



Photo by Karen Cammack

# Ranchlands Quest

*Working collaboratively to enhance production agriculture, open space, resource stewardship, wildlife, and habitat management.*

## THE COST OF GROWTH IN THE MADISON VALLEY

*Who Pays? Who Benefits?*

*As growth is expected to continue in the Madison Valley, many are left wondering what impacts and implications it will have on the community in the future. Are there ways to preserve and protect the values we cherish, while allowing for greater economic opportunities for area residents? Can development regulations help manage growth in a beneficial way or do they simply limit private property rights?*

These difficult questions were recently addressed at the Madison Growth Solutions forum held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Ennis Fire Hall. The forum represented the seventh in a series of community meetings designed to give all area residents an opportunity to weigh in on growth in the valley. Lane Adamson, Project Coordinator of the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, welcomed the group of over 85 participants and encouraged audience participation. The Madison Growth Solutions process is providing educational forums as a way to engage the community in planning for the future of the Madison Valley. The goals of this forum were to consider the financial implications of growth, explain options for regulating growth, and hear how diverse residents might react to hypothetical growth management options.

To kick off the forum, Rock Ringling of the Montana Land Reliance provided an overview of conservation easements and their purposes. Conservation easements aim to preserve and protect the natural attributes and amenities of the land by prohibiting development. Ringling explained that not all conservation easements are the same; they are generally tailored to fit the needs of the landowner. Many of the economic generators can still remain with the property, but the ability to subdivide is prohibited by an easement. For example, a landowner may

be able to retain some limited commercial development rights, mineral rights, and a few residential development rights if they are negotiated in the contract. How do conservation easements work? A landowner typically enters into a development limiting contract with a land trust in exchange for tax benefits and sometimes a cash payment. In order to qualify for a tax deduction, the easement must constitute a charitable gift. Conservation easements are important primarily because they help promote and preserve open space and ranchland.

Ralph Johnson, a professor from the MSU School of Architecture, was on hand to continue his discussion from the January forum. He offered a historical perspective regarding the uses of development regulations and several general blueprint options for zoning. According to Johnson, local government's authority to zone land rests on their obligation to protect community health, safety, and welfare. Zoning can range from Euclidean style which strictly segregates residential from commercial development, to Performance based zoning which is very flexible. Johnson also explained that transfer of development rights (TDR) allows developers to buy development rights in one area and transfer them elsewhere. In theory, this can lead to locating new development next to existing development, lowering the cost of government services and preserving open space. Johnson stated that services required by residential development almost always exceed the tax revenues generated. In comparison, agriculture and commercial development often account for more tax revenues than public service expenditures. Overall, Johnson illustrated that communities have many options for formulating and implementing development regulations to fit community needs.

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*Participants gather at the Ennis Fireball for the March 14th Madison Growth Solutions Forum*

*photo by Mary Ellen Wolfe*

*Growth in the Madison Valley - continued from page 1*

Next, Clark Wheeler, a professional land appraiser from Bozeman, shared some interesting information about land values in the Madison Valley. According to Wheeler, land values in the Madison Valley have increased 176 percent in the past two years to a current average value of about \$3,000 per acre. “The Madison Valley has been underperforming, and I predict that this market will explode in the future,” said Wheeler. What are the financial impacts of development regulations on property values? Wheeler stated that the market generally adjusts to development regulations. In the case of river setback rules, there is a minimal effect on land values simply because of the limited availability of riverfront property. Wheeler explained that while zoning may have a detrimental effect on property values in the short-run, property values may actually increase over time due to the zoning. As the market matures, zoning actually rewards some properties, as in the case of the 40 acre zoning requirements in the Bridger Canyon area outside of Bozeman. How do conservation easements affect land values? Wheeler confirmed that a typical easement

results in approximately a 38 percent discount in property value; there can be as much as a 90 percent reduction in value if the land is designated as open space with no development.

After a free lunch of soup and bread, the forum continued with a panel discussion titled, “*A Community Perspective on Regulations and Property Rights?*”. Moderated by Rock Ringling and Clark Wheeler, the panelists included local residents Karen Rice, Ted Coffman, Lynn Owens, John Fossil, and Paul McMullin. To stimulate discussion, four hypothetical scenarios for managing growth were described. Panelist responses reflected their diverse perspectives, with some being in favor of specific development regulations and others being opposed.

When asked, for example, about establishing mandatory river setback requirements, Fossil voiced his support stating that they have the potential to enhance property values and don't really hurt anyone. Fossil also alluded to the fact that development regulations help the community grow and

develop in a positive way. Both Coffman and Owens supported the setback idea but noted that bank elevation and topographic features should be considered when setting the distance. McMullin enthusiastically supported a setback regulation to enhance viewsheds. The next questions asked panelists how they would feel about incentive-based cluster zoning, where a developer would receive bonus densities in exchange for clustering the development pods. Karen Rice stressed that this would limit the options for the landowner. She also commented that everyone in the community enjoys open space so we should all help finance it, not just the landowners. Coffman suggested that zoning policies need to be what the landowners want, and they should come to the county as citizen-initiated policies. Owens expressed his support for clustering development as long as the open space remains in one large block. All panelists agreed that a rule limiting ridgetop development would be difficult because ridgetops are currently not well defined.

