

Madison River Ranch News

What's happening at the Ranch



From the desk of MRR Board President

John Graifemberg

Overcrowding on the Madison River

At the end of August 2022 I attended a meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Commission in Ennis Montana. The purpose of the meeting was to present recommendations to help resolve overcrowding on the Madison River. The recommendations

were developed by an advisory group comprised of outfitters, fishing lodge owners and other members of the industry. Many audience members spoke against the proposed recommendations. It was anticipated the



recommendations would receive approval after the conclusion of several similar additional meetings in other areas of the region. The approved recommendations were to be the final result in an 11 year attempt to minimize overcrowding on the Madison River.

In late December the Commission failed to approve any recommendations. Instead they decided to pass the issue of overcrowding on to the State Environmental Quality Council. The Council is a bipartisan group of 12 lawmakers, 4 public members and a member appointed by the governor. The Council would draft legislation for the legislature and the governor to approve or disapprove. It is expected that

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The Annual MRR Meeting will be held on Saturday June 24 at 10:00 am Cliff Lake Village Schoolhouse

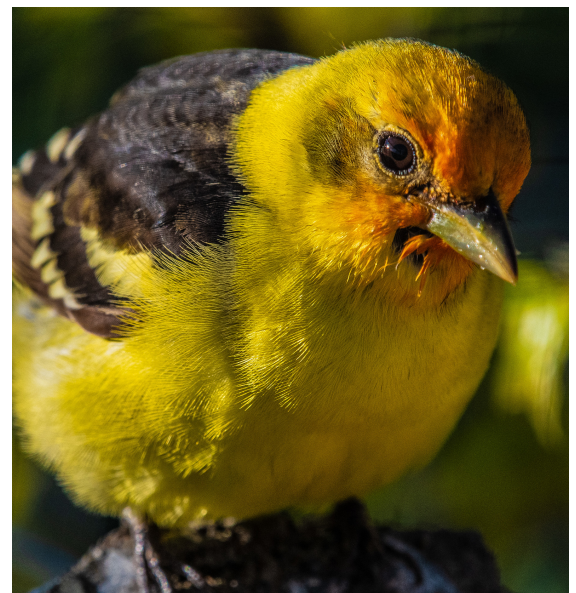


Photo by Mike Cramer

MRR Board President Continued from Page 1

regulatory changes to address overcrowding on the Madison will be completed in 2026 or later.

Proposed RV Park

The Board of Madison County Commissioners has denied the proposed 150 site RV Park on Highway 87 East of MRR. The general public was strongly opposed to the project and voiced their opposition clearly to the county.

Madison County Precipitation

Local precipitation is currently at 120 percent of historical average. If this continues river flows this year should be more than adequate for good fishing conditions.

I am looking forward to arriving on the ranch early May and hope to see many of you on the river, on the days I am not working on my deck replacement project.

**How to Drive on Gravel Roads****John Clark**

- **SLOW DOWN** – The best thing you can do to prevent rough washboard roads is to slow down. The ideal speed is less than 25 miles per hour. When you drive too fast, the dust trail following you is the smooth part of the road blowing away and leaving washboard and rocks behind. Please limit your speed to save our roads and to protect the people and the animals who live here. If you drive slowly you get to see more of the wildlife and are less likely to run it over. Driving slowly around other vehicles and homes is just good manners. No one wants rocks thrown up damaging their vehicles or their homes. **The slower you go the longer our roads and your tires will last.**
- Once we have maintained the roads near your property, please drive on the whole road and slowly. At lower speeds, your tires compact the road making it more solid and sturdy. If tracks start to form, drive on other parts of the road to compact the rest of it and prevent ruts from forming.
- If your road is wet and muddy please allow it to dry as much as you can before you drive on it. Driving our roads when they are wet and muddy is one of the best ways to damage the roads. If you let the roads dry naturally the damage will be minimized.
- Never speed up when you are traveling up hill. Keep a steady and slow momentum going. This will help prevent washboards.

Ranch Recipes**Thanks****Sue McMahan****Mom's BBQ Spare Ribs**

4-6 boneless pork country spare ribs or boneless beef ribs
 1 large onion, sliced
 1 t. Salt
 1 t. Paprika
 1/2 t. Celery Salt
 1/4 C. Brown Sugar
 1/4 C. Vinegar
 1 T. Worcestershire Sauce
 1 C. Ketchup
 2 C. Hot Water

Brown meat. Place in roasting pan. Place onion slices on meat. Mix remaining ingredients in a sauce pan. Heat to boiling. Pour over ribs.

Bake 1-1 1/2 hours for pork in 350 degree oven.

