

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB0285

Title: Revise conservation license laws

Primary Sponsor: Walter McNutt

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor signature	Date	Chuck Swysgood, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2002 Difference</u>	<u>FY2003 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
State Special Revenue	0	802,000
Revenue:		
State Special Revenue	0	802,000
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	\$0	\$0

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	X	Significant Local Gov. Impact		X	Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts
	X	Dedicated Revenue Form Attached		X	Family Impact Form Attached

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. SB 285 requires that a \$2.00 hunting access enhancement fee be paid by resident hunters and a \$10.00 hunting access enhancement fee be paid by nonresident hunters effective March 1, 2002. The additional cost will result in some buyer resistance, but the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks does not have a way to measure that resistance.
2. Approximately 190,000 residents buy Montana hunting licenses. Of 190,000 resident hunters, approximately 50,000 qualify for youth, senior, or disabled person conservation licenses (which have, for these people only, certain hunting privileges attached). If 50 percent (25,000) of these people buy no other type of hunting license, they would not pay the proposed \$2.00 resident hunting access enhancement

fee. Based on this assumption, revenue figures for this fiscal note are generated assuming that 165,000 residents will pay the proposed fees ($165,000 \times \$2 = \$330,000$).

3. Approximately 55,000 nonresidents buy Montana hunting licenses. Of these 55,000 nonresidents, 7,800 buy market-based variable-priced combination licenses and would not pay the proposed \$10.00 nonresident hunting enhancement access fee. Based on this assumption, revenue figures for this fiscal note are generated assuming that 47,200 nonresidents will pay the proposed fees ($47,200 \times \$10 = \$472,000$).
4. Based on the previous assumptions, \$802,000 in new revenue will be generated by fees proposed in this bill. By statute, this revenue must be used by the department to enhance and improve public hunting access. (MCA 87-1-265 through 87-1-267)
5. The Private Land/Public Wildlife Council has recommended to the Governor and 57th Legislature that new revenue generated under this proposal be used to:
 - a) improve public access to public lands;
 - b) increase size (acres and number of cooperators) of Block Management;
 - c) improve Block Management Area management and services;
 - d) increase current Block Management Cooperator incentives cap from \$8,000 to \$12,000;
 - e) improve access for upland bird hunters;
 - f) direct some revenue for inflationary costs related to existing program;
6. FWP will require 2.00 FTE to provide necessary hunter management services on new acreage enrolled under hunter access agreements. This FTE will primarily consist of 4 to 8 seasonal field staff positions used to help mark area boundaries and public land access points, provide area patrolling services, and assist hunters. (2.00 FTE (grade 7) @ \$35,756 and \$10,000 operations)
7. For the 2000 hunting season, 52 cooperators qualified for the \$8,000 payment, with an average hunter day use of 1,081 hunter days per Block Management Area (BMA). Under the current system, all cooperators qualify for a \$250 enrollment payment; in addition, with the standard \$10/hunter day payment, a BMA with 775 hunter days ($775 \times \$10$) qualifies for the maximum payment of \$8,000. If the incentive cap is raised to \$12,000, the additional contract cost would be \$159,120. ($1,081 - 775 \times \$10 = \$3,060$; $\$3,060 \times 52 \text{ BMAs} = \$159,120$).
8. There are additional costs that will be incurred by the license section in implementing new fees, including increased mailing costs and adapting licenses to comply with SB 285. (\$15,000 annual operations)
9. Remaining dollars will be used to improve hunter access as outlined in assumption #5, i.e. adding block management cooperators, improving public access to public lands, and improving access for upland game bird hunters (\$582,124 operations).

FISCAL IMPACT:

	FY2002 <u>Difference</u>	FY2003 <u>Difference</u>
FTE	0	2.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Personal Services	0	35,756
Operating Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>766,244</u>
TOTAL	\$0	\$802,000

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Funding:

State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$802,000
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Revenues:

State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$802,000
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Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):

State Special Revenue (02)	\$0	\$0
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