

**MT HAGGIN WMA ADDITION
Project Proposal**

1. Applicant Name: Mark Deleray
2. Date: 10 Sept 2018
3. Project Name: Mt Haggin WMA Addition Type of Acquisition: Fee
4. Size: 150 private acres, bordered on two sides by Mt Haggin WMA
5. Location: Region 3, Deer Lodge County, 10 miles south of Anaconda, MT, adjacent to the northern-central boundary of Mt. Haggin WMA.
6. Maps:

Figure 1: Overview of property location

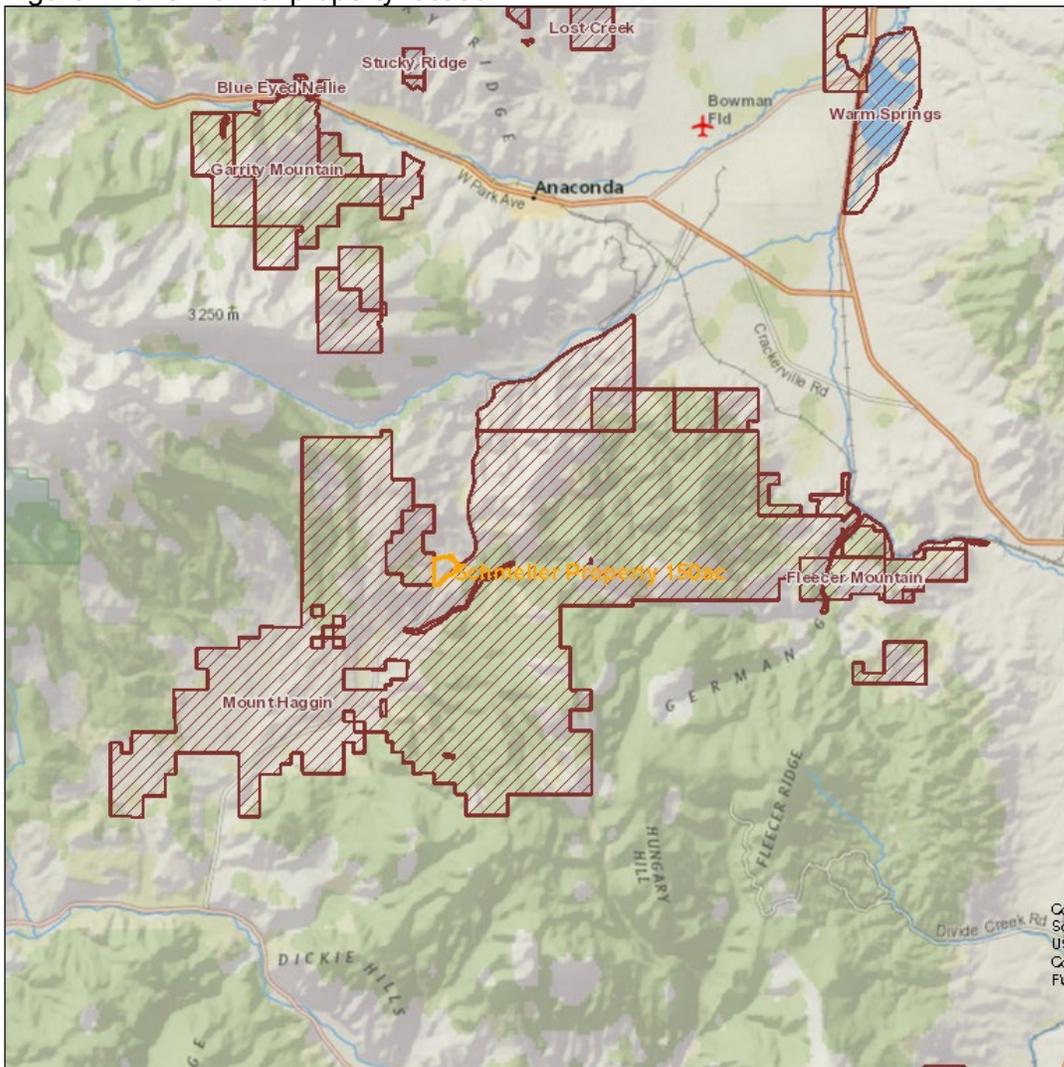
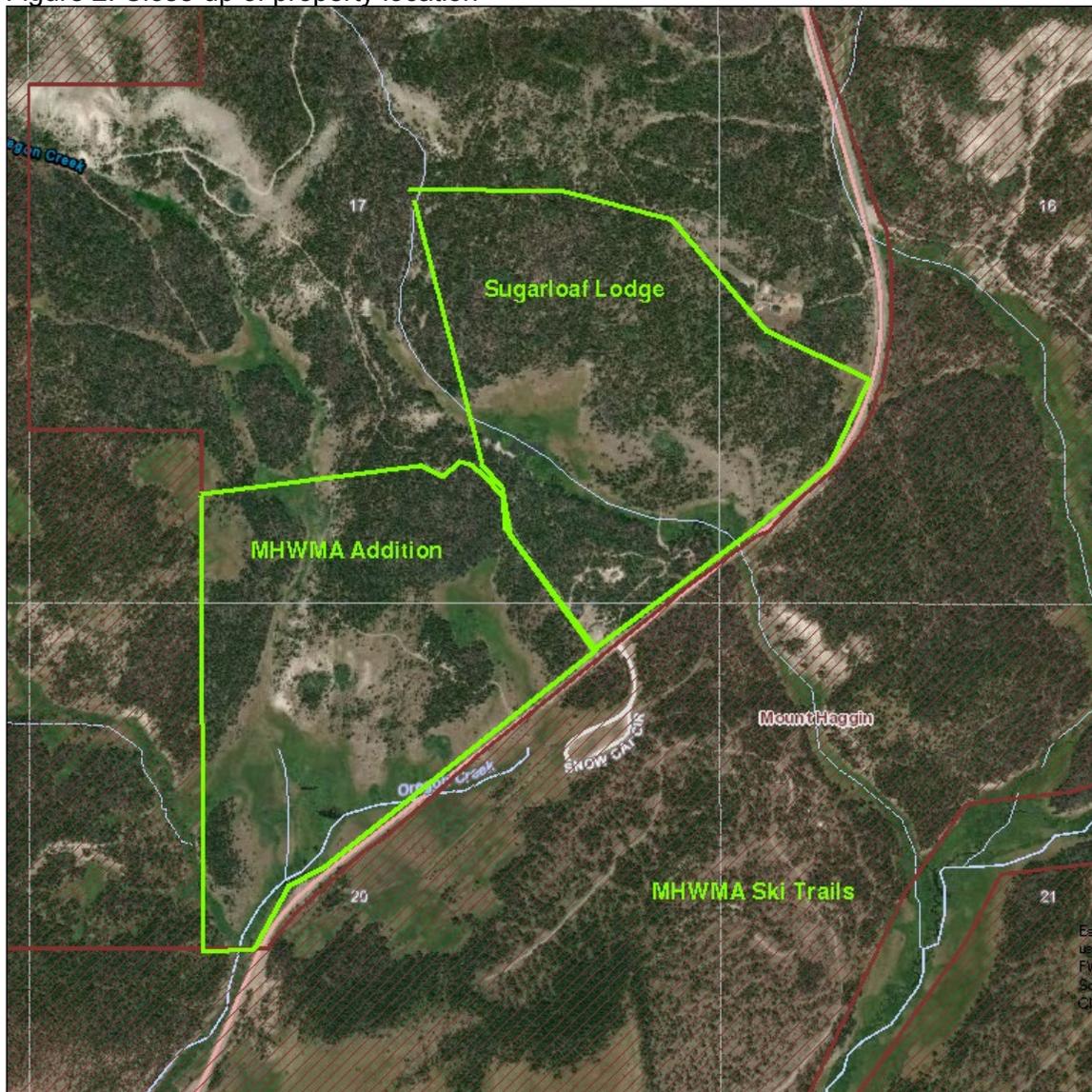