Bake 1 1/2 - 2 hours for beef in 350 degree oven.

For thicker sauce, reduce water by 1/2 cup.



Greenhouse Gardening on the Ranch

By Karen Roll

When you live almost 40 miles from the closest grocery store, getting fresh foods isn't always easy. Sue and Scot McMahan designed and built a



greenhouse in 2018 and have enjoyed fresh veggies ever since. Sue felt that building a greenhouse "would be something fun to do and a new learning experience." In 2022 three other

Madison River Ranch neighbors have gotten greenhouses.

Mark and Laurie Juranek decided to put in a greenhouse in order to learn something new and to "create another relaxing place to check in on daily," Mark and Laurie enjoy their morning coffee in their greenhouse and have found that "watching things grow is super therapeutic."

Christine Slatter reported that she spent a lot of peaceful, quality time just planting and tending and hoping for success. She was disappointed with cucumbers and green beans but did well with tomatoes, basil, thyme and peppers. She plans to add some easy to grow flowers in 2023.



Both the McMahans and the Juraneks have had great success with tomatoes, herbs, radishes and lettuce. The Juraneks hope to grow more peppers in the 2023 gardening season.

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Wildlife On The Ranch

By Karen Roll

Osprey

Most of you have noticed the nesting platform next to the old School House on Trumpeter Trail on your way to the



commons. The Three Dollar Ranch put it up about 12 years ago and it wasn't used for the first few years but then a pair of Ospreys discovered it and it has been in use ever since. This year a pair was on the nest on April 23 -they may have been there even earlier but I wasn't back on the ranch until then. Ospreys are found on every continent except Antarctica. They are found near large bodies of water, both fresh and salt water and primarily eat fish. They are able to hover above the water and then plunge feet-first into the water to capture a fish. When an Osprey takes a fish back to the nest, the fish



is carried head first making it as aerodynamic as possible. When their food becomes scarce Ospreys migrate south going to southern California, Mexico or Central and South

America for the winter. According to a park ranger, Ospreys mate for life but spend the winters apart. Typically the females leave first with the males

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Greenhouse Gardening from Page 3

Ken and I also put in a greenhouse but got a late start and didn't plant last year. We already have a long list of veggies and herbs to try this coming season.

Sue McMahan's advice to future greenhouse gardeners is to "make it bigger than you think you need. So much stuff to grow!!" Mark Juranek advises putting in automated drip irrigation and to consider running electrical as well for fans. Perhaps in the future we'll have a Madison River Ranch harvest festival.

Volunteer Opportunities

Greetings everyone! I hope that you are well. Interested in spending a couple of hours with your neighbors helping on a work project on the Ranch? We have a short list of projects that need completing this summer. Some of these you can grab a neighbor and complete, others will be scheduled. Hope you find a way to get involved and help us keep up on some general maintenance items.

Common Area Toilet Screen - we will have a large work project to build screening for the toilet in the common area. This will take some planning, one idea is to use material from our old mail shed. This will need some "engineering" and expertise. Planning on early June. If interested, email volunteer@madisonriverranch.org

Roads - even with our annual grading and maintenance, some holes will develop (far fewer when we drive under 25 mph!). Grab a neighbor and fill in holes with loose gravel.

Common Area Mowing - as you are available, weed eating under jack fence in common area helps to keep up general maintenance.

If you have ideas for other work projects, please send them to the board email. Looking forward to seeing you this summer.

Mark Juranek,
Treasure MRR

Wildlife on the Ranch from Page 3

remaining on the breeding grounds with the juveniles. Then the males leave and the juveniles have to migrate alone traveling 3500 miles without a guiding adult. The young birds typically spend 18 months on their wintering grounds before making their return migration northward to find a partner, nest and raise a family,

Ospreys return here to breed in the spring often to the same nest, especially if they successfully fledged young the year before. They usually lay 3 eggs. Incubation ranges from 35 to 40 days and is carried out by both parents. Their eggs do not hatch all at once but instead the first chick hatches out up to five days before the last one. Even once the chicks have fledged and can fish they often return to the nest, hoping for an extra meal from their parents.

Cornell Lab has a webcam on an Osprey nest in Missoula which has been monitored for many years. Iris, the Osprey who returns to that nest each year is reported to be between 26 and 28 years old. We can hope that the Ospreys at the School House have such fortunate lives.



Photo by Mike Cramer

Introducing ... Vann & Christine Slatter

We relocated to MRR in September 2017. Prior to that we spent our entire lives in Santa Cruz, California. We were both born and raised there. We lived in our home in Soquel (an unincorporated area of SC County) for 50 years. Our first years of marriage 1964-1968 Vann served in US Navy. He became a team member of UDT 12 and became part of SEAL Team 1. We were back and forth to San Diego when he was home. We moved home in 68 when he returned after 3 tours in Vietnam.

