Dear Friend,

I am honored to announce a transformational gift to our Land of Legacy campaign and our National Discovery Center.

American Prairie Reserve’s National Discovery Center will be the primary introductory point to the Reserve: a visitor center, a place to engage the community, and a destination that attracts people from around the country. The facility will serve as APR’s main hub in Montana and will validate the organization’s commitment to preserve land and wildlife of historic importance, while also fostering and celebrating the cultural, educational, recreational, and economic opportunities already provided by American Prairie Reserve.

Thanks to many generous donors, the Center is moving from a concept into reality. American Prairie Reserve has purchased the historic Power Mercantile building in downtown Lewistown, Montana for the Center’s future home. In July, Seth Hawkins was hired as the Karen and Jay Abbe National Discovery Center Director to advance the planning, design, and building of the Center and its components, which include an engaging and welcoming visitor services area, a conference and event pavilion, an exhibition hall, the Ken Burns American Heritage Theater, and a children’s learning zone.

Motivated to engage younger generations and inspired by the National Discovery Center as a driver for outreach and education, Mara and Jeffrey Talpins have committed $3 million to fully fund the naming and construction of the children’s learning zone in the National Discovery Center and its endowment. The Talpins Children’s Center will be a place for hands-on learning through interactive and dynamic exhibits as well as a shared classroom space that will welcome families, schools, and educational groups.
Furthermore, the gift creates American Prairie Reserve’s first education program, which will serve Montana middle schoolers. Using the National Discovery Center in Lewistown as a home base, the program’s curriculum will focus on prairie ecology and collaborate with several schools throughout the school year, culminating in a multi-night stay on the Reserve.

Since American Prairie Reserve was founded almost 20 years ago, our vision has always been to restore a landscape for wildlife and to create meaningful experiences for people visiting the Reserve and for Montana communities. We know that this innovative youth education program, anchored by a world-class National Discovery Center in the heart of Montana, is an impressive step forward toward our vision.

We are forever appreciative of the passion and generosity of our donors.

Sincerely,

Alison Fox
CEO, American Prairie Reserve