

1 SENATE BILL NO. 237

2 INTRODUCED BY J. BRENDEN

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF LAND
5 COMMISSIONERS FOR CERTAIN LAND PURCHASES; PROVIDING THAT TO THE EXTENT PRACTICAL
6 AND CONSISTENT WITH THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS' POWERS AND DUTIES, LAND
7 PURCHASES MAY NOT RESULT IN A NET GAIN IN LAND OWNERSHIP BY THE STATE; PROVIDING AN
8 EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN LAND ACQUISITIONS OF LESS THAN 5 ACRES; AMENDING SECTIONS
9 2-17-101, 10-1-108, 18-2-105, 18-2-111, 20-25-307, 22-3-1003, 23-1-102, 67-2-301, 75-15-223, 76-12-107,
10 77-1-202, 77-1-214, 77-2-364, 82-4-239, 82-4-371, 82-4-445, 85-1-209, 87-1-209, 87-1-285, AND 87-1-703,
11 MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

12

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

14

15 **Section 1.** Section 2-17-101, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"2-17-101. Allocation of space -- leasing -- definition.** (1) The department of administration shall
17 determine the space required by state agencies other than the university system and shall allocate space in
18 buildings owned or leased by the state, based on each agency's need. To efficiently and effectively allocate
19 space, the department shall identify the amount, location, and nature of space used by each agency, including
20 summary information on average cost per square foot for each municipality, and report this to the office of budget
21 and program planning and to the legislative fiscal analyst by September 1 of each even-numbered year.

22 (2) An agency requiring additional space shall notify the department. The department, in consultation
23 with the agency, shall determine the amount and nature of the space needed and locate space within a building
24 owned or leased by the state, including buildings in Helena and in other areas, to meet the agency's
25 requirements. If space is not available in a building owned or leased by the state, the department shall locate
26 space to be leased in an appropriate existing building or a build-to-lease building, including buildings in Helena
27 and in other areas, or recommend alternatives to leasing, such as remodeling or exchanging space with another
28 agency. A state agency may not lease, rent, or purchase real property without prior approval of the department.

29 (3) (a) The location of the chambers for the house of representatives must be determined in the sole
30 discretion of the house of representatives. The location of the chambers for the senate must be determined in

1 the sole discretion of the senate.

2 (b) Subject to 2-17-108, the department, with the advice of the legislative council, shall allocate other
3 space for the use of the legislature, including but not limited to space for committee rooms and legislative offices.

4 (4) The department shall consolidate the offices of state agencies in a single, central location within a
5 municipality whenever the consolidation would result in a cost savings to the state while permitting sufficient
6 space and facilities for the agencies. The department may purchase, lease, or acquire, by exchange or otherwise,
7 land and buildings in a municipality to achieve consolidation. Land purchases of more than 5 acres must be
8 approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land
9 commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land
10 owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. Offices of the law enforcement services division and motor
11 vehicle division of the department of justice are exempted from consolidation.

12 (5) Any lease for more than 40,000 square feet or for a term of more than 20 years must be submitted
13 as part of the long-range building program and approved by the legislature before the department of
14 administration may proceed with the lease. Multiple leases in the same building entered into within any 60-day
15 period are to be aggregated for purposes of this threshold calculation. When immediate relocation of agency
16 employees is required due to a public exigency, the requirements of this subsection do not apply, but the new
17 lease must be reported as required by subsection (1).

18 (6) The department shall include language in every lease providing that if funds are not appropriated or
19 otherwise made available to support continued performance of the lease in subsequent fiscal periods, the lease
20 must be canceled.

21 (7) "Public exigency" means that due to unforeseen circumstances a facility occupied by state employees
22 is uninhabitable due to immediate conditions that adversely impact the health or safety of the occupants of the
23 facility."
24

25 **Section 2.** Section 10-1-108, MCA, is amended to read:

26 **"10-1-108. Armories -- acquisition and sale -- proceeds -- account.** (1) A county, city, or town may
27 convey or lease real property to the state for armories or other military facilities.

28 (2) A county, city, or town in which a unit of the national guard is organized and regularly stationed may
29 provide any part of the funds to build an armory. The armory must be of sufficient size and suitable for the drill
30 of the unit.

1 (3) (a) There is a Montana national guard land purchase account in the state special revenue fund. If
2 the state sells an armory, the money from the sale must be deposited in the account.

3 (b) Money in the account is statutorily appropriated, as provided in 17-7-502, for the purposes described
4 in subsection (4).

5 (c) Any interest and income accruing on the account must be deposited in the state general fund.

6 (4) Money in the account may be used only for preparations to purchase or the purchase of land
7 necessary for the Montana national guard's mission and is expendable solely upon the authorization of the
8 governor.

9 (5) Land purchases of more than 5 acres must be approved by the board of land commissioners. To the
10 extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202,
11 land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."
12

13 **Section 3.** Section 18-2-105, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"18-2-105. General powers and duties of department of administration.** (1) In carrying out powers
15 relating to the construction of buildings, the department of administration may:

16 ~~(1)~~(a) inspect buildings not under construction;

17 ~~(2)~~(b) contract with the federal government for advance planning funds;

18 ~~(3)~~(c) transfer funds and authority to agencies and accept funds and authority from agencies;

19 ~~(4)~~(d) subject to 2-17-135, purchase, lease, and acquire by exchange or otherwise, land and buildings
20 in Lewis and Clark County and equipment and furnishings for the buildings;

21 ~~(5)~~(e) issue and sell bonds and other securities;

22 ~~(6)~~(f) maintain an inventory of all buildings;

23 ~~(7)~~(g) appoint a project representative to supervise architects' and consulting engineers' inspection of
24 construction of buildings to ensure that all construction is in accordance with the contracts, plans, and
25 specifications. The cost of supervision may be charged against money available for construction.

26 ~~(8)~~(h) negotiate deductive changes, not to exceed 7% of the total cost of a project, with the lowest
27 responsible bidder when the lowest responsible bid causes the project cost to exceed the appropriation or with
28 the lowest responsible bidders, if multiple contracts will be awarded on the project, when the total of the lowest
29 responsible bids causes the project cost to exceed the appropriation. A bidder is not required to negotiate a bid
30 but is required to honor the bid for the time specified in the bidding documents. The department may terminate

1 negotiations at any time.

2 (2) Land purchases of more than 5 acres must be approved by the board of land commissioners. To the
 3 extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202,
 4 land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."

5

6 **Section 4.** Section 18-2-111, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"18-2-111. Policy regarding practice of architecture -- preparation of working drawings by**
 8 **department limited.** (1) It is the policy of the state not to engage in the practice of architecture. However, this
 9 policy may not be construed as prohibiting the department of administration from:

10 (a) engaging in preplanning functions necessary to prepare a building program for presentation to the
 11 legislature;

12 (b) supervising construction as provided in ~~48-2-105(7)~~ 18-2-105(1)(g); or

13 (c) preparing working drawings for minor projects.

