

EXHIBIT 16  
 DATE 2/10/11  
 HB Requested info.

NOTE: Acreage based on results of an overlay analysis using a Geographic Information System (GIS) with the public land ownership layer and the 2010 Deer/Elk hunting district layer. These data layers and their full documentation are available through the Montana GIS Portal at the Montana State Library at <http://gisportal.msl.mt.gov>. For the purpose of this report, all lands not coded as public or unknown were assumed to be private.

2010 Deer/Elk District	Private Acres	Public Acres	Total Acres
401	1,047,534	111,168	1,158,702
403	373,406	49,442	422,848
410	543,345	477,170	1,020,515
411	664,152	158,134	822,286
412	354,635	66,170	420,805
417	346,445	207,639	554,084
420	23,304	26,202	49,506
426	429,366	109,291	538,657
447	381,696	96,762	478,458
450	163,236	40,143	203,379
455	177	40,911	41,088
500	894,369	64,751	959,120
502	414,914	48,719	463,633
510	126,087	271,930	398,017
511	389,808	69,027	458,835
520	198,427	521,111	719,538
570	616,859	48,396	665,255
575	499,208	22,815	522,023
580	564,298	158,471	722,769
590	1,663,805	176,138	1,839,943
620	647,383	449,346	1,096,729
621	121,905	393,229	515,134
622	107,344	295,596	402,940
700	1,129,669	653,404	1,783,073
701	3,775,606	842,474	4,618,080
702	1,596,308	197,530	1,793,838
704	2,408,475	1,054,599	3,463,074
705	2,752,257	1,192,921	3,945,178
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22,234,018</b>	<b>7,843,489</b>	<b>30,077,507</b>



## Greater Yellowstone Coalition

P.O. Box 1874 • Bozeman, Montana 59771-9987

February 9, 2011

Dear Chairman Washburn and members of the House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee,

On February 10, 2011, your committee will consider HB 363 which fundamentally changes the way wolf management is funded and risks the loss of over \$20 million in federal funding to support wildlife management in Montana. We ask that you oppose HB 363.

First and foremost, we are concerned about the potential diversion of license dollars to the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation fund. As discussed in the fiscal note, this diversion risks the loss of \$20 million in federal funding with enormous consequences for all wildlife management in Montana. HB 363 should be defeated based on this issue alone.

We understand and support the need for funds for the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation program. We support funding this program through a combination of federal appropriations and a state general fund appropriation. This ensures that everyone, from wolf watchers to elk hunters, contributes to compensating landowners for losses due to wolf conflicts.

Furthermore, HB 363 locks Montana into an expensive and intensive wolf management program by directing license dollars be spent on radio collaring wolves and for lethal control of wolves that attack livestock. Wolf hunting license fees should not be used for these purposes as it will only serve to further polarize sportsmen regarding wolf conservation and management.

In reality, wolf management is about much more than conflicts with agriculture. Funds are needed to maintain FWP's on-the-ground wolf specialists who handle conflicts, monitor the wolf population, understand the predator-prey dynamics of a given landscape and determine the necessary actions to manage wolves in balance with other wildlife.

Hunters and anglers should not be the only ones paying for wolf management. Non-hunters from around the world value wolves; yet because they do not buy hunting or fishing licenses, they do not contribute to the conservation and management of the species. We need to find a better solution to funding the management of wildlife species, like wolves, that have a broader constituency than sportsmen and women. Until that solution is found, we should continue using federal appropriations, general fund dollars and license fees to fund the full spectrum of management actions as determined by Montana's wolf management plan.

Please vote no on HB 363.

Sincerely,  
Barb Cestero, Montana Director