*These abbreviated summary minutes and the audio recording will become the official adopted minutes at the next Land Board meeting when the board votes to officially approve them. Until then they are considered a draft.*

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# MINUTES
# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
**Monday, November 16, at 9:00 a.m.**
**State Capitol, Room 303**
**Helena, MT**

**Please note**: *The Land Board has adopted the audio recording of its meetings as the official record, as allowed by 2-3-212, MCA. These minutes provide an abbreviated summary of the Land Board discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The time designations listed are approximate and may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio recording of this meeting. Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio recording is provided from the Land Board webpage at http://dnrc.mt.gov/LandBoard. The written minutes summary, along with the audio recordings, are listed by meeting date on the Land Board Archive webpage.*

**Members Present**

Governor Steve Bullock
Attorney General Tim Fox (via telephone)
Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Monica Lindeen
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch (via telephone)
Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau

**Members Absent**

None

**Testifying Staff**

John Tubbs, DNRC Director
Darlene Edge, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Lands Program Manager
Shawn Thomas, DNRC Trust Land Management Division (TLMD) Administrator
Kevin Chappell, DNRC TLMD Agriculture and Grazing Bureau Chief

**Attachments**

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheet
Related Materials, Attachment 2 – submitted by Mike Gill, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, for item 1115-1

**Call to Order**

00:00:00 Governor Bullock called the meeting to order.
00:00:12 Ms. Lindeen moved to approve the October 19, 2015, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Juneau and carried unanimously.

**Business Considered**

**1115-1 FWP: Land Acquisition – Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area Addition**

00:00:23 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of the item.
00:00:45 Ms. Edge

*Public Comment*

00:02:47 Mike Gill, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

*Board Discussion/Comments*

00:05:43 Governor Bullock
00:05:53 Ms. Lindeen moved to approve item 1115-1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fox.
00:06:17 Governor Bullock

00:06:24 Ms. Edge

00:06:38 The motion to approve item 1115-1 carried unanimously.

**1115-2 Timber Sale: DeBorgia II**

00:06:47 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of item 1115-2.
00:07:27 Governor Bullock
00:07:33 Mr. Fox moved to approve item 1115-2. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCulloch.
00:07:52 Ms. Juneau
00:08:19 Mr. Tubbs

00:08:54 The motion to approve item 1115-2 carried unanimously.

**1115-3 Land Banking Parcel: Set Minimum Bid for Sale**

00:09:10 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of item 1115-3.
00:10:01 Governor Bullock
00:10:08 Ms. Juneau moved to approve item 1115-3. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lindeen and carried unanimously.

**1115-4 Sale of Cabin and Home Site: Set Minimum Bid for Sale**

**A. Sales 784, 788 – 791**
**B. Sales 796, 798 – 802, 804**
**C. Sales 792, 794, 795**

00:10:26 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of items 1115-4A through 1115-4C.
00:12:05 Governor Bullock

*Public Comment*

00:12:13 Randall Knowles

*Board Discussion/Comments*

00:16:49 Governor Bullock

00:16:57 Ms. McCulloch moved to approve items 1115-4A through 1115-4C. The motion was seconded by Ms. Juneau and carried unanimously.

**1115-5 Sale of Cabin and Home Site: Final Approval for Sale – Sale 763**

00:17:15 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of item 1115-5
00:17:45 Governor Bullock

*Public Comment*

00:17:51 Mr. Knowles

*Board Discussion/Comments*

00:18:11 Governor Bullock
00:18:14 Ms. Lindeen moved to approve item 1115-5. The motion was seconded by Ms. Juneau.
00:18:22 Ms. Juneau
00:18:30 Mr. Tubbs
00:18:35 Mr. Fox
00:18:48 Mr. Thomas
00:19:38 Governor Bullock

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00:19:40 The motion to approve item 1115-5 carried unanimously.

**1115-7 Implementation of Montana Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy: Executive Order 12-2015**

00:19:50 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of item 1115-7.
00:20:57 Governor Bullock
00:21:07 Ms. Lindeen moved to approve item 1115-7. The motion was seconded by Ms. Juneau.
00:21:17 Mr. Fox
00:21:34 Governor Bullock
00:21:47 *There were technical difficulties with telephone conferencing and the connection was lost with Mr. Fox and Ms. McCulloch. The meeting formally resumed at 26:06 when contact was re-established.*
00:26:06 Governor Bullock
00:26:18 Mr. Fox
00:28:05 Governor Bullock

00:28:11 The motion to approve item 1115-7 carried unanimously.

