

EXHIBIT 1

DATE Feb. 10, 2015

HB 167



Testimony on HB 167
House Appropriations
February 10, 2015

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Chairwoman Ballance and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jake Troyer and I am here representing over 5,200 Montana Audubon members in support of HB 167

We support the increase in off-road vehicle user fees included in HB 167 because revenues allotted for education, law enforcement, designated trail maintenance, search and rescue, and noxious weeds will help support the appropriate use and dissuade the inappropriate use of such vehicles - a use that primarily occurs on public land.

Inappropriate use has the potential to affect sensitive areas such as wetlands, lakeshores, and meadows, generally through trail widening or off-trail use and the trampling of vegetation and spread of invasive weeds.

The fees prescribed by this legislation are comparable to many other state programs and should aid considerably in promoting positive off-road vehicle use in Montana.

Finally, the change in distribution of funds to the state special revenue fund in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks will hopefully enable a quicker transition to "boots on the ground",

For these reasons we strongly urge a do-pass on House Bill 167 through Appropriations. Thank you.