

From: donotreply@mt.gov
To: LEGcmte-WPICcomment@mt.gov
Subject: Public Comment for WPIC
Date: Friday, September 16, 2022 10:59:04 AM

Public Comments for the Water Policy Interim Committee

Date: 16th September 2022 10:58

First Name:

Peter

Last Name:

Fritsch

Email Address:

tetonriver.mt@gmail.com

Subject:

Stream Gauge Oversight Work Group

Comment:

I am a water commissioner in the Teton River, Flatwillow Creek, and upper Yellowstone River drainages. I would like to submit a comment in support of the Stream Gauge Oversight Work Group. I have attended several meetings and am in consistent contact with DNRC members of the group. I find utility in partaking in conversations with this work group regarding stream gauging issues around the state. I receive timely notifications of gauges that are threatened by a lack of funding and am able to voice my own concerns/needs regarding stream gauging assistance on the water sources that I manage. Given the relatively small financial outlay for maintaining the work group, I think it provides solid benefit to Montana taxpayers of all stripes (farmers/ranchers, recreationalists, anglers, water managers, concerned citizens, etc.). Therefore I support the DNRC request to make the working group permanent and look forward to participating in their ongoing meetings in the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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From: donotreply@mt.gov
To: LEGcmte-WPICcomment@mt.gov
Subject: Public Comment for WPIC
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2022 11:22:20 AM

Public Comments for the Water Policy Interim Committee

Date: 15th September 2022 11:22

First Name:

Whitney

Last Name:

Lonsdale

Email Address:

whitneylonsdale@gmail.com

Subject:

Steam gauge bill

Comment:

I would like to commend the Committee for addressing the topic of stream gauging in Montana. A robust stream gauging network is essential for flood and drought preparedness and planning, for informed water supply planning for municipalities and rural communities, for sustaining a vibrant agricultural industry and communities, and for proactive planning in the hydroelectric power generation industry and other industries. It is therefore disappointing to see that proposed bill only supports "coordination" around stream gauging instead of proposing financial support at a state level to maintain and even expand the stream gauging network. This is a time when Montana and the West should be adding stream gauges, not losing them, or at best depending on collecting funding in a piecemeal fashion from local agencies, governments, organizations and community members to save gauges that are in danger of discontinuation. Water is the lifeblood of so much of what makes Montana great, and it the most important 'bank account' we have for our future. If we do not measure and understand what we have, how will we effectively plan for the future?

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From: donotreply@mt.gov
To: LEGCmte-WPICcomment@mt.gov
Subject: Public Comment for WPIC
Date: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 3:26:04 PM

Public Comments for the Water Policy Interim Committee

Date: 14th September 2022 15:25

First Name:

Shirley

Last Name:

Harrison

Email Address:

shirley@montanahealthywater.com

Subject:

Measuring stream flow

Comment:

I am very interested in opportunities to learn how much water is in our watersheds. How can water rights be issued when data showing how much water is there to give rights to? Troposphere? streams/rivers/lakes/oceans.....?? Has anyone quantified this before allowing too much to be owned/??

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From: donotreply@mt.gov
To: LEGCmte-WPICcomment@mt.gov
Subject: Public Comment for WPIC
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:38:35 AM

Public Comments for the Water Policy Interim Committee

Date: 21st September 2022 09:38

First Name:
Morgan

Last Name:
Case

Email Address:
morgan.case@tu.org

Subject:
Stream Gaging

Comment:
The members of the Stream Gage Oversight Work Group have done a great job capturing the complexity and importance of Montana's stream gage network. Trout Unlimited supports the recommendations of the report and believes those actions will strengthen the network and lead to better tools to protect and manage water resources across the state. Thank you.

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