14 (2) The department of administration may not prepare working drawings for the construction of a building,
 15 with the exception of repair or maintenance projects, when the total cost of the construction will exceed \$75,000."

16

17 **Section 5.** Section 20-25-307, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"20-25-307. Disposition of land.** (1) The board of regents may sell, exchange, and lease land and grant
 19 easements and licenses on land that is held or administered by the board of regents or the system and that is
 20 held by the state for the use and benefit of the board of regents or the system.

21 (2) The board of regents may not grant an estate or interest in land that was granted to the state in trust
 22 for the support and benefit of the system.

23 (3) In disposing of any estate or interest in land pursuant to subsection (1), the board of regents shall
 24 obtain consideration that equals or exceeds the full market value of the land. For sales and exchanges, full market
 25 value must be determined by the board of regents after an appraisal by a certified or licensed appraiser. If the
 26 appraiser determines that the valuation is not complicated and estimates, based on available data, that the full
 27 market value of the property is \$10,000 or less, the board of regents may use a restricted or limited appraisal.

28 (4) Before approving an exchange of land, the board of regents shall give the public notice of the
 29 proposed exchange and an opportunity to comment. The board of regents shall, upon request of any person, hold
 30 a public hearing in the area where the state land to be conveyed is located. Subject to subsection (6), the board

1 of regents may, after review of the comments, approve the exchange if it determines that the exchange is in the
2 best interests of the system.

3 (5) Prior to the sale of land, the board of regents shall prepare a request for proposals to purchase the
4 land and publish public notice of the sale once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general
5 circulation published in the county where the land is situated. If a newspaper is not published in that county,
6 notice must be published in any newspaper of general circulation in that county. The notice must describe the
7 land to be sold, the appraised value of the land, the procedure by which persons may obtain the request for
8 proposals, the terms and conditions of sale, and the criteria upon which each proposal will be evaluated. The sale
9 procedure must provide reasonable opportunity for members of the public to submit proposals to purchase the
10 land. The board of regents may sell the land only if it determines that the sale is in the best interests of the
11 system. If the board of regents sells the land, the sale must be to the offeror whose proposal the board
12 determines to be the most advantageous to the system, taking into consideration the price and the other
13 evaluation criteria listed in the request for proposals.

14 (6) (a) The board of regents may sell or exchange the land only if the board of regents first:

15 (i) requests and obtains the written concurrence of the board of land commissioners;

16 (ii) provides proof that no use restrictions, encumbrances, or other conditions have been placed by the
17 board of regents on the land proposed for sale or exchange that prevent the state from obtaining full market value
18 for the land, taking into consideration the price and the other evaluation criteria listed in the request for proposals;

19 (iii) complies with the requirements of the Montana Environmental Policy Act provided in Title 75, chapter
20 1, parts 1 through 3; and

21 (iv) complies with the requirements of Montana antiquities laws provided in Title 22, chapter 3, part 4.

22 (b) The board of land commissioners may refuse to concur if it determines that:

23 (i) the sale or exchange does not return to the state full market value;

24 (ii) the evaluation criteria in the request for proposals or the sale procedure and proposal selection
25 process did not provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to submit proposals to purchase the land or to
26 have reasonable proposals selected;

27 (iii) the sale or exchange is not in the best interests of the state;

28 (iv) after consideration and to the extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners'
29 powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, the land purchase would result in a net gain in land owned by the state
30 on [the effective date of this act]; or

1 ~~(iv)~~(v) the system has not complied with the requirements of subsections (6)(a)(ii) through (6)(a)(iv).

2 (7) After obtaining written concurrence of the board of land commissioners required in subsection (6),
3 the board of regents shall convey the land by deed, executed by the presiding officer of the board or other person
4 designated by the board, without covenants of warranty."

5
6 **Section 6.** Section 22-3-1003, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"22-3-1003. Powers of commission -- contracts -- rules.** (1) (a) The Montana heritage preservation
8 and development commission may contract with private organizations to assist in carrying out the purpose of
9 22-3-1001. The term of a contract may not exceed 20 years.

10 (b) The provisions of Title 18 may not be construed as prohibiting contracts under this section from being
11 let by direct negotiation. The contracts may be entered into directly with a vendor and are not subject to state
12 procurement laws.

13 (c) Architectural and engineering review and approval do not apply to the historic renovation projects
14 or projects at historic sites unless stated in specific state appropriations for construction permitted under the
15 commission's jurisdiction.

16 (d) The contracts must provide for the payment of prevailing wages.

17 (e) A contract for supplies or services, or both, may be negotiated in accordance with commission rules.

18 (f) Management activities must be undertaken to encourage the profitable operation of properties.

19 (g) Contracts may include the lease of property managed by the commission. Provisions for the renewal
20 of a contract must be contained in the contract.

21 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), the commission may not contract for the construction of
22 a building, as defined in 18-2-101, in excess of \$300,000 without the consent of the legislature. Building
23 construction must be in conformity with applicable guidelines developed by the national park service of the U.S.
24 department of the interior, the Montana historical society, and the Montana department of fish, wildlife, and parks.
25 Funding for these projects must pass through directly to the commission.

26 (b) The commission may contract for the preservation, stabilization, or maintenance of existing structures
27 or buildings for an amount that exceeds \$300,000 without legislative consent if the commission determines that
28 waiting for legislative consent would cause unnecessary damage to the structures or buildings or would result
29 in a significant increase in cost to conduct those activities in the future.

30 (3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), the commission, as part of a contract, shall require that a portion of

1 any profit be reinvested in the property and that a portion be used to pay the administrative costs of the property
2 and the commission.

3 (b) (i) Until the balance in the cultural and aesthetic trust reaches \$7,750,000, the commission shall
4 deposit the portion of profits not used for administrative costs and restoration of the properties in the cultural and
5 aesthetic trust.

6 (ii) Once the balance in the cultural and aesthetic trust reaches \$7,750,000, the commission shall deposit
7 the portion of profits not used for administrative costs and restoration of the properties in the general fund.

8 (c) It is the intent of the 58th legislature that no general fund money be provided for the operations and
9 maintenance of Virginia City and Nevada City beyond what has been appropriated by the 55th legislature.

10 (4) The commission may solicit funds from other sources, including the federal government, for the
11 purchase, management, and operation of properties.

12 (5) (a) The commission may use volunteers to further the purposes of this part.

13 (b) The commission and volunteers stand in the relationship of employer and employee for purposes
14 of and as those terms are defined in Title 39, chapter 71. The commission shall provide each volunteer with
15 workers' compensation coverage, as provided in Title 39, chapter 71, during the course of the volunteer's
16 assistance.

