

MINUTES OF MEETING
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

MARCH 19, 1981

The Executive Session was called to order by Chairman Smith at 1:10 p.m. in Room 402 of the Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members of the committee were present with the exception of Senator Severson who was excused. Senator Jacobson arrived at 1:20 p.m.

Also present at the chairman's request were Representative Orval Ellison, sponsor of HB 200, Bob Robinson of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office, Terry Williams of the Budget Director's office and Jim Flynn of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Chairman Smith announced that the purpose of today's meeting is to give the committee an opportunity to consider testimony from the department, the legislative fiscal analyst and the budget director since all three differ in their estimates of revenue which may be expected as a result of the license fee increase in HB 200.

Chairman Smith recognized Bob Robinson of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office. Mr. Robinson distributed a memo with several attachments showing the appropriation subcommittee's recommendations and explained the fiscal impact of HB 200 and the methodology used by his office in determining revenue estimates. (Attachment #1)

Chairman Smith recognized Jim Flynn, Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Mr. Flynn distributed copies of his tabulations showing the major differences in the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office and the department on the estimates of number of licenses which may be sold in fiscal years 1982 and 1983. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Flynn said the department has asked for some additional revenues over and above what had come out of the House. Included in this request are 4 FTE's, gasoline money, recovery of the revenue impact of SB 320, and the completion of some partially accomplished capital projects which the legislature has previously authorized. He stated the need to be extremely accurate on revenue estimates if the department is to function at the appropriate level expected by the Legislature. He stated that the department has borrowed money from the Department of Administration to operate the agency because of the cash flow problem. He stated that the agency needs a reserve balance at the end of the year of \$1.2 or \$1.3 million. Mr. Flynn said that he is extremely concerned about the cash situation for the department for the next two years.

Chairman Smith recognized Terry Johnson of the Budget Director's office. Mr. Johnson said that his office used the work papers, figures, and methodology furnished by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst's office. They addressed the sources of licenses that contributed the most revenue to the account and identified approximately 90% of the total revenue.

Chairman Smith opened up the meeting to questions from the committee.

The question was asked about funds to be considered as a result of closing the bird farm at Warm Springs. Mr. Flynn replied that about \$40,000 a year would be realized from that source but that their initial budget request anticipated that source and allowed for it.

The impact of SB 320 was discussed. The House amended the bill to apply to persons 65 and over instead of 62 as initially proposed. This act would not take effect the first year of the biennium, but the second year of the biennium, the impact will be felt.

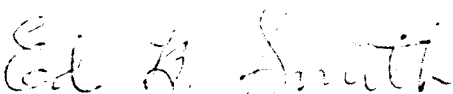
Chairman Smith said that as a result of extensive criticism which he has experienced personally, he requested and received a letter from the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks identifying the misappropriation of funds. He emphasized that this misappropriation of funds and the resultant effects are not reflections on the new director, Mr. Flynn. Senator Smith distributed copies of the letter to those people attending the hearing. The last page of Mr. Flynn's letter was retyped by Senator Smith's office to show a little more plainly the funds involved, and to cite the pertinent section of the law. Mr. Flynn's letter is marked Attachment #3. Senator's Smith's rewrite of the second page is marked Attachment #4.

Senator Eck stated that the majority of the sportsmen contacted were favorable with the bill as originally introduced and can see no problem with giving the sportsmen what they are asking for.

Chairman Smith asked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Flynn to work together on their differences and return to the next meeting of the committee with a proposal.

The committee will reconvene Tuesday, March 24, 1981, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



SENATOR ED B. SMITH

ROLL CALL

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

47th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - - 1981

Date 3-19-81

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Smith	✓		
Galt	✓		
Severson		✓excused	
Lee	✓		
Eck	✓		
Berg	✓		
Jacobson	1:20	✓excused	

Each day attach to minutes.



JOHN D. LAFAVER
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST

STATE OF MONTANA
Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst

STATE CAPITOL
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
406/449-2986

March 19, 1981

TO: Senator Ed Smith, Chairman
Senate Fish and Game Committee

FROM: Bob Robinson, Senior Analyst *BR*

RE: Appropriation 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>
Central Services	\$1,668,256	\$1,589,473
Ecological Services	347,426	361,291
Fisheries	1,344,976	1,261,526
Enforcement	2,531,294	2,879,374
Wildlife	925,006	931,412
Parks & Recreation	358,319	386,984
Conservation Ed.	745,709	765,714
Administration	<u>449,976</u>	<u>453,807</u>
Total	\$8,370,962	\$8,629,581

If the above expenditures are approved and a 12 percent pay plan is added, the impact on the license earmarked revenue fund (02131) would be a reduction of the fund balance to a negative \$982,602 by the end of fiscal 1983. The department needs a fund balance of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 to operate effectively.

#12

Fish and Game License ERA
02131

	<u>FY 1981</u>	<u>FY 1982</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>
Beginning Balance		\$1,100,000	\$ 566,648
Revenue		<u>8,606,436</u>	<u>8,687,185</u>
Total Available		\$9,706,436	\$9,253,833
Expenditures		(8,370,962)	(8,629,581)
Pay Plan		<u>(768,826)</u>	<u>(1,606,854)</u>
Ending Balance		\$ 556,648	\$ (982,602)

If HB 200 is approved as amended in committee the license fee earmarked account would have a balance of approximately \$1.157 million at the end of fiscal 1983.

	<u>FY 1982</u>	<u>FY 1983</u>
Beginning Balance	\$1,100,000	\$ 1,187,544
Revenue	<u>9,227,332</u>	<u>10,206,029</u>
Total Available	\$10,327,332	\$11,393,573
Expenditures	(8,370,962)	(8,629,581)
Pay Plan (12%)	<u>(768,826)</u>	<u>(1,606,854)</u>
Ending Balance	\$1,187,544	\$1,157,138

Fiscal Impact of HB 200 as Amended

HB 200 as amended will increase license fee revenue \$1.51 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 an additional \$620,896. All estimates, except those starred, assume license sales will drop ten percent, as has been the past experience, when the increases go into effect.

#12

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 \$472,000 over and above the fiscal 1983 increase.