**1115-8 Sage Grouse Habitat: Land Breaking, Sagebrush Eradication, and Grazing Management Criteria**

00:28:33 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of item 1115-8.
00:31:00 Governor Bullock

*Public Comment*

00:31:11 Errol Rice, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

*Board Discussion/Comments*

00:32:49 Governor Bullock
00:32:56 Ms. Juneau moved to approve item 1115-8. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lindeen.
00:33:03 Governor Bullock
00:33:17 Mr. Chappell
00:33:47 Governor Bullock
00:33:51 Mr. Fox
00:34:29 Governor Bullock
00:34:33 Mr. Tubbs
00:34:56 Governor Bullock

00:35:33 The motion to approve item 1115-8 carried unanimously.

**1115-9 Easements**

**A. Easements**
**B. Cost Share – Lake Placid**
**C. Cost Share – Lower ACM**

00:35:40 Mr. Tubbs gave an overview of items 1115-9A through 1115-9C.
00:37:04 Governor Bullock

*Public Comment*

00:37:08 Mr. Knowles

*Board Discussion/Comments*

00:39:01 Governor Bullock

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00:39:16 Mr. Fox moved to approve items 1115-9A through 1115-9C. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCulloch and carried unanimously.

*General Board Discussion/Comments*

00:39:46 Ms. Lindeen
00:42:01 Governor Bullock
00:42:51 Ms. Lindeen
00:43:00 Governor Bullock
00:43:05 Mr. Thomas
00:44:36 Ms. Lindeen
00:44:41 Governor Bullock

**General Public Comment**

00:44:43 Mr. Knowles
00:48:33 Mr. Gill

**Adjournment**

00:50:55 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

/s/
Steve Bullock, Governor

ATTEST

/s/
John E. Tubbs, DNRC Director

DRAFT

**Related Materials**
**Attachment 1**

# LAND BOARD MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET
**November 16, 2015**

| NAME | AFFILIATION | E-MAIL | *Check to be added to the interested parties list.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alan Joscelyn | AG Office | | |
| [illegible] | MSGA | | |
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Contact Lucy Richards at lrichards@mt.gov or indicate on this sign-in sheet if you would like to be placed on the Land Board interested parties list.

*This sign-in sheet is a public record under Title 2, Chapter 6 of the Montana Code Annotated, but may not be reproduced or distributed for use as a mailing list without the permission of the named individuals under 2-6-1017, MCA.*

**Related Materials**
**Attachment 2**



# ELK TRACKS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

*Ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015

## RMEF Removes House, Restores Elk Habitat

*"As I watched that house roll off of crucial elk winter range and down the road, all I could think of was RMEF's commitment and spirit to conserve elk country can move houses!"*

It's been said that once elk habitat is gone, it's gone for good. But what if there was a way to restore elk habitat that already fell victim to development? Or more specifically, what if you could return important elk feeding grounds and winter range to the way it was before a home was built on a given site? That's exactly what the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation pulled off in southwest Montana.

In late 2014, RMEF acquired 631 acres of grassy winter range 24 miles south of Ennis along the Madison River adjacent to the 6,557-acre Madison-Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA). In fact, the entire southern edge of the property borders the existing WMA while the east edge borders Bureau of Land Management land that provides access to the Madison River. It's a pristine piece of property that provides crucial winter range for 2,000 elk as well as hundreds of mule deer, antelope and other critters. The acquisition increased the overall size of the WMA by about 10 percent.

It's just that there was a problem, a big problem—a 3,096-square-foot cedar-siding log house on the property. Actually, there was also a 1,260-square-foot garage with guest quarters as well as an unfinished 2,500-square-foot building. Those structures, as well as a man-made, three-acre pond stocked with non-native, farm-raised fish, were not exactly ideal for elk country.

So RMEF developed a plan by notifying locals that the home would be available for

RMEF LINKS

RMEF Website
RMEF on Facebook
RMEF on Twitter
RMEF on YouTube

ABOUT ME

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Founded in 1984 by four hunters, RMEF is a leading conservation organization that protected or enhanced habitat on more than 6.7 million acres, secured public access to more than 823,000 acres, and is a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management and conservation policy issues.

