

BOARD MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 6:30 PM

GENERAL MEETINGS:  
3rd Thursday, 7:00 PM

First Security Bank  
2046 Cattail St & 19th St

#### 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.

#### 2025 OFFICERS, 1 YEAR

##### PRESIDENT

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

##### VICE PRESIDENT

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

##### TREASURER

Elizabeth Heppler ... 209-2063

##### SECRETARY

Kathy VanDyke ... 209-0613

##### DIRECTORS

##### TWO YEAR TERM

Bob Criswell ... 595-8150  
Dan Porter ... 539-0879  
DC Stark ... 307-690-9905

##### ONE YEAR TERM

Laurie Connelly ... 579-2859  
Nanci Marx ... 763-4172  
Lew Goodpasture ... 575-639-9091

##### STATE BOARD DIRECTORS

Dan Marsh (1 year) ... 581-3160  
Chris Nygren (2 year) ... 546-7550  
Sid Boswell, alternate (1 year) ... 595-7197

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

##### BCH WEB MASTER

Dan Marsh ... 581-3160  
[webmaster@bchmt.org](mailto:webmaster@bchmt.org)  
<https://gvbch.bchmt.org>

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

PACK IN/PACK OUT BRACKETT CREEK VIA ROSS PASS : JULY 1-8

WEDNESDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Dan Porter, 539-0879

SATURDAY TRAIL CREW : JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

Lew Goodpasture, 575-639-9091

POKER RIDE : JULY 12, BRIDGER BOWL

[LcConnelly@yahoo.com](mailto:LcConnelly@yahoo.com), 579-2859

BOARD MEETING : JULY 17, 6:00 PM

Janice Cartwright, 1655 Harper Puckett Road

GENERAL MEETING : JULY 17, 7:00 PM

Janice Cartwright, 1655 Harper Puckett Road

8 SIGN POSTS TO HATFIELD MOUNTAIN : JULY 19

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Hello GVBCH,

Thank you to everyone who participated in our National Trails Day cleanup on June 7.

We had a fantastic turnout, and volunteers accomplished major work on the Spanish Creek corrals and nearby trails. Special thanks to Dan Porter for helping coordinate the day's efforts. Some members even brought their horses and took advantage of the afternoon for a trail ride.

We're now in the final stretch of Poker Ride preparation. A huge thank you to Devon Kerley and Laurie Connelly for all their hard work organizing this year's event—it's a big lift, and they've done a phenomenal job. I also want to thank Janice Cartwright for creating new trail signs, which are a great addition to our setup. We still need a few volunteers so please let Laurie know if you are planning on being available on the 12th. We will need 50/50 sales, someone to assist in the cook tent, and a few other spots to fill.

Here's a quick reminder of the remaining key dates:

July 2: Prize sorting at Laurie's

July 9: Trail clearing with Janice at 9:00 AM

July 11: Setup at 5pm, followed by a potluck dinner.

Henry is providing the BBQ, bring a side or a desert

July 12: The Ride

I've heard from a few folks who were under the impression that advance registration is required for the Poker Ride. While advance registration is encouraged, we'll also welcome sign ups the morning of the event. Please help spread the word by sharing our Facebook and Instagram posts with your equine groups and contacts.

The dates for this year's Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness trips are set. If you're interested in attending, please RSVP to Henry Glenn as soon as possible so he can get an accurate headcount and finalize logistics. Finally, thank you to the trail bosses and crews, convention planners, and everyone keeping this club active and impactful throughout the season. I'll see you at the setup or the ride!— Sid Boswell, President, GVBCH



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 19

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 19

Roll Call: Sid Boswell, Henry Glenn, Elizabeth Heppler, Kathy VanDyke, Laurie Connelly, Devon Kerley (self and as proxy for Bob Criswell), Dan Porter (self and as proxy for Lew Goodpasture), Dan Marsh, Chris Nygren

Called to order by Sid Boswell.