17 (6) Volunteers are not salaried employees and are not entitled to wages and benefits. The commission
18 may, in its discretion, reimburse volunteers for their otherwise uncompensated out-of-pocket expenses, including
19 but not limited to their expenditures for transportation, food, and lodging.

20 (7) The commission shall establish a subcommittee composed of an equal number of members of the
21 Montana historical society board of trustees and commission members to review and recommend the sale of
22 personal property from the former Bovey assets acquired by the 55th legislature. A recommendation to sell may
23 be presented to the commission only if the recommendation is supported by a majority of the members of the
24 subcommittee.

25 (8) The commission shall adopt rules establishing a policy for making acquisitions and sales of real and
26 personal property. With respect to each acquisition or sale, the policy must give consideration to:

27 (a) whether the property represents the state's culture and history;

28 (b) whether the property can become self-supporting;

29 (c) whether the property can contribute to the economic and social enrichment of the state;

30 (d) whether the property lends itself to programs to interpret Montana history;

1 (e) whether the acquisition or sale will create significant social and economic impacts to affected local
2 governments and the state;

3 (f) whether the sale is supported by the director of the Montana historical society;

4 (g) whether the commission should include any preservation covenants in a proposed sale agreement
5 for real property;

6 (h) whether the commission should incorporate any design review ordinances established by Virginia
7 City into a proposed sale agreement for real property; and

8 (i) other matters that the commission considers necessary or appropriate.

9 (9) Except as provided in subsection (11), the proceeds of any sale under subsection (8) must be placed
10 in the account established in 22-3-1004.

11 (10) Public notice and the opportunity for a hearing must be given in the geographical area of a proposed
12 acquisition or sale of real property before a final decision to acquire or sell the property is made. The commission
13 shall approve proposals for acquisition or sale of real property and recommend the approved proposal to the
14 board of land commissioners. Land purchases of more than 5 acres must be approved by the board of land
15 commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties
16 pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date
17 of this act].

18 (11) The commission, working with the board of investments, may establish trust funds to benefit historic
19 properties. Interest from any trust fund established under this subsection must be used to preserve and manage
20 assets owned by the commission. Funds from the sale of personal property from the Bovey assets must be
21 placed in a trust fund, and interest from the trust fund must be used to manage and protect the remaining
22 personal property.

23 (12) Prior to the convening of each regular session, the commission shall report to the governor and the
24 legislature, as provided in 5-11-210, concerning financial activities during the prior biennium, including the
25 acquisition or sale of any assets."
26

27 **Section 7.** Section 23-1-102, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"23-1-102. Powers and duties of department of fish, wildlife, and parks.** (1) The department shall
29 make a study to determine the scenic, historic, archaeologic, scientific, and recreational resources of the state.
30 The department may by purchase, lease, agreement, or acceptance of donations acquire for the state any areas,

1 sites, or objects that in its opinion should be held, improved, and maintained as state parks, state recreational
 2 areas, state monuments, or state historical sites. The department, with the consent of the commission, may
 3 acquire by condemnation, pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, lands or structures for the purposes provided in
 4 87-1-209(2).

5 (2) The department may accept in the name of the state, in fee or otherwise, any areas, sites, or objects
 6 conveyed, entrusted, donated, or devised to the state. It may accept gifts, grants, bequests, or contributions of
 7 money or other property to be spent or used for any of the purposes of this part.

8 (3) A contract, for any of the purposes of this part, may not be entered into or another obligation incurred
 9 until money has been appropriated by the legislature or is otherwise available. If the contract or obligation pertains
 10 to acquisition of areas or sites ~~in excess of either 100 acres or \$100,000 in value~~, the board of land
 11 commissioners shall specifically approve the acquisition. Land purchases must be approved by the board of land
 12 commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties
 13 pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date
 14 of this act] except in the case of purchasing fishing access sites that consist of less than 5 acres.

15 (4) The department has jurisdiction, custody, and control of all state parks, recreational areas, public
 16 camping grounds, historical sites, and monuments, except wayside camps and other public conveniences
 17 acquired, improved, and maintained by the department of transportation and contiguous to the state highway
 18 system. The department may designate lands under its control as state parks, state historical sites, state
 19 monuments, or by any other designation that it considers appropriate. The department may remove or change
 20 the designation of any area or portion of an area and may name or change the name of any area. The department
 21 may lease those portions of designated lands that are necessary for the proper administration of the lands in
 22 keeping with the basic purpose of this part."

23

24 **Section 8.** Section 67-2-301, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"67-2-301. State airports -- acquisition.** (1) The department may, on behalf of and in the name of this
 26 state:

27 (a) subject to subsection (6), acquire real or personal property by purchase, gift, devise, lease,
 28 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Title 70, chapter 30, or otherwise for the purpose of establishing and
 29 constructing airports, restricted landing areas, and other air navigation facilities;

30 (b) acquire in like manner, own, control, establish, construct, enlarge, improve, maintain, equip, operate,

1 regulate, and police airports, restricted landing areas, and other air navigation facilities either within or outside
2 of this state;

3 (c) prior to acquisition, make investigations, surveys, and plans;

4 (d) erect, install, construct, and maintain facilities at those airports for the servicing of aircraft and for the
5 comfort and accommodation of air travelers; and

6 (e) dispose of any property, airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility by sale, lease,
7 or otherwise in accordance with the laws of this state governing the disposition of other similar property of the
8 state.

9 (2) The department may not acquire or take over an airport, restricted landing area, or other air
10 navigation facility owned or controlled by a municipality of this state without the consent of the municipality. The
11 department may erect, equip, operate, and maintain at an airport all buildings and equipment necessary and
12 proper to establish, maintain, and conduct the airport and air navigation facilities connected with the airport.

13 (3) When necessary, in order to provide unobstructed air space for the landing and taking off of aircraft
14 utilizing airports and restricted landing areas acquired or operated under the provisions of this title, the
15 department may acquire, in the manner provided for the acquisition of property for airport purposes, easements
16 through or other interests in air space over land or water, interests in airport hazards outside the boundaries of
17 the airports or restricted landing areas, and other airport protection privileges that are necessary to ensure safe
18 approaches to the landing areas of airports and restricted landing areas and the safe and efficient operation of
19 them. The department may also acquire in the same manner the right or easement, for a term of years or
20 perpetually, to place or maintain suitable marks for the daytime marking and suitable lights for the nighttime
21 marking of airport hazards, including the right of ingress and egress to or from the airport hazards for the purpose
22 of maintaining and repairing the lights and marks. This authority does not limit the right, power, or authority of the
23 state or a municipality to zone property adjacent to an airport or restricted landing area pursuant to a law of this
24 state.

25 (4) The department may engage in the activities listed in subsections (1) through (3) jointly with the
26 United States, with other states, and with municipalities or other agencies of this state.

27 (5) For the purpose of acquiring any property that it is authorized to acquire, the department may
28 exercise the right of eminent domain, in the name of the state, in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30. The
29 acquisition of property for any of the purposes listed in this section is a public use.

30 (6) Land purchases of more than 5 acres must be approved by the board of land commissioners. To the

1 extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202,
2 land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."

3

4 **Section 9.** Section 75-15-223, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"75-15-223. Authority to acquire interest in land for screening and removal of junkyards, motor**
6 **vehicle graveyards, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, and sanitary landfills.** (1) When the
7 department of transportation determines that it is in the best interests of the state, it may acquire land or interest
8 in land that may be necessary to provide adequate screening for junkyards, motor vehicle graveyards, motor
9 vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, and sanitary landfills.

10 (2) When the department of transportation determines that the topography of the land adjoining the
11 highway will not permit adequate or economically feasible screening, it may acquire by gift, purchase, exchange,
12 or condemnation interest in land that may be necessary to secure the relocation, removal, or disposal of
13 junkyards, motor vehicle graveyards, motor vehicle wrecking facilities, garbage dumps, or sanitary landfills that
14 were either lawfully:

15 (a) in existence on October 22, 1965;

16 (b) along any highway made a part of the interstate or primary systems on or after October 22, 1965,
17 and before January 1, 1968; or

18 (c) established on or after January 1, 1968.

19 (3) The department of transportation shall pay just compensation to the owner for the relocation, removal,
20 or disposal of any facility. Condemnation must be exercised pursuant to Title 60, chapter 4, and Title 70, chapter
21 30.

22 (4) Any new site chosen by the department of transportation pursuant to subsection (2) for the relocation
23 of a garbage dump or sanitary landfill must be approvable as the site of a solid waste management system
24 pursuant to Title 75, chapter 10, part 2, and the rules promulgated under authority of that part.

25 (5) Land purchases of more than 5 acres must be approved by the board of land commissioners. To the
26 extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202,
27 land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."

28

29 **Section 10.** Section 76-12-107, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"76-12-107. Methods of bringing land under part. (1)** A natural area, as defined in 76-12-104, may

1 become subject to the provisions of this part in any of the following ways:

2 ~~(1)(a)~~ designation by the board on lands controlled by the board;

3 ~~(2)(b)~~ designation by the legislature on lands owned by the state of Montana;

4 ~~(3)(c)~~ acquisition by the board by purchase with consent of the property owner of sufficient interests in
5 private property to protect the natural area; provided, however, that transfer of surface property or development
6 rights shall not alter the rights attending the subsurface estate if owned by another party;

7 ~~(4)(d)~~ gift accepted by the board under the authority of 77-1-213, including conservation easements,
8 provided that lands accepted must be protected and managed as natural areas and money accepted must be
9 used in accordance with the purposes of this part;

10 ~~(5)(e)~~ trade of state-owned trust land for a natural area on federal, county, or private land, provided,
11 however, that lands received in exchange for trust lands should be equal in value to the exchanged trust land and
12 as closely as possible equal in area; or

13 ~~(6)(f)~~ registration of land by the department, following appropriate documentation and owner consent,
14 that has been designated, dedicated, or otherwise protected as a natural area by the owner, including a private
15 landowner, public interest group, or other land management agency.

16 (2) Land purchases must be approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and
17 consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may
18 not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."

19

20 **Section 11.** Section 77-1-202, MCA, is amended to read:

21 **"77-1-202. Powers and duties of board.** (1) The board shall exercise general authority, direction, and
22 control over the care, management, and disposition of state lands and, subject to the investment authority of the
23 board of investments, the funds arising from the leasing, use, sale, and disposition of those lands or otherwise
24 coming under its administration. In the exercise of these powers, the guiding principle is that these lands and
25 funds are held in trust for the support of education and for the attainment of other worthy objects helpful to the
26 well-being of the people of this state as provided in The Enabling Act. The board shall administer this trust to:

27 (a) secure the largest measure of legitimate and reasonable advantage to the state; ~~and~~

28 (b) provide for the long-term financial support of education; and

29 (c) ensure, to the extent practicable, that a purchase of land does not result in a net gain in land owned
30 by the state on [the effective date of this act].

1 (2) It is consistent with the powers and duties provided in subsection (1) that the people are entitled to
 2 general recreational use of state lands to the extent that the trusts are compensated for the value of the
 3 recreation.

4 (3) When acquiring land for the state, the board shall determine:

5 (a) the value of the land after an appraisal by a qualified land appraiser; and

6 (b) whether the costs of purchasing and managing the land should be offset by disposing of existing state
 7 land."

8

9 **Section 12.** Section 77-1-214, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"77-1-214. Donations of land for forestry purposes.** (1) The board may accept gifts, donations, or
 11 contributions of land suitable for forestry or park purposes and enter into agreements with the federal government
 12 or other agencies for acquiring by lease, purchase, or otherwise ~~such lands as~~ that in the judgment of the board
 13 are desirable for state forests.

14 (2) To the extent practical and consistent with the board's powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land
 15 purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."

16

17 **Section 13.** Section 77-2-364, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"77-2-364. Land banking purchases.** (1) The board may select and purchase, lease, receive by
 19 donation, hold in trust, or in any manner acquire for and in the name of the state of Montana, in trust for the
 20 beneficiaries specified in sections 10 through 19 of The Enabling Act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889,
 21 25 Stat. 676), as amended, any interest in real property and improvements, tracts, and leaseholds of land that
 22 the board considers proper in order to best provide prudent, maximum, long-term revenue for the beneficiaries.

23 (2) Sales of state land may be initiated only by the board, by the department, or at the request of a
 24 lessee, pursuant to 77-1-202, 77-1-301, 77-2-301, or 77-2-308. The board shall ensure that the full market value
 25 of the land sold is realized for each trust by using the appraisal, sale, advertising, and competitive bid procedures
 26 contained within 77-2-303, 77-2-321, 77-2-322, 77-2-323, and 77-2-324. The estimated fair market value must
 27 be determined by a Montana-licensed and Montana-certified appraiser.

28 (3) When it is not inconsistent with the purpose of the trust, the board shall purchase land possessing
 29 legal access for all legal purposes.

30 (4) When purchasing land, easements, or improvements for the existing trusts, the board shall develop

1 and apply appraisal and revenue projection procedures to ensure that the land or easements proposed for
2 purchase or that the improvements proposed to be acquired are likely to produce more net revenue for the
3 affected trust than the revenue that was produced from the land that was sold. The board may not purchase land,
4 easements, or improvements pursuant to 77-2-361 through 77-2-367 unless it has first prudently determined that
5 the land, easements, or improvements are likely to produce a greater or equal annual rate of return, as may be
6 reasonably expected over a 20-year accounting period for Class 1, 3, and 4 lands and over a 60-year accounting
7 period for Class 2 lands, as described in 77-1-401, with an acceptable level of risk for the affected trust, than the
8 current annual rate of return from the state land that has been sold pursuant to 77-2-363. As guidance, the board
9 shall use generally accepted accounting standards and the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land
10 Acquisitions published by the U.S. department of justice and the appraisal institute.

