



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 13, 2020

Agenda Item: Cornell Park FAS Acquisition (Region 3)

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

Fish, Wildlife & Parks has been approached by the Beaverhead Trails Coalition with a possible donation of 3.5 acres on the Beaverhead River, just outside of Dillon. For many years the property has been privately owned but open to the public and managed by the Dillon Kiwanis Club as a park and river access point. Because of an upstream irrigation diversion, it is the only public access that allows floating to FWP's downstream Selway Park FAS. The Beaverhead Trails Coalition is in the process of receiving this property with the mutual understanding that ownership will be transferred to FWP to developing a Fishing Access Site. In turn, the department would develop the parking and picnic areas, gravel boat ramp and pursue the possibility of adding concrete vault latrine. Basic maintenance and streambank restoration of the site will be performed by the Kiwanis Club, Beaverhead Watershed Committee, and Montana Trout Unlimited under written agreement. Major maintenance will be undertaken by the FAS program and would include latrine pumping, installing new picnic tables and fire rings, hazard tree mitigation and road grading.

Public Involvement Process & Results

If endorsed by the Commission, the department will begin the due diligence process which will include conducting an environmental assessment and public scoping.

Alternatives & Analysis

The Commission could choose to endorse this proposal and the department would pursue the process of receiving the property from the donor for use as a Fishing Access Site. Conversely, the commission could choose to not endorse the proposal and the department would not pursue a Fishing Access Site at this location.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP believes the proposed action is of great benefit to public access on the Beaverhead River. Development of this property as a FAS would allow floating between it and Selway Park FAS, which would otherwise be an inaccessible reach of the Beaverhead River. FWP has a long-standing relationship with the Beaverhead Trails Coalition which includes the development of the Selway Park FAS, also on the Beaverhead River.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish & Wildlife Commission authorize the department to pursue acquiring this donation on the Beaverhead River on the property currently being acquired by the Beaverhead Trails Commission.