

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 8, 1985

The meeting of the Natural Resources Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Rex Manuel on January 8, 1985 at 8:55 A.M. in Room 132 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present. See Visitors Register.

The first order of business was on State Lands on Fire Suppression. Dennis Hemmer from the State Lands Board requested a supplemental appropriation of \$3,999,089 for the fires through the last biennium. This includes \$30,000 left over from Fiscal Year 1983. There was a large fire in 1983 and State Lands borrowed from their earmarked revenue to pay for it. They have to pay back the earmarked fund. There is \$763,899 of Fiscal Year 1984 expenses from fires. In Fiscal 1985 they have \$749,655 that they have borrowed out of the budget. Expenses paid are \$3.1 million and they have gotten a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) advance of \$2.3 million. This has left them with the \$749,655. They anticipate additional payments in Fiscal Year 1985 netting \$2,455,535.

From the time the fire starts and it is decided it is a FEMA fire until the department of State Lands has spent two times their average annual fire cost FEMA will pay 70% of fire costs. FEMA will pay 100% of fire costs after twice the average annual expenditures are reached. FEMA will only pay 75% of their share until all the bills have been audited. At that time FEMA will pay the additional 25%. FEMA has thus far paid \$2,395,961. State Lands projects in Fiscal Year 1985 they will receive from FEMA another \$947,772. They are projecting in Fiscal Year 1986 they will receive \$1,114,577. They are in essence requesting a supplemental approximately \$1.1 million larger than the fires cost because they won't get the final FEMA payment until Fiscal Year 1986, after the bills have been paid and audited.

The fires that they were on cost about \$9 million. They were able to push off about \$1.6 million to Federal Agencies as their portion of the cost share. There will eventually be a grand total of about \$4.4 million of FEMA assistance. The ending cost to the State will be about \$3 million or one third of the total costs.

Representative Nathe (1; A; 79) asked what would happen to the extra million they would have? Dennis Hemmer said that would be reverted back to the General Fund. Representative Nathe then asked when this would be done? Dennis Hemmer said it would depend on how soon the audit is done, approximately this time next year.

Senator Smith asked what will happen next year if we have fires since we had such a tremendous amount of cost this year. Dennis Hemmer said he expected their average annual cost will go up significantly so hitting the 100% threshold will be more difficult. Dennis Hemmer said that FEMA is talking about doing away with the 100% and going with a straight 75%.

Senator Smith (1; A; 130) asked if there was as much confusion and mismanagement as he had heard about? Dennis Hemmer said, "no, there wasn't." He said when they fight fires they prioritize the way they do it. Number one is they do it safely. Number 2 is they look at the economic consideration. If it is going to cost more to put it out than to let it burn it is a consideration. They have run into problems with frequencies and they have a shortage of radios.

Senator Smith (1; A; 197) asked about Co-op Counties. Dennis Hemmer said that they are going to make a request in their current level budget that eleven counties are brought back in.

Representative Nathe (1; A; 329) asked what it costs for a county to be in. Dennis Hemmer said it costs the department around \$25,000 per county. There is a continuing cost after that to keep them in. This money buys equipment and training.

SUPPLEMENTALS FOR LIVESTOCK: Les Graham (1; A; 415) talked about the upgrade in the milk and egg bureau of the Department of Livestock. This is funded totally out of the General Fund. Four sanitarians located in Billings, Missoula, Great Falls and Bozeman asked to be upgraded from a grade 12 to a grade 14. One compliance officer which was the Bureau Chief was upgraded, the Department of Livestock said no. They went in to the employee classification appeal program and won it. They found that they will come up short \$14,366.

Representative Spaeth (1; A; 474) asked what the reasons for opposing the upgrade were? Les Graham said they felt they were upgraded a few years ago so why was that so inaccurate that they needed it again. So they felt that it wasn't necessary.

Representative Spaeth asked if this would be a continuing problem with appeals in that particular area. Les Graham said he didn't think it would be a problem.

RABIES FUND: (1; A; 569): The funds for rabies come from the General Fund and \$15,000 a year from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to assist in the control of rabies. There are no administrative costs that they take from that nor are there any employee costs. That money is all used for supplies and for the rabies agents that are out in the various communities. Those are school teachers or county employees or whatever. They don't ask for increase funding through their normal budget because they feel they are better off leaving that at a minimal cost and coming back to us and saying here's what happened. It's for \$8,000 this year.

Dr. Ferlicka (1; A; 606) said they worked 30% more cases for the same time period for this last year as opposed to the year previous. There were 70 cases vs. 100.

