

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 10, 1985

The first meeting of the Senate Fish and Game Committee was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on January 10, 1985 by Chairman Max Conover in Room 402 of the Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

This meeting was called by the Chairman to advise the committee of his preferences as to how the committee would be handled.

He stated he would give all of the proponents and opponents an opportunity to testify and would allow time at the end of each hearing for the sponsor to close. His request to the committee was that they do not leave a vote on a bill. If they are not going to be present to vote, we will hold the bill. He also will not allow pairs. When it gets hectic towards transmittal and a Senator is not going to be available to vote because he has to be at another hearing, we will try to get that Senator back to our hearing, just to vote, and then he can leave right away. The committee will not pass a bill without giving each Senator on the Committee the right to vote. He requested that the committee members do not get into debates and arguments among themselves. Our committee will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will try to keep Saturday open as long as we can. He would like all bills to have at least one week notice before they are heard in committee. This will allow the people to have time to get to the hearing to testify. More time can be allowed if necessary. Each member of the committee gave \$3.00 for the coffee fund.

Senator Smith gave the Chairman a letter from the American Fisheries Society, attached as Exhibit 1, and requested that the committee try to find the time to view the slide/tape program on the values of riparian and wetland habitats.

Senator Jacobson suggested that Thursday, January 17, 1985, after the hearing on her bill, would be a good time to view the tape.

Senator Conover presented a letter to the committee from Wm. Eder, M.D., Idaho Falls, attached as Exhibit 2, which opposes the setting aside of any non-residence game licenses for Montana guides and outfitters.


Page Two
Senate Fish and Game
January 10, 1985

Jim Flynn, Director, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, explained to the committee the reason for the letter. Apparently there has been some published comments from outfitters expressing a desire that a certain amount of non-resident licenses be set aside for outfitters' clients. This is not the procedure at this time, although there is a problem with non-resident licenses because they are sold out so fast. This last year they were sold out in 19 calendar days from the date they were available. The outfitters have an option available to them in which they would obtain a power of attorney from their clients and the outfitter would be able to purchase the non-resident license for their client.

Senator Smith explained that the person in the letter was critical of something that had not happened.

Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council, advised the committee that as the Legislative Aid for the committee she would draft any amendments that the committee members requested on a bill ahead of time so that the amendment would be ready to give to the committee. Just let her know what you want. She is located in Room 140.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.


MAX CONOVER
Chairman

AH

ROLL CALL

SENATE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 1/10/85

SENATE
SEAT
#

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
22 Senator Anderson	✓		
6 Senator Jacobson	✓		
38 Senator Lane	✓		
31 Senator Severson	✓		
2 Senator Smith	✓		
37 Senator Yellowtail	✓		
Senator Conover	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Montana Chapter

9 January 1985

Senator Ed B. Smith
District 10
Capitol Station
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Senator Smith:

The American Fisheries Society, a group of professional fisheries biologists, will be working with the legislature this session on a bill designed to enhance riparian habitat. Riparian habitat consists of the narrow band of vegetation along a stream or river. This habitat is important to water conservation, water quality, fish, and wildlife.

The legislation that will be introduced would provide for tax exemption for riparian lands that are managed in a way to protect and enhance this important habitat. The program would be voluntary, of course.

Members of our organization will be meeting with you during the session to discuss this idea. Also, we have a slide/tape program on the values of riparian and wetland habitats that we would like to present to you at your convenience. Please contact myself, Janet Decker-Hess, President of AFS, or Chris Hunter, our member-lobbyist, to set up a time.

We hope we can work together to pass a bill that protects riparian habitat and is in the best interest of landowners.

Sincerely,



Janet Decker-Hess, President
Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
370 Third Avenue WN
Kalispell, Montana 59901
257-6645

Can't see Janes

Please make this letter available to other F&G
Committee members.

Exhibit 2, Presented by Senator
Conover - January 10, 1985

Wm EDER, MD

Honorable Sen Conover
Capital Station
Helena, Mont 59620

26 S S. Lloyd Cir
Idaho Falls, Id
83402

DEAR Senator Conover,

I'm a Montana man currently serving with
The Navy in Idaho Falls.

I write to express strong opposition to
any setting aside of non-resident game license
for ~~Idaho~~ Montana guides and outfitters.

If there aren't enough tags then there
are too many outfitters. Far too many in
my opinion.

There are so many outfitters near my
Ranch in Helmville, Montana that they've
spilled out of the Bob Marshall, and
are now hunting the edges of the
Nevada Cr. Valley. That leaves us locals
with no where to hunt that isn't
heavily used by the professional killers.

They're killing public game on public
land for a profit, and now want
govt. Help! What a joke.

Limit the number of guides to match
the game, or there will soon be no place
left worth hunting. Very Respectfully