



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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Meeting Date: April 22, 2021

Agenda Item: Avista Recreational Access Agreement, R1

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background: A biennial rule for the 5,029-acre Avista Recreation Management Area was previously established by the Fish & Wildlife Commission in 2014. This area is heavily used by the public for year-round recreation and is located in Sanders County along the Clark Fork River near Thompson Falls. The Avista Recreation Management Area biennial rule was renewed by the Fish & Wildlife Commission in 2016 and 2018. The renewal of this biennial rule would perpetuate year-round recreational access for public use for an additional two years.

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 help reduce the resource damage, vehicular damage to soils and vegetation, and excess disturbance to native wildlife including threatened and endangered species. Without these rules, Avista may be forced to increase restrictions on public use and ultimately close these lands to public access.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: FWP recommends the commission propose the rule for public comment.

Proposed Motion: I move that the commission propose biennial rules regarding public use of the Avista Recreation Management Area.