

Local

Fundraising hits half of Antelope Flats goal

By MIKE KOSHMRL
JACKSON HOLE DAILY

The philanthropic arm of Grand Teton National Park has gathered half the funds it has committed to raise for the purchase of a square mile of Wyoming state land on Antelope Flats.

The parcel, a school trust section, has been owned by Wyoming since 1890, but there's a plan to turn over the land to Grand Teton National Park, whose property surrounds the 640 acres. Half of the \$46 million needed for the land is coming from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund; the Grand Teton National Park Foundation pledged to raise the balance.

About \$11.5 million has been raised to date, including \$1 million from Na-

tional Park Foundation, \$1 million from Jackson Hole Land Trust and \$1 million from Knobloch Family Foundation, the foundation said last week.

"We are so pleased with the incredible support we have received from our friends both locally and nationally to help make this land part of Grand Teton forever," Leslie Mattson, the foundation's president, said in a statement. "It is wonderful to have reached the halfway point."

The foundation has until the end of the year to raise the remaining \$11.5 million. The Wyoming Legislature has authorized sale of the land to the federal government but imposed a Dec. 31 deadline.

For information about donating go online to GTNPF.org.

Citizens sought to serve on wildlands review board

By MELISSA CASSUTT
JACKSON HOLE DAILY

The deadline to apply to serve on the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Advisory Board is drawing near.

Teton County is one of six counties committing time and resources to help determine the fate of 45 wilderness study areas across the state, two of which are in Teton County. The advisory board, intended to be at least 13 people but no more than 20, will advise county commissioners to designate the lands as wilderness, release the land from protection or reclassify the land.

The deadline to apply to the board is 4 p.m. Friday. Seats are expected to last two to three years; the meeting schedule will be set once the board is formed.

Wilderness study areas were set aside for their potential to become wilderness, a congressional designation

that prohibits development and severely limits recreational use. The advisory boards, which are also being formed in Carbon, Fremont, Johnson, Park and Sublette counties, will make recommendations to their county commissioners about how to move forward with the lands.

County recommendations will then be compiled in a statewide Wyoming legislative lands package that will decide if the 707,686 acres of land will be elevated to wilderness or be otherwise redesignated.

Both of the study areas that fall in Teton County, the 32,000-acre Shoal Creek study area and the 136,000-acre Palisades study area, are split with other counties. The latter also extends into Idaho.

To apply to the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Advisory Board visit TetonWyo.org.

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