

CONSERVATION GROUPS TRIGGER LEGISLATIVE MATCH

RIVERTON.....Contributions from six Wyoming conservation organizations triggered the first matching contributions into the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust account, as established by the 58th Wyoming Legislature, according to Board chair Delaine Roberts.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation acted first by contributing \$1,000 almost immediately upon passage of the challenge opportunity. In late June, The Nature Conservancy of Wyoming established “Grassland Conservation Fund” within the WWNRT with an initial contribution of \$250,000. Wyoming Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife added \$3,000 in July, and The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society contributed \$1,000 in August. Most recently, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Wyoming Chapter of Safari Club International made donations of \$2,500 apiece. This brings the total of matching grants to \$260,000.

A previous contribution of \$1,000 was made to the account by Wyoming’s Outfitters and Guides organization.

“It is exciting to see the people of Wyoming take ownership of this program,” Roberts said. “We look forward to more participation from people who value our natural resources and wildlife, and are happy to work with them to assure that their money is well managed.”

With the legislative matching funds, Roberts said contributions are matched at a minimum of 300%.

“The Board matches the contributions one-to-one on the ground for projects, and the projects match them again,” he said. “Then, the Legislature matches them to help build the trust account. So, every thousand dollars generates at least \$4,000 in conservation on the ground. That’s pretty hard to beat.”