View my complete profile

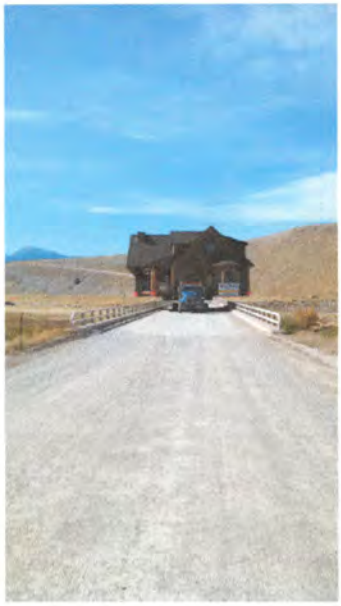
SEARCH THIS BLOG

Search

There was an error in this gadget

RMEF TWITTER FEED

purchase through a sealed bidding process with the winner assuming full responsibility to remove the structure from the property. The winning bid came in at $20,000.



"They (the winners of the bid process) were motivated both by helping RMEF with its mission of conserving elk habitat and finding a new home in Montana in an area that was already impacted by a planned subdivision and out of occupied elk habitat," said Mike Mueller, RMEF senior land program manager.

Moving day came several months later. Workers from a moving and rigging business located some 200 miles away traveled to the site. They jacked up the house from its foundation and placed a heavy duty towing trailer underneath. A big rig then negotiated a slight downhill path off of the property. The home successfully towered over fencing as it rolled down a narrow dirt road, across a bridge over the Madison River and down the highway to its new location.

"As I watched that house roll off of crucial elk winter range and down the road, all I could think of was RMEF's commitment and spirit to conserve elk country can move houses!" said Mueller.

As for the remaining structures, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) will reclaim them for management objectives and administration purposes. The actual home site will most likely be reseeded and the pond reclaimed as well. The land is now permanently open to public access during hunting season and beyond. It will be conveyed it to FWP later this year.

"RMEF and its partners will turn back the clock on residential subdivision, habitat fragmentation and loss, and the restricting of public access when we can. The bottom line is we saved the integrity of one of Montana's oldest and most popular WMA's by reestablishing a buffer along its northern boundary. It took a total team effort to pull this miracle off. God did not want this house to stay where it was," said Mueller.

Man may not be able to move mountains but, in this case anyway, he can remove a house to conserve and protect elk and elk country.

**Tweets** Follow

**RMEF** @RMEF 51m
Have a good weekend!
#TGIF #RMEF #FridayFunny
pic.twitter.com/hrSq2Gb4is

Expand

**OutdoorHub** @Outdoor_Hub 3h
Oregon Wildlife Officials Recommend Delisting Gray Wolves ow.ly/UlfeB
Retweeted by RMEF
Show Summary

**NationalFinalsRodeo** @LasVegasNFR 21h
Wrangler Rodeo Arena at Cowboy Christmas Brings Fans Close to the Action ..continue reading bit.ly/LVNFR60
pic.twitter.com/JHoYhOUwbV
Retweeted by RMEF

Tweet to @RMEF

BLOG ARCHIVE
▼ 2015 (83)
▼ October (8)
RMEF Removes House, Restores Elk Habitat
Montana Rendezvous: 20 Years of Food, Fun and Cele...
Battle-Tested Rut Warrior
RMEF Grants to Benefit 24,000 Acres of Arizona Elk...
Kids Flock to RMEF for Youth Wildlife Conservation...
Wisconsin RMEF Chapter Remembers, Honors One of It...
New Mexico Elk Habitat, Research Get Boost from RM...
Tales from the Field: North Dakota
► September (12)
► August (9)
► July (8)
► June (10)
► May (7)
► April (5)
► March (13)
► February (3)
► January (8)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
November 10, 2015

# RMEF Tops $1 Billion in Total Value of All-Time Conservation Efforts

**MISSOULA, Mont.**—The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation recently topped $1 billion in the cumulative value of its on-the-ground conservation efforts.

"This is an incredible milestone and testament to many people over a lot of years who are dedicated to ensuring the future of elk, elk habitat and conservation," said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO.

The $1 billion total was determined by the dollar amount contributed by RMEF plus those partner dollars leveraged by RMEF for its land protection and access, habitat enhancement, wildlife management including elk restorations, research, and hunting heritage and conservation outreach projects. That lifetime total of those 9,738 projects has so far protected or enhanced 6,714,810 acres of vital elk habitat.

Ironically, one billion seconds equal 31.6888 years. Given that RMEF was founded in May of 1984, or more than 31 years ago, that means RMEF accumulates roughly $1 of value per every second of its existence.

