



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 24, 2021

Agenda Item: Stuart Mill Bay FAS Partial Sale, Region 2

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

In March 2003, FWP acquired approximately 363 acres of privately owned land in 2 separated parcels near Stuart Mill Bay on Georgetown Lake for establishing an FAS. The Natural Resource Damage Program funded the acquisition. A parcel of private land (Neely parcel) is located between the two parcels that comprise Stuart Mill Bay FAS. FWP is seeking endorsement to pursue the sale of a .09 acre of land to the owner of private land adjacent to the FAS in order to provide additional access to their property. The land proposed for sale is comprised of an existing access road that connects Georgetown Lake Road with the Neely parcel.

In 2014, FWP proposed the sale of an access easement on this same parcel. A lack of public support for the project and a potential negative impact to an adjacent landowner led to a Decision Notice not to pursue the easement. The adjacent landowner has since sold their property to the Neely family. The now contiguous Neely parcel is the sole beneficiary of this proposed sale. Initial discussions with the Natural Resource Damage Program indicate the proceeds from the sale of this .09-acre parcel would be returned to the NRDP and can be directed towards future benefit of the Stuart Mill Bay FAS.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

This is a new proposal before the commission, so formal public involvement has not been solicited by FWP to date. Initial outreach and anecdotal observations indicate that the property is used occasionally for public parking for access to the east side of Stuart Mill Bay. If endorsed by the commission, formal public outreach would begin. A draft environmental assessment (EA) would be prepared, public comment accepted and a public hearing held. The results of the public involvement process would inform FWP's final proposal at a future commission meeting.

Alternatives & Analysis:

The commission could endorse the partial sale at Stuart Mill Bay FAS and the department would prepare a draft EA and complete public outreach to consider sale of the property. The commission could also choose not to endorse the partial sale and the department would take no further action. The proposed sale simplifies access to the Neely parcel and proceeds from the sale may benefit recreational opportunities at the site.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission endorse FWP's proposal to pursue sale of .09 acres of the Stuart Mill Bay Fishing Access Site and complete associated due diligence and analysis.