

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FISH AND GAME SUBCOMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 5, 1985

The meeting of the Fish and Game Subcommittee was called to order by Chairperson Marjorie Hart on February 5, 1985, at 4:25 p.m. in Room 317 of the State Capitol.

Subcommittee members Representatives Hart, Rapp-Svrcek, Grady, and Cobb were present.

DISCUSSION OF HOUSE BILLS NO. 191, 314, & 388: Chairperson Hart informed the subcommittee that they were charged with trying to come up with something that is reasonable and what was asked for concerning these three bills.

Chairperson Hart wanted to know what the committee members general philosophy was concerning reimbursement for game damage. She asked if they had an idea of what they felt was fair and equitable. She also wanted to know if they felt there should be an actual cash reimbursement as called for in House Bill No. 191.

Representative Cobb stated that he felt there should be actual cash reimbursement. He said that Wyoming just pays the landowner, but they do not go out ahead of time and try to help the landowner solve the game problem. He said that House Bill 191 now suggests that the Department be given 48 hours notice by a landowner. Representative Cobb said that he would suggest a 15 day notice and then if something was not done by the Department, the landowner would be reimbursed for game damage.

Representative Grady said that he has some real mixed emotions about this problem. He feels we are looking at a program that needs a lot of study. He feels that we do have a real serious problem with game damage, and he feels that the committee should look into what the real problem is. He feels that there are some factors concerning this problem that the Department has had no control over. He said that some of these factors may be that there has been little winter kill of the wild game over the past few years, and the economic situation of the farmers and ranchers now is not good. He said that he feels that some priorities must be set up. He said that we have millions of dollars worth of damage each year, but

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some method must be found for paying for these damages. He said he felt that it is the responsibility of the legislature to find some solution to this problem, because these types of bills come up and will continue to come up before the legislature. He said that there is warrant in this problem and the State of Wyoming has done something about their problem. He feels that they should look at the Department first, to see what they are doing concerning every issue about damage. He suggested that perhaps they should start by having a committee look into what the Department is doing, and if the Department is doing everything within their means, and then budget to solve these problems.

Representative Rapp-Svrcek said that he, too, has a lot of landowners in his area who have suffered game damage, but, he feels that the idea of paying outright cash for that damage has to be approached really cautiously because of the precedent it can set. He said that the reason he felt that they had to be so cautious was that if it is opened up, they will have 3/4 of the people in Montana making claims and there is not enough money in the general fund to cover such claims.

Representative Asay, sponsor of House Bill No. 191, asked the chairperson if he could give some input to the committee. He said that he felt there were a few things they should discuss. He said that the deer did not happen overnight. He said there has been a long term increase and a planned buildup. He said that when there was a buck only season, then this was done for a specific reason, and that was for the planned increase in deer. He said that he felt they needed to be cautious about causing damages instead of being cautious about paying for damages. He said that some of the deer may be eliminated this year by natural causes, but they don't want to see them increased by unnatural causes. He said that he felt something must be done so that the landowners do not continue to suffer extensive damage.

Chairperson Hart asked the committee if any of them felt this was something they could fix right here and now.

Representative Grady said that he goes along with Representative Asay's theory on most of the problem, but he feels that they should have a committee find out if the department has actually increased the numbers or done

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some things to cause problems. He said what he feels they must work at is preventing problems.

Representatives Grady and Hart both stated that they felt that this is a big problem that will take some long-range planning now and later because it affects so many landowners and someone will eventually have to pay for the depredation.

Representative Hart said that she felt this problem will have to be given some serious thought about what action will be taken, because if they make a law, it will affect all the people in the state and not just a few in different sections of the state. She said that whatever the committee puts together, they have to be very careful that they look at all of the ramifications that are possible, because it affects the whole state.

