EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3.22.07
SB 100

THE
POACHER'S PACKAGE

Four bills have moved forward in the 2007 Legislature to address issues that could significantly aid in the detection and prosecution of unlawful wildlife activity. These bills have come to be called the ***Poaching Package*** and are supported by a wide array of sportsmen's, conservation and outfitter organizations and associations. The ***Poaching Package*** includes:

SB 100. Unlicensed outfitters are involved in a wide range of illegal activities such as hunting without licenses, tag transfers and over limits of game animals. Additionally, these illicit operators do not pay any of the costs of a legitimate business, such as taxes, workers' comp, and liability insurance. If enacted, SB 100 would allow individuals operating as illegal outfitters to be charged under certain circumstances with non-violent felonies, serving as a deterrent and providing a means to extradite witnesses and suspects from other states for successful prosecution. **Passed the Senate. Will be heard in House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee on Thursday, March 22.**

SB 115. Currently, restitution (penalties set by the legislature and imposed by a judge upon conviction beyond the fine for a violation) is divided between FWP and the general fund. This bill would send all restitution to FWP for remedial hunter education as well as pay for investigators. Thus, poachers would be forced to pay for the cost of catching other poachers. **Passed the Senate. Will be heard in House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee on Thursday, March 22.**

SB 205. FWP is subject to vacancy savings which constitutes 4% of the agency's total annual budget. This is accomplished by not hiring positions left vacant due to promotion, retirement, or staff attrition. In the course of reaching this goal, game warden positions are left vacant for various periods of time throughout the year. This usually constitutes four open positions across the state, leaving those districts with no fish and wildlife law enforcement, often at critical times. SB 205 would exempt game wardens from vacancy savings (similar to the Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies) allowing the Department to keep those warden positions filled year-round. **Passed the Senate. Will be heard in House Fish, Wildlife and Parks Committee on Thursday, March 22.**

HB 226. Inexpensive and easily accessible replacement licenses provide a means for unlawful operations to gain access to licenses that can and have been used to mask illicit taking of animals. Numerous major wildlife cases investigated in the past two years have involved the unlawful use and transfer of replacement licenses. HB 226 would specifically establish the transfer of a replacement license to another as a misdemeanor. This is primarily prosecutorial housekeeping putting this form of transfer under statute. ***This has passed both Houses and is on the Governor's desk for his signature.***

Montana Game Warden Association

MOGA Montana Outfitters & Guides Association

Montana Wildlife Federation