Fiscal Impact of HB 200 as Amended in Committee

Bill Section #	-----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	524,916	233,396***	298,521	298,521	537,337	238,816
Nonresident	100,000	100,000	180,000	80,000***	101,000	101,000	181,800	80,800
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		
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	50,000	357,500	307,500***	71,500	50,000	357,500	307,500*
22. Increase in Agent Fees		(130,000)	(260,000)	(130,000)		(130,000)	(260,000)	(130,000)
Total Increase				\$1,504,425				\$1,518,844
Effective Increase				\$ 620,896***				\$1,518,844

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

***Proposed changes that go into effect in fiscal 1982.

Licenses Sold by License Year

Actual 1970-1979
Estimated 1980-1983

	<u>Conservation Cards</u>	<u>Fishing Resident</u>	<u>Fishing Non-Res. Season</u>	<u>Fishing 1/Day Non-Res. 2/Day</u>	<u>Elk Resident</u>
1970	\$210,096	\$142,079	\$ 6,968	\$130,024	\$72,538
1971	217,728	148,566	7,457	145,251	72,788
1972	225,104	154,478	7,925	170,148	74,916
1973	235,699	160,510	8,640	169,876	82,729
1974	230,267	157,926	9,636	136,816	82,512
1975	230,759	158,368	10,286	135,253	79,675
1976	252,248	167,885	11,865	150,393	68,126
1977	256,721	168,317	13,250	154,576	72,466
1978	257,704	170,676	14,100	153,325	75,557
1979	282,615	172,645	14,396	127,469	80,108

1980	62,180	177,469	15,461	143,835	78,307
1981	284,720	180,698	16,372	143,202	87,728
1982	291,620	183,859	17,283	142,570	91,630
1983	298,521	187,021	18,194	141,937	95,534

1d

Major Differences
Legislative Fiscal Analyst
 and
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Estimates of Number of Licenses Sold

	-----1982-----			-----1983-----		
	<u>LFA</u>	<u>FWP</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>LFA</u>	<u>FWP</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Resident Conservation	291,620	270,981	20,639	298,521	274,504	24,017
Resident Fishing	183,859	174,461	9,398	187,021	175,158	11,863
Elk	91,630	81,634	9,996	95,534	81,634	13,900
Nonres. Season Fishing	17,283	14,001	3,282	18,194	13,840	4,354
Nonres. 1-Day Fishing	142,570	111,309	31,261	141,937	96,951	44,986
Loss of Deer/Elk Drawing Fee	-0-	51,927	51,927	-0-	51,927	51,927

#22

MONTANA HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE SALES FOR 10-YEAR PERIOD

AS OF APRIL 30 EACH YEAR

LICENSE TYPE	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	*1980
Sportsman	553	611	924	1,391	1,697	2,178	2,589	2,127	2,106	2,691	2,330	3,340
Res. Conservation	204,112	210,096	217,728	225,104	235,699	230,267	230,541	252,248	256,721	257,407	282,615	64,893
Res. Fishing	141,347	142,079	148,566	154,478	160,510	157,926	158,368	167,885	168,307	170,676	172,654	173,766
Res. Bird-Adult	54,192	53,931	54,173	57,487	59,965	54,086	55,164	55,908	61,358	60,030	60,996	58,478
Res. Bird-Youth	4,542	4,687	4,748	4,942	5,081	4,696	4,366	4,458	4,353	4,230	4,082	3,838
N.R. Conservation	73,244	80,759	87,744	97,465	99,128	87,328	87,526	99,778	105,146	107,360	97,795	99,225
N.R. 1-Day Fishing	109,789	130,024	145,251	170,148	169,876	136,816	135,253	150,393	154,576	153,325	127,469	127,794
N.R. 6-Day Fishing	23,582	24,007	25,207	26,961	26,424	16,275	17,451	19,721	21,549	22,838	23,427	21,418
N.R. Season Fishing	6,828	6,968	7,457	7,925	8,640	9,636	10,286	11,865	13,250	14,100	14,396	14,164
N.R. Season Bird	792	1,046	1,191	1,432	1,352	1,339	1,451	1,714	2,240	2,157✓	2,480	2,339
Elk-Adult	70,236	72,538	72,788	74,916	82,729	82,512	79,675	68,126	72,466	75,557	80,108	81,607
Elk-Youth	4,585	4,678	4,573	4,795	5,345	5,483	5,323	5,126	4,967	4,913	4,903	4,901
Deer A-Adult	114,384	120,236	123,051	126,384	140,375	132,085	126,226	102,327	109,402	109,290	119,260	126,626
Deer A-Youth	10,569	11,071	11,388	11,704	12,484	12,356	11,274	9,659	9,308	8,498	8,439	8,522
Deer B-Adult	25,373	31,052	29,010	34,976	48,871	40,348	23,366	-	82	471	1,197	6,236
Deer B-Youth	2,165	2,617	2,486	2,785	3,904	3,235	1,682	-	-	-	-	-
Wapiti/N.R. Turkey	1,592	1,262	1,679	2,107	1,900	2,335	3,790	3,014	3,224	3,350	3,900	3,708
Pioneer-Conservation	9,901	11,760	13,477	14,587	18,204	23,486	20,567	-	-	-	-	-
Pioneer	4,627	3,587	3,331	3,001	3,473	3,665	3,085	-	-	-	-	-
Mourres. Big Game	8,612	9,501	11,973	13,970	19,230	20,560	25,584	12,689	13,767	16,553	17,000	17,000
Res. Mtn. Sheep	249	342	382	427	589	607	671	669	545	875	809	759
Res. Mtn. Goat	699	835	696	616	588	570✓	523	507	440	430	401	359
Res. Grizzly	1,473	1,769	746	685	586	665	716	389	411	497	472	537
Grizzly Trophy	36	13	22	14	15	18	13	11	5	7	11	12
Res. Blk/Brn Bear	-	-	2,547	4,263	6,268	6,616	6,805	7,251	7,866	8,305	9,694	9,777
Res. Mtn. Lion	-	-	-	-	241	259	286	517	574	643	614	787
N.R. Mtn. Lion	-	-	-	-	70	92	120	70	102	123	111	61
N.R. Mtn. Sheep	128	172	174	174	227	261	325	313	176	339	288	218
N.R. Mtn. Goat	228	247	217	48	47	50	44	39	27	26	22	15
N.R. Grizzly	164	211	222	261	224	253	270	124	102	119	112	123
How and Arrow	3,390	4,647	5,370	6,528	10,342	9,875	9,240	7,809	9,239	10,424	11,304	13,683
N.R. Blk/Brn Bear	69	60	337	531	708	899	1,074	58	45	81	108	603
Res. Antelope	19,227	21,439	23,151	26,604	27,813	24,494	23,189	25,087	25,059	20,334	15,855	17,146

