

Meeting Date: March 19-20, 2020

Agenda Item No. 5B

Agenda Item: Region 4 – Camas Creek acquisition

Approved by: TB

Prepared by: Don Kemner and Steve Elam

Background:

This 641-acre property is located approximately 17 miles East of Fairfield, ID. This property abuts IDFG land that is managed as part of the Centennial Marsh WMA. This area is a unique, high-elevation, low gradient watershed. The average elevation drop is 1 foot per mile, which results in spring floodwaters spreading across a large landscape. 1.5 miles of Camas Creek traverses the property. Mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope are currently using the parcel, primarily feeding on alfalfa and using stands of willows as bedding areas. In late fall, numerous elk transition through the property to winter habitats, with some wintering on the property itself. Mule deer and elk migrate across the Camas Prairie when migrating to and from critical winter ranges in the Bennett Hills. Large numbers of migrating waterfowl use the seasonally flooded wetlands during spring migrations. The adjacent Centennial Marsh WMA provides a window into the full potential of property. Waterfowl and shorebirds are found throughout the Centennial Marsh WMA. The largest numbers occur during spring migrations on the wetlands south of Hill City. Sage-grouse use this area for brood rearing and seasonal habitat.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in July 2019.

Acquisition cost are \$885,000 (appraised value) of Bonneville Power Administration mitigation funds.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated at \$26,880.

FILT is estimated at \$341 per year.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Elmore County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends acquiring the 641-acre parcel.

Suggested Motion: Approve acquiring the 641-acre Camas Creek property.