

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

INTRODUCED BY

Justin DeBruyn

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO CURTAIL PLANS FOR THE LONESOME LAKE PROJECT NEAR BIG SANDY.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management have issued an environmental assessment that proposes alternative management plans at Lonesome Lake, a 17,898-acre complex of dry basin, shortgrass pasture, and cropland near Big Sandy, Montana; and

WHEREAS, intermingled with the withdrawn lands are 960 acres of state land and 1,999 acres of private land; and

WHEREAS, there would be an overall net reduction of approximately \$536,777 in local economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the gravel seams in the area are used to gravel county roads; and

WHEREAS, there are no known endangered plants, mammals, or birds that inhabit the area; and

WHEREAS, extensive areas of club moss/blue grama limit nesting cover for upland game birds; and

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the joint venture is to maintain a breeding population of 6.8 million ducks of all types, with 13.6 million ducks in the fall flight by the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, there is only a 30% chance of any water running into Lonesome Lake basin; and

WHEREAS, lack of riparian area limits the nesting cover for waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited has completed a feasibility study on development of dikes and other surface water management techniques to increase Lonesome Lake's waterfowl production potential and concluded that it was not hydrologically feasible or economically justifiable to build dikes to increase the depth and duration of surface water at Lonesome Lake; and

WHEREAS, public lands at Lonesome Lake are used for agricultural production through grazing and farming leases, and there is concern about the future administration of Lonesome Lake; and

WHEREAS, the environmental assessment offers three alternatives for Lonesome Lake: maintaining

1 current management practices with no changes; enhancing the shortgrass prairie and associated wildlife
2 species, along with providing opportunities for agriculture, cultural interpretation, and recreation; and
3 managing the area with special emphasis on the wetland and native prairie resources for migratory birds.

4

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

7 That the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
8 Management give strong consideration to the alternative that gives primary jurisdiction to the Bureau of
9 Land Management and that maintains current management practices.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management encourage lessees to spike up
11 club moss stands and seed a tall grass for upland game bird habitat.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that farm ground be farmed with no change.

13

-END-

APPROVED BY COM ON AGRICULTURE,
LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

2 INTRODUCED BY JENKINS, DEBRUYCKER, PECK

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE
6 SERVICE, AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO CURTAIL PLANS FOR THE LONESOME LAKE
7 PROJECT NEAR BIG SANDY.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
10 Management have issued an environmental assessment that proposes alternative management plans at
11 Lonesome Lake, a 17,898-acre complex of dry basin, shortgrass pasture, and cropland near Big Sandy,
12 Montana; and

13 WHEREAS, intermingled with the withdrawn lands are 960 acres of state land and 1,999 acres of
14 private land; and

15 WHEREAS, there would be an overall net reduction of approximately \$536,777 in local economic
16 activity; and

17 WHEREAS, the gravel seams in the area are used to gravel county roads; and

18 WHEREAS, there are no known endangered plants, mammals, or birds that inhabit the area; and

19 WHEREAS, extensive areas of club moss/blue grama limit nesting cover for upland game birds; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the goals of the joint venture is to maintain a breeding population of 6.8 million
21 ducks of all types, with 13.6 million ducks in the fall flight by the year 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, there is only a 30% chance of any water running into Lonesome Lake basin; and

23 WHEREAS, lack of riparian area limits the nesting cover for waterfowl; and

24 WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited has completed a feasibility study on development of dikes and other
25 surface water management techniques to increase Lonesome Lake's waterfowl production potential and
26 concluded that it was not hydrologically feasible or economically justifiable to build dikes to increase the
27 depth and duration of surface water at Lonesome Lake; and

28 WHEREAS, public lands at Lonesome Lake are used for agricultural production through grazing and
29 farming leases, and there is concern about the future administration of Lonesome Lake; and

30 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment offers three alternatives for Lonesome Lake: maintaining

1 current management practices with no changes; enhancing the shortgrass prairie and associated wildlife
2 species, along with providing opportunities for agriculture, cultural interpretation, and recreation; and
3 managing the area with special emphasis on the wetland and native prairie resources for migratory birds.

4

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

7 That the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
8 Management give strong consideration to the alternative that gives primary jurisdiction to the Bureau of
9 Land Management and that maintains current management practices.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management encourage lessees to spike up
11 club moss stands and seed a tall grass for upland game bird habitat.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that farm ground be farmed with no change.

