department. We have always had trouble maintaining a Fish & Game biologist on the Yellowstone. The information the biologist is obtaining is showing the Yellowstone River is headed for trouble in the near future with out help. Please help us.

Sincerely yours,

John Bailey  
Secretary

My name is Netzy Durfey and I'm a resident of Livingston in Park County. I feel that we in Montana live in a paradise where we have abundant big game, blue ribbon trout streams and upland game birds. I want to stress how much we have and how little we are paying for it. Of all the western states research shows us that Montana residents pay the least for fishing licenses and big game licenses, ~~there~~ therefore, to help the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks keep up with inflation, I'm in favor of HB 200 which calls for an increase in fishing ~~and~~ and hunting license fees. The fees from these licenses are the only means of maintaining critical wildlife programs and manpower needed to maintain fish and wildlife resources for the future. I urge this committee to vote yes on HB 200.

# Garfield - McCone Legislative Association

Circle, Montana 59215

Phone (406) 485-2227

Jan. 29, 1981

## HB (200)-FISH & GAME LICENSE STRUCTURE

I AM GLEN CHILDERS, PRESIDENT OF GARFIELD-McCONE LEGISLATIVE ASSN., AN AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION COMPRISED OF APPROX. SIXTY TWO MEMBERS. I AM AUTHORIZED TO TESTIFY IN THEIR BEHALF. I AM ALSO REPRESENTING MY OWN INTERESTS AS WELL AS MANY BUSINESSMEN IN EASTERN MONTANA.

IN GENERAL WE SUPPORT <sup>an</sup> ~~THE~~ INCREASE IN LICENSE FEES ~~PROPOSED IN HB (200)~~. DUE TO INFLATION WE REALIZE THE DEPARTMENT IS IN DIRE NEED OF FUNDS FOR PROPER LAW ENFORCEMENT. WITH <sup>a</sup> ~~THE~~ LICENSE INCREASE WE FEEL THE BUDGET DIRECTOR COULD AND SHOULD CORRECT THIS DEPLORABLE STATEWIDE SITUATION. OUR GAME WARDENS ARE A VERY EFFICIENT BODY, OPERATING WITH THEIR HANDS TIED.

WE ALSO FEEL THE RESIDENT HUNTER HAS AND HAS HAD WHAT WE TERM "A FREE RIDE IN THE HUNTING FIELD". THE HUNTING LICENSE IS THE LOWEST COST OF THEIR HUNT. WITH THE DECREASE IN WILDLIFE HABITAT AND INCREASE IN HUNTING PRESSURE OUR WILDLIFE DESERVES MORE RECOGNITION. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CLASS (B-10) COMBINATION LICENSE, NOW IN EFFECT, FOR THE NON-RESIDENT, AT \$225.00, WHICH HE MUST PURCHASE, OTHER THAN A CHANCE DRAWING IN LIMITED AREAS, COMPARED TO THE CLASS (A-3) RESIDENT LICENSE IS NOT AN EQUITABLE LICENSE, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE NON-RESIDENT IS CONTRIBUTING APPROX SIXTY FIVE PERCENT OF OUR LICENSE REVENUE. USED TO PROPRGATE OUR WILDLIFE. THIS INEQUITY CAN VERY WELL ENCOURAGE A FEDERAL HUNTING LICENSE AND GAME MANAGEMENT WHICH IS IN THE MILL AT THIS TIME. LET'S NOT ENCOURAGE THIS.

THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN ANTELOPE LICENSE, DUE TO SLOW UPWARD TREND OF THE LANDOWNER<sup>?</sup> SPORTSMEN RELATIONS AND THE MOST LIKELY INCREASE IN ANTELOPE <sup>WOULD BE</sup> POPULATION A DETERENT TO THE PROPER HARVEST OF ANTELOPE. WE OPPOSE THE INCREASE IN ANTELOPE LICENSE FEES.

# Garfield - McCone Legislative Association

Circle, Montana 59215

Phone (406) 485-2227

WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE CLASS (B-1C) COMBINATION NON-RESIDENT LICENSE AND FEEL IT SHOULD BE DELETED FROM THIS PROPOSAL AND NON-RESIDENT BIG GAME LICENSES SOLD ON THE ONE SPECIE ONE LICENSE STRUCTURE. WE FEEL THE CLASS (B-1D) LICENSE IS A FRAUD. IT IS COMPELLING THE NON-RESIDENT TO PURCHASE AN ELK AND BEAR TAG TO HUNT A DEER IN AN AREA WHERE ELK AND BEAR DO NOT EXIST. COMPELLING THE NON-RESIDENT TO PURCHASE AN ELK LICENSE TO HUNT DEER IN AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE NO ELK IS NO DIFFERENT THAN COMPELLING HIM TO PURCHASE AN ANTELOPE PERMIT IN ORDER TO HUNT ELK ALONG THE CHINEES WALL. NON-RESIDENT DEER AND ELK LICENSES SHOULD BE SOLD, A LIMITED NUMBER, FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED BASIS STATEWIDE.

THE CLASS (B-1D) COMBINATION LICENSE HAS DRASTICALLY CURTAILED THE HUNTING INCOME OF ALL BUSINESSES IN EASTERN MONTANA. MOST BUSINESSES I HAVE ENTREVUEWED, MOTELS, BARS, RESTURANTS, SPORTING GOODS STORES ETC CLAIM A SEVENTY FIVE TO EIGHTY PERCENT DROP IN THE HUNTING BUSINESS SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLASS (B-1D) COMBINATION LICENSE. FOR EXAMPLE, MY OUTFITTING BUSINESS GROSSED AROUND \$62000.00 annually before implement\* ING THE CLASS (B-1D) LICENSE. ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THE ECONOMY OF MONTANA. SINCE THAT TIME MY GROSS INCOME HAS DROPPED APPROX FIFTY PERCENT. THE DEPART. OF FISH, WILDIFE AND PARKS IS AWARE OF THIS.

EASTERN MONTANA SHOULD ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THE HUNTING BUSINESS AS WELL AS WESTERN MONTANA. WE ARE A PART OF MONTANA.

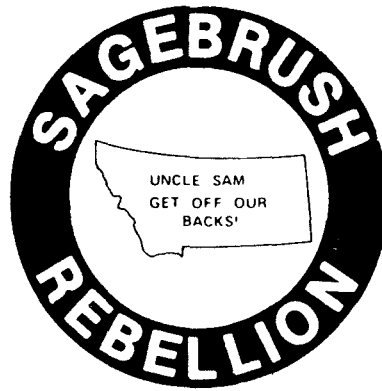
THE DEPT. DOES HAVE A ~~CLASS (A-1)~~ NON-RESIDENT DEER LICENSE THEY ARE KEEPING IN RESERVE AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL. IF WE DISCARD THE CLASS (B-1D) COMBINATION LICENSE AND USE THE LICENSE STRUCTURE OF ONE SPECIE-ONE LICENSE FOR BOTH DEER AND ELK TO BE SOLD AT LARGE, STATE WIDE, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED OF RESERVING THE ~~CLASS (A-1)~~ LICENSE AS A MANAGE-  
MENT TOOL. GIVING EASTERN MONTANA OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE HUNTING BUSINESS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

GLEN C. CHILDERS

## Sagebrush Rebellion

Glen C. Childers  
Brusett, MT 59318  
Phone (406) 557-6182



New Sec. Sec 19- Drawing fee

If implemented will result in the cost  
of the resident paying \$18.00 to hunt a turkey  
\$18.00 to hunt an antelope. They will  
not pay that exorbitant fee & will resort  
to poaching. cost the dept.  
The \$25.00 trapper license is excessive.  
to our young people, mainly.

We'd be in favor of the  
deer tag being sepearte from  
the elk license because  
it is hurting our business.

Latsy Krum  
Hell Creek Dan  
Jordan,  
Mont.



1-21-81

To whom it may concern.

He would like to see  
the hunting license for non-  
resident hunters changed from  
a package license to an  
individual license for  
deer. When out of state  
hunters come to Eastern Mont  
to hunt they expect to  
hunt deer, elk & bear —  
As you may know — we've  
no bear or elk in this  
area. Therefore, hunters

are leaving this area  
to hunt in the western  
part of Montana & we  
are losing at least 50%  
of their business

Sanchez, Dan  
Victor, owner  
Jordan, MT 59337

Jan 22, 1980

To whom it may concern:

In regard to the combination  
non resident hunting license I would  
like to see it split up so the nonresidents  
could hunt one species without buying  
a license for them all.

Rancher

Calvin C. Thomas

Box 4

Land Springs, Mont  
59077

Ryan Grocery  
Box 349  
Jordan, Montana 59337  
27 Jan. 1981

Legislative Committee on Game License  
Hellena, Montana 59601

Legislative Committee

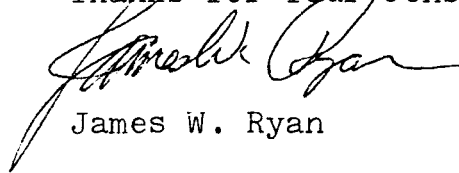
Sub. out of state hunters.

I recommend out of state hunters be allowed to buy any species of big game or fish & bird license.

Due to the high price of A package license & other inflation, many hunters are deprived of the privilege of hunting in Montana.

This also hurts the economy of Montana, Our processing business is off apx. 50%.

Thanks for Your Consideration;

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James W. Ryan", written over the typed name.

James W. Ryan

# DUTTON ENTERPRISES

SAND SPRINGS STORE  
SAND SPRINGS, MONT. 59077

January 28, 1981

To whom it may concern:

In the interest of fairness to the sportsmen and economic advantage to the state of Montana, I would suggest that your big game license be restructured as follows:

Issue seperate elk and deer tags and bear tags to allow some of the less affluent catagories of the population access to hunting privileges. Hunting should be the privilege of all citizens, not just the aristocrats of the country.

A large percentage of the sportsmen are unable to coordinate time and facilities to accomodate the licenses they are required to buy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Dutton". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Dutton  
Sand Springs, Mont.

January 26, 1981  
P.O. Box 241  
Jordan, Montana 59337

*Committee*

Chairman of House, of Fish and Game ~~Commission~~  
Helena, Montana

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,,,

AS REGISTERED VOTERS, ~~THE~~ RESIDENTS AND ALSO BAR AND SUPPER CLUB OWNERS, WE FEEL THAT THE SALE OF THE B-2 COMBINATION LICENSING HAS COST US 80% OF OUR HUNTING BUSINESS, IN THE FALL OF THE YEAR. THIS B-2 COMBINATION LICENSE COMPELS A NON-RESIDENT HUNTER TO PAY 225.00 TO HUNT DEER IN EASTERN MONTANA.

WE WOULD SUPPORT THE A-3 NON RESIDENT LICENSE, AS SINCE IMPLEMENTING THE B-2 HAS COST US APPROXIMATELY 80% OF OUR FALL HUNTING BUSINESS.

THANKYOU.

SINCERELY

*Louis W. Allen*

Louis and Raelle Allen  
P.O. Box 241  
Jordan, Montana, 59337

County of Garfield

1-22-81

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the present method of hunting licenses. This method has almost destroyed all business that we had in our motel and trailer court during hunting season. It has dropped from our busiest time of year to one of our slowest. Our out-of-state hunters have dwindled until only one group of our regular hunters came this year. It has really hurt us financially.

I would like to see this changed to a smorgasbord type licensing. I think it would be more fair for all concerned and people would not be forced to pay for licenses they do not want.

Thank You,

Marion Preler  
Jordan Motel & Trailer Co.  
Jordan, Mt.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

	1983 FTE	1983 Biennium General Fund	1983 Biennium Total Funds
Executive Budget	459.84	\$1,251,583	\$37,421,652
LFA Recommendation	<u>434.88</u>	<u>1,362,076</u>	<u>35,239,087</u>
Executive over (under) LFA	24.96	(\$110,493)	\$ 2,182,565
	=====	=====	=====

The legislative recommendation provides a current level appropriation for those programs that have a direct impact on services. Other programs that are ancillary to the resource or support in nature are recommended to be reduced in size and scope. Most areas of proposed reductions have been identified by the department.

The executive budget is essentially the department request. The legislative recommendation proposes reducing 60.23 FTE, while the executive proposes a reduction of 35.27. The overall budget differences revolve around personal services and operating expenses related to these positions.

Contracted services in the LFA recommendation for the central services division are \$405,107 less than the executive over the biennium. Data processing and computer programming contracts for the preference license system and retained attorney expenses are not contained in the LFA recommendation.

The legislative proposal can be funded with the current hunting and fishing license price structure. However, no funds are available for wildlife habitat acquisition. The executive budget would entail increases in hunting and fishing licenses.

\* The LFA recommendation includes \$2,363,091 for pay raises.



## DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

	Actual Fiscal 1980	Appropriated Fiscal 1981	LFA Recommended Fiscal 1982	Fiscal 1983	% Change Biennium 1981-83
T	495.11	495.11	434.88	434.88	(12.2)

ur l Source

General Fund Approp.	\$ 515,485	\$ 541,811	\$ 654,109	\$ 707,967	28.8
Other Funds Approp.	<u>14,734,115</u>	<u>15,919,561</u>	<u>16,396,752</u>	<u>17,480,259</u>	<u>10.5</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$15,249,600</u>	<u>\$16,461,372</u>	<u>\$17,050,861</u>	<u>\$18,188,226</u>	<u>11.1</u>

xpenditures by Object

Personal Services	\$ 8,603,783	\$ 9,521,206	\$ 9,429,923	\$10,264,570	8.6
Operating Expenses	4,902,189	4,034,397	5,078,714	5,381,567	17.0
Capital	<u>208,063</u>	<u>48,444</u>	<u>179,593</u>	<u>184,672</u>	<u>42.0</u>
Total Operating Costs	\$13,714,035	\$13,604,047	\$14,688,230	\$15,830,809	11.7
Non-Operating Exp.	<u>1,535,565</u>	<u>2,857,325</u>	<u>2,362,631</u>	<u>2,357,417</u>	<u>7.4</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$15,249,600</u>	<u>\$16,461,372</u>	<u>\$17,050,861</u>	<u>\$18,188,226</u>	<u>11.1</u>

The recommended appropriation will provide the department of fish and game with sufficient funds to continue the critical divisions, fisheries, wildlife, and parks, at the current level with only minor adjustments in personnel. Other less critical divisions would be reduced, for the most part, based upon department recommendations. None of the reductions will have any effect on the wildlife, fish, or parks resource but will affect promotion and internal support and administration.

The recommended operating budget can be provided without a hunting and fishing license increase. The recommended appropriation would use nearly all of the earmarked revenue capacity and none would be available for additional wildlife habitat acquisition. If the legislature desires to continue

the game range acquisition program, it must provide the means for purchase.

The department is proposing a license fee increase package to support current operations, land acquisition, and to provide an adequate fund balance to carry it through low income periods.

Our recommendation can be funded by existing revenues for the 1982-83 biennium. Fund balances are higher than reported because the department transferred a significant amount to initiate vehicle and supply revolving accounts. The exact amount, which was not appropriated, is indeterminate at this writing.

The parks, enforcement, and central services divisions are supported by a myriad of incidental earmarked revenue funds which encumber both the management and accounting in those divisions. De-earmarking those funds and replacing them with general fund appropriations would streamline the department to a significant degree and assist in holding down administrative and support costs. Further explanation is contained in the park and recreation division's analysis.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

	Actual Fiscal <u>1980</u>	Appropriated Fiscal <u>1981</u>	LFA Recommended Fiscal <u>1982</u>	Fiscal <u>1983</u>	% Change Biennium <u>1981-83</u>
E	92.99	92.99	84.00	84.00	(9.2)
<u>Source</u>					
he Funds Approp.	<u>\$2,510,380</u>	<u>\$2,688,719</u>	<u>\$2,948,553</u>	<u>\$3,164,872</u>	17.5
Total Funds	<u>\$2,510,380</u> =====	<u>\$2,688,719</u> =====	<u>\$2,948,553</u> =====	<u>\$3,164,872</u> =====	17.5 =====
<u>Expenditures by Object</u>					
Personal Services	\$1,869,241	\$2,058,530	\$2,159,610	\$2,340,475	14.5
Operating Expenses	530,396	499,897	777,746	813,200	40.8
Capital	<u>10,743</u>	<u>3,454</u>	<u>11,197</u>	<u>11,197</u>	57.7
Total Operating Costs	<u>\$2,510,380</u>	<u>\$2,561,881</u>	<u>\$2,948,553</u>	<u>\$3,164,872</u>	20.5
Non-Operating Exp.	<u>-0-</u>	<u>126,838</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	(100.0)
Total Expenditures	<u>\$2,510,380</u> =====	<u>\$2,688,719</u> =====	<u>\$2,948,553</u> =====	<u>\$3,164,872</u> =====	17.5 =====

The recommended budget will continue the current staff for enforcement including the two pilots which are accounted for in this division. The recommended reduction in FTEs includes positions that the department has voluntarily kept vacant so that operating expenses could be raised. Two FTE warden trainees and .49 FTE used for herders in game damage situations are not recommended.

