

MEG AND BERT RAYNES WILDLIFE FUND
Annual Report – 2019 Executive Summary

Expanded Crane Research in Teton Valley to support the goals of the
Greater Yellowstone Sandhill Crane Initiative

The Greater Yellowstone Sandhill Crane Initiative, “Initiative,” is a multi-year project working to preserve critical staging habitat for the largest staging population of Sandhill Cranes in the Greater Yellowstone and to raise awareness and funding for private land conservation, a critical aspect of sustaining the wildlife of the GYR. This report accounts for the use and implementation of the \$1,000 grant from the MBRWF 2019 grant. The 2019 grant funds were used to improve the Initiative’s monitoring program by expanding the survey of Sandhill Crane foraging to previously unsurveyed areas and conducting a complete roost survey. This expansion provided us with new information so that we can proactively secure unprotected roosts, protect previously unidentified lands on which the cranes forage, and expand the food plots in proximity to roosting habitat.

The grant funding was used to provide capacity for four aerial monitoring visits and additional ground-based surveys to confirm previously unidentified roost habitat and to confirm information gathered from aerial flights with ground-based surveys. Two properties identified in these surveys are currently underway for permanent protection through a conservation easement to be completed in 2020.

