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AMERICAN PRAIRIE RESERVE EXPANDS HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2018

Wildlife-rich Two Crow unit enrolled in Block Management Program

BOZEMAN, MT – American Prairie Reserve is pleased to expand hunting opportunities on its private lands by enrolling the Two Crow property in the 2018 Block Management hunter access program managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The addition of the Two Crow brings the total number of the Reserve’s deeded lands enrolled in the Block Management program up to 27,702 acres and the nonprofit anticipates hunter days to climb to nearly 5,000 in 2018.

The 46,275-acre Two Crow located in central Montana is home to a resident elk herd and also shares a nine-mile border with the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR). The property was originally acquired by American Prairie Reserve because of abundant wildlife and proximate location near the wildlife-rich CMR.

According to Alison Fox, CEO of American Prairie Reserve, expanding recreational access to the Two Crow was a priority after acquiring the property in 2017. The conservation group is dedicated to growing public access opportunities for a variety of recreation types – including hunting – and is proud to provide access to public lands through all of its private property.

“American Prairie Reserve is committed to providing access for hunting opportunities in Montana,” said Fox. “We are pleased to enroll the Two Crow this year and will continue to seek future opportunities to participate in the Block Management Program.”

The Reserve’s biologists, partners, and land managers revise hunting regulations each year for the organization’s deeded land. Determinations are based on population abundance and potential, and strive to achieve a balance between present interest and long-term goals of recovering more robust wildlife populations for future generations of hunters. The organization measures hunter success and satisfaction in addition to wildlife populations in response to the rules, adapting as needed.

“Our promise to all hunters is that American Prairie Reserve will strive to provide a rich and satisfying hunting experience as we also work to restore wildlife populations,” said Damien Austin, Reserve Operations Manager. “Wildlife restoration takes time and requires short-term conservation management so we can increase hunting and recreational opportunities in the long-term.”

“Block management is a highly valuable program for Montana hunters and this is a positive step to increase hunting opportunities through the program,” said Nick Gevock, Conservation Director for the Montana Wildlife Federation. “We encourage American Prairie Reserve to keep up the good work.”

"American Prairie Reserve's choice to include the Two Crow parcel in the Block Management Program is an encouraging development for Montana sportsmen," said Jared Frasier, Vice Chairman for the Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. "Allowing hunter access through block management areas creates new opportunities for all Montana hunters, which is a great thing. The Montana Chapter of BHA encourages APR to continue this trend in the future."

Along with the Two Crow, the Reserve's Burnt Lodge and Timber Creek properties are also enrolled in Block Management, which allows rifle hunting for deer, elk, and antelope through type-1 and type-2 management. On other private properties not enrolled in Block Management – including PN and Dry Fork – the Reserve will once again offer upland and migratory bird hunting and bow hunting for mule deer and whitetail.

Complete details and hunting reservation information is available on the American Prairie Reserve website: www.americanprairie/hunting.

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About American Prairie Reserve

American Prairie Reserve's mission is to create the largest nature reserve in the continental United States, a spectacular refuge for people and wildlife preserved forever as part of America's heritage. When complete, the Reserve will be larger than Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks combined and will support all the animals that historically called the Great Plains home, including buffalo, wolves, bears, elk, deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, swift fox, upland birds including the greater sage grouse, birds of prey, and all manner of snakes, amphibians, and insects. Already open to the public for recreation including camping, hunting, fishing, and birding, the Reserve offers visitors a once-in-a-lifetime, horizon-expanding opportunity to reconnect with nature on a truly grand scale. Learn more at americanprairie.org