

**Meeting Date:** May 16-17, 2019

**Agenda Item No.** 5J

**Agenda Item:** Region 3 – Hoover acquisition

**Approved by:** 

**Prepared by:** Gregg Servheen and Steve Elam

**Background:**

The Hoover property is a relatively intact 232 acre parcel of native grass and shrub communities adjacent to the Boise River WMA approximately 10 mile Northeast of Boise, ID. The primary wildlife community that would benefit from this acquisition is big game, including mule deer and elk. This area provides winter habitat for elk and to a lesser degree mule deer. Perhaps the most impactful benefit is the connectivity with forthcoming efforts to install a wildlife overpass on nearby Highway 21. The location provides for excellent security for wildlife as well, due to the challenges of access. The property is bordered on two sides by IDFG and US Forest Service lands.

The area harbors mule deer and elk year round, and in winter they generally partition the habitat between elk on the more exposed ridges and deer in the more sheltered draws. The other key habitat feature is the connectivity this parcel provides between the higher elevation forest habitat and the lower elevation shrub-steppe habitat in the Warm Springs watershed.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game proposes to acquire the property to provide long-term conservation of year-round wildlife habitat and to provide wildlife-based recreation, including hunting.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in January 2019.

Acquisition cost is \$350,000 (appraised value) and will be comprised of \$287,800 in blended Pittman Robertson-license monies from the sale of Lawman and Withers properties and \$62,200 in license funding.

Annual maintenance costs are estimated at \$9,750.

PILT is estimated at \$1,230 per year.

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

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission land acquisition policy.

**Public Involvement Process:**

Boise County commissioners have been notified.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Lands Committee recommends acquiring the 232-acre parcel.

**Suggested Motion:** Approve acquiring the 232-acre Hoover property.