



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 20, 2021

Agenda Item: Sha Ron FAS Acquisition, R2

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

Sha Ron FAS is an existing popular access point on the Clark Fork River east of Missoula. Parking is limited and overflow parking onto an adjacent highway and a street is common during the summer. This parking is dangerous to vehicle and pedestrian traffic and is a nuisance to adjacent neighbors. Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Missoula County and Montana Department of Transportation have been exploring the expansion of parking to nearby land which consists of highway right-of-way and private land, some of which has an easement with MDT. The concept is to build a parking area on the right-of-way and MDT easement, pursue purchasing the private land for additional access, and reduce potential neighbor conflicts. The parking area could be built without purchasing the private land. Missoula County would be primarily responsible for financial costs related to building the parking area and buying the private land. MDT would accommodate use of their easement for the parking expansion. FWP would be responsible for managing and maintaining the site. An endorsement is needed to allow FWP to help draft landscape and engineering designs for the access site and confirm our interest as future managers of the expanded Sha Ron FAS.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

FWP, MDT and Missoula County have discussed our concept with the owner of the land that may be purchased. Missoula County has had public meetings and shared concepts of a trail corridor that includes the expanded parking concept and increased access. An EA with a public comment period will follow once preliminary designs are drafted.

Alternatives & Analysis:

No action alternative: do not participate in this collaboration with MDT and Missoula County. Their interests in public safety and recreation would require another partner or means to manage river users. Parking and safety issues at Sha Ron FAS would persist.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission endorse the proposed collaborative efforts to expand the Sha Ron FAS.