

STATE: Idaho

PROJECT: 81-L
Land Acquisition Project

PRELIMINARY PROJECT STATEMENT

LAND ACQUISITION

as required by

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

Date: January 23, 1948

The Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The State of Idaho, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September 2, 1937 (50 Stat. 917), as amended, entitled "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in wildlife-restoration projects, and for other purposes," and to the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of the Interior made and published thereunder, does hereby submit by its Idaho Fish and Game Commission, constituting the Idaho Fish and Game Department, this preliminary project statement for the wildlife-restoration project described herein, which it is proposed to carry on under the provisions of said Act and said Rules and Regulations, and for which Federal aid is requested out of the apportionments made to said State by the secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the said act.

1. Name of project: Primitive Area Winter Range Acquisition
(South Fork, Middle Fork of Salmon & Lemhi, Custer, Idaho and Valley Chamberlain)
2. County:
3. Nearest town: Big Creek, located within project area is bounded by the following towns: Florence & Dixie on north; Shoup & Myers Cove on east; Cape Horn on the south and Yellowpine & Warren on the west.
4. Needs for the proposed acquisition:

The Middle Fork of the Salmon River is one of Idaho's most important big game ranges. There is an abundance of summer range but the extent of winter range is small and the limiting factor on big game populations. Deer, elk and bighorn sheep migrate from the surrounding higher elevations into the lower, warmer and more open slopes of the Middle Fork and its tributaries for the winter. These wintering areas are those preferred by domestic livestock and any competition is sorely felt by big game animals.

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Each private land holding in this area is a potential base for a grazing permit on adjoining National Forest Land or a base for a dude ranch operation. Horses and saddle stock essential dude ranch operations are generally wintered in this area because of the distance to outside range.

At the present time some twelve of the twenty-three private land areas listed are potential bases for livestock or dude ranch operations. These twelve ownerships use the winter range areas to the extent of some 3,089 animal months. This competitive use is during the important growing season or yearlong. Animal months are figured on U.S. Forest Service grazing permits, but only includes the "Idaho primitive area." Where Salmon River marks the boundary of primitive area, ranches on opposite side of river are not included in this listing.

Some value will accrue to fishing. The value of public ownership to trout streams cannot be over-emphasized. There is likewise another value involved that should be considered. Each private land area in this back country is the potential base for nuisance operations and game, fur and fish poaching.

Planned administration of project area:

- (a) Area will be opened to hunting according to management policies of Idaho Fish and Game Commission. It is necessary to harvest game to keep population within carrying capacity of winter range.
- (b) Headquarter sites will be established for summer and winter patrol. (Will be adjacent to landing fields where operation of flown hunters can be observed.)
- (c) No other use will be made of the lands other than for game propagation.

Wildlife restoration developments planned:

Willow and browse should be planted along bars to eventually supplement existing browse.

Boundaries:

The attached map shows the location of the private land holdings and the attached tabulation gives location and acreage of each unit. There may be a few additional private land holdings revealed through further research into land status record.

Cover type percent:

Most of this land is grazing land with a few artificial meadows on the river banks.

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The following is taken from tax records:

(a) Irrigated Agriculture	99 acres
(b) Dry	54 "
(c) Meadow	105 "
(d) Grazing	3,942.87 "
(e) Waste	<u>681.04 "</u>
Total acreage	4,881.91 acres

(B) Timber land:

Virgin stand of Ponderosa Pine, lodge pole and fir are found in the area, but because it is not accessible it is given no commercial value.

(E) Marsh:

Not applicable.

(F) Brush:

Dense stands of brush or browse are not found. Slopes are sparsely covered with sage brush, bitter brush, small amount of mahogany. Along creeks, willow, alder and aspen are commonly found.

(G-H) Submerged lands & lakes: Not applicable

(I) Rivers:

Middle Fork & Main Salmon River run through center of proposed project.

Total acres: 4,881.91

9. Land improvements:

Inspections of entire area have not been made to figure current value of all improvements. With each option or Plans, Specifications and Estimates submitted, accurate information of improvements will be submitted. For Preliminary Project Statement improvements are figured from assessed values as taken from individual county records and increased by 70% for approximate current value.

Total improvements: 6,750.00

10. Present land use:

(a) Farming:

Not applicable.

(b) Grazing:

Local holdings are dude ranches with permit for grazing on Forest Service adjacent land in addition to their own private property. Some ranches go in for production of horses, selling them locally for pack or saddle stock or driving them out for going market. Three of the ranches raise cattle from which marketable stock is trailed out to open market for sale.

c) Trapping:

Trapping of some fur bearing animals is engaged in annually--beaver, mink, muskrats and marten are the few animals found in the area. State trappers and trappers have, at various times, trapped and hunted coyotes, cougar and bob cats are all fairly common in the area.

d) Hunting:

Hunting above Camas Creek is composed mostly of deer hunting; however, elk are taken. Below Camas Creek, deer, elk, bighorns and mtn. goat may be taken. This area in past years had permitted hunters to take two deer. However, total deer removal was not accomplished and a straight "one deer permitted" was adopted. The season in this area has been from 67 to 57 days. In 1946 had 57 days-- deer removal was 700 to 1,000.