11 (5) Prior to purchasing any land, easements, or improvements, the board shall determine that the
12 financial risks and benefits of the purchase are prudent, financially productive investments that are consistent with
13 the board's fiduciary duty as a reasonably prudent trustee of a perpetual trust. For the purposes of implementing
14 77-2-361 through 77-2-367, that duty requires the board to:

15 (a) discharge its duties with the care, skill, prudence, and diligence that a prudent person acting in a
16 similar capacity with the same resources and familiar with similar matters should exercise in the conduct of an
17 enterprise of similar character and aims;

18 (b) diversify the land holdings of each trust to minimize the risk of loss and maximize the sustained rate
19 of return;

20 (c) discharge its duties and powers solely in the interest of and for the benefit of the trust managed;

21 (d) discharge its duties subject to the fiduciary standards set forth in 72-34-114; and

22 (e) maintain, as closely as possible, the existing land base of each trust, consistent with the state's
23 fiduciary duty.

24 (6) Prior to purchasing a parcel of land in excess of 160 acres in any particular county, the board shall
25 consult with the county commissioners of the county in which the parcel is located.

26 (7) To the extent practical and consistent with the board's powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land
27 purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]."

28

29 **Section 14.** Section 82-4-239, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"82-4-239. Reclamation.** (1) The department may have reclamation work done by its employees, by

1 employees of other governmental agencies, by soil conservation districts, or through contracts with qualified
2 persons. The board may construct, operate, and maintain plants for the control and treatment of water pollution
3 resulting from mine drainage.

4 (2) Any funds or any public works programs available to the department must be used and expended
5 to reclaim and rehabilitate lands that have been subjected to strip mining or underground mining and that have
6 not been reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the standards of this part. The department shall
7 cooperate with federal, state, and private agencies to engage in cooperative projects under this section.

8 (3) Agents, employees, or contractors of the department may enter upon any land for the purpose of
9 conducting studies or exploratory work to determine whether the land has been strip- or underground-mined and
10 not reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements of this part and to determine the feasibility
11 of restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of any adverse effects of past coal-mining practices.
12 Upon request of the director of the department, the attorney general shall bring an injunctive action to restrain
13 any interference with the exercise of the right to enter and inspect granted in this subsection. The action must
14 be brought in the county in which the mine is located.

15 (4) (a) The department shall take the actions described in subsection (4)(b) when it makes a finding of
16 fact that:

17 (i) land or water resources have been adversely affected by past coal-mining practices;

18 (ii) the adverse effects are at a stage at which, in the public interest, action to restore, reclaim, abate,
19 control, or prevent should be taken; and

20 (iii) the owners of the land or water resources where entry must be made to restore, reclaim, abate,
21 control, or prevent the adverse effects of past coal-mining practices are not known or readily available or the
22 owners will not give permission for the department or its agents, employees, or contractors to enter upon the
23 property to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past coal-mining practices.

24 (b) After giving notice by mail to the owner, (b, if known, and any purchaser under contract for deed, if
25 known, or, if neither is known, by posting notice on the premises and advertising in a newspaper of general
26 circulation in the county in which the land lies, the agents, employees, or contractors of the department may enter
27 on the property adversely affected by past coal-mining practices and on any other property necessary for access
28 to the mineral property to do all things necessary or expedient to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent the
29 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices.

30 (c) Action taken under subsection (4)(b) is not an act of condemnation of property or of trespass, but

1 rather is an exercise of the power granted by Article IX, sections 1 and 2, of the Montana constitution.

2 (5) (a) Within 6 months after the completion of projects to restore, reclaim, abate, control, or prevent
3 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices on privately owned land, the department shall itemize the money
4 expended and may file a statement of those expenses in the office of the clerk and recorder of the county in which
5 the land lies, together with a notarized appraisal by an independent appraiser of the value of the land before the
6 restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of adverse effects of past coal-mining practices if the
7 money expended resulted in a significant increase in property value. The statement constitutes a lien upon the
8 land. The lien may not exceed the amount determined by the appraisal to be the increase in the market value of
9 the land as a result of the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse effects of past
10 coal-mining practices. A lien under this subsection (5)(a) may not be filed against the property of a person who
11 owned the surface prior to May 2, 1977, and who did not consent to, participate in, or exercise control over the
12 mining operation that necessitated the reclamation performed under this part.

13 (b) The landowner may petition within 60 days of the filing of the lien to determine the increase in the
14 market value of the land as a result of the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the
15 adverse effects of past coal-mining practices. The amount reported to be the increase in value of the premises
16 constitutes the amount of the lien and must be recorded with the statement provided for in this section. Any party
17 aggrieved by the decision may appeal as provided by law.

18 (c) The lien provided in this section must be recorded at the office of the county clerk and recorder. The
19 statement constitutes a lien upon the land as of the date of the expenditure of the money and has priority as a
20 lien second only to the lien of real estate taxes imposed upon the land.

21 (6) The department may acquire the necessary property by gift or purchase. A gift or purchase must be
22 approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land
23 commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land
24 owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. If the property cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at a
25 reasonable cost, proceedings may be instituted in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all
26 nonaccepting landholders if:

27 (a) the property is necessary for successful reclamation;

28 (b) the acquired land after restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse
29 effects of past coal-mining practices will serve recreation and historic purposes or conservation and reclamation
30 purposes or provide open space benefits; and

1 (c) (i) permanent facilities, such as treatment plants or relocated stream channels, will be constructed
2 on the land for the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse effects of past strip-
3 or underground-coal-mining practices; or

4 (ii) acquisition of coal refuse disposal sites and all coal refuse on the land will serve the purposes of this
5 part because public ownership is desirable to meet emergency situations and prevent recurrences of the adverse
6 effects of past coal-mining practices."
7

8 **Section 15.** Section 82-4-371, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"82-4-371. Reclamation of abandoned mine sites.** (1) Agents, employees, or contractors of the
10 department may enter upon property for the purpose of conducting studies or exploratory work to determine
11 whether the property has been mined and not reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements
12 of this part and to determine the feasibility of restoration or reclamation of the property or abatement, control, or
13 prevention of the adverse effects of past mining practices. The department may bring an injunctive action to
14 restrain interference with the exercise of the right to enter and inspect granted in this subsection.

15 (2) (a) The department may enter upon property pursuant to subsection (2)(b) if it makes a finding that:

16 (i) land or water resources on the property have been adversely affected by past mining practices;

17 (ii) the adverse effects are at a stage that, in the public interest, action to restore or reclaim the property
18 or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects should be taken; and

19 (iii) the owners of the land or water resources where entry must be made to restore or reclaim the
20 property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices are not known or readily
21 available or the owners will not give permission for the department or its agents, employees, or contractors to
22 enter upon the property to restore or reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of
23 past mining practices.

