

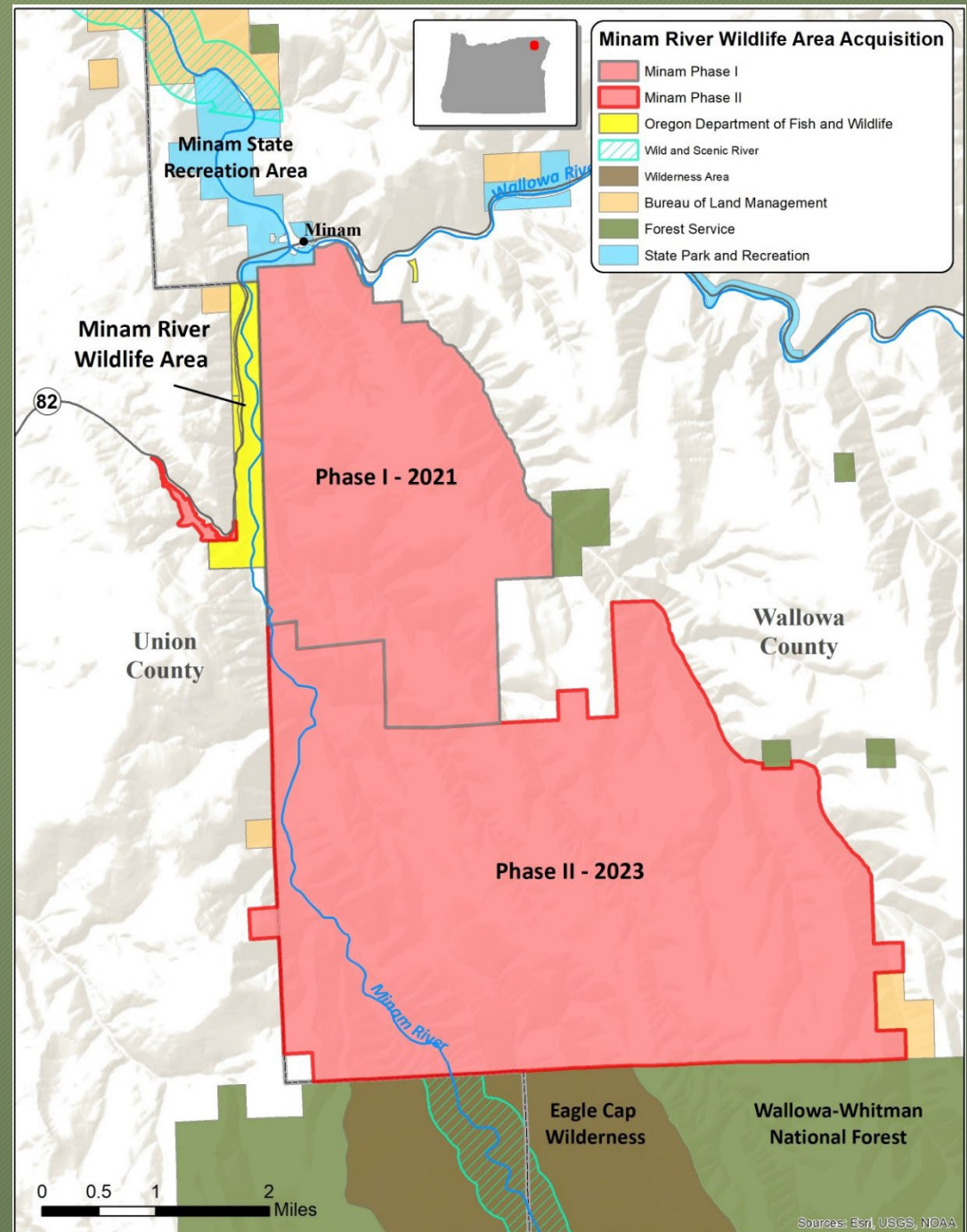
Phase 2 Minam River Wildlife Area Acquisition

Jon Paustian - ODFW Habitat Biologist
Bill Richardson - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
September 15, 2023



Project Overview

- Managed by Manulife with legal authority to negotiate sale
- Two phase, total of 15,573 acres
 - Phase 1 - 4,609 acres
 - Phase 2 - 10,964 acres
- Fee-simple acquisition
- Phase 1 completed 2021
- Seeking Commission approval to move forward with Phase 2 closing



Project Features

- High conservation value
- Priority aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- Threatened and endangered species
- Wildlife diversity
- Public recreation
- Cultural heritage
- Opportunity for “working lands” management
- Maintain county tax revenue and fire assessment



Phase 2 Funding

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$3,500,000
<u>USDA - Forest Legacy Grant</u>	<u>\$9,754,000</u>
	\$13,254,000



Due Diligence

- Appraisal
 - Completed initially in 2019
 - Updated September 2023
- Purchase and Sales Agreement
 - Manulife → RMEF → ODFW
 - DOJ review and involvement
- Title search completed
 - Very clean, no known issues of concern
- Environmental assessment
 - Completed; no recognizable environmental conditions



Public Outreach

- Wallowa and Union County Commissioners
- Elected officials
- Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee
- Adjacent landowners
- Non-profit groups
- Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee
- Virtual public meeting targeting Wallowa and Union County residents
- Oregon Public Lands Advisory Committee



Phase I Acquisition

- Minam River Wildlife Area
- Public Recreational Use
- Working Landscape
- Community Support



Minam River Wildlife Area

- Management Plan Development
- Public Process
- ODFW Commission Approval



Project Partners





RECOMMENDED MOTION:

I move to approve the acquisition of the Minam River Phase II property, approximately 10,964 acres in Wallowa and Union Counties, and direct staff to proceed to escrow closing upon completion of all processes required under Oregon law for land acquisition.