### MINUTES OF MAY 2025 MEETING

Devon moved to approve the minutes as written; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking, and two CDs that are accruing interest, one of which is maturing and can be added to now if we wish. She also reported payment of the liability insurance premium, and the receipt of numerous Poker Ride fees. Henry moved to approve the report; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

National Trails Day: There was a great turnout, much work was accomplished on the Spanish Creek corrals and trails.

Greater Yellowstone Conservation & Recreation Act: Henry reported on his trip to Washington DC with members of the Gallatin Forest Partnership. They met with all four members of the Montana delegation about opposition to the sale of public lands and support of the Act.

Recruiting: The club has recently welcomed several new members.

Trail Crew: Crews have been going out regularly with numerous volunteers and much work has been done.

Wilderness trips: There's still room and work for more people if anyone is interested.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting; Laurie seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



We did not have a program at this meeting; however we were treated to an ice cream social.

Call to Order – Sid Boswell called the meeting to order.

Poker Ride – The Poker Ride will be held on July 12, so the June 19 meeting consisted primarily of final planning for the event. Items discussed included:

July 2: Meeting at Laurie's to organize the prizes.

July 9: Trail clearing with Janice at 9:00 am

July 11: Flagging in the morning; Potluck & setup at 5 pm

July 12: The Ride

Laurie asked everyone to bring their shade canopies; Carmen discussed the food details; volunteer sign-ups continued.

Janice provided some general safety advice and procedures. Janice also made a motion that the club purchase four plastic manure forks to be stored in the trailer; Laurie seconded; the motion passed.

Minutes of May 2025 meeting: Janice Cartwright moved to approve the minutes as printed; Dan Marsh seconded; the motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Elizabeth reported the chapter's savings and checking, and two CDs that are accruing interest. She also reported payment of the liability insurance premium, and the receipt of Poker Ride fees. Stacie Boswell moved to approve the report; Janice seconded; the motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

National Trails Day: There was a great turnout, and much work was accomplished on the Spanish Creek corrals and trails. Sid expressed thanks to the planners and participants and also extended a thank-you to the trail bosses and crews for all of their work.

State conventions: Planning for the 2026 convention continues. Molly reported that she's working on raffle prizes and would like tickets to be available for state directors at the September meeting. She's also been contacting possible speakers.

LifeFlight: There was insufficient interest for a group membership however you can still sign up individually.

Greater Yellowstone Conservation & Recreation Act: Henry reported on his trip to Washington DC and meetings with the Montana delegation about opposition to the sale of public lands and support of the Act.

Recruiting: The club has recently welcomed several new members. Sid suggested inviting friends to the meetings to help get the word out about our group.

### ADJOURNMENT

Corinne Martin made a motion to adjourn; Janice seconded; the meeting adjourned.

—Submitted by Kathy VanDyke



On the last day in May of 2025, seven GVBCH members met at the Spanish Creek Trailheads with plans to ride for the "She's Real Fine". My 409 trail to clear deadfall and do what we do best. Heading out the 401 we stopped at the first Cuff Creek tributary crossing to clear evergreen limbs and Alders that were beginning to encroach. We brandished the combies too and touched up a couple water bars as well. Riding on we noted the great job Tim Butler had done on Memorial Day weekend clearing deadfall and brush as we reached the 409-intersection unimpeded at just before noon. A number of water bars need help, but many are still operating as designed.

After a relaxing lunch at the intersection, we turned up the 409 with Stihl and crosscut and combie and Silky locked and loaded. We were surprised to find that only one significant deadfall would block our path the entire day. It turned out that the one deadfall was at the precise location where I had hoped to install a water bar. How could that happen? A perennial spring adjacent to the trail has run its course down the trail for many years in that location. With all hands on deck we cut the deadfall, designed, engineered, and installed a great water bar using the deadfall. The spring water was diverted immediately across and off the trail to the delight and satisfaction of all members involved in its installation.

