

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 53rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FISH & GAME**

**Call to Order:** By Bob Pipinich, Chair, on January 21, 1993, at 1:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Bob Pipinich, Chair (D)  
Sen. Gary Forrester, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Tom Beck (R)  
Sen. Don Bianchi (D)  
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)  
Sen. Bruce Crippen (R)  
Sen. Gerry Devlin (R)  
Sen. Judy Jacobson (D)  
Sen. Terry Klampe (D)  
Sen. Kenneth Mesaros (R)  
Sen. Dennis Nathe (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Andrea Merrill, Legislative Council  
Kathy Collins, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: SJR 2 - SJR 3  
Executive Action: SB 81

Representative Bob Ream, House District 54, Missoula County, gave a 20-minute slide presentation as an informational prelude to the hearing on SJR 3. Representative Ream presented the Committee with a written summary of the information presented (Exhibit #1).

##### **Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

Senator Christiaens asked Representative Ream if the larger population of white-tailed deer led to the higher number of kills by wolves, or if the physical size of the deer was a factor. Representative Ream stated white-tailed are more vulnerable to wolf kills, especially in deep snow, because of both of these factors.

Senator Cristiaens asked Representative Ream what he sees in implementing habitat improvement. Representative Ream stated he had suggested amendments which he considered biologically technical (Exhibit #2). He stated habitat improvement for big game species, in many areas, could offset many of the impacts of predation.

Senator Bianchi, referring to the wolf reintroduction into the Yellowstone, asked Representative Ream if the gray wolf would be a serious predator on the buffalo. Representative Ream stated there are a lot of buffalo in that area, and there are probably many old and feeble buffalo to provide the wolf with their food supply.

Senator Klampe asked Representative Ream if wolves will mate with dogs. Representative Ream stated that while domesticated wolves will mate with dogs, it is very rare for a wild wolf to do so.

Senator Beck asked Representative Ream what the projected size of the packs in question will be in the year 2000. Representative Ream stated wolves are capable of fairly rapid increase in numbers and because of this, he is a strong advocate of getting rid of problem wolves.

Senator Nathe asked Representative Ream if wolves vary in their litter sizes. Representative Ream replied yes.

Senator Mesaros asked Representative Ream how large an area is being discussed, with regard to wolves. Representative Ream replied each of the packs discussed in the presentation occupies an area of about 300 to 400 square miles. He stated there has been some overlap of the wolf packs, possibly because they are so closely related. Representative Ream commented he did not think the wolves would ever go into eastern Montana, as that is not part of the recovery areas. He stated in the three recovery areas in Montana, the goal is ten breeding pairs, which means ten packs, roughly 100 wolves--plus or minus 40. When the wolves reach that status, in any one recovery area, they would be downlisted from endangered to threatened. When all three recovery areas reach that status for three successive years, they would be totally de-listed and subject to management by the state.

Senator Beck asked Representative Ream if there would be a point where an area would have too many wolves. Representative Ream stated normally, where there is a healthy habitat and healthy populations of game animals, the predators are responsible for a relatively small portion of the mortality rates.

Senator Beck asked Representative Ream if mountain lions and bears propagate as fast as the wolves. Representative Ream stated they do not.

Senator Devlin asked Representative Ream if wolves kill only weak and wounded animals. Representative Ream stated they do not.

. HEARING ON SJR 3

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator John "Ed" Kennedy, Jr., Senate District 3, Kalispell, handed out copies of a letter and petition to the Committee from the Montanans for Multiple Use (Exhibit #3), and he turned the hearing over to the proponents.

Proponents' Testimony:

Pat Graham, Director, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), spoke from prepared testimony and included a set of recommended amendments (Exhibit #4).

Kim Enkerud, representing the Montana Stockgrowers and the Montana Woolgrowers, stated she supports the intent of SJR 3 and handed out copies of suggested amendments to the Committee (Exhibit #5). Ms. Enkerud stated she agrees with FWP's amendment #3, adding that both the organizations which she represents are also interested in this area.

Jamie Doggett, representing the Montana Cattlewomen's Association, stated she supports SJR 3 with the amendments presented by Kim Enkerud.

Stan Bradshaw, representing the Montana Bowhunters Association, stated he supports SJR 3.

