

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** March 10, 2016

**Agenda Item:** Ruby River Fishing Access Sites Lease Renewals

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 Min

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### **Background:**

Since 1997 FWP has leased three properties on the Ruby River from three separate landowners. Throughout that period of time several lease renewals have occurred in cooperation and through negotiations with the various landowners. Without these three leases public access would be very restricted on the Ruby River. The only other public access sites on the river are the DNRC site at the base of the Ruby Dam and the Vigilante FAS located between the Dam and the community of Alder. An additional benefit to anglers is that all three landowners offer a corridor of public access along their respective river reaches within their property that ranges from 50 ft. wide to 100 ft. wide providing easier access for negotiating the brushy river bottom.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results:**

All three of the Ruby River properties have been leased since 1997. Public notice was provided and public comment was solicited at that time. FWP has negotiated various lease renewals with the individual landowners over that period of time but the leases have been continuous without a lapse in public access. In the most recent negotiations Trout Unlimited has offered to partner with the landowners to temporarily increase the lease payment to each of the landowners over the next three to five years.

### **Alternatives and Analysis:**

No other alternatives are currently under consideration.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale:**

It is FWP's recommendation to renew the Ruby River FAS leases at the negotiated amount of \$7,000 annually per FAS for a five-year term.

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move that the Commission approve the proposed Ruby River FAS lease fees of \$7,000 annually per landowner for a five-year term.