

HOUSE BILL NO. 510

INTRODUCED BY A. REDFIELD

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT FACILITATING IMPROVED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
5 ON PUBLIC LANDS IN MONTANA TO AID LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN REDUCING ~~IMMINENT THREATS TO~~
6 ~~PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE AND PREVENTING UNREASONABLE DEPLETION OR~~
7 ~~DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES~~ WILDFIRE RISK AND IMPROVING FOREST HEALTH ON
8 FEDERAL LANDS; ESTABLISHING DUTIES FOR THE ~~DEPARTMENTS~~ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
9 RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION ~~AND FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS~~; PROVIDING STATE ASSISTANCE
10 TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ~~TO ADDRESS ADVERSE FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS~~;
11 GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING A STATE FUEL REDUCTION FACILITATOR LOCAL
12 GOVERNMENT FOREST ADVISOR; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
13 DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

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

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17 NEW SECTION. Section 1. State assistance to local governments as consultants CONSULTANT for
18 **federal land management proposals -- rulemaking.** (1) The department of natural resources and conservation
19 and the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, at the request of and in coordination with a local government as
20 defined in 7-11-1002, shall MAY serve as A consulting subject matter ~~experts to aid in addressing adverse federal~~
21 ~~land management plans, policies, decisions, regulations, actions, or lack of timely resource management within~~
22 ~~the local government's jurisdiction~~ EXPERT ON FEDERAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.

23 ~~(2) Upon a request of a local government, the departments shall provide science-based fact checking,~~
24 ~~reports, or rebuttal arguments addressing proposed federal plans, policies, decisions, or regulations pursuant~~
25 ~~to the national environmental policy act.~~

26 ~~(3)(2) The departments shall~~ DEPARTMENT MAY provide the assistance TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS listed in
27 subsection (2) if a local government determines the federal plan, policy, decision, regulation, action, or a lack of
28 timely resource management is expected to result in conditions that:

- 29 ~~— (a) pose an imminent risk to public health, safety, or welfare; or~~
30 ~~— (b) unreasonably deplete or degrade natural resources~~ (1) ON PROJECTS THAT ADDRESS FOREST HEALTH

1 OR WILDFIRE RISK.

2 ~~(4)(3)~~ The ~~departments~~ DEPARTMENT may establish a minimal procedure for local governments to request
3 state assistance pursuant to [section 2] and this section.

4 ~~(5)(4)~~ The ~~departments~~ DEPARTMENT shall give priority to requests and services pursuant to this section
5 that will:

6 (a) reduce excessive wildfire fuels that endanger communities, infrastructure, or municipal watersheds;

7 (b) enhance economic productivity in economically depressed counties; ~~or~~ AND

8 (c) ~~protect or reopen multiple-use public access routes on public lands~~ NOT EXCEED AVAILABLE STAFF TIME

9 AND RESOURCES.

10 ~~(6)(5)~~ The ~~departments~~ DEPARTMENT may adopt rules to implement this section.

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12 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Fuel reduction facilitator LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOREST ADVISOR. There is
13 a ~~fuel reduction facilitator~~ LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOREST ADVISOR who reports to the state forester. The ~~fuel reduction~~
14 ~~facilitator~~ LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOREST ADVISOR shall ~~expedite fuel reduction~~ PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ON projects on
15 federal forested lands upon request of a local government for projects that meet the criteria of [section 1~~(3)~~ and
16 ~~(5)(2) AND (4)~~].

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18 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation. There is appropriated ~~\$120,000~~ \$240,000 from the general
19 fund FOR THE BIENNIUM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, to the department of natural resources and conservation to
20 implement the provisions of [sections 1 and 2].

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

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

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27 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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29 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2020.

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