Operating expenses for fiscal 1982 and 1983 are projected from 1980 actual level using standard inflation factors applicable to all state departments. In addition, \$62,000 is added each year above the current level to fuel warden vehicles. The additional funds will allow wardens to travel an average of 24,000 miles per year. Currently, budget restrictions have limited

travel to 12,000 to 13,000 miles annually. If wardens are to be effective, they must be in the field.

Another \$65,000 is included in the budget each year for game damage expenses. We recommend a line item appropriation of this amount. No personal services of currently authorized employees should be charged to this fund as has occurred in the past. All wardens' personal service costs are fully funded in the base budget. Two pilots are included in this division. Both individuals are wardens and should be assigned warden responsibilities when not flying.

Regular personal services expenditures are increased \$150,000 annually to account for fine income that is transferred to the warden retirement fund over and above the employee's and employer's normal contribution. The enforcement division is the department's largest user of license income, using \$5,420,870 over the biennium, 89 percent of the division's total expenditures.

# NONRESIDENT LICENSE INCOME

YEAR	TOTAL	TOTAL SALES	PERCENT
1979	\$ 4,984,043	\$ 8,467,278	58
1978	4,951,255	7,984,663	62
1977	4,275,558	7,253,154	58
1976	4,056,589	6,814,568	59
1975	<u>4,900,327</u>	<u>6,825,837</u>	<u>71</u>
TOTALS	\$23,167,772	\$37,345,500	308
AVERAGE	\$ 4,633,554	\$ 7,469,100	61

## OUTFITTERS

1979	424
1978	430
1977	400
1976	408
1975	<u>415</u>
TOTAL	2,077
AVERAGE	415

## GUIDES

1979	700
1978	723
1977	614
1976	532
1975	<u>551</u>
TOTAL	3,120
AVERAGE	624

MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

SUMMARY OF BUDGETS

FOR

FY82 AND FY83

NOVEMBER 28, 1980

## INTRODUCTION

The importance of fish, wildlife and parks resources to Montana citizens and visitors is strongly indicated by:

### PARTICIPATION RATES

A recent survey by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research shows that:

35% of Montanans hunted in 1979

58% of Montanans fished in 1979

75% of Montanans participated in outdoor recreation activities

2.5 million people visited our state parks in 1978.

### ECONOMICS

In 1978 it is estimated that 130 million dollars was generated in Montana's economy by resident and nonresident hunters and fishermen--

Out of state travelers spent \$233 million in Montana in 1978, and 42% of their time was spent on wildlife activities other than hunting and fishing. Resident vacationers spent \$141 million in the state that year, with 46% of their time devoted to wildlife related activities.

Demand for fishing, hunting, parks use and associated recreation is expected to remain high during the 1980's and continue to be an integral part of the quality of life for Montana residents. Our wildlife resources are a major attraction to the state's visitors, even if they do not hunt or fish.

Comparing the cost of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks programs with the total amount spent on wildlife recreation in Montana -- it is obvious that for every dollar invested, the state's economy benefits many times.

Many changes obviously lie ahead for Montana. This state has a history of having its natural resources extracted for use and profit elsewhere. It now stands at the threshold of intensive development - eyed by a nation needing independent energy sources and increased supplies of food, fiber and living space.

Thus it is axiomatic that the role and responsibilities of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks have a major place among agencies of state government. The mission of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is to: *protect, perpetuate and wisely manage the use of fish, wildlife, state parks and associated recreational resources in a manner that will benefit current and future generations of Montanans.* This agency serves as an essential watchdog to protect these natural and cultural resources and to allocate and manage their use for public benefit. Being guardian and manager of these cherished resources in a period of intensifying land use and increasing population growth - presents an awesome challenge during the 1980's

Major resource management challenges include:

- Declining habitat for fish and wildlife
- More people with more recreation demands
- More conflicts between recreation users
- Limitations on access to private and public lands
- *Meeting the inflating costs of resource management with traditional funding sources*

(A brief discussion of fiscal problems and impact on budget follows)



## Fiscal Management Problems:

A combination of inflation and a tapering off of basic income from license sales has reduced the effective 1981 buying power (calculation from CPI) of this agencies' income to a level below that of 1971. The obvious three fiscal management options include *cutting expenditures, increasing income, or a combination of both.*

The basic budgets prepared for FY 82 and FY 83 include use of the three options.

Basic Budgets (without license increase). This level of expenditures is extremely austere, including significant reductions in manpower and existing program levels.

The 1985 resource program goals, including expected public benefits from fishing, hunting and associated recreation could not be met.

Consequences of implementing this lowest level budget include:

- decreasing public hunting and fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- decreased assistance, information and services to sportsmen and landowners
- reduced department assistance in access problems
- less capability to protect fish, wildlife and cultural resources against intensifying land and water uses and illegal human uses
- reduced care of state-owned wildlife lands, fishing access sites and parks
- closing of three to seven park sites
- no capability to acquire additional wildlife lands to offset continued habitat losses in the future.
- curtailment of nongame management program supported by license dollars since 1973
- reduction in summer youth camp programs
- reduced fiscal control and reduced security for public property and facilities
- reduced capability to protect fish and wildlife from willful or negligent destruction. Ability to achieve an acceptable level of compliance to laws and regulations is reduced.

BASE BUDGETS - DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS - FY82 & FY83

DIVISIONS	FY81 (NOW)	BASE BUDGET (FY82)	BASE BUDGET (FY83)
Wildlife	\$ 2,686,904	\$ 2,737,614	\$ 2,780,027
Fisheries	2,152,570	2,260,275	2,198,634
Parks	1,936,589	1,960,212	1,970,591
Enforcement	2,554,283	2,661,338	2,803,723
Ecological Services	950,141	988,805	1,019,625
Conservation Ed.	864,289	846,126	832,197
Centralized Serv.	2,103,593	1,715,733	1,742,390
Admin./Special Staff	490,918	405,719	435,593
Other		245,961	307,372
	\$13,739,287	\$13,821,783	\$14,090,152

CAPITAL BUDGET - DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

	1980-1981 Biennium (Budgeted)	1982-1983 Biennium (Requested)
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\$1,025,000\*

\$185,349\*

\*02131 only

# CONSEQUENCES OF IMPLEMENTING BASE BUDGETS

## DIVISIONS

FY 82

FY 83

WILDLIFE	Reduced hunting opportunity, reduced assistance and service to sportsmen and landowners, less protection of wildlife habitat, reduced care of state wildlife lands, no capability to acquire or lease additional lands for wildlife.	Reduced hunting opportunity, reduced assistance and service to sportsmen and landowners, less protection of wildlife habitat, reduced care of state wildlife lands, no capability to acquire or lease additional lands for wildlife. Terminate nongame program.
FISHERIES	Loss of an estimated 100,000 fisherman days, slightly less fish hatchery production.	Loss of an estimated 335,000 fisherman days and greatly reduced management efforts on lakes, ponds, reservoirs and streams.
PARKS	Stop cleanup at 75 fishing access sites, reduce care at four park sites, close three parks, transfer three parks to Feds., reduce sign service.	No cleanup at 75 fishing access sites, less repair at 150 sites, cut improvement at 80% of FAS, close four parks, reduce care at four parks, reduce sign service.
ENFORCEMENT	Reduced protection of fish and wildlife resources, reduced assistance and service to landowners and sportsmen. Reduced hunting opportunities.	Further reduced protection of fish and wildlife resources, reduced assistance and service to landowners and sportsmen. Reduced hunting opportunities.
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES	Less fish and wildlife resource protection in face of intensified land and water uses.	More decrease in fish and wildlife resource protection in face of intensifying land and water uses.
CONSERVATION ED.	Reduced information services to sportsmen, public and landowners; major decrease in summer youth camp; less films, no orphan animal services.	Further reduction in information services, youth and camp films.
CENTRAL SERVICES	Reduced public service at regional headquarters; less accurate drawings and property control.	Reduced public service at regional headquarters; less accurate drawings probable, reduced fiscal & property

MODIFIED BUDGETS (with license increases). This level of expenditure includes both: 1) streamlining in all seven divisions including personnel and operations; and 2) implementation of additional license funding with prioritized program needs. This budget level is recommended to offset inflation and enable this agency to meet its stated resource and public recreation goals by 1985.

