



SENATE FISH AND GAME
EXHIBIT NO. 10
DATE 2-5-13
BILL NO. HB 73

February 5, 2013

Good afternoon members of the Senate Fish & Game Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to present public comment.

My name is Claudia Narcisco. I'm a volunteer with the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club testifying today on behalf of our 2000 members in Montana.

The Sierra Club supports regulated, fair chase hunting and fishing. Many of our members hunt and fish in Montana. However, the Sierra Club does have policies opposing trapping.

I am here today to urge the committee to Vote No on House Bill 73.

Wolves are a valued and important species. They are critical in maintaining naturally functioning ecosystems, and they are important to Montana's tourism industry and to our way of life in Montana. Wolves should be managed like other native wildlife — to ensure their long-term viability on the landscape.

We have 2 primary concerns with this Bill:

The proposed language (subsection 7 of Section 1) erodes the authority of wildlife professionals in the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department to manage wolves according to best available science and unbiased professional judgment. We strongly believe MFWP should have the authority to close certain areas to wolf hunting & trapping and that its professional judgment should not be hamstrung by the legislature, as this Bill would do. The political micromanagement of subsection 7 could complicate coordination with other agencies and result in ecological and cumulative effects that obstruct best management practices and projects.

Secondly, electronic calling is unethical and it is not fair-chase. Montanans have a long history of striving to achieve fair chase and uphold the Montana tradition of high personal ethics while hunting or fishing. To allow the use of electronic calling would place us on the slippery slope toward unethical hunting standards.

Again, we urge the committee to Vote No on House Bill 73. Thank you for the opportunity to present public comment.

On behalf of the Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club, *Claudia Narcisco*