RMEF was founded in 1984 by four elk hunters in northwest Montana who combined their time, talents and resources to form a conservation organization dedicated to elk, elk hunting and the habitat they needed to thrive. Since then, North America's elk population more than doubled in size.

RMEF partners include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), state wildlife agencies, universities, private landowners and many other governmental, tribal, civic, wildlife and sportsmen groups.

"This is a tremendous milestone, and we congratulate RMEF on this accomplishment," said Leanne Marten, USFS regional forester. "We deeply appreciate our partnership with RMEF and the work we have been able to do together with their organization and volunteers to improve the health and resilience of our National Forest System lands for the public's use and enjoyment."

"We applaud the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's dedication to wildlife and habitat conservation," said Neil Kornze, BLM director. "Their work has helped ensure that we

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

have healthy habitats for many species of wildlife while supporting our country's hunting heritage. I congratulate them on reaching this extraordinary milestone."

RMEF has also received tremendous dedication from its corporate partners, members and volunteers whose support has been and remains vital to the mission. As of December 31, 2014, RMEF has more than 205,000 members –including 11,000 volunteers– in 507 chapters across the United States.

"We are extremely grateful for our passionate volunteers and members. While we recognize and celebrate this accomplishment, we will not take our foot off the gas pedal. We are excited to keep moving forward toward the next one billion dollars' worth of conservation work," added Allen.

**About the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation:**
Founded over 30 years ago, fueled by hunters and a membership of more than 205,000 strong, RMEF has conserved more than 6.7 million acres for elk and other wildlife. RMEF also works to open and improve public access, fund and advocate for science-based resource management, and ensure the future of America's hunting heritage. Discover why "Hunting Is Conservation™" at www.rmef.org or 800-CALL ELK.

**Related Materials**
**Attachment 2**

# ACCESS ELK COUNTRY

## INITIATIVE

# THE CHALLENGE: ACCESS LOST

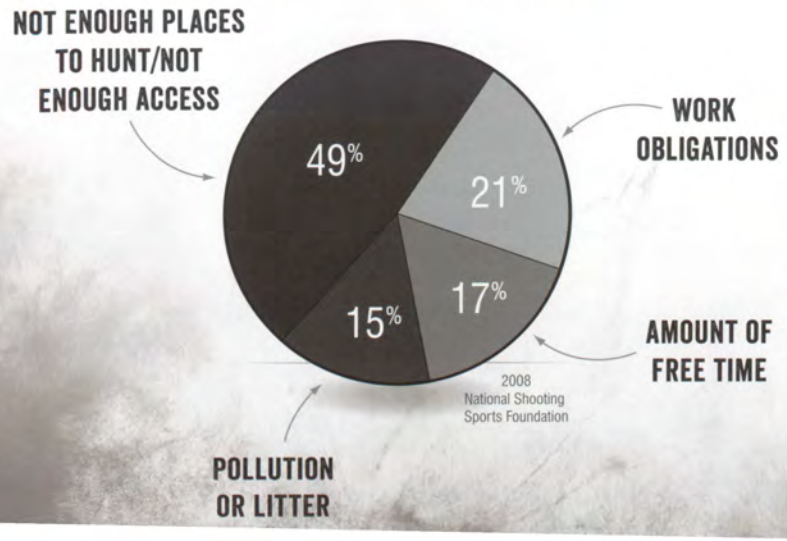
In 1915 there were approximately 100 million people in the United States. Today, there are more than 318 million and climbing. This growth has had a two-fold impact on wildlife habitat and huntable landscapes. Not only have we developed and occupy more space, but there are exponentially more people seeking remaining open spaces for recreational purposes, including hunting.

**Lack of access to quality hunting opportunities is the single biggest reason people stop hunting.**

**For those just hoping to start hunting, it is the largest hurdle.**

Thanks to the vision and relentless drive of Theodore Roosevelt and all the people who have followed in his footsteps who believed that Hunting Is Conservation, we have an amazing wealth of federal public land. Those 640 million acres are owned by and open to every citizen in the United States. It's an incredible legacy and one that makes America unique in the world. Unfortunately, when it comes to hunting and recreation, it's no longer enough. We must seek creative solutions to access existing public lands currently land-locked as well as reasonable access solutions to private lands.

