

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN WALTER MCNUTT**, on January 8, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 37, 1/3/2007; HB 61, 1/3/2007

HEARING ON HB 37

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:03:22 Rep. Michele Reinhart (D), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 37, Weed control on state land.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:03 Kevin Chappell, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

00:08:41 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony:

00:10:37 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrower's Association

Informational Testimony:

00:15:07 Ronald Buentameier, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:16:25 Rep. Cohenour
00:16:47 Mr. Chappell
00:17:59 Rep. Erickson
00:18:15 Mr. Chappell
00:18:52 Rep. Ross
00:19:03 Mr. Bodner
00:19:43 Rep. Lambert
00:20:22 Rep. Reinhart
00:20:36 Rep. Lambert
00:21:03 Rep. Reinhart
00:21:48 Rep. Dickenson
00:22:21 Mr. Bodner
00:23:02 Rep. Dickenson
00:23:46 Mr. Bodner
00:24:12 Rep. Dickenson
00:24:45 Mr. Bodner
00:25:49 Rep. Dickenson
00:26:15 Mr. Chappell
00:27:35 Rep. Barrett
00:27:48 Mr. Chappell
00:32:44 Rep. Erickson
00:33:25 Mr. Chappell
00:34:09 Rep. Mendenhall
00:34:29 Mr. Chappell
00:37:34 Rep. Hendrick
00:38:16 Mr. Chappell

00:39:06 Rep. Van Dyk
00:39:54 Mr. Chappell
00:41:03 Rep. Small-Eastman
00:41:16 Mr. Chappell
00:44:52 Rep. Barrett
00:45:24 Mr. Chappell

Closing by Sponsor:

00:46:23 Rep. Michele Reinhart
00:47:15 BREAK

HEARING ON HB 61

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:56:21 REP. RON ERICKSON (D), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB
61, Increase fire assessment rate.

[EXHIBIT \(nah04a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nah04a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:07:23 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources &
Conservation

[EXHIBIT \(nah04a03\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:25:38 Ronald Buentameier, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.

01:31:03 Art Vail, Plum Creek Timber Co.

01:33:48 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

01:36:04 Deborah Foley, Montana Forest Owners Association

[EXHIBIT \(nah04a04\)](#)

01:43:41 Tim Ravndal, Montana MUA

Informational Testimony:

01:41:11 Al Kington

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:45:17 Rep. Lambert

01:46:39 Mr. Harrington

01:54:28 Rep. Ross

01:54:37 Rep. Erickson

01:55:28 Rep. Hands

01:57:00 Mr. Harrington

01:58:30 Rep. Barrett

01:58:45 Mr. Harrington
01:59:19 Ted Mead, Department of Natural Resources &
Conservation
02:00:07 Chairman McNutt
02:00:46 Mr. Harrington
02:04:35 Rep. Small-Eastwood
02:04:59 Mr. Harrington
02:08:11 Rep. Ross
02:08:52 Ms. Foley
02:10:06 Rep. Heinert
02:10:36 Rep. Erickson
02:11:20 Chairman McNutt
02:12:03 Rep. Erickson
02:12:57 Rep. Small-Eastwood
02:13:19 Mr. Harrington

Closing by Sponsor:

02:15:29 Rep. Erickson

ADJOURNMENT

02:16:37 Adjournment: 5:00 P.M.

REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Chairman

NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nah04aad.pdf](#))