Jean Johnson, Executive Director, Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, stated she supports SJR 3 and the suggested amendments. Ms. Johnson did not sign the visitor register.

Jim Richard, representing the Montana Wildlife Federation, stated he supports SJR 3, believing studies and good information will help us deal responsibly with the wolves. Mr. Richard did not sign the visitor register.

Lorna Frank, representing Montana Farm Bureau, stated she supports SJR 3 and the suggested amendments of the Stockgrowers.

Peggy Trenk, Executive Director, Western Environmental Trade Association, stated she supports SJR 3 with the suggested amendments by the Stockgrowers. Ms. Trenk stated a lot of the controversy over the wolf issue is due to a lack of information and knowledge and further studies would certainly contribute to clarifying some of the confusion.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None.

**Informational Testimony:**

None.

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

Senator Devlin, referring to the implementation and improvement of habitat asked Pat Graham what his thoughts were along those lines. Mr. Graham stated these areas would be looked at on a case-by-case basis, to see if there would be opportunities to increase numbers of a particular species. Senator Devlin asked Mr. Graham if there could be a decrease in hunting limits in certain areas to accomplish this. Mr. Graham replied without other measures to rely on, that would likely happen.

Senator Beck asked Pat Graham to give a quick summary of the amendments suggested by FWP. Mr. Graham stated basically the perception he wanted was that the big-game studies should be a state responsibly, not a federal one.

Senator Beck asked Pat Graham if the gray wolf is presently on the endangered species list. Mr. Graham stated the gray wolf is a federally listed species.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

Senator Kennedy handed out prepared statement as closing (Exhibit #6). He stated he would trust the Committee's judgement on the other suggested amendments.

**HEARING ON SJR 2**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

Senator John "Ed" Kennedy, Jr., Senate District 3, Kalispell, stated SJR 2 is a resolution he would like to turn over to the proponents.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

Pat Graham, FWP, spoke from prepared testimony (Exhibit #7).

Jean Johnson, representing the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association, stated she would like to commend the Department, the Board of Outfitters, the Montana Wildlife Federation, and the Commission for coming together to fashion a study that will find some long-range solutions for the problems that beset the outfitting industry. Ms. Johnson endorsed Pat Graham's suggestion for tabling SJR 2 in favor of a conference resolution.

Ms. Johnson believes this study is satisfactory to both the outfitting industry and the sportspersons.

Jim Richard, Montana Wildlife Federation, stated he attended, on behalf of the Federation, meeting referred to by Pat Graham. Mr. Richard believes the study suggested by Mr. Graham would ease some of the conflicts between the outfitters and the sportspersons.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None.

**Informational Testimony:**

None.

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

Senator Nathe, referring to page 2, line 17, asked Senator Kennedy if we would create the same thing for the guides and outfitters that was created for the liquor industry where everyone has their own geographic area. Senator Kennedy stated in the study, he hoped all aspects of that type situation would be evaluated. Senator Nathe commented he was concerned about limiting any new ventures into the industry. Senator Kennedy replied that was not his intent.

Senator Pipinich asked Senator Kennedy if he would object if SJR 2 was put on hold until the study suggested by Pat Graham could be conducted. Senator Kennedy stated this would be agreeable to him.

Senator Bianchi asked Pat Graham if there was a fiscal note required for SJR 2. Mr. Graham stated no.

Senator Pipinich stated further discussion would continue after Pat Graham's report was completed.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

Senator Kennedy presented the Committee with a handout and respectfully closed on SJR 2 (Exhibit #8).

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 81**

**Motion/Vote:**

Senator Beck Moved SB 81 be TABLED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, with Senator Crippen being absent at the time of the vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment: 2:30 p.m.**

  
SENATOR BOB PIPINICH, Chair

  
KATHY COLLINS, Secretary

BP/kc

# ROLL CALL

SENATE COMMITTEE Fish & Game DATE 1-21-93

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Pipinich	X		
Senator Forrester	X		
Senator Klampe	X		
Senator Nathe	X		
Senator Devlin	X		
Senator Mesaros	X		
Senator Beck	X		
Senator Crippen	X		
Senator Christiaens	X		
Senator Bianchi	X		
Senator Jacobson	X		

SENATE FISH AND GAME

SENATE NO.