Representative Rapp-Svrcek told Jim Flynn, Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, that there have been a lot of complaints about the Departments' handling of this issue and that he felt that a lot of them are legitimate complaints. Representative Rapp-Svrcek stated that he would be interested to know what direction Mr. Flynn would suggest. Mr. Flynn told the committee that he welcomed with open arms, their attempt to solve the problem and that they would be solving a major problem that exists. He said that they are hearing a lot more today about game damage for a number of reasons. He said that one of the major effects today is the economic situation of the farmers and ranchers--calves are not 90¢. Also, the state has experienced two or three unusually mild winters. He said that there are a number of major policy issues that get involved in how to address this situation. He said that probably one of the biggest issues is who would pay for the game damage---would it be considered a sportsman's resource and the sportsman pay, or would it be considered a public resource and the public pay. Mr. Flynn said that his department has kept in contact with many of the other states regarding their similar problems. He said that the whole issue is very detailed and complex. Mr. Flynn also told the committee to keep in mind that the Department makes recommendations to the Commission. He said that once those recommendations are made on seasons,

there is approximately a 60 day comment period when the public comments on when these seasons are going to be, and then the Commission makes decisions based on all that information. Mr. Flynn said that they welcome a discussion or review of the Department, if the committee feels it will help solve these issues.

Representative Hart asked Mr. Flynn what they mean when they talk about specific problem areas. She asked if the person in the regional office was solely responsible for addressing the problem right there, or does the person communicate with the Department in Helena. Mr. Flynn said that two years ago he set up a division within the Department and this was the Field Services Division. He said that the primary purpose of that division is to administer the game damage program. He said that the administrator of the division works with the supervisors of the regional offices to estimate what kind of materials and supplies they will need, and what needs to be done in specific areas. Mr. Flynn told the committee that he had already overspent the game damage budget by \$75,000, and he did it consciously because he knows that game damage is a major problem in various areas of our state.

Representative Hart asked Mr. Price of the Montana Wildlife Federation, if they had any comments on the game damage issue. Mr. Price said that the sportsmen that they represent are deeply concerned about the problem. He agreed that it is a very complex problem, and he felt that the Department or Legislature should resist any attempts to solve it on the spot in regards to a reimbursement program. He said that his Federation would urge the committee to take a long, hard, and serious look at what can be done. He said that they feel the problem is severe enough that the Legislative Council should provide an interim committee to really study and research the problem, and then lay it out to the Legislature.

Representative Grady asked Mr. Flynn if he felt that the Department did not have knowledge of the numbers of wildlife in certain areas, since they are asking for more money for aerial survey. Mr. Flynn replied that he felt that they did have a good handle on the wildlife numbers, but they need more money to do a closer and more intensive survey of all the hunting districts.

Representative Cobb said that he agreed that this was a complex issue, but he also felt it was an issue of prior-

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ities. He said that game damage is a problem that has been going on for years and years, and the Department allows it to keep going on. He said he felt that if there is going to be a solution to this problem, then some priorities about responsibilities should be made.

Representative Rapp-Svrcek said that he is not convinced that the figures on the fiscal note are accurate. He feels that they could be looking at a far larger sum of money than what is indicated on the fiscal note. He said that he had asked the Committee Researcher, Dave Cogley, to come up with a preliminary resolution that would call for an interim study. He said he had hesitated to do this because of the complaint that things are studied to death, but he felt some good was coming out of the study done on stream access, so perhaps that could also happen to this issue.

Representative Cobb said he felt that if something is not done soon about this problem, more people are going to start charging for hunting to pay for the game damage.

Representative Hart said that she felt we do not have enough knowledge at this time, to determine how much to pay someone for their alfalfa crop loss. She said she, too, was pleased with the results of the stream access study, and she would be in favor of trying to write a resolution on what an interim committee should study. She felt that it should also be made known to the Department and Commission, that they felt this is a high priority issue.

Representative Grady wanted to know what Mr. Flynn thought about an interim study. Mr. Flynn said that the main point that he would try to emphasize is that this is an extremely complex issue. He said that if the interim study is the tool that this committee wants to use, they would cooperate with such a review and provide whatever information they could. He stated his concern about all three bills before the committee. He said that he felt none of them address the real problem or issue. He said that if the committee felt that they wanted to do an indepth study between now and transmittal to find out if one of the bills can address the situation or if they want to do it by interim committee, the department will be willing to cooperate.

