MINUTES OF THE MEEIING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
January 22, 1981
The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN STOBIE. Roll call was taken with all members present.

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS:
An Organizational chart (EXHIBIT A) was distributed. The subcommittee suggested that charts showing vacant positions and a print out of FTEs and salaries be secured.

BOB ROBINSON gave an overview of this Department indicating that the Regional Supervisors answer to the Director, also that the Director and the Commission serves at the pleasure of the Governor.
(EXHIBIT B)shows the expenditures and license income FY '73 to '81. $\$ 1.00$ of the fishing license goes into a fund to acquire public fishing sites. It was pointed out that the $A / E 02131$ on the chart is the main account, showing about $90 \%$ each year comes from hunting and fishing license fees.

THE OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET DIVISION by division was given by BOB ROBINSON. (EXHIBIT C).

CENTRALIZED SERVICES:
Centralized services provide support to the department along with conducting the licensing process.

Game Wardens and their duties were discussed and SENATOR SMITH said that some wardens are covering two and three counties. MR. ROBINSON said that the travel allowance for one game warden is 1,000 miles a month. There are six vacancies in the game warden department and these will be left that way. An extra $\$ 62,000.00$ was put in for gas, allowing the wardens to get out more.

The LFA recommendation would alleviate 15 FTE, three secretaries, seven in accounting, three in licensing bureau and two in warehouse and maintenance. To accomplish this, the work load has to be reduced in accounting.

License fee monies in the parks area only go to maintain fishing access sites.

Under Line Item CONTRACTED SERVICES, data processing shows $\$ 100,000.00$. reduction and the elimination of a retained attorney. Under ACCOUNTING ENTITY TRANSFERS, these are the expenditures in the vehicle and warehouse revolving accounts.

ECOLOGICAL SERVICE DIVISION:
Under Line Item FTE, the LFA recommends dropping 17.68 FTEs.

It still keeps an administrator, secretary and the core staff. There is a change in policy recommended. General funds is recommended for the Ecological Division because they maintain stream gauges and this is a service to the State of Montana. Also, two people in the Water Quality Review for all subdivisions that is a general service to the public.

FISHERIES DIVISION:
LFA recommendation is to drop two FTEs in this division and they are with the fish hatcheries. One in Arlee and one is Lewistown. There are seven fish hatcheries in the state. Fish are bred to be fast gainers and live about one year. Fish planting is done in.lakes and ponds only.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION:
LFA recommends deductions of $1 / 2 \mathrm{FTE}$ formerly paid by Enforcement transferred to Wildlife. Two FTE warden trainee positions, (four half time positions), and . 49 of a FTE titled as a game herder. The remaining positions are warden positions that are currently vacant and they recommend that they stay that way. LFA budget took all the remaining operating items and increased them with standard inflation factors. There is a $\$ 127,000.00$ per year added for game damage control and additional fuel.

## WILDLIFE DIVISION:

There has been $1 / 2$ of a FTE added from the Enforcement Department. One FTE is dropped from the current lever that is a labor position at Game Bird Farm. It is recommended that they shut down the Game Bird Farm. They have statistics that only $15 \%$ is being harvested and it did cost, $\$ 65,000$ to raise 7400 birds last year. There is no reproduction from these birds.

Wildlife Division is in charge of administering game ranges and there is no money budgeted this time for game range acquisition.

## RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION:

The recommendation is to maintain it at the current level. The big problem is the restrictions caused by the revenue sources. Increased accounting cost in Centralized Services and the fact the Revenue Sources dictate the direction of the Division rather than management are both drawbacks to restrictive earmarking. Another problem is funds to maintain and operate the parks, outside the general fund, primarily in the interest from the coal trust from parks is unduly restrictive.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION:
This Division puts out Montana Magazine, and is the public information arm. The LFA recommends nine FTEs be dropped. Three that are vacant now are a writer, film production supervisor and audiovisual technician. In addition three secretaries could be eliminated, one employee in the print shop and 2.12 FTEs that are part time summer positions.

ADMINISTRATION:
The difference between the LFA budget and the OBPP's is that OBPP has ll. 50 FTEs to the LFA's eight FTEs. The LFA budget would eliminate one FTE Special Project Coordinator and one FTE that is a secretary to the Associate Director and . 44 FTE, parttime employees.

It was mentioned at this point that the tram at the Lewis and Clark Caverns has been taken out. This eliminated an expense to the state for that contract.

JIM WILLIAMS of the Executive Budget Office presented his handouts. (EXHIBIT D) shows the declining FTEs from 520 FTEs in 1980, 495 FTE in 1981, 462 FTE in 1982 and 459 FTE in 1983. The last major license fee increase was in 1975 and the Executive office believes there should be an increase which will come from fees.
License System. (EXHIBIT E)
Surplus Land. (EXHIBIT F)
Maintenance of Existent Park Sites. (EXHIBIT G)
The meeting was called into EXECUTIVE SESSION:
BOB ROBINSON, Fiscal Analyst referred to a letter, (EXHIBIT H), from the Attorney General in relation to the Wheat Research money. SENATOR SMITH questioned Railroad deregulation and it was suggested that we try to get someone of authority to come into the meeting Friday.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:
Budget recommendations were discussed. Regarding the attorney, the department still requests $3 / 4$ of an attorney in Centralized Services and will pay this attorney out of other funds. MR. McOMBER does use this attorney often. RAY BRAULT is the attorney mentioned and is being paid $\$ 22,000$ per year. SENATOR STIMATZ and SENATOR SMITH questioned whether some of these attorneys are capable and familiar with these departments problems.

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL that the OBPP recommendation for 2.5 FTEs to Centralized Services for a part-time attorney be accepted. MOTION PASSED WITH REPRESENTATIVE STOBIE voting NO.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE COZZENS to have a contracted employee in Environmental management as a full-time employee. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chairman asked for a motion on the Integrated Pest Program. This study is of pests that are harmful to the producer. The state pays for this program to get started after which it is taken over by the farmer $100 \%$ and the money reverts into the general fund. MOTION was made by SENATOR BOYLAN that we authorize the Pest Control Program.

SENATOR SMITH asked if this program could accelerate where they will eventually need more money. The response was that the program is asking $\$ 15,000$ a year.

A vote was called for on SENATOR BOYLAN's motion. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SENATOR SMITH requested that a performance report be kept for the next session in this program.

SENATOR BOYLAN moved that the LFA budget on CONTRACTED SERVICES be accepted. MOTION PASSED WITH ALL IN FAVOR.

MOTION was made by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL to accept the LFA recommendation for travel with the three modifications from the OBPP recommendation. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.


CHRIS STOBIE, CHAIRMAN

1w
OUTFITTERS ADVISORY DIRECTOR $-\ldots-$ FISH AND GAME COMMISSION


| CENTRALIZED | ENFORCEMENT | CONSERVATION ED. | WILDLIFE | FISHERIES | PARKS |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| SERVICES |  |  |  |  |  |

Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

EXHIBIT $B$

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS Expenditures and License Income FY '72 to FY ' 81

|  | Authorized FTE | Operating Expenditures | Capital Outlay | General Fund Expenditures | License Income | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total Income } \\ \text { A/E 02131 } \\ \text { (Main ERA) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FY '73 |  | \$ 6,451,240 | \$ 892,917 | 7 \$276,720 | \$4,790,498 | \$5,181,007 |
| FY '74 |  | 7,700,927 | 495,422 | 313,513 | 6,767,122 | 7,322,151 |
| FY '75 |  | 8,240,380 | 1,376,368 | - 324,786 | 6,016,238 | 6,520,588 |
| FY '76 | 455 | 9,494,314 | 2,595,107 | 491,140 | 8,013,517 | 8,497,301 |
| FY '77 | 457 | 10,176,118 | 4,120,119 | 479,187 | 6,865,677 | 7,186,195 |
| FY '78 | 500 | 12,689,059 | 1,922,510 | 460,854 | 7,352,222 | 7,590,260 |
| FY '79 | 473 | 11,108,558 | 3,021,860 | 484,620 | 7,855,203 | 8,233,549 |
| FY '80 | 495 | 15,249,598 | 4,978,140 | 515,486 | 8,485,082 | 8,926,254 |
| FY ' 81 | h. 495 | 16,461,372 | 3,971,332 | 541,811 | $\cdots$ inc. | inc. |


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OFFICE GF EUVGET G PHUGRAM PLANNING
LFA/ GGPP COMPUTIVE BUDGET SYSTEM
5201 DEPARTMENT OF FISH G GAME
RERURI EESKGG
$01 / 16 / 81$

| ACENCY PRUGRA | $\begin{array}{r} \mathrm{r} \\ \mathrm{~m}: 5201 \text { DEPARTMENT OF FISH } \\ 06 \end{array}$ | $\varepsilon$ GAME DIVISIGN |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AE/LE | LESCRIPIIUN | ACTUAL 80 |
|  | FULL TIME EGUIVALENT EMPLOYEES | 5 81.14 |
| 1000 | PERSONAL SERVICES |  |
| 1100 | SALAK1ES | 600.378 |
| 1200 | houkly wages | 306,173 |
| 1400 | EMPLUYEE EENEFIIS | 171.099 |
|  | TOTAL First level | 1.077.650 |
| 2100 | CONTRACTED SERVICES | 239.952 |
| 2200 | SUPPLIES \& Materials | 00.751 |
| 2300 | COMmunications | 22.562 |
| 2400 | TRAVEL | 175.138 |
| 2500 | HENT | 21.834 |
| 2000 | UTILITIES | 34.471 |
| 2700 | remalr e malintenaince | 107.236 |
| 2800 | OTHER LXHENSES | $35.0<9$ |
| 2900 | gouds purchaseo for resale | 133 |
|  | TOTAL FIRST Level | 717.906 |
| 3100 | EquIPMENT | 45.379 |
|  | TOIAL FIRST LEVEL | 45.379 |
| 5100 | FRGM STATE SQURCES | 13.579 |