## TOP 5 HUNTING HURDLES



SCOTT BOSSE

# WHY IT MATTERS

Hunters provide a vast amount of funding for wildlife management, habitat acquisition, stewardship, and access. So losing access creates a vicious spiral. Loss of access = fewer hunters = less habitat, less stewardship, lower-quality habitat and … even less access. If our hunting tradition and what is known as the greatest wildlife conservation and management model in history is to survive, we must work to provide this and future generations access to quality hunting experiences.

RMEF is in no way suggesting hunters should try to force or coerce private landowners into allowing access. Instead, it is incumbent upon hunters to be innovative and find mutually beneficial ways to partner with landowners.

RMEF

HUNTING IS CONSERVATION

# MISSION

The mission of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage.

RMEF.org | 800-225-5355

ACCESS ELK COUNTRY

## ACCESS ELK COUNTRY SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Thanks to our great sponsors and partners for all you've helped us achieve for elk country and access. We aim to do far more in the next five years.

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

FOREST SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

And special thanks to State Wildlife Agencies

CHARTER SPONSORS

SITKA SPECIALIZED OUTDOOR WEAR AND EQUIPMENT

SPORTSMAN'S GUIDE

Kimber

Bushnell

ALPS OUTDOORZ

YETI

YAMAHA

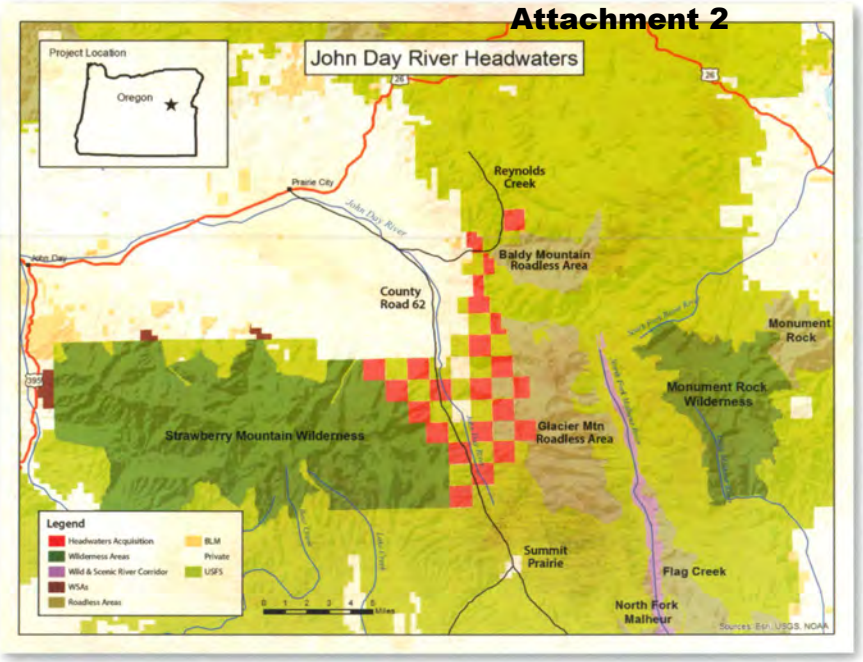
# WHAT WE'VE DONE: ACCESS = SUCCESS

RMEF was founded by public-land hunters, and we have been committed to access from the beginning. RMEF permanently protected its first piece of elk country in 1987—now the 16,640-acre Robb Creek Wildlife Management Area and open to all. Since then, RMEF has taken deep pride in each new acre we've protected and every No Trespassing sign we've retired and replaced with one that says Hunters Welcome.

So far, RMEF has secured or improved public hunting access on hundreds of thousands of acres of prime elk country in 21 states.

The lands RMEF acquires and permanently protects are conveyed to a state or federal agency and opened to public access. More than half of RMEF's nearly 500 permanent land protection projects—acquisitions, exchanges and conservation easements on private lands—are now open to the public.

