

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND
COMMERCE**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DICK HAINES**, on January 17, 2001 at
8:00 A.M., in Room 317-C Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Dick Haines, Chairman (R)
Sen. William Crismore, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Gary Hamel, Legislative Branch
Amber Sauer, Committee Secretary
Doug Schmitz, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: DNRC, 1/17/2001
Executive Action: DNRC: DP 4, DP 9, DP 14, DP
21, DP 25, DP 27, DP 29, DP
31, DP 33, DP 34, DP 35 and
DP 61

HEARING ON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Mr. Gary Hamel, Legislative Fiscal Division, explained to the
subcommittee that they would be going over Trust Lands Management
and then take executive action on the decision packages. He
talked about the RIT Funds. He directed the subcommittee turn to

page C-161 in the Fiscal Budget Analysis Book. He talked about DP 3. **Mr. Monte Mason, Administrator of Forestry and Trust Lands** spoke on DP-3.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that **DP 3 DEBT SERVICE - TLMD DATABASE BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion/Vote: REP. TROPILA moved that **DP 5 FOREST REHABILITATION AS ONE-TIME-ONLY BE ADOPTED . Motion carried unanimously.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 162}

Mr. Bud Clinch, Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, spoke on DP 8. He explained how the 2:1 cost/revenue ratio was required by the last legislature. There are many factors, such as timber prices, and he felt that this is not a predictable ratio. He requested that the base be restored.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that **DP 8 BASE RESTORATION BE ADOPTED. Motion carried 6-0.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 212}

SEN. CRISMORE commented that he has bought state timber in the past.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 250}

Mr. Hamel introduced DP 13. **Mr. Clinch** said that you have to spend money to make money.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that **DP 13 SPECIAL USE DEVELOPMENT BE ADOPTED. Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Hamel explained DP 18.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that **DP 18 INCREASE IN OPERATING EXPENSES BE ADOPTED. Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that **DP 19 LEASED VEHICLES - TLMD BE ADOPTED. Motion carried 6-0.**

Mr. Hamel explained DP 24.

SEN. NELSON questioned what happens to the used computers that will be replaced in DP 24. **Mr. Mason** said that they go to surplus property.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that **DP 24 COMPUTER EQUIPMENT UPGRADES BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried 6-0.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 130}

Mr. Hamel, spoke on DP 26. **SEN. NELSON** asked what kind of copier would cost \$7,000. **Mr. Mason** explained with new technology the prices are fairly high.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. CRISMORE** moved that **DP 26 REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT BE ADOPTED AS ONE-TIME-ONLY**. Motion carried 6-0.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 192}

Mr. Hamel spoke on DP 9.

REP. TROPILA asked if the money can come from another agency. **SEN. CRISMORE** stated that he felt this money needs to come from Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC).

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 440}

Mr. Hamel spoke on DP-16. **Mr. Clinch** explained that conservation plans are agreements that landowners enter into.

SEN. CONRAD BURNS was able to earmark money for endangered species. This money is 100 percent federal dollars. **SEN. TASH** asked if there are any other funds available. **Mr. Clinch** said as the program grows and expands they will be searching for all kinds of sources.

CHAIRMAN HAINES questioned why this is not in Fish Wildlife and Parks. **Mr. Clinch** explained that Trust Lands account for 5 million acres.

SEN. NELSON suggests making this one-time-only and restricted. **Mr. Tom Schultz, Forest Management Bureau Chief**, explained the agreement that was signed with the Fish and Wildlife Service goes through 2005.

CHAIRMAN HAINES questioned if this will mean adding additional FTE's or if they would be able to use current employees. **Mr.**

Clinch said that the employees would be contracted, and there is potential to use employees from FWP.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that **DP 9 NON-TRUST STATE LAND INVENTORY & ADMINISTRATION BE ADOPTED.** Motion carried 5-1 with Nelson voting no.

Mr. Hamel explained DP 16.

Motion/Vote: SEN. TASH moved that **DP 16 HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN ONE TIME ONLY AND RESTRICTED BE ADOPTED.** Motion passed 6-0.

CHAIRMAN HAINES adjourned the meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:45 A.M.

REP. DICK HAINES, Chairman

SANDRA WHITAKER, Editing
Secretary

DH/AS/SW

EXHIBIT (jnh13aad)