Riding on, we passed the Wilderness boundary with crosscut and silky at ready but reached the first stream crossing the trail on its way to Camp Creek with nothing to clear. Just past that, 6.5 miles from the trailhead, we encountered snow drifts that convinced us to end our forward progress. Returning we employed the combies to advantage as we cleared sediment from several structures, but with energy running low and the hours ticking away we pointed our trusty steeds in the direction of the trailhead.

It was a great day to be in the mountains riding on our public lands with an amazing crew of BCH'rs. Thank You, Marianne, Eugenia Elizabeth, Chris, and Dean, for helping to preserve our equestrian heritage...and a special Thank you to Mark for bringing along his pack horse to carry our "tools of the trade". —*Dan Porter*





## SPANISH CREEK TRAIL, NATIONAL TRAILS DAY — JUNE 7

Nineteen GVBCH members met at Spanish Creek campground for a full day of celebration while performing one of our stated missions "...to assist government agencies in the maintenance & management of this resource". Trail #407, the "Spanish Creek Trail", has been the adopted trail of our Gallatin Valley Chapter for over 30 years from when the closure of that trail to equestrians was instigated. Through the efforts of our founding members the trail was reopened to equestrians under an adoption agreement with the Forest Service that our members would maintain it. Since then, most of the founding members and many others since have made their last ride to some high mountain pass, but their dedication to trails lives on in current GVBCH members. It is therefore appropriate that we all spent the day repairing the corrals, dispersing accumulated manure, removing rocks to create better footing in and around the corrals, and later trimming back tree limbs and saplings that were encroaching into the paved road access.

Lew and Jenny hauled the GVBCH trailer to the site on Friday and camped there overnight to save our preferred campsite. Members began arriving at 8 am on Saturday morning and by 9am it was all hands-on deck with wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, pulaskis, manure forks, a dump cart, drivers, chain saw, a Kubota...and enough manpower to "move a mountain". The job was done by noon, and a nice lunch was soon ready, complete with cheeseburgers, chips, delicious potluck salads, Crystal lemonade, Raspberry Iced Tea, homemade desserts, and sliced watermelon. After lunch eight or ten members saddled up and rode the 407 trail just like our founding members did long ago. A few diehards worked back down the access road clearing tree limbs, aspen saplings, and willows that were beginning to obstruct traffic.

Total man hours dedicated to the day's work was approximately 70 and the total direct cost to the Gallatin Valley chapter for lunch was \$145.33. The treated rails were donated by member Dean Vine and the lag screws were supplied from those stockpiled in the GVBCH trailer. Dan Marsh brought a dump trailer to help with manure dispersal and Jim and Corinne Martin brought their Kubota to make the job go faster as well. Lew and Jenny supplied the grill and gas to cook the burgers.

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who was able to participate in this project and celebrate National Trails Day, as well as our heritage together at an incredible location. See you all at the 2025 Poker Ride on July 12th. —*Happy Trails, Dan Porter*





## TWIN CABINS TO ELKHORN — JUNE 11

Five volunteers, Dan Marsh, Mark DeOpsomer, Clint Schwalm, Tim Butler and Lew Goodpasture, braved the wet weather and had a very productive day. We departed the Twin Cabin Trailhead about 9:15 am, armed with two gas chainsaws, a battery powered chainsaw, and two Silky saws. We rode for about an hour in cool, cloudy weather. About mid-morning it started raining lightly and continued off and on the rest of the day. Once in the timber, we encountered trees down mostly in the 3"–8" size. The landscape and sky were fabulous and we found wolf, bear, moose, and elk tracks along the muddy stretches of trail. The rain subsided briefly when we stopped for lunch about 1:00. We cut and cleared or just cleared 37 trees that were blocking the trail to some extent. We did not see any other people out on the trails and really enjoyed being out and getting some meaningful work done. We arrived back at the trailhead about 5:00.

If you haven't volunteered for one of our work outings, please give it a try. We could use the help, and I think you would enjoy a day out in the backcountry.

