

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Item 32: Department of Forestry Forest Legacy Minam Acquisition**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

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The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program, in the amount of \$9.8 million, for acquisition of 10,964 acres near the Minam River for conservation.

This grant opportunity would support the second phase of the Minam Conservation and Connectivity project, which would acquire working forestland and a corridor along the Minam River. This acquisition establishes the connection and protection of the nationally designated Minam and Wallowa Wild and Scenic River Corridors. The match requirement of \$3.5 million, or 26%, has been committed by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The application deadline was August 31, 2023. No additional positions or FTE are necessary, however, the Department may submit a subsequent request for additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation during the 2024 session.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.