

Meeting Date: January 28, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5. A.

Agenda Item: Region 1 – McKee Acquisition

Approved by: TB

Prepared by: Don Kemner and Steve Elam

Background:

This is a proposal for fee-title acquisition of the 90.42 acre McKee property residing along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) River. The property is located between the towns of Pinehurst and Kellogg in the Silver Valley and about 35 miles east of the city of Coeur d' Alene. The property contains approximately 50 acres of upland dry forest, 8 acres of wetland, and 32 acres of flood plain habitat. Recreational access provided includes current fishing, hunting and trapping opportunities, future float-boat access, and public access to an additional 295 acres of BLM and IDEQ lands. Acquisition of the property would provide both habitat restoration opportunities and public access to a 3.5 mile section of the South Fork of the CDA River. There are no improvements on the property.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is coordinating the transaction between the Idaho Fish and Game Commission (IFGC), Avista Corporation (Avista), and the landowner. Avista is funding the acquisition.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in November 2018.

Acquisition costs of \$316,000 are provided by Avista as mitigation for Post Falls Dam.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated to be \$3,780.

FILT is estimated at \$498 per year.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition under the authority of Idaho Code section 36-104(b)(7) and in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Shoshone County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Department recommends approving acquisition of the 90-acre property.

Suggested Motion: I move to acquire the 90 acre McKee property.