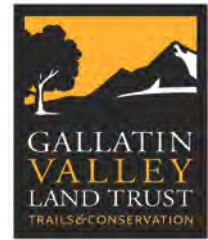


West Bridger-Middle Cottonwood Habitat and Access Project

Submitted to: Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust

Submitted by: Gallatin Valley Land Trust

April 12, 2019



Habitat and Recreational Access Project Proposal:

1. **Project Title:** West Bridger-Middle Cottonwood Habitat and Access Project
2. **Project Description:** The Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT) is requesting funds to complete a fee-title purchase of a privately held 160-acre property located in the Middle Cottonwood drainage in the west Bridger Mountains approximately six miles northeast of Bozeman. The private property is surrounded on three and a half sides by the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and the ultimate goal is to transfer this property to public ownership to ensure perpetual conservation and public access. Acquisition of this property will create new public access to the land and will provide new hunting and recreational opportunities for the public. This project will also protect critical mule deer and elk winter range and other important wildlife habitat from fragmentation and development.

The south-facing property is predominately native grassland and is mapped as elk and mule deer winter range by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP). MFWP has noted the importance of this property as mule deer critical winter range and has provided observation data that shows significant use by mule deer (please see attached letter). The property also has a large aspen stand that is supported by a perennial spring-fed creek, as well as a mature Douglas fir forest in the upper reaches. Middle Cottonwood Creek flows across the property for about a half-mile.

In addition to providing diverse habitat, the popular Middle Cottonwood trail crosses the property for about a half-mile and provides public recreational access for hunting, hiking, biking as well as limited motorized recreational use. The trail is managed by the US Forest Service and provides access to thousands of acres of public land.

The Middle Cottonwood property is currently in private ownership and has residential development rights assigned to it through the Middle Cottonwood Zoning District. There is currently no development or buildings of any kind on the property. Development of the property would significantly harm the existing public trail, water quality and the wildlife habitat on the property.

The Middle Cottonwood property has been actively listed for sale for several months. During that time, GVLT has been in regular communication with the landowner working towards a conservation outcome for the property. In early April, GVLT secured an option agreement to purchase the property. The agreement gives GVLT nine months to

conduct due diligence and fundraising efforts. If our efforts are successful, we can execute the option and purchase the property. If not, the landowner will re-list the property.

The landowner has agreed to sell this property as a bargain sale, meaning that he will be donating a significant portion of the property value, which is detailed in the budget below. Purchasing this property for below fair market value provides significant leverage for the project and makes it an excellent investment of conservation funds.

GVLТ and the US Forest Service have been concerned about the potential development of this property for many years and the impacts that would have on the habitat and public access. GVLТ is excited to have the opportunity to permanently conserve this important property; however, it will be a significant challenge to complete the necessary due diligence and raise the necessary funds to complete the purchase in a very limited timeframe. Funding from MFWCT is a critical component to ensure the successful completion of the project.

3. **Project Location:** The project is located in the Middle Cottonwood drainage on the west side of the Bridger Mountains in Gallatin County, MT, approximately 6 miles northeast of Bozeman. The legal description of the property is:

NE1/4 of Section 9, Township 1 South, Range 6 East, M.P.M.

4. **Submitted By:** Gallatin Valley Land Trust
GVLТ is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a Land Trust Alliance accredited land trust.
Primary Project Contact:
Brendan Weiner, Program Director
212 S. Wallace Ave., Ste. 101
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-8404 x. 106
brendan@gvlt.org
5. **Coordinated With:**
 - Michael Skogen - current owner of record - 406-600-4032
 - **Please contact GVLТ before contacting landowner.**
 - Corey Lewellen - Bozeman District Ranger, Custer Gallatin National Forest - 406-522-2554
 - GVLТ and the USFS have been collaborating on this project and have been discussing the transfer of title to the Forest Service.
 - Julie Cunningham - Bozeman Area Wildlife Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks - 406-994-6341
 - Julie has provided insight and data on the habitat values and animal observations for this property.

6. **Project Type:**

- a. **Enhance Public Recreational Access** – This project will protect current public access available to the public on the Middle Cottonwood Trail (FS Trail #586) which accesses the “Bridger Mountains National Recreation Trail #534” from all future road and residential development proposals. Additionally, this project will create new public access to 160 acres of diverse habitat that is well-suited to hunting, fishing, and other non-motorized off-trail recreation (bird watching, plant ID, quiet enjoyment of nature).
- b. **Improve access to public lands** – 160 acres of land will be conveyed to public ownership, thus opening it for public use as well as enhancing off-trail access to adjacent public lands that surround this parcel on three and a half sides. This project will eliminate cross boundary management issues for the Forest Service on this in-holding parcel by resolving a pattern of historic checkerboard ownership.
- c. **Winter Range and Wildlife Habitat** – This project will permanently protect 160 acres of critical elk and mule deer winter range. The project will also protect several large aspen groves, riparian forest and scrublands, and a spring-fed perennial creek that flows into Middle Cottonwood Creek and eventually the East Gallatin River which is an important and popular public fishery.
- d. **Fisheries Enhancement** – This project will protect a large aspen grove and spring-fed perennial creek that flows into Middle Cottonwood Creek. Middle Cottonwood Creek flows across the property for a half-mile and is a tributary of the East Gallatin River, which is an important public fishery in Gallatin County. The project will eliminate all future development impacts that might be related to road and residential building.

7. **Management of Properties:** GVLTL will acquire the property and will hold the title in the short-term. The property will be transferred (donated) to a public agency or entity – most likely the US Forest Service. After the initial acquisition, it is expected to take 2-4 years to complete the transfer to the US Forest Service.

