

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
February 19, 1981

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 p.m. by Chairman Ellison. All committee members were present except Representatives Bennett, Feda, Manuel and Roush who were excused. (The excused representatives left absentee votes.)

This was an EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 200, HB 731, HB 738 and HB 766.

HOUSE BILL 731

Representative Daily moved the following amendment to HB 731:

Page 3, line 21.

Following: line 20

Strike: Subsection (6) in its entirety

Insert: "(6) Establish and regulate a two-year moratorium in Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Administrative Region 3 on the issuance of new outfitter and guide licenses for the purpose of fishing as defined in Section 87-4-101 (4) (c). This moratorium is to commence on April 1, 1981, and terminate on March 31, 1983, and shall include the Madison River and Big Hole River."

The motion was voted on and PASSED with all committee members present voting "aye".

Representative Daily moved HB 731 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

The motion was voted on and PASSED with all committee members voting "aye" except Representative Bennett who voted "no".

HOUSE BILL 200

Bob Robinson, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA), handed out copies of EXHIBIT 2 and went over the handout with the committee.

Mr. Robinson told the committee there should be an \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 cash balance, as a reserve over and above amounts appropriated, at the end of each fiscal year to take care of fluctuations in the income.

Mr. Robinson also told the committee that he had thought the increase in conservation cards had been passed but found out it hadn't so he told the committee to cross that amount off the fiscal impact sheet.

Representative Jacobsen asked Mr. Robinson, who is the fiscal analyst for the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (F, W, & P) budget, if any game wardens or travel expenses were added for

the next biennium. Mr. Robinson told him there were 5 wardens added and \$62,000 per year of the biennium added for additional fuel expenses.

Mr. Jim Flynn, Director of F, W, & P, told the committee the F, W, & P doesn't have any problems with the figures presented by Mr. Robinson. The problem is having enough funding to accomplish all the different things this committee wants F, W, & P to do.

Mr. Flynn said if he had been director six months to a year before this legislative session, he would have had greater fee increases in HB 200 than those shown now.

Mr. Flynn said he doesn't know where the appropriations sub-committee and the agency are in terms of total appropriations. He made a suggestion to this committee that they send HB 200 to the Senate Fish and Game Committee without any amendments and let them work on the bill.

Representative Jacobsen said a bill as important as HB 200 should have this committee's full attention. He asked if it wasn't possible to ask the leadership if this committee could hold the bill a little longer so this committee could do more work on it. Chairman Ellison said this committee has to get it over to the Senate Fish and Game Committee.

Representative Devlin said if F, W, & P runs short of funds, there is an option to borrow money from the general fund and pay back that money later. Mr. Flynn said they could do that, however, it is not considered "good accounting practice". Mr. Flynn said F, W, & P will probably get into trouble if they do have to borrow from the general fund but it is possible that F, W, & P will have to borrow some general fund money.

Chairman Ellison asked what has been the balance at the end of each year in the past. Mr. Robinson told him it is usually between \$1.0 and \$1.2 million but when the special hunting licenses are sold this next June, the cash balance will go down to between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

Mr. Flynn said there is still a difference of \$100,000 between the department's and LFA's budget revenue estimates that is still unresolved. He also told the committee the LFA is figuring pay increases at 9% and Mr. Flynn is convinced the pay increases will come in at 12%.

Representative Burnett moved the amendments be stripped from HB 200 and this committee send HB 200 to the Senate Fish and Game Committee in its original form.

Representative Jensen made a substitute motion to raise the conservation license from \$1 to \$2.

The substitute motion was voted on and PASSED. Representatives Burnett, Daily and Phillips voted "no" and the other committee members present voted "aye".

Chairman Ellison asked if the raise in the conservation licenses would become effective in 1982. Representative Devlin said yes.

Question was called on Representative Burnett's motion. Chairman Ellison restated the motion as HB 200 DO PASS IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM.

The motion was voted on. A roll call vote was taken and the motion FAILED. Those Representatives voting "aye" were: Burnett, Daily, Hart, McLane, Mueller, Nilson, Phillips and Robbins. Those Representatives voting "no" were: Bennett, Devlin, Ellison, Feda, Jacobsen, Jensen, Manuel, Ryan and Roush.

Representative Phillips said he doesn't think the vote on Representative Burnett's motion should be valid because of the absentee votes. Representative Phillips said those people did not know what happened during this meeting. Representatives Hart and Daily agreed.

Chairman Ellison said it was the decision of the Chair that the absentee votes did count.

Representative Jacobsen moved HB 200 DO PASS AS AMENDED (per the subcommittee's amendments) including the dollar increase in the conservation license.

The motion was voted on and PASSED. Representatives Daily, Hart, Nilson, Phillips and Robbins voted "no". All other committee members voted "aye".

HOUSE BILL 738

Representative Burnett moved HB 738 DO PASS AS AMENDED. (The amendment was to strike chapter 5 from lines 18 and 19 and insert chapter 3 on both lines.)

The motion was voted on and PASSED. All committee members voted "aye" except Representatives Mueller, Jacobsen and Bennett.

HOUSE BILL 766

Representative Burnett moved HB 766 DO PASS.

The motion was voted on and PASSED. All committee members voted

"aye" except Representatives Daily, Hart, Jacobsen, Robbins and Roush who voted "no".

HOUSE BILL 731

Representative Daily moved the title of HB 731 be amended to fit the bill as amended. He said Russ Josephson, legal counsel, will make that change.

