

House Bill 372
February 8, 2011
Presented by Dave Risley
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2/8/11
372

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Dave Risley, Fish and Wildlife Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in opposition of House Bill 372.

HB372 will create Preference Point System for certain nonresidents hunting license and permits and will also provide 10% of the number of special permits to nonresidents. As HB 372 is currently written, the Department is not able to implement a Preference Point System for Elk B, Deer B, Antelope, and Mountain Lion licenses, because there would be a Bonus Point System for Residents and a Preference Point System for nonresidents drawing for the same licenses.

By providing 10% of special permits to nonresidents, HB372 will increase the number of special permits issued to nonresidents in many Hunting Districts. For example, in HD 380-20 the number of nonresidents who drew a special elk permit in 2010 was 2, and under the 10% proposed in HB372, it would increase to 11 nonresident hunters drawing special elk permits.

Additionally, the party number of six is inconsistent with the party number of five for other species such as Antelope.

With the passage of I 161, FWP will change the way licenses are issued in 2011, HB372 would change this process again for 2012. FWP is legitimately criticized for the confusion created by its regulations, HB372 would add to this confusion by creating two Points Systems, one for resident and one for nonresidents with different processes and changing the process for nonresident licenses. Thank You.