

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS NO. 24

Introduced: 02/15/83

Referred to Committee on Fish & Game: 02/15/83
hearing: 2/19/83
Died in Committee

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24
 2 INTRODUCED BY R. Jensen E. Smith Vinzer
 3 Stable Smalley LeC. Smith James Ryan Walt
 4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF Historia
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE
 6 DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS TO EFFECTIVELY
 7 CONTROL THE NOXIOUS WEEDS ON STATE-OWNED LAND IN LAKE
 8 COUNTY; URGING THE DEPARTMENT TO INSTITUTE A RENTAL OR
 9 SHARECROP SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT; AND SUGGESTING THAT SUCH
 10 LANDS BE OFFERED FOR SALE IF THE WEED PROBLEM IS NOT
 11 CONTROLLED BY JANUARY 1, 1985.
 12
 13 WHEREAS, since 1950, the Department of Fish, Wildlife,
 14 and Parks has owned approximately 3,500 acres surrounding
 15 the Ninepipe Reservoir in Lake County; and
 16 WHEREAS, this land, when first acquired by the
 17 Department, was managed through a system of comprehensive
 18 sharecropping; and
 19 WHEREAS, this system of management was very successful
 20 from the viewpoint of Lake County residents and the
 21 Department; and
 22 WHEREAS, in the mid-1960s, the Department changed its
 23 system of management by positioning a salaried manager,
 24 state equipment, and other facilities on the land in an
 25 attempt to autonomously manage the land; and

1 WHEREAS, noxious weeds on the land were controlled
 2 prior to the Department's assuming full responsibility for
 3 managing the land; and
 4 WHEREAS, the Department itself admits that during the
 5 past 15 years weed problems have developed, such as coverage
 6 of the land with Canada thistle and whitetop, extensive
 7 destruction of a previously dense nesting cover, and
 8 disappearance of game; and
 9 WHEREAS, noxious weed problems on such state-owned
 10 lands are of disastrous proportions, rendering these lands
 11 useless for game management and agricultural production; and
 12 WHEREAS, the uncontrolled noxious weed problems on
 13 these lands pose a serious threat to neighboring private
 14 agricultural lands and to the economic security of the
 15 owners thereof; and
 16 WHEREAS, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks,
 17 by its own admission, is at a loss to know what to do to
 18 effectively manage the noxious weed problems.
 19
 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 21 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
 22 (1) That the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
 23 immediately commence a system of effective noxious weed
 24 control on all state-owned lands in Lake County under the
 25 Department's management.

1 (2) That private farm operators be given the
2 opportunity to assume responsibility for the management and
3 husbandry of such lands on a rental or sharecrop basis.

4 (3) That unless the noxious weed problem is
5 effectively controlled by January 1, 1985, such lands be
6 offered for public sale with appropriate hunting easements
7 reserved by the Department.

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