*Partial Year: May 1, 1980-February 28, 1981

LICENSE TYPE	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	*1980
N.R. Antelope \$10	1,460	1,374	1,826	2,521	1,493	4,179	5,136	-	-	-	-	-
N.R. Antelope \$35	1,281	1,556	2,014	1,854	1,402	21	10	-	-	-	-	-
N.R. Antelope \$36	1,154	1,735	1,663	1,292	1,709	1,888	1,075	-	-	-	-	-
N.R. Antelope \$50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,080	2,195	1,975	963	1,233
N.R. Deer \$35	543	695	519	166	128	54	9	-	-	-	-	-
N.R. Deer \$36	7,278	9,634	13,222	13,383	10,617	7,322	2,001	-	-	-	-	-
N.R. Deer \$50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,011	-	1	314	651
Res. Moose	637	676	676	641	756	762	752	698	584	576	563	532
N.R. Moose	30	32	25	32	42	39	39	19	18	12	12	6
N.R. Bird/Fish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,718	960	994	951	-
N.R. Spring Bear	-	-	-	-	-	67	181	287	412	613	1,057	-
Nongame Cert.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134	44	49	120	37
Deer/Elk Per. Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,259	37,686	43,742	53,312	50,528
TOTALS	909,071	967,947	1,020,554	1,096,598	1,168,752	1,085,603	1,056,046	1,049,088	1,089,312	1,103,611	1,120,144	914,922

*Partial Year: May 1, 1980-February 28, 1981

3/18/81

VC

Major Differences
Legislative Fiscal Analyst & Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Revenue Estimates

	-----1982-----		-----1983-----			
	LFA	FWP	Additional Impact of House Approved Fees	LFA	FWP	Additional Impact of House Approved Fees
Resident Conservation	291,620-270,981	= 20,639x\$1 =	\$20,639	298,521-274,504	= 24,017x\$1 =	\$24,017
Resident Fishing	183,859-174,461	= 9,398x\$5 =	46,990	187,021-175,158	= 11,863x\$5 =	59,315
Elk	91,630- 81,634	= 9,996x\$8 =	79,968	95,534- 81,634	= 13,900x\$8 =	111,200
Nonresident Season Fishing	17,283- 14,001	= 3,282x\$20 =	65,640	18,194- 13,840	= 4,354x\$20 =	87,080
Resident 1-Day Fishing	142,570-111,309	= 31,261x\$2 =	62,522	141,937- 96,951	= 44,986x\$2 =	89,972
Loss of Deer/Elk Drawing Fees*			51,927			51,927
		\$275,759	\$72,566		\$371,584	\$235,219

Total for 1982 = \$348,325

Total for 1983 = \$606,803

*Not considered by the LFA

Summary: 1982 = \$348,325

1983 = 606,803

Total for Biennium = \$955,128

AMENDMENTS TO HB 200

1. Page 2, line 22:

Following: "\$3"

Strike: "\$2"

Insert: "\$3"

2. Page 3, line 3:

Following: "~~\$10~~"

Strike: "\$6"

Insert: "\$7"

3. Page 6, line 8:

Following: "\$325"

Strike: "\$250"

Insert: "\$275"

END

Ulrichman J

STATE OF MONTANA



DEPARTMENT OF

FISH AND GAME

Helena, MT 59620

February 4, 1981

Senator Ed Smith, Chairman
Senate Fish & Game Committee
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senator Smith:

Yesterday you requested information about the following items: (1) computer processing expenditures by the department for the last fiscal year, and (2) an explanation of the "holdback" used by the department in fiscal years 1980 and 1981. This information is provided below.

Computer Services Division Expenses

Attached is a breakdown of the actual Computer Services Division expenditures for the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks for fiscal year 1980. These expenditures were paid to the Department of Administration/Computer Services Division. Please note that the average monthly expenses for the department are about \$29,000; average monthly expenses for Centralized Services are about \$21,000. Source of this information is the monthly bills paid to the Department of Administration. It is important to note that, although computer operations expenses for Centralized Services were \$257,437 for FY 80, these expenses are scheduled to decrease by nearly \$100,000 per year to \$160,204 in FY 82 and \$168,715 in FY 83 under the executive budget proposal.

"Holdback" Authority

As you requested, listed below are the amounts of "holdback" authority for the department for both FY 80 and FY 81 and the divisions that used this authority. The amount of "holdback" authority was calculated at 5% of the biennial appropriations for FY 80 and FY 81. This amounted to \$648,028 in FY 80 and \$656,544 in FY 81.

I would like to emphasize to you that the department stayed within its legislative appropriations by accounting entity in utilizing these appropriated amounts. It is my understanding that the "holdback" authority concept was used in FY 80 as a management tool by the previous director to fund high priority projects within the department. In FY 81, however, the purpose of the "holdback" changed to conserve actual cash outlays out of the hunting and fishing license revenue account.

3a

Senator Ed Smith

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February 4, 1981

Use of "Holdback" Authority

	FY 80		FY 81	
	<u>"Holdback"</u> <u>In</u>	<u>"Holdback"</u> <u>Out</u>	<u>"Holdback"</u> <u>In</u>	<u>"Holdback"</u> <u>Out</u>
Centralized Services	\$ 94,078	\$312,909	\$102,202	\$161,905
Ecological Services	48,335	12,700	50,007	2,949
Fisheries	107,169	12,700	113,293	0
Enforcement	120,539	46,500	127,498	39,584
Wildlife	127,790	131,900	139,311	2,984
Parks	95,401	0	94,617	0
Conservation Education	36,091	89,000	4,778	3,500
Administration-Special Staff	18,625		24,838	47,000
Unused Balance		<u>55,019</u>		<u>398,622</u>
Total	\$648,028	\$648,028	\$656,544	\$656,544

