

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY COBB, GOOD, GUTHRIE, SWYSGOOD, GRINDE,
BOHARSKI, CAMPBELL, PATTERSON, HANSON, SPAETH, GRADY,
ELLISON, THOFT, GLASER, SWIFT, IVERSON, HOFFMAN

IN THE HOUSE

FEBRUARY 10, 1989	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION.
FEBRUARY 11, 1989	FIRST READING.
FEBRUARY 16, 1989	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
	PRINTING REPORT.
FEBRUARY 18, 1989	SECOND READING, DO PASS.
FEBRUARY 20, 1989	ENGROSSING REPORT.
FEBRUARY 21, 1989	THIRD READING, PASSED. AYES, 85; NOES, 15.
	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.

IN THE SENATE

FEBRUARY 28, 1989	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.
	FIRST READING.
MARCH 20, 1989	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 21, 1989	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.
MARCH 23, 1989	THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN. AYES, 45; NOES, 4.
	RETURNED TO HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS.

IN THE HOUSE

MARCH 31, 1989

RECEIVED FROM SENATE.

SECOND READING, AMENDMENTS
CONCURRED IN.

APRIL 1, 1989

THIRD READING, AMENDMENTS
CONCURRED IN.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

REPORTED CORRECTLY ENROLLED.

House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY Campbell McHanson Smith Spaeth Ellison McGowan Steffensen
Parsons Spaeth Ellison McGowan Steffensen

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED
 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES
 FOREST SERVICE TO RECONSIDER THE WISDOM OF THE "LET IT BURN"
 POLICY AND TO MODIFY THE POLICY TO REFLECT LOCAL CONDITIONS
 AND TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DECISIONS; AND URGING
 COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND AFFECTED
 CITIZENS.

WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy adopted by the
 United States Department of Agriculture is too rigid to
 reflect local weather and land-use situations; and

WHEREAS, there is no difference to the environment or to
 the public in the effects of a naturally caused prescribed
 burn versus a human-caused fire; and

WHEREAS, drought effects in Montana in 1988 were obvious
 but largely ignored by the United States Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, federal fire management plans, in many cases,
 have no contingencies for fighting fire on private lands;
 and

WHEREAS, in most instances, a concise definition of the
 "let it burn" policy has never been presented to local

officials or the Montana citizenry; and

WHEREAS, fire policy priorities ignored actual
 wilderness usage by outfitters and watershed and as winter
 range for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy has no provision for
 accountability for decisions; and

WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy ignores the buildup
 of fuel over decades and fails to take into consideration
 the monumental effort of attempting to extinguish fires
 during severe drought; and

WHEREAS, there seems to be little flexibility in the
 prescribed burn policy, and it fails to take into account
 the different nature of each fire; and

WHEREAS, "triggers" to judge a fire as a prescribed
 natural fire or wildfire need to be redefined; and

WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy fails to take into
 consideration the availability of resources to fight fires
 when needed and the manpower needed to put out or even
 attempt to contain fires when the area of prescribed burn is
 exceeded; and

WHEREAS, many "class I" fire teams greatly damaged the
 United States Forest Service image through arrogant
 treatment of the Montana public; and

WHEREAS, expert opinion within the United States Forest
 Service and of local citizens on fire behavior and fire

1 spread were ignored during the disastrous summer of 1988;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, fiscal management in the fire suppression
4 effort was deployed in such a manner that no one was held
5 accountable; and

6 WHEREAS, intercommunication system principles were
7 ignored with respect to coordination with local sheriff's
8 departments; and

9 WHEREAS, in many instances, the United States Forest
10 Service did not even attempt to keep local people informed
11 and, when information was disseminated, repeatedly
12 miscommunicated the actual firefighting status to Montana
13 citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service failed to
15 inform itself of or use local resources available to fight
16 fires; and

17 WHEREAS, there was a lack of input from the Montana
18 Department of State Lands accepted by the United States
19 Forest Service in fighting fires; and

20 WHEREAS, there was a failure to inform landowners and
21 permittees of fire movements or to seek advice and
22 assistance from the affected parties; and

23 WHEREAS, the arrogance of the United States Forest
24 Service in dealing with permittees over the last several
25 years has driven a wedge between the permittees and the

1 Forest Service; and

2 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service failed to
3 explain to affected local communities the methodology of
4 fighting fires or the rationale for not fighting fires; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service has failed to
6 compensate Montana citizens for losses caused by fires in
7 cases where it is clearly liable because it failed to fight
8 fires until a disastrous situation had occurred and failed
9 to heed warnings by experts both within and outside the
10 Forest Service to fight the fires as early as possible.

