

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 9, 2018

Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding between MFWP and USDI-Bureau of Reclamation - Freezout Lake WMA

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

A 20-year management agreement between FWP and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, for Freezout Lake WMA (BOR portions thereof) is presented. FWP and BOR have previously operated on a similar 50-year agreement, which recently expired. BOR controls 6,040 acres (majority as water surface) within the greater 11,333-acre Freezout Lake Wildlife Management Area. This agreement sets the sideboards for management of those BOR lands by FWP to include planning, development, construction, management, and operation and maintenance activities associated with it. Such responsibilities also include the operation, maintenance, and replacement of any public recreation facilities. The previous 50-year agreement has worked well for both parties and subsequent public use, and it is expected that this new agreement will work in the same fashion.

Public Involvement Process & Results

On the heels of a satisfactory 50-year agreement, this new 20-year proposed agreement warrants no extended public involvement process. No substantial or significant adjustments are proposed to its operating environment.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Under a no-action alternative, an operating agreement for land and water management responsibilities would no longer exist. BOR would, by default, assume full management responsibility for their 6,040 acres. Management complexity and duplicity would ensue, given the juxtaposition of FWP-deeded acres and associated infrastructure.

As proposed, this 20-year agreement would allow management responsibility and authority to be held by FWP in a fashion comparable to the previous 50 years. Public use of the entire area, including FWP and BOR lands, would continue in its present format and management status. There is a lot to be said for continuity of management practices and regulatory schemes as land managers and the recreating public use of this area.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends final approval of the 20-year management agreement between BOR and FWP according to the terms and conditions as delivered in the final agreement, subject to commission approval.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish & Wildlife Commission provide final approval of the Freezout Lake Management Agreement between FWP and the USDI, Bureau of Reclamation.