

Meeting Date: November 15, 2022

Agenda Item No. 5. E.

Agenda Item: Minidoka Sportsmen's Property Donation (**ACTION**)

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Casey Pozzanghera, Natural Resources Program Coordinator, and Steve Elam, Mitigation Staff Biologist

Background:

A 34-acre parcel 6 miles east of Rupert in Minidoka County has been offered for donation to the Department. The property was previously used as a Sportsmen's Club and has been closed to public access for over 20 years. The undeveloped and relatively undisturbed property provides year-round habitat for mule deer and pheasants, and seasonal nesting habitat for waterfowl. Mature shrubs and trees provide nesting and roosting habitats for a variety of songbirds. Magic Valley Regional staff would manage the property concurrent with eight nearby parcels of Bureau of Reclamation land.

Staff estimate maintenance costs would be \$1,400 annually and Fee in Lieu of Tax payments to Minidoka County to be \$600 annually.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in July 2022.

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:

Minidoka County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends accepting the donation of the 34-acre property.

Suggested Motion: I move to accept donation of the 34-acre Minidoka County Sportsmen Club property.