We have 2 sons Matthew and Sidney who were born while he was overseas. We settled happily in the country in my grandmother's old house which had been purchased by my grandparents in 1904 and we began our country life. We discovered the joy of raising chickens and growing gardens surrounded by 50 acres of apples. Our activities always were hunting and fishing. Vann was a diver of course and we had lots of abalone and fresh fish. We fished our Boston Whaler in the Monterey Bay and later a commercial fishing boat while he was continuing his career as a carpenter, and I was a bookkeeper while raising our family. In 1984 we combined our experience and opened our family construction company Slatter Construction, Inc. Our youngest son Sid came to work with us, and Matt was serving four years as a submariner in the US Navy. He joined us when he came home from the Navy. Our other love was farming, and we began to grow grapes on the property which led to home winery and then to a Tasting Room on the property and from 1998 until we moved here Hunter Hill Vineyard and Winery. Vann found a calling as a fabulous winemaker of our estate Merlot, Pinot Noir, Syrah and at the end some amazing Chardonnay.

Our sons Matt and Sid took over the property and the company, leasing the grapes as we discontinued the winery. The family all lives on the 6 acres. We have four grandchildren and 3 greats with one on the way. Our dear son Sid left us for his heavenly home in April 2020 and is greatly missed by all of us. Matt has bravely continued to run the construction company and oversee all the family and the homeland. He and Sid had been partners in everything but through the grace of God we all carry on.

Our love for the Rocky Mountains and the many lakes and rivers and the lifestyle of the mountains began for me at 13 when my parents' purchased property on the South Fork of the Salmon River out of McCall Idaho. We spent many years there fishing and discovering the wildlife and rugged beauty our cabin being across the river from the Frank Church Wilderness area.

When we decided to relocate, we chose Montana as we were looking for lakes, log home and wide-open space. Ennis was our first stop on the trip I planned before we were ready to move to find a place. Our first stop was Rainbow Valley Lodges where I met a kind fisherman who said he had a place for us. I laughed and told him we were just looking and not able to move until we could sell our home.

When Bill Mercer took us out to look, he brought us to MRR as a last place to check out. There sat the fisherman who I had chatted with at the lodge, and he said I told you I have a place for you and that was that! Dave Eldridge waited a year until our sons were able to take over the home property and we moved into our fully furnished dream home. Needless to say, we did not look any further. Driving into Ennis and seeing the beautiful Veteran's Memorial was a sign and we know we are truly blessed.

We purchased a pontoon fishing boat and keep a slip at Yellowstone Marina for our summer enjoyment. We try to stay if we can arriving early April and leaving just before Thanksgiving. We always have had a duck hunting cabin in Gustine CA just south of Sacramento where we spend the months that the road is closed.

Christine and Vann

MRR Board of Directors

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Lot 61

Dana Dawson, Secretary

Lots 64A, 64B, 95

Mark Juranek, Treasurer

Lot 60

Phil Botsko, Board Member

Lot 9

Hilleary Hoskinson, Board Member

Lot 2

Marv Gibbs, Webmaster

<http://www.madisonriverranch.org>

Barbara Gibbs, Karen Roll, Newsletter Editors

Reminders

Gate Combination on
Members only section of Website

FedEx / UPS combination
5971

Thank You All

Many thanks to all the helpers that make MRR such a special place to be: Board Members, weed sprayers, roadside litter cleaners, photographers, web designers, road crews, gate keepers, delivery trucks and mail delivery people, newsletter contributors, and YOU.

We Would Like To Meet You

We would like to meet our neighbors on the ranch! One of the usual articles in the newsletter is an introduction. There are many new ranch owners that have not yet had a chance to write an article to introduce themselves. It is interesting to learn what drew people to the Madison River Valley and the Madison River Ranch.

To share your introduction contact a Board Director via the ranch website

Mile Creel RV Park Proposal Defeated

Thank you to all that:

- attended the committee meeting virtually and in person
- spoke at the committee meeting
- sent letters, emails and texts
- created and signed petitions
- contributed to the cost of the legal fees
- made contact with individuals with careers and knowledge to help defeat the Mile Creek RV Park Proposal.

Mile Creek denied by Madison County Board of Commissioners

CONCERNS OVER CONTROVERSIAL RV PARK COULD NOT BE ALLAYED



Black Bear on the road near Mile Creek. PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN GLASSMAN

From The Madisonian Newspaper