Figure 2: Close-up of property location



7. Project Need– 10 pts.

The Mt Haggin WMA Addition property offers many qualities that are attractive to FWP:

- It borders the WMA on the west and southeastern sides.
- It includes the riparian area and wetlands of Oregon Creek.
- Located just below the Continental Divide, it provides migration corridors for big game as well as elk calving habitat and summer range.
- It is adjacent to the Sugarloaf Lodge property (~150 ac) which is currently for sale, making this property more at risk for development, especially with the Mt Haggin WMA cross-country ski trails right across the road.
- It would increase public access for hunting, angling, trapping, wildlife-watching and other recreational opportunities.

There is a home, garage and possibly two other outbuildings on the site. I have not seen them, but it is possible they could be sold and removed from the property.

8. Broad Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Criteria – **10 pts**

- Riparian/Wetland (50%)
- Montane Grassland (35%)
- Conifer Forest (15%)

9. Project Level Criteria

a) Resource Values - 10 pts.

The Mt Haggin WMA Addition property functions as part of the Mt Haggin elk calving area and summer range located east of the continental divide. This general area supports 400-500 elk that winter west of the divide and migrate over the pass to calve and summer. The riparian habitat associated with Oregon Creek provides year-round habitat for moose, beaver, mink, mountain grouse and numerous songbird species. The creek provides native cutthroat trout fisheries.

b) Threat Status - 10 pts: IMMINENT

The Mt Haggin WMA Addition property is perfect for development as a recreational property. It borders the WMA on two sides, has easy access from MT Highway 569, is located across the highway from the Mt Haggin WMA cross-country ski trails and snowmobile parking area, and is adjacent to the Sugarloaf Lodge, a thriving private recreational business property that is also currently for sale. The natural beauty of the Mt Haggin Addition property, complete with beaver ponds, wildlife, and the Continental Divide practically in the backyard, make this a desirable recreational property for someone with the financial means. It's located 10 miles from Anaconda's hospital and other amenities and 25 miles from the Butte airport.

c) Focal Priority- 10 pts.

According to the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, the Mt Haggin WMA Addition property does not occur within a regional focal area. It is classified as Tier 1 Wetland (Wet Meadow) and Tier 1 Montane Grassland, both priority community types. According to SWAP, conservation at the community type level provides the potential to leverage conservation resources to benefit large numbers of species. Because this property is adjacent to Mt Haggin WMA, acquisition of it will compound existing conservation benefits to wildlife resources in this area.

d) Geographic Effectiveness - 10 pts.

The Mt Haggin WMA Addition property is approximately 150 acres that shares two sides with Mt Haggin WMA. It contains ~75 acres of wetlands and several springs that provide critical moist meadows especially during late summer. Acquisition of this property would have a synergistic effect for wildlife conservation given its location adjacent to Mt Haggin WMA.

e) Contribute to hunting and fishing opportunity and other recreation – 10 pts.

Acquisition of the Mt Haggin WMA Addition would increase hunting, angling, trapping, wildlife watching, and other recreational opportunities in the Mt Haggin area. Oregon Creek and the associated beaver ponds would provide walk-in angling for native cutthroat trout. The property would provide hunting opportunities for mountain grouse, moose, elk, and deer and trapping opportunities for beaver, mink, pine marten, coyote, wolf, and bobcat. Birders would enjoy the many species of birds that are supported by the wetland and high elevation forest communities. The property would also provide the winter recreation (snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling) that this portion of Mt Haggin WMA currently provides. It's predicted that this property will add approximately 100-150 recreational use days to the Mt Haggin WMA.

f) Management Considerations – 10 pts.

Upon acquisition, the Mt Haggin WMA Addition will be managed as part of Mt Haggin WMA. No additional staffing or equipment will be required. Minimal infrastructure improvements will need to be made (sign the boundaries of the property, remove the buildings, removing any unwanted fencing).