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Representative Cobb suggested that the committee do a resolution or take House Bill 191 and reword parts of it. He said that would allow Representative Asay then to get 20 signatures and take it to the floor.

Representative Rapp-Svrcek stated his concern about the fact that the stream access issue was brought about by a lawsuit and that lawsuit worked against the landowner. He said that he feared that if they went into this issue in the same manner, it may also open it up into a lawsuit which worked against the landowner. Representative Rapp-Svrcek wanted to know what Representative Asay felt about the proposed resolution. Representative Asay said that he had no opposition to the resolution, but he still feels that there has to be a means for establishing damage and reimbursement.

Representative Grady stated that he helped Representative Rapp-Svrcek draft the proposed resolution, but he was wondering if the committee could do something between now and the deadline, so that there is not another two year wait before something is done.

Representative Cobb suggested that they propose the resolution and then allow a week and a half to come up with a bill. He suggested that this bill could then be brought before the committee and killed and then Representative Asay could bring it to the House floor. Representative Cobb said he would try to incorporate his bills into this one bill, and then his bills could be killed.

Representative Rapp-Svrcek stated his concern about trying to come up with something before transmittal. He said that he is reluctant to even propose the study issue, because he has heard the complaints before about interim studies and has made them himself. But, he said he felt that this is an issue that has to be addressed from all sides and needs to have a lot of input. He said that perhaps they could put such an interim study at the top of the priority list when these are being assigned for the interim, and he feels that it would be the best time to do it. He said that he felt that those who were assigned to that committee, would then have the time to look at all the different sides of the issue.

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Representative Grady said that he was not really considering or proposing an interim study. He said that he would like to spend more time with the Department and then come up with some recommendations to the budget committee as to why the Department needs more money for such things as aerial survey. He feels that there are some things that the committee might be able to do within the next twenty days.

Representative Hart wanted to know if the Department had already made its request to Appropriations. Mr. Flynn stated that they had, but that they had not yet gone to the House Appropriations Committee, so he said that the Department could still insert anything into the budget that they felt would merit their consideration. He said they could also insert anything more before it goes before the Senate Finance Committee, so there are two more opportunities for input.

Representative Hart suggested that Representative Cobb work with Representative Asay and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks attorney, and then present whatever they decide back to the committee for executive action and let it take its chances. She said that she would like to see a resolution calling for an interim study.

Representative Rapp-Svrcek stated that he felt whatever they come up with, it should be tailored to give the department the best shot at controlling the problem for the next two or three years in the hope that they can come up with something comprehensive in an interim study.

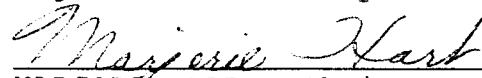
Representative Cobb said that whatever they propose, they will have it completed by next Tuesday (February 12).

Representative Rapp-Svrcek moved that the committee take the resolution for an interim study committee, to the full Fish and Game Committee. He also suggested that we appoint Representative Cobb to work with Representative Asay and the Department to come up with something in the meantime. Representative Rapp-Svrcek stated that he felt that this is a major issue that can not be ignored. He also said that Mr. Cogley felt that the committee should work on the wording of the resolution so that all the issues are covered and so that it specifically states what the committee wants studied. Grady seconded the motion, but also stated that he would like to see something done before the next two or three years.

The Fish and Game Subcommittee will meet again February

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12, 1985. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



MARJORIE HART, Chairman

HOUSE BILL NO. 406

FEBRUARY 5, 1985--BOB REAM

SUMMARY

<u>Bill Section</u>	<u>Changes from</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>License Fee</u>
1	\$ 8	\$ 9	Resident Fishing License
2	\$ 30	\$ 35	Nonresident Fishing
3	\$ 6	\$ 8	Two-day Nonresident Fishing
4	\$ 3	\$ 10	Paddlefish Tag for Nonresidents Only
5	\$300	\$350	Nonresident Big Game Combination
6	\$ 35	\$ 36	Class AAA--Combination Sportsman's License for Residents

Exhibit #1
2-5-1985
H.B. #406

HB - 406

Testimony presented by Jim Flynn
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

In the way of background I would like to share with this committee the Department's license fee proposals of recent years.