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# CHANGES IN SCENERY AND VALUES

By Lane Adamson

Most everyone has seen the changes in Bozeman over the past few years. You may have even experienced similar changes in other communities and landscapes during the last five, ten or twenty years. The newspapers in the Rocky Mountain region use an enormous amount of print to examine and predict these changes. As the demographics and economy of an area are altered, it is inevitable that there will also be a change in the appearance of the area. Should we spend more time addressing ways to manage those changes or should we be learning how to adapt to the new look of things? There have been those who have expressed the view that we should just adapt and benefit from change rather than waste energy and resources in trying to alter the inevitable. The picture of an ant rearranging sand particles in front of the advancing roller compactor illustrates that view. Maybe the ant should burrow down and come up behind the compactor and rearrange the sand particles.

Communities are made up of individuals and their collective dynamics and values. Historically, public process is determined by the vocal minority, by the actively involved who stir the pot for their own desired outcome. Voter turnout on a community level is traditionally low. Often, less than 20% of the registered voters determine policy and personnel. Of the 20% who actually vote, how many actively research the issues and candidates? It appears that our present political process is more a matter of finding

ways to discredit candidates rather than trying to determine who will really do the best job for the constituency. Elections often are not about candidates but the political party control of the process.

Our esteemed Constitution, which is a pattern for many nations who seek to replicate our freedoms and prosperity, was based on laws of the people, by the people and for the people. We have a large portion of the valley population who live here part time but vote in a different state. It is unfortunate that their investment and appreciation for the area is not necessarily represented in the voting process. Yet, their love for the valley and its amenities drives the real estate market which, in the long run plays strongly into community changes and appearance. We must find a way to bring all of these factors into play for the benefit of the whole community. Ennis is raising money for a new library, a new hospital and a new Historical Society building. The county needs a new jail and is looking at combining that with a new law enforcement center. That will require a large sum of money being raised to accomplish all of this. There is a need for all of these facilities especially as we look at projected growth in the area. We can either be involved in the decision making process and make well informed choices or wait for someone else to decide for us. It is important that everyone's voice is heard in the determination of the future of Madison Valley.

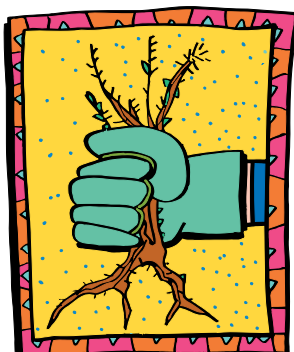
*Growth in the Madison Valley -  
continued from page 2*

The final question focused on creating a community fund supported by new development fees for purchasing conservation easements and affordable housing projects. In response, Coffman stated that the county would need legislative approval for this. McMullin expressed concerns about regulating affordable housing so it could not be purchased at a reduced rate and then sold at market value. Owens implied that at the heart of the affordable housing issue lies in the local job market. He stated, "We need more and better paying jobs in the area." Overall, panelists helped facilitate more community dialogue about the future of the Madison Valley.

The audience was given the opportunity to respond to the same questions posed to the panelists. For the most part, these responses illustrated a broad range of perspectives. One respondent expressed his or her support for river setbacks by stating, "Yes, at least a 500ft. setback on rivers so we don't look forever like Paradise Valley where riverbanks have been destroyed by houses and development." Another respondent commented on cluster development with, "Not everyone wants cluster housing." In response to a regulation limiting ridgetop development a participant stated, "Prohibiting ridgetop development should be a minimum requirement. Ridgetops should be clearly defined but that is practical based on topography. It is easy to adjust locations in most cases to avoid loss of viewshed." The last question that referred to the purchase of affordable housing and conservation easements raised more questions among participants. This question stirred comments such as, "I'm lukewarm about this idea," and, "What is affordable housing?"

This thought-provoking forum challenged many to look toward the future. The Madison Growth Solutions process will continue working toward drafting an action plan for the Madison Valley. The next forum is tentatively scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> and will be a working session dedicated to the initial phase of drafting an action plan. For more information contact the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group at 682-3259.

## NOMINATE A WEEDFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



**Do you know someone who has been actively fighting the war on noxious weeds? If so, take a moment and nominate them for the MVRG Weed Committee's**

*-Weedfighter of the Year Award-*

**All you have to do is write a few sentences on why you think they are deserving of this award. Either mail or email nominations to the MVRG Weed Coordinator no later than July 15, 2005. Winners to be announced at the annual Weed Dinner/Auction - August 06, 2006**



## ELECTION YEAR IN THE MADISON VALLEY



There are some important elections occurring this fall in the Madison Valley. There are two vacancies for county commissioner. District 3, which includes Madison Valley and Big Sky, has eight who have filed for that job. They are: Walter Crawford, James Hart, John Holland, Tim Kristovich, John Lounsbury, Jamie Nyswonger, Gayle Schabarker and Don Scudder.

