

**Meeting Date:** January 24, 2019

**Agenda Item No.** 5B

**Agenda Item:** Lee James Acquisition (Black Lake Ranch)

**Bureau Chief Approval:** 

**Prepared by:** Katherine Cousins and Gregg Servheen

**Background:**

This is a proposal to acquire 1.7 acres adjacent to the Black Lake Ranch parcel of the Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The subject property is located in Kootenai County directly to the north of State Highway 3 and to the South of the Coeur d'Alene River and Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's and is being purchased for a total cost of \$15,000.00.

Acquisition of the parcel will provide additional access to the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene's, as well as access to the east side of the Black Lake Ranch parcel, and to the west side of Cave Lake, thereby increasing ease of access for the public to hunt and fish. This additional access also benefits local partners like the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. Acquisition of the parcel will eliminate the need to acquire a flood easement for water level management and ease restoration and remediation efforts on the Black Lake Ranch parcel. The acquisition improves the management of the adjacent 1,012-acre Black Lake Ranch parcel by reducing trespass and improving access, and will ultimately increase ecological diversity, improve habitat and benefit wildlife.

No buildings are part of the acquisition. IDFG pays fee-in-lieu-of-taxes (FILT) for all fee-title properties but this property is smaller than the 10+ acre size where FILT payments apply.

The property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session on May 9, 2018.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

**Public Involvement Process:**

The public is supportive of Department ownership and management on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA. County commissioners have been contacted and are supportive of the acquisition. The public will be informed and contacted for their input regarding management of the property.

**Justification:**

Acquisition of this parcel fulfills Department land acquisition objectives by providing wetlands for waterfowl production and public access for hunting and fishing opportunities.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisition.

**Action Requested:**

Approval of Commission to proceed with the fee-title acquisition.

Suggested Motion: Commission adopt staff recommendations to proceed with the Lee James fee-title acquisition.