DATE

BILL NO.

1-21-93

SJR 3

R. Ream

January 21, 1993

Senate Fish and Game Committee

- 1870-1900 - Bison exterminated and all other big game populations reduced to extremely low numbers. Predators increase.
- 1880-1910 - Livestock numbers increase dramatically - wolves in direct conflict. Territorial legislature passes bounty.
- 1936 - Last wolf taken by a government trapper.
- 1950-1970 - Occasional wolf killed in MT, probably dispersers from Canada.
- 1974 - Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf (supspecies of Gray Wolf) listed by USF&WS as endangered in northern Rockies. Recovery team appointed by Director of USF&WS.
- 1978 - Gray wolf listed as endangered in lower 48 states and downlisted as threatened in Minnesota. First recovery plan completed by recovery team.
- 1987 - Recovery plan completed and approved by Director USF&WS.
- 1987 - First wolf depredation on livestock near Browning. Two other depredation situations at Marion and Dixon since. All situations wolves removed from area by federal ADC.

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Wolf research and monitoring through UM.

- 1973-79 - Survey work to determine presence or absence of wolves in Montana. Reports due to dispersers from Canada.
- 1979 - First wolf captured 5 miles north of GNP (Glacier National Park). Was lone adult female. Tracked for 18 months.
- 1981-1982- Black male wolf appears autumn 1981, apparently joins female and litter of 7 born in 1982, 4 miles north of GNP.
- 1985 - Magic Pack of 6 wolves has litter of 7 pups just north of GNP but pack moves into GNP in November after 1 shot.
- 1986 - First litter of pups born in GNP and first documented anywhere in west in over 50 years.
- 1985-1993 - Wolf population in North Fork (Canada & U.S.) increases to 4 packs of 40-42 wolves.
- 1985-1991 - 229 wolf kills examined are 60% white-tailed deer, 30% elk, 7% moose, and 3% mule deer.
- 1990-1992 - 30 adult female: white-tailed deer, elk, and moose radio-collared to help establish populations and to determine causes of mortality. Mountain lion major predator, wolves and bears equal but lesser. PRELIMINARY!



CAUSE SPECIFIC MORTALITY STUDIES  
OF ADULT FEMALE UNGULATES  
IN THE  
NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER DRAINAGE

EXHIBIT 1  
DATE 1-21-93  
JL STR 3

SPECIES	MORTALITIES	CAUSE	TOTAL
DEER			
(1989-36)			
(1993-04)			
40			
	3	MT LION	
	4	WOLF	
	2	BEAR	
	3	COYOTE	
	2	HUMAN	
	1	UNKNOWN PREDATOR	
	1	UNKNOWN	
	1	<u>OLD AGE</u>	
			17
ELK			
(1989-33)			
(1993-05)			
38			
	9	MT LION	
	2	WOLF	
	2	GRIZZLY BEAR	
	3	<u>HUMAN</u>	
			16
MOOSE (35)			
	3	GRIZZLY BEAR	
	1	WOLF	
	1	UNKNOWN (NOT PREDATOR)	
	1	<u>HUMAN</u>	
			06

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA'S UNGULATE MORTALITY STUDIES BEGAN IN 1989. MONITORED DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE LIVE IN THE SAME AREA WHERE 4 WOLF PACKS (30-40 WOLVES) ARE BEING MONITORED. ADDITIONAL UNGULATES WERE RADIO-COLLARED IN 1993. TWO MOOSE DIED DURING CAPTURE.

REVISED 1/16/93

Amendments to Senate Joint Resolution No. 3  
1st Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Ream  
For the Senate Committee on Fish and Game

Prepared by Andrea Merrill  
January 18, 1993

1. Title, line 7.  
Strike: "HABITAT"  
Insert: "POPULATION"
2. Page 1, line 12.  
Strike: "reintroduction"  
Insert: "recovery"
3. Page 1, line 13.  
Strike: "habitat will"  
Insert: "range may"
4. Page 1, line 24.  
Strike: "habitat"  
Insert: "population"  
Strike: "reintroduction"  
Insert: "recovery"
5. Page 2, line 1.  
Strike: "habitat"  
Insert: "range"