Next Wednesday we'll be going out from Porcupine Creek Trailhead toward either Onion Basin or 1st Creek or both. An alternate trail might be back to Spanish Creek Trailhead and clear the trail to Jerome Rock Lakes. —GVBCH

**"Thank you Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen we appreciate you! Great group to spend the day with doing trail work—they love new peeps." — Four Corners Saddlery and Boutique**



twin cabin to red cliff  
06/11/25 16:31

6/11/25, 4:31 PM

Elevation

0 mi 8,217 ft



☐ Hide on map

Total Time

7 hr 14 min

Distance

↔ 11.7 mi

Speed

1.6 mph

Elevation Gain

↗ 2,025 ft

Elevation Loss

↘ 1,965 ft





## CLIFF CREEK — JUNE 14

"Chips were Flying" on the Deer Creek trail as 7 members of the Gallatin Valley Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen of Montana cleared deadfall on the steep and rocky trail. Departing from the trailhead at 9:15am, we confirmed that the first 2.5 miles were clear since recently being maintained by a Forest Service Crew, so we reached the foot bridge in 75 minutes. At the stream crossing we discovered that a log previously blocking the trail had been cut back to clear trail for pedestrians but the portion remaining effectively blocked the equestrian stream crossing. The work started at that point and continued on as we cleared over 15 logs of substance and many more of small diameter. Manpower was employed with Clint, Mark, and Curt leaning in to the task at hand, while "Girl Power" came out in force with Eugenia, Carmen and Marianne doing their part to operate crosscut and silky saws. Hoping to reach the lakes, we cut what would be our largest (12"D) and last log of the day, requiring a lever and stone to move and support it from the trail. At 3:15 and 8,825 ABS elevation we were stopped just short of the lake by deep snow. It was a great day to be in the mountains with cool breezes and timbered shade with not a cloud in the sky. A number of hikers, fishermen, and bear hunters were encountered but no wildlife spotted.

Returning to the trailhead, it was noted that trail users have been short cutting the very first switchback right "out of the chute" to the point where the intended gentle route trail is barely discernible. Fishermen/women and swimmers were in evidence, but parking was still available, and we had no trouble that morning getting parked at 8am.

We took time to have a cold refreshing water and delicious snacks provided by Carmen then headed for home, tired but grateful to have spent a full day in "God's Country" with our equestrian companions and GVBCH friends.

Thank you, Curt, for providing a great little packhorse. Carpooling allowed us to field 7 horses and a mule while using only three vehicles/trailers and leaving plenty of parking for others. —*Dan Porter*





Greetings, again, trailworkers,

We have had some really fun and productive work days so far and I'd like to keep the momentum up and try to get more volunteers out and more work done each week than the week before. I want to extend a special invitation to everyone who has not been out yet this year. I know family stuff, work stuff, horse stuff and lots of other stuff can interfere with your fun stuff but set yourself a goal to make at least one ride with us this summer. That will give us a baseline to build on for the future. Just pick a Wednesday or Saturday and put it on your calendar and redirect your life to make it happen. Once you do the first one you'll find that you'll want to come back again and again. If you're into chainsaws and have the proper credentials we'll get one in your hands on the first trip out. Or, you might rather be on one end of the crosscut saw or Silky saw and get a thrill from the aerobic benefits of that. Who knows, you might be leading a trail group yourself before the snow falls!

This coming Wednesday June 18th we will meet at Porcupine Creek Trailhead and ride up either 1st Creek or follow Porcupine Creek Trail into Onion Basin. Meet at the trailhead early enough to be saddled and riding by 9:00 am.

I hope to see some new faces this coming week. Call or text me with any questions or to let me know you will be there. Or you can respond [to this email](#).

