



## Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

4/7/2023

**Agenda item:**

4. Lands 20/20 Expedited Review

**Presenter(s):**

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager & Lisa Coffman, Lands 20/20 Coordinator

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**Background summary:**

The expedited Lands 20/20 process has identified two potential land acquisition projects under consideration by the WDFW Director for 2023. These projects have been through internal cross program review, Tribal Briefing and Consultation, a two-week public comment process and are being presented to the Commission as a briefing. This briefing provides the Commission with information on these projects, including a summary of public comments received.

**Projects:**

**Frenchman Coulee – Grant County:**

This proposed acquisition project is for WDFW to purchase approximately 159 acres in the Babcock Bench area of Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, Quincy Lake Unit. The property provides significant recreational opportunities as well as space to reduce overcrowding in an area that is extremely popular for rock climbing.

Recreational opportunities enhanced by acquiring this property includes horseback riding, rock and ice climbing, biking, hiking, geocaching, bird watching, and the potential for limited hunting.

**Methow Watershed – Okanogan County:**

This proposed acquisition project is for the Methow Conservancy (MC) to purchase approximately 379 acres as part of a larger 1,200-acre conservation effort in the Methow Watershed.

The property includes critical shrub-steppe, dry forest, riparian and wetland habitats that will protect resident and migratory deer herds, western gray squirrel, and a robust reptile and amphibian population, has a tremendous bird diversity, and is important to the areas resident wolf pack(s).

Recreation on this property includes an existing trail-based system maintained by Methow Trails with extensive wildlife viewing and interaction opportunities and provides landscape connectivity to surrounding public land.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

Thorough analysis and evaluation of proposed land acquisition projects intended to protect and preserve critical habitats and recreational access. Eventual outcome is acquisition.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

None

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

Public involvement included regional staff coordination with local governments, a virtual tribal review and a web based public review period. We received 60 public comments, 52 (86.6%) of which were positive. Positive comments were received on individual projects as well as both projects. Of the 8 remaining comments, half were general to the department and government acquiring new land but did not call out a specific project. The remaining comments were in regard to why DFW would allow rock climbing, urging more focus on acquisition for hunting and fishing needs as opposed to trails and these lands taking away from needed development.

**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Briefing only.

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**Draft motion language:**

None, briefing only.

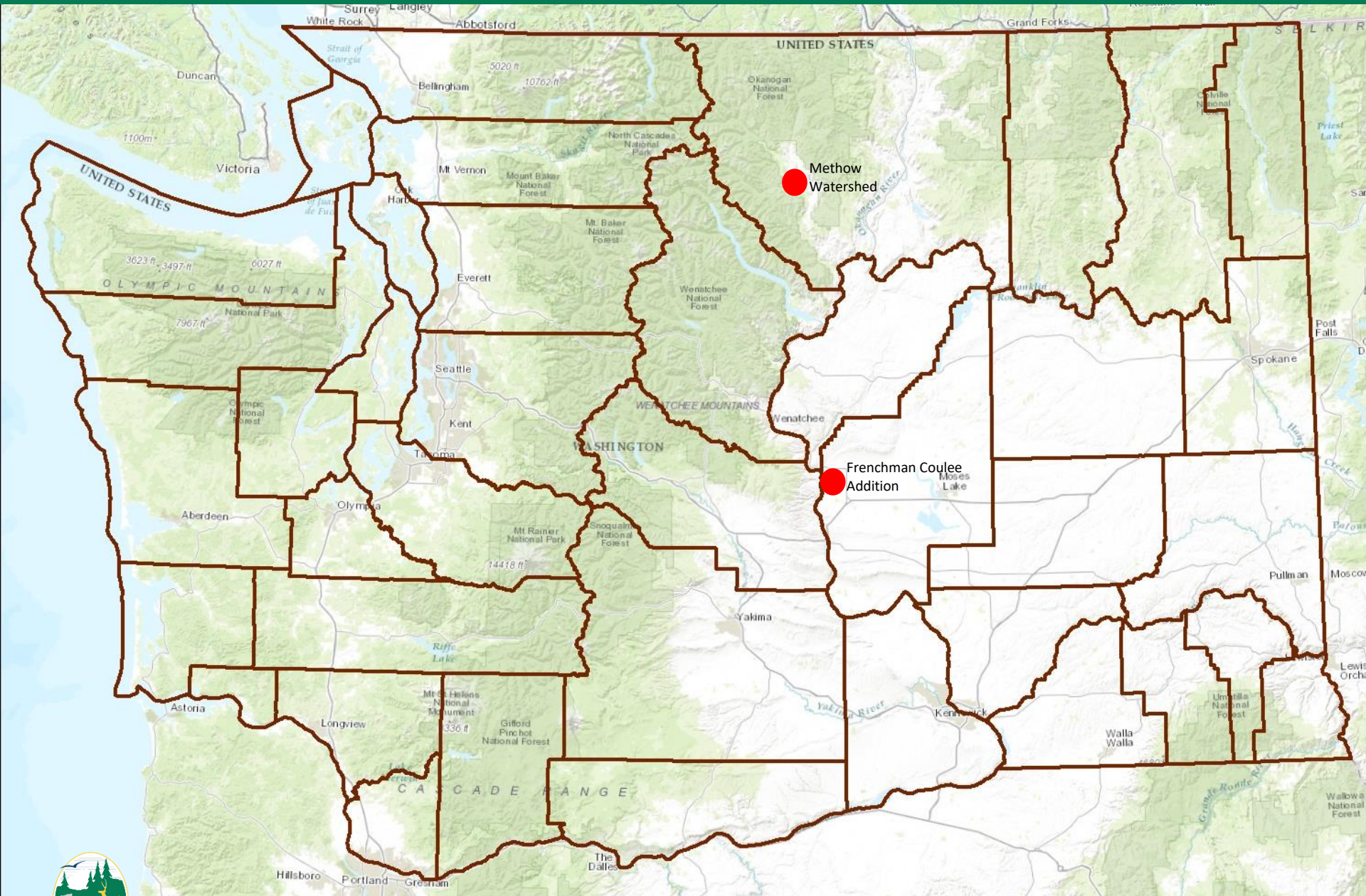
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**Post decision communications plan:**

Briefing only.

