



**MOSBY MUSSELHELL WATERSHED GROUP**

Chairman-Scott Hill  
Watershed Coordinator-Cal Frank



EXHIBIT 10  
DATE 1.23.07  
HB 6, 8.

January 22, 2007

Dear Representative Kasten,

We are ranchers along the Musselshell River, and are members of the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group. This Group involves about 100 river miles of the Lower Musselshell, and about 22 ranching members plus some small landowners and agency members.

In 1998-99 several of these landowners were involved in an EQIP Priority Area which helped them improve irrigation practices and do some off stream livestock watering systems, among other things. At that same time, in conjunction with the DEQ, they put together a Water Restoration Plan (TMDL Plan) for the lower portion of the Musselshell River. Since the Musselshell River is a chronically dewatered stream, one of the goals of the Water Restoration Plan was to look into the possibility of off stream water storage for the lower river area.

When the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group (MMWG) organized in January of 2005, one of the main goals in the Plan of Work included looking at off stream storage for irrigation purposes, and to help keep the lower portion of the river flowing on a more reliable basis. In 2006, the Group, working with the Garfield and Petroleum County Conservation Districts, obtained an Irrigation Development Grant through Pat Riley of the DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division. These funds were used to hire an engineer, who has researched several possible storage sites, put together historical flow data for the area, and offered the Group assistance as they proceed through the various steps needed in the feasibility of a storage facility. At this time, the Group is focused on a site that shows promise of holding 3500 - 5000 acre feet of water. This would adequately supply a second irrigation for most of the irrigated acres located below this site. A turbine pumping system would allow the manufacture of at least some of the electricity needed to run the system.

In summary, we feel that the Irrigation Development Program and Pat Riley have been very beneficial to us and our Group. If we have a feasible storage project, and could actually get a reservoir built, it would be a great economical boost to the landowners in this area. **We would encourage continued funding for this program.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Scott Hill, 429-5331, or Diane Ahlgren, 429-6651. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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