SENATE FISH AND GAME  
DRAFT NO. 2  
DATE 1-21-93  
BILL NO. SJR 3



## MONTANANS FOR MULTIPLE USE

P.O. BOX 190068, HUNGRY HORSE, MT 59919 \*\* PHONE 387-5535  
FAX 387-4262

SENATE FISH AND GAME

LEGISLATIVE NO. 3

DATE 1-21-93

FILE NO. SJR 3

January 19, 1993

Senator "Ed" Kenney  
Montana Senate  
Capitol Station  
Helena, MT 59620

Please submit this written testimony on behalf of Montanans For Multiple Use at the Senate Fish & Game Committee, Thursday January 21, 1993. Montanans For Multiple Use is a multiple use group who is comprised of over 500 paid members and represents over 1500 individuals. Our members consist of snowmobilers, hunters, ranchers, loggers, trail bike riders, berry pickers, handicapped, woodcutters, ATV's, hikers, trappers, horseback riders, campers, fisherman, etc.

Montanans For Multiple Use supports your introduction of SJ3, which concerns a resolution urging federal wolf recovery agencies to do big game studies. As a group of multiple users, wolf recovery is a important concern to our recreation and livelihoods. We feel that it should be mandatory for all federal wolf recovery agencies to do big game studies to consider the effects that the wolf may have on our big game populations.

The hunting of big game in the State of Montana generates millions of dollars to the economy yearly. Tourists from other states generate millions of dollars annually when traveling to the State of Montana to view our big game populations. Montana does not want to find themselves in the same situation as Alaska, where a decline in wildlife population (moose and caribou) has resulted because of the wolf.

At many Montanans For Multiple Use public meetings we have polled the audience to ask if they were in favor of forced wolf recovery. At all of these public meetings the results were the same, with over 97% saying NO. We firmly believe that the majority of these people say this because of the threat wolves may have on our big game populations, as well as the restrictions the wolf may bring to our recreation and livelihoods.

Thank you again for introducing SJ3. You have our total support.

Sincerely,

This document is stored at the Historical Society at 225 North

Roberts Street, Helena, MT 59620-1201. The phone number is 444-2694.

FISH AND GAME  
Exhibits. 4  
Date 1-21-93  
BILL NO. SJR 3

SJR 3  
January 21, 1993

Testimony presented by Pat Graham, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
before the Senate Fish and Game Committee

We support the intent of Senate Joint Resolution No. 3 to implement habitat improvement projects to increase big game populations in areas affected by the gray wolf recovery program. It is likely that wolf packs will have an impact on big game herds in some areas. Under current federal law the state has no ability to regulate wolf numbers to maintain an ecological balance until they are formally delisted. Experience suggests that delisting of the wolf will be very slow.

The state, not the federal government, is responsible for management of resident wildlife. The resolution should more appropriately urge federal agencies to fund the state Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department to study big game populations and habitat. Not only does the state have that legal authority, but our experience with the grizzly bear and black-footed ferret recovery programs indicates that Montana citizens are more supportive when the state is actively involved.

The wolf as a species is legally, not biologically, endangered. It is currently expanding into range that it historically occupied. While public opinion about the wolf's return is mixed, the fact is the wolf is expanding its range in Montana. We believe there would be more local support, or at least less opposition, if the state had more authority and flexibility to manage the wolf.

Unfortunately, this would require an amendment to the Endangered Species Act or separate federal legislation. The ESA is currently up for reauthorization during this session of Congress.