24 (b) If the department has made findings pursuant to subsection (2)(a), agents, employees, or contractors
25 of the department may enter upon property adversely affected by past mining practices and other property
26 necessary for access to the adversely affected property to do all things necessary or expedient to restore or
27 reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices after:

28 (i) giving notice by mail to the owner, if known, and a purchaser under contract for deed, if known; or

29 (ii) if neither is known, posting notice upon the property and advertising in a newspaper of general
30 circulation in the county in which the property lies.

1 (c) Entry upon property pursuant to this section is not an act of condemnation of property or of trespass
2 but rather an exercise of the power granted by Article IX, sections 1 and 2, of the Montana constitution.

3 (3) The board may acquire the necessary property by gift or purchase. A gift or purchase must be
4 approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land
5 commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land
6 owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. If the property cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at a
7 reasonable cost, proceedings may be instituted in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all
8 nonaccepting landholders if:

9 (a) acquisition of the property is necessary for successful reclamation;

10 (b) the acquired property after restoration or reclamation or after abatement, control, or prevention of the
11 adverse effects of past mining practices will serve recreation and historic purposes or conservation and
12 reclamation purposes or provide open space benefits; and

13 (c) (i) permanent facilities, such as treatment plants or relocated stream channels, will be constructed
14 on the property for the restoration or reclamation of the property or for abatement, control, or prevention of the
15 adverse effects of past mining practices; or

16 (ii) acquisition of refuse disposal sites and all refuse on the sites will serve the purposes of this part in
17 that public ownership is desirable to meet emergency situations and prevent recurrences of the adverse effects
18 of past mining practices.

19 (4) The department may record in the office of the clerk and recorder in the county in which property that
20 has been reclaimed pursuant to 82-4-424 or this section is located a notice that the property has been mined and
21 reclaimed. The notice must include the date and a brief description of the reclamation."
22

23 **Section 16.** Section 82-4-445, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"82-4-445. Reclamation of abandoned mine sites.** (1) Agents, employees, or contractors of the
25 department may enter upon property for the purpose of conducting studies or exploratory work to determine
26 whether the property has been mined and not reclaimed and rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements
27 of this part and to determine the feasibility of restoration or reclamation of the property or abatement, control, or
28 prevention of the adverse effects of past mining practices. The department may bring an injunctive action to
29 restrain interference with the exercise of the right to enter and inspect granted in this subsection.

30 (2) (a) The department may enter upon property pursuant to subsection (2)(b) if it makes a finding that:

1 (i) land or water resources on the property have been adversely affected by past mining practices;
 2 (ii) the adverse effects are at a stage that, in the public interest, action to restore or reclaim the property
 3 or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects should be taken; and

4 (iii) the owners of the land or water resources where entry must be made to restore or reclaim the
 5 property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices are not known or readily
 6 available or the owners will not give permission for the department or its agents, employees, or contractors to
 7 enter upon the property to restore or reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of
 8 past mining practices.

9 (b) If the department has made findings pursuant to subsection (2)(a), agents, employees, or contractors
 10 of the department may enter upon property adversely affected by past mining practices and other property
 11 necessary for access to the adversely affected property to do all things necessary or expedient to restore or
 12 reclaim the property or to abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of past mining practices after:

13 (i) giving notice by mail to the owner, if known, and a purchaser under contract for deed, if known; or
 14 (ii) if neither is known, posting notice upon the property and advertising in a newspaper of general
 15 circulation in the county in which the property lies.

16 (c) Entry upon property pursuant to this section is not an act of condemnation of property or of trespass
 17 but rather an exercise of the power granted by Article IX, sections 1 and 2, of the Montana constitution.

18 (3) The board may acquire the necessary property by gift or purchase, ~~or if~~. Land purchases must be
 19 approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land
 20 commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land
 21 owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. If the property cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at a
 22 reasonable cost, proceedings may be instituted in the manner provided in Title 70, chapter 30, against all
 23 nonaccepting landholders if:

24 (a) acquisition of the property is necessary for successful reclamation;

25 (b) the acquired property after restoration or reclamation or after abatement, control, or prevention of the
 26 adverse effects of past mining practices will serve recreation and historic purposes or conservation and
 27 reclamation purposes or provide open space benefits; and

28 (c) (i) permanent facilities, such as treatment plants or relocated stream channels, will be constructed
 29 on the property for the restoration or reclamation of the property or for abatement, control, or prevention of the
 30 adverse effects of past mining practices; or

1 (ii) acquisition of refuse disposal sites and all refuse on the sites will serve the purposes of this part in
2 that public ownership is desirable to meet emergency situations and prevent recurrences of the adverse effects
3 of past mining practices.

4 (4) The department may record in the office of the clerk and recorder in the county in which property that
5 has been reclaimed pursuant to 82-4-424 or this section is located a notice that the property has been mined and
6 reclaimed. The notice must include the date and a brief description of the reclamation."
7

8 **Section 17.** Section 85-1-209, MCA, is amended to read:

9 **"85-1-209. Acquisition of property by department.** (1) The department may acquire by purchase or
10 exchange, upon terms and conditions and in a manner it considers proper, and may acquire by condemnation,
11 in accordance with Title 70, chapter 30, any land, rights, water rights, easements, franchises, and other property
12 considered necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of works. Land purchases must be
13 approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land
14 commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land
15 owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. Title to property purchased or condemned must be taken
16 in the name of the department. The department is under no obligation to accept and pay for any property
17 condemned under this chapter except from the funds provided by this chapter. In any proceedings to condemn,
18 orders may be made by the court that has jurisdiction of the suit, action, or proceeding that may be warranted
19 by law and the facts.

20 (2) In a condemnation proceeding brought under Title 70, chapter 30, for the purpose of carrying out this
21 chapter, all persons interested in the title of or holding liens upon the property sought to be taken, as disclosed
22 by the public records, must be made parties and the court in the action shall partition and distribute the damages
23 awarded, if any, among those persons. If there is controversy between the condemnees, the court may direct the
24 amount of the damage awarded to be paid into court to be allocated in further appropriate proceedings either at
25 law or in equity.

26 (3) Taking possession of the property sought to be condemned may not be delayed by reason of any
27 dispute between the rival claimants or the failure to join any of them as a party to the condemnation proceedings.

28 (4) If water rights are acquired or exercised by the department in connection with two or more works or
29 projects, the department by order shall apportion or allocate to each of the works or projects the part of the water
30 rights that the department determines is necessary. Upon the adoption of the order, the water rights are

1 considered a part of each of the works or projects to the extent that the water rights have been apportioned or
2 allocated to the works or projects."