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$0<207$ F G G SNUNMOSILE REG ERA
$0<305$ F \& G FISHING ACCESS SITE ACO 04186 STAIE PARKS FPRA
state agency ceta-pie contract 04941 FG OISASTER ASSISTANCE ACCOUNY $050<4$ OUTUGOR RECREATION FRGCA
total funding

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| /16/81 <br> CFFICE OF GUDGEI $\angle$ HRUGRAM PL ANNIN <br> LFA/ UBPP COMPARISON --- CUKE E MOL. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| AGENGY $\quad 5201$ DEPARTMENY GF FISH G PROGRAM 01 | GAME <br> UIVISIUN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AE/OE DESCRIPTION | actual go | BUOGET 81 | LFA 82 | OBPP 82 | sue-cmit | LFA 83 | OEPP 83 | Sub-cmtt |
| 8100 ACCOUNTING ENTITY TRANSFERS |  | 14.499 | 1,075,833 | 1,075,833 |  | 1.183 .417 | 1.183.417 |  |
| tutal first level |  | 14.499 | 1.075.833 | 1.075.833 |  | 1.183.417 | 1.183.417 |  |
| total program costs | 2.357.199 | 2,087.348 | 2.763.309 | 2.999 .053 |  | 2.975.684 | 3.103.484 |  |
| 02017 SnGwmoeile fuel tax | 4.370 | 6,547 | 8.555 | 8.555 |  | 8,630 | 8.630 |  |
| 02036 coal tax - aca of sites areas | 3 |  | 3.717 | 3,717 |  | 4.083 | 4.083 |  |
| 02131 FISH \& GAME ERA | 2.242.045 | 1,895.795 | 1,454.413 | 1.678.329 |  | 1.599.263 | 1.673.957 |  |
| 02204 STATE PAFKS MISCELLANEOUS ERA |  | 50.578 |  | 28.545 |  |  | 29.125 |  |
| 02205 State parks ena | 10,020 | 26.260 |  | 22,651 | - |  | 22.849 |  |
| $02206 F E$ G MOTURGUAT CERT ID ERA |  | 1,903 |  | 1,132 |  |  | 1.132 |  |
| 02207 F 6 G SNOWMOUILE REG ERA |  | 1.625 | 1,337 | 1,337 | - | 1.337 | 1.337 |  |
| 04186 STATE PARKS FPKA | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 04522 FISH E GAME FPRA | 97.596 | 75.860 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 04523 OVERHEAD \& pre ieve soukces |  |  | 178.954 | 178.954 |  | 178,954 | 178.954 |  |
| 04811 STATE AGENCY CETA-PSE CONTKACT | 3.164 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 06023 F 1 SH \& GAME BPICA |  | 26.378 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $0 \mathrm{Cz76}$ EQUIPMENT ENTERPRISE FUNO RA |  |  | 811.918 | 811.918 |  | 893.110 | 893.110 |  |
| OTCTE FEG WAREHOUSE INVENIORY RA |  |  | 263.915 | 263,915 | - | 290,307 | 290.307 |  |
| lutal funding | 2,357,199 | 2,087,348 | 2.763.309 | 2.999,053 |  | 2,975,684 | 3,103,484 |  |


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UBPP 63
1.042 .260
456.082
586.184
1.042 .266


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GFFICE OF GUOGEI E PRUGRAM FLANNING
LFA, DEPP EXECUTIVE BUDGEV SYSTEM MOU. LEVELS
AGENCY : $5<01$ LEPARTMENI OF FISH E GAME
GRUGRAM : 02 ECULUGICAL SERVICES OIVISION
AETUE DESCIRIHTIUN
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02131 FISHE GAME LRA
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LFA/ DEPP COMPARISON - CUFe E MOD. LEVELS
OBPP 82
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| aerof | desciebption | actual so | buoget ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |
|  | full inme equivalent employees | 102.70 | 82.35 |
| 1003 | personal services |  |  |
| 1100 | salaries | 1,105.641 | 1,383,268 |
| 1200 | hourly wages | 305.879 |  |
| 100 | empluree benefits | 200.801 | 245.786 |
|  | total first level | 1.672.321 | 1.629.054 |
| 2100 | contracted services | 114.055 | 90.873 |
| 2200 | Supplies e materials | 175.104 | 166,110 |
| 2300 | cummunications | 20.340 | 35.944 |
| 2400 | travel | 221.622 | 187.002 |
| 2500 | RENT | 12.232 | 21.683 |
| 2600 | utilities | 36.562 | 39,890 |
| 2700 | repair e maintenance | 41,292 | 37.233 |
| 2800 | OThir Extex.SEs | 7.342 | 7.652 |
| - 00 | gugds purctaseo fur resale | 20 |  |
|  | total fiesi level | 637.069 | 585,253 |
| 3100 | equipment | 69.337 | 14,073 |
| 3200 | livestuck | 12 |  |
|  | tutal first level | 69,349 | 14,073 |
| $i^{* 00}$ | uther improvements | 449 | 4.000 |
|  | total firsi level | 449 | 4.00 |



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| AGENCY <br> PRAGRAM | $\begin{array}{rlrl}\text { : } & \text { SCOI DEPARTMENT GF FISH } \\ 0 & 03 & F I S H E R I E S \text { OIVISIUN }\end{array}$ | GAME |  |
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|  | TUIAL FIRSt Level |  |  |
| 8100 | ACCOUNTING ENTITY TRANSFERS |  | 3.483 |
|  | Tutal firesi livel |  | 3.483 |
|  | TOIAL HRUGRAN COSTS | 2.379 .168 | 2.235 .863 |
| 02036 | CGAL TAX - ACO GF SITES AREAS | 1 |  |
| 02131 | F1SH \& GAME ERA | 1.259.366 | 1,389.669 |
| 045c2 | FISH E GAME FPRA | 1.093.903 | 846,194 |
| 04011 | StATE Agency ceta-pse cuntract | 25.975 |  |
| 04820 | MOTOREOAT SATETY FPRA | 1 |  |
|  | TOIAL FUNGING | 2.379.188 | 2.235.863 |


| REPGRT EGSR99 01/16/B1 |  | OFFICL UF BUGGEI G PREOGRAM PLANNING EXECUTIVE GUDGET SYSTEM <br> LFA / OBPP COMPAKISON --- CUR. E MOD. LEVELS |  |  |  |  |  | PAGE 221 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AGENCY : 5201 DEPARTMENT OF FISH G GAMEPROGRAM : 04 LAN ENTDRCEMENT UIVIGIGN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| aldoe | UESCRIFTLON | ACTUAL BGO | EUDGE 81 | LFA 62 | DBPP 82 | SUE-CMIT | LFA 83 | טBPP 83 | SUS-GMIt |
|  | Full time equivalent employees | 92.99 | 92.59 | 84.00 | 90.49 |  | 84.00 | 06.49 |  |
| 1000 | personal services |  |  | 2.159 .010 |  |  | 2.340.475 |  |  |
| 1100 | SALARIES | 1.491.5E\% | 1.666.544 |  | 1.596.514 |  |  | 1.532.991 |  |
| 1200 | hourly wages | 26.163 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1300 | GTHER CUMPENSAIION | 139 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1400 | EMPLGYZE GENEFITS | 351.368 | 391.986 |  | 379,375 | - |  | 383,638 |  |
|  | TOTAL FIRSi level | 1.869.257 | 2.050 .530 | 2.159.610 | 1.975.689 |  | 2.340 .475 | 1.916.629 |  |
| 2100 | CUNTRACTEO S-RVICES | 43.120 | 13.475 | 42.58 | 38,898 |  | 45.979 | 42.087 |  |
| 2200 | SUPPLIES E MATERIALS | 72.063 | 35.900 | 59,488 | 50,734 |  | 64.533 | 52.001 |  |
| 2300 | c ummunications | 47.750 | 27.641 | 58.689 | 51.934 |  | 63.666 | 51.835 |  |
| 2400 | travel | 384.220 | 394.943 | 425,825 | 542.107 |  | 459,891 | 533.021 |  |
| 2500 | RENT | 10,281 | 4.811 | $11.2<1$ | 10.519 |  | 12.063 | 5.292 |  |
| 2000 | UTILItIES | 932 | 1.167 | 1.165 | 1.735 |  | 1.304 | 2.010 |  |
| 2700 | REPAIR E MAINTENANCE | 50.307 | 15.315 | 32.610 | 18.982 |  | 35.382 | 20.519 |  |
| 2800 | OTHER EXPENSES | 21.727 | 0.581 | 19.195 | 19.195 |  | 3.382 | 3.382 |  |
| 2900 | GOODS PURCHASEO FOR RESALE |  |  | 127.000 |  |  | 127.000 |  |  |
|  | toral first level | 630.440 | 499.897 | 777,746 | 734,104 |  | 813.200 | 710.147 |  |
| 3100 | EGUIPMENT | 10.397 | 3,454 | 11.197 | 10.397 |  | 11.197 | 10,397 |  |
| 3200 | LIVESTGCK | 347 |  |  | coo |  |  | 800 |  |
|  | tatal first level | 10.744 | 3.454 | 11.197 | 11.197 |  | 11.197 | 11.197 |  |



AGENCY : SZO1 DEPARTMENI GF FISHE GAME
PRUGRAM : 04 LAW ENFORCEMLIVI DIVISION

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\text { BUDGET } 81 \\
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|  | Recommended FY 1982 |  |  |  |  | Recommended FY 1983 |  |  |
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|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated FY 1981 | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 13.44 | 14.94 | 9.50 | 2.00 | 11.50 | 8.00 | 3.50 | 11.50 |

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281,367 \\
157,875 \\
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439,242
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ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM - This program includes executive leadership font policies and priorities and regulates the harvest of fish, game and furbearers by seting regulations that establice the opening and closing of seas and established by the legislature, Governor and the Fish and Game Commission.

