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My name is Kate Hunt, I am a Governor Appointed Member of the Flathead Basin Commission. I am also an artist, who happens to love numbers.

The bottom line of the 2017 Biennium Executive Budget* is \$4.9 billion dollars to run the State of Montana, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is allocated \$140.6 million dollars for 2016 and 2017.

The Flathead Basin Commission is allocated a hair more then .2% two tenths of one percent of the DNRC's budget or .003% three thousandths of one percent of the state's budget.

The DNRC has informed us our staff of one_y will be cut resulting in a \$172, 500^{***} savings for two years. This is a .004% four thousands of one percent of the state's budget and a 58% cut for the FBC.

According to the Flathead Beacon and I quote, "Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Director John Tubbs has recommended cutting the Flathead Basin Commission's entire budget for fiscal year 2018, which totaled \$148,932, as well as its budget for fiscal year 2019." That is a 100% cut for the Commission. Again, that would save the state about .003% three thousand of one percent and would totally wipe out the FBC.

The FBC takes pride in its role that helped to stop mining at the Canadian Headwaters of the Flathead. We are a group that focuses on preventing water resource problems (think forest fires). For example, we are talking to BNSF about Bakken Oil trains along our water ways. We talk about septic tanks and pharmaceuticals in the aquifer. We are a kind of clearing house for issues. After all, it's water and anyone who drinks the stuff cares about it's quality.

It's been close to a decade when the FBC was first presented with the devastation of mussels in the Great Lakes. Our bulldog approach paid off in May of 2015 when the station at Browning intercepted a mussel fouled boat saving the state millions of dollars.

*https://budget.mt.gov/Portals/29/execbudgets/2017_Budget/HB_2_Statewide_Summary.pdf

**\$172,500 = \$75,000 annual salary plus \$11250--15% benefits x two years.

Legislative Finance Committee
Oct. 4, 2017
Exhibit 6