

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 1/19/05
HB 6

To: Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning

From: Christine Brick, Clark Fork Coalition

Testimony on House Bill 6 - Renewable Resource Grants

I am writing in support of the Renewable Resource Grant application submitted by Missoula County entitled "Grant Creek Restoration and Flood Mitigation." This project was initially ranked highly by DNRC, but in the final cut was not recommended for funding because the county was still in the process of evaluating alternatives. If funded, this project would accomplish two major goals: it would alleviate flooding to Mullan Trail subdivision homeowners (about 70 homes), and at the same time it would restore a severely degraded portion of Grant Creek by reconstructing the floodplain and providing passage and habitat for native cutthroat that are currently unable to reach spawning grounds in the headwaters.

Since the time that Missoula County's application was completed, a final alternative has been selected and the project is now almost ready for bids. The final design is a good one, and we've been really impressed by Missoula County's process in developing this project. They have solicited input from homeowners, landowners, from Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and from us at the Clark Fork Coalition (a river conservation group with membership throughout the Clark Fork basin). The project enjoys broad community support, as it should, given that it will solve a flooding problem for homeowners while also turning an eyesore of a creek into a community amenity.

From what I understand, funding from the Renewable Resources program would provide critical match money that the county needs in order to secure a larger grant from FEMA, and that is why it is so critical to secure this grant now.

Completion of this project will have a significant, long-term benefit to the community and to state renewable resources, and I hope you will consider funding it. Thank you for considering these comments.

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