



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: May 28, 2020

Agenda Item: Tarkio East FAS In-holding Acquisition (R2)

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

The proposed acquisition would consolidate land management for FWP at Tarkio East FAS in the Alberton Gorge. This site is a popular access site for smaller craft that can be carried in and out of the Gorge as well as visits to the sandy beach on the river. A private land in-holding complicates management because FAS users have unobstructed access across this land. Fencing has been proposed but it is expensive, and its effectiveness is unknown. Purchasing the property is a better, long-term solution in managing the issues as well as financially, but funds have not been acquired. The private land in-holding is about 5.5 acres. The landowner is willing to discuss selling the property, so FWP is seeking endorsement for pursuing the purchase of the land. An appraisal has recently been completed with a value of \$85,000.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

If endorsed by the commission, the department will continue with its due diligence that will include discussions with the landowner and possibly fundraising for purchase. An environmental assessment and public scoping would be conducted if acceptable acquisition or management terms are reached.

Alternatives & Analysis:

The commission could choose to endorse this proposal and the department would pursue purchasing the property, or the commission could choose not to endorse the proposal and the department would not pursue purchasing and seek other alternatives.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

FWP recommends that the commission endorse acquisition of the land at Tarkio East. Purchasing the property is an effective and cost-efficient means of addressing management issues at the site.

Proposed Motion:

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission authorize the department to pursue acquiring the private in-holding at Tarkio East FAS.