

BOARD MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church
4769 West Babcock, Bozeman

OUR PURPOSE:

Shall be to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in the back country and assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of the resource and to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustaining use of horses, commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.

2024 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

PRESIDENT

Henry Glenn ... 578-2084
sedancowboy@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Sid Boswell ... 595-7197
sid@sidboswell.com

TREASURER

Carmen Matzick ... 600-1379

SECRETARY

Kathy VanDyke ... 209-0613

DIRECTORS

ONE YEAR TERM

Bob Criswell ... 595-8150

Dan Porter ... 539-0879

Devon Kerley ... 704-562-5021

TWO YEAR TERM

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859

Nanci Marx ... 763-4172

Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091

STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Nygren (1 year) ... 546-7550

Dan Marsh (2 year) ... 587-7578

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Brant Robey... 223-3077
pbrantr@gmail.com

BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 587-7578
webmaster@bchmt.org
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : SEPTEMBER 4, 11,18, 25

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28

BBQ GATHERING, POTLUCK DINNER (14TH) : SEPTEMBER 13-15

Spanish Creek

BOARD MEETING : SEPTEMBER 19, 6:30 PM

Springhill Church

GENERAL MEETING : SEPTEMBER 19, 7:00 PM

Springhill Church



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello everyone:

A very busy summer we have had. We have done a lot of packing for the Forest Service this year and it is what the future looks like with the new rules on hiring seasonal employees. So, all packers in our chapter, we need you.

We also managed to work in 3 major projects this year. The Ramshorn Lake corrals are complete. This is a project that started last year in partnership with the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Forest Service.

Finally, we were able to replace the porch beam at the Buffalo Fork Cabin in the A-B Wilderness. This has been an ongoing project for about 5 years now. The wheels of government turn very slow. We also packed a trail crew out of Slough Creek and did some cabin maintenance while we were there.

Meanwhile, we did several packing trips for Forest Service crews on the Bozeman Ranger district.

All in all a very busy summer. On top of that we have a very successful Poker Ride 2024.

As always, I want to thank each and every one of you for the long hard days that make all this work possible!

A special thank you to the trail crew leaders for a job well done we could not accomplish all the work without you.

Hopefully as Labor Day has passed we will take the time to enjoy Fall and the beautiful riding days ahead.

Please remember to turn in your mileage soon so we can get the reports done in a timely manner.

Happy Trails, H

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15**

Roll Call: Henry Glenn, Sid Boswell, Carmen Matzick, Kathy VanDyke, Bob Criswell, Dan Porter, Lew Goodpasture, Dan Marsh (proxy for Chris Nygren)

CALLED TO ORDER BY HENRY GLENN

MINUTES OF JULY 2024 MEETING

Dan Porter moved to approve the minutes as written; Carmen seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts and CD. She ordered some checks and paid one refund for a Poker Ride participant. Dan Porter moved to approve the report; Lew seconded; the motion passed.

Carmen noted that Mark Deopsomer suggested that we give a gift certificate to the three women who worked as the clean-up crew for the Sweet Pea parade. Sid moved that \$75 be used for a gift; Lew seconded; the motion passed. Carmen will work with Mark to figure out an appropriate gift.

OLD BUSINESS

The Spanish Creek gathering will be Sept. 13-15, with the BBQ/potluck on the evening of Sept. 14.

WORK PROJECTS

There are several pack trips and some additional cabin work trips coming up.

It was also noted that the Sage Creek and Taylor Fork corrals need some work. It was agreed that we would use RAC money for the supplies, and Sid will do the work. Henry will contact the Forest Service with a list of supplies needed for the work.

Dan P. has been contacted by the Forest Service about a work project for a wilderness group that will take place on Sept. 13-15. He suggested Little Hellroaring and discussion was held about using treated posts for the water bars. The posts will be packed in ahead of time by the Wednesday trail crew.

ADJOURNMENT

Carmen moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan P. seconded; the motion passed.

— Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

The program consisted of slide shows of the Ramshorn corral and Buffalo Fork cabin projects. It was great to see how well the projects turned out, and especially interesting to see how the crew placed a new support beam in the cabin.

CALLED TO ORDER BY HENRY GLENN

MINUTES OF JULY 2024 MEETING

Dan Porter moved to approve the minutes as written; Janice seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carmen reported on the chapter's savings and checking accounts and CD. She ordered some checks and paid one refund for a Poker Ride participant. Dan Porter moved to approve the report; Lew seconded; the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

SPANISH CREEK GATHERING

The gathering will be Sept. 13-15, with the BBQ/potluck on the evening of Sept. 14. Please bring a salad or dessert for the potluck. Participants are welcome to stay at the site on both Friday and Saturday nights.

WORK PROJECTS

There are several pack trips and some additional cabin work trips coming up.

It was noted that the Sage Creek and Taylor Fork corrals need some work and Sid agreed to manage the project.

SWEET PEA

The parade (float and riders) went really well. It was popular with the crowd and enjoyed by the participants.

PROGRAMS

Janice asked for and received some program suggestions, some of which might constitute good presenters for the 2026 annual convention.

ADJOURNMENT

Sid moved to adjourn the meeting; Carmen seconded; the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

— Submitted by Kathy VanDyke

Hello! I wanted to let you know that Smoke Elser and I will be in Bozeman on September 14, 4pm at the Country Bookshelf for a campfire storytelling & reading from our book "Hush of the Land":

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r5tc3u11jooDDUxH/>

info@evamaggi.com

SWEET PEA PARADE

All, First I'd like to send out a special thanks for Janice for all the precious time she spent preparing/flagging out the Sweet Pea Parade Riders. Without her, the GVBCH parade entry would not have happened!

The parade report is as follows: Everybody made it to the N. 11th Bozeman High School parking lot plenty early and it was no problem riding over to the staging area on 9th St & Main St. We got there about 8:45am and waited some time before we were inserted into the parade. I think this helped. There were uni-cycles all around us, tons of balloons everywhere, ladies on stilts that looked 20 ft tall!! people wanted their pictures taken with the horses, one dude from the Ice Dog Hockey Team had a crazy big head and he wanted his picture taken with the horses! Wasn't sure how that was going to go, but all good. I think the horses got use to the scene and chilled down there, plus it was plenty hot which probably helped.

Prior to the parade I'd stopped by the Sweet Pea office and talked to Emily but could never actually find Todd who was in charge of the parade. So the day before the parade, I went in there again and made them call Todd. He assured me, we'd be inserted somewhere quiet. They inserted us after the Spring Creek Memory Care van. I think they had 90 year olds waving!!

The poop scoopers were a big hit. The 3 women that dressed up as Rodeo/Prom Dress Clowns really put on a poop scooper show. I didn't see it, but they told me after the parade that they did a exhibition poop scooper pickup in front of the judges and bowed after their performance! REDICULOUS

While riding we got a lot of cheering and clapping. I could tell the people were clapping because they appreciated the trail work GVBCH does, then, I think there was another group of people that just loved seeing horses in the parade. But I think the kids are the ones that really enjoyed the horses. You could see it on their faces, they wanted to just jump out there and touch the horses (Mom's holding them back). So if we inspired one kid to love horses, it was a success. We were the only equine entry this year! Bozeman not the AG town it used to be!

Thanks Carmen, Kay and Chris for the trailer support!

Thanks to the trailer decorating team. It all looked great.

Finally, thanks to all the riders who showed up and rode in the parade. We had a total of 10 riders + 5 pack horses with panniers loaded with tools.

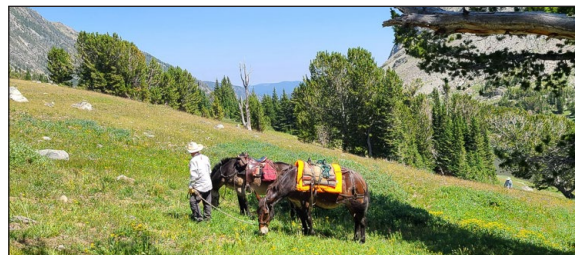
Everybody did great, We had Eugenia and Slim leading the parade. She definitely had the most flowers going on, riders 2nd and packers pulling up the rear.

