

## **Collaborative efforts in Montana and contact information:**

Below are the public land collaborative efforts in Montana, both past and present, of which we are aware. They are all addressing a range of public land management issues including active forest management, recreation, wilderness, economic development and conservation. Not all are specifically addressing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Each has a unique story and offers lessons on what works, regardless of whether their efforts encompass one of the 7 wilderness study areas identified in SJ 20.

More information about many of these collaboratives can be found through the [Montana Forest Collaboration Network](#) (MFCN) which assists collaborative groups across Montana in forest and grassland restoration, conservation and resource utilization for the benefit of all. The enclosed report, Collaboration at a Crossroads, also includes several case studies highlighting the issues collaboration faces in Montana in more depth.

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### **Beaverhead Deerlodge Partnership/ Forest Jobs and Recreation Act**

This collaboration included the timber industry, conservation and recreation working to provide wood products and jobs; achieve significant fish and wildlife habitat restoration; protect public land and ensure access for future generations; and support a robust recreation economy including motorized and non-motorized use. It is no longer active.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Tony Colter, Sun Mountain Lumber
- John Todd, Montana Wilderness Association
- Tracy Stone-Manning, National Wildlife Federation; former staff Senator Tester
- Tom France, National Wildlife Federation
- Barb Cestero or Paul Spitler, The Wilderness Society

### **Beaverhead Deerlodge Working Group**

Formed in 2011, the purpose of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group (BDWG) is to bring together diverse interests to develop agreement around priorities and approaches for project work and increase the pace and scale of restoration on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF).

#### ***For more information contact***

- Maureen Conner, former Granite County Commissioner
- Tony Colter, Sun Mountain Lumber
- Darcie Warden, Greater Yellowstone Coalition
- Chris Marcion or Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation

### **Bitterroot Restoration Committee**

The Bitterroot Restoration Committee (BRC) is a diverse group of stakeholders who work together using the [Montana Forest Restoration Committee's](#) Restoration Principles to identify and act on opportunities on the Bitterroot National Forest to improve the health and well-being of the forest and its communities.

***For more information contact***

- Skip Kolwalski, Montana Wildlife Federation board

**Blackfoot Challenge**

The Blackfoot Challenge is a landowner-based group that coordinates management of the Blackfoot River, its tributaries, and adjacent lands. It is organized locally and known nationally as a model for preserving the rural character and natural beauty of a watershed. Its mission is to coordinate efforts that will enhance, conserve and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyles of the Blackfoot River Valley for present and future generations.

***For more information contact***

- Jim Stone, rancher, Ovando

**Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project**

The Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project (BCSP) is a diverse group including timber industry representatives, snowmobilers, outfitters and guides and conservationists that created a made-in-Montana plan for the Seeley Lake Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. The result of their collective efforts is the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act (BCSA). The BCSA is legislation introduced by Sen. Jon Tester for the National Forest lands around Seeley Lake and Ovando areas, which would provide thoughtful landscape-style planning to create certainty for the timber industry, create opportunities to increase recreational use, and to secure conservation protections.

***For more information contact***

- Loren Rose and Gordy Sanders, Pyramid Mountain Lumber
- Jack Rich, Rich Ranch Outfitting
- Mack and Connie Long, Bob Marshall Outfitters
- Jim Stone, Rolling Stone Ranch
- Jordan Reeves, The Wilderness Society
- Alec Underwood, Montana Wildlife Federation

**Clearwater Resource Council**

The Clearwater Resource Council (CRC) works to engage the community and facilitate efforts that will enhance, conserve, sustain, and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Clearwater Watershed for present and future generations.

***For more information contact***

- Jon Haufler, CRC board president

**Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front**

This collaboration includes ranchers, farmers, guides/outfitters, business owners, hunters/anglers and other folks who live and work along the Rocky Mountain Front and

across Montana. For 15 years, the Coalition has worked in a bi-partisan way to protect the federal public lands along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front including:

- forging a balanced approach to motorized and traditional access,
- developing private-public partnerships to voluntarily retire oil and gas leases and permanently withdraw lands from future leasing, and
- passing federal legislation to designate wilderness and meaningful protections for previously unprotected public lands adjacent to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex.

***For more information contact***

- Karl Rappold, rancher, Dupuyer
- Dusty Crary, rancher and outfitter, Choteau
- Gene Sentz, retired school teacher and backcountry outfitter, Choteau

**Custer Gallatin Working Group**

Established in 2014, the Custer Gallatin Working Group (CGWG) works to develop agreement around priority areas and approaches for project work on the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and to help facilitate timely completion of those projects at the local level.

