

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

January 22, 1985

The meeting of the Natural Resources Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Manuel on January 22, 1985 at 8:05 A.M. in Room 132 of the State Capitol.

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Jim Flynn, (21:A:105), Director, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, said in the current level in the Parks Program they contracted capitol grounds maintenance work out. The agency made an error in how they accounted for some of the expenditures in that program. They allocated \$64,000 to Repair and Maintenance and it should have been allocated to Contracted Services. Mr. Flynn said they estimate they will need \$146,000 for Contracted Services for this purpose. The bids for the contracts close in February.

(Contracted Services)

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$20,000 each year to sign recreational areas.

Appraisal Fees: Mr. Flynn (21:A:222) said they are requesting \$9,200 each year for appraisal in their land disposal program.

Security: Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$11,000 in FY '86 and \$13,000 in FY '87 for security. This would apply specifically to the Regional Facility in Missoula and Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls.

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$1,400 in FY '86 and \$1,600 in FY '87 for increased fire protection payments to the department of State Lands.

(Equipment)

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$18,000 for a snow plow and \$300 for a sander to be used in the Capitol area. The snow maintenance work is not contracted out.

Mr. Flynn said they are looking at three tractors to be used in operation, maintenance and development in the Parks system. They are requesting a \$17,000 tractor to be used in the Missoula region in FY '86. In FY '87 they are requesting a \$26,000 tractor to be used in the Kalispell region and a \$17,000 tractor to be used in the Billings region. These tractors will replace a 1953 tractor, a 1965 Massey Ferguson and one other tractor. These would come out of Parks earmarked revenues.

Mr. Flynn said they are reducing their requests of \$13,000 to \$7,500 for a bale buster. See Exhibit "p".

Senator Smith said they would probably be better off if they contracted hay grinding out.

(Conservation Education)

Contracted Services:: Mr. Flynn (21:A:543) said they are requesting \$6,000 each year of the biennium for Project Wild. This is a program they have been working on with Fish and Wildlife agencies throughout America to develop a standard Fish and Wildlife outdoor resources program to be utilized by Educators in K-12 school systems. They are conducting seminars to train Educators in this program.

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting an additional \$15,000 in FY '87 for printing training manuals on snowmobile and boating safety. Curt Nichols, Principal Analyst, said that they had continued their printing at the 1984 level of about \$160,000. This was for printing the Montana Outdoors.

Chairman Manuel asked Mr. Flynn to explain the Snowmobile Program to the Committee. Mr. Flynn said a portion of the state gas tax is allocated to the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks along with the revenue from the registration of snowmobiles. That money is estimated for the next biennium. The State Snowmobile Association determines how they will spend that money for the next two years. This expenditure is included in their budget request. The snowmobile clubs around the state determine how much is generated out of their area. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks buys snow grooming equipment, frequently out of state money, and they pay for the operation and maintenance of it but the snowmobile club will often do the snow grooming so it is not a cost item.

Mr. Flynn (21:B:060) said the agency produced an outdoor film once a year for use by the public. Four years ago they cut this production back to once every eighteen months. Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$5,700 in FY '86 and \$6,500 in FY '87 to continue this service. This primarily is License dollars.

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$8,700 in FY '86 and \$5,500 in FY '87 to replace the same films they have in their library. They have averaged 1,850 film bookings per year over the last three years from the Helena Film Library. The films are starting to get worn out and more prints of them are needed.

(Administration)

Mr. Flynn (21:B:136) said they are requesting an additional \$2,642 for FY '86 and \$2,629 for FY '87 over the LFA budget because a step 2 attorney left in June of the base year and they did not replace him until the end of July. The person hired had experience and was a step 7.

Contracted Services: Mr. Flynn said they are proposing \$20,000 each year over the LFA budget to contract with the Wildlife Management Institute. This Institute comes in and reviews the management of Fish and Wildlife agencies. This would come from License money. Discussion was held on this.

Travel: Mr. Flynn (21:B:524) said they are requesting an additional \$6,000 a year over the LFA's budget. This would allow the participation of the agency with the Northwest Power Planning Counsel to meet in Portland, or four times a year.

The Inter-Agency Grizzly Bear Committee was created this biennium. These meetings are held in Denver and require the attendance of either Mr. Flynn or one of his representatives to sit in on that counsel to discuss the management of the grizzly bear. Discussion was held on this.