See you next Wednesday,

*Lew*

575-639-9091



Cliff Creek ride



## FIRST CREEK — JUNE 18

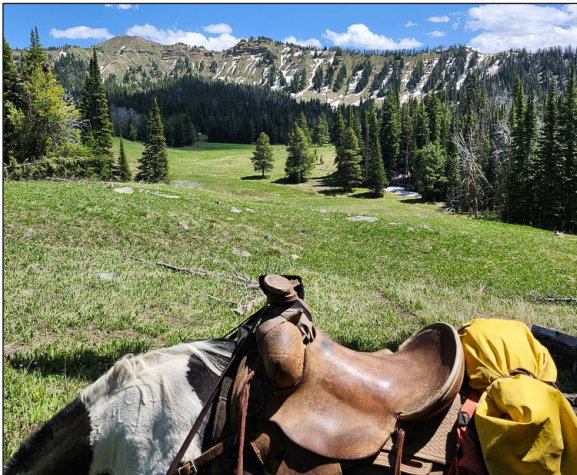
We had 9 people show up at the Porcupine Trailhead, so we divided into two groups with one group heading to First Creek and Hidden Lake Divide Trail for a round trip of around 12 miles and the other crew heading to Onion Basin. The First Creek group consisting of Dan Marsh with a pack horse accompanied by Tim Butler, Elizabeth Heppler, and Brenna Kelleher headed up the trail around 9:15AM. We reached the First Creek Cutoff in 20 minutes and bade farewell to the Onion Basin crew. We saw about a half dozen deer and a few mountain grouse along the way. It didn't take long before we started removing trees and continued right up until we stopped for lunch at the top around 1:30PM after removing 28 trees along the way. We ran across a small creek that had flowed over the water bar that was running down the trail at a good clip. We decided to clean it up on the way back and Tim had the water flowing where it was supposed to in short order making a couple water diversions to get it off the trail. Everybody did a great job clearing the trail with Brenna throwing cut logs off the trail like they were twigs! We got back to the trailhead a little after 4:00PM and got the tack off the horses and headed home. It was warm but no flies out yet, so it was a great trip. —*Dan*





## ONION BASIN — JUNE 18

Clint, Michael, Carmen, Chris, and I split off from Dan Marsh taking the cutoff to First Creek, we then proceeded to ride up FS 34 (Porcupine Creek Trail) and took the left turn towards Eagle Head Mountain all the way to the top into Onion Basin. OnX said we'd traveled 7.8 miles at lunch, prior to heading up that really steep part of the trail after the first nice meadow, unfortunately, my battery died. So, I'm thinking we probably rode another 0.5 miles making the trip a total  $8.3 \times 2 = 16.6$  miles. Total trees cut is 20. In the trail we saw bear and wolf tracks as was also noticed on the Twin Cabin trail crew day a week earlier. Beautiful; day, no wind or rain, just sun and fun. —Mark





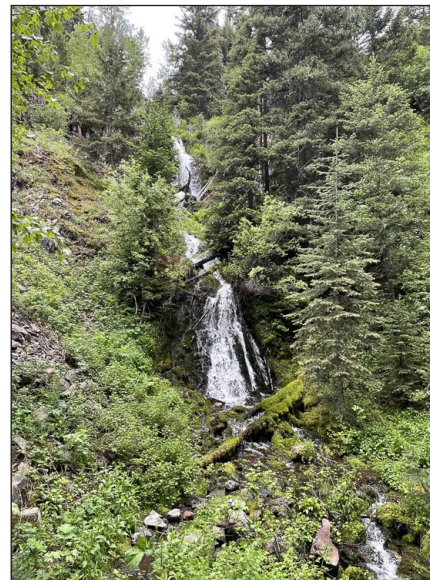
## BIG CREEK — JUNE 22

Clint Schwalm and I braved reports of 80% chance of rain, winds of 25 mph, and temps in the 40's and trailered our trusty steeds over to Big Creek on the Yellowstone. We were in the saddle by 9:45 am with cool temps for perfect riding, no rain and not a breath of wind. We turned up the Cliff Creek trail and almost immediately encountered encroaching shrubs laden with rainwater from the proceeding night. We rode 5.43 miles in total from the trailhead, cutting 5 large deadfalls from the trail, stepping over numerous smaller ones, and negotiating a trail in much need of maintenance. We passed just under a nice water fall and stopped for lunch in an open slide area at 12:30. At that point we were cold and our clothes soaked through so we decided to give up an attempt to locate the "Lost Trail" route and instead pointed our horses towards the trailhead.

