SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 3-22-07
BILL NO. HJ 35

House Joint Resolution 35
March 22, 2007
Presented by M. Jeff Hagener
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

FWP is responsible for noxious weed management on more than 600 sites totaling nearly 363,000 acres of fishing access sites, state parks, and wildlife management areas. In 2006, FWP spent more than $345,000 directly on weed control activities, and more than $220,000 on weed related education, outreach, grants, and other activities. FWP also administers $1.6 million in federal funds for recreational trails projects that require a weed management plan for each project area and often include weed management as a major component of the project.

Since 2004, FWP and Montana Department of Agriculture have cooperated annually to fund an intern to evaluate FWP weed management on State Parks and Fishing Access sites.

The Department Noxious Weed Management FY06 Report explains in much more detail the specific activities accomplished by FWP related to noxious weed control. Copies of the report can be provided to committee members as desired. FWP is committed to helping control the spread of noxious weeds throughout the state of Montana, and as explained in the report, has expended considerable effort, both in dollars and staff time, to accomplish that goal.