

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Agenda Item: Land Acquisition for Region 6 Headquarters

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

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Background: FWP proposes to purchase an estimated 0.73-acre lot adjacent to its existing Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow. The purpose of this property is to secure space for a visitor parking lot that can accommodate vehicles towing boats, trailers, or campers and would provide FWP staff a safe place to conduct boat inspections for aquatic invasive species (AIS). Currently there is no parking area at the Headquarters that allows for vehicles pulling a trailer to pull through without backing up. Since many of our customers are pulling trailers this requires them to either back out of the small visitor parking lot, park on the shoulder of Highway 2 in front of the office, or park across the street in a gas station parking lot, each of which can be a safety hazard. Expanding visitor parking into this area would also open up more space on the existing Headquarters lot to construct a better functioning shop area, a conference room suitable for public meetings and improve office space. FWP's Lands Unit has negotiated a price of \$85,000, based on local market data, with the landowner for the purchase of this property.

Public Involvement Process & Results: A draft environmental assessment (EA) was released for public comment for 30 days from April 24, 2019 to May 24, 2019. The EA was posted on FWP's website and comments could be sent to the Regional Office via mail or email. Two public legal notices were published in the Glasgow Courier and Helena Independent. A cover letter for the EA with project and comment information was also sent to the adjacent landowner, the Glasgow Mayor and City Council, Valley County Commissioners, the Valley County Planner, local legislators and other interested parties. To date one comment has been received and it was in support of the project.

Alternatives and Analysis: Since the current lot the Region 6 Headquarters sits on is too small to construct a pull-through visitors parking lot, the only alternative is no action. Visitors pulling a trailer would not have a place to safely park on FWP property and future options to construct a larger shop facility, a conference room for public meetings and improved office space would be very limited.

Agency Recommendation & Rational: FWP recommends the Commission approve this proposal. Purchasing this lot would fulfill the need for additional visitor parking and accommodate customers pulling a trailer. Expanding visitor parking in this area would also allow room on the existing Headquarters lot to construct a better functioning shop, a conference room for public meetings and improve office space.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the purchase of the 0.73-acre lot adjacent to the existing Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow.