

PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PLAC)

Minam River, Phase 2 Review Summary

July 27, 2023 Meeting

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Minam Acquisition, Phase 2

Transaction Type (check one): Acquisition Disposal

I. Proposed Real Property Transaction (if the transaction is an acquisition please include a description of the intended use of the property):

- ODFW will acquire, as the second phase, a total of 10,692 acres of land in Wallowa County with a small portion in Union County (see attached maps).
- The acquisition will provide connectivity between multiple other federally and state protected conservation areas, winter range for big game, migration habitat for salmon, and public access for recreation (see attached PowerPoint).

II. Reason for PLAC Review (include what the agency is requesting from the PLAC):

- In compliance with ORS 270.120 (6), the PLAC shall advise Agency and DAS on the acquisition of this property.

III. Background Information

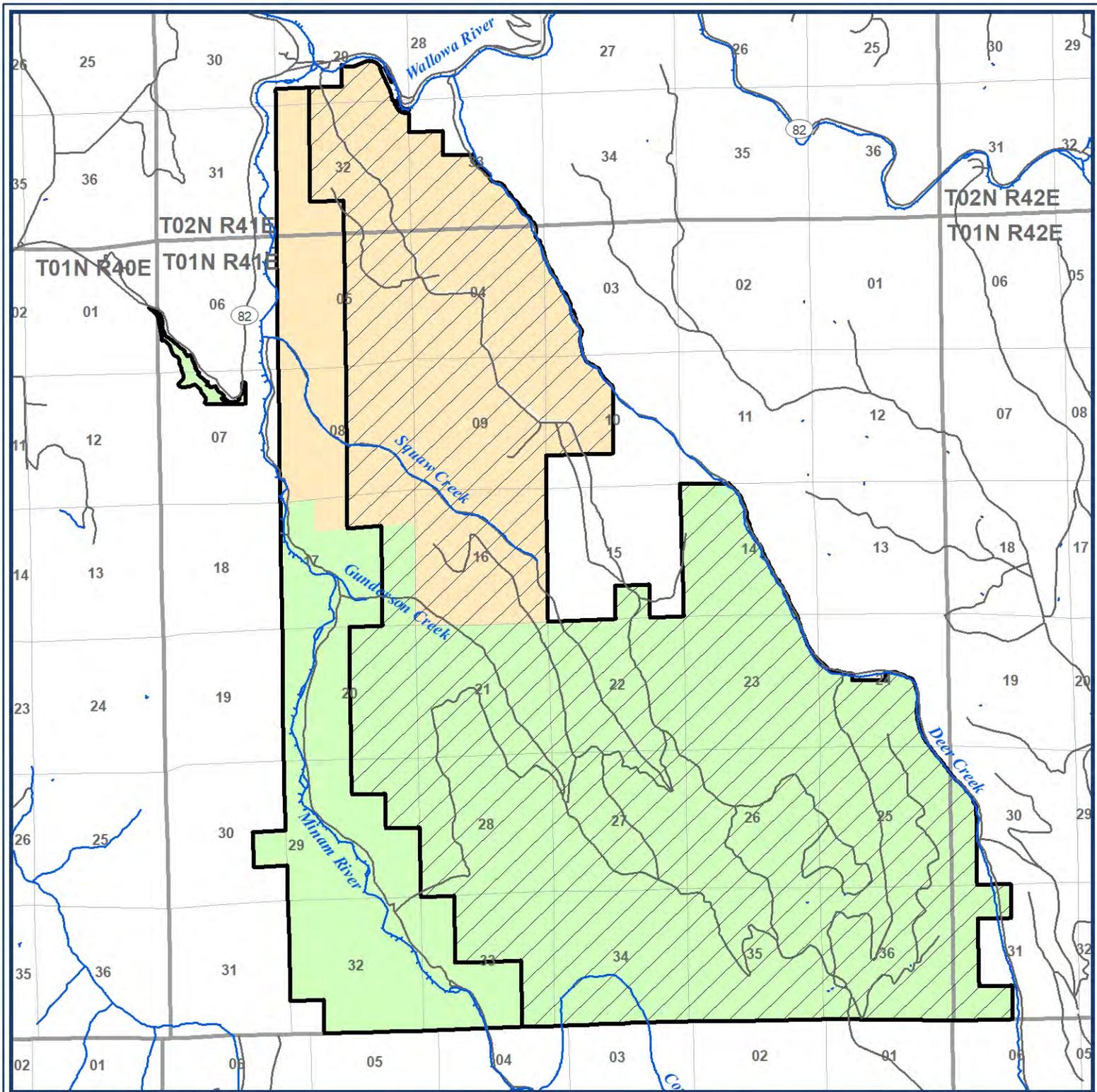
- ODFW has made several efforts to acquire this property over the past 20+ years,
- Local and state officials are supportive of the acquisition.
- ODFW acquired Phase 1 of the project (4,609 acres) at the end of 2021.
- The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is acting as facilitator in the transaction, and will acquire title from six different ownership entities, all represented by the Hancock Timber Company. ODFW will acquire title from RMEF either simultaneously with, or immediately after, the acquisition from the Hancock represented parties.
- Financing for the project is being provided as follows:
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will provide **\$3,500,000** of the purchase price as a donation.
 - A “Forest Legacy Grant” in the amount of **\$9,700,000** was recently authorized by the US Forest Service.
- An appraisal of both phases of the property was completed prior to Phase 1 acquisition, and a new appraisal for Phase 2 is currently in progress, but the purchase price is not expected to deviate significantly from the price established earlier.
- The agency is working closely with DOJ on the legal aspects of the transaction (e.g., purchase agreements, title review, etc.). Hancock has requested that the PSA between Hancock and RMEF not be available for public review (though it is available to the DOJ). The significant terms of the acquisition are not in question, but DOJ is focused on minimizing any and all risks to the State. No major issues have arisen to date.

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IV. Topics for PLAC Consideration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General review of the transaction. ODFW requests PLAC recommendation to proceed with the transaction.• PLAC reviewed and approved Phase 1 of this transaction in 2021
V. Staff Comments (agency comments that are not already included and DAS staff comments):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
VI. PLAC Findings (Summary of Committee findings, to be completed by DAS Staff):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•



RMEF

MINAM RIVER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Union & Wallowa Counties, Oregon



This map is intended as a
general visual reference only.
MinamOR_PhaseMap.mxd
11/3/2020

LEGEND

- Stream/River
- Road
- Riparian Parcel
- Remainder Parcel
- PHASE I
- PHASE II