

Speaking points for HJR 15

Presented to Environmental Quality Council

January 7, 2010

Mr Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Chas Van Genderen.

I am the Parks Division Administrator for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

During the last session of the Legislature, the department testified in support of this study resolution. Representative Milburn's resolution represented a new way of thinking.

FWP has a longstanding policy of supporting recreation on both public and private lands.

It is part of Montana's proud outdoor heritage and contributes to our tourism economy.

The PLPW comments indicate there may be mixed feelings on the idea. This concept is unique and, therefore, it is unknown how much demand there would be for a program of this type. If this idea is to work it will require everyone's support, most importantly landowners and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

We appreciate the opportunity to be part of the dialogue. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.