District 2, which includes that portion of the county from Norris to Cardwell and down to Twin Bridges, has four who have filed. They are: Lynn Lowder, Dale Grose, Marilyn Ross and Lewis Stahl.

Considering the increase in growth in the Madison Valley and other parts of the county, it is imperative that we have elected officials who understand the issues and how to manage the business of the county. Madison County now has a website and it has more information regarding candidates. That site is [www.madison.gov](http://www.madison.gov).

The other important race is for Montana House District 71. Diane Rice from Harrison is running for re-election. Kim Miller is challenging her for that seat.

We encourage all Ranchlands members to become familiar with the candidates and the issues. Our government is no better than the quality of elected officials who represent us.

The Ranchlands Group as an organization does not support candidates. We do provide information on issues through public forum and other educational activities and encourage voters to be informed and to vote for whichever candidate they feel will best serve the community or district.

## MVRG PARTICIPATES IN CHICO WOLF CONFERENCE

by Lane Adamson

The 18th annual North American Wolf Conference was held April 3-6 at Chico Hot Springs. Because of our collaborative efforts with wolves and other wildlife issues, we were asked a couple of years ago to co-sponsor the conference. This year we participated in two of the non-lethal workshops to discuss the ranching side of the wolf issue.

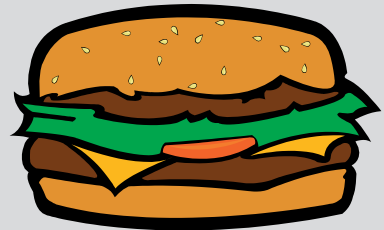
The Range Rider program which will be operating again this year here in the valley was discussed. Its purpose is to provide an increased presence to hopefully prevent any livestock losses to wolves.



On the last day of the conference we participated in a ranchers' panel to discuss the actual impact of wolves on the livestock industry from a personal level. Those on the panel were Joe Englehart from Alberta, Canada, Bill Brownlee from Big Timber, Martin Davis and Bruce Malcom from Paradise Valley, John Crumley from the Madison Valley, Sally Orr the FS range con from Big Timber and Lane Adamson moderator.

At the conclusion of our hour and a half presentation there were many good comments about the need to have more dialogue and efforts to resolve the conflict which wolves cause. It was noted that in the big picture it is a people problem, in that people need to understand all the ramifications of the livestock-wolf conflict.

If we will spend more time working to understand and address the unintended consequences of the wolf introduction, we may find a better way to manage their presence on the landscape.



### Madison Valley Ranchburger Available

*The popular Madison Valley Ranchburger is available again this year. This is local grass fed beef. It is 88% lean and comes in two pound packages. The fat content is a little higher than last time to make it better for barbecuing. A portion of the proceeds will be for the support of the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group. If you have questions or would like to order some, call the office at 682-3259 or John Crumley at 682-7364.*

# NOXIOUS WEED SCIENCE PROJECTS



As in previous years, the MVRG Weed Committee planned to sponsor certificates and cash awards for local, regional and state science fair students. Unfortunately there were no projects at either the local or regional level that involved noxious weeds. There were a few projects at the state fair in Missoula, so the committee decided to award one project in each division.

In Division 1, grades 9-12, there were three projects involving weeds. Brittany Blair from North Toole County High School had the winning project entitled “The Effect of Herbicide pH on the growth and development of a selected grain and weed crop”. Her project was three-fold, the first question investigated being whether water of varying pH would affect the germination of Kochia or wheat seed. The second point she researched was if a water-herbicide mix, with water of varying pHs, would impede germination of Kochia or weed seeds. Lastly, herbicide mixed with water of varying pHs was sprayed on Kochia and wheat plants to determine if the pH affects the efficacy of the herbicide. She found that wheat germinates well at various pHs (pH5, pH7 and pH9 were tested), and that Kochia seed germinates best when watered with pH5 water. In her experiment the water-herbicide mix hindered germination in Kochia seeds, most notably at pH9, but the mix did not affect wheat seed germination. Lastly, she determined that both Kochia and wheat plants can be killed with herbicide, regardless of the pH of the water with which it is mixed. She was a cheerful student and more than happy to discuss her project. At the awards ceremony she was awarded \$100 on behalf of the MVRG Weed Committee and also received a Gold Ribbon for her project. The Division II award went to Danielle Erickson, a 7th grader from Ramsay School.

