

Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee

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March 1, 2011

Senator Debby Barrett
Chair
Senate Natural Resources Committee
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Chair Barrett:

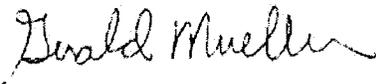
I write on behalf of two statutory basin water management planning entities, the Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering and the Clark Fork River Basin Task Force, to support HB24, which would facilitate water marketing for aquifer recharge or mitigation. This ability is important in closed basins such as the upper Clark Fork and the Bitterroot. HB24 was carefully crafted by the Interim Water Policy Committee after hearing from all water interests. Both the Steering Committee and the Task Force urge its approval.

The Steering Committee is a water planning entity for the upper Clark Fork River basin established by state statute, 85-2-338. Steering Committee members are appointed by the basin's counties, conservation districts, or the DNRC director and are representative of the basin water interests. A list of Steering Committee members is included below.

The Task Force addresses water planning for the entire Clark Fork River basin pursuant to 85-2-350. Its members are appointed by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to be representative of the basin in terms of geography and water interests. A list of Task Force members is also included.

Representatives of two state agencies, the Natural Resource Damage Program and the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks abstained from the Steering Committee's consideration of legislation as they are not authorized to speak on behalf of their agencies on legislative matters. Neither the Steering Committee, nor the Task Force speaks on behalf of the DNRC.

Thank you.



Gerald Mueller
Steering Committee and Task Force Facilitator

Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee Members

Name	Area or Organization Represented	Appointment Entity	Date Appointed
Darryl Barton	City of Deer Lodge	DNRC Director	2010
Bob Benson	Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Coalition	DNRC Director	1997
Stan Bradshaw	Trout Unlimited	DNRC Director	1991
Bob Bushnell	Lincoln Area Rancher	Lewis and Clark Conservation District	2010
Maureen Connor	Granite County Commissioner	Granite County Commission	2010
Don Despain	Deer Lodge Valley	Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District	2010
Jim Dinsmore	Hall Rancher	Granite Conservation District	1991
Holly Franz	PPL Montana	DNRC Director	1991
Carol Fox	Natural Resource Damage Program	DNRC Director	2003
Rebecca Guay	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commission	2010
Michele Landquist	Missoula County Commissioner	Missoula County Commission	2010
Sen. Dave Lewis	Lewis and Clark County	Lewis and Clark County Commission	2006
Jim C. Quigley	Little Blackfoot Rancher	DNRC Director	1991
Pat Saffel	DFWP	DNRC Director	2003
Marci Sheehan	ARCO	DNRC Director	2007
Rep. John Sesso	Butte/Silver Bow Planner	Butte/Silver Bow Commission	1997
Jules Waber	Powell County Superintendent of Schools	Powell County Commission	1997

Clark Fork River Basin Task Force Members

Name	Organization	Area/Interest Represented	Date Appointed
Marc Spratt	Flathead Conservation District	Flathead Basin above Flathead Lake	2001
Nate Hall	Avista	Hydropower Utilities	2006
Holly Franz	PPL Montana	Hydropower Utilities	2001
Gail Patton	Sanders County Commissioner	Basin Local Governments	2001
Ross Miller	Mountain Water Company	Municipal water companies and the Clark Fork River Watershed between the confluence of the Blackfoot River and the Clark Fork River and the confluence of the Clark Fork River and the Flathead River	2005
Caryn Miske	Flathead Basin Commission	Flathead Lake	2007
Ted Williams	Flathead Lakers	Flathead Lake	2007
Steve Hughes	Joint Board of Control	Flathead River watershed below Flathead Lake to the confluence with the Clark Fork River	2007
Harvey Hackett	Bitter Root Irrigation District	Bitterroot River watershed	2001
Fred Lurie	Blackfoot Challenge	Blackfoot River watershed	2001
Jim Dinsmore	Granite Conservation District & Upper Clark Fork River Basin Steering Committee	Upper Clark Fork River watershed	2001
Brianna Randall	Clark Fork Coalition	Conservation/environmental organizations	2008
Verdell Jackson, <i>Ex Officio</i>	State Senator	Senate District 5	2001
David Wanzenried	State Senator	Senate District 49 <i>Ex Officio</i>	2010