# COMPARISON OF MODIFIED BUDGETS

FY82

Divisions	BASE BUDGET (FY 82)	MODIFIED BUDGET (FY 82)
Wildlife	\$ 2,737,614	\$ 2,919,816
Fisheries	2,260,275	2,433,048
Parks	1,960,212	2,077,551
Enforcement	2,661,338	2,926,283
Ecological Services	988,805	1,017,578
Conservation Education	846,126	918,210
Central Services	1,715,733	1,854,189
Admin./Spec. Staff	405,719	456,689
Other	<u>245,961</u>	<u>245,961</u>
TOTALS	\$13,821,783	\$14,849,325

FY83

DIVISIONS	BASE BUDGET (FY 83)	MODIFIED BUDGET(FY 83)
Wildlife	\$ 2,780,027	\$ 3,081,675
Fisheries	2,198,634	2,492,711
Parks	1,970,591	2,282,090
Enforcement	2,803,723	3,068,668
Ecological Services	1,019,625	1,172,987
Conservation Education	832,197	988,115
Central Services	1,742,390	1,906,682
Admin./Spec. Staff	435,593	520,967
Other	<u>307,372</u>	<u>307,372</u>
TOTALS	\$14,090,152	\$15,821,267

WHERE COULD THE MONEY COME FROM TO PAY FOR FY82 & FY 83 MODIFIED BUDGETS?

May 1, 1981

May 1, 1982

Actions	Results	Actions	Results
Increase non-resident and resident conservation licenses from \$1 to \$3. Implement resident and nonresident big game drawing application processing fee of \$5	<i>Cut 7,000 = Loss 1,575,000 on license fees</i> <i>Loss to state 14,000,000</i> \$1,090,000	Increase both nonresident and resident fishing and hunting license fees	\$3,200,00

May 1, 1983

Actions	Results
Further small increase in both nonresident and resident fishing and hunting license fees	\$1,000,000

November 26, 1980

1983 Biennium

	<u>FY81 Authorized</u>	<u>FY81 Actual</u>	<u>FY82 Base</u>	<u>FY82 Modified</u>	<u>FY83 Base</u>	<u>FY83 Modified</u>
Centralized Services	69.16	64.15	54.15	62.65	53.15	62.65
Ecological Services	38.85	27.93	29.50	29.75	28.82	31.95
Fisheries	82.35	76.57	76.24	82.15	68.10	82.15
Wildlife	87.41	81.97	77.33	81.54	71.73	79.31
Enforcement	92.99	85.50	80.00	90.49	76.00	90.49
Parks	80.29	80.29	74.94	79.36	70.90	80.56
Conservation Education	29.12	25.74	23.39	24.89	20.25	25.23
Administration	<u>14.94</u>	<u>14.94</u>	<u>10.50</u>	<u>12.50</u>	<u>8.00</u>	<u>11.50</u>
Total	495.11	457.09	426.05	463.33	396.95	463.84

Differences/Base  
Year 1981 Authority

FY 81 Actual	38.02					
FY 82 Base			69.06			
FY 82 Modified				31.78		
FY 83 Base					98.16	
FY 83 Modified						31.27

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FY 83/85 BIENNium

LICENSE	PRESENT FEE	RECOMMENDED FEES MAY 1, 1981	RECOMMENDED FEES MAY 1, 1982	RECOMMENDED FEES MAY 1, 1983
License Dealer Fee	.15¢	.15¢	.30¢*	.30¢
Resident Wildlife Conservation License	1.00	3.00*	3.00	3.00
Resident Fishing	5.00	5.00	7.50*	10.00*
Nonresident Wildlife Conservation License	1.00	3.00*	3.00	3.00
Nonresident 6-Day Fishing	10.00	10.00	Eliminate	Eliminate
Nonresident Season Fishing (a)	20.00	20.00	40.00*	40.00
Nonresident 2 Day Fishing (a)	2.00	2.00	4.00*	4.00
Paddlefish (b)	-0-	-0-	5.00*	5.00
Resident Bird	4.00	4.00	5.00*	6.00*
Nonresident Bird	30.00	30.00	40.00*	40.00
Turkey (c)	2.00	2.00	5.00*	5.00
Duplicate	3.00	3.00	Max. of 25.00* (d)	Max. of 25.00 (d)
Resident Deer	7.00	7.00	8.00*	10.00*
Resident Elk	8.00	8.00	10.00*	12.00*
Youth Bird	2.00	2.00	3.00*	3.00
Youth Elk	2.00	2.00	3.00*	3.00
Youth Deer	2.00	2.00	3.00*	3.00
Sportsman's License	35.00	35.00	40.00*	40.00
Nonresident Big Game License	225.00	225.00	300.00*	325.00*
Nongame Certificate	5.00	Eliminate	Eliminate	Eliminate
Resident Antelope	5.00	5.00	10.00*	10.00
Resident Moose	25.00	25.00	50.00*	50.00
Resident Sheep	25.00	25.00	50.00*	50.00
Resident Goat	15.00	15.00	25.00*	25.00
Nonresident Moose	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Nonresident Sheep	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Nonresident Goat	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Resident Bear	6.00	6.00	10.00*	10.00
Resident Grizzly	25.00	25.00	50.00*	50.00
Nonresident Grizzly	150.00	150.00	250.00*	250.00
Resident Mountain Lion	5.00	5.00	25.00*	25.00
Nonresident Mountain Lion	100.00	100.00	250.00*	250.00
Trappers	10.00	10.00	25.00*	25.00
Falconers License	3.00	3.00	25.00*	25.00
Special Deer Fee	1.00	Eliminate	Eliminate	Eliminate
Special Elk Fee	1.00	Eliminate	Eliminate	Eliminate
Drawing Fee (b)	-0-	5.00*	5.00	5.00

## Notes:

- \* Price of license has changed from previous year.  
 (a). Currently there is a Nonresident 1 Day Fishing license. The Department would recommend changing this to two days.  
 (b). New license or fee.  
 (c). Resident and nonresident license.  
 (d). The Department recommends that duplicate licenses be purchased for the original price of the license up to a maximum of \$25.00.

LICENSE FEES - COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS  
12 WESTERN STATES  
AUGUST 1980

Licenses	Montana (Now)	Montana (Proposed)	Wyo.	Colo.	Ut.	Nev.	Ariz.	Wash.	Oreg.	Alaska (14)	N.M. (15)
Resident Fishing	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$10.00 (6)	\$10.00 (9)	\$6.00	\$8.50	\$9.00 (6)	\$10.00 (6)	\$11.50
N/R 2-day fishing	2.00	4.00	-----	5.00	5.00 (1)	7.50 (3)	4.50 (6)	-----	2.50 (3)	5.00 (3)	5.25 (6)
N/R 6-day fishing	10.00	eliminate	10.00 (1)	15.00 (3)	15.00 (1)	10.00 (3)	8.50 (1)	7.25 (12)	10.00 (3)	15.00 (3)	11.00 (1)
N/R Season fishing	20.00	40.00	30.00	25.00	35.00	20.00	18.50	24.00	25.00	30.00	20.50
Resident Bird	4.00	6.00	6.00	5.00 (4)	8.00 (4)	10.00 (4)	9.00 (4)	3.00	7.00 (4)	-----	8.50 (4)
Nonresident Bird	30.00	40.00	30.00	25.00 (4)	30.00 (4)	50.00 (4)	16.00 (4)	3.00	75.00 (4)	-----	36.00 (4)
Resident Deer	7.00	10.00	15.00	13.00	10.00	9.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	-----	-----
Resident Elk	8.00	12.00	25.00 (2)	16.00	30.00	25.00	30.00	11.00	20.00	-----	21.00
N/R Big Game	225.00	300.00	460.00	325.00 (5)	435.00 (7)	-----	288.00 (10)	-----	330.00 (13)	-----	-----
Resident antelope	5.00	10.00	15.00	13.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	-----	5.00	-----	16.00
N/R antelope	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	-----	150.00	-----	125.00	-----	101.00
Resident Moose	25.00	50.00	50.00	-----	100.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	12.00	-----
N/R Moose	150.00	250.00	300.00	-----	1,000.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	200.00	-----
Resident Sheep	25.00	50.00	50.00	75.00	100.00	50.00	75.00	11.00	25.00	-----	26.00
N/R Sheep	150.00	250.00	400.00	-----	1,000.00	250.00	375.00	42.00	-----	250.00	301.00
Resident Mtn. Goat	15.00	50.00	50.00	75.00	-----	-----	-----	11.00	-----	-----	-----
N/R Mtn. Goat	150.00	250.00	500.00	-----	-----	-----	-----	42.00	-----	125.00	-----
Resident Bear	6.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	15.00	-----	4.00	3.00	5.00	-----	-----
N/R Bear	100.00	100.00	50.00	50.00	150.00	-----	20.00	3.00	75.00	100.00	50.00
Resident Mtn. Lion	5.00	25.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	1.50	-----	20.00	-----	-----
N/R Mtn. Lion	100.00	250.00	100.00	150.00	150.00	100.00	20.50	-----	150.00	-----	-----
Trappers License	10.00	25.00	20.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	30.00	20.00	10.00	3.00	5.25
Falconers License	3.00	25.00	5.00	20.00	10.00	15.00	5.00	-----	-----	-----	-----
Drawing Fee	2.00	5.00	5.00	-----	10.00 (8)	\$2 p/specie	9.00 (11)	-----	1.00	5.00	-----
License Dealer Fee	.15	.30	.50	.05 - .50	.50	.25	.50	.50	.25	.25 (or 10%)	.50 to 1.00 (sliding scale)