Her project, “Controlling Silent Invaders” was focused on finding safer, more environmentally friendly options to affect the germination and growth of spotted knapweed. She took knapweed seeds and watered them with one of the following: the herbicide Tordon, apple juice, ammonia, vinegar or bleach. Only the vinegar and the Tordon significantly affected the germination of the knapweed seed. Danielle then sprayed 10’ x 10’ test plots on her family’s ranch with each of the compounds used above. Tordon killed the knapweed plants within the plot, but also killed needlegrass. Ammonia killed some of the knapweed, but also killed a variety of other plants within the plot. Vinegar did kill the knapweed, but didn’t affect any of the other vegetation in the plot. Incidentally, after the cows were turned out on these plots she observed whether they would graze uniformly across each test plot. The cattle avoided the test plots that were sprayed with Tordon or vinegar. Danielle had a good understanding of her project and was also awarded a gold ribbon and \$100 on behalf of the MVRG Weed Committee.

The MVRG Weed Committee is proud to recognize students who research topics involving noxious weeds in the state of Montana. Their education and interest can only contribute to successful weed management. As noxious weed education becomes increasingly common in the schools we hope to see more projects at these science fairs.



*Danielle Erickson from Ramsay School stands beside her science project at the State Science Fair in Missoula. Erickson was awarded \$100 on behalf of the MVRG Weed Committee.*

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

by Lane Adamson

There are many agencies and non-governmental organizations which have interest and responsibility in the Madison Valley for natural resource issues. The Madison Valley is recognized as one of the most ecologically intact landscapes in the West. It is a significant part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and provides recreational and ecological amenities highly valued by many. MVRG has taken the lead in addressing several of the issues which are of concern locally and beyond.

We have a Weed Committee which has been exemplary in moving weed control to a very high level. This has been accomplished through cost share, educational and pilot project programs. We have a Madison Valley Wildlife Working Group which meets monthly to resolve conflict, find common ground and promote educational activities to better understand the dynamics of wildlife impact and interaction. Significant local involvement leads to more balanced approaches to issues of wildlife conflict.

The Madison Growth Solutions is a working group of citizens concerned about the rate and management of growth in the valley. We have sponsored seven community forums in an effort to gather as much pertinent growth information as possible to help us understand what lies ahead for the valley. We are continuing this process of community participation. All of these efforts are collaborative in nature. We have many partners who care for aspects and amenities of the valley as passionately as those of us who live here.

Recently, MVRG has entered into an MOU (memorandum of understanding) to help coordinate and streamline efforts by all interested parties who focus on Madison Valley issues. This should help to make funding go further, minimize duplication of activities and maximize effective leadership in resource management. It is noted that in any MOU with other organizations, there is the reality that there may be philosophical and policy differences that exist.

There are areas of agreement and common concern which drive the success of the collaborative process. Those areas where there is disagreement are left unstirred for the sake of pending issues where there is united concern. If your house is on fire let's do all we can to save the house and not take time to discuss whether or not we agree on the composition of your driveway. Those organizations which have entered into this MOU are: Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Predator Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, Sonoran Institute and Madison Valley Ranchlands Group.



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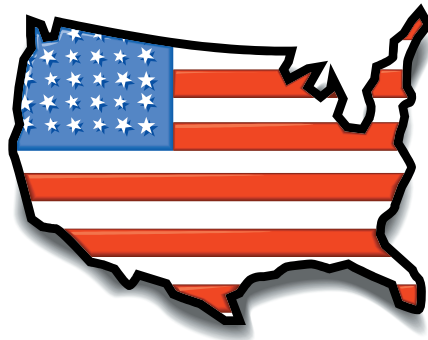
## THIS LAND

by Lane Adamson

Regardless of one's political groundings, it is with gratitude we live in this land of great freedom, prosperity and opportunity. Anyone who has traveled outside of the United States quickly realizes how truly grand this land is in spite of the flaws of some individuals. We hear lots of criticism of our government at every level. We are fed a constant menu of greed, corruption and violence in every newspaper, magazine and TV newscast. Integrity and fairness are disavowed by many large corporations. Celebrities spout their new found wisdom about social values and political acumen which they think comes with their newly acquired wealth.

There are some basic concepts which have served this nation well for over 220 years. This nation grew up struggling to people and govern a vast landscape rich in natural resources. There were mistakes made in how to manage that equitably. There were

large corporations who were greedy and overstepped their bounds. But our nation flourished and moved forward in spite of those challenges.



One of the most basic tenets of this land and government was the true freedom which we enjoy. That freedom is recognized as a God given right to all mankind. Basic to that belief is the truth that we are connected to one another. If we are fair and good to one another, we are all benefited. If we are greedy, dishonest and mean, it detracts from all of us. That is the basis for self government.

Those who represent us are to be concerned for the good of the whole. Their decisions are weighed to benefit the total population. When our society and elected officials choose a course of dishonesty and personal greed, we all suffer. When we see our society going down the path of selfishness and dishonesty there is only one place to start addressing that. It is our own community. If we make local decisions for the benefit of one another and not just for our personal advancements, we will start to turn the tide.

How we address local issues is the measure of what our future holds. If we can listen to one another with respect in an effort to find solutions to local challenges, we have a chance to resolve the larger and broader issues of a state and nation. If we are not willing to become involved in addressing local issues and working to implement solutions, then we will continue to see our state and national values and freedoms eroded. We have the freedom, the heritage and the opportunity. Let's make sure we don't squander it.