***For more information contact***

- John Prinkki, former county commissioner, Red Lodge
- Earl Atwood, coordinator
- Jim Hart, Madison County commissioner, Ennis

**Elkhorn Restoration Committee**

The Elkhorn Restoration Committee (ERC) is a group of voluntary participants working in a collaborative, multi-party effort within the Elkhorns Cooperative Management Area (ECMA) and utilizing the Montana Forest Restoration Principles as guidance in the planning, development and implementation of ERC's involvement in restoration projects.

***For more information contact***

- Al Christophersen, Co-chair
- Tom Williams, Co-chair

**Elkhorn Mountains Working Group**

The purpose of the Elkhorn Mountains Working Group is to advise the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the development of collaborative recommendations related to wildlife/livestock management strategies in the Elkhorn's.

***For more information contact***

- Dave Brown, member

### **Gallatin Community Collaborative**

The Gallatin Community Collaborative formed in 2013 in order to develop recommendations for the Custer Gallatin National Forest regarding management of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA to inform travel management and the forest plan revision and to develop a legislative proposal that addresses public land designations in the Gallatin Range. The GCC produced a final report but failed to reach consensus recommendations regarding the management of these public lands. The group is no longer active.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Steve Johnson, Big Sky, Co-Chair GCC
- Jeff Mazer, Bozeman, Co-Chair GCC
- Tom Owen, Gallatin Alpine Sports, Big Sky
- Steve Caldwell, Park County Commissioner & Livingston Bike Club

### **Gallatin Forest Partnership**

The Gallatin Forest Partnership is a diverse group of citizens, landowners, entrepreneurs, recreational interests, businesses and conservationists with a shared and direct connection to southwest Montana's Gallatin and Madison Ranges. The Partnership is working together to develop and implement an agreement for future management of the Gallatin and Madison Ranges (including the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA) that supports existing recreational uses of these cherished lands, ensures wildlife have plenty of room to roam, and safeguards Bozeman's drinking water supply.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Ian Jones and Adam Oliver, Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association
- John Mutter, Gallatin Valley Back Country Horsemen
- Hilary Eisen, Outdoor Alliance -MT
- Sally Kelsey, 9 Quarter Circle Ranch, former MT Wilderness Association staffer
- Barb Cestero, The Wilderness Society

### **Gravelly Landscape Collaborative**

The Gravelly Collaborative is a diverse group of citizens and stakeholders who value the Gravelly area for its rich fish and wildlife habitat, natural resources, opportunities for recreation, and clean water. Initiated in 2012, the collaborative strives to include all relevant interests and to foster a transparent, consensus-driven approach to addressing natural resource and community concerns of the Gravelly landscape.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Darcie Warden, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

### **Heart of the Rockies Initiative**

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative is a land trust partnership that works to conserve both continentally significant ecological values at the landscape scale and community values that are prized locally. This partnership provides strategic vision, the latest

science, and international cooperation to the strong collaborative work being done by 22 land trusts, protecting critical habitats and private ranch, farm and timberlands in the Rocky Mountains. They achieve an “all-lands” vision by providing a collaborative structure that brings both public land and private land stakeholders together to deliver science-based conservation planning and to collaboratively build conservation capacity and capital funding.

***For more information contact***

- Gary Burnett, Executive Director, Heart of the Rockies

**High Divide Collaborative**

The High Divide Collaborative is a partnership of public land managers, state wildlife agencies, landowners, local community leaders, scientists, and conservation groups working together to conserve and restore lands of importance for local communities and to protect ecological integrity at the landscape scale. Their region of focus straddles the Continental Divide along the Idaho-Montana state line and is the center of connectivity between the Greater Yellowstone, Crown of the Continent and Central Idaho.

***For more information contact***

- Emily Harkness, Heart of the Rockies Initiative

**Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition**

The Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition (KFSC) is a Montana-made partnership of recreationalists, business owners, timber mill operators, and conservationists that is deeply invested in the future of the Kootenai National Forest (KNF). They have been working since 2006 to find common-ground solutions to public land management and have developed a plan for the Kootenai that ensures timber production, recreational access, clean water and wildlife habitat.

***For more information contact***

- Robyn King, Yaak Valley Forest Council
- Amy Robinson, Montana Wilderness Association
- Paul McKenzie, F.H. Stoltz Land and Lumber Company

**Lincoln Restoration Committee**

The Lincoln Restoration Committee started in September 2008 focusing its work on the Lincoln District of the Helena National Forest. Overall, the group and the U.S. Forest Service District staff share a strong interest in getting work done under the framework of the MFRC Principles.

***For more information contact***

- KD Feedback, Co-Chair
- Paul Roos, member
- Bill Cyr, Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation/Rural Fire
- Karyn Good, The Wilderness Society

### **Lincoln Valley Working Group**

The Lincoln Valley Working Group formed in 2014 to advance broadly supported solutions on the Lincoln District of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and create a brighter future for citizens of the Lincoln Valley. Recognizing the critical connection between the vitality of our local communities and health of our nearby public lands, the group emphasizes forest and aquatic health, community fire safety, diverse forms of recreation, protection of wildlife habitat and community empowerment to create solutions.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Bill Cyr, Lincoln Restoration Committee
- Frank Malek, Local ATV advocate
- Zach Muse, Lincoln Fire Chief, Upper Blackfoot Community Council
- Russ Ehnes, Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association
- Eric Grove, Helena-based mountain bike advocate
- Jordan Reeves, The Wilderness Society

### **Lolo Restoration Committee**

The Lolo Restoration Committee is a group of volunteers participating in a multi-party effort to influence the Forest Service implementation of the 13 Montana Forest Restoration Principles on the Lolo National Forest. The LRC is a voluntary, private initiative, not convened or managed by the Forest Service.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Mike Schaedel, Member
- Jim Burchfield, Citizen at large, SW Crown of the Continent

### **Montana Forest Collaboration Network**

The Montana Forest Collaboration Network (MFCN) is an independent organization of volunteers providing information and services to individuals and groups across the state of Montana that support the management and protection of natural resources. Its mission is to assist collaboration in forest and grassland restoration, conservation, and resource utilization for the benefit of all.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Tim Love, coordinator, MFCN

### **Ravalli County Collaborative**

The Ravalli County Collaborative (RCC) is a diverse group of volunteers appointed by the Ravalli County Commissioners to promote the wise use and management of public natural resources by local, state, and federal agencies within Ravalli County. The RCC employs a collaborative forum for reviewing and developing natural resource actions and policies that affect local communities.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Jeff Burrows, member

- Steve Schmidt, member

### **Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance**

The Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance formed in order to formally recognize that maintaining working ranches and keeping public land viable and intact helps achieve everyone's long-term conservation goals. The wide-reaching alliance includes members from the Ruby Valley Stock Users Association, Conservation District and Watershed Council, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Ruby Habitat Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Society, The Nature Conservancy, the Montana Wilderness Association and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. By focusing positive dialogue on shared interests and common goals, the group aims for better stewardship of the Ruby Valley.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Rick Sandru, Ruby Valley Stock Association
- David Stout, Ruby Valley Conservation District and Ruby Watershed Council
- Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association
- John Anderson, Ruby Dell Ranch
- Kris Inman, Wildlife Conservation Society
- Emily Cleveland, Montana Wilderness Association

### **Southwestern Crown Collaborative (SWCC)**

The Southwestern Crown Collaborative (SWCC) brings together residents, interested citizens, business enterprises, and conservation organizations to consider creative solutions in the management of National Forests in the Blackfoot, Clearwater, and Swan River valleys. The SWCC promotes sustainable forest management, the restoration of watersheds, science-based evaluation of management activities, and opportunities for nearby rural communities to benefit from these lands and waters.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Jim Burchfield, Co-chair
- Jon Haufler, Co-chair

### **Ten Mile/South Helena Collaborative Committee**

The Ten Mile/South Helena Collaborative Committee was created by the Helena City Commission in July 2014 to: Provide recommendations to state and federal agencies on projects being proposed in the Tenmile municipal watershed and South Helena area, including watershed restoration, vegetation management, wildfire mitigation, mine reclamation, recreation, and other projects; identify potential project design and implementation issues and seek solutions early in the site selection and project planning processes; and offer the agency input/knowledge regarding the potential effects of a proposed action or activity.

#### ***For more information contact***

- Joe Cohenour, Chair

### **Whitefish Range Partnership**

The Whitefish Range Partnership was organized in September 2012 with the purpose of reaching a community consensus on future management of the Whitefish Range on the Flathead National Forest (FNF). The Partnership consists of a diverse group of stakeholders that includes wilderness advocates, mountain bikers, backcountry horsemen, snowmobilers, the timber industry, landowners of the North Fork Flathead, tourism and recreation industry, and others.

### ***For more information contact***

- Bob Brown, Chair
- Sarah Lundstrum, National Parks and Conservation Association
- Amy Robinson, Montana Wilderness Association
- Paul McKenzie, F.H. Stoltz Land and Lumber Company