SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 2/16/05
BILL NO. SB 417

MONTANA TRAIL VEHICLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION
Creating a positive future for off-highway vehicle recreation
P.O. Box 2884 Great Falls, MT 59403

Monday, February 14, 2005

Please Vote Yes On SB 417

Senate Natural Resources Committee Members
Sen: Glenn Roush, Chair

Motorized recreation is immensely popular in Montana and Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association members are concerned about the continual loss of motorized access and motorized opportunities. The Federal Roadless Rule was developed with little collaborative consultation with recreationists in the State of Montana. It is extremely important to the future of motorized recreation that Montanans have the right to address all issues site specifically on Federal Lands that lie with in our State's boundaries.

There are currently designated roadless areas that contain campgrounds, Forest Service Recreational sites and many established roads. The Roadless Rule was instituted with a modicum of input from Montanans and its long term effects are broad based.

MTVRA works diligently to educate users about natural resource protection, weed control and environmental awareness. With the Forest's health at crisis levels, we respectfully urge you to vote yes on SB 417 to allow Montanans to address and promote the sustainability of our states natural resources.

Management is about stewardship, not closure and Montana's economy has been severely impacted by the Roadless Rule and subsequent management decisions. Inventoried roadless areas do not currently reflect the social attitudes and economic issues that face Montanans who live near and depend on access to the National Forests for work and recreation.

MTVRA has worked hard to promote a positive public image of OHV recreation with land managers, landowners, government officials and the general public. We would like the opportunity to work with Montana's Congressional delegation, Governor Schweitzer, recreationists and conservationists across the State to build a Forest Plan that will benefit all of Montana.

Please Vote yes on SB 417 and allow Montanans to have a voice in site specific decisions concerning National Forest Lands. The carte blanche roadless rule will have long lasting negative effects on the social and economic landscape statewide.

We thank you for your consideration of our request and look forward to working with your administration for the good of all Montanans.

Joyce Thompson
President, MTVRA

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 3

The following exhibit is a booklet that exceeds the 5-page limit therefore it cannot be scanned. The booklets' cover has been scanned to help you when requesting information. The exhibit is on file at the Montana Historical Society and can be viewed there.

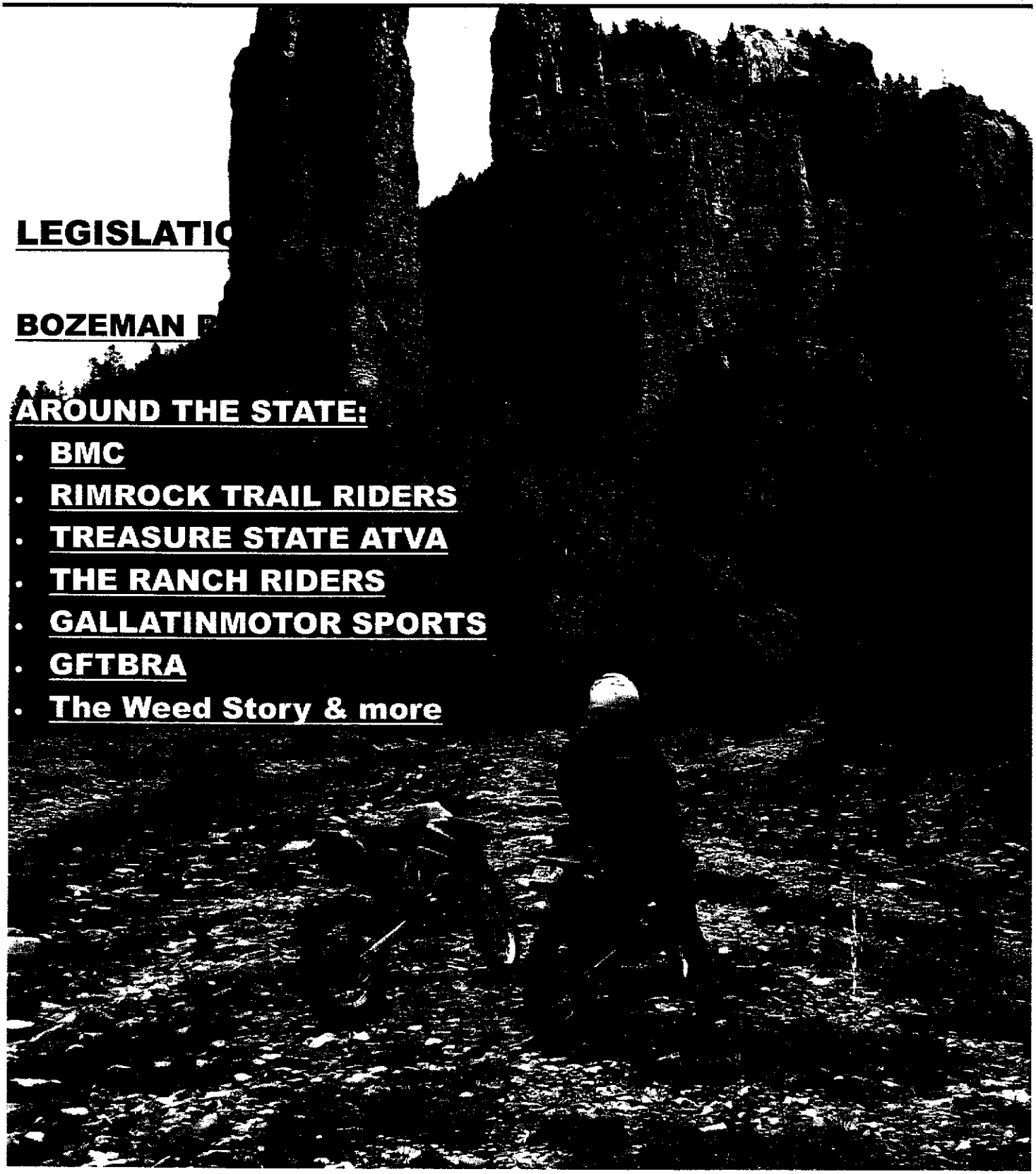
Montana Historical Society Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201; phone (406) 444-4774. For minutes in paper format, please contact the Montana State Law Library, Justice Building, 215 N. Sanders, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-3660. Tapes and exhibits are also available at the Historical Society (tapes are retained for five years). Scanning done by: Susie Hamilton

EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2.16.05
HB 417

January 10, 2005

MONTANA TRAIL RIDER NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTANA TRAIL VEHICLE RIDERS ASSOCIATION



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- TREASURE STATE ATVA
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