

Meeting Date: May 17, 2019

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Large tracts access update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

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Background:

Passage of H.B. 230 provided additional funding to the Department to implement innovative access projects. In 2018 the Department, developed the “large tracts program” to incentivize longer term, cost-effective public access to large tracts of private lands. The Department invited proposals from large-acreage landowners (≥50,000 acres) to provide multi-year public access for hunting/fishing/trapping activities.

The first proposal was from Potlatch-Deltic for privately owned timber lands in northern Idaho. Potlatch-Deltic owns parcels located in Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, and Shoshone Counties, totaling 567,002 acres.

The second proposal was from the North Idaho Forest group (Stimson Lumber Co., Hancock Forest Management and Molpus Woodlands Group) for parcels in Bonner, boundary, Benewah,, Shoshone, Kootenai county totaling approximately 358,305 acres.

This agenda item is informational in providing the Commission with an update on the completion of this multi-year, non-exclusive lease with Potlatch-Deltic and pending completion with the North Idaho Forest Group.

- 1) As used in this Lease, “Recreational Activities” includes lawful hunting, fishing, and trapping; wildlife viewing; hiking; and recreational travel limited to motor vehicle travel on roads open to full-sized vehicles and non-motorized travel.
- 2) The Lease is effective from May 2019 through December 31, 2021 (Initial Term). Beginning on January 1, 2022, the Lease will automatically renew for successive three-year terms indefinitely (*e.g.*, 2022-2024, 2025-2027).
- 3) IDFG will pay Lessor rent for each calendar year, based on a cost of one dollar (\$1.00) per acre of Leased Area.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code §36-104 grants authority to the Commission to enter into lease agreements with private landowners.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department recently conducted satisfaction/opinion surveys related to the updating of the whitetail and mule deer management plans as well as the upland game plan. In each case access was raised as a concern for Idaho’s sportsmen.

Justification:

Commission request for a briefing.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A

Action Requested:

N/A