Dear John,

May was an historic month at American Prairie Reserve. As we were celebrating Susan and Gib Myers’ new $6 million Land of Legacy gift and their lifetime giving of $10 million, we also were engaged behind the scenes in closing on our 25th and biggest land deal: the iconic PN Ranch.

With the purchase of this one incredible property, we have simultaneously furthered our goals for habitat accumulation, wildlife protection, historic preservation and public access. The PN offers a nearly 50,000-acre expanse of crucial wildlife habitat north of Winifred, Montana. Home to elk and bighorn sheep, the property is located almost entirely within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument at the confluence of the Judith and the Missouri Rivers, including more than 20 miles of riverfront. Bringing the PN under American Prairie Reserve’s management enables us to permanently conserve key habitat in the region’s wildlife corridors and improve public access to more than 20,000 acres of private lands. In addition, this area was the setting for hundreds of years of Native American rendezvous as well as the location of Montana’s first military outpost and one of the campsites of Lewis & Clark. The PN is host to a veritable treasure trove of human history just waiting to be explored, understood and preserved.

Thanks to leaders like you, visitors to this special place now will have a chance to connect with the land that helped form the spirit of this nation.

Since launching the Land of Legacy campaign in January, we have announced more than $14 million in new pledges and commitments, established the Ken Burns American Heritage Prize and have the Hut-to-Hut System underway with plans to build the first hut on the PN. We look forward to sharing news in support of the other pillars of Land of Legacy – designing, funding and constructing the Reserve’s National Visitor Center and Campground as well as transforming the Reserve’s giving societies into platforms inspiring gifts at all levels – in the months to come.

In the meantime, if you’d like to explore this enormous and remarkable new property with us, let us know. We would love to show you around. Or, if you are up for a bit of an adventure, join our 2016 Transect, which takes place Sept. 3-13. We’ll hike, bike and canoe across the PN as well as onto other spectacular parts of the prairie. Watch a video of last year’s Transect and learn more at transect2016.com.