

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 17, 2018

Agenda Item: Upper Clark Fork FAS--Proposed (R2)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5-Minutes

Background:

This proposed project would enhance the FWP's efforts to increase public recreational access to the Clark Fork River in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin. The proposed site is located on DNRC trust land property. FWP would work with DNRC to establish a perpetual easement for the FAS. Development would include a small parking area, boat ramp, vault latrine, fencing and signage. River floaters have pioneered a boat launch at another location a short distance downstream, but the proposed location provides a safer setting for development of an FAS as well as providing enough room to construct a parking area and boat ramp and latrine. Funding for this project will come from money already allocated to FWP through the Natural Resource Damage Program (NRDP). This will be the fifth site in the Upper Clark Fork River basin where FWP has used this funding to acquire and/or develop new fishing access. A new FAS at Racetrack Creek/I-90 junction (just south of Deer Lodge), also referred to as Paracini Pond, was completed in 2018. Both Bearmouth and Gold Creek FASs are scheduled for construction this fall. Several other Upper Clark Fork River locations are also being evaluated for future acquisition and/or development using the balance of the NRD funding.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

There has been no public involvement. If endorsed by the Commission the Department will begin its due diligence process which will include conducting an environmental assessment and public scoping.

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 north of Deer Lodge on the Upper Clark Fork River. This site was identified early on in the process as a potential site for acquisition and development through use of the NRPD funding.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Commission authorize the Department to pursue negotiations with DNRC to acquire a perpetual easement on DNRC property north of Deer Lodge for the purpose of establishing a new FAS.