8. **Size of Project Area:**

- a. Public Recreational Access - 160 acres – The entire property will allow public access and will enhance public access to thousands of acres of adjacent public lands (USFS-CGNF).
- b. Winter Range and Wildlife Habitat - 160 acres of winter range identified by the MT Fish Wildlife and Parks as critical for mule deer as well as elk and moose.
- c. Fisheries and Riparian Habitat-protect a ½ mile headwaters reach of Middle Cottonwood Creek; which is in good condition with minimal impacts.

9. **Implementation Schedule:**

- a. Option to Purchase Secured – April 2019 (Completed)
- b. Due Diligence and Fundraising – April to December 2019
- c. Property Purchase: February 2020

10. **Total Project Cost:**

a. **Total Project Cost: \$607,000**

- i. Property Purchase Price: \$300,000 (as per signed option agreement)
- ii. Landowner donated property value: \$225,000 (estimated)
- iii. Transaction Costs: \$28,000
- iv. Project management and contingency: \$54,000

11. **MFWCT Funds:**

a. **MFWCT Funding Request is \$242,500**

- i. This request is approximately 40% of the total project cost.
- ii. GVLT has already raised \$57,500 towards the purchase price.
- iii. This request would provide the necessary remaining funds for the purchase price of \$300K.
- iv. All MFWCT funds will be used to purchase the property.

12. **Matching/Cooperator Funds**

a. **Total Matching Funds raised to date: \$282,500**

- i. Landowner Donated Property Value: \$225,000 (committed)
- ii. Cross Foundation: \$42,500 (received)
- iii. Cinnabar Foundation: \$10,000 (received)
- iv. GVLT Opportunity Fund: \$5,000 (received)
- v. GVLT is committed to raising the additional \$82,000 to complete the project

13. **List all matching funds and their source:** see Section 12

14. **Project Objectives:**

- a. **Protect existing access to public lands** – The Middle Cottonwood property is a privately-owned property that has a public trail that crosses it for a half-mile. Development of the property would require that a driveway or road be placed adjacent to the existing trail for the entire length of the property. Previous development proposals have recommended moving the trail to the other side of the creek, which is steeper and wetter than the existing location. Development of the property would result in significant negative impacts to the trail corridor and associated riparian and in-stream habitats and would dramatically change the trail user experience.
- b. **Enhance public hunting opportunities** – This project entails purchasing a 160-acre private property that currently does not allow public hunting and

transferring it to public ownership that would allow public hunting. The property provides exceptional habitat for a number of species including mule deer, elk, moose, and bear and would provide excellent hunting opportunities.

- c. **Improve public access to public lands** – The acquisition and public ownership of this property would add 160 acres of prime habitat and hunting grounds to the National Forest. It would also enhance access to thousands of acres of public lands north and east of this private property.
 - d. **Protect winter range and other wildlife habitat** – As noted in the attached letter from FWP, this property provides important mule deer winter range as well as habitat for numerous species including elk, white-tailed deer, forest grouse, black bears and mountain lions among many others. In addition to winter range habitat, the property also has a large aspen grove, a spring-fed perennial creek with deciduous and scrub riparian habitats, and a diverse age class Douglas fir stand with many mature and old growth trees.
 - e. **Protect water quality and riparian area health** – Development of this property would require significant road-building work which would negatively impact the Middle Cottonwood Creek riparian corridor as well as the spring creek and associated aspen stand on the property. A new road would increase runoff and would add sediment to the waterways on the property. This would harm water quality and riparian area health.
15. **Area Description** (see attached map) - This private property is located in Middle Cottonwood Canyon in the foothills of the west side of the Bridger Mountains approximately 6 miles northeast of Bozeman in Gallatin County. The property is surrounded by National Forest Lands on 3½ sides (in-holding parcel surrounded by Forest Boundary). The property is mapped as critical winter range for mule deer and elk; moose and black bear are common in the aspen groves and riparian habitats. The parcel is identified in the Middle Cottonwood Zoning District and falls within the Mule Deer Winter Range overlay district within this Gallatin County zoned area.
16. **Project Analysis**
- a. This project will address fragmentation of wildlife habitat/winter range and eliminate urban sprawl into scenic foothills and steep terrain near a quickly growing community. Gallatin County has the highest rate of open space conversion of any Montana county and is consistently ranked as one of the fastest population growth communities in the West. Elimination of future road building will protect winter range, in-stream water quality, and reduce future impacts related to a heavily engineered road design that will be required to address road proximity to Middle Cottonwood Creek (bridges, rip-rap, and storm water management). Moving the existing public trail on this property to adjacent over-steepened public lands, as proposed by the current private landowner,

would have significant impacts on the natural resources; would invade into undeveloped habitat, and would create a steep and hard to maintain public trail corridor that would limit access to certain users/uses.

- b. This project will enhance public recreation opportunity by opening up 160 acres of land for off trail non-motorized recreational uses as well as protect an existing public trail (FS Trail #586) from future impacts related to private driveway building and proposed home sites. The existing Middle Cottonwood Trailhead has significant public use (non-motorized and motorized with limitations), the public will learn of this project at the trailhead kiosk and through media outreach and GVLТ's social media network. GVLТ will reach out to our nearly 2,000 person list serve to announce the project locally and attract attention to the strong partnership that it hopes to develop with the MT-FWCT board. If the MT-FWCT assists with funding this project; the trust will be recognized in all media, social media and direct outreach efforts as well as recognized and thanked on the Trailhead kiosk poster at the Middle Cottonwood Trailhead.

