

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE NO. 6
DATE 3/4/05
BILL NO. HB 308

House Bill 308
March 4, 2005
Presented by Robert Lane
Senate Natural Resources Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Bob Lane, Chief Legal Counsel for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

The intent of this bill is make permanent the provisions that allow private entities to lease water for instream flow to benefit fish and wildlife. FWP also has the ability to lease water for instream flow via a willing lessee-willing lessor arrangement. We have found this program to be helpful and consider it an important and successful program.

We are familiar with the efforts of Trout Unlimited to obtain instream flows under the existing program and are supportive of their efforts. We believe that some individuals would prefer to work with a private entity, such as Trout Unlimited, rather than a state agency. This legislation would make permanent that opportunity. We support this legislation.