8-31-1999

Royal Teton Ranch

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches & Remarks

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: August-1999
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Royal Teton Ranch
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject*

DOCUMENT DATE*: 08/31/1999
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
Remarks for the Royal Teton Ranch  
August 31, 1999  
11:30am

It's great down here at the Royal Teton Ranch. This is just beautiful isn't it? This is what Montana is all about.

I'd like to thank Ron and Gary and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mike Clarke and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition and the conservation community.

Also Secretary Babbitt, the Department of Interior and the Forest Service, and Bob Denny for making this happen on the ground. And a special thanks to my friend Joe Sable for all his work on public land acquisitions.
I'd also like to thank Murray Steinman and the Church Universal and Triumphant for being good neighbors and selling this land to the federal government. It is a tremendous gift to Montana.

This acquisition is a refreshing example of what Montanans can do if we work together. The people here today rolled up their sleeves, got this done, and didn't take no for an answer.

It isn't often that we get a second chance to do the right thing. Many people looked at the Federal government's failure to buy these lands in the 1980's as a tragedy. Today we celebrate a step forward.
A step that will guarantee this beautiful area will be available to future generations. Why is this so important?

It is because our love for the land defines us as Montanans. We use our national forests for hunting, fishing, hiking and riding horses.

Our public lands serve as the underpinning for our economy. They are the foundation on which Montana is built. And as always, our public lands serve as the backdrop for our homes and our communities.
It's because these lands are so integral to our lives that this land acquisition is so important. Because these lands are part of our Montana Legacy – a legacy that will be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren.

We are providing vital habitat for elk, big horn sheep, antelope, and bison. We are enhancing the resources of our national treasure, Yellowstone Park. We are creating a model to be emulated of how non-profit groups, conservationists, and the federal government can work together.

It's extremely satisfying to have helped protect these lands for our children and our grandchildren.
But these efforts didn’t just happen by themselves. They were the result of a lot of hard work by the people assembled here today.

From the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, to hunters, to conservationists, to the Department of the Interior. We came together to forge a broad consensus and to help shape the future of this area.

From my conversations with people all across this great state, it is very clear to me that Montanans from all walks of life care about their public lands and about the future of this region.
And while we have done good work here today. We must not rest on our laurels. We must go on to ensure Montana’s heritage is passed to the next generation.

The credit for protecting these lands doesn’t belong not to me or the other members of the Montana delegation.

It belongs to all of Montana. Because local citizens, including hunters, fishermen, and conservationists, overwhelmingly support public ownership of these lands.
And it is active public support that makes this type of effort possible.

These lands are a gift to all Montanans. A gift to the public.

And we have done it in a way that reflects respect for one another and our shared heritage. We should be proud of this tremendous community effort.

Thank you. Now I hope you will join me in years of enjoyment of this beautiful place.