Data Processing: Mr. Flynn (21:B:610) said they have over \$100,000 in computer equipment now.

Cost Savings: Mr. Flynn said they had a \$10,000 feed savings in one year at one of their fish hatcheries where a computer was used. Computers would make them more responsive to information needs.

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$56,000 for four regional offices to maintain data. The offices would be able to transmit notices electronically instead of having to use the mail.

Mr. Flynn said they are requesting \$13,000 for word processing equipment here in Helena.

Discussion was held on the computers.

Discussion was held on the Heritage Program.

MODIFIED:

(Centralized Services)

Mr. Flynn (22:A:314) said they are requesting the addition of one FTE and \$48,772 in the Biennium for assistance in their License Drawings. See Exhibit "Q".

Mr. Flynn said their applications have increased twofold in the last biennium for the special license drawings for Elk and Deer. Mr. Flynn said they processed 112,944 applications in 1979 with 29 temporary people. In 1984 they processed 228,000 applications with 18 temporary positions. Mr. Flynn said they were able to process more applications in 1984 with fewer people because of the use of the computer.

Mr. Flynn said they would like to add one person to work on the word processor. The operators are doing 5,762 lines per day per operator. There are two positions in this unit at this time. One is funded with License money and the other is funded with Legislative Contract Authority (LCA) overhead. The third person would be funded out of the General License account. See Exhibit "Q".

Mr. Flynn said they have approximately \$3.3 million worth of equipment in their inventory. In the biennium they will purchase approximately \$2.5 million worth of equipment. Mr. Flynn said they feel they should have a Purchasing Coordinator to help oversee the acquisitions of the agency and see that there are no duplications. Mr. Flynn said the agency feels this position would more that pay for itself. Mr. Flynn said if they realized a 1.5% savings it would pay for the position and anything over that would be a profit to the agency. See Exhibit "Q".

Mr. Flynn (22:A:440) said they are requesting the authority to spend the money collected from the other divisions to pay for vehicle operating costs. \$370,000 of revolving or Proprietary funds would be collected. See Exhibit "Q".

Legislative Contract Authority: See Exhibit "Q". Mr. Flynn said these expenditures would also involve vehicle costs. The vehicle costs would be taken from the divisions and put into Centralized Services and Centralized Services needs the authority to spend the money.

Equity Transfer: See Exhibit "Q". Mr Flynn said they set up revolving accounts in the Department for the operations of the print shop and the warehouse. When these accounts were set up the money was borrowed from the License account. To comply with the new law that says that an agency can not carry forward those type of loans from one biennium to the next they are proposing to take \$100,000 to pay the loan off.

(Field Services Division)

Game Damage Control: See Exhibit "Q". This program assists in keeping game out of hay stacks, etc.

Data Processing Coordinator: See Exhibit "Q". Mr. Flynn said they are requesting the authority to put a person on staff in the Field Services Division whose background and training is data processing to oversee the Departments evolution into the computers.

Landowner Insurance Program: See Exhibit "Q". Mr Flynn (22:B:043) said they propose the Department take out an insurance policy to cover losses the landowner may incur as a negligent act of a hunter. This would be strictly for livestock. Discussion was held on this.

Insurance Payments: Mr. Flynn said they are requesting the authority to spend any money they might collect from insurance in the next biennium. See Exhibit "Q"

Insurance Coverage: Mr. Flynn said they are proposing an increase in insurance coverage for personnel who ride in the helicopter and fixed wing aircrafts. See Exhibit "Q".

(Fisheries Division)

Warm Water Fish Program: See Exhibits "Q" and "R" submitted January 23, 1985. Mr. Flynn said one of the FTE's would be an additional person to work at the hatchery and the second FTE would primarily be part-time help to assist with the egg gathering and for the distribution of the production from the hatchery.

Angler Preference: Mr. Flynn (22:B:190) said this request is for the Department to do a survey to determine the economic values of the Fish and Wildlife resources in the State of Montana. See Exhibits "Q" and "R". Discussion was held on this.

Headwaters Missouri River Instream Flow: See Exhibits "Q" and "R". Mr. Flynn said this is a project they propose to go into the headwaters of the Missouri River and begin to develop information to institute an instream flow process before the Board of Natural Resources to reserve flows within that drainage for Fish and Wildlife purposes. This would be done in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and the Soil Conservation District. Discussion was held.

