

Meeting Date: July 24, 2024

Agenda Item No. 5K

Agenda Item: Spencer Property Donation (**ACTION**)

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

Prepared by Casey Pozzanghera, Natural Resources Program Coordinator

Background:

A 153-acre parcel southeast of Grangeville in Idaho County has been offered for donation to the Department. The property is immediately adjacent to the existing IDFG Clearwater River Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA), located along Mt Idaho Rd. Together with this existing WHA, the proposed donation would create a block of 553 acres of contiguous land owned by the Department.

The property is a mix of conifer forest and upland brush habitat, providing habitat for a number of species and adding to the existing public recreational opportunities. White-tailed deer and elk use the area as winter range, but the property also is likely to support some of these animals year-round. Hunting opportunities exist for big game, turkey, and upland species and the public can access the property by walking through the existing WHA from access points along Highway 14 and Mt. Idaho Rd.

Staff do not estimate a significant increase in maintenance and management costs to the WHA with the addition of the Spencer property.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in May 2024.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has the authority to acquire land (Idaho Code 36-104(b)(7)). Land acquisition is in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Idaho County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend accepting the 153-acre Spencer property donation in Idaho County.

Suggested Motion: I move to accept the 153-acre Spencer property donation in Idaho County.

