

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: March 10, 2016

Agenda Item: Browns Lake Fishing Access Site Lease Renewal

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Min

Background:

FWP has leased the Browns Lake property in Region 2 from the current landowner continuously since 1992 and would like to continue leasing this site. For many years prior to that FWP had a “gentleman’s agreement” with the landowner. Since 1992, several lease renewals have occurred in cooperation and through negotiations with the landowner. Although FWP owns property on Browns Lake, it is not developed and the boat access is not as good. Most of the lake shoreline is shallow with a soft lake bed, making it difficult to launch larger water craft. The leased property provides the best boat ramp location on the lake. It also provides trees for shade and camping. Improvements on the sites include two vault latrines, camp sites and a boat ramp. The latest Angler Pressure Report indicates that the lake receives over 13,000 angler days per year. The fishery is for Rainbow Trout that are stocked by FWP. Growth and size of the trout is excellent. The lease is important to maintaining the current level of boating and angling access to the lake.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

This property has been formally and continuously leased by FWP since 1992 and informally before that. The Department has negotiated various lease renewals with the landowner over that period of time, maintaining continuous public access. The current agreement underwent Environmental Analysis without seeking public comment. Unsolicited comment strongly favors renewing the lease. FWP also suggests that public comment be accepted at this meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis:

No other alternatives are currently under consideration.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

It is FWP’s recommendation to renew the Browns Lake FAS lease at the negotiated amount of \$15,000 annually for a ten-year term.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the Commission approve the proposed Browns Lake FAS lease fee of \$15,000 annually for a ten-year term.