

MINUTES
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 19, 1987

The meeting of the Natural Resources Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Swift on February 19, 1987, at 9:12 a.m. in room 317 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All subcommittee members were present with the exception of Senator Boylan. Also present were Carl Schweitzer, Senior Fiscal Analyst, from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA) and Karen Vollstedt, Budget Analyst, from the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP).

Tape 81A

HB 463 EXHIBIT 1

Rep. Cobb spoke on behalf of HB 463, an act to provide for management of the Sun River Ear Mountain, and Blackleaf Wildlife Management areas. These areas are located near Augusta and Choteau, Montana. Rep. Cobb explained that currently there is a manager and assistant on these game ranges. This bill would mandate that Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FW&P) continue to have a manager on this game range. Rep. Cobb said it is his understanding that when the present manager retires, there will not be a full time manager in this area. Rep. Cobb said the manager and assistant are doing a full time job on the game ranges now, and they need those full time positions to manage the wildlife, grasslands, and to keep out poachers.

Rep. Cobb explained that FW&P is currently closing down management positions on game ranges as the managers retire.

Jim Flynn, Director, FW&P, spoke in opposition to the bill. Mr. Flynn said that the department feels the appropriate place to set FTE levels is in the process set up by appropriations in the House, and finance in the Senate. Mr. Flynn explained that FW&P does have goals, objectives, and responsibilities that go along with maintenance of each game range. The department attempts to manage game ranges in the most economical way. Mr. Flynn said that in the last few years, the department has found that using work crews out of the regional headquarters to service game ranges, is a better use of manpower and dollars. As a result, the

department has begun to take more and more of the full time people off of game ranges.

Mr. Flynn requested that the subcommittee not approve this legislation.

In reply to a question from Sen. Story, Rep. Cobb said that HB 463 was passed by the House Fish and Game Committee.

In answer to questions, Mr. Flynn explained that there is now a full time and assistant person at the Sun River Game Range. The manager of that area is approaching retirement. Mr. Flynn said there have been no decisions made for moving the FTEs off that game range. In other game ranges, the FTEs have been moved off the permanent locations.

Rep. Manuel said that on the winter game range there should be a live-in manager to look out for the best interests of the wildlife. In answer to a question from Rep. Devlin, Mr. Flynn said there are now 2.2 FTEs authorized at Sun River game range.

Sen. Story said that House Fish and Game approved this bill. He felt it was not the business of this subcommittee to make game range decisions. Sen. Story said that this bill should be allowed to go over to the Senate. Sen. Smith agreed with Sen. Story. He also said that he would not vote to kill any bill in this subcommittee because it should go through the regular process.

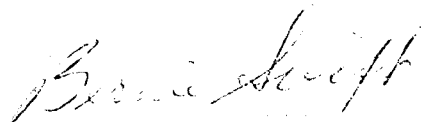
Mr. Flynn said that this bill will add .8 FTE that is not in the budget now.

Rep. Cobb closed by saying the trend to take management off game ranges concerns him. He said the issue is, who is going to manage and protect the wildlife on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Rep. Spaeth MOVED that HB 463 be amended to take out .8 FTE. Motion passed unanimously.

Sen. Story MOVED that HB 463 pass as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



Chairman
Natural Resources Subcommittee

DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE Feb 19, 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Boylan		X	
Representative Devlin	X		
Representative Manuel	X		
Senator Smith	X		
Representative Spaeth	X		
Senator Story	X		
Representative Swift	X		

Natural Resources Subcommittee
Exhibit 1

50th Legislature

HB 0463/02

HB 0463/02

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 463
2 INTRODUCED BY COBB

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR
5 MANAGEMENT OF THE SUN-RIVER GAME-PRESERVE-AND-THE SUN RIVER,
6 EAR MOUNTAIN, AND BLACKLEAF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS;
7 REQUIRING APPOINTMENT EMPLOYMENT OF A MANAGER AND-TWO
8 ASSISTANTS, ONE ASSISTANT, AND AN EQUIVALENT OF ONE
9 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE; AND ESTABLISHING THEIR
10 RESPONSIBILITIES."

