



WHAT DOES CREATING "THE LARGEST NATURE RESERVE IN THE LOWER 48" REALLY MEAN?

To me it means numerous family ranches, including mine, either selling out or relocating from that area, as trying to run a farm/ranch amidst a growing wildlife reserve becomes too burdensome. It means APR using their non-profit status to raise millions across the globe to buy the private land, often outbidding neighbors who don't have that tax advantage. It means APR staff calling newly widowed ranchers to offer "sympathy" and chat, when they don't even understand who's calling. It means our local communities losing not only farm and ranch families but also the local businesses they support. It means counties and the state losing taxes from ag production (yes, agriculture IS the #1 industry in Montana) that tourism will never replace. It means APR proclaiming to save something that's not endangered.

But maybe what's most important is what it doesn't mean.

APR is not creating anything. APR will simply be changing the ownership of the private land from hard working farmers and ranchers, many whose families have toiled for over 100 years to build lives and businesses that feed their families and help feed the world. If APR gets their way, those farms and ranches will be turned into playgrounds for the world's elite and curious. That's it. No new creation, just recreation.

—Deanna Robbins

UPOM has partnered with farmers and ranchers in APR's target area to educate about the risk APR poses to this industry. Please contact Deanna Robbins (406-464-2281), Laura Boyce (406-462-5691), or Coke Knox (406-462-5668) to get your sign, or email us at info@upom.org. A \$35 donation per sign would be appreciated to help cover costs. Thank you!