



Dear Friends,

As Chair of American Prairie Reserve's Board of Directors, I am pleased to share this message with you and with those around the world whose interest and generosity have made the last several months among the most productive in the organization's history. My message is the reintroduction of a series of such reports American Prairie Reserve (APR) will be distributing during the balance of the year. This report identifies some of the ways American Prairie Reserve is achieving historic success as a result of the leadership and support of its many donors, Board of Directors, and its professional staff.

American Prairie Reserve has well exceeded the \$100 million gift in come threshold since the organization's founding in 2001, of which more than \$40 million in new commitments were received in the last two years. APR has now grown to nearly 400,000 acres of land in its journey to create America's largest nature reserve, with 100,000 of these deeded and leased acres acquired in the span of less than two years.

Earlier this year, American Prairie Reserve completed the planned transformation of its leadership. Alison Fox was promoted to CEO and Sean Gerrity, the organization's founder, will serve as Managing Director, focusing his work on the Reserve, addressing his passion for wildlife and the visitor experience.

APR's historic initiative to fund the construction of a Hut-to-Huts system transecting the Reserve has launched and has been very successful. Four huts are funded and endowed with two scheduled to open to the public this summer.

Over the last two years, American Prairie Reserve, in collaboration with Ken Burns, created the Ken Burns American Heritage Prize. The Prize's annual recipient is selected by a 40-member National Jury. The inaugural Jury, chaired by Former Ambassador Barbara Barrett, elected distinguished historian and author David McCullough to receive the 2017 Prize. The 2018 National Jury, chaired by David Rubenstein, selected architect, artist, and conservationist, Maya Lin to receive the second Prize.

The new Antelope Creek Campground on Montana Highway 191 is fully-funded and endowed and will open to the public this fall. The campground will be the Reserve's largest and most extensive camping facility, including a beautiful and educational interpretative trail.

In February, American Prairie Reserve's Board of Directors unanimously approved the creation of a National Discovery Center in Lewistown, Montana. The center will be the organization's physical presence in Montana, serving as a gateway to the Reserve and a venue dedicated to hosting programmatic content ranging from conservation to Native American history.

American Prairie Reserve's membership program, created in 2016, has increased by 23% in the last year and now includes more than 1,500 members in and beyond the United States. As the membership program grows, so does the impact they have on the work of the organization. The group has contributed to defragmentation of the landscape, fence improvements, land purchases, and wildlife restoration projects, among other things. As importantly, members are proving to be enthusiastic ambassadors for the mission of the organization and, in a short period of time, have become integral to the success of this project.

I trust you agree this bulletin suggests American Prairie Reserve is a vibrant non-profit organization embracing its mission with strategic precision on an accelerated schedule. Succeeding bulletins will provide more details about the benchmarks introduced in this report and new achievements as they occur.

Thank you for your interest in and support of American Prairie Reserve, the nation's largest conservation and wildlife restoration project.

George Matelich, Chair
National Board of Directors