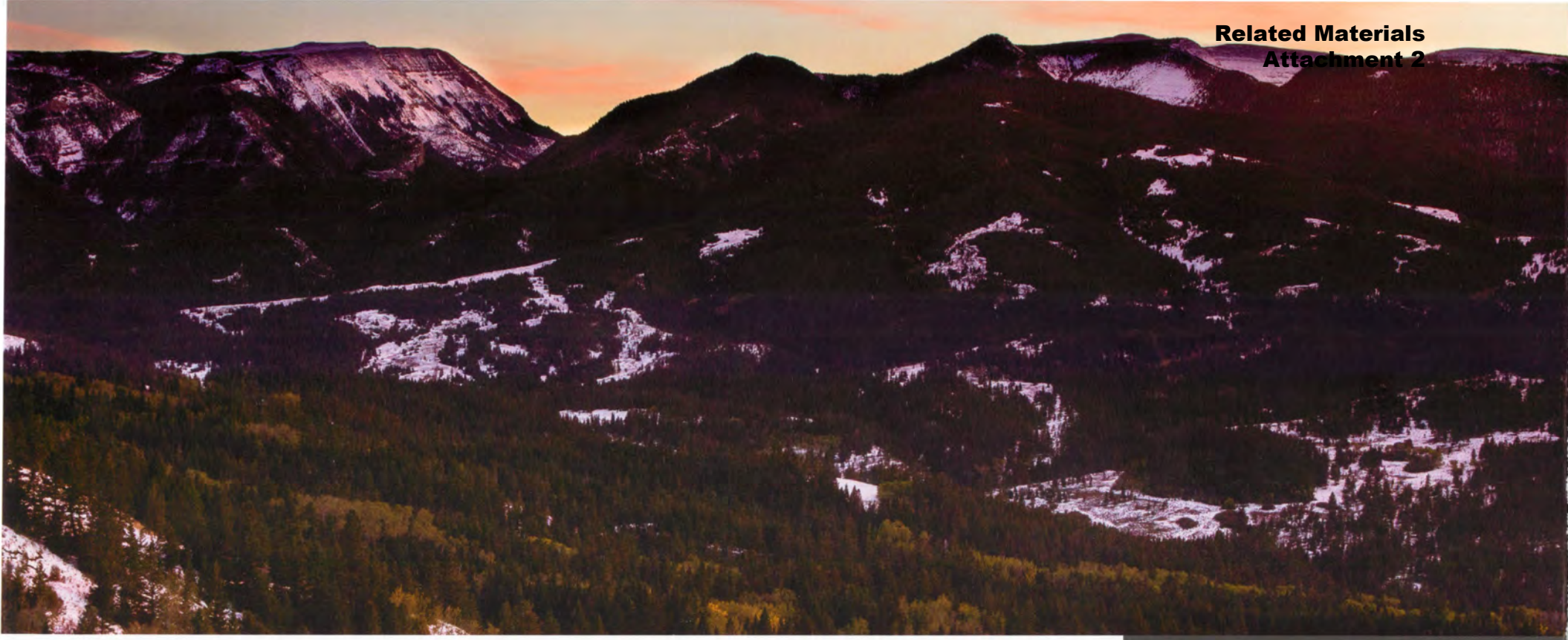
RMEF's contributions to Access Yes! Programs in Idaho and Wyoming helped open more high-quality private land to public access, as well as create access to landlocked public land.




## KEY TOOLS:

- Acquisitions or exchanges on checkerboarded lands create big, unbroken expanses of public elk country
- Strategic acquisition of small parcels unlocks large blocks of public land
- Re-routing roads or securing access easements provides legal passage to sweeps of public land beyond
- RMEF is a proud charter sponsor of Outdoor Life's Open Country program. The goal is to celebrate and stimulate fresh ideas and good works by giving awards for grassroots efforts that create more opportunities for the public to hunt

OPEN COUNTRY
OUTDOOR LIFE



# GETTING AGGRESSIVE ON ACCESS

## (HOW YOU CAN HELP)

RMEF aims to step up our game as a national leader in providing public access and finding common-sense and common-ground solutions to local access challenges.

**FREEDOM TO HUNT:** **5 x 50,000: Our goal is to open or secure access to 50,000 acres of public lands every year for the next five years for a total of 250,000 acres of great elk country open to all.**

We are working to find more creative ways to partner with private landowners. At the same time, we're committed to sustaining—and gaining and improving—access to the public lands we already own.

We have only scratched the surface of what can be done to create public access and hunting opportunity in great elk country. With your help, we can create the ways to ensure that tomorrow's hunters never give up their dreams of fall because they don't have a place to hunt.

## CALL US AND TELL US ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO CREATE PUBLIC ACCESS!

Thirty feet to freedom: An RMEF member was diligent in his quest to find access to hunt in Montana's Big Snowies. Because he stepped up and called RMEF, a 10-step overlap he spotted at a section corner is now a crucial public access point from the 40-acre Red Hill Acquisition into 18,000 acres of prime elk country (pictured above).