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Sonoran Institute Awarded Grant to Reshape Development Patterns in Idaho Cross Charitable Foundation Supports Demonstration Project

Bozeman, MONTANA – The Cross Charitable Foundation has awarded a grant to the Sonoran Institute to support a demonstration project focused on reshaping development patterns in Teton County, Idaho. Teton County faces staggering bankruptcy and tax delinquency rates from a huge oversupply of vacant lots and failed subdivisions, as a result of the real estate bust and recession starting in 2008.

“This partnership effort in Teton County is our first and leading local demonstration project for a West-wide effort to build the case – legal, financial, economic and social – for vacating or replatting poorly sited and poorly planned subdivisions,” said Diane Snyder, director of the Institute’s Northern Rockies Regional Program. “It’s an exciting project with implications for the southwestern portion of the Greater Yellowstone Region and for how land-use planning and entitlement occurs throughout the West. Our plan is to use the results and lessons learned to pioneer innovative new local land-use tools and solutions.”

With the grant, the Sonoran Institute’s *Reshaping Development Patterns Project* plans to also protect important riparian and wildlife corridors currently threatened by the build-out of approved subdivisions. The Teton County, Idaho is a crucial part of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, containing critical wildlife habitat and corridors over both public and private lands.

“We are fortunate to have a long-standing partnership with local officials and others in Teton County. Like all of our project work, this initiative in Teton County will be a collaborative effort with local partners,” said Snyder. “The Institute will be partnering with local landowners, banks, developers, non-profits, community leaders and officials from Teton County.”

The Sonoran Institute inspires and enables community decisions and public policies that respect the land and people of western North America. The Institute is a nonprofit organization that is working to shape the future of the West. For more information, visit www.sonoraninstitute.org