

HJ 33 Testimony

The Montana Logging Association would like to express support for DNRC's proposal to pursue legislative authority allowing them to directly contract certain projects. We believe that such legislation will provide an invaluable tool for the DNRC to be stewards of State forest lands and to maximum revenues for our schools.

Currently, DNRC does not have the authority to contract services for such simple projects as removing hazard trees around a campground or cabin sites. Nor do they have the authority to contract projects that allow them to maximize revenues for schools through marketing a multi species/multi product timber sale. This authority will also allow DNRC to proceed with environmentally sensitive projects that require specialized equipment or the services of a proven contractor.

Similar legislation in Washington State has successfully earned 15% higher revenues ... and has resulted in the completion of several environmentally sensitive projects.

As stewards of our State's forested land the DNRC needs this authority.

The proposed limit of 10% of the State's timber sale program will provide an opportunity for the legislature to evaluate the success of this new authority without negatively impacting the State's timber sale program.

The Montana Logging Association has long supported the DNRC's mission of maximizing revenues for State Trusts... therefore; we respectfully request this body endorse legislation that will allow DNRC to contract services with such a goal in mind.

Thanks for your attention.

Jason Todhunter