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## **Alison Fox Named President of American Prairie Reserve** *Sean Gerrity Will Continue in Leadership Role as CEO*

**BOZEMAN, Mont.** – American Prairie Reserve is pleased to announce the promotion of Alison Fox to the role of President. Sean Gerrity, who served as American Prairie Reserve’s President for 16 years, will remain in a leadership role as CEO and continue to serve on the organization’s Board of Directors. The change in leadership structure reflects American Prairie Reserve’s growth and success since its founding in 2001.

As the founding President of American Prairie Reserve, Gerrity’s leadership and vision guided American Prairie Reserve from its earliest conceptual stages to the thriving and growing wildlife reserve it is today. Gerrity has led the organization in raising more than \$100 million in donations and pledges, establishing American Prairie Reserve in northeastern Montana and growing it to more than 350,000 acres of deeded and leased public land (roughly 550 square miles). In addition, he has overseen the building of a National Board of Directors and a staff of 29 full-time employees.

Fox joined American Prairie Reserve in 2007 and has served in a leadership role as Managing Director for the past four years. As the organization’s new President, Fox’s responsibilities include ensuring the organization’s fiscal health and the Reserve’s promising future by developing relationships with American Prairie Reserve’s growing network of supporters, as well as leading the organization’s development, marketing, operations and finance functions. Gerrity’s new role will focus on leading all aspects of American Prairie Reserve’s long-term vision for creating rich and robust wildlife populations on American Prairie Reserve and ensuring public benefit, both for the local communities that neighbor the Reserve and the global visitors who enjoy the Reserve’s growing educational and recreational opportunities. Gerrity and Fox work with American Prairie Reserve’s National Board of Directors and on a four-person executive leadership team to direct the organization’s strategic goals.

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“Ali’s passion and dedication for this project is undeniable,” said Sean Gerrity, CEO, American Prairie Reserve. “Over the past decade, she has led and mentored staff teams, built relationships with our global supporters, traveled countless miles sharing our story around the world, and toured hundreds of people on the Reserve. She has been a valued colleague to me and a respected member of our team, and I look forward to seeing her excel in this new leadership role.”

American Prairie Reserve National Board Chair George Matelich spoke in favor of the transition, noting both Gerrity’s exceptional leadership and Fox’s unique ability to continue to support the organization’s culture of success.

“Sean’s vision, dedication and innovative leadership built this organization,” Matelich said. “He has assembled a National Board of Directors, a worldwide network of supporters and a Montana-based team of professional staff who are well positioned to achieve American Prairie Reserve’s bold vision. Ali has been a crucial part of that team for a decade, making her a highly-qualified successor. My fellow Board members and I were pleased to select Ali to lead American Prairie alongside Sean, today and into the future.”

Prior to joining American Prairie Reserve, Fox worked in marketing and communications roles at RightNow Technologies. She holds an MBA from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, where she focused on marketing and nonprofit management, and a BA in History from Dartmouth College.

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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](http://americanprairie.org).

### **About the American Prairie Reserve *Ken Burns American Heritage Prize***

American Prairie Reserve will present the inaugural *Ken Burns American Heritage Prize* on May 3, 2017, to bestselling author and historian David McCullough. The Prize will be presented annually in recognition of distinguished artists, authors, conservationists, educators, filmmakers, historians and scientists whose body of work has advanced our collective understanding of the indomitable American spirit. Learn more at [kenburnsprize.com](http://kenburnsprize.com).