

**Meeting Date:** March 24, 2009

**Agenda Item No.** 17

**Agenda Item:** Region 6- Benson Land Acquisition

**Bureau Chief Approval:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Steve Elam and Gregg Servheen

**Background:**

This 1030.35 acre property borders Tex Creek WMA in the Upper Snake region, lies within critical mule deer and elk winter range, and currently has active sharp-tailed grouse leks. 670 acres are in CRP with an annual income of \$27,790. Acquisition cost is \$860,500 in license funds. PILT is estimated at \$898/year. O&M costs are estimated at \$3000 annually.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in November of 2008

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Land acquisition in accordance with Commission and Department land acquisition policy.

**Public Involvement Process:**

County commissioners will be notified and asked for their input. The public will be informed and contacted for their input regarding management of the property.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Lands Committee recommends proceeding with the acquisition.