

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Agenda Item: Biennial Rule Regulating Use on Stimson Lumber Company Recreation Management Area

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

This proposal would establish through Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission Rule a Recreation Management Area comprised of 100,801 acres of Stimson Lumber Company lands in Lincoln and Sanders counties. The Recreation Management Area rules would provide for managed public access throughout the year. Stimson Lumber Company lands in FWP Region 1 are currently enrolled in the Block Management Program, which provides free public access during the fall big game hunting seasons. The Recreation Management Biennial Rule would provide free year-round recreational access for public use. Biennial rules for public recreation need to be adopted to prevent vehicular damage to soils and vegetation, and to avoid excessive disturbance to native wildlife including threatened and endangered species.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public notice of the rules and a public comment period will begin if the commission approves the proposed rules.

Alternatives and Analysis

Managed public access will reduce resource damage, prevent vehicular damage to soils and vegetation, and will avoid excess disturbance to native wildlife including threatened and endangered species. Without these rules, Stimson Lumber Company could limit public use on these lands.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the commission propose the rule for public comment.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Fish & Wildlife Commission propose biennial rules regarding public use within the Stimson Lumber Company Recreation Management Area lands.