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# 2023 Lands 20/20 Expedited Review

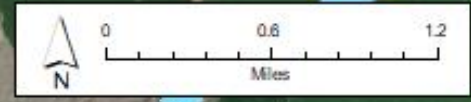




*Frenchman Coulee  
Grant County*



# Frenchman Coulee Grant County



Proposed

**Frenchman Coulee Addition**

- Wildlife Area Units
- Interstate
- Lakes
- Rivers

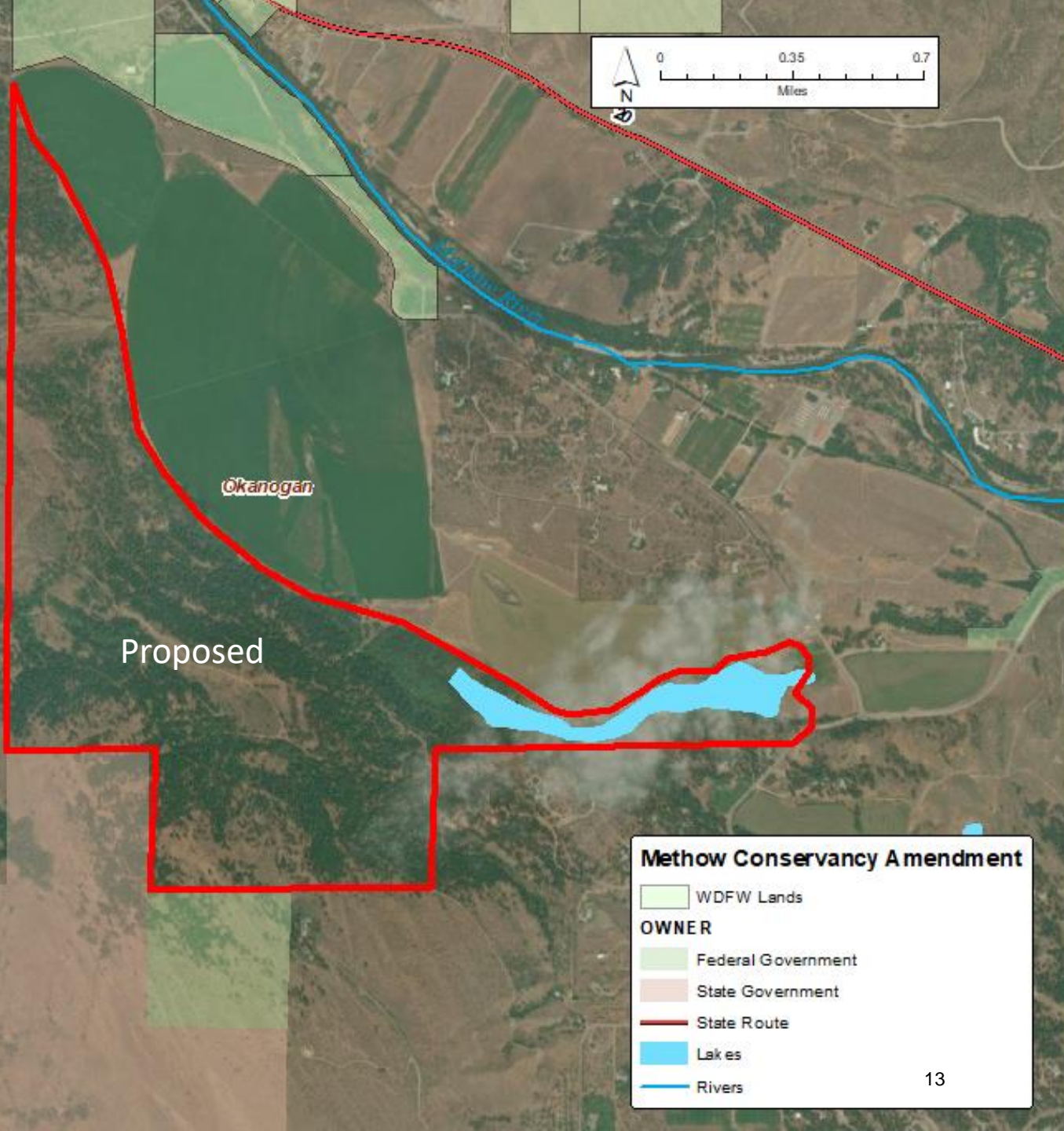
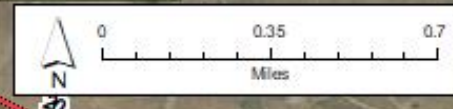




*Methow Watershed  
Okanogan County*



*Methow Watershed  
Okanogan County*



**Methow Conservancy Amendment**

- WDFW Lands

**OWNER**

- Federal Government
- State Government
- State Route
- Lakes
- Rivers