



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Blackhawk and Payette Land Trust Permanently Preserve 152 Acres of Environmentally-Sensitive Land in McCall**

Sima Muroff, Managing Partner of Blackhawk Partners LLC, and Dr. Robert Vosskuhler, Executive Director of the Payette Land Trust, recently signed a conservation easement that permanently protects 152 acres of environmentally-sensitive land in McCall, Idaho. The land under easement is located at Blackhawk, a 1,551 acre conservation-oriented planned community five miles southwest of downtown McCall.

"This is a key milestone for both the Payette Land Trust and the course of new development in Valley County," says Dr. Vosskuhler. "Blackhawk is the first developer to permanently protect such an important piece of habitat for McCall's wildlife through a conservation easement and wildlife preserve. They've set a remarkable precedent."

The Blackhawk Wildlife Preserve is located on a 1.7 mile stretch of the Payette River. The preserve spans a diverse ecosystem that offers abundant habitat for wildlife, including one-of-a-kind living wetlands, forested areas and meadows.

According to a Baseline Condition Report prepared by the Payette Land Trust, the preserve provides habitat for over 214 species of wildlife, including 13 currently listed as species of special concern. The preserve is now home to elk, moose, fox, deer, beavers, bald eagles, ospreys, Great Blue Herons and Sandhill Cranes, among hundreds of others.

According to Muroff, the conservation easement is part of a larger plan to protect and preserve the land and wildlife throughout the Blackhawk development.

"We see environmental stewardship as a cornerstone of our development philosophy," says Muroff. "We want to leave a legacy to our children and McCall that we're all proud of. Keeping this portion of our property wild is the right thing to do."

The Blackhawk Property Owners' Association has supported Blackhawk Partners easement plans from the beginning.

"The board is thankful to Blackhawk Partners for this gift to the Payette Land Trust," says board member Ron Stenquist. "And for protecting and preserving this sensitive area for the present and future enjoyment of all Blackhawk property owners and their guests."

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**About Blackhawk**

Located in McCall, Idaho, Blackhawk is a 1,551-acre residential development set along five miles of Payette River frontage. Based on an environmentally-thoughtful land plan, Blackhawk offers a limited number of homesites situated to protect privacy, view and wildlife corridors. In addition, more than half of the community has been set aside as open space, including a 152-acre wildlife preserve and 13 miles of braided side-channel fish habitat. Built amenities in the current phases (Blackhawk on the River) will include a 14,000 sq. ft. community River Lodge with spa facilities, 7.8 miles of hiking and biking trails, and 12 kilometers of groomed Nordic ski trails in winter.

**About the Payette Land Trust**

Based in McCall, Idaho, the Payette Land Trust is dedicated to protecting the scenic, agricultural, ranch, recreational, historic and wildlife values of Idaho for future generations by working cooperatively with the community and landowners who wish to protect their lands in perpetuity.