

Meeting Date: May 16-17, 2017

Agenda Item No. 5. C.

Agenda Item: Region 3 - Houghton acquisition

Approved by: SR

Prepared by: Gregg Servheen and Steve Elam

Background:

This 240-acre property is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Boise, ID and borders the existing Boise River WMA. The primary purpose of this acquisition is to protect existing upland habitats and big game transitional range adjacent to the Boise River Wildlife Management Area. Originally proposed and approved by the Commission as a mitigation purchased property under the BPA Southern Idaho Agreement, the Department is requesting Commission approval to use license dollars to meet the intent of the existing purchase and sale agreement with the landowner and for the Department to seek reimbursement and mitigation credit agreement from the Bonneville Power Administration under the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation settlement. Benefits will include maintaining habitat values on existing protected lands of the WMA and precluding potential residential development on six 40 acre parcels, mineral extraction, and unmanaged vehicular access. The location and habitats are also adjacent to the Idaho Bird Observatory and will help preserve the quality of a major migratory bird corridor.

The Department proposes acquiring fee-title of the property to protect existing wildlife habitat and enhance the existing Boise River WMA.

The property is currently mixed mountain brush and forested habitats with some two track roads. There are no buildings or developments on the property.

This property was previously approved by the Commission in January 2017 for purchase using BPA funds and presented in Executive Session in November of 2014.

Acquisition costs are \$288,000 of license funds; the Department will seek reimbursement from Bonneville Power Administration mitigation funds.

PILT is estimated at \$310 per year.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Ada County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisition using license monies and seeking reimbursement under the Southern Idaho agreement with BPA.