

Meeting Date: November 17, 2017

Agenda Item No. 5B

Agenda Item: Region 6 – Market Lake Acquisition
(Action)

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Gregg Servheen and Steve Elam

Background:

This 342-acre property is located in Jefferson County, 2 miles Northwest of Roberts, Idaho. It is adjacent to Market Lake WMA and includes 2 ponds totaling 26 acres.

This acquisition in the historic lake bed will add the ability to continue management for waterfowl and waterbirds. Most importantly, the acquisition will provide the ability to use water levels on Market Lake WMA to manage habitat for waterfowl and water birds. Waterfowl and upland hunting is a big attraction in the area and this would add an additional 342 huntable acres. The addition of these acres and changes in management will also promote upland game such as pheasant and gray partridge. With the removal of the Russian olives and return to management of the property as a wet meadow, wildlife benefits should be significant. Ducks, shore and wading birds, upland birds and songbirds will all benefit.

A survey conducted in 2012 on Market Lake WMA found over 16,000 visitors and 78% of visitors are non-consumptive users. Wildlife viewing was the number one activity on the WMA and this could be expected to spill over to this property.

The property is currently in pasture and has no building or improvements.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2016.

The acquisition cost is \$266,000 and is being funded by North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant (NAWCA).

FILT is estimated at \$143 per year and operating and maintenance costs are estimated to be \$14,360/year.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Jefferson County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends acquiring the 342-acre property.

Action Requested:

Approval of Commission to proceed with the land acquisition.

Suggested Motion: Commission adopts staff recommendation to proceed with acquisition of the 342-acre Market Lake property.