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 1-21-93  
71 STR 3

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

AMENDMENTS

1. Title, line 6  
Following: "TO"  
Insert: "PROVIDE THE RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE TO STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES"
2. Title, line 8  
Following: "PROGRAM:  
Strike: "AND, WHERE FEASIBLE, TO"  
Insert: "TO, WHERE FEASIBLE,"
3. Title, line 10  
Following: "PROJECTS"  
Insert: "AND PERSUADE CONGRESS TO AMEND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TO GIVE NEEDED FLEXIBILITY TO STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES TO MANAGE THE GRAY WOLF IN THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE EXPANSION OF ITS HABITAT"
4. Page 1, line 14  
Following: "MONTANA"  
Insert: "and other state's"
5. Page 1, line 16  
Following: "WHEREAS,"  
Strike: "Montana hunters"  
Insert: "hunters in Montana and other states"
6. Page 1, following line 18  
Insert: "WHEREAS, the expertise to flexibly manage gray wolves, big game animals, habitat, and hunting opportunities lies with state wildlife management agencies."
7. Page 1, line 23  
Following: "to"  
Insert: "provide the resources to state wildlife management agencies to"
8. Page 2, line 3  
Following: "to"  
Insert: "provide the financial resources to state wildlife management agencies to"
9. Page 3, line 4  
Following: "feasible,"  
Insert: "and"
10. Page 2, following line 5  
Insert: "(3) That the appropriate federal agencies be strongly encouraged to persuade Congress to amend the Endangered Species Act to ensure that state wildlife management agencies have the

necessary flexibility to manage the gray wolf in areas affected by the expansion of its habitat.  
Renumber: subsequent sections

Amendments to Senate Joint Resolution No. 3  
1st Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Kennedy  
For the Committee on Fish and Game

Prepared by Andrea Merrill  
January 19, 1993

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 5

DATE 1-21-93

BILL NO. SJR 3

1. Title, line 7.

Following: "HABITAT"

Insert: "AND MULTIPLE-USE"

2. Title, line 8.

Strike: ", WHERE FEASIBLE, TO IMPLEMENT"

Insert: "TO CONSIDER"

3. Title, line 9.

Strike: "TO INCREASE BIG GAME POPULATIONS"

Insert: "IN COOPERATION, COORDINATION, AND CONSULTATION WITH  
OTHER MULTIPLE-USE INTERESTS"

4. Page 1, line 18.

Following: "populations"

Insert: "; and

WHEREAS, the effect on multiple use interests in areas  
affected by wolf recovery programs is of economic and social  
concern to all Montana citizens"

5. Page 1, line 24.

Following: "habitat"

Insert: "and multiple-use"

6. Page 2, line 3.

Strike: "implement"

Insert: "consider"

7. Page 2, lines 3 and 4.

Following: "projects" on line 3

Strike: remainder of line 3 through "populations" on line 4

Insert: "in cooperation, coordination, and consultation with  
other multiple-use interests"





# MONTANA STATE SENATE

SENATOR JOHN "ED" KENNEDY, JR.  
 SENATE DISTRICT 3  
 5567 MONTANA HWY. 35  
 KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901

COMMITTEES:  
 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
 VICE CHAIRMAN  
 NATURAL RESOURCES  
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

January 21, 1993

SENATE FISH AND GAME  
 EXHIBIT NO. 6  
 DATE 1-21-93  
 BILL NO. SEN 3

Wolves: The Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan developed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1987, set 10 breeding pairs of wolves as the recovery goal for the NW Mt. recovery area. Ten breeding pairs means 10 packs. Packs in our area means 5-8 animals on average. A wolf researcher in the North Fork estimates that a 6 animal pack kills a deer every 1 1/2 days or about 240 per year. With 10 packs, this equals to 2400 deer per year. Besides the 10 packs, there will be some single wolves that kill big game. Ten packs is the minimum, so when recovery is reached, there could be 10-20 actual packs. Adding in the big game animals for the non-pack wolves, we are talking about 3,000 plus deer at the minimum. There is also another recovery area around Yellowstone and another in Central Idaho that will get into game animals in the Bitterroot. Overall, a lot of big game will be taken.

Quotes from the Mt. Elk Mgt. Plan, for the Bob Marshall Elk Management Unit:

If wolf recovery goals are reached, DFWP anticipates that a minimum of 50 wolves will occupy this unit. Numbers of elk currently harvested is estimated to be equivalent to the average annual surplus produced. DFWP therefore assumes that elk killed by wolves will compound current hunter mortality. (this means reduce elk available for hunters)

Quotes from the Mt. Elk Mgt. Plan for the North Fork Flathead Elk Mgt. Unit:

Work with the USFWS to develop a cooperative program to address elk mortality attributed to wolves and the associated loss of hunting opportunity. The program would include enhancing seasonal elk habitat to support additional elk.

It seems that I recall a figure that a recovered wolf population on the Rocky Mountain Front would kill enough elk to equal one-half the current hunter harvest.