11

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

14 That the United States Department of Agriculture and the
15 United States Forest Service be urged to reevaluate and
16 modify the prescribed burn policy, taking into account local
17 conditions and local expertise.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of
19 Montana send a copy of this resolution to the United States
20 Secretary of Agriculture, the Chief of the United States
21 Forest Service, all regional United States Forest Service
22 Headquarters, and each member of Montana's Congressional
23 Delegation.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK
& IRRIGATION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY COBB, GOOD, GUTHRIE, SWYSGOOD, GRINDE,
BOHARSKI, CAMPBELL, PATTERSON, HANSON, SPAETH, GRADY,
ELLISON, THOFT, GLASER, SWIFT, IVERSON, HOFFMAN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED
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FOREST SERVICE TO RECONSIDER THE WISDOM OF THE "LET IT BURN"
POLICY AND TO MODIFY THE POLICY TO REFLECT LOCAL CONDITIONS
AND TO PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DECISIONS; AND URGING
COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND AFFECTED
CITIZENS.

WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy adopted by the
United States Department of Agriculture is too rigid to
reflect local weather and land-use situations; and

WHEREAS, there is no difference to the environment or
to the public in the effects of a naturally caused
prescribed burn versus a human-caused fire; and

WHEREAS, drought effects in Montana in 1988 were
obvious but largely ignored by the United States Forest
Service; and

WHEREAS, federal fire management plans, in many cases,
have no contingencies for fighting fire on private lands;

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WHEREAS, in most instances, a concise definition of the
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officials or the Montana citizenry; and

WHEREAS, fire policy priorities ignored actual
wilderness usage by outfitters and watershed and as winter
range for wildlife; and

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for accountability for decisions; and

WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy ignores the buildup
of fuel over decades and fails to take into consideration
the monumental effort of attempting to extinguish fires
during severe drought; and

WHEREAS, there seems to be little flexibility in the
prescribed burn policy, and it fails to take into account
the different nature of each fire; and

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natural fire or wildfire need to be redefined; and

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consideration the availability of resources to fight fires
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exceeded; and

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4 spread were ignored during the disastrous summer of 1988;
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6 WHEREAS, fiscal management in the fire suppression
7 effort was deployed in such a manner that no one was held
8 accountable; and

9 WHEREAS, intercommunication system principles were
10 ignored with respect to coordination with local sheriff's
11 departments; and

12 WHEREAS, in many instances, the United States Forest
13 Service did not even attempt to keep local people informed
14 and, when information was disseminated, repeatedly
15 miscommunicated the actual firefighting status to Montana
16 citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service failed to
18 inform itself of or use local resources available to fight
19 fires; and

20 WHEREAS, there was a lack of input from the Montana
21 Department of State Lands accepted by the United States
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23 WHEREAS, there was a failure to inform landowners and
24 permittees of fire movements or to seek advice and
25 assistance from the affected parties; and

1 WHEREAS, the arrogance of the United States Forest
2 Service in dealing with permittees over the last several
3 years has driven a wedge between the permittees and the
4 Forest Service; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service failed to
6 explain to affected local communities the methodology of
7 fighting fires or the rationale for not fighting fires; and

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9 compensate Montana citizens for losses caused by fires in
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State of
22 Montana send a copy of this resolution to THE PRESIDENT OF
23 THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF THE
24 INTERIOR, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, THE
25 DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, the Chief of the

HJR 0023/02

1 United States Forest Service, all regional United States
2 Forest Service Headquarters, and each member of Montana's
3 Congressional Delegation.