If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

James W. Flynn
Director

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ATTACHMENT

Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Actual Computer Services Division Expenses - FY80

Accounting & Finance Bureau (Centralized Services Division)	\$17,625
---property control system, warehouse inventory system, vehicle accounting system, budget system, and microfiching budget reports	
General Licensing (Centralized Services Division)	\$139,075
---includes dealer accounting and providing lists of license buyers to Wildlife for hunter harvest surveys	
Special Licensing (Centralized Services Division)	\$100,737
---includes all computer operations expense to process drawing applications according to law and processing of nonresident big game licenses.	
Wildlife Division	\$18,606
---includes computer analysis of hunter harvest survey	
Test and Debug Reprogram of Drawings (Centralized Services Division)	\$54,461
---this is a one-time development cost	
Fisheries Division	\$16,385
---includes fishermen log analysis, lake and stream inventory, fish population statistics and fishery data bank	
Enforcement Division	\$ 5,497
---includes program to provide lists of hunter safety course graduates and a system to report game violators	
Miscellaneous	\$ 35
	<u>\$352,421</u>

USE OF "HOLDBACK" AUTHORITY

These columns show the 5% taken out of each division's appropriated budget. These columns show the 5% put back into each division's budget. This column shows misappropriated funds.

Division	FY80	FY81	FY80	FY81	
Centralized Services	94,078	102,202	312,909	161,905	+ 278,534
Ecological Services	48,335	50,007	12,700	2,949	- 82,693
Fisheries	107,169	113,293	12,700	0	- 207,762
Enforcement	120,539	127,498	46,500	39,584	- 161,953
Wildlife	127,790	139,311	131,900	2,984	- 132,217
Parks	95,401	94,617	0	0	- 190,018
Conservation Education	36,091	4,778	89,000	3,500	+ 51,631
Administration Special Staff	18,625	24,838	0	47,000	+ 3,537
Unused Balance			55,019	398,622	+ 453,641
Total	648,028	656,544	648,028	656,544	

You will note on lines 2 through 6 a total of \$774,643 was taken out of Ecological Services, Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Wildlife, and Parks Divisions. You will then notice that on line 1, \$278,543 additional dollars were put into Centralized Services. On lines 7 and 8, \$55,168 additional dollars were placed into Conservation Services and Special Administrative staff. Line 9, Unused Balance was \$453,641. These actions had neither Executive or Legislative approval, which is in violation of State Law. (Chapter 618-17-8-103, 17-8-104, Montana Constitution C58 - Section 12.)

Attachment #4

BILLINGS ROD AND GUN CLUB

P. O. BOX 33
BILLINGS, MONTANA

3-16-'81

Senator Ed Smith
Fish & Game Committee
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Senator Smith,

I don't know what the hold up was, but your letter dated March 6, just arrived on Thursday afternoon. It came the same day the hearing was held.

We have been following the news regarding your committee and the Fish & Game Dept. We agree with you completely in letting the department know that you would not countenance any more shuffling of funds within the department as was effected last year. I do beleive, however, that Jim Flynn, our new director, will do a much more efficient job than his predecessor. I have met him and am favorably impressed.

As to license fee increases, we have mixed emotions.....we are not altogether convinced that they must have the total increase, but do realize that because of inflation, they must have a reasonable increase. For the Wardens, gasoline costs are more, and the cost of replacing cars or trucks is out of sight. I would say that they should be granted some increases and admonished that they must handle their money wisely. Lord knows that those of us in business have to in order to survive.

I noticed in the paper that your committee was going to mull this matter over before you made your recommendations. I think this is a smart move. Let these people know that their computer programs pertaining to special seasons, must be simplified. Let them know also, that we're not too much in favor of any more wild and costly ideas such as the plastic card fiasco.

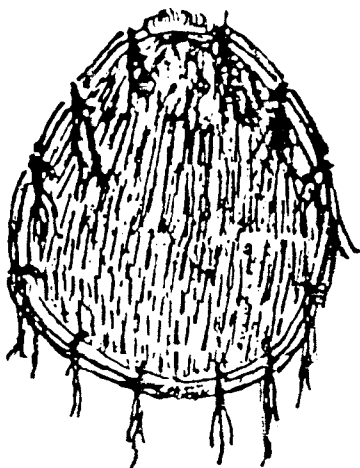
The Sportsmen of this area are a little upset to know that their license fee money held in the banks does not bring interest dividends to the department. This would help a great deal towards keeping the department in the black. After all, this is not tax money, but our money paid for our licenses. Surely the department should be allowed the use of these funds.

I'll sign off for now, but not before I tell you that your bill regarding penalties for shipping out parts of illegally killed game animals, was well received down here. The FW&P Dept. must have some measure of control on the elk antler traffic, but we also feel that they should be provided with some method of controlling game farms. This is going to be a real problem area in the future.

Many thanks for your interest, and your honest desire to get the FW&P Dept. back on the track.

Sincerely,





MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

BOX 29

SEELEY LAKE, MT. 59868

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

March 19, 1981

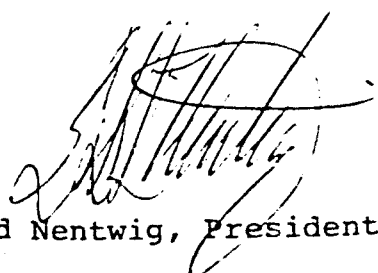
WITH CONCERN TO HB 200 PENDING BEFORE YOU, WE -- THE MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION (MTA) -- ARE ADDRESSING SECTION 14 AS DELETED BY THE HOUSE. WE ASK YOU, AS A LEGISLATOR, TO SUPPORT THE HOUSE ACTION AND CONTINUE TO REJECT SECTION 14, AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS (FWP), TO INCREASE TRAPPER LICENSE FEES 150% (from \$10.00 to \$25.00) BASED ON THE FOLLOWING FACTS.

