

Meeting Date: Jan 27, 2022

Agenda Item No. 5D

Agenda Item: Morgan Property Acquisition (**ACTION**)

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Bill Bosworth, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, Steve Elam, Mitigation Staff Biologist

Background:

The Department is proposing fee title acquisition of a 58-acre property located in Lemhi County. The Morgan property is located on the Lemhi River, just upstream of the confluence with Hayden Creek, its largest tributary. The property is adjacent to a 15-acre IDFG river access property and would expand public access to the river and adjacent uplands. It also connects the river to thousands of acres of surrounding public lands.

This property is at the downstream end of Chinook Salmon spawning areas where some of the highest juvenile fish densities have been recorded in the Lemhi River watershed. IDFG and collaborators are developing and implementing multiple floodplain rehabilitation projects to enhance riverine habitat in this area. Acquisition would support a restoration project that would connect habitat projects along more than 4 miles of the Lemhi River.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in May 2021.

The appraised value is \$250,000. Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund would be used for 75% and HB530 funds would be used for 25% of the acquisition cost.

Maintenance costs are estimated to be \$2,450 annually.

Fee in Lieu of Taxes payments to Lemhi County are estimated to be \$100 annually.

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 in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Lemhi County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends acquiring the 58-acre Morgan property.

Suggested Motion: I move to acquire the 58-acre Morgan property.