



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

Agenda Item: Flathead Lake Fishing Access Site near Dayton (R1)

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: FWP is seeking the commission's approval to conduct due diligence toward potentially acquiring a fishing access site on Flathead Lake near Dayton in Lake County. The site is located on Highway 93 along the lakeshore. A private landowner approached FWP and expressed interest in selling a parcel of land to FWP (approximately 15 acres) that would adequately provide parking and include a boat ramp and vault latrine. FWP has been in discussions regarding the potential acquisition. Public access is limited on Flathead Lake and the site would make the Wild Horse Island State Park more accessible. In addition, the site would provide lake access for anglers in an area that provides good fisheries for lake trout, lake whitefish, and yellow perch.

Public Involvement Process & Results: FWP would continue discussions with the private landowner, prepare an environmental assessment, and seek public comment on acquiring the site.

Alternatives and Analysis: FWP could discontinue discussions with the landowner and continue to look for additional access opportunities in the future.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The department recommends that the commission endorse its request to continue discussions and conduct due diligence toward potentially acquiring the property. This would include negotiating with the landowner, determining funding opportunities, and beginning public process.

Proposed Motion: I move that the commission endorse the department's request to negotiate the acquisition of a fishing access site on Flathead Lake near Dayton.