EXHIBIT 6
DATE 1.20.05
HB 172:176

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

At-A-Glance

2006 Resident License Fee Proposal

Q *What's the problem?*
A Without additional revenue, programs will need to be cut.

Q *When was the last fee increase?*
A Resident fees were last increased by the 1991 Legislature. A two-phase process increased fees in 1992 and 1994. An increase in nonresident hunting and fishing fees was approved by the 2001 Legislature, and went into effect on March 1, 2001.

Q *Is this an unexpected problem?*
A No. Historically, Montana hunters and anglers preferred license prices to remain stable for eight to ten years. To meet this expectation, license prices are initially set at levels to generate more income than necessary to meet expenses, allowing FWP to build a budget surplus. This system of budget management anticipates that inflation, new programs, and other financial issues will gradually chip away the surplus as expenses begin to exceed revenue, but still allows fees to remain stable for several years. Now, as expected, the surplus is shrinking as expenditures exceed income by about $2 million, and it is time to consider increasing fees or cutting programs.

Q *What created this dilemma?*
A Inflation contributed; i.e., there has been a 24 percent rise in the consumer price index since 1994. In addition, several FWP programs and services have been added since 1994. In some instances, FWP suggested new programs and, in others, the Legislature added programs.

Q *Where does Fish, Wildlife & Parks revenue come from?*
A Approximately two-thirds of the revenue used to manage Montana's fish and wildlife comes from hunting and fishing license fees of which nonresidents contribute about 70 percent. The remaining one-third comes primarily from federal revenue, excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition, handguns, archery equipment, as well as an excise tax on fishing equipment and electronic trolling motors. FWP receives no general fund dollars.

Q *Will nonresident fee increases be proposed?*
A FWP does not plan on proposing a nonresident fee increase. Nonresident fees were raised in 2001. The disparity between resident and nonresident fees is already pushing the limits of what the courts will tolerate.

Q *What are the proposed costs for some popular hunting and fishing licenses?*
A The chart below outlines current and proposed fees:

License Type	Current Price	Proposed Price
Conservation	$ 6.25	$ 8.00
Fishing	13.00	20.00
Elk	16.00	25.00
Deer	13.00	20.00
Antelope	11.00	20.00
Upland Game Bird	6.00	20.00
Black Bear	15.00	20.00
Bighorn Sheep	75.00	150.00
Mountain Goat	75.00	150.00
Moose	75.00	150.00

Q ***Are there any discounts?***

A Yes. There are discounts for sportsman (combination licenses), youth, seniors and disabled as listed below:

License Type	Current Price	Proposed Price	Discount*
Sportsman *(includes Conservation; Fishing, Elk, Deer and Bird)*	$56.25	$75.00	$18.00
Sportsman with Bear	66.25	95.00	18.00
Youth Sportsman *(includes Conservation; Fishing, Elk, Deer and Bird)*	27.25	30.00	45.00
Youth Fishing	6.50	10.00	10.00
Youth Upland Game Bird	3.00	5.00	15.00
Elk: Senior/Youth/Disabled	8.00	10.00	15.00
Deer: Senior/Youth/Disabled	6.50	8.00	12.00

* Price discounts based on what an adult resident would pay for each license purchased separately.

Q ***When would the fees become effective?***

A As proposed, the fees would be effective with the 2006 license year and the increases would go into effect March 1, 2006.

Q ***How were the proposed resident hunting and angling license fees established?***

A When the 2001 Montana Legislature decided to increase nonresident hunting and fishing license fees, lawmakers also directed FWP to evaluate resident fees. The Legislature asked FWP to:

- examine current and historic licenses prices
- compare Montana's fees to other western states
- evaluate how a fee increase would affect licenses sales and revenue

In response to the Legislature's request, FWP first adjusted Montana's current fees to reflect the overall rate of inflation since 1994 and then compared those hypothetical fees with the cost of fishing and hunting licenses in neighboring states. FWP then conducted a survey of more than 5,000 Montana hunters and anglers to measure residents' attitudes and opinions related to a fee increase. Once all of this information was gathered, FWP readjusted the hypothetical fees to ensure that Montana's initially proposed fees remained among the lowest in the region. FWP then applied significant discounts to youth, senior, disabled and combination licenses to keep hunting and fishing affordable, while still generating the revenue needed to sustain programs through 2011.

Q ***What's in this for the license buyer?***

A In addition to maintaining existing programs, the intent would be to improve services by: improving fish and wildlife habitat; increasing walleye stocking to 50 million fish each year; creating a statewide warm water fish management biologist; developing more community fishing ponds; increasing private landowner assistance in an attempt to reduce wildlife conflicts; helping urban residents address nuisance wildlife and related safety issues; increasing investigation and prosecution of fish and wildlife crimes.

Q ***What will be cut if there is no fee increase?***

A Should cuts be necessary, FWP will involve the public in deciding what budget proposal it will present to the 2007 Legislative session.

Q ***Who will make the ultimate decision as to whether or not there is a fee increase?***

A The Montana Legislature has authority for setting hunting and fishing license fees.

Q ***How do I comment?***

A Comments can be made via FWP's website at: **www.fwp.state.mt.us**. Interested individuals are also encouraged to contact any FWP employee or office or attend public meetings that will be scheduled throughout the state this fall and early winter prior to the Legislative session.