1. FOR THE LAST 3 YRS. THE MTA, A 700 MEMBER STATEWIDE GROUP OF LICENSED TRAPPERS, HAS TRIED TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE FWP BY PROVIDING HARVESTOR-FIELD OBSERVER DATA FOR CONSIDERATION AND TO ASSIST IN FURBEARER MANAGEMENT DECISIONS. OUR DATA HAS PRODUCED A 75% SELF-IMPOSED HARVEST RESTRICTION FOR TRAPPERS YET OUR EFFORTS HAVE RECEIVED ONLY TOKEN RESPONSE FROM FWP.
2. WE FEEL MISAPPROPRIATION OF ENFORCEMENT FUNDS HAS HAMPERED BEAVER CONTROL AND TRANSPLANT PROBLEMS. WARDENS, WITHOUT FUNDS, TELL LAND-OWNERS TO SHOOT THE BEAVER AND KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DEPARTMENTS INABILITY TO FUNCTION PROPERLY, TO KEEP ITS FINANCES IN ORDER AND END UP WITH THE FURBEARER RESOURCE ON THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

3. TRAPPERS SAVE THE TAXPAYERS OF MONTANA A CONSIDERABLE SUM OF MONEY BY PROVIDING PREDATOR, NON-GAME, AND FURBEARER POPULATION CONTROL. IF TRAPPING BECOMES LICENSED-OUT OF BUSINESS THEN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL HAVE TO IMPLEMENT A COMPLETE POPULATION CONTROL EFFORT FOR RABIES, TULERAMIA, & LIVESTOCK LOSSES.

4. THE MTA HAS REQUESTED THE DEPARTMENT OF FWP TO PROVIDE THE MTA WITH A BREAKDOWN OF MONIES SPENT FOR FURBEARER MANAGEMENT FROM 1977 to 1981, as WELL AS THEIR PROJECTED BUDGETS FOR 1981 through 1984. TO DATE, THE FWP HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS THEY HAVE RECEIVED AND EXPENDED.

IN CONCLUSION, THE FWP'S BID FOR LICENSE FEE INCREASES AND THEIR "NEW DEALS" SHOULD BE TABLED AT THIS TIME. MANAGEMENT FIRST, THEN THE MONTANA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION WILL SUPPORT ADDITIONAL MONEY ^{to} FUND THESE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS.



Edd Nentwig, President, MTA

This petition opposes the proposed increase of liscence fees, without proper justification.

Vernon W. Schubert	Harlowton
Kenneth A. Thompson	Harlowton
Carl E. Maggott	Harlowton
Brian D. Maggott	Harlowton
Lawrence L. Moore	Harlowton
James A. Krause	"
Tim Belton	"
Sam L. Reynolds	Harlowton
Darwin Reynolds	"
Robert Jones	"
Frederick	Harlowton
Alan L. Hinkel	Harlowton
David W. Sorensen	Harlowton, MT
Phil Kater	Harlowton
Robert A. Wilkins	Harlowton
John A. Wilkins	Harlowton, MT
Patty R. Wilkins	Harlowton
John Eckman	"
Walter C. Marking	Harlowton, MT
Bruce Marking	Harlowton, MT
W. L. Carson	Harlowton, MT
Donald J. Dellow	Harlowton, MT
Stanley C. Wilkins	Harlowton, MT
Edith Wilkins	"
Arvid Olson	Two Dot, MT
John Miller	Harlowton
Paul Brown	Harlowton
Tom Tovar	"

FURTHER RECORD OF LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS RECEIVED BY SENATOR SMITH
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 200-LICENSE FEE INCREASE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

Attachment to Minutes of March 19, 1981--

PROPOSERS

Jack Hayne, Dupuyer (letter dated 10 March 1981)
Fred F. Bahnson, M.D., 300 North Willson Avenue, Bozeman (letter dated 10 March 1981)
Jerry Piotrowski, President, Anaconda Sportsmen's Club, Box 1375, Anaconda (letter dated 8 March 1981)
Roland Robertson, Secretary, Red Lodge Rod and Gun Club, P.O. Box 506, Red Lodge, (mailgram dated 5 March 1981)
Robert W. Hall, 2114 Mariposa Lane, Billings, (letter 23 February 1981)
Jack Atcheson, 3210 Ottawa Street, Butte (letter 20 February 1981)
Harry A. Knowlton, Secretary, Noxon Rod and Gun Club, P.O. Box 1491, Noxon (letter dated 18 February 1981)
Dr. John P. Weigand, P.O. Box 764, Belgrade (letter 10 February 1981)
John H. Ormiston, NW 380 Blodgett Camp Road, Hamilton (letter post-marked 13 February 1981)
The Wildlife Society, Montana Chapter, NW 380 Blodgett Camp Road Hamilton (letter dated 14 February 1981)
John S. Gilpatrick, Box 366, Hilger, (letter dated 12 March 1981)
Rich Dean, Teton County Sportsmen's Association, Choteau (letter dated 14 February 1981)

OPPOSERS

Dan Neal, 321 27 St, N.W., Great Falls (letter dated 14 February 1981)
Earl Butler, Box 623, Gibson Route, Big Timber (letter dated 15 March 1981 and newsclippings)

10 March 1981

Sen. Ed Smith
State Senate
Helena, Mt.

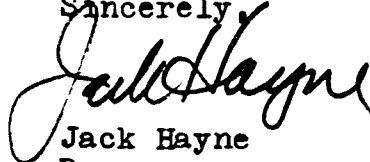
Dear Senator Smith,

We are writing in regard your request on input concerning the proposed license fee increases proposed by the Department.

In a rough poll of the residents of this area and members of the Dupuyer Sportsmen, I think it could be said that the consensus is that they favor the House passed schedule. Most people know that inflation calls for more money but would be opposed to the schedule proposed by the Department.

A statement most commonly heard goes something like this, "If we give them all they want all they will do is buy more ranch land." I think it would be a fair assessment of the feeling toward the Department in this area that someone should closely oversee all land purchases made by the Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack Hayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jack" being more prominent and the last name "Hayne" written in a more connected, flowing style.

Jack Hayne
Dupuyer
Montana

FRED F. BAHNSON, M.D., P.C.
300 NORTH WILLSON AVENUE
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715
TELEPHONE (406) 587-4506

March 10, 1981

Senator Ed Smith
Chairman, Fish & Game Commission
State Capital Bldg.
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Senator Smith;

I am writing concerning two House Bills.

