

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

INTRODUCED BY T. FRANCE

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FEES AT NATIONAL PARKS IN WYOMING AND MONTANA AND TO TRANSFER THOSE FEES TO WYOMING, MONTANA, IDAHO, AND THE BLACKFEET TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE WILDLIFE.”

WHEREAS, Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park are rich in wildlife that attracts millions of visitors each year to the parks; and

WHEREAS, wildlife in Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park migrate throughout the year within and outside the wide boundaries of the parks and across Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and the Blackfeet reservation; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the winter and transitional habitats of wildlife, and specifically the habitats of big game animals, is provided by federal, state, private, and tribal lands adjacent to Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park; and

WHEREAS, migrating wildlife create potentially negative impacts on the operations of surrounding landowners and their livestock that should be mitigated by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, these states and the Blackfeet tribal government are financially responsible for managing wildlife, maintaining wildlife migration corridors and wildlife habitats, and mitigating impacts of diseases by wildlife that migrate to and from Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park; and

WHEREAS, these states and the Blackfeet tribal government are also financially responsible for improving human safety, reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, and resolving conflicts with big game animals and large carnivores that move to and from Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park; and

WHEREAS, these states and the Blackfeet tribal government traditionally finance these responsibilities and manage wildlife through consumptive uses of wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park visitors should pay a fee that will be transferred back to the states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and the Blackfeet tribal government to

1 conserve and manage wildlife outside the boundaries of the parks; and

2 WHEREAS, the collection of a wildlife conservation fee will provide an opportunity for nonconsumptive
3 users of wildlife to assist in addressing management responsibilities shouldered by landowners, these states,
4 and the Blackfeet tribal government; and

5 WHEREAS, the wildlife conservation fees collected will be prioritized to address the responsibilities
6 described above, but they will also allow the states and the Blackfeet tribal government to utilize a portion of
7 these dollars for general wildlife management.

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9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
10 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 That the 68th Legislature of the State of Montana urges the United States Secretary of the Interior and
12 the Director of the National Park Service to enter into agreements with Wyoming to collect a wildlife
13 conservation fee at Grand Teton National Park, with Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho to collect a wildlife
14 conservation fee at Yellowstone National Park, and with Montana and the Blackfeet tribal government to collect
15 a wildlife conservation fee at Glacier National Park.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the agreements stipulate that revenue collected from wildlife
17 conservation fee agreements be transferred back to the appropriate state and Blackfeet tribal government
18 entities, including the Montana Department of Livestock and the Montana Livestock Loss Board, for wildlife
19 conservation and mitigation efforts.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Director
21 of the National Park Service, the Governors of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, the Presiding Officer of the
22 Blackfeet Tribal Council, the state fish and wildlife agencies, agriculture agencies, and livestock agencies of
23 Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, other federally recognized tribal governments in Montana, each member of the
24 Montana Congressional Delegation, and the United States Secretary of the Interior.

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