

Meeting Date: July 13-14, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5L2

Agenda Item: Region 6 – Tex Creek East - Jeffery

Approved by: TB

Prepared by: Bill Bosworth and Steve Elam

Background:

This 708-acre property is located approximately 15 miles East of Idaho Falls, ID.

The property contains valuable wildlife habitat in the Tex Creek landscape, including habitat for big game populations. The property provides sagebrush, conifer, aspen, and riparian habitat heavily used by elk moving between Tex Creek WMA and National Forest lands. 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 and its tributary, Peterson Creek, flow through the property. Associated riparian habitat is in very good condition and supports active beaver colonies and riparian dependent wildlife.

The property abuts the Tex Creek WMA for 2 miles and will enhance access to 2,000 acres of the WMA. It also connects the WMA with Idaho State lands and the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The parcel would provide public access to thousands of contiguous acres currently fragmented by private ownership.

The acquisition cost is \$885,225 (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 \$29,736.

Fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) payments are estimated to be \$900 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 708-acre parcel.

Suggested Motion: Approve acquiring the 708-acre Jeffery property.