ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

MINAM RIVER WILDLIFE AREA ACQUISITION

WALLOWA COUNTY AND UNION COUNTY, OREGON

PROJECT FACTS

PROJECT SIZE

- 15,573+/- Acres
- Phase I: 4,609 Acres (close Dec 2021)
- Phase II: 10,964 Acres (close Dec 2023)

ANTICIPATED PURCHASE PRICE

- 2019 Appraised Value: $18,700,000
- Phase I Value: $5,508,354
- Phase II Value: $13,191,646

ANTICIPATED FUNDING

- Phase I:
  Pittman-Robertson Funds, RMEF, and others
- Phase II:
  Forest Legacy Program, RMEF, and others

PARTNERS

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
- Hancock Natural Resource Group

LOCATION

- Property is along the Minam River, primarily in Wallowa County with a small portion in Union County.
- Property is adjacent to the existing ODFW Minam River Wildlife Area, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Minam State Recreation Area, USFS Eagle Cap Wilderness, and Bureau of Land Management lands.

LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT

- Managed by ODFW as part of existing State Wildlife Area lands, in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).
- Continued management as a “working landscape,” with active forest management and grazing used as a tool to improve and maintain wildlife habitat.

LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY

The Minam River Wildlife Area Acquisition will link wildlife habitat from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the federally designated Eagle Cap Wilderness Area to the Minam State Recreation Area at the confluence of the Minam and Wallowa Wild and Scenic Rivers. Property includes numerous Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats and species, federal and state listed species, and species of local economic and cultural importance. Active habitat management on the property will allow various wildlife species to move across elevation gradients, enhancing the resilience of existing populations in the face of climate variability.

CRUCIAL BIG GAME WINTER RANGE

Permanent protection of crucial winter, year-round, and transitional habitat along a migration corridor for elk, mule deer, and other wildlife.

ANADROMOUS FISH AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

Acquisition of this property will conserve approximately 160 miles of perennial and intermittent streams, including a significant stretch of the Minam River, providing spawning, rearing and migration habitat for Snake River spring/summer-run Chinook salmon (federal and state threatened) and Snake River Basin steelhead (federal threatened), Grande Ronde bull trout (federal threatened), and Pacific lamprey (state sensitive).

The National Marine Fisheries Service's Snake River Recovery Plan calls for the conservation of pristine tributary habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead, and identifies the Minam River as one of the primary tributaries impacting the Grande Ronde population groups.

PUBLIC ACCESS FOR RECREATION

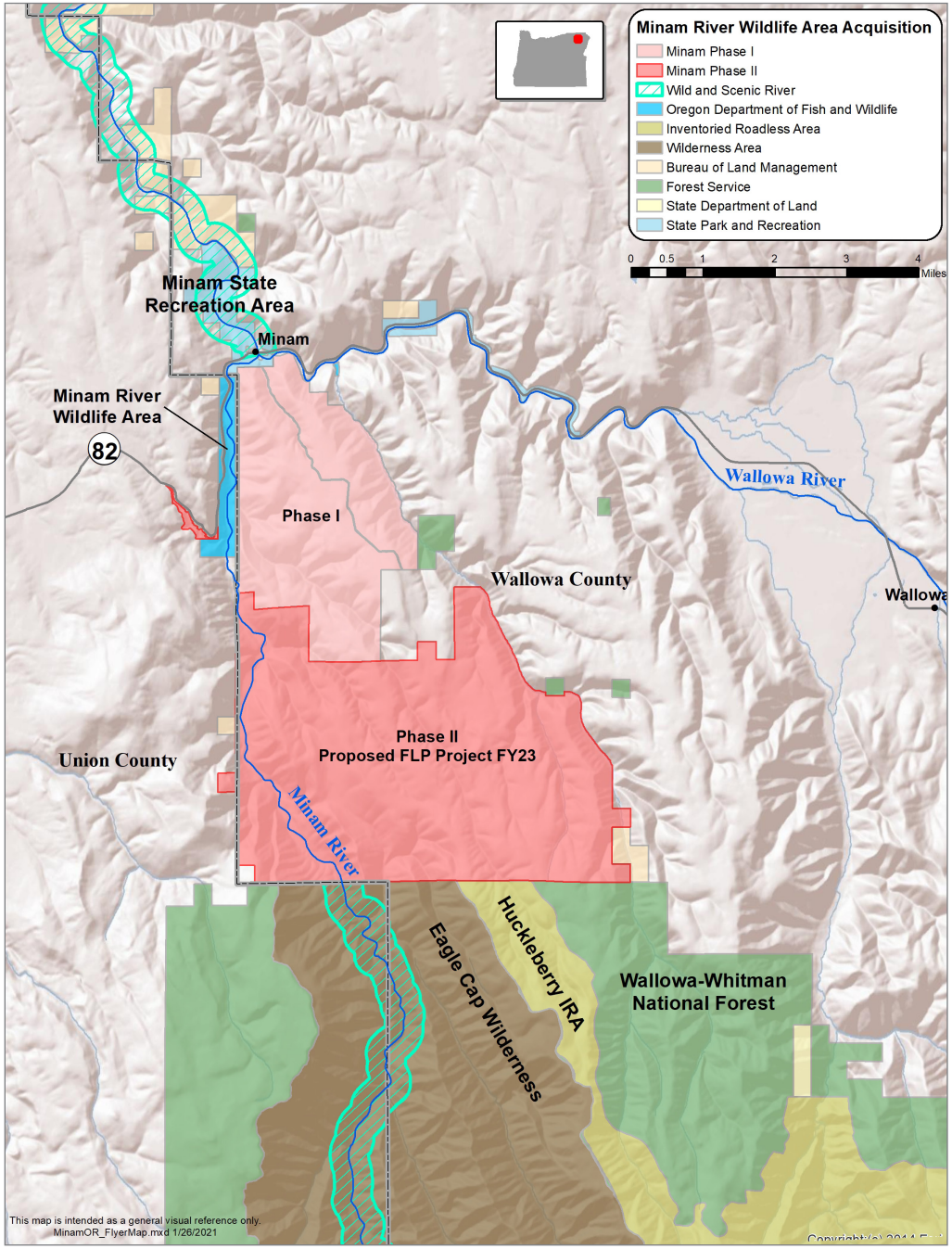
Acquisition will secure 15,573 acres of public recreational access, improve access to more than 6,000 acres of adjacent National Forest lands, and open new access to 40 acres of landlocked Bureau of Land Management lands.

Hunters, anglers, backpackers, horse packers, wildlife viewers and other recreationists will have access to a remote, rugged landscape. Outdoor enthusiasts will have improved access to the Eagle Cap Wilderness and the existing trail network on the National Forest lands, including the Minam River Trail which traverses the property.

Recreational opportunities are easily accessible due to the property's location along the Highway 82 Hells Canyon Scenic Byway.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Informal discussions with local elected officials have not raised any concerns.
- Formal outreach and information to local officials, the public and tribes will begin soon.
- Positive economic impact on rural economies due to outdoor recreation spending, as well as economic contributions from maintaining livestock grazing and forestry on the property.
- As with other state owned wildlife areas, ODFW will pay fees "in-lieu" of property taxes to maintain county tax revenues.



FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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