

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 12, 2013

Agenda Item: Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena Commercial Fishing Regulations

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

FWP received an application for a 2014 commercial fishing permit to harvest carp via active seining from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena. By statute, the F&W Commission is authorized to approve one commercial fishing operation for each body of water and to establish specific regulations (permit stipulations) regarding gear, limits, seasons, closures and any other limitations deemed necessary. This application is for a Class B Permit that requires a fee of \$200 plus a \$1,000 Surety Bond. The Commission has approved the commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry and Lake Helena for the past six years. The proposed regulations are included in the information package.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena were originally approved by the Commission in 2005 following public notice and an opportunity for public comment. An environmental assessment was prepared at that time to evaluate any potential impacts of commercial fishing on the human environment. The public will again be notified of the potential adoption of regulations for 2014. The public will have time to comment on the proposed regulations between approval of tentative regulations at the Dec. 12 meeting and approval of final regulations at the February 2014 meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

The F&W Commission has two alternatives at this time: 1) approve the proposed (tentative) regulations and solicit public comment; or 2) revise the proposed regulations and solicit public comment. At the February 2014 meeting, the Commission may choose to revise the final regulations governing commercial fishing on Canyon Ferry Reservoir or Lake Helena, or to deny the application for commercial fishing all together.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends that the Commission approve the proposed (tentative) regulations and instruct FWP to solicit public comments. FWP would then make a recommendation for final action at the February 2014 Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission propose regulations for a commercial fishing operation on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena for 2014.