

Resolution: 21-01

Collecting an assessed fee from Montana hunting and fishing licenses to be used for Montana county road maintenance and repair.

As Amended at the 2021 Area 1 Meeting

Submitted by Petroleum CD, 2021

Whereas the increasing popularity of recreating, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing in Montana has caused undue damage to county roads;

Whereas many low-density Montana counties see a lower payment per acre from Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on federal ground in the county than they do from tax payments on privately owned acres, because PILT is also based on county population;

Whereas the year-round non-resident traffic using county roads to get to federal acres brings more use to county roads than county road use to get to privately owned acres;

Whereas Montana has low density population counties, causing the tax base to be insufficient to provide for the additional county road maintenance and repairs required of heavy visitor, recreational, and hunting traffic on the county roads; and

Whereas Montana's Conservation Districts recognizes that the efforts of Montana landowners and their conservation successes help sustain the large population of game, wildlife, birds, and clean water fisheries that attracts the additional people and vehicle traffic; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), on behalf of its members in Montana,

- 1) supports the assessment of a fee on all hunting and fishing licenses sold in or for use in Montana;
- 2) urges the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to add and collect this fee and have it returned to the county in which the hunting and fishing takes place; and
- 3) specify this collected fee be used for the purpose of maintaining and repairing county roads.

Submitted by Petroleum County Conservation District

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