Next year? 20 riders? — Mark



THOMPSON LAKE PACK OUT — AUGUST 5

Dan Marsh along with Dan Porter, Mark DeOpsomer Tim Butler and Curt Setergren packed out a crew from Thompson Lake that we brought in on July 29th. They had 2 food boxes and 2 tool boxes along with a top pack of a duffle bag and a bag of trash. Each box was between 50 and 60 pounds and a 40 pound top pack. Round trip was 23.4 miles on a steep and narrow trail but at least it was going downhill with loaded packs this time. We left the trailhead at 8 AM and returned at 6PM. The Forest Service crew waited for us to show up and took off as soon as we got the gear unloaded to the District Office.



AUGUST 11 — INDIAN RIDGE TRAIL

I had a couple hours to spare so I grabbed a day pack, silky saw, combie, and loppers and headed for Indian Ridge Trail. Arriving at the trailhead just before 4pm, I repaired the "Before you go" poster on the FS sign board as best as I could with duct tape and deployed our "Trail Maintenance Today" sign. On foot I headed up the trail, reworking a total of 17 water bars and reaching the foot bridge over Logger Creek at around 6pm. I cleared only 2 small deadfall using the silky and trimmed a few maples, nine barks, and dogwoods that were beginning to encroach on the trail. Five hikers passed by and I was able to give a GV BCH business card to one that stopped to thank me. I returned to the trailhead at 6:45 pm. The trail appears to see little equestrian use and is in good condition. Hoary Alyssum, Canadian thistle, and knapweed are well established at the trailhead and in the adjacent meadow and attempting to move on up the trail as well. — Dan Porter

MCC CREW TO THOMPSON LAKE — AUGUST 13

Lew Goodpasture and Dan Marsh packed a Forest Service employee and an MCC crew into Thompson Lake off of Mill Creek in the Paradise Valley. We had been asked months ago for this but never heard back after numerous calls, so we thought it had been canceled. The night before, I get a call from Lew asking if I could do a pack the next day after the FS finally called back to say it was on. We met them at 9:00 am and loaded up their gear with 2 food boxes and one tool box and headed toward the lake at 10:00 am. It was a rocky and wet trail that went over 5 miles in. When we got near the lake the trail had been washed out and we found a path someone had made that went straight up the hill. We just about got to the lake and found a tree across the trail we couldn't get around, so we unloaded the crosscut saw and began to remove it. About that time Arianna showed up and helped us clear the log. We meandered our way to the lake and finally found a good camp site and waited to see if we picked the right place. Given the thumbs up on the site we unloaded and headed back in the rain. On our way back following the old trail it came to a 40 foot drop off and we had to back the stock back to where the "new" trail went. We got back just before 4 and headed home.

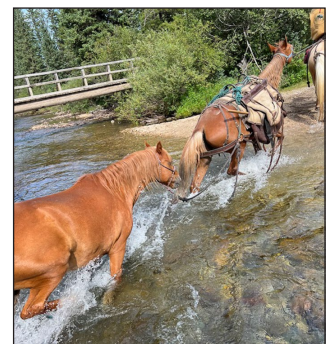


Four GV BCH members met at Spanish Creek for a day of trail maintenance. Curt Settergren brought two pack horses while Kenji, Marianne and I provided the tools and manpower. The corrals were all being used when I arrived, and horse trailers were parked in multiple camp sites as well as a couple in the parking lot. The car parking area was full as well. I deployed our "Trail Maintenance Today" sign and a number of people stopped by to talk and thank us for what we do. We were tacked up and after a brief discussion about tools, bears, safety, weather, and fire danger we headed up the trail by 9:30 am, crossing the creek safely and turning Northwest up the 401 towards Cherry Lake. We carried two silkys, two combies, three loppers, one crosscut, and one Stihl battery powered chain saw with 3 batteries. It was noted that Knapweed is creeping up the trail now and Hoary Alyssum has become well established in the meadow at the first switchback. Diversions and water bars cleared of sediment in the Spring are still functioning for the most part but sediment has built up and will soon have many of them plugged. We proceeded on across the 401 meeting no other trail users and clearing 9 deadfall before reaching the 409 JCT to Big Brother Lake. One deadfall tangle featuring two large trees suspended at angle had the trail completely blocked with no ride around option. After careful consideration and discussion we made the cuts and cleared the trail with no problem using the chainsaw.

