

# Legislative Council on River Governance

*Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 3, MCA*

Section 5-11-301, MCA, authorizes Montana's participation in "appropriate interstate organizations," and designates the Legislative Council as the "Montana commission on interstate and international cooperation." Under this authority, in 1998, Montana joined Washington, Oregon, and Idaho as a member of the Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG or Council) with the mission of "[asserting] state legislative duty and authority over natural resources and river governance" in the Columbia Basin, and "[uniting] states for a proactive agenda of legislative action and communications."

In Montana, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate each appoint two members to the LCRG. Montana's four members join bipartisan House and Senate delegations from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, meeting in each of the four states on a rotating basis to discuss management of the hydroelectric power system, salmon recovery efforts, and related water issues in the Columbia River Basin.

As a consequence of the LCRG's work last interim, the 2001 Montana Legislature passed House Joint Resolution No. 14, calling for a public forum for the development of a consensus-based resolution of issues involving the interaction of water, power, people, and fish in the Columbia Basin. Other Northwest states introduced similar bills. This interim, the Montana Legislature allocated \$10,000 to the Legislative Council's Program 21 fund to support the state's continued participation in the LCRG.

## ***Montana's Delegation***

### **Rep. Aubyn Curtiss (R)**

PO Box 216  
Fortine, MT 59918  
Ph: 882-4448

### **Rep. Steve Gallus (D)**

2701 Phillips St  
Butte, MT 59701  
Wk: 782-2042, Hm: 494-5224  
Gallus@in-tch.com

**Sen. Tom Beck, Chair (R)**

792 Yellowstone Trail  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
Hm: 846-3810  
tabeck@montana.com

*(Sen. Beck will be replaced by Sen.  
Tash when Montana's term as Chair of  
the LCRG expires.)*

**Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)**

1906 Ogden  
Anaconda, MT 59711  
Ph: 563-2909  
McCarthyBea@aol.com

**Sen. Bill Tash, (R)**

45 Vista Dr.  
Dillon, MT 59725  
Ph: 683-4826

**Staff:**

**Kent Briggs, Director, CSG-West**

121 Second St., 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: (415) 974-6422      FAX: (415) 974-1747

**Stephen Maly, Research Policy Analyst, Montana Legislative Services Division**

PO Box 201706  
State Capitol, Room 111D  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Ph: (406) 444-3064      FAX: (406) 444-3036