In 1981 the department presented to the Legislature a fee increase proposal to fund a budget request that dealt with the cumulative impacts of some four years of high inflation and the anticipation that inflation rates would continue for two more years at reduced rates. I would point out that the budget request presented then dealt primarily with the operations of the agency and in fact was an operations budget that included a 15% reduction in full time equivalent employees.

Two years ago the department presented to the 1983 Legislature a fee increase of a different nature. Emphasis was placed upon replacing and refurbishing deteriorated and outdated fish hatcheries and regional headquarters. With the new revenues generated, the department was able to embark upon a bonding program to rebuild three fish hatcheries and replace one regional headquarter facility. In addition, enhancements were made in the operating budgets of the Department Divisions.

The fee increase before you is presented to fund what we feel are the needs for the next two years for the department to continue with its physical plant improvements and program needs.

These recommendations for expenditure were arrived at through a process these past two years that consisted of listening to public expressions of the service they expect from the department, determining within the agency the needs to carry out our statutory responsibilities, and reviewing our historic revenue sources.

I would like to emphasize that our capitol proposal is an ambitious but necessary undertaking. It is a completion of the second phase of hatchery renovation and continuation of our headquarter improvement. The rebuilding/renovation of our Miles City, Anaconda and Lewistown fish hatcheries will complete the necessary overhaul of the state hatchery system. Replacement of two regional headquarters that were built in the 1950's will see four of the seven completed and leave only three more for future attention.

These proposals are costly, but necessary at this time. We feel that they should be addressed because further procrastination will only serve to jeopardize the programs involved or to require a drastic sum of money to address all needs at once and likely at a time of higher costs.

In arriving at the figures before you we took a number of factors into consideration. The system we used is not foolproof, but we believe has some validity.

The hatchery construction is proposed to be financed through a bonding program with up to 75% of the funds coming from revenue contained in the federal DJ program. The balance of the bond payment would come from the license account and relates to the fee increases on the fishing and sportsmen's licenses. Obviously the new federal revenues have enabled us to keep our fee increase to a minimum. In our discussions to date we have informed the Montana sportsmen of the direct relationship between the increased fishing license request and the expenditure request for hatchery renovation.

In addition we are proposing to increase the nonresident combination license in part based upon a recommendation from a committee appointed last summer to offer advice on our nonresident combination license.

The committee was composed of four representatives of the outfitters and guide industry and two representatives from the Montana sportsmen community with one from the Montana Wildlife Federation, and one from an independent sportsmen's club. The group was given two problems to review. One was how to lengthen the sell-out date of the 17,000 nonresident combination licenses in a fair and equitable manner and the other was to provide a license for those nonresidents who wished to only hunt deer. To solve the latter problem, the committee recommended a deer license go on sale in March valid in eastern Montana. The Fish and Game Commission has sent this proposal out for public comment.

The problem with the early sell-out is more complicated. Last year the department had approximately 30,000 requests for the combination license. As set by law, the department can only sell 17,000. Because of the high demand we sold the 17,000 licenses in 19 working days last year. This has caused problems for the outfitting industry as well as the nonresident.

The committee attributed part of the high demand to the cheap price of the license when it is compared to other states.

As part of their recommendation the committee suggested an increase to \$375.00 in FY86 and to \$425.00 in FY87. We have taken that recommendation and adjusted it to \$350.00 for both years.

Even with the increase, Montana will still be \$60-250 cheaper than the same nonresident package in Idaho, Wyoming, or Colorado. The proceeds from the increase are identified for items including big game range acquisition and game damage.

The increase in the paddlefish license for nonresidents is to correct a quirk in our present system. Under our current structure it is possible for nonresidents to purchase a license for paddlefish cheaper than residents. The proposed increase would correct that situation.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, we are proposing a fishing license increase to resident and nonresident sportsmen to cover the cost of the second and final phase of our hatchery renovation project.

I have attached information to my testimony to show the committee the revenues we would anticipate from this increase.

We have also proposed an increase in the nonresident paddlefish license, not necessarily to raise revenue, but to make it more realistic in comparison to the resident license.

In addition I have attached copies of the report from the combination license task force for your review.

And finally I have attached a cost comparison of other Rocky Mountain States and their license costs.

We feel that our proposal has merit, it has been widely discussed in recent months and has met with general acceptance.

We would request your approval of HB 406.

120/7

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

PROPOSED FEE INCREASES

HB - 406

<u>LICENSE</u>	NEW REVENUE	
	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>
Resident Fishing		
\$8 to \$9	\$ 37,700	\$ 94,000
Nonresident 2 Day Fishing		
\$6 to \$8	16,500	168,000
Nonresident Season Fishing		
\$30 to \$35	5,500	22,500
Nonresident Paddle Fish		
\$3 to \$10	8,800	13,300
Sportsmen		
\$35 to \$36	14,800	22,800
Nonresident Combination		
\$300 to \$350	850,000	850,000

120/7/5

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



Helena, MT 59620
October 1, 1984

TO: Jim Flynn, Director
Fish, Wildlife and Parks

FROM: Jim Herman, Chairman
Combination License Task Force *Jim Herman*

SUBJECT: Nonresident Big Game Combination Task Force Report

As you requested, a Task Force was created to review the format of the nonresident combination license. The committee was composed of six members, four of which were Guide and Outfitters and two to represent the sportsmen at large (Attachment I). The members were selected with the thought that each would represent a different segment of the Guide and Outfitter industry, resident and nonresident sportsman and conservationists.

A series of three meetings were held. At the first meeting we reviewed the results of a nonresident survey, the history of the combination license, discussed methods and prices of other states and developed a list of seven different options of resolving the problem, (Attachment II). Each member was requested to discuss these options with their constituents as to their opinion or recommendations. At the second meeting, we discussed the comments we had received and reduced the seven options to one tentative recommendation, (Attachment III). We then sent a copy of this recommendation to all Guides and Outfitters, sportsmen's club and division administrators and asked for any comments. After reviewing the comments, the Task Force would like to make the four following recommendations concerning the nonresident big game combination license.

1. Continue to sell the license on a first-come, first-serve basis. All six members were in favor of this method.
2. Increase the cost of the combination license to \$375 in 1986 and \$425 in 1987. This is with the assumption that the bear tag is still a part of the combination license. All six members were in favor.
3. Put the combination license on sale February 1. The vote was three in favor, two against and one absention. The two that voted against wanted to continue with the April 1 date.
The guide and outfitters council in a previous meeting

- had unanimously supported the February 1 date.
4. Offer a general deer license for eastern Montana \$150. There would be up to 10,000 of these licenses to be set by the commission based on deer populations. This would be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at the same time as the combination license.

Recommendation 4 was a somewhat controversial. The pro's and con's were discussed at length (Item IVa, Attachment II). However, the two members representing the sportsmen-at-large had received some additional con's from resident sportsmen that coincided with some of Wildlife Division's concern. Their concerns were:

1. The proposed limit appears to be excessively high. This year less than 4800 nonresident A licenses are available for the entire state. Since the nonresident A license was initially offered in 1981 the number offered has only averaged 2200 per year. The eastern Montana deer population is now probably higher than can reasonably be maintained, so where are these extra 5000 to 6000 buck deer going to come from?
2. Sportsmen in eastern Montana have expressed a real concern that the demand created by an additional 10,000 nonresident deer hunters in eastern Montana probably would generate fee-hunting on more of the private land. As beneficial as additional hunters may be for proper deer management in eastern Montana, any furtherance of fee-hunting could adversely affect resident hunter.

The final vote on this recommendation was four (all Guide and Outfitters) to two (both sportsmen at large).

In their deliberations, the committee discussed both short and long term solutions. Because this issue is important to many different groups, the Task Force felt that periodically a review should be made on the methods of selling the combination license. Recommendations will not have a major impact but all of them in combination will reduce the pressure for the next few years. If the problem surfaces again, the committee felt another Task Force should be appointed.

