DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

SENATE STATE ADMIN.
EXHIBIT NO. 6
DATE 2-2-05
BILL NO.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

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STATE OF MONTANA

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DNRC in the Future
Mary Sexton
Director

The Montana Department of Natural Resources is a multi-faceted organization that touches on the lives of most Montanans. From clean drinking water to rangeland management and fire protection, DNRC supplies funding and management for many aspects of our natural resources.

Like much of Montana, DNRC is faced with the challenges of change. Trust lands of over 5 million acres are expected to produce increased revenues for our schools and universities while maintaining public access and health of the land. We must create new approaches to utilizing our heritage in state lands. Water, a more treasured resource than oil, must be carefully used and apportioned – and people, of course, want more of it! The challenge of the future is balancing the sometimes competing interests that depend on and use our natural resources.

My approach to administering DNRC with its diverse functions and skilled staff will be to bring balance and open communication to the task of managing our resources. I will strive to meet and listen to all interest groups and individuals while addressing their concerns directly and honestly. I will promote open discussion about issues of importance to regions of Montana. I will seek balance in the approach the Department pursues keeping in mind the need to sustain and enhance the natural resource treasures of Montana so that future generations will continue to benefit from their use.

In summary, I look at my job as director of DNRC as working with Montanans to keep what is best in Montana while paying attention to the needs of our State now and in the future. It is, indeed, a balancing act!