17. Existing Project Area Land Management Activities

- a. The project area does not currently have any renewable resource management plans in place. Other adjacent private lands host livestock grazing and minor timber activity; adjacent public land has no grazing, mining, or timber harvest occurring. The Middle Cottonwood Access Trail (#586) travels through this property, in the summer months the trailhead can experience 20-50 cars per day with many recreational users utilizing this corridor for evening hikes, runs and mountain bike rides. Motorized (single track motorcycle) use is allowed on this public access trail, it is regulated through a shared use (timeshare) agreement described in the Custer Gallatin Travel Plan; motorized use is light due to the steep terrain/trails and no off-trail opportunities are allowed.
- b. Middle Cottonwood Zoning District (Gallatin County) was created to protect critical winter range for mule deer, this property falls within the mule deer winter range protection zone within the zoning plan.
- c. Montana's comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Strategy (2005) published by MT-FWP identifies Montane Foothills and Grasslands and headwater Mountain Streams as important for protection for critical wildlife species.
- d. Gallatin County Growth Plan identifies the protection of scenic open space, wildlife habitat, and working farms and ranchlands as an important value for county residents.
- e. MT FWP Hunting District 312 (West Bridger) is a limited draw mule deer district that limits the number of mule deer buck tags to 75 annually; this protects the population and allows for the preservation of older age class mule deer bucks.
- f. The Montana Open Space Land and Voluntary Conservation Easement Act identifies significant natural habitat, scenic open space, and wildlife habitat as

important lands for preservation.

18. **Use of MFWCT Funds**

- a. All MFWCT funds will be used exclusively for property acquisition costs. MFWCT funds will NOT be used for any administrative, overhead or planning costs.

19. **Project Monitoring Plan**

- a. **Short term monitoring:** While the parcel is owned by GVLT, it will continue to monitor the property for illegal public recreational uses and will install signage to indicate that the property and trail are open for public access. GVLT will also assist the Bozeman Ranger district staff and others in maintenance of public trails that cross the property.
- b. **Long-term monitoring:** Once the parcel has conveyed to the USFS; it will absorb all maintenance and management of the property and public access trails as well as maintain the habitat to protect critical mule deer winter range. GVLT will assist with volunteer trail maintenance events and will utilize our Trail Ambassadors Program to help identify resource issues and assist with education and outreach to reverse negative use trends.

20. **Additional Comments**

- a. GVLT has been focused on protecting this parcel for 15+ years. The opportunity to purchase and transfer the parcel to the USFS has always been the number one priority; amongst several other conservation options that have been discussed with the last two landowners. GVLT is excited to move this project into long term public ownership and stewardship. Partnership with the MT-FWCT is critical and timely; GVLT has been actively pursuing the current purchase option with this landowner for the past four years.



Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust
PO Box 1993
Helena, MT 59624

4/10/2019

To Whom it May Concern;

Please find this letter in enthusiastic support of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust's (GVL'T's) potential acquisition of a 160-acre property, currently owned by Michael Skogen, in Middle Cottonwood Canyon of the Bridger Mountains. GVL'T proposes a fee title purchase of the property with a subsequent transfer to the U.S. Forest Service.

This property aligns with important mule deer winter range for the Population Habitat Unit 2 described in Pac et. al 1991. Mule deer locations from Bridger mule deer studies are depicted relative to this property in Figure 1, below. Other species that may use this property include elk, white-tailed deer, forest grouse, black bear, and mountain lions.

A public access trailhead exists at the southwestern corner of this property. The trailhead is a key access for hunters. Sypes Canyon access to the south is 1.5 airline miles away, and Truman Gulch is more than 4 airline miles north.

Bringing this property into public ownership would help protect and preserve mule deer winter range and other wildlife habitat. It would consolidate public lands in a helpful way for the hunting and recreating public. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks supports GVL'T's grant application to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust for funds to assist with this acquisition.

Sincerely,

Mark Deleray
Regional Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1400 S. 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

Work cited: Pac, D.F., R.J. Mackie, and H.E. Jorgensen. 1991. Mule deer population organization, behavior and dynamics in a northern Rocky Mountain environment. Final Report W-120-R-7-18. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Helena, MT. 316 pp.