# NEW COORDINATOR FOR THE WEED COMMITTEE

*The MVRG Weed Committee welcomed a new Weed Coordinator to the staff in February.*

My name is Melissa Griffiths and I am extremely excited to be working for the MVRG and anxious to join the “War on Weeds” that the weed committee has been actively fighting over the past 7 years. While it is impossible to fill Becky Kington’s shoes, I promise to do my best to continue the good work and further the weed fighting cause in the Madison Valley.

My husband, Tim, and I moved to the Bozeman area in 2004 from Klamath Falls, Oregon. We both had been working as wildlife biologists – Tim for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and me for the Fish and Game. We originally fell in love with Montana after coming on several hunting trips over the years. We first brought our spoiled hunting dogs out to chase birds in northeastern Montana and before you knew it we were making 2-3 trips a year to hunt everything from birds to elk. For people like us who love to spend time outdoors hunting, fishing and camping, Montana seemed like an ideal place to live. So, when a job came open in Bozeman Tim couldn’t resist applying. After much anticipation he was offered the job, and the decision to move was an easy one. We currently live in Amsterdam and just recently started construction on a new home between Three Forks and Willow Creek. My commute will be about the same, but the scenery will be a little different. This is such a beautiful place, I generally find the drive quite relaxing. In addition to all this activity, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our first child which should arrive in early July!

Please feel free to stop by the office sometime to say “Hi” or look for me at any of the numerous Weed Activities this summer. I am happy to be here and look forward to working with you! I can be reached at 682-3731, or via email – [mgriffiths@3rivers.net](mailto:mgriffiths@3rivers.net).



*New Weed Coordinator, Melissa Griffiths, with the cow elk she harvested in the Madison Valley late season A-9 hunt*

## ANNUAL HUNTER SURVEY

For the past four years the MVRG has helped coordinate the late season A-9 hunt. In order to get hunter feedback and comments we have conducted an annual survey each year to assess hunter success and perception. So far this year we have received 132 of the 200 surveys sent out; 109 harvested a cow elk, and for 21 of these hunters it was their first elk.

Response to the hunting experience was overwhelmingly positive, with most of the hunters expressing appreciation to MVRG for their coordination efforts. Many of those surveyed were aware of FWP’s proposal to limit late season hunting opportunities and almost all were opposed to any such change. As a group they tended to view the hunt as an effective way for hunters to harvest an elk, and a good tool to try and achieve adequate harvest in the Madison Valley.

# MVRG WEED COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Madison Valley Ranchlands Group Weed Committee is looking forward to another busy weed season! Besides breaking in a new coordinator, Melissa Griffiths, there is a lot going on.

## Weed Fundraiser

Linda Page has generously agreed to host this year's weed dinner/auction at her Lazy HL Ranch up North Meadow Creek. This year the fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 06. The Weed Committee is pleased to have Linda Schott chair the dinner sub-committee this year and are looking forward to another fun and successful event. We will hold an educational workshop before the dinner, topics to be announced soon! Also, we have word that some very special auction items will be available this year including: a week at a beachfront condo in Baja, His and Her's Harley Davidson Jackets, and several days at a private home in Big Sky.

The fundraiser is open to everyone, so if you have not been on our mailing list in the past but would like to, please call or email Melissa Griffiths at 682-3731, [mgriffiths@3rivers.net](mailto:mgriffiths@3rivers.net). There will be a limited number of tickets sold, so when you receive your invitation, don't hesitate to reserve your spot! If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this year's fundraiser please call or stop by the office. We look forward to seeing you at this worthwhile event!

## Sheep Project

We are preparing for the third year of the sheep grazing pilot project along the Madison River. The goal of this project is to study how effective sheep grazing is on controlling noxious weeds, specifically reducing the production of spotted knapweed seed. This project involves the following partners: Riley Wilson with Blue Diamond Sheep, the Montana Sheep Institute, Bureau of Land Management, Madison County Weed Board, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the MVRG Weed Committee. Once again Riley Wilson will graze 800 sheep along the Madison River on both private and public (BLM and FWP) lands south of McAtee Bridge, for approximately seven miles on both sides.

Monitoring to date includes photo points and transects measuring changes in composition and canopy cover. Additionally, 100 knapweed plants within the grazed area and 100 plants outside of the study area are marked each year, and after seed production they are monitored. The intent is to see if the sheep grazing reduces the overall knapweed seed production. Results to date have been impressive, showing a 70-80% reduction in spotted knapweed seed head production in grazed areas.

## Madison River Project

We were pleased to receive another year's funding from the Department of Ag Noxious Weed Trust Fund to treat the Madison River corridor. This grant will fund the commercial application of the river, as well as provide \$20,000 cost-share to private landowners. Approximately 100 feet on either side of the river will be treated, this time with the new herbicide Milestone. The applicators will once again start at Quake Lake and work their way toward Ennis Lake. The Madison County Weed Board will have some money available for cost-share as well. For information on either of these programs please feel free to call the office at 682-3731, or the County Weed Board at 843-5594.