Average For 12 Western States

	N.D.	Idaho	Calif. (17)	Average For 12 Western States
Resident fishing	\$5.00	\$6.50 (6)	\$10.00 (6)	
N/R 2-day fishing	-----	3.50 (12)	7.00 (3)	\$8.46
N/R 6-day fishing	2.00 (12)	7.50 (12)	13.25 (3)	5.03
N/R Season fishing	10.00	20.50	25.75	10.36
Resident Bird	5.00 (4)	5.50	5.50	23.69
N/R Bird	40.00 (4)	5.50	5.50	6.59
Resident Deer	11.00	4.50	4.50	20.72
Resident Elk	-----	8.50	8.50	8.10
N/R Big Game	-----	175.00 (16)	-----	19.50
Resident Antelope	10.00	16.00	16.00	335.50
N/R antelope	-----	31.00	31.00	17.10
Resident Moose	10.00	56.00	56.00	92.25
N/R Moose	-----	-----	-----	47.33
Resident Sheep	10.00	56.00	56.00	500.00
N/R Sheep	-----	160.50	160.50	48.54
Resident Mtn. Goat	-----	26.00	26.00	326.55
N/R Mtn. Goat	-----	46.00	46.00	37.60
Resident Bear	-----	4.50	4.50	151.80
N/R Bear	-----	15.50	15.50	7.00
Resident Mtn. Lion	-----	5.50	5.50	52.90
N/R Mtn. Lion	-----	35.50	35.50	12.18
Trappers License	5.00	5.50	5.50	92.69
Falconers License	15.00	-----	-----	10.77
Drawing Fee	-----	5.50 (for antelope for antelope 10.50 for moose, sheep, and goat)	5.50 (for antelope 10.50 for moose, sheep, and goat)	7.93
License Dealer Fee	.25	.50	.50	-----

NOTES:

1. Nonresident 5-day fishing license in this state.
2. In Wyoming, nonresident elk license is \$250; nonresident deer is \$100; nonresident bear is \$50; nonresident bird is \$30; nonresident season fishing is \$30. Total = \$460.
3. Nonresident 10-day fishing license in this state.
4. In this state, resident and nonresident bird licenses are included in a small game or general hunting license.
5. In Colorado, nonresident elk license is \$135; nonresident deer is \$90; nonresident bear is \$50; nonresident bird (small game) is \$25; nonresident season fishing is \$25. Total = \$325.
6. Nonresident 1-day fishing license in this state.
7. In Utah, nonresident elk license is \$100; nonresident deer license is \$120; nonresident bear is \$150; nonresident bird (small game) is \$30; nonresident season fishing is \$35. Total = \$435.
8. In Utah, all hunters must have a deer license before applying for any drawings. Cost of the deer license is \$10. Therefore, Utah has a \$10 drawing fee.
9. Nonresident 3-day fishing license in this state.
10. In Arizona, nonresident elk is \$200; nonresident deer is \$5; nonresident bear is \$20; nonresident bird (general hunting) is \$45; and nonresident season fishing is \$18. Total = \$288.
11. In Arizona, hunters must buy a general hunting license before applying for any drawings. Cost of this license is \$9. Therefore, Arizona has a \$9 drawing fee.
12. Nonresident 7-day fishing license in this state.
13. In Oregon, nonresident elk is \$105; nonresident deer is \$50; nonresident bear is \$75; nonresident bird (general hunting) is \$75; and nonresident season fishing is \$25. Total = \$330.
14. In Alaska, residents may hunt moose for \$12. They may hunt all additional species except grizzly for no additional fee (grizzly = \$25). Some moose, plus sheep and goat licenses are drawn. \$5 drawing fee per species required. Nonresidents must pay \$60 for a nonresident hunting license plus \$5 per species for the drawing fee plus the price of a tag, if they draw. Nonresident fee for grizzly is \$250.
15. All New Mexico fishing licenses have trout stamps added to both resident and nonresident licenses.
16. In Idaho, nonresident elk license is \$100; nonresident deer license is \$35; nonresident bear license is \$15; nonresident bird license is \$5 and nonresident season fishing license is \$20. Total = \$175.
17. All California fishing licenses have trout stamps and inland water stamps added to both resident and nonresident licenses.

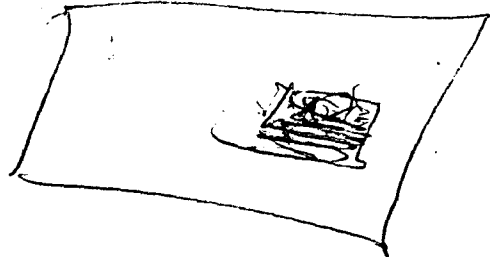
# STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF

**FISH AND GAME**

TO: Fish and Game Commission  
FROM: License Bureau  
RE: Plastic Card System Status Report  
DATE: February 19, 1980



Introduction We have been closely monitoring the status of our budgets in the License Bureau. We are at a point where some hard decisions need to be made.

In this memo, the terms "Phase I" and "Phase II" are used frequently. A definition of these two terms follows:

Phase I: All of the computer programming and documentation required to implement the plastic card licensing system. This work was performed by Montana Systems Development.

Phase II: All of the computer programming and documentation required to perform the drawings each year according to state law as well as Commission and Department policies. This work is now in process by Montana Systems Development.

Discussion of the Plastic Card System and Phase II The plastic card system has cost this Department over \$600,000 from its inception until October 31, 1979. (Chart 1) This includes development costs, implementation costs, and operational costs. The projected costs of Phase II are only 11% of that already invested in Phase I. (Chart 2)

An additional consideration is that substantial modifications would be required on the old drawing system to accomodate new requirements of the Department for 1980--if Phase II is not completed. The Wildlife Division, State law and the Commission require the following changes in the drawings in 1980:

1. A Deer B drawing with 3 district choices
2. A nonresident regional deer drawing capability
3. A method of issuing \$1 nonresident conservation licenses quickly and efficiently
4. The 75%/25% split on moose, sheep, and goat licenses
5. The capability for a 4th "regional" choice on antelope

\$33,000 is accrued from a previous fiscal year for development purposes. We are at this time committed to the completion of the development of Phase II. Montana Systems Development would find it extremely difficult (if not impossible) to modify the old drawing system to meet these new requirements before the 1980 drawings. Even if this work could be completed before the 1980 drawings, the result would be another set of patches on an old system that is so patched now that it is very difficult to maintain. (See Department of Fish and Game Legislative Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1977, pp. 41 to 83).

Plastic Card System - Some Alternatives If we continue the system as it is, the cost of the Contracted Services for the plastic card system for this fiscal year is estimated at \$490,000. (Chart 3) Without any modifications to the plastic card system, this cost will be about \$482,000 in FY 81 due to an anticipated plastic card reissue. This cost will drop to \$423,700 in FY 82. These costs are excessive and some method must be found to reduce costs. We have consulted with other Divisions in the Department, Montana Systems Development, and Computer Services Division to develop some method to reduce our Contracted Services expenses. Providing programming support by Department employees will reduce our costs over the long haul and we are in the process of acquiring our own programmers. There is a projected deficit of about \$123,000 in the Licensing Bureau budget for FY 80.

