

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 2012

Agenda Item: Ninepipe Habitat Enhancement

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Rule/Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

The proposed action involves an agricultural haying lease on Ninepipe Wildlife Management Area in Lake County. The lease will supplement activities aimed at improving wildlife food and cover. The lessee will be allowed to hay specific sites to enhance habitat quality while also providing farming practices in place of a cash lease. Value of this lease will be up to \$24,000, depending on quality and quantity of haying completed. In total, this will involve less than 200 acres on the wildlife management area and will start July 15, 2012 and conclude on or before October 1, 2013.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The draft environmental assessment was out for a 2-week public review from May 3 through May 17. Legal ads were run in local newspapers (Lake County Leader & Char-Koosta). The draft EA was available at the Polson City Library and a news release was issued. The Decision Notice has been completed recommending to proceed with this lease, contingent on FWP Commission approval. The EA and DN are included with the commission packet.

Alternatives and Analysis

- No Action: FWP would not use a share farmer agreement and would not improve game bird and waterfowl nesting cover and food plots.
- Proposed Action: FWP would use a share farmer to improve migratory waterfowl and upland bird habitat on Ninepipe WMA.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Approve the share farmer agricultural lease arrangement at Ninepipe WMA to improve upland bird and migratory waterfowl habitat on the wildlife management area.

Proposed Motion

I move to approve the Ninepipe WMA haying lease agreement.