

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN ROGER DEBRUYCKER, on January 28, 1997, at 8:30 A.M., in Room 201

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Roger DeBruycker, Chairman (R)
Sen. Thomas F. Keating, Vice-Chairman (R)
Sen. Larry L. Baer (R)
Rep. John Johnson (D)
Sen. Linda J. Nelson (D)
Rep. William R. Wiseman (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Roger Lloyd, Legislative Fiscal Division
Theda Rossberg, Committee Secretary

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Wildlife Division
Field Services

Executive Action: FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
Wildlife Division
Field Services

Tape 1,A
Speed 4.8

EXECUTIVE ACTION WILDLIFE DIVISION CONTINUED

EXHIBIT 1, Page C-49. I3) Grants:

Don Childress, Administrator Wildlife Division reviewed Item 13, Grants.

Questions and Responses:

SEN. BAER asked how the students were chosen for that program.

Mr. Childress replied that the university selected he students.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON MOVED TO APPROVE iTEM 13, GRANTS.

Motion carried unanimously.

Other Base Adjustments:

Motion/Vote: REP. WISEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER BASE

ADJUSTMENTS. Motin carried unanimously.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.8; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE NEW PROPOSALS

1) Bear Management Specialist:

EXHIBIT 2, Page C-50. Roger Lloyd, Legislative Fiscal Division reviewed the LFD Issues.

Mr. Childress gave some background on Item 1, Bear Management Specialist.

Questions and Responses:

CHAIRMAN DEBRUYCKER asked what the National Wildlife's position was with the grizzly bear management.

Mr. Childress stated that FWP were the responsible department for endangered species.

Motion/Vote: REP. JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 1, BEAR MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST WITH LANGUAGE IN HB 2 REQUIRING EVALUATION FOR THE NEXT BUDGET CYCLE AND SWITCH APPROPRIATIONS FROM FEDERAL FUNDS INTO STATE SPECIAL REVENUE USING FEDERAL FUNDS FIRST IF AVAILABLE. Motion carried unanimously.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 13.3; Comments: .}

2) Blackfooted Ferret Reintroduction:

Mr. Lloyd reviewed the LFD Issues.

EXHIBIT 3. Statutes referenced in LFD Narrative.

Discussion:

Mr. Childress stated that program was previously funded with federal dollars and currently it is funded with a 50% federal match and the tribe was matching 50%, so they would all be federal funds.

Questions and Responses:

CHAIRMAN DEBRUYCKER stated that several sessions ago the federal government funded that program.

Mr. Childress replied so far the funding had been at the same level as in the past.

EXHIBIT 4, Page C-70. Mr. Lloyd stated that in the Department Management Program they were requesting grants for \$110,000 to go the department of Livestock for coyote control and perhaps that program could assist the ferret program if coyotes were a problem.

Discussion:

Discussion by the committee members on the Blackfooted Ferret Reintroduction.

Note: No action was taken on Item 1, Blackfooted Ferret Reintroduction.

EXHIBIT 5. Mr. Childress reviewed a proposal for funds in Personal Services and Operations for animal surveys and coyote control.

Questions and Responses:

Committee members asked questions regarding Mr. Childress requests and his response.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 41.4; Comments: .}

Motion/Vote: CHAIRMAN ROGER MOVED TO APPROVE PREDATOR CONTROL FOR \$58,342 IN FY98 AN FY99. Motion carried unanimously. See EXHIBIT 5.

Motion/Vote: REP. WISEMAN MOVED TO CLOSE THE WILDLIFE DIVISION. Motion carried unanimously.

Tape 1,B
Speed 4.8

HEARING FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

EXHIBIT 6. Jerry Wells, Administrator Fields Services Division gave an overview of the division.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 13.6; Comments: .}

Mr. Wells reviewed the Block Management Program.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 29.2; Comments: .}

Questions and Responses:

Tape 2,A
Speed 4.8

EXHIBIT 7. - General License Account as requested by the committee.

EXHIBIT 8. - Overtime in the Executive Budget Base, Present Law and New Proposals for FY96 - FY99 requested by the committee. Mr. Lloyd highlighted the Natural Resources Subcommittee section.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.1; Comments: .}

EXHIBIT 9, Page C-22. Mr. Lloyd reviewed some background issues on HB 195.

EXHIBIT 10, Page C-23. Mr. Lloyd reviewed Table 5, Combined HB 195 and Block Management Executive Budget and Executive Present Law.

