

EXHIBIT 6  
DATE 1.16.13  
HB 24

House Bill 24  
January 16, 2013  
Presented by Chas Van Genderen  
House Natural Resources Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Chas Van Genderen, Parks Division Administrator of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here to provide information on House Bill 24.

Montana State Parks manages 54 state parks and also manages grant and safety programs including the Recreational Trails Program using federal funds for trails and related recreation, OHV grants for trail maintenance and management, Snowmobile grants for grooming and maintenance, and the community grant side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These are important programs to citizens and we work with city county, state, federal and not for profit organizations to help promote and coordinate recreation around the state.

According to a 2010, survey by the bureau of business and economic research at the U of M Montana State parks had an economic impact of \$289 million in visitor spending and supported 1,600 jobs annually in tourism related areas.

Last year we hosted 2.0 million visits to state parks and had an increased demand for grants at the local state and federal levels.

As an agency FWP takes its role in recreation management seriously. Managing resources everyone loves is an important and challenging endeavor we have executed effectively. I am happy to answer any questions you may have on this topic.