

House Bill 312
January 27, 2005
Presented by Jeff Hagener
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1.27.05
HB 312

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

In 1989, the Legislature passed the Smith River Management Act to seek ways to minimize conflicts between river users and private landowners and to protect the integrity of the river waters and canyon resources.

To establish a funding mechanism to protect the river corridor, in 1991 the FWP Commission adopted the Smith River Rules, which direct monies from each commercial and private float into a Corridor Enhancement Account. Today, \$50 from commercial floats 5% of other Smith River fees and donated private money is directed into the Corridor Enhancement Account. The intent of that account when it was created was that it be used to protect the river and the canyon resources and that is still the intent today.

House Bill 312 clarifies the FWP Commission's intent and puts it into statute. FWP supports HB 312.