

EXHIBIT # 1
DATE 01/29/2015
HB 206

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GRASS CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The 1997 State Legislature, at the request of the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts (MASGD), passed legislation, Senate Bill 326, to enact the Montana Grass Conservation Act Advisory Committee. The legislation required the appointment of several grazing district officials to an interim committee that was commissioned to examine the application of the current Montana Grass Conservation Act, the operations of our 26 state grazing districts, and the effectiveness of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) in administering the grazing districts program. The study committee, along with DNRC officials, and the MASGD had aggressively undertaken the task presented to them, and throughout 1997 and 1998 they convened several public meetings, and numerous work sessions in order to outline the necessary changes that should be made to the current Montana Grass Conservation Act. As a result of these findings, a recommendation was made to the legislature in the form of HB 444 to, in fact, reestablish the Montana Grass Conservation Commission and make other applicable changes.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MONTANA GRASS CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

In 1999, HB 444 was introduced to the legislature at the request of the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts to implement recommendations of the Grass Conservation Advisory Committee. The bill was approved by the 56th Legislature of the State of Montana and signed by Governor Racicot. Significant points of legislation include the formation of the Montana Grass Conservation Commission transferring all grazing district responsibility and authority held at that time by the Conservation and Resource Development Division, DNRC, to the Commission effective July 1, 1999; district by-law review and updates; and various revisions in the Grazing Act.

10/10/10
10/10/10
10/10/10