

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
April 16, 2010
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Deputy Director Moore; Deputy Director Unsworth; Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director - Policy; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Mike Keckler, Chief, Communications; Tom Hemker, State Habitat Manager; Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator; and Paul Kline, Assistant Bureau Chief, Fisheries.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Wright with Commissioners McDermott, Trevey, Budge and Power participating. Commissioners Robert Barowsky and Cameron Wheeler were excused.

LANDS

University of Idaho Foundation Project Region 2

Gregg Servheen, Wildlife Program Coordinator presented the University of Idaho Foundation Project Region 2 land acquisition to the Commission. Mr. Servheen stated that this 120-acre fee title acquisition is located in Nez Perce County and is an in-holding on the northwestern edge of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Craig Mountain WMA is an 83,000-acre area managed as wildlife mitigation from Bonneville Power Administration for the inundation of Dworshak Reservoir. The subject parcel is owned by the University of Idaho Foundation (UIF) and it was offered for public auction in early February 2010.

Acquisition of the subject property will consolidate ownership on Craig Mountain WMA, thereby reducing trespass issues and improving management. This property also has some of the highest summer range big game use in Game Management Unit 11. Recreational values on the parcel are high. Because of the high use by big game, this parcel is hunted frequently by the general public, even though it is in a non-motorized area.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) submitted a bid to the UIF to purchase the property for \$122,100 plus closing costs. The Department also asked the UIF to consider other benefits Department ownership would provide, including increased opportunities for natural resource education and research through the ongoing cooperation of the University of Idaho and the Department research projects on the WMA. The UIF accepted the Department's offer.

No buildings are part of the acquisition. The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties. The FILT for properties acquired in Nez Perce County is estimated at approximately \$2.81 per acre, for a total of approximately \$337.67 for the subject property.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on March 4, 2010.

10-39 Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO FOUNDATION PROJECT AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Boundary Creek RLA Project Region 1

The project is a purchased perpetual conservation easement on 654 acres of timberland owned by Patriot Investments using funds granted to the Department through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Act, Section 6 Cooperative Agreement, Recovery Land Acquisition (RLA) Program. The easement will be held by The Nature Conservancy and the total value of the project is \$989,000, including a 7% donation of value by the landowner.

The subject property is located in Township 65 North, Range 2 West, Sections 10, 11, 14, 15, and 23 in Boundary County, Idaho, directly adjacent to the Boundary Creek Wildlife Management Area. The project parcel is managed by a subsidiary of Patriot Investments called Forest Capital Partners which owns roughly 280,000 acres of timberland in Idaho. Forest Capital Partners is a timber investment management organization (TIMO) with a timber management program on their core timberlands while actively selling their higher-and-best use lands for real estate development.

The purpose of the conservation easement is to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the subject property while allowing the continued management of the property as a working forest. The conservation easement terms include:

- Conservation purpose and values are maintained;
- No division, subdivision, or partitioning of the property;
- No residential, commercial, agricultural, recreational, or industrial uses of the property except for permitted forest management activities;
- No plowing, disking, cultivation, ripping, planting, sowing, irrigation, or any change in the topography of the property;
- No development, construction, installation, expansion or maintenance of structures of any kind;
- No quarrying, ditching, draining, diking, filling, excavating, dredging, removal of topsoil or other materials.

The public, through the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, first heard of the project on April 21, 2008 and then again on June 15, 2009. Overall, the feedback from these community members about this project has been overwhelmingly positive given that this is a rural community where habitat protection for endangered species has the potential to be controversial. Public access was sought as a condition of the easement but the landowner declined its purchase. Public access is currently provided by permission.

No buildings are part of the acquisition. Also, no fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) is to be paid for the subject property as it remains in private ownership.

The project was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on November 13, 2007.

10-40 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion TO PROCEED WITH THE BOUNDARY CREEK RLA LAND ACQUISITION. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Springfield Hatchery

Paul Kline, Fisheries, Assistant Bureau Chief presented the department recommendations for the Springfield Hatchery. Mr. Kline stated that proposed project is the purchase of 72.58 acres of land from the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation (IFWF). The property will be purchased for the Department with funds provided by the Bonneville Power Administration via Idaho Fish Accord funding. The proposed purchase price is the January 2010 appraised value of \$1,960,000.00.

The subject property is located in Township 4 South, Range 32 East, Boise Meridian Section 24 (Tax 9606 and Tax 13028 less Tax 13029) in Bingham County, Idaho, just southeast of the community of Springfield. The property is a former fish hatchery (Crystal Springs Trout Farm) that was gifted to the IFWF in 2005. Under a Lease Agreement with the IFWF, the Department originally intended to operate the complex as a resident fish hatchery and make portions of the site available to the public for fishing and recreation.

The Department now intends to develop the current site as a fish hatchery for the culture of the Federally-Endangered Snake River sockeye salmon. Previous attempts to purchase property suitable for rearing of sockeye salmon have not been successful.

The Department expressed interest to IFWF to purchase the property in November 2009; IFWF accepted the Department's offer to purchase and a current Property Appraisal was completed in January of 2010. Current Idaho Fish Accord funding provides for the purchase and construction of a facility capable of rearing up to 1 million smolts annually.

The project was previously presented to the Commission during multiple Executive Sessions. The Department pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties.

10-41 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SPRINGFIELD HATCHERY ACQUISITION. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Consent Calendar

Items included in the consent calendar:

- A. Minutes
 - February 4,11,18,25, 2010
 - March 4, 11, 2010

10-42 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Director's Update

Director Groen commended Communications Chief Mike Keckler and staff and the Wildlife Bureau for the great wrap up of the wolf season. The Department had a very successful state managed wolf season. The Department continues to work on the Diversion issue with DFM and LSO. Director Groen reviewed his calendar appointments for the next week.

Assistant Director Sharon Kiefer reported that Ann Dehner has been selected as the new Executive Director for the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

LANDS

Commissioner Fred Trevey reported that he received a letter of support from the Nez Perce County Board of Commissioners regarding the purchase of the land on Craig Mountain.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Wayne Wright
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary