Montana State Legislature

2009 Session

Exhibit: 10

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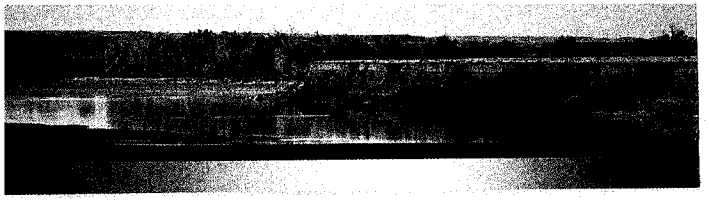
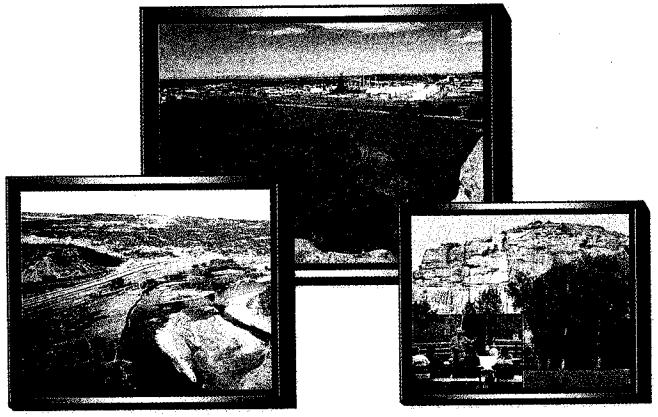


Our History

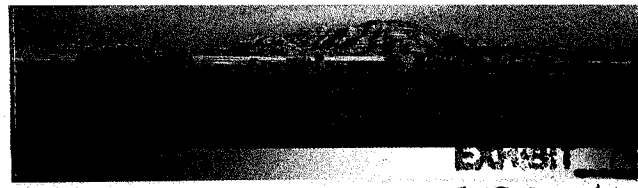
The Yellowstone River stretches over 670 miles and is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states. Originating in Yellowstone National Park, it drains 70,000 square miles of land before it joins the Missouri River in McKenzie County, North Dakota. In addition to an abundance of fish and wildlife, the Yellowstone River supports a wide variety of agricultural, domestic, industrial and recreational uses.



The natural and historic significance of the Yellowstone River, combined with major floods in 1996 and 1997, elevated interest and increased public debate over the impacts of human activities on the River. The lack of information upon which to base permitting decisions emphasized the need for public forums to discuss complex issues and potential solutions. Governor Marc Racicot created the Upper Yellowstone River Task Force in 1997 to address problems arising from the floods and begin studying the cumulative effects in Park County. In 1999, the **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council** was formed to address conservation issues on the entire river.

Yellowstone River Conservation District Council
Rimtop Drive • Billings, MT 59105

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 1/12/09
HB



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DATE 1/12
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Yellowstone Riv

Conservation District Cou

Working Relationships Yield A Shared Vision ..

By encouraging communication and cooperat through collaboration, educat incentives and voluntary acti it is our purpose to ensure healthy river and riparian sys capable of sustaining the ne of Montana citizens and th communities we serve.