

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES
EXHIBIT NO. 3
DATE 3-8-07
BILL NO. HB 264

House Bill 264
March 8, 2007
Presented by Chris Smith
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chris Smith, Chief of Staff of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to testify on HB 264, which would allow licensed anglers fishing from a boat or shore on lakes and reservoirs to fish with two lines or two rods.

Under current FWP Commission rules, anglers in FWP's Eastern and Central Fishing Districts may fish with up to two lines in lakes and reservoirs whether fishing from a boat or on shore. Anglers in these districts may only use one line, with up to two hooks, in rivers and streams, whether from a boat or on shore.

In FWP's Western Fishing District, FWP Commission rules restrict anglers to one line, with up to two hooks, regardless of the waters being fished and regardless of whether they are in a boat or on shore.

HB 264 would standardize regulations across all three Montana Fishing Districts. From a management perspective, that would have no negative impact on fisheries resources. Based upon experience in the Central and Eastern fishing districts, FWP Wardens do not believe that allowing use of two lines or rods would be more difficult to enforce in the Western District than it is in the Central and Eastern districts under current regulation already in effect.