We reached the turn to Big Brother just before noon and enjoyed a quick lunch together at that location. Turning up the 409, we cleared additional deadfall, noting the poor condition of the trail, with erosion winning the battle over the few remaining old water bars. Reaching the wilderness boundary we prepared to use the crosscut saw if needed. One 10" log did present itself and was removed "promptly" with the crosscut. At 2pm, still about 1 mile short of the lake we decided to "Head for Home". Curt and Kenji did so but Marianne agreed to clear trail behind me as I worked back for 2 hours pruning evergreen saplings up to 8' tall from the 8' wide trail spec. By 4pm the large Corona Pruners had me beat so we made tracks for the trailhead, arriving at 6:30 pm. Walking on foot down the last sidehill I couldn't resist taking a few "Whacks" with the combi at the sediment built up in several of the diversions, but more is needed.

At the stream crossing a brand-new blaze red poster alerted trail users that a "carcass" is somewhere along the #413 trail and there is bear activity in the area. We had seen many signs of bear activity along the 401 as well.

Interestingly, two men offered to make donations to our cause, one in the morning and one in the evening. I provided a GV BCH card to Peter (from Idaho) in the morning and we may see his donation show up in our PO Box. The evening donation was accepted from Wildfire Defense System located at Four Corners in Bozeman and the \$200 will be provided to the GV BCH treasurer. All in all, it was a great 9-hour day on the trail with a great trail crew maintaining the resource for all. —Dan Porter



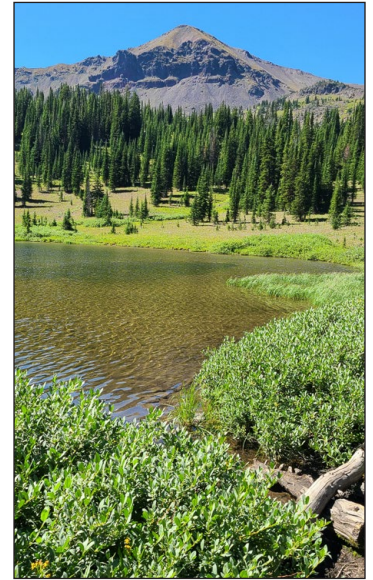
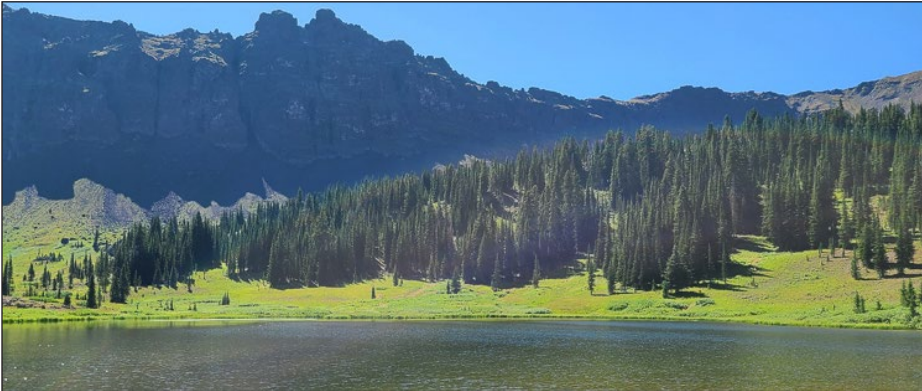
HYALITE LAKE PACK IN — AUGUST 19

Dan Marsh along with Mark DeOpsomer and Curt Settergren, packed in a Forest Service crew of 4 members which was down by what they expected by a couple due to illness. The crew had one food box and one toolbox, and 2 soft panniers loaded with gas cans and water barrier sheeting. There were 65 pounds in each toolbox and 51 pounds in each of the food boxes. The soft panniers were about 35 pounds each. We arrived at the trailhead at 7:30AM and the Forest Service Crew arrived at 8:30AM so we packed up their gear and headed down the trail at 9:30AM. The round trip was 11 miles, so we got to the lake around 11:30AM and left at 12:30PM and got back to the trailhead at 2:30PM. We had motorcycles come up on us at the switchbacks just below the lake. That trail is a shared trail, and motorcycles are allowed from Sunday to Thursday only. Fortunately, we were able to get off the trail and let them by but if it had been a few minutes earlier they could have spooked the horses off a cliff. One rider was nice and coasted down when he went by but one was a hot head and revved his engine on the way by.