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\$ 439,242
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439,242 \\
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\$ 439,242
$$ Director s office and associated staff services. The Commission sets department policies and priorities and regulates the

CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated FY 1981 | Recon <br> Current Level Services | nended FY <br> Modified <br> Services | Total | Reco <br> Current Level <br> Services | nended FY <br> Modified <br> Services | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 29.30 | 29.12 | 23.39 | 1.50 | 24.89 | 20.25 | 4.98 | 25.23 |
| Personal Services | 530,504 | 567,908 | 531,848 | 28,122 | 559,970 | 447,010 | 75,701 | 522,711 |
| Operating Expenses | 491,024 | 335,370 | 470,557 | 39,462 | 510,019 | 484,445 | 72,717 | 557,162 |
| Equipment | 14,618 | 6,500 | 0 | 4,500 | 4,500 | 0 | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM | \$ $1,036,146$ | \$909,778 | \$1,002,405 | \$72,084 | \$1,074,489 | \$931,455 | \$155,918 | \$1,087, 373 |
| Earmarked Revenue Fund | 839,076 | 909,778 | 793,885 | 72,084 | 865,969 | 722,490 | 155,918 | 878,408 |
| Fed \& Priv Revenue Fnd | 1,184 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 195,886 | $\underline{0}$ | 208,520 | $\underline{0}$ | 208,520 | 208,965 | 0 | 208,965 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | \$ $1,036,146$ | \$909,778 | \$1,002,405 | \$72,084 | \$1,074,489 | \$931,455 | \$155,918 | \$1,087, 373 |
| CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM - This program exists to assist the department in rea well-designed public information and education programs. The program informs the pu laws, administrative rules and policies that are designed to regulate outdoor recrea awareness of the responsibilities of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in state go fish, wildlife and parks; educates the public about the needs of fish and wildlife and the cultural resources associated with outdoor recreation, informs citizens of issues that may various forms of outdoor recreation; fosters good will and support for the department communication and cooperation among sportsmen, landowners, and the department. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

PARKS PROGRAM

|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated <br> FY 1981 | Reco <br> Current Level Services | mended FY <br> Modified <br> Services | Total | Recon <br> Current Level Services | mended FY <br> Modified <br> Services | $83$ <br> Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 81.14 | 80.29 | 74.94 | 4.42 | 79.36 | 70.90 | 9.66 | 80.56 |
| Personal Services | 1,077,650 | 1,275,402 | 1,162,398 | 45,052 | 1,207,450 | 1,021,661 | 141,685 | 1,163,346 |
| Operating Expenses | 717,906 | 654,311 | 670,274 | 64,861 | 735,135 | 681,096 | 152,864 | 833,960 |
| Equipment | 45,379 | 2,200 | 0 | 7,426 | 7,426 | - | 16,950 | 16,950 |
| Total Operating Costs | 1,840,935 | 1,931,913 | 1,832,672 | 117,339 | 1,950,011 | 1,702,757 | 311,499 | 2,014,256 |
| Local Assistance | 13,579 | 4,676 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grants | 1,248,507 | 1,200,000 | 1,250,000 | 0 | 1,250,000 | 1,150,000 | 0 | 1,150,000 |
| Transfers | 25,790 | 101,926 | 0 | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ |
| TOTAL PROGRAM | \$3,128,811 | \$3,238, 515 | \$3,082,672 | \$117,339 | \$3,200,011 | \$2,852,757 | \$311,499 | \$3, 164, 256 |
| General Fund | 515,515 | 541,811 | 595,992 | 0 | 595,992 | 655,591 | 0 | 655,591 |
| Earmarked Revenue Fund | 1,213,101 | 1,382,404 | 1,110,270 | 113,819 | 1,224,089 | 908,183 | 307,293 | 1,215,476 |
| Fed \& Priv Revenue Fnd | 151,688 | 114,300 | 126,410 | 3,520 | 129,930 | 138,983 | 4,206 | 143,189 |
| Fed \& Priv Grt Clr Fnd | 1,248,507 | 1,200,000 | 1,250,000 | 0 | 1,250,000 | 1,150,000 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,150,000 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | \$3,128,811 | \$3,238,515 | \$3,082,672 | \$117,339 | \$3,200,011 | \$2,852,757 | \$311,499 | \$3, 164,256 |

[^0]WILDLIFE PROGRAM

| WILDLIFE PROGRAM |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Actual } \\ & \text { FY } 1980 \end{aligned}$ | Estimated FY 1981 | Recommended FY 1982 |  |  | Recommended FY 1983 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 92.99 | 92.99 | 80.00 | 10.49 | 90.49 | 76.00 | 10.49 | 86.49 |
| Personal Services | 1,869,257 | 2,058,530 | 1,782,284 | 193,605 | 1,975,889 | 1,723,024 | 193,605 | 1,916,629 |
| Operating Expenses | 630,440 | 499,897 | 662,764 | 71,340 | 734,104 | 638,807 | 71,340 | 710,147 |
| Equipment | 10,744 | 3,454 | 11,197 | 0 | 11,197 | 11,197 | 0 | 11,197 |
| Total Operating Costs | 2,510,441 | 2,561,881 | 2,456,245 | 264,945 | 2,721,190 | 2,373,028 | 264,945 | 2,637,973 |
| Transfers | $\underline{0}$ | 126,838 | 150,000 | $\underline{0}$ | 150,000 | 150,000 | 0 | 150,000 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM | \$2,510,441 | \$2, 688, 719 | \$2,606,245 | \$264, 945 | \$2,871,190 | \$2,523,028 | \$264,945 | \$2, 787,973 |
| Earmarked Revenue Fund | 2,404,453 | 2,605,931 | 2,550,370 | 264,945 | 2,815,315 | 2,467,153 | 264,945 | 2,732,098 |
| Fed \& Priv Revenue Fnd | 105,988 | 82,788 | 55,875 | $\underline{0}$ | 55,875 | 55,875 | 0 | 55,875 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | \$2,510,441 | \$2,688,719 | \$2,606,245 | \$264,945 | \$2,871,190 | \$2,523,028 | \$264,945 | \$2,787, 973 |
| LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM - This program is responsible for protecting fish and wildife and recreation, historical, and archaeological sites from willful or negligent destruction. protect fish and wildife resources for posterity, promoting their wise and equitable training in the areas of hunter safety, boat safety and snowmobile safety. It also maintai license agents and issues and administers the provisions of special purpose licenses. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated <br> FY 1981 | ```Reco Current Level Services``` | mended FY <br> Modified <br> Services | Total | Reco <br> Current Level <br> Services | nended FY <br> Modified <br> Services | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 102.70 | 82.35 | 76.24 | 5.91 | 82.15 | 68.10 | 14.05 | 82.15 |
| Personal Services | 1,672,321 | 1,629,054 | 1,515,660 | 65,008 | 1,580,668 | 1,311,644 | 205,720 | 1,517,364 |
| Operating Expenses | 637,069 | 585,253 | 571,618 | 95,090 | 666,708 | 544,153 | 66,713 | 610,866 |
| Equipment | 69,349 | 14,073 | 14,073 | 12,675 | 26,748 | 13,496 | 5,644 | 19,140 |
| Total Operating Costs | 2,378,739 | 2,228,380 | 2,101,351 | 172,773 | 2,274,124 | 1,869,293 | 278,077 | 2,147, 370 |
| Capital Outlay | 449 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 0 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 0 | 4,000 |
| Grants | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16,000 | 16,000 |
| Transfers | 0 | 3,483 | 0 | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ | 0 | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ |
| TOTAL PROGRAM | \$2, 379, 188 | \$2,235,863 | \$2,105,351 | \$172,773 | \$2,278,124 | \$1,873,293 | \$294, 077 | \$2, 167,370 |
| Earmarked Revenue Fund | 1,259,309 | 1,389,669 | 1,196,421 | 81,877 | 1,278,298 | 1,141,051 | 154,002 | 1,295,053 |
| Fed \& Priv Revenue Fnd | 1,119,879 | 846,194 | 908,930 | 90,896 | 999,826 | 732,242 | 140,075 | 872,317 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | \$2,379,188 | \$2,235,863 | \$2,105,351 | \$172,773 | \$2,278,124 | \$1,873,293 | \$294,077 | \$2,167,370 |
| FISHERIES PROGRAM resident and nonreside operations are compati | This progr anglers and le with spo | manages Montana's fisheries resources to provide optimum sport fishing for Montana's regulates commercial utilization of nongame fish and fishing areas where commercial fishing. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES PROGRAM


