



Montana Audubon

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SENATE FISH AND GAME

ERRAND NO. 2

DATE 2/17/05

BILL NO. SB 405

2

February 16, 2005

RE: SB 405

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Fish and Game Committee,

On Tuesday February 15, I testified in opposition to Senator Bales' bill to revise expenditures of the Habitat Montana program. This letter is to provide information in response to questions from Senator Barkus, information which I did not have readily available at the time of the hearing. The following information was provided to me by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Field Services Division:

1) Property is conserved three ways: by fee title, lease or conservation easement. As of December, 2004, the percentages of each are as follows:

	Percentage of total number (48) of properties conserved	Percentage of total acres (269,229) conserved
by Fee Title	12 sites, or 25 %	37,581 ac., or 14%
by Lease	3 sites, or 6%	11,259 ac., or 4%
by Conservation Easement	33 sites, or 69%	220,389 ac., or 82%

2) With regard to question of hunting access, all of the fee title and leased lands allow some degree of hunting. Only two of the properties under conservation easement do not allow hunting, totaling 2,186 acres, or 0.8% of the total acreage in the program.

I hope this answers the questions of the committee. I thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 405. If I can provide any other information to the committee, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Derek Goldman,
Legislative Intern
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Chapters:

Bitterroot
Bitterroot Valley

Five Valleys
Missoula

Flathead
Kalispell

Last Chance
Helena

Mission Mountain
Folsom

Pintlar
Butte • Dillon

Rosebud
Miles City

Sacajawea
Bozeman

Upper Missouri Breaks
Great Falls

Yellowstone Valley
Billings