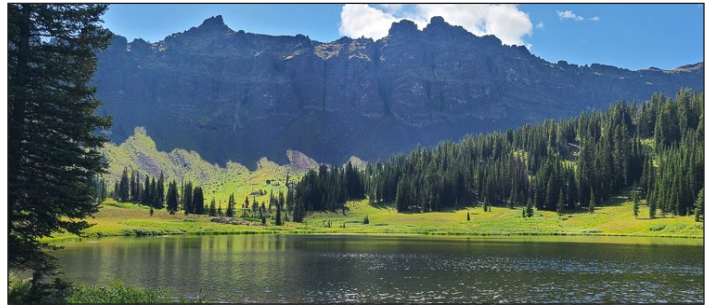
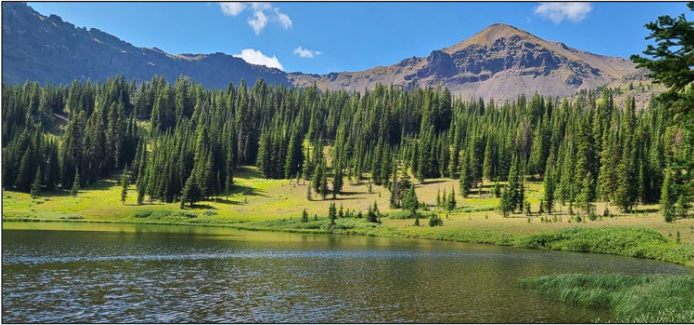
MCC CREW PACK OUT FROM THOMPSON LAKE — AUGUST 20

Dan Marsh and Henry Glenn packed out the MCC crew we brought in on the 13th. Lew was supposed to be there, but he got stuck in Denver with a delayed flight and couldn't get back home. We got on the trail at 9AM and got back to the trailhead around 3PM. Henry had a new pack horse but he did just fine once he got used to the orange food boxes. It rained on the way in but cleared up by the time we got to the lake. The crew had done a great job on repairing the washed-out trail. They also had time to clear the trail up to the pass, so they had a busy week. We loaded up the food boxes on Henry's horses and I took the tool boxes and off we went.



HYALITE LAKE — AUGUST 23

Dan Marsh along with Clint Schwalm and guest Bailey packed the crew out of Hyalite Lake. The crew was down to 2 people from the original crew but they accomplished a lot of work on the trail. I was asked to pick up a new sign from the District Office because the old one had incorrect information of who was allowed on the trail at the Storm Castle TH marker. Clint had a new pack horse but he did just fine with the food boxes, and I took out the tool boxes. It is a beautiful trail with a lot of waterfalls along the way, but you want to plan on going on Friday and Saturday to avoid the motorcycles. We met a lot of hikers along the way on both the way in and out. It is 5.5 miles to Hyalite Lake and takes about 2 hours to get there.



Five GVBCH members met at the trailhead and were in the saddle just after 9am planning to clear deadfall on their way to Arrow Lake. We cleared a total of 15 deadfall from the trail including one large tangle that was a bit intimidating but removed with no problem. We reached the lake around 1:30 and watered our mounts, then decided to turn back due to the time and high winds in the area. All in all, a good day together. Thank you, Lew, Larry, Carmen, Dean and Eugenia, for helping to keep our trails open. Fellow equestrians from Minnesota and Arizona were camped at Spanish Creek and thanked us for what we do.

One said that she follows "US" on Facebook. Another was planning to ride over the ridge from Spanish Lakes directly to Lake Solitude and was grateful to learn that that was not advisable. They also asked about bears in the area and didn't know that the many torn logs they had passed along the 401 and 407 all week had been ripped apart by bruins.

The Little Hellroaring trail, if you go, is a "long pull" with an elevation gain of 3,500 feet in the 7 miles to the lake with most of that gain in the first 5 miles to the Indian Ridge junction. There are also two sidehill sections that you may want to dismount and hoof it yourself. Once you cross the creek at the bottom there is no water until you reach Arrow Lake. —Dan Porter



