



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 8, 2023

Agenda Item: Private Land Recreation Management Areas- Biennial Rule Renewal (R1 & R2)

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: FWP has three Private Land Recreation Management Area (RMA) agreements that provide for year-round public recreational access and management on private lands in Regions 1 and 2. For each, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has established biennial rules to define the public use and provide for enforcement on enrolled lands. The current biennial rules are set to expire in August 2023. Each landowner would like to renew the rules and continue their RMA agreements with FWP for another two years. Background on each agreement is as follows:

- Stimson Lumber Company: Established in 2021, this agreement encompasses 119,761 acres in Regions 1 and 2.
- Avista: Established in 2016, this agreement encompasses 5,029 acres in Region 1 in Sanders County along the Clark Fork River near Thompson Falls.
- The Nature Conservancy: Established in 2015, this agreement encompasses 151,000 acres in Region 2.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The proposed biennial rules and associated documents will be available for public review and comment on the FWP website from April 13 to May 11. Comments will be provided to the commission and summarized at the June meeting.

Analysis & Alternatives:

Alternative A: Renew the biennial recreation management rules for proposed lands in Regions 1 and 2 to allow for continued year-round public access and enforcement on enrolled private lands.

Alternative B: Do not renew the biennial recreation management rules for proposed lands in Regions 1 and 2, which would reduce public recreational opportunity and enforcement on those private lands.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP requests the commission renew the biennial rules to benefit the landowners and the public through the ability to manage and enforce public recreation and use rules on large tracts of private land in western Montana.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission renew the biennial recreation management rules for lands held by Stimson Lumber, Avista, and The Nature Conservancy in Regions 1 and 2.