Dear John,

American Prairie Reserve’s Hut-to-Hut System has gained significant momentum. To ring in the New Year, we are pleased to announce a gift of $1 million from Liliane and Christian Haub to construct the system’s third hut.

Christian and Liliane made two trips to the Reserve in 2016 — the first to Sun Prairie to stay at the Enrico Education and Science Center in March and to the PN in September to participate in the Transect. Their involvement as a couple builds on their family’s decade-long connection to American Prairie Reserve — volunteer work and support that now spans three generations, including Christian’s parents and the couple’s two daughters.

“Christian and I were so inspired by this project during our recent visits to the prairie,” said Liliane Haub, a member of the American Prairie Reserve’s Board of Directors. “This landscape is hauntingly beautiful in its complexity, and the best way we’ve found to experience it is in the open, where a person can’t see anything manmade for miles. This Hut-to-Hut System encourages that kind of connection with the vast and amazing prairie.”

Nestled into the boundless landscape, the huts will be a welcome sight for people arriving by foot, horse, boat, or bike. Many visitors also will plan trips with a single hut as their basecamp, spending several days exploring the surrounding terrain and returning to the same hut each evening. The huts will offer a level of affordability, a sense of security, and shelter from the elements that appeal to a wide range of visitors, including families, seniors, and less experienced campers. And although the system will use a basic self-service model, local vendors and outfitters could assist with food and cooking, supplies, and recreational equipment rentals to help make trips even more relaxing and nearly effortless.

Since launching Land of Legacy one year ago, we have announced $17 million in new major gift pledges and commitments alone. These new gifts support the six pillars of Land of Legacy: elevate American Prairie Reserve to national prominence; accelerate land acquisition, augmenting the size and scope of the Reserve; design, fund and construct the Reserve’s National Visitor Center and Campground; design, fund and establish the Reserve’s Hut-to-Hut System; establish a named National Prize awarded annually to a distinguished American; and transform the Reserve’s giving societies into platforms inspiring gifts at all levels.

If you would like to review our progress to date, you can visit americanprairie.org/land-of-legacy to read the first nine Bulletins.