

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

**Meeting Date:** December 10, 2015

**Agenda Item:** Bynum Reservoir Fishing Access Site Acquisition

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

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### **Background**

FWP has a 20-year, no-fee permit with the Bureau of Land Management to maintain a 40-acre fishing access site on Bynum Reservoir. FWP has invested more than \$51,000 in capital improvements – such as boat launch, latrine, camp sites, parking, and road improvements. Bynum Reservoir FAS has four established campsites, which are use year round. The current permit expired in May. When FWP approached BLM to renew the lease, BLM offered the option of acquiring the original 40-acre parcel and also another 40-acre parcel adjoining the FAS. Because FWP is a government agency that provides for public recreation opportunities at this site, FWP can acquire the 80 acres for only a \$100 filing fee. The formally leased 40-acre parcel is already functional and has been maintained by FWP for the past 20 years. The other 40-acre parcel has legal access to the entire parcel, borders the existing FAS, and will require minimal improvements under FWP management. Anglers and campers use both parcels.

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

FWP will conduct an environmental assessment with a 30-day public comment period for the new parcel.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

The former leased parcel is managed by FWP. The BLM has offered FWP the option of acquiring both parcels since they are no longer a BLM priority. FWP can manage both parcels with minimal increase in maintenance cost or staff time. If FWP took ownership of this parcel, the boundary would be fenced and the area properly signed and posted as per all fishing access sites. No major maintenance would be required.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends the Commission endorse its request to move forward with the \$100 filing-fee purchase of two separate 40-acre parcels on Bynum Reservoir. This will allow FWP to offer more access to the reservoir and also improve the current conditions of the area.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move that the Commission endorse FWP's request to perform due diligence in order to acquire 80 acres of property from the BLM at Bynum Reservoir.