

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 7, 2017

Agenda Item: Redwater River Fishing Access Site Acquisition (R6)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Min

Background:

This proposed FAS acquisition is located at the confluence of the Missouri and Redwater Rivers. The Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam is 175 river miles long. Currently only four Fishing Access Sites provide access to this underutilized and underappreciated reach of river. The proposed Redwater River FAS is in an 80-mile section of river where no FAS are present. This site is 18 miles downstream from the Lewis and Clark FAS and 62 miles upstream from the Culbertson FAS. There are no other public access points in between these sites. The land is owned by BLM who is offering it to FWP at no cost under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act. There are approximately 376-acres within this BLM parcel. Of that, the FAS would encompass approximately 20-acres. BLM is willing for FWP to manage the entire parcel for wildlife and habitat purposes but the only commitment at this time is for the FAS.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

There has been no public involvement to date.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alternatives will be analyzed during the environmental review process.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends the Commission to endorse the Departments request to pursue discussions with the BLM regarding the potential future management and development of an FAS on this parcel. Doing so would provide public access on a reach of the Missouri River where there is currently an 80-mile void.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorse FWP's request to pursue negotiations with the Bureau Land Management regarding the acquisition of land at the confluence of the Redwater and Missouri Rivers.