

EXHIBIT 19
DATE 1/8/11
HB 148

HB 148

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO RETRIEVE BIG GAME ANIMALS ON CERTAIN LANDS WHERE MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE IS OTHERWISE RESTRICTED; AND AMENDING SECTION 87-3-125, MCA”

We oppose this Bill for the following reasons:

1. The potential damage to sensitive habitat, terrain and riparian areas is totally unacceptable. Allowing cross country travel off of established trails and roads would be a very destructive practice.
2. The use of an escort only complicates the problem. It takes the escort's time away from their other official duties. Why would a current or former legislator be allowed to be an escort but not a private party?
3. Most hunters are still in the field for some portion of the 10am to 4pm hours allowed for game retrieval under this bill. The impact on those still hunting would be substantial and would decrease the quality of their hunt as well as the potential for harvest.
4. Asking landowner enrollees in Block Management to agree with the provisions of this bill will likely lead to less enrollment as most Block Management land owners do not allow nor want off road travel on their lands.

This is a very bad bill with many potential negative impacts on the land, hunters, landowners and on County, State and Federal employees/officials.

We respectfully request that this bill be tabled and not brought up again.

Sincerely,

Mike Kotur
Headwaters Fish & Game Association Board Member.