

Public Lands Advisory Committee



Meeting Date: July 27, 2023

Time: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Location: Virtual By Microsoft Teams

Committee Members Present: John Brown, Chair
Thuy Tran, State Representative
Sara King, Real Estate Management
Brady Ricks, EAM Real Estate Services Manager
Jennifer Blake, Exec Branch #2

Committee Members Absent: Mark Meek, State Senator

Staff: Sarah Sanders, DAS

Presenters: Dick Duncan, ODFW

Committee Administration
Chair John Brown called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed Representative Tran to the PLAC.
Call for Public Comment – none received
Approval of minutes from previous meeting – approved
Property Acquisitions & Dispositions
<p>1. Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife / Minam Acquisition Phase 2 Presented by Dick Duncan, ODFW and Nick Myatt, ODFW</p> <p>ODFW presented a proposal for the acquisition of Phase 2 of the Minam River Wildlife Area, a total of approximately 15,000 acres mostly in Wallowa County, with approximately 30 acres in Union County. PLAC approved Phase 1 of 5,000 acres in 2021, which was purchased in December of 2021. The remaining 10,000 acres are in phase 2 and need to close by November 2023. The acquisition price is \$13.25 million, with \$9.7 million Federal Grant through the Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program and \$3.5 million in private donations from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. ODFW may pay \$40-50,000 for appraisal and closing fees, although there are other grant sources to fund this. ODFW presentation covered the motivations and benefits of this acquisition to wildlife, recreation, economic, and historic goals, the timeline for completion of the transaction in November, and the high level of local support.</p> <p>Discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History and risk of wildfire to the property; no recent landscape level fire, fuel reduction will be part of the forest management plan that will be developed through a public process once ODFW owns the land. Prescribed burns are also intended as a long-term method to reduce fire danger.• Conditions in the purchase and sale agreement or funding streams; any limitations, for example limitations on uses and management, are in line with ODFW mission and protection of conservation value of the property.

- Local tax impact; state statute requires that ODFW pay a fee in-lieu of taxes to the County so there will be no reduction in County revenue, in addition ODFW funds fire protection through assessment.
- Uses of revenue from timber; management will not be for the purpose of generating revenue but for property management in alignment with goals, any surplus revenue from timber activities will be used for property management on-site for example road and trail improvement or habitat work.

PLAC recommendation: Report accepted with a recommendation to move forward with the transaction. PLAC shared congratulations to the agency and all participants in this effort.

General Discussion

Discussion

Question on public records law and if materials shared with PLAC are open to public record even if they are being held confidentially by the agency?

Request for update on ODOT land in Baker City and status of vacant land at next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Next meeting:

October 26, 2023

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm