

HOUSE BILL NO. 510

INTRODUCED BY A. REDFIELD

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT FACILITATING IMPROVED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
5 ON PUBLIC LANDS IN MONTANA TO AID LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN REDUCING IMMINENT THREATS TO
6 PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE AND PREVENTING UNREASONABLE DEPLETION OR
7 DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES; ESTABLISHING DUTIES FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF
8 NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION AND FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS; PROVIDING STATE
9 ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS ADVERSE FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT
10 ACTIONS; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING A STATE FUEL REDUCTION
11 FACILITATOR; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND A
12 TERMINATION DATE."

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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16 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. State assistance to local governments as consultants for federal land**
17 **management proposals -- rulemaking.** (1) The department of natural resources and conservation and the
18 department of fish, wildlife, and parks, at the request of and in coordination with a local government as defined
19 in 7-11-1002, shall serve as consulting subject matter experts to aid in addressing adverse federal land
20 management plans, policies, decisions, regulations, actions, or lack of timely resource management within the
21 local government's jurisdiction.

22 (2) Upon a request of a local government, the departments shall provide science-based fact checking,
23 reports, or rebuttal arguments addressing proposed federal plans, policies, decisions, or regulations pursuant
24 to the national environmental policy act.

25 (3) The departments shall provide the assistance listed in subsection (2) if a local government
26 determines the federal plan, policy, decision, regulation, action, or a lack of timely resource management is
27 expected to result in conditions that:

- 28 (a) pose an imminent risk to public health, safety, or welfare; or
- 29 (b) unreasonably deplete or degrade natural resources.

30 (4) The departments may establish a minimal procedure for local governments to request state

1 assistance pursuant to [section 2] and this section.

2 (5) The departments shall give priority to requests and services pursuant to this section that will:

3 (a) reduce excessive wildfire fuels that endanger communities, infrastructure, or municipal watersheds;

4 (b) enhance economic productivity in economically depressed counties; or

5 (c) protect or reopen multiple-use public access routes on public lands.

6 (6) The departments may adopt rules to implement this section.

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8 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Fuel reduction facilitator.** There is a fuel reduction facilitator who reports
9 to the state forester. The fuel reduction facilitator shall expedite fuel reduction projects on federal forested lands
10 upon request of a local government for projects that meet the criteria of [section 1(3) and (5)].

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated \$120,000 from the general fund to
13 the department of natural resources and conservation to implement the provisions of [sections 1 and 2].

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15 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** (1) [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
16 integral part of Title 76, and the provisions of Title 76 apply to [section 1].

17 (2) [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 76, chapter 13, part 1, and the
18 provisions of Title 76, chapter 13, part 1, apply to [section 2].

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20 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

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22 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2020.

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