

Unofficial Draft Copy

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**** Bill No. ******DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act appropriating money to the department of natural resources and conservation to address federal land issues; establishing accounts to fund the addressing of federal land issues; providing acceptable uses of funds; requiring reports to the environmental quality council; and providing an effective date."

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Montana:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Federal land issues accounts.** (1)

There is an account in the state special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 to be known as the federal land issues account. There must be deposited in the account fund received for the purposes of administering subsection (3) including:

- (a) money received from legislative allocations;
- (b) a transfer of money from a state or local agency; and
- (c) a gift, donation, grant, legacy, bequest, or devise.

(2) There is an account in the federal special revenue fund established by 17-2-102 to be known as the federal land issues account. There must be deposited in the account money received from the federal government for the purpose of administering subsection (3).

(3) Funds in either account created in this section must be

used by the department of natural resources and conservation to address federal land issues, including those identified in Title 76, chapter 13 to:

(a) develop, protect, and conserve forest, range, and water resources;

(b) intervene in litigation or appeals on federal forest management projects, especially those related to restoration activities and watershed protection;

(c) pursue cooperating and coordinating agreements or contracts with federal agencies;

(d) cooperate with the federal government to adopt measures to control, suppress, and eradicate outbreaks of forest insect pests and tree diseases;

(e) advocate the sustainable use of all public forests within the state through sound management and collaboration with local, state, and federal entities; and

(f) promote a viable forest and wood products industry and other businesses and individual activities that rely on public forest lands, including the development of an independent, long-term sustained yield calculation on Montana's federal forests.

(4) The department may use the funds in the account to pay for legal services from the attorney general to pursue the provisions in subsection (3).

(5) The department shall report to the environmental quality council at least annually on its use of the funds.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Appropriation.** There is

appropriated from ???? to the department of natural resources and conservation \$\$\$\$\$ for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, for department to address federal land issues pursuant to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. {standard} Codification**

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. {standard} Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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