A crew with loppers would have a "field day" on this trail. It is a clear demonstration of why pruning back shrubs from the trail is invaluable. Had the shrubs been cleared back like we have done on the 401 and 407 trails Clint, and I could have traveled much farther and had a much more enjoyable and profitable ride.

There were two other horse trailers at the trailhead that morning, and a group of 4 fly fishermen bent on "tormenting" some trout in Big Creek when we returned but we saw no one else on the trail that day.

—Happy Trails, Dan Porter





## JEROME ROCK LAKES — JUNE 25

Eight members met at Spanish Creek TH on a nice cool day. That group consisted of Mark Deopsomer, Lew Goodpasture, Jim Wing, Carmen Matzick, Michael Protz, Tim Butler, Clint Schwalm and Evan Schwalm. We departed the TH just about 9:20 and headed up Tr 407 then onto Tr 410 toward Pioneer Falls, armed with Silky saws, and two crosscut saws. Our goal for the day was to clear the trail to Jerome Rock Lakes. On our previous attempt a month ago we only made it about 1/2 mile past the falls due to deep snow. This time we almost got there, being forced to turn back by deep snow again just a 1/2 mile from the lakes. Three of us had to turn back a bit earlier but we cut & cleared, picked up & cleared, or dragged & cleared 37 trees that were blocking the trail. That, along with lopping young trees and branches along about a mile or so of trail. It was a productive day, and I appreciate all that helped out that day. —Lew





## CLIFF CREEK — JUNE 28

Five GVBCB members met in Bozeman at 8:30 am for a day of riding and trail maintenance. Carpooling over to Cliff Creek, Carmen rode with Eugenia and Clint and Marianne climbed in with me. We arrived at the trailhead and were in the saddle by 11am, headed up Big Creek to the Cliff Creek JCT with perfect weather for riding and no others in sight. Bypassing a number of smaller deadfall, as well as two larger ones and negotiating major encroaching shrubs throughout the trail we rode in approximately 7 miles on "rough and rocky". Riders and their equestrian partners gained a new appreciation for the well-maintained trails they enjoy in the Spanish Creek Basin. We passed the "Old Outfitters camp" and several waterfalls and noted two relatively recent blazes on trees as well as some that are older than memory. The claw mark "Blazes" of local bruins on tree trunks were also noted. In search of the "lost trail" we continued on until 2pm. Finding the large deadfall apparently cleared within the last year or two, we decided to turn for home. Riders and equestrians were all feeling the effects of the trail. We stopped to clear two large deadfall on our return as well as several smaller ones, did some pruning while stopped, and took photos of wildflowers and scenery. Reaching the trailhead at 5pm we took timeout to relax, doctor a cut on one horse, enjoy some of Carmens Creations and let our equestrian friends graze on the chest high grass. At just after 6pm we headed for Bozeman with a challenging day of riding behind us, lots of memories made with our BCH friends, and a job well done clearing deadfall and scouting new trail.

—Happy trails! Dan Porter





## URGENT REQUEST FOR ACTION

From: "State Newsletter" <webmaster@PROTECTED>

Subject: Urgent Request for Action

Date: June 25th 2025

Dear BCHMT,

I'm sorry to bring more challenging news, but we have Three New Issues that need your immediate attention. Items 1 and 2 are URGENT. Item 3 is important but has a little time.

1st is a proposal in the "Big Beautiful Bill" to lease 2 million acres of Public Land each year, primarily to oil and gas corporations, but any wealthy corporation could lease these lands. Most of these lands actually hold little value for oil production. Many of the high value lands are already under lease. When leased, the "Surface Rights" must be managed in a way not to hinder the possible drilling and extraction rights or other uses of the lessee. That could limit or eliminate recreational activities on these lands. Hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, hiking etc., could all be impacted. Each year, 2 million more acres would be leased.

