

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 15, 2018

Agenda Item: Milwaukee Fishing Access Site – Montana Department of Transportation Land Use Permit

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

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) will provide FWP a no-cost Recreational Use Permit for the existing FAS access road and a small parcel on the west bank of the river for a boat launch. The Permit from MDT will formalize FWP's access that was never established when the site was originally acquired back in 1979 providing FWP a legal interest in the access road. The Permit is needed to allow FWP to initiate repairs on the access road. Additionally, The Permit will also provide FWP an interest in MDT's property across the river on the west bank where a pioneered parking area and an existing gravel boat launch will be improved as part of this project. The west bank also opens access to the Missouri River Legacy Trail system that will provide a link from the FAS to the community of Three Forks and Missouri Headwaters State Park.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

An environmental assessment was prepared by the Department and released for public comment from November 6, 2017 thru December 6, 2017. The EA was mailed to 58 groups and individuals. One public comment was received, which was in support of the proposed action:

- “This looks like a great way to solve the problem at the existing FAS boat ramp without spending a lot of money”.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Only the Proposed Alternative and the No Action Alternatives were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Under the “No Action Alternative” FWP would not have a legal interest in the access road to the existing FAS. Without a legal interest in the access road FWP does not have the authority to make road repairs as needed. Additionally, the pioneered parking area and boat launch on the west bank of the river would remain unmanaged and unimproved.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends that the Commission approve the department's request to accept the Recreational Use Permit from MDT for management of the access road and boat launch area encompassing approximately 2 acres.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve FWP's request to accept a Recreational Use Permit from Montana Department of Transportation for approximately two acres adjacent to the Milwaukee Fishing Access Site.