3

4 **Section 18.** Section 87-1-209, MCA, is amended to read:

5 **"87-1-209. (Temporary) Acquisition and sale of land or water.** (1) Subject to 87-1-218, the
6 department, with the consent of the commission and, ~~in the case of land acquisition involving more than 100~~
7 ~~acres or \$100,000 in value~~ except for fishing access sites consisting of less than 5 acres, the approval of the
8 board of land commissioners, may acquire by purchase, lease, agreement, gift, or devise and may acquire
9 easements upon land or water for the purposes listed in this subsection. Any acquisition of land or water rights
10 for purposes of this subsection, except that portion of acquisitions made with funds provided under 87-1-242(1),
11 must include an additional 20% above the purchase price to be used for maintenance of land or water acquired
12 by the department. The additional amount above the purchase price or \$300,000, whichever is less, must be
13 deposited in the account established in 87-1-230. As used in this subsection, "maintenance" means that term as
14 defined in and consistent with the good neighbor policy in 23-1-127(2). To the extent practical and consistent with
15 the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a
16 net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. The department may develop, operate, and
17 maintain acquired land or water rights:

18 (a) for fish hatcheries or nursery ponds;

19 (b) as land or water suitable for game, bird, fish, or fur-bearing animal restoration, propagation, or
20 protection;

21 (c) for public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas;

22 (d) to capture, propagate, transport, buy, sell, or exchange any game, birds, fish, fish eggs, or fur-bearing
23 animals needed for propagation or stocking purposes or to exercise control measures of undesirable species;

24 (e) for state parks and outdoor recreation;

25 (f) to extend and consolidate by exchange, land or water rights suitable for these purposes.

26 (2) The department, with the consent of the commission, may acquire by condemnation, as provided in
27 Title 70, chapter 30, land or structures for the preservation of historical or archaeological sites that are threatened
28 with destruction or alteration.

29 (3) (a) Subject to section 2(3), Chapter 560, Laws of 2005, the department, with the consent of the
30 commission, may dispose of land and water rights acquired by it on those terms after public notice as required

1 by subsection (3)(b) of this section, without regard to other laws that provide for sale or disposal of state land and
2 with or without reservation, as it considers necessary and advisable. The department, with the consent of the
3 commission, may convey department land and water rights for full market value to other governmental entities
4 or to adjacent landowners without regard to the requirements of subsection (3)(b) or (3)(c) if the land is less than
5 10 acres or if the full market value of the interest to be conveyed is less than \$20,000. When the department
6 conveys land or water rights to another governmental entity or to an adjacent landowner pursuant to this
7 subsection, the department, in addition to giving notice pursuant to subsection (3)(b), shall give notice by mail
8 to the landowners whose property adjoins the department property being conveyed.

9 (b) Subject to section 2(3), Chapter 560, Laws of 2005, notice of sale describing the land or water rights
10 to be disposed of must be published once a week for 3 successive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation
11 printed and published in the county where the land or water right is situated or, if a newspaper is not published
12 in that county, then in any newspaper with general circulation in that county.

13 (c) The notice must advertise for cash bids to be presented to the director within 60 days from the date
14 of the first publication. Each bid must be accompanied by a cashier's check or cash deposit in an amount equal
15 to 10% of the amount bid. The highest bid must be accepted upon payment of the balance due within 10 days
16 after mailing notice by certified mail to the highest bidder. If that bidder defaults on payment of the balance due,
17 then the next highest bidders must be similarly notified in succession until a sale is completed. Deposits must be
18 returned to the unsuccessful bidders except bidders defaulting after notification.

19 (d) The department shall reserve the right to reject any bids that do not equal or exceed the full market
20 value of the land or water right as determined by the department. If the department does not receive a bid that
21 equals or exceeds fair market value, it may then sell the land or water rights at private sale. The price accepted
22 on any private sale must exceed the highest bid rejected in the bid process.

23 (4) When necessary and advisable for the management and use of department property, the director
24 is authorized to grant or acquire from willing sellers right-of-way easements for purposes of utilities, roads,
25 drainage facilities, ditches for water conveyance, and pipelines if the full market value of the interest to be
26 acquired is less than \$20,000. Whenever possible, easements must include a weed management plan. Approval
27 of the commission is not required for grants and acquisitions made pursuant to this subsection. In granting any
28 right-of-way pursuant to this subsection, the department shall obtain a fair market value, but the department is
29 not otherwise required to follow the disposal requirements of subsection (3). The director shall report any
30 easement grant or acquisition made pursuant to this subsection to the commission at its next regular meeting.

1 (5) The department shall convey land and water rights without covenants of warranty by deed executed
 2 by the governor or in the governor's absence or disability by the lieutenant governor, attested by the secretary
 3 of state and further countersigned by the director.

4 (6) Subject to 87-1-218, the department, with the consent of the commission and the approval of the
 5 board of land commissioners, is authorized to utilize the installment contract method to facilitate the acquisition
 6 of wildlife management areas in which game and nongame fur-bearing animals and game and nongame birds
 7 may breed and replenish and areas that provide access to fishing sites for the public. The total cost of installment
 8 contracts may not exceed the cost of purchases authorized by the department and appropriated by the
 9 legislature. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties
 10 pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date
 11 of this act] except in the case of purchasing fishing access sites that consist of less than 5 acres.

12 (7) The department is authorized to enter into leases of land under its control in exchange for services
 13 to be provided by the lessee on the leased land. (Terminates June 30, 2013--sec. 8, Ch. 427, L. 2009.)

14 **87-1-209. (Effective July 1, 2013) Acquisition and sale of lands or waters.** (1) Subject to 87-1-218,
 15 the department, with the consent of the commission and, ~~in the case of land acquisition involving more than 100~~
 16 ~~acres or \$100,000 in value~~ except for fishing access sites consisting of less than 5 acres, the approval of the
 17 board of land commissioners, may acquire by purchase, lease, agreement, gift, or devise and may acquire
 18 easements upon lands or waters for the purposes listed in this subsection. To the extent practical and consistent
 19 with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result
 20 in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act]. The department may develop, operate,
 21 and maintain acquired lands or waters:

22 (a) for fish hatcheries or nursery ponds;

23 (b) as lands or water suitable for game, bird, fish, or fur-bearing animal restoration, propagation, or
 24 protection;

25 (c) for public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas;

26 (d) to capture, propagate, transport, buy, sell, or exchange any game, birds, fish, fish eggs, or fur-bearing
 27 animals needed for propagation or stocking purposes or to exercise control measures of undesirable species;

28 (e) for state parks and outdoor recreation;

29 (f) to extend and consolidate by exchange, lands or waters suitable for these purposes.

30 (2) The department, with the consent of the commission, may acquire by condemnation, as provided in

1 Title 70, chapter 30, lands or structures for the preservation of historical or archaeological sites that are
2 threatened with destruction or alteration.