-End-

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2 INTRODUCED BY COBB, GOOD, GUTHRIE, SWYSGOOD, GRINDE,
3 BOHARSKI, CAMPBELL, PATTERSON, HANSON, SPAETH, GRADY,
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6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED
8 STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES
9 FOREST SERVICE TO RECONSIDER THE WISDOM OF THE "LET IT BURN"
10 POLICY AND TO MODIFY THE POLICY TO REFLECT LOCAL CONDITIONS
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15 WHEREAS, the prescribed burn policy adopted by the
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17 reflect local weather and land-use situations; and

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19 to the public in the effects of a naturally caused
20 prescribed burn versus a human-caused fire; and

21 WHEREAS, drought effects in Montana in 1988 were
22 obvious but largely ignored by the United States Forest
23 Service; and

24 WHEREAS, federal fire management plans, in many cases,
25 have no contingencies for fighting fire on private lands;

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2 WHEREAS, in most instances, a concise definition of the
3 "let it burn" policy has never been presented to local
4 officials or the Montana citizenry; and

5 WHEREAS, fire policy priorities ignored actual
6 wilderness usage by outfitters and watershed and as winter
7 range for wildlife; and

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9 for accountability for decisions; and

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11 of fuel over decades and fails to take into consideration
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14 WHEREAS, there seems to be little flexibility in the
15 prescribed burn policy, and it fails to take into account
16 the different nature of each fire; and

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20 consideration the availability of resources to fight fires
21 when needed and the manpower needed to put out or even
22 attempt to contain fires when the area of prescribed burn is
23 exceeded; and

24 WHEREAS, many "class I" fire teams greatly damaged the
25 United States Forest Service image through arrogant

1 treatment of the Montana public; and

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7 effort was deployed in such a manner that no one was held
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11 departments; and

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18 inform itself of or use local resources available to fight
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22 Montana send a copy of this resolution to THE PRESIDENT OF
23 THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF THE
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25 DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, the Chief of the

HJR 0023/02

1 United States Forest Service, all regional United States
2 Forest Service Headquarters, and each member of Montana's
3 Congressional Delegation.

-End-

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 17, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Natural Resources, having had under consideration HJR 23 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HJR 23 be amended and as so amended be concurred in:

Sponsor: Cobb (Noble)

1. Page 2, line 24, through page 3, line 1.

Strike: "WHEREAS" on page 2, line 1 through "and" on page 3,
line 1

2. Page 4, lines 1 through 4.

Strike: "WHEREAS" on line 1 through "and" on line 4

AND AS AMENDED BE CONCURRED IN

Signed:


Thomas F. Keating, Chairman

**SENATE
HJR 23**

SENATE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AMENDMENT

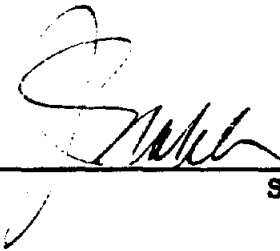
March 21, 1989 11:50 am

Mr. Chairman: I move to amend HJR 23 (third reading copy -- blue) as follows:

1. Strip: The Senate Committee on Natural Resources amendments to HJR 23 dated March 17, 1989, in their entirety

ADOPT

REJECT

Signed: 

Senator Noble

**SENATE
HJR 23**

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25 United States Forest Service image through arrogant

1 treatment-of-the-Montana-public;-and

2 WHEREAS, MANY "CLASS I" FIRE TEAMS GREATLY DAMAGED THE
3 UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE IMAGE THROUGH ARROGANT
4 TREATMENT OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC; AND

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6 Service and of local citizens on fire behavior and fire
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10 effort was deployed in such a manner that no one was held
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5 ~~Service--in--dealing--with--permittees-over-the-last-several~~
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7 ~~Forest-Service;-and~~

8 WHEREAS, THE ARROGANCE OF THE UNITED STATES FOREST
9 SERVICE IN DEALING WITH PERMITTEES OVER THE LAST SEVERAL
10 YEARS HAS DRIVEN A WEDGE BETWEEN THE PERMITTEES AND THE
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12 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service failed to
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HJR 0023/03

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-End-