The Task Force was interested in knowing if and when the recommendations could be implemented. The first-come, first-serve is being used at this time. Putting the licenses on sale February 1 could be implemented in 1985. The department and the commission could for 1985 modify the use of the \$100 nonresident deer A license and make each license valid in a region in eastern Montana and sold on a first-come, first-serve basis along with the combination license. If the Legislature approves the \$150 nonresident license and removes the regional restriction, it could be implemented in 1986. The raise in price of the combination license would also require legislative approval and could be implemented in 1986.

I have all of the written testimony and information that was available to the Task Force. If you are interested in this, I will make it available upon request.

I felt the Task Force did a very good job considering all aspects of the recommendations. I personally enjoyed working with the group and felt that each member represented their constituents very well. The Task Force hopes that the recommendations assist you in making some very difficult decisions.

JH/ph

Attachment

cc: Task Force members

202/13

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Gene Lee
Montana Outfitters Council
Box 524
Bigfork, MT 59911

Mr. Jim Richard
Montana Wildlife Federation
306 W. Riggs
East Helena, MT 59635

Mr. Keith Bales
Outfitter
Box 33
Otter, MT 59062

Mr. Gary Sturm
Sportsman at Large
520 Wilder
Helena, MT 59601

Mr. Jack Hooker
Professional Wilderness Outfitters
Whitetail Ranch
Ovando, MT 59854

Mr. Chris Coile
Montana Outfitters and Guide Association
Sundance Ranch
Ovando, MT 59854

COMPARISON OF NEIGHBORING STATES LICENSE FEES

TYPE OF LICENSE	MT		CO	ID	WY	UT
	PRESENT	PROPOSED				
Resident Fishing	8.00	9.00	7.50	10.50	7.50	13.80
Nonresident 2-Day Fishing ¹	3.00	4.00	3.50	4.50	2.00	5.00
Nonresident Season Fishing	30.00	35.00	35.00	30.50	30.00	35.00
Nonresident Paddlefish	3.00	7.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resident Combination	35.00	36.00	51.50	52.00 ²	63.50	81.30 ²
Nonresident Combination	300.00	350.00	600.00 ²	410.50 ²	475.00 ²	438.30 ²

¹Comparison is based on cost per day for comparable short term fishing licenses.

²This state does not have a comparable combination license. Individual licenses are totaled.

Montana Audubon Council
Testimony HB 406
February 5, 1985

Exhibit #3
2-5-1985
H.B.#406

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janet Ellis and I'm speaking on behalf of the Montana Audubon Council. The Council represents over 2000 National Audubon Society members living in Montana.

The Council supports HB 406. Our membership is closely tied to the wildlife resources in Montana and many of our members hunt and fish.

In view of increasing demands upon our wildlife resources ~~and in light of the harmful effects of inflation on the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks,~~ we feel the moderate increases that the Department is seeking are fully justified.

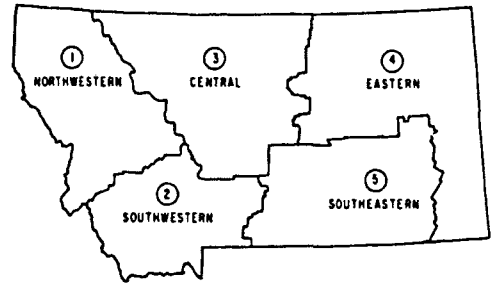
Thank you.

EDUCATION - CONSERVATION

Montana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Exhibit #4
2-5-1985
H.B. #406



TESTIMONY ON HB 406

MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2/5/85

My name is Dan Heinz and I appear on behalf of the Montana Wildlife Federation.

Hunting license fees have been supporting the fisheries program for some time. The Federation strongly supports HB 406, which moves to correct this situation.

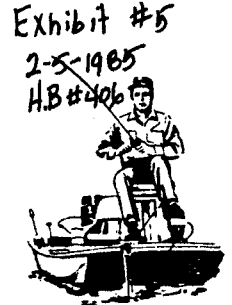
We urge do pass on HB 406.



Walleyes Unlimited OF MONTANA



BOX 1067
WOLF POINT, MONTANA 59201
February 5, 1985



Testimony before the House Fish and Game Committee

In Favor of HB406

My name is Scott Ross. I am from Wolf Point.

I represent Walleyes Unlimited of Montana, a group of over three thousand concerned sportsmen.

We stand in support of HB406 based on our understanding that the additional license revenues will be used to fund the expansion of recreation opportunities in Montana.

While this state boasts some of the finest hunting and fishing in the nation, an increased effort to manage some of our recreation resources will clearly result in widespread benefits for the citizens of Montana. It is for this reason that we support HB406.

Pediatric Dentistry

DONALD O. NORDSTROM, D.D.S.
A Professional Corporation

3817 Stephens Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801
Telephone [406] 549-2395

Exhibit #6
2-5-1985
H.B. #406

January 28, 1985

Representative Bob Ream
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Representative Ream:

I am writing in support of that portion of the Governor's Budget that provides appropriation for the renovation of the Miles City warm water fish hatchery. I also support the appropriation of funds to provide additional staff at that hatchery.

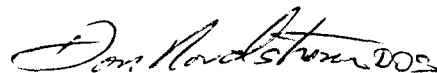
In conjunction with the appropriation for the hatchery, I support the proposed fishing license increase with the understanding that part of the funds derived from this increase will be specifically used to provide funds for the hatchery appropriation.

The Miles City fish hatchery is an integral part of the new warm water fisheries management programs that the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has instituted. The overall recreation opportunities in Montana will be greatly enhanced by the successful management of these fisheries. This fishery improvement would generate increased tourist revenue for the State in the near future. The tourist industry will become more important for Montana as time goes on.

Please give these issues your careful consideration when they come before the legislature. Your support of them will result in great beneficial changes in those areas of Montana that have warm water fisheries.

Thank you for taking time to consider my views on this matter.

Sincerely,



DONALD O. NORDSTROM, D.D.S.

Exhibit #7
2-5-1985
H.B. #406

January 30, 1985

Representative Bob Ream
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Honorable Ream:

As an avid fisherman, I wish to voice my support concerning House Bill 406, the license fee increase bill.

In order for the State of Montana to have an on going, aggressive, warm water fisheries program, the renovation of the Miles City Hatchery is an absolute necessity. I realize the renovation of the Miles City Hatchery is going to cost, and I am willing to pay my share by way of increased license fees.

Sincerely yours,


Carl Karge

Exhibit #8
2-5-1985
H.B. #406

Box 123
Fort Peck, Montana 59223
January 31, 1985

Rep. Bob Ream
House of Representatives
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Rep. Ream,

I am writing this letter as a businessman and a concerned sportsman. I believe that the warm/cool water fisheries in Central and Eastern Montana have been underdeveloped since Montana became a state. I am urging you to support HB 406 because it represents some of the funding for the renovation of the Miles City fish hatchery. North Dakota has a half billion dollar fishing related economy based on their warm/cool water fishery on Lake Sakakawea. Fort Peck Reservoir as well as other reservoirs in Montana represent this type of potential if they are developed. The funding for the fish hatchery is a major step in realizing this potential.

Thank you for your time and attention to my letter.

Sincerely,

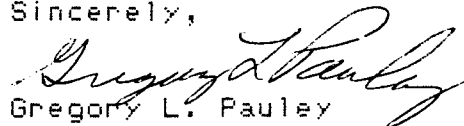

Gregory L. Pauley

Exhibit #9
2-5-1985
H.B. #406

Timothy M. Newton
PO Box 865
Glasgow, MT 59230

January 30, 1985

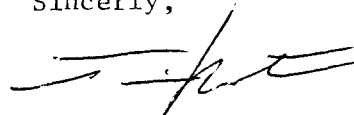
RE: H.B. 406

Representative Bob Ream
Chairman House Fish & Game Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Ream:

I urge you to support and pass H.B. 406 relating to the License Fee Increase, to be used for a new fish hatchery in Miles City. Also, for repair work on the two other hatcheries.

Sincerely,



Tim Newton

Exhibit #10
2-9-1985
H.B. #406

Walleyes Unlimited OF MONTANA



BOX 123
FORT PECK, MONTANA. 59223

Representative Bob Ream
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Bob Ream,

I am writing in support of that portion of the Governor's Budget that provides appropriation for the renovation of the Miles City warm water fish hatchery. I also support the appropriation of funds to provide additional staff at that hatchery.