The first is House Bill 200, concerning fishing license fees in the State of Montana. Being an avid fisherman and hunter, I strongly support the increase in fishing license fees for the privilege of enjoying the outstanding opportunities of fishing and hunting in Montana. I support the increase to \$7.50, and \$10.00 over the next two years for State Fishing License. This is, indeed, a bargain, and the Fish & Game Dept. should not be deprived of necessary funds to manage them properly. We have too much at stake in our State Fishing & Hunting opportunities to be unrealistic with license fees.

Concerning House Bill 806, I am against using any of the fishing access program fees for other parts of management other than fishing access. Rather than deleting the access program, I believe license fees should be increased. Again, the minimal price that Montanans pay for fishing and hunting should be increased in accordance with the need to protect and supervise the outstanding opportunities we have in our State.

I greatly appreciate your interest, Senator Smith.

Best wishes,



Fred F. Bahnson, M.D.

FFB/jf

cc: Senator Jack Galt
Senator Judy Jacobson
Senator Mike Anderson
Senator Paul Boylan
Senator Dorothy Eck

ANACONDA

SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

OFFICE OF

BOX 1375, ANACONDA, MONT. 59711

President

Mar 8/81

Dear Senator,

The legislature certainly is not representing the voters. I have quite a few letters.

The fish and game increases are one. You can operate a state department on fees just ten or more years ago. How would this apply to your income?

Please don't blame the department for increasing funds. Don't the state administration responsible for this?

Let's get the fees back to the department's recommendations.

Yours truly

Jerry Pitman

ROLAND R. ROBERTSON SECRETARY
PO BOX 506
RED LODGE MT 59068



Mailgram



4-043669S064 03/05/81 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP HELB
4064462804 MGM TDMT RED LODGE MT 76 03-05 0427P EST

7 SENATOR ED B SMITH, CHAIRMAN FISH AND GAME
COMMITTEE MONTANA STATE SENATE
CAPITAL BLDG
HELENA MT 59601

DEAR SENATOR SMITH, THE RED LODGE ROD AND GUN CLUB MEETING IN REGULAR
SESSION DID ON MARCH 2 1981 PASS A MOTION TO REQUEST THAT YOUR
COMMITTEE PASS HB200 AND THAT THE APPROPRIATION FOR ENFORCEMENT OF
FISH AND GAME LAWS BE INCREASED FOR THE FOLLOWING BI-ANNUM. THANK YOU

ROLAND R. ROBERTSON SECRETARY
PO BOX 506
RED LODGE MT 59068

1628 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

February 23, 1981

Senator Edward Smith
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59601

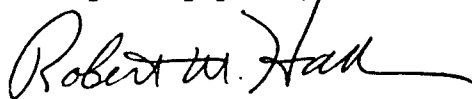
Dear Senator Smith:

You are presently deliberating the merits of the Fish & Game Department budget and funding measures. I solicit your support in the acceptance of the Department's requests. Certainly the people within the Department can be relied upon to provide the best information as to its needs.

Wildlife is one of Montana's prime resources and as such must receive proper attention and funding. A 30% funding reduction is unrealistic.

License fees will have to increase. Every item the sportsman uses has increased in price many times. The few extra, once a year, license dollars that will allow proper funding of the Fish & Game Department is a proposition worth our support.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Hall", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert W. Hall
2114 Mariposa Lane
Billings, Montana 59102

TO

FROM

Jack Atcheson & Sons, Inc

INTERNATIONAL HUNTING, FISHING & PHOTOGRAPHIC CONSULTANTS & TAXIDERMISTS

2210 Ottawa Street - Suite, Montana 59701
Telephone 406-792-3488 406-792-3470

CABLES - "ATCHSAFARI"

SUBJECT:

H B 200 Fish & Game

DATE: FEB 20 81

FOLD ↑

EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE WASTEFUL I THINK
WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE INCREASE IN APPROPRIATION
IF WE DON'T - IT WILL HURT THE DEPT. OF F&G
BUT IT WILL HURT THE SPORTSMEN EVEN
WORSE, MAYBE WE'RE ALL A BIT WASTEFUL IF
WE LOOK AT OURSELVES

PLEASE REPLY TO →

SIGNED

Thanks
Jack Atcheson

REPLY

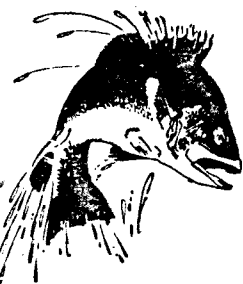
I don't mean to say I think the Dept is
all good - not any Government Dept is BUT
WE THE SPORTSMEN WILL HAVE A LOT LESS I'M
AFRAID.

DATE:

SIGNED

THIS COPY FOR PERSON ADDRESSED

GRAYARC CO., INC., BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11223



Noxon Rod & Gun Club

NOXON, MONTANA

February 18, 1981



The Honorable Ed Smith
Montana State Senate
The Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

RE: Proposed Fish and Game
License Fee Increases

Dear Senator Smith:

The Noxon Rod and Gun Club would like to support the proposed license fees scheduled for the 1982 season with the exception of the rather high out-of-state mountain lion fee. Due to the fact that the out-of-state fee in Idaho is so much lower we feel that the Montana fee should be more in accord with the surrounding areas.

We would also like to see any surplus revenue received from license fees or other means be applied to the law enforcement division of the Fish and Game Department. Sanders county, particularly the western end, abounds with all of the big game available in the state of Montana with the exception of the antelope. We feel that since our area is so large our game warden really needs an extra hand due to the increased pressure on the game caused by poachers.

We hope you will take our views into consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Harry A. Knowlton

Harry A. Knowlton, Secretary
Noxon Rod & Gun Club
P. O. Box 1491
Noxon, Montana 59853

Mr. Ed Smith, Chairman
Senate Fish and Game Committee
Helena, Montana 59601

February 10, 1981

Dear Senator Smith and Committee Members:

I am writing my concerns for House Bill 200, the request by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department for increases in hunting and other license fees.

I am primarily a duck and goose hunter, although I also hunt most upland game birds, deer and elk.

As a wetland hunter, I pay Montana \$1 for a conservation license and \$4 for a game bird license, plus I pay the federal government \$7.50 for a migrating waterfowl stamp. Although I do all of my hunting in Montana, the federal government gets 50% more money than Montana does, since I do all of my wetland hunting on a state wetland area, Montana is being short-changed in meeting my particular hunting needs.

In 1980, I made 2 hunting trips; I spent \$80 for gasoline + oil, \$60 for motel rooms, and \$40 for food. Of my total \$198.50 immediate expenses, only 20.5% went to the Montana Department upon which I depend for my hunting. The majority of my money (\$156) went to private businesses in Montana. Those expenses are underestimates since I use a \$350 shotgun and \$55 rubber waders, shoot \$30-\$50 worth of shotgun shells, and maintain a \$300 boat and \$150 golden retriever plus other assorted accessories in my hunting.

Personally I enjoy the hunting Montana offers me at such low cost, but I am realistic enough to know that Montana and its Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department are being short-changed by low hunting fees. I would not object to paying double the current bird hunting license fee, nor even to an additional state duck stamp fee. After all, I am the main beneficiary of the services provided, even though private businesses get most of my money.

Therefore, I urge your support and vote for HB200.

Sincerely,
Dr. John P. Harginal
P.O. Box 764

Bozeman Montana 59714

Senator Edward Smith
Capitol Station
Helena MT 59620

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have read about and heard on radio the recent actions of the Subcommittee you chair, regarding the organization and budget of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. I abhor those actions.

I do not believe the wildlife resources of the State of Montana can be intelligently managed in the long term without a strong information and education program, aimed primarily at schools and young people. I do not believe Regional Coordinators have either the expertise or aptitude to carry out these essential programs.

I also believe Wardens should be Wardens and Biologists, biologists. Both are essential to management of the wildlife resource, but each provide separate and individual functions. Wardens enforce laws and are basically of an enforcement aptitude. They are siren, red light and handgun equipped law officers who really don't care about wildlife population dynamics. Biologists are basically of a scientific aptitude and are not interested in red lights, sirens or handguns. They are interested in wildlife populations and the scientific management of wildlife resources. I don't believe the two functions can be combined in one individual.

I would personally rather pay the price, in increased license fees, for the continuation of the present program, than see the quality of wildlife management diminished in our fine state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. Ormiston".

John H. Ormiston

cc: James Flynn

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
MONTANA CHAPTER

February 14, 1981
NW 380 Blodgett Camp Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

Senator Ed Smith
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Senator Smith:

The Montana Chapter, The Wildlife Society is a statewide organization of professional wildlife biologists from several federal and state agencies and private consulting firms. We very strongly believe it takes the cooperation of people from several disciplines to properly manage the wildlife and fish resources of this state. Well trained and qualified Information and Education Officers are an especially important part of an organization we believe is doing an outstanding job of managing the wildlife and fish resources. We believe funding to continue the present organization should be made available through license fee increases.

Sincerely,

John H. Ormiston
President

cc: James Flynn

3/12/81

How Ed Smith,

Dear Sir:

I would like you to consider some positive things on behalf of proper financing for the F. & S. Dept.

I say since there is some dead weight in the Dept. and the great directors after Lunkle and before. Cito left much to be desired however the good, honest professional people in the field and Helena should not pay for political mistakes. Central America has been very poorly run but remember Wambach found that director had for reasons I don't know the way is still there.

I believe the Dept. deserves great credit for the ex-officio program and I support the reorganization officer concept. The field people need money to travel and work to be effective.

The effort to improve landowner relations deserves credit & support in my opinion. The media effort

by the Dept. takes people & money
 as do the free signs furnished
 by them. This type of project
 takes time and long term effort.
 There. someone does an excellent job
 with young people. Proper education
 is needed to help offset the
 growing anti hunting, Bambi attitude
 towards wildlife. The Dept. must
 promote this in my opinion because
 of the lack of any similar effort
 by our West. educational system.
 This appears to me to be a bad
time to decrease emphasis on research.
 Energy development will stress us all.
 Agriculture in particular has a lot
 at stake in proper control and
 analysis of the development and much
 of the effects on wildlife also
 affects agriculture land. We have
 much in common. Well managed
 land is essential to wildlife & agriculture.
 It seems out of place to have
 the Dept. rely on consulting firms
 when the past expenses of other

(3)

agency has come to light.

Trappers should pay their way. They do not now. Analysis of work by wardens & biologists would show more effort there than they are provided. Trapper trespass is a big problem in this area. We need to remember that forward thinking by the Dept. kept Mont. trappers selling beaver several years ago. Had they not had a half assed management plan in the works the feds would have shut us off. These modern efforts by the Dept. has brought them into conflict but they have been correct moves for the most part.

I am afraid inadequate financing will lead to reduction in programs landowners rely on.

I am also of the opinion legislators have always been subjected to negative gripes in excess of their worth.

Thank you for your time.

John S. Subatnick
Helena, Mt. 59451

Teton County Sportsmen's Association

WE ARE FOR -- "WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE USE"

CHOTEAU, MONTANA 59422

DATE: February 14, 1981

FROM: Rich Dean, President, Teton County Sportsmen's Association

TO: Ed Smith ✓
Orville Ellison
Rex Manuel

RE: House Bill 200, (Increases in hunting and fishing license fees)

The Teton County Sportsmen's Association would like to wholeheartedly endorse the proposed increase in hunting and fishing license fees as proposed by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Our club, which is composed of hunters and fishermen from the Choteau and Augusta areas, voted to unanimously support the proposed increases at our monthly meeting on February 11, 1981.

Montana sportsmen must realize that in order to adequately maintain the work of the department at its present level we should be willing to accept the burden of increased license fees. Certainly, no other government agency, business or individual expects to operate on the same revenue year after year in the face of inflation and gasoline prices fast approaching \$1.50 a gallon. Our license fees compare very favorable with those of other western states even after considering the proposed increases.

The reasonable sportsmen will not object to increases in fees legislated to enable the department maintain, enforce and protect our Montana "heritage" to hunt and to fish. The responsible sportsmen cannot object.

Rich Dean

February 16, 1981

Senator Ed Smith
Montana Senate
Helena, Montana

Dear Senator Smith:

I just completed reading an article in the Monday, Feb. 16, Helena Independent Record relating to funding for the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. As an employee of that department, I will readily confirm that for a period of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years it was badly mismanaged. However, I think you should look into the reason for this mismanagement in a little more depth.