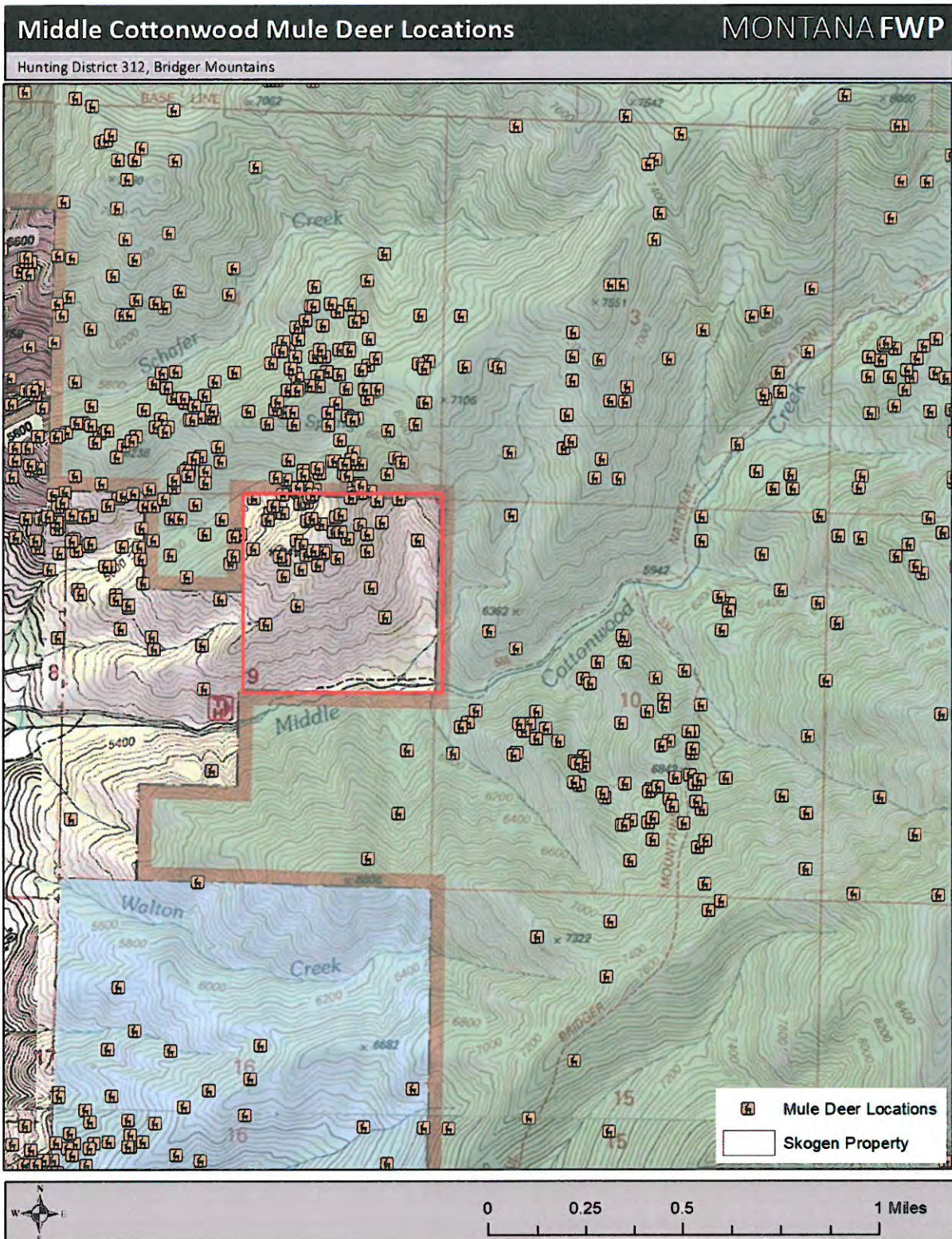


Figure 1: Property of interest, Skogen property, outlined in red. Mule deer locations in brown.



File Code: 1580
Date: April 12, 2019

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
Recreational Trails Program, Parks Division
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust:

Please find this letter as my support for the grant application from Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT), for the acquisition of the Middle Cottonwood property located on the west side of the Bridger Mountain's in Gallatin County.

The 160 acre property is located directly adjacent to the Bozeman Ranger District and in fact, is surrounded by more than 85% National Forest System (NFS) lands. The parcel includes a Forest Service trail (#534) that the Forest Service holds an easement for. The trail and surrounding area is of high interest to the recreating public, especially being in such close proximity to the city of Bozeman.

The piece of property in question is also important habitat for deer and elk, and is classified as mule deer winter range by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks. The property provides conditions that promote high-quality winter and summer mule deer habitat. It is a mix of open grassland/shrublands, open south-facing Douglas-fir/shrub stands, dense north-facing Douglas-fir stands, and aspen/mixed hardwood stands. Road access is very limited under the current condition, providing good habitat security. There has been a general reduction in high quality mule deer winter range on the west side of the Bridger Mountain Range; the community of Bozeman continues to encroach into critical winter habitat areas through residential and other developments. Acquisition of this property would eliminate the potential loss of critical winter range through residential or other development on these acres.

By funding GVLT's proposal, you would help secure public access and interest throughout the entire property, as well as prevent the property from being developed. Development of similar properties throughout Gallatin County has generated challenging management complexities for the Bozeman Ranger District. With GVLT acquiring the property, it would keep the property as "open space" which would help with the potential transfer of the property to the Custer Gallatin National Forest. A potential donation could take several years to allow for the correct due-diligence, but we have done successful donations with GVLT in the past.

The Bozeman Ranger District has maintained a very strong and productive partnership with GVLT. I applaud them for their hard work and success of protecting important lands for open space, wildlife, and public access throughout Gallatin County.



In closing, I ask that you do fund GVLТ's proposal in full for the rationale listed above. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 406-522-2531.

Sincerely,



COREY R LEWELLEN
District Ranger



Unique and scenic topography of the Middle Cottonwood property.



A view of the Middle Cottonwood Creek drainage looking west. Public trail is visible in foreground.

