

Meeting Date: November 17, 2017

Agenda Item No. 5C

Agenda Item: North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River
Lambert Acquisition (**Action**)

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Katherine Cousins and Gregg Servheen

Background:

The project involves the fee-title purchase of a 38.80-acre island located on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River about five miles upstream of Enaville, Shoshone County, Idaho. The project will protect coldwater upwellings that occur in this reach of the river (identified by LiDAR survey) and provide seasonally important thermal refuge for fish (documented from telemetry research). The project protects mainstem river and side channel habitats for Westslope Cutthroat Trout and provides fishing access. The project will also protect an important cottonwood gallery and scrub-shrub wetlands. The island is appraised at \$85,000.00.

Acquisition would be fully-funded by Avista and the title would be held by IDFG. IDFG receives mitigation funding from Avista Corporation for impacts associated with Post Falls Dam. An emphasis of this program is protecting and enhancing habitat for native salmonids. Acquisition of this property is well-aligned with goals of the mitigation program, and this parcel has been identified as a high priority for conservation as part of the program.

The estimated annual operations and maintenance (O&M) costs are expected to be less than \$900.00. IDFG pays a fee in lieu of taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties. The average FILT for properties acquired in Shoshone County is estimated at approximately \$4.33 per acre, for a total of approximately \$168.06 for the subject property.

This was a proposal presented to the Commission during Executive Session on July 27, 2017.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission and Department land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

The public is supportive of Department ownership and management. County commissioners will be contacted and have been supportive of past exchanges.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding forward as a fee-title purchase of a fishing access/wildlife habitat parcel.

Justification:

Protecting aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats, while enhancing public access on the 38.80-acre parcel is consistent with the Department mission.

Action Requested:

Approval of Commission to proceed with the land acquisition.

Suggested Motion: Commission adopt staff recommendations to proceed with completion of the Lambert land acquisition for the benefit of fishing access and habitat protection.