13

-END-

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

2 INTRODUCED BY JENKINS, DEBRUYCKER, PECK

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE
6 SERVICE, AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO CURTAIL PLANS FOR THE LONESOME LAKE
7 PROJECT NEAR BIG SANDY.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
10 Management have issued an environmental assessment that proposes alternative management plans at
11 Lonesome Lake, a 17,898-acre complex of dry basin, shortgrass pasture, and cropland near Big Sandy,
12 Montana; and

13 WHEREAS, intermingled with the withdrawn lands are 960 acres of state land and 1,999 acres of
14 private land; and

15 WHEREAS, there would be an overall net reduction of approximately \$536,777 in local economic
16 activity; and

17 WHEREAS, the gravel seams in the area are used to gravel county roads; and

18 WHEREAS, there are no known endangered plants, mammals, or birds that inhabit the area; and

19 WHEREAS, extensive areas of club moss/blue grama limit nesting cover for upland game birds; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the goals of the joint venture is to maintain a breeding population of 6.8 million
21 ducks of all types, with 13.6 million ducks in the fall flight by the year 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, there is only a 30% chance of any water running into Lonesome Lake basin; and

23 WHEREAS, lack of riparian area limits the nesting cover for waterfowl; and

24 WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited has completed a feasibility study on development of dikes and other
25 surface water management techniques to increase Lonesome Lake's waterfowl production potential and
26 concluded that it was not hydrologically feasible or economically justifiable to build dikes to increase the
27 depth and duration of surface water at Lonesome Lake; and

28 WHEREAS, public lands at Lonesome Lake are used for agricultural production through grazing and
29 farming leases, and there is concern about the future administration of Lonesome Lake; and

30 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment offers three alternatives for Lonesome Lake: maintaining

1 current management practices with no changes; enhancing the shortgrass prairie and associated wildlife
2 species, along with providing opportunities for agriculture, cultural interpretation, and recreation; and
3 managing the area with special emphasis on the wetland and native prairie resources for migratory birds.
4

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

7 That the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
8 Management give strong consideration to the alternative that gives primary jurisdiction to the Bureau of
9 Land Management and that maintains current management practices.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management encourage lessees to spike up
11 club moss stands and seed a tall grass for upland game bird habitat.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that farm ground be farmed with no change.

13 -END-

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

2 INTRODUCED BY JENKINS, DEBRUYCKER, PECK

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE
6 SERVICE, AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO CURTAIL PLANS FOR THE LONESOME LAKE
7 PROJECT NEAR BIG SANDY.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
10 Management have issued an environmental assessment that proposes alternative management plans at
11 Lonesome Lake, a 17,898-acre complex of dry basin, shortgrass pasture, and cropland near Big Sandy,
12 Montana; and

13 WHEREAS, intermingled with the withdrawn lands are 960 acres of state land and 1,999 acres of
14 private land; and

15 WHEREAS, there would be an overall net reduction of approximately \$536,777 in local economic
16 activity; and

17 WHEREAS, the gravel seams in the area are used to gravel county roads; and

18 WHEREAS, there are no known endangered plants, mammals, or birds that inhabit the area; and

19 WHEREAS, extensive areas of club moss/blue grama limit nesting cover for upland game birds; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the goals of the joint venture is to maintain a breeding population of 6.8 million
21 ducks of all types, with 13.6 million ducks in the fall flight by the year 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, there is only a 30% chance of any water running into Lonesome Lake basin; and

23 WHEREAS, lack of riparian area limits the nesting cover for waterfowl; and

24 WHEREAS, Ducks Unlimited has completed a feasibility study on development of dikes and other
25 surface water management techniques to increase Lonesome Lake's waterfowl production potential and
26 concluded that it was not hydrologically feasible or economically justifiable to build dikes to increase the
27 depth and duration of surface water at Lonesome Lake; and

28 WHEREAS, public lands at Lonesome Lake are used for agricultural production through grazing and
29 farming leases, and there is concern about the future administration of Lonesome Lake; and

30 WHEREAS, the environmental assessment offers three alternatives for Lonesome Lake: maintaining

1 current management practices with no changes; enhancing the shortgrass prairie and associated wildlife
2 species, along with providing opportunities for agriculture, cultural interpretation, and recreation; and
3 managing the area with special emphasis on the wetland and native prairie resources for migratory birds.

4

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

7 That the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land
8 Management give strong consideration to the alternative that gives primary jurisdiction to the Bureau of
9 Land Management and that maintains current management practices.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management encourage lessees to spike up
11 club moss stands and seed a tall grass for upland game bird habitat.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that farm ground be farmed with no change.

13

-END-