

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

**Meeting Date:** October 15, 2016

**Agenda Item:** Renew Biennial Fishing Access Site Rule

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Proposed

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

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### **Background**

FWP is recommending that the Commission propose a Fishing Access Site (FAS) Biennial Rule. The rule pertains to:

- Fees (camping, group use permits, facility rentals, special recreation permits)
- Stipulations on camping at fishing access sites
- Group Use Permit requirements (groups of more than 30 people)
- Special Recreation Permit requirements (permit system in place on the Blackfoot and Madison rivers for commercial use, competitive events, organized group activities)

The new rule would replace the current FAS Biennial Rule, which was adopted by the Commission in March 2015. The proposed rule contains changes to the camping fees for both fishing license holders and non-license holders.

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

Upon approval of the proposed rule by the Commission, FWP will announce and conduct a public comment period. This will be advertised through statewide and regional press releases.

### **Alternatives & Analysis**

The Commission could choose to make amendments to the proposed rule before seeking public comment.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends the Commission propose the FAS Biennial Rule as presented. The Department has not increased camping fees since 2002 and feels that increases at this time are therefore appropriate. Moreover, the \$18 fee for non-license holders will be identical to the fee charged at state parks' campsites with a similar level of amenities (fire rings, picnic tables, vehicle access). The lower rate (\$12) for license-holders is justified from the standpoint that a portion of Montana vehicle registration fees goes to fund the FAS program.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission propose a Fishing Access Site Biennial Rule and seek public comments.