



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 20, 2021

Agenda Item: Marias Crossing FAS Acquisition, R4

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

The department has the opportunity to acquire a Fishing Access Site on the Marias River approximately 18 miles south of Chester on Highway 223. The proposed action is to accept terms of a permit for a recreation site with Montana Department of Transportation and develop approximately one acre of land owned in fee title by MDT along the Marias River to provide public access and develop an FAS. Proposed developments at the site include a single-wide gravel boat ramp, designated gravel parking area, gravel access road, boundary fencing, and informational signs. The site would provide an important, safe access point on the Marias River for boaters and floaters. Development of an FAS would meet public need and provide improved safety and service beyond the current pioneered access.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

A draft Environmental Assessment titled "Marias Crossing Fishing Access Site Proposed Permit for Recreation Site and Site Development" was drafted and open for public comment from May 5 through June 6. Two comments were received, and no issues were raised that required additional assessment. The two comments supported the project as described in the EA. A Decision Notice was published on July 13 to proceed with the proposed action.

Alternatives and Analysis:

No action: The commission could choose to not approve the department securing a permit of a recreation site with MDT and develop an FAS on the Marias River at the Highway 223 bridge south of Chester. MDT would retain the management responsibility of the property and site development would be unlikely thereby continuing to limit public access at the site.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission approve the department secure a permit for a recreation site with MDT and approve development of the Marias Crossing Fishing Access Site.