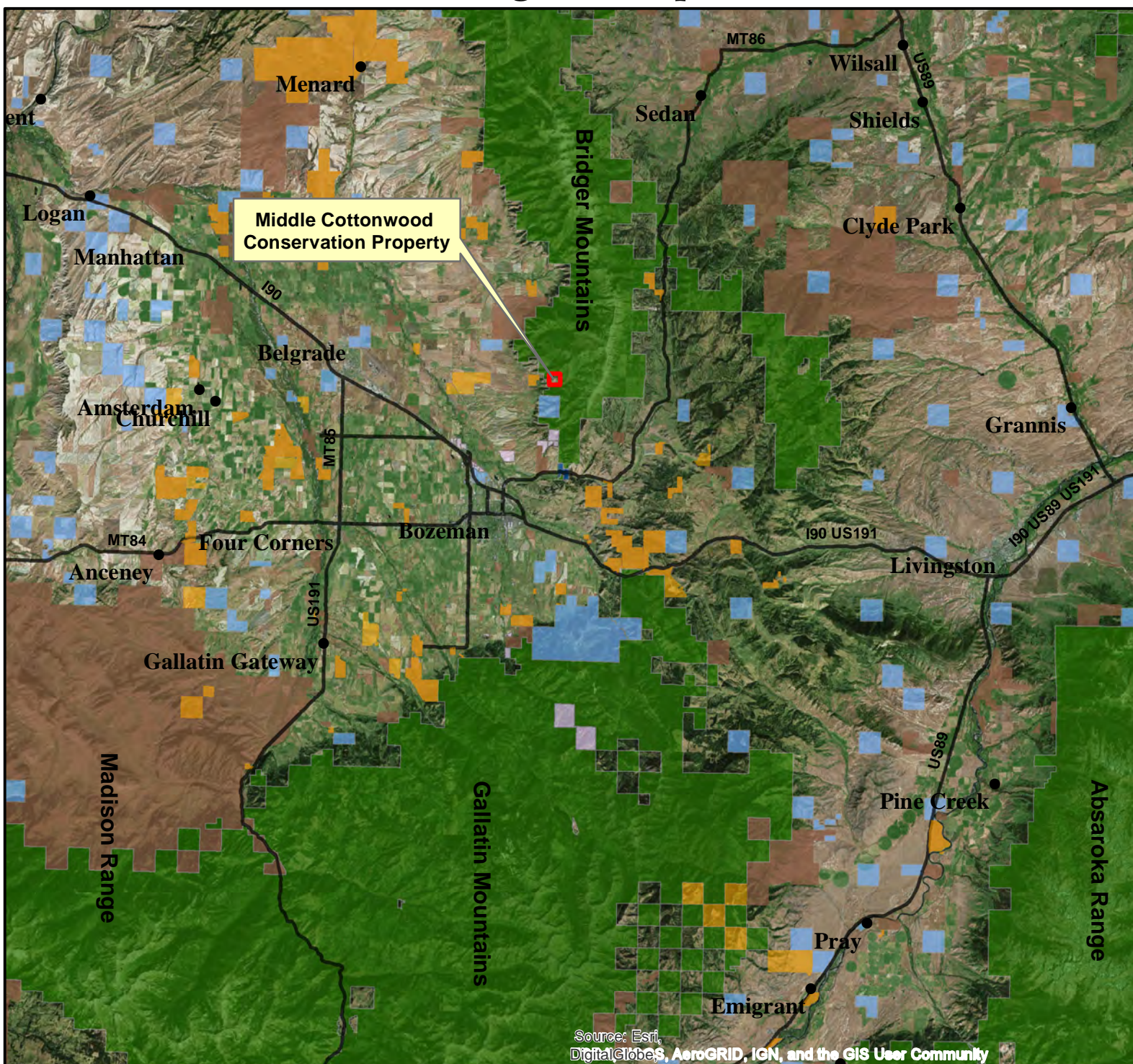


Diverse habitat types on the Middle Cottonwood property.



Mature forests and diverse habitat in the upper reaches of the property.

Middle Cottonwood Conservation Property (160 acres) Regional Map



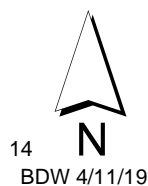
Legend

- Conservation Property
- GVLTC Conservation Easements
- Other Land Trust Easements
- Cities
- ~ highways

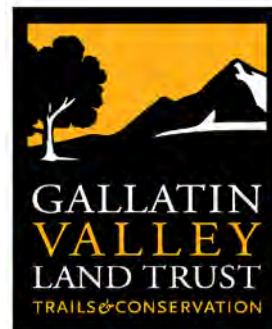
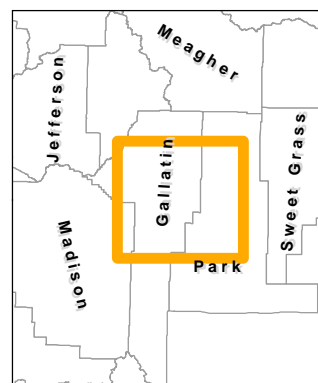
Public Lands

- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Montana State Trust Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- City of Bozeman

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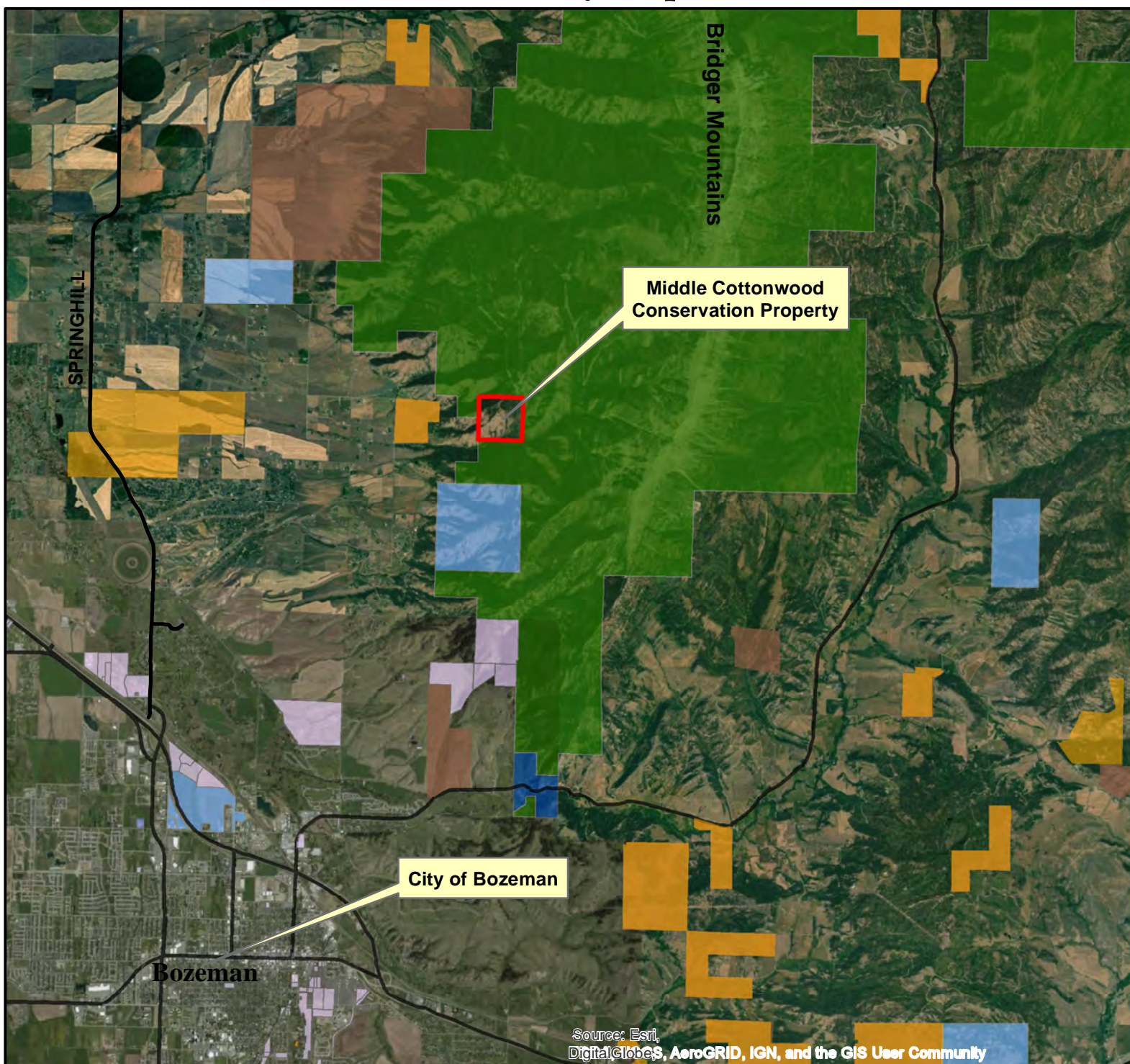


Location in SW Montana



~ PO Box 7021 ~ Bozeman, MT 59771 ~
~ 406.587.8404 ~ www.gvlt.org ~

Middle Cottonwood Conservation Property (160 acres) Vicinity Map



Legend

- Conservation Property
- GVLТ Conservation Easements
- Other Land Trust Easements
- Highways
- Springhill Road

Public Lands

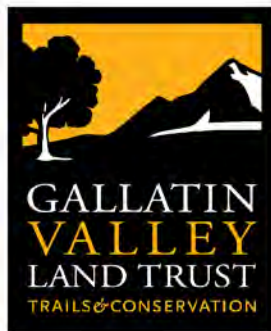
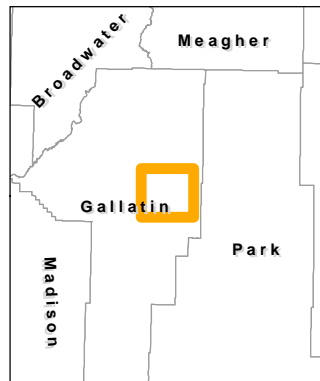
- Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks
- Montana State Trust Lands
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- City of Bozeman

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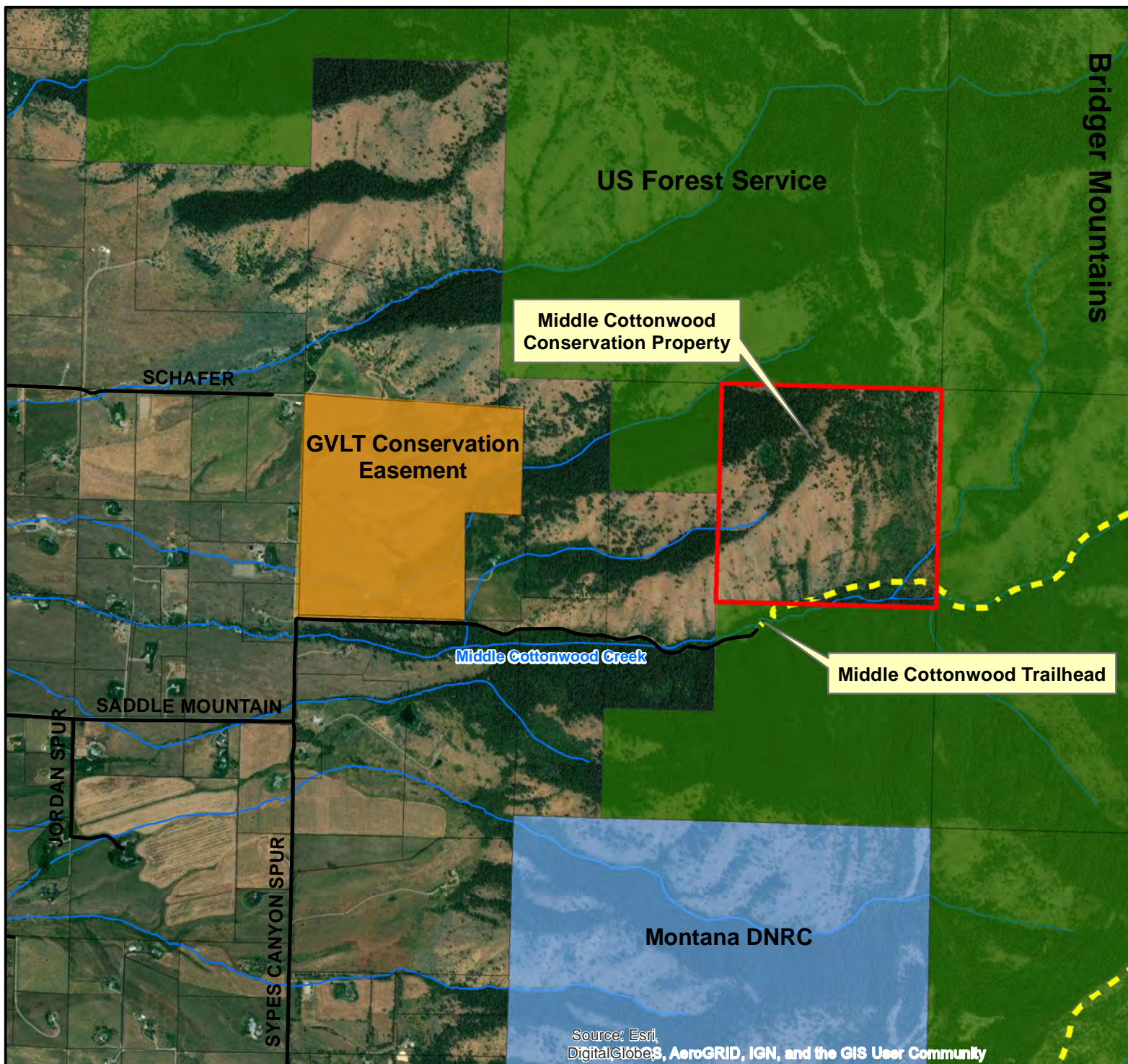
BDW 4/11/19

