NEWS RELEASE

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July 29th, 2021

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BIG SKY COUNTRY STATE FAIR SETS RECORD HIGH ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

Bozeman, MT—Final attendance numbers are in from the annual Big Sky Country State Fair held in Bozeman, MT July 21-25. **The regional attraction, presented by Your Local Montana Ford Dealers, drew 57,203 people, up 40 percent over 2019.** Three great nights of concerts brought in 8,962 people over three days, up 55 percent over 2019 concert attendance.

The Big Sky Country State Fair started strong with record attendance on Wednesday July 21st bringing in over 14,500 people on opening day. "The Big Sky Country State Fair was rewarded for new programming efforts this year with a record response from the Fairgoing public," said Dennis Voeller, the Fair's general manager. "The response from the public will allow staff to pursue an even better program for 2022," Voeller said.

Anchor elements for this year's Fair were night shows, weeklong animals in the livestock barns, the addition of two new stages, the longstanding Bozeman Roundup Ranch Rodeo, and new free stage programing. Night show concerts Nelly with special guest Carly Pearce, Granger Smith with special guest Kolby Cooper, and Trace Adkins with special guest Parmalee along with the addition of the new Silver Bullet Stage drew big crowds Wednesday-Saturday night at Anderson Arena.

New free stage programming drew in large crowds including the Extreme Raptor Show, American Minor League Ninjas, The Magic Bean, Dale K Hypnotist, The Everly Set, and the Chicago Honey Bear Dancers. Many guests were pleased to find the return of many of their favorite fair activities including the carnival, petting zoo, Extreme Dogs, Mud Bog, Hill 'N Hole, and Kid's Tractor Pedal Pull. "We want to thank the public for the positive attitude presented by the vast majority of attendees," Voeller said.

Fairgoers were also pleased by the new paving the fairgrounds added over the past two summers. New pavement around the fair office building where the Morrison-Maierle Pardners Corral sits made easier access for with strollers and wheelchairs. The paving continued through Food Row to Anderson Arena. "We look forward to providing them with an even better experience in 2022." Voeller said. The 2022 Big Sky Country State Fair will be held July 20th-24th 2022 at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. For more information on the 2022 Fair and events happening at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds visit gallatincountyfairgrounds.com.

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Big Sky Country State Fair is managed by the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, under direction of Gallatin County. The first fair – called Inter-State Fair – was held in 1902 and morphed over the years to its function today. The Fair serves citizens of Gallatin County and regional visitors from agricultural, urban, rural and tourist backgrounds.