

Meeting Date: July 13-14, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5L1

Agenda Item: Region 6 – Tex Creek West - Croft

Approved by: TB

Prepared by: Bill Bosworth and Steve Elam

Background:

This 240-acre property is located approximately 35 miles east of Idaho Falls, ID. It is adjacent to the Tex Creek WMA.

The property contains valuable wildlife habitat in the Tex Creek landscape, particularly for big game populations. The property provides important transitional habitat for elk moving between Tex Creek WMA and National Forest lands and falls within an area with high abundance of elk during early winter big game surveys. This property also provides good summer and transitional habitat for moose, high-quality summer mule deer habitat, and sharp-tailed grouse winter habitat. Upper Tex Creek flows through the property and supports high-value riparian habitat.

The property borders the Tex Creek WMA and would connect to 2,000 acres of the WMA. The property connects through IDL land to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and also borders the proposed Tex Creek East acquisition.

The acquisition cost is \$300,000 (appraised value), which will be provided by Bonneville Power Administration under the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Memorandum of Agreement.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated to be \$10,080.

Fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) payments are estimated to be \$218 per year.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in July 2020.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Bonneville County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends acquiring the 240-acre parcel.

Suggested Motion: Approve acquiring the 240-acre Croft property.