## 2007 Calendar

The 2007 calendar project is well underway. We have received a number of excellent photos and are hoping to make this next year's calendar better than ever. The 2007 calendar will include photographs of the beautiful scenery throughout the Madison Valley and provide a refresher on noxious weed identification, focusing on those weeds which have already become established in the valley.

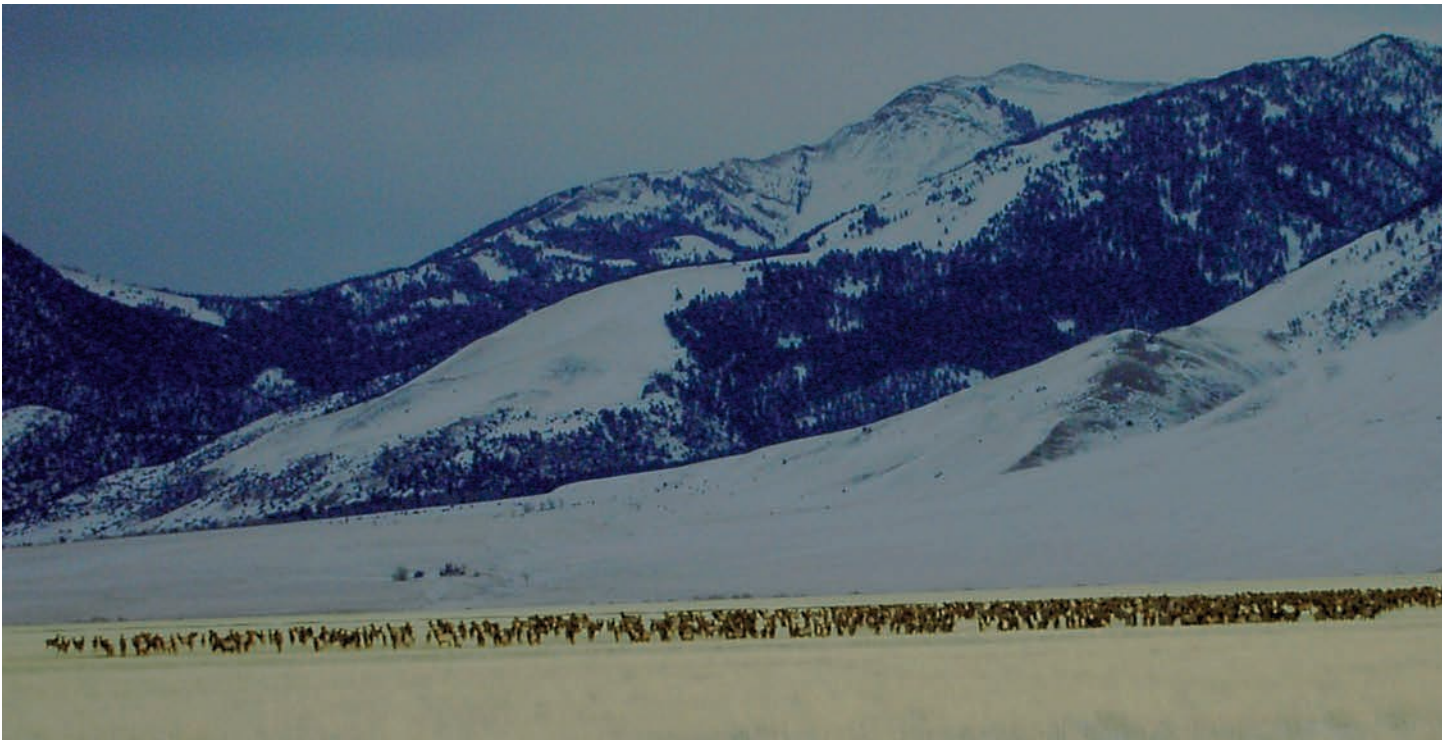
### 2006 Summer Weed Events

There will be a number of exciting Weed Events in the area this summer including hand-pull days and a Weed Festival. For dates and information please contact the MVRG office or Margie with the County Weed Board at 843-5594.



*Madison River Project Area*

*photo by Lisa Surber*



*Public Elk Feeding at the Private Trough*

*photo by Lane Adamson*

## MADISON VALLEY WILDLIFE WORKING GROUP

The Wildlife Committee meets each month for a potluck meal and discussion of wildlife issues pertinent to the Madison Valley. The past two and a half years have focused a lot on the elk population of the valley. Some local residents feel we have too many elk for the valley and others feel we should have more. Some landowners see elk consuming large amounts of forage which is intended for their livestock. A conservative yearly estimate of forage consumed by elk on private ranches is in the \$350,000 range from Jack Creek to Squaw Creek east of Highway 287.

Some of these landowners have forest allotments which might be a fair trade off for wintering these large elk herds. However, the ranchers pay to graze their cattle on federal lands. They also pay for fencing and water improvement facilities on the allotments. Fences are torn up and haystacks are damaged by these wintering elk. There is an increasing incidence of brucellosis indicated from

preliminary blood tests. People who drive on 287 south of Ennis are in awe at the numbers of elk they see wintering there. The only way to manage elk numbers is through hunting activities. The Madison Valley is a very popular place to hunt because of the prevalence of game.

The Wildlife Committee has worked hard to help find a locally driven solution to harvesting elk. The large numbers of elk that winter here are generally not here during the general hunting season. The logical time to harvest them is when they are here in large numbers after the general hunting season. The past four years MVRG has coordinated late elk hunts on the private ranches. This effort helps hunters know where they can and can't hunt, where the elk are on a given day and how to successfully and ethically hunt elk in large herds. There is no charge for this coordination effort, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks reimburses MVRG for some of the time and mileage expense. We have four

years of survey results from those who participate in these late hunts. Those results are here at the office for anyone to read what the hunters think of this coordination service.

Elk are not the only wildlife in the valley in large numbers. There is ample supply of deer and antelope. We have a presence of predators, wolves and bear. There are wolverine studies indicating a significant presence of this species. Each species has issues which relate to the increasing growth in the valley. Information about all of these different species and their interaction on the landscape is of great value in planning for the future.

The Wildlife Committee has an education subcommittee which focuses on ways to get good wildlife information shared within the larger committee. This information is a key element in planning where and how future growth will be addressed in the valley.

## 2005 MVRG FINANCIAL REPORT

*The table below contains the 2005 Profit and Loss statement for the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group. We believe our membership should be able to review the income and expenses of our nonprofit. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Lane Adamson at 682-3259.*

<b>Income</b>	
Harry Page Memorial/restricted	\$1,400.00
WILDLIFE-LIVESTOCK Part. (AB)	\$19,000.00
Contributions Income	
Growth Planning (restricted)	<u>\$17,225.00</u>
<b>Total Contributions Income</b>	<b>\$17,225.00</b>
Donations	\$10,750.00
Grants	
Forest Service	\$13,928.00
Grant 8% Income	\$2,714.24
Predator Conservation (wolf)	\$18,000.00
Madison Conserv Dist/LEP Grant	<u>\$28,332.00</u>
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$62,974.24</b>
Membership Dues	\$6,900.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$62.50
MVRG-WEED Income	\$131,353.54
Rent/Util Reimburse. Weed	\$770.00
Reimbursed Expenses	
A-7 MILEAGE REIMB.	\$3,854.14
Reimbursed Expenses - Other	<u>\$140.00</u>
<b>Total Reimbursed Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,994.14</b>
Telephone DSL Reimb/Weed	<u>\$180.69</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$254,610.11</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Advertising	\$28.25
Automobile Expense	
Mileage Reimbursement	\$3,090.13
Automobile Expense - Other	<u>\$52.25</u>
<b>Total Automobile Expense</b>	<b>\$3,142.38</b>
Computer	
Software	\$290.89
Supplies	<u>\$639.83</u>
<b>Total Computer</b>	<b>\$930.72</b>
Contributions	\$750.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$129.50
Educational Meetings	\$1,070.81
GRANT	
Forest Service	\$13,928.00
PREDATOR CONSERVATION ALLIANCE	<u>\$18,000.00</u>
<b>Total GRANT</b>	<b>\$31,928.00</b>
Growth Planning Exp	\$12,739.03
Insurance	
Liability Insurance	<u>\$798.00</u>
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>\$798.00</b>
<b>MVRG-WEED Expenses</b>	<b>\$100,753.21</b>
Miscellaneous	-\$750.00
Office Supplies	\$497.24

<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
Health Insurance	\$3,553.40
State Fund (Work Comp)	\$518.54
Unemployment Insurance	\$25.02
Benefits/Lane	\$1,672.08
Benefits/Employer Cost	\$2,233.47
Medicare	\$522.34
Salary	\$34,351.50
Payroll Expenses - Other	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$42,876.35</b>
Postage and Delivery	\$479.09
Printing and Reproduction	\$1,323.25
Program Expense	
Annual Meeting	<u>\$700.00</u>
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>\$700.00</b>
Rent	\$4,188.50
Supplies	
Marketing	\$607.16
Office	\$54.47
Reimbursements	
SUPPLIES	<u>\$4.17</u>
Total Reimbursements	\$4.17
Supplies - Other	<u>\$61.01</u>
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>\$726.81</b>
Telephone	
Cell Phone	\$627.48
Internet	\$686.07
Office Phone	<u>\$1,035.30</u>
<b>Total Telephone</b>	<b>\$2,348.85</b>
Utilities	
Gas and Electric	\$936.20
Utilities - Other	<u>\$9.15</u>
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$945.35</b>
Web Page	\$289.40
Wildlife/Livestock Partner (AB)	
Wildlife/Livestock Mileage	\$842.45
Wildlife/Livestock Partner (AB) - Other	<u>\$10,127.00</u>
<b>Total Wildlife/Livestock Partner (AB)</b>	<b>\$10,969.45</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$216,864.19</b>
Net Ordinary Income	\$37,745.92
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Income	\$224.46
Other Income	<u>\$24.42</u>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$248.88</b>
Net Other Income	\$248.88
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$37,994.80</b>

