EXHIBIT 3
DATE 02/03/05
HB 2

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst
CLAYTON SCHENCK

DATE: February 3, 2005

TO: Natural Resources and Commerce Subcommittee

FROM: Barbara Smith, Associate Fiscal Analyst

RE: FWP additional DP

Attached are additional decision packages for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The green sheets provide the short description and my comments. I did request additional information from FWP, which will be provided to the subcommittee to address some of my comments.

Additional information includes:

- Decision package write ups from FWP
- MOU between FWP and DNRC regarding the land management package

We will begin the overview of FWP tomorrow at 8:00 am. See you then.

DP 220 – Restore Block Management – This decision package requests a base adjustment of $607,373 to account for the one-time only authority granted to this program by the 2003 legislature. The package includes 2.0 FTE, which are utilized to provide ten seasonal block management technicians. This request is contingent upon the passage of SB77.

LFD COMMENT [redacted]

DP 320 – Painted Rocks Annual Payment – The executive requests an annual appropriation of $30,000 for annual payments associated with the Painted Rocks Reservoir. The department renewed an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to release from Painted Rocks Reservoir up to 15,000 acre feet of water per year at the request of FWP in exchange for a fee of $15,000/year in operation and maintenance and also an additional amount for any minor repairs necessary at the dam. Historical data indicates the minor repairs to amount to $15,000. Funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service covers $22,125, of the $30,000 payment, with the balance being paid for by private monies that have been donated to this project.

LFD COMMENT [redacted]

DP 520 – Black Bear Population & Harvest Assessment – This decision package seeks to re-instate the 0.50 FTE and re-insert a total of $69,050 for operations and salaries for each fiscal year into the overall research project. This funding was removed from the budget by the 2003 legislature. The project was initiated to assess the impacts of hunting mortality on black bear population dynamics and to evaluate the validity of the harvest criteria. Preliminary information gathered to date, indicates that current harvest rates appear to be low and that hunting seasons may be more conservative than is necessary. The request includes annual operating expenses that consist of $30,963 for lab fees and $15,951 of department aircraft rental.

LFD COMMENT [redacted]

DP 620 - DNRC Land Acquisition – The executive requests 2.34 FTE and $101,671 in FY06 and $102,837 in FY07 to allow FWP to take over management of fourteen DNRC owned Access Sites in Northwest Montana. DNRC contends that these fourteen sites are not properly cared for and are being degraded with unmanaged recreational use. DNRC determined that to maintain the value of the property, reduce environmental impacts and continue public access, recreational management is needed. DNRC contends that FWP is better suited to provide these services. FTE associated with this request would be seasonal laborers for maintenance and visitor assistance along with one warden to do enforcement and boating safety. This request is contingent upon approval of a general license fee increase.

LFD ISSUE There is no direct monetary exchange between DNRC and FWP for the maintenance of these sites. These sites will not be leased to FWP as fishing access sites or state parks. However, the DNRC and the department have a memo of understanding that addresses the terms associated with the maintenance of these fourteen access [illegible] managing these sites. DNRC adjusted the lease agreement for all state land to be managed as a fishing

[redacted]

DP 909 – Website Management - The executive requests 1.0 FTE and $74,634 in FY06 and $ 74,492 in FY 07 to provide content management to the FWP website. This request is contingent on the approval of license and fee increases.

[redacted]