Location in Gallatin County



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~ 406.587.8404 ~ www.gvlt.org ~

Middle Cottonwood Conservation Property (160 acres) Property Map



Legend

Conservation Property

GVLТ Conservation Easement

Ownership Parcels

Roads

Recreation Trails

Streams

Public Lands

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Montana State Trust Lands

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Forest Service

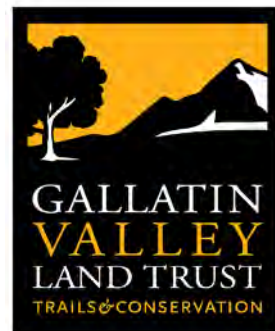
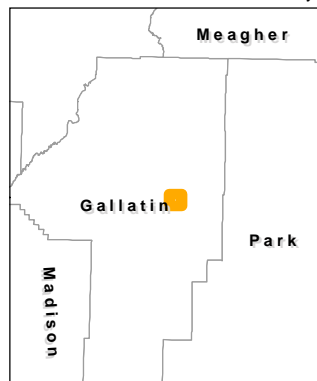
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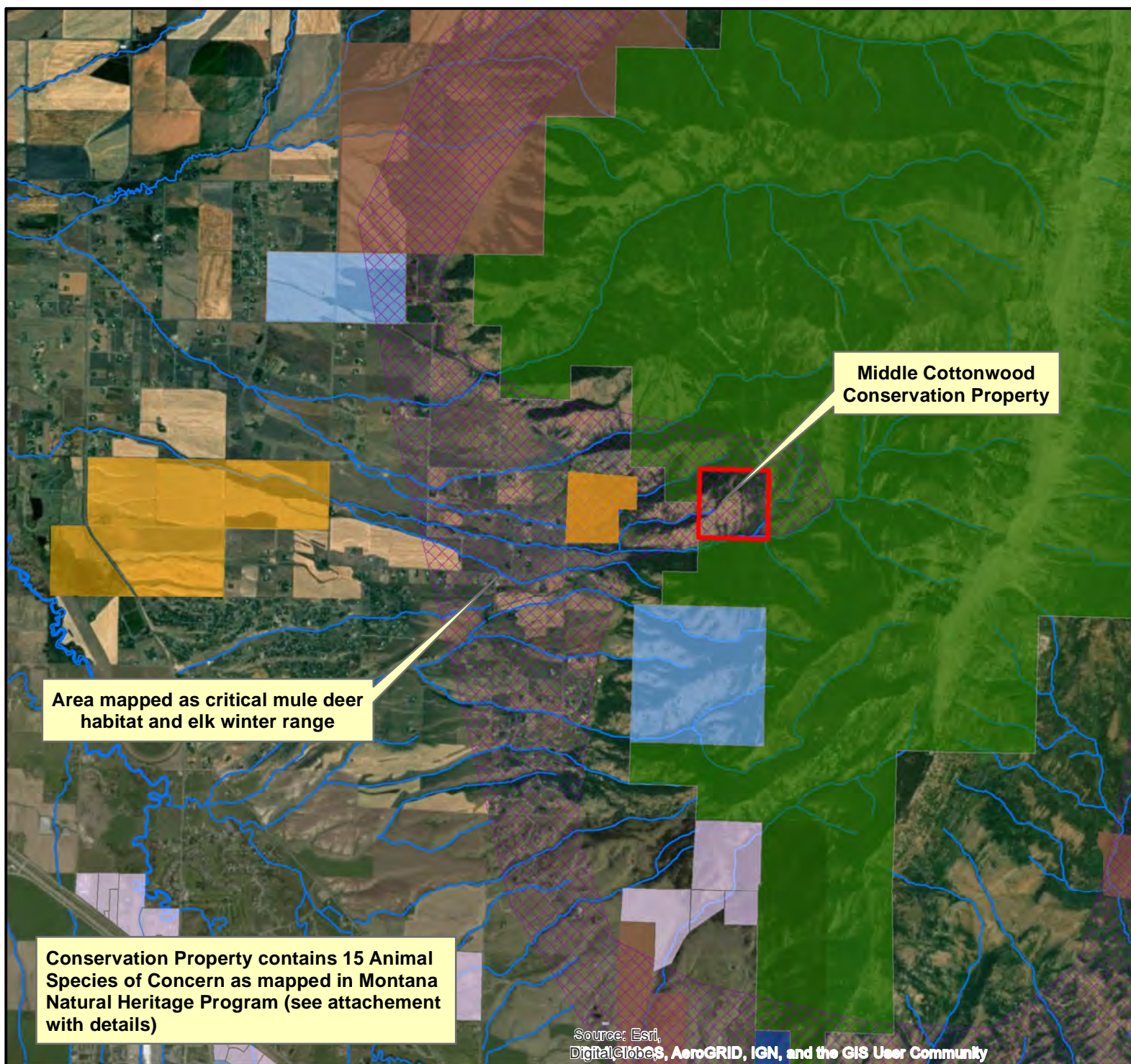
BDW 4/11/19

Location in Gallatin County











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~ 406.587.8404 ~ www.gvlt.org ~

Middle Cottonwood Conservation Property (160 acres) Wildlife Map



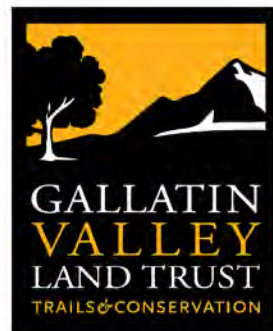
Legend

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|---|---|
|  Conservation Property | Public Lands |
|  GVLTC Conservation Easement |  Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks |
|  Ungulate Winter Range |  Montana State Trust Lands |
|  Streams |  US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| |  US Forest Service |

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17
BDW 4/11/19

Location in Gallatin County



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~ 406.587.8404 ~ www.gvlt.org ~

Montana Natural Heritage - SOC Report

Animal Species of Concern

15 Species of Concern

Filtered by the following criteria:

Township = 001S006E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)

Expand All | Collapse All

Introduction

Species of Concern

Species of Concern

15 Species

Filtered by the following criteria:

Township = 001S006E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)



A program of the Montana State Library's
Natural Resource Information System
operated by the University of Montana.

MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)										3 SPECIES
										TOWNSHIP = 001S006E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Gulo gulo Wolverine	Mustelidae Weasels	G4	S3	P	Proposed on Forests (BD, BRT, CG, HLC, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN3	0%	37%	Boreal Forest and Alpine Habitats
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland										
Lasiurus cinereus Hoary Bat	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3G4	S3				SGCN3	2%	100%	Riparian and forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
Myotis lucifugus Little Brown Myotis	Vespertilionidae Bats	G3	S3				SGCN3	3%	100%	Generalist
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Prairie, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Sheridan, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux, Yellowstone										
State Rank Reason: Species is common and widespread, but under significant threat of catastrophic declines due to White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease responsible for the collapse of populations of this species in the eastern US.										

BIRDS (AVES)										8 SPECIES
										TOWNSHIP = 001S006E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Accipiter gentilis Northern Goshawk	Accipitridae Hawks / Kites / Eagles	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	2%	68%	Mixed conifer forests
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland										
Catharus fuscescens Veery	Turdidae Thrushes	G5	S3B	MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3	6%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, Yellowstone										
Coccothraustes vespertinus	Fringillidae Finches	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	3%	100%	Conifer forest

Evening Grosbeak		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland State Rank Reason: Populations in Montana and across North America have experienced rangewide declines, although the causes of these declines are unclear (Bonter and Harvey 2008).								
Haemorhous cassinii Cassin's Finch	Fringillidae Finches	G5	S3	MBTA; BCC10			SGCN3	11%	62%	Drier conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Rosebud, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland, Yellowstone								
Nucifraga columbiana Clark's Nutcracker	Corvidae Jays / Crows / Magpies	G5	S3	MBTA	Species of Conservation Concern on Forests (FLAT)		SGCN3	9%	84%	Conifer forest
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, Wheatland, Yellowstone								
Pipilo chlorurus Green-tailed Towhee	Passerellidae New World Sparrows	G5	S3B	MBTA			SGCN3	3%	60%	Shrub woodland
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Chouteau, Custer, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, Yellowstone State Rank Reason: Populations in Montana and across the Northern Rockies have undergone recent declines.								
Strix nebulosa Great Gray Owl	Strigidae Owls	G5	S3	MBTA		SENSITIVE	SGCN3, SGIN	2%	46%	Conifer forest near open meadows
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Carbon, Deer Lodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Meagher, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, Silver Bow, Sweet Grass, Teton, Wheatland								
Troglodytes pacificus Pacific Wren	Troglodytidae Wrens	G5	S3	MBTA			SGCN3	1%	39%	Moist conifer forests
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton								

FISH (ACTINOPTERYGII)										1 SPECIES
TOWNSHIP = 001S006E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisi Westslope Cutthroat Trout	Salmonidae Trout	G4T4	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BD, BRT, CG, HLC, KOOT, LOLO)	SENSITIVE	SGCN2		34%	Mountain streams, rivers, lakes
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Granite, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Madison, Meagher, Mineral, Missoula, Park, Pondera, Powell, Ravalli, Sanders, Silver Bow, Teton, Wheatland State Rank Reason: The Westslope Cutthroat trout is currently ranked "S2" in Montana because it is at risk due to very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state.								

INVERTEBRATES - INSECTS										3 SPECIES
TOWNSHIP = 001S006E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN MT	% OF MT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
BEETLES										
Microclyloepus browni Brown's Microclyloepus Riffle Beetle	Elmidae Riffle Beetles	G1	S1					100%	1%	Springs
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Gallatin State Rank Reason: This riffle beetle is currently listed as "S1" in MT due to extremely limited and/or rapidly declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state. These warm-spring beetles are generally endemic to only a few locations; this species is endemic to 1 known location, a warm springs in the Bridger Creek Canyon outside of Bozeman.								
Zaitzevia thermiae Warm Spring Zaitzevian Riffle Beetle	Elmidae Riffle Beetles	G1	S1					100%	1%	Springs

		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Gallatin State Rank Reason: This riffle beetle is currently listed as "S1" in MT due to extremely limited and/or rapidly declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it highly vulnerable to global extinction or extirpation in the state. These warm-spring beetles are generally endemic to only a few locations; this species is endemic to 1 known location, a warm springs in the Bridger Creek Canyon outside of Bozeman.								
STONEFLIES										
Isocapnia crinita Hooked Snowfly	Capniidae Small Winter Stoneflies	G5	S2					20%	9%	Mountain Streams to Rivers
		Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Flathead, Gallatin, Lincoln, Missoula, Ravalli State Rank Reason: The Hooked Snowfly is currently ranked "S2" in Montana because it was thought to be at risk due to very limited and/or potentially declining population numbers, range and/or habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation in the state. But, recent range extensions due to newly reported collections may warrant re-evaluating this SOC rank.								

Potential Species of Concern

Special Status Species

Additions To Statewide List

Species Removed From Statewide List

Species of Greatest Inventory Need

Citation for data on this website:

Montana Animal Species of Concern Report. Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Retrieved on 4/11/2019, from <http://mtnhp.org/SpeciesOfConcern/?AorP=a>