

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 1/19/05
HB 6, 8



Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District
1002 Hollenback Road, Suite C - Deer Lodge, Montana 59722 - Phone (406) 846-1703, x 300

January 18, 2005

RE: Cottonwood and Peterson Creek Restoration - Phase I

Atten: Long Range Planning Subcommittee:

I would like to let the Committee know that I was unable to make the hearing today because of a personal commitment.

Our project was not recommended for funding on cottonwood and Peterson Creek and I would like to express the reasons why I feel this project is important. This project is the first step in improving water quality and aquatic life in both watersheds.

- 1) Would prevent year-round diversion of water.
- 2) Remove major fish barriers on the lower reaches of both streams.
- 3) Reduce sediment sources.
- 4) Reduce nutrient loading.
- 5) Improve overall stream fisheries and aquatic life.
- 6) Potential of enhancing brown trout populations in the Clark Fork River.

I feel this project is important to help with water quality, streamflow and fish passage improvements.

Thank you for your consideration for this project.

Sincerely,

John Hollenback, Chairman
Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District