3 (3) (a) Subject to section 2(3), Chapter 560, Laws of 2005, the department, with the consent of the
4 commission, may dispose of lands and water rights acquired by it on those terms after public notice as required
5 by subsection (3)(b) of this section, without regard to other laws that provide for sale or disposal of state lands
6 and with or without reservation, as it considers necessary and advisable. The department, with the consent of
7 the commission, may convey department lands and water rights for full market value to other governmental
8 entities or to adjacent landowners without regard to the requirements of subsection (3)(b) or (3)(c) if the land is
9 less than 10 acres or if the full market value of the interest to be conveyed is less than \$20,000. When the
10 department conveys land or water rights to another governmental entity or to an adjacent landowner pursuant
11 to this subsection, the department, in addition to giving notice pursuant to subsection (3)(b), shall give notice by
12 mail to the landowners whose property adjoins the department property being conveyed.

13 (b) Subject to section 2(3), Chapter 560, Laws of 2005, notice of sale describing the lands or waters to
14 be disposed of must be published once a week for 3 successive weeks in a newspaper with general circulation
15 printed and published in the county where the lands or waters are situated or, if a newspaper is not published in
16 that county, then in any newspaper with general circulation in that county.

17 (c) The notice must advertise for cash bids to be presented to the director within 60 days from the date
18 of the first publication. Each bid must be accompanied by a cashier's check or cash deposit in an amount equal
19 to 10% of the amount bid. The highest bid must be accepted upon payment of the balance due within 10 days
20 after mailing notice by certified mail to the highest bidder. If that bidder defaults on payment of the balance due,
21 then the next highest bidders must be similarly notified in succession until a sale is completed. Deposits must be
22 returned to the unsuccessful bidders except bidders defaulting after notification.

23 (d) The department shall reserve the right to reject any bids that do not equal or exceed the full market
24 value of the lands and waters as determined by the department. If the department does not receive a bid that
25 equals or exceeds fair market value, it may then sell the lands or water rights at private sale. The price accepted
26 on any private sale must exceed the highest bid rejected in the bid process.

27 (4) When necessary and advisable for the management and use of department property, the director
28 is authorized to grant or acquire from willing sellers right-of-way easements for purposes of utilities, roads,
29 drainage facilities, ditches for water conveyance, and pipelines if the full market value of the interest to be
30 acquired is less than \$20,000. Whenever possible, easements must include a weed management plan. Approval

1 of the commission is not required for grants and acquisitions made pursuant to this subsection. In granting any
2 right-of-way pursuant to this subsection, the department shall obtain a fair market value, but the department is
3 not otherwise required to follow the disposal requirements of subsection (3). The director shall report any
4 easement grant or acquisition made pursuant to this subsection to the commission at its next regular meeting.

5 (5) The department shall convey lands and water rights without covenants of warranty by deed executed
6 by the governor or in the governor's absence or disability by the lieutenant governor, attested by the secretary
7 of state and further countersigned by the director.

8 (6) Subject to 87-1-218, the department, with the consent of the commission and the approval of the
9 board of land commissioners, is authorized to utilize the installment contract method to facilitate the acquisition
10 of wildlife management areas in which game and nongame fur-bearing animals and game and nongame birds
11 may breed and replenish and areas that provide access to fishing sites for the public. The total cost of installment
12 contracts may not exceed the cost of purchases authorized by the department and appropriated by the
13 legislature. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties
14 pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date
15 of this act] except in the case of purchasing fishing access sites that consist of less than 5 acres.

16 (7) The department is authorized to enter into leases of land under its control in exchange for services
17 to be provided by the lessee on the leased land."

18

19 **Section 19.** Section 87-1-285, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"87-1-285. Fishing access enhancement program created -- private landowner assistance to**
21 **promote public fishing access -- rules.** (1) The department may establish programs of landowner assistance
22 that encourage public access to and across private lands for purposes of fishing and may adopt rules to carry
23 out program purposes. Rules may address but are not limited to incentives for private landowners who allow
24 public fishing access on or across their lands, where legal access does not presently exist. Participation in the
25 fishing access enhancement program is established through a cooperative agreement between a landowner and
26 the department, including other resource management agencies when appropriate, that allows access for public
27 fishing with certain restrictions or use rules.

28 (2) The department may also develop similar voluntary programs that are designed to promote public
29 access across private lands for fishing purposes.

30 (3) Participation in a program established under subsection (1) is voluntary. Programs may not be

1 structured in a manner that provides assistance to a private landowner who charges a fee for fishing access to
 2 private land that is enrolled in the program or who does not provide reasonable public fishing access to private
 3 land that is enrolled in the program. The commission shall develop criteria by which tangible benefits are allocated
 4 to participating landowners, and the department may distribute the benefits to participating landowners.

5 (4) Funds from the account established pursuant to 87-1-605 may be used to purchase or lease public
 6 fishing access at county road bridge crossings or for necessary parking facilities, trails, or ramps to facilitate
 7 fishing access to public waters at bridge crossings. Land purchases must be approved by the board of land
 8 commissioners. To the extent practical and consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties
 9 pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date
 10 of this act]."

11
 12 **Section 20.** Section 87-1-703, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"87-1-703. Cooperative agreements on federally owned land.** (1) The department, ~~in the name of~~
 14 ~~the state and with the approval of the governor, shall have the power to~~ may:

15 (a) enter into cooperative agreements on federally owned lands with the government of the United
 16 States, ~~or with any department or bureau thereof of the government of the United States,~~ or with an individual or
 17 individuals, private corporations, or partnerships for the purpose of carrying on any fish restoration projects
 18 created and established under the provisions of 87-1-701 through 87-1-703; ~~and shall have the power to~~

19 (b) acquire by purchase, either by cash or ~~upon~~ in installments, ~~or by lease, or by gift, or by devise or,~~
 20 individually or in conjunction with the government of the United States or some department or bureau ~~thereof~~ such
 21 of the government of the United States, lands or other property or an interest therein in lands or property as may
 22 be necessary for the purpose of carrying on any fish restoration and management projects created and
 23 established under the provisions of ~~said the~~ Dingell-Johnson bill of the congress of the United States; ~~and the,~~

24 (2) Land purchases must be approved by the board of land commissioners. To the extent practical and
 25 consistent with the board of land commissioners' powers and duties pursuant to 77-1-202, land purchases may
 26 not result in a net gain in land owned by the state on [the effective date of this act] except in the case of
 27 purchasing fishing access sites that consist of less than 5 acres.

28 (3) The state does reserve reserves to itself, acting through its legislature, the right to direct the
 29 department to abandon any fish restoration and management projects created and established as the state may
 30 in its judgment think proper. The department ~~shall have no power to~~ may not exercise the right of eminent domain

1 to condemn or acquire property under 87-1-701 through 87-1-703."

2

3 NEW SECTION. **Section 21. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are
4 severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications,
5 the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

6

7 NEW SECTION. **Section 22. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

8

- END -