

**PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PLAC)**

**Minam River Review Summary**

**July 22, 2021 Meeting**

***Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife***

***Minam River Acquisition***

Transaction Type: Acquisition

**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, in two phases, a total of 15,573 acres of land in Wallowa County with a small portion in Union County (see attached maps). The first phase will include 4,609 acres and is scheduled to close before the end of December, 2021. The second phase, 10,964 acres will close in 2023 (see attached timetable). This review request covers the first phase only, though the information provided will cover both phases to provide the Committee with a more complete understanding of the transaction.
- The acquisition (approximately 24 square miles of land) 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 Project Overview).

**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.
- The agency is currently working with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which will be providing \$5,150,000 of the total \$18,700,000 purchase price as a donation. Additional funding will come from ODFW (\$2,750,000 in Pittman-Robertson funds provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and \$350,000 in banked match funding). This funding does not require additional approval from USFWS, though that agency is aware of, and supportive of, the purchase. An additional \$9,900,000 in funding is expected to come from the US Forest Service's Forest Legacy program. This Forest Legacy funding will be utilized for the second phase only, and the agency is currently working with ODF on the application for those funds (see attached funding sheet).
- 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.
- An appraisal of the property was completed several years ago, and a new appraisal is currently in progress but the purchase price is not expected to deviate significantly from the above-stated price.
- 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

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<p>between Hancock and RMEF not be available for public review (though it is available to DOJ). A second PSA, between RMEF and ODFW, is currently being drafted, but will not have been executed prior to the PLAC review on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.</p>
<b>IV. Topics for PLAC Consideration.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General review of the transaction.</li></ul>
<b>V. Staff Comments (agency comments that are not already included and DAS staff comments):</b>
<b>VI. PLAC Findings (Summary of Committee findings, to be completed by DAS Staff):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>