

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

INTRODUCED BY MILES, COHEN, C. SMITH, JONES, ADDY,  
HARPER, STRIZICH, KADAS, GRADY, SIMON, ROTH, COBB,  
RUSSELL, RANEY, MEYERS, HARP, ASAY, PETERSON

BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

IN THE HOUSE

MARCH 25, 1987                   INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE  
ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

MARCH 26, 1987                   ON MOTION BY CHIEF SPONSOR,  
REPRESENTATIVES COHEN, SMITH, JONES,  
ADDY, HARPER, STRIZICH, KADAS, GRADY,  
SIMON, ROTH, COBB, RUSSELL, RANEY,  
MEYERS, HARP, ASAY, AND PETERSON  
ADDED AS SPONSORS.

MARCH 27, 1987                   COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL  
DO PASS. REPORT ADOPTED.

MARCH 28, 1987                   PRINTING REPORT.

APRIL 7, 1987                    SECOND READING, DO PASS.  
  
ENGROSSING REPORT.

APRIL 8, 1987                    THIRD READING, PASSED.  
AYES, 76; NOES, 14.  
  
TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.

IN THE SENATE

APRIL 9, 1987                   INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE  
ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

APRIL 15, 1987                   COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE  
CONCURRED IN. REPORT ADOPTED.

APRIL 16, 1987                   SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.

APRIL 17, 1987

THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN.  
AYES, 38; NOES, 12.

RETURNED TO HOUSE.

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 20, 1987

RECEIVED FROM SENATE.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

1                    House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49  
 2    INTRODUCED BY MULLO  
 3                    BY REQUEST OF THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
 4

5    A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
 6    REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE  
 7    ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY ON  
 8    THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WATERSHED  
 9    EFFECTS AND ON THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR  
 10   FORESTRY PRACTICES IN MONTANA; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE  
 11   FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 51ST LEGISLATURE.  
 12

13            WHEREAS, the forest products industry is a mainstay of  
 14   the Montana economy; and

15            WHEREAS, the forest watersheds of Montana provide an  
 16   irreplaceable supply of clean water for domestic use,  
 17   agriculture, recreation, and industry; and

18            WHEREAS, the harvest of timber may affect the quality  
 19   and quantity of water from forest watersheds; and

20            WHEREAS, there is a need to assess available  
 21   information on the relationship between timber harvesting  
 22   and watershed effects in Montana to reach informed judgments  
 23   about the management relationship of these crucial natural  
 24   resources; and

25            WHEREAS, the timber industry has demonstrated a working

1    commitment to best management practices through efforts such  
 2    as the Cumulative Watershed Effects Cooperative administered  
 3    by the Department of State Lands, the tree farm program  
 4    conducted by private forest landowners, and utilization of  
 5    soil and streambed conservation techniques developed by  
 6    local conservation districts; and

7            WHEREAS, use of best management practices may offer a  
 8    range of benefits in relation to water quality,  
 9    sustained-yield timber harvest, long-term employment  
 10   opportunities, and resource conservation; and

11            WHEREAS, recent initiatives in Washington and Idaho  
 12   have shown innovative ways to reach a consensus among  
 13   interest groups on how to attain timber and watershed  
 14   objectives while meeting the needs of forest landowners,  
 15   timber operators, and citizens relying on forest watersheds;  
 16   and

17            WHEREAS, it is desirable to draw together relevant  
 18   information to assess whether administrative or legislative  
 19   direction is necessary to further the use of best management  
 20   practices for forestry in Montana.  
 21

22    NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
 23   OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

24            That the Environmental Quality Council be assigned to  
 25   study:



-2-            INTRODUCED BILL  
                  HJR-49

1           (1) how current forest management practices are  
2 affecting watersheds in Montana;

3           (2) the range of management practices that have proven  
4 effective in conserving watersheds while maintaining the  
5 economic viability of timber harvest operations;

6           (3) the existing administrative framework, including  
7 regulatory and voluntary efforts, promoting the use of best  
8 management practices in Montana and other states; and

9           (4) if areas for potential improvement are indicated,  
10 the actions that would be most conducive to achieving both  
11 watershed and timber goals.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council work closely  
13 throughout the study with persons and organizations with  
14 technical expertise in timber harvest techniques and  
15 effects.

16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council report the  
17 findings of the study to the 51st Legislature and, if  
18 necessary, draft legislation to implement its  
19 recommendations.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMM. ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES

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FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 51ST LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, the forest products industry is a mainstay of  
the Montana economy; and

WHEREAS, the forest watersheds of Montana provide an  
irreplaceable supply of clean water for domestic use,  
agriculture, recreation, and industry; and

WHEREAS, the harvest of timber may affect the quality  
and quantity of water from forest watersheds; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to assess available  
information on the relationship between timber harvesting  
and watershed effects in Montana to reach informed judgments  
about the management relationship of these crucial natural

resources; and

WHEREAS, the timber industry has demonstrated a working  
commitment to best management practices through efforts such  
as the Cumulative Watershed Effects Cooperative administered  
by the Department of State Lands, the tree farm program  
conducted by private forest landowners, and utilization of  
soil and streambed conservation techniques developed by  
local conservation districts; and

WHEREAS, use of best management practices may offer a  
range of benefits in relation to water quality,  
sustained-yield timber harvest, long-term employment  
opportunities, and resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, recent initiatives in Washington and Idaho  
have shown innovative ways to reach a consensus among  
interest groups on how to attain timber and watershed  
objectives while meeting the needs of forest landowners,  
timber operators, and citizens relying on forest watersheds;  
and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to draw together relevant  
information to assess whether administrative or legislative  
direction is necessary to further the use of best management  
practices for forestry in Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:



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2 study:

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4 affecting watersheds in Montana;

5           (2) the range of management practices that have proven  
6 effective in conserving watersheds while maintaining the  
7 economic viability of timber harvest operations;

8           (3) the existing administrative framework, including  
9 regulatory and voluntary efforts, promoting the use of best  
10 management practices in Montana and other states; and

11           (4) if areas for potential improvement are indicated,  
12 the actions that would be most conducive to achieving both  
13 watershed and timber goals.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council work closely  
15 throughout the study with persons and organizations with  
16 technical expertise in timber harvest techniques and  
17 effects.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council report the  
19 findings of the study to the 51st Legislature and, if  
20 necessary, draft legislation to implement its  
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WHEREAS, the forest products industry is a mainstay of  
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and quantity of water from forest watersheds; and

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and watershed effects in Montana to reach informed judgments  
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WHEREAS, the timber industry has demonstrated a working  
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