Lower Clark Fork Study: Mr. Flynn (22:B:455) said this is to assist in determining the status of the river. They are working in conjunction with the Department of Health using EPA funds to determine exactly what is in the river and what the impacts may be. See Exhibits "Q" and "R".


Upper Missouri Project: Mr. Flynn said this is a study on the future use of the dams in the Helena area and the use by the Montana Power Company and the Bureau of Reclamation. Both of these entities have been experimenting with various load levels going through the turbines attempting to maximize the electrical generation that comes out of the dams. This affects the amount of water that is in the reservoir and the amount of water coming out at the other end. This appears to have a negative impact on the fishing. Mr. Flynn said they propose to work with the people who own and operate the dams and find out what impacts might be on the water recreation facilities at these dams. See Exhibits "Q" and "R".

Beaverhead Forest Fish Inventory: Mr. Flynn said this would be a cooperative program between this agency and the Beaverhead National Forest. Mr. Flynn said they are requesting to inventory fishing resources they have within the forest system. See Exhibits "Q" and "R".

Painted Rock Water Purchase: Mr. Flynn (22:B:647) said this deals with the Bitterroot River. They are proposing through the Northwest Power Planning Counsel that the BPA purchase water out of Painted Rocks to assure that the Bitterroot is not badly dewatered in the summer. The Department is requesting \$20,000 to purchase water for the Bitterroot instream flow since the other request with EPA has not worked out. See Exhibits "Q" and "R".

Discussion was held on the modifieds in the Fishery Division.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.



Representative Rex Manuel
Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date January 22, 1985

[illegible]

FISHERIES DIVISIONMiles City Tractor

We are requesting a John Deere 65 hp gasoline tractor Model 2550 or equal with wide wheels and tires for support in damp pond bottoms. We can use a less expensive forage chopper and are changing our request to a Bale Buster for \$5,700.

A good second-hand tractor and Bale Buster would be adequate for a few years, but state purchasing procedures make it so difficult for us to buy good used equipment that we believe over the next 10-15 years we would be ahead to purchase new equipment.

Miles City is our only fish cultural station that hatches and rears warm/cool water species such as large and smallmouth bass, crappie, catfish, walleye, northern pike and several forage species. Warm/cool water species are raised primarily in earthen ponds rather than concrete raceways. Several of these species have to be enticed to spawn naturally in the ponds and successful rearing of all warm/cool water species requires the ponds be properly prepared and fertilized to provide a natural production of zooplankton to feed the fry and fingerlings. The procedures require the following operations:

- A. Discing or harrowing of pond bottoms after they are drained to reduce leakage and at times to plant a crop of some fast growing grass for fertilization.
- B. Chopping and blowing hay into the ponds for additional fertilization, shortly after they are filled and periodically throughout the rearing season.
- C. Occasional grading and shaping of erosion worn dikes and sides of ponds.
- D. Periodic grading and other maintenance of access roads between and around all ponds.
- E. Periodic cleaning of silt and debris out of the kettles in which fish are concentrated for removal when ponds are drained.
- F. Occasional towing of distribution trucks out of gumbo areas in pond access roads when trucks have to be loaded during rainy weather.
- G. Mowing grass around the pond areas.
- H. Snow removal around the hatchery work area and residences, and in severe winters, clearing snow from the ice on the brood ponds to prevent winterkill.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

The tractor requested in the Wildlife Division budget has 62 horsepower (SAE). It is a front-end loader/backhoe equipped machine designed for projects like fence building, culvert replacement, etc. Some farm work will also be done, but this will not be its major function; therefore, horsepower should be adequate to handle all the equipment ordered with it.

This past year we contracted to buy, through the normal bid process, a left-over 1983 model tractor at a bargain price because of a factory rebate and an additional rebate for state agency purchase. It was obtained from the Case dealer in Great Falls at a cost of \$40,248 for the tractor only. It will be used at Freezout WMA.

We could buy a used tractor, but the basic purchasing and repair system within which we are constrained would make it difficult. We would have to go with lowest bidder which may not constitute a quality used product. Also, we have no way to handle unexpected repairs (i.e., transmission/engine) without waiting until the next session to get appropriations. We would have to have an extensive long-term warranty to cover parts and repairs for a used tractor to be practical and cost effective for us. It would be difficult to project the cost of such a tractor.

