

For Immediate Release

AMB WEST COMMUNICATIONS

AMB West Chairman and Owner Arthur Blank partners with GVLТ to conserve Paradise Valley Ranch

Conservation easement on the 8,800-acre property largest in Paradise Valley, Montana

Emigrant, MT – May 11, 2023 – AMB West Chairman and Owner Arthur Blank purchased Paradise Valley Ranch (PVR) in 2019, at which time he pledged to preserve the ranching traditions, wildlife habitat and scenic beauty of the property. On April 19, Blank made his commitment to the community official when he established a conservation easement on the spectacular 8,800-acre ranch in partnership with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLТ). The conservation easement permanently limits residential and commercial development on the property and allows for agriculture and outdoor recreation to continue. This is the largest conservation easement in Paradise Valley to date and the third property owned by Mr. Blank to be conserved. Media Assets [here](#).

“Paradise Valley Ranch is not only a stunning property in the heart of Paradise Valley, it also provides critical wildlife habitat and is rich in agricultural opportunities,” said AMB West Chairman and Owner Arthur Blank. “It was very important to us when we purchased PVR that the land was conserved and managed in a thoughtful, responsible way and could serve as a resource for the community. We are proud to have partnered with GVLТ to finalize a conservation easement ensuring that the natural beauty, ecosystem, and native landscape that makes the ranch so special will be preserved in perpetuity.”

Paradise Valley Ranch is located 10 miles south of Livingston, Montana, on the western edge of Paradise Valley about 30 miles north of Yellowstone National Park. The property is mostly native rangeland and encompasses Antelope Butte, a prominent and scenic landscape feature that can be seen from across the valley. The ranch’s irrigated hayfields and vast meadows provide beautiful scenery, grazing for cattle, as well as important winter range for elk, mule deer and numerous other species. The property lies close to seven other conserved properties, anchoring an open landscape rich with wildlife and historic farms and ranches. The ranch will remain in active agricultural production and is currently leased out to local farming and ranching families.

In 2020, soon after PVR was purchased, AMB West established a community elk hunting program providing access to the ranch annually. The program was developed to serve local Park County and greater Montana residents and aims to promote further conservation efforts on the property. AMB West and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation partnered with local and regional directors of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), the Game Warden and local biologists to structure the program. Hunts are lead-free and are awarded through a lottery system free of charge. In addition to the hunting program, PVR hosts a weather station to collect fine scale climate

monitoring data, which helps local ranchers plan for drought and other extreme weather conditions.

“With the increasing rate of growth and development in the valley, we are grateful to Mr. Blank for ensuring this iconic ranch stays open forever” said GVLT Conservation Director Brendan Weiner. “With over 40 existing parcels, this spectacular property could have been easily subdivided and developed but the conservation easement ensures it will stay whole.”

GVLT has been working in Park County for over 20 years and currently holds 16 conservation easements in the county in addition to over 100 conservation easements across southwest Montana. To meet growing interest from Park County landowners, GVLT recently hired a full-time project manager solely focused on conservation work in Park County. While Mr. Blank generously donated the financial value of this conservation easement, GVLT has also developed public and private funding sources that allow the organization to purchase conservation easements from interested landowners which will enable a greater number of landowners to utilize this tool. Landowners interested in GVLT’s conservation programs should contact GVLT’s Park County Program Manager, Cole Herdman, for more information at: cole@gvlt.org or 406-285-1826.

What is a conservation easement?

GVLT partners with private landowners to conserve working farms and ranches, fish and wildlife habitat, open lands and scenic views. To protect these special places, GVLT uses conservation easements, which are voluntary agreements with landowners that limit the type and amount of development on a property while keeping it in private ownership. Each easement is tailored to the specific property and runs with the title of the land in perpetuity. GVLT is responsible for upholding the easement’s terms. Because a conservation easement limits development rights and therefore decreases the value of the land, landowners may be eligible to write off the difference as a charitable donation. In some cases, landowners receive financial compensation for a portion of the value of the conservation easement. The public benefits from the protection of conservation values such as prime agricultural soils, wildlife habitat, river corridors and the overall character of our region.

ABOUT AMB WEST

AMB West is a holding company comprised of Arthur Blank’s for-profit and non-profit guest ranches in Paradise Valley, Montana. The ranches include Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, West Creek Ranch, Paradise Valley Ranch, and The Ranch at Dome Mountain. AMB West melds the missions of guest ranching, philanthropy, non-profit convening, working ranch lands and conservation to achieve best-in-class hospitality and stewardship practices.

ABOUT GVLT

GVLT connects people, communities, and open lands through conservation of working farms and ranches, healthy rivers, and wildlife habitat, and the creation of trails in the Montana headwaters of the Missouri and Upper Yellowstone Rivers. For more information, visit www.gvlt.org.

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