



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: February 4, 2021

Agenda Item: Fishing Access Site Annual Rule

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: FWP is recommending the commission propose a Fishing Access Site (FAS) Annual Rule for 2021. The rule pertains to:

- Fees (camping, group use permits, facility rentals, special recreation permits);
- Stipulations on camping at fishing access sites;
- Group Use Permit requirements (groups of more than 30 people);
- Special Recreation Permit requirements (permit system in place on the Blackfoot and Madison rivers for commercial use, competitive events, organized group activities).

The new rule would replace the current FAS Biennial Rule, which was adopted by the commission in December 2018. The proposed rule contains no changes to the fees, stipulations or regulations governing the activities listed above. It is intended to be in place for only one year, during which time the department intends to conduct a thorough review of these rules in conjunction with a review of the Public Use Rules (ARM 12.8. 201 et seq) which also pertain to the FAS program. It is hoped this review will result in modernized rules with less need for annual/biennial reauthorization.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Upon approval of the proposed rule by the commission, FWP will announce and conduct a public comment period. This will be advertised through statewide and regional press releases.

Alternatives and Analysis: The commission could choose to make amendments to the proposed rule before seeking public comment.

Proposed Motion: I move that the commission propose a Fishing Access Site Annual Rule for 2021 and seek public comment.