



## Garnet Mountains Property Owners Association Fall 2023 Newsletter



### NEW NEIGHBORS

Many new property owners have moved within GMPOA boundaries in the last few years. If you are a new landowner, it may seem that you are alone in a wilderness. The reality is that you have neighbors on all sides, and they likely can see and hear most of what you do, so the Board urges that we all live in ways that are neighborly. Specifically:

- If shooting on your property, be aware of your trajectory and what is on the other side of your target. Never shoot from the roads. We've had several instances where errant shots threatened the lives, livestock, or property of neighbors.
- Be aware of "noise pollution." Sounds travel far in our mountainous terrain, so please muffle the sound of generators and try not to run them when others nearby are sleeping. Avoid playing loud music and hosting loud parties, especially during late hours.
- All property within the GMPOA is privately owned, so never trespass on someone else's property. Always get permission to cross the property, especially with motorized vehicles. Never hunt from the roads or outside your own property boundaries without permission. Hunting without a license is illegal everywhere in Montana. When in doubt about shooting or hunting, check with local law enforcement; MT Fish, Wildlife, & Parks ([FWP.MT.GOV](http://FWP.MT.GOV)); or Game Warden Joe Kambic (406-490-1227).

### GMPOA EMAIL LIST

The GMPOA Board wants to communicate regularly with our property owners. We send the newsletters via email to all landowners for whom we have an email address. It is also posted on our website [www.gmpoa.net](http://www.gmpoa.net). If you get your newsletter through the mail but would like to receive it by email, please contact George Tague at [geotague@gmail.com](mailto:geotague@gmail.com).

### ROAD WORK



The GMPOA Board Road Committee led by Mike Hansen surveyed 15 potential work sites this spring and began working through the list, prioritizing those most used by owners first. The Board contracted with landowner Rick White of RTW Construction to complete many major road projects along Hoover Creek Road, as well as a few at secondary locations. These included the repair of cattle guards and installation of culverts, along with widening and grading miles of easement roads. Volunteers noted in the table on the next page provided much-appreciated help on many of the projects. Please contact any Board member with your road concerns, and let us know if you have equipment, materials, or skills that you would be willing to volunteer. For more information and photos of road work, see [gmpoa.net](http://gmpoa.net)>Roads.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Done by</b>	<b>Work completed</b>	<b>Donation</b>	<b>Cost</b>
May	George Tague	Repaired ruts through Weaver sage brush next to Mud Creek Road hayfield.	Volunteer	0.00
May	George Tague (volunteer), Aric Winebark, Brett King	Cleaned mud from cattle guard at Mud Creek and Highway 271		552.50
June	Dennis Tucker, Eric & Jamie LeBeau, Bob Warren, Brian Lewis, Beau Pauley	Lightning strike fire suppression on and above Hope Road.	Volunteers	0.00
July	GMPOA Board	Gravel purchase		375.00
August	Rick White, Jack Martin	Road work on Bison Hollow in Section 9. GMPOA provided the culvert.	Volunteers	0.00
August	Rick White, Bo Champion	Emergency repair of damaged Hoover Creek cattle guard		625.00
September	David Southcott and neighbors	Culvert installation on Maple Leaf Road. GMPOA provided the culvert. Fuel reimbursement for David Southcott.	Volunteers	50.00
September-October	Rick White, Jack Martin	Culvert installation and road reconfigured on Hoover Creek Road & Barn Swallow cut off road. New culvert installed and road repaired at the Hoover Creek & Barn Swallow intersection.		9000.00
October	GMPOA Board	Bought used cattle guard		400.00
October	Rick White, Jack Martin	Emergency gravel application and grade of muddy stretch at new culvert installation.		1200.00
October	GMPOA Board	Gravel purchase		150.00
October	Rick White	Grading of Hoover Creek Road and shortcut to Mud Creek Road	Volunteer	0.00
October	Bo Champion, Brenner family, George Tague, Brett & Courtney King, Billy Bryan, Dutch Weaver, Faith Jenkins	Installed experimental snow fence segments on Weaver hayfield along Mud Creek Road. GMPOA provided the snow fencing. Labor donated.		675.00
November	Rick White	Damaged cattle guard repair on Hoover Creek Road north of the Mud Creek intersection.		375.00
<b>TOTAL ROAD WORK EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>13,402.50</b>

