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News Release

The Nature Conservancy
in Montana
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Nature Conservancy Donates Land to Gallatin National Forest

The Gallatin National Forest recently accepted a donation of approximately 143 acres of land from The Nature Conservancy of Montana. The donation, consisting of three contiguous parcels, is located at Reynolds Pass in Madison County on the Montana-Idaho border.

“We appreciate the generosity and foresight of the Nature Conservancy in donating this land to the public,” stated Becki Heath, Gallatin National Forest Supervisor. “These parcels are part of a critical wildlife migration/travel corridor, and they will also provide additional opportunities for dispersed recreation for the public,” Heath added.

West Yellowstone resident C. Walker Cross donated the land to the Conservancy last fall with the understanding that it would eventually go to the Forest Service.

“I wanted that land to be free of development. I see homes going up all around the area and that bothers me because of how it affects the wildlife passing through there,” said Cross.

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Elk, mule deer, and pronghorn travel through the Reynolds Pass area each year from summer range on the Gallatin and Targhee National Forests to reach winter range in the Upper Madison Valley. This land also provides valuable habitat for grizzly bears, wolverine, and other species, particularly as a travel corridor connecting from the Henrys Lake Mountains to the Gravelly, Snowcrest, and Centennial Mountains.

“We’re grateful to Walker Cross for donating this property which is so important to the wildlife in this region, and we’re glad we could facilitate this outcome for the property,” said the Conservancy’s state director, Jamie Williams.

The Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation organization that conserves critical habitats for plants, animals, and natural communities. Since 1979, the Conservancy has worked with landowners to conserve almost 504,800 acres of land in Montana through conservation easements, land purchases, and other collaborative means.

