

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 13, 2019

Agenda Item: Yellowstone River FAS Acquisition (Highway 89 Bridge) (R3)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background:

The existing Highway 89 Bridge FAS boat ramp on the Yellowstone River downstream of Livingston is located immediately below where a highway and railroad bridge cross over the river. Floaters must successfully negotiate the various bridge abutments in order to take out at the FAS. Anecdotal information from adjacent property owners and various recreational users have heard of or personally been involved in collisions with the bridge piers. Last spring, two floaters drowned when their boat collided with one of the bridge piers and capsized. In response, FWP staff have evaluated immediate and long-term solutions in hopes to prevent a similar tragic accident from occurring again. One of those solutions was to locate another potential boat ramp site upstream of the two bridges that could be used as a take-out to provide an alternative to floaters who didn't want to negotiate the bridge piers. Subsequently, FWP staff identified a potential upstream boat ramp location on private land and contacted the landowner. The landowner is open to discussing options and working with FWP staff to acquire a small parcel of land.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

There has been no public involvement at this stage of the process.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Alternatives and the subsequent analysis will be conducted by the Department upon approval by the Commission.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends that the Commission approve the Department to initiate discussions with the landowner for providing an FAS that would allow floaters to take-out above the railroad and highway bridge piers.

Proposed Motion:

I move to endorse FWP's request to pursue negotiations with the landowner to acquire a small parcel of land that can be used as an alternative take-out location for floaters.