| $1$ | 1 | 1 DEPA | Kirient ur Fist | VILluLIte | YARKS | 1 I | 1 | 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CENTRALIZED SERVICES PROGRAM |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\cdots$ | Recommended FY 1982 |  |  |  |  | Recommended FY 1983 |  |  |
|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated <br> FY 1981 | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 72.60 | 69.16 | 54.15 | 8.50 | 62.65 | 53.15 | 9.50 | 62.65 |
| Personal Services | 1,024,853 | 1,154,311 | 974,231 | 135,756 | 1,109,987 | 856,830 | 155,242 | 1,012,072 |
| Operating Expenses | 1,080,401 | 666,348 | 810,533 | 2,700 | 813,233 | 898,945 | 9,050 | 907,995 |
| Equipment | 13,290 | - | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ | - | - | $\underline{0}$ | $\underline{0}$ |
| Total Operating Costs | 2,118,544 | 1,820,659 | 1,784,764 | 138,456 | 1,923,220 | 1,755,775 | 164,292 | 1,920,067 |
| Grants | 238,655 | 252,190 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfers | $\underline{0}$ | 14,499 | 1,075,833 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,075,833 | 1,183,417 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,183,417 |
| TOTAL PROGRAM | \$2,357,199 | \$2,087,348 | \$2,860,597 | \$138,456 | \$2,999,053 | \$2,939,192 | \$164,292 | \$3,103,484 |
| Earmarked Revenue Fund | 2,256,438 | 1,985,110 | 1,605,810 | 138,456 | 1,744,266 | 1,576,821 | 164,292 | 1,741,113 |
| Fed \& Priv Revenue Find | 100,761 | 75,860 | 178,954 | 0 | 178,954 | 178,954 | 0 | 178,954 |
| Bond Prc\& Ins Clr Fnd | 0 | 26,378 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 1,075,833 | 0 | 1,075,833 | 1,183,417 | 0 | 1,183,417 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | \$2,357,199 | \$2,087,348 | \$2,860,597 | \$138,456 | \$2,999,053 | \$2,939,192 | \$164,292 | \$3,103,484 |
| CENTRALIZED SERVICES budgeting, accounting, direct license sales, including information regional supervision an | PROGRAM - This program is an administrative and service unit that provides direct supervision over cashiering, claims, purchasing, personnel, payroll and property. All license consignments, and special drawings are supervised through this division. Many special services are also provided, istribution, educational activities, print shop, warehousing, legal services, land acquisition, and d support services. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

SUMMARY (Continued)

|  | Recommended FY 1982 |  |  |  |  | Recommended FY 1983Current Level Modified |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated FY 1981 | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total | Current Level Services | Modified Services | Total |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 520.30 | 495.11 | 425.05 | 37.32 | 462.37 | 396.95 | 62.89 | 459.84 |
| FUNDING SUMMARY : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| General Fund | 515,515 | 541,811 | 595,992 | 0 | 595,992 | 655,591 | 0 | 655,591 |
| Earmarked Revenue | 11,899,397 | 11,809,944 | 9,429,323 | 802,509 | 10,231,832 | 9,102,313 | 1,328,647 | 10,430,960 |
| Fed \& Private Revenue | 6,368,932 | 7,738,167 | 4,622,773 | 225,033 | 4,847,806 | 5,180,268 | 402,468 | 5,582,736 |
| Fed \& Priv. Grant Clr. | 1,248,507 | 1,200,000 | 1,250,000 | 0 | 1,250,000 | 1,150,000 | 0 | 1,150,000 |
| Bond Proc. \& Ins. Clr. | 0 | 26,378 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 195,886 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,284,353 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,284,353 | 1,392,382 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,392, 382 |
| TOTAL BY FUND | \$20,228,237 | \$21,316,300 | \$17,182,441 | \$1,027,542 | \$18,209,983 | \$17,480,554 | \$1,731,115 | \$19,211,669 |


| SUMMARY | Recommended FY 1982 |  |  |  |  | Recommended FY 1983 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Actual <br> FY 1980 | Estimated <br> FY 1981 | Reco <br> Current Level Services | mmended FY Modified Services | Total | Reco <br> Current Level Services | mended FY Modified Services | 983 ${ }^{\text {Total }}$ |
| FULL TIME EQUIVALENT | 520.30 | 495.11 | 425.05 | 37.32 | 462.37 | 396.95 | 62.89 | 459.84 |
| PROGRAM SUMMARY : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Centralized Services | 2,357,199 | 2,087,348 | 2,860,597 | 138,456 | 2,999,053 | 2,939,192 | 164,292 | 3,103,484 |
| Ecological Services | 716,285 | 1,000,148 | 926,557 | 28,773 | 955,330 | 888,904 | 153,362 | 1,042,266 |
| Fisheries | 2,379,188 | 2,235,863 | 2,105,351 | 172,773 | 2,278,124 | 1,873,293 | 294,077 | 2,167,370 |
| Law Enforcement | 2,510,441 | 2,688,719 | 2,606,245 | 264,945 | 2,871,190 | 2,523,028 | 264,945 | 2,787,973 |
| Wildlife | 2,693,567 | 2,826,215 | 2,646,979 | 182,202 | 2,829,181 | 2,532,389 | 301,648 | 2,834,037 |
| Parks | 3,128,811 | 3,238,515 | 3,082,672 | 117,339 | 3,200,011 | 2,852,757 | 311,499 | 3,164,256 |
| Capital Outlay | 4,978,146 | 5,832,958 | 1,584,832 | - 0 | 1,584,832 | 2,585,668 | 0 | 2,585,668 |
| Conservation Education | 1,036,146 | 909,778 | 1,002,405 | 72,084 | 1,074,489 | 931,455 | 155,918 | 1,087,373 |
| Administration | 428,454 | 496,756 | 366,803 | 50,970 | 417,773 | 353,868 | 85,374 | 439,242 |
| TOTAL BY PROGRAM | \$20,228,237 | \$21,316,300 | \$17, 182, 441 | \$ $1,027,542$ | \$18,209,983 | \$17,480,554 | \$1,731,115 | \$19,211, 669 |
| CATEGORY SUMMARY : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Personal Services | 8,603,862 | 9,521,306 | 8,447,455 | 570,538 | 9,017,993 | 7,655,596 | 1,037,381 | 8,692,977 |
| Operating Expenses | 4,902,585 | 4,034,397 | 4,593,016 | 416,803 | 5,009,819 | 4,688,443 | 633,940 | 5,322,383 |
| Equipment | 208,076 | 48,444 | 44,507 | 27,601 | 72,108 | 43,430 | 39,594 | 83,024 |
| Total Operating Costs | 13,714,523 | 13,604,147 | 13,084,978 | 1,014,942 | 14,099,920 | 12,387,469 | 1,710,915 | 14,098,384 |
| Capital Outlay | 4,330,094 | 5,836,958 | 1,588,832 | 0 | 1,588,832 | 2,589,668 | 0 | 2,589,668 |
| Local Assistance | 13,579 | 4,676 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grants | 1,495,750 | 1,480,488 | 1,282,798 | 12,600 | 1,295,398 | 1,170,000 | 20,200 | 1,190,200 |
| Transfers | 674,291 | 390,031 | 1,225,833 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,225,833 | 1,333,417 | $\underline{0}$ | 1,333,417 |
| TOTAL BY CATEGORY | \$20,228,237 | \$21,316,300 | \$17,182,441 | \$1,027,542 | \$18,209,983 | \$17,480,554 | \$1,731,115 | \$19,211,669 |

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Park's purpose is to preserve, protect, enhance, maintain and make available to present and future generations all forms of Montana's wildlife, their habitat and the natural and cultural resources of aesthetic, scenic, historic, scientific and archaeological significance. The Department's statewide responsibility in service to wildlife and habitat preservation reaches back over 75 years to the establishment in 1901 of a state game warden and early departmental structure. Since 1965, the Department has also been responsible for the administration of the State Parks System and for the administration of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in Montana. The Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act charges the Department with the management of nongame wildlife for human enjoyment, for scientific purposes, and to ensure their perpetuation as members of ecosystems. The Department is provided for in 2-15-3401, MCA.

## POLICY ISSUE:

The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is funded primarily with dedicated revenues which do not increase along with costs in periods of inflation. In the upcoming biennium, the current level of operation cannot be maintained without increasing revenues; therefore, this budget recommends various fee and service change increases. Adoption of the modified requests will continue operations at the level currently authorized. The recommended fee increases will maintain the current level of operation, to include approximately 50.00 FTE positions currently filled.

# REVIEW OF THE <br> DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMPUTERIZED LICENSING AND DRAWING SYSTEM 

Submitted by:
James D. Williams
Office of Budget and Program Planning
April 30, 1980

During a routine Legislative audit of the financial statements of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department officials requested an in-depth review of the license drawing system. There were major problems with the 1977 drawing and the department wanted the review to initiate corrective action. As a result of the audit report the Department began developing a new computerized licensing system. This program was started in the interim before the 46 th Legislative Session with excess FY 78 earmarked appropriations.

