

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

INTRODUCED BY B. HAMLETT

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUIRING A STUDY OF FEDERALLY MANAGED LANDS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT INCLUDE CRITICAL WATERSHEDS AND THE WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.

WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution provides that all persons have a constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment and further provides that the waters of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, those constitutional provisions are threatened by unsound forest management activities to reduce fire risk on some federally managed lands located within Montana's wildland-urban interface and within critical watersheds; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, the Legislature should be involved as much as possible in the oversight of federally managed lands, especially those that include critical watersheds and the wildland-urban interface.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to review current laws and policies that provide for state involvement in the oversight of federally managed lands, especially those that include critical watersheds and the wildland-urban interface.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee discuss these issues with federal land managers and provide suggestions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,



1 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 64th Legislature.

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