

*****SJ15 Work Group Discussion Draft - reflecting June 12 Work Group Discussion*****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Bill for an Act entitled: "An Act establishing a subcommittee of the environmental quality council to address federal land management and providing an immediate effective date."

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

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Federal land issues subcommittee.**

(1) The environmental quality council shall establish the federal land issues subcommittee to cooperate and coordinate with federal land management agencies and other entities in an effort to resolve federal land management issues in Montana.

(2) The voting members of the subcommittee are:

(a) Four legislators, one from each political party in each house, who are members of the environmental quality council appointed by the chair and vice chair of the environmental quality council; and

(b) Two members of the house, one from each political party, who are not members of the environmental quality council and whose districts contain at least 20% federal land, appointed by the speaker of the house.

(c) Two members of the senate, one from each political party, who are not members of the environmental quality council

and whose districts contain at least 20% federal land, appointed by the president of the senate.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the term "federal land" means the sum of acreage owned by the U.S. forest service, the U.S. bureau of land management, the national park service, and the U.S. fish and wildlife service.

(4) Appointments made pursuant to subsection (2) must give preference to members of the environmental quality council who served on a work group that studied federal land management pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution No. 15 passed by the 63rd Legislature.

(5) The subcommittee includes representatives of the following agencies or units of government who shall serve as non-voting members:

(a) one county commissioner appointed by the Montana association of counties who is a member of the public lands committee;

(b) one county commissioner appointed by the Montana coalition of forest counties;

(b) one representative of the department of natural resources and conservation;

(c) one representative of the U.S. forest service;

(d) one representative of the U.S. bureau of land management;

(e) one representative of the national park service;

(f) one representative of U.S. fish and wildlife service;

(g) one representative of department of fish, wildlife, and

parks;

(h) one member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe in Montana selected by an agreement of all the federally-recognized Indian tribes in Montana;

(i) one representative of the department of commerce;

(j) one representative of the governor's office; and

(k) one representative of the attorney general.

(6) The voting members of the subcommittee shall elect its presiding officer and vice presiding officer from among the voting members. The officers may not be members of the same political party.

(7) Final recommendations and other work products that would be represented as being produced or endorsed by the environmental quality council must be finally approved by the environmental quality council.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. {standard} Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 75, chapter 1, part 3, and the provisions of Title 75, chapter 1, part 3, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. {standard} Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

NEW SECTION. **Section 4. {standard} Effective date.** [This

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act] is effective on passage and approval.

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