Representative Naethe (1; A; 627) asked if the big expense for the rabies is the testing or the kits? Les Graham said that's the laboratory costs and the cost of rabies testing is not reflected at all. These expenditures are almost entirely for travel and mileage which amounts to 20 cents a mile that they reimburse agents that they employ and train and license and use on an as needed basis. When they are not working there is no salary involved. They are reimbursed at a rate of \$4.38 an hour and 20 cents a mile. The Livestock Department provides all supplies or they reimburse them for all supplies they may have to buy. These costs by comparison to personnel costs are small. They purchase toxicant and put together kits. There are some 60 kits that they distribute around at their cost of about \$100 per kit. There is a roster of upward of 100 agents available to them but not all working at one time.

Les Graham said that if we have a severe winter there will be less rabies because the skunks will den up early and they will die in the den. They will not survive till spring. In the periods of mild winter and mild trends during the winter these are most devastating because skunks become most active with a short period of warming trends during the winter. This allows the rabies to transmit during the winter.

Representative Nathe (1; B; 002) asked who pays for the shots for the humans if they have been working around these animals? Dr. Ferlicka said it amounts to about \$400 per patient not counting the professional costs and administration of the vaccine. The patient himself has to pay either from his own pocket or through his insurance. There are people in a financial position who can't afford it so in cases like that the Department of Health might absorb the cost.

Discussion was held on the Fire Suppression.

Representative Spaeth moved the approval of the Department of State Lands fire fighting supplemental as requested. Senator Lane seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the Department of Livestock milk and egg upgrade. Curt Nichols and Ron Weis are going to check into what options there are.

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Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.



REX MANUEL, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date January 8, 1985

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
FIRE SUPPRESSION SUPPLEMENTAL
1984/1985 BIENNIUM

The following summary represents unbudgeted expenses incurred by the Department of State Lands for fire suppression during the 1984/1985 biennium. Also included are spring FY1983 expenses which occurred after the legislative session. Cash from Hazard Reduction and Timber Stand Improvement funds have been temporarily used to cover these FY1983 expenses. The State-wide Budgeting and Accounting System (SBAS) has been utilized to record fire suppression expenditures as they occurred during the fire season. The following information is taken from SBAS and reflects expenses incurred for pickup firefighters, overtime, contracting manpower and equipment (to include assistance provided by the US Forest Service and other fire protection agencies), supplies, aircraft rent and other expenses typical of suppressing forest fires. The outstanding obligations have been determined from preliminary billings received from the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other cost obligations not yet posted to SBAS. Financial assistance is being provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Final negotiations for these federal dollars are still in progress, however, anticipated amounts are included in this report.

Total Supplemental Cost Summary

<u>FY1983 EXPENSE</u>		<u>Supplemental Request</u>
SBAS Fire Expense	\$58,150	
Approved 1983 Supplemental	-22,213	
Spring 1983 Expenses	<u>35,937</u>	
Amount Covered with '83 Budget	- 5,937	
Earmarked Revenue Loan	<u>30,000</u>	\$30,000
<u>FY1984 EXPENSE</u>		
March SBAS Fire Expense	\$757,603	
April-June SBAS Fire Expense	<u>+ 6,296</u>	
	763,899	\$763,899
<u>FY1985 EXPENSE</u>		
SBAS Fire Expense through November	\$3,145,616	
FEMA Advance	<u>-2,395,961</u>	
	749,655	\$749,655

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS:

Supplemental
Request

USFS Bill	\$3,021,841
BLM Bill	215,676
State of Idaho	21,500
National Guard	17,500
Paid So Far In December SBAS	20,195
Projected December and January Expenses	38,500
Replacement Equipment	18,095
Projected Other Expense	50,000

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,946,861
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FEMA ASSISTANCE:

Total Received So Far	\$2,395,961	
Projected FY85	947,772	- 947,772
Projected FY86	<u>1,114,577</u>	
Total FEMA	\$4,458,310	

TOTAL 1984/1985 SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST

\$3,999,089

9 million
Feb 88

VISITORS' REGISTER

NATURAL RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEEBILL NO. Appropriations Supplemental DATE January 8, 1985

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Les Graham & Staff	Dept. of Livestock	✓	
John Skufca	" "	✓	
Don Ferlicka	" "	✓	
Dennis Hemmer	State Lands	✓	
DAN UNDERWOOD	" "	✓	
Ron WEISS	ORPP		

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

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.