MEMO **S-4**

TO: Larry D. Voyles, Director

FROM: John Bullington, Assistant Director, Special Services Division

PRESENTER: Mark Weise, Development Branch Chief

TITLE: Acquisition of a Perpetual Access Easement Across Walter Lane's Private Property in Game Management Unit 36C

DESCRIPTION: The Commission will be asked to vote to approve the acquisition of a perpetual access easement across Walter Lane's private property utilizing Game and Fish Access funds.

DATE: April 26, 2010

Summary:

Securing perpetual access for hunters has been and will continue to be a focus of the Department's Landowner Relation Program. A private landowner named Walter Lane has approached the Department offering a perpetual access easement. The location of this easement is along Brown Canyon Road in Game Management Unit (GMU) 36C. If the Department is allowed to pursue this acquisition it will perfect one of nine access routes in GMU 36C, and this will be the first road that has a recorded public right-of-way in this GMU. This will secure access for hunters and other recreationalist to over 20,000 acres of state and federal land that could be lost if the landowner in the future would lock a gate on this portion of Brown Canyon Road.

This easement is supported by both the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, due to the fact that this easement will secure access to landlocked portions of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and the Baboquivari Peak Wilderness Area and will improve both agencies' ability to manage these lands to promote wildlife habitat and recreational access opportunities.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission vote to **APPROVE THE REQUEST TO ACQUIRE A PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT ACROSS PRIVATE LAND LOCATED IN GMU 36C.**

JB:mw

Attachments