In conjunction with the appropriation for the hatchery, I support the proposed fishing license increase with the understanding that part of the funds derived from this increase will be specifically used to provide funds for the hatchery appropriation.

The Miles City fish hatchery is an integral part of the new warm water fisheries management programs that the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has instituted. Walleyes Unlimited has, and will continue, to cooperate in the effort to improve the quality of fishing in our warm waters. The overall recreation opportunities in Montana will be greatly enhanced by the successful management of these fisheries, which occur widely throughout Montana.

Please give these issues your careful consideration when they come before the legislature. Your support of them will result in great beneficial changes in those areas of Montana that have warm water fisheries.

Thank you for taking time to consider my views on this matter.

<i>Emil Schlinker</i>	<i>John Schwarz</i>	<i>John Laurberg</i>
<i>Walter H. Hoehler</i>	<i>Jerry Smalis</i>	<i>Mont Smith</i>
<i>Don Cavel</i>	<i>Louis Alessi</i>	<i>Dick Olson</i>
<i>Ralph Wolff</i>	<i>Catrina & Dalallo</i>	<i>Raeella Alessi</i>
<i>Errol M. Peterson</i>	<i>Chris Cameron</i>	<i>Ruth Peters</i>
<i>Valmar Sieder</i>	<i>Frank Ewert</i>	<i>Maria W. Dolotta</i>
<i>Beate Coue</i>	<i>M. J. D.</i>	<i>John Kuehn</i>
<i>Y. K. ...</i>	<i>M. J. D.</i>	<i>John Kuehn</i>

~~Bob Kuten~~
Mike Jode
Frank Tulaasho
Albert Holik

Jim Mudy
Chester Mueray

Henry Sabo

Craig Brown

Joe Ross

Ray McDowell

Barb Bennett

Edna L. Huber

Tom Pisk

Daniel Losh

Selmer Cornelius

Edward G. Sant

Chit marks

Bud Eckerton

Palmer Christenson

Kevin Wanner

Simon Wanner

Beel Reno

Leo Long J

Newman Ayers

W. J. Engelbight

Burnett H. Schover

Kelby W. Smith

James H. Dodd

Timothy D. Hess

R. J. Newkay

Timothy Buckingham

Daniel Bar

J. S. Pulse

Harry Bennett

Bill Wells

Dale Gullert

Sue Cruschy

Jim Oubart

Exhibit #11
2-5-85
H.B. # 406

Representative Bob Ream
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Helena, Mt. 59620

Dear Mr Ream

You will soon be considering legislation to increase fishing license fees with the idea that the increase will fund a sorely needed warm/cool water fish hatchery in Miles City. Our organization SUPSOTS AND INCREASE. We are Walleyes Unlimited of Montana. We have spoken to many social, civic, fraternal orgs here in Billings and have gotten positive support for such an increase. There are many trout rearing hatcheries & ponds in Montana. Can't we have and support at least ONE WARM/COOL WATER HATCHERY in Montana? Sure, we can & will.



Larry Smith
Pres - Walleyes Unlimited
Billings Chapter
2602 Burlington
Billings, Mt. 59102

VISITORS' REGISTER

FISH AND GAME

COMMITTEE

BILL NO. 406

DATE FEBRUARY 5, 1985

SPONSOR REPRESENTATIVE BOB REAM

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Robert Mankere	Helena	X	
Jerry Doraly	Valier	X	
Ch. Reid Stuart	Valier	X	
Bib Bwt MHC	Helena		
Scott Ross	Wolf Point Walleye Unlimited	X	
James Roon	Great Falls, MT ^{Walleye Unlimited}	X	
George Tharson	Walleye Unlimited ^{Great Falls}	X	
Ron Quigley	Walleye Unlimited	X	
Mary Wright	Front Unlimited	✓	
Janet Ellis	MT Audubon Council	✓	
Dan Heinz	Mont. Wildlife Fed.	X	

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.