



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** April 1, 2021

**Agenda Item:** Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan Advisory Committee (R4)

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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**Background:**

The Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan guides fisheries management for Canyon Ferry, Hauser, and Holter reservoirs, and two associated Missouri River sections. A priority identified through public scoping was adaptability and responsiveness of the management plan in relation to dynamic fish populations. The management plan includes development of a Citizen Advisory Committee that will meet with the department annually to review fish trends and goals to determine if management action is needed. Based on Appendix C in the management plan, the commission will appoint a five-member CAC to function in an advisory capacity to FWP for fisheries management decisions in the plan area. The committee will consist of no more than one advocate from five of the following stakeholder groups: unaffiliated warmwater anglers, unaffiliated coldwater anglers, organized warmwater angler groups, organized coldwater angler groups, ice-fishing anglers, conservation groups, kids' fishing, fishing tournament organizer, landowner, outfitter, local government, local business, and other interests.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

The reservoir management plan was developed with substantial public input and the final plan was approved at the December 2019 commission meeting. In February 2020 the commission appointed 5 members to serve a one-year term on the CAC: Pete Cardinal, Wolf Creek; Bart Bratlien, Helena; Mike Agee, Helena; Dale Gilbert, Ulm; and Jim Gillespie, Helena. At a December 16 CAC meeting, all current members agreed to serve another one-year term. Richard Stuker, previous District 3 Commissioner, also served on the CAC.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

Committee members were chosen through an application process in 2020. Since all members were interested in serving again the department did not solicit applications for the upcoming year. The commission could approve the current committee to another one-year appointment, or not approve some or all members for another one-year term. If the current committee were not approved by the commission the department would seek applications from the public to serve on the committee. The department recommends appointing the current CAC to a one-year term. Additionally, the department requests a sitting Fish and Wildlife Commissioner serve on the CAC.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move the commission accept the five recommended appointees to the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan Citizen Advisory Committee.