

Senate Bill 221
March 10, 2005
Presented by Chris Smith
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3.10.05
SB. 221

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chris Smith, Chief of Staff for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to provide some informational testimony on SB 221.

SB 221 would provide the opportunity for nonresident students to purchase a big game combination hunting license for the same price as a resident. We expect there may be a large number of students who will take advantage of this opportunity. This may help recruit long-term residents or returning non-residents to the ranks of Montana's hunters.

To obtain one of these licenses, a student will have to present proof of full-time enrollment in a post-secondary education institution in Montana at one of our offices. This may create a "loop hole" for some non-residents who did not obtain a license through the drawing, but we have no way of knowing how significant a problem that may be. One other detail the committee should recognize is that since our license year is from March 1 to February 28, a student in their final spring term could purchase a license at the reduced price that would allow them to hunt the following fall, after they graduate. This is not necessarily a problem, we just wanted to make sure the committee was aware of that situation.

We would be glad to answer any questions you may have about this bill.