Senator Daines is considering support for this. The Senator heard us on the Public Lands Sell off and has committed to not support Senator Lee's amendment to sell. It makes no sense to then support the leasing of these lands with the potential to impact recreational and conservation uses. I hope the Senator hears us again and steps up to truly supporting Public Lands. Call or email Senators Daines and Sheehy now, let him know you oppose the leasing of 2 million acres per year. This will be voted on in the next few days!

2nd Issue for you to consider. In the Presidents proposed budget for 2026 there are drastic cuts to the TRAILS budget which will significantly impact the recreational landscape. The Bill has passed the House and is headed to the Senate. Urgent Action Is Needed: Contact Senator's Daines and Sheehy NOW to let them know that you do NOT support the drastic budget cuts to National Trails in the President's 2026 proposed budget.

These proposed drastic cuts to trails and public lands include:

Over \$1 billion will be slashed from the National Park Service - including a \$900 million cut to the NPS operations budget which funds trails

Bureau of Land Management funding for National Trails reduced to \$0 from \$11 million

The U.S. Forest Service will face trail funding cuts of 60% for maintenance

What's at risk?

Drastic staff cuts will make it more difficult for nonprofit partners to effectively build, maintain, and interpret our trails

Critical repair and maintenance work will be delayed, impacting access and safety

Slower emergency response times and reduced public safety

Degraded trails, unprotected historic sites, and closures that reduce visitors and hurt local economies

Eliminated education and volunteer programs

3rd Issue for you to consider. Loss of Protection for Roadless Area.

Yesterday, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced that the USDA would be rolling back the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule—removing long-standing protections for 58.5 million acres of national forest lands across 39 states. For 24 years, the Roadless Rule has provided safeguards for critical habitats, recreational opportunities and some of America's most remote and ecologically valuable public lands from roadbuilding and development. Removing these protections not only directly contradicts decades of public input—it threatens the very character of the backcountry.

Again, when you email or call our Montana Senators, you could encourage them to support Cantwell's Bill which would protect our Roadless Areas. For contact information and to email Montana's Congressional delegation, see this link:

[https://mt.gov/govt/congressional\\_delegation](https://mt.gov/govt/congressional_delegation).

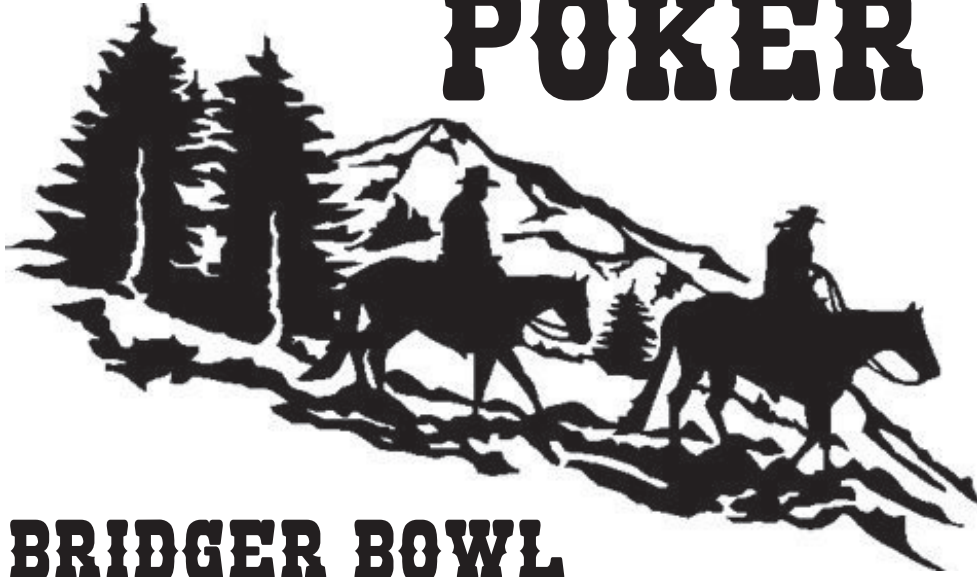
If you feel that it's important to continue the protections for Roadless Areas in Montana and across the Country, there is a Bill introduced by Senator Cantwell of Washington, to permanently codify the Roadless Area Conservation Act. You can read a summary here:

