

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 13, 2019

Agenda Item: Tiber Reservoir Willow Creek Watercraft Inspection Site Lease (R4)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

State officials are responding to detections of aquatic invasive mussels in Montana after suspect larvae samples were discovered in water samples collected in 2016 in Tiber and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs. A previous boat inspection and decontamination site at the Willow Creek boat ramp at Tiber Reservoir had been utilized through a Bureau of Reclamation permit. Due to public concern regarding inspection compliance, FWP had identified new site closer to Highway 200 that would increase visibility and watercraft inspection compliance. The proposed site is 0.5-acres and privately owned and is located south of Highway 2 by Lothair. The lease has been negotiated for \$1800 annually, for a 1 year term, renewable in 1 to 5-year terms.

Public Involvement Process & Results

On February 10, 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Commission provided an endorsement to FWP to secure sites for AIS watercraft inspection as needed. A draft Environmental Assessment for developing the Willow Creek site is open for public comment, with comments accepted until February 19. Public comments will be compiled and assessed via the EA.

Alternatives and Analysis

With no action, FWP would continue to monitor Willow Creek as personnel and resources allow. Public concern regarding inspection compliance and visibility would not be addressed. The proposed action at the new site is expected to increase inspection compliance, improve inspection coverage for access sites on the north side of Tiber Reservoir, and capture additional watercraft traveling on Highway 2.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends leasing the 0.5-acre site south of Highway 2 near Lothair.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve FWP to lease this site for an AIS watercraft inspection site.