FY 81 and FY 82 Costs There are several possibilities for reducing operation expenses. One possibility would be to permanently discontinue processing 90% of nonresident conservation licenses and all nonresident fishing licenses. Licensing would save about \$57,500 a year in operating expenses.

We have found a long term solution to the problem of operational cost. This solution does require about \$23,000 in reprogramming costs to be performed by Montana Systems Development. Also, due to the effort of Phase II, this can't be implemented until about July 1, 1980. At that time, the operational costs of the plastic card system will be reduced by a conservative estimate of \$50,000 per year and could approach \$75,000 per year. Basically, the plastic card system would have greatly reduced capabilities in dealer accountability for specific licenses but would still be capable of dealer accounting as the old system now provides. The capability to access sportsmen would remain the same. The cost of processing licenses and the cost of producing reports would be reduced by 75%. Data entry would also be simplified and less expensive.

An additional scheme that can modify expenses in the future pertains to the plastic card reissue. It is calculated that a reissue will cost about \$.52 per sportsman with a total cost of \$138,000. (Chart 4) This cost could be distributed over a 3 year period if we reissued in stages. There is no real cost savings but the cost would be spread over a 3 year period. There could be a cost savings if we acquired our own machine to emboss plastic cards and utilized it for reissue of cards which is feasible if done in three one-year stages.

### Other Benefit Considerations

Hunter Harvest Survey Whether the Department does or does not have a plastic card licensing system, the Wildlife Division has a definite need for the names and addresses of resident and nonresident sportsmen who purchase hunting licenses. At the present time, there are 28 different types of resident and nonresident hunting licenses and, according to the latest PR report, about 208,000 resident and nonresident hunters. If there were no plastic card licensing system, Burwell Gooch estimates that it would cost \$64,250 beginning in FY 81 to provide names and addresses of hunting license holders to wildlife managers for survey purposes. This estimate is based on keypunching names and addresses of all resident and nonresident hunters and the licenses they buy. This procedure was followed prior to 1979. The plastic card system is currently providing this information.

Cost saving by having the plastic card licensing system in place is \$64,250 in FY 80.

Fishing Pressure Survey Although the fishing pressure survey was not run in 1979, the fisheries research unit has recently stated they still would like names and addresses of license buyers for fishing pressure survey purposes in future years. Bud Gaffney indicated that it would cost at least \$50,000 for the Fisheries Division to independently produce the names and addresses of anglers and the licenses they buy. This service can be provided by the plastic card licensing system.

Cost advantage of having the plastic card system in place is \$50,000 per year in future fiscal years if the information is needed or desired.

Enforcement Considerations The plastic card system has provided a coded physical description of the license holder on the plastic card and all licenses--which assists wardens in identifying hunters and anglers in the field. The plastic card system has provided listings of people who buy conservation licenses sorted by zip code for wardens to check residency. The plastic card system has provided listings of people who buy conservation licenses cross-checked with State of Montana drivers license records. This also provides leads to wardens on possible nonresidents who are buying resident licenses. Without the plastic card system, this work could not be done. In the future, these listings can be produced on a more routine basis than they were this past license year.

In the future, hunter safety files and violator files currently kept by the Enforcement Division could be tied to the plastic card system. This would allow better control of violators who have their hunting or fishing privileges removed; they would be detected if they tried to buy additional licenses.

License Dealer Commission Savings During the 1978 Legislative Session, a bill was introduced to increase the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' license dealer commission fee from 15¢ to 30¢. Since the Department sold 1,106,837 licenses in the license year ending April 30, 1979, the

financial impact of this doubling of the dealer commission fee would be \$166,025 for each license year. Passage of this bill would have cost the Department \$166,025 in FY 80 (the one we're in now) plus an additional \$166,025 (a conservative estimate; no growth in numbers of licenses sold each license year is assumed) in FY 81 and FY 82.

The primary reason the Department was successful in arguing against passage of this bill was that license dealers would save time in issuing licenses with the new plastic card system. Therefore, license agents would not need an increase in commission fees. This next license year (May 1, 1980 to April 30, 1981) will show considerable savings of time to license dealers since about 240,000 Montanans now have plastic cards. Very little handwriting of licenses will occur this coming license year.

This rationale (that the plastic card system makes it possible to issue licenses faster) can be used to counter requests by license dealers to increase commission fees. Although license agent commission fees may need adjustment, they should not be adjusted without some corresponding changes in the Department's overall license fee structure.

We feel that there was a cost savings by having the plastic card system in place in FY 80 of \$166,025 and that an efficient plastic card license system will continue to aid the Department in keeping dealer fees significantly lower than without such a system.

Future Considerations The plastic card system has considerable capability to provide statistical and demographic data regarding license buyers (hunters and anglers). This information could be extremely valuable for planning purposes. The plastic card system could also be used to accomplish subscription fulfillment services for Montana Outdoors. Many of the M.O. subscribers are also license buyers. Utilization of the plastic card system for this purpose would take careful planning with M.O. staff and Charter Inc., the present fulfillment services being used by M.O. Costs could possibly be reduced with this effort. In addition, the plastic card system could provide the service for sportsmen of ordering licenses by mail. This might be a convenience factor for many Montanans located in rural areas or for certain groups of license buyers (such as Sportsman License Holders.) Finally, the plastic card system can provide a tool to improve cash flow from dealers. Previous internal and external audits have cited the Department for allowing late remittance of license fees by dealers. The only tool the Department has that can compare "date of sale" of a license with "date of remittance" for large volumes of licenses is the plastic card system.

Summary In this report, we have presented historical costs and projected future expenses of the plastic card system. FY 80 projected budget deficit in Licensing is \$123,287. We have also presented known benefits of the plastic card system and attempted, in some cases to cost out those benefits. However, it is not possible, in every instance, to tie dollars to benefits.

We sincerely hope that the proposed alternatives for reducing the costs of the plastic card system are acceptable. Further cuts beyond

We are available to discuss this report at your earliest convenience. At the present time, we are proceeding with Phase II with Montana Systems Development and any modifications to the plastic card system will certainly impact Phase II. Any decisions to change direction with the plastic card system must be made soon to allow Licensing to plan its work schedule for 1980.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input on this important topic.

Chart 1

Phase I Costs  
As of October 31, 1979

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Development Costs</u>	<u>Implementation Costs</u>	<u>Operational Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Montana Systems Development	\$83,645.72	\$6,945.00	\$40,695.00	\$131,285.72
Montana Information Systems		\$205,084.40		\$205,084.40
Kirk Plastics			\$ 3,933.86	\$ 3,933.86
National Business Systems			\$ 722.45	\$ 722.45
Blodgett			\$69,027.29	\$ 69,027.29
Computer Services	\$ 5,129.64	\$49,347.56	\$72,211.10	\$126,688.30
Helena Rehabilitation			\$ 3,147.94	\$ 3,147.94
Labor		\$8,153.94	\$ 3,811.21	\$ 11,965.15
Postage		\$49,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 55,500.00
Equipment	\$ 4,004.00			\$ 4,004.00
Travel		\$1,794.00		\$ 1,794.00
	<u>\$92,779.36</u>	<u>\$320,824.90</u>	<u>\$199,548.85</u>	<u>\$613,153.11</u>

Chart 2

Phase II Costs  
(Through June 30, 1980)

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Development Costs</u>	<u>Implementation Costs</u>	<u>Operational Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Montana Systems Development	\$33,023.54	\$7,000.00		\$40,023.54
Computer Services	\$ 3,000.00	\$10,000.00		\$13,000.00
Postage		\$11,000.00		\$11,000.00
Labor		\$3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
				<u>\$67,023.54</u>

Note: The \$67,023.54 for Phase II is 10.9% of the \$613,153 investment in Phase I.



Chart 3

Contracted Services - 1832 - General Licensing

Projected

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>FY 80</u>	<u>FY 81*</u>	<u>FY 82</u>
Computer Services Division	\$145,000	\$86,250	\$103,125
Montana Systems Development	80,000	5,000	-0-
Data Entry	100,000	83,750	85,625
Plastic Cards	2,500	23,750	10,625
Helena Industries	4,000	6,250	3,375
Printing	106,000	100,000	100,000
Packing	11,000	11,000	11,000
Comtrex	750	1,000	1,200
	<u>449,250</u>	<u>317,000</u>	<u>314,950</u>

Chart 4

Plastic Card Reissue

	<u>Volume*</u>		<u>Per Unit Cost</u>		<u>Total Cost</u>
Plastic Cards	350,000	x	\$ .05	=	\$17,500
Embossing	225,000	x	\$ .07	=	15,750
Data Entry	225,000	x	\$ .13	=	29,250
Labor					5,000
Postage (applications)	300,000	x	\$ .084	=	25,200
Postage (cards)	225,000	x	\$ .084	=	18,900
Supplies (envelopes, etc.)	300,000	x	\$ .05	=	15,000
Computer	225,000	x	\$ .05	=	11,250
			<u>\$ .518</u>		<u>\$137,850**</u>

\*Assuming that 300,000 applications are mailed and that 225,000 return the applications for a plastic card.

\*\*Contracted Services would account for \$73,750 of the total

ADDENDUM

An additional question that may be asked is just how much is the plastic card system costing each year above and beyond normal processing. The chart below gives an estimate of the costs.

Additional Costs for Plastic Card System

Above Normal Operations

<u>Contracted Services</u> <u>Vendor</u>	<u>FY 80</u>	<u>FY 81</u>	<u>FY 82</u>
Computer Services Division	\$105,000	\$66,250	\$83,125
Montana Systems Development	80,000	5,000	-0-
Data Entry	20,000	(16,250)	(14,375)
Plastic Cards & Embossing	2,500	23,750	10,625
Helena Industries	4,000	6,250	3,375
Comtrex	750	1,000	1,200
 Total Contracted Services	 212,250	 86,000	 83,950
Personal Services	34,000	45,000	47,000
Communication	15,000	54,000	7,500
Supplies & Materials	2,000	15,000	1,000
 Grand Total:	 \$263,250	 \$200,000	 \$139,450

# Montana sportsmen get more for less dollars

By AL BISHOP

"Dollar for dollar, and the time ordinarily available, the average sportsman will find that Montana has the most to offer of any place in the world," says Jack Atcheson, of Jack Atcheson & Sons, Inc., a highly respected hunting consultant, who, for 30 years, has guided thousands of clients worldwide. Montana doesn't enjoy this reputation by accident. Instead it is because of the continuing and joint efforts of our many good farmer and rancher friends, a group of Fish and Game professionals and a great bunch of sportsmen, all of whom understand and appreciate what we have and mean to hang onto it "come hell or high water."

Farmers and ranchers, professional game managers and knowledgeable sportsmen all know enough not to isolate and to consider just numbers of animals alone when evaluating game management. Instead, they know that the quantity and quality of the habitat, which depend on the size of the area available and the amount of food and shelter found there, together with the number of animals available for harvest, is the real basis for judging management. Additionally, in the case of wild animals, the weather is critical in making these animals available to the hunter and the ability of the area to sustain these animals year round. For this reason, Ralph Brownell's COMMENT in the Dec. 28 Gazette brought out just half the real story, and for some reason left out some facts and figures essential to the whole business. I have those omitted facts and figures and, as Paul Harvey might say, "here is the rest of the story."

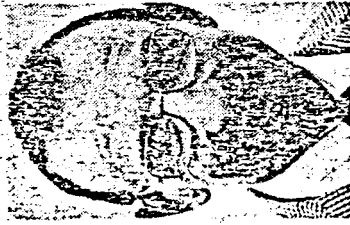
Without addressing the pros and cons of non-

resident hunter numbers, but only because Brownell charges that Montana is overrun with non-residents because of the "more money syndrome" of its Fish and Game Department, let's take a look at some figures about Wyoming and Montana he somehow forgot. In 1979, Wyoming sold 37,000 non-resident \$100 deer tags, 6,000 non-resident \$250 elk tags and 36,026 non-resident \$100 antelope tags, for a total of 79,026 non-resident tags for \$8.8 million. On the other hand, Montana sold 690 non-resident \$50 deer tags, 17,000 combination \$225 non-resident elk-deer tags, and 958 non-resident antelope tags, for a total of 18,648 non-resident elk-deer-antelope tags for \$3.9 million. It seems Wyoming sold 60,378 more non-resident elk-deer-antelope tags than Montana for almost \$5 million more than Montana's sales. Incidentally, in Montana there were 15 times as many resident antelope hunters as non-residents, while in Wyoming there were about 6,000 more non-residents hunting antelope than residents.

I know that Wyoming has a first-rate game management program, just as Montana does, each dealing in its own way with game matters unique to it, but if Brownell wants to "play the numbers game," I have to stick with Wyoming, too. Brownell at least says he is really concerned and upset with the fact that Montana with its 470 Fish and Game people (there are 457) outnumbers Wyoming with its 320 people (there are 314), by 150. He is nearly correct with these figures and with the allegation about Montana having a \$13 million fiscal year 1980 budget. The rest of the story is that Wyoming's annual budget in 1979 was \$16 to \$17 million or about \$3 to \$4 million more than Montana. One way to look at this would be Montana, for \$3 to \$4 million less, has about

one-half again as many Fish and Game people serving its "customers."

Next to last, and using the averages for the 12 western states, the average resident deer tag is now \$8.10 (Montana, \$7), resident elk tag now \$19.50 (Montana, \$8), and resident antelope tag now \$17.10 (Montana, \$5). The Montana Fish and Game



Al Bishop, a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks member, is a native of Laurel, World War II Air Force veteran, a 1952 graduate of the University of Montana Law School and now in his 29th year of private law practice in Billings. He started fishing with his dad when a toddler.

Department proposes that by 1983 the resident deer tag by \$10, resident elk tag \$12 and the resident antelope tag \$10. Overall, in 1983, Montana would be charging considerably less than the 1980 averages for those 12 states. Wyoming resident tags are now \$15 for deer (Montana, \$7), \$25 for elk (Montana \$8) and antelope \$15 (Montana, \$5). Overall, our resident antelope-deer-elk hunter can buy all three tags for \$20, but the Wyoming resident pays \$55 for his same three tags.

To show that I have no interest in raising the

price of the Montana licenses other than to keep Montana the best there is, did you know that a Fish and Game Commissioner in Montana is not paid? He gets \$25 per diem for only those days attending per commission meetings (20 days approximately per year at \$25 equals \$500). He pays for a lot of his traveling expenses, motels and meals out of his own pocket and begrudges not one cent. My own family's living comes entirely from my law practice. I buy my licenses just as any other hunter and the increase, if it is given by the Legislature (I'm keeping my fingers crossed), will be just that much for me, too. I also do not ever want the license costs to close hunting to all but the monied class, but let's look at the whole picture of license costs. My resident bird license costs \$4 in 1980, but my gasoline cost for each bird hunting trip probably averaged \$18. The proposed increase for the bird license from \$4 to \$6 is an increase of less than the cost of two gallons of gas, or, if you will, a 6-pack of beer.

Who is Brownell really trying to kid? The real problem, and if he's a true sportsman he ought to know it, is the daily destruction and the threat of a wildlife habitat destruction. We see it every day. Threats to the Yellowstone River reservation of flow, rural subdivision development on deer winter range and hard rock mining that disrupts wildlife populations, to name just a few. Who is going to feel these things the most? The hunters and fishermen of Montana. At least with an adequately financed Fish and Game Department, we have a better chance to go on fighting to hold onto much of what we still have and not actually ending up with the "less" Brownell wrote about. Brownell had better become a part of the solution instead of remaining a part of the problem.

## VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE

Fish &amp; Game

COMMITTEE

BILL HB200

Date 1-29-81

SPONSOR

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPO
Eugene L. Miller	Philipsburg	Self	X	
Stefan Holman	MT Feol	Self	X	
Ray Kattel	WOLF CREEK	M.D.G.A.	X	
Shirley Elser	Missoula	SELF	X	
Michael Chandler	Missoula	Whit. Mont. Fish & Game Assoc.	X	
James F Johnson	Missoula	Self		
MRS KRONBERG	"	SELF	X	
FRANK F. JOHNSON	"	"	X	
Michael Bissett	Helena	MT. Audubon Council	X	
Diana C. Wiener	Bonner	Self		X
EDD NENTWIG	SEELEY LAKE	MONTANA TRAPPEERS ASSOCIATION		X
James A. Johnson	Cardon	Montana Trappers Association		X
John & Donna Ray	Pray	Rancher	X	
Ed Skillman	Livingston Mont	Rancher Outfitter		X
Michael Larkin	Missoula	U.M. Wildlife Club	X	
William Saunders	Leavitt	Self		
W. Brummen	231 S. Oak	Self		X
Claude Sawyer	Brusett Mont	Self		X
Darlene Sawyer	Brusett Mont	Self		X
Wm. E. Walters	Brusett Mont	Self	X	
R.P. Myers	Bozeman mt	Self		X
Eldon O'Neil	Helena	Self		X
Bill Bolster	Elliston mt	Self + F+G Volunteers		X

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

## VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE

Fish &amp; Game

COMMITTEE

BILL

HB 200

Date 1-29-81

NSOR

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOS
Henry D. Taylor	Helena, MT.	Self		X
Frank DeLeo	Helena MT	Self		X
Harry Noel	Helena MT	Self		X
Tim Taylor	Helena, MT	Self		X
Jim Martin	Helena MT.	Self		X
Bill Jim	1012 Peeta, Helena	Self	X	
Anna Thompson	428 Wilbur, Helena	Self		X
Gary Davis	Box 282 HADEE	SELF	X	
Jerome Mathews	Avon	Self		X
Green Stone	5379 Hiway 122	Self		X
Joan Luck	1420 Otter Rd.	Self		X
W. Sutter	HELENA	SELF		X
Gene Gelpatruck	Helena, MT		X	
John G. Gelpatruck	Helena MT.	Landowner Relations / Sportsmen's Access Adv. Co.	X	
Paul Parnell	Butte, Mont.	TROUT UNLIMITED	X	
Paul Williams SR	Helena Mont	Self		X
Wilbur Rehmann	Helena	Montana Wildlife Federation	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 19 19 81

MR. **SPEAKER:**

We, your committee on **FISH AND GAME**

having had under consideration **HOUSE** Bill No. **200**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO INCREASE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE'S WILDLIFE RESOURCES BY INCREASING THE FEES FOR HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, AND RELATED LICENSES AND PERMITS; REMOVING THE 7-YEAR KILL LIMITATION ON CERTAIN GAME ANIMALS; AND REMOVING THE PRIORITY STATUS FOR UNSUCCESSFUL SPECIAL ELK AND ANTELOPE LICENSE APPLICANTS; AMENDING SECTIONS 87-2-104, 87-2-202, 87-2-301, 87-2-302, 87-2-304, 87-2-401 THROUGH 87-2-403, 87-2-501, 87-2-505, 87-2-507, 87-2-508, 87-2-601, 87-2-701, 87-2-702, 87-2-705, 87-2-706, 87-2-711, 87-2-805, 87-2-903, AND 87-5-204, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 87-2-303, 87-2-703, AND 87-2-721, MCA; AND PROVIDING SEPARATE EFFECTIVE DATES."**

Respectfully report as follows: That **HOUSE** Bill No. **200**

**SEE ATTACHED AMENDMENTS (4 PAGES)**

**DO PASS AS AMENDED**

1. Title, line 14.  
Following: "87-2-505,"  
Strike: "87-2-507,"

2. Title, line 15.  
Following: "87-2-711,"  
Strike: "87-2-805,"  
Insert: "AND"

3. Title, line 16.  
Following: line 15  
Strike: "AND 87-5-204,"

4. Page 2, line 4.  
Following: "exceed"  
Strike: "\$25"  
Insert: "\$5"

5. Page 2, line 21.  
Following: "\$1"  
Strike: "\$3"  
Insert: "\$2"

6. Page 3, line 2.  
Following: "\$5"  
Strike: "\$7.50 or, after April 30, 1983, a fee of \$10."  
Insert: "\$6"

7. Page 3, line 9.  
Following: "\$20"  
Strike: "\$40"  
Insert: "\$30"

8. Page 4, line 3.  
Following: "of"  
Strike: "\$5"  
Insert: "\$3"

9. Page 4, line 10.  
Following: "\$4"  
Strike: remainder of line 10  
Reinsert: "\$4"

10. Page 4, line 18.  
Following: "\$30"  
Strike: "\$40"  
Reinsert: "\$30"

PAGE 2

## AMENDMENTS TO HB 200 (continued)

11. Page 5, line 5.

Following: "\$62"

Strike: "\$55"

Insert: "\$33"

12. Page 5, line 19.

Following: "\$8"

Strike: remainder of line 19

Insert: ";

13. Page 5, line 20.

Following: line 19

Strike: line 20 in its entirety

14. Page 5, line 22.

Following: "\$8"

Strike: remainder of line 22

Insert: "\$9;"

15. Page 5, line 23.

Following: line 22

Strike: line 23 in its entirety

16. Page 5, line 24.

Following: "\$6"

Strike: "\$10"

Insert: "\$8"

17. Page 6, line 6.

Following: "\$225"

Strike: remainder of line 6

Insert: "\$250"

18. Page 6, line 7.

Following: line 6

Strike: "fee of \$325,"

19. Page 6, line 14.

Following: "than"

Strike: "17,000"

Insert: "15,000"



PAGE 2

## AMENDMENTS TO HB 200 (continued)

11. Page 5, line 5.

Following: "\$2"

Strike: "\$5"

Insert: "\$3"

12. Page 5, line 19.

Following: "\$8"

Strike: remainder of line 19

Insert: ";

13. Page 5, line 20.

Following: line 19

Strike: line 20 in its entirety

14. Page 5, line 22.

Following: "\$8"

Strike: remainder of line 22

Insert: "\$9;"

15. Page 5, line 23.

Following: line 22

Strike: line 23 in its entirety

16. Page 5, line 24.

Following: "\$6"

Strike: "\$10"

Insert: "\$8"

17. Page 6, line 6.

Following: "\$225"

Strike: remainder of line 6

Insert: "\$250"

18. Page 6, line 7.

Following: line 6

Strike: "fee of \$325,"

19. Page 6, line 14.

Following: "than"

Strike: "17,000"

Insert: "15,000"

Page 2

MONTANA DEER AND ELK TAGS (cont.)

20. Page 6, line 16.

Following: line 15

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 12. B-11 and B-12 nonresident big game license. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person not a resident, as defined in 97-2-102, but who will be 12 years of age or older prior to September 15 of the season for which the license is issued may upon payment of the proper fee or fees, and subject to the limitations prescribed by law and department rule, purchase one each of the following licenses:

(a) class B-11 nonresident elk license for \$150; and

(b) class B-12 nonresident deer license for \$100.

(2) The license fees in subsection (1) include the nonresident conservation license fees for the license prescribed in 97-2-202.

(3) Not more than 2000 class B-11 elk tags or more than 2000 class B-12 deer tags may be sold in any one license year.

(4) The use of either license specified in subsection (1) is not restricted to any one specific authorized hunting area in Montana.

Renumber subsequent sections.

21. Page 6, line 20.

Following: "~~\$100~~"Strike: "~~\$250~~"Reinsert: "~~\$100~~"

22. Page 7, line 4.

Following: "~~\$5~~"Strike: "~~325~~"Reinsert: "~~\$5~~"

23. Page 7, line 12.

Following: "~~\$10~~"Strike: "~~\$25~~"Reinsert: "~~\$10~~"

24. Page 8, line 2.

Following: "~~\$25~~"Strike: "~~\$50~~"Reinsert: "~~\$25~~"Following: "~~\$150~~"Strike: "~~\$250~~"Insert: "~~\$175~~"

25. Page 8, line 3.

Following: "~~\$15~~"Strike: "~~\$50~~"Reinsert: "~~\$15~~"

Page 4  
AMENDMENTS TO HB 200 (cont.)

26. Page 8, line 4.  
Following: "\$150"  
Strike: "\$250"  
Insert: "\$175"

27. Page 8, line 5.  
Following: "\$25"  
Strike: "\$50"  
Reinsert: "\$25"

28. Page 8, line 6.  
Following: "\$150"  
Strike: "\$250"  
Insert: "\$175"

29. Page 8, line 7.  
Following: "\$5"  
Strike: "\$10"  
Reinsert: "\$5"

30. Page 8, line 8.  
Following: "\$25"  
Strike: "\$50"  
Reinsert: "\$25"

31. Page 8, line 9.  
Following: line 8  
Strike: "\$250"  
Insert: "\$175"

32. Page 11, line 17.  
Following: "\$35"  
Strike: "\$40"  
Reinsert: "\$35"

33. Page 12, line 13.  
Following: "\$2"  
Strike: "\$3"  
Reinsert: "\$2"

34. Page 13, line 14.  
Following: "\$3"  
Strike: "\$25"  
Reinsert: "\$3"

DO PASS AS AMENDED