## **GRAZING REPORT**

**by David Mannix, Mannix Brothers Ranch, 406-793-5721 or [mannixbros@blackfoot.net](mailto:mannixbros@blackfoot.net)**

Mannix Brothers own the cattle that graze the GMPOA lands. We sublease from Phil and Bonnie Henault who own a ranch in the Helmsville valley. We are grateful for this relationship with GMPOA and Henault as this grazing opportunity fits in well with our deeded land in the Cottonwood as well as other leased land. I believe this was the 27<sup>th</sup> year of this arrangement.

We had a slightly low winter snowpack followed by great May and June rains. This was one of the best grass years in my memory (though I must add that my memory isn't worth a damn!). The water flow from the many small springs on the GMPOA lands was adequate. As is normal under these conditions, we grazed the GMPOA property with more cattle for fewer days than in low water years when we bring in fewer cows but leave them for longer.

This year our grazing rotation started in our land in the Cottonwood drainage. We moved the cattle out our southern boundary, which put us in southeast end of the GMPOA lands. Most of the cattle were moved in on August 2, and we pushed in stragglers over the next several days. We try to alter the location that cattle enter each year as this helps with the grazing distribution. The cattle tend to graze the area they enter the hardest. As usual with this rotation, we don't get an accurate head count in. We know the head count that entered our Cottonwood pasture was 439 cows/calves and 22 bulls, and we believe we eventually got most of these cattle into the GMPOA. We did our main removal of cattle on September 25. As always, we don't find all the cattle at first gather, and we find stragglers as fall moves along. We get helpful calls from property owners as they see these cattle, which is really nice. Because of the August rains and the resulting green-up, the cattle were quite content to stay on the mountain, making it challenging to get them home. In general, I thought the grazing distribution was good. The grass was great everywhere and the water acceptable.



I estimate the total AUMs (animal unit months) harvested to be 860. We don't know of any death loss this year. At the time of this reporting, we are missing 3 cows, 4 calves and 2 bulls, but we have spotted all but a couple of calves, just don't have them home yet. Hopefully, that will happen soon.

We would like to thank you all for the opportunity to lease your grass. We are grateful for the extra eyes on the mountain and the helpful calls we get reporting issues like fire, injured or dead cattle, stray cattle, etc. We have made many friends on the mountain in the years we have been your lessee. Thank You Kindly!

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Entry	Income	Expenditure	Balance
<b>GMPOA Balance as of 5/15/2023</b> (posted in the last newsletter)			<b>\$2171.99</b>
Cattle lease	14,000.00		16,171.99
Road maintenance and repair	250.00	13,652.50	2769.49
Annual meeting and barbecue		565.00	2204.49
Weed control		612.90	1591.59
Spring 2023 newsletter		183.81	1407.78
Website security and maintenance		400.74	1007.04
Property Tax for Chimney Creek Park		62.00	945.04
<b>GMPOA Balance as of 12/1/2023</b>			<b>945.04</b>

### ANNUAL MEETING AND BARBECUE – JULY 1

About 75 property owners and their families gathered on July 1 in Chimney Creek Park. GMPOA provided Mannix beef burgers and soft drinks, and everybody enjoyed the delicious salads, vegetables, and desserts brought by neighbors. The annual meeting began at 1:00. Board president George Tague moderated a discussion that mostly focused on road maintenance and repair. The summer 2024 barbecue and annual meeting will be on Saturday, July 6 from 11:00 to 2:00 at Chimney Creek Park.



### 2023 GMPOA BOARD MEMBERS

**George Tague**, President  
**Chris Trussell**, Vice-President  
**Bruce Koerner**, Administrator  
**Jolene Tollenaar**, Treasurer

**Mike Hansen**  
**Geneva Hollis**  
**Heather Brenner**

### Garnet Mountains Property Owners Association

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