

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 10, 2017

Agenda Item: Milwaukee Fishing Access Site Lease Agreement with Department of Transportation R3

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Min

Background

Milwaukee FAS is located along the Madison River east of Three Forks, Montana in Gallatin County. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and FWP are proposing to enter a lease agreement for the existing FAS access road and a small parcel on the west bank of the river for a boat launch. A formal arrangement was never established to provide FWP a legal interest in the access road when the FAS was acquired in 1979. The access road is deteriorating with portions sloughing into the nearby backwaters of the Madison River. A lease or permit is needed to allow FWP to initiate repairs on the access road. FWP is also evaluating the possibility of developing a boat ramp on the west bank of the river. Access is currently limited to wade fishing or hand launching rafts, canoes, kayaks, etc. from the east bank.

The Milwaukee FAS is also part of the Missouri River Legacy Trail system linking the FAS with the community of Three Forks and Missouri Headwaters State Park.

Public Involvement Process & Results

No public involvement has been conducted regarding this permitting process. If this project is endorsed by the Commission, FWP will initiate an Environment Assessment that will include a public notification process.

Alternatives and Analysis

There will be no way to repair the access road and build a boat ramp unless a lease agreement is pursued. With Commission approval to pursue the lease, the Department will conduct an Environment Assessment to analyze and evaluate alternatives for how to complete this work.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends that the Fisheries Division and Lands Bureau move forward in negotiating an agreement with MDT to obtain a permit for management of the access road and boat launch area encompassing approximately two acres.

Proposed Motion

I move that FWP initiate its due diligence process to evaluate the possibility of entering into a no-cost lease agreement with MDT on approximately two acres adjacent to the Milwaukee FAS.