During that $3\frac{1}{2}$ year period, our director was Dr. Robert Wambach who was appointed by Governor Judge and confirmed by the Montana Senate. Not long after his appointment, it became very obvious that our new director was not what one would consider an efficient administrator. In fact his lack of accountability in financial matters became legendary.

Wambach initiated the 5% holdback on each division's budget so that he could dispense the funds at his discretion to anyone that happened to be on his good side. The lack of direction and obvious mismanagement lead many people in the department to become dissatisfied with his leadership after little more than a year had passed. This unrest grew until there was a strong movement from within the department to have him resign. Initially, we received very little support from anyone for this effort, either from the governor's office or from legislators. Only after several years of his embarrassing everyone in the department and even in the state was he forced to resign..

The point of this letter is that we employees of the department recognized the mismanagement several years ago and tried to do something about it. We got very little sympathy or help! Where were you then? Now after we are finally shed of this great burden, are we to continue suffering at the hands of a legislature for a situation that we tried to tell you about and which fell on deaf ears? Is there no justice in this world?

Under the leadership of Keith Colbo and Jim Flynn, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has again begun to see the light under new and efficient leadership and administration. Please don't stifle the newfound confidence by slashing our budgets because of the transgressions of a director who is now departed. With few exceptions, we are a group of highly qualified, dedicated and loyal employees. With a little help from you and our new leadership, we will get this outfit back on the right track again.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
A Dedicated Employee

cc: Orville Ellison

Senator Ed Smith

Great Falls Mont
2-14-81

Dear Senator:

It comes as no surprise that the Dept of Fish Wildlife and Parks
- asking for another hefty raise in Licence Fees. As they need more
- tax dollars to feed their ever-expanding Bureaucracy. This dept. is one
- of the many of its kind who spend tax dollars and produce nothing.
- I doubt if this dept. can prove if the state is much better
- off because of much of its expenditures.

I do not know how many needless positions there are within
- the bureaucracy? But rest assured, there are some. Or how
- much needless and needless research and study? There is plenty.

At such a time as this when the economy is in trouble and
- people-income is scarcely enough to handle the necessities,
- Surely the Department should not expect to carry on in its
- present extravagant manner. Much less ask for more money
- to spend.

I suggest: we had more game and fish per hunter and better
- public relations, when the Dept was less than half ~~the size~~
- it now is, Also-at that time the comparable "Licence Fox Fee"
- were a mere pittance compared to what they now are.

If this department cannot operate on its present budget, let
- it try doing what tax-payers do, just cut out some of the fat
- that isn't needed. And there will be no need to raise
- the Licence Fee Taxes.

Dan Neal

321 27 st N.W.
Great Falls Mont 59404

opinions

No etiquette

Ed Smith takes his title of "whip" pretty seriously.

Smith is a state senator from Dagmar, up in northeast Montana. He's one of that body's most prominent Republican members, serves on three major committees and serves as "majority whip." He was also his party's nominee for Governor about nine years ago.

When he's not playing the game of politics, he's plying the game of plowing — he's a tall, generally soft-spoken farmer. But at least one Livingston man has found his disposition takes a different turn when he gets to Helena.

Tim Peterson of our town was concerned recently with the future of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks budget ... and worried the legislature wouldn't give the department enough money to operate. He favored increases in the

fishing and hunting license fees, and decided to tell somebody so.

So, he wrote to Ed Smith. Smith is chairman of the Fish and Game Committee of the Montana Senate — so it would seem an appropriate place to send his letter.

Peterson told the senator he supported the fee increases, and felt others did too. He asked him to compare the fees to those in other states, and questioned some of Smith's comments about the department which were quoted in the media.

What he got back was an angry and insulting reply from Sen. Smith. In a two-page letter, Smith argued his position and railed on and on about the ineptitude of the department.

And he took on Peterson personally.

"You must have your head

in the sand," Smith said at one point. He accused Peterson's comments of being "absurd," and implied the Livingston man was stupid to make his suggestions.

"I don't know what your occupation or business is," Smith concluded, "but you sound like a typical bureaucrat having no knowledge of what elected officials' obligations are."

Peterson is not a "bureaucrat," he's a school teacher. Besides that, he's a Montana taxpayer who deserves more courtesy than name-calling and insults from an elected official. Most politicians would just reply with a non-committal thanks for the letter, or perhaps not answer at all. Smith's been in the business since 1967, and he should surely have learned that much political etiquette.

Fur, Fin, Feather & Folk

By BILL BIGELOW



The Big Timber Fish Hatchery is springing to life again this month as preparations for this year's crop of babies are underway. Thurston Dotson and his crew have already separated the male and female Yellowstone Cutthroats and will be ready on March 18 for the "milking" operation.

With the warmer temperatures this year the job of standing in waders in the middle of flowing spring water was more enjoyable than in some years Thurston can remember. Several hundred fish make up the brood stock. Each year after the spawning operation is over some of the older fish are released into some local lakes in Montana. Last year some were released in the Glasston Lakes. They provided some exciting fishing for those who stumbled on them last year. Part of the stock may be released in Glasston again this year as well as other Montana Lakes.

All of the Yellowstone Cutthroat fingerlings that are produced each year are released in the high mountain lakes, mostly in the Absarokee Beartooth range. These lakes approximate the conditions of the McBride Lake in Yellowstone Park from which the fish originates. The Big Timber hatchery is the only hatchery that produces this fish for the enjoyment of the high mountain fisherman.

From Earl Rutter 3/15/81

DATE _____
Fish & Game

DATE _____

3-19-81

BILL NO.

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VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	Check One	
		Support	Oppo
Vim Flynn	DEPT FWP	HB200	
CRAIG SWICK	Montana Trappers Assoc ^{AS AMENDED}	✓	
EDD NENTWIG	MONTANA TRAPPERS ASS ^{AS AMENDED}	✓	
JANET MOORE	MONTANA TRAPPERS ASS ^{AS AMENDED}	✓	
Rep Ellison	House FWP Com	✓	
Rep Merline	House FWP Comm	✓	
Jim Williams	O.B.P.P.		
Gerry W. Johnson	O.B.P.P.		
Janet Ellis	MT Audubon Council	✓ HB200	
Shirley Zildeth	SELF AS AMENDED	✓	
Robert Vanderken	Self As Amended		
Boel W. Bissell	Mont. Audubon Council	✓ HB200	

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)