



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Agenda Item: Ennis FAS Temporary Construction Closure (R3)

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background:

The Ennis Fishing Access Site is located on the Madison River, ½ mile south of Ennis. Site amenities include a boat ramp, campsites and walking trails. It has been determined that 300-400 feet of the access road to this FAS lies on private property adjacent to FWP property. After discussions with the landowner, the department was unable to secure a purchase or easement agreement. Subsequently, FWP has removed a latrine and signage that had been placed on the private property during the original construction of the site. Remaining work includes remediating and realigning the existing access road. As there are no access alternatives to this FAS and for public safety, a full closure is required to rebuild the road. The department is requesting the commission to close the site for up to seven days between the period of April 1 and May 15, 2020.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

FWP will institute extensive public outreach in early 2020 informing the public that work will be performed during this time so alternative access points may be utilized.

Alternatives and Analysis:

Because this is not an emergency closure, commission action is needed to establish a legally enforceable closure. Without commission action, the site can be closed, but legal action cannot be taken against violators of the closure. Construction activities will largely preclude physical access to the FAS. The department recommends the commission institute a full temporary closure to ensure public safety and avoid conflicts with construction activities.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission approve the proposed temporary closure of the Ennis Fishing Access Site as recommended by FWP.