The motion was voted on and PASSED with all committee members present voting "aye".

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.


ORVAL ELLISON, Chairman

vml

(6) Establish and regulate a two-year moratorium in Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Administrative Region 3 on the issuance of new outfitter and guide licenses for the purpose of fishing as defined in Sec. 87-4-101(4)(c). This moratorium is to commence on April 1, 1981, and terminate on March 31, 1983, and shall include the Madison River and Big Hole River.



JOHN D. LaFAVER
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Room 109
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HELENA, MONTANA 59601
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February 19, 1981

TO: Representative Gerry Devlin

FROM: Bob Robinson *Bob*
Senior Analyst

RE: Appropriation Subcommittee Action on Fish and Wildlife Department
Budget and Fiscal Impact of HB 200 With Committee Amendments.

APPROPRIATIONS

The following table shows appropriation subcommittee recommendations of hunting and fishing license earmarked funds by division.

	<u>FY 1982</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>
<i>Without Pay Plan</i>		
Central Services	\$1,632,462	\$1,553,679
Ecological Services	347,426	361,291
Fisheries	1,338,826	1,255,376
Enforcement	2,496,230	2,527,583
Wildlife	917,206	923,612
Parks & Recreation	358,219	386,984
Conservation Ed.	725,209	745,153
Administration	<u>419,976</u>	<u>423,807</u>
Total	\$8,235,554	\$8,177,485

If the above expenditures are approved and a nine percent pay plan is added, the impact on the license earmarked revenue fund (02131) would be a reduction of the fund balance to \$198,819 by the end of fiscal 1983. The department needs a fund balance of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 to operate effectively.

Fish and Game License ERA
02131

	<u>FY 1981</u>	<u>FY 1982</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>
Revenue		\$8,606,436	\$8,687,185
Expenditures		(8,235,554)	(8,177,485)
Pay Plan - 9%		<u>(576,622)</u>	<u>(1,205,141)</u>
Year End Balance \$1,100,000		\$ 894,260	\$ 198,819

Fiscal Impact of HB 200 as Amended

HB 200 as amended will increase license fee revenue nearly \$2 million per year when it is fully implemented in fiscal 1983. Most license increases won't go into effect until fiscal 1983. The conservation card increase and the drawing fee go into effect in fiscal 1982, generating \$1,023,254. All estimates, except those starred, assume license sales will drop ten percent, as has been the past experience, when the increases go into effect.

If one assumes the number of license sales rebounds from the ten percent drop the following year, fiscal 1984, the proposed bill would generate an additional \$1,504,081 over and above the fiscal 1983 increase.

Fiscal Impact of HB 200 as Amended in Committee

Bill Sctn #		1982			1983				
		No. Sold	Current Revenue	Proposed Revenue	Difference	No. Sold	Current Revenue	Proposed Revenue	Difference
1.	Replace Lost Licenses	3,295	\$ 9,041	\$ 16,475	\$ 7,434	3,295	\$ 9,041	\$ 16,475	\$ 7,434
2.	Conservation Cards								
	Resident	291,620	291,620	787,374	495,754	298,521	806,006	507,485	
	Nonresident	100,000	100,000	270,000	170,000	101,000	272,700	171,700	
3.	Fishing-Resident	183,859	919,295	992,838	73,543	187,021	935,105	1,009,913	74,808
4.	Fishing-Nonres. Season	17,283	345,660	466,641	120,981	18,194	363,880	491,238	127,358
5.	Fishing-Nonres. 2-day	142,570	285,140	570,280	285,140*	141,937	283,874	567,748	283,874*
6.	Paddlefish	4,000	-0-	12,000	12,000*	4,000	-0-	12,000	12,000*
7.	Game Bird-Resident	62,547	250,188	281,461	31,273	63,252	253,008	284,634	31,626
9.	Turkey	4,000	8,000	12,000	4,000*	4,000	8,000	12,000	4,000*
10.	Deer - Resident	122,000	854,000	878,400	24,400	125,000	875,000	900,000	25,000
	Elk - Resident	91,630	733,040	742,203	9,163	95,534	764,272	773,825	9,553
	Bear - Resident	10,100	60,600	72,720	12,120	10,500	63,000	75,600	12,600
11.	Nonres. Big Game	17,000	3,825,000			17,000	3,825,000		
	Old								
	New	15,000		3,750,000	(75,000)*	15,000		3,750,000	(75,000)*
	Nonres. Deer only	2,000		200,000	200,000*	2,000		200,000	200,000*
	Nonres. Elk only	2,000		300,000	300,000*	2,000		300,000	300,000*
15.	Moose - Nonres.	12	1,800	2,100	300*	12	1,800	2,100	300*
	Mtn Goat - Nonres.	22	3,300	3,850	550*	22	3,300	3,850	550*
	Mtn Sheep - Nonres.	300	45,000	52,500	7,500*	300	45,000	52,500	7,500*
	Grizzly Bear-Nonres.	5	750	875	125*	5	750	875	125*
19.	Drawing Fee	71,500	-0-	357,500	357,500*	71,500	-0-	357,500	357,500*
22.	Increase in Agent Fees		(130,000)	(260,000)	(300,000)		(130,000)	(260,000)	(130,000)
	Total Increase				\$1,899,349				\$1,928,413
	Effective Increase				\$1,023,254				\$1,928,413

*Assumes no decline in licenses sold due to fee increase.