## 2006 MVRG ANNUAL MEETING

By Lane Adamson

January 12th was the date of our annual membership meeting at the Harrison High School lunchroom. Harrison High Close-Up students again served an excellent meal prepared by Steve and Deanie Jackson. Special recognition was given to Bob Bayley for his generous support of Madison Valley Ranchlands Group. Bob attends nearly all of the tours and other educational activities plus is a consistent financial benefactor. Also recognized was Don and Toni Bowen of Arrow Real Estate who have contributed an MVRG membership to everyone who buys property in the Madison Valley through their office. Their donations amounted to over \$2,100 for 85 properties.

We appreciate all of the Ranchlands Group members who assist in addressing the issues and challenges of this unique valley. Board members who were appointed to another term were John Crumley, Gary Clark, Bob Sitz, Roger Lang and Kelly Leo.

## Will you join us in our efforts?

The Madison Valley Ranchlands Group works to protect the ranching way of life and the biologically healthy open spaces on which ranching depends.

Yes! I want to help the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group.  
Please accept my tax deductible contribution of :

\$25 - \$100     \$125 - \$250     \$275 - \$500     \$1,000  
 \$5,000     \$10,000     \$25,000     other

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
MADISON VALLEY RANCLANDS GROUP  
P.O. BOX 330  
ENNIS, MT 59729

(406) 682 - 3259      MVRANCH@3RIVERS.NET

*The Madison Valley Ranchlands Group is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization  
and deeply appreciates your financial support!*

## NEED A WEED SPRAYER???

*The MVRG Weed Committee has two sprayers available for private applicators to use. They are 100- gallon tanks mounted on a trailer, making for easy use. There is no cost associated with the use of these sprayers, but we do ask for donations to help us keep up on maintenance. If you are interested in renting one of these units, call Melissa Griffiths at 682 - 3731. You can't beat a deal like this!*



# A CHRONOLOGY OF MADISON GROWTH SOLUTIONS PUBLIC FORUMS

by Mary Ellen Wolfe

Madison Valley: Past, Present & Future Forums  
– July, August, September 2005

*Madison Valley: Past – July 14, 2005*

How has the Madison Valley changed over time? What has brought and kept people here? Open space, friendly people, wildlife, small town attributes, natural beauty, ranching, outdoor recreation and views were the shared values identified by approximately 120 people at the forum.

*Madison Valley: Present – August 18, 2005*

What are the current dynamics driving growth? An examination by experts of the economic, legal and ecological framework within which growth is occurring in the Madison Valley gave participants a “reality check,” helping them to better understand the forces of change affecting the valley and the challenges they face in planning for responsible, balanced growth.

*Madison Valley: Future – September 8, 2005*

Where are we headed? Madison County Planner Doris Fisher spoke about current subdivision activities and the future implications of making no changes in existing land use planning practices. A former planning board member from Montezuma County, Colorado, Wayne

Lee shared his experiences and the lessons and tools used to plan for growth in that area. A panel of community leaders and stakeholders shared their perspectives on the key challenges facing residents of the Madison Valley.

*Tools for Managing Growth – October 11, 2005*

What potential tools and techniques could be used to keep and enhance the unique character of the Madison Valley? A broad spectrum of tools for managing growth were described—regulations, incentives, design guidelines, infrastructure financing, market approaches and land acquisition. Forum participants also helped to establish the agenda for ongoing, community review and assessment of tools and techniques they deemed most promising and appropriate for the Madison Valley.

*Development Impact Fees: Are They A Silver Bullet For Managing Growth? – November 15, 2005*

Are impact fees a ‘silver bullet’ to manage growth in the Madison Valley? The forum’s focus was to learn what impact fees are, how they work, and what their benefits and limitations are as a possible growth management tool for the Madison Valley. Topics addressed included the ‘Nuts and Bolts of Impact Fees,’ an overview of Gallatin County’s groundbreaking experience implementing impact fees in a rapid

growth context and a panel of developers and government public servants who provided a ‘Community Perspective’ of the public and private interests with a stake in the impact fee discussion.

*Development Regulations: Balancing Private Property Rights and Community Values – January 26, 2006*

In light of continued growth and development in the Madison Valley, how do we keep our community values, yet preserve our private property rights? How do we create a shared vision for the Valley without undermining individual property freedoms? Can development regulations protect community values and private property rights? These and other tough questions were considered through presentations by experts and community dialogue. Speakers presented an historical overview of development regulations and a summary of the current legal framework in Montana. For Madison County, three questions were posed: What do you want to regulate? Why? What’s the best tool or tools to use? A community panel topped off the forum by offering differing perspectives on “The Givings and Takings of Development Regulations.”



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