

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA**, on January 18, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Keith Bales (R)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)  
Sen. Larry Jent (D)  
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary  
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

**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: SB 78, 1/10/2007  
Executive Action: None.

00:00:01 Chairman Tropila

00:00:09 Sen. Gallus

**HEARING ON SB 78**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:31 **SEN. LANE LARSON (D), SD 22**, opened the hearing on **SB 78**, Clarify stream access from bridges.

**EXHIBIT (fis12a01)**

**Proponents:**

00:08:20 Hal Harper, Governor's Office

00:10:21 Pam Bucy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice (DOJ)

00:11:06 Steve Bullock, Attorney, Helena

00:13:10 Chris Smith, Chief of Staff, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

**EXHIBIT (fis12a02)**

00:17:08 Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited

00:21:14 Robert Throssell, Montana Wildlife Federation Association

**EXHIBIT (fis12a03)**

00:25:55 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

00:28:15 Sara Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters

00:28:56 John Ostlund, Yellowstone County Commissioner

00:29:58 Ed Tinsley, Lewis & Clark County Commissioner

00:30:46 Chris Marchion, Montana Wildlife Federation

00:33:06 Bob Gilbert, Executive Director, Montana Walleye

00:33:23 Tim Reardon, Department of Transportation

00:34:17 Robin Cunningham, Private Land and Wildlife Issue

00:35:13 John Gibson, Billings Rod and Gun Club

00:36:43 Jack DeJones, Self

00:43:54 Tony Schoonen, Public Lands and Water Association

**EXHIBIT (fis12a04)**

00:45:04 Molly Immen, Montana Audubon

**EXHIBIT (fis12a05)**

00:45:37 Bill Holdorf, Butte Skyline Sportsman

**EXHIBIT (fis12a06)**

00:47:39 Leroy Mehring, Butte Skyline Sportsman

00:48:07 Ann Post, self

00:48:33 Will Murray, Montana Trout Unlimited

00:49:09 Ed Coleman, self

**EXHIBIT (fis12a07)**

00:52:14 Lorry Thomas

00:49:41 Joe Gutkoski, Montana River Action

00:50:34 Patrick Straub, Fishing Outfitter

00:50:48 Toby Day, Self

00:50:01 Stan Frasier, Helena Hunters

00:51:43 Tim Ravndal, Montana Multiple Use Association

**Opponents:**

00:52:42 John Bloomquist, Attorney, Montana Stockgrowers  
Association

**EXHIBIT (fis12a08)**

01:09:04 Lance Lovell, Lovell Law Firm, P.C.

**EXHIBIT (fis12a09)**

01:16:21 Carla Johnson, Montana Cattle Women  
01:17:06 George Trischman, Landowner  
01:22:01 Dave McClure, President, Montana Farm Bureau  
01:24:23 Pat Torgerson, Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics  
(WIFE)  
01:25:01 Red Finke, Self  
01:26:47 Tucker Hughes, Rancher, Judith Basin County  
Commissioner  
01:28:37 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resource Association  
01:30:18 Allen Wright, Montana Multi Use Association  
01:31:23 Bryan Mussard, Dillon

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:32:51 Sen. Tash to Chris Smith, FWP  
01:36:49 Sen. Hansen to Chris Smith, FWP  
01:41:07 Sen. Balyeat to Chris Smith. FWP  
01:42:45 Sen. Balyeat to Bob Lane, Attorney for FWP  
01:45:31 Sen. Bales to Chris Smith, FWP  
01:46:51 Sen. Bales to Bob Lane, FWP  
01:53:29 Sen. Barkus to Chris Smith, FWP  
01:56:13 Sen. Barkus to Bob Lane, Attorney for FWP  
01:57:35 Sen. Barkus to Sen. Larson  
02:00:24 Sen. Tash to Pam Bucy, DOJ  
02:01:51 Sen. Tash to Bob Lane, Attorney for FWP

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:03:25 Sen. Larson

**Discussion:**

02:09:22 Sen. Gallus

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:35 P.M.

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SEN. JOSEPH (JOE) TROPILA, Chairman

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CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

JT/cj

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([fis12aad.pdf](#))**