PORCUPINE TRAIL — AUGUST 28

Dan Marsh and Tim Butler cleared the Porcupine Trail 34 to Onion Basin to about 9 miles. We started a little after 9AM and headed for Onion Basin. We both had a pack horse, and we took an electric and gas chainsaw along with tools for clearing water bars. It had rained for about an hour around 6AM but it was clear when we got to the trailhead. It was 40 degrees when I left the house and the high was forecasted for around 65 degrees. There were no flies all day so that was great, and the temperature was perfect. We cut out 22 trees and some were bushy and over 24 inches. We saw wolf tracks in the mud and seen a few deer. We saw where people on horseback had gone up for a while and turned around because of the deadfall. In most of the case, there was not a good way around the trees. We had lunch and planned on going on until 3PM but we ran into a leaner that was a mess and decided to turn around a little before 3PM. On the way back my pack horse decided to go a different direction around a tree and while I was getting him straightened out Tim's pack horse had his pack saddle under him and no saddle pads. Tim took his riding horse back to find the pads and came back in a short time, got repacked and off we went. We got back to the trailhead around 6PM and headed home. When I got home the buttons holding the padding on the divider on the new horse trailer had popped out and wore 2 holes in my horse's hip.



It's no secret that Montana is growing rapidly because people are drawn to what few other places have – wild country, incredible recreation access, and friendly communities. Our backyard mountains – the Madison and Gallatin ranges – feel the pressures of this growth as more people explore deeper into the backcountry on foot, horse, or bike.

More importantly, these mountains provide clean drinking water, important habitat for species from grizzly bears to elk, fresh air, adventure, and solace surrounded by wild nature.

That's why we joined with other members of the Gallatin Forest Partnership to unveil proposed legislation – The Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act – to permanently protect our backyard mountains so they stay wild and healthy as they are today.

The Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act is a realistic solution to permanently protect 250,000 acres of public land in the Madison and Gallatin ranges that will safeguard Bozeman's drinking water and the headwaters of the Gallatin and Yellowstone rivers, conserve wildlife habitat and migration routes, stop further development, and provide balanced access to outdoor recreation.

Since 2016, a coalition of recreationists, business owners, sportsmen, landowners, and conservationists have been advocating for permanent conservation for these ranges. Nearly 2,000 citizens, business owners, and recreation advocates have endorsed the Gallatin Forest Partnership proposal, including the Gallatin and Madison County Commissions and the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce.

While current Forest Service management and the existing Wilderness Study Area give these mountains some protection, they are not permanent. Now is the time to make common-sense choices to ensure our kids and grandkids can enjoy the Montana way of life in the future.

Two-hundred folks turned out for three community events to celebrate or ask questions about the proposed legislation. Members of the Gallatin Forest Partnership were stationed throughout the event wearing nametags that said, "Ask me a question," inviting our friends and neighbors to chat one on one. Thank you all for joining us at these events and to those who added your voices of support.

See: [Daily Montanan](#)

Many locals have been working to protect the Gallatin and Madison ranges for decades to ensure wildlife have room to roam and people have a place to escape the busyness of day-to-day life. And many care passionately about our wild backyard, whether they access the area by foot, horse, mountain bike, ski or snowmobile. In fact, nonpartisan research shows that nine in 10 Montanans believe it's important to permanently protect this corner of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

We believe the Greater Yellowstone Conservation and Recreation Act strikes a realistic balance protecting the diverse recreational uses, wildlife habitat, wilderness, and solitude that come with an undeveloped natural landscape.

The majority of the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area will become permanent wilderness to better protect our beloved wildlife, open space, and drinking water. This wilderness study area was never meant to last forever, and the act is a solution to long-standing confusion around this area.

Beyond the Wilderness designations, other conservation designations will add permanent protections for wildlife habitat and seasonal migrations in this corner of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Existing recreation access will be maintained for all of us whether we are hikers, bikers, horse users, snowmobilers, or skiers. The act allows for timber and recreation pressure to be managed in a way that will keep Bozeman's drinking water clean.

If you missed the Wild Backyard Bash in your community and want to learn more, please visit us at greateryellowstoneact.org. We look forward to continued conversations in our communities as we build broad-based support for this proposed legislation among a wide range of stakeholders.

Denise Wade is the owner of Big Sky Adventures and Tours, member of the Gallatin Forest Partnership, and passionate proponent of wildlife protection. Henry Glenn is President of the Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen, member of the Gallatin Forest Partnership, and an avid steward of the wilderness he loves. Ian Jones is a co-founder of Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association, member of the Gallatin Forest Partnership, and advocate for public-lands recreation and conservation.

**GVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2023 POKER RIDE**

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