

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
5 CONSERVATION TO CONDUCT CERTAIN WATER RESOURCE INVENTORIES AND ASSESSMENTS;
6 AMENDING SECTION 77-1-1001, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **Section 1.** Section 77-1-1001, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"77-1-1001. Inventories and assessments.** (1) The department ~~may~~ shall, within 120 days after [the
12 effective date of this act], in consultation with appropriate state agencies and the Northern Cheyenne tribe,
13 conduct resource inventories and assessments of all or parts of the property interests acquired from the federal
14 government in the Crown Butte land exchange to assist in the leasing, promotion, and development of those
15 property interests. Those inventories and assessments include but are not limited to:

- 16 (a) cultural resource inventories and assessments;
- 17 (b) coal resource inventories and assessments;
- 18 (c) market analysis of the mineral resources;
- 19 (d) water resource inventories and assessments, including an assessment of state water rights; or
- 20 ~~(d)~~(e) any other inventories and assessments required by law or that the department determines are
21 necessary.

22 (2) The department may place all or parts of the property interests acquired from the federal government
23 in the Crown Butte land exchange up for lease in accordance with the procedures provided for in Title 77.

24 (3) Nothing in this section prevents the department from receiving applications to place the tracts for
25 lease prior to the completion of inventories and assessments, and the department may lease the property
26 interests acquired from the federal government in the Crown Butte land exchange in accordance with the
27 applicable provisions of Title 77.

28 (4) Nothing in this section is intended to alter, diminish, or impair the Otter Creek settlement agreement
29 between the state of Montana and the Northern Cheyenne tribe, and nothing in this section prevents the state
30 from cooperating with the Northern Cheyenne tribe to enforce air and water quality standards through

1 government-to-government reciprocity agreements."

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3 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal government.** The secretary of state shall send a
4 copy of [this act] to the Northern Cheyenne tribal government.

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6 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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