MT. HAGGIN EXPENDITURES AND INCOME

During fiscal year 1983-84, \$83,770 was spent on the management of Mt. Haggin in the following categories:

SALARIES FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL	\$20,800
TIMBER CONSULTANT SERVICES	52,922
TRAVEL FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL	5,818
OTHER RELATED OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>4,230</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>\$83,770</u>

There were two funding sources:

TIMBER SALES	\$39,587
LICENSE ACCOUNT	<u>44,183</u>
	 <u>\$83,770</u>

Income from timber sales and grazing leases on Mt. Haggin totaled \$281,739 in FY 1984.

FISHERIES DIVISION

Some major expenditures from Lake and Stream Improvement Budget that were previously in the A&E Capital Program:

North Hill Fire stream improvement (committed but not yet expended)	(85)	\$ 4,500.00
Arlee Spring Hatchery water supply enclosure	(84)	\$26,039.00

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
Executive Budget Recommended Modified Level Requests
(Listed by Division by Priority)

	FTE			1985
	FY 86	FY 87	Funding	Biennium Cost
<u>CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION</u>				
1. License Drawing	1.00	1.00	General License	\$ 48,772
2. Word Processor	1.00	1.00	General License	37,675
3. Purchasing/Property Mgr.	1.00	1.00	St. Special Revenue	47,270
4. Vehicle Account	0.00	0.00	Proprietary	370,787
5. LCA - Vehicles	0.00	0.00	Proprietary	271,000
6. Equity Transfer	0.00	0.00	General License	100,000
<u>FIELD SERVICES DIVISION</u>				
1. Game Damage Control	0.50	0.50	General License	104,558
2. Data Processing	1.00	1.00	Overhead	60,369
3. Landowner Insurance Prog.	0.00	0.00	General License	40,000
4. Insurance Payments	0.00	0.00	Insurance Proceeds	50,000
5. Insurance Coverage	0.00	0.00	General License	48,000
<u>FISHERIES DIVISION</u>				
1. Warm Water Fish Prog.	2.00	2.00	75% Fed./25% GenLic	101,888
2. Angler Preference	0.50	0.50	75% Fed./25% GenLic	155,113
3. Headwaters Missouri R. Instream Flow	0.00	0.00	75% Fed./25% GenLic	130,000
4. Lower Clark Fork Study	3.00	3.00	75% Fed./25% GenLic	169,028
5. Upper Missouri Project	2.00	2.00	75% Fed./25% GenLic	101,493
6. Beaverhead Forest Fish Inventory	1.00	1.00	General License	51,345
7. Painted Rock Water Purchase	0.00	0.00	General License	40,000
<u>LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION</u>				
1. Colstrip Warden	1.00	1.00	General License	81,868
2. Travel Increase	0.00	0.00	General License	108,160
3. Special Enforcement Op.	0.50	0.50	General License	95,725
4. Operation Game Thief	0.00	0.00	General License	22,458

Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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FTE		Funding	1985 Biennium Cost
FY 86	FY 87		

WILDLIFE DIVISION

1. Deer/Antelope/Elk Harvest	0.00	0.00	75% Fed./25% GenLic	\$415,051
2. Hunter Preference	0.50	0.50	75% Fed./25% GenLic.	150,826
3. Grizzly/Black Bear Trends	2.25	2.25	General License	210,428
4. Landowner Co-op Mgt.	2.10	2.10	General License	145,425
5. Weed Control Evaluation	0.00	0.00	General License	40,814
6. Wetland Development	0.00	0.27	General License	49,996
7. Furbearer Study	0.50	0.50	General License	64,348
8. Computer Programmer	1.00	1.00	75% Fed./25% GenLic	60,971
9. Federal Aid Equipment	0.00	0.00	General License	90,200

