

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 17, 2019

Agenda Item: Land Acquisition for Region 6 Headquarters

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

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Background: FWP proposes to purchase approximately 3.44 acres adjacent to its existing Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow. The purpose of this property is to secure space for equipment (including boats, campers and utility trailers) and material storage. Purchasing this property would also provide space for a field course for Hunters and Bowhunter Education classes; however, no live firearms would be used. FWP's Lands Unit has negotiated a price of \$40,000, based on local market data, with the landowner for the purchase of this property.

Public Involvement Process & Results: A draft environmental assessment (EA) was released for public comment for 30 days from August 21, 2019 to September 20, 2019. The EA was posted on FWP's website and comments could be sent to the Regional Office via mail or email. Two public legal notices were published in the Glasgow Courier and Helena Independent. A cover letter for the EA with project and comment information was also sent to the adjacent landowners, the Glasgow Mayor and City Council, Valley County Commissioners, the Valley County Planner, local legislators and other interested parties. No comments were received concerning this project.

Alternatives and Analysis: Not purchasing this lot will lead to additional crowding of equipment and materials on the existing storage area. This situation is expected to worsen and will likely lead to leasing additional storage space off site in the future. Field training for Hunters and Bowhunter Education classes would continue to be taught indoors or outside in the yard next to the Headquarters building.

Agency Recommendation & Rational: FWP recommends the Commission approve this proposal. Purchasing this lot would fulfill the need for additional storage space and provide better field training for Hunter and Bowhunter Education students.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the purchase of the 3.44-acre lot adjacent to the existing Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow.