

EXHIBIT 7
DATE Jan 27, 2011
HB 6

House Bill 6
January 27, 2011
Presented by Bruce Rich
House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Bruce Rich, Fisheries Bureau Chief of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to support House Bill 6.

We have requested \$99,500 through the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program. The funding was requested for the Chadbourne Diversion Dam Repair and Selective Fish Passage Retrofits project. The Chadbourne Diversion is located on the Shields River in Park County Montana. The Shields River is a stronghold for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, which currently occupy 31% of their native range in Montana and are a Species of Special Concern for the State of Montana. The diversion is used to supply irrigation water for 13 farms and ranches and has done so since its construction in the early 1930's. The diversion also acts as a partial barrier to the upstream movement of rainbow trout, which is a threat to the Yellowstone cutthroat trout population in the upper basin. The intent of this project is to repair existing damage to the diversion, address downstream scour that is threatening the structure, and retrofit the dam to prevent passage of rainbow trout while allowing selective passage of native species such as Yellowstone cutthroat. This project will provide continued and improved agricultural uses ensuring viability of that industry, protection of Yellowstone cutthroat in the upper portion of the basin from nonnative fish threats and restoration of the life history strategies of native fish. The proposed project budget is \$360,017. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service has committed \$99,506 in funding to this project. The \$99,500 from the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program would make this project very competitive as we seek the balance of funds needed from other grant programs, including FWP's Future Fisheries Improvement Program. This project is supported by the Lower Shields River Canal Company, Gallatin National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Montana Trout Unlimited.