

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 10, 2013

Agenda Item: Crow Creek Access Public Land Easement

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Endorse Course of Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Minutes

Background

FWP proposes to purchase a permanent road easement or temporary 5 to 10 year road access lease across private land to provide public access to land owned and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and State of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) in Powder River County. The proposed easement is located on an existing private road that extends from the Crow Creek County Road about 11 miles south of Powderville. The easement crosses approximately one mile of private land before connecting to an existing developed road network on BLM land. The road easement will provide year-round access to the BLM and DNRC lands for public recreation.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Pending FWP Commission endorsement, an EA and subsequent public involvement will be developed.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposed Action: FWP proposes to purchase an approximately one-mile-long permanent road easement or temporary lease, from a willing landowner, across private land to provide year round public access to a large block of BLM and DNRC lands. FWP would secure public access to this land primarily for hunting, as well as other outdoor recreational activities.

No Action alternative: FWP would forgo the opportunity to purchase a needed public access easement in a high use area known for mule deer and antelope hunting opportunities. Without this easement/lease, the public would be limited to a 4 mile walk to access this public ground.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends approval by the FWP Commission to proceed with the road access easement development, negotiation and purchase with a willing landowner. This project will provide public road access to approximately 7 sections of public land in Eastern Powder River County.

Proposed Motion

I move the FWP Commission endorse the recommendation to begin negotiations for a public access road easement to provide public access to BLM and DNRC lands located in Powder River County.