[https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/-sens-cantwell-and-gallego-reps-salinas\\_ansari-lead-bicameral-legislation-to-permanently-preserve-last-remaining-wild-forest-lands](https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/-sens-cantwell-and-gallego-reps-salinas_ansari-lead-bicameral-legislation-to-permanently-preserve-last-remaining-wild-forest-lands)



**37<sup>th</sup> Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen**

# **POKER RIDE**



**BRIDGER BOWL**  
**JULY 12, 2025**

Enjoy the views  
from the  
long or short route

\$35 Adult  
\$15 Children under 12  
—includes lunch—  
Limited to 250 riders  
Check-in/depart 8:00 am-10:00 am  
BBQ social lunch 11:30 am-2:00 pm

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Online registration includes \$5 discount, closes July 9  
more information visit:

**<https://bchmt.org/wp/gvbch/event/poker>**

Laurie Connelly, [lconnelly@yahoo.com](mailto:lconnelly@yahoo.com) or 406-579-2859

Registration is nonrefundable

Poker Hand Prizes donated by:

Kenetrek Boots  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Madison River Propane  
Montana Canvas  
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply  
Rocky Mountain Hat Company



Silent Auction  
Door Prizes  
50/50

**NO DOGS, NO STALLIONS, NO DRONES**

Gallatin Valley Back County Horsemen provide volunteer trail and trailhead  
facility maintenance on public lands throughout Southwest Montana



# Circle Cross Equine Horsemanship Clinic

**Wade Murphy**

**Gallatin Gateway MT July 25,26,27 2025**

**“Cooperation and confidence through leadership”**

Located at 94 Strozzi Lane, Gallatin Gateway Mt  
Contact Wade Murphy 406-431-1717, [murphywade923@gmail.com](mailto:murphywade923@gmail.com) to sign up.

- Two separate, three day classes available. The morning class from 9am-noon will be essential groundwork. MOST ANIMALS AND RIDERS STILL NEED THIS. The afternoon class from 1-4 will be mostly in the saddle.
- **FEEL**– learn about feel, how to apply it and why it is so important!
- Learn how to be the leader your animal wants you to be.
- Learn the basics of centered riding.
- Gain a new level of confidence for both you and your animal.
- Build a solid foundation for preparing to ride.
- Develop skills for gaining and maintaining confidence in the saddle.

Open to both horses and mules. This is not a colt starting class. Participants in riding class should be able to walk and trot their animal. Loping is suggested but optional. Class is limited to 10 riders. Spectators welcome.

Cost:                    \$250 for all 3 sessions of one class.                    (BCH MEMBER PRICE \$225)

                              \$450 for all 6 sessions.    (BCH MEMBER PRICE \$405)

Spectators \$20 per day or \$40 for entire event.

*50% nonrefundable deposit required to hold your spot.*



**GVVBCH IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES & MEMBERS  
WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2024 POKER RIDE**

Backcountry Medical Supplies LLC  
Bar 3 BBQ  
Bridger Bowl  
Cafe M  
Big Sky Mohair Cinches  
Carter's Boot & Repairs  
Dreamers & Schemers  
Four Corners Saddlery  
Ingram Quarter Horses/Spur Cross Ranch  
Kennetrek Boots  
Madison River Propane  
Montana Canvas  
Murdochs Ranch & Home  
Northwest Energy  
Olivelle  
Pony-On-The Creek Luxury Glamping  
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