

Meeting Date: May 16-17, 2019

Agenda Item No. 5I

Agenda Item: Region 6 – Kepps Crossing acquisition

Approved by: 

Prepared by: Gregg Servheen and Steve Elam

Background:

This 912-acre property is located approximately 20 miles East of Idaho Falls, ID. This property abuts IDFG land that is managed as part of the Tex Creek WMA. The Property contains relatively natural habitat of sagebrush, riparian areas, forested slopes, and aspen stands. Habitat found on the Property provides benefit to species such as moose, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, mountain lion, Great Horned Owl, Mountain Bluebird, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brewer’s Sparrow, Swainson’s Hawk, Golden Eagle, Greater Sage Grouse, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse and Northern Harrier, among many other species. Elk, mule deer, and moose, all use the property. In late fall, numerous elk transition through the property to winter habitats, with some wintering on the property itself. Moose and limited numbers of mule deer and elk summer on the property. Robust aspen stands on the property provide quality fawning habitat for mule deer.

The Property adjoins public lands owned and managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and is in close proximity to public lands managed by U.S. Forest Service, and its conservation will help buffer and protect important wildlife habitat on these adjoining public lands.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2017.

Acquisition cost are \$1,140,000 (appraised value) of Bonneville Power Administration mitigation funds.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated at \$38,300.

PILT is estimated at \$347 per year.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

Public Involvement Process:

Bonneville County commissioners have been notified.

Staff Recommendation:

The Lands Committee recommends acquiring the 912-acre parcel.

Suggested Motion: Approve acquiring the 912-acre Kepps Crossing property.