Considerable value is placed upon this property as sites for private hunting and fishing lodges. McCall Ranch sold last year for \$45,000.00 and was only 80 acres. However, it did have a nice lodge and small sawmill on property.

Timber:

Most of privately owned land is adjacent to river and does not carry heavy stands of timber. All existing stands are virgin except for limited amount taken for cabin construction, or when clearings have been made for airports.

Tracts in unit:

There are 42 ownerships totaling 4,881.72 acres, with an average ownership of 116 acres.

Tract ownership:

All private ownership except for one ranch (Mitchell ranch) purchased for the project range under Federal Aid Project 68-L-1, in 1946.

Land rentals:

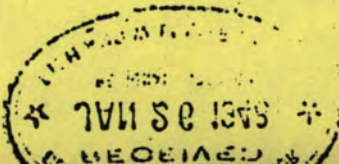
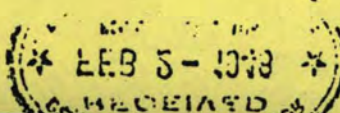
Not applicable.

Purchase possibilities:

We now have options on four ranches. Some holdings it will be impossible to purchase at present, due to inflated prices paid for and asked for property. When times strike and operations change, these sites can eventually be acquired.

Estimated acquisition costs:

Land	\$121,025.00
Improvements	6,750.00
Products	<u>none</u>
Total	\$127,775.00



(a) Negotiations	\$3,111.70
(b) Land examination	2,000.00
(c) Boundary survey	00.00
(d) Title, abstracting & vesting	300.00
(e) Contingency	<u>7,666.50</u>

Total \$13,078.20

Estimated total cost of project:

\$140,853.20

Estimated time to complete project:

Life of project to extend until all lands have been acquired. We propose to acquire lands in the following order: (1) Middle Fork of Salmon River; (2) Big Creek; (3) Chamberlain Basin; (4) Main Salmon River

Funds for maintenance to be provided by:

Federal, 75%; State 25%

Names of State employees who examined area:

T. B. Murray, Director, Fish and Game Department; Vernon B. Rich, Coordinator, Wildlife Restoration; T. D. Biladeau, Big Game Supervisor.

This statement covers all of the work contemplated under the entire land-acquisition program for this area.

Assurance is given that the foregoing information concerning the project described herein is presented to the best ability of the Idaho Fish and Game Department, and that all of the provisions of the State laws affecting the power authority of the Idaho Fish and Game Department to cooperate with the Federal Government in relation to this project have been fully complied with.

Respectfully submitted: IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

By: T. B. Murray
T. B. Murray, Director

Approved: Date FEB 3 - 1948

Approved: Date FEB 10 1948

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Regional Director

By: R. M. Rutherford
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

(2) 1/14/48
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MIDDLE FORK AND TRIBUTARIES

14 N, R 9 E	Sec. 13		160.00	# 1
14 N, R 9 E	Sec. 21-22		160.00	2
16 11	Sec. 8	Eckles	144.33	3
16 12	Sec. 17-20	HES 77 McCall	80.53	6
16 12	Sec. 15-16	HES 387	62.27	7
16 13	Sec. 6	Cameron (Warnock)	147.20	4
16 13	Sec. 5-6-7-8	HES 78	66.95	9
16 14	Sec. 27-28-34	HES 581	68.00	14
17 13	Sec. 32-33		46.39	10
17 14	Sec. 18-19	HES 606	121.31	11
18 14	Sec. 21-22	HES 498 ✓	62.87	5
19 14	Sec. 27-34	HES 424	131.00 82.00	8
19 14	Sec. 22-27		309.19	12
19 14	Sec. 34		110.70	13
20 13	Sec. 3		64.84	15
21 11	Sec. 23		33.24	16
21 12	Sec. 28-29		160.00	17
21 12	Sec. 17-20-21		160.00	18
21 12	Sec. 25-26		320.00	19
21 12	Sec. 24		<u>300.00</u>	20

Total acreage: 2,790.82

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N, R 12 E	Sec. 20-21		157.65	# 21
10	Sec. 27-34-35	HES 698-703-711-704-692-689 702-699-344	407.97	22
9	Sec. 22-23-26-27		85.20	23
9	Sec. 28-29-31-32		27.83	24
4	Sec. 7-8	HES 449	159.00	25
4	Sec. 23-26	" 444	57.00	26
4	Sec. 23-26	" 725	40.00	27
6	Sec. 12	" 817	27.29	28
6	Sec. 1-12	" 733	135.00	29
7	Sec. 15-16	" 728	84.00	30
8	Sec. 19	" 259	79.00	31
8	Sec. 32	" 537	48.97	32
8	Sec. 28-29	" 342	38.00	33
8	Sec. 15-16	" 684	134.00	34
9	Sec. 29-30	" 707	28.00	35
9	Sec. 1-2-11-12	" 726	120.00	36
9	Sec. 3	" 727	106.00	37
9	Sec. 3-10	" 732	160.00	38
10	Sec. 5	" 690	50.00	39
10	Sec. 32	" 729	36.54	40
10	Sec. 21-28	" 169	61.45	41
11	Sec. 19-30	" 243	<u>50.00</u>	42
Total acreage:			2,092.90	

Middle Fork Tributaries
Main Salmon Tributaries

2,790.82 A.
2,092.90 A.

TOTAL ACREAGE

4,883.72

