

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2018

**Agenda Item:** Marias River Proposed FAS (R4)

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5-Minutes

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### **Background:**

This 3-acre site is being offered for sale by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The site would be developed for wade fishing and carry-in boats such as canoes, kayaks and rafts. Development would consist of a small 3-4 vehicle parking area, boundary fencing and signage. Access would be via a county road and a secondary road with an easement by Northwest Energy who maintains a small power substation located on the west boundary of the property. Fisheries on the Marias River ranges from warm water species such as catfish and Northern pike to brown and rainbow Trout. Some noxious weeds are present on site but infestations are light and weed control measures will be incorporated into the regional weed management plan. Tiber reservoir is located just over 21 miles upstream. The BLM has three designated river access locations between Tiber Reservoir and the proposed FAS but they are not signed or maintained by the BLM.

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

There has been no public involvement to date. If endorsed by the Commission the Department will proceed with negotiations and an environmental assessment that will include a 30-day public comment period.

### **Alternatives and Analysis:**

Potential alternatives will be identified and analyzed during the environmental review process.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale:**

FWP recommends that the Commission endorse efforts by the Department to pursue a fishing access site on the Marias River. This is the first opportunity in many years to acquire property for an FAS on the Marias River. BLM provides some access opportunities upstream of this site but they are not signed for the public or maintained.

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move that the Commission authorize the Department to pursue negotiations with the VFW for the acquisition of a Fishing Access Site on the Marias River.