PARKS DIVISION

1. Parks O&M	2.11	2.14	Coal Tax Trust Earnings	99,378
2. Landscaping-Maintenance	1.00	1.00	State/Proprietary	57,238
3. Recreation Fee Collection	2.72	2.72	Motorboat Fuel Tax	81,636
4. Land-Based Parks O&M	2.26	2.26	Coal Tax Trust Earnings	110,015
5. Lone Pine O&M	1.00	1.00	Coal Tax Trust Earnings	29,503
6. Cabin Site Appraisals	0.00	0.00	Motorboat Fuel Tax	52,000
7. R3 Fishing Access	0.25	0.25	General License	7,283
8. R/A Authority	0.00	0.00	Snowblower Replacement	200,000
9. R2 Site Maintenance	0.80	0.80	Motorboat Fuel Tax	35,405
10. R7 Rec. Site Improve.	1.00	1.00	50% Coal/50% Motorboat	30,816
11. R6 Parks Mgr.	0.50	0.50	GenLic/Motorboat	41,298
12. R5 Rec. Site Improve.	0.50	0.50	St. Special Revenue	12,682
13. Impr. Weed Control	0.00	0.00	50% Coal/50% Motorboat	21,216
14. Bannack Interpreter	0.15	0.15	Coal Tax Trust Earnings	5,061
15. Sommers Rest Area	0.39	0.39	Motorboat Fuel Tax	25,090
16. Newlan Creek Reservoir	0.10	0.10	Motorboat Fuel Tax	4,557
17. Capitol Complex Mapping	0.00	0.33	Grounds Maintenance	11,547
18. R/A Establishment	0.00	0.00	Snowmobile Fuel Tax	407,690

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION

1. Regulations Production	0.50	0.50	General License	25,541
2. Administrative Aide	1.00	1.00	General License	32,380
3. Video Taping/Editing	1.00	1.00	St. Special Revenue	106,763
4. MT Outdoors Promotion	0.00	0.00	St. Special Revenue	65,206
5. Hunter Education	0.25	0.50	75% Fed./25% GenLic	34,550

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

1. Account Transfer	0.00	0.00	General License	62,000
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Expected Duration of EPP Projects
in the Fisheries Division

Angler Preference Survey - to provide current data this project must be continued indefinitely. The statewide mail survey may be interspersed with one or more years of intensive survey on certain important waters.

Beaverhead National Forest Cooperative Fisheries Inventory. The U.S. Forest Service expects to be able to fund this position two years from now. If they do then our project will last only two years.

Lower Clark Fork River Fish Population Studies - 6 years. The present study area extends from Milltown Dam to the mouth of the St. Regis River. We estimate it will take 3 years to complete this stretch and three years more to complete the next section from the mouth of the St. Regis to Thompson Falls.

Warmwater Fisheries Program Enhancement. Indefinite for as long as anglers want increased warm/cool water fish production.

Canyon Ferry, Hauser/Holter Reservoirs Fisheries Evaluation - 6 years.

The study area includes the Missouri River from Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry and from Holter Dam to Cascade as well as the three reservoirs. This large and complex a water system which now supports about 1/7 of Montana's total fishing pressure will require at least six years to complete.

Missouri River Instream Flow Reservation. 4-years - see Graham's separate description of this project.

Purchase Water - Painted Rocks Reservoir. This is an annual rental payment until the BPA buys the water outright. We expect that will occur in 2 or 3 years.

Headwaters Missouri River Reservation Justification

The headwaters to the Missouri River include many rivers recognized nationally for their recreation opportunities. Approximately 25% of the fishermen use occurs in this area and these anglers spend over \$19 million a year.

There had been a moratorium on issuance of water permits in the Missouri River basin upstream from Great Falls since 1977. In the summer of 1984, DNRC issued an order which lifted the moratorium. Subsequent to that, they issued 170 water use permits totaling over 25,000 acre feet of water, with over 14,000 acre feet above Canyon Ferry.

Water for instream uses can not be protected without a reservation process. The reservation process also provides an opportunity for all users to plan for future needs. In anticipation of our budget request, representatives of DFWP and DNRC have been meeting with the seven conservation districts in the headwaters of the Missouri. We have met with five to date and have two more scheduled in the coming weeks. The districts support the concept and recognize the need for a reservation process.

The Department's costs for this process will be considerably smaller than for the Yellowstone reservation. Much of the biological data has been collected on the Missouri in recent years. Data will also be needed on recreational use and economics to complete the application.

The Interim Committee on Water Marketing has recommended that a reservation be completed on the entire Missouri River basin. Their draft legislation reflects a two year time frame for preparation of an application and two years following to complete the EIS and a board decision. Our budget does not reflect the costs for the entire basin and we would expect to request additional funds if the committee's bill passes.

NATURAL RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEE

DATE January 22, 1985

SPONSOR _____

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PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.