Questions and Responses:

SEN. KEATING asked if the fees would return to where they were originally when HB 195 sunsets.

Mr. Lloyd said yes. He referred to Statute 87-1-268. See EXHIBIT 3.

Mr. Wells responded to questions regarding license fees.

Discussion:

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 12.9; Comments: .}

Mr. Lloyd stated that on Page C-23 (EXHIBIT 10) explains the revenues for that program.

Mr. Wells continued discussion on hunting with the committee members.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 34.3; Comments: .}

Mr. Lloyd reviewed the Block Management funding. See EXHIBIT 10, Page C-23, Table 5.

EXHIBIT 11, Page C-24. Mr. Lloyd said the committee must consider if they want to expand HB 195 for Block Management and fund the program from the licenses.

Mr. Lloyd said to delete Item 2 under Restricted Appropriations.

Mr. Wells explained what the funds were used for and the authority.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 42.5; Comments: .}

Mr. Lloyd reviewed HB 195 Clarification. See EXHIBIT 11.

Tape 2,B

Speed 4.8

Mr. Lloyd stated that in Table 6, (EXHIBIT 11) shows a five year average for variable priced licenses sold.

Mr. Lloyd said there was still one license that was past the 5 year average.

EXHIBIT 12, Page C-25. Mr. Lloyd referred to Item 2, which the statute doesn't address what happens to the unspent or unobligated funds in the license account.

Mr. Lloyd explained that in Item 3, the statute doesn't address the account where the additional revenue from the sale of licenses should go. The department chose to place the funds into a separate account.

Mr. Lloyd stated that under Item 4, that statute doesn't direct what the increased license fees should be used for. The intent was to use those funds for the Hunter Enhancement Program, but the statute doesn't say that.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 7.0; Comments:

Discussion:

Discussion on resident and non-resident hunter license fees.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 14.5; Comments: .}

EXHIBIT 13, Page C-26. Mr. Lloyd reviewed Item 5. It doesn't state what part of the license fee should be used to fund HB 195, if that was the intent.

Questions and Responses:

EXHIBIT 14 - Hunter Access Program Proposal:

Mr. Wells stated the appropriation authority was less than the revenue that was generated. They were requesting \$462,467 for FY98 and \$464,982 for FY99 to bring the request up the level of the 1996 hunting season's expenditures.

Discussion:

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 33.0; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE ACTION FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

EXHIBIT 15, Pages C-19 and C-20 - BUDGET ITEMS:

5) Hunter Enhancement Increase:

9) Restore Hunter Access Levels:

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS 5 AND 9 WITH THE AMENDMENT NO. 9 AND BE RESTRICTED TO THE BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. Motion carried unanimously.

6) Surveys and Appraisals:

Mr. Wells reviewed Item 6.

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 6, SURVEYS AND APPRAISALS. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Land Leases:

Mr. Wells reviewed Item 7.

Motion/Vote: REP. WISEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 7, LAND LEASES. Motion carried unanimously.

Tape 3,A
Speed 2.4

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 0; Comments: Executive Action Continued.}

8) Replacement Equipment:

Mr. Wells reviewed item 8.

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 8, REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Base Adjustments:

Motion/Vote: REP. WISEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE OTHER BASE ADJUSTMENTS. Motion carried unanimously.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 3.9; Comments: .}

EXECUTIVE NEW PROPOSALS

1) Land Agent:

Mr. Wells gave some background regarding the land agent.

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 1, LAND AGENT.
Motion carried 4 - 2 with CHAIRMAN DEBRUYCKER and SEN. BAER
voting no.

2) Statewide Wildlife Damage Program:

EXHIBIT 16, Page C-21. Mr. Lloyd reviewed the LFD Issues on Item
2.

Mr. Wells reviewed the Statewide Wildlife Damage Program.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 15.5; Comments: .}

Questions and Responses:

Committee members asked about the kinds of game damage they
responded to.

Discussion:

SEN. BAER stated his concern about a special hunt in their
neighborhood and the danger that could have happened.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count 28.1: ; Comments: .}

Motion/Vote: SEN. JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 2 WITH THE
RESTRICTION TO REVIEW THAT PROGRAM IN TWO YEARS. Motion carried
4 - 2 with SEN. KEATING and SEN. BAER voting no.


3) Public Wildlife Interface Management:

Mr. Wells reviewed Item 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:15 P.M.


REP. ROGER DEBRUYCKER, Chairman


THEDA ROSSBERG, Secretary

RD/TR