



AN ACT FACILITATING IMPROVED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS IN MONTANA TO AID LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK AND IMPROVING FOREST HEALTH ON FEDERAL LANDS; ESTABLISHING DUTIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION; PROVIDING STATE ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOREST ADVISOR; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1. State assistance to local governments as consultant for federal land management proposals -- rulemaking.** (1) The department of natural resources and conservation, at the request of and in coordination with a local government as defined in 7-11-1002, may serve as a consulting subject matter expert on federal vegetation management projects.

(2) The department may provide the assistance to local governments listed in subsection (1) on projects that address forest health or wildfire risk.

(3) The department may establish a minimal procedure for local governments to request state assistance pursuant to [section 2] and this section.

(4) The department shall give priority to requests and services pursuant to this section that will:

- (a) reduce excessive wildfire fuels that endanger communities, infrastructure, or municipal watersheds;
- (b) enhance economic productivity in economically depressed counties; and
- (c) not exceed available staff time and resources.

(5) The department may adopt rules to implement this section.

**Section 2. Local government forest advisor.** There is a local government forest advisor who reports to the state forester. The local government forest advisor shall provide assistance on projects on federal forested lands upon request of a local government for projects that meet the criteria of [section 1(2) and (4)].

**Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$240,000 from the general fund for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, to the department of natural resources and conservation to implement the provisions of [sections 1 and 2].

**Section 4. Codification instruction.** (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 76, and the provisions of Title 76 apply to [section 1].

(2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 76, chapter 13, part 1, and the provisions of Title 76, chapter 13, part 1, apply to [section 2].

**Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

**Section 6. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2020.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 0510, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

HOUSE BILL NO. 510

INTRODUCED BY A. REDFIELD

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