11

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13 Section 1. Wildlife area management. The department
14 shall appoint EMPLOY a full-time manager and two assistants,
15 AN ASSISTANT MANAGER, AND AN EQUIVALENT OF ONE FULL-TIME
16 EMPLOYEE for the Sun River game preserve and the Sun River,
17 Ear Mountain, and Blackleaf wildlife management areas. These
18 persons shall:

19 (1) manage the areas to allow for production by
20 natural means of the optimum amount of native forage
21 preferred by the big game animals using the area and for
22 preservation of such forage for the use of the big game
23 animals;

24 (2) reduce or mitigate, to the extent possible, game
25 depredation to private land and forage supplies in the area

1 surrounding the game preserve or each management area;
2 (3) provide for the enforcement of game laws;
3 (4) provide for maximum public recreational use
4 compatible with the primary function of the range; and
5 (5) perform other duties assigned by the department or
6 commission.
7 Section 2. Codification instruction. Section 1 is
8 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87,
9 chapter 1, part 1, and the provisions of Title 87 apply to
10 section 1.

-End-

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB463, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

This bill requires the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to appoint a manager and two assistants for the Sun River Game Preserve, and the Sun River, Ear Mountain and Blackleaf Wildlife Management areas.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks already has a manager and one assistant responsible for these areas. The department would have to hire one more assistant to comply with this bill.
- We assume the intent of this bill is to have the manager and assistants live on the areas identified.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed expenditures reflect the additional cost for one Wildlife Management Assistant.

Expenditures:

	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Personal Services	\$2,645,178	\$2,660,434	\$ 15,256	\$2,646,465	\$2,661,721	\$15,256
Operating	2,580,142	2,606,242	26,100	2,008,731	2,018,531	9,800
Equipment	0	80,000	80,000	0	0	0
Benefits/Claims	1,195,370	1,195,370	0	1,195,370	1,195,370	0
TOTAL	\$6,420,690	\$6,542,046	\$121,356	\$5,850,566	\$5,875,622	\$25,056

Funding:

License Account	\$2,467,189	\$2,575,873	\$108,684	\$2,422,675	\$2,447,059	\$24,384
Fed/Private Special	3,421,873	3,421,873	0	3,421,891	3,421,891	0
Equipment Proprietary	531,628	544,300	12,672	6,000	6,672	672
TOTAL	\$6,420,690	\$6,542,046	\$121,356	\$5,850,566	\$5,875,622	\$25,056

Revenues:

Rental Income	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,672	\$ 672	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,672	\$ 672
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EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUE OR EXPENDITURES:

N/A

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

After the first year the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will incur an annual cost of \$25,000/year to comply with this proposed legislation.

David L. Hunter DATE 1/21/80
 DAVID L. HUNTER, BUDGET DIRECTOR

Office of Budget and Program Planning

JOHN COBB, PRIMARY SPONSOR

DATE

Fiscal Note for HB463, as introduced.

SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION REPORT

THE FOLLOWING BILL WAS REFERRED TO MY SUBCOMMITTEE ON _____
AND WAS HEARD ON Feb 19. THE RECOMMENDED ACTION FOLLOWS:

HB 463 HJR _____ HR _____ SB _____ SR _____ SJR _____ OTHER _____

THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED:

DO PASS _____ DO NOT PASS _____ DO PASS AS AMENDED

TABLED _____ POSTPONED _____

OTHER ACTION _____

Ellen Garity
Secretary

2-19-87
Date

Amended to eliminate .8
FTE.

DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES

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DATE Feb 19, 1987

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
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Representative Manuel	X		
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 DAVID L. HUNTER, BUDGET DIRECTOR
 Office of Budget and Program Planning

JOHN COBB, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

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