

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 01/17/05
HB 2

DP – 2110 Attorney Position – The executive requests an addition 1.00 FTE for the legal unit. This position would augment the one existing attorney that is assigned to water matters. One half of the funding for this position would come fro the water rights fund.

Issue: The executive supports the attorney position, but supplied only 50 percent of the funding through the water rights fund. The department must find the resources within their current budget for the additional 50 percent. The manner in which this will be accomplished has not been identified.

DP 2412 – Clark Fork River Task Force – This request provides \$25,000 of renewable resource funding for support of this task force. The task force provides monitoring and assistance in the development of the state water plan. This is contingent upon the passage of HB 236.

Issue: Please see the agency-wide issue on the use of RIT dollars.

DP 2325 – Montana Salinity Control Association Funding – This request provides an increase of \$25,000 coal tax shared revenues to the Montana Salinity Control Association. The association has received support from the department since 1989. This addition would provide increased operating funds to procure equipment, provide hands-on educational programs and start new watershed projects.

Comment: This increase decreases the amount of funds that may be available to other programs, which rely on coal tax shared dollars.