

Meeting Date: Aug 19-20, 2020

Agenda Item No. E2

Agenda Item: Region 1 – Cronk Acquisition at Gray’s Meadow

Approved by: TB

Prepared by: Don Kemner and Steve Elam

Background:

This proposed fee title acquisition consists of a small parcel in-holdings to the Coeur d’Alene River Wildlife Management Area Gray’s Meadow segment located in Kootenai County. The acquisition is: 1.156 acres owned by Jay Cronk for \$9,401. The acquisition is essential to remediation and restoration plans for the west field of the Gray’s Meadow property. The Gray’s Meadow Project will convert monotypic agricultural land use into a remediated and restored wetland complex of multiple habitats including permanent, semi-permanent and seasonal palustrine forested, shrub-scrub, emergent, and aquatic bed (deep water) wetlands.

These habitats provide import spring and fall transitional habitat for waterfowl migration. Additionally, waterfowl and shorebirds use this area for breeding, nesting, and brood rearing. It also provides seasonal habitats for white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose. Amphibians such as frogs and toads are dependent on seasonal water flows and wetland habitats for breeding and rearing habitat.

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

Acquisition cost of \$9,401 are provided by Avista mitigation for Post Falls dam.

IDFG already manages the adjacent surrounding land so resources are already available and on-site to manage these small additions to the WMA landbase. Annual maintenance costs are estimated \$50.

FILT is estimated at \$33.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Kootenai County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Department recommends acquiring the 1.1 acre Cronk property.

Suggested Motion: I move to approve acquiring the 1.1 acre Cronk property.