The audit report described in detail the management problems relating to the license drawing system. In another section, the report criticized the Department's accounting for license revenue. The report listed 11 specific problems with the drawing system and made approximately 30 recommendations to solve these problems. ${ }^{1}$

The Department made the decision to hire a contractor to develop a new computerized license and information system. In testimony given to the Appropriations Subcommittee, Department officials stated it was necessary to start from "scratch" ${ }^{2}$ because the system was so poorly designed and documented that it was inoperable. The new system was to be designed and implemented in 2 phases. Phase I, which has been completed, is the plastic card system. This provides the Department with dealer accounting, a data base for mail surveys, and various optional routines for developing special reports for enforcement purposes. Phase II, which is currently being worked on by the contractor, will be completed in June of 1981. ${ }^{3}$ This phase of the project is the redevelopment of the drawing system. The 1979 drawings were completed on the old system, with modifications made to existing programs.

The Department estimated that the cost of the three year contract would be approximately $\$ 300,000$. In the first year or during FY 79 the development cost would be approximately $\$ 160,000$. During FY 79 the four centers that make up the Licensing Section of the Department expended $\$ 956,294.00$ of current appropriations and $\$ 116,458.29$ in prior year's accruals. The total budget for the Licensing Section for the same period was $\$ 678,353.29 .^{4}$ The net budget allocation overdraft for FY 1979 was $\$ 394,399$, which according to Department officials, was caused by unanticipated costs in developing the new system. In other words, the first year costs of developing and operating Phase I of the new system exceeded the original three year estimate of $\$ 300,000$ for both phases. During the first half of FY 80 the License Section increased its budget allocation $\$ 120,000$ above original estimates when the current operating budget was formulated. It is only fair to point out that the Department as a whole did not overexpend the budget. However, the overdraft of the budget allocation in FY 79 and the increased budget allocation for the current year came at the cost of decreasing available resources to other activities in the Department.

Reasons for Overruns
It is difficult to point to one particular set of facts or circumstances as being the cause of running the costs far beyond original estimates. However, in our opinion there are several things internally and externally that led to the financial problems that the Department is experiencing in developing and implementing the system.

1) The Department may have over reacted to the problems with the 1977 drawings and the Legislative Auditor's recommendations to rectify the problems. The Legislative Auditor's Office was requested by the Department to do an in-depth overview of problems that occurred
in the 1977 special license drawings. The report dealt only with the problems of the drawing system. The report did not recommend a complete overhaul of the entire license and drawing system and as noted previously the 1979 drawings were run on the old system.
2) The system design proposal submitted by the contractor lists approximately thirty reports and/or routines that the new system would produce. Currently the Licensing Section is using only about five ${ }^{5}$ of these reports and plans to use only ten or twelve when the system is totally operational. According to Department officials, the reason why the Department isn't using more of the reports is because they are too expensive to produce. We have been told by individuals in the data processing field that day-to-day operational costs should be determined before system development begins.
3) Another factor contributing to the high development cost is the applicant preference system for drawings of special limited permits for moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. This is referred to as the "year's preference system". It was established by the Commission in 1973 and gives hunters who have not drawn a permit in 5 years an advantage or preference in the next drawing. Rule $12-2-6$ states that $75 \%$ of the licenses available for species in each district ${ }^{6}$ shall be allocated to hunters with preference. The remaining $25 \%$ are available to hunters that do not have preference. The rule also states that no more than $10 \%$ of available permits will be drawn by non-residents. During the 1979 season they processed 30,959 moose, ${ }^{7}$ sheep and goat permit applications for 107 districts. The Commission takes the first step in the preference process by setting harvest quotes for each district. Once the applications have been received the processing begins. To comply with the Preference Rule, parameters have to be programmed into the computer
to: 1) establish the correct number of year's preference for every applicant. Each additional year of preference gives the applicant an advantage in the drawing. Therefore the system has to have the capability of running numerous drawings with a different advantage or preference base. 2) Edits have to be programmed into the system to insure that $75 \%$ of the available permits go to applicants with preference and that $25 \%$ of the permits go to the applicants who do not have preference and that no more than $10 \%$ of available permits will be drawn by non-residents.

We have briefly covered the base requirements that have to be programmed into the "year's preference" computerized drawing system. There are two other types of preference systems that the Department is required to operate. One is landowners preference which was established by adminstrative rule and the other was established by statute which gives unsuccessful elk and antelope drawing applicants a preference in special drawings.

The requirements of the year's preference rule makes the computer program that operates the system very complex and expensive to maintain. As more hunters elect the preference option the problems and costs increase.

In discussion with license officials in Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, we found that Montana's preference systems are unique. ${ }^{9}$ None of the states polled use a preference system for license drawings. Oregon had a preference system at one time but because of the increasing numbers of applicants, it became too difficult to administer and expensive to operate.

In addition to the technical and financial problems with developing and maintaining the system, Department officials also point out the difficulties subsequent applicants will have in drawing one of the permits within a reasonable time period. They cite the example of a
youngster 12 years old in 1979. ${ }^{10}$ Under the preference system he will not have a minimum preference until 1983, and because of the number of applicants ahead of him he could be middle-aged before he draws a permit. Figure 1 shows a comparison of applications for moose, sheep and goats with available permits. From this chart we can see that the odds against drawing a permit to hunt one of the three species involved in the year's preference system are great. The chart also shows that the number of applicants increased by $19 \%$ from 1977 to 1978. Average odds for each species are shown in figure 2 . The problems of drawing permits through the year's preference system was illustrated by the Department in a hand-out distributed at public meetings held throughout the state. The . department stated in part that ... "If everyone with at least 1-year preference faithfully applies each year for a special permit, it will take about 30 years for everyone to get at least 1 moose permit ( 600 permits/yr.), 24 years to get a limited sheep permit (200/permits/yr.) and 12 years to get a goat permit. These time periods could be extended even longer if:
(1) additional hunters begin building preference; and/or
(2) number of limited permits are reduced."

When the preference rule was established in 1973 it was impossible to predict the problems that are inherent in developing and implementing this type of system. However since the inception of the rule, data is available that suggests that as the system increases, problems and costs also increase.

Figure \#1

| $\underline{\text { Year }}$ | Number of Applicants | Available Permits |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1978 | 31,128 | 1,601 |
| 1977 | $\frac{26,158}{4,970}$ | $\underline{1,167}$ |

Figure 非2.

| Species |  | Average <br> Odds |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $33:$ |
| Moose |  | 1 |
| Sheep |  | $50:$ |
| Goat | $11:$ | 1 |

Increase in License Bureau Staff
Since the inception of the preference rule, the License Bureau has grown from 8.00 FTE to their present authorization of 13.34 FTE's. ${ }^{11}$ Two of the total authorized which are data processing positions have not been hired. These two positions were justified on the basis of reducing maintenance cost on programs used to operate the new system. It is difficult to compare License Bureau costs five years ago with the present operation because of inflation and the change in scope of the licensing operation. However, the FTE authorization has increased 67 percent over the same period.

Summary
The reasons for the high cost for developing the computerized license and drawing system are numerous. The Licensing Bureau has had to react to various rule and statute changes that affect the licensing process without the benefit of analysis of probable costs. The Department was severely criticized for their administration of the 1977 drawings. Montana's preference system is unique - none of the four western states operate one. This caused the Department to pioneer the development of a computerized preference drawing system. The size of the staff has increased 67 percent while the total number of licenses and permits sold in the last 5 years has increased less than 5 percent.

## Conclusion

It is our opinion that the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks should adopt the general policy of reducing the costs of the computerized licensing and drawing system.

1) The Department should reduce the scope of the system so that it is less complicated and conforms to what other states are doing in the area.
2) Establish non-refundable fees for participation in all special drawings. This would make the operation more self-sustaining and would reduce refunding costs.
3) Ask the commission to review the year's preference system to determine if it is doing what it was intended to do based on actual cost and other data that is currently available.
4) Establish a more formal cost analysis system for proposed rules and statute changes for licenses and permits. This would inform the commission or Legislature of the cost implication of proposed changes

It is not our intention to recommend that the new system be cut back to a point where it is not useful. However, it is our opinion that unusually high system costs remove scarce resources from the actual management of fish and wildlife, and reflects on the Department's ability to manage these resources.
${ }^{1}$ "Department of Fish and Game Report on Examination of Financial Statements," Office of the Legislative Auditor, p. 45, 6/30/77.
${ }^{2}$ Appropriation Sub-committee Minutes, 1/24/79.
${ }^{3}$ Personal communication with Larry Putnam and Jim Herman, 1/9/80.
${ }^{4}$ SBAS 661 Reports, 6/30/79; SBAS Accrued Expenditure Subsidiary Detail Ledger for Fiscal Year End, 1979.
${ }^{5}$ Fred L. Sheperd, May 1978, "Conservation Licensing Processing Proposed System Design".
${ }^{6}$ Montana Administrative Code, p. 1487.
${ }^{7}$ Licensing Bureau statistics for 1979 and 1978.
${ }^{8}$ Personal communications with Larry Putnam and Jim Herman, 1/9/80.
${ }^{\mathfrak{9}}$ Telephone communication with licensing officials in Wyoming, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, February, 1980.