John "Ed" Kennedy Jr.  
 Senate District 3

## SENATE FISH AND GAME

ENRICH NO. 7DATE 1-21-93BILL NO. SJR 2SJR 2  
January 21, 1993

Testimony presented by Pat Graham, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
before the Senate Fish and Game Committee

The Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission support the need for a study of issues related to the outfitting industry in Montana. The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission discussed the need for such a study with the outfitting industry at its November meeting. Subsequently, this Senate Joint Resolution was introduced and identified additional areas of need and concern.

As a result, I scheduled a meeting on January 19 in the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission room and asked representatives of the outfitting industry and sportsmen's groups, the Department of Commerce, and others to sit down and discuss problems associated with the outfitting industry as viewed by outfitters and sportspersons. We identified a range of problems, developed study goals and discussed the information needs for an interim study of the hunting outfitting industry in Montana.

We endorse a study of the hunting outfitting industry, but it will take time to write or rewrite a Senate Joint Resolution. We would recommend that a new Senate Joint Resolution be prepared that will incorporate the recommendations of this committee.

We would be willing to assist Senator Kennedy.



# MONTANA STATE SENATE

SENATOR JOHN "ED" KENNEDY, JR.  
SENATE DISTRICT 3  
5567 MONTANA HWY. 35  
KALISPELL, MONTANA 59901

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 8

DATE 1-21-93

BILL NO. 54R 2

COMMITTEES:  
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Federal agencies should establish programs to enhance big game populations equal to wolf predation.

**LIMITING OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES:** The Montana State Elk Plan says, "The Montana Department of Commerce does not limit the number of outfitters and guides that are licensed to operate in the State. However, the US Forest Service does regulate outfitter numbers and special use permits for individual National Forests. Commercialization of wildlife resources has fueled a number of controversies pertaining to Montana's elk management program." "...increasing competition between outfitters and between guided and non-guided elk hunters for elk hunting opportunity, especially for mature bulls."

So there is an increasing conflict between Montana resident hunters and outfitters. Resident Montana hunters do not like to compete with professionally guided hunters. Many Montana hunters are weekend hunters and are distressed to find their favorite spot occupied season long with a commercial guide. Even the DSL has begun leasing State lands to commercial outfitters. Commercial outfitters are now moving into the roaded portions of National Forests, since the wilderness and roadless areas are saturated with outfitters. Montana has more licensed outfitters than the State of Alaska.

Flathead Wildlife appealed a Kootenai National Forest decision to allow three more outfitters to operated in an area near the Cabinet Mountains. The Forest Service rejected our appeal because they said the State has control of game populations. So it seems that the Forest Service says the State is in control and the State says the Forest Service is in control. In reality, no one is in control!

Even the long term professional outfitter has concerns with unlimited numbers of outfitters since the number of non-resident big game tags are limited. There are not enough big game tags for all outfitters to operate in the black while offering and providing a quality experience. So we are doing a dis-service to non-resident sportsmen who hire the inexperienced, under equipped and under experienced outfitter. That's bad for everybody.

The FW&P is not involved in regulating outfitting. So they are trying to manage a finite big game resource and meeting the needs of over 100,000 resident elk and deer hunters, while the Dept. of Commerce is offering unlimited outfitting licenses.

A study is needed to bring some sense to the current mess.

John "Ed" Kennedy, Jr.  
Senate District 3

DATE 1/21/93

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Fish & Game

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SJR 2, SJR 3

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Kim Enkerud	MT <sup>Woolgrowers</sup> Stockgrowers	SJ 3	with MSOA amendments	
Jamie Doggett	MT. Cattlemen	SJ 3	with MSOA amendments	
Lerna Frank	MT. Farm Bureau	SJ 3	with MSOA amendments	
Stan Frosier	Prickly Pear Sports	SJR 2	✓	
Pat Gahr	DFWP	SJR 2/3		
Stacy Bradshaw	MT. Bowhunters	SJR 3	✓	
Peggy Trenk	WETA	SJR 3	with MSOA amendments	
Janet Ellis	MT Audubon	SJR 3		
Clint Blackwood	Travel Montana			
Linda Ellison	MT Trail Vehicle Riders	SJR 3	with MSOA amendments	

## VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY