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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Payette and Valley County Enter into Agreement to Conserve Payette Endowment Lands

(MCCALL, ID) United Payette and the Valley County Board of Commissioners have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) to work together to protect endowment lands in the North Fork Payette watershed in Valley County.

The MOU, signed on November 8th, 2021, provides a framework for United Payette and Valley County to develop short-term, non-exclusive agreements for endowment land parcels surrounding Payette Lake with the Idaho Department of Lands. to conserve open space and natural resources and allow public, multi-purpose recreation. These agreements would be funded by United Payette and held by Valley County.

“United Payette is honored to work alongside Valley County to chart a path forward for our cherished endowment lands,” said Jeff Mousseau, a member of United Payette’s steering team.

“These agreements will provide immediate assurances to all Idahoans while allowing time for long-term solutions to be developed, reviewed, and implemented,” concluded Mosseau.

The MOU also outlines the parties’ intent to develop and implement a broad-based citizen’s advisory council to build diverse support for long-term solutions for endowment lands around Valley County.

“Valley County is excited to partner with United Payette to achieve conservation goals within the County. The signing of an MOU and the development of a citizens advisory board are important first steps in building a partnership to implement a shared vision for these treasured areas. I commend all involved for their hard work, collaboration and determination in crafting this partnership and working with IDL and the Land Board to provide mutually agreeable solutions,” said Valley County Commissioner Dave Bingaman.

This agreement represents a significant step towards permanently conserving the Payette endowment lands for the public and the health of the ecosystem now and for generations to come.

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