10"Special Limited Big Game Permit Drawings - The Five Year Preference Plan," Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
${ }^{11}$ Personal communication with Jim Herman, 12/11/79.

## Introduction

The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of selling or leasing certain lands owned by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to establish a trust fund with sufficient annual yield to assist in the financing of State Park operation and maintenance. This study is a follow-up of a study prepared by this office entitled Alternative Methods of Funding Montana's State Park System by Michael Koehnke, in January of 1978.

Background
The Parks Division operates and maintains 177 outdoor areas with operating costs of approximately $\$ 2$ million per year.

Table 1 illustrates the funding source for FY 80 for the Parks Division. The general fund finances the largest share of the Division's proposed expenditures. Although the number of Park areas that require management has increased in the past 5 years, general fund monies appropriated by the last three legislatures have not increased significantly.

Gasoline tax revenue (motorboat and snowmobile fuel) probably will not increase as it has in the past because of the oil crisis. Gasoline tax collections for FY 80 are $13 \%$ behind projections for the period of 7/1/79 through 3/30/80. BOR-Land and Water Conservation funds also could be reduced because of current attitudes in Congress. If the Division is to maintain park areas at a reasonable level and acquire additional areas, new sources of revenue will have to be developed. Table $\# 1$.

Funding Summary for Parks and Recreation Division For Fiscal Year 1980

|  |  |  | Percent <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> Amount Appropriated |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| of Total |  |  |  |


|  | Percent <br> Amount Appropriated |
| :--- | :--- |
| of Total |  |


| Coal Tax | 80,908 | 5 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Snowmobile Fuel Tax | 165,505 | 8 |
| Snowmobile Registration | 20,000 | 1 |
| Motorboat Fuel Tax | 338,851 | 17 |
| Park F\&PRA L.W.C.F. | 105,345 | 6 |
| Fishing Access Site Maintenance | 75,778 | 3 |
| 2HB 891 F\&PRA \& E.R.A. | 43,895 | 2 |
| ${ }^{3}$ Disaster Assistance | 100,000 | 5 |
|  | $\$ \underline{1,992,733}$ | $\underline{100} \%$ |

${ }^{1} \mathrm{HB} 891$ funds are included in the amount.
${ }^{2} \mathrm{HB} 891$ appropriations for the Federal and Earmarked Funds are combined. ${ }^{3}$ One time appropriation.

Table 2 illustrates the general fund amounts appropriated by the last three legislatures and the number of parks acquired during the same periods. The number of park areas added is not as significant as is the type of facility installed in those areas. Division officials have stated that the new parks have been equipped with facilities that are more expensive to maintain (e.g. toilets, shelters, and the like). Table \#2.

## General Fund Appropriations and Park Acquisitions

| Appropriations | FY 76-77 | FY 78-79 | FY $80-81$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Appropriations | 979,058 | 906,617 | 984,396 |
| Park Areas | 243 | 261 | 273 |

Land Owned or Controlled by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
The Department began purchasing land in 1908 with the acquisition of the Anaconda Fish Hatchery. After World War II, the Sun River Game Range was purchased with the aid of federal funds. This was the first of several purchases of large tracts of land for game management purposes.

The Department categorizes land purchases into six groups by function or use.

1) Game Management Areas - These areas are purchased for the purpose of providing big game wintering areas and waterfowl rearing areas.
2) Fishing Access Areas - These areas are purchased to provide permanent public access to fishing waters.
3) State Parks, Monuments, and Recreation Areas - These areas are acquired because of their "scenic, scientific, historical, archeological, or recreational significance."
4) Fish Hatcheries - The Department owns and operates 14 fish hatcheries and spawn stations.
5) Administrative Sites - The Department owns 15 small parcels of land for regional headquarters, warehouses, patrol cabins, and checking stations.
6) Bird Farms - The Department owns two bird farms.

The department's land holdings are displayed in Table III.
Table \#3.
Land Holdings of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks by Category

| Category | Purchased | Acres Leased | Totals |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Administrative Sites | 221.66 | 20.35 | 242.01 |
| includes bird farms | + 8 lots |  | $+8 \mathrm{lots}$ |
| Game Management Areas | 173,113.07 | 111,783.99 | 284,897.06 |
| Fish Hatcheries and |  |  |  |
| Spawning Stations | 283.53 | 68.82 | 352.35 |
| Fishing Access Areas State Parks, Monuments, and Recreation Areas | 12,473.39 | 1,643.84 | 14,117.23 |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & 16,397.35 \\ & +58 \text { lots } \end{aligned}$ | 9,897.49 | $\begin{array}{r} 26,294.84 \\ +58 \text { lots } \end{array}$ |
| Total Acres Purchased a Leased | and |  |  |
|  | 213,905. 35 +66 lots | 123,414.49 | $\begin{array}{r} 325,903.49 \\ +66 \text { lots } \end{array}$ |
|  | Cos |  |  |
| Total Costs \$ | \$12,240,905.31 | \$23,953.44 | 264,858.75 |

Lands are acquired by three methods. The largest share of the land owned by the Department was purchased with federal funds matched with state funds from various sources using varing matching ratios. The remainder of the Department's land was acquired by trades and bequests. Department officials estimate that three fourths of the lands owned by the Department was purchased with some federal funding. The sources of federal funds are the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Land and Water Conservation Act, and the Dingle-Johnson and Pittman Robertson acts. All of the acts contain some type of reversion provision. Reversion provisions insure that the proceeds from the sale of any lands purchased with federal funds are refunded or reinvested in the federal share similar properties in proportions the federal investment. Section 87-1-201, MCA, provides that proceeds from the sale of land purchased with hunting and fishing license fees shall be deposited to the credit of the Fish and Game Earmarked Revenue Fund.

The proceeds of any land sold that was originally purchased with General funds also reverts to the general fund. Lands acquired by bequest also have reversion clauses which stipulate that the land reverts to the original owners if it is not being used as intended. Current Department Policy on Land Acquistion and Surplus Lands

In June of 1977 , policies on land acquisitions and surplus lands were adopted by the Fish and Game Commission. In addition to a general policy statement the Commission set forth numerous guidelines to be considered when land acquisitions are made. In my opinion the guidelines make it almost impossible to establish a reasonable method for declaring certain lands surplus. This opinion has been corroberated by others in the department. For example, the policy states in part ...
"Acquisition of land for preserving and enhancing wildlife habitat will be done in a manner that will provide the highest amount of public benefits for the cost of land, its development, and management based on criteria:

1) that consider the needs and desires of the people for wildlifeoriented recreation including access to public lands, and all possible tangible and intangible values of wildlife:
2) that recognize the capabilities of the land to produce optimum and/or diverse supplies of wildlife;
3) that consider the overall positive and negative impacts of each potential purchase;
4) that evaluate all possible alternatives, including acquisition of interests less than fee title, to provide the same public benefits in accordance with stated wildlife program goals and objectives;
5) that utilize a continually upgraded selection process, to establish a statewide priority of proposed wildlife habitat acquisition including cost effectiveness procedures."

The policy also provides direction for disposition of lands that are declared surplus. According to Department officials, it is very difficult to get complete agreement by land managers as to what is surplus because of the diverse interests the Department serves. For example, lands not suitable for big game habitat may serve as open areas for parks.

Department officials state that, in spite of confusing policy and internal conflicts, there are lands that are surplus to their needs. If sold, these lands would generate a substantial amount of money for a trust to finance the operations of state parks, provided the legal barriers were removed and policy changes were made.

Listed below are the four parcels of land that are considered surplus. This is not a complete listing of lands that could be considered surplus. To determine all land in this category, based on the Commissions' guidelines, would require reviewing approximately 500 files and conducting on site inspections.

Land Values
The approximate value of the lands listed in Table 4 were estimated by the Department's Land Agent and were not the result of a certified appraisal.

Closer estimation of the properties, local market conditions, and other factors may show that the approximate value used for each parcel in Table 4 may be understated or overstated. For example, item 1 in Table 4 is a block of land that is contiguous with the Bridger Bowl Ski Area. Bridger Bowl leases part of it for skiing. If this parcel was sold to the primary landowner in the area, which is the Forest Service, it would bring approximately $\$ 300.00$ per acre. If it were subdivided it could bring $\$ 35,000.00$ per acre. This estimate is based on bid prices for private land that currently is being subdivided on the north side of the ski area. Item 3 represents the value of land owned by the Department within the city of Three Forks. The current economic condition in Three Forks is depressed because of the closure of the Milwaukee Railroad.

The value placed on that tract of land could be overstated.

Table \#4.

## SURPLUS STATE LANDS

## Description and Location

1) Mountainous Land - Bridger Bowl
2) Grasslands - Rosebud Battle Field
3) Cityland - Three Forks
4) Canyon (steep side hill) - Sweet Grass

| Funding <br> Source | Total <br> Acreage |  |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | | Approximate |
| :---: |
| Value |

If the approximate value projection proves to be accurate, the proceeds from the land sales could be invested through the Department of Administration's Investment Division with an average annual return rate of $13.74 \%$. This would give the Park's Division an additional $\$ 77,000.00$ for maintenance of state park areas. The additional funding would be approximately $3 \%$ of the funds available to operate the Division for FY 80.

Conclusion
Proceeds from the sale of certain state lands owned by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks could yield an income if the statutes that regulate the disposition of land sale proceeds and Commission policy were modified.

The percentage yield probably would be small compared to the primary source of funding for the division but it would expand the division's base and provide additional funds for operation and maintenance.

Table \#2.

# General Fund Appropriations and 

## Park Acquisitions

| Appropriations | FY 76-77 | FY 78-79 |  | FY 80-81 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Appropriations | 979,058 | 906,617 | 984,396 |  |
| Park Areas | 243 | 261 | 273 |  |

Table 非3.
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| Category | Purchased | Acres Leased | Totals |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| includes bird farms | + 8 lots |  | + 8 lots |
| Game Management Areas | 173,113.07 | 111,783.99 | 284,897.06 |
| Fish Hatcheries and Spawning Stations | 283.53 | 68.82 | 352.35 |
| Fishing Access Areas | 12,473.39 | 1,643.84 | 14,117.23 |
| State Parks, Monuments, and Recreation Areas | 16,397.35 <br> +58 lots | 9,897.49 | $\begin{array}{r} 26,294.84 \\ +58 \text { lots } \end{array}$ |
| Total Acres Purchased andLeased |  |  |  |
| Leased | 213,905. 35 | 123,414.49 | 325,903.49 |
|  | +66 lots |  | +66 lots |
| Cost |  |  |  |
| Total Costs \$ | \$12,240,905.31 | \$23,953.44 | \$12,264,858.75 |

Table 非 4.
SURPLUS STATE LANDS

Description and Location

1) Mountainous Land - Bridger Bowl
2) Grasslands - Rosebud Battle Field
3) Cityland - Three Forks
4) Canyon (steep side hill) - Sweet Grass

Funding
Source
Gen. Fund
Coal Tax
Fish Access
Fish Access

Total
Acreage
120
1800
6 city blks. 20

Approximate Value
\$ 36,000
450,000
60,000
5,000
$\$ 5 \overline{51,000}$

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$$

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE \& PARKS Maintenance of Existing Park Sites

## Part I

The Park Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife \& Parks has acquired more park sites than there are funds available for adequate operation and maintenance. Between July 1, 1979 and June 30, 1981, the Parks Division will have acquired approximately 16 new park sites that will require maintenance and improvements for which no funds were budgeted. In addition, approximately 30 existing sites have been receiving only marginal maintenance.

Included in this modification are requests for additional FTE's and funding for maintenance from the Snowmobile ERA and the Parks Division Earned Revenue Accounts. The third part of the modification is a request for general fund to add a part time FTE to solicit contributions of land and resources, primarily from corporations doing business in the state, to enhance the park system.

The Parks Division operates approximately 230 park sites throughout the state of Montana. The sites are classified into four groups. They are:

1. State Parks
2. State Monuments
3. Recreation Access
4. Fishing Access Sites

By Park Division definition, State Parks are areas which "provide high quality recreation experiences distinctive and notable enough to attract people on a state, regional, or national basis." There are ten State Parks in the system which include the Bannack ghost town, Giant Springs, and Lewis and Clark Caverns. State Monuments are areas or sites that have been set aside "to preserve, protect, and enhance objects, features, or places of
historical, geological, archaeological, or scientific importance, including commemoration of outstanding persons or events". There are sixteen State Monuments which include the Beaverhead Rock, the Madison Buffalo Jump, and the Rosebud Battlefield. State Recreation Areas "provide a broad selection of outdoor recreation opportunities in a natural setting which may be used by a large number of people". There are 59 State Recreation Areas that include the Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Beartooth Ranch, and Yellow Bay. State Fishing Access Sites "provide permanent, public access to high quality rivers, streams, and lakes. There are 144 access sites located throughout the state of Montana.

All 230 sites have improvements. The improvements range from access roads and fences at the smaller Fishing Access Sites to simple shelters, buildings, toilets, and interpretive devices at Recreation Areas and State Parks. According to a Park Division publication, 161 sites have toilets, 97 have boat ramps, and 148 have picnic areas with tables, fireplaces, etc. The total amount invested in improvements in the 230 park sites is substantial and should be protected. In addition, public relations with adjacent landowners are inhanced if park sites and access roads are kept clean and properly maintained.

Budget
FTE FY $1982 \quad$ FY 1983
A. Additional funding for salaries and supplies to maintain 16 newly acquired park sites
2.29
$\$ 44,288$
$\$ 44,288$
B. Additional funding for maintenance and caretaking services on existing park system sites.
5.85

180,448
180,448
Total
$\$ 224,736$
$\$ 224,736$
Funding: General Fund
\$213,236
\$213,236
Earmarked evenue Fund
Total
$\$ 224,736$
$\$ 224,736$

## Part II

Snowmobile Program - The snowmobile program relies heavily on contracted services for trail and site maintenance. The practice must be discontinued because it is contrary to existing federal and state statutes relating to contractors and employee and employer relationships.

Budget

|  | FTE | FY 1982 | FY 1983 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salaries | . 80 | \$ 3,200 | \$ 3,200 |
| Operations and Capital |  | 15,064 | 15,064 |
| Total |  | \$18,264 | \$18,264 |
| Funding: Snowmobile ERA |  | \$18,264 | \$18,264 |

## Part III

Contributions from the Private Sector - The Parks Division has received contributions from private sources in land or in some cases, money. Federal and state income tax laws allow certain tax concessions to individuals or corporations who donate property for park purposes. Division officials feel that a part time employee soliciting for donations would more than pay for the costs of implementing the program.

Budget

|  | FTE | FY 1982 | FY 1983 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Salaries | . 50 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Travel |  | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Total |  | \$11,000.00 | \$11,000.00 |
| Funding: General Fund |  | \$11,000.00 |  |

## Park Acquisition - Operations Policy

The Park Division by statute and department policy has been mandated to acquire as many park, fishing access, and recreation sites as possible. Section 23-1-103, MCA, states in part, "The department may designate lands
under its control as state parks ...., or by any designation .... remove or change the designation of any area .... or change the name of any area as designated." It is becoming more apparent, as the Park system grows, that the acquisition of the sites is just one part of the division's mission. Once the sites have been acquired, they have to be developed and maintained which is becoming more difficult because of financial constraints and the increased number of park sites. According to division officials, park sites that are not properly developed are not used. Existing park sites with developments that are not maintained become a blight to the area an cause problems with adjacent land owners. Funds invested in park improvements are lost because of a lack of maintenance. Statutes that provide funds for acquisition should be reviewed and modified so that additional operational funds are made available to properly maintain existing sites and protect the state's investment in them. The department should review existing policy on park acquisition and modify it to provide for better maintenance of existing park sites.

STATE<br>OF<br>MONTANA

# ATTORNEY GENERAL <br> MIKE GREELY 

STATE CAPITOL, HELENA, MONTANA 59601 TELEPHONE (406) 449-2026

20 January 1981
W. Gordon Mcomber, Director

Department of Agriculture
Agriculture/Livestock Building
Helena, Montana 59601
Dear Mr. McOmber:
You have requested my opinion regarding a number of questions related to expenditures from the funds of the wheat Research and Marketing Committee. The issues referred to in your correspondence are as follows:

1. Whether the Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee has the exclusive power to direct the expenditure of monies collected through the annual assessment on wheat and barley.
2. Whether funds collected through the annual assessment on wheat and barley may properly be expended to fund a portion of the centralized Services, Crop and Livestock Reporting, and Transportation Units of the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Before entering into a discussion of the legal issues presented by your inquiry, it is necessary to set forth summary background information. The Wheat Research and Marketing Committee is established and given direction by sections 80-11-201, et seq. and section 2-15-3002, MCA. The Committee is empowered pursuant to section 80-11-205, MCA, to provide for the conduct of research into the production, marketing, and uses of wheat and barley and to enter into contracts with various organizations for the purposes of improving wheat or barley quality, increasing efficient production, developing marketing knowledge, developing markets, determining new uses for wheat or barley, developing alternative crops for wheat and barley, and carrying out all research and marketing contemplated by the relevant statutes.

Funds for the operation of the Committee are derived from an annual assessment on wheat and barley set initially by statute at $2 \frac{1}{2}$ mills per bushel and thereafter set by the Committee. The assessment is levied and imposed on each
W. Gordon McOmber

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grower of wheat or barley in the state of Montana. It is, however, subject to refund if the grower submits a written request for the same to the Department of Agriculture between 30 and 90 days following the assessment. Section 80-11-207(4), MCA. In practice, this procedure is rarely utilized. Pursuant to section 80-11-210, an account is established in the federal and private revenue fund for deposits of all millage levies collected pursuant to the assessment and for the proceeds from all gifts, grants or donations to the Department for various types of research authorized by the statute. The statute goes on to direct that the account be kept separate and apart from all other accounts of the Department of Agriculture and shall be "maintained for the purposes of this part."

In both the 1977 and 1979 sessions a Joint Budget Subcommittee, in appropriating for the Department of Agriculture, determined that a portion of the grain assessment receipts be allocated to the Central Services division of the Department of Agriculture. That determination is part of the legislative history of the general appropriations bills for both sessions.

1. Whether The Montana Wheat Research and Marketing Committee Has The Exclusive Authority To Direct The Expenditure of Monies Collected Through The Assessment On Wheat And Barley.

Legislative control over expenditures of the various state agencies and boards such as the Wheat Committee has routinely been exercised through the power of appropriation. The source of the appropriation power is found at Article 8, section 14 of the Constitution of Montana 1972, which provides in part:

Except for interest on the public debt, no money shall be paid out of the treasury unless upon an appropriation made by law...

Restrictions on the appropriation power include a requirement that the legislature shall balance the budget and a requirement of strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent through the enactment of protective legislation. See Article VIII, sections 9 and ll, Constitution of Montana 1972.
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Pursuant to the Treasury Fund Structure Act of 1963 (sections 17-2-101, et seq., MCA), all funds received by state government are classified in order to:
$\ldots$ simplify the accounting system and treasury fund structure of the state, to make possible the full utilization of modern accounting methods, to provide the legislature with a greater measure of control over public monies, and to enable the financial records to accurately reflect governmental costs and revenues.

Aside from a number of specialized university system accounts, there are nine basic funds. Pursuant to section 80-11-210, MCA, all of the funds received by the wheat Research and Marketing Committee are required by law to be placed in the federal and private revenue fund established by section 17-2-102(4), MCA. The Fund is described in the statute as consisting of "...all expendable moneys deposited in the state treasury from federal or private sources, including trust income, which are to be used for the operation of state government." Pursuant to section 17-8101(1):

Moneys deposited in ...the federal and private revenue fund...(with the exception of refunds), shall be paid out of the treasury only on appropriation made by law.

In Board of Regents v. Judge, et. al, 168 Mont. 433, 446, 543 P.2d 1323 (1975), the Supreme court held, inter alia, that to the extent that section 17-8-101 could be read to confer upon the legislature the power to appropriate private funds received by state government which are restricted by law, trust agreement or contract, it was beyond the scope of the legislature's power of appropriation.

The precise issue in answering your first question is whether the grants and assessments received by the wheat Research and Marketing Committee and deposited in the federal and private revenue fund are restricted by law to an extent which would preclude appropriation and any associated restriction of expenditure.

Gifts, grants or donations for reasearch purposes may be accepted by the Department of Agriculture and are available for expenditure directly by the committee in accordance with
W. Gordon McOmber

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any conditions of the grants, gifts, or donations. See § 80-1l-208, MCA. Under the principles set forth in Board of Regents $v$. Judge, these monies are not subject to the appropriation power. The Supreme Court has held that it is therefore beyond the power of the legislature to direct the manner in which such grants will be spent. On the other hand, receipts from assessments are not conditioned or restricted by contract. They are, however, restricted by law; that is, the purposes to which these funds may be committed are as set forth in sections 80-11-201, et seq., MCA. Nowhere within the terms of these restrictions, however, is there any indication of a legislative intent to remove the consideration of these funds from the budget process. On the contrary, pursuant to section 2-15-3002, MCA, the Committee is allocated to the Department of Agriculture for administrative purposes which requires inclusion of the committee's budgetary request in the Department of Agriculture's budget. See § $2-15-121$, MCA.

While the law provides that the assessment receipts are subject to the appropriations process, the legislature must direct the expenditure of these funds in a constitutionally pemissible manner. The restrictions on expenditures in this case must conform with the purposes as set forth in sections 80-1-201, et seq., MCA. While these purposes can be changed from time to time through legislative enactment, the appropriation bill would itself be an improper mechanism to effect such a change. This difficulty arises due to the evil which would be occasioned by concealing a change in the "substantive" law in a broad appropriations measure.

Article V, section ll, Constitution of Montana 1972 provides in relevant part:
(3) Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

*     *         * 

(6) A law may be challenged on the ground of non-compliance with this section only within two years after its effective date.

These provisions are similar to the section of the 1889 Constitution construed by the Montana Supreme Court in City of Helena v. Omholt, 155 Mont. 212, 468 P.2d 764 (1970).
W. Gordon McOmber

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In Omholt, an action was brought challenging a provision of a special appropriation bill which resulted in a substantive change in the Metropolitan Police Law. Pursuant to the substantive law, municipalities are authorized to establish a police reserve fund, supported in part by a three percent deduction from police officer's wages. The state of Montana cooperates by contributing an amount equivalent to ten percent of the salaries earned by policemen in participating municipalities.

A special appropriation bill providing for the state "match" contained a proviso that municipalities not deducting five percent of their policemen's wages were ineligible for the state contribution. The effect of the proviso was to raise by two percent the contribution required of police officers to establish an eligible reserve fund.

The court struck down the restrictive proviso based upon a finding that the special appropriations bill contained a "false and deceptive" title. Omholt at 220. The court opined in rather strong language that appropriations bills should not be held to amend substantive statutes by implication.

In considering the purpose of the relevant constitutional restrictions, the court stated:
...those purposes are to restrict the legislature to the enactment of laws the subjects of which are made known to lawmakers and to the public, to the end that any one interested may follow intelligently the course of pending bills to prevent the legislators and the people generally being misled by false or deceptive titles, and to guard against the fraud which might result from incorporating in the body of a bill provisions foreign to its general purpose and concerning which no information is given by the title.

Omholt at 220.
In light of this constitutional restriction, and the principles as set forth in Board of Regents $v$. Judge and City of Helena $v$. Omholt, it is my opinion that the assessments collected pursuant to the provisions of section 80-11-201, et seq., MCA, are subject to the appropriation powers of the legislature. However, in appropriating and directing the
W. Gordon McOmber

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expenditure of these monies, the legislature is restricted to the purposes as set forth in the wheat Research statutes. To deviate from or expand upon those purposes without a corresponding amendment to the substantive wheat Research statutes could subject the appropriation to a challenge similar to that brought successfully in the omholt case.
2. Whether The Assessment Collected Pursuant To The Wheat Research Statutes May Be Expended To Fund A Portion Of The Operations of The Centralized Services, Crop And Livestock Reporting, And Transportation Units Of The Montana Department Of Agriculture.

In correspondence requesting this opinion, you have asked me to discuss a number of executive proposals under consideration for the expenditure of these monies.

As noted in the opening discussion of these issues, the last two Montana Legislatures have appropriated approximately $\$ 20,000$ from Wheat Research and Marketing funds to support the operations of the Central Services Unit of the Department of Agriculture. Central Services provides administrative services to the Committee in the form of payroll services, receipt and accounting for assessments, budgetary monitoring, and securing the issuance of warrants for grants and other miscellaneous purposes of the committee.

Pursuant to the terms of sections 2-15-3002 and 2-15-121, MCA, the Committee is required to utilize the administrative services provided for by the Central Services Division. It is beyond dispute, that if the committee is authorized and directed to utilize certain services (those services being essential to the carrying out of the purposes directed by law) the authority and direction carries with it by necessary implication the authority to pay for those services.

The particular level of support to be provided to Central Services is for the Legislature to determine. However, since the type of assessment here authorized is distinct from taxes levied for the general public good, some caution must be exercised. Due process considerations impose limitations identified in the discussion of an analogous situation in State ex rel Malott v. Board of Commissioners, 89 Mont. 37, 296 P. I (1930):

The justification and authority for levying special assessments is derived from the benefits which the expenditure of the tax or assessment
W. Gordon McOmber

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confers on the owners of the land from special assessment districts and a tax out of all proportion to the benefits conferred could not be sustained.

Applying this principle to the issue discussed herein, it is clear that the amount of the Wheat Research assessment appropriated to fund Central Services must have some substantial relationship to the cost of services supplied by Central Services to the Committee.

Little discussion is necessary to relate the activities of the Crop and Livestock Reporting and the Transportation and Marketing Units to the purposes outlined in the Wheat Research and Marketing statutes. The Crop and Livestock Reporting program is a joint federal/state effort to prepare estimates and reports of production, supply, price, and other items necessary to the orderly operation of farm markets (ARM 4.l.101). To the extent these estimates and reports relate to wheat and barley, they further the purposes of the wheat Research statutes. The Transportation and Marketing Unit of the Department provides technical transportation expertise to agricultural commodity producers and to the extent the expertise is directed towards the two commodities addressed in the wheat Research statutes, they further the purposes of those laws. Appropriations from the assessments provided for in section 80-11-206, MCA, insofar as they relate to the cost of relevant services provided to further the purposes of the wheat Research statutes, are within the bounds of the restrictions placed upon the use of these funds.

Once again, I am compelled to underscore the distinct nature of the assessed funds. Due process requires careful consideration by the legislature in appropriating these monies to ensure that amounts expended substantially relate to the fair costs of the services provided to further the purposes for which the assessment is levied. The agency should keep these considerations in mind when making its funding proposals to the Legislature.

THEREFORE, IT IS MY OPINION:

1. The Legislature has authority, through the appropriations process, to direct the expenditure of monies collected through the annual assessment on wheat and barley. The Wheat Research Committee may expend funds received as gifts or grants without appropriation and such other amounts as the Legislature may direct.
w. Gordon McOmber

Montana Department of Agriculture
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2. The expenditure of monies collected through the annual assessment on wheat and barley must conform to the purposes and policies set forth in the wheat research and marketing statutes, sections 80-11-201, et. seq., MCA.

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IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.
PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.


[^0]:    PARKS PROGRAM - This progran is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the State Parks System, including state parks, recreation areas, monuments, recreational waterways, recreational roads and trails, fishing access sites; the conservation of scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific and recreational resources of the state and providing for their use and enjoyment by Montana residents